



Newcomers News

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

December
2009

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January 2010

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VOLUNTEER AT THE STATE THEATRE

December 17

Visit us on the web
at
gtnewcomers.org

Please join us for this month's program:

Holiday Dinner Dance

Friday, December 4
Waterfront Conference Center

Come join us for a great evening out at the Newcomers Annual Holiday Dinner Dance on **Friday, December 4**. Enjoy the company of new and old friends at the Waterfront Conference Center, 2061 U.S. 31 North, Traverse City. Last year's event was enjoyed by all who attended and we expect the same this year.

Social hour will start at 6:30 PM, followed by fine dining and dancing. Paul Widlund will provide DJ service for the entire evening. Paul did an outstanding job of entertaining us last year and is always open to your personal requests. This evening is truly one of those special Newcomer events of the year.

Cash Bar @ 6:30 PM ▲▲▲▲▲ Sit-Down Dinner @ 7:30 PM

When making reservations, please select from one of the following two dinner choices:

- Brandied Pecan Walleye finished with beurre blanc & brandied pe-cans
- Beef Tenderloin Tips simmered with garlic, onions and mushrooms

If needed, special dinner plates may be requested.

All reservations should be received no later than Monday, November 30. Please send your reservations in early! Make your check payable to Newcomers Club for \$25 per person and mail to:

Karen Spencer, Executive Assistant
8165 S. Bingham Ridge Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684

Special Note: We encourage everyone to bring non-perishable food items to donate to the Northwest Food Coalition. Cash donations are also welcome. Let's continue to help those less fortunate during this joyous but needy time of year.

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PRESIDENTS' NOTE

December 2009



Bob Pelto & Susanne Bonner

The autumn leaves have drifted by my window (apologies to Johnny Mercer), frost is on the shriveling Halloween pumpkins and snowflakes are in the air. These occurrences can mean only one thing; the **"great white north"** is around the corner. Some of our members have evacuated Michigan for warmer climes. The remainder attended our Auction, the results of which required higher math with mechanical and/or electronic assistance. Our new auction venue provided the much needed space and without the time restraints demanded of last year's location, and our auctioneer **Lee Hosler** and spotter **Jim Neibauer** headlined an Oscar-winning event. As testament to the generosity of the members and the skills of **Lee**, the auction netted \$ 2,400.

A huge thank-you goes to **Lee Hosler** and the auction committee, headed by **Marlowe Bonner** with the able assistance of **Miki Connell, Ralph and Lori Brickman, Judy Pelto, Faith Sanko, Joe Harris, Matt Albert, Sis Leake, Jane Grewe, Jon Cump, and Pauline Watt**. Thanks also to **Jim and Rose Neibauer** for setting up the cookie bar, to everyone who made the cookies and other treats, and to **Tom Custance** for facilitating the use of his church. And finally, a big thanks to all of our members who contributed items to the auction.

Our Co-Vice Presidents have been hard at work compiling a program schedule for 2010 that is going to knock your socks off. Among some of the programs are a trip to a winery, author of *The Horse Soldiers* Doug Stanton, Ed Downing from the TC Symphony, programs about the Point Betsie Lighthouse and Sleeping Bear Dunes, the Ranch Rudolf Hootenanny and the Newcomers Picnic. After these programs, do you know what is next? Summer—what happened to winter?

See, it's not so bad up here in the off season.

The OFF season is in fact the ON season for Newcomers. There's a full plate of activities going on. To list a few: snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, the film group, book clubs, dining out, card games, volunteering at the State Theater and the Solo's outings. Join in and before you know it, the robins have returned.

Co Presidents,
 Susanne and Bob

Seasons Greetings

Mark your Calendars for An Upcoming Event:

Tuesday, January 26: Jonathan Hawley, author of *Point Betsie—Lightkeeping and Lifesaving on Northeastern Lake Michigan*, will present an informative program about the Point Betsie Lighthouse.

