

Grand Junction Newcomers Club

Where newcomers become old friends



Minutes – August 13, 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, noting that it would be shorter than the club's typical hour-long meetings, since the planned speaker had cancelled with little notice. A couple of members who had meeting announcements claimed that Gary had asked them to speak very slowly to help fill the time, but that remains unconfirmed. He asked if there were changes or additions to the minutes for the July meeting, Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the minutes as is. **Tanya Davis** so moved, **Ruth Anna** seconded and the minutes were approved by affirmation.

In the absence of **Treasurer Bill Gates**, **President Gary** delivered the club's financial report -- \$4,863.13 in checking, with \$0.38 in interest, and \$5,341.05 in reserves. He added that the club's account balances typically grow during the first half of the fiscal year, when annual membership dues are paid, but decline during the period when the bulk of the club's major annual expenditures are made -- for the Labor Day barbeque and the holiday party. "We're now entering that period," he advised.

President Gary also thanked **Tanya Davis** and her hospitality team for yet another array of meeting treats and congratulated members celebrating August birthdays -- a few of whom volunteered their ages.

Karen Dreher has taken over the club's We Care program, continuing the work done for years

greeting cards to club members who are ill, have been hospitalized or have lost a loved one. It relies on tips from members who know someone who should receive a card. **Karen** has sent several cards recently, based on tips she received by phone, email or text message. She prefers texts sent to 303-475-5776, but also will receive calls and emails. In Karen's absence, **Jean Greenfield** announced that cards went to **Bob Brown**, who had gallbladder surgery; **Ruth Anna** and **Deane Drury**, who both had shoulder surgery; **Mike Avery**, who had knee surgery; **Caroline Ely**, who had surgery in Massachusetts; and **Ron Bladow** and **Linda Ash**, who both have been ill.

Larryne Zygmunt of the membership committee said that there were no new members or guests at the meeting.

Molly Fitzpatrick and **Stacie Hawkins** conducted the monthly raffle, which generated \$103 in proceeds to help support the monthly coffee and treats.

Because there was no speaker, the meeting adjourned early, allowing members to linger, socialize and enjoy more of the hospitality committee's masterpieces. While speakers are interesting and informative, Newcomers meetings didn't always have them — so the August meeting was a throw-back to earlier decades.

CLUB EVENTS

Douglas Grodt, who organizes and leads less strenuous local hikes, said that a planned hike on Thursday, August 14, needs more people to sign up in order to make it feasible. It involves a roughly two-hour hike on the east side of Crag Crest (sometimes called Craig Crest) on the Grand Mesa. The area is cooler and currently less smoky than the Grand Valley. Anyone who's interested should contact Douglas at newcomerhikers@gmail.com.

Lisa Seitz said that the clock is ticking for members to register for the September 1 Labor Day picnic at Canyon View Park. The sign-up deadline is August 26, with checks mailed to Ken Seitz, 2675 Autumn Brook Court by that date. Cost for members is \$14/person; \$18/person for non-members. Chicken, pulled pork, potato salad, coleslaw and a vegetarian option will be served, along with a cookie. Non-alcoholic beverages also will be provided. Anyone who wants to bring an alcoholic beverage can do so, as long as it's in a non-glass container. Lisa also said that the next Wine Club tasting event will be Thursday, November 13 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Art Center of Western Colorado. Wines from South Africa will be sampled. More details will follow, as the event gets closer.

Suzan Fournier announced that the monthly Tour and Lunch program will resume on September 18, with a tour of the Atomic Legacy Cabin, which showcases the history of uranium mining and processing on the Colorado Plateau, plus Grand Junction's unique contributions to the Manhattan Project and subsequent Cold War programs. The tour will begin at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at Dragon Treasure. Many folks had already signed up, but Suzan said several openings are still available. She also said that the Atomic Legacy Cabin tour replaces a Tour and Lunch day trip to the Meeker Classic Sheepdog Championships, originally planned for September 5. That trip was cancelled after fires in the Meeker area caused partial closure of Colorado Highway 13 between Rifle and Meeker. **President Gary** commented that the Lee Fire near Meeker has become the fifth largest in Colorado history, growing at the rate of 30,000 acres a day, with a 170-mile perimeter -- a size that's tough to envision.

