



Newcomers News

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

January
2012

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**VOLUNTEER AT THE
STATE THEATRE**
January 4 & 19

WINE GROUP
January 18

Visit us on the web at
gtnewcomers.org

Please join us for the January program:

**Rebecca Lessard, Founder and Director of *Wings of Wonder*
Raptor Sanctuary**

**Tuesday, January 24
6:30 PM**

**History Center of Traverse City
322 Sixth Street
Traverse City, Michigan**

Join us for an educational evening with Rebecca Lessard, Founder and Director of *Wings of Wonder*, which will include several ambassador birds from the sanctuary.

Wings of Wonder is a non-profit raptor sanctuary located in Empire, Michigan. Its primary purpose is education to foster appreciation, understanding, honor and respect for raptors and the important role these birds play in healthy ecosystems. *Wings of Wonder* has been active since 1990 and presents educational programs throughout Michigan reaching almost 10,000 people annually.

Wings of Wonder is also a raptor rehabilitation and release facility. Sick, injured and/or orphaned raptors are admitted for treatment, rehabilitation and eventual release back into the wild. All raptors in this program are seen and evaluated by *Wings of Wonder's* participating veterinarians. The main goal of rehabilitation is to release healthy and strong raptors back into the wild.

Rebecca has been a wildlife rehabilitator and educator since 1990. She currently holds rehabilitation permits from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and is also permitted to possess non-releasable raptors for use in education programs. In 2009 Rebecca received the "Person of the Year" award from Boy Scout Pack 87 of Traverse City, Michigan. In 2007 she received the Northern Michigan "Environmentalist of the Year" award in Education. In 2001 Rebecca was presented the President's Award by the Michigan Audubon Society for her continuing work with raptors.

Funding for *Wings of Wonder* (a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization) is largely by program fees and donations and therefore we will have a basket at the membership table for donations to the organization.

PRESIDENTS' NOTE

January 2012



Marshall Persky and Dan Klimaszewski
Co-Presidents

A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one Year and out the other. - Author Unknown

Another month has passed and another year will soon pass. As time marches on, the Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse continues to flourish. Our auction in November was quite successful, and ensures the club the ability to continue to offer great activities and events. Our thanks to all who helped organize this event and to those who attended and bid. Special thanks to Marlowe Bonner and Penelope Olson for acting as our auctioneers. The club made approximately \$2500 which will be used to subsidize some of our larger annual activities.

In this newsletter, you will see reports on our first Newcomers travel experience. Thirty-six people enjoyed a three-day-trip to Chicago.

In other new activities, 25 people attended our first "field trip" at Fustini's. The Wine Group and Gun Club have also gotten off to a great start.

Your board would like to wish everyone a happy and safe New Year.

Marshall Persky
Dan Klimaszewski

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Newcomers, do you volunteer for a local organization? If so, would you be willing to share your experience on volunteering with the club? We would like to spotlight several members in upcoming newsletters and/or at monthly programs to help others identify volunteer opportunities.

To participate, please contact Linda Proffitt at lindajproffitt@gmail.com.

Website Happenings

What's new on our website —
www.gtnewcomers.org

Look for photos of the Travel Group's trip to Chicago – lots of fun and great things to do.

If you have any images, suggestions or questions, contact our Newcomers webmaster Lynn Huffman at lhuffman@gammet.com.

Guy's Night Out Hockey Night in TC

The Traverse City North Stars will be playing Kalamazoo on Tuesday January 17 at 7:00 PM at Centre Ice Arena. We plan to meet at Peego's for pizza at 5:00 PM (525 High Lake Rd.). Tickets are only \$8.00. Come and enjoy a great brand of hockey and support our local team. For more information email John Auld at jwa64mma@charter.net and check out traverscitynorthstars.com.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

February 28: Non-profit/volunteer panel - Habitat for Humanity, Father Fred, TART Trails

March 27: Grand Traverse Watershed

April 24: Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes

May 22: Game Night

NEW MEMBER CORNER

Loren & Nancy Wolf
Greenville, SC

John & Donna Smith
Macomb, MI

Jerry & Carol Liszewski
Farmington Hills, MI

Kathryn & Mike Wade
W. Bloomfield, MI

Attention All Bread Lovers

We've planned another Newcomer's Club field trip! This time it will be a bread baking class taught by Jen Welty of 9 Bean Rows Bakery. Many of you know how wonderful her artisan breads and pastries are, and if you haven't tried them, you are missing one of the gems of TC's food world.

