PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Our next coffee and meeting is Wednesday, June 10, at 9:30 am. Our speaker is Brittney Bade, Executive Director of The Gift of Love, Inc. (See below.) Come for her talk, the camaraderie, treats, club news, and raffle. We meet at the Masonic Lodge/Grand Valley Event Center (2400 Consistory Ct). Hope to see you there.

-- Gary Fitzpatrick, President

June Speaker

Brittney Bade is the compassionate founder and Executive Director of The Gift of Love Inc, a nonprofit dedicated to spreading hope and kindness through care packages, food delivery, and community outreach programs. Since founding the organization, Brittney has led efforts to support vulnerable populations including seniors, foster children, veterans, domestic violence survivors, and families in need. Through her leadership and passion for service, The Gift of Love Inc. has delivered thousands of care packages and tens of thousands of pounds of food, making a lasting impact across the community.

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gjnewcomersclub.org

MINUTES – May 13, 2026

CLUB BUSINESS

President Gary Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order at 10 am. He asked for changes to the April meeting minutes and, hearing no changes, called for motions to approve the minutes as posted on the club's website and printed in the newsletter. **Ken Seitz** so motioned and **Ruth Anna** and **Debbie DeRoo** simultaneously seconded. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

President Gary thanked the Hospitality Committee's **Tanya Davis** for the delicious spring-themed treats. He also sent birthday wishes to the four members in attendance with May birthdays.

Treasurer Bill Gates reported that the club's checking account has $7,823.10, with $.66 in interest. The reserve account has $5,475.37.

The Membership Committee's **Jean Greenfield** announced one new member attending the meeting -- **Karen Jacobson** from Athens, Georgia.

Karen Dreher, who manages the We Care program, said she sent two sympathy cards to members -- one to **Diana Mead** following the death of her husband, John, and another to **Jeanine Harris** after her sister's death. **Karen** reminded the group to email her (niagaraway@comcast.net) or text her (303-475-5776) to let her know if there are any Newcomers members with health issues or a death in the family, so she can send a card on behalf of the club.

Deane Drury, who last month invited interested Newcomers to help launch an informal writers and authors forum, said an initial meeting generated lots of ideas for potential future projects. Among the ideas: partnership with the Art Center of Western Colorado's annual holiday fair to promote books published by Newcomers authors and mentoring local students in writing skills.

Molly Fitzpatrick and **Nancy Wirtanen** conducted the monthly raffle, which included many new donations from members. **Molly** also showed members seated around the room a beautiful decorative gourd, hand-carved

by **Wayne and Linda Ash**. **Alberta Husch** said that Wayne and Linda are donating this special gourd to Newcomers Club. **President Gary** said it would be offered through a special raffle in June.

CLUB EVENTS

In **Steve Likovich's** absence, **President Gary** said that the next Tour and Lunch Club event will take place on Tuesday, May 26, at Mesa County Solid Waste Management, which provides comprehensive residential and commercial waste disposal, including recycling, an organic composting facility and hazardous waste collection. Openings are available on the sign-up sheet for the tour; email Steve (sjlikovich@yahoo.com) to add your name.

Ken and Lisa Seitz reminded the group that the next wine tasting event is Thursday, June 18, from 4-6 pm at the Art Center of Western Colorado. Eastern European wines will be sampled for a cost of $25 per person. Checks should be made out to the Newcomers Club and sent to Ken Seitz at 2675 Autumn Brook Court, Grand Junction, 81506. The cut-off date for making reservations and paying for them is June 11.

Lisa Seitz added that planning for the Newcomers Annual Labor Day BBQ is well underway. As usual, it will be held at the Grand Pavilion at Canyon View Park on Labor Day -- this year, September 7 -- beginning at 5 pm. More details will be coming soon, she said. **President Gary** thanked Ken and Lisa for their work on the picnic, noting that in spite of rising food costs, the amount spent by the club has been down a bit. "That's quite an accomplishment," he added.

Douglas Grodt, who leads hikes for Newcomers members, said the next hike will be Thursday, May 14, at Kindred Reserve. Unlike recent hikes, he said the May outing will be on level ground and relatively easy. Douglas maintains a large email distribution list of members interested in hikes. If you'd like to be added to the list, contact him at newcomershikers@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Karen Dreher, who volunteers for the non-profit KAFM Community Radio (88.1 FM), says that the station is offering concerts on the second Tuesday of each month. The June concert will be Mixed Bag Jazz.