Carolyn White pointed out that the influx of people to the area in the 1940s who worked on uranium-processing tasks led to the founding of the Grand Junction Newcomers Club. Because their work was highly sensitive and classified, the newcomers couldn't talk to their neighbors about it, so they created a group where they could socialize more freely.

Suzan also plugged the Newcomers knitting/crocheting club, which meets at 10:30 a.m. on the third Monday of each month. During the summer, the club has been meeting under shade trees at Sherwood Park; once

temperatures cool, members take turns hosting at their homes.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Stan Zygmunt, Newcomers member who volunteers with New Dimensions Lifelong Learning Institute, said that the course catalog for the fall/winter term will be available for online viewing on September 3. Registration will take place September 10-17 and the classes themselves will run between September 29 and November 14. "We already have 89 classes ready to go, and we're hoping to add a few more during the next two weeks," he said. He also read a sampling of brand-new class titles on a wide variety of topics.

A free one-hour Midday with New Dimensions lecture titled "Butterfly Ecotourism in Central and South America" also will be offered at noon on Thursday, August 14, at the Mesa County Public Library's central branch. Claudette Moore, a retired aquatic ecologist, has traveled in Central and South America, witnessed the great diversity of tropical butterflies and photographed many of them. In addition, at noon on Thursday, September 4, a speaker from the Palisade Insectary will discuss the organization's evolving programs developed during its 80-year history. The presentation will be offered at the Clifton branch library.

Terri Ahern, Newcomers member and long-time Colorado National Monument volunteer, is planning to lead a hike on the Beard family sheep ranch for an upcoming New Dimensions class. "We're still working with the Bureau of Land Management to get the necessary permits," she said, "but we should be able to offer it as a fun little history hike." Terri also will display an extensive collection of "then and now" historical Colorado National Monument photos on Monday, August 25, from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the monument's visitors center. She originally organized the display to help celebrate the monument's 60th anniversary.

Susan Norton announced the final concert in the Music in the Grapevines summer series at Two Rivers Winery, featuring the Still House String Band, performing at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 3. The band was chosen as the 2024 winner in Telluride's blue grass festival band competition. Tickets are \$20 if purchased in advance — either online at artcenter.org or in

person at the Art Center of Western Colorado's gift shop — or \$25 if purchased at the concert itself. All proceeds go to support the Art Center's programs.

Suzan Fournier reminded the group that, following a summer break, the Armchair Travelers monthly programs will resume in September. The programs are offered through a partnership between Grand Junction's Newcomers Club and Mesa County Public Libraries. The September-through-May season will kick off on Thursday, September 4 at 6:30 p.m., with a presentation on the Navajo Trail in Arizona and Nevada by Dr. Peter Booth, former executive director for the Museum of Western Colorado and current advancement director for the Art Center. Doors open at 6 p.m., and it's recommended to arrive early, since Peter Booth is a well-known and popular presenter.

— Lois Leach, Secretary



The latest issue of the Grand Junction Newcomers Directory will be emailed to all members in early October. If your contact

details have changed, especially your email address, please let the membership committee know so that we can correct your entry in the directory and get a copy emailed to you. Please contact Larrayne Zygmunt, larrz5@mac.com with any changes by the end of September.



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 in a check made out to Newcomers Club with the completed form and send to Ken Seitz, 2675 Autumn Brook Ct, Grand Junction 81506. Deadline for reservations is August 26th. You cannot show up without a reservation. Any questions, contact Lisa Seitz at 303-263-4391 or at lisa.seitz623@gmail.com.



Farmers Markets

There's still time to get fresh, local produce at the area's farmers' markets.

- 🌿 **Cross Orchards Historic Site**, Wednesdays and Saturdays, ending Sept. 27. 8 am to noon
- 🌿 **Grand Junction**, Main Street, on Thursdays, ending Sept. 25. 5:30 to 8:30 pm
- 🌿 **Fruita**, Civic Center Park, 325 E. Aspen Ave. Saturdays, through Oct. 25. 8:30 am to noon
- 🌿 **Palisade**, 3rd and Main, Sundays, through Oct. 5. 9 am to 1 pm.

