



Newcomers News

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

December
2008

DATES TO REMEMBER

Holiday Dinner/Dance
Friday, December 5

BOARD MEETING

No mtg. in December

BIKING

TBA, see p. 4

BOOK CLUB

December 2

BRIDGE

Various, see p. 4

DINNER OUT

January 2009

EUCHRE

Various, see p. 4

FILM GROUP

December 11

FISHING

TBA, see p. 4

MEN'S BOOK CLUB

December 22

MEN'S BREAKFAST

December 10

OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH

December 10

POKER

December 2

QUILTING

December 9

SOLOS

*December 5
December 14*

VOLUNTEER AT THE STATE THEATER

TBA, see p.7

Please visit us on
the web at
gtnewcomers.org

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Please join us for this month's program:

Holiday Dinner/Dance

Friday, December 5

Waterfront Conference Center

Come join us for a great evening out at the Newcomers Annual Holiday Dinner/Dance on **Friday, December 5**. 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:

- Fresh Whitefish baked with dill & white wine sauce, topped with Dried Cherry Tarragon Butter
- Beef Tenderloin Tips simmered with garlic, onions and mushrooms and served with Hunters Sauce

If needed, special dinner plates may be requested.

All reservations should be received no later than Monday, December 1. Please send your reservations in early! Make your check payable to Newcomers Club for \$29 per person and mail to:

Pam Evans, Executive Assistant
3104 Ogidaki Trail
Traverse City, MI 49686

Special Note: We encourage everyone to bring non-perishable food items to donate to the Northwest Food Coalition. Checks are accepted in lieu of food donations. Let's continue to help those less fortunate, especially during these tough economic times.

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PRESIDENTS' NOTE

December 2008



Lori Brickman &
Bob Pelto

Michigan: "land of four seasons". The warmth of vibrant fall colors that you could almost feel on your face as you drove down a sun lit tree-lined lane are only a memory. The naked tree trunks are the only obstructions to views we haven't seen since the pre-greening of spring.

The snowbirds are readying themselves for their escape, hoping to beat the first snowflakes of winter. The rest of us will be busy waxing, dusting, oiling, and reacquainting ourselves with our winter toys.

The Holiday season is fast approaching. With gift buying, house decorating, card writing, party planning, New Year celebrations and all the Newcomer activities that you can cram into your calendar. These, "to quote", are some of my favorite things.

There have been three events that have occurred since the last newsletter. The first was the road trip program to the **Old Town Playhouse**. We welcomed seven new members into the club: **Beryl Striewski & Jim Horrocks, Marie & Jim Bode, Joan Hauer and John & Jerilyn Cleverdon**. Executive Assistant at the OTP, **Carly McCall**, gave an interesting and informative talk followed by a Q&A session about the OTP and community theatre. We then had a guided tour of the OTP building, we viewed the prop studio, wardrobe storage, dressing rooms and the backstage. We were treated to a practice musical number from the next OTP show, "URINETOWN: the musical" and then sat in the theater and watched as the shows director **Phil Murphy** rehearsed with the cast members on stage. A special thank you goes to Co-Vice President **Bud Dockter** and those who assisted him in the planning and executing of a successful October program.

The second event which occurred was the presidential election. We won't go into the results but we never thought that we'd miss product advertising on television and news events from the rest of the world.

The third event was the November 12th Newcomer Auction, our only fund raiser. This turned out to be a very entertaining and financially fulfilling night. The board members thank all who participated by either donating or purchasing items or both. The success of this event means that we will not have to stand on the street corner and panhandle for operating funds. Newcomers own auctioneer **Lee Hosler** was on his A game. He not only amused the bidders with his humor, he was able to solicit bids that would even embarrass Congress.... just joking!! He, along with **Jim Neibauer** and the rest of the auction staff lead by **Joan Wallace**, produced a whopping \$2,646.50. I was told that this is a record. In case you were not in attendance at the auction, you missed Madonna's bra lamps, a bag of nighttime fun, a heated walker/underwear warmer and a gourmet dinner at the House of Dogs (t-shirt included).

Don't forget to come and celebrate the holidays with your friends at the **Dinner/Dance** on Friday, December 5th from 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the **Waterfront Conference Center**. Reservations are required by Monday, December 1.

From the Executive Board we wish one and all a healthy and happy holiday season and a fun-filled New Year.

"Live long and prosper": Mr. Spock.

Lori and Bob



Mark your Calendars for an Upcoming Event:

On Wednesday, January 28 at 7:00 PM, **Wings of Mercy** will be the topic at our general meeting to be held at the Traverse City District Library. Albert Sickinger, one of our own Newcomer members, will make the presentation. Wings of Mercy is a nonprofit organization offering free flights to people with limited finances but needing transportation to distant medical facilities. Albert is a volunteer pilot for this compassionate and caring program. Please see next month's newsletter for more information.

