

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026 | Issue 364



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

*Where Fun and
Friendships Happen*

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Next Newsletter Deadline:
October 20th for Group Recaps and
November/December

For those who attended and
those who had to miss it –
photos of our Open House on
August 29 on pages 5 through 8!



www.evergreennewcomers.com
www.facebook.com/groups/EvergreenNNC

SAVE THE DATE!

Upcoming Happy Hours:

September 15, 2026 at the Evergreen Bread and Cocktail Lounge, 1260 Bergen
Parkway, Unit C-220, Evergreen (elevator available)

October 20, 2026 Ice Cream Extra Happy Hour – No Alcohol Served at the
Colorado Creamery, 27905 Meadow Drive, Evergreen

President's Message



Hello Fellow Newcomers and Neighbors!

This summer marked two highly successful member recruitment events. In July your club reserved a booth at Summerfest and for two days we chatted with passers-by about our club. We handed out 92 brochures and 14 new members joined as a direct result.

In August we had possibly our most successful Open House, welcoming quite a few new members. We now have 75 more members than we had at this time last year!

Supporting our activity groups remains a focus of the club. I noticed lots of new sign-ups at the activity group tables. We also received over 20 suggestions for new activity groups. Increasing the number of activity groups is crucial for sustaining our double-digit growth in membership.

At the following board meeting, the club awarded several activity group grants from the fund started by an anonymous donor. We encourage all group leaders to continue to submit requests for specific expenditures. We are making this program more flexible, and grants will now be awarded on a monthly basis.

Looking ahead, this month marks our annual firewood drive on behalf of EChO who distributes this wood to those in need in our community to help them heat their homes this winter. Due to the large amount of fire mitigation taking place in our area, there is lots of wood available. Our only limitations are the number of volunteers and trucks for us to haul this lumber to EChO's yard on Meadow Drive.

This month also we are back at the Bread Lounge in Bergen for Happy Hour — always a favorite. Then in October — wait for it — we will meet at the Colorado Creamery, also on Meadow Drive, for an ice cream social. Happy Hour isn't just about alcohol, it's about fun, and you can't get much more fun than ice cream!

Looking further ahead to November, we have not one but two interesting Evergreen Speaks! programs. Check them out here <https://evergreennewcomers.com/evergreen-speaks/>

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm for ENN. You make the club what it is.

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.

Mindy Ratliff is a newcomer to Evergreen. Hailing originally from Dayton, Ohio, Mindy earned a Bachelor's in Geology at Miami of Ohio and an MBA at the University of Houston. After 10 years in the Houston oil and consulting worlds, she became Chief Wrangler at Ratliff Inc. and the Ratliffs departed Houston for Austin. Mindy spent so much time volunteering at her kids' elementary school in Lake Travis ISD that they hired her! That planned brief stint lasted 21 years and was composed of a variety of support positions at elementary and high school levels. She gratefully joined her husband John in retirement, ending 40 years in Texas to make Evergreen home in August 2025. John and Mindy enjoy seeing their adult children much more now - 2 reside in Denver and 1 in Colorado Springs.

The Ratliffs connected with ENN through the Evergreen Chamber of Commerce. Mindy is happy to be joining the Board as the new **Publicity Chair**. Along with happy hours, SWAG and Shutterbugs, Mindy enjoys hiking, skiing, gardening, baking, home projects, and a good mystery.

Our New Board Member!



WELCOME TO OUR NEW ENN MEMBERS:

Kim Budenski	AJ Carlson
Shanelle Carlson	Biane Conaway
Diane Conaway	David Deviou
Jim Frye	Alice Gawronski
Tom Gawronski	Ann Gough
Greg Gough	Mitchell Harwood
Barbara Hoepner	James Kempema
Marilynn Kempema	Maria Livingston
Mark Livingston	Mary Luyet
Liz Mince	Bonnie Murray
Christine Netski	Cliff Peterson
Laura Peterson	Jeffrey Rhodin
Dave Roark	Linda Roark
Susan Saari	Alison Silver
Laura Szymczak	Bob Todd
Jan Todd	Maureen Upton

In Memoriam: Matthew 'Hap' Bruce, Beloved fellow ENN Member and Group Leader

Celebrating a life of adventure, family, friendship and an abiding love of the mountains.

