

**August 2023**

**Sandi Johnson, Editor**



# **The Voice**

Newcomers of Catawba Valley Newsletter  
2525 North Center Street #169,  
Hickory, NC 28601

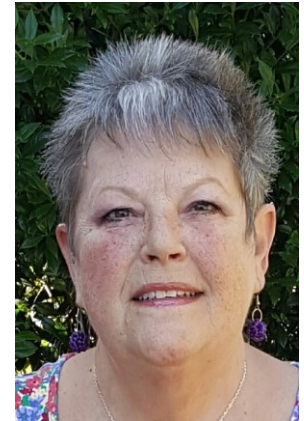
[www.newcomersofcv.org](http://www.newcomersofcv.org)

## **President's Column**

Happy summer y'all. And a glorious one it has been! I, for one, am enjoying the heat and am grateful for the rain that's helped my plants and garden flourish. Thanks to Denise Hogestyn for a great dinner out in July. We all enjoyed the company and the food at Captain's Galley in Granite Falls. Look further in this newsletter for the August event.

There was a wonderful group at the Hickory Tavern for Music Bingo recently. Lori Gervasio, WON the game! Music bingo is very interesting. Hopefully we'll have another event this month! Watch your emails!

The Garden Gurus put on a marvelous inaugural event on July 21st. Almost 30 members braved temperatures in the 90s to visit Harmony and the Howard Family Farm to pick flowers and fillers and create their own arrangement. Well done, Cindy Zook and Rob Herman!



Our general meeting in August promises to be very enlightening – Brain health. Looking forward to seeing lots of you there.

Someone recently asked me about the club's guest policy, so here's the answer from the club's By-Laws: All prospective new members are welcome to attend any event for a period of one month from attending their first event. The monthly General Meetings shall not count as an event.

One other point of business: Please note that mail sent to the club should go to

Newcomers of Catawba Valley  
2425 North Center Street, #169  
Hickory NC 28601

There is NO P.O. box, just a '#'. Any mail sent to P.O. Box 169 will end up in the dead letter office and limbo. Please make sure you're addressing correctly. Thanks!

Hoping y'all are having a wonderful summer – I sure am!  
Adra Kryszczuk, President

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in August is National Bee Pollen Day.**

**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, September 27th, 2023**, at 1:30P.M. at the Women's Resource Center in Hickory. The book for our September discussion will be A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman. Now a major motion picture A Man Called Otto starring Tom Hanks! #1 New York Times bestseller—more than 3 million copies sold! Meet Ove. He's a curmudgeon—the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him "the bitter neighbor from hell." But must Ove be bitter just because he doesn't walk around with a smile plastered to his face all the time? Behind the cranky exterior there is a story and a sadness. So, when one November morning a chatty young couple with two chatty young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove's mailbox, it is the lead-in to a comical and heartwarming tale of unkempt cats, unexpected friendship, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul. All of which will change one cranky old man and a residents' association to their very foundations. Fredrik Backman's beloved first novel about the angry old man next door is a thoughtful exploration of the profound impact one life has on countless others. "If there was an award for 'Most Charming Book of the Year,' this first novel by a Swedish blogger-turned-overnight- sensation would win hands down" (Booklist, starred review). 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)

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

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

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

**Chatty Crafters Chair: Millie Kaufman** [mkauf188@bellsouth.net](mailto:mkauf188@bellsouth.net)

Friday August 4th and 18th 10:00a.m.-12:00p.m.

This is an open group, and anyone is welcome to attend whenever they are available. Bring your craft with you to work on: knitting, crochet, needlework, jewelry-making, whatever, or just come to visit (that's the best part). The hostess will provide coffee, tea, and water. We crafters are always ready to work on our latest project! So, gather up your project and join us for conversation and camaraderie. Please R.S.V.P. to Millie Kaufman by email at [mkauf188@bellsouth.net](mailto:mkauf188@bellsouth.net) our hostess this month, so I can put out enough chairs. This month we are meeting at 1615 Indian Springs Drive NW, Conover. Questions? Contact Millie Kaufman by email at [mkauf188@bellsouth.net](mailto:mkauf188@bellsouth.net)

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

Coffee and Conversation will be at Beso Latte in Hickory on the last **Friday** of the month, **August 25th**, at 2 pm. They are located at 1917 12th Ave NE. They have coffee drinks, fruit bowls, smoothies, and homemade ice cream. <https://www.facebook.com/besolatte/>

**Charity Chair: Nancy Geiger [ng0425@gmail.com](mailto:ng0425@gmail.com)**



Hope you all are having a great summer. It's hard to believe the August General Newcomers meeting is just around the corner! **August 9<sup>th</sup>** at 10:30a.m. We will be meeting at the Hickory Regional Airport meeting room for our General Meeting. The August program will be "Keeping Your Brain Healthy" presented by Karen Phoenix. Karen is the Dementia Consultant with Project CARE. Project CARE is a state funded program based out of Western Piedmont Council of Governments. She has more than 25 years of professional experience work. There are tips you can use now that will help your future with Brain Health. In this presentation, Karen will provide information and suggestions for Brain Health, methods of protecting your brain and will provide time for discussion on Dementia related topics. Hope to see you all on **August 9<sup>th</sup>**, 10:30 a.m. I think most of us either have someone close to us with mental brain issues or know of someone else who does. Bring your questions. You will have an opportunity to ask them.

