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Next Newsletter Deadline:
February 20th for Group Recaps and
March/April
Newsletter information.

WINTER GALA!

Check out our photos from our premier event of the year, our Winter Gala, on page 3 to 5! We met at the Hiwan Golf Clubhouse on January 10, 2026, and celebrated together...

Where Fun and Friendships Happen

JANUARY/FEBRUARY
2026
EVERGREEN NEWCOMERS
AND NEIGHBORS
PO BOX 2197
EVERGREEN CO 80437
Kathrin Schroeter, Newsletter Editor

www.evergreennewcomers.com

www.facebook.com/groups/EvergreenNNC

Upcoming Happy Hours:

January 20: Chart House Restaurant, 25908 Genesee Trail Road, Golden

February 17: Evergreen Bread and Cocktail Lounge, 1260 Bergen Pkwy #220, Evergreen
(elevator available!)

March 17: Hummingbird Club, 1338 County Road 65, Evergreen

President's Message

From Mike Ferrari



Hello fellow newcomers and neighbors!

On January 10 ENN had their annual gala. And what a fabulous gala it was! Tasty food, interesting conversation, hilarious comedy, and high-stepping line dancing as well. 127 enthusiastic people attended — over ¼ of our membership — a remarkable turnout, indeed.

Thanks to everyone who helped with this year's gala: Mary Ermides, Lori Chaikin, and Karen Davis working under the leadership of Donna Lomax, our Events Chair. I am sorry to report that Donna is stepping down from the Board, but I am grateful to her for her contributions over the past 4 years, especially her running the past two galas and last summer's picnic.

Mary Ermides, our Hospitality Chair, has agreed to take over the Events Chair, and put together a cool summer event. Lori Main has joined the Board as the new Hospitality Chair, bringing considerable experience to the position.

Our numbers keep growing and your spirit is contagious and encouraging. Let me know what you liked about the Gala and what you didn't like. Next year will be even better.

Mike

ENN's mission is to provide opportunities for its members to meet others through social events and activity groups. The ENN membership list is only for the personal use of ENN members and may not be used for commercial or non-ENN purposes. All photos displayed in this newsletter were taken by its members and are displayed with their permission unless annotated with source.

Fond memories of our...



Friendships meet and greet!





Our annual Winter Gala was truly an amazing event. Like last year, we met at the Hiwan Golf Clubhouse and filled all tables! After ‘happy hour’ with appetizers and a meet-and-greet with soft musical background from our two DJ’s we sat down to an amazing dinner. The chef did an outstanding job in providing us with excellent beef, chicken, or vegan options and the waiters were doing their very best to serve all of us quickly. Who did not like the dessert?!? Three bottles of wine on each table made the meal complete and so enjoyable.

Soon after dinner comedian Nancy Norton was announced and exercised our ‘laugh muscles’ – with her kind of homespun humor, appropriate for our age group (wink wink!). Line dancing lessons with Trenea McCurdy followed on the dance floor, and a lot of happy dancers (from beginner line dancers to experts) joined in the “ranks” on the dance floor. Many a step was a mis-step, but who cares, it was a fun experience for those who dared!

Our two DJ’s took it from there and fulfilled quite a few requests for music, ending the evening with open dance and more happiness from being with friends and fellow Evergreeners!

A big thank you to Donna and the Gala Committee for everything you put into this Gala to make it so special and memorable!



Comedian Nancy Norton in full action





With Line Dance Instructor
Treena McCurdy – Step by
step instructions



Disco Time!!!



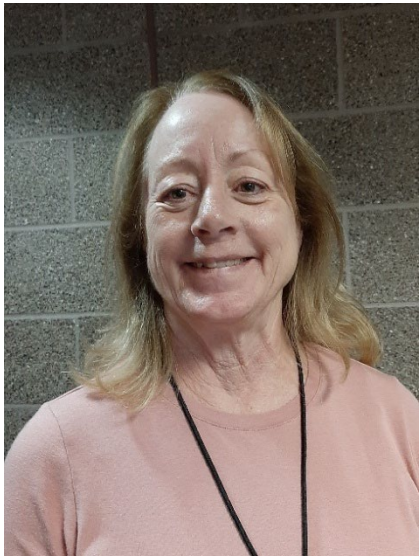
Changes in ENN Board Members:



Please **welcome** Lori Main to the Board. Lori will take over the Hospitality position starting February 1, 2026. Lori Main was born and grew up in Iowa. She became a nurse and in 1976 she took an adventure to Colorado and ended up staying in the Denver Metro area. Mainly working at a large hospital in Denver, she very much enjoyed breaking that routine by serving as a travelling nurse in Lihue, Kauai, for about three months. Lori also worked also as assistant for a still-live photographer. She has two grown sons and one granddaughter, who is 13.

