



NEWCOMERS NEWS

Published by the Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse

December 2005

DATES TO REMEMBER

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

December 16
January 24

BOARD MEETING

No mtg. in Dec.
January 16

BOOK CLUB

December 6

BRIDGE

Team - 1st Fri.

Ladies - 2nd Thurs.

Ladies - 4th Thurs.

DINING OUT

December 11

EUCHRE

Group 1 - December 7

Group 2 - December 1

MEN'S BREAKFAST

December 14

OUT TO LUNCH

December 21

.....
January

Find us on the Web at:
<http://gtnewcomers.com>

ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER DANCE

(December Program)

Friday, December 16, 2005

Waterfront Inn Conference Center

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Cocktails at 6:30 p.m.

Dinner at 7:30 p.m.

Dancing to follow

Attire – Holiday Casual

.....

Please bring donation for
Northwest Michigan Food Coalition (see pg. 3)

.....

Dinner – Served at Your Table

Choice of :

- Whitefish with Dried Cherry & Tarragon Butter
or
- Beef Tenderloin Tips Hunters Style
Dinner Rolls
Caesar or Chef's Salad
Soup De Jour
Chef's Choice Vegetable & Starch
Chef's Choice Dessert
Coffee, Tea or Milk

Mail a check for \$25.00* per person, payable to
Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse, to:

Elaine Novak

4019 East Shore Dr.

Grawn, MI 49637

Phone: 231-276-0361, Jenovak5000@aol.com

*Please note entrée choice(s) in memo section of the check.

Please make your reservation with Elaine by
Monday, December 12.

PRESIDENTS' LETTER

Co-Presidents

Patti Custance 935-4805
Nancy Harris 223-9844

Co-Vice Presidents

Matt Albert 941-4143
Royce Rule 946-4502

Secretary

Elaine Pentilla 334-4881

Treasurer

Joe Harris 223-9844

Activity Groups

Joan Wallace 275-5030

Calling Committee

Georgia Stoeber 938-5846

City Hostess

Sharon Finch 947-8403

Directory Editor

Lori Brickman 223-4584

Helping Hands

Marlene Steider 922-2183

Membership

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933-9321
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Nancy and Patti, Co-Presidents

DECEMBER 2005

Some of you are possibly making plans to head toward a warmer climate. Before you go, we hope you will join us at the annual Holiday Dinner Dance at the Waterfront Inn. In the past, it's been a very pleasant evening and provides us with a chance to "get out of our jeans." Dinner will be followed by dancing. The DJ who provided the music last year is returning; we were happy with his musical selections and he was very accommodating about specific requests.

Again this year, at the Dinner Dance we will be collecting for the Northwest Michigan Food Coalition which coordinates donations for local food banks. (Read more about the Coalition on page 3.) The need is great. Please be generous.

And speaking of generous, our members outdid (outbid?) themselves at our November 15 auction. (Read more about the November Program on page 6.) We made a whopping \$1300! Suffice it to say, any budget shortfall worries for the year are going, going, gone!

Our membership chairperson, Judy Albert, reports we have 24 new members. We're delighted to welcome you and look forward to getting better acquainted at the many programs and activities planned for the new year. We hope to see you at the Dinner Dance.

**To each and every one of you,
we wish a very happy holiday season!**

Nancy Harris and Patti Custance

Please help recruit members!

Know someone who has just moved to the area?

Contact Sharon Finch, City Hostess,
with their names and she will do the rest.

947-8403, hsfinc@comcast.net

Holiday Dinner Dance Donations to Northwest Michigan Food Coalition

The Annual Holiday Dinner Dance takes place December 16, at the Waterfront Inn Conference Center, 2061 US 31 North, T.C. (See p. 1 for details.)

As in previous years, we are asking members who attend the Dinner Dance to bring non-perishable food donations or monetary contributions to the event. These donations will be given to the **Northwest Michigan Food Coalition** for distribution to needy families throughout our community via 34 local area food pantries that form the coalition. These pantries are located throughout a seven county area of Traverse City and have fed over 97,000 people.

Please be generous. Non-perishable goods such as canned or packaged meats, beans, canned fruits and vegetables, canned soup or macaroni and cheese are always welcome. In addition, there is always a need for personal product items such as bar soap, toothpaste, mouthwash, diapers, baby wipes and dish & laundry soap.

