



# Newcomers News

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

APRIL 2018

DATES TO  
REMEMBER

MONTHLY MEETING:  
April 24

BOOK CLUB—MEN'S:  
April 23

BOOK CLUB—WOMEN'S  
AM: April 3

BOOK CLUB-WOMEN'S  
PM: April 3

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April 11

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WRITERSERIES:  
April 11

NEEDLERS: April 5, 19

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April 11

POKER: April 3

SCRABBLE: April 8

SOCIAL BRIDGE: April 25

THEATRE: April 14

STATE/BIJOU VOLUN-  
TEERS: April 4, 19

WINE TASTING: April 17

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gtnewcomers.org. Newcom-  
ers Club is a 501(c)(4) tax  
exempt organization.

## Good-bye to sit-down dinners

### Member survey prompts board action: Kickoff and holiday events to go casual, more mingling with old and new friends

Newcomers spoke and the club's leaders listened. As a result of a recent survey, the Newcomers Board unanimously voted in March to make exciting changes to the fall Kickoff Event and the Holiday Party.

Nearly 300 individuals or couples responded to the survey and a majority said they wanted more casual events and asked that new venues be explored. Most respondents also said they preferred week-night events and that the Holiday Party should continue to be held before the holidays.

Because Newcomers is so large, a limited number of venues can host a major club event. This is one reason why the venue for both events has changed.

#### Fall Kickoff Event

Tuesday, **Sept. 18**, at the City Opera House. Activity Leaders will be there so you can sign up and learn about

the myriad of club activities. Food: heavy hors d'oeuvres. Drinks: cash bar. Eliminating the sit-down dinner will leave lots of time to mingle with old friends and make new ones.

#### Holiday Party

Wednesday, **Dec. 12**, at the Hagerty Center. This is a special time of year and our Holiday Party will still be special, but more relaxed.

Following the popular Cocktails and Conversation model, instead of a formal sit-down dinner with assigned seating, the party will feature food stations and a cash bar, allowing guests more time to mingle.

Seating will be available for those who want or need to get off their feet.

Music will be playing but with a more upbeat tempo directed by a DJ. And, as many requested, dancing — including line dancing — will still be an option if you want to shake your booty to the beats of Mo-

town, disco and other tunes. Come with your partner, just yourself, or a group of Newcomer friends.

Because neither event will have meal entree choices, there will only be a per person fee to attend. As in all Newcomer events, there will be many food choices. Look for future newsletter stories with more details — including pricing — as the event dates grow closer.

"With more opportunities to mingle and move around, the emphasis will be on meeting new members, reconnecting with friends and having fun. That's what Newcomers is all about," said Co-President, Doug Weaver.

Co-President Jean Sarasin added: "Using survey results and member feedback as a guide, we're trying new things this coming year. It's very exciting."



## Mary Kennedy: a (book) bag lady

Talk about a Newcomer responding to need!

Mary Kennedy, co-leader of the club's Needlers group, assembled 25 fabric book bags this winter after learning that a group that puts books in the hands of children with little access to reading materials needed hand-stitched bags as part of the book donations.

What's more, Mary did it while recovering from surgery.

Kennedy learned about the request from her group and thought it would be a great project for her recovery. Her neighbor, Shari Bennet,

donated the fabric.

The request came Jan. 23 at the Newcomers Volunteer Fair. Speaker Kara Murphy Gregory, founder of PoWeR! Book Bags, told Newcomers that her non-profit has presented more than 36,000 books and 8,000 book bags to area children since the program began. Mary's turned her 25 bags in earlier this spring.

The one-of-a-kind bags are the core of the charity's literacy program.

**UPDATE:** Five Newcomers are now working with the PoWeR program. To join the fun, contact Gregory at [karagregory1@icloud.com](mailto:karagregory1@icloud.com).

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# PRESIDENTS' NOTE

## APRIL 2018

It's the season for change. We smell spring in the air. The last bits of snow – we hope – stubbornly melt away. Buds appear on plants and trees; ducks and geese alight on now-thawed lakes.

Spring also brings the usual changes in Newcomers. Activity groups that were dormant in winter plan their first outings – like Men's and Women's

Golf, Kayaking, Walk in the Woods and our own boys of summer, Men's Softball. Add to the list this year the new Biking group, which will hold its first event in May.

We seem to agree: Summer can't come too soon.