**Charity Help Requested**

For those members who attended our July General Meeting I hope you enjoyed our two speakers as much as I did. I wanted to follow up on a couple things: Eli Glynn was our first speaker from **Unique World Gifts**, and she brought a pop-up store with her of beautiful items for us to purchase. She also shared where their biggest need for volunteers is – in the store. Volunteers sign up for a 3 ½ hour shift to be a salesperson in their store 2 (or more) times a month. She shared that the volunteers are some of their best customers and you can imagine they really get to study the merchandise. (And they get a 10% discount!) Also, if any Newcomers' members shop in the store before the end of July, tell them you are a Newcomer, and you'll get a 10% discount too. If you want to volunteer, you may sign up online [Unique World Gifts](#) or just stop in their store on Hwy 127.

Our second speaker, Patrice Gibson, was from **Shining Hope Farms**, our 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter charity. She shared about the different programs they offer to anyone from a disabled child to veterans. I urge you to click on their website to learn more about them. [Home - Shining Hope Farms](#) One of our members already went out there and has volunteered to be a walker alongside a horse and rider. There are lots of ways you can help around the farm. If you do stop out there, either to volunteer or just look around, please mention to them that you are a Newcomer. Patrice and I have decided that the best way we can help them this quarter as a club is to support their 5K and 10K Salute Trail Run whose proceeds will provide sponsorships for their Saddles & Salutes program (for the veterans). We'd love to have a race team (to walk or run) from our club and they also need volunteers to help the day of greeting people, handing out water, etc. If you would like to sign up to volunteer the day of the race you can do that at any time by going here –

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4DADA62DA5FBC43-2023>

You'll be able to choose an area where you'd like to help and may even choose more than one and move around during the day.

**For the race I'm looking for a team captain** who will basically feed our group name into the website sign up and just keep track of who signed up so they can gather our team together the day of the race. For now, if you are interested in racing/walking send me your name and email address. Once the captain has created the team, we will email you the link where you sign up. It will be asking you name, phone number, email address, T-shirt size for your race shirt, etc. As you may know most races like this raise money by having the racers solicit money from their friends and Shining Hope is hoping each person will raise \$100.00. What may be a little different there is to sign up for the race you would put \$100.00 on your credit card and then either get paid back from the folks who sponsor you or of course you can get your friends to sponsor you before you sign up so you'll already have the money. If you go over that you can bring the extra money the day of the race. I think it will be a fun and rewarding day out at Shining Hope Farm, **September 9<sup>th</sup>** starting at 9a.m. Lastly, I wanted to let you know the club donated \$480.00 to **Make-A-Wish's** gift card drive! Thank you so much to all who helped with that, your generosity always inspires me!

**Dinner Out Chair: Denise Hogestyn** [denise14526@gmail.com](mailto:denise14526@gmail.com)

Dinner Out will be on **Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup>** at 5:30 p.m. at Saigon Garden, 614 Conover Boulevard West, Conover NC. 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, August 8<sup>th</sup>** to let her know you wish to come. Looking forward to seeing you there!



**Games Chair: Debbie Hindman** [Debbiehindman2022@gmail.com](mailto:Debbiehindman2022@gmail.com)



Games, games, games, games, will be played on **Tuesday, August 1st** at 6 p.m. with dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Hickory Airport. Dinner will be Tuscan Garlic Chicken with Garlic Smashed Potatoes and corn, for \$11. Games only \$5, and this includes tea and coffee and dessert. Please R.S.V.P. with the game of your choice and yes or no to dinner. The Airport needs 10 dinners purchased to pay for the room. Games include Rummikub, Cribbage, Euchre, Dominoes, Mahjongg, Bridge, Board games and other card games EXCEPT Samba or Canasta. **This will be the only date in**

**August for game night.**

Games, games, games, will be on **Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>** at 6p.m. with dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Hickory Airport. Dinner will be Mediterranean Spaghetti with Salad and breadsticks. Games will include but not limited to, Rummikub, Cribbage, Euchre, Board games, Dominos, and other card games, not including Samba and Canasta. The Airport asks that at least 10 dinners be purchased to pay for the room. Please R.S.V.P. with choice of game and yes or no to dinner. Please consider joining us for dinner and conversation before game play. The airport does a fine job in making our meals.