A truck with attached cap will be parked near the front door of the Waterfront to accept your food donations. Any monetary contributions can be given to either of the club's Co-Presidents or Co-Vice Presidents. Please have all check contributions made payable to "Northwest Michigan Food Coalition". Of course, if you cannot attend the Christmas dinner but still wish to make either a food or cash donation, or need additional information, call either Matt Albert @ 941-4143 or Royce Rule @ 946-4502.



NEW MEMBER CORNER

We would like to extend a big "WELCOME" to our newest members:



Cindy Blazer, Plant City, FL
Jackie Burden, Owosso, MI
Jerry & Peggy Edwards, Crane, MO
Carole Groves, Holt (Lansing), MI
Helen Mann
Jean Marie, Wyandotte, MI
Rick & Jane Pearsall, Mt. Pleasant, MI
Charles & Carole Selander, Midland,
Janet Vander Leek, San Pedro, CA
Bryce & Sonceræ Yeager, Indiana, PA

Membership Directory Update

Happy Days!!! Each of you should have received your Newcomer's Directory by now. Directories that were not distributed at recent meetings were mailed to member addresses as listed on the membership form. If you have not received one, please let me know. Contact me by phone at 231-223-4584 or by e-mail at brickman@pentel.net. Cost for printing, folders, envelopes and mailing are being defrayed by your dues and proceeds from the auction. I hope you enjoy the new format with photos. It certainly does help to jog the memory when we meet someone at a club event.

Addendums to the directory will be printed in the same format as the original directory. They are distributed through our monthly newsletter. Please be sure to add these gems of information to your folder for future reference. Speaking of addendums, if you have changes in your mailing address, e-mail, or telephone number, send the information to our membership chair, Judy Albert. After entering the changes into our master database, she will forward the information to me. When we have accumulated several changes, I will prepare an addendum and forward it to the newsletter chair, Jody Bennett. Voila!! You remain current with the membership.

Activity Group News

BOOK CLUB

If you have been thinking about joining the Book Club, but haven't gotten around to it - now is the time.

November's book discussion drew many new faces! Looking forward to seeing you all on **Tuesday, December 6, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** in the lower level of Horizon Books. The selection is *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult.

This insightful story of a teenager conceived to help save her older sister from leukemia is both inspiring and heartbreaking. Elaine Novak will lead the discussion.

In January the group will read *The Bookseller of Kabul*: a complex portrait of Afghan life written by war correspondent Asne Seierstad. The nonfiction "novel" gives a first hand look at Afghan life as few outsiders have seen it. Please join us at Horizon Books on Tuesday, January 3, 2005 to share your thoughts with the group or just listen. Our discussion leader will be Lori Brickman. If you have questions, please contact Letha Cairns at 231-271-6831 or gcairns@chartermi.net



CARDS

BRIDGE:



Team (1st Friday): Tom or Georgia

Stoeber, 938-5846, tstoeber@bsamail.org, 7:00 p.m., Cedar Creek Commons off of Cherry Bend Road.

Ladies (2nd Thursday): Nancy Ravas, 932-1747, Scott's Harbor Grill, 11:30 a.m. Players at all levels are welcome.

Ladies (4th Thursday): Gail Hoffman, 946-1126, location has changed this year to Roma Restaurant, 11:30 a.m. Participants play as individuals, not teams.

Team Round Robin: Geri Dancy, 929-4787

EUCHRE:

Euchre Groups 1 and 2 are off and running! The response has been overwhelming. Both groups are filled to capacity! HOWEVER, if you would like to play Euchre once a month (and know how to play), and if someone is willing to host Group 3, please call Karen Coquillard at 932-9883. If there is enough interest, Group 3 will be formed.

A WALK IN THE WOODS

We will start again in April. We hope you will join Carl Kucsera for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing this winter. If you would also like to do some serious hiking, this is the Grand Traverse Hiking Club web site: www.northcountrytrail.org/gtr/



FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP



Dinner for Eight

This group is designed to allow people to spend an evening in a small group getting to know different people each time a dinner is held. Each couple hosts one dinner during the year and prepares the main course. The other couples help by bringing other parts of the meal and you will be with different people each time. Most groups have met for their first dinner. Our next one is scheduled for early January, probably delayed slightly by the holidays. Groups CAN opt for a time different from the first weekends as long as all participants agree. (If you have any food allergies or other considerations that might make your dining experience more pleasurable, talk to your host about these things before the menu is set and the dinner is held.) We still have room for more participants both as regulars and as subs. Contact Beth Hoover at 231-386-5639, casahoover@aol.com

Dining Out

This area is home to many good restaurants in various price ranges. We will usually meet on the second or third Sunday of the month. Please join us in the food and fellowship. Reservations required. Please call Constance Kilbride a week before to reserve, 649-4888.