Matthew "Hap" Bruce lived a life of adventure, family, friendship and an abiding love of the mountains. He died peacefully surrounded by the people he loved most; his wife, Cindy, and his daughters, Whitney and Jenna after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

Hap was born in Omaha, Nebraska, on April 3, 1945. His travels took him to the University of Southern California and the Navy ROTC. After college, Hap went on to serve in the US Navy as a P-3 Navigator. His Navy service gave him an opportunity to see the world. But of all the places Hap traveled, it was the mountains of Colorado that captured his heart.

Hap moved to Aspen in 1972, where Hap and Cindy each operated small businesses and raised their family. After more than four decades Hap and Cindy moved to Evergreen in 2022. While their address changed, the mountains remained an important part of their lives and family continued to be the center of Hap's life. Those who knew him best will remember his warmth, his stories, his smile, and his ability to make people feel at ease.



Celebration of Life

Saturday, September 19, 2026 11:00AM
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
200 Elk Run Dr., Basalt, CO



ENN Member Open House
August 29, 2026
At Buchanan Rec Center



There are many reasons to hold an Open House:

- Newcomers and Neighbors of Evergreen can explore possibilities to connect.
- Group Leaders can be asked directly about their activities.
- We meet in a public place where we can be 'discovered' by people walking by.
- We love to just meet our members and chat.
- There is room for suggestions.
- The activity groups, the heart of ENN, have all their own spaces so even long-time members can find new ideas and activities to participate in.
- We love to treat our members and the interested public with some homemade cookies and sweets!





Our 2026 Open House was very successful and well attended. From long-time Evergreeners having heard for the first time about ENN to a couple that is just planning to move to Evergreen – there was a lot of interest in exploring what the social club has to offer. Group leaders were present to answer questions and talk about their activities. There were tables for Membership and Community Involvement, not to mention Happy Hours! Everyone entering through these doors was greeted heartily and, after stopping by our homemade refreshments counter, could learn new things about what ENN has to offer. A suggestion board helped capture any wishes for future activities – to be discussed in the following newsletter.





A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make the Open House a great success!



Community Involvement

2026 ENN Firewood Drive for EChO September 19th and 26th

It's not too late.... but it soon will be! As we know, Evergreen folks are very generous and willing to help out when they can. This year, that means that we have a lot of people who would like to give us a lot of wood for the EChO firewood lot...***A lot of wood!*** We are probably looking at over 25 cords of wood - if we can just get enough volunteers to get it moved to EChO.

If you have already volunteered, thank you so much. If you've been thinking about helping out, now is the time! We still need more hands to move and load wood, operate chain saws, and the drive trucks/trailers to get the wood to EChO. Got a friend or neighbor who might be interested in being part of the ENN team for this effort? We'd love to have them join us, too!

Please reach out to me **ASAP** so we can finalize our pickup locations and team assignments.

Thank you!

Rebecca Balentine
Community Involvement
rjbalentine@icloud.com



Evergreen Newcomers and Neighbors Presents

Evergreen Speaks!

For the Next Chapter in Life, Travel Lightly

From abundant experience as a long-distance hiker and story-gatherer for life celebrations, Diane shares stories of resilience navigating challenging landscapes: empty nests; retirement; loss; down-sizing moves. The key to walking through these... Travel Lightly. She will talk about the value of applying this wisdom literally and in our heart, on the trail, and in life.



Diane Gansauer

Master Life Cycle Celebrant and
award-winning author

Thursday, Nov 5, 5:30 - 6:30 pm
Evergreen Christian Church

Evergreen Newcomers and Neighbors Presents

Evergreen Speaks!

Dialogue, Antisemitism, and Israeli-Palestinian Divide

Bitter debates over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict take place not only in the Middle East, but they also affect Americans in higher education, faith communities, and civic settings. This event will explore several questions: How can Americans be better equipped for difficult conversations across religious and political differences? What is, and is not, antisemitism in conversations regarding the Israeli-Palestinian divide? How can we become better listeners in combustible conversations?