Lori wanted to move up to the mountains and closer to her church in 2023 and found the perfect place in Genesee Park where is very close to “the perfect view of the Rocky Mountains”, which she absolutely adores. ENN was delivered directly to her doorstep by Welcome Wagon of Evergreen when she moved in – and she promptly attended her first Happy Hour!

Lori enjoys biking, hiking, pickle ball, her wine group meetings, the Arts, music, volunteering, family, dancing – and especially all the wildlife in our area.



Mary Ermides, formerly our Hospitality Chair, will take over the Board position of “Events”. Our upcoming summer picnic will be organized by her, together with a team of volunteers!

Thank you, Mary, for all the wonderful Happy Hours that you have organized – and so much more!



A warm **thank you** to Donna Lomax for her years of service at the ENN Board. Donna will retire from “Events”, but she served 4 years on the board in total, as vice president and then as the Events Chair. She has run the Winter Gala for the past 2 years, as well as the Summer Picnic last June.

Donna is also the activity group leader for both Solo Winers & Diners and Canasta and continues to lead both.

We will miss her enthusiasm and optimism at our Board meetings!

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Feedback Wanted on New Groups!

New Wine Group Started: ENN's 10th wine group met recently to plan its format and meeting dates. It will hold its first gathering in January. If you're interested in joining a wine group, this one's full already but we can start an 11th group! Email your contact info to Chris Schmenk at Activities@evergreennewcomers.com.

Next New Groups to Start: The next group we'll start is International Travel. We'll hold an organizational meeting in January, so let Chris Schmenk know if you're interested!

Other Groups Suggested at Open House:

We'd like to hear from you which groups you'd join and what format/details you prefer, so we can get them started!

- RV Group
- Writing Group
- Art Group (Art lovers? Creators?)
- Cooking Fast, Healthy Meals
- High-Altitude Baking
- Rummikub (Tile game combining elements of Rummy and Mahjong)
- Investment Group (educational on topics like crypto, not a group to pool money to invest)
- LGBT+ (Group activities?)
- Dinner/Cooking Group (Meal Progression)
- Music Group (Eras? Genre?)
- Dance Lessons (At a studio? Genre/Era?)

If you would participate in any of these groups or you're willing to help lead them, please contact Chris Schmenk! We'll get the groups started!

Easy Walkers Co-Leader Sought: We are re-starting the Easy Walkers group and need a co-leader! We have a great group of people who want to walk weekly, and we have one member willing to co-lead the group. However, we need another to get the group started. If you're willing, please email Chris Schmenk.

If you are ready to join these or any of our ENN groups, please contact Chris Schmenk at: Activities@evergreennewcomers.com. She'll get you connected!



Photos of our Happy Hour

We had a great time on November 18 at The Cow!



ENN Community Involvement

Submitted by Rebecca Balentine

community@evergreennewcomers.com

SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY MARCH 28TH ENN FOOD DRIVE FOR THE EChO PANTRY

For several years ENN has held a food drive to help our Evergreen neighbors feed their families. This year, the EChO Food Pantry has been seeing record demand and again needs our help to keep their shelves stocked. Details will follow, but we will need volunteers to staff the donation sites as well as drivers to shuttle the donations to EChO. Please take a moment to put March 28th on your calendar for this opportunity to help the Evergreen community!



Volunteer Opportunities

Our volunteer information page at www.evergreennewcomers.com/community-involvement has been updated with 34 local volunteer non-profits listed. This information includes links to the various organizations. Information on volunteer options was also included in the Nov/Dec 2025 Newsletter.

Evergreen Speaks!