**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. **What type of assistance do you think we should offer? Please email your thoughts to [Sandi at ncvnewsletter2023@gmail.com](mailto:Sandi@ncvnewsletter2023@gmail.com).**

**New Members and Returning Members**

Michele and Quentin Sedney from MD  
Sheila Wright from FL  
Susan and Jon Dingle from GA



*We're welcoming back the following member:*  
Al Osbahr from MD

**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, August 8<sup>th</sup>**. 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 6:00p.m. **Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>**, you must still pay the charge. Games and Beverages are ONLY \$5.00 per person. DESSERTS: players with last names ending in O-Z 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](mailto:legravin@gmail.com)**

The response was positive that people want to shoot again. Look in the next issue on when and where the group will be shooting.

**Samba Night Chair: Kathy Rozea [krr510@yahoo.com](mailto:krr510@yahoo.com)**

Samba is played at the Hickory Regional Airport on the 4th Thursday Evening each month. Our next Evening Samba is **Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>**. 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 August 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:**

**Friday, August 11th** - Beer & Wine Tasting, 6:00-8:00 P.M. at Lowe's Grocery Store in Viewmont (behind Backstreets Restaurant). Bring or buy a snack and enjoy a flight of beer/ale/cider/stout/porter, or a glass of wine!



**Wednesday, August 16th** – Beer/Wine/Spirits and Shag, 6:00-9:00P.M. at Pour Choices, 208 N College Ave, Newton. They are a retail beverage market with a rotating craft beer tap. They also have Shag Dancing on Wednesday evenings. For those of you who know how to Shag, come help those who don't and have a chance to strut your stuff on the dance floor. For those of you who haven't tried Shag before, this is a great chance to give it a go! Of course, watchers are welcome, too. Send your R.S.V.P. to [Karlene.patrick@yahoo.com](mailto:Karlene.patrick@yahoo.com).

**Tuesday, August 15th** – We are having a Music Bingo event just for Newcomers! Vince and Michele LeGrand have graciously offered their home for this activity. There will be a \$5 charge per card to play and the winner of each game takes home half the pot while our charity, Shining Hope Farms, will be receiving the other half. We will play 3 games and the timeframe of the songs is yet to be determined. Watch your email for specifics and sign-up info!

**Wednesday, August 30th** – We are heading back to Catawba River Outdoors in Marion to go tubing! (We tried to do something new and different by going tubing. However, some of us tried it out and were not favorably impressed.) This is the same place we have been tubing in the last 2 years and have enjoyed it immensely both times. We will also let you know where our "lunch afterwards" will take place this year. Watch your email for details and sign-up info! We hope you will join us this year!

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.

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### **IN MEMORIAM**



#### **George Beckom June 21, 1946 -July 8, 2023**

George was born in Greensboro, NC, but aside from infrequent visits did not live in the state till 2016 when he and Chris moved to Hudson.

George was a wonderful, warm-hearted, mild-mannered man who seldom bragged on his many accomplishments. He was not one to start an argument or hold a grudge. George thought everyone had a right to live their lives as they chose; he had very few prejudices. He was a Marine during the Viet Nam era; he did two tours and was awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart. After he got out of the Marines he seldom worked in the United States. He was a propulsion engineer for GE Aircraft engines and was based in many locations in Europe, Asia, and Africa. It was only after retiring that he got to visit many US states with Chris in the fifth wheel camper, and with Brenda and Scott Ireland in their camper. We had so many memorable trips. George loved those trips and was talking about planning another one shortly before he died. George loved playing cards with our Newcomer friends at the Airport and in friends' homes. He is survived by his wife of 22 years, Chris, a stepson, Jason, and many friends.

Chris wants to thank the Newcomer Family for all the cards and sentiments that were all greatly appreciated. Chris Beckom \* 101 River cliff Drive \* Hudson NC 28638

## **Music Bingo Event**



## **5<sup>th</sup> Friday Crafts Event -- Wonderful time and beautiful outcomes**





## Newcomers of Catawba Valley's

# 5<sup>th</sup> Friday Art Class

Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>

2:30pm – 4:00pm or 6:00pm – 7:30pm

## Acrylic Pour



Have you ever dreamed of creating beautiful art, even if you don't feel particularly artistic? This is the beginner class for you! Everyone walks away with 2 "fluid art" pieces that are stunning. You'll let the paint do its work while you swirl the canvas creating a one-of-a-kind image. No brush strokes, no drawing, no perspective, just FUN and

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Up to 90 minutes of instruction with a professional abstract artist who will share her techniques with you in her downtown Hickory art studio.

