



# The Voice

Newcomers of Catawba Valley Newsletter  
2525 North Center Street #169, Hickory, NC 28601  
[www.newcomersofcv.org](http://www.newcomersofcv.org)

## President's Column

Hey y'all,

Once again, I'm blindsided by the passage of time! Here it is May – almost time for me to start planting my vegetable garden. I guess I'll have to get some dirt for that. The plot is prepared! I am finally starting to feel fully settled in at my new address. Having my sister come and crack the whip did wonders! I was very lucky to find this home and I'm very happy here. More importantly, Stanislaus and Malenka are very happy too!



Your Special Events Committee has been hard at work! There is a trip to the Daniel Stowe Arboretum and lunch on May 4th; the Kentucky Derby Party happens on May 6th. If you haven't signed up yet, it is not too late. These are just some of the May events scheduled. Look for details! Dinner Out to Sweet Taters on May 11th should bring another huge group of Newcomers. It's nice that our games events are seeing an increase in attendees too. There are still a couple of activities that could use a coordinator – even if you can only do it for one month. Remember, we are a volunteer organization.

Happy to report that we once again have Newcomers' Mah Jongg games. Elaine Knobloch has volunteered to organize these events, currently being held in members' homes. Check the club calendar for dates and times and contact Elaine to be added to her email list ([elaine.knobloch@gmail.com](mailto:elaine.knobloch@gmail.com)). Please check the website for the updated 'Printable Member Directory.' We welcomed ten new members during the month of April!

I am also grateful and pleased to welcome Lisa Raggio ([clairemontlisa@gmail.com](mailto:clairemontlisa@gmail.com)) to the web team as calendar coordinator. The next General Membership meeting is at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 10th at the Hickory Regional Airport. This month we'll be meeting in the 'baggage area' for a container planting demonstration by Master Gardener Sherry Abernethy. Make note that our June meeting will be off site. Details to follow.

Hoping this newsletter finds you all doing well. Hope to see you soon!

Adra Kryszczuk  
President

### **Editor's Comment:**



This organization is made up of volunteers, willing to provide their time and skills to make this group successful. During the first and last week of the month, my business requires more attention. Hence, I ask for the newsletter material by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. My goal is to have the newsletter emailed to you on the 1<sup>st</sup> so you can plan your month full of activities.

Unfortunately, when the articles are late, it runs into my busy time and the process to prepare and get approval for the newsletter, behind schedule. That is what occurred this month.

My apologies to everyone.

### **Book Club Chair: Laura Moran [moran.laura@att.net](mailto:moran.laura@att.net)**

The next meeting of the Book Club will be held on Wednesday, May 24th, 2023, at 1:30P.M. The book for our May discussion will be *Diamond Eye* by Kate Quinn, a New York Times Bestseller. The bestselling author of *The Rose Code* returns with an unforgettable World War II tale of a quiet bookworm who becomes history's deadliest female sniper. Based on a true story. In 1937 in the snowbound city of Kyiv, wry and bookish history student Mila Pavlichenko organizes her life around her library job and her young son—but Hitler's invasion of Ukraine and Russia sends her on a different path. Given a rifle and sent to join the fight, Mila must forge herself from studious girl to deadly sniper—a lethal hunter of Nazis known as Lady Death. When news of her three hundredth kill makes her a national heroine, Mila finds herself torn from the bloody battlefields of the eastern front and sent to America on a goodwill tour. Still reeling from war wounds and devastated by loss, Mila finds herself isolated and lonely in the glittering world of Washington, DC—until an unexpected friendship with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and an even more unexpected connection with a silent fellow sniper offer the possibility of happiness. But when an old enemy from Mila's past joins forces with a deadly new foe lurking in the shadows, Lady Death finds herself battling her own demons and enemy bullets in the deadliest duel of her life. Based on a true story, *The Diamond Eye* is a haunting novel of heroism born of desperation, of a mother who became a soldier, of a woman who found her place in the world and changed the course of history forever. **The Book Club meets every other month on the 4th Wednesday of the month except for November when we meet on the third Wednesday.**

### **Bowling Chair: Vince LeGrand [legravin@gmail.com](mailto:legravin@gmail.com)**

If you have any questions about Newcomers Bowling, please contact the chair



**Bridge Chair: Gloria Berg** [glomcberg@hotmail.com](mailto:glomcberg@hotmail.com)

**MAY**

Monday, May 1st	Pett Brands
Wednesday, May 3rd	Peg Baldwin
Monday, May 8th	Addie McSherley
Monday, May 15th	Laurie Johnsen
Wednesday, May 17th	Carol Parker