This spring, though, other, major Newcomers changes are in the works. On the front page of this newsletter, the board has announced exciting news about the annual kickoff and holiday events. A board committee made recommendations to the full board after a member survey about the holiday party. That led to a larger discussion about the kickoff event, and quick board action resulted.

That survey, by the way, received more than 270 responses, and 102 of those represented the views of both the respondent and the respondent's partner. So, the views of almost three-fourths of the club's members were represented – excellent! (We'll report on the results of the annual membership survey in the next newsletter.)

Another big Newcomers change: As announced last month, programming is under way on our new website through Chicago-based ClubExpress. The system will allow members to register and re-register online and also pay online for our three big events – the season kickoff, the holiday party and the spring picnic – and special one-time events involving a fee. Members can also more easily select which activity groups they join. And board members, like our membership manager, Patti Davis, will have many tools to more easily administer our growing size.

And speaking of the board, there are big changes planned there, too: At April's board meeting, the board will vote on the new slate of officers. Watch for those names in the May newsletter. Seven new people will join the board in various roles, which is fantastic. That's nearly half the board's positions. Inevitably, new people mean new ideas and fresh energy.

We also owe a special thanks to Kelly Brown, our new Event Planner, for jumping into this slot early because of a vacancy there. Donna Stein-Harris, our vice president and program coordinator, and Kelly led the charge on the changes planned for the kickoff and holiday events.

Bob Dylan once said, "There is nothing so stable as change." Bring it on.



**Jean Sarasin and Doug Weaver**  
*2017-2018 Co-Presidents*

# Volunteer Spotlight

## He hugs the Bear; she leads knitters and readers

### Bill and Robbin Stott

By Sandy Harlacher

Each in their own way, Newcomers Bill and Robbin Stott have embraced volunteering in their retirement: Bill's efforts focus on Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, while Robbin has had many leadership and volunteer roles within and outside of the Newcomers Club.

Bill's love for parks began early.

"I always wanted to be involved in a National Park or Forest Service in some way because I grew up visiting national parks with my parents, and I had an uncle who was a Forest Service ranger. Now I have time to pay back."

Bill is a Volunteer in Park (VIP) for the lakeshore, and a volunteer with Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes (FOSBD), which supports the park to enhance visitor experiences. He also serves on the FOSBD board.

This summer he will start Adopt-a-Beach and Adopt-a-Trail efforts with Bill Ryan and Doug Weaver of Newcomers. He also is involved in a frog monitoring project.

Bill and friends who are volunteers place audio monitors in key frog habitat in spring and check them periodically before retrieving them each August. The recorded sounds tell researchers the type of frog and their relative abundance in the area.

"The data will help determine if

populations are changing over time," Bill said.

He also helps recruit volunteers for the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail, a popular bike trail. Bill helps identify volunteers who can do heavy maintenance for the Trail Crew, light maintenance and user assistance as Trail Ambassadors.

"In this era of shrinking budgets and increased need, volunteers help fill the gap and allow our parks to survive for all Americans," he said.

Robbin is retiring from co-leading the Newcomers Afternoon Book and Needlers groups, which she has led for the past three years. Reading and knitting are her two big passions. She grew up knitting in her mother's knit shop. She previously was a Newcomers board member as the newsletter editor and continues to help with copy editing of the newsletter.

She also volunteers at the Traverse City Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. When visitors come in, she discusses their interests and recommends things they would enjoy.

"You never know who is going to come in the door and what they are going to want, which makes the job really interesting and fun! I love Traverse City and it's really fun to talk about," Robbin said.



Bill and Robbin bought a vacation home in the Traverse area in 2001, and moved here from Midland in 2008. They joined Newcomers later that year.

To find out more about volunteering with FOSBD, go to [friendsofsleepingbear.org](http://friendsofsleepingbear.org). To find out more about volunteering at the Bureau, you can call Sharon Pierce, Traverse City Visitor Center Manager, at 231-947-0692.

Know of a Newcomer or Newcomers doing good and charitable deeds in the greater Grand Traverse area?

Promoting volunteerism is one of the club's missions. Each month, the newsletter highlights the work of a member helping out in the community. Know of someone? Send ideas to Sandy Harlacher at [harlacher@sbcglobal.net](mailto:harlacher@sbcglobal.net).



**Tim Lueck,**  
Munson Medical Center patient liaison

### Monthly NC Meeting April 24

## Learn how to navigate the health system

Tim Lueck knows how to help patients and their families steer through the services and sprawling campus of the Munson Medical Center. For the past 28 years, he's been the patient advocate for the Munson system.

