



MARCH 2005

NEWCOMERS NEWS

Published by the Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse

DATES TO REMEMBER

NEWS ITEMS DUE

Mar 7

FEB PROGRAM

Feb 22

MAR PROGRAM

Mar 23

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Mar 9

OUT TO LUNCH

Mar 16, Apr 20

BOOK CLUB

Mar 1

DINING OUT

Feb 20, Mar 20, Apr 17

HIKING

Mar 12, Apr 9, May 21

XC & SNOWSHOEING

Feb 19, Mar 5

JAZZ

Mar 9

SINGLES

Feb 25, Feb 28, Mar 19

BOARD MEETINGS

Feb 14, Mar 14

BRIDGE

Couples

Mar 4

2nd Thurs

Mar 10

4th Thurs

Mar 24

Presidents' Letter



Despite these several days of spring-like weather, we know enough about winter in the North Country to plan on many more days of winter's snowy charms. Word has it that the snowshoers are a hardy lot! Look at the activities in this newsletter for their next outing.

We had a wonderful turnout for our January meeting. We learned much about the planned Botanical Gardens for Northwest Michigan. Thanks again to Nancy Harris and Patty Custance for their work in bringing us these outstanding programs. We are looking forward to the February 22 meeting with our speaker Paul Raphael of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

Programs always start at 7:00 p.m. in the Janis Room of the Dennon Museum. Parking is free and near the entrance. Just drive up to the gate and it will open for you. When you leave the program, both gates will be open.

Time flies when you are having fun, but it is not too soon to be thinking about replacing members who will be leaving our Board of Directors this year. Our Nominating Committee is looking for people who want to get more involved. Volunteering as an officer or board member is a great way to apply your talents, creativity and skills. If you are interested in serving on your board, please contact Carol Thompson at 276-5080 or Letha Cairns at 271-6831.

Finally, don't forget to check out the Newcomers Website. It is a great way to stay informed.

Carol Thompson

Letha Cairns

**2004-2005
Newcomers Club
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Special Events

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Do you know what "Coyote teaching" is? According to our next speaker, this is learning through self awareness and open-minded discovery. When tracking, look where the animal has been, not where it is going. Did you know birds jump down a tree to avoid hawks circling in the sky and up a tree to escape a bobcat or fox on the ground? Would you like to know more?

Join us on February 22, at 7:00 p.m. in the Janis Room of the Dennon Museum. Paul Raphael, an Odawa of the Raven Dodem and a Peace Maker for the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians will share his wealth of knowledge about native beliefs.

Having spent his childhood in Harbor Springs, Paul spent hours just listening and walking. He is a tracker, mentor to the community, teacher and Peace Maker. He stresses animal tracking techniques, storytelling and culture to help preserve Native American beliefs and traditions. Join us and become more enlightened about our Native American neighbors.

Cookies and coffee will follow the presentation. Free Parking is available to members attending the program. Please use the lot with a gate that is directly across from the museum. A sign will be posted at the lot that will say Newcomer's.

Nancy Harris, 223-9844, grizharris@cs.com or Patti Custance at 935-4805, patticustance@yahoo.com



SPECIAL NOTICE



If inclement weather requires us to cancel any program, all members with E-Mail will be notified. If you do not use E-Mail, call a board member.

Activity Group News

Participating in a new Newcomers activity will help winter pass more quickly.

For those who choose to spend the winter in the Grand Traverse Area, Activity Group Leaders have lots of things planned to help you pass the time. In addition to our monthly programs, small groups meet for an evening out, or share an enthusiasm for jazz or bridge. Outdoor enthusiasts take in cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, If you have been thinking of getting out and adding some fun to your life, please consider joining one of our groups. We are especially excited about the formation of a Singles Group and encourage any single members to meet with them as they get out and about.

BRIDGE

Couples 1st Friday Bridge

The couples bridge group meets the 1st Friday of the month at Cedar Creek Commons which is off of Cherry Bend Road. Please contact Marty Johnson at 271-8778, ubatuba@charter.net if you plan to attend. The next play dates are March 4, April Fools Day, and May 6.



Ladies 2nd Thursday Bridge.

This group meets at Scott's Harbor Grill from 11:30 a.m. Players at all levels are welcome. Please contact by the Monday before the Thursday play date. Nancy Ravas, 932-1747.

Ladies 4th Thursday Bridge.

This group meets at 310 Restaurant on Cass St. at 11:30 a.m. Lunch is ordered from the menu. Participants play as individuals not as teams. Those planning to play must make a reservation by the Monday preceding the Thursday activity. Rita Guttenberg, 941-9574.

