

Grand Junction Newcomers Club

Where newcomers become old friends

Minutes - July 9, 2025



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

CLUB BUSINESS

President Gary Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. on the dot, then asked for a motion to approve the June minutes. **Dale Gates** so moved, **Ellora Stanton** seconded and the minutes were approved by acclamation.

Treasurer Bill Gates reported that the club has \$3,907.65 in checking with \$2.10 in year-to-date interest and \$5,341.05 in a certificate of deposit, with \$92 in year-to-date interest.

There was a round of applause for the patriotic-themed treats provided by **Tanya Davis** and her Hospitality Team members -- this month, **Lisa Seitz** and **Alberta Husch**.

President Gary noted that **Linda Ash**, who has been spearheading the We Care program, has indicated that she's stepping down due to health issues, effective immediately. Through We Care, she sends greeting cards to Newcomers who have been hospitalized or have lost a loved one. **Karen Dreher** has agreed to step into that role. If you know someone in the club who needs a card, please notify Karen at niagaraway@comcast.net.

Larrayne Zygmunt of the Membership Committee said there were no new members or guests at the July meeting. She added that the club now has a total of 345 members.

Molly Fitzpatrick and **Chuck Hawkins** conducted the monthly raffle, which generated several first-time winners.

CLUB EVENTS

Douglas Grodt, who leads monthly recreational hikes for club members, noted that, when the weather in the Grand Valley gets too hot, the hiking group heads to the Grand Mesa, where temperatures are significantly cooler. "It's nice to have the Grand Mesa and all its hiking trails nearby, so we can escape the heat," he said. In winter when valley trails can ice up, the group also goes snowshoeing on the Mesa. He noted that the next hike is Thursday, July 11, along the Mesa Top Trail. Anyone who wants more information -- or wants to get on Douglas's email distribution list -- can contact him at jdgrodt@yahoo.com.

Ken Seitz, who organizes two activities with his wife **Lisa**, provided these updates (with Lisa's help):

- The next Wine Club tasting event will take place Thursday, July 17, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Art Center of Western Colorado. Wines from northern Italy will be featured, along with light appetizers, for \$25 per person. The deadline for signing up is July 10. "We've done several tastings from various regions of Italy, so this will be our final Italian tasting," he said. "Then we'll move on to a different wine region."
- The club's 2025 Labor Day Barbeque will take place (not surprisingly) on Labor Day, Monday, September 1, from 5 to 8 p.m. in Canyon View Park's Grand Shelter. The menu includes pulled pork and chicken, potato salad, cole slaw and cookies -- with a vegetarian option also available. Non-alcoholic beverages (bottled water, sparkling water and iced tea) will be provided; folks can bring their own adult beverage in a non-glass container. Cost is \$14 per person for members and \$16 for non-members. Since space in the park's pavilion is limited,

reservations will be taken on a first-come basis; the deadline is Tuesday, August 26. Reservation forms are available on the last page of this newsletter, emailed to members, and posted on the website.

Suzan Fournier said that two programs currently on break for the summer will resume in September.

- The Tour and Lunch program offers monthly tours of local businesses, non-profits or events for Newcomers folks, followed by lunch. A team of members --- **Susan, Bill Gates, Steve Likovich and Jean Greenfield** -- are taking turns organizing the tours. First up in the fall: A day trip to the Meeker Classic Sheepdog Championship Trials on Friday, September 5. The trials begin at 7 a.m., but since it takes about an hour and 40 minutes to drive to Meeker, the group will plan to leave Grand Junction around 8:15 and arrive around 10 a.m. More details will follow in the August meeting, and a sign-up sheet will be available then.
- Armchair Travelers offers presentations from local folks who have taken interesting trips, either foreign or domestic. The presentations are arranged through a partnership between Grand Junction Newcomers -- with **Susan and Carla Sherrick** as this year's point people -- and the Mesa County Public Library system. Presentations are open to the public, free of charge. They will resume on Thursday, September 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the MCPL central library's community room. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. The presenter will be Dr. Peter Booth, former executive director of the Museum of Western Colorado, current advancement director for the Art Center of Western Colorado and frequent presenter for New Dimensions, the Grand Valley's lifelong learning program. He will talk about the Navajo Trail in Arizona and New Mexico.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

In **Susan Norton's** absence, **President Gary** reminded the group that the next concert in the Music in the Grapevines summer series features the Exit 42 band. It takes place on Tuesday, July 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Two Rivers Winery. Tickets are \$20 if purchased in advance or \$25 if purchased at the gate. All proceeds go to support the Art Center of Western Colorado's programs, including art camps for kids. Two tickets to the concert are included in the club raffle at the meeting's end.