In the Community

Unity in Community Festival, Sept. 4 from 5:30-8 pm on Main St. near the 5th and Main St. intersection in collaboration with Market on Main. Discover how United Way of Mesa County supports local nonprofits while enjoying free face painting, balloon twisting, a climbing wall, and more. This event is free and open to everyone.

21st Annual Dog Days of Summer, Sept. 7 - the Lincoln Park pool is open to canines ONLY! 10am-3pm. \$8/dog, proceeds go to Roice-Hurst Humane Society. <https://www.gjcity.org/>

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is offering free guided tours of the new **Grand Junction Colorado Temple, Sept. 11 - 27** (closed Sundays) from 9am-8pm at 678 Horizon Drive. Tours last 45 minutes, and tickets are strongly encouraged if you'd like to avoid wait times. More details: <http://grandjunctioncoloradotemple.org/>

Downtown Plant Walk - Sept 17 and Sept 20, 9-10:30am. The City Horticulture Team will lead an educational walk detailing soil prep, plant choice, design layout, and color combinations. Full season maintenance and winter prepping will also be covered. A cup of coffee or tea is included to enjoy during the walk. \$10, advance registration required. <https://www.gjcity.org/>

The **79th Annual Rock Show, Sept. 20** (9am-5pm) and **Sept. 21** (10am-4pm) at the Mesa County Fairgrounds. Enjoy vendors displaying rocks, minerals, fossils, geodes, and jewelry. Activities, demos, a silent auction, and food trucks. Adults \$5, Military \$4, kids under 12 free. More details:

www.grandjunctionrockclub.org/shows

Free Community **Scam and Fraud Prevention Class, Sept. 25** - join fraud investigators who will provide information on how to identify frauds and scams, how to avoid them, and what to do if you fall for one. Mesa County Sheriff's Office (215 Rice Street), 9-10am.

<https://westerncolorado.beaconseniornews.com/events/316266/scam-and-fraud-prevention-class>

The **Palisade Historical Society's** monthly history talk on **Sept. 25** will celebrate wine month in Palisade! Jenne Baldwin-Eaton (Administrator for the Institute of Viticulture and Enology at CMU) will speak about the history of Colorado Wine. 6-7pm at the Ordinary Fellow Winery (202 Peach Avenue in Palisade). Free (donations welcome).

The 110th **Fruita Fall Festival** will take place from **Sept. 26-27** in downtown Fruita - a fall tradition with live music, parade, history fair, pet show, and even an outhouse race. Find the full schedule here: <https://fruitachamber.org/fruita-fall-festival/>

TEDxGrand Junction - Monumental will be held on **Sept. 27**. TEDx is a local version of a TED Conference, featuring video and live speakers, with the goal to engage and connect. Taking place at the Art Center from 9am-5pm, tickets \$30. tedxgj.com

Color Weekend at Powderhorn resort, **Sept. 28** and **29**. Hike, bike, music, and more from 10am-5pm. More details: <https://powderhorn.com/events/event/9-color-weekend.html>

This month's **Colorado Archaeological Society Meeting** speaker is still TBA. Free and open to the public. **Sept. 24**, 6:30-8:00pm at Redlands United Methodist Church (527 Village Way).

Some doings at Mesa County Libraries (Mesacountylibraries.org) include:

- Sept 8, 5:30 pm-6:30 pm. Beginner Spanish Conversation Class - learn to

speak Spanish with this free, weekly class (Mondays through Nov. 10). Registration required. Central Library Classroom.

