



# Newcomers News

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

May  
2011

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**MAY PROGRAM**  
Tuesday, May 24

**BOARD MEETING**

*May 2*

**BIKING**

*May 11*

**BOOK CLUB**

*May 3*

**BRIDGE**

*May 19*

**EUCHRE**

*Various, see p. 4*

**FILM GROUP**

*May 12*

**FISHING**

*TBA, see p. 4*

**GOLF**

*Various, see p. 5*

**MEN'S BOOK CLUB**

*May 23*

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

*May 11*

**NEWCOMERS NEEDLERS**

*May 5 & 19*

**OUT TO LUNCH**

*May 11*

**POKER**

*May 3*

**SOLOS**

*Various, see p. 6*

**VOLUNTEER AT THE  
STATE THEATRE**

*May 4 & 19*

**WALK IN THE WOODS**

*May 21*

Visit us on the web  
at  
[gtnewcomers.org](http://gtnewcomers.org)

Join us for the May Program:

## Newcomers Game Night

Tuesday, May 24

6:00 PM (Note earlier time)

History Center of Traverse City

322 Sixth Street

Traverse City, Michigan

Please join us for a night of fun, games, and food. The Newcomers Club will provide the food and refreshments and, of course, the games. The plan is for a fun-filled low key night of cards and games and socializing with fellow newcomers. This could be the perfect opportunity to learn a game you have always wanted to try or spend time playing one of your favorite games. The planned games include Poker, Euchre, Dominos, Mah Jongg, and Bananagrams, along with various word and board games. And bring a favorite game of yours if you want.

The "main course" is being catered by the House of Doggs and there will be side dishes and treats to accompany the dogs. We will also have soft drinks and coffee. Please note that we cannot bring alcohol to the History Center.

### GAME ROUNDS

Round 1	6:00 - 6:40	Round 3	7:50 - 8:30
Break 1	6:40 - 7:10	Break 2	8:30 - 9:00
Round 2	7:10 - 7:50	Round 4	9:00 - 9:50

Break 1 is when the dogs will be served. Break 2 will include an introduction of new board members. Each break will include a 50/50 Raffle from the \$5 registration fee. **So please get signed up for this event by sending the information below with your payment to Pat Haber by May 15:**

Name(s):

Number Attending (\$5 / person):

Games interested in playing:

Send to: Pat Haber, 1910 E. Swanson Trail, Cedar, MI 49621 by May 15.

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# PRESIDENTS' NOTE

## May 2011



Jo Anne Gerben & Marshall Persky

We are getting to the finish line of a very **SUCCESSFUL** year! Every event this year has been special in its own way. We are especially pleased with record turnouts for our programs. Another success? The new venue at the History Center, which is easy to find, has plenty of parking and lots of room for our meetings.

But the year isn't over and at the next several meetings returning Snow Birds will be showing off their tans. It will be great to have everyone together again.

Programs to look forward to:

- May 24<sup>th</sup>: Game Night (Meet the new Board)  
The Game Night Committee has made a huge effort into putting together this fun evening. All we need is YOU to attend and have fun.
- June 25<sup>th</sup>: Picnic At Bowers Harbor  
This year features a bigger food selection and, changing the pace a bit, will be held on a Saturday.

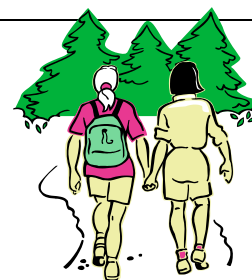
Make sure you have all the events and dates on your calendar and Please plan to attend!!

Marshall and Jo Anne

## Activity Group Leaders Needed

A Leader and/or Co-Leaders are needed for the Mixed Party Bridge, Gardening and Solo Groups.

If you are willing to help with either of these groups, please contact Pauline Watt at 231-360-3216 or email her at [jwatt1107@charter.net](mailto:jwatt1107@charter.net).



Several Newcomer women walk at 8:00 AM most days at the Traverse City Civic Center (just east of the intersection of E. Front Street and S. Garfield). We welcome any women in the Newcomers Club who would like to join us. Call Maureen Anthony at 231-674-4683 for more information if you are interested.

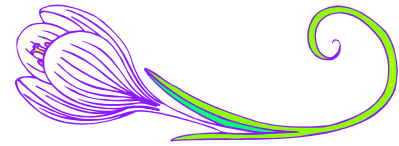
## Directory Update

This month's newsletter includes an addendum that lists changes that have occurred to the Member Directory since it was published last November.

The full directory (and the addendum) can be found online at our web site: [gtnewcomers.org](http://gtnewcomers.org).

