

## Grand Junction Newcomers Club

*Where newcomers become old friends*



### Minutes May 14, 2025

*Reminder – You don't have to wait for the next month's newsletter to read the minutes. They're posted on our website shortly after each meeting.*

#### CLUB BUSINESS

**President Gary Fitzpatrick** called the meeting to order promptly at 10 am and asked for a motion to approve the April minutes. **Susan Norton** so moved and **Dale Gates** seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

**Treasurer Bill Gates** reported that the club is "still solvent," with \$5,097.65 in checking and \$5,296.33 in a CD. He drily noted that he's "thrilled" that the checking account earned 40 cents in interest.

**Tanya Davis** was recognized for producing a wonderful array of treats for the coffee meeting --- this month, all by herself.

**President Gary** asked if there were any May birthdays. It took a few minutes, but gradually several people raised their hands. Despite their hesitancy, they were recognized with applause.

**Linda Ash**, who sends greeting cards to Newcomers members who have been hospitalized or lost a loved one, said she sent one card during the past month - to **Cecelia Spangler**, who had a stroke. Linda said she didn't have additional information about how Cecilia is doing but would update the group if she learned more.

The membership committee's **Jean Greenfield** reported we had several new members and 14 first-time visitors in attendance at the meeting -- a record number for a single coffee meeting. New members are **Michele Schaal** from Delta, **Candis Anhalt** from

Virginia, **Penny Polowchena** from Glenwood Springs and **Lisa Arata** from Greeley. Visitors are **Lana Nelson** from Norman, Okla.; **Andrea Lee** and **Doug Shanklin** from North Carolina; **Nancy Reinhold** from Brighton, Colo.; **Teena Jaramillo** from Price, Utah; **Lynn and Steve Kubik** from Charleston, W. Va.; **Debbie Lehmkuhl** from Leawood, Kansas; **Eugenie Camdon** from Huntsville, Ala. and **Patty Wischnowski** from Chicago. **Pres. Gary** welcomed the new members and said he hoped the visitors would join also because they'll "see that the club offers a lot to love".

**First Vice President Tom Politzer**, who organizes the club's Happy Hour events, reminded the group that any member who isn't getting the emails he regularly sends about upcoming Happy Hours should email him at [tpolitzer1856@gmail.com](mailto:tpolitzer1856@gmail.com). He will add you to the email distribution list.

Speaking of emails, **Pres. Gary** noted that several members have received fake emails, supposedly from him, asking for money or sensitive information. He emphasized that such emails are fraudulent, since he would never request money from members. If anyone receives a suspicious email, please check with Gary to check on its legitimacy.

**Stacie Hawkins** and **Molly Fitzpatrick** conducted the meeting raffle. Stacie reminded folks to bring in items for future raffles.

#### CLUB EVENTS

**Ann Repka** announced that the next Tour and Lunch Club activity will be Wednesday, May 21 at 10:30. It will feature a tour of KAFM Radio, Grand Junction's community radio station at 1310 Ute Avenue. The station broadcasts community news and public service announcements for local non-profits, as well as local volunteer disc jockeys. The tour also will include The Radio Room, an 80-seat entertainment venue that's home to a concert series showcasing a mix of

concerts from local GJ favorite musicians, plus national touring acts. Following the tour, lunch will be held at a yet-to-be-determined location.

**Douglas Grodt**, who organizes less strenuous hikes suited to the club's membership, described a May 15 hike planned for the Devils Canyon area. It should be scenic, he said, since the hike will come at the peak of wildflower season. He added that he sends detailed information on hikes to a large email distribution list of members. Anyone who wants to be added to the list should contact Douglas at [jdgrodt@yahoo.com](mailto:jdgrodt@yahoo.com)

**Lisa Seitz** said that the May 15 Wine Club tasting of Tuscan wines has reached its 50-person capacity. She also reminded the group to save Tuesday, September 1, for the Newcomers Club's Labor Day barbecue -- one of two annual club-wide events. The barbecue will begin at 5 pm, will be at the same location as in years past (Grand Pavilion at Canyon View Park), and will feature the same caterer as in previous years (Have Cooker Will Travel) and the same menu (chicken, pulled pork, potato salad, coleslaw and a vegetarian option). More details to follow.