Evergreen Speaks! first 2026 event will be held on Tuesday, February 3rd. Our speaker will be Lynn Caligiuri, the Executive Director of the Mountain Area Land Trust (MALT), presenting on the importance of land preservation and conservation efforts. Lynn has been living in Evergreen since 2014 and brings a wealth of experience in conservation efforts nation wide. She has been the Executive Director of MALT since 2023.

ENN is sponsoring this new series that spotlights Evergreen residents who will speak on topics that they are knowledgeable and passionate about. Presentations follow the TEDx format with short presentations followed by time for questions and discussions. Presentations are held from 5:30-6:30 at Evergreen Christian Church, 27772 Iris Drive, Evergreen. All presentations are free and open to the public. There is free parking available at the site.

We hope you can join us as our Evergreen neighbors speak on interesting topics at the next Evergreen Speaks! Invite your friends!

Photo Courtesy of Mountain Area Land Trust



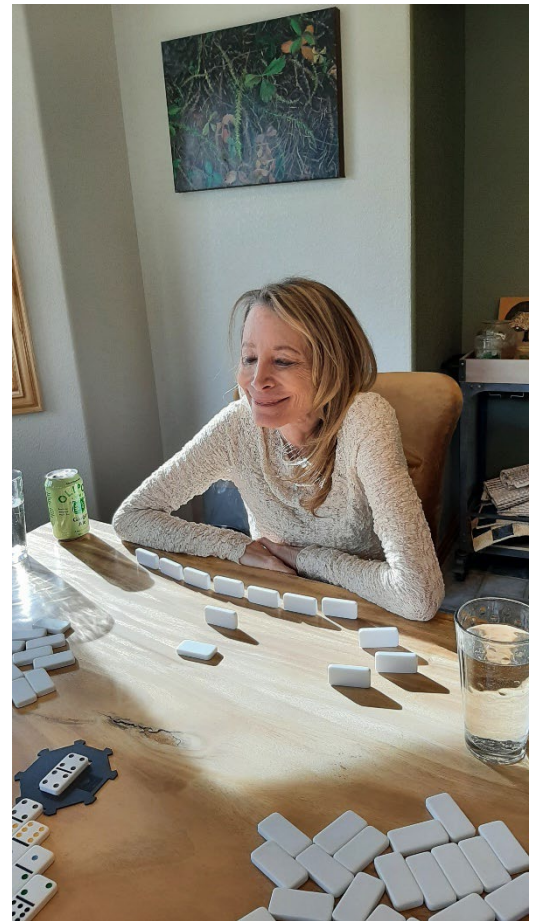
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF... THE MEXICAN TRAIN GROUP!!!

On Wednesday, January 7, 2026, I spent an afternoon with the Mexican Train Group. This is one of our newer groups formed around October 2025, with Lori Chaikin as their leader. The group meets every first and third Wednesday from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at Lori's beautiful home. Presently there are 16 members signed up. Usually there are 8 to 12 players with multiple sets during one meeting; however, during my visit we were only 7 persons due to illness and various conflicting activities. I thought I knew the rules of this game, but boy, was I wrong! I learned there are 20 different ways to play Mexican Train, so I had a steep learning curve! Of course, everyone wants to win, but what is more important during these meetings is the friendship and getting together with like-minded souls.





From left to right: Sheri, Lisa M., Lisa C., Lori, Carol, Simone



The general atmosphere of the group was joyful, caring, with a variety of topics discussed among the players.

I heard great compliments about the group and our Club in general; for example, “ENN saved my life”. “Every time I come, it’s delicious!” And: “This is my family, everyone helps everyone.”

Since many members of this group also play in other groups, like Canasta, they know each other very well. Areas where they lend each other a helping hand are nursing each other when sick, taking care of each other’s dogs, driving others to the doctor, or bringing food to someone in need. A very heartfelt connection indeed!

This group is open for more members – if anyone is interested in joining, please email Chris Schmenk at activities@evergreennewcomers.com.



A few smiling winners of games:
Carol, Sheri, Lori C., and Simone



Happy New Year to all ENN Members!

SWAG (Savvy Women and Gals) is a fun group that focuses on learning about our community, local businesses, and non-profits as well as other interesting topics. We always begin our meetings with refreshments and socialization, followed by that month's educational topic.