#### **Monthly meeting details:**

**When:** April 24. 6:30 p.m. (coffee/cookies, chat), 7 p.m. speaker.

**Where:** Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1050 Peninsula Drive, TC.

**Who:** Tim Lueck, patient advocate, Munson Medical Center.

Lueck, a registered nurse, mainly reviews and resolves concerns that patients and their families have with the hospital, but he also wears other hats as a patient advocate and mediator.

"My role is to help people understand and navigate the health care system. That is the better part of my job," he said. "Sometimes it means helping them get medical records, interpreting test results, having conversations with their physicians, finding a primary care physician or a specialist."

And then there's the more unusual: like helping a patient plan a wedding and reception; or helping brush snow off a patient's car and moving the car to the pickup area.

Tim has lived and worked in the Kingsley and Traverse City area all of his life and has developed many friendships and contacts that help him in his work at Munson. Tim's family moved to Grand Traverse County in the late 1800s.

# ACTIVITY GROUPS

## **BIKING**

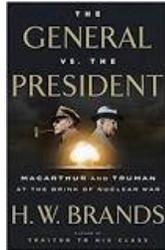
**10 a.m. Tuesday, May 15**

The new biking group will take its first trail ride on May 15, at 10 a.m. on the Leelanau Trail. After biking, the group will gather at West End Tavern. Details will be emailed to members who have indicated interest. Questions? Contact Jim or Kay Goodall: [jkall2good@hotmail.com](mailto:jkall2good@hotmail.com).

## **BOOK CLUB — MEN'S**

**10 a.m. Monday, April 23**

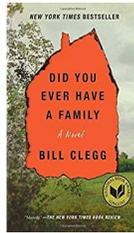
The group meets on the lower level of Horizon Books in Traverse City. The April book for discussion is "The General vs. the President" by Hilo Brands. Questions? Contact Dave Amos at 231-271-0665 or [mideamos@gmail.com](mailto:mideamos@gmail.com).



## **BOOK CLUB – WOMEN'S A.M.**

**10:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 3**

The women's morning book club is reading author Bill Clegg's novel "Did You Ever Have A Family," about a circle of people who find solace in the least likely of places. Jeanie Hoholik will moderate. After the group meets in the lower level of Horizon Books, those who are able will join for lunch at a local eatery. Questions? Contact Donna Olendorf at [dolendorf@gmail.com](mailto:dolendorf@gmail.com). For the full list of this season's books, visit: <http://gtnewcomers.org/events-activities/book-club/womens-book-club/>.



## **BOOK CLUB – WOMEN'S P.M.**

**1 p.m. Tuesday, April 3**

The March selection is "My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry" by Fredrik Backman, who also wrote "A Man Called Ove." For details on future book selections, go to [gtnewcomers.org](http://gtnewcomers.org) and look in the activities tab under Book Club. Questions? Contact the group's co-leaders Robbin Stott, [stottrobbin@gmail.com](mailto:stottrobbin@gmail.com), or Mary Kennedy, [marymiles40@gmail.com](mailto:marymiles40@gmail.com).

## **BOWLING**

The Bowling group finished a successful first season with a big turnout March 20 at Incredible Mo's in Grawn. Congratulations to Tom Andres for getting the group started. He'd like to find a co-leader to help next winter. Questions? Contact Tom at [tandres8@hotmail.com](mailto:tandres8@hotmail.com).

## **COCKTAILS & CONVERSATIONS**

No event was scheduled for April as of the deadline for the newsletter. The group's co-leaders are attempting to schedule an event for later April or May. To join, email [gtnc.candc@gmail.com](mailto:gtnc.candc@gmail.com). Also, please consider hosting an event. It's a great way to connect with other Newcomers

and make new friends. Questions? Contact Susan Kraus at [smk2000@earthlink.net](mailto:smk2000@earthlink.net) or co-leader Marsha Andres at [marsha.andres@gmail.com](mailto:marsha.andres@gmail.com).

## **DINNER FOR EIGHT**

Eight people gather at a host/hostess home four times from October through May. The groups rotate so you are apt to eat with six different people at each of the meals. The host/hostess provide the entree and perhaps a couple sides while each of the other couples bring appetizers or salad and bread or a dessert. Questions? Contact Nancy Johnson at [johns526@msu.edu](mailto:johns526@msu.edu) to join as a full member or substitute.

