



NEWCOMERS OF CATAWBA VALLEY
2425 North Ctr. St. #169, Hickory NC 28601
www.newcomersofcv.com

May 2015

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Dianne Straley**

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**Canasta – Margaret
Clayton, Martha Conrad,
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**Charity Coordinators –
John & Harriet Bates,
Bev Forrest**

Notes from our President

Hello Newcomers:

This is the first of occasional columns about you. I have been a Newcomer almost eight years and have gotten to know many of you from our card games, hikes, speakers, dinners and socials. But I wonder if you know we have lots of VIP's in our membership. I plan to use the next few months to briefly introduce you to some of them, with a photograph and a brief bio. If you know someone that I should write about next time, please let me know.

Today, I want to introduce you to Gary Schwartz. Gary was our long-time webmaster for Newcomers and left that post in April to spend more time with his longtime love - music. Gary's wife Betty says after he graduated from Penn State with a degree in music education, Gary worked as a teacher and in the music industry for a decade before moving into the world of computers, eventually co-owning a computer distributorship.

Now that he is retired to Hickory – where Betty went to college – he is back into music. During the school year, he works as a volunteer three days a week at two middle school band programs. He is a member of the Hickory Jazz Orchestra and the LRU Jazz Band. He belongs to two jazz trios and often plays at Yousef's, the Olde Hickory Taproom, Highland Avenue Restaurant, and Chetola in Blowing Rock. Here's Gary doing what he loves!



Happy Birthday to Our Members

Coffee & Conversation – Sheri Binning

Evening Socials – Louise Judd

Game Nights– Shari Kidd

Items of Interest– Bob Jones

Historian – Kathy Rozea

Hospitality – Michele LeGrand, Carol Sawicki

Lunch Out – Maureen Jones

Mah Jongg- Dianne Straley

Members Helping Members –Betty Schwartz, Kay Norusis

Men's Activities – Vince LeGrand

Mexican Train – Shari Kidd

Special Events – Shari Kidd

Rummikub-Michele LeGrand

Busy Hands-Collette Wronek

Webmaster – Adra Kryszczuk, Michele LeGrand, Kathy Rozea

May	June
3 - Nancie Jaeger 3 – Robert Leimbach 4 – Al Osbahr 8 – Marjorie Chu 11 – Bob Sykes 19 – Sandy Davis 26 – Robyn Wolgemuth 28 – Ric Johnsen 31 – JoAnn Womack	2 – Neil Forrest 8 – Norma Leimbach 11 – Stan Bumgarner 13 – Kris Bowman 13 – Betty Schwartz 16 - Norma Beckler 18 – Mary Murgó 20 - Christine McCutcheon 21 – Doak Walker 22 - Laurie Johnsen 24 – Gloria Berg 26 – Bev Forrest 30 – Carol Earl 30- Tony Wilson

Please email Barb Beck at ahbbjb@aol.com if your birthday is not listed or if you would prefer that your birthday not be listed.

Welcome to our newest members **Kay Abee** and **Sharon & Jim Bennett!**

Brother in Concert Friday

Musician John McCutcheon will sing and tell his wonderful stories on Friday, May 1, under the Sails in downtown Hickory, 6 to 8:30 p.m. This Grammy-nominated entertainer is the brother of member Kevin McCutcheon. The evening is free. Bring your lawn chair and watch for a gathering of Newcomers who will be there to enjoy the evening. Here is what two of our members said when they heard John McCutcheon was coming:

Suzie Matthews: "He had a performance at L-R which we attended. It was the best concert have ever heard or seen."

Martha Conrad: "My son grew up listening to his tapes. He is awesome."

Crawdads' Game



Our Crawdads outing has been scheduled and it will be here before you know it! The date is **Friday, May 29th**. Tickets are \$18 each which includes a box seat and the pregame buffet. Send your money to Kathy Durand by May 21st. Questions? Email Kathy at kathydurand@embarqmail.com

General Meeting/Welcome Coffee

10:30 am, Wednesday, May 13 at the Hickory Airport

Come at 10:30 for coffee and snacks followed by the meeting starting at 10:45. George Plant, the Catawba County Cooperative Extension agent, will speak about home gardening and lawn care. Hope to see you there!

Evening Social

Mark your calendars for the upcoming **Pot Luck Dinner & Bingo Nite** on **Saturday, May 16th** at the airport. In addition to Bingo, we will have Poker, LCR, Texas Hold-Em, Mexican Train, Rummikub, etc. (More to follow)— Bob Jones

Game Nights

We will have two game nights this month. **Game Night 1** will be held at **6 p.m. on the second Wednesday, May 13**, at the Hickory Regional Airport and **Game Night 2** will meet at **6 p.m. on the third Thursday, May 21, at the same location**. Participants can play any games of their choosing either evening.

Crosswinds Cafe will continue to cater a \$7 dinner each evening. Watch your email for announcements from Shari about what's for dinner and when to sign up for fun in April. Questions? Contact Shari Kidd at Sharikidd@hotmail.com

Rummikub



Rummikub is usually held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the evening at members' homes. Contact Michele LeGrand at exermom@gmail.com for more information about Rummikub.

Coffee and Conversation

We'll be going downtown to **Tasteful Beans on the 29th at 2 pm**. Hope you can join us for some good coffee and conversation. Questions? Contact Sheri Binning at ronald.binning@gmail.com.