Dr. Benjamin E. Sax

Jewish scholar at the Institute for Islamic,
Christian, and Jewish Studies in Baltimore

Thursday, Nov 19, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Evergreen Christian Church

SUMMERFEST 2026 AT BUCHANAN PARK

WE HAD QUITE A FEW PEOPLE
STOP BY OUR TENT AND ASK
WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE
ARE DOING – SOME “FELL IN
LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT!”



Our free membership for
one year raffle winner is:
Kim Budenski





Snapshots of
our Happy Hour
at Revival Brews
on July 21,
2026.





Mementos of our Happy Hour on August 18, 2026 at the Lazy Butcher.



ACTIVITIES UPDATE:

A Big Thank-You to All Activity Group Leaders and Board Members: The Open House on August 29 was a big success, thanks to all of the Activity Group Leaders and Board Members!! Attendance was great, and ENN continues to grow, thanks to your help! Thanks for attending and for all you do!

Sign up for Bunco: By popular demand, ENN is starting a Bunco group in September!! Karen Walling and Kathleen Rimlinger are co-leading the group. It will meet monthly in members' homes, include 16-20 members, and encourage co-ed membership.

Contact activities@evergreennewcomers.com or karen.walling@yahoo.com to sign up.

Leaders Needed for Rummikub Group:

We'd like to start a Rummikub Group but need a leader or two. If you're willing, contact Chris Schmenk at activities@evergreennewcomers.com, and we'll get it started!

New Groups Suggested at Open House:

The suggestion board at the Open House was a big hit, with attendees suggesting over 20 new activity groups. Some of the most popular were:

1. An Event Outings group (group trips to the theater, concerts, sporting events, football watch parties, etc.) 2. a Mountain Biking group 3. a Gardening Club 4. a Potluck group (similar to Casual Cuisine) 5. a Men's Golf group, and 6. a Genealogy group. Let us know which you'd like to help start by emailing Activities@evergreennewcomers.com!

If you would like to join any of ENN's groups, please contact Chris Schmenk at Activities@evergreennewcomers.com or 937-303-2790. She'll get you connected!



Here come the ladies!!!



Warm-up Group 1...



A day in the life of the LADY GOLFERS Group

On June 24, 2026, I visited the Ladies' Golf Group, which met bright and early at the Evergreen Golf Course at 8:30 a.m. The day was made for golfing; blue sky, a slight breeze and a happy smile on every face! The ladies play 9 holes, which takes them about 2 to 2 ½ hours. Every Wednesday during the warm weather season is their golfing day, rain or shine (unless the golf course closes because of weather conditions). The group has 17 members and when I visited, 8 attended, so they played in 2 groups. You will know how much I knew about golfing after reading the following: I talked to Trish, one of the group members, the day before my visit. She said they tee off at 9 a.m. and I promptly said: "Oh, how nice, you start off with a cup of tea!" ...we both cracked up in laughter once I noticed my wrong "interpretation". I was so impressed by the skills I saw in these ladies, some of them over 80! For some of them, golfing is a lifetime skill; they learned when they were small and were taught by their dads. Others honed their skills in later years of their life.



Welcome to the
Evergreen
Public Golf Club
Specializing in Golf Events
Home of
Key's on the Green Restaurant



Group 1 is
ready to tee
off at 9 am!

Katy,
Carol,
Carole,
Mary



...and here comes Group 2!



Stretching means getting ready!



