

July 2023

Sandi Johnson, Editor



The Voice

Newcomers of Catawba Valley Newsletter
2525 North Center Street #169, Hickory, NC 28601
www.newcomersofcv.org



President's Column

How is it that half a year is gone! Feels like I just finished putting away Christmas decorations and now we're looking at the Fourth of July! Newcomers have been busy! The Lake party at the home of Cathi and John Montgomery was a HUGE success, despite the rain delay. We had almost 70 in attendance! Many thanks to our Special Events Committee for a job well done!

Our next General Membership meeting will be on Wednesday, July 12 th at 7:30 p.m. This evening meeting will present our Third Quarter charity, Shining Hope Farms and Patrice Gibson will outline all the ways in which Newcomers can help. We will also have a presentation by Unique World Gifts AND a pop-up store where you can shop.

A big shout-out to Denise Hogestyn who has volunteered to take on Lunch/Dinner out. Thank you! Look for our Dinner Out event in this newsletter. Please, make time to get to the club's website! There is a wealth of information available to you there – most importantly, the club's calendar and member information. I would be lost without it. If you are having issues accessing the site, please drop me an email. We'll get you set up!

Hoping this month's missive finds you all doing well. Hope to see you soon!

Adra Kryszczuk
President

Photo taken at the
Lake Party



Book Club Chair: Laura Moran moran.laura@att.net

The next meeting of the Book Club will be held on Wednesday, July 26th, 2023, at 1:30 P.M. at the Women's Resource Center in Hickory. The book for our July discussion will be *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult. This book was a New York Times Bestseller. "Alternatingly heart-pounding and heartbreaking, this collaboration between two best-selling authors seamlessly weaves together Olivia and Lily's journeys, creating a provocative exploration of the strength that love and acceptance require."—The Washington Post Olivia McAfee knows what it feels like to start over. Her picture-perfect life—living in Boston, married to a brilliant cardiothoracic surgeon, raising their beautiful son, Asher—was upended when her husband revealed a darker side. She never imagined that she would end up back in her sleepy New Hampshire hometown, living in the house she grew up in and taking over her father's beekeeping business. Lily Campanello is familiar with do-overs, too. When she and her mom relocate to Adams, New Hampshire, for her final year of high school, they both hope it will be a fresh start. And for just a short while, these new beginnings are exactly what Olivia and Lily need. Their paths cross when Asher falls for the new girl in school, and Lily can't help but fall for him, too. With Ash, she feels happy for the first time. Yet she wonders if she can trust him completely. Then one day, Olivia receives a phone call: Lily is dead, and Asher is being questioned by the police. Olivia is adamant that her son is innocent. But she would be lying if she didn't acknowledge the flashes of his father's temper in Ash, and as the case against him unfolds, she realizes he's hidden more than he's shared with her. *Mad Honey* is a riveting novel of suspense, an unforgettable love story, and a moving and powerful exploration of the secrets we keep and the risks we take to become ourselves. 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

Newcomers Bowling is on hiatus for the Summer. We will resume bowling near the beginning of October. Please contact Vince LeGrand (legravin@gmail.com) if you have any questions



Bridge Chair: Gloria Berg glomcberg@hotmail.com

JULY

Monday, July 3rd	Kathy Rozea
Wednesday, July 5th	Kathy Durand
Monday July 10th	Diana Earnest
Monday, July 17th	Betty Stone
Wednesday, July 19th	Kathy Durand

AUGUST

Wednesday, August 2nd	Helen Woodyard
Monday August 7th	Karen Schafer
Monday, August 14th	Vicki Mullins
Wednesday, August 16th	Karen Schafer
Monday, August 21st	Susan Perkins



Garden Gurus co-chairs: Rob Herman & Cindy Zook

Experience a captivating half-day of flow day of flower picking and arranging at the countryside Howard Family Farm! Immerse yourself in the beauty of nature as we explore the bountiful fields and immerse yourself in the beauty of nature as we unlock the secrets of crafting simple but thrilling floral arrangements. This event promises to be an enriching experience for all gardening enthusiasts. Your Arranging Kit awaits, complete with indispensable tools for this event: floral foam, cutting shears, florist tape, and a color chart.



