



blacksburgnewcomer.wixsite.com
Information:
blacksburgnewcomers@gmail.com

GIFT EXCHANGE
Bring a wrapped item not to exceed \$10. It can be hand-made, bought, or a gift card.

2018
Blacksburg Newcomers Club
HOLIDAY PARTY
Tuesday, Dec. 11 9-11:30 a.m.
Breakfast served - 9:40
\$17 cash or check \$18 if paid by Square
OPEN TO MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS
HILTON GARDEN INN
900 PLANTATION ROAD
Checks payable to Blacksburg Newcomers club
your payment is your rsvp. Reservations at November meeting, or mail payment by Dec 5 to:
Blacksburg Newcomers
PO Box 11463, Blacksburg, VA 24063



Newcomers' News

Blacksburg Newcomer's Club



December 2018

HOLIDAY BREAKFAST DECEMBER 11TH, 2018

President's Letter

Hello Everyone and Happy December!

The holiday season is upon us...and we'll celebrate friendships and have a lot of fun at our annual Holiday Breakfast! Instead of a meeting in December, we'll gather on Tuesday the 11th for a breakfast, social time, and a holiday gift exchange (\$10). Get your tickets before December 5th via Facebook or our website for \$18 or mail a check for \$17 to P.O. Box 11463 Blacksburg, VA 24062 Attn: Holiday Party. Don't wait to get tickets...we can't wait to see you there!

I've been in Blacksburg for three and a half years now, and I'm still discovering new places, programs, and treasures...I hope the same is true for all our Newcomers. After all, you don't have to be "New" to be a Newcomer, just willing to meet new people and try new things! Bring a new friend (or an old one) with a ticket to our Holiday Breakfast or to any of our General Membership Meetings. And if you have a new neighbor, please pick up a welcome bag from our General Meetings to give them. As a member of the Blacksburg Newcomers, you are authorized to welcome everyone to our community!

As we look forward to 2019, I want to thank you all for being warm, welcoming, and wonderful neighbors, mentors, and friends. For the remainder of 2018, may you and yours enjoy all the good things life offers.

Here's to another rewarding year in Blacksburg!

Sarah Warburton

Blacksburg Newcomers, President 2018-2019

Membership Notes

Newcomers' Field Trip to The Montgomery County Christmas Store



The Montgomery County Christmas Store will facilitate gift giving or shopping for 1500 Montgomery County families this year. This number includes 2100 children and 900 seniors and adults with disabilities. They interview every shopper to determine their qualifications, with exceptions for those in are nursing homes or home bound adults, foster children and residents of domestic abuse and homeless shelters.

WELCOME!

Newcomers extends a warm welcome to those who joined in November!

Melissa Gerth and James Robey

Tina Griesinger

We look forward to getting to know you!

We're always happy to welcome your friends and neighbors, so please feel free to invite guests to our meetings.

Happy holidays to all!

Newcomers' Board Members:



Please contact any of the board members at **blacksburgnewcomers@gmail.com** with questions and/or ideas. We invite members to consider joining our board. Several positions will open soon. It is a great way to get involved meet people and build community for others.

President: Sarah Warburton

Vice Presidents: Ottoline Bushey & Joanne Dean

Treasurer: Lisa Kender

Membership: Suzan Antin & Terry Carley

Interest Groups: Kim Taylor

Corresponding Secretary: Patti Connors

Hospitality: Alisha Thies & Donna Thielen

Publicity: Bethann Parker

Newsletter: Heather Nicholson

Recording Secretary: Ellen Miele -Cohill

Community Service: Pat Marcolini & Maria Moll

Historian: Jenny Feghali

Social Media Marketing: Cindy Martin



Community Outreach



Many thanks for all the wonderful donations to the donation of \$250.00 from the proceeds of the May event. Terri Lynn Howard gave us a wonderful tour, members were surprised at the size and scope of the mission of the store. They will be holding an open house Sunday December 2nd at 4 pm.

In December we will be gathering items at the Holiday brunch for Project Hope. Heather Turman who works for Montgomery county schools told me about this project. She deals with the student population that are homeless and in foster care. She is asking for children's books (from birth to adult reading level) to start libraries at the homeless shelters. She is also asking for canned goods for emergency food bags for foster families.

Why? Think about the grandmother whose 4 grandchildren have just been placed with her, she is struggling to make ends meet on her social security check and now has to feed 4 new mouths. Think about what she needs when you gather donations—canned meats and soups, macaroni and cheese, canned vegetables and fruit, peanut butter and jelly, and breakfast items.