Group 2:
Barbara
Mary
Jane
Janie

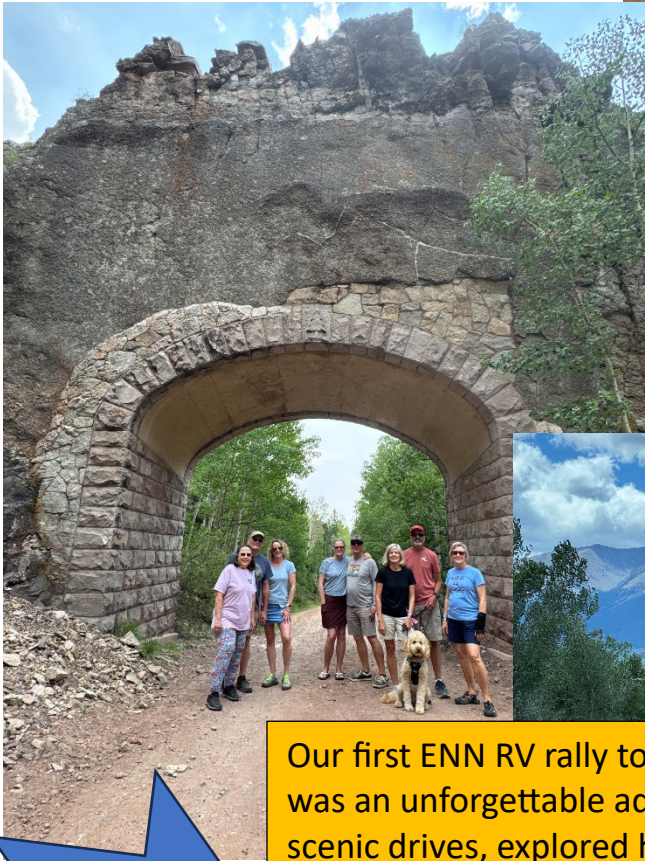


Group Leader Katy said, “It has always been a great group of lady golfers, and we usually have lunch after playing golf, too.”



Barbara and Janie, who have been playing for 26 years together.





Our first ENN RV rally to La Veta and Creede was an unforgettable adventure! We enjoyed scenic drives, explored historic mining sites, shopped around town, treated ourselves to ice cream, hiked, fished and shared several great meals together. One of the highlights was our group dinner, where everyone contributed a different course making for a fun evening full of laughter. While the beautiful scenery was certainly memorable, the best part of the trip was the friendships we formed. We arrived as first-time rally attendees and left feeling like we'd made lifelong friends. We can't wait for the next adventure together!

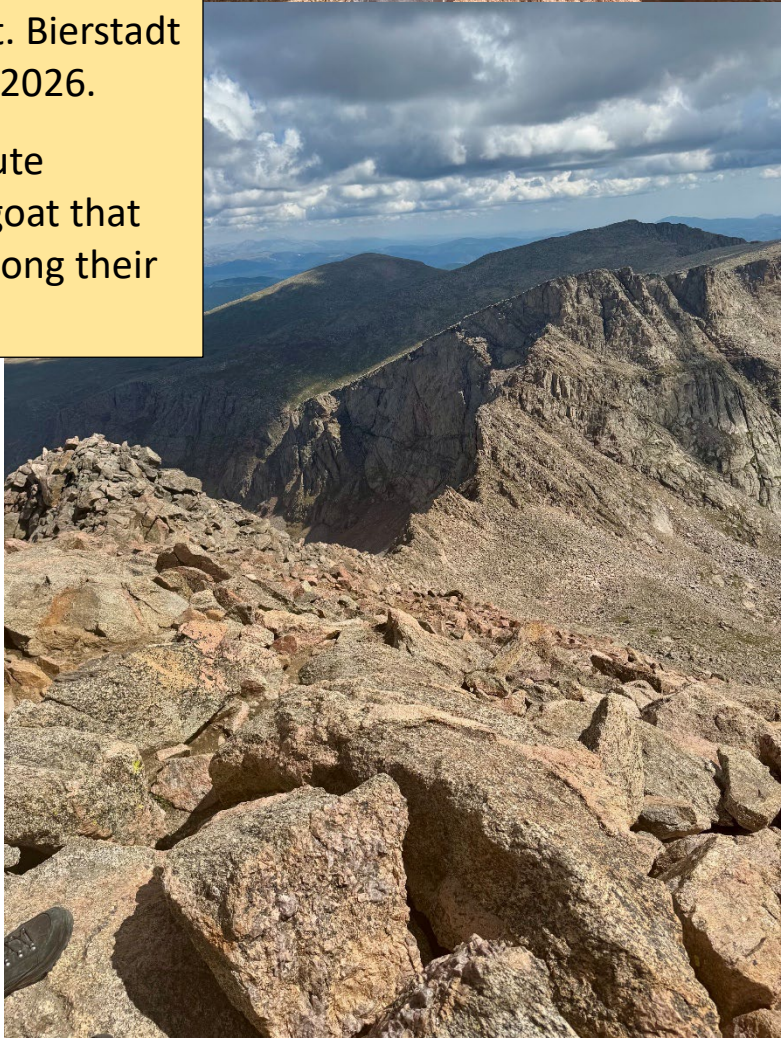
From our
new RV
Camping
Group!





