



Newcomers News

Published by the Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse
(Antrim - Benzie - Grand Traverse - Kalkaska - Leelanau)

March 2006

DATES TO REMEMBER

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

March 28

April 25

BOARD MEETINGS

March 20

April 17

ART SAMPLER

March 8

BOOK CLUB

March 7

BRIDGE

Team - 1st Fri.

Ladies - 2nd Thurs.

Ladies - 4th Thurs.

CRS-CTRY/SNOWSHOE

March 4, 18

DINING OUT

March 12

EUCHRE

Group 1 - 2nd Wed.

Group 2 - 1st Thurs.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

March 8

OUT TO LUNCH

March 15

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

Note new address!

Please join us for our next program:

"Hurricane Rescue"

Tuesday, March 28

7:00 to 8:45 p.m.

Traverse Area District Library
610 Woodmere Ave., Traverse City

Everyone is well aware of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, but few of us, thankfully, will ever have first hand experience dealing with that reality. Here is your opportunity to see and hear what it was like from someone who has:

Mr. Michael Dickinson

Co-founder of Pet Safe Rescue Alliance of Traverse City

Along with volunteers, he returned from devastated Louisiana with 91 homeless dogs and cats. Michael will recount his experience in retrieving and transporting these animals to T.C., caring for them upon their arrival, and ultimately placing them in new homes in and around our community. This promises to be an evening no one will forget.

Questions? Call Matt Albert, 946-4502 or Royce Rule, 946-4502



Why purple this month?

It's time to celebrate a different hero in March. Purple is associated with the grapes that were saved when St. Urho drove the grasshoppers out of Finland. Or so say some of the brandy-soaked Finns who have contributed to the legend. Read more about St. Urho and his better-known colleague St. Patrick on p. 3.



**2005-2006
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PRESIDENTS' LETTER

MARCH 2006

On a cold blustery day in late January, about 60 people braved the weather to attend the general meeting. Ron Jolly, author of *The Northern Michigan Almanac*, was our guest speaker. He was quite entertaining and gave a great slide presentation. John Auld was the lucky winner of a copy of his book.

For those of you who have not flown to warmer climates such as Florida or Arizona, you will not want to miss our March 27th general meeting at the library. A representative from Pet Safe Rescue will be our guest speaker. Pet Safe is the shelter that found homes for many Louisiana and Mississippi dogs and cats. This group was also able to place some Traverse City animals. If you are an animal lover as many of us are, you'll want to mark this date on your calendar.

Plans for next year are already underway. We are happy to announce that we have filled all of the open positions on the board for next year. Matt Albert will move up to the President's job, Bud Dockter and Brad Spencer will be our new Co-Vice Presidents, Karen Spencer will fill the position of Membership Chairperson, Susanne Bonner will take over as Activities Director, and Carole Groves will cover Publicity for us. We on the board give a heartfelt thank you to these people for accepting these positions. We are also very grateful to those who will continue in their current positions.



Nancy and Patti, Co-Presidents

Nancy Harris and Patti Constance

Board Meetings

Members are encouraged to attend Board meetings. The next meeting is Mon., March 20, 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.

Companion Connection

There are activities not offered through our club's groups that members, single or married, might find more enjoyable and safer with the companionship of others. (No, this is not a dating service.) We'd like to create a list of 'buddy groups' where members can contact others for some company.

Anyone looking for company can do a 'buddy group' email (or phone calls) to others who have indicated a similar interest. The senders will identify their upcoming plans and ask for responses from those who are interested or able to join them.

Once our list of names and interests is developed, we will send it out as an insert with the newsletter. This would be a good reference to have during the summer months when we do not publish newsletters and most of the activity groups are inactive. The list will not contain your contact information. Readers will be referred to our membership directory.

Some of the activities that could be included are: fishing, shopping, plays, movies, kayaking, bowling, walking, cycling, antiquing, board games, crafts, watching sports. To be included in the general 'buddy group' list, send your name and interest areas to the editor's new address: bennettjj@charter.net.

NEW MEMBER CORNER



Ronald Aldridge (Midland, MI)
Daniel & Donna Sagady (Clarkston, MI)
Judith Scurto
Brent Worms & Michelle Kasper
(Grand Haven, MI and
Bella Vista, AR)

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, hsfinchtc@aol.com

Happy St. Urho's Day!

