



Newcomers News

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

March 2015

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JOIN US FOR THE MARCH NEWCOMERS MEETING

FOUR SEASONS OF FLY FISHING IN MICHIGAN

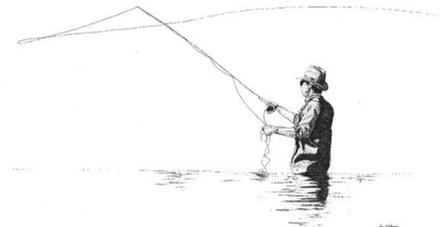
Tuesday, March 24, 2015 6:30 p.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

1050 Peninsula Drive, Traverse City

Join us for our March meeting and see for yourself why the Traverse City area is such a great fly-fishing destination.

Our speaker, Brian Pitser, a licensed guide and owner of The Northern Angler, will discuss the range of fishing opportunities available in our area through all four seasons.



Cordia and Dennon spring visits scheduled

Check out these two fun spring events for Newcomers members — visits to Cordia at Grand Traverse Commons and the Dennon Museum Center.

First is a visit at 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, to Cordia, 600 Cottageview Drive in Traverse City. Formerly called Building 50 of the Traverse City State Hospital, which was operational from 1885 until its closure in 1989, the north Mercato renovation was recently completed by Cordia at Grand Traverse Commons Senior Residential Club.

Karen Anderson, Cordia CEO, will explain how this former asylum space was transformed into a 110-unit luxury residence com-

plete with a chef-managed dining room and pub, artist studios and 50-seat theater.

- See before-and after photos.
- Hear anecdotes related to the restoration of the vaulted ceilings, windows, arched doorways, and golden brick walls.
- Tour the common spaces of the Club and view the historical features.
- Sample Executive Chef Michael Bauer's inspired light refreshments.

Space is limited to 40 people.

The second event is special docent-led tour of the Dennon Museum Center, 1701 E. Front
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MARCH 2014



Linda Proffitt and Dave Richard
2014-2015

We are pleased to report that your board voted to reduce your dues from \$35 to \$30 for couples and from \$25 to \$15 for singles. This will begin in the fiscal year 2015-2016 starting July 1, 2015.

We believe the board took the appropriate action in approving this reduction. The club has had a large cash balance in our checking account, which has been growing for the last two years.

As of Jan 21, 2015, this balance was \$13,466 and is forecasted after expenses to be about \$10,500 in June 2015.

This cash growth was caused by a number of factors: the dues increase in 2013, the 2013 auction, which generated \$4,381, and club membership growth of 30 percent in 2013-2014.

Your board also voted to maintain a minimum operating (cash) reserve fund of \$5,000, which leaves a forecasted overage in June 2015 of \$5,500.

To begin reducing this overage we will credit each member's dues \$3 on July 1, 2015, bringing your 2015 net due for couples to \$24 and \$12 for singles. This credit is for only the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Future years will be dealt with appropriately.

Also, your board nominating committee is in need of two members to fill the recently created at-large board positions. There will also be a co-vice president vacancy to fill. The success of your club depends on members volunteering to join the board and this is your opportunity to be involved with the management of your club.

Please consider this request and contact Linda Proffitt, Brenda Knaack, Judy Pelto or Debbie May. Your club needs you.

Remember, our Tuesday March 24, member meeting will be held at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 6:30 p.m. The church is located at 1050 Peninsula Drive. See you there.

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'Some of these books will change their lives . . .'

Words have played a very big role in the life of Newcomer Bradley Spencer, but books are likely his lifeline, extending a three-decade career in communications far into his retirement.

"I love to collect books, but I also love to see the joy in people's faces when they leave a book sale, knowing that some of these books will change their lives and perhaps help them become more vibrant thinkers and better citizens" said Bradley, who volunteers as Book Sale Manager at the Traverse Area District Library.