Embark on a delightful wagon ride to remote areas of the farm to handpick a medley of fillers, those required foliage and dainty blossoms that infuse arrangements with volume and texture. Then our instructors Rob and Cindy, in the open-air sun-protected pavilion will unveil the essential elements of floral design: Balance, Proportion, Color, Texture and Form. Texture and Form. As you contemplate your own design you will cut and soak your floral foam in the provided flora preservative. Stroll amidst the flower fields adorned with vibrant Zinnias, Dahlias, Gladiolus and

Sunflowers in a kaleidoscope of hues. You will select 9 captivating focal flower stems, for your artistic vision. Back in the pavilion, Cindy, a former National Garden Club President, and floral design competitor will weave her magic, conjuring an awe-inspiring arrangement from her handpicked fillers and stems. Rob, an accomplished self-taught amateur, will craft a captivating example for you too, to emulate or draw inspiration from. As you bring your own unique creation to emulate or draw inspiration from, Cindy and Rob will be available, guiding and inspiring you every step of the way. Remember to bring your own deep-dish pie pan to serve as a vase for your masterpiece.

Afterwards, enjoy a quick lunch meeting to brainstorm future Garden Gurus events. Please bring a sack lunch; we'll provide ice water and sweet tea. Event Cost: \$20/person (payment in advance). Includes: Arrangement Kit (foam, tape, shears, color card) • Wagon Ride of Farm • 9 stems of Flowers you pick and filler • Design Instruction and Assistance • Flower preservative solution • Iced Beverages (water, tea) NOT INCLUDED: Heavy Pie Pan & Sack Lunch

Space is limited; make your reservation today by making your check payable to Rob Herman (39 Lake Point Circle East, Taylorsville, NC 28681) or pay at the next General Meeting on July 12. Once we receive your payment, you'll receive logistics, instructions and what to bring and wear. Questions? Contact your Co-Leaders either Rob Herman (robgherman@gmail.com)



Chatty Crafters Chair: Millie Kaufman mkauf188@bellsouth.net

July 14 and 28 10:00-12 noon.

Anyone is welcome to attend whenever they are available. Bring your craft with you to work on knitting, crochet, needlework, jewelry-making, or whatever or just come to visit (that's the best part). Please R.S.V.P. to our July hostess, Linda DeGraw (277 Gentle and Smith Rd, Taylorsville) by email at teach1999@gmail.com, so she will have enough chairs. Please come, even if it's only to chat. The hostess will provide coffee, tea, and water and light snacks. We crafters are always ready to work on our latest project! So, gather up your project and join us for conversation and comradery.

Games Chair: Debbie Hindman Debbiehindman2022@gmail.com

The first Tuesday of July falls on the 4th, so NO games night. Everyone enjoy your time with friends and family.



The third Tuesday of July is July 18th, and it will be games night at Hickory airport. Dinner at 5:30 and games at 6:00p.m. Dinner prices have gone up, just like everything else. Dinner is now \$12 and games only still \$5 and that includes drinks and dessert. Games can be anything you want to play EXCEPT Samba and Canasta. A few suggestions can be Cribbage, Euchre, Dominoes, Rummikub, Mahjong, board games. Please list the game you want to play so that we get enough players. Euchre and Mahjong are the best at 4 players/table. Each table decides on how they want to play

their games. No uniform rules.

Dinner will be determined.

Coffee & Conversation Chair: Sheri Binning/ Ronald.binning@gmail.com

July is once again Ice Cream and Conversation time. We will head over to Burke County for a change and visit Myra's in downtown Valdese. It's just a good old-fashioned burgers, hot dogs and ice cream place located on Hwy 70. Easy to find. We will meet on the last Friday of the month, July 28th, at 1p.m. A bit early so we can enjoy some lunch too.

Dinner Out chair: Denise Hogestyn denise14526@gmail.com

Dinner out will be at, Captain's Galley Seafood, 4345 Hickory Blvd, Granite Falls, NC 28630 at 5:30 p.m. on July 13th. The restaurant is large, there's plenty of parking and it is easily accessible for those with mobility issues. Please R.S.V.P. to Denise Hogestyn by Tuesday, July 11th to let her know you wish to come. Looking forward to seeing you there!