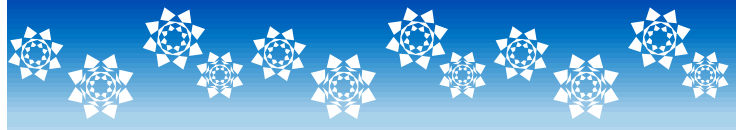


NEW MEMBER CORNER

William and Anne Montgomery
Dallas, TX

Kathy Tuckerman
Bedford, TX

Ben And Diane LaBelle
Gurnee, IL



The Newcomer Auction

Generous donations, fast and furious bidding, an upbeat crowd, and hard-working organizers all added up to another successful Newcomer Auction!

Sixty-five Newcomers joined in the fun on Thursday, November 12, at the Presbyterian Church of Traverse City. Lee Hosler, auctioneer extraordinaire, led the bidding process and provided lots of entertainment along the way. Lee was assisted by Jim Neibauer and Bob Pelto as he auctioned off a large number of items. Popular items included gift certificates to local eateries, as well as boat trips, dinners, and a woodcock banding trip (who knew—one of the most sought-after items!) hosted by club members. Several interesting household items and some gift baskets rounded out the mix.

Special thanks go to the local businesses who donated to our event: Amical, the Happy Hog Cafe, The Traverse City Beach Bums, The Leelanau Club, the Jolly Pumpkin, the Old Mission Tavern, Freshwater Lodge, the Grand Traverse Resort, Carmike Cinemas, Cherry Republic, Tuscan Bistro, Phil's on Front, The Green House Café, The Grand Traverse Pie Company, Omelette Shop, Fustini's Oils and Vinegars, El Dorado, the State Theatre, Yoga for Health, Dog Mom at Your Service, Pet Supplies Plus, and Bay Bread. Our appreciation goes out to Lee Hosler and to Bob and Judy Pelto, who did most of the legwork to secure these important contributions. Bud and Nancy Dockter, Ira Wasserman, Dick and Carol Thompson, and Mike Coquillard also obtained some of the gift certificates that were auctioned off.

The Silent Auction tables were loaded down with items donated by club members. This portion of the event drew a lot of interest and added to the totals raised.

The annual Auction is an important fundraiser for our club. Membership dues cover the basic operating expenses (newsletter, meeting room rental, etc.). Proceeds from the auction allow the club to offset some of the costs for club dinners and the annual picnic. Thanks to the generosity of you, our members, this year's event was a success.

Additional thanks goes to Marlowe Bonner, this year's Auction chair, and his team of able volunteers (see the Presidents' letter for the full list).



Lee Hosler awarding a gift certificate to the successful bidder

ACTIVITY GROUPS

BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, December 1, 10:00 AM

Please join the Newcomer's Book Club this month on December 1, 2009, in the lower level of Horizon Books at 10:00 AM. Our selection for the month is *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova. Written by a neuroscientist, this moving fiction about the early onset of Alzheimer's gives valuable insight into this formidable disease. Leading the discussion is Carol Thompson.

Please note the changes for January and February. Those books and discussion leaders have been reversed. Therefore, the January book is *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout with Katie Brown as discussion leader. The February book is *Starvation Lake* by Bryan Gruley. This selection is a mystery set in our region. Bernadette Albers will lead that discussion.

If you have questions, please contact Letha Cairns at 231-271-6831 or gcairns@chartermi.net.



BRIDGE

TEAM BRIDGE:

First Friday of each month* (except June-Aug.), 7:00 PM at Cedar Creek Commons. Bring a snack to share. New members are always welcome (bring a partner). Call Georgia Stoeber, 938-5846.

***Note:** Team Bridge will be held on **December 11** (second Friday) this month so that members can attend the Holiday Dinner Dance.

WOMEN'S BRIDGE:

2nd Thursday of each month, 11:30 AM, at Scott's Harbor Grille.
Call Judy Owen, 922-9619.

4th Thursday of each month, 11:30 AM, at G's, 1500 U.S. 31 North, Traverse City.
Call Judy Owen, 922-9619.

MIXED PARTY BRIDGE:

3rd Friday of the month, 7:00 PM. All skill levels wel-

come. Different hosts each month.

Contact Rick and Kathy Bodette, 271-7524 or richardrbodette@cs.com.

DINNER OUT

There will not be a dining out for December, but keep in touch for January!