**JUNE**

Monday, June 5th	Peg Baldwin
Wednesday, June 7th	Kathy Rozea
Monday, June 12th	Kathy Bethany
Monday, June 19th	Betty Stone
Wednesday, June 21st	Gloria Berg

**May General Meeting Chair: K Kuehn** [kecen325@yahoo.com](mailto:kecen325@yahoo.com)

This coming May 10th, Newcomers of Catawba Valley program will be Container Gardening. We'll be doing a little bit different program this month. Sharon Abernathy, Catawba County Extension Master Gardner, will be demonstrating how to create beautiful containers for all. Hope to see you Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30a.m. at Hickory Regional Airport. I suspect you will walk away anxious to begin creating your very own containers.

**Chatty Crafters Chair: Adra Kryszczuk** [adraellen@yahoo.com](mailto:adraellen@yahoo.com)

Chatty Crafters will meet the 1st and 3rd Fridays (May 5<sup>th</sup> and 19th) at the home of Adra Kryszczuk, 4048 Elizabeth Street, Hickory NC 28601 from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Anyone is welcome to attend whenever they are available. Bring your craft with you to work on: knitting, crochet, needlework, jewelry-making, or just come to visit. Please R.S.V.P. to our hostess this month, so there are enough chairs. The hostess will provide beverages and snacks.

**Cribbage and Euchre Chair: Adra Kryszczuk** [adraellen@yahoo.com](mailto:adraellen@yahoo.com)

Cribbage and Euchre will be played on Tuesday, May 2nd at Hickory Regional Airport. We'll meet at 5:30 p.m. for registration and social time and games will start at 6:00 p.m. SHARP! Euchre is a 4-person card game. Cribbage is a 2-, 3- or 4-person card game. We are willing to teach anyone who wants to play either game. Cards and beverages is \$5.00 per person. Members may bring a snack to share. R.S.V.P. to the chair and indicate the following: 1. the game you wish to play 2. will you have dinner 3. Do you need the learning table?

**Coffee & Conversation Chair: Sheri Binning** [Ronald.binning@gmail.com](mailto:Ronald.binning@gmail.com)

Coffee and Conversation will be at Taste Full Beans at the Furniture Mart, not downtown, on Friday the 26th at 2 pm. They have lots of room but be aware that there is a furniture sale this weekend. Like their downtown location, they also have rotating artist displays. I always find them interesting to look <https://www.facebook.com/tastefullbeansatthemart/>

**Charity Chair: Nancy Geiger** [nq0425@gmail.com](mailto:nq0425@gmail.com)

Chris Jernigan, the CEO of our 2nd quarter charity: ***Southmountain Children and Family Services was our program at the April General Meeting.*** I hate I was out of town because everyone who was there told me what a good speaker he was and how impressed they were with the organization. If you also didn't make the meeting, here's the website where you can learn a little more about them. <https://www.southmountain.org>. We'll be collecting twin sheets, pillows, comforters for twin beds, dish towels, wash cloths and

toilette paper for the houses at our next two general meetings. (Chris took our first collection home with him after the meeting and was very appreciative!) As always, thanks for all you do.

**Crawdads Outing Chair: Kathy Durand** [kcdurand55@gmail.com](mailto:kcdurand55@gmail.com)

Kathy and Joe Durand have arranged an outing to L. P. Frans Stadium to watch our Crawdads take on the Asheville Tourists at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, May 26, 2023, Gates open at 6:00 p.m. and our event will start on the Picnic Deck at 6:30 p.m. with the All-You-Can-Eat package of Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Barbecue, Chili, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Chips, Pepsi Products, and water. From there we'll move on to seats where ice cream will be delivered. Fireworks will follow the game. The cost for the event is \$25 per person (children 3 and under admitted free). Children 4 to 16 will receive wristbands allowing them access to the Bounce House, Merry go Round and Speed Pitch! **Checks must be paid in advance to Kathy Durand and mailed, along with your email address and phone number, to 32 Alexander Pointe Drive, Hickory, NC 28601 no later than Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.**



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**Lunch/Dinner Out Chair: Debbie Kelso** [dkelso528@gmail.com](mailto:dkelso528@gmail.com)

The Dinner Out is scheduled for Thursday, May 11th from 5:30-7:30pm at Sweet 'Taters, 102 10th Street NW in Conover. Their website is [www.southernsweettaters.com](http://www.southernsweettaters.com). Their menu changes every day but checking out the menu (maybe multiple times) will give you an idea of the delicious, homemade southern dishes they make fresh daily.