## NEW MEMBER CORNER

Chuck and Barbara Watson  
Grand Rapids, MI



## The Garden Butcher

By Joe M. Coffman

Beware that spring day in the upper Midwest. That day when what was tundra suddenly becomes a jungle of things primeval—of flora that have materialized overnight from a botanical black hole where before there was nothing but soggy grass and air. The endless winter gives birth to madness.

I put down my morning coffee on such a day and considered my impotence, transfixed by the galloping green—stalks and shoots, dandelions and prickly monsters, bushes and brush of indescribable growth, pistils and stamens run amuck in a psycho-photosynthesis that invaded my paltry 120 by 40 foot city lot, turning the sun into a mean spotlight. I cursed the chirpy talk of gardening writers and television nature gurus. Global warming was here and it was payback time. I had to do something, however modest...some meager effort to restore a semblance of plaintive husbandry.

I dug out some dandelions, carefully and deliberately. Simple enough. Next, some foot-high prickly weeds in the middle of a long flower bed, as well as their nasty escort of curved sword weeds that seemed to grow even as I was pulling them out. Next came some jagged twisties along the fence and a few other odd-looking demons riding the house and by the garage. Four more hours and at last I could see the outline of friendly plants and shrubs I'd remembered from more placid times. I rested my cardboard back, limbs throbbing with heat.

"What have you done?" My wife, home from work.

"Pardon?" I said, rolling on the front steps to calm the pain racing skull to toe.

"You pulled out the hydrangea--and the cedar bush, and a whole batch of cosmos and some perennials, the irises too--how could you do this?"

"No--just weeds and dandelions."

"You pulled more."

"I'm sorry. It got crazy."

"You butchered the whole yard. You are a garden butcher."

The evidence was inescapable. I tried to replace what I had butchered. The improvement was minimal. After a month restricted to lawn mowing and moving hoses, I tiptoed through the green and thought I heard laughter in the wind and saw portions of green subtly undulating. Perhaps I'll try again this spring. Then again, they also serve who take out the trash.

# ACTIVITY GROUPS

## **BIKING GROUP**

**Saturday May 11, 11:00 AM, Betsie Valley Trail**

From Traverse City take US-31 to Beulah. Take a right onto Benzie Blvd (BP Gas Station). Trail head parking will be on the right. From here we will ride to Frankfort (about 10 miles), have lunch, then return. The trail for the first three miles is aggregate, then paved.

If you are interested in going, **PLEASE contact Don Eastway** at [muglure@yahoo.com](mailto:muglure@yahoo.com) or phone 231-884-1106.

## **BOOK CLUB**

**Tuesday, May 3, 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. All books that have been selected for reading are listed on our website: [gtnewcomers.org](http://gtnewcomers.org), under "Literary Activities".

May's book is *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. This story is a good overview of the scientific research made possible by the HeLa cell line and gives the reader a workable knowledge of issues facing the biomedical research community today. Rebecca Skloot is an award-winning science writer. She teaches creative nonfiction at the University of Memphis.

Carole Wasserman will lead the morning book discussion. Pat Haber will lead the afternoon book discussion.

Katie Brown is the activity leader for the morning session. You may contact her at 231-922-9389 or [jkbrow@att.net](mailto:jkbrow@att.net). Terrill Persky is the activity leader for the afternoon session. You may contact her at 231-922-8153 or [terrillpersky@gmail.com](mailto:terrillpersky@gmail.com).

## **MIXED PARTY BRIDGE**

**Thursday, May 19, 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 [richardbodette@cs.com](mailto:richardbodette@cs.com).

## **DINNER OUT**

The dining out group will resume dinners in October. With so many exciting events planned for the coming months we take an annual leave from our dinners. Hope to see all of you at future events and dinners.

## **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.

**Euchre group Eight is looking to add another table.** We have two potential players but need two more to complete a third table. The group meets in the evening the first Tuesday of every month. Interested players should be **available to play for the majority of the playing season — fall through spring.** Please contact Judy Peltó at [jpelto1@charter.net](mailto:jpelto1@charter.net) if you would like to join this group as a permanent member.

## **FILM GROUP**

**Thursday, May 12**

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.

Our last meeting for the season will be Thursday, May 12.

Watch your email or check the web site 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 Peltó at [jpelto1@charter.net](mailto:jpelto1@charter.net).

## **FISHING**

Spring is really here and inland fishing is moving right along. Check the new regulations to make sure you will be in compliance when you start your early season fishing. Steelhead fishing should be decent at least through the early part of May. I will begin making inquiries this month about lake trout charters. In the past we have gone out on trips during the last week of May through the middle of June. Contact one another for any trips you would like to organize or to advertise 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.