I would imagine that some of you trolls (people from under the bridge) are asking, "Who the heck is St. Urho?" Let me answer that this way: What St. Patrick is to Ireland, St. Urho is to Finland. St. Patrick chased the venomous snakes out of Ireland and became a patron saint. St. Urho chased the pesky grasshoppers out of Finland and SHOULD be a patron saint.

It is rumored that St. Urhu and his female friend were fond of wine (and especially brandy which is one of its distillates). That tradition has followed the Finnish immigrants to the United States and, I hear, is still alive and well in the UP of Michigan and the outer reaches of Minnesota.

Anyway, back to the legend of St. Urho. In order to save the grape crop in Finland, St. Urho drove the attacking grasshoppers out. Thus, he saved the grapes and the wine industry of

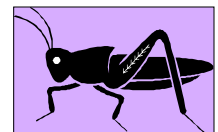
Finland. For that reason, we celebrate St. Urho's Day, and we do it on March 16th (all the better to jump start St. Patrick's celebration).

Legend tells us the snakes in Ireland were chased into the sea and drowned. Not so lucky with the grasshoppers. Legend has it that when last seen the grasshoppers were headed to Egypt where they are known as "locusts".

Neither of these guys is to be confused with St. Valentine who had his big day in February. St. Valentine, I think, is the patron saint of greeting card stores, chocolate shops, flower shops, and jewelry stores.

In case anyone questions this message, it is all "kinda" in fun and in no way should disturb anyone's faith or religion or reading of this newsletter.

(Bob Luoma, staff writer)



Activity Group News

Activity groups: A great way to make new friends is through our various activities. All of these groups require a leader to make this possible. I would like to thank all the activity group leaders for their conscientious work in keeping our groups going. We are having good participation. If you need to contact me, whether for a comment or a great idea for a new group, please note my change of phone number. **My new number is 222-0060**, or you may reach me on my cell phone at 590-7246. Joan Wallace, Coordinator

BOOK CLUB

The Newcomers Book Club has been sailing along with some wonderful discussions this season. The leaders have done a stupendous job, and I want to thank all of them. We have some changes for the remaining months so please make note.

The March title is now *The Constant Gardener* by John LeCarre. This thrilling foreign intrigue/spy drama is set in Nairobi. Our discussion leader is Patti Custance.

The April selection remains the same: *The Art of Happiness* by the Dalai Lama. This fascinating alternative

to our usual selections should lead to some wonderful insights. Leading this discussion is Joan Wallace.

Future reminders: The May book is *The Living Great Lakes* by Jerry Dennis, and June has changed to *Compass of the Heart* by Priscilla Cogan. More about these in the next newsletter.



We meet at Horizon Books, lower level the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Please join us. Contact Letha Cairns at 271-6831 or gcairns@chartermi.net.

CARDS

BRIDGE:

Team (1st Friday): Tom or Georgia Stoerber, 938-5846, tstoerber@bsaemail.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 once a month (and know how to play), sign up to be on a sub list. Call Karen Coquillard at 932-9883. Subs must sign up in two's.

Both groups report a lot of fun, sandbagging, snacking and nonsense was enjoyed by all who played.

Group 1 (2nd Wednesday): Karen and Mike Coquillard, 932-9883

Group 2 (1st Thursday): Tom and Patti Custance, 935-4805

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):

Day Trips - Barbara Cochrane, 267-5547

Golf - Dick Hayes, 938-1705

Sailing - George Kobernus, 933-9321

Singles - Linda Olah, 922-0623

Walk in the Woods - Ron Wallace, 222-0060

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

Dinner for Eight

Dinner for Eight is an opportunity to meet other newcomers to the area in a small group, private home setting. You will be with a different group of people at each dinner. Dinners are scheduled four times during the year and couples rotate being hosts so each does it once during the year. Hosts are responsible for the main course and beverages in addition to contacting the three guest couples and setting the date and time for the dinner. The other couples bring other courses. Subs are available if you must miss one of the dinners. For more information, contact Beth Hoover at casa-hoover@aol.com or 231-386-5639

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, March 8, 9:00 a.m.
Omelette Shoppe



Out -To- Lunch Bunch

A fun bunch always making new friends. Hope you can join us for lunch on

Wed., March 15, 1:00 pm,
Scott's Harbor Grill
12917 West Bay Shore (M-22)

Directions: North on M-22 West of West Bay, about 1 mile north past Tom's West Bay (M-22 & 72). Scott's is on the S.E. side of M-22 at the intersection of Cherry Bend Rd with a traffic light. Little parking in the front, large parking lot on the north side of this small strip mall. Please call your reservation to Karen Spencer, 941-5045 by Mon., March 13.