**Pres. Gary** said that **Terie Frutney** and **Barb Hofecker** will take over managing this year's holiday party, the other annual club-wide event. Since no one except **Tanya Davis** stepped up to make table centerpieces for the 2024 holiday party, Terie and Barb will host a centerpiece-making gathering before the party. A sign-up sheet will be available as the date gets closer.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Terri Ahern**, Newcomers member who volunteers with Colorado National Monument, will help commemorate the monument's 114th birthday with a May 24 presentation of historical photos -- most from the 1930s-1960s -- plus accompanying behind-the-scenes stories. She will be at the monument's Saddlehorn Visitor Center, 11 Rim Rock Drive, from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm on May 24 to share her extensive knowledge of the monument area. Terri has served as a volunteer monument Trail Ambassador since 2008 and helps with special projects in the Cultural and Natural Resources Division. She also leads hikes for active adults and seniors through New Dimensions Lifelong Learning Institute.

**Stan Zygmunt**, who volunteers with New Dimensions, told the group that work is currently underway on developing fall term classes. The course catalog will be available to view online beginning September 3; classes will run between September 29 and November 14. As usual, Stan said, a wide variety of subjects will be covered. In the meantime, free one-hour Midday with New Dimensions lectures will be held at noon in June and August at the Mesa County Public Library's central library and in September at the Clifton branch library. On June 12, Jon Larsen will discuss "Culture of Central Asia," based on his decade-long role as a public diplomatic officer in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan.

**Susan Norton**, who volunteers with the Art Center of Western Colorado, said that the 2025 Music in the Grapevines Concert Series will officially begin on May 20 with Stray Grass, a popular favorite band that usually sells out. There will be four other concerts from June through September -- all at Two Rivers Winery, with all proceeds going to support the Art Center's programs. Tickets are \$20 if purchased in advance, \$25 if purchased at the concert. They can be purchased using a credit card at [artcenterguild.org](http://artcenterguild.org). Physical tickets bought with cash or check are available at the Art Center gift shop. Susan noted that two tickets for the next upcoming concert will be included in summer Newcomers coffee meeting raffles.

### GUEST SPEAKERS

Instead of the usual single speaker, the club heard from three -- all involved in development of the Confluence Center at Dos Rios Park near the confluence of the Gunnison and Colorado Rivers. **Rebecca Frank**, head of the Confluence Center leadership team, described the long-term vision of revitalizing the riverfront area -- once a wasteland of junk cars and broken concrete chunks -- into a vibrant, usable space and learning environment for the community. **Rusty Lloyd**, executive director of RiversEdge West and president of the Confluence Center's board, said that the ultimate vision for the Dos Rios Park is a diverse development, including residential and commercial space, plus a shared facility for six local non-profit organizations to collaborate on improving the community's land and water resources through education. The non-profits involved in the project are RiversEdge West, Eureka! McConnell Science Center, Colorado

National Monument Association, One River Front, Colorado Canyon Association and Colorado West Land Trust. The first tangible step involves construction of a \$7.5 million Confluence Center building with collaborative and co-working office space for the non-profits, an interactive lobby, a land and water resource hub, plus a STREAM preschool and childcare center. **Jenn Moore**, Eureka's executive director, explained how the preschool will add 45 openings for kids between 3-5 -- an age group that's greatly under-served locally. It will feature a professionally-developed STREAM (science, technology, river engineering, art and math) curriculum meeting national accreditation standards. The goal, she said, is to "develop the next generation of hydrologists and geologists and economists." Confluence Center ground-breaking took place in February; completion is projected for mid-2026.