Eat well, and Happy Holidays!

EUCHRE

Couple's Euchre groups meet once a month in each others' homes. It is an evening of fun and friendship. The only prerequisites are having a sense of humor, knowing the game, and a willingness to snack and sip. It is now official. We have SEVEN groups. Wow! We also have a sub list.

I would like to thank **Pat Haber** who stepped up to make our new 7th group a reality. Thanks, Pat, and welcome to your entire group.

Couple's Euchre Contact: Karen Coquillard, Coordinator, karenmary32@hotmail.com.

FILM GROUP

Thursday, December 10

The Film Group is a casual fun group made up of people who love going to the movies. We attend movies at different theaters throughout the season and go out for discussion, food and libations afterwards. The group meets the second Thursday of every month from September through May. I may occasionally add an extra film date during any given month if a film looks interesting and may not be playing at the time of the regular scheduled meeting.

Watch your email or check the website for specifics.

Anyone interested in joining the group should contact Judy Pelto at jpelto1@charter.net or 231-668-9490.

FISHING

Fall fishing activities are expected to continue on an individual basis; steelhead will continue to move into rivers this month. Group members are encouraged to contact each other about fishing opportunities or questions.

Contact Pete Albers, phalbers99@gmail.com, 922-7289 if you are interested in participating in any of the group ac-

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ACTIVITY GROUPS

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tivities.

GOLF

On October 19th, 7 golfers dressed in winter coats and hats played 18 holes at the Crown in winds gusting to 25 mph and temps in the high 40s before wind chill. Despite these hurdles, two players seemed unphased by the elements. Ralph Brickman, who with his wife had been on vacation for 4 weeks and was on his game, was closest to the pin on #16 and had the longest drive on #17. He said " they took their clubs but didn't play." Ralph has a history of going away and then returning to play golf and then wins most of the \$'s. Terry Samuel, on the other hand, has been golfing all summer and, as he did on the Wolverine course two weeks ago, won low gross (82) and fewest putts (27). On October 28th we played in beautiful weather at Elmbrook. Terry Samuel had the longest drive on #7. John Patten was closest to the pin on #14 and he made his putt for a birdie. Steve Lockwood holed his chip shot on #8 for a par. Dave Charlton had fewest putts w/28 and shot 79 for low gross.

MEN'S BOOK CLUB

Monday, December 28, 10:00 AM

Our selection for Monday, December 28, is *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. The discussion leader to be determined.

The club meets in the lower level of Horizon Books the fourth Monday of each month at 10:00 AM. New members are welcome whether you have read the book or not. We sometimes go to lunch at a local restaurant following the meeting. Contact Pete Albers for questions, 922-7289.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Wednesday, December 9, 9:00 AM

This group meets at the **Omelette Shoppe next to the Wild Birds Unlimited store in Campus Plaza** every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 9:00 AM. We meet all year around and always meet regardless of the weather. Bring all the testosterone you can muster.

Contact George Kobernus: gkobernus@chartermi.net or 933-9321.

OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, December 9, 1:00 PM

We will celebrate the holidays with lunch at Trattoria Stella, located at Building 50 in the Grand Traverse Commons (1200 W. Eleventh, TC).

Twelve members enjoyed each other's company the November lunch at the Silver Swan. Come join us!

Contact **Sis Leake** at 929-7036 by **Monday, December 7**, for reservations and so that car pools can be formed.

POKER

Tuesday, December 1, 1:30 PM

The poker group usually meets the 1st Tuesday of the month, with winter hours of 1:30 PM—4:30 PM and summer hours of 6:30 PM—9:30 PM. The group meets on a rotating basis at each member's home. The game is small stakes, (5¢, 10¢, 25¢), to keep the game and conversation fun and friendly. The host merely has to provide the home and setup, while members bring snacks and drinks.

The December meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 1st. The location for December has not yet been determined. Please contact the group coordinator for the location if you plan to attend.

The poker group coordinator is Mike Huffman. Phone is 517-655-3374. Email is wcdspike@yahoo.com.



Beth Hoover shares one of her lovely quilts with the Quilting Group at its October meeting.

