



Newcomers News

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(Antrim - Benzie - Grand Traverse - Kalkaska - Leelanau)

April 2015

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JOIN US FOR THE APRIL NEWCOMERS MEETING

Treasure Ships and Mermaids?? Even Better, Good Science!!

*The Achievements of the Nautical Archaeology Program
at Northwestern Michigan College*

Tuesday, April 28, 2015 6:30 p.m.
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1050 Peninsula Drive, Traverse City

We hope you will join us for the April Newcomers meeting when our speaker will be NMC's Dr. Mark Holley.

Dr. Holley teaches cultural anthropology and underwater archaeology at NMC and is the chief archaeologist of the newly formed Grand Traverse Bay Underwater Preserve. His specialty is the survey of submerged archaeological sites and he is currently leading field projects in Lake Michigan, Scotland, Ireland and Greece.

Dr. Holley and his students in NMC's Nautical Archaeology program, along with a multidisciplinary team, have produced a detailed survey of 20 submerged sites, ranging from turn of the century wooden shipwrecks to large deposits of cultural debris from the 1950s.

The results of the surveys have established NMC as an innovator in the field of archaeological surveying and have led to opportunities for students' participation on archaeological projects throughout Europe, ranging from the world's oldest submerged city in Greece to Ireland's oldest timber bridge.

Dr. Holley's presentation will explore the cultural sites surveyed by students, the teaching methodologies used in the field and the opportunities for international research that have arisen from this nascent program.

Save the date! Annual Spring Picnic is June 7

Our annual picnic will be held again at Twin Lakes Gilbert Lodge. It's a great indoor facility with lots of outdoor space, so we will

be ready for whatever Mother Nature has in store. Save the date and plan to attend. Watch for details in the May newsletter.

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PRESIDENTS' NOTE

APRIL 2015

In mid-March as we write this President's letter, sitting in the picture window watching another snow storm coming in, we think of all the Newcomers who are "down south" instead of "up north." We hope you have enjoyed yourself in the warm sunshine. But, no pity is needed for us who stayed local this winter. There wasn't nearly as much snow as last year. While it's been cold, we all have our boots and scarves. And, we've been enjoying all the winter sports: reading, fireplace watching, hot chocolate drinking, Restaurant Week, Comedy Festival, and many outdoor activities. Nothing seems to slow down in Traverse City.



Linda Proffitt and Dave Richard
2014-2015

Just a note for future winter events: If the weather is so bad that we feel we need to cancel the monthly meeting, an email will be sent out by noon on the day of the event. Check your email if you have any questions, but we ask you to be safe. Driving at night in ice and cold can be treacherous. The rest of our monthly meetings this year will be held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church at the foot of Old Mission Peninsula. It is a very nice setting with good parking.

Despite really bad weather, a brave and sturdy group came out for the February meeting to learn about sailing in the Grand Traverse area. Who knew there were so many options to learn about and sail in the area? And, we learned a lot about fly fishing in the area at our March 24th meeting. Can you see Spring in our meeting themes?

Be sure to mark April 28th on your calendar for our next monthly meeting. Our speaker will be Mark Holly, an adjunct professor at NMC. Mark is an underwater archeologist and he will discuss shipwrecks under the Bay. Traverse City has such an interesting history!

What with daylight savings time, more sunshine, warmer temps, and less snow we look forward to you snowbirds returning to Traverse City and rejoining your various group activities: euchre, board games, poker, book clubs, and soon bike riding, kayaking, hiking, golf, and fishing. Now is the time to get re-involved. Check out all the options in the rest of this newsletter and on the website. There are also several one-time activities coming up that should be fun as well as some travel events. Everyone is welcome: singles and couples, men and women, young and old. Come one, come all. And, welcome back snowbirds!

Linda Proffitt
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Volunteering: Another dimension to life 'Up North'

She has seen homeless people nearly in tears because she was able to give them sleeping bags and candles.

She has seen the joy that comes when people no longer need assistance and can proudly announce they have jobs and are now able to support themselves.