Stan Zygmunt, who volunteers for New Dimensions Lifelong Learning Institute, said the spring term has concluded and the fall-winter term doesn't begin until September 28, so it's "the mid-year doldrums." Even so, he said that 40 classes on diverse topics have already been added to the fall calendar. In the meantime, Midday with New Dimensions will hold two sessions -- one on June 11 at Mesa County Library's Central Branch, featuring software engineer Tom Sawyer on Bitcoin - Origins and Ethos and the other on July 11 at the Clifton Branch, featuring Dr. Holly Oberle, assistant professor-International Relations at Colorado Mesa University discussing Lessons From Other Developing Democracies.

Terry Ahern, who volunteers at the Colorado National Monument, said that on May 24 from 9:30 am-4:30 pm she will present a then-and-now show of historical photos at the Monument's visitor center. It will include photos from the 1930s through the 1960s and will be part of the monument's 115th anniversary. Later in the season, she also will lead three easy Americans with Disabilities-compliant hikes.

Susan Fournier, who represents Newcomers in working with Mesa County Public Libraries on the Armchair Travel program, thanked the group for their support of Armchair presentations. "Many of you attend those presentations and offer ideas for future ones, and it's appreciated," she said. Susan added that **Esther Schneller** has stepped up to help recruit and assist presenters when the program resumes in September.

Lynn Kubik, who volunteers with the Plateau Chapter of the Colorado Native Plant Society, announced that a series of events will take place from May 22-24. On Sunday, May 24, there will be a garden tour of eight local gardens using native plants and low-water techniques. Tickets are available on the Colorado Native Plant Society (CoNPS) website.

GUEST SPEAKER

Jack Curry, executive director of The Riverside Education Center, described its role as a non-profit providing after-school and enrichment programs for disadvantaged students. Founded in 2006, the center has an overriding goal of "giving students the right

resources and the right motivation at the right point in their development to improve the trajectory of their learning and their lives." Riverside offers after-school services in 15 Mesa County Valley School District 51 school buildings so students with the highest needs don't have to be bused away from their regular school setting at the end of the day. Currently 1,200 students are served by the program -- more than 700 of whom attend daily, at no cost to their families. The kids get a meal-sized snack, help with their school work, plus enrichment activities including crafts, cooking, biking, games and drone play. The program offers one tutor for every five students, to foster close relationships and a sense of belonging. Nearly 90 percent of students in Riverside's programs have shown significant growth in school district assessments, especially in reading and math. For kids who start out at a disadvantage compared to other D51 students, Riverside aims to provide "an extra shot of equity by supplementing their public school instruction," Curry said.

-- Lois Leach, Secretary

MEMBER NOTES

We added several members this month. Welcome to you all!

Martha Gregg, from Wichita, KS. 422 Prospectors Pt, GJ 81507. 316-208-1503. marthagregg23@gmail.com

Karen Jacobsen, from Georgia. 2687 Whisper Ct, GJ 81503. 706-340-0999. KLJVET@gmail.com

Ken and Heather Roper, from Tulsa, OK. 2517 Greystone Dr, GJ 81505. 918-688-4220 (Ken), 918-409-5972 (Heather). okropers@yahoo.com (Ken), hdane6767@yahoo.com (Heather)

COMMUNITY DOINGS

Festival Season

There are more fun festivals happening in the valley this month!

Palisade Bluegrass & Roots Festival - **Friday, June 5** through **Sunday, June 7**. Continue 16 years of this 3-day gathering that features hot pickin' and blazing fiddles against the backdrop of the Grand Mesa. 11 am-10 pm daily in Riverbend Park in Palisade. Tickets and schedule available at https://www.palisademusic.com/.

The 15th Annual **Colorado Lavender Festival** will take place **Friday, June 26** through **Sunday, June 28** this year. Friday and Sunday will feature farm tours (tickets extra, prices vary). The main festival takes place in Riverbend Park in Palisade on Saturday from 9 am-4 pm. Tickets are $7 online or $10 at the gate. More details at https://coloradolavender.org/

Farmer's 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 7 - October 4, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Downtown Palisade, Third and Main Streets.

Fruita Farmers & Makers Market, Saturdays June 13 - October 31, 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Fruita Civic Center Park (325 E. Aspen Ave.).

Farmer's Market at Cross Orchards, Saturdays June 27 - September 19, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. 3073 F Road.