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# ACTIVITY GROUPS

(Continued from page 4)

## **GOLF**

As you read this, the 2011 golf season is under way. It's not too late to sign up. All you have to do is email me at brickmanbus@yahoo.com and I will add you to the list. We play every Monday until the middle of October. We do not keep scores or handicaps. We just play to have fun and meet new friends. We draw cards to set up groups so you will be playing with different people each week. This is a great way to get to know all the players.

If you are going to play all you have to do is email me by the previous Friday so I can adjust the tee times with the golf course. There is no requirement to play every week.

May 2	Crown	August 1	Elmbrook
May 9	Leelanau Club	August 8	Crown
May 16	A-Ga-Ming	August 15	Champion Hills
May 23	Briar South	August 22	Grandview
June 6	Briar North	August 29	Twin Birch
June 13	Pinecroft	Sept. 12	Mistwood
June 20	Crown	Sept. 19	El Dorado
June 27	Timberwolf	Sept. 26	Emerald Vale
July 11	Emerald Vale	Oct. 3	Leelanau Club
July 18	Crystal Lake	Oct. 10	Crown
July 25	Briar North		

## **MEN'S BOOK CLUB**

### **Monday, May 23, 10:00 AM**

The Men's Book Club meets in the lower level of Horizon Books in Traverse City. Our selection for May is *The Voyage*, by Philip Caputo. On a June morning in 1901, Cyrus Braithwaite orders his three sons to set sail from their Maine home aboard the family's forty-six foot schooner and not return until September. Though confused and hurt by their father's cold-blooded actions, the three brothers soon rise to the occasion and embark on a breathtakingly perilous journey down the East Coast, headed for the Florida Keys.

We welcome any man who might want to participate, regardless of whether or not he has previously attended our meetings and even read the book. We always have a friendly, interesting and insightful discussion, usually followed by lunch at a local eatery.

Members and potential members are cordially invited to join us. Contact George Kobernus: gkobernus@chartermi.net or 933-9321.

## **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

### **Wednesday, May 11, 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.

## **NEWCOMERS NEEDLERS**

### **May 5 & 19, 1:00PM—3:00 PM**

Bring your needles and hooks, yarn and floss, and needling toys and projects for two hours of uninterrupted needling, a great cup of coffee or whatever, and good companionship on our usual two Thursdays in May.

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 May 5 and 19.

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, 421-3343.

## **OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH**

### **Wednesday, May 11, 1:00 PM**

This month we will visit one of the newer restaurants in the area, the *Soul Hole*, 408 South Union Street in Old Town Traverse City. The Soul Hole offers a unique mix of eclectic Southern cuisine.

In an article about the restaurant, the owners are quoted as saying "The Soul Hole was born out of many hours of watching '*Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives*,' a Food Network show. We named it because we wanted it to remind us – and our customers – of that 'little hole-in-the-wall' place that every town has where you can get the best food. And where we remember faces and names, and it feels cozy all the time, almost like at home."

**Please contact Sis Leake at 929-7036 by Monday, May 9, if you plan to attend.**

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# ACTIVITY GROUPS

(Continued from page 5)

## **POKER**

**Tuesday, May 3, 1:30 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 May meeting will be hosted by Brad Spencer. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 3. Please contact Brad by phone or email or the group coordinator for the location of the meeting if you plan to attend. Brad's email is [spencercs@charter.net](mailto:spencercs@charter.net). Brad's phone is 231-946-3365.

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

## **SOLOS**

Several Solo events are planned for this month. Call Judy (922-9619) to express interest in any of the following activities:

**May 1, 12:30 PM** Solos will support The Women's Resource Center by attending the Taste of TC event at the Great Wolf Lodge. Cost is \$15+. Coupon in Valpak. Meet in lobby.

**May 6, 7:00 PM** Opening night at Old Town Playhouse for *Cemetery Club*. Reservations by April 29. Tickets are \$18.

**May 23, 12:00 PM** Carpool available. Shop at Alden, walk at Grass River, (maybe even look for mushrooms), dinner at Whitetails in Kalkaska.

**May 29, 11:30 AM** Carpool available. Brunch at The Bluebird in Leland. Reservations required. \$14+

## **VOLUNTEER AT THE STATE THEATRE**

**Wednesday, May 4 & Thursday, May 19, 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 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 now have two shifts per month and you may choose the one you prefer. We work on the first Wednesday and the third Thursday of each month from 2:30 PM until 5:15 PM. Join us for dinner afterwards if you have time.