GUEST SPEAKER

Scott Perrin, Grand Junction Newcomers Club member, cosmologist and astronomer, with graduate work in physics and astrophysics, gave an overview of dark sky objects. "I have a life-long interest in cosmology, the history and evolution of the universe," he said. "I've always wanted to see what's out there." His focus was not on the most frequently-viewed objects -- planets, moons, comets, asteroids and meteors. Instead he discussed and showed astrophotographs of bigger structures such as galaxies and nebulae. "We know that our solar system is in an outer branch of the Milky Way spiral galaxy, which is about 100,000 light years across," he noted. "But there are lots of other dark sky objects -- 7,840 of them, as most recently catalogued." Folks can learn more about those objects by taking advantage of local resources, including the Western Colorado Astronomy Club's public viewing events, where members bring their telescopes and offer insight into the images they show. He also suggested apps such as Sky Safari, which identifies dark sky objects when you point your phone's camera in any direction. "There's a lot going on in astronomy, and I expect to see great headway during the next five years," he concluded. "We're close to having an accurate three-dimensional map of the universe, showing the light from 5,000 galaxies simultaneously." As for discovering life in other galaxies, Perrin said "I hope we find indications; mankind is certainly on the hunt."

-- Lois Leach, Secretary



Newcomers Club Labor Day Barbeque

The date for the
annual Labor Day

BBQ is **Monday, September 1, at 5pm**. It will be at Canyon View Park Grand Pavilion. The cost is \$14 for members and \$16 for nonmembers. To reserve a spot, please send a **check made out to Newcomers Club with the completed form** (see p. 9) and mail to Ken Seitz, 2675 Autumn Brook Ct., Grand Junction 81506. Deadline for reservations is August 26. Any questions, contact Lisa Seitz at 303-263-4391 or at lisa.seitz623@gmail.com.

Member Notes



Ms. Garwen Jackson, from Chandler, AZ. 621 26 ½ Rd #206, GJ 81506. 480-861-7423. garwenj@gmail.com

John and Christie Hatch, from Grand Junction. 413 Saddle Ct, GJ 81507. 484-684-8813 (John), 484-684-8814 (Christie). hatchjc1992@gmail.com



The Wine Club continued their tasting tour through Italian wines.

Community Performances

- **Aug. 9** - Theatre in the Park - Seusspeare: Romeo and Juliet's Restaurant Wars, a "seussified" spoof of Romeo and Juliet. 10am-12pm at Lincoln Park. Free - bring a lawn chair or blanket, snacks available for purchase.
- **Aug. 14** - The Grand Junction Centennial Band's Summer Concert Series, "March Across the Valley" offers another concert this month at 7pm at Eagle Rim Park. Free admission.
- **Aug. 15** (7pm), **16** (2pm and 7pm), and **17** (2pm) - Nunsense: A Side-Splitting Musical Comedy, performed by The Theater Project at The Art Center. Tickets available at www.gjartcenter.org, \$28-33.
- **Aug. 22** - Chautauqua - Abigail Adams: Her time with London's American Artists. Join Jessica Downing-Ford as Abigail Adams enjoying the fine arts awakening in Europe. Studio Colorado at the Art Center, 6:30pm. \$5. <https://canvas.gjartcenter.org/events/178>
- **Aug. 23** - Evening Under the Stars with the Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra. Music kicks off at 6:30pm with the Grand Junction Centennial Band, followed by the full orchestra at 7:30pm. The Western Colorado Chorale will also be joining the stage. Admission and parking are free, but tickets are required - reserve your seat early! <https://www.universe.com/events/evening-under-the-stars-2025-tickets-CPSBVQ>

Music in the Grapevines hosts **Queen Bees** on **August 12** at Two Rivers Winery at 7 pm. \$20/\$25.