NEW MEMBER CORNER

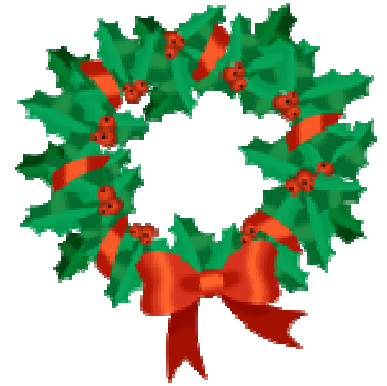
John & Jeri Cleverdon
Midland, MI

Jeanne Vincent
Rapid City, MI

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, hsfinch@charter.net



The Newcomer Auction

Generous donations, fast and furious bidding, a large upbeat crowd, and hard-working organizers all added up to a Newcomer Auction that's one for the record books!

Ninety Newcomers joined in the fun on Wednesday, November 12, at the Traverse Area District Library. 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 certificates to local eateries, boat trips and a kayak outing hosted by club members, and dinners cooked and served by Newcomers in their homes. Several interesting household items rounded out the mix.

Special thanks go to the local businesses who donated to our event: the Apache Trout Grill, Amical, Scott's Harbor Grill, Trillium Photographics, Bill Marsh, Horizon Books, Catch Island Grill, Custom Draperies by Patrice, Mackinaw Brewing Company, The Leelanau Club, Agave Mexican Grill, Carmike Cinemas, Companion Animal Hospital, Schelde's, House of Doggs and Northern Seasons.

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 record 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 Joan Wallace, this year's organizer, and her team of able volunteers: Lee Hosler, Jim Neibauer, Bob and Judy Pelto, Marlowe and Susanne Bonner, Sis Leake, Tom and Patti Custance, JoAnne Gerben, Brad and Karen Spencer, Ron Wallace, Ann Skory, Miki Connell and Bud and Nancy Dockter.



Lee Hosler impersonating Madonna

ACTIVITY GROUPS

BIKING GROUP

The Biking Group had its first outing on November 1. There were 10 of us who enjoyed a day of riding. The group is now done until spring. Anyone interested should contact Don Eastway, cadillac2154@yahoo.com or 231-884-1106.

BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, December 2, 10:00 AM

The Book Club meets in the lower level of Horizon Books on Front Street in Traverse City. This month's selection is *Then We Came to the End* by Joshua Ferris. Barb Fitch will lead this discussion.

If you have questions or need a book list, please contact Letha Cairns at 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.

WOMEN'S BRIDGE:

2nd Tuesday of each month, 11:30 AM, at Scott's Harbor Grille. Hostess duties will be rotated among the group.
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 welcome. Different hosts each month.
Contact Rick and Kathy Bodette, 271-7524 or richardbodette@cs.com.

DINNER OUT

Dinner Out will not meet in December.

EUCHRE

Couples Euchre is going strong. We have five groups filled with committed Euchre players.

If you are a couple and would like to begin a new group, call and get your name on the list. Groups meet monthly. Each couple takes turns hosting in their home. It is an evening of fun and friendship. **Prerequisite:** Must know how to play Euchre and enjoy laughter.

Contact Karen Coquillard, Couple Euchre coordinator, at karenmary32@hotmail.com or 932-9883.

FILM GROUP

Thursday, December 11

This is a casual, fun group made up of people who love going to the movies. We will continue to attend movies at different theaters throughout the season and go out for discussion, food and libations afterwards.

Our next outing will be on Thursday, December 11. Watch your email or check the website for specifics. I may occasionally add an extra film date during any given month if a film looks interesting and may not still be playing at the time of the regular scheduled gathering.

Anyone interested in joining should contact Judy Pelto at jpelto1@charter.net or call 668-6490.

FISHING

The Fishing Group includes Newcomers who are interested in fishing activities of any kind. The group is new and is evolving according to the interests of its participants. Currently we sponsor spring lake trout and late summer salmon charter fishing trips on the Grand Traverse Bays. Group members are encouraged to contact each other to organize outings and to share information.

Contact Pete Albers, phalbers99@gmail.com, 922-7289 for more information.



MEN'S BOOK CLUB

Monday, December 22, 10:00 AM

Everyone is welcome. We meet on the 4th Monday of the month in the lower level of Horizon Books on Front Street in Traverse City.

December 22: *Guns, Germs and Steel: Fates of Human Societies* by Jared Diamond

Note: The books for 2009 will be determined before the next newsletter. We read fiction, biographies and just about anything else that catches our fancy. We have a different discussion leader for each book, but sometimes we just talk about it from each person's view. Join us,

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ACTIVITY GROUPS

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surprising comments of personal experiences related to the books come up more often than not. You can come even if you have not read the book!