Our **November meeting** was our annual fundraiser, and this year the SWAG ladies had chosen the EChO Homeless Shelter. The attached photo is co-leader Barb Conroy kneeling beside our donations of clothing and a great many gift cards to help them through this winter. I want to thank all my fellow SWAG members for their generosity. Thanks also to Barb Conroy for opening her lovely home for this event, which included potluck appetizers and desserts along with group games that were fun and made us think!



We ended 2025 with a bang! In **December** we had our Annual Holiday Luncheon at Beau Jo's, where we enjoyed an anonymous gift exchange game that was fun and full of laughs. The attached photo pictures all SWAG members who were able to come (and apologies to those accidentally cut out!).

As we look towards 2026, we will start January with an informative talk at Natural Grocers, where we will learn about bone health and how to prevent osteoporosis. Many more fun and informative activities are being planned for the coming year.

SWAG meets the third Tuesday of each month from 1-3pm. We are always seeking new ideas, new members and new energy! If you want to join our group, please email Activities@EvergreenNewcomers.com.

Come and make new friends!





Our non-fiction book group at one of its meetings at the end of 2025 in a cozy round...

- Next books to be discussed by the group:**
- A Walk in the Park: The True Story of a Spectacular Misadventure in the Grand Canyon (Feb 4)
 - Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World – and Why Things Are Better Than You Think (Mar 4)
 - The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World (Apr 1)
 - Abundance (May 6)

Welcome New Members of ENN!	
Holly Diamond	Travis Diamond
Kenny Day	Sheri Day
Mary Cobb	Scott Coolman
Kimberley Dean	Rita Lenn
Beth Eiseman	Dawn Harper
Tamás Eger	Lynne Eger
Mindy Ratliff	John Ratliff
Chuck Wynkoop	Amy Wynkoop
Rebecca Webb	

Hello from the Screwtops to the new, presently forming, 10th wine group of ENN! We hope you will have as much fun and friendship as we usually have and specifically at our December meeting with the theme "festive drinks".



WINE GROUPS

ENN members appreciate a good bottle of wine and enjoy the good company of fellow members! Here is a listing of the current ENN Wine Groups:

Corkscrews	Donn & Cassie Fishbein	3rd Saturday
Guzzlers	Roger & Sheri Matz	3rd Saturday
EverPour	Belinda Aber	A Thursday
In Vino Veritas	Bob Fudge	3rd Saturday
Les Dégustateurs	Carrie Garczynski	1st Saturday (alt. mos.)
The Screwtops	Jen Delacruz	2nd Saturday
SOLO Winers & Diners	Donna Lomax	1st Saturday
Uncorked	Ray Trevisan	2nd Saturday
Winos	Colette Lambert	3rd Saturday

If you are interested in joining a wine group, contact Activities@EvergreenNewcomers.com

ICON Ski Group



The Ikon Ski Group is off to a strong start after a fun party hosted by Sergio and Lora Mazza. Halloween was the unofficial start at A-Basin and of course required a tutu! We are excited to have lots of new interested participants on board this year. Let it snow!!



From the Gals' Breakfast Group:

On Friday, November 28, the day after Thanksgiving, our Gals' Breakfast group met for a delicious post-holiday breakfast at the Blackbird Cafe and Tavern in Kittredge. Eleven ladies enjoyed a good substantial meal in preparation for Black Friday shopping! To honor the holidays, Gals' Breakfast did not meet in December. Our next breakfast gathering will be on January 30, 2026, the location to be announced in January.

Our Literally Amazing Book Club met in November to discuss "The Last Thing He Told Me" by Laura Dave; about a wife and daughter piecing together the reason for her husband's disappearance.

Our December meeting was a year-end celebration for the Book Club members, which almost didn't happen, thanks to the extended power outage in the north of Evergreen! Thanks to Sandy Illich for offering her home at the 11th hour!



ShutterBugs end of year activity

ShutterBugs activity was slightly limited due to weather and library closures.

We are proud to announce that ShutterBugs is being featured on the “Artist Wall” at the Evergreen Library during the month of January 2026. Stop by the library to view 20 canvas prints that our members produced in 2025.

Our most interesting activity since the last article was the November challenge. Members were asked to use their favorite photo editing software to “improve” the same original image. There were no rules. Members were encouraged to be creative! Here is the original image and some of the results.

