



# Newcomers News

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

December  
2010

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Holiday Dinner Dance  
Thursday, December 9

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December 8

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December 7

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December 5

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Visit us on the web  
at  
gtnewcomers.org

Please join us for this month's program:

## Holiday Dinner Dance

Thursday, December 9  
Traverse City Golf & Country Club

Come join us for a great evening out at the Newcomers Annual Holiday Dinner Dance on **Thursday, December 9**. Enjoy the company of new and old friends at the Traverse City Golf & Country Club, 1725 South Union Street, 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. Drink tickets will be sold for the social hour and for the dinner. The social hour will be followed by fine dining and dancing. Jazz North, a seven member ensemble, will provide live music for the evening. This evening is truly one of those special Newcomer events of the year.

**Social hour @ 6:30 PM ▲▲▲▲▲ Buffet Dinner @ 7:30 PM**  
**Drinks may also be ordered during dinner at your table**

The buffet selections will include:

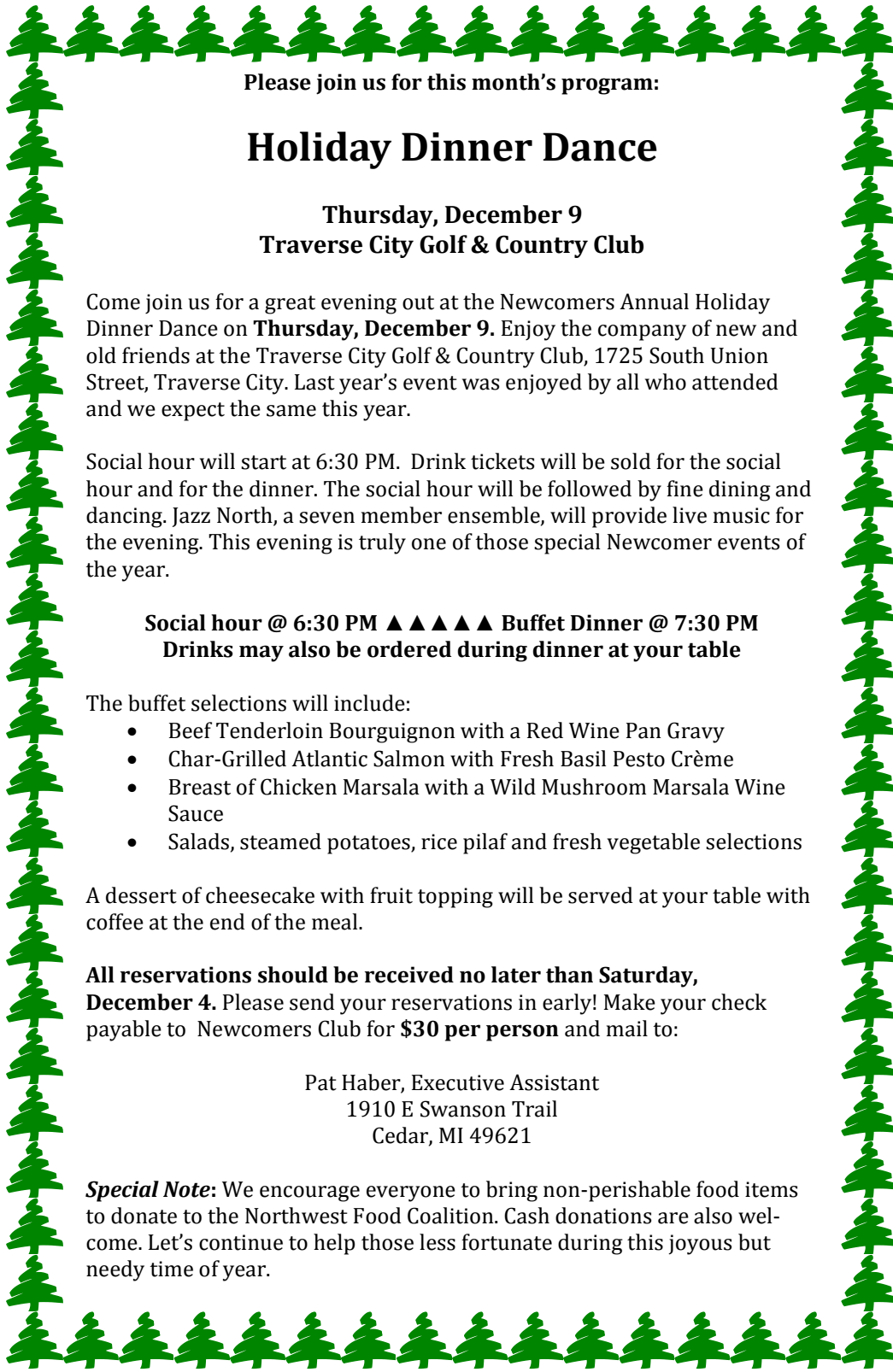
- Beef Tenderloin Bourguignon with a Red Wine Pan Gravy
- Char-Grilled Atlantic Salmon with Fresh Basil Pesto Crème
- Breast of Chicken Marsala with a Wild Mushroom Marsala Wine Sauce
- Salads, steamed potatoes, rice pilaf and fresh vegetable selections

A dessert of cheesecake with fruit topping will be served at your table with coffee at the end of the meal.