Charity Chair: Nancy Geiger ng0425@gmail.com

We are wrapping up our 2nd quarter charity: Southmountain Children's Home and getting ready to meet our 3rd quarter charity: Shining Hope Farms I want to thank you for all you did for Southmountain. We had 3 collections of household goods, met their executive director who gave a wonderful program about the organization, AND we are sending them a check for \$518.00 (from our raffles and the boat and horse races). They also appreciate just getting the awareness out to 300 plus people about who they are and what they do.

Shining Hope Farms is a therapeutic service using horses in a farm environment. The individuals and groups using their services have a variety of disabilities such as Cerebral



Palsy, Autism, Down's Syndrome, Brain injuries, etc. Their executive director will be our program speaker at the July 12th meeting at the airport at 10:00a.m. and we look forward to her telling us ways we can help them! Also at that meeting a representative from Unique World Gifts will have a pop-up store for us to shop and she will speak for a few minutes about volunteer opportunities at their store. Lastly the July meeting will be your last chance to bring gift cards for Make-A-Wish. These can be in \$10.00 or \$20.00 or \$25.00 amounts to pretty much any place where you can shop, eat or have fun! Again, thank you all for your giving spirit! You never disappoint!

Lake Party Update:

A huge shout out to Cathi and John Montgomery for hosting 60-65 people at our Lake Party!! 🙌🙌🙌 We were delayed by rain, but they took it in stride, and we had a great time, a beautiful location, fantastic food, and lots of laughs! 😂😂😂 Thanks to the attendees who missed the email about the delay, but also took it in stride. We do have a great time whenever we get together!

Our next big get-together will be the Pool Party hosted by Vince and Michele LeGrand and Adra Kryszczuk on July 15th. Watch the flyer and sign-up information soon. They have a wonderful pool, complete with a slide, and a hot tub connected to the pool. Many of our members enjoy the opportunity to lounge in the pool, chatting and letting the world's problems drift away. The LeGrand's provide a changing area so you can shed your wet swimsuit before the ride home. Bring your own towel. We also provide for the members who aren't into the whole pool scene! There's great music, lots of decks to sit on, plenty of space around the pool to chat with the swimmers, and, as always, great food contributed by our members! Hope to see you there!

There are many pictures of this event in the newsletter.

Mah Jongg Chair: Elaine Knobloch elaine.knobloch@gmail.com

The game of Mah Jongg is like the card game of rummy. On the 13th and 27th. In July 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. This game is played at the Airport when Game Night is being played.

Members Helping Members Chair: Sandi Johnson 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, transportation for shopping and doctor visits; providing books and/or reading to someone; 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 and Returning Members

We're welcoming back the following members:

Susan and Ray Mata from TX
Cathie and Bill Lane from DC



Samba Day Chair: Shari Kidd Kidd915sl@gmail.com



Samba Day is the Second Tuesday of each month. Lunch 11:30a.m. and Samba begins at noon on Tuesday, July 11th please be considerate of other players and arrive on time. Lunch is \$11.00 per person. 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 July 9th (Sunday), you must still pay the charge. Games and Beverages ONLY is \$5.00 per person
DESSERTS: Players with last names ending in A-N may bring a dessert to share with players. **Samba will be the only game played and there 'Will Not' be a learning table.**

Shooting Chair: Vince LeGrand legravin@gmail.com

Back before the pandemic, Newcomers had a group that did some shooting at the Springs Run Gun Club in Hickory. The price of ammo went through the roof and ammo was very difficult to find. Combining the ammo situation with the isolation needed for the pandemic, Newcomers Shooting was suspended.

Ammo is now readily available, and the prices have eased somewhat. I am looking to see how much interest there is in resurrecting the Newcomers Shooting activity.

We used to shoot twice a month....one time around noon and second session in the evening on different weeks. This allowed people who couldn't attend an afternoon session or an evening session to participate. Being it is a Newcomers activity; eating is always involved. We would go out for lunch in the afternoon and dinner/snack in the evening after shooting. If you are unfamiliar with Springs Road Gun Club, here is a link to their website where you can more information:

<https://www.springsroadgunclub.com/>



I am asking that anyone who is interested in Newcomers Shooting to contact me and let me know your preferences about days and times you would be interested in shooting.

