March 2024

Joan Lamanna, Editor

The Voice



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

newcomersofcv.org

<u>President's Message</u>

Forward March!! As I watch all the bulbs pushing up and blooming, the bushes flowering, and the grass greening, I can't help but feel thrilled that it's just about Spring! I also am noticing more and more activities that are getting back into the swing of things with folks looking forward to adventures, clubs, and socializing. Make sure to read what's coming up and also check our calendar frequently.



In case you haven't heard, Shari and Bob Kidd are leaving and going to Florida. We will miss all the ways that they have been involved in our group over the many years they have been members. Check out the details on the luncheon for them on our Calendar. We wish them all the best!

The speaker for our March General Meeting will be a representative from the Catawba Riverkeeper organization. Check out the details in Michelle Tompkin's part of the newsletter. Lake Hickory is something that is near and dear to many of us and it will be exciting to hear what their organization does. Our February speaker was Chad Hunsucker, who is the new Hickory Regional Airport Manager, and he was a delight to listen to. He has great plans and ideas and even intends to perk up the Meeting Room! Thanks to Michelle for getting this set up on a very last-minute basis. I would encourage you to keep an eye on who our speakers are this year since Michelle is a real go-getter and has lined up some fantastic people to meet with us. Thank you for your efforts, Michelle.

Our next General Membership Meeting is on Wednesday, March 13th at 10:30 AM at Hickory Regional Airport. But, as always, I hope to see you out and about at Chatty Crafters, OR Bowling, OR Bridge, OR Hiking, OR, OR, OR... We certainly have a lot going on! Watch your email for information and activity details, and I'll see 'ya around!

Amy Chizen, President

Committee Chairs Needed



Games Day & Night - An opportunity to enjoy ANY game you choose other than Samba or Canasta. Responsible for setting the date, time and location (usually the airport). A kitty will be provided.

Daytime & Night Canasta - Set up date, time and location (usually the airport) for members to assemble for lunch and hand and foot canasta. A kitty will be provided.

MahJongg - Organize games at least once monthly at locations as agreed by participants.

Dominoes - Set up date, time and location (usually the airport) for members to assemble to play games. A kitty will be provided.

Please consider taking on one of these activities. Your help will benefit all members!

Message from the Club Treasurer: Sonya Reid ncvtreasurer@gmail.com



Membership Dues for the 2024 Club year are due by March 31st. Dues are \$20.00 per person. Dues can be paid to any Board member or mailed to the following address:

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

Any questions, please contact Sonya Reid, Treasurer, at nevtreasurer@gmail.com or 919-880-7216.

General Meeting:

Programs: Michelle Tompkins ma.tompkins@hotmail.com

The next General Meeting is Wednesday, March 13th at 10:30 AM Our speaker will be Morgan Long, Education Director - she will speak to us about the Catawba Riverkeeper project. Their mission is to PRESERVE, PROTECT AND RESTORE. They provide accurate, science-based information about our water and the issues affecting it. I think we're in for a real treat!



Don't forget . . . the General Meeting is a wonderful opportunity to introduce your friends to Newcomers!

Events Hotline / Save this number: 828-544-1929



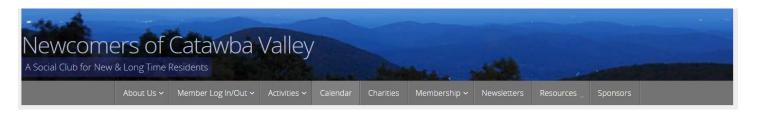
The Newcomers Club has a voicemail where you can check the status of an event, if you are concerned about a delay or cancellation due to weather. No emails will be sent out to the entire Club regarding weather related delays or cancellations.

Any decisions regarding delays or cancellations will

be updated on the voicemail 2 hours prior to the start time for the event.

This voicemail will not be monitored. Please do not leave messages. If you have any questions about a specific event, contact the Event Coordinator directly.