Full Moon Fires plays at Whitewater Hill Vineyards, **August 10, 3 pm**.

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 rest of this year's lineup:

- **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.)

Live in the Grapevines at Grande River Vineyards in Palisade presents:

- **July 26:** James Williams and the Faith Peddlers, 7 pm. \$25
- **August 2:** Hazel Miller & the Collective, 7 pm. \$25
- **August 16:** Stray Grass for Pets, 7 pm. \$25

In the Community

Join the Fruita Police Department at the **Cops and Cars Car Show** for a day of community, cool cars, and fun, benefiting the Center for Children. **Aug. 9** from 7am-2pm at the Little Salt Wash Park in Fruita. Free for spectators. Jukebox Jamboree will be serving food.

57th Annual Palisade Peach Festival at Riverbend Park in Palisade, **Aug. 15 - 16**. All kinds of peach-based fun: live music, food, contests, family activities, demonstrations, vendors. Tickets are \$10-50. More details and schedules here: <https://palisadecoc.com/events/palisadepeachfest/>

The **Palisade Historical Society's** monthly history talk on **Aug. 21** will feature Jeff Pieper with the Colorado State Extension, and will be about the history of the Extension in Colorado and Mesa County and current program offerings. 6-7pm at the Ordinary Fellow Winery (202 Peach Avenue in Palisade). Free (donations welcome).

This month's **Colorado Archaeological Society Meeting** will feature Connie Massingale, a certified avocational archeologist, site steward Grand and San Juan counties, and Moab BLM volunteer, speaking on the Juxtaposition of Archeological Sites in Utah's La Sal Mountains.

Free and open to the public. **Aug. 27**, 6:30-8:00pm at Redlands United Methodist Church (527 Village Way).

Some doings at Mesa County Libraries ([Mesacountylibraries.org](https://mesacountylibraries.org)) include:

- Aug 1, 1:00-3:00pm, Modern Pop Art Experience and Collage Workshop with Michael Albert. Fruita Branch.
- Aug 2, 2:00-4:00pm, All Ages Puzzle Palooza. Central Library Community Room.
- Aug 11, 6:00-7:00pm, Dealing with Conflict in Family Law - learn about changes in Colorado Law regarding adoptions, domestic violence in custody cases, child and family investigators and more with Colorado Legal Services. Clifton Library Community Room.
- Aug 13, 4:00-5:00pm, Renter's Rights - learn about tenant's rights with Colorado Legal Services. Palisade Branch.
- Aug 13, 6:00-7:45 pm. Poetry Night. Listen, and if you like, share your poetry. Central Library Mesa Room.
- Aug 14, 5:30-7:00 pm. Books On Tap - discuss the books you're currently reading. Colorado Craft Coffee and Beer House.
- Aug 16, 9:00-11:00am. Crop Swap - bring produce from your garden to share or trade with your community. Discovery Garden at Central Library.
- Aug 18, 5:30-6:30pm, Dealing with Conflict in Family Law - learn about changes in Colorado Law regarding adoptions, domestic violence in custody cases, child and family investigators and more with Colorado Legal Services. Fruita Branch.
- Aug 20, 6:00-7:00pm, Dealing with Conflict in Family Law - learn about changes in Colorado Law regarding adoptions, domestic violence in custody cases, child and family investigators and more with Colorado Legal Services. Central Library Community Room.
- Aug 22, 1:00-3:00pm, All Ages Puzzle Palooza. Fruita Branch.

- Aug 27, 6:00-7:00pm, The State of Grand Junction's Urban Forest, presented by Grand Junction's City Forester. Central Library Community Room.

Weekend Book Sale Friends of the Mesa County Libraries will hold Friday and Saturday book sales from 9am-2pm on **August 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, and 23** at the First Congregational Church (Across from Grand Junction High School). Great prices on used books, DVDs, CDs, and more. Free admission, proceeds benefit Mesa County Libraries programs.



Olathe Sweet Corn Festival is Saturday, **August 23**, at Montrose Rotary Amphitheater. Starting at 10 am, there will be

a 5K run, music, and free corn.