**All reservations should be received no later than Saturday, December 4.** Please send your reservations in early! Make your check payable to Newcomers Club for **\$30 per person** and mail to:

Pat Haber, Executive Assistant  
1910 E Swanson Trail  
Cedar, MI 49621

**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 2010



Jo Anne Gerben & Marshall Persky

As the holiday season approaches, many of us take additional time to reflect on the special people and events that enrich our lives. Obviously, Newcomers provides us with many of those memorable times. Every event this year from the Kickoff Dinner to the airport visit and the recent auction has shown record attendance and has provided us with so much fun with good friends. Your Board is grateful to all of you who have participated in these events and can't wait for our next big night out.

But first, we want to share the good news of the auction with you. Not only did we have close to a record number of attendees, we took in a record \$3,109. We thank all of you who donated items, collected donations from local business and generously bid in both the silent and live auction. Special thanks to our excellent auctioneer, Marlowe Bonner and his wonderful assistant, Dennis Stockemer. They sure made the evening fun and obviously helped us bid higher than we thought we would. It was certainly a great evening.

Finally, as you prepare for the holidays, we hope you will join us for what promises to be an exciting Holiday Dinner Dance on Thursday, December 9. The Traverse City Country Club will be a beautiful location, and the addition of live music for dancing this year should make this event even more special. As we have done in past years, we will be collecting donations for the Northwest Michigan Food Coalition. Not only will we have a wonderful time together, we can help others as well. We can't think of a better way to kick off the holiday season!

On behalf of the entire board, we wish you much happiness and joy at this special time of year!

Jo Anne and Marshall

Seasons Greetings

## Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events:

**Tuesday, January 25:** An Evening with Doug Stanton, local author.

**Tuesday, February 22:** Presentation by Tom Ford, naturalist at Wild Birds Unlimited.

These meetings will be held at the Grand Traverse Heritage Center, 622 Sixth St., Traverse City. Look for more information about these programs in upcoming editions of the Newcomers News.

## NEW MEMBER CORNER

**John and Carla Olds** Lima, OH

**Don and Donna Olendorf** Shelby Twp., MI

**Rachelle Landes** Lansing, MI

**Richard & Susan Bingham** Rochester Hills, MI



## Behind the Scenes at the Cherry Capital Airport

Close to sixty Newcomers braved the late October winds to get a behind the scenes look at the Cherry Capital Airport. Kevin Kline, Assistant Airport Director, provided a very informative overview of the airport's history and operations. This was followed by a tour of the facility, including gates, baggage area, the rescue and fire fighting building and the snow removal equipment building.

# ACTIVITY GROUPS

## **BOOK CLUB**

**Tuesday, December 7, 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM**

Both the morning and the afternoon book groups meet on the first Tuesday of the month in the lower level of Horizon Books.

December's book is *Let the Great World Spin* by Colum McCann. This story captures the mystery and promise of New York City in the 1970s. It has received the National Book Award.

Letha Cairns will lead the morning book discussion. Jo Anne Gerben will lead the afternoon discussion.

Katie Brown is the activity leader for the morning session. You may contact her at 231-922-9389 or brownjk6248@sbcglobal.net.

Terrill Persky is the activity leader for the afternoon session. You may contact her at 231-922-8153 or terrillpersky@gmail.com.



Members of the afternoon book group  
Discussing *Cutting for Stone* at their November meeting



## **MIXED PARTY BRIDGE**

**Thursday, December 15, 7:00 PM**

This group meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. All skill levels welcome. Different hosts each month.

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

## **DINNER OUT**

What a wonderful turnout—a record number of Newcomers attended our October dinner. We saw so many new faces and everyone enjoyed the beautiful and charming Manor on Glen Lake.

No dinner scheduled for December. Hope to see everyone at our annual Christmas dinner/dance. Happy Holidays to all!

Michele Richard 944-5844 or richard.michele@rocketmail.com

## **EUCHRE**

Euchre groups meet once a month in each other's homes. We currently have seven groups. Each group is made up of three to four tables. Group members change tables and partners throughout the evening which makes for a lot of opportunity for lively conversation. Of course, food and drink are involved.