Quarterly Charity

Our second quarter charity is the **Robin's Nest Children's Advocacy Center** in Caldwell County. This center "serves the needs of sexually and severely physically abused children. These children need support, kindness, healing, and justice." **Children's items** needed include: Nonperishable snack items, Play-Doh, Stickers, Craft Kits, DVD Movies (G Rated), **General supplies:** Toilet Tissue, Kleenex, Paper Towels, Liquid Antibacterial Hand Soap, Hand Sanitizer, Antibacterial Spray Cleaner, 13 Gallon Tall Kitchen Trash Bags, Paper Plates, Plastic Utensils, Batteries (AA and AAA), Copy/Print Paper 8½ x 11, 20 lb. White & Assorted Colors, and **Gift Cards**--Wal-Mart, Grocery Store (Fair Value, Food Lion), Amazon. Contact Beverly Forrest at bnforrest@embarqmail.com for more information.

Website

If you have any questions regarding any aspects of the website, please don't hesitate to contact any one of us:

Adra – adraellen@yahoo.com

Michele – exermom@gmail.com

Kathy – krr510@yahoo.com

Mah Jongg

Starting May 5, Newcomers will have two official Mah Jongg games each week - on Tuesday afternoons and Friday mornings at Pinecrest Retirement Center. Friday's game has long been a Newcomers activity, but the Tuesday game had a mix of Newcomers and other players who were not club members. That changes next week when players must be members of Newcomers to take part in either the Tuesday afternoon or Friday morning games. Already two of the four non-club members who played with us on Tuesdays have joined our club. Those who do not want to join are welcome to play at the Friday afternoon game held at 1:30 p.m. at Pinecrest, where members and nonmembers play. That 1:30 p.m. Friday game is organized by Majorie Chu, who teaches new players. Residents of Pinecrest are welcome at all three games. This change comes with approval of the Newcomers' board on April 22, when it voted to make the Tuesday game an official Newcomers event. Here is a list of our Mah Jongg games at Pinecrest:

Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m. for club members and Pinecrest residents

Fridays, 10:30 a.m. for club members and Pinecrest residents

Fridays, 1:30 p.m. for any player.

For information, call Dianne Straley at 308-4282.

Men's Activities **(though not limited to men)**

Join us on **Tuesday, May 12 at 6:30 pm or Thursday, May 28 at 12:00 pm** for a shooting session at the Springs Road Gun Club. Contact Vince LeGrand for information on shooting legravin@gmail.com or 828-466-8218. If you are interested in the Newcomers Bowling League, also contact Vince.

Daytime Canasta

Afternoon lunch and canasta will be held on **Thursday, May 28 at 11:30 am**. Canasta, lunch, dessert and a beverage is \$10 & canasta with a dessert and a beverage is \$5. If you make a reservation and then cancel after 6 pm on the Monday prior to canasta on Thursday, you are still responsible for paying the \$10 for your lunch.

Plan to join us for lunch and Canasta in May. To join in the fun, contact **Martha Conrad** at marthaconrad@charter.net.

Bridge

Monday, May 4th

Wednesday, May 6th

Monday, May 11th

Monday, May 18th

Wednesday, May 20th

New members: please contact Gloria Berg
(glomcberg@hotmail.com) for details about bridge.



Mexican Train Dominoes



Tuesday, May 5 at 6:00pm

Bring a snack to share and your favorite beverage, as well as \$2.00 for the Kitty. Please RSVP to Shari by May 4. Sharikidd@hotmail.com

Place: Shari Kidd's home, 5495 Gunpowder Drive, Hickory 828-328-4657

Busy Hands

The group will meet the first and third Fridays of each month at the Habitat store, just past Five Guys hamburger store on Rt. 70. We meet from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Anyone interested in hand work such as embroidery, knitting, crocheting, or other work is invited to attend. If you have questions, please call Collette Wronek at 704-530-1767 or sewsalot38@hotmail.com.

Lunch Out

We are going to the **NY Hibachi Buffet** in the plaza by Academy Sports on Highway 70 at 11:45AM on **Thursday, May 7**. Watch for an email about this or contact Maureen Jones for more information mfj1947@gmail.com

Book Club

Books we'll be discussing this year are:

May 27: Sycamore Row by John Grisham

July 22: Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons by Lorna Landvik

Sept. 23: The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd

Nov. 18: The Girl With The Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier

Our next book discussion will take place on May 27th when we will discuss John Grisham's "Sycamore Row" which is a follow up to his acclaimed "A Time to Kill". In this book, lawyer Jake Brigance once again finds himself embroiled in a fiercely controversial trial that will expose old racial tensions and force Ford County to confront its tortured history. We will meet at the Women's Resource Center at 1:30. Even if you haven't read the book, please feel free to attend and join in or just listen to our discussion. For information on book club, contact Sue Asp twoasps@gmail.com or Betty Schwartz bettyesch69@gmail.com.

Items of Interest

Information must be submitted by noon on Wednesday of each week. As always, I want to hear from you if you run across any interesting things. **If you aren't familiar with "Items of Interest", go to our web site for guidelines for submission rules. The web site is: newcomersofcv.com.** Click on "**Resources**", & then on "**Items of Interest**". **Please feel free to browse our website, and see what we have to offer!!** If you select our "**Sponsors**" page, you will see those businesses that offer us support. You can then access their web sites by clicking on their individual icon. **If you respond to any of these business ads, PLEASE mention that you saw their ad on our website.** This is how we get advertisers to continue to support us for the future. Thanks, Bob Jones itsmerbj@charter.net

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

The focus of this support group within Newcomers is to coordinate assistance for members and their immediate families who might need help due to illness, surgery, hospitalization, death, etc. Types of assistance could include hospital and home visits; help with errands and grocery shopping; transportation for shopping and doctor visits; providing books and/or reading to someone; preparing meals; sending cards, etc. The committee currently includes Kay Norusis and Betty Schwartz. For more information, contact Betty at bettyesch60@gmail.com.