Special Newcomer's Program: Adra Kryszczuk adraellen@yahoo.com



Wednesday, April 10th at 10:30 AM at Hickory Regional Airport

We are pleased to present an in-person meeting to assist members in accessing and understanding the club's website. Members interested in learning the basics of how to access our site are welcome to attend and bring their personal laptops or devices to interact along with presenters, Greg Gervasio and Adra Kryszczuk. At this session, you'll learn all the options available to you as a member. You will also be able to get your own personal password set or updated.

This special meeting is available to members only

Please R.S.V.P. to Adra at adraellen@yahoo.com to reserve your spot!

Beer Tasting Chair: Karlene Patrick karlene.patrick@yahoo.com



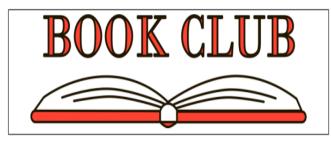
Next Beer Den Gathering is Friday March 8 at Lowe's Food by Backstreets, 6:00-8:00 PM. Bring a Snack to share if you want!

Hope you're ready for some Shenanigans!

Happy St Patty's Month!



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



The next meeting of the Book Club will be held on Wednesday, March 27th 2024 at 1:30 PM at the Women's Resource Center in Hickory.

The Book Club meets every other month on the 4th Wednesday of the month except for November when we meet on the third Wednesday.

The book for discussion in March is Moonglow by Michael Chabon:

Following on the heels of his New York Times bestselling novel Telegraph Avenue, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Michael Chabon delivers another literary masterpiece: a novel of truth and lies, family legends, and existential adventure—and the forces that work to destroy us. In 1989, fresh from the publication of his first novel, The Mysteries of Pittsburgh, Michael Chabon traveled to his mother's home in Oakland, California, to visit his terminally ill grandfather. Tongue loosened by powerful painkillers, memory stirred by the imminence of death, Chabon's grandfather shared recollections and told stories the younger man had never heard before, uncovering bits and pieces of a history long buried and forgotten. That dreamlike week of revelations forms the basis for the novel Moonglow, the latest feat of legerdemain from Pulitzer Prize-winning author Michael Chabon.

Moonglow unfolds as the deathbed confession of a man the narrator refers to only as "my grandfather." It is a tale of madness, of war and adventure, of sex and marriage and desire, of existential doubt and model rocketry, of the shining aspirations and demonic underpinnings of American technological accomplishment at midcentury, and, above all, of the destructive impact—and the creative power—of keeping secrets and telling lies. It is a portrait of the difficult but passionate love between the narrator's grandfather and his grandmother, an enigmatic woman broken by her experience growing up in war-torn France. It is also a tour de force of speculative autobiography in which Chabon devises and reveals a secret history of his own imagination.

From the Jewish slums of prewar South Philadelphia to the invasion of Germany, from a Florida retirement village to the penal utopia of New York's Wallkill prison, from the heyday of the space program to the twilight of the "American Century," the novel revisits an entire era through a single life and collapses a lifetime into a single week. A lie that tells the truth, a work of fictional nonfiction, an autobiography wrapped in a novel disguised as a memoir, Moonglow is Chabon at his most moving and inventive.

The remaining books for 2024 are:

May 22-The Lost Apothecary by Sarah Penner

July 24- Woman 99 by Greer Macallister

Sept 25- The Last Carolina Girl by Meagan Church

Nov 20- Tom Lake by Ann Patchett

Bowling Chair: Vince LeGrand legravin@gmail.com



Pin Station in Newton is where we bowl every Wednesday (except around holidays). Bowlers of all abilities are welcome. If you have already contacted me, I have you in my roster and email distribution. If you haven't contacted me and want to bowl, contact me A.S.A.P. so I can include you in the roster. Come on out on a Wednesday evening for some bowling.

The last session of the 2023-2024 Newcomers Bowling season will be held on Wednesday, March 27th. The 2024-2025 season will start around the beginning of October.