- Sept 8, 6:45 pm-7:30pm. Intermediate Spanish Conversation Class - know some Spanish already? Continue your education with free weekly classes (Mondays through Nov. 10). Registration required. Central Library Classroom.
- Sept 10, 6:00 pm-7:45 pm. Poetry Night. Listen, and if you like, share your poetry. Central Library Mesa Room.
- Sept 11, 5:30 pm-7 pm. Books On Tap - discuss the books you're currently reading. Colorado Craft Coffee and Beer House.
- Sept 12, 9:30 am-12 pm. Western Colorado History Alive Chautauqua Performance: Nikola Tesla and Hedy Lamarr. Clifton Library Community Room.
- Sept 12, 2:30 pm-4:30 pm. Western Colorado History Alive Chautauqua Performance: Nikola Tesla and Hedy Lamarr. Central Library Community Room.
- Sept 15, 5:00 pm-7 pm. Crop Swap - bring produce from your garden to share or trade with your community. Discovery Garden at Central Library.
- Sept 16, 6:30 pm-7:30 pm. Cyanotype Sun Prints with Artist-in-Residence Meghan Reker. Registration required. Central Library Monument Room.
- Sept 19, 4-8 pm and Sept 20, 10 am-6 pm. Mesa Country Libraries Comic Con - family-friendly event celebrating the importance of stories and fandoms. Admission is free with MCL Library Card (or \$5 donation). Grand Junction Convention Center.
- Sept 27, 11 am-12 pm. Cyanotype Sun Prints with Artist-in-Residence Meghan Reker. Registration required. 970West Studio.
- Sept 30, 6-7 pm. Writing Your Ethical Will - a personal document to communicate your values, experiences, and life lessons

with those you leave behind. Fruita Community Center Meeting Room.

Community Performances

- **Sept. 3 Music in the Grapevines** ends its summer 2025 concerts at Two Rivers Winery with *Still House String Bands*. 7 pm. \$20/\$25
- **Sept. 6 Live in the Grapevines** presents *Quemondo* at Grand River Vineyards. 7 pm. \$25/\$30.
- **Sept. 12-21** The Theater Project presents "Much Ado About Nothing" - Shakespeare's classic comedy with a jazz-era twist! Performances are at 7pm Fridays, 2pm and 7pm on Saturdays, and 2pm on Sundays at The Art Center. Tickets \$23-28.
<https://www.gjartcenter.org/>



New Dimensions Lifelong Learning Institute News

New Dimensions News - August 2025

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 91 classes booked for the Fall Term. Here are some examples of classes that have been added since last month:

- The Art of Native Americans in the American Southwest
- The Great Chicago Fire of 1871
- Alzheimer's/Dementia 101 - Facts, Research, Treatment, Care, Risk Reduction
- Spirit Engineering Tour: Airplane Manufacturing in the Grand

Along with the Fall Term, there are free noontime **Midday with New Dimensions** lectures scheduled in September at the new Clifton Library and October at the Mesa County Central Library, and in Lecture information can be found on the Mesa County Libraries' event calendar at <https://mesacountylibraries.org/events/>. Doors open for these lectures at 11:30 a.m. and seating is first come, first seated.

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.



Singular Diners went on a road trip to Delta to Cassie B's at The Grove for their monthly luncheon.

- Garden Design for Use and Beauty
- Behind Locked Doors at Cross Orchards
- Where in the World is the U.S.? A Top 10 Summary
- Mahler's First Symphony: Nature, Nostalgia, and the Unexpected
- So You Want to Be a Diplomat
- Big Horse Dreams
- International Financial Institutions and Global Power Dynamics

September Activities



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 socialize before our business meeting. We usually have a guest speaker from a local non-profit or other organization. Meetings conclude around 11 am.

ARMCHAIR TRAVELER



On Thurs., **Sept. 4**, Dr. Peter Booth will talk about the Navajo Trail in Arizona, New Mexico, and Nevada. Doors open at 6:30 pm; the one-hour presentation begins at 7 pm in the Community Room at the Central Library.



BOOKCLUB

We're back and starting out this session with *The Only One Left*, by Riley Sanger. At 10 am on September 9th, we'll gather at the Community Room of Timberline Bank to share our thoughts about this book that Good Reads described as "a gothic thriller set in a decaying mansion in Maine." This one's a departure for us. Contact DJ Clancy at djclancy68@gmail.com if you'd like to join us.



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.



Dinner Club

Dinner Club resumes for the 2025-26 year. We'll be having a Welcome brunch at the home of **Gary and Molly Fitzpatrick** on **Sept. 13**. You'll be notified as to what dish to bring.



HAPPY HOUR

Happy hours are on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesdays of the month, usually from **5 to 7 pm**. Check your email for 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.

**KNITTING**

Knitting/Crochet group - Meets on **3rd Monday** of month at Sherwood Park at **10 am** while weather permits. We meet on north end by parking area under the trees. Bring chair and drink.