[The original image.](#)



Following you will see our members' edited images:









Our New Member Robin's Quilt



Hand Quilting by Cherie

Happy
Holidays
from the
Blue Sky
Quilters!



Lynn's Christmas Tree Quilt



Cassie's 1970's Quilt



Georgia's Teapot Art Quilt

ENN Board of Directors 2025 - 2026

President

Mike Ferrari, president@evergreennewcomers.com

Vice President

Chris Schmenk, vicepresident@evergreennewcomers.com

Secretary

Susan Hall, secretary@evergreennewcomers.com

Treasurer

Janet Harting, treasurer@evergreennewcomers.com

Activities

Chris Schmenk, activities@evergreennewcomers.com

Community Involvement

Rebecca Balentine, community@evergreennewcomers.com

Events

Mary Ermides, events@evergreennewcomers.com

Hospitality

Lori Main, hospitality@evergreennewcomers.com

Membership

Mike Harrison, membership@evergreennewcomers.com

Newsletter

Kathrin Schroeter, newsletter@evergreennewcomers.com

Nominating

Karen Davis, nominating@evergreennewcomers.com

Publicity

Sandy Illich, publicity@evergreennewcomers.com

Webmaster

Rob Wilson, webmaster@evergreennewcomers.com

ENN Activity Groups: Chris Schmenk

Activities@EvergreenNewcomers.com

To contact any group leader, send email to Activities@Evergreennewcomers.com.
You will receive a direct response from the leader.

ENN ACTIVITY GROUPS		
Activity	Leaders	Schedule
14er Mountaineering	Rob Wilson	Various Saturdays
4 X 4	Bob Ogden & Tony Oliver	Various Sat.'s & occasional mid-week day trips; long wknd trips (Seasonal)
Blue Sky Quilters	Sandy Illich	2nd & 4th Monday, 9 AM
Bowling	Lisa Morton	1st Tuesday, 6:30 PM
Bridge Evening	Jean Wells & Joanne Hill	3rd Friday Evening
Canasta	Donna Lomax	2nd & 4th Wednesday, 1-3:30 PM
Easy Walkers		2nd Wednesday, 9 AM
Euchre	Chris Schmenk	Thursday of choice, 6:30 – 9 PM
Gals' Breakfast	Louise Whiteside	Last Friday, 10 AM
Guys' Breakfast	Kevin Kerr	2nd Tuesday, 8:30 AM
Happy Hour		3rd Tuesday, 4 – 6 PM
Ladies Golf	Katy Lynch	Wednesday (seasonal)
Lend-A-Book	Lisa Everett	3rd Monday, 10 AM
Literally Amazing Book Club	Jan Cryns	3rd Thursday, 1 PM
Mah Jongg (daytime)	Mindy Nitkin	Fridays, 10 AM - Noon
Mah Jongg (evening)	Simone Simpson	Mondays, 6:30 PM
Mellow Hikers - Weekday	Mary and Phil Hudson	4th Thursday, 5:30 PM
Mellow Hikers – Weekend	Jen Delacruz	2nd Saturday, 9 AM
Mexican Train	Lori Chaikin	1st and 3rd Wed., 1-3:30 pm
Motorcycles	John Griggs	Various Saturdays (seasonal)
Needlework	Sheri Matz	1st Monday, 10 AM
Nonfiction Book Club	Lora Mazza	1st Wednesday, 7 PM
Poker Night	Rose and John Warren	Fridays, Monthly
Shutterbugs	Marko Ginsberg	1st & 3rd Friday Mornings
Ski Group (EPIC)	Rob Wilson	Thursdays (Seasonal)
Ski Group (IKON)	Pam Talley	Tuesdays (Seasonal)
Ski Group (Loveland)	Hap Bruce	Mondays (Seasonal)
Sporting Clays	Alan Palestine	3rd or 4th Tuesday
Summer Hiking Group (SHG)	Paul Butters and co-leader TBD	Thursday Mornings; May-October
SWAG (Savvy Women and Gals)	Marilyn Innerfeld, Barb Conroy	3rd Tuesday, 1 PM - 3 PM
Wine Groups (9)	See listing on page 16	1st, 2nd, & 3rd Saturdays

Current ENN Membership is required for participation in any activity.