Bridge Chair: Pett Brands pettway163@gmail.com

March Hosts:

1 st Monday	March 4	Helen Woodyard
1st Wednesday	March 6	Pett Brands
2 nd Monday	March 11	Diana Earnest
3rd Monday	March 18	Kathy Durand
3 rd Wednesday	March 20	Peg Baldwin

April Hosts

1 st Monday	April 1	Carolyn Eanes
1 st Wednesday	April 3	Karen Schafer
2 nd Monday	April 8	Adra Kryszczuk
3 rd Monday	April 15	Susan Perkins
3 rd Wednesday	April 17	Helen Woodyard





Please remember to let me know of any schedule changes!

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



Coffee and Conversation will be a week early due to Easter. It is usually the last Friday of the month. So, we will meet on Friday the 22nd at 1 PM, which is a bit early, so we can also have lunch at Carolina Coffee/Roma Pizza in Hudson. It is located at 3068 Hickory Blvd to the left of Food Lion and Goodwill. Order your coffee, tea or hot chocolate up front

first and then go to the dining room. The pizza we had there was delicious and so was the mocha. Sign up with Sheri or just show up! The more, the merrier.

Chatty Crafters Chair: Millie Kaufman mkauf188@bellsouth.net



Friday MARCH 1ST AND 15TH
CHATTY CRAFTERS 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
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 Cindi Williamson, our hostess for March, by email at cindi.williamson@yahoo.com so she can put out enough chairs.

This month we are meeting at 3584 Hunters Path Drive, Granite Falls, NC. I want to welcome new members to the group. Members like to car pool, so please let us know if you need a ride. Questions? Contact Millie Kaufman by email at mkauf188@bellsouth.net

Lunch/Dinner Out Chair: Denise Hogestyn denise14526@gmail.com



Dinner out will be held on Thursday, March 14th at 5:30pm at The Olde Tavern, 2710 North Central Street (127), Hickory. Here's a link to the dinner menu on their website:

https://www.theoldetavern.com/main-menu/
Please R.S.V.P. by Tuesday, March 5th so I can let the Tavern know how many will attend. This is probably one my

favorite places to eat. Hope to see you there.



Hiking: Sonya & David Reid



Newcomers "Let's Take a Hike"
Friday, March 15, 2024
Mountain Creek Park
6554 Little Mountain Rd.
Sherrills Ford, NC 28673
Come join David and Sonya Reid for a hike.
We will be there by 2:15 PM. Hike starts at 2:30 PM.
Trail will be 4 miles or less (easy to moderate). No sign-up needed. Don't forget your water and snacks.

If you are concerned about the weather, call the NCV Events Hotline for any updates at 828-544-1929. Any changes (delays or cancellations) will be announced on the hotline by 12:30 pm on the day of the hike.

Shooting Chair: Vince LeGrand legravin@gmail.com



Newcomers Shooting has returned! There are two (2) shooting sessions per month. On the second Tuesday of each month there will be an evening shooting session at 6:30 PM. There will be an afternoon shooting session on the fourth Thursday of each month at 12 noon. Shooting sessions are held at the Springs Road Gun Club in Hickory.

Memberships are available, but you do not have to be a member to participate. Shooters of all abilities are welcome. Please contact Vince LeGrand (legravin@gmail.com) if you have any questions. If you have already contacted me, I have you in my roster and email distribution. If you haven't contacted me and want to shoot, please contact me A.S.A.P. so I can include you in the roster.

Garden Guru's Co-Chairs: Rob Herman/Cindy Zook



Do you love seeing those beautiful little bluebirds and desire to attract them to your yard?





Here is your chance to add a custom decorated bluebird house. We are hosting a workshop on Tuesday, April 2nd, from 1:00 - 3:00 PM in Amy Chizen's basement - 722 14th Avenue NW, Hickory. You will be provided with a cedar bluebird house, apron, paint, paintbrushes and gloves. You will need to provide your own creativity! If you have stencils or stamps you want to bring to share, that would be great! Not everyone will be comfortable painting in freehand. You will also be provided with information about bluebird nesting habits, where to hang the houses,

etc. Cost for the workshop will be \$20 and we are limited to the first 20 participants who pay their money to Cindy.