In response to members' questions, Rusty Lloyd said that the Confluence Center will allow the six non-profits to expand and better coordinate their volunteer programs. "There are already plenty of volunteer opportunities involving ecological restoration projects," he said. Some involve restoring riverside habitats, others preserving national conservation lands. For more information on some of these projects, go to [riversedgewest.org/education-stewardship/volunteer](http://riversedgewest.org/education-stewardship/volunteer) program.

--Lois Leach, Secretary



### Newcomers Club Labor Day Barbeque

Just a reminder to save the date of **Monday, September 1** for the annual Newcomers Labor Day BBQ. It will begin at 5 pm at

the Grand Pavilion at Canyon View Park. Menu includes chicken, pulled pork, potato salad and coleslaw with a vegetarian option. Cost will be \$14 for members and \$16 for nonmembers. Registration form and further details for the event will be sent out at the end of June and in the July/August newsletters.

## Member Notes



We welcomed several new members this month.

**Crystine Doyle**, from Florida. 636 Horizon Dr #703, GJ 81506. 530-320-4142, [chrysdoyle@gmail.com](mailto:chrysdoyle@gmail.com)

**Greg Ripley** and **Patti Scherbing**, from Iowa (Greg) and Arizona (Patti). 2494 Flat Top Ln #2107, GJ 81505. 970-986-9336 (Greg), 512-484-1573(Patti). [IOWARIPPER@yahoo.com](mailto:IOWARIPPER@yahoo.com) (Greg), [peanutismygirl@yahoo.com](mailto:peanutismygirl@yahoo.com) (Patti)

**Lisa Arata**, from Greeley, CO. 168 Landsdown Rd, GJ 81503. 970-396-9898, [lisa.a.arata@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.a.arata@gmail.com)

**Candis Anhalt**, from Virginia. 1988 J Rd, Fruita 81521. 703-798-8265, [anhalt.dc@gmail.com](mailto:anhalt.dc@gmail.com)

**Michele Schaal**, from Delta, CO. 586 ½ 28 ½ Rd, GJ 81501. 970-640-2410, [schaalm50@gmail.com](mailto:schaalm50@gmail.com)

**Debbie Lehmkuhl**, from Kansas. 779 Glen Ct Unit 30, GJ 81506. 314-221-6127, [lehmkuhldeborah@gmail.com](mailto:lehmkuhldeborah@gmail.com)



Let **Linda Ash** know if someone in the club needs a card: [3945ash@gmail.com](mailto:3945ash@gmail.com), 970-245-2775.

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*The house was full at the May Wine Tasting at the Grand Junction Art Center.*

(Palisade), from 9am-4pm. Events will include seminars, cooking demos, workshops, vendors, and food. Tickets are \$5 in advance (for seminars/demos). More details here:

<https://coloradolavender.org/annual-lavender-festival/>

The Bureau of Land Management will host the **Colorado Mustang West 2025** event at the Mesa County Fairgrounds **June 26 – 28**. Approximately 72 horses removed from Little Book Cliffs will be up for adoption.

Check out the Jackalopes' schedule at <https://www.gjackalopes.com/sports/bsb/2025/schedule>. The Grand Junction Jackalopes are part of the Pioneer League and play their home baseball games at Suplizio Field. Their schedule runs from May 20 to September 7.

## In the Community

**Wuffstock at the Gardens:** a dog-friendly benefit concert for the Roist-Hurst Humane Society. Featuring Liver Down the River & Zac Grant. Saturday, **June 7**, 3-7pm at the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens (655 Struthers Ave). Tickets are \$30.

<https://rhumanesociety.org/event/wuffstock/>

**Colorado State Square Dance Festival** "Gatsby's Alive in 2025" will be held at the Colorado Mesa University Center 2nd floor ballroom **June 13** (1-10pm) and **June 14** (8am-10:30pm). Free for spectators - enjoy modern square dance led by expert cuers and callers. <https://cwasrdc.coloradosquaredancefestival.com/>

The **Palisade Historical Society's** monthly history talk on **June 19** will celebrate the 110<sup>th</sup> birthday of the "Roller Dam" (officially the Grand River Diversion Dam) in DeBeque Canyon. 6-7pm at the Ordinary Fellow Winery (202 Peach Avenue in Palisade). Free (donations welcome).