## **DINNER OUT**

**Sunday, April 15**

Dinner Out will meet at Pearl's New Orleans Kitchen, 617 Ames St., Elk Rapids. Pearl's specializes in Cajun/Creole cooking and is a fun place. Social/cocktail hour begins at 5. Dinner is at 6. Members will get an email with details. To join, contact Deb Holmes [debholmes98@gmail.com](mailto:debholmes98@gmail.com) or Joan Showalter [JoanShowalter@gmail.com](mailto:JoanShowalter@gmail.com). Advance notice is required to cancel a dinner reservation — <http://gtnewcomers.org/wp-content/uploads/Combined-Policies-2015-2017.pdf>

## **EUCHRE**

Euchre groups meet monthly in each others' homes. We have groups made up of either 8 or 12 members. Members change tables and partners during the evening, fostering lively chats. Food and beverage are part of the fun. Players have different experience levels. Newcomers euchre is social, not competitive. Questions or want to join? Contact Gregg or Sue McDonald at [gsmcdonald64@gmail.com](mailto:gsmcdonald64@gmail.com) or [librarygirl1963@hotmail.com](mailto:librarygirl1963@hotmail.com).

## **FILM GROUP**

**Thursday, April 12**

The film group provides a fun, casual activity for movie lovers. We attend films at different venues and head to restaurants after for food, drinks and discussion. The group meets the second Thursday of every month from September through May. Notice of the film, time and place is emailed to members a few days before the outing. Contact Judy Pelto at [judypelto@yahoo.com](mailto:judypelto@yahoo.com) if interested.

## **FISHING**

Get your 2018 fishing license. Your 2017 license expired March 31. Steelhead fishing peaks in April and trout season on Type 1 streams begins April 28. Warm weather and spring rains should clear ice from inland lakes and the bays. Signs point to a banner year for perch on the bays. Check out the well-stocked fishing department of the recently-opened Gander Outdoors, next to West Marine. Questions or want to join? Contact Pete Albers at [phalbers99@gmail.com](mailto:phalbers99@gmail.com) or 231-922-7289.

# ACTIVITY GROUPS

## **GOLF — MEN'S**

The men's golf season begins at **The Crown Golf Club**, 2430 Crown Drive, Traverse City on **May 7** with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. and card draw at 9:30. Come earlier to practice putting. Following play, the group will gather to enjoy refreshments and payouts for longest drive and closest to the pin. Draw, tee-times, after-golf refreshment and play days (Mondays) are the same for the upcoming golf dates in May and early June. **May 14, Manitou Passage**, 4600 S. Club Drive, Cedar; **May 21, Dunmaglas Golf Club**, 9031 Boyne City Road, Charlevoix; May 28 — NO GOLF, Memorial Day; **June 4, Charlevoix Country Club**, 9600 Clubhouse Drive, Charlevoix; **June 11, Interlochen Golf Club**, 10586 US-31, Interlochen. Questions or to sign up? Contact Mike Huffman at [wdcspike@yahoo.com](mailto:wdcspike@yahoo.com) or 517-655-3374 or Dale Wentzloff at [dale@wentzloff.com](mailto:dale@wentzloff.com) or 231-383-0379.

## **GOLF — WOMEN'S**

Women's Social Golf is suited to all skill levels. We play nine holes weekly at **Bay Meadows Family Golf Course** in Traverse City. Scorekeeping is optional. This is a pay when you play group. The season's first date is **Wednesday, June 6**, with 9:30 a.m. first tee time. New this year will be play Mondays at other courses. Look for an email with details the first week of April. To be added to the email list contact Susan Forintos at [susanforintos@yahoo.com](mailto:susanforintos@yahoo.com) or Loretta Harris at [ljharris103@gmail.com](mailto:ljharris103@gmail.com)

## **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

**9 a.m. Wednesday, April 11**

This group meets at the Omelette Shoppe at 1209 E. Front St., in Traverse City on the second Wednesday of the month. Questions or to join? Contact George Kobernus at [gkobernus@chartermi.net](mailto:gkobernus@chartermi.net) or 231-933-9321.

## **MEN'S SOFTBALL — SENIOR LEAGUE**

Men's softball will meet at **7 p.m. April 3** at Jon Steele's home on Old Mission Peninsula to discuss organization, schedules and costs. Current members will get an email with details. Questions or to join? Send a note to [gtnc.softball@gmail.com](mailto:gtnc.softball@gmail.com) or contact Tom Andres at [231-421-5060](tel:231-421-5060) or Jon Steele at [989-430-7795](tel:989-430-7795).