Bradley, who moved just north of Traverse City to Lake Leelanau with his wife Karen in 2005, is retired. While he worked as a reporter, a freelance writer, a columnist and a Marine Corps infantry officer, the bulk of his 34-year career was spent teaching, primarily English, journalism and graphic arts at Huron High School in Ann Arbor, Mich. Perhaps his biggest joy came from teaching his sons in high school.

"I was completely objective," he said, jokingly.

Shortly after his arrival in Traverse City, Bradley joined the Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse.

"We joined the first euchre group and have been associated with these people ever since," he said. His role with the



"I love to collect books, but I also love to see the joy in people's faces when they leave a book sale ...," says Bradley Spencer.

Newcomers Club expanded in 2008 when he took on the board position of co-president with Tom Custance during the organization's celebratory 60th anniversary.

In 2009, Bradley began to volunteer at the book sale held each fall at the TADL. That role continues but has expanded with Bradley now serving as vice president of the Friends of TADL and as Book Sale Manager the past two years.

"We now have two large book sales a year, which keeps me busy," he said.

According to Bradley, the job involves recruiting and training new volunteers as well as sorting by category and pricing and boxing 15,000-plus books. Establishing work guidelines and supervising the sales and associated paperwork rounds out the major duties of the Book Sale Manager. Bradley also is called upon to assist branch libraries with their sales,

evaluate and appraise collectible books and plan and conduct silent auctions.

"All of this work is compounded by the necessary administration involved with the library boards," said Bradley, who leads the Book Sale Committee. "All in all, I am not feeling as retired as I thought I might be, but I have been thinking of actually retiring in the not-so-distant future."

That thought might be hard to comprehend knowing that in addition to giving of his time at the TADL, Bradley assists oth-

er local organizations. At the Father Fred Foundation, he was once Assistant Book Sales Director when the nonprofit conducted tent book sales.

Today, he continues on as a book sorter, keeping free books going out the door of this nonprofit agency. Bradley also began volunteering at the Suttons Bay Bingham District Library about five years ago. Today, he serves as vice president on their Friends of the Library board and as special book assistant for the SBBDL's gala every December.

Of his volunteer role, as it relates to putting reading material into the hands of people in the community, Bradley said, "It's especially rewarding to see very young kids enthralled with the books that we have to offer. I would like to get them into books before our public cyber communication systems get them into trouble."

Euchre group helps out!

Euchre Group #8, led by Newcomers Barb and Chuck Watson, has been doing some charitable things lately, reports Newcomer Mary Wayne.

Members of the group, who meet the second Wednesday of each month, collected coats and gave them to the Traverse Heights Elementary School in Traverse City. Additionally, group mem-

bers have given a dollar to play euchre each month. Those dollars have gone directly to The Father Fred Foundation's food bank. The giving amounted to more than \$150 last year.

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 April or May 2015. If interested in information about the group, contact Ira Wasserman at carole_wasserman@hotmail.com or 231-922-1581.

BOOK CLUB – MEN'S

Monday, March 23, 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 March book is *The Earth Abides* by George Stewart. It is a 1949 post-apocalyptic science fiction novel that tells the story of the fall of civilization from deadly disease and its rebirth.

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, March 3, 10:30 a.m.

The Tuesday AM Book Club will meet to discuss the *No Great Mischief* by Alistair MacLeod. Lunch will follow at Georgina's. 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, March 3, 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 March 3, the group will discuss *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown.

Other upcoming books (not necessarily in this order) include:

The Goldfinch

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan

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

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.

The event in March has been cancelled. If you are on the group's mailing list, you will be advised when the next C and C will be held. Please remember this is a "reservations-only" event with limited capacity. The number of guests varies with each host according to the space available. We love the idea of gathering in smaller, more-intimate settings, affording newer members closer contact with fewer guests as well as getting acquainted with different neighborhoods and lifestyle options, be it condominiums, apartments, planned communities, peninsula living or even the downtown lifestyle.