You can mail checks to: Cindy Zook, 2532 Birdie Lane NE, Conover, NC 28613. She will also be at the March 13th, General Meeting, where you can give her cash if there are still available spots. A waitlist will be kept, so if you have paid for a spot and must cancel, someone on the waitlist will be contacted to take your place. If there is nobody to replace you, you will be provided with your supplies. There will be no refunds of money because all the supplies will have already been purchased! If you want to do this don't wait to sign up!

Charity Chair: Nancy Geiger ng0425@gmail.com



Hi Newcomers! This is the last Charity article I'll be writing after over 4 years in this position. On April 1, Marje Wells and Linda Zacharenko will be taking over the Charity Coordinator spot.

You'll still get an occasional email from me when I need subs for the Soup Kitchen - so stay tuned.

We're doing one more drive for our first quarter charity, Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry. If you can donate anything from the following list please bring it to the March 13th General Meeting or give it to any board member.

Wish List: Personal Hygiene **ITEMS FOR THE HOMELESS**

Sample size:

- Men and Women Shampoo
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Razor
- Shaving Cream
- Soap / Body Wash
- Deodorant
- Wash Cloth / Towels
- · Comb / Brush

HEALTHY **FOODS FOR A HEALTHIER** LIFESTYLE

SHOWER **MINISTRY**

- · Canned meats, salmon and tuna packed in water (not oil)
- Canned vegetables and soups with low/no sodium, no salt added
- Canned fruits with low or no sugar added
- · Low or no carbohydrate food items (i.e. brown rice, quinoa in small packages, precooked)
- Low or no sugar packaged foods/snacks (i.e. sugar free cookies, no sugar jello/pudding)
- Almond flour, Monk Fruit in the raw (sugar alternative), sugar free cake mixes
- Healthy condiments (i.e. no sugar ketchup, salt free seasonings)
- **PHARMACY NEEDS**
- Collect medication bottles with safety caps (labels removed)

HOMELESS LAUNDRY **MINISTRY NEEDS**

- · Low suds detergent (High Efficiency preferred)
- · Spot/soil remover spray
- · Dryer sheets

CLEANING

- · Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- Window cleaner
- . Clorox/Clorox for colors

- SUPPLIES
- · Disinfectant cleaner

- **CRISIS CLOSET NEEDS FOR** MEN AND WOMEN
- Rain Gear & Waterproof Items
- Sturdy/large Backpacks & Blankets
- Socks, Bras & Underwears (new)
- T-shirts (long and short sleeves)
- · Shorts for Men and Women
- · Shoes (wearable condition) PLEASE REMEMBER:
- . No damaged clothing or clothing with strong odors.
- · Practical clothes needed, no party attire.

Also, on March 4th we have a few of our members going to help a woman in Morganton declutter her house. If you are interested in joining them please email me ng0425@gmail.com

We also have a group going (probably March 9th) to Morganton to build a wheelchair ramp. If you are interested in helping there, also email me!

Pills, Pills! We all need them, we all take them, but what to do with the empty bottles? We have an answer!



Our current quarterly charity, Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry (GHCCM), uses the empty pill bottles in their pharmacy. They clean them and then fill them with medication for their clients. This is a great cost savings for them and a good reuse of the bottles! We will now have a box at the Airport where you can deposit your empty bottles and they will be taken to GHCCM on a regular basis.

Here are the guidelines:

- 1. Remove the labels from the bottles. This is a privacy issue and will protect all involved. Many labels peel right off, but, if need be, soak them in water to loosen them.
- 2. These must be child-safety bottles. Medicine bottles generally are, but over-the-counter medicines are not necessarily child-safe. If you can twist the lid off without pushing anything, this is NOT child-safe. Remember that this medicine could be going to a place where children live.
- 3. We are planning to make the box available at the Airport all the time so you can drop them off whenever you are in the area or at the Airport for an activity.