She is Newcomer Madelyn Ryan, and she has seen both these scenarios play out as a weekly volunteer at the Father Fred Foundation in Traverse City, Mich.

"Volunteering has helped me learn so much about the community and how it functions," said Madelyn, adding that being a volunteer is another "dimension" of living her life Up North.

Madelyn and her husband, Bill, moved from Farmington Hills, Mich., to Traverse City in 2011. The decision to move here followed a lifetime of northern vacations and owning a condominium in nearby Elk Rapids for 14 years.

"We moved into our home (in Traverse City) in the spring of 2011 and joined Newcomers right away. Neighbors and friends had spoken so highly of the group that we wanted to get in on the fun as soon as we could," Madelyn said.

The Ryans were used to volunteering in different capacities during their working lives outside Detroit. Volunteering in Traverse City first began with Madelyn becoming involved with the Peninsula Community Library.

"Having just retired from Bloomfield Township Library as a reference librarian, I missed being in that environment," she said.

Now Madelyn devotes most Tuesday afternoons to shelving books. She said, "I have also been very involved in running



Madelyn's a weekly volunteer for the Father Fred Foundation. "Most everything that comes in the door goes out again," she said.

the annual summer used book sale for the Friends of PCL."

At a neighbor's urging, Madelyn also joined the Old Mission Women's Club, an educational and social group with an 80-year-old history. Club members like Madelyn are devoted to fundraising projects that allow the club to give money to local organizations through grants. Occasionally, Madelyn also volunteers through the Newcomers Club at the State and Bijou theatres in Traverse City.

Madelyn's work with the Father Fred Foundation began in January 2013. The nonprofit agency is dedicated to helping needy individuals and families with essential necessities - clothing, food, and household goods.

All are offered free of charge to clients who are treated with dignity and respect. The work is guided by staff and volunteers who work to "listen, care and share" with those receiving assistance from the foundation in Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Leelanau and Kalkaska counties.

At first, Madelyn's work at the Father Fred Foundation involved helping people select food for their families from the agency's pantry. She also has volunteered to work at garage sales and canned food drives. Currently, she spends four hours every Wednesday behind the scenes at

the foundation's store.

"As people drop things off, we examine the clothing, discard unacceptable things, hang suitable things, wash soiled things and save really good things for the twice-yearly garage sales," said Madelyn. "We then roll clothing out to the store floor where it is placed in appropriate sections for men, women and children."

Father Fred's store also has other household goods including bedding, dishes and small appliances. Madelyn said, "Most everything that comes in the door goes out again."

Volunteering and having wonderful neighbors has given Madelyn a strong connection of friends and support as a newcomer to Traverse City. "I've met so many people that it is rare to go anywhere in town and not see someone I know. That feels good," said Madelyn, smiling and adding with a laugh. "... and Newcomers are everywhere."

Madelyn encourages fellow club members to volunteer but warns it is easy to spread yourself too thin. "Take it slow and really learn about what you are getting into in terms of time and energy."

The Father Fred Foundation is looking for volunteers capable of moving furniture, lifting up to 50 pounds and driving a 14-foot box truck. Food pickups also will be part of the responsibilities.

Shifts for these volunteers would be four hours long (8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) one day per week, Tuesday through Friday. If interested, contact Sue Bauer, volunteer coordinator, at 231-947-2055.

The mission of The Father Fred Foundation is to listen to the community needs, care for the distressed, the poor, the hungry and the suffering, and share resources in a loving and respectful manner.

ACTIVITY GROUPS

BALLROOM/TANGO DANCE LESSONS

The dance gatherings are on hold because most group members are out of town through March. But if you're interested in knowing more about this group, contact Instructors, Ron & Lori Hensel at henselr@charter.net or 231-620-1485 or 231-838-5679.

BIKING

The biking group is suspended for the winter season but will commence again in May. If interested in information about the group, contact Ira Wasserman at carole_wasserman@hotmail.com or 231-922-1581.

BOOK CLUB – MEN'S

Monday, April 27, 10 a.m.