Glade Park Volunteer Fire Department Movies Under the Stars Behind the fire department building on DS Rd. Free admission. The line-up:

- **Aug. 2** – "Space Jam"
- **Aug. 8** – "Monsters, Inc."
- **Aug. 15** – "Jumanji, Welcome to the Jungle"



Farmers Markets

- 🌿 **Cross Orchards Historic Site**, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 8 am to noon
- 🌿 **Grand Junction**, Main Street, on Thursdays, 5:30 to 8:30 pm
- 🌿 **Fruita**, Reed Park, 250 S Elm St, Saturdays, 8:30 am to noon
- 🌿 **Palisade**, 3rd and Main, Sundays, 9 am to 1 pm.



Good wine, good conversation, lovely art. No wonder the Wine Club is so popular.



Linda Ash, who for many years has sent cards on behalf of the Newcomers Club to many folks who have had difficult situations, has decided to pass that function on to someone else.

Thanks to Linda for adding a little light to so many people over the years.

Karen Dreher has agreed to take over this responsibility. If you know of someone the club should send a card to, contact Karen. Karen can be reached at: Karen Dreher niagaraway@comcast.net or 303-475-5776.



Do you have anything you could donate for our after-meeting raffle? Any items—big or small—would be greatly appreciated.

Please bring them in at our next meeting. The money we raise keeps our coffee cups full and our snack table stocked!

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August Activities

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



COFFEE (Monthly Meeting)

Everyone is welcome at our monthly coffee, held the **2nd 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 \$9 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.



HAPPY HOUR

Happy hours are on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesdays of the month usually from **5 to 7 pm**. Look for an email with weekly locations.

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 to be put on the distribution list for upcoming outings.



KNITTING

We'll be meeting for the summer at the north end of **Sherwood Park** at **10:30 am** under the cool trees.



MAH JONGG

The mah jongg group plays year-round on **Thursdays** with a fun group of multi-level players. Play is from **9 - 11:30 am** at St Mary's Pavilion (coffee café, 750 Wellington). Looking for more information or wish to observe, then contact **Nancy Hollmaier** at nancyksh@gmail.com or text 224-688-2308.



SINGULAR DINERS

Singular Diners is going on a Road Trip! This group is for those singles who want to experience the various restaurants in the Grand Valley but hesitate to dine alone. Our next lunch will be on **August 20**, when we will be going to Cassie Bee's Restaurant at The Grove in Delta 1970 S. Main, which is also a cute gift shop and nursery. We will meet at the City Market 2770 Highway 50 Orchard Mesa at **11:00 am**. Carpooling from there can be arranged. Please confirm your attendance to **Lina Palomo** bluetopaz1129@yahoo.com or (626) 993-7046.

**TENNIS**

Drop by and **Monday, Wednesday, or Friday** for fun mixed doubles at Canyon View Park. Presently playing **8 am until 10 am**. This court time will be in place until the first week of September. Questions??? Call **Tony Miller** at 970 255 9964

**TOUR AND LUNCH**

The Tour and Lunch Group will go to the Meeker Classic on **Friday, September 5**. The Meeker Classic is a sheepdog competition that has obtained international recognition and is a significant event on the Western Slope. The cost of admission for seniors (over 65) is \$10 or \$20 for the younger crowd. As this is an all-day event, we will leave early, probably 8 am and return in the afternoon. Details to follow.

**WINE CLUB**

In July the Wine Club finished tasting wines from the country of Italy. There were some delicious wines in the country of Italy. Wine club will be on vacation until Thursday, November 13. Details to be provided at a later date. Any questions, please contact **Lisa** at 303-263-4391 or at lisa.seitz623@gmail.com. Hope to see you in November!