There should be plenty of parking, but if not, we have permission to park at the hotel next door, Holiday Inn Express and Suites. The restaurant is accessible for those with mobility issues. Please R.S.V.P. to me by Friday, May 5th at 9am by email, phone call or text message. Quote from Sweet 'Tater's website that says it all.... "Do you want to feel just like you sat down at your grandmother's table? We are the place where vintage tablecloths, mixed matched China, servers that treat you like family, and food that can bring you back to your`



**Mah Jongg Chair: Elaine Knobloch** [elaine.knobloch@gmail.com](mailto:elaine.knobloch@gmail.com)

The game of Mah Jongg is like the card game of rummy. We play the American version, it's more challenging than canasta and less mentally taxing than bridge. American Mah Jongg is played with three or four players using Mah Jongg tiles. The goal of the game is to be the first, by picking and discarding, to match one's tiles to a specific hand from the annually distributed scorecard published by the National Mah Jongg League (NMJL) and American Mah-Jongg Association. Club members play at 1:00p.m. on the selected Tuesdays and Thursdays in members' homes. Contact the chair to host.

**Tuesday, May 2 and May 16**

**Thursday, May 11 and May 25**

**Members Helping Members Chair: Sandi Johnson** [ncvalegirl@gmail.com](mailto:ncvalegirl@gmail.com)

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; meals, walking the dog, help with errands and meals, shopping; transportation for shopping and doctor visits; providing books and/or reading to someone; preparing meals; sending cards, etc. Please consider offering to help with this or any other activity. Just email the chair and specify when you would be available for what task(s) you would want to take on. THANK YOU

**New Members - Welcome to our newest members!**

**Roberta and Bill Greene  
Cynthia and David Tupman  
Susan Keefe from FL  
Bonnie and John Kelly from NY  
Carol and Wade Fisher from IN  
Amy Rudd from NC**



**Pickle Ball Chair: Elizabeth Strickland** [lizas13@centurylink.net](mailto:lizas13@centurylink.net)

Elizabeth Strickland is running a **Beginner** Pickleball group at Taft Broome Park / Ridgeview Rec Center, 115 7th Avenue SW, Hickory on Wednesdays, and Saturdays at 9:00a.m. You're welcome to join in. This group is for anyone new to the game of pickleball. **This is not a clinic.** The purpose is to get together with other beginners to play and practice the game. The park and rec center are side by side. The address is the same for both. 115 7th Ave. SW, Hickory. Bring a Pickleball paddle and balls. If you don't yet have these there are usually a couple of people who have extras to share. **Lessons will NOT be provided.**

**Rummikub Chair: Debbie Hindman** [debbiehindman2022@gmail.com](mailto:debbiehindman2022@gmail.com)

Sunday, May 21st will be Rummikub afternoon play at Debbie Hindman's home, 4637 9th St NE Hickory. 1:30p.m. social time. 2:00p.m. game play. Rummikub is a fast-paced tile game and VERY easy to learn. Sequential numbers 1-13 in the same color and 4 of a kind in all 4 colors.

Tuesday, May 23rd will be Rummikub evening play at Debbie Hindman's home, 4637 9th St NE Hickory. 5:30p.m. social time, and 6:00p.m. game play. Rummikub is a fast-paced game and VERY easy to learn. Sequential numbers 1-13 in the same color and 4 of a kind in all 4 colors.

**Samba Day Chair: Shari Kidd**    [Kidd915sl@gmail.com](mailto:Kidd915sl@gmail.com)

Samba Day is the Second Tuesday of each month. Lunch 11:30a.m. and Samba begins at noon on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, please be considerate of other players and arrive on time. Lunch is \$11.00 per person. Menu includes a Garden Salad and Idaho Baked Potato with Steamed Broccoli, Bacon, Cheese, Mushrooms, Sautéed Onions, Butter, and Sour Cream Toppings. Beverages include Water and Tea. We are required to pay the caterer for each meal ordered. If you make a reservation and do not cancel before the deadline of 10a.m. on May 7th (Sunday), you must still pay the charge. Games and Beverages ONLY is \$5.00 per person. DESSERTS: Players with last names ending in M - Z may bring a dessert to share with players. **Samba will be the only game played and there 'Will Not' be a learning table.**