Market on Main, Thursdays July 10 - September 24, 5:30 - 8:30 pm. Main Street Grand Junction.

Community Activities

Food Truck Fridays will be taking place around town all summer. **June 5** at Las Colonias Park, and **June 12** at 29 & D Road. The June 12 event will also include a craft fair. 5-8:30pm.
https://www.grandvalleyfoodtruckfridays.com/

The **Palisade Historical Society**'s monthly history talk on **Thursday, June 11** will be "The Colorado River & Drought Challenges …and… The Happy 111th Roller Dam Birthday Celebration!", presented by Shannon Wadas, Executive Director of the Ruth Powell Hutchins Water Center. 6-7 pm at the Palisade Community Gym at 711 Iowa Ave in Palisade. Free admission (donations welcome).

GJ Parks and Recreation's Horticulture Team will host a **Perennial Plant Identification** class on **Saturday, June 13** at the Lincoln Park Rose Garden (1340 Gunnison Ave). Learn to identify 25 waterwise perennial plants and learn about their origins, care, and bloom time, then take a walk to practice your skills. 10 am- 12pm. $10, register here: https://www.gjcity.org/

The **Colorado150 Film Series** comes to Grand Junction on **Saturday, June 13**. This film series is part of Colorado's sesquicentennial celebration. This showing includes "Trumbo", a biopic of Dalton Trumbo, and the 1969 classic "True Grit". Speakers will be present. Doors open at 1pm, film starts at 3pm at the Avalon Theater. $12-20. https://www.universe.com/events/colorado-150-film-festival-tickets-P1Q8GR

True Stories Live is a storytelling event that will focus on local storytellers sharing personal stories on stage, from the heart. Hosted by the Grand Junction Toastmasters Club at the Art Center on **Saturday, June 13** from 1-3 pm. $10, tickets available online: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/true-stories-live-tickets-1985026745431

Join GJ Parks and Recreation for a **Downtown Plant Walk** on **Wednesday, June 17** or **Saturday, June 20**. A member of the city's Horticulture Team will share their knowledge. Walks start at various coffee shops (check your registration) and include a cup of coffee or tea. 9-10:30 am. $7, register here: https://www.gjcity.org/

Visit Lincoln Park to **Take Part in Art** on **Saturday, June 20**. There will be lots of hands-on activities, including performances, giant games, arts and crafts, and prize raffles. 10 am-Noon, 12th St and Gunnison Ave. Free event. https://www.gjcity.org/

Colorado Riverfront Concert Series - Concerts benefit trail building and maintenance projects for the One Riverfront organization. Concerts are held at the James M. Robb Colorado River State Park in Fruita. Gates open at 6 pm, showtime is 7 pm, rain or shine. Tickets $12: https://oneriverfront.org/concerts/

- **Tuesday, June 2**: Big Head Todd and the Monsters
- **Friday, June 5**: Devon Allman's Blues Summit

Fruita Thursday Night Concert Series - Enjoy a free outdoor concert (bring your own lawn chair!) at the Fruita Civic Center Park every Thursday from 7:30-10 pm. This year's lineup:

- **June 4**: DEVON WORLEY BAND, Country Rock (Plymouth, Mn.)
- **June 11**: JAMES WILLIAMS & THE FAITH PEDDLERS, Southern Rock (Grand Junction, Co.)
- **June 18**: STRAY GRASS, Bluegrass / Americana (Grand Junction, Co.)
- **June 25**: THE CENTENNIAL BAND, American Classics (Grand Junction, Co.)

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

- Jun 4, 18, and 25, 2-4 pm. Artist in Residence Meet and Greet: Ian Janco. 970West Studio.
- Jun 4, 6-7 pm. Intro to Music Composition with Artist in Residence Ian Janco. 970West Studio.
- Jun 6, 1-3:30 pm. Interactive Screening of the Princess Bride - an all-ages screening with props and popcorn. Central Library Community Room.
- Jun 8, 5:30-6:30 pm. Musical Performance and History of the West African Kora - performance by Sean Gaskell on the kora, a 21-string harp. Central Library Community Room.
- Jun 9, 3-4pm. The Nature of Scientific Research, a talk given by Dr. Thomas Wright, a retired volcanologist with the USGS. Central Library Monument Room.
- Jun 10, 5-7 pm. Dungeons & Dragons for Adults. Clifton Branch.
- Jun 10, 5:30-8 pm. Interactive Screening of the Princess Bride - an all-ages screening with props and popcorn. Clifton Library Community Room.