This month's **Colorado Archaeological Society Meeting** will feature David Yoder, an Archeologist and Associate Professor of Anthropology at Weber State University, speaking on the archeology of Fremont Figurines. Free and open to the public. **June 25**, 6:30-8:00pm at Redlands United Methodist Church (527 Village Way).

The 14th annual **Colorado Lavender Festival** will take place **June 28** at Riverbend Park

## Community Concerts

Looking ahead to the fall, it's time to buy your season subscription to the **Community Concerts of the Grand Valley**: \$90 - \$110 for 6 concerts. Individual tickets are \$45. Box office open Thursday – Saturday, 12 – 6 pm.

- ♪ **Sept. 24 – The Mexican Brass**
- ♪ **Oct. 12 – The Waddington Brothers**
- ♪ **Jan. 4 – The Bronx Wanderers**
- ♪ **Feb. 2 – The She Gees**
- ♪ **March 26 – The Next Generation Leahy**
- ♪ **April 21 – Live from Laurel Canyon**



**Music in the Grapevines** returns for its summer 2024 concerts at Two Rivers Winery.

- ♪ **June 17, 7 pm - Feeding Giants**
- ♪ **July 15, 7:30 pm – Exit 42**
- ♪ **Aug 12, 7 pm – Queen Bees**
- ♪ **Sept 3, 7 pm – Still House String Band**

Individual concert tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the gate. Five tickets for only \$93 ("no set date" tickets give you flexible planning for when you attend concerts). Paper tickets will go on sale on May 1 at The Art Center. Tickets can be purchased online now at <https://www.artcenterguild.org/>



**Fruita Thursday Night Concert Series** - Enjoy a free outdoor concert (bring your own lawn chair!) at the Fruita Civic Center Park every Thursday from 7:30-9:30 pm. This year's lineup:

- ♪ **June 5:** Devon Worley Band, Country Rock (Plymouth, Mn.)
- ♪ **June 12:** **Goatz!**, Americana (Grand Junction, Co.)
- ♪ **June 19:** **Tony Holiday**, Blues (Memphis, Tn.)
- ♪ **June 26:** **The Centennial Band**, American Classics (Grand Junction, Co.)
- ♪ **July 10:** **The Lost Junction Band**, Country (Grand Junction, Co.)
- ♪ **July 17:** **Stray Grass**, Bluegrass / Americana (Grand Junction, Co.)
- ♪ **July 24:** **Grainne Duffy**, Blues (Monaghan, Ireland)
- ♪ **July 31:** **Soul Habit**, Funk / R&B / Soul (Grand Junction, Co.)
- ♪ **Aug 7:** **Frank Bregar Orchestra**, Big Band (Grand Junction, Co.)
- ♪ **Aug 14:** **The Two Tracks**, Americana (Sheridan, Wy.)

## Farmers Markets



Summer is the time for fresh-grown produce from the valley, along with flowers, homemade crafts, baked goods, and more.

- 🌿 **Palisade Farmers Market**, Sundays June 1 - October 5, 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. Downtown Palisade, Third and Main Streets.
- 🌿 **Cross Orchards Historic Site Farm and Ranch Market**, Wednesdays & Saturdays June 4 - October 15, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. 3073 F Road.
- 🌿 **Fruita Farmers & Makers Market**, Saturdays June 14 - October 25, 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Fruita Civic Center Park (325 E. Aspen Ave.).
- 🌿 **Market on Main**, Thursdays July 10 - September 25, 5:30 - 8:30 pm. Main Street Grand Junction.



*Ruth and Larry Anna pick up egg cartons donated by Newcomers and...*



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## June Activities

On hiatus – Armchair Travelers, Book Club, Dinner Club, Downhill Skiing, Movie Club, NeedleCrafters, Tour and Lunch.