QUILTING/SEWING

Tuesday, December 8, 12:00 PM

The quilt group will meet on December 8 at 12:00 PM for a potluck lunch at Sis Leake's home. We will learn some techniques from Sis, since she has learned from Georgia Bonesteel (a well known quilter in North Carolina). We will also be making a color chart from fabric.

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ACTIVITY GROUPS

(Continued from page 5)

RSVP to both Sis and Pauline, if you plan to attend.

(Sis—929-7036, sisleake@charter.net, Pauline—929-1107, jwatt1107@charter.net).

SNOWSHOE/CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Saturday January 10, 11:00 AM

Muncie Lake

Follow Hammond Rd East to High lake Rd. Right on High lake to Supply Rd. Left on supply Rd. to Rennie Lake Rd. Follow Rennie Lake Rd until it T's. Turn left and the trail head parking is on the left about a mile.

Saturday January 24, 11:00 AM

Lost Lake

Take US 31 West just beyond Interlochen Golf Course. Turn right on Gonder Rd. and go about 2 miles. The Trail head parking lot will be on the left.

Saturday February 14, 11:00 AM

Sand Lake Quiet Area

Follow M72 East past Turtle Creek Casino to Broomhead Rd. (first rd after Ginop Sales). Turn right and go approximately 3.5 miles, through 2 curves to trail head parking on the left (watch for signs)

Saturday February 28, 11:00 AM

Lake Ann Pathway

Take US31 about 5 miles West of Interlochen. Turn right (north) onto Reynolds Rd. (just past BP Gas Station). Go approximately 4 miles. Trail head parking lot on the right side of the Rd. **ALTERNATE ROUTE:** West on M72 from TC past West Michigan Landfill to Reynolds Rd. Left on Reynolds Rd to Almira Rd (M610). Right on Almira Rd for a short distance to Reynolds Rd. Left on Reynolds Rd. Go about a mile and Trail head parking on the left.

Saturday March 14, 11:00 AM

Lone Pine Trail

This trail is along the Boardman River. Take Garfield Rd south to Birmley Rd. Turn right at the stoplight and go 1 mile to the next stoplight. Turn left onto Keystone Rd. and go for 1.5 miles. head parking on the right.

If you are interested in joining any or all of these outings please contact Don Eastway at cadillac2154@yahoo.com or phone 213 884-1106.

SOLOS

Thursday, December 10

Sunday, December 13

Solos will be trying a different Christmas dinner this year. On Thursday, December 10, we will go to the dinner

theatre at the Bayview Wesleyan Church. It is located at 720 Wayne which is off Bay Street between US31 and M72 (Bay is one block south of the bay). Cost is \$10/\$12 and the play is called "Home is Where the Heart Is". **Call Judy at 922-9619 to make a reservation.** Tables are sold in groups of 8, so please call as early as you can.

We will have our annual Christmas party on Sunday, December 13, at the Woodcreek Clubhouse (same as last year). Bring a salty or sweet item and we will provide punch, song books, and laughs and conversation. **Call Josie at 668-6167 for directions and to make a reservation.** We will begin the merriment at 3:00 PM and last until we lose our voices.



VOLUNTEER AT THE STATE THEATRE

Thursday, December 17, 2:30 PM

State Theatre Volunteers: Join us as we work in the concession area, take tickets, sweep floors, usher, run errands, and sometimes we even get to watch the movie. Free popcorn and pop, a voucher for another movie, and tokens for the parking ramp complete the experience. Our afternoon shift is usually slow. It is designed to introduce you to the State and help you determine whether you'd like to move to a busier time on your own. You are more than welcome to remain at this less active level too. Sometimes we have more volunteers than theater-goers.

We work on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 2:30 PM to 5:15 PM. Join us for dinner after if you have time.

Contact Jody Bennett if you would like to be added to the list of potential volunteers, bennettjj@charter.net, 932-9249.

Scenes from the Newcomer Auction



The "paddle meisters"



Serious study of the Silent Auction items



The newest Newcomers enjoy the event

PLEASE

Send news, articles, photos,
letters, or ads to the
newsletter editor:

mikiconnel@aol.com
or
929-1049

Helping Hands Request

The Newcomers Club
'Helping Hands' Coordinator
attempts to acknowledge happy and sad times in
our
members' lives.