The Men's Book Club reads 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 a book from each person's view. You can come even if you have not read the book! New members are welcome.

Our April book is *Collapse* by Jared Diamond. It is a look at different civilizations and why some endured while others collapsed to almost nothing or disappeared completely.

We meet in the lower level of Horizon Books. For more information, contact Dave Amos, 231-271-0665, or mideamos@hotmail.com.

BOOK GROUP – WOMEN'S—AM

Tuesday, April 7, 10:30 a.m.

The Tuesday AM Book Club will meet to discuss the *As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner. Lunch will follow at Amical. The club meets at the lower level of Horizon Books. For questions, contact Carole Wasserman at carole_wasserman@hotmail.com or 231-922-1581.

BOOK CLUB – WOMEN'S – PM

Tuesday, April 7, 1 p.m.

The afternoon women's book-club group meets on the first Tuesday of the month in the lower level of Horizon Books. On April 7, the group will discuss *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See.

Please get titles for next year to Mary Wayne by April 15.

For questions, contact Mary Wayne at mwayne44@hotmail.com.

BRIDGE

The Newcomers Bridge Group usually meets on the

fourth Wednesday of each month.

Each member will receive directions and other information from the host. Evenings begin at 6:30 p.m. for social time and play begins at 7 p.m.

Newcomers social bridge is just that - social and not seriously competitive. We enjoy getting to know each other. If you haven't played for a while or need a brush up, you can come for a brush up, you can watch over our shoulders, or take your place at the table and ask any questions you have and we will happily help you along.

Anyone interested in playing or for more information on the March session, contact Mike Semrau at 231-421-8171 or at izzvandmike@yahoo.com, or Linda Proffitt at 231-421-5389 or lindajproffitt@gmail.com.

COCKTAILS & CONVERSATION

One should never underestimate a Newcomer's ability to.....

- Have a great time
- Stimulate fascinating conversation
- Consume delicious food
- Enjoy a good beverage

That being said, the next scheduled Cocktails and Conversation will be in held in April - date and time to be determined. If you are on the group's mailing list, you will receive that information when it becomes available.

Cocktails and Conversation will continue throughout the summer months offering an opportunity to continue socializing and meeting fellow Newcomers while hopefully enjoying some sunshine and warmth. Also, some hosts are able to use outdoor space in nice weather, which provides for a larger guest list.

If you have been attending this popular event and haven't yet hosted, please consider doing so by contacting Michele Richard at richard.michele@rocketmail.com or 231-357-3039.

Cocktails and Conversation is a wonderful opportunity to meet some new and old friends for stimulating conversation, food and libations. One of our members acts as host, providing both the location and basic bar setups. As a guest, you bring your own drinks and an appetizer to share.

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ACTIVITY GROUPS

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Please remember this is a "reservations-only" event with limited capacity. The number of guests varies with each host according to the space available.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING/SNOWSHOEING

With the warmer weather and snow melt, this group has reached the end of the 2014-2015 season. If interested in joining the group in the future, contact Ira Wasserman at carole_wasserman@hotmail.com or 231-922-1581.

DINNER FOR EIGHT

Join us for Dinner for Eight! Six people join two hosts at their home and each "pair" of people will provide part of the meal and there are four meals scheduled through May. The hosts provide the entrée and a couple of sides, plus beverages with up to two glasses of wine per person. The guests bring appetizers or salad and bread or dessert.

If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Nancy Johnson at johns526@msu.edu.

DINNER OUT

Sunday, April 19, 5 p.m.

Welcome spring back to Traverse City and join the Dinner Out crowd at Georgina's, 236 E. Front St., on April 19. Their creative fusion of Asian and Latin cuisines has our taste buds already tingling! Social hour begins at 5 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m.. We are limited to 30, so don't delay in reserving a place.

To reserve your spot, e-mail Linda Keck at lkeck1527@yahoo.com or Barb Watson at bwatsonjb@yahoo.com.