Contact Jim Neibauer at jeneibauer2@charter.net or 267-9553.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Wednesday, December 10, 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 10, 1:00 PM

The OTL Bunch meets the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 PM at a selected restaurant in Traverse City and the surrounding area.

Please join us for a Christmas lunch at Minerva's, located in the Park Place Hotel.

Contact **Gloria Brown** at 947-5318 or gloriowski@charter.net for reservations and directions **by Monday, December 8.**

POKER

Monday, December 2, 1:30 PM

The poker group 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 home and setup, while members bring snacks and drinks.

The December meeting will be held on Monday Dec. 2nd from 1:30—4:30 PM. Steve Lockwood will be hosting. Steve's phone is 231-938-2293 and email is steve.640@hotmail.com. **Please call or email Steve if you plan to attend.**

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

QUILTING/SEWING

Tuesday, December 9, 1:00 PM—3:00 PM

Our group will meet at Miki Connell's home, 8221 Maple Leaf Dr., Traverse City. At this meeting, we will be learning the "basics of quilting" which includes tools of the trade and rotary cutting. Demonstrations of a quilted purse and wine gift bags will also be included.

Please RSVP to **Pauline Watt, 231-929-1107 or jwatt1107@charter.net** (patterns will be available for those attending). We welcome anyone interested in this creative activity.

SNOWSHOE/CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Mark your calendars on the following dates. Contact Joe Harris at grizharris@charter.net or 223-9844 to be placed on the contact list, if you are not now on it and wish to be. Being on the list is not required to participate, but any short term updates will be facilitated between newsletters.

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 often use different trails and then go to lunch together.

Please contact Joe to let him know you are planning to come on a given date, so he knows who to expect.

Saturday, January 10, 2009, 11AM at Muncie Lakes Pathway

Follow Hammond Road North to High Lake Rd. Right on High Lake to Supply Rd. Left on Supply Rd. to Rennie Lake Rd.; follow Rennie until it T's, turn left and the trailhead parking lot is on the left about a mile.

Saturday, January 24, 2009, 11AM at Lost Lake Pathway

Take US #31 west just beyond Interlochen Golf Course, turn north (right) on Gonder Rd. and follow the signs, the trailhead parking lot is within the first couple miles on the left hand side of the road.

Saturday, February 7, 2009, 11AM at Sand Lakes Quiet Area

Follow M 72 east, past Turtle Creek Casino to Broomhead Rd. (first road after Ginop Sales), turn south (right) go approximately 3.5 miles through 2 curves to trailhead parking lot on left hand side of road (watch for sign).

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VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR NEW TRAVERSE CITY VISITOR INFORMATION LINE

The Traverse City Convention & Visitors Bureau is seeking knowledgeable, friendly volunteers to staff its new "Traverse City Visitor Information Line" beginning in January.

The new service is a toll-free number that potential visitors to the area can call for general information about Traverse City and its various attractions. No experience is necessary, but volunteers should possess an excellent knowledge of the area, a friendly telephone personality and basic Internet skills to allow them to look up information about local events and visitor amenities. Selected volunteers will be asked to attend a training session and commit to at least one four-hour shift (either 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 1p.m. to 5:15 p.m. M-F) every other week at the Traverse City Convention & Visitors Bureau, 101 W. Grandview Parkway .

To learn more about the new Traverse City Visitor Information Line and complete an application, contact Sarah Barnard at sbarnard@visitttravercity.com or call her at 995-3910.

Newcomers who volunteer at the Convention & Visitors Bureau in a different position include Carole Groves, Jody Bennett and Bob Luoma, and Ann Skory. Carole Groves says: "I haven't been treated as well in any other volunteer position. Run to the phones and volunteer now!"



'Helping Hands' Request

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

Please notify
Patti Custance at 935-4805 or
patticustance@yahoo.com
if you know of any of these
circumstances.

Attention Newcomer Club Downhill Skiers:

Northern Michigan Adaptive Sports (NMAS), affiliated with Munson Hospital, is looking for intermediate or advanced-level skiers to assist with its alpine ski program. Training will be provided.

There will be approximately three ski weekends (one or both days) for the upcoming season. Volunteers ski free and do not have to commit to every session or day. On-hill duties include running interference, and/or bucketing, loading, or tethering participants.

The purpose of NMAS is to introduce people with disabilities to alpine skiing using adaptive equipment and/or special instruction.

If interested, contact Jody Bennett, 231-932-9249 or Ann Reichert, 231-935-8684.

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Saturday, February 21, 2009, 11:00AM 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 trailhead parking lot on the right hand side of the road. **Alternate route:** West on M-72 from TC past WM landfill to Reynolds Rd. Left on Reynolds Rd. to Almira Rd (M610). Right on Almira Rd. short distance to Reynolds Rd. Left on Reynolds Rd. about 1 mile. Parking lot on left.