Samba Night Chair: Adra Kryszczuk adraellen@yahoo.com

Samba is played at the Hickory Regional Airport on the 4th Thursday Evening each month. Our next Evening Samba is **Thursday, July 27**. Please arrive about 5:15p.m. for registration. Dinner starts at 5:30p.m. and SAMBA starts promptly at 6:00p.m. The menu will be posted in the July Sign-up notice. The price for dinner and SAMBA is \$11 per person. If you prefer not to eat, you can enjoy cards and beverages for only \$5 per person. All members, men and women, are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there. Please contact me if you need additional information.

Special Event Committee News:



- Beer & Wine Tasting – July 14th, 6:00-8:00 P.M. at Lowe's Grocery Store in Viewmont, bring a snack and enjoy a beer, a glass of wine, or cider!
- Pool Party – July 15 th, 5:00-?? At Vince and Michele LeGrand's house. See the flyer for details.
- Soup/Chili Cookoff: Saturday, November 4th. This will be hosted by Karlene & 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.

Watch for an Escape Room Experience, a tasting at a Hickory Meadery, and a possible trip to a vineyard or brewery during July. The Committee is a bit scattered now, so plans are in the works but not finalized yet. Watch your email!!



Star of Siam Team
Cuisine Thai Dinner on
June 24th

(I'm sorry to say that
Mary Beth is directly
behind Karlene's head)

July Birthdays

7.02 Mike Baretsky
7.06 Rose Arant
7.07 Ed Stewart
7.08 Audrey Rozzelle
7.09 Darren Beeksm
7.09 John Geiger
7.11 Barbara Womack
7.11 Cindy Zook
7.14 Dan Hinceman
7.15 Kitty Clark
7.16 Donna Thomas

7.16 Pat Harmon
7.17 Frank Wells
7.18 Billy Canipe
7.18 Jane Woodward
7.18 David Reid
7.20 Yung Holtzman
7.21 Cindy Donahue
7.22 Dick Heffron
7.27 Clark "Skip" Houghtling
7.30 Marvin Yokum

Lake Party Photos



Officers, Directors, Activity Chairs and Committees 2023 - 2024

Officers	Position as of July 1, 2023
Adra Kryszczuk	President
Debbie Hindman	Vice President
Sonya Reid	Treasurer
Sharon Snellings	Secretary
Cathi Montgomery	Past President
Directors	Nancy Geiger, Evie Gibson, Rob Herman, Kathy Rozea
Activity	Chair
Book Club	Laura Moran
Bowling	Vince LeGrand
Bridge	Gloria Berg
Canasta and Games Daytime	Susan Reese
Charity Coordinator	Nancy Geiger
Chatty Crafters	Millie Kaufman
Coffee & Conversation	Sheri Binning
Events Committee	Evie Gibson & Amy Chizen (co-chairs), Kathy Eichelberger, Lynne Hill, Jon Kiser, Adra Kryszczuk, Cathi Montgomery, Karlene Patrick, Kathy Patrick, Patti Ramsey, Sonya Reid, Judy Ward, Cindy Zook
Items of Interest	Bob Jones
Hospitality	Sharon Snellings
Lunch/Dinner Out	Denise Hogestyn
Mahjongg	Elaine Knobloch
Membership	Debbie Hindman
Members Helping Members	Sandi Shear Johnson
Newsletter Editor	Sandi Shear Johnson
Programs	Kathy Kuehn
Publicity	* * * * * Position Available * * * * *
Rummikub and Games	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)

Newcomers of Catawba Valley Sponsors



Heaven's Best
Carpet Cleaning

The clean you expect -
The service you deserve
Family owned and operated

We Clean it all . . .
Carpets - Upholstery - Hardwood
Air Ducts - Dryer Vents - Tile & Grout
Serving Catawba & Lincoln Counties
704-464-3646 828-759-5225

HICKORY
REAL ESTATE GROUP

828-328-9540
HickoryRealEstateGroup.com
Let's get you moving !