JAZZ

The March meeting of the Jazz Appreciation group will be held at the home of Dick and Guyla Doumanian on March 9 at 7:00 p.m. The program will be "My Favorite Jazz CD". We want you to bring your favorite CD (or CD's), and play some cuts from it and tell us why it is your favorite. If you plan to attend, please call Dick or Guyla by Sunday evening, March 6, for directions and to confirm your attendance.

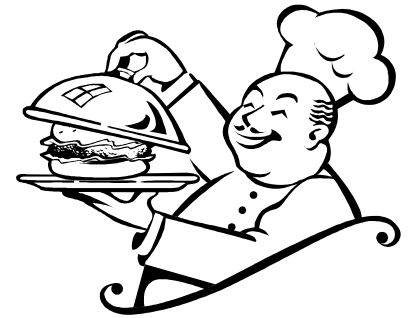


Dick Doumanian, 223-7545, dick@landcompanymich.com

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

Dinner for Eight

As usual, the Dinner for Eight group is a resounding success. The dedication and hard work of our hosts has paid big dividends this season. People have been eating, drinking and best of all getting to know new friends. There is a recent change in Group # 13. Please select a substitute in place of Tom and Kathy Hannah.



If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Pentilla at 334-4881.

Out -To- Lunch Bunch

This group usually gets together at different area restaurants on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

February 16, at 1:00 p.m., Stella's Trattoria, 1200 W. 11th St, Traverse City. Directions: From Division, turn West onto 11th St. Go 1.5 blocks, and on the State Hospital grounds, take the left fork in-the-road. Stella's has 2 entrances, both have parking lots in front and behind Stella's. Make reservations by Monday, February 14 to Carol Hosler, carleehosler@charter.net at 933-4397.

Wednesday, March 16, at 1:00 p.m., Golden Chopsticks, 1752 US 31 N, Traverse City. Directions: From Munson Ave. (a/k/a US 31 N) & Airport Access Rd. (by Munson Community Health Ctr), go North on US 31N approximately 1 mile. Golden Chopsticks is located on the East side of US 31N between Pizza Hut & Ruby Tuesdays, and is across the street from Sugar Beach Hotel. Please make a reservation by Monday March 14 to Carol Hosler at 933-4397, carleehosler@charter.net in Traverse City.

April 20, 1:00 p.m., 310 Restaurant (in the Haggerty Bldg.), located at 310 Cass St., Traverse City. For your reservation, please call Carol Hosler, 933-4397, by Mon. April 18. Hope to see you!

Dining Out

The Grand Traverse area is home to many good restaurants in various price ranges. We usually meet on the 3rd or 4th Sunday evening of the month at 5:00 p.m. Please join us and share in the food and fellowship. Our next gatherings will be:

February 20, Hanna's Restaurant, on Cass Street between Front and State Streets in the former fire house building downtown Traverse City. Make reservations by February 7.

March 20, North Peak Brewing Company at 400 W. Front St. Make reservations by March 13.

April 17, TraVino Traverse Wine & Grill on M-72 in front of the Grand Traverse Resort. Reserve by April 11.

To make your reservation, or cancel a reservation, call or E-Mail John or C. J. Cartwright at (231) 947-6229, j.cartwright@worldnet.att.net.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast meets at the Omelette Shoppe next to the Wild Birds Unlimited store in Campus Plaza every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. We are a tough group and always meet regardless of the weather. Call George Kobernus 933-9321, gkobernus@chartermi.net

HIKING

Here is a list of the hikes for the next few months:

March 12, 10:00 a.m. Meet at headquarters of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Empire for snowshoeing. Snowshoe for approximately 2 hours.

April 9, 9:15 a.m. Meet at Sam's parking lot to car pool to Otter Lake off of M-22 South of Empire on Esch Road. Hike is approximately 4.6 miles.

May 21, 9:15 a.m. Meet at Sam's parking lot to car pool to Old Indian Trail located at intersection of M-22 and Sutter Road. Road is located on north side of Crystal Lake between Frankfort and Empire. Hike approximately 2 hours.

If you plan on attending any of these hikes, please contact Frank Hayes (231) 256-9031, mhayes@coslink, so we will know who is coming, or if you are a little late we can wait for you. If we have to cancel the hike you will be called.

**CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING & SNOWSHOEING**

Assuming we have good conditions, here are the planned snowshoe and cross-skiing outings for the next few months. The locations selected for these winter sports are suitable for both cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The skiers and the snowshoers meet at the same site, but use different trails and then lunch together.