The 14'er Group
climbed Mt. Bierstadt
on July 18, 2026.

Note the cute
mountain goat that
they saw along their
way!





Our new Paddleboard Group led by Gail at their first outings at Evergreen Lake and Chatfield Lake.



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:

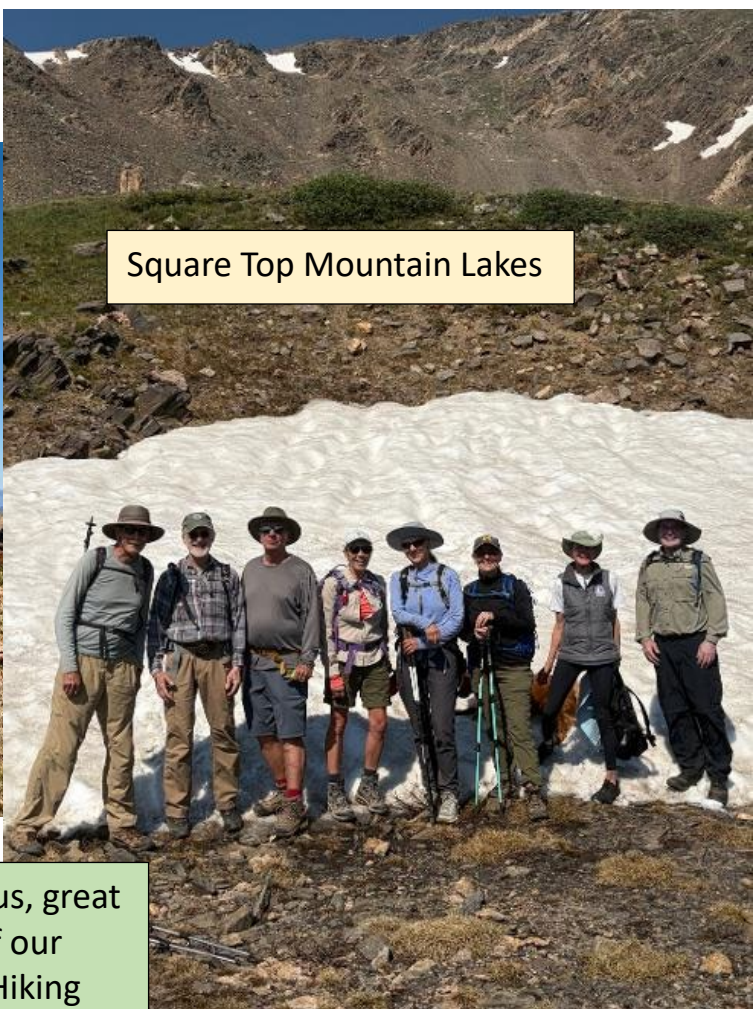
Corkscrews
Grape Nuts (& Barley Hoppers)
Guzzlers
EverPour
In Vino Veritas
Les Dégustateurs
The Screwtops
SOLO Winers & Diners
Uncorked
Winos

Donn & Cassie Fishbein
Trish Wilson
Roger & Sheri Matz
Belinda Aber
Bob Fudge
Carrie Garczynski
Jen Delacruz
Donna Lomax
Ray Trevisan
Colette Lambert

3rd Saturday
2nd Friday or Saturday
3rd Saturday
2nd Wednesday
3rd Saturday
1st Saturday (alt. mos.)
2nd Saturday
1st Saturday
2nd Saturday
3rd Saturday



Colorado Mines Peak



Square Top Mountain Lakes



Broome Hut

The various, great outings of our Summer Hiking Group...



Reynold's Park



The Summer Hiking Group on their Mayflower Gulch Hike in August 2026.



Another outing of the Summer Hiking Group on August 6:
"A great hike near Black Hawk to beautiful views!!
We were up and down before the temps got too darn hot. Whew!"





This is a picture of the Ikon summer ski party hosted by Sergio and Lora Mazza. Their motto: "It can't snow soon enough!"