EUCHRE

Euchre groups meet once a month in each others' homes. We currently have 10 groups. Each group is made up of three to four tables. Group members change tables and partners throughout the evening, which fosters lively conversation. Of course, food and beverage are involved. The players within any group are of varying levels of experience. Euchre, in Newcomers, is a social, not a competitive event.

This group is headed by Gregg and Sue McDonald at gsmcdonald64@gmail.com or librarygirl1963@hotmail.com.

FILM GROUP

Thursday, April 9

The film group is a casual fun group made up of people who love 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. The group may occasionally add an extra film date during any given month if a film looks interesting and it's not available at the time of the regular meeting date.

Notification as to the film, time and place is emailed to film group members a few days before the outing. Anyone interested in joining the group may contact Judy Pelto at judypelto@yahoo.com.

FISHING

The steelhead run should be peaking this month. Ice fishing will become hazardous as the ice deteriorates; be careful. The 2014 state fishing license expired on March 31. Be sure to get a new license before you venture out.

The Fishing Group includes Newcomers who are interested in fishing activities of any kind. The group evolves according to the interests of its participants. Charter fishing trips for salmon usually occur in late August or in September. Contact Pete Albers at phalbers99@gmail.com or 231-922-7289 if you're interested in joining the group.

GARDENING

The Garden Club plans to hold its first meeting of the season in April. The details will be announced by Cindy Miner as soon as they are firmed up.

Questions about the Gardening Club? Contact Cindy at puddlenpines@gmail.com.

GOLF

The Golf Group is in hibernation until May 4, 2015.

Please mark your calendars ... we will officially kick off the new season at The Crown golf course at 10 a.m. If you would like your name added to our roster, please contact Mike Huffman at wdcspike@yahoo.com or Dale Wentzloff at dale@wentzloff.com.

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ACTIVITY GROUPS

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MEN'S BREAKFAST

Wednesday, April 8, 9 a.m.

This group meets at the Omelette Shoppe next to the Wild Birds Unlimited store in the Campus Plaza the second Wednesday of the month at 9 a.m. We meet all year around and always meet regardless of the weather. Bring all the testosterone you can muster.

Contact George Kobernus at gkobernus@charter.net or 231-933-9321

MICROBREW GROUP

Thursday, April 30

The Grand Traverse area is widely recognized for its wines, but is also satisfying beer drinkers with its exploding microbrewery scene. It seems the number of breweries is growing monthly. At current, there are 20 microbreweries in the area.

The April outing will be held on Thursday, April 30, at the Storm Cloud Brewing Company in Frankfort. Notices with specific information will be sent to all group members. If you have not yet signed up for the group, please contact Joel McElrath at jmcelrath@epri.com, or 650-714-4557.

It is the mission of the Microbrew Tasting Group to visit all 20 of these breweries. The group attends one location each month. The sessions sometime include a tour of the facilities, but the focus is on trying the different beers made in the area. Also, there is priority placed on socializing with others who enjoy beer. Many times the group will have dinner together following the tasting.

NEWCOMERS NEEDLERS

Thursday, April 2 & 16, 1 to 3 p.m.

Join us twice a month for a couple of hours of uninterrupted knitting, crocheting, needlepoint or rug hooking. Our low-key group enjoys working on projects in the company of others. Come with a project, or just to chat. If you need help, someone is probably able to assist you.

We meet on the first and third Thursdays of the month, 1 to 3 p.m., at Aroma's Coffee Shop at the intersection of M-22 and M-72, across from Tom's West Bay. We meet in the conference room.

Have questions or want to be added to the email list for reminders? Contact Robbin Stott, stottrobbin@gmail.com or 231-932-1709 for more information.

OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, April 8, 11:30 a.m.

The group will meet at McGee's No. 72 at 4341 M-72 East

in Williamsburg. Please arrive in time to order by 11:30 a.m. To reserve your spot or for information, contact Sis Leake at sisleake@charter.net or at 231-421-8747.

A friendly and adventurous group that meets for lunch once a month at different restaurants in and around Traverse City. The Out-to-Lunch Bunch is a great way to experience the fabulous food scene in Traverse and make new friends. Find the foodie in you. Come join us for food, lively conversation and camaraderie. The group meets the second Wednesday of the month.