### COFFEE (Monthly Meeting)

Everyone is welcome at our monthly coffee, held the **2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday** of each month at the Masonic Lodge/Grand Valley Event Center (2400 Consistory Ct). We meet at **9:30 am** to enjoy a bit of coffee and socializing before our business meeting. We usually have a guest speaker from local non-profit or other organization. Meetings conclude around 11 am.



### BOWLING

Strikes! Spares! Gutter Balls! Whatever your skill level, you are welcome to join up with other Newcomers every **Friday** at **9:15 am** at the Orchard Mesa Lanes, 295 27 Rd. It's only \$7 for three games. Shoes are available for rental. For information, phone or text **Michael Shea** at 970-663-3238, 970-213-4859, or [dakotah1001@msn.com](mailto:dakotah1001@msn.com).



### HAPPY HOUR

Happy hours are on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month usually from **5 to 7 pm**.

A suggestion: With so many new members and guests at happy hours, wear your name tag to facilitate introductions and lighten the load on our memories.



### HIKING

This group is for those who like an easier and friendly form of hiking around the scenic Grand Valley and the Grand Mesa. Participants meet at **8:45 am** on **Thursdays** at a trailhead or carpool site. Contact **Douglas Grodt** at [newcomerhikers@gmail.com](mailto:newcomerhikers@gmail.com) to be put on the distribution list for upcoming outings.



### KNITTING

Knitting group meets all summer at Sherwood Park on the **3rd Monday** of month at **1:30**.



### MAH JONGG

Newcomer Mahjongg meets **Thursdays** from **9 -11 am** at the St Mary's Pavilion. Please park near Wellington and not close to the building. For more information, contact **Nancy Hollmaier** at [nancyksh@gmail.com](mailto:nancyksh@gmail.com) or text 224-688-2308



### SINGULAR DINERS

Singular Diners is for those who want to experience the many restaurants in the Grand Valley but hesitate to dine alone. Our next lunch will be on **June 18** at **noon** at Spoons, 3090 N. 12th. Please confirm your attendance to **Lina Palomo** at [bluetopaz1129@yahoo.com](mailto:bluetopaz1129@yahoo.com) or (626) 993.7046.

**TENNIS**

255-9964.

Drop in any **Monday, Wednesday or Friday** at Canyon View Park for mixed doubles play. Starting Monday, **June 2**, court time will be **8 till 10 am**. Questions? Call **Tony Miller**, 970-

**WINE TASTING**

wine club, please contact **Lisa Seitz** at 303-623-4391 or at [lisa.seitz623@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.seitz623@gmail.com).

Our May wine tasting hosted just under 40 people with sampling of 6 Tuscan wines. It was a lot of fun. Think about joining us next time. Save the date for future wine tastings on **Thursday, July 17** and **Thursday, November 13**. More details to follow soon. Any questions regarding

**Free and Fun in June**

Date	What	Where	Time	More Information
6	First Friday	The Art Center and downtown galleries	evening	<a href="http://gjartcenter.org">gjartcenter.org</a>
13	Science Uncorked: Cognitive Aging	Whitewater Hill Winery	6 – 8 pm	RSVPs welcome <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/science-uncorked-cognitive-aging-tickets-1342769582969">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/science-uncorked-cognitive-aging-tickets-1342769582969</a>
18	Mesa County Oral History Meeting: Recollections & Ramblings	Central Library Community Room	12 – 1 pm	<a href="http://Mesacountylibraries.org">Mesacountylibraries.org</a>
15	Cross Orchards Farmers Market opens	3073 F Road	8 am - noon	


**New Dimensions  
Lifelong Learning  
Institute News**

Volunteers at **New Dimensions Lifelong Learning** continue developing classes for the **Fall Term**, with classes running from September 29 until November 14, 2025. Look for the class catalog online at <https://www.newdimensionsgj.org> on September 3. Here are some examples of classes that will be offered:

