

Minutes - November 13, 2024

CLUB BUSINESS

President Gary Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order promptly at 10 a.m. He called for corrections or changes to the October 9 meeting minutes as posted on the club website and published in the November newsletter; if none, he requested a motion from the floor to approve them. **Tanya Davis** so moved and **Ruth Anna** seconded. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

Treasurer Bill Gates reported that the club has \$2,866 in checking, \$577 in its money market account and \$5,149 in its CD. He also noted that, consistent with Newcomers' typical pattern, substantial bills are "coming in" during the fourth quarter. **Pres. Gary** added that, after taking in membership dues in first quarter and spending on major activities in fourth quarter, the club normally breaks even, with some money in reserves. This year, he said, reserve dollars will decline because of club marketing efforts, including the logo redesign and website upgrade. He expects reserves to rebuild in 2025.

Pres. Gary also declared that Tanya Davis and her team "have done it again" with tasty seasonal treats. Tanya showed the group the "pumpkin pi" a team member gave her -- a pumpkin with the pi symbol painted in black.

Pres. Gary also made a few procedural announcements: 1) The Newcomers board has voted to cancel the December coffee meeting, since the month is packed with holiday activities. The next regular meeting will take place on January 8, 2025. 2) An email will soon be sent to members containing the password needed to access two sections of the recently launched website (gjnewcomers.org) -- the membership directory and dinner club directory. 3) He asked anyone who has information about upcoming club activities or photos from previous ones to forward them to **Patty Perrin** and **Dale Gates**, for inclusion on the new website activity calendar and newsletter.

The group wished Happy Birthday to the eight members present with November birthdays.

The Membership team's **Larryne Zygmunt** said there were no new members this month and no guests attending the meeting.

Linda Ash said she didn't send any greeting cards to Newcomers members last month, so people "must be staying healthy." Linda runs the club's We Care initiative and regularly sends get well and sympathy cards to Newcomers who need them.

Newsletter Editor Dale Gates made a few requests from the group: 1) If you're contributing information or copy for newsletter publication, it would be "very helpful" to provide it by the deadline -- the 20th of the month. Late copy complicates the newsletter production process. 2) Dale could use some help identifying community "what's happening" information. This involves researching several local websites and published event calendars, a process that can be time-consuming. If a volunteer could compile the information and provide it to Dale, she would edit and format it.

CLUB EVENTS

Sue Slaughter reminded members of the December 3 Newcomers holiday party -- one of two signature club events. It will be held at the Grand Valley Event Center at 2400 Consistory Court, at the opposite (west) end of the hallway from where monthly coffee meetings are held. The party begins with a social hour and live music at 5:45 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 and a silent auction at 7:30. Sue needs a headcount for the caterer by November 25, and therefore needs anyone interested to fill out the registration form and get it to her by that deadline. If you need to register last minute, call Sue at 817-271-3727.

Tanya Davis, who is helping to recruit Newcomers volunteers to create holiday party table centerpieces, said only one person has stepped up. As an incentive, she said anyone who volunteers will be put in a drawing for a \$100 gift certificate to Devil's Kitchen restaurant in the Hotel Maverick. If you're interested, contact Tanya at 970-628-4920.

First Vice President Tom Politzer said that the Happy Hour that would normally take place on December 18 has been cancelled since it's so close to holidays. He asked for a show of hands to indicate interest in a Happy Hour on December 4, the usual first Wednesday of the month and the day after the Newcomers holiday party. Since only one hand was raised, there will be no Happy Hour gatherings in December.

Ken Seitz announced that 44 people signed up to attend the November 14 Wine Club gathering, offering tastings of holiday wines and appetizers.

Suzan Fournier said the next Armchair Traveler presentation will take place November 18 at 5:30 at the Fruita branch library, when Kristi Mease shares her adventures of caving in Vietnam. There also will be a December 5 presentation at the central library, featuring Janice Shepherd on her recent off-the-road excursions in Bangkok. Suzan also said Tour and Lunch Club won't meet in December; the first 2025 tour will be January 22 at Valor Tactical Innovation, which develops and manufactures military-grade equipment.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Just in time for the holiday season, **Joan Robinson** invited Newcomers to take part in The Salvation Army's Giving Tree program. Joan brought gift tags describing the gender and age (not the name) of needy kids in the Grand Valley. Folks are encouraged to take one or more tags, buy a gift for the kid described and bring it, unwrapped, to The Salvation Army, 1235 N. 4th Street by December 11. She also said you could bring the gift to her home, listed in the Newcomers directory. If you'd rather leave the shopping to someone else, Joan also accepts cash or checks, which she will use to purchase gifts. "I will gladly spend your money for these kids," she said.

Susan Norton reminded folks about the Art Center of Western Colorado's annual Holiday Fine Art and Craft Fair, November 22-24. It's the Art Center's second largest fund-raising event. Admission is free, and so is the opportunity to view and purchase handmade arts and crafts from 36 vendors. "Not So Starving Artists" offer relatively affordable pieces, and the Art Center Guild sells pies and baked goods.

Linda Ash added that on November 23 she and her husband Wayne will exhibit their pieces at the 38th Annual Craft Fair in Parachute. It's held at Grand Valley High School, 800 Cardinal Way.

Ruth Anna thanked members for bringing empty egg cartons to coffee meetings so she can deliver them to the Community Food Bank. She asked that people continue to do so, since the food bank continually runs short of cartons to store fresh eggs from local farmers.

Stan Zygmunt, New Dimensions volunteer, said the next Midday with New Dimensions presentation will be December 12 at the central library. Ken Mabery, a National Park Service retiree, will discuss the historic U.S. Army 10th Mountain Division training facility at Camp Hale in Eagle County. Mabery's father was a Camp Hale trainer, involved in preparing troops for fighting in mountainous terrain during World War II. On January 14 at the Clifton Branch Library, Midday will feature Charles Latshaw, Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra music director, discussing what a conductor actually does.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Two staffers from the Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra -- Robyn Miley, marketing director, and Amanda Chipchase, company and personnel manager and violinist, described the symphony's goals and upcoming season. Now in its 46th season, GJSO's mission is to "engage and enrich the community through music." It continues to grow, both in size and performance, and currently has 150 paid musicians; roughly 60-90 play during an average concert. GJSO recently was ranked as a Level 5 orchestra, with a \$1,000,000 budget, 872 season pass-holders, 7,000 email subscribers and 5,000 Facebook followers. It also absorbed Western Colorado Community Chorale last year, allowing for more vocal and instrumental collaborations. The upcoming season will feature five classic concerts, two pops concerts and four chamber concerts. They will be held in a mix of venues, including the Avalon Theatre, Astoria Theatre on the CMU campus and Grand Junction High School, plus several smaller venues for

symphony mini-concerts. You can support GJSO and its programs by becoming a sponsor or joining the Symphony Guild or Symphony Foundation.

Following the speakers, **Stacie Hawkins** and **Molly Fitzpatrick** conducted the raffle, which generated a record \$105 in ticket sales.

Lois Leach, Secretary