PADDLING

The Paddling Group is in need of activity leader(s). (See story, Page 8.) For information about the group, or to discuss helping out as an activity leader, contact Judy Pelto at judykelto@yahoo.com.

POKER

Tuesday, April 7, 1 p.m.

The poker group usually meets the first Tuesday of the month, with winter hours of 1 to 4 p.m. and summer hours of 6 to 9 p.m. 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 and no weapons are produced. The group plays dealer's choice, which sometimes evokes a response, "Did you just make that up?" But we all like new games we haven't played before. The host merely has to provide the home and setup; participants bring snacks and drinks.

The April meeting will be held on the 7th, from 1 to 4 p.m. The host is Len Wawrzyniak. Len's e-mail is lmw1645@gmail.com. Please let Len know if you plan to attend. He will send an email with directions to his house. The poker group coordinator is Mike Huffman. Mike's phone is 517-655-3374. His e-mail is wdcspike@yahoo.com.

SOLOS GROUP

Saturday, April 25, 4 p.m.

The Solos will get together at 4 p.m. April 25 at Anne Kline's home for a cocktail and hors d'oeuvres party. Partygoers should bring their own beverage and an appetizer to share. Anne will supply mixes, glasses, ice, etc. Please RSVP to Anne at 231-668-7444 or darylanekline@hotmail.com by April 20 for address and directions. Hope to see many of our Solo friends at this springtime gathering.

Flying "solo" right now? The Solos Group can make being new in town and on your own more fun. The group is made up of people who are single or perhaps married but in need

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ACTIVITY GROUPS

(Continued from Page 6)

of someone to pair up for events when spouses or significant others prefer not to mingle. While the Solos Group will schedule lunches, dinners and other special outings, the group aims to forgo duplication of current Newcomer Club activities that are open to all members, including singles. The goal of the Solos Group is truly to meet and make friends, offering a "buddy network" to those who may initially feel uncomfortable attending Newcomer or other Up North events alone.

Anyone interested in joining the group may contact Barbara at bjalonde@charter.net or Garnett Raymond at garnettraymond100@gmail.com.

THEATRE GROUP

Saturday, April 11, 7:30 p.m.

Theater Group provides an opportunity for Newcomers to enjoy live theater with an insider's edge. After dinner at a nearby restaurant and discussion of the play and Q & A session with a staff member from the Old Town Playhouse, we attend a performance.

A Studio production of "Some Things You Need to Know Before the World Ends" is the play we will attend at 7:30 p.m. April 11. This is a very funny but irreverent show. One description says, "In part a satire on the trappings of organized religion and in part a genuinely serious meditation on the human need for spiritual sustenance."

Please contact Kerr Anderson at kerrandsn@gmail.com or Sandy Stockemer at dkstockemer@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

Our group-discounted tickets are available through Betsy Willis, Development Director OTP (231-947-2210 Ext. 102). Please let her know you are with the Newcomers group. Plans for dinner before the play will be announced via email at a later time.

Other questions? E-mail Kerr Anderson at kerrandsn@gmail.com or 231-935-1875.

VOLUNTEER AT THE STATE/BIJOU

Wednesday, April 1, 2:30 p.m./State, approx. 4 p.m./

Bijou

Thursday, April 16, 2:30 p.m./State, approx. 4 p.m./Bijou

State/Bijou Theatres Volunteers: Join us as we work in the concession area, take tickets, sweep floors, usher or run errands. 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 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 to 5:15 p.m. at the State and 4 to 6:15 p.m. at the Bijou (subject to change as the movie schedule dictates). Join us for dinner after if you have time.

Space is limited, so please sign up via email with Nancy Johnson. Contact Nancy at johns526@msu.edu or 231-668-9633 if you would like to be added to the list of potential volunteers.

TRAVEL GROUP

The travel group plans small and large adventures that are open to all interested persons. On the agenda:

Broadway Bound: On May 30 the City Opera House is offering a tour package to the Wharton Center on Michigan State University's campus to see the Broadway musical Kinky Boots that has won six Tony Awards, including best musical. (See Page 8.)