I want to thank all of you for your support this year of Newcomers Community Outreach, our community thanks you.

Pat and Maria



VP NEWS

A happy holiday season to you all!



It is seriously cold and windy outside right now. I might as well be back in England shivering in my Mum's unheated old farmhouse! Brrr. I am glad that our walking group is meeting in the NRV mall on days like this! Coffee at the resident coffee stall is a great motivator for just one more circuit.

As you may know, returning members anyway, we won't have our meeting at the church in December. We will all be having a great time at the Hilton Garden Inn in Blacksburg! I'm not sure how long we have been enjoying a holiday brunch their but it is consistently great. The HGI is always my recommendation for visitors. They are so friendly and accommodating.

We had a great tour around the Christmas Store in Christiansburg for our November meeting. The holiday spirit of helping others is truly alive and well there. Our January meeting on Tuesday the 8th will feature the NRV

time bank. Ellen Stewart will be talking to us about this relatively new way of helping out in our community while also helping ourselves.

If anyone has any questions about the holiday brunch you can email me or the general newcomers email. Look for my contact info at the end of the newsletter.

See you at the holiday brunch!

Ottoline Bushey (VP) and Joanne Dean



Member Spotlight: Beth Parker



When you look up the definition of welcome in the dictionary it is likely that you will find Beth Parker's name. Beth has lived in Blacksburg, VA for six years and immediately became a vital member of the Blacksburg Newcomers' Club. She has held numerous positions; leader of the walking interest group, newsletter coordinator, past president and is currently leading our Gadabouts interest group. Beth was one of the first people that welcomed me warmly to the area and when you move often finding a welcoming embrace is an important part of learning to love where you live.

Beth believes that "giving of oneself is a key part of being a global citizen. You need people to help you. Most people don't have family nearby. Who do you call when you are in need?" For Beth the answer is –"the community you build."

This belief comes from firsthand experience. Beth grew up in a traditional middle-class family in Brooklyn, New York. Her father was a special education teacher and a founding member of a service organization called the Brownsville Boys Club, still open today and her mother served the community by caring for 23 foster children and rocking infants at the hospital. Beth's father died when she was a year old and her mom remarried. Her stepfather was an old-fashioned medical doctor who often traded services/products for care.

Service, family and community development served as anchor points in their household. While Beth grew up living in one place, seeing cousins

and grandparents often, Beth's adult life has been one of many moves—starts and stops, beginnings and endings causing her to redefine what family life and community looks like.

Over the last twenty-eight years of her marriage to Robert Parker, Beth has lived in California, Ohio, China, Australia, Denmark, Italy, and currently resides Blacksburg, Virginia. She has learned that finding purpose has required her to be flexible, to engage, and work assiduously in building community.

As Robert's career as a mechanical engineering professor advanced, Beth has worked in many roles depending on their family's location. Starting out as a special ed teacher and moving into business as a receptionist, she continued on to working on the sales floor at Macys. Payroll at the Gap for a few years and working up to becoming the Senior Director of North American Payroll for DHL. After moving to China, she gained certification in ESL and recently restarted trying to complete her master's (originally begun in psychology) in project Management. She describes herself as a "jack of all trades," but it is more evident that she knows how to "show up, immediately start making connections, learn the ropes and get excited about a new start. She has also been an active contributor serving communities wherever she lived.

Beth relishes the various experiences that have created the mosaic of her life and most importantly Beth's life has illustrated that "you can live anywhere and be happy." Being excited about each new start was key not only for Beth but was valuable for anchoring her entire family. Beth's ability to adapt taught her children the importance of reaching for new opportunities but also tackling the challenges of leaving a well cultivated life behind to begin anew.

Moving as the trailing partner and not having a defined career required Beth to be very thoughtful about how she wants to engage the world. Beth enjoys "connecting people and connecting people to things." She initiates an idea and moves to the background to help it grow and thrive. In Blacksburg, Beth along with Sarak Black and Alexa Casey founded 100+ Women Who Care NRV, an organization that supports non-profits that have a direct impact on the local community by

donating \$15,000 per quarter to a local charity.

The beauty of community elevates one beyond the individual and weaves the richness of multiple offerings for the benefit of others. Beth has shared her unique gifts with each community she has lived in but also has deeply benefited from the riches of kind gestures she has received from the numerous people that have helped her adapt to new environments and circumstances.

Ron and Beth are about to begin a new phase of life as empty nesters. Her oldest son Jason is a graduate student at Berkeley, her daughter Sarah is a sophomore at Mary Washington University and her youngest, Brian will be graduating from high school and heading to college. This gives Beth an opportunity to reassess, recreate herself and begin to think again about how she wants to engage in the world now that her children are older and who she wants to be.