- Jun 10, 6-7:45 pm. Poetry Night. Listen, and if you like, share your poetry. Central Library Mesa Room.
- Jun 11, 5:30-7 pm. Books on Tap. Meet to discuss books you're currently reading. Colorado Craft Coffee and Beer House.
- Jun 12, 4-5pm. Author Q&A and Signing with Scott Graham - he will discuss the latest release in his National Park Mystery Series. Central Library Community Room.
- Jun 13, 2-4 pm. Vinyl Vibes - enjoy free live music featuring Chuck Jay and Kelley Raymond. Parking lot of the 970West Studio.
- Jun 16, 2-3 pm. Crafternoons at Fruita - bring your own project to work on while you socialize with other crafters. Fruita Branch.
- Jun 16, 5:30-6:30 pm. The Nature of Scientific Research, a talk given by Dr. Thomas Wright, a retired volcanologist with the USGS. Fruita Branch.
- Jun 20, 12-2:30 pm. Interactive Screening of the Princess Bride - an all-ages screening with props and popcorn. Palisade Branch.
- Jun 20, 1-2 pm. Intro to Production and Recording with Artist in Residence Ian Janco. *Registration Required*. 970West Studio.
- Jun 23, 2:30-3:30 pm. Crafternoons at Orchard Mesa - bring your own project to work on while you socialize with other crafters. Orchard Mesa Branch.
- Jun 23, 6-7 pm. Intro to Song Structure and Arrangement with Artist in Residence Ian Janco. 970West Studio.
- Jun 24, 5-7 pm. Dungeons & Dragons for Adults. Clifton Branch.
- Jun 25, 5:30-6:30 pm. Clifton Community Art Show Reception - join local artists as rewards are announced, refreshments provided. Clifton Branch.
- Jun 25, 5:30-7:30 pm. Mesa County Libraries Board of Trustees Regular Meeting. Central Library Monument Room.
- Jun 25, 5:30-8 pm. Interactive Screening of the Princess Bride - an all-ages screening with props and popcorn. Fruita Branch.
- Jun 26, 5:30-6:30 pm. Eye Love Fruita Art Reception. Make a piece of art and meet other artists. Fruita Branch.
- Jun 27, 9:30-10:30 am. Discovery Garden Demonstration Days, join the garden coordinator to participate in seasonal activities (tools and gloves provided). Central Library Discovery Garden.

WE CARE!

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

Labor Day BBQ

Save the date for the Newcomers Annual Labor Day BBQ this year on September 7 beginning at 5 pm at the Grand Pavilion at Canyon View Park. Further details regarding menu and cost will be provided in the July newsletter. Members will also receive an email with the information and reservation form in July. Any questions regarding the BBQ, please contact Lisa at 303-263-4391 or at lisa.seitz623@gmail.com.

June 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 socializing before our business meeting. We usually have a guest speaker from a local non-profit or other organization. Meetings conclude around 11 am. The next meeting is **Wednesday, June 10.** The June meeting speaker is **Brittney Bade, Executive Director of The Gift of Love, Inc.**
	ARMCHAIR TRAVEL Armchair Travel is on hiatus for the summer.
	BOOK CLUB While Book Club members will continue reading during the summer months, we will not meet again until **Sept. 8**. The book for that meeting will appear in the September newsletter.
	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 The Dinner Club is on hiatus for the summer.

HAPPY HOUR

Happy hours will resume in January. Mark your calendars for the 1st, 3rd and 5th 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.

KNITTING

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

MAH JONGG

The Thursday morning Newcomers Mahjongg group plays from **9 - 11 am** each week. Interested players can contact **Nancy H.** for details. The 2026 American Mahjongg cards are in play!

MOVIE CLUB

Movie Club will not be meeting during the months of June, July and August.
Our next scheduled meeting will be held on **Tuesday, Sept. 1.**

NEEDLECRAFTERS

Needlecrafters is on break until September! Enjoy the summer adventures!

SINGULAR DINERS

Singular Diners is for those singles who want to experience the various restaurants in the Grand Valley but hesitate to dine alone. The next lunch will be **June 17** at **noon** at The Goat and Clover Tavern: 336 Main Street, Grand Junction. Please confirm your attendance to **Lina Palomo** (626) 993-7046 or bluetopaz1129@yahoo.com.

