

New Year's Greetings to All Newcomers!

Updates and details on this month's Newcomers Book Club, Ski Groups and Writers' Circle are below. But first, **please see this important announcement from our Newcomers Governing Board:**

Carol Haselton, our President, met virtually last week with the rest of the Governing Board. Given the continuing surge in COVID-19 cases, and our inability to hold gatherings in person, the Board decided to place most of our Newcomers activities into a hiatus mode until late spring or early summer 2021.

The following are affected, many of them necessary exceptions to our Bylaws due to these unusual circumstances:

- Monthly Coffees and most other group activities that we have always enjoyed will not be held. The exceptions are Book Club, Ski Groups and Writers' Circle since they either meet on ZOOM or outdoors—those activity chairs will communicate with their members directly about scheduled events.
- Drawing up and voting on a new slate of officers and activity chairs for the 2021/2022 year will be postponed. Newcomers currently in those positions will remain in place until we can go forward once again.
- All dues already paid for current memberships will carry into the 2021/2022 membership year, only charging dues for brand new members.
- We will discontinue both monthly Board meetings and our monthly newsletter.

We will continue to inform our members of noteworthy news by sending out email blasts, at least monthly.

Carol welcomes any input, thoughts or suggestions that you have about this announcement – please contact her directly at qualitycarol@hotmail.com.

Book Club

Sallie Rinderknecht at rindermom@gmail.com -or- Lorraine Stuecken at wally_lorraine@yahoo.com

DATE: January 11 (2nd Monday)

TIME: 10 AM

PLACE: ZOOM by Invitation (please contact Sallie at rindermom@gmail.com by this Friday to confirm)

BOOK: The Splendid and the Vile by Erik Larson

Discussion Leader: Ann Rennie

Future Books: 2021 Reading

**February 8 - [A Long Petal of the Sea](#) by Isabel Allende

**March 8 - [Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents](#) by Isabel Wilkerson

Please contact Sallie to be a discussion leader for these other 2021 books:

- [America's First Daughter](#) by Stephanie Dray & Laura Kamoie
- [American Dirt](#) by Jeanine Cummins
- [Fever](#) by Mary Beth Keane
- [The Giver of Stars](#) by Jojo Moyes **AND** [The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek](#) by Kim Michele Richardson - we will read in December

- [A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II](#) by Sonia Purnell
- [The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West](#) by David McCullough
- [Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know About People We Don't Know](#) by Malcolm Gladwell
- [The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration](#) by Isabel Wilderson

Life has changed but there will be a silver lining, we just have to find it in our everyday lives.

Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing

Susan Kutcher at sekuktcher@yahoo.com and 215-778-0740

DATE: Friday, January 8 -- TODAY

TIME: 11 AM start – meet up at 10:50

PLACE: Meet up at Old Ranch Road Trailhead, Round Valley on Old Ranch Road

(1.6 miles from Old Ranch Road at Highland, 2.8 miles from Old Ranch Road at Utah 224)

RSVP: Please RSVP to Susan that you are able to join!

Looking forward to our first hike or snowshoe, depending on conditions! This week we will be trekking for about two hours—3-5 miles. No one will be left behind, as this is not a race! Those seeking a shorter hike will be able to do an in and out.

Remember to bring sunglasses! Also, please bring

- Your snowshoes
- Yaktrax and poles
- Water and a snack
- This year's activity release form (**available under the "Board" dropdown on this website**)
- Susan's phone number - 215-778-0740.

Dogs are welcome and Vaseline on their paws can be very helpful.

In future weeks we plan to start at 11 am on Fridays, potentially leaving earlier depending on destination and possible travel required. If we travel in the future, we may separate into smaller groups to keep everyone safe and happy.

Ski Meet-Up

Sue Rosenberg at srosenbe@umbc.edu

Sallie Rinderknecht at rindermom@gmail.com

DATE: Beginning on **Tuesday, January 12**

TIME: **10:10 AM SHARP**--meet up a bit beforehand at uphill end of Payday lift

PLACE: Uphill end of the Payday lift line.

RSVP: Please RSVP to Sue (srosenbe@umbc.edu) -- confirm your spot before 7 pm of the Monday preceding each ski day

PCMR has opened some new slopes and lifts so let's get started with our downhill skiing. Starting January 12 we'll be meeting on Tuesdays at the uphill end of the Payday lift line and getting into the lift line at 10:10 am sharp. We'll be doing mostly blue groomers – depending on what's open. For some runs there might be the choice of either blue or black groomers. You must have your own reservation for the day through PCMR and you are required to wear a mask and social distance. We'll follow the PCMR guidelines for riding

on the chairs and anyone who wants to be more restrictive (i.e. fewer folks per chair) is welcome to do so. We want to be safe so we can ski for the entire season.

For safety reasons we need to limit the group to 8 so if you want to join us – and we hope you do – you need to email Sue (srosenbe@umbc.edu) and confirm a spot before 7 pm of the Monday preceding each ski day. If you don't receive a confirmation from Sue by 8pm on the Monday of, the group is full.

You'll also need to bring with you the signed Newcomers' Club activity release form (available under the "Board" dropdown on this website).

Let's hope we get some more snow so more of the mountain opens, and let's have some good skiing and fun!

Writers' Circle

Ariela Shani at arishani49@gmail.com

DATE: (Tuesday, January 5 at 9:30) and Monday, January 18 at 9:30

TIME: 9:30 AM

PLACE: via ZOOM

Currently a few of the members read a piece they have written. The group gives constructive, positive feedback.

There is now one opening available. Please contact Ariela for details.