**Samba Night Chair: Kathy Rozea**    [Krr510@yahoo.com](mailto:Krr510@yahoo.com)

Samba Night will be held at the Hickory Regional Airport. Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Dinner and Samba begin at 5:30p.m. Dinner, beverages, and an evening of Samba is \$11. I need a minimum of eight (8) for dinner. If you don't want to eat, you can enjoy cards and beverages for only \$5. Don't know how to play? There is always a learning table offered for those who want to learn or simply brush up on their skills. All Newcomer members, men, and women are welcome. *I will confirm your request to play as we fill up tables of four.* If you do not receive an email from me, call! We would like to start playing the game right at 6p.m., so please be considerate of others and get to the airport on time. We must pay the caterer for each meal ordered, so if you make reservations and do not cancel before the deadline of 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, you still must pay the charge!

**Special Event Committee Dates for May**

- ☐ Trip to Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden – Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, led by Jon Kiser, carpoolers leaving Hickory Airport at 9:15 A.M., Lunch following.
- ☐ Kentucky Derby Party: Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-7:00 P.M. at the Chizen home, see flyer for more details
- ☐ Monthly Beer & Wine Tasting – Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, led by Karlene Patrick, 6:00-8:00 P.M. at Lowe's in Viewmont
- ☐ Hike –Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, led by Amy Chizen, Lakeside Park in Granite Falls with a bring-your-own picnic lunch following. Although this is a short 2.2-mile, out and back hike, it is hilly. The hike can be lengthened with several short side hikes to the water. Meet in the park parking area at 9:30 A.M. This is the last hike until Fall.
- ☐ Crawdads Game - Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at LP Frans Stadium, led by Kathy Durand, an all-you-can-eat buffet, plus ticket to the game and ice cream brought to your seat. Fireworks after the game, too! Watch for the flyer in your email.

**Special Event Committee Dates for June:**

- ☐ Miniature Golf – Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, led by Jon Kiser, start with an early dinner at Taqueria Las Isabelas in Hickory, then off to Putt Putt down the street. Watch for further info. on this coming soon.
- ☐ Wine and Cheese Reception prior to "Kinky Boots" at the Hickory Community Theater - Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> 2:00 P.M. matinee, led by Adra Kryszczuk, meet before the play in The Fireman's Kitchen downstairs, drinks to be purchased individually from the theater. All are responsible for purchasing their own ticket

- to the play.
- ☐ Annual Picnic Pontoon Party Sunday, June 11th at the Montgomery home in Granite Falls. More details are coming soon but know that the Club will be providing chicken and water and everything else is potluck and BYOB.
- ☐ Fifth Friday Crafts: Friday, June 30th place TBD but this will be led by Rob Herman on Flower Arranging.
- ☐ Soup/Chili Cookoff: Saturday, November 4th. This will be hosted by Karlene and Kathy Patrick. Everyone will bring a crock pot of soup or chili; or if you aren't into cooking, bring bread to accompany the soup and chili, there may be a hike before-hand on the new Rivertrail at Geitner Park.

**Special Events: Chair Jon Kiser [jaydeekay59@gmail.com](mailto:jaydeekay59@gmail.com) REVISED DATE**

Your Special Events committee is happy to announce a carpool excursion to the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden in Belmont, NC on Thursday, May 4th. Spring is a wonderful time to explore this beautiful 30-acre garden which includes an outstanding 8000 sq. ft. Orchid Conservatory. Bring Walking shoes, water, and an umbrella, just in case.

<https://dsbg.org/visit/explore-the-garden/> Costs are: Seniors (60+) - \$12.95 / Adults - \$14.95 / Kids - \$7.95 ***This will be a rain or shine event***, and we'll meet at the Hickory airport (side) parking lot at 9: 15a.m, leaving promptly at 9:30a.m. They open at 10:00a.m., and we'll likely arrive at 10:15a.m., returning to the airport by 2:00a.m. Please let me know if you are interested in going, and if you are willing to be a driver.

## May Birthdays

**Date Name**

5.01 Janis Goonan  
 5.03 Wayne Hill  
 5.03 Ann Czyzyk  
 5.07 Carla Hinceman  
 5.10 Carolyn Shoemaker  
 5.12 Anna Murawski  
 5.13 Karlene Patrick  
 5.16 William Hill  
 5.18 Roxanne Hibbs  
 5.23 Steven Hill  
 5.25 Teeky Kenny  
 5.27 Bonnie Kelly  
 5.28 Karen Mills



**YEE HAW!**

## **IT'S TIME FOR THE KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY!**

**This year's Kentucky Derby Party is "Goin' Country"**



On May 6<sup>th</sup>, we will be pullin' the posse together at the Chizen homestead (722 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW, Hickory) between 4:00 PM and 4:15 PM. Plenty of parking in the back for your wagons!