**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.

**MOVIE CLUB**

After our summer break, members of the movie club will resume monthly meetings starting on **Tuesday, Sept. 2 at 4 pm**. The movie selected for this month is the 2000 satirical comedy-drama, *O Brother, Where art Thou*. Produced and directed by Joel and Ethan Coen the film is set in rural Mississippi during the Great Depression and features three escaped fugitives (George Clooney, John Turturro and Tim Blake Nelson) who embark on a long journey searching for hidden treasure with a relentless sheriff in hot pursuit.

**NEEDLE CRAFTERS**

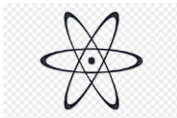
NeedleCrafters group resumes monthly gatherings at member homes in September. Look for email details for time and place to meet on the **2nd Monday** of the month. For additional information about joining this group, contact **Nancy H** @ nancyksh@gmail.com

**SINGULAR DINERS**

Singular Diners is for those singles who want to enjoy the various restaurants in the Grand Valley area but hesitate to dine alone. The next lunch will be on **Sept, 17 at noon** at Camilla's Kafe, 206 Aspen Ave, Fruita. Please confirm your attendance to **Lina Palomo**: bluetopaz1129@yahoo.com or (626) 993-7046.

**TENNIS**

Drop in any **Monday, Wednesday or Friday** for fun mixed doubles at Canyon View Park. Now playing 8 - 10 am. Starting Monday, **Sept. 1**, court time will be **9 - 11 am**. Players of all levels are welcome. Questions?? Call **Tony Miller** at 970 255-9964.

**TOUR AND LUNCH**

Tour and Lunch will meet on **Sept. 18 at 11 am** at the Atomic Legacy Cabin on Legacy Way behind the Orchard Mesa Municipal Cemetery on 26 1/4 Road and US Hwy 50. Lunch to follow at Dragon Treasure.

**Wine Club**

Wine club will be on vacation until **Thursday, Nov. 13**. We will be sampling wines from South Africa. Cost remains at \$25. We will be sending out a reminder in October. If you would like to reserve a spot early, please send your check made out to Newcomers Club to Ken Seitz, 2675 Autumn Brook Ct., Grand Junction, 81506. 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 September



Date	What	Where	Time	More Information
4	Armchair Travele: Hopi & Navajo Trading Post	Central Library	6:30 – 7:30 pm	mesacountylibraries.org
5	First Friday	The Art Center and downtown galleries	evening	gjartcenter.org
10	A Little Noon Music –	First United Methodist Church	12:15 pm	www.fumcgj.org
12	History Alive! Chautauqua performances: Nikola Tesla & Hedy Lamar	Central Library	9:30 am – 12 pm (Clifton) 2:30 – 4:30 pm (GJ)	mesacountylibraries.org
19, 20	Comic Con	Central Library	Fri., 4-8 pm Sat., 10 am – 6 pm	mesacountylibraries.org
26	Fruita Fourth Friday: Art, music, food	Mulberry Plaza	5:30 – 8:30 pm	https://www.fumcgj.org/events

Member Notes

Richard (Dick) and Linda Dickerson. 628 Monarch Glen Loop, GJ 81504. 970-629-3048 (Linda). lkdicterson141@gmail.com

Rita Shovea, from Sedona, AZ. 536 Park Ridge Ct, GJ 81507. 970-443-2490. ritasworld@hushmail.com

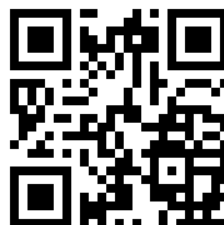
Robin Chisholm, from North Idaho. 857 Cresthaven Dr, Fruita 81521. 317-441-7676, rlchisholm@mac.com

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.



Please contact **Karen Dreher** if you know of someone in the club who needs a card:
303-475-5776 (text preferred),
niagaraway@comcast.net



Scan to access
gjnewcomers.org

Executive Board 2024-2025

President – Gary Fitzpatrick, 419-450-9438,
gfitzpatrick77@gmail.com

1st Vice President – Tom Politzer, 303-888-5437,
tpolitzer@msn.com

2nd Vice President – Stacie Hawkins, 206-501-1523,
shawkins5594@gmail.com

Treasurer – Bill Gates, 541-613-4390,
whgates.62@gmail.com

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



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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.