Please notify
Judy Owens at 922-9619
jowen9619@charter.net
if you know of any of these
circumstances.

Patronize our sponsors

Associates in Family Dentistry

Joseph M. Stayman, D.D.S.
10850 E. Traverse Hwy, TC
946-9644

Banfield Pet Hospital

2544 Crossing Circle (next to
PetSmart), TC 922-9844

BATA- Public Transportation

3233 Cass Rd., TC 941-2324

Benjamin Franklin —The

Punctual Plumber

929-9999

Bob's Furnace Services

2282 Cass Rd., TC 941-4064

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946-2497

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3311 S. Airport Rd., TC
231-590-0272

Chemical Bank

10691 E. Carter Rd., TC
941-4578

The Copy Shop - Printers

713 E. 8th St., TC 947-2080

The Dance Center

225 E. 14th St., TC 947-6820

Dennis, Gartland & Niergerth

Business and Financial Advisors

415 Munson Ave
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-946-1722
www.dgncpa.com

Dennos Museum Center

1701 E. Front St., TC
995-1055

Eastland Apothecary Shoppe

1217 E. Front St., TC
947-9825

Edward Jones

Colleen Etue
12930 SW Bayshore Dr, TC
231-947-3032

Ecowater Systems of TC

1-800-599-0311 or
ecowater.com

Farm Bureau Insurance

Jeff Needham 947-9452
540 S. Garfield Ave., TC

Gaudette & Co CPAs

1107 East 8th St. , TC
946-8930

Gold Canyon Candles

Christine Stalsonburg
231-421-3172

www.myc.com/CDcandles

Goodyear Auto Service Center

436 W. Front St., TC
922-2600

G.T. Ophthalmology Clinic, PC

929 Business Park Dr., TC
947-6246

Grand Traverse Bay YMCA

3000 Racquet Ball Dr., TC
933-9622

Grand Traverse Heritage Center

322 Sixth St., TC
995-0313

Grand Traverse Resort & Spa

231-534-6750, 1-888-437-2772

Grand Traverse Children's Clinic

3537 W. Front St., Ste. G

Traverse City

935-8822

Health is Wealth-Chiropractic

Dr. Sherry Weir
Dr. Kim Anderson
3409 Veterans Dr. TC
946-5816

Interlochen Center for the Arts

4000 S. M-137 Hwy.
Interlochen, MI
231-276-7200

Kids Creek Children's Clinic

5024 North Royal , TC
935-0555

Mary Kay Cosmetics

Pat Westbrook 929-1830

Merrill Lynch

Briant Sikorski, 231-922-6831
333 W. Grandview Pkwy, TC

Munson Healthcare Regional

Foundation

935-6482

Musichouse Museum

U.S. 31 North, Acme
938-9300

Oakwood Veterinary Hospital

924 Hastings, TC 941-7241

Oleson's Food Stores

New store: Hammond Rd./3 Mi.
3850 N. Long Lake Rd. TC
947-6510

Old Town Playhouse

148 E. Eighth St., TC
947-2210, ext. 3

Oryana Nat. Foods Coop Mkt.

260 East Tenth, TC

Pizza Hut

3030 US 31 South, TC
947-2077

Precision Plumbing & Heating

2829 Cass Rd., T.C.
231-947-0100 or
231-275-5273

Recycle Smart

www.recyclesmart.info
Recycle Hotline 941-5555

Reynolds-Jonkhoff

Funeral Home

305 6th St., TC 947-6347

State Farm Insurance

Mark Newhouse
933-5400

Stone Mountain Carpets

Charlie Stiehl
800-786-6333

The Mom's Club of Grand

Traverse Area

www.TheMomsClub.net

Traverse City Beach Bums

Wuerfel Park
333 Stadium Drive
Ticket office: 231-943-0100

Traverse City Record Eagle

Newspaper

946-2000

Traverse Magazine

148 E. Front St., TC
941-8174



The Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse
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Traverse City, MI 49684