## **MICROBREW GROUP**

**5 p.m. Thursday, April 19**

The next session will be at the Filling Station Microbrewery, 642 Railroad Pl, Traverse City. It's been a popular stop for members. They have very good beers made on-site, as well as excellent flatbread pizzas and salads. Questions or want to join the group? Contact Joel McElrath at [jmcelrath@epri.com](mailto:jmcelrath@epri.com) or 650-714-4557.

## **NATIONAL WRITERS SERIES**

**5 p.m. Wednesday, April 11**

The group will meet at 5 p.m. for dinner before hearing at 7 p.m. from NWS speaker Drew Philp, a journalist and

first-time author. Philp, at age 23, helped Detroit's recovery by rehabbing an abandoned home in 2009. He wrote about his experience in "A \$500 House in Detroit." Living without heat or electricity, he rehabbed the home and wrote about his experience of stepping into the community he didn't know or understand. To attend the dinner, email Linda Proffitt at [lindajproffitt@gmail.com](mailto:lindajproffitt@gmail.com) by April 4. Buy tickets for the 7 p.m. event in advance from the City Opera House.

## **NEEDLERS**

**1-3 p.m. Thursdays, April 5 & 19**

Join us twice monthly for two hours of knitting, crocheting, needlepoint or rug hooking. The group enjoys working on projects with friends. Come with a project or to chat. If you need help, someone likely will assist. We meet the first and third Thursdays of the month, 1-3 p.m. in the conference room of Aroma's Coffee Shop at the corner of M-22 and M-72, across from Tom's West Bay. Questions, or to join, contact Robbin Stott at [stottrobbin@gmail.com](mailto:stottrobbin@gmail.com), or Mary Kennedy at [marymiles40@gmail.com](mailto:marymiles40@gmail.com).

## **ONE -TIME EVENTS**

Have ideas for a one-time event? Maybe a behind-the-scenes look at the Traverse Symphony Orchestra or an olive oil tasting? Coordinator Pat Haber wants Newcomers willing to plan outings to send ideas to [pathaber@gmail.com](mailto:pathaber@gmail.com).

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

**1 p.m. Wednesday, April 11**

The lunch bunch will meet at Harrington's By the Bay, 13890 S. West Bay Shore Drive, Traverse City. The group meets the second Wednesday of each month. Members get an email with details and an RSVP deadline. Questions or to join? Contact Lyn Fischer at [231-421-8456](tel:231-421-8456) or [Lindacfischer@gmail.com](mailto:Lindacfischer@gmail.com).

## **KAYAKING**

The Kayaking group will resume trips in May or June with twice monthly paddles alternating between lakes and rivers. Twenty new paddlers joined the group at the Kickoff Dinner in September. The paddles are about two hours followed by lunch. To join or for questions, contact Lin Dann at [dannL@michigan.gov](mailto:dannL@michigan.gov) or 989-280-4028.

## **POKER**

**1-4 p.m. Tuesday, April 3**

The group will meet at group leader Mike Huffman's home with lunch served at 12:30 p.m. Let him know if you plan to attend. His e-mail is [wdcspike@yahoo.com](mailto:wdcspike@yahoo.com). The group meets from 1-4 p.m. in the winter and 6-9 p.m. in the summer. Games are small stakes to keep play and conversation fun and friendly. We play dealers choice, so everyone can play their favorite game. The host provides the home and setup. Some hosts offer a pre-game meal. Participants bring snacks to share and drinks they enjoy. Questions or want to join? Contact Mike at email above.

# ACTIVITY GROUPS

## **SCRABBLE**

**6 p.m. Sunday, April 8**

The Scrabble group will meet on the lower level of Horizon Books, 243 E. Front St., Traverse City, for two consecutive games. **New members are needed and welcome.** Players of all levels are invited and an effort will be made to match those of similar levels. Questions? Contact Tyne Hyslop at [tyne.hyslop1@gmail.com](mailto:tyne.hyslop1@gmail.com) or [419-308-2576](tel:419-308-2576).