For more information, please contact Michele at richard.michele@rocketmail.com or 231-357-3039.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING/SNOWSHOEING

Saturday, March 7, 11 a.m.

Weather permitting, there will be cross-country skiing/snowshoeing at the Grand Traverse Common on March 7. We will take some of the different colored trails at the Commons. Afterwards we will go to Sleder's Family Tavern for lunch.

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ACTIVITY GROUPS

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Directions to the Commons. Take US 31 South to 11th Street and turn right. Go past two stop signs and stay left to Silver Lake Road and continue one-fourth mile to Brown Court and turn right. Continue to the parking lot at the back of the school administration building, where we will meet at 11 a.m.

If interested 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, March 15, 5 p.m.

If you liked Herrington's and Sorellina's you will enjoy their new sister restaurant, McGee's 72.

Join us for an early St. Patty's Day meal on March 15. McGee's serves American fare and is located at 4341 M-72 in Acme. Cocktails at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m.

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, March 12

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 Fishing Group had a nice winter meeting at Bob Campbell's house on Skegemog Lake on Jan. 14. Good conversation and information was exchanged. Ice fishing continues and steelhead should be starting their spring move up the rivers. Be careful out on the ice and dress for the weather.

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

Wednesday, March 18, 12:30 p.m.

The Garden Club will hold its first meeting of the season on March 18 at Mulligans Pub at Crown Golf Course on Silver Lake Road.

Lunch will be followed by a fun and informative presentation by Robin Smillie of Garden Goods on getting your garden ready for spring. We will also be planning our season's events, so be ready to vote for your favorite outings or fresh ideas.

Please email Cindy Miner by Monday, March 9, at puddlenpines@gmail.com so that we can inform Mulligans of our attendance, since they are opening especially for us!

Questions about the Gardening Club? Contact Cindy.

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, March 11, 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, March 26

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.

The March outing will be held on Thursday, March 26. Notices with specific information will be sent to all group members.

It is the mission of the Microbrew Tasting Group to visit each 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.

If you have questions/comments, or wish to join the group, please contact Joel McElrath at jmcelrath@epri.com or 650-714-4557.

NEWCOMERS NEEDLERS

Thursday, March 5 & 19, 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, March 11, 11:30 a.m.

The group will meet at Lobdell's at the NMC Great Lakes

Campus building, 715 E. Front St., Traverse City. There is a limit of 16, and lunch-goers must be there by 11:30 a.m. in order to be seated by 11:45 a.m. To reserve your spot or for information, contact Sis Leake as soon as possible 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. Group meets the second Wednesday of the month.

PADDLING

The Paddling Group is now being led by Marilyn and Bob Auberle. They will be reaching out to members interested in joining the group and discuss ideas for the 2015 paddling season. For information, contact Marilyn and Bob at auberle29@yahoo.com.

POKER

Tuesday, March 3, 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 March meeting will be held on March 3 from 1 to 4 p.m. The host has not yet been determined. Group leader Mike Huffman will send out an e-mail blast with an update. Mike's phone is 517-655-3374. E-mail is wdcspike@yahoo.com.

SOLOS GROUP

Thursday, March 19, 2 p.m.

The Solos will meet March 19 at Doug Morrison's home. Please bring an appetizer and your own beverage. Weather permitting, you can snowshoe or cross-country ski on Tibbets Lake or Grace MacDonald Park or just bring your slippers if you prefer to sit by the fire. Depending on the interest of the group, we could go out to dinner at Peegeo's afterwards. Please RSVP to Doug at morrddj@yahoo.com or 231-421-9259 and to get directions, address, etc.

Flying "solo" right now? The Solos Group can make being

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ACTIVITY GROUPS

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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 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 garnetraymond100@gmail.com.

THEATRE GROUP

Saturday, March 7, 7:30 p.m.

Theatre 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.