Saturday, February 19 10:00 a.m. at Lake Ann Pathway. Take US #31 about 5 miles west of Interlocken, turn north (right) on Reynolds Rd. (right after BP gas station), go approximately 4 miles. You will come to the trail head parking lot on the right hand side of the road.

Saturday, March 5, 5:00 p.m. at Timber Ridge (formerly Jellystone Nordic Center) 4050 Hammond Rd. E. They have a 2k lighted trail. Dinner will follow outing at a local restaurant.



Note: To ensure an accurate headcount, contact Carl Kucsera @ 946-7762, ckucseracwk@netzero.com.

BOOK CLUB

March 1, 2004 is the next meeting of the Newcomers Book Club. The selection for this month is *The Persian Pickle Club* by Sandra Dallas; a 1920's tale of a women's quilting club, and the dark secret of the town. Join us for this exploration of Depression-era Kansas and the meaning of friendship. The discussion leader is Judy Albert.



Please note the change for April. (April and May books have been reversed). April's selection is *Master Butcher's Singing Club* by Louise Erdrich. We are looking for a leader for this discussion.

We meet the first Tuesday of the month in the lower level of Horizon Books at 10:00 a.m. Horizons Books is a long term supporter of the Newcomers Book Club. Drop in and browse, have a brownie and coffee, or just relax and read the paper. It's a great place to hang out.

For more information, please contact Letha Cairns at 271-6831 or gcairns@chartermi.net.

SINGLES

The Singles Group is meeting, planning and laughing. Come join us! Here's what we have planned so far.

February 25. An Evening at Poppycocks. We will meet at 7:30 p.m. for dinner or join us at 9:00 p.m. to enjoy the jazz combo. To make reservations, call Patti Wiseley @ 932-1389 or e-mail pwiseley@charter.net

February 28. Meet at Patti Wiseley's home at 6:00 p.m. to brainstorm and plan activities for the remaining months of this Newcomer's year. (Patti lives at "The Crown", fifth house on the left as you enter, 2539 E. Crown Dr.). Bring your piggy bank to chip in for pizza. Salad and dessert will be provided. Bring your beverage of choice and ideas for upcoming events.

March 19. Have fun with us when we take in the "Uppity Blues Women" at Milliken Auditorium, Dennon Museum Center. This acoustic trio "gets down in Traverse City". The performance begins at 8:00 p.m. Meet in the lobby at 7:30 p.m. to purchase tickets. Tickets at the door are \$28.00. If you want to take advantage of the advance reservations price of \$25.00 and would enjoy sitting together, prepay Linda Olah by March 5.

Linda Olah at 922-0623, tcinnie@charter.net

LINKS OF THE MONTH

The internet is a great way to find out what is going on in our area. This time of year, the focus is on activities that get us out of the house. Browsing the Web will disclose some great ideas for getting the blood pumping. Our favorite link this month is the state of Michigan site <http://travel.michigan.org>. This is a great way to get the latest on local ski and snowmobile conditions. Try these links:

Snowmobile Trail Conditions:

<http://travel.michigan.org/partners/Snow.Conditions/Snowmobile.Conditions.asp>

Downhill and Cross-country ski conditions:

http://travel.michigan.org/partners/Snow.Conditions/Snow.Conditions.asp?campaign=TM_Web

We also frequently visit the WeatherBug site at www.weatherbug.com. This site is powered by AWS WeatherNet and provides current and future weather updates. The WeatherBug software places an icon on your computer that gives you current weather conditions, your local weather report, and storm alerts. The free version is ad-supported containing both banner and pop-up ads. This site is not considered Spyware as it does not collect personal information or monitor your surfing habits. We use a pop-up blocker or ignore the ads. The latest version has a quick and easy uninstall capability.

Geography Quiz:

Ever wonder where our members lived before coming to the Grand Traverse Region? The typical family has been vacationing in the Grand Traverse Area for many years, and when circumstances, permitted, permanently relocated.

About 73 percent of our members come from places in Michigan. Nine percent are from the neighboring states of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. The remaining members come from other areas of the USA. We even have families from Florida!

**2004-2005 DIRECTORY**

If you wish to receive a directory by mail, call Lori Brickman, 231-223-4584, brickman@pentel.net

**I WANT YOU TO RECRUIT A MEMBER!**

Know someone who has just moved to the area? Contact one of our City Hostesses with their names and they will do the rest. Alice Beeker 933-4404, Abintc@aol.com, or Sharon Finch 947-8403.