Space is limited, so please sign up via email with Nancy Johnson. Contact Nancy 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.**

**Saturday, May 21, 11:00 AM, Old Mission Peninsula Park**

The May Walk in the Woods will be at Old Mission Peninsula Park at the end of M-37 on Old Mission Peninsula. The date is May 21st at 11:00 AM.

The address of the park is 20500 Center Road, Traverse City, MI 49686. It is about 18 miles out on the Peninsula.

We will be lunching afterwards and we will keep in contact with members via email. We can be reached at [jedgrewe@charter.net](mailto:jedgrewe@charter.net) or 941-4961. Jane's cell is 989-329-3000.

Looking forward to warm weather!



Mary O'Brien, Judy Owen and Jean Olson enjoy a recent Solo Sleigh Ride Outing

## JOIN US FOR A CHICAGO HOLIDAY ADVENTURE! DECEMBER 6 – 9

With better rates and hotel availability, we've changed the dates for our Chicago Holiday to December 6 - 9, 2011. Don't miss out on this opportunity to spend four exciting days with your Newcomer friends enjoying the shopping, theatre, nightlife, restaurants, and sporting events of Chicago in all its holiday splendor! Pat Haber managed to secure a limited block of one bedroom suites at the Seneca Hotel & Suites (across from the Water Tower in the heart of the Magnificent Mile) for the amazing rate of \$109 per room plus taxes per night! Pat has further negotiated a round-trip Amtrak group rate of \$30 per person from Kalamazoo to Chicago—*let the party begin!* Please note, group rates for the train and hotel are based on a minimum of twenty participants. Many thanks to Pat Haber—clearly Newcomer's Deal-maker-Of-The-Month!

### **Day One (12/6):**

Kalamazoo Amtrak Station. Please arrive before 9:20 AM (EST) for group check-in. *Note—Travel is on your own to Kalamazoo.*

Departure: 10:23 AM (EST) on Amtrak Train #365

Arrival: 11:59 AM (CST) Chicago Train Station

Transfer to Hotel: No transfers provided; everyone on their own via taxi.

Seneca Hotel & Suites: Check-in prior to 3:00 PM (CST) is subject to availability

Evening Cocktail Reception: Details provided at a later date.

**Days Two and Three (12/7 & 12/8):** Free time. Further events will be announced.

### **Day Four (12/9):** Departure Day

Individuals check out of Seneca Hotel & Suites

Transfers to Train Station: No transfers provided; everyone on their own via taxi.

Chicago Train Station: Please arrive before 11:15 AM (CST) (for group check-in)

Departure: 12:16 PM (CST) on Amtrak Train #352

Kalamazoo Amtrak Station: Arrival 03:43 PM (EST)

PLEASE JOIN US! To provide us with an indication of those interested in going and to assure you a room, **please email Dennis Stockemer at [dstockemer@comcast.net](mailto:dstockemer@comcast.net) by June 15.** In turn, we will immediately send you the particulars for making your own hotel and train reservations along with other general trip information.



## WEBSITE

Recent changes to our Newcomers website—[www.gtnewcomers.org](http://www.gtnewcomers.org)—include an update to our Membership Directory (with new members added and any contact info revised); the background has been swapped out to a new spring color; and we will be archiving additional, earlier Newcomers News to our 'Newsltr' tab.

Please take a minute to check out all our updates. If you have any images, suggestions or questions, contact our Newcomers webmaster Lynn Huffman at [lhuffman@gammet.com](mailto:lhuffman@gammet.com).

## HERE'S AN OFFER YOU CAN'T REFUSE... BUT YOU HAVE TO ACT QUICKLY!

We have a coupon for performances at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Ontario which can be used for any 2011 performance you may select. We are offering to sell the coupon for just \$200.00 to anyone who can use it this year. The only problem is that tickets must be ordered by **June 2, 2011!** You may choose any venue or performance you wish from the 2011 program lineup (which includes Camelot and Jesus Christ Superstar). We have a 2011 schedule of events showing seating and prices that you can use to make your selection. Just give us a call at 421-1319. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy great theater at a great price.

Sharlene & Warren Kruger

# Patronize our sponsors

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**Grand Traverse Heritage Center**  
322 Sixth St., TC  
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**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

**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

**Music House Museum**  
U.S. 31 North, Acme  
938-9300

**Northwest Michigan College  
Extended Educational Services &  
Life Academy** (Classes for adults  
over 50)  
231-995-1700

**Oleson's Food Stores**  
Hammond Rd. & 3 Mile and  
3850 N. Long Lake Rd. TC  
9471-900/947-6510

**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



**The Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse**  
C/O Terrill Persky - Membership  
438 N. Elmwood  
Traverse City, MI 49684