Thank you for continuing to support this important resource in our community!

Members Helping Members Chair: Sandi Shear-Johnson ncvalegirl@gmail.com



The focus of this support group is to coordinate assistance for Newcomer members and their immediate families who might need help due to any illness, surgery, hospitalization, death, etc. We can schedule meals for a group of people as well.

This is a serious request for those who can and will help others. Can you drive someone to the doctor? Can you walk someone's pet? Could you pick up some groceries for someone? Are you good with a computer? Would you

be able to help someone on the phone with a computer issue? Could you type up a letter for someone? Would you be willing to be part of a phone tree to locate help for someone? Your help is greatly appreciated.

Samba Day Chair: Dianne Straley dfwhit@gmail.com



Come play three rounds of Samba with us at noon on Tuesday, March 12th, at Bob Evans restaurant. We've had great success in our new venue. The restaurant is welcoming, our waitress is cheerful and you can order anything on the menu!

Please arrive at 11:30 AM or earlier so you can order and eat lunch by the time we are ready to play at noon. The address is 2330 15th Ave. SE, just off McDonald Parkway, near the I-40 interchange.

The optional kitty is \$2. We also collect \$1 from each player to give

the restaurant as a thank-you for allowing us to play there. This does NOT replace the tip you ordinarily give your server.

Email Dianne Straley, <u>dfwhit@gmail.com</u> with your reservation by 6 PM on Sunday, March 10.

Now about the change in Daytime Samba. I am now the coordinator because the indomitable Shari Kidd and husband Bob are moving to Florida to be closer to family. I am not replacing Shari because no one can. But I am stepping in to run the Tuesday game.

Samba Night Chair: Kathy Rozea krr510@yahoo.com



MARCH SAMBA NIGHT is March 28th at Hickory Airport
Samba is played at the Hickory Regional Airport on the 4th Thursday
Evening each month. Dinner starts at 5:30 PM and Samba starts
promptly at 6:00 PM. Dinner and SAMBA are \$11 per person. If you
prefer not to eat, you can enjoy cards and beverages for \$5 per person.

Our March Dinner includes Honey BBQ Wings, Pasta Salad, and Chicken Salad Sandwiches. We offer a learning table for those who want to learn or simply brush up on their skills. All Newcomer members, men and women, are welcome.

We plan to start playing promptly at 6 PM, so please plan to be at the airport on time. Please contact Kathy Rozea if you want more information at krr510@yahoo.com or 828-495-7939.

Come and join us for an evening of fun. See you there!

Rummikub Chair: Maureen Morgan mjmsdesk@gmail.com

Rummikub meets the 1st Sunday of each month, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM and the 3rd Thursday of the month, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Hickory Regional Airport at 3101 9th Avenue Drive NW, Hickory.



I need a RSVP from everyone attending so I have a

head count for beverages. There is a fee of \$2 per person for each event. Everybody is welcome to bring a snack or lunch on the 1st Sunday of the month because the Cafe is closed on Sundays. There are vending machines with drinks and snacks on premises. Please come 15 minutes early to sign-in, get name tags and pay fees.

The Cafe will be open on Thursdays for a wonderful snack or lunch. I ask anyone who has a Rummikub Game to bring along to share in case there is a need. Anybody is welcome to bring a snack along if would like to share with all participants. Water will always be provided and Unsweetened Tea and Water will be provided on Thursdays . Feel free to contact me if you have any questions at mjmsdesk@gmail.com. Thank you and I hope to meet a lot more new members.

<u>Fifth Friday Crafts!</u>



There are four fifth Fridays in the year, and we plan to get together and learn a quick craft at each. These crafts can be accomplished in a couple hours, are low cost, and yet another opportunity to be with friends! Fifth Fridays will fall on March 29th, May 31st, August 30th, and November 29th with a different craft at each.