## **SNOWSHOE**

The winter weather didn't cooperate. The group only had one fine day of powder snow in January for a group outing on trails at the tip of Old Mission Peninsula. Watch for the December 2018 newsletter and details for what we hope will be a more amenable and active winter season for 2018-2019. Questions or want to join? Contact group leader Sue Rollert at [sue.rollert@gmail.com](mailto:sue.rollert@gmail.com) or [269-830-1922](tel:269-830-1922).

## **SOCIAL BRIDGE**

**Wednesday, April 25**

Ralph Brickman will host the April bridge night. Group members will receive an email with details. The group meets at 6:30 p.m. and begins play at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Questions? Contact activity group leader Donna Moore at [donnabmooreusa@gmail.com](mailto:donnabmooreusa@gmail.com)

## **THEATER GROUP**

**Saturday, April 14**

The Theater Group will gather for dinner before attending the 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 14 presentation of "The Father" at the Studio Theatre, 620 Railroad Place, Traverse City. Jeanette Mason is the director. To reserve discounted play tickets, order by April 6 through Betsy Willis at the Playhouse (231-947-2210 ext. 102). If you plan to attend the play and dinner or want to join the group, contact Kerr Anderson at [kerrandsn@gmail.com](mailto:kerrandsn@gmail.com). Details on the pre-play restaurant will be emailed to those who sign up.

## **VOLUNTEER AT THE STATE/BIJOU**

**Wednesday, April 4, Thursday, April 19**

Volunteer at the State and Bijou theaters with Newcomers twice monthly. Newcomers work concessions, take tickets, sweep floors, usher or run errands. Times vary slightly as movie schedules dictate. Afternoon shifts are generally 2:30-5:30 p.m. at the State and 3-6 p.m. at the Bijou. For each day, we need 10 volunteers. Your reward is free popcorn and soda and a voucher for another movie. Sign-up is first-come, first-served. Reply quickly to the monthly email for volunteers. Questions or to volunteer? Contact the group's co-leader Natalie Martin: [nmartindmay@charter.net](mailto:nmartindmay@charter.net) or [740-703-3098](tel:740-703-3098). Debbie May is a co-leader of the group.



## **WALK IN THE WOODS**

**Thursday, May 17**

With spring's arrival, the group is gearing up for the 2018 hiking season. The first hike will be Thursday, May 17, at Pelizzari Natural Area near the base of Old Mission Peninsula. The second hike will be Thursday, June 21. All hikes are on Thursdays. The group meets at the trailhead at 10:45 a.m. and starts the hike at 11 a.m. Members then enjoy lunch at a nearby restaurant. Members will get details by email closer to the dates. Questions or want to join? Contact Missy Knebel at [missyknebel@gmail.com](mailto:missyknebel@gmail.com). The group's page on the website is <http://gtnewcomers.org/events-activities/exercise/>

## **WINE TASTING**

**Tuesday, April 17**

The Wine Tasting Group will go to Willow Winery on the Leelanau Peninsula, 10702 E. Hilltop Road, Suttons Bay. The group will meet for dinner after the tasting at Tuscan Bistro, 12930 S. West Bay Shore Drive, Traverse City. An RSVP for members will be sent April 2. Questions or to join? Email [GTNC.Wine@gmail.com](mailto:GTNC.Wine@gmail.com) or call activity leader Jon Steele at [989-430-7795](tel:989-430-7795).



## **MORE ACTIVITY GROUP NEWS**

### **New leader needed for Dinner for Eight**

Activity Leader is needed for Dinner for Eight. This popular activity has been planned through June. A new leader, to begin in September, is needed in order for this activity to continue. The current leader, Nancy Johnson, is willing to help get the new leader started. Please contact Lois Byrne at [248-561-4315](tel:248-561-4315) or at [lois.byrne@gmail.com](mailto:lois.byrne@gmail.com) for more information.

### **New leaders for PM Women's Book**

Robbin Stott and Mary Kennedy are stepping aside as this group's leaders; Jackie Klare and Jean Sarasin will replace them. Thanks to all four.

### **Kennedy is solo leader of Needlers**

Mary Kennedy will assume sole leadership for Needlers when Robbin Stott steps away in June. Thanks to Robbin for her work and to Mary, who had been a co-leader with Robbin, for her willingness to remain as a leader.

### **Dinner Out: Hawes steps up**

Claudia Hawes will join Deb Holmes to lead the popular Dinner Out group later in the summer. She'll replace Joan Showalter. Thanks to all three for their leadership.

# More Newcomer news and photos

Each month, a Newcomers board member is profiled. Today, meet Patti Davis, membership and directory coordinator.



