



Minutes April 9, 2025

CLUB BUSINESS

President Gary Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. and asked if there were changes or corrections to March meeting minutes, as posted on the Newcomers website and included in the April newsletter. **Lois Leach** said that the Girl Scout vest worn by **Ruth Trowbridge** at the March meeting was hers -- not her daughter's, as stated in the minutes. Ruth wore it to commemorate the Girl Scout's 113th anniversary and to celebrate her 58-year involvement with the organization. **Pres. Gary** asked for motions to approve the minutes with that correction. **Tanya Davis** so moved; **Bill Gates** seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer Bill Gates reported that the club's finances are "in good shape," with \$4,881.47 in checking (with 44 cents interest) and \$5,296.33 in reserves (with \$47.56 interest).

On behalf of the We Care program, **Pres. Gary** said **Linda Ash** sent two get-well cards last month -- one to **Barb Hofecker** and the other to **Patty Perrin**. Both had shoulder surgery. He also called for April birthdays. **Ken Seitz** raised his hand, and **Dale Gates** reluctantly acknowledged her birthday. Happy birthday to both!

To recognize the exceptional baked treats provided for each monthly coffee meeting by **Tanya Davis** and her hospitality team members, **Molly Fitzpatrick** and **Second Vice President Stacie Hawkins** presented Tanya with baking sheets loaded with "kitchen goodies." Hospitality team members are **Alberta Husch, Ila Fritzler, Jean Greenfield, Edie Marks, Debi DeRoo, Dale Gates, Ginny Balkewicz, Carla Sherrick, Lisa Seitz and Elsa Francis**. Tanya describes them as "just wonderful" and willing to volunteer whenever she needs help.

Stacie added that the meeting raffle includes two \$40 tickets to Sippin' in the Stacks, a celebration of the Mesa County Libraries Foundation's 30th year. The event takes place on Sunday, June 23 from 2-5 p.m. and features charcuterie, beverages, crafts, games, a library tour, and a staged reading from the novel *Murder by the Book*. Proceeds from ticket sales benefit the library's programs.

The membership committee's **Larryne Zygmunt** said several visitors were in attendance -- **Steve and Irlang Waggoner, Carolyn Courtney, and Rod Munson**. **Pres. Gary** welcomed them to the Grand Valley and hopefully to Newcomers Club.

CLUB EVENTS

Mesa County Public Library's central library will be the location for the April 16 Tour and Lunch program, according to **Bill Gates**. It will include an overview of library services, including some that aren't widely known such as camera kits for checkout and genealogical services. There also will be a tour of the library's 970 West Studio, used as a multimedia production studio and home to the Artist in Residence program. "Last year Mesa County's public library system was selected as one of the best in the nation," **Bill** noted. "We're fortunate to have it as a community resource."

An example of the more-than-books resource: Mesa County Public Library partners with Newcomers Club to sponsor Armchair Travel presentations by local travelers. They are held monthly at the central library, from September through May, with a break over the summer. On **Suzan Fournier's** behalf, **Lois Leach** announced that the next Armchair Travel -- and the last one before summer break -- will be May 1. Maya Johnston, owner of downtown's Outback Books, will present her travels to China. Doors open at 6 p.m.; the presentation begins at 6:30. **Pres. Gary** added that he's found the Armchair Travel program very interesting and worthwhile. "A lot of effort goes into the presentations and photography and it shows," he commented.

Douglas Grodt, who organizes less strenuous hikes suited to the club's membership, reminded the group of an April 10 hike in Devil's Canyon.

Ken Seitz from Wine Club said the next tasting event will be May 15 from 4-6 p.m. at the Art Center of Western Colorado. For \$25 per person, he said, members can sample unique wines that many may not have experienced. Tuscan wines and light appetizers will be served at the May 15 event. Checks should be made out to Newcomers Club and provided to Ken or Lisa Seitz. Because of the venue's space limitations and the wine events' popularity, attendance is limited to 50 people.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Ruth Trowbridge mentioned that the local Girl Scouts organization holds an annual "Women of the Century" program, designed to recognize women who have had a significant positive impact on the community. This year such women will be honored at an October 31 celebration. Ruth will provide more detail for the Newcomers newsletter as the event gets closer.

Stan Zygmunt, who volunteers with New Dimensions, reminded the group that on April 10 Angela French, waste reduction coordinator for the city of Grand Junction, will do a Midday with New Dimensions talk. It will be at the MCPL central library at noon and will focus on sustainability and wastewater diversion strategies.

Ken Alevy, a Grand Junction Astronomy Club board member, announced a May 12 exhibit of astrophotography. Nine different exhibitors will be included -- all local astronomy buffs and photographers who use high-tech equipment to capture images from the night sky. In **Suzan Fournier's** absence, **Lois Leach** announced the May 2 Art Center of Western Colorado Gala, a fund-raiser to support the center's programs. The event includes lots of food, a silent auction and a live auction. Tickets are \$65; doors open at 5:30 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER

Scott High, co-owner of Colterris Winery in Palisade, described the winery's operations since he and his wife founded it in 2008. He emphasized his belief that "if you're going to have a Colorado winery, the grapes should be grown in Colorado"; 100% of Colterris wines are made from grapes grown on their property.

High said he sees clear indications that Colorado is developing a good reputation as a wine-making region and is gaining international recognition. Last year Colterris submitted three wines in international competition; one won a gold medal and two (including the Coltradeaux blend) won double gold.

He also described his extensive collection of wine memorabilia, including 18,000 antique corkscrews and many foreign and historical bottles, wine-making devices and documents. High collected the memorabilia during a decades-long wine industry career that included scoping out wineries in France, Spain, Portugal and Italy for the House of Seagram's wine division. The collection — 60 display cases worth — will soon be available for viewing at Colterris Collections (formerly Plum Creek Winery's Palisade facility), set to open in late May or early June.

The meeting concluded following the monthly raffle, conducted by **Stacie Hawkins** and **Molly Fitzpatrick**.

--Lois Leach, Secretary