On <u>March 29th</u> Kathy Durand will teach us how to make small gift boxes from colorful calendar pages, wallpaper samples and other firm cardstock. We'll be meeting in the "Baggage Room" at the Airport. So, if you haven't thrown out your old calendars, hang on to them! We'd appreciate any from anyone, even if you aren't interested in doing the craft! Please bring any to March General Meeting. Future crafts are still being worked out, so mark the dates and watch for more information.

March Birthdays

Date	Member	_	
3.01	Amy Mallett	3.19	Paula Carr
3.03	Chuck Bethany	3.21	Dennis Donahue
3.05	Steve Stone	3.21	Debby Beck
3.05	Debbie Elias	3.22	Greg Gervasio
3.08	Nancy Jones	3.22	Diana Earnest
3.09	Wade Fisher	3.23	Addie McSherley
3.10	Corwin "Kip" Kippenhan	3.23	John Kelly
3.10	Janet Rudisill	3.27	John Raggio
3.12	Lori Gervasio	3.28	Ann Waldron
3.12	Monty Matthews	3.28	Joe Longo
3.13	Carol Hoover	3.28	Robert Barnette
3.13	Bill Weese	3.29	Sharon Snellings
3.16	Linda Fedder	3.29	Tracy Breen



Welcome to our newest members!

Arlene and Bruce Yergler from IL Amber Holland from CA Officers, Directors, Activity Chairs and Committees 2024 - 2025

Officers	Tors, Activity Chairs and Committees 2024 - 2025
President	Amy Chizen
Vice President	Paul Nielsen
Treasurer	Sonya Reid
Secretary	Sharon Snellings
Past President	Adra Kryszczuk
Directors	Nancy Geiger, Roxanne Hibbs, Patti Ramsey, Michelle Tompkins
Activity	Chair
Book Club	Laura Moran
Bowling	Vince LeGrand
Bridge	Pett Brands
Canasta & Games Day	* * * * *Position Available* * * *
Canasta & Games Night	* * * * *Position Available* * * *
Charity Coordinators	Linda Zacharenko & Marje Wells
Chatty Crafters	Millie Kaufman
Coffee & Conversation	Sheri Binning
Dominoes	* * * * *Position Available* * * *
Events Committee	Cindy Zook & Jon Kiser (co-chairs), Amy Chizen, Kathy Eichelberger, Adra Kryszczuk, Karlene Patrick, Kathy Patrick, Patti Ramsey
Garden Gurus	Cindy Zook & Rob Herman
Hiking	Sonya & David Reid
Hospitality	Linda DeGraw (mornings), Susan Dingle (evenings)
Items of Interest	Bob Jones
Lunch/Dinner Out	Denise Hogestyn
Mahjongg	* * * * *Position Available* * * *
Membership	Paul Nielsen
Members Helping Members	Sandi Shear-Johnson
Newsletter Editor	Joan Lamanna
Programs	Michelle Tompkins
Publicity	Jon Kiser
Rummikub	Maureen Morgan
Samba Day	Dianne Straley
Samba Night	Kathy Rozea
Shooting	Vince LeGrand
Sponsors	Kevin McCutcheon
Team Cuisine	Jon Kiser
Webmaster Team	Adra Kryszczuk (members & calendar), Greg Gervasio (site advisor)

Sponsor Spotlight



Ever wish you could unlock the past of your family's history? Wonder if those family tales you've heard are actually 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 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.

PLEASE, support our sponsors! Thank them and mention Newcomers if you do.

Do you have a business that you regularly support - doctor, auto repair, restaurant - that you think would like to serve as a sponsor of Newcomers of Catawba Valley? Please share your request with Kevin McCutcheon at kevinmccutcheon76@gmail.com.

Newcomers of Catawba Valley Sponsors























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Traditional Irish Toast



Here's to cheating, stealing, fighting, & drinking. If you cheat, may you cheat death. If you steal, may you steal

someone's heart. If you fight, may you fight for a loved one. And if you drink... may you drink with me.

Sláinte! (Irish for Cheers!)