GATHER...Interest Groups

December Events

December 11th –Holiday Event @ Hilton Garden



Wednesday Walkers: Local trails and neighborhood walks followed a local café stop. Contact Kim with questions at kimtaylor@comcast.net

December–Writing Group @ Tillerman's Coffee Shop, CRC meets Fridays,

December 3rd —Morning Book Club, 9:30-11:30 am, *The Wife*

December – Writing Group @ Panera Bread meets Wednesdays

December 4th —Gadabouts to The Draper Blooms Tea Garden

December 13th —Afternoon Book Club at Phyllis' House, 1 pm, *Lilac Girls & Pachinko*

December 15th —Wine Club – Hosted at Casa Kiwus, 7 pm.

December 20th —Scrapbooking/Papercrafting interest group at Suzan Antin's, 9:15-1:15

December 19th (Wednesday) Women, Words & Wine Evening Book Club: 7:00pm, *Book Exchange Party*

PHOTOS!!

Please send your pictures from Blacksburg Newcomers Interest Group Events and Activities to blacksburnewcomers@gmail.com or post them on our FaceBook Page.



2018-19 CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS

Season Opener: Martinů String Quartet

FRIDAY, SEPT. 28, 2018 • 7:30 P.M. UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION, 1301 GLADEWOOD DRIVE

East Meets West: Chamber Music for Piano & Strings

SUNDAY, NOV. 18, 2018 • 3 P.M. SQUIRES RECITAL SALON

Kaleidoscope: A Medley of Sounds for Voice, Strings & Piano

SATURDAY, JAN. 26, 2019 • 7:30 P.M. UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION, 1301 GLADEWOOD DRIVE

Love is in the Air: Music of Schumann & Brahms

SUNDAY, FEB. 17, 2019 • 3 P.M. SQUIRES RECITAL SALON

Season Finale: A Potpourri of Music for Clarinet, Strings & Piano

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2019 • 7:30 P.M. UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION, 1301 GLADEWOOD DRIVE

(866) 585-4960 • www.musicaviva-swva.com

Interest Groups

Kim Taylor, Interest Group Coordinator

Bicycling: Meets monthly

Contact: Charlene Flick, flickcr@yahoo.com

Bookworms: .

Morning Group: Monthly on the 1st Tuesday Contact: Lisa Kender, mlakender@comcast.net

Afternoon Group: Monthly on the 3rd Thursday Contact: Phyllis Youhas, Phyllis.youhas@gmail.com

Evening Group Monthly on the 4th Wednesday Contact Danielle Thompson, ddthomps@gmail.co

Breakfast Bunch: Monthly on Saturdays.

Contact: Cheryl & Owen Green, cloglg@basicisp.net

Circle Supper Group: Meets monthly

Contact: Ginger Dakin,

gingerdakin@yahoo.com

Gadabouts: Meets monthly.

Contact: Beth

Parker, badmomparker@yahoo.com

Home Away from Home: Meets monthly for an activity with VT international students.

Contact: Connie Cummings,

cvcummings1@comcast.net

Ladies Out to Lunch: Meets monthly, usually on Fridays

Contact: Michelle Ferris,

michellegferris@gmail.com

Ladies Dinner Out and Drinks: Meets monthly on a weeknight.

Contact: Michelle Ferris,

michellegferris@gmail.com

Movie Night: Monthly on the 1st Tuesday

Contact: Priscilla Baker,

zooey5253@comcast.net

Needleworks: Monthly on the 4th Tuesday.

Contact: Pat Marcolini, marcolini4@verizon.net

Scrapbooking/Paper Crafting: Meets on the 3rd Thursday from 9:15 AM – 1:15 PM

Contact: Suzan Antin, suzan_antin@yahoo.com

Wednesday Walkers: Meets most Wednesdays at 9:15 AM.

Contact: Kim Taylor, kim.taylor@comcast.net

Wine Tasting Group: Meets monthly at a members' home.

Contact: Kandra Meyers,

kkmeyers51@gmail.com

Writers' Writing Group: Meets 10:30-12ish every Friday at Tillerman's Coffee and 1st, 2nd, and 4th Wednesday at Panera in Christiansburg.

Writer's "Editors R Us" Group: Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 10:30 AM at the Blacksburg Library. Contact gingerdakin@yahoo.com

"Every Blacksburg Newcomers Interest Group is open to any paid member. Capacity at each event is at the discretion of the host"