The March show is "Shrek – The Musical." Based on the DreamWorks movie that started it all, it brings everyone's favorite antisocial, cynical ogre to life on the stage as he tries to rescue a feisty princess from a dragon's lair and deliver her to a villainous prince who always seems to come up short. He's helped by a donkey with an attitude and fairy tale characters who Hans Christian Andersen would probably want to disown.

This hilarious, irreverent musical is definitely written for all ages.

Join us on March 7 as we gather for dinner and conversation before we proceed to the Playhouse at the corner of 8th and Cass for the 7:30 show. Dinner plans will be sent out by e-mail.

Our group-discounted tickets are available through the box office of OTP (231-947-2210 Ext. 2). Please let them know you are with the Newcomers group. Cut-off date for the discounted tickets is Feb. 27.

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

VOLUNTEER AT THE STATE/BIJOU

Wednesday, March 14, 2:30 p.m./State, approx. 4 p.m./Bijou

Thursday, March 19, 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:

Art Trail: At the end of April we have planned a day visiting art galleries from Traverse City to Petoskey, ending at the Crooked Tree Art Center. This will be a great day to view and appreciate the many talented artists in our area.

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.

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

WALK IN THE WOODS

This group is in hibernation until spring. If you would like to join up for future walks, please contact Don Eastway at luremug@yahoo.com.

WINE TASTING

Tuesday, March 10, 4 p.m.

The Wine Tasting Group outing for March is at Brengman Brothers Winery.

They are located over Leelanau way. Take a left on Crane Hill road from M-22 (coming from Traverse City.) When you come to the stop sign you will cross over South Center Highway into their drive at 9720 S. Center Highway. The cost is \$5 for five tastings.

Afterwards we shall head over to Trattoria Stella for dinner, where we will enjoy a special three-course meal. You will have the option of selecting soup or salad, your choice from four entrees, which the chef will determine, followed by dessert. Trattoria Stella is located at 1200 W. Eleventh St. in the Grand Traverse Commons.

Please RSVP to Kimberly kimberlybelles@sbcglobal.net.

NEW MEMBERS

Fred and Linda Anderson
Lansing, Mich.

Sharon Van Dale
Petoskey, Mich.

Kevin and Noreen Harty
Lansing, Mich.

Rodney and Madelon Morgan
Yakima, Wash.

Susan Olcott
Columbus, Ohio

Gary and Darlene Pope
Saginaw, Mich.

New game group seeks players!

Join us to start up a board game group on the third or fourth week of the month.

The exact date and time will be determined by the group at an initial organizational meeting in March.

Some possible games are:

- Mexican Train Dominos
- Trivia
- Scrabble Trivia

- Ticket to Ride - which was the No. 1 board game for 2013.

Activities will be held in members' homes, and of course food and drink will be involved. If interested, contact Roberta Amstadt, 231-421-1330, rmamstadt@aol.com, or Cindy Weaver, 913-908-5342, glenlake11@aol.com.

NEW MEMBER MEETING SET

The next New Member Welcome Reception will be 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, at Premier Place, 1550 Newport St. New members will be contacted directly by Donna Stein-Harris, who oversees New Member Support for the club. Questions? Email Donna at donnasteinharris@gmail.com.

Non-solicitation policy reminder

A reminder to club members: It is the long-standing policy of the Newcomers Club that members may not use directory information, the newsletter, the website or any of its content for solicitation of business or political purpose. We ask that everyone heed this policy, which is stated in the Members' Handbook.

Cordia and Dennos visits

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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 Uni-

versity 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 Power Family Inuit Gallery.
- The 367-seat Milliken Auditorium for perfor-

mance arts.

- The 35-seat Dutmers Theater.
- The Discovery Gallery.
- The Museum gift store.

After your tour, you will have an opportunity to explore the galleries and gift store on your own.

To sign up for either or both events, email Mary Bridges, contactbridges@gmail.com.



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