Public Dinner Cruises & Private Charters
LakeHickoryAdventures.com
For a great night out or an unforgettable private event

The Hickory Hop

Hickory and Boone
to Charlotte Airport Shuttle
www.hickoryhop.com
828-527-2542



Viewmont  **Pharmacy**

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
Chad Burel
Financial Advisor


LINDA MEARES
Broker, REALTOR®
828-612-7386 Mobile
828-322-1005 Business
828-327-3199 Fax
lindameares@cbbh.com

COLDWELL BANKER  

BOYD & HASSELL, INC., REALTORS®
127 First Avenue, NE
Hickory, NC 28601
www.cbbh.com/lindameares

Each Office is Independently Owned And Operated.

Life Enrichment, Inc.
TRAVEL

Mike Sigmon
President
mcsigmon69@gmail.com

404-277-7369 - Cell
226 44th Avenue NW
Hickory, NC 28601

**— OLDE —
TAVERN**

Food • Music • Sports

Business: 828-322-3323 • Fax: 828-855-9811
joseph.chartsoe@charter.net • Cell: 828-234-8723
www.TheOldeTavern.com




Natural Olive
WINE, OILS AND VINEGARS

Noelle & Josh Walker
Owners

216 Union Square
Hickory, NC
828.256.1950

We specialize in Extra Virgin Olive Oil, Flavor Infused Olive Oil & Balsamic Vinegars. Also offering custom gift baskets, corporate gifts, wedding/shower favors, and so much more!

Visit our online store at:
www.NaturalOliveHickory.com

A SIGNCO

Mia Yang
864-641-5407 cell
mia.asignco@gmail.com

1320 Fairgrove Church Rd
Conover NC 28613
828-466-1044 office
assigncohickory.com



Kiser Eye Care
Dr. Melanie S. Kiser
Optometrist

Valley Hills Mall
1960 Highway 70 SE
Hickory, NC 28602
Telephone: (828) 323-8833

Office Hours By Appointment
Same Day Appointments Available



Stephanie Demkowski
development manager

sdemkowski@hickoryart.org
828.327.8576, ext. 205
828.327.7281 | www.hickoryart.org
Hickory Museum of Art
243 3rd Ave NE
Hickory, NC 28601

mission To bring people together and inspire creativity through the power of art.



**HICKORY
FURNITURE
MART™**



**REECE &
ASSOCIATES INC**

THOMAS L LAIL II

Bus: 828-328-8815
Fax: 828-328-1263

PO Box 2463
Hickory North Carolina 28603

TAX AND BUSINESS SERVICES



Todd Hagee
(Owner)

828-612-4988
828-679-1067 (cell)
hickoryheatingandcooling@gmail.com
hickoryheatingandcooling.com



**GREATER HICKORY
INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL**

Sponsor Spotlight



**GREATER HICKORY
INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL**

Twenty years ago, the **Hickory International Council** was created by former Hickory Mayor Rudy Wright to serve as a forum for the international community in Hickory and to advise the City Council regarding ways to improve Hickory as an international city that

welcomes and values international visitors, residents, and businesses. Seventeen years later, the **Hickory International Council**, with the support of current Hickory Mayor Hank Guess, officially changed its name to the **Greater Hickory International Council (GHIC)** and transitioned into a non-profit organization expanding its reach to the entire Greater Hickory region, serving the four counties of Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba.

The mission of the **GHIC** is to promote goodwill, cultural awareness, cooperation, education and mutual respect through partnerships and community events while recommending steps, processes, programs, and procedures that improve communication and foster positive interaction between the international community and the Greater Hickory region's municipal governments. **GHIC** strives to make the Greater Hickory region friendly to international visitors, businesses, and residents and recommends actions that improve cultural understanding and tolerance within our local communities. **GHIC** also works in collaboration with the educational system, local governments, and other organizations to

promote understanding of all international communities and to teach the interconnectedness of the world today in addition to promoting international investments in and expansion of local businesses through exports and investment opportunities abroad.

GHIC sponsors and supports several international events throughout the year. For more information on these international events and activities in our community, visit www.hickoryinternationalcouncil.com

Thank you, Tracey Trimble, for being such a great sponsor.

**Thank you for supporting our
sponsors, whenever possible.**