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, March 12, 5:00 p.m.
310 Restaurant
310 Cass St., Traverse City

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING & SNOW SHOEING

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 go to lunch together.



Saturday, March 4, 2006 10:00AM at Lake Ann Pathway

Take US #31 about 5 miles west of Interlochen, 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. Call Carl Kucsera 946-7762 if you are planning on coming to assure a proper headcount.

Saturday, March 18, 2006 10AM at Muncie Lakes Pathway

Follow Supply Rd. south of TC to Rennie Lake Rd.; follow Rennie until it T's, turn left and the trailhead parking lot is on the left about a mile. Call Carl Kucsera 946-7762 if you are planning on coming to assure a proper headcount.

A WALK IN THE WOODS

Ron Wallace will lead the walks for the months of April, May, June and throughout the summer. Look for details in the April newsletter. Plan ahead for the outings he has already set: April 15 (11:00, Pyramid Point), May 13 (11:00, Old Mission Point Park), June 3 (11:00, south of Empire, Norconk Rd.). Questions? Call Ron at 231-222-0060.

Activity Groups Continued...

ART SAMPLER

ART SAMPLER will go to the studio of **Joe Stearns on March 8, at 1:30 pm.** This is a rare opportunity to see this excellent wood artist's unique studio furniture, featuring the finest domestic and imported woods and contemporary organic forms. Each piece is hand-crafted in his Traverse City workshop.

Because of the lack of parking space, we will be meeting at 1p.m, by the Front Street entrance of the parking ramp. We will take only 2 or 3 cars to his studio on North Long Lake Road. After seeing him work we will return to the Bellstone Gallery on Front Street to see the pieces he has there.

Please let me know if you are attending, as space is limited. Call me at 231-222-0060 or 231-590-7246, or e-mail me at joanie8315@hotmail.com. (Joan Wallace)

Artist's Statement

I call my pieces "contemporary" for lack of a better term, but my designs are intended to transcend the dictates of any particular school or style of work. They are grounded in time-honored principles of form and proportion and a deeply held belief that man-made objects derived from and/or consistent with the natural environment are the most fundamentally pleasing. Thus, most of my work has a natural, organic feel resulting from a conscious departure from straight lines and liberal use of the more complex curves found in nature.

I believe in "elegant simplicity." Arbitrary shapes added on to a well-conceived design usually only result in a

cluttered appearance. Thus my pieces are characterized by a clean organic flow of lines and curves, correctly proportioned to the geometry of the piece. There is, however, a fundamental difference between clutter and tasteful ornamentation, and I often incorporate the latter in the form of inlays, four-way grain/figure matching, contrasting edge banding, etc. to add richness of detail.



Community Volunteer Opportunity - Women's Resource Center

Many Newcomer members quickly become involved in various community projects. As a service to our members we will describe some of those volunteer activities. This month's selection was submitted by Lori Brickman. Please send others to the editor.

The Women's Resource Center provides a variety of services to victims of domestic violence. Empowerment, anger management and related classes, counseling, legal assistance, short and longer term shelter at Helen's House or Madeline's House are a few examples of the available programs. They also provide a Thrift Shop that is open to the public.

Interested in volunteering? They need people to file and answer phones in the office. Others work with adults or children in the shelter, day or evening or weekends. Some work at the Thrift shop as clothing

sorter or cashiers. Still others work one time fund raising events or the Christmas Adopt a Family program. Some volunteer to drive clients to job interviews or medical appointments.

If you like to cook or bake, offer to bring a dish or meal on a specific date. If you are a knitter or enjoy sewing, make something for the shelter or clients. If you miss your grandchildren, volunteer to read stories to kids at Helen's House. All gifts and talents are appreciated. Many of us can do a "one time something" but not an "all the time something". The Women's Resource Center is happy to welcome you any time.

To learn more about the Center's programs and volunteer opportunities, contact Jody Smith at 231-941-1210. They are located at 720 Elmwood between Eighth and Tenth Streets near Munson Hospital.