- International Financial Institutions and Global Power Dynamics,
- Do We Live in a Multiverse and Does It Matter,

- Exploration of the Amazon Basin in Peru,
- History and Evolution of Presidential Power,
- Mastering Meal Prep,
- Walking History Tour of Historic Downtown Grand Junction Buildings,
- Quilting as Art: Not Your Grandmother's Quilting,
- ***Wagons to Apples, the Story of John Ashenfelter (local history), and***
- ***Fly a Remote-Controlled Electric Airplane***

Until the Fall Term, there are free noontime **Midday with New Dimensions** lectures scheduled in June and August at the Mesa



County Central Library, and in September at the new Clifton Library. Lecture information can be found on the Mesa County Libraries' event calendar at <https://mesacountylibraries.org/events/>. Doors open for these lectures at 11:30AM and seating is first come, first seated.

**Midday with New Dimensions** offers a free one-hour lecture titled **The Culture of Central Asia**, presented by Jon Larsen, at noon, Thursday, June 12, at the Central Library, 443 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Jon served as a Public Diplomacy-coned officer in Central Asia for almost 10 years, where he acquired knowledge of the culture of the five countries of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan.

The five countries sit astride the Ancient Silk Road, along which came the silks, gold, and delicacies from China that the Western World wanted. Over the course of time, the countries in Central Asia developed their own silks, carpets, pottery, poetry, and cuisine. The ancient cities of Kokand, Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva were cultural and government centers. Each country has its own unique, fascinating culture and the lecture will cover each.



*Wine, food, art, conversation. No wonder the Wine Club is so popular.*



*These wine tasters take their job seriously.*



*Wine Club members taste and score Tuscan wines.*

## *Member Classified Ads*

Free text-only space is available for member non-commercial and personal ads. They will run until forbid or a maximum of three months both in the newsletter and on our website. Send your request to [gjnewcomers@gmail.com](mailto:gjnewcomers@gmail.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.



We suggest you keep your name badge in your car so it will always be handy. If you don't already have a magnetic name badge, you can order one from **Alberta Husch** for \$10. Email her at [aahusch@gmail.com](mailto:aahusch@gmail.com).



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#### Executive Board 2024-2025

President – Gary Fitzpatrick, 419-450-9438,  
[gfitzpatrick77@gmail.com](mailto:gfitzpatrick77@gmail.com)

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Tom Politzer, 303-888-5437, [tpolitzer@msn.com](mailto:tpolitzer@msn.com)

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Stacie Hawkins, 206-501-1523, [shawkins5594@gmail.com](mailto:shawkins5594@gmail.com)

Treasurer – Bill Gates, 541-613-4390,  
[whgates.62@gmail.com](mailto:whgates.62@gmail.com)

Secretary – Lois Leach, 303-748-5203,  
[decsaj12948@gmail.com](mailto:decsaj12948@gmail.com)



Did you know the proceeds from our raffle at the monthly meeting help pay for our beverages and

goodies? And where do the raffle items come from? You! Please look around and bring in items to contribute. Anything from **Art** to **Zinfandel** is welcome. Buy your tickets during the coffee time.

#### Grand Junction Newcomers Club PO Box 3222

Grand Junction, CO 81502  
[gjnewcomers@gmail.com](mailto:gjnewcomers@gmail.com)  
[gjnewcomers.org](http://gjnewcomers.org)

Submissions for general club news and ads are due the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

You don't have to be new to the area to join Newcomers. Annual dues are \$15, \$25 for a couple. Download the membership form at [gjnewcomers.org](http://gjnewcomers.org), and mail the completed form with a check. Or come to a monthly coffee (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 9:30 am, at the Masonic Lodge/Grand Valley Event Center (2400 Consistory Ct) to get to know us a bit and sign up then. You'll meet great people, receive our member directory, get our newsletter and timely email alerts, can join any of our regular activity groups, and participate in special events.