**Free and Fun in August**

Date	What	Where	Time	More Information
1	First Friday	The Art Center and downtown galleries	evening	gjartcenter.org
1, 8, 15	Movies Under the Stars	Glade Park	Dusk	
13	A Little Noon Music	First United Methodist Church	12:15 pm	
21	Mesa County Oral History Meeting: A Yearbook Story	Central Library	12 – 1 pm	Mesacountylibraries.org
22	Fruita Fourth Friday	Fruita Civic Center Park	5:30 – 8:30 pm	gofruita.com/event/
22	Science Uncorked: Cognitive Aging	Whitewater Hill Winery	6 – 8 pm	RVSPs welcome: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/science-uncorked-cognitive-aging-tickets-1419400307529
23	Olathe Sweet Corn Festival	Montrose Rotary Amphitheater	9 am till the cows come home	

New Dimensions



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. The class development team has 85 classes booked and is working toward offering 90+ classes for the Fall Term. Here are some examples of classes that have been added since last month:

- Want to Plant a Tree? Why?
- Letterboxing: Clues, Hiking, and Art - A Modern Twist on Treasure Hunting
- HealthSpan; Is This a Modern-Day Fountain of Youth?
- Camp Amache - Colorado's Japanese Relocation Camp
- National Monuments You've Never Heard Of (& Why You Should Know Them!)
- Interesting Stories Behind the "Historic Palisade Coloring Book"
- Time Travel with the Library of Congress
- Afghanistan in Context
- Van Winkle Ranch - Caring for Land, Livestock and Community
- World Cultures Reflected on National Flags
- Insurance 101 - How to Read Your Homeowners Policy in 5 Easy Steps
- Electric Transmission and Distribution 101
- Drone Photography -- A Different Perspective
- Telescopes: Seeing the Universe for Pleasure, Astrophotography, and Science
- A House Divided - The Civil War as Depicted Through Painting, Sculpture and Photography

Until the Fall Term, there are free noontime **Midday with New Dimensions** lectures scheduled in 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 one-hour lecture titled **Butterfly Eco-tourism in Central and South America** presented by Claudette Moore, at noon, Thursday, August 14, at the Central Library, 443 N. 6th Street. Claudette is a retired aquatic ecologist who has been fortunate to travel around the world and witness the natural beauty of butterflies as well as other creatures large and small. Learn about butterfly basics and the wonderful opportunities to see them for yourself. The lecture will show photos of the amazing diversity of tropical butterfly species in Central and South America and describe the eco-tourism system that has developed to support enthusiasts who want to venture south of the border to witness the remarkable variety of butterflies.

Midday with New Dimensions/Clifton offers a one-hour lecture titled **Biological Control in Colorado**, presented by Nina Loudon at the new Clifton Library, 3270 D 1/2 Road, at noon, on Tuesday, September 9. Nina is a program manager for Field Bindweed, Hoary Cress, and Tamarisk Programs at the Palisade Insectary.

The lecture will cover the history and current programs at the Palisade Insectary and inform attendees about how they can benefit through the Request-a-Bug service. The Insectary opened in 1945 to rear a biocontrol agent to protect local peaches from the Peach Moth pest. The Insectary now releases and monitors about 15 different species of biological control agents, including insects, mites, and even a fungus, for use against both weeds and insect pests for public and private lands to control the further spread of invasive non-native pest species.



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.

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 by the 20th of the preceding month



Scan this QR code or click [here](#) to go to the Newcomers' website for more information on activities.



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shawkins5594@gmail.com

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whgates.62@gmail.com

Secretary – Lois Leach, 303-748-5203,
decsaj12948@gmail.com

Grand Junction Newcomers Club

PO Box 3222

Grand Junction, CO 81502

gjnewcomers@gmail.com

gjnewcomers.org

Submissions for general club news and ads are due the 20th 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, and mail the completed form with a check. Or come to a monthly coffee (2nd 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.

Grand Junction Newcomers Club 2025 Labor Day Barbeque Reservation Form

Event Date: Monday, September 1, 2025

Event Time: 5pm to 8pm

Event Location: Canyon View Park, Grand Shelter

Event Cost: \$14 per member, \$16 for non-members

Member Name(s):

Member Phone #:

Member Email Address:

Number of Members Attending:

Number of Meat Meals:

Number of Vegetarian Meals:

Event Details:

Food menu will be: Pulled pork and chicken, potato salad, cole slaw, and cookies. We will provide a vegetarian option upon request.

Beverages provided: Water, sparkling flavored water, and iced tea.

Pavilion seating is limited to 112, so reservations will be on a **first come, first serve basis**.

Cutoff for reservations will be **Tuesday, August 26th**.

Make check payable to: Grand Junction Newcomers Club and mail to: Ken Seitz 2675 Autumn Brook Ct.

Grand Junction, CO 81506