Sunday, December 11, 5:00 p.m.

Hanna Bistro

118 Cass St., Traverse City

Out -To- Lunch Bunch

We hope you will join us. RSVP to Marcia Morse, 935-1806, or Carol Hosler, 933-4397.

Wednesday, December 21, 1:00 p.m.

Restaurant 310

310 Cass St., Traverse City

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast meets at the **Omelette Shoppe** next to the Wild Birds Unlimited store in Campus Plaza every second Wednesday of the month. Reservations are not required; just show up. Questions? Call George Kobernus, 933-9321.

Wednesday, December 14, 9:00 a.m.

Board Meetings

Members are encouraged to attend Board meetings. The next meeting is Tues., January 16, 2006, 10:00 a.m., Horizon Books, lower level.

If you would like to add items to the agenda, please contact either of the Co-Presidents before the meeting.

Other Activity Group Contacts

If there is not a specific date listed for an activity you are looking for, there may not be one planned for the month of the newsletter.

For more information, call the activity coordinator(s):

Art Sampler Group - Joan Wallace, 275-5030

Cross-country, Snowshoeing - Carl Kucsera, 946-7762

Day Trips - Barbara Cochrane, 267-5547

Golf - Dick Hayes, 938-1705

Sailing - George Kobernus, 933-9321

Singles - Linda Olah, 922-0623

Questions? Want to start a different group?

Contact Joan Wallace, Activity Groups Director, 275-5030,

Joanie8315@hotmail.com

ACTIVITY and PROGRAM REPORTS

Judy Albert

October's Walk in the Woods

Held on Oct. 15 and led by **Ron Wallace**, the walk exceeded all expectations with a good turnout, the fall colors being at or near peak, and a beautiful sunny day to add to the experience. Thanks to Ron for checking out the trail for us and organizing the walk. The walk was at the Highbanks Rollway, which is part of the larger North Country Trail and is located between Buckley and Kingsley. It is a beautiful section of the trail because much of it follows the Manistee River through state and national forest land. In places the trail is high above the river providing spectacular views of the river and surrounding mixed northern hardwood and coniferous forest.

For more information about the North Country Trail and/or the Grand Traverse Hiking Club, go to their website at: <http://www.northcountrytrail.org/gtr/>

November's Walk in the Woods

For the second month in a row, the weather cooperated and we had a beautiful day for our Walk in the Woods. The walk took place at Ransom Lake Natural Area, which is nestled within the hills of hardwood forests near Lake Ann in Benzie County and encompasses the beauty-

ful, secluded Ransom Lake, 220 acres of wildlife habitat, forests, and wetlands, along with 3500 feet of Ransom Creek frontage. For more information on Ransom Lake, go to www.almiratwp.org and click on Ransom Lake. Many thanks to our leaders, **Ron Wallace** and

Rich

Morse who found this great trail and were kind enough to share it with all of us.

Pictured on the bridge from left to right are: **Royce Rule, Marcia Morse, Karen Spencer, Matt Albert, Rich Morse, Letha and George Cairns, Ron Wallace, Brad Spencer, Dick Thompson and Ted Schroeder.** Pictured by lake (l to r): **Ted Schroeder, Karen Spencer, George and Letha Cairns and Carol Thompson.** Hikers not pictured: **Joan Wallace, Carole Groves, Judy Albert.**



October Program

Who would expect to see a biology educator back in the saddle at a Newcomer program? That's exactly what occurred during our October program presented by the Zoological Society. Ralph Brickman's eyes were aglow as he waltzed through the room with a large snake wrapped around his neck. They were quite a sight to behold. In addition to the snake, we were treated to the presence of a bat and a magnificent owl. There was information shared about the society and the workings of the zoo. While the future of the zoo remains unclear, some of the options were discussed. It was an informative and enjoyable evening. Our thanks to **Richard Miller** and **Ken Gregory** for sharing their time and expertise and to **Matt Albert** for making the arrangements.