The **ENN Motorcycle Group** held its monthly ride on August 8. After a hearty breakfast together, a great day to ride -- over Squaw Pass from Evergreen to Idaho Springs. Then the back roads to Georgetown and over Guanella Pass to Grant and back home. Our upcoming rides include an overnight ride over Cottonwood Pass to Crested Butte on September 10/11 and our regular monthly ride on September 19.

Friendships formed beyond groups:

"Just 4 ladies (Mary, Ellen, Debbie, Trish) enjoying a hike up at St. Mary's Glacier together"



Our **Gals' Breakfast Group** met for breakfast on Friday, July 31, at Bowles Cafe, 5925 S. Zang Street in Littleton. Since Louisa was unable to lead this breakfast, the group was welcomed and ushered very graciously by Rebecca Balentine. 12 ladies enjoyed a delicious breakfast and some lively conversation.

Our August Breakfast was held at LePeep Restaurant, 8055 W. Bowles Ave., Littleton on Friday, August 28.

New members are invited to join us for breakfast on the last Friday of each month, at varying restaurants in the Evergreen and Metropolitan Denver areas.



The Screwtops not only celebrated their monthly get-together in July but also the 50th birthday of one of its members, Debbie!

The ENN **Guy's Breakfast Group** meets on the 2nd Tuesday morning of each month for breakfast and conversation. It's a great way to meet people and learn about activities in the community. We meet at various local restaurants. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Chris Schmenk at activities@evergreennewcomers.com and you'll get an invitation to the next breakfast.

The **Non-Fiction Book Group** meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm. These are the books we'll be ready in the new few months. Join us for great conversations!

Oct. 7: **Nexus: A Brief History of Information Networks from the Stone Age to AI** by Yuval Noah Harari

Nov. 4: **The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times** by Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams



SWAG (Strong Women Always Growing) has been enjoying a wonderful summer! In July, we all gathered at the home of SWAG member and talented gardener Kate McCollum, where she explained how her garden and greenhouse began, various ways to start plants from seed (successfully here in Colorado!), and we enjoyed a tour of her bountiful garden and greenhouse. The photos attached don't do it justice! Refreshments were provided by Kate, Sue Monk and Rebecca Balentine. Thank you, Ladies!

Our August meeting was at the home of Sherri McFarlane, where we learned about Genealogy from our speaker, Roxie Wheeler. She's been tracing her relatives and ancestors for several decades using multiple ancestor websites, Salt Lake City records, DNA testing and tracking, and attending ancestry conventions. Roxie helped demystify the differences between websites, explained what DNA testing may reveal, and described the information available in Salt Lake City. Thanks to Sherri for hosting this event, and to Sherry Benson and Susan Saari for graciously helping with refreshments.

Our plan for September is to learn about the work of JOY International, a local non-profit organization that is dedicated to prevent child trafficking and help survivors heal.

SWAG is a fun and educational ladies' group that focuses on learning about our community, local businesses, and non-profits as well as other interesting topics. We always ensure that our meetings include refreshments and socialization, plus that month's educational topic. SWAG meets on 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 reach out to Activities@EvergreenNewcomers.com. Come and make new friends!



Left side: Farm pictures
Right side: Genealogy talk

Easy Walkers

Get your walk on! Our goal is to meet every Friday morning at various locations at 9:00am. We'll meet earlier to beat the heat. Flat terrain with no, low or slow elevations, sunny and shady, slow paced. Great for those getting back into the exercise game or recovering from injury. We walk for distance or time, but no longer than 90 minutes. Easy Walkers is looking for a co-leader - no experience necessary. Come join us! Get out and enjoy the company!

Contact: Karen Walling email: karen.walling@yahoo.com
or TEXT 410.991.9625



From the Literally Amazing Book Club:

At our July meeting, we discussed "In the Shadow of Man" by Jane Goodall. Such an amazing woman! The memoir covered her journey into primates and her time spent with them.

At our August meeting, we discussed "The Briar Club" by Kate Quinn. A little detour for Kate, she wrote about a Washington DC boarding house of women and the family who ran it during early 1950's. Quite a collection of characters, including the house!