	TENNIS Drop in any **Monday, Wednesday** or **Friday** at Canyon View Park for mixed doubles play. Court time is **8 – 10 am.** Everyone welcome. Questions? Call **Tony Miller,** 970-255-9964.
	TOUR AND LUNCH Tour and Lunch is on hiatus until September.
	WINE CLUB The next wine tasting is **June 18** from **4-6 pm** at the Art Center. Cost will remain $25. We will be tasting wines from Eastern Europe. Checks should be made out to the **Newcomers Club** and sent to Ken Seitz, 2675 Autumn Brook Ct, Grand Junction 81506. Any questions, please contact **Lisa** at lisa.seitz623@gmail.com or at 303-263-4391. Please keep in mind that the deadline for the event is June 11. We must have received your check by that time in order for you attend.

The Dinner Club celebrated the end of the season with a brunch at the home of Sue and Steve Likovitch.

Dinner Club resumes in the fall. Look for notice to join.

FREE AND FUN NEXT MONTH

Date	What	Where	Time	More Information
5	First Friday	The Art Center	6:30 – 9 pm	gjartcenter.org
5	Free admission at Museum of the West	First Methodist Church	10 am – 4 pm	museumsofthewest.org
18	Mesa County Oral History Meeting: History at High Noon. Narrow Gauge Railroads in the San Juan Mining District	Central Library	12 – 1 pm pm	https://mesacountylibraries.org
19	Science Uncorked: The Farmer's Share—How Much Does It Take to Grow Our Food?	Whitewater Hill Winery	5 – 8 pm	whitewaterhill.com
26	Fruita Fourth Friday: Art, Music, Food	Mulberry Plaza	5 – 8 pm	www.fruita.org
Thursdays in June	Fruita Thursday Night Concert Series	Civic Center Park	7:30 – 10 pm	https://gofruita.com/events/thursday-night-concert-series

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.

NAME BADGES

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 $12.50 (new price). Email her at aahusch@gmail.com.

New Dimensions Lifelong Learning, a volunteer nonprofit organization, provides continuing education classes each fall and winter/spring for adults aged 50+. Information is available at www.newdimensionsgj.org.

Work on the 2026 fall term, classes running September 28 through November 13, continues. The New Dimensions Curriculum Development Committee is in full swing and already has 40+ classes on the term's calendar. Classes listed include:

- Honey Rock Landing Organic Orchard and Greenhouse Tour
- Promoting Peace: The Eight Pillars
- Colorado History: The Rise and Fall of the Colorado Klan, 1922 to 1927
- The Evolution of American Western Art
- Hollywood in the National Parks
- Machines that Reveal the Fundamental Nature of Reality: World-Class Astronomical Observing Sites on Earth
- Fly an Electric Remote Control Airplane

Until the term rolls around, Midday with New Dimensions lectures fill the gap.

Midday with New Dimensions is a partnership between Mesa County Libraries and New Dimensions Lifelong Learning, offering free public lectures based on past New Dimensions classes. Seating is first come, first served. Lecture information can be found on the Mesa County Libraries' event calendar at https://mesacountylibraries.org/events/ .

Midday with New Dimensions offers a one-hour lecture titled **Bitcoin-Origins and Ethos** presented by Tom Y. Sawyer at the Mesa County Central Library, 443 N. 6th Street on Thursday June 11 at noon. Tom is a retired

software technologist, executive, inventor, and author.

This lecture will explore the origins of Bitcoin and the philosophy behind it. The history of digital cash before Bitcoin, the influence of the Cypherpunk movement, Satoshi Nakamoto's vision in the Bitcoin white paper and the principles that make Bitcoin unique will all be discussed.

A special Midday lecture is scheduled for July 9 at the Clifton Library, 3270 D 1/2 Road. Holly Oberle will give a one-hour lecture titled **Lessons from Other Developed Democracies** describing features of other developed democracies that could help the United States realize a "most perfect union". She will discuss some of these compelling political, economic, and social structures in these countries that address the most pressing issues facing us today.

Dr. Holly Oberle, Assistant Professor of Political Science at CMU, teaches courses in the fields of International Relations, Comparative Politics, Foreign Policy Analysis, Gender and Politics and International Studies.

Executive Board 2025-2026

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

Grand Junction Newcomers Club
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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, $30 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.