For more information contact susannebonner@gmail.com or check out the February Newsletter.

WALK IN THE WOODS

Saturday, April 18, 11 a.m.

The hiking group will visit the TART/Leelanau Trail! From the intersection of M-72/M-22 (Tom's West Bay) take M-22 north for about 2 miles. At the stop light, turn left onto Cherry Bend Road and go about 1 mile. Trail-head parking will be on the right.

If you would like to join in on this walk please contact Don Eastway at luremug@yahoo.com or 231-884-1106.

WINE TASTING

Tuesday, April 21, 4 p.m.

After a great time at our March tasting at Brengman Brothers, it's time to switch things up a bit for our April 21 adventure. So we're going to Northern Latitudes Distillery at 112 E Philip St. in Lake Leelanau. We'll enjoy free tastings of their signature Ice Dunes Vodka selection, including their infamous Limoncello di Leelanau.

We will then head to Streetside Grill at 111 N. St Josephs St. in Sutton's Bay for another fun dining experience among friends.

An email reminder will go to those on our wine tasting email list, so please let us know if you are not on our current list but would like to join. Also, please RSVP for the April event to kimberlybelles@sbcglobal.net by April 10.

Reserve your place on May 30: Get a taste of Broadway with "Kinky Boots"

"Kinky Boots" is the exhilarating Broadway musical that will lift your spirits to new high-heeled heights!

Winner of six Tony Awards including Best Musical, this inspirational story follows a struggling shoe factory owner who works to turn his business around with help from Lola, a fabulous entertainer in need of some sturdy stilettos.

Together, this unlikely pair finds that they

have more in common than ever dreamed possible ... proving that when you change your mind about someone, you can change your whole world.

City Opera House is offering a tour package to Broadway at Wharton Center on Michigan State University's campus. The tour package includes round-trip travel on Saturday, May 30, by luxury motor coach from Traverse City to East Lansing, gourmet boxed lunch, access to Wharton Cen-

ter VIP Donor Lounge (cash bar), premier Zone! tickets, and a catered dinner at Wharton Center following the performance.

Schedule: 9 a.m., bus leaves Traverse City; 10 p.m., bus returns to Traverse City. Tickets are \$185 per person.

Full payment is due to the Opera House by April 27. To reserve a seat, contact Susanne Bonner at susannebonner@gmail.com.

PADDLING GROUP LEADER(S) NEEDED

Marilyn and Bob Auberle will not be able to lead the Paddling Group Activity Group this summer. They have moved downstate for family reasons. So Judy Pelto is looking for someone to take over as Activity Leader for this group. There can be one leader or two co-leaders.

The good news is that Marilyn and Bob have the outings/locations scheduled for June through August. Whoever takes over the group will just have to decide on times to meet and where to go to eat after the outing.

Leading an Activity Group is a good way to get involved in the club, meet new people and act as an ambassador for the club. Anyone interested in leading the Paddling Group Activity please contact Judy Pelto, Activity Groups Coordinator, jpelto1@charter.net, 231-668-6490

Dennos Museum tour planned

Newcomers can attend a special docent-led tour of the Dennos Museum Center, 1701 E. Front St. in Traverse City.

The tour, at 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, costs \$4 per person but is free to Dennos members.

Located on the campus of Northwestern Michigan University since 1991, Dennos is a world-class cultural facility that features permanent exhibits, including a renowned collection of Inuit art, and visiting exhibits. On the tour, you will see the grand Sculpture Court, current exhibitions, the various galler-

ies, Milliken Auditorium, Dutmers Theater and more. After your tour, you will have an opportunity to explore the galleries and gift store on your own.

To sign up, email Mary Bridges at contactbridges@gmail.com.

NEW MEMBERS

Jens & Maureen Hensel
Suttons Bay, Mich.
Shelby Township, Mich.

Pat Colvin
Traverse City, Mich.
Torch Lake, Mich.



The Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse
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