We now have eight Euchre groups. The newest group is now firmly established having had two meetings. This group meets on the first Tuesday of every month and is headed by Robin and Bill Stott. The other members of the group are: Steve and Pam Nation, Don and Kathy Flegel and Dennis and Marie Kergol. They currently have two tables but will add a third table in the future.

The groups are more social than serious, so don't be hesitant to join if you haven't played in a while or are a newer player. If you have a rudimentary understanding of the game and want to join in the fun, contact Judy Pelto at jpelto1@charter.net.

## **FILM GROUP**

**Friday, December 10**

Due to the Holiday Dinner being held on our normally scheduled film night we will meet, for December, on **Friday, December 10, 2010.**

The Film Group is a casual, fun group made up of people who love going to the movies. We attend movies at differ-

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# ACTIVITY GROUPS

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ent 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 each month. Notification as to the film, time and place is emailed to group members a few days before the outing. Anyone interested in joining the group may contact Judy Pelto at [jpelto1@charter.net](mailto:jpelto1@charter.net).

## FISHING

Steelhead fishing is underway and lake fishing should hold up until persistent cold weather lowers water temperatures. Contact one another for any special trips or fishing opportunities.

Contact Pete Albers, [phalbers99@gmail.com](mailto:phalbers99@gmail.com), 922-7289 if you are interested in participating in any of the group activities.

## MEN'S BOOK CLUB

**Monday, December 27, 10:00 AM**

The Men's Book Club will meet in the lower level of Horizon Books on Monday, December 27, 2010. We will be discussing *Tortilla Flat* by John Steinbeck.

Members and potential members are cordially invited to join us. Contact Ralph Mittelberger for questions and information, [mittelberger.ralph@arentfox.com](mailto:mittelberger.ralph@arentfox.com).

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

**Wednesday, December 8, 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](mailto:gkobernus@chartermi.net) or 933-9321.

## NEWCOMERS NEEDLERS

**December 2 & 16, 1—3 PM**

Join us twice a month for a couple of hours of uninterrupted knitting or stitching or rug hooking or needlepoint or whatever strikes your fancy. Show off your finished projects. Bring something to work on (or not!) and for a relaxing afternoon. We also help beginners.

We meet on the first and third Thursdays, 1—3 PM, at the Aroma's Coffee Shop (<http://www.aromascoffeeshop.com/>) at Kid's Creek shopping center on Division, just south of 14<sup>th</sup> Street. The next dates are December 2 & 16.

Have questions, want to be on the email list, or just want to let us know you'll be there? Contact Sandy Seppala, [sansep19@earthlink.net](mailto:sansep19@earthlink.net), 421-3343 or 703-597-7925 (cell).

## OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH

**Wednesday, December 8, 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).

Contact Sis Leake at 929-7036 by **Monday, December 6**, for reservations and so that car pools can be formed.

## POKER

**Tuesday, December 7, 12:30 PM**

The poker group meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month, with winter hours of 1:30 – 4:30 PM and summer hours of 6:30 – 9:30 PM. The group meets on a rotating basis at each member's home. The game is small stakes 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 hosted by Mike Clear. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 7, **beginning at 12:30 PM**. Please contact Mike (or the group coordinator) by phone or email if you plan to attend the December meeting. Mike's e-mail is [mjclear@charter.net](mailto:mjclear@charter.net). Mike's phone is 231-421-1618.

The poker group coordinator is Mike Huffman. Phone is 517-655-3374. E-mail is [wdcspike@yahoo.com](mailto:wdcspike@yahoo.com).

## SOLOS

**November 26** White Christmas at Old Town Playhouse. Buy your own ticket and let Judy know you plan to go. Tickets are going fast. (922-9619)

**December 5, 4:00 PM** Early Bird dinner at Tuscan Bistro (Glass of wine, salad, entrée, dessert \$25). RSVP by December 3 to Judy.

**December 8, 11:30 AM** Lunch at Lobdell's. Limited to first eight people who RSVP to Judy by December 5 (prices \$7-\$13)

**December 19, 3:00 PM** Christmas party at Judy's. Bring

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# ACTIVITY GROUPS

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an appetizer or dessert. Call Judy for directions.

## **SUNDAY SUPPER for EIGHT**

**Sunday, December 5, 6:00 PM**

November's Supper for Eight had a great eat, drink and be merry time. The next supper will be held on December 5 at 6:00 PM.

Come and join us. The host will serve the main dish. Guests will bring a dish to pass. Hosts and guests will rotate monthly. New couples, solos and new subs are always welcome.

For more information please call Izzy at 231-421-8171 or email [izzyandmike@yahoo.com](mailto:izzyandmike@yahoo.com).