November Program

Do I hear \$75.00, do I hear \$80.00? We sure heard it the other night at the auction where **Lee Hosler** was our auctioneer. Lee, you have a new career awaiting you! With the wonderful help of Lee and **Matt Albert** as his assistant, and the great donations, we made a whopping **\$1,300.00+**.

The auction was a great success with over fifty people in attendance. We had everything from home baked goodies to golf certificates, dinners, and many creative handmade items as well as other great donations. We socialized, snacked on tasty appetizers, swigged down punch and coffee, and bid and rebid on items from the silent auction for about forty minutes until the live auction began. What fun we all had!

Many thanks go to **Matt Albert, Royce Rule, Joe Harris** and **Lee Hosler** for the planning and help during the auction.

NEWS for NEWCOMERS

News about Town

Lori Brickman

If you are a movie buff, you may have heard of the **Beyond the Bay Film Series**. It is one of the best ways to see some of the newest International and American movies that do not get the "commercial edge" in local movie houses. The Bay Theater is located in Suttons Bay and the films are shown on the first Sunday, Monday and Tuesday of the month. There is also a **DocuSunday Series** featuring very well done documentaries from around the world. For more information about the films and very reasonable cost, contact the Beyond the Bay Film Series organization at their website, www.beyondthebay.org or call them at 231-256-2550.

The **TSO, Traverse City Symphony Orchestra**, is another great entertainment opportunity in our community. The Music Director and Conductor, Kevin Rhodes, is dynamite and really enjoys delivering each performance. That enthusiasm becomes contagious in the audience. Each year they present a series of great musical programs. One that has been an annual favorite is the **TSO Pops Home for the Holidays**. If you have family in town or just want to get into the holiday spirit, it promises to be a great evening or afternoon out on the town. This year's event will be performed on December 9, 10 and 11. For ticket information call 231-947-7120 or check out their web site at www.tso-online.org.

**Become one of our contributors:
Please send news, articles, photos, letters, or classified ads to the newsletter editor at
bennettj@traverse.net or
932-9249 (ph and fax) or
9670 E. Walkabout Ln., TC 49684**

New Trail Open

Judy Albert

The new Boardman Lake Trail east officially opened on October 21st and is a wonderful addition to the TART trail system here in the Traverse City area. This trail project, that spans 2 miles from Hull Park to Medalie Park, has been a long time in the making and it is wonderful to see it finally come to fruition. We encourage you to check it out on foot or bike to enjoy the beautiful terrain and views of Boardman Lake. You can access the trail at either Medalie Park which is at Logan's Landing next to Aunti Pasta's on South Airport Road (south end of trail) or Hull Park, which is behind the library off Woodmere Ave.

The trail is almost entirely flat, which makes it a nice, easy walk, and there are several sections of boardwalks that wind through the trees along the lake for a picturesque place to stroll. If you don't feel like walking the full 2 miles in each direction, you might want to start at Medalie Park since that end of the trail is more scenic. For more information on the TART Trail system, go to www.traversetrails.org or 941-4300.

Classified Ads

Car For Sale: 2005 Chevy Impala LS, 2914 mi., black with medium gray leather, many options. Assume lease payment of \$309 mo., lease expires 4-29-08. Call Dexter Keller, 922-8937.

Condo For Rent: Beautiful 2nd floor unit in the Pavilion Club of Naples, 2 bedroom/ 2 bathrooms. Fully furnished. New furniture, tile, carpet and paint (2205). 1,200 sq. ft. of living space. Gated garden-style community situated on a lake. Heated pool. Walking distance to Vanderbilt Beach. Walking distance to Pavilion Shopping Center. Within a mile of the Pelican Bay Community Park with many recreational facilities. Call (947.6229) or email C J & John Cartwright (j.cartwright@worldnet.att.net).

Editor's Picks for December Activities

- Any of the annual holiday cookie sales
- A cup full of marshmallows dripping with hot chocolate, teased with a mist of hazelnut essence, slathered with whipped cream tickled with a kiss of cinnamon, on a rose petal strewn saucer
- Plan ahead for a new year of fitness: Enroll in NMC's "Forever Fit" class designed for age 50+. Select the exercise days that best fit your schedule and enjoy a well-balanced, guided fitness program that works to improve flexibility, endurance, strength, balance, and cardiovascular conditioning. Mon. thru Fri., 9-10 a.m., Phys Ed. Gym, 995-1700 for tuition (minor) and enrollment. Classes begin in early January.