Our next book up for September is "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi. It's a newer book of a man who is intrigued by portraits of the citizens in southern town of Golden, Georgia. He purchases them and connects with each person portrayed and learns their stories, expressed through acts of kindness and the power of connection. (Photos of the last two meetings below)



ENN Board of Directors 2026 - 2027

President

Mike Ferrari, president@evergreennewcomers.com

Vice President

Chris Schmenk, vicepresident@evergreennewcomers.com

Secretary

Gail Kowalczyk, secretary@evergreennewcomers.com

Treasurer

Janet Harting, treasurer@evergreennewcomers.com

Activities

Chris Schmenk, activities@evergreennewcomers.com

Communications

Sandy Illich, communications@evergreennewcomers.com

Community Involvement

Rebecca Balentine, community@evergreennewcomers.com

Events

Mary Ermides, events@evergreennewcomers.com

Hospitality

Lori Main, hospitality@evergreennewcomers.com

Membership

Carol Rapp, membership@evergreennewcomers.com

Newsletter

Kathrin Schroeter, newsletter@evergreennewcomers.com

Publicity

Mindy Ratliff, publicity@evergreennewcomers.com

Webmaster

Rob Wilson, webmaster@evergreennewcomers.com

Activity	Schedule	Group Leader
Outdoor Recreation		
14er Mountaineering	Various Sat	Rob Wilson
4 X 4	Various Sat	Bob Ogden / Tony Oliver
Ladies Golf	Wed (seasonal)	Katy Lynch
Easy Walkers	Various	Karen Walling
Mellow Hikers - Weekday	4th Thurs, 5:30 pm	Mary and Phil Hudson
Mellow Hikers - Weekend	2nd Sat, 9 am	Jen Delacruz
Summer Hiking Group	Thurs Mornings, May-Oct	Paul Butters
Motorcycles	Various Sat (seasonal)	John Griggs
Paddleboard/Kayak	Mon 9:30 am & 1 st & 3 rd Thurs 5:30 pm	Gail Kowalczyk
RV Camping	Various	Lisa and Will Cassidy
Ski Group (EPIC)	Thurs (Seasonal)	Rob Wilson
Ski Group (IKON)	Tues (Seasonal)	Pam Talley
Ski Group (Loveland)	Mon (Seasonal)	Hap Bruce
Sporting Clays	3rd or 4th Tues	Alan Palestine
Indoor Games		
Bowling	1st Tues, 6:30 pm	Lisa Morton
Bridge Evening	3rd Fri Evening	Jean Wells & Joanne Hill
Canasta	2nd & 4th Wed 1-3:30 pm	Donna Lomax
Euchre	Thurs of choice, 6:30-9 pm	Chris Schmenk
Mah Jongg (daytime)	Fri, 10 AM - Noon	Mindy Nitkin
Mah Jongg (evening)	Mon, 6:30 pm	Simone Simpson
Mexican Train	1st & 3rd Wed, 1-3:30 pm	Lori Chaikin
Poker Night	Fri, Monthly	Rose and John Warren
Creativity and Learning		
Blue Sky Quilters	2nd & 4th Mon, 9:30 am	Sandy Illich
Evergreen Speaks!	1st Tues, 5:30 pm	Sergio Mazza
French Conversation	Various	Mark Ellis
Lend-A-Book	3rd Mon, 10 am	Lisa Everet
Literally Amazing Book Club	3rd Thurs, 1 pm	Jan Cryns
Needlework	1st Mon, 10 am	Sheri Matz
Nonfiction Book Club	1st Wed, 7 pm	Lora Mazza
Shutterbugs	1st & 3rd Fri, Mornings	Marko Ginsberg
Social Gatherings		
Casual Cuisine	4th Sat, 5:30 pm	Dawn Harper
Gals' Breakfast	Last Fri, 10 am	Louise Whiteside
Guys' Breakfast	2nd Tues, 8:30 am	Kevin Kerr
Happy Hours	3rd Tues, 4-6 pm	Lori Mains
SWAG	3rd Tues, 1 PM - 3 pm	Marilyn Innerfeld/Barb Conroy
Wine Groups (10)	Fri or Sat evening	Various

For More Information: Activities@EvergreenNewcomers.com