- 1 -8x10 canvas as a rehearsal to your finest work
- 1 -14x11 canvas as your culmination piece
- 4 paint colors, plus white
- Personal tour of the Studio Bev gallery
- A demonstration of Bev's "Spin Art Machine"
- Choice of afternoon or evening class
- \$45.00/person, paid in advance



You'll want to reserve your spot now as "Studio Bev" is very cozy, with limited space.

**Questions? Contact Jon at:** 214.762.6919 or [jaydeekay59@gmail.com](mailto:jaydeekay59@gmail.com)

Please make check out to Jon Kiser (not NCCV) and mail it to:

**Jon Kiser @ 39 Lake Point Cir E, Taylorsville, NC 28681**

***Be sure to indicate your 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> choice of class time. Payment must be received by August 26th. No refunds after September 15th.***



## Pool Party Pictures



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

<b>Officers</b>	<b>Position</b> as of July 1, 2023
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
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Chair</b>
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
<b>Publicity</b>	<b>* * * * * Position Available * * * * *</b>
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)



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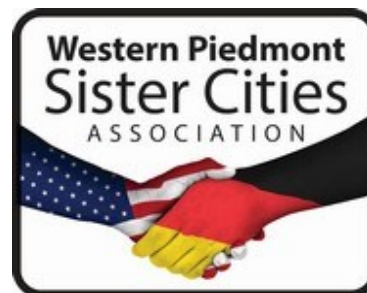
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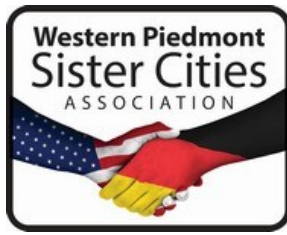
**GREATER HICKORY  
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COUNCIL**

## August Birthdays

8.02 Suzie Matthews  
8.04 Phyllis Kane  
8.06 Dennis Chalk  
8.06 Mary Ann Dore  
8.07 Ron Ahlstedt  
8.09 Kathy Kuehn  
8.1 Josette Kippenhan  
8.12 Pett Brands  
8.13 Linda Meares  
8.14 David Tupman  
8.14 Frances Tramazzo  
8.19 Brenda Ireland  
8.19 Jim Earl

8.23 Kathy Patrick  
8.24 Dawn Remus  
8.25 Greg Dostall  
8.25 Jon Snellings  
8.25 Helen Woodyard  
8.26 Sallie Townsend  
8.26 Richard Repaire  
8.27 Bob Remus  
8.28 Elaine Knobloch  
8.29 Ray Finnegan  
8.31 Loretta Wells  
8.31 Jane Jonkhoff





## Sponsor Spotlight

The Western Piedmont Sister Cities Association (WPSCA) ([www.westernpiedmontsistercities.org](http://www.westernpiedmontsistercities.org)) was officially formed in 1993 and in 1997 made international history by connecting four counties located in the Western North Carolina region (Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba) with Altenburger Land, a region located in the former East German Federal State of Thuringia. This created the first region-to-region partnership for Sister Cities International ([www.sister-cities.org](http://www.sister-cities.org)), which is a global leader in citizen diplomacy. Sister Cities programs promote peace and understanding through joint exchanges that focus on arts and culture, youth and education, business and trade, and community development, all of which are essential in developing, growing, and maintaining people-to-people relationships around the world. Local governments in the 4-county region pay annual membership dues and may contribute additional funding throughout the year, which is combined with corporate and scholarship foundation monies for specific activities, events, and exchanges. Each local government member appoints two representatives to serve on the WPSCA Board. Administrative support services are generously provided by the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG). WPSCA local meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every other month at 4p.m. at a different location within our 4-county region. On the alternate month, WPSCA meets virtually via WebEx with their partners in Altenburger Land. For each virtual meeting, there is a themed topic selected in advance and leaders and colleagues engaged in this topic are invited to attend on both sides to discuss future projects and exchanges together. Since 2020, there have been joint virtual meetings to discuss education/school to school pairing, arts/music/film, sports tourism, emergency management/first responders (police, fire, EMS), civic organizations, and governments and municipalities, and there is one final meeting scheduled in November to discuss economic development and business. In 2023, we are looking to discuss youth leadership/young entrepreneurs, historical associations, health, and wellness, and we are going to circle back around to education and schools/school pairings and exchanges, which was suspended during COVID. In 2023 WPSCA will also be celebrating its 30th Anniversary in partnership with Altenburger Land. We hope to welcome a delegation from Altenburger Land to our region so we can celebrate together. If you are interested in getting involved in the planning stages of this celebration, or any other WPSCA event, please email Tracey Trimble at [ttrimble@hickoryfurniture.com](mailto:ttrimble@hickoryfurniture.com). Thank her for her many sponsorships.

*Please support our sponsors!*