**What's on the menu?** The club will provide barbequed pork and buns. The rest of you pardners a will be bringing a side dish or a dessert. *We always know how to create a mouth-watering spread!* We'll be sure to have some sauce choices, but feel to bring along your favorite to share. There'll be big tubs of ice to chill drinks; bring your whistle-wetter of choice, but the water jugs will be filled by the club.



**What should we wear to this rodeo?** Respectable cowboys and cowgirls would don a western shirt, jeans, chaps (if you have them), cowboy boots, maybe a scarf or bolo tie, and, of course a cowboy hat! (Please note we are not having a decorated hat contest this year.)

**What activities should we expect?** Hold onto your hats and join us for music, dancing, horse racing dice game, Pin the Tail on the Horse, Corn Hole, Ladders, and a slew of stuff we haven't even thought of yet! Of course, there will be betting on the "greatest 2 minutes in sports," so bring singles to participate.



How do I get a spot? RSVP to [chizenamy@gmail.com](mailto:chizenamy@gmail.com) or text to (860) 428-6786 by

April 28th and indicate a side dish or dessert.  
See y'all there!

We are now taking reservations for our June and July event, "Star of Siam," featuring celebrated dishes from Thailand. Please watch your inbox for upcoming information, or you may email Jon Kiser and ask to be added to the guest list.

He may be reached at [jaydeekay59@gmail.com](mailto:jaydeekay59@gmail.com).



## Officers, Directors, Activity Chairs and Committees 2023 - 2024

Officers	Position
Adra Kryszczuk	President
Debbie Hindman	Vice President
Sonya Reid	Treasurer
Sharon Snellings	Secretary
Cathi Montgomery	Past President
<b>Directors</b>	Nancy Geiger, Evie Gibson, Rob Herman, Kathy Rozea
Activity	Chair
Book Club	Laura Moran
Bowling	Vince LeGrand
Bridge	Gloria Berg
Canasta and Games Day/Night	* * * * * Position Available * * * * *
Charity Coordinator	Nancy Geiger
Coffee & Conversation	Sheri Binning
Dominoes	* * * * * Position Available * * * * *
Events Committee	Evie Gibson (chair), Amy Chizen
Items of Interest	Bob Jones
Hospitality	Sharon Snellings
Lunch out	Debbie Kelso
Mahjongg	Elaine Knobloch
Membership	Debbie Hindman
Members Helping Members	Sandi Shear-Johnson
Newsletter Editor	Sandi Shear-Johnson
Programs	Kathy Kuehn
Publicity	* * * * * Position Available * * * * *
Rummikub	Debbie Hindman
Samba Day	Shari Kidd
Samba and Games Night	Kathy Rozea
Shooting	Vince LeGrand
Sponsors	Kevin McCutcheon
Team Cuisine	Jon Kiser
Webmaster Team	Lisa Raggio (calendar), Adra Kryszczuk (members), Greg Gervasio (site advisor)

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### **Sponsor Spotlight**

Ever wish you could unlock the past of your family's history? Wonder if those family tales you've heard are true? Do you wish you knew who those nameless faces are in that box of old family photos? Sounds like you need a family history detective!

Rhonda Roederer has been following her passion for family history for over 30 years. A life-long, Louisiana native, Rhonda and her husband, Brian, are newcomers to North Carolina and live in Hickory. She is a professional genealogist and educator. She is the Founder of Heritage with Heart, and her experiences are diverse: uncovering family mysteries, writing heritage cookbooks, organizing large family events, and reuniting adoptees with their birth families.

As an educator, Rhonda presents various seminars and workshops from her Family History Detective Series all over Catawba Valley. She has been seen at area historical societies, libraries, senior centers, and museums. Rhonda has also been on the international stage at the world's largest genealogical conference, RootsTech. Check out her calendar of events on her website [HeritageWithHeart.com](http://HeritageWithHeart.com) to see where she's speaking next.

Her approach is unique in that she shares her own case studies which take learners along her personal journeys of family discovery, while giving inspiration to search out their own lost or extended family.

Rhonda's mission is to unlock the past, inspire the future and bring families together ... one generation at a time. Let Rhonda help you discover your family's incredible story! Contact her and thank her for her generous sponsorship.



**We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event.**

**Why not try something new from events in the newsletter.**