Saturday, March 7, 2009, 11AM at Muncie Lakes Pathway

Follow Hammond Road North to High Lake Rd. Right on High Lake to Supply Rd. Left on Supply Rd. to Rennie Lake Rd.; follow Rennie until it T's, turn left and the trailhead parking lot is on the left about a mile.



SOLOS

Friday, December 5, 5:30 PM

We will attend the 41st Annual Advent Madrigal Dinner at the Presbyterian Church, 701 Westminster. Tickets need to be purchased in advance.

Sunday, December 14, 1:00 PM

Josie Grant will host a holiday gathering at her condominium clubhouse today. Each participant will bring a beverage and either an hors d'oeuvre or a dessert. If you wish to participate in a cookie exchange, please also bring one dozen cookies to share.

If you wish to attend either of these events, please call Gini LeClaire (941-8440) or Judy Owen (922-9619) for further information or directions.

VOLUNTEER AT THE STATE THEATER

Join us as we work in the concession area, sweep floors, sell tickets, usher, run errands, and sometimes even get to see the movie. Scheduling for the winter months will be announced in the January newsletter.

Contact Jody Bennett if you can help, bennettjj@charter.net, 932-9249.

Member Directory

Would you like to be able to access the current Newcomer Member Directory by clicking on an icon on your computer desktop? Directory Editor Ron Wallace has provided the following instructions for all of us:

- Go to the Newcomers web site at www.gtnewcomers.org and click on the **Members Area** link on the left of your screen.
- Enter the user name and password (as previously provided by Karen Spencer).
- Click on the **view/print directory** link. You can view or print the Member Directory by clicking on it.

Once on the directory page, if you click on the **save** icon (top of the page—it looks like a disk—it's right next to the printer icon) the directory can be saved on your computer.

I prefer having it on my computer. I save it to the document area. Then I can locate the file, right click it, go to **send to** and make a **short cut** on the desktop. Now all I have to do is click the desktop icon and the directory is in front of me with all the faces in living color. As the directory is updated the new one can be downloaded any time.

If you need the user name or password e-mail me at wallacerg1@yahoo.com and I will send it to you. You can also download the newsletter. Of course there is no need to go to the Members Area to get the newsletter. Each month you can delete the old newsletter and download the current one.

If you haven't already done this please try it.



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

mikiconnel@aol.com
or
929-1049

The deadline for the January 2009
newsletter is December 15.

Patronize our sponsors

Associates in Family Dentistry

Joseph M. Stayman, D.D.S.
4020 W. Royal Dr., TC
946-9644

R. W. Baird & Co. Investments

1001 Bay St., TC, 933-6050

Banfield Pet Hospital

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

BATA- Public Transportation

3233 Cass Rd., TC 941-2324

Bellisimo Travel Services

Priscilla, 946-4313, TC
13685 SW Bayshore, Ste. 114

Benjamin Franklin —The Punctual Plumber

929-9999

Bob's Furnace Services

2282 Cass Rd., TC 941-4064

Brian N Feeny, DDS PC

Family Dentistry

Copper Ridge, Bldg. A, TC
946-2497

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

Dennis Museum Center

1701 E. Front St., TC
995-1055

Eastland Apothecary Shoppe

1217 E. Front St., TC
947-9825

Ecowater Systems of TC

1-800-599-0311 or
ecowater.com

EXCEL Rehabilitation Services

3 locations: 2 in Traverse City,
1 in Suttons Bay
929-0303

Farm Bureau Insurance

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

Gaudette & Co CPAs

1107 East 8th St., TC
946-8930

Goodyear Auto Service Center

436 W. Front St., TC
922-2600

Grace—A Salon of Inspiration

Union St. at 9th St.
(531 S. Union, TC)
941-1973

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

Legacy Financial Svcs.

Kelly Rowe 933-0631
13919 S.W. Bay Shore Dr., TC

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

Music House 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

Recycle Smart

www.recyclesmart.info
Recycle Hotline 941-5555

Reynolds-Jonkhoff

Funeral Home

305 6th St., TC 947-6347

Sheren Plumbing and Heating

Energy Services, Design, Build
943-7916

State Farm Insurance

Mark Newhouse
933-5400

Stone Mountain Carpets

Charlie Stiehl
800-786-6333

Traverse City Record Eagle

Newspaper

946-2000

Traverse Magazine

148 E. Front St., TC
941-8174



The Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse
C/O Karen Spencer - Membership
8165 S. Bingham Ridge Dr.
Traverse City, MI 49684
kspencertc@charter.net

Quick Tip! If you change your email address please notify us at kspencertc@charter.net.
Email is the best way to get information to members between publications of the Newcomer News.