## **VOLUNTEER AT THE STATE THEATRE**

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 sometimes slow and sometimes busy. Give it a try and perhaps you might like to move to a busier time on your own. You are more than welcome to remain at this less active level too.

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. **Note: Dates may change in December because of the holidays. Nancy will provide more information.**

Contact Nancy Johnson at [johns526@msu.edu](mailto:johns526@msu.edu) or 231-668-9633 if you would like to be added to the list of potential volunteers.

## **WALK IN THE WOODS**

Walk in the Woods will resume in April and will continue through June 2011.

## **JIM DOES THE 'ICEMAN COMETH CHALLENGE' AND TAKES HOME THE MONEY**

By Brad Spencer

The infamous Iceman Cometh Challenge bike race from Kalkaska to Traverse City is not for everyone—but for the few and the fit—which in 2010 included Newcomer past Co-Vice President Jim Neibauer, who came in fourth place for the fit “over 70” category.

This grueling 28-mile up and down hill, sandy, mud-packed, snow-laced, back-country race course is “the largest one-day bike race of its kind in North America” which included 4,000 professional and amateur bikers this year. Jim and his son Eric from Maine entered the race this year with hopes of finishing it.

Jim explained his 60 dollar prize money for fourth place was “not such a big deal” in that only four men over 70—of the 4,000 who entered—took on the challenge. The few entrants over 70 speaks worlds about the rigors of the course, and any finish in this grueling race is a big win for any rider.

Some “slow-pokes” on the course are simply taken out of the race.

Jim said he did have to get off the course at one point to let a group of pros go by, but he was not ejected from the race.

Close to the end of the race, Jim said he suffered two thigh cramps going up hill, but walked them through and received huzzahs and applause from the bystanders as he finally crossed the finish line where Newcomer wife Rose took the picture included here. He said he suffered no other health issues as he finished the race in five hours and twelve minutes.

Jim prides himself on his physical condition having spent years playing football for the University of Idaho as well as for the Navy and playing semi-pro football after serving his six years as a Naval Officer.

He said he had been biking eight to ten miles several times a week to get in condition for the race. He rides a knobby-tired “Giant” backwoods racing bike.

“It was a beautiful sunny day,” he exclaimed, “but the course may not be one that I will want to try again.”

At the conclusion of the race, Jim’s wife Rose’s only comment was: “I was relieved!”



Jim Neibauer at the finish line of the Iceman Cometh Challenge bike race

## The Newcomers Auction

By Miki Connell

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

Close to eighty Newcomers joined in on the fun on Thursday, November 11, at the Presbyterian Church of Traverse City. Marlowe Bonner, in his first year as auctioneer, led the bidding process and provided lots of entertainment along the way. (Marlowe proved to be a worthy successor to Lee Hosler, who hosted our previous auctions.) Marlowe was ably assisted by Dennis Stockemer as he auctioned off a large number of items. Popular items included certificates to local eateries, as well as boat trips and dinners hosted by club members. Tickets to local events, several interesting household items and some gift baskets rounded out the mix. One of the highlights of the evening was the spirited bidding for two separate custom watercolor paintings of members' homes, to be painted by Katie Brown, a talented artist and Newcomers member.



Special thanks go to the local businesses who donated to our event: Amical, The Omelette Shop, Cousin Jenny's, Scott's Harbor Grill, Turtle Creek Casino, GT Foods (Firefly/Bubba's/Giovanni's), Phil's on Front, the Old Mission Tavern, Tuscan Bistro, the Green House Café, Boone's Long Lake Inn, the Grand Traverse Resort, Formative Fitness, Wild Birds Unlimited, The Leelanau Club, The Crowne Golf Course, Sugar Loaf Old Course, the State Theatre, Farmer's Daughter Chocolate, Tonic Salon, Regal Nails, Maid Pro, The Clipper Dog Grooming Service, Great Frame Up Shop, and Horizon Books. Our appreciation goes out to all of the Newcomers who secured the gift certificates that were auctioned off to the benefit of the club.

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 huge success.

Additional thanks goes to Marlowe Bonner, this year's Auction chair, and his team of able volunteers: Dennis & Sandy Stockemer, Bob & Judy Pelto, Ira & Carole Wasserman, Kathy Tuckerman, Sis Leake, Susanne Bonner, Miki Connell, Lee Hosler, Robin Timmerman, Pat Haber & Dan Klimaszewski, Ralph & Lori Brickman, Nora Socks, Jo Anne Gerben, Jane Grewe, Mary Jankowski and Arnie Taddia. Thanks, also, to those who provided the wonderful home-baked cookies and treats for the refreshment table.



# Patronize our sponsors

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935-8822

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4000 S. M-137 Hwy.  
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231-276-7200

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5024 North Royal , TC  
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C/O Terrill Persky - Membership  
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