Jen has agreed to teach a class on bread baking for a group of 6 to 25 people (maybe some men want to get their hands in the dough too?) on Saturday, February 4th beginning at 2:00 in the afternoon at her Black Star Farms Winery kitchen. The class will run four to five hours and everyone will leave with a loaf of bread they've made and leavening to start some more at home. The class will end with wine and cheese and the sampling of our breads.

The cost will be \$40.00-50.00 per person depending on how many people we have in the class — a real bargain if you've priced other group cooking classes.

If you would like to attend, contact Brenda Knaack by email (knaack222@gmail.com) by January 18th.

HOLIDAY DINNER DANCE

December 15, 2011



Kate Patten, Albert Sickinger, John Patten and Evi Sickinger socialize before dinner.



The Sundae Bar was a **very** popular dessert.

ACTIVITY GROUPS

BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, January 3, 10:30 AM, 1:00 PM

Please join us the first Tuesday of each month at either the morning session (10:30 AM) or the afternoon session (note new time 1:00 PM). We meet at Horizon Books, lower level. Lunch at Amical is an option for all members at around noon. Alternatively, some of us will arrive early and have lunch at Horizon in order to save tables. The morning group should leave their tables joined for us! Thanks.

January's selection is *The Dry Grass of August* by Anna Jean Mayhew. The morning session will be led by Edie Brown, the afternoon by Judy Pelto.

The remainder of the year we will consider the following:

February: *Loon Feather* by Iola Fuller
March: *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand
April: *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson
May: *Paris Wife* by Paula McLain
June: *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett

The New York Times Book Review annually names the five best fiction books of the year. For 2011 the winners are:

The Art of Fielding by Chad Harbach
11/23/63 by Stephen King
Swamplandia! by Karen Russell
Ten Thousand Saints by Eleanor Henderson
The Tiger's Wife by Tea Obrecht

Go to the website nytimes.com/bookreview for book reviews of these and the five non-fiction winners as well as the annual 100 Notable Books of 2011.

Carole Wasserman will lead the morning group for the remainder of the year. Contact Carole at Ira_wasserman@hotmail.com or 231-922-1581. Terrill Persky leads the afternoon group and can be reached at 231-922-8153 or terrillpersky@gmail.com.

DINNER OUT

Monday, January 9 and Tuesday, January 10

Dinner Out for January will be held on two days, Monday and Tuesday, January 9th and 10th at Red Ginger, 237 East Front Street, in downtown Traverse City. If you haven't reserved a spot by the time you receive the newsletter but would like to go, please call or email Bob or Brenda Knaack to see if any seats have opened up due to cancellations.

Planning is still in process for Dinner Out in February.

Information will be in the February newsletter, and watch your email for earlier notification. Anyone who doesn't receive the Dinner Out emails and would like to be added to the list, please contact Bob and Brenda Knaack, 231-421-3127 or knaack222@gmail.com.

DINNER FOR EIGHT

Eight people will join together at one person's home each month (rotating hosting) to enjoy dinner together with each person or couple contributing to the meal. Join us for great food and great fellowship. Nancy Johnson has contacted participants with details. If you'd like to join the substitute list, contact Nancy (johns526@msu.edu or 231-668-9633).

EUCHRE

Euchre groups meet once a month in each other's homes. We currently have eight 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. The players within any group are of varying levels of experience. Euchre, in Newcomers, is a social, not a competitive event.

We are in need of two individuals to start a ninth Euchre group. A couple or two singles will do it. If interested please contact Judy Pelto at jpelto1@charter.net.

If you have a basic understanding of the game and want to join in the fun, contact Judy Pelto.

FILM GROUP

Thursday, January 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.

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 jpelto1@charter.net.

ACTIVITY GROUPS

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FISHING

Steelhead fishing in streams will decline as the weather gets colder; some fish will be there all winter, but people will be kept away by the weather.

Ice will be forming later than usual on inland lakes. Be patient and wait for safe ice before you venture out for ice fishing. Contact one another for fishing opportunities.

Contact Pete Albers, phalbers99@gmail.com or 922-7289, if you are interested in participating in any of the group activities.

GUN CLUB

The Gun Club meeting was held Dec. 14 at the home of Dave Richard. The subject was "Introduction to Handguns" and was conducted by Steve Lauer, an NRA instructor. The topics covered were safety with handguns, handgun maintenance, handgun jargon, types of handguns, criteria for selecting a handgun, and concealed pistol permits (CCW).

Gun Club members were asked, but not required, to bring their handgun, and they were personally instructed in cleaning and safety.

Steve Lauer has agreed to co-chair the Gun Club and his email is stevelauer12@yahoo.com.