Membership/directory coordinator: Patti Davis

## She's the first contact for new Newcomers

### When and from where did you move here?

My husband, Chris, and I moved to Traverse City from Bourne, MA in January 2015, after retiring in the summer of 2014.

### What brought you to the Traverse area?

Chris's family has had a cottage at Crystal Lake in Frankfort for four generations and we would spend summer vacations there. Chris has been coming to the area every summer all his life and I fell in love with it when I first visited in 2006. We had grown tired of the hectic pace and crowds around Cape Cod and Boston and decided that when we retired we would make this vibrant area our home.

### What did you do professionally before you retired?

I worked in the property and casualty insurance industry for 33 years. I retired in 2014 after 11 years as a claims manager from the Risk Management Foundation of the Harvard Medical Institutions in Boston where I oversaw the handling of medical malpractice claims for 7 of the 32 Harvard-affiliated hospitals.

### Tell us more about your background and family.

I grew up in western Massachusetts and lived in the Boston and Cape Cod area for almost 29 years before moving to Traverse City. Chris and I have been married for 10 years and have extended family in New England, Florida, Ann Arbor and Chicago.

### Why did you join Newcomers?

Being new to the area and knowing absolutely no one, we thought it would be a great way to meet people. Once we got settled in the area, we joined in October 2015.

### What's your favorite thing about the club?

The friendships that we have developed have been amazing. Also, with all the activities that the club has to offer, it's hard not to find something you might like to do. When we were looking for a place to live in Traverse City, we decided to purchase a home in a shared beach neighborhood on Old Mission Peninsula thinking it would provide an opportunity to meet people and make new friends. However, most of our friendships and social activities have come through the club.

### As the membership and directory coordinator on the Newcomers board, what's been the biggest surprise to you?

When we first joined the club, I found that the majority of the people we met were from the "downstate area" of Michigan. In reviewing the applications for membership as the membership coordinator, I have seen a recent trend in many out of state relocations to the area. Also, being a member of the board has enabled me to see the wonderful effort and enthusiasm of all board members, activity leaders and fellow members who strive to make this club the success that it is.

### How will the website and digital host, ClubExpress, improve and simplify things for members?

Our goal is to provide an improved communication tool that will better serve our members. Members will be able to renew their memberships and sign up and pay for events online without having to complete a paper form or write a check. We also will be able to provide more real time info rather than having to wait for a monthly update of the membership directory or newsletter.

## One-timer at Mundo Roasting Co.

## New'ers gather for some Joe

Newcomers Co-President Jean Sarasin, front left, talks with member Cindy Weaver, right, while enjoying cups of coffee at Mundos Roasting Company.

The one-time Newcomers event Feb. 21 event drew more than 40 club members for tours, tastings and board and card games.

Organizing the event at the new family-owned coffee shop on Boon Street in Traverse City were Newcomers Natalie Martin, Debbie May, Michele Richard and Pat Haber.



Kay and Jim Goodall, right, were among the Newcomers who tried "The Siphon," a uniquely processed coffee at Mundos. Demonstrating the brewing process was Jack Clark, left, the son of Mundos' owners.

# Our Newest Members



**Sarah Ely**  
*Ann Arbor, MI*

**Elaine Justice**  
*Cortez, FL*

**Kathy Pegan and Dave Naylor**  
*White Lake, MI*

**Ted Wendling and  
Margaret Murnen**  
*Bexley, OH*

**Elsa Clark**  
*Dallas, TX*

**Shelley Stefanits**  
*Spring Lake, MI*

## Volunteer opportunity

### Needed: Tour guides at Michigan Legacy Art Park

Michigan Legacy Art Park at Crystal Mountain in Thompsonville needs volunteers in many areas — from event planning to park maintenance and program development. In particular, the park needs tour guides to help with school field trips. It is a fun and rewarding way to be involved in the community.

The field trip tour guides lead six to eight students with chaperones around the 30-acre forest sculpture park, ask and answer questions and share background about the sculptures along the way.

The artwork in the park is connected to topics kids are studying and guides enjoy seeing the students make the connections.

No art experience is required as training and resources are provided. Those interested must enjoy being with school-age kids and able to physically hike the park (up to 2 miles of rustic, hilly trails).

For information visit [michlegacyartpark.org](http://michlegacyartpark.org) or contact Troy DeShano: [troy@michlegacyartpark.org](mailto:troy@michlegacyartpark.org)



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