The next meeting will be held in the afternoon mid-January at Shooters on Silver Lake Crossing Rd., Grawn. We will receive instruction on range safety, shooting position, loading our handguns, and target practice. There is a charge for range time. All are welcome. Please call Dave Richard at 231-933-0359 or email at crowbar38@gmail.com for more information.

MEN'S BOOK CLUB

The group will meet January 23 at 10:00 AM at Horizon Bookstore, lower level. January's selection will be ***Of the Summer Moon: Rise and Fall of the Comanche***, by S.C. Gwynne.

Contact George Kobernus, 231-933-9321 or gkkobernus@chartermi.net for more information.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Wednesday, January 11, 9:00 AM

This group meets at the Omelette Shoppe next to the Wild Birds Unlimited store in Campus Plaza every second 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 at gkkobernus@chartermi.net or 933-9321.

MIXED PARTY BRIDGE

Ira Wasserman is the new leader of Mixed Bridge group. Contact Ira at ira_wasserman@hotmail.com for more information.

NEWCOMERS NEEDLERS

January 5 and 19, 1:00-3:00 PM

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 our 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, 1:00-3:00 PM, at Aroma's Coffee Shop (<http://www.aromascoffeeshop.com/>) at Kid's Creek shopping center on Division, just south of 14th Street.

Have questions, want to be on the email list, or just want to let us know you'll be there? Contact Robbin Stott, rstott@chartermi.net or 932-1709 for information.

OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, January 11, 1:00 PM

The Out-to-Lunch Bunch will go to lunch on Wednesday, January 11 at Minerva's in the Park Place Hotel, 300 E. State Street, at 1:00 PM. Minerva's features casual comforts and distinctive dining.

Contact Sis Leake, sisleake@charter.net or 231-929-7036, by January 9 for reservations.

POKER

Tuesday, January 3, 1:00 PM

The poker group meets the first Tuesday of the month, with winter hours of 1:00 - 4:00 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 January meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 3, from 1:00 to 4:00. Arnie Taddia will be hosting. Please contact Arnie if you plan to attend. Arnie can be reached at ataddia0805@aol.com or 231-929-0841.

The poker group coordinator is Mike Huffman. His phone

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ACTIVITY GROUPS

(Continued from page 5)

number is 517-655-3374 and his email is wdcspike@yahoo.com.

SNOWSHOE/CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Saturday, January 14, 11:00 AM

Weather permitting, the Newcomers will go to Sand Lake Quiet area on January 14th for snowshoeing/cross-country skiing. We will meet at the parking lot at 11:00 AM. Afterward, we will go Ruby Tuesday for lunch.

Directions to the Sand Lake parking area: From Williamsburg drive east on M-72 to Broomhead Road near Ginop Sales). Turn right (south) and drive approximately 3.5 miles to the Sand Lake parking area on the left (east) side of the road.

If you are coming, contact Ira Wasserman, 231-922-1581 or Ira_Wasserman@hotmail.com. If there is no snow by January 14th, the group will take a walk in the woods at Sand Lake.

SOLOS

The Solos group will take a break during the winter months.

VOLUNTEER AT THE STATE THEATRE

Wednesday, January 4, 2:30 PM

Thursday, January 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 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. Our December dates are Wednesday, January 4 and Thursday, January, 19. 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 or 231-668-9633 if you would like to be added to the list of potential volunteers.

WINE GROUP

Wednesday, January 18, 3:00 PM

We will meet at Chateau Grand Traverse Winery (12239 Center Rd., TC, MI) on January 18, 2012 at 3:00 PM for a tour and tasting! Because of space limitations in the

The cost of this tasting will be \$5 and guests can pay at the door. If you need to sit in a chair, this request must be made at the time that you make your reservation with me.

As this is a slow time of year for our local wineries, many of them scale back on their hours, and use a smaller physical space for tastings and groups. This is the situation at Chateau Grand Traverse Winery.

Please call or email Edie Brown, ediebk@gmail.com or 231.883.6337 (cell), with any questions! This event will fill up fast so you should email me sooner rather than later!

Cheers!

Other Items of Interest...

The activities listed below are not part of our scheduled Newcomers activities, but may be of interest to you:

Mens Bridge/Mixed Bridge: Jerry Schmoke, a bridge player at the Senior Center contacted Pat Haber to say that their group needs more players. If you're interested, contact Jerry at 231-938-2722 or saljer1@charter.net.

The men play on Wednesdays and Mixed Bridge is on Thursdays.

Ladies Golf: Before you put those clubs away for the season, take a moment to think about next year's golfing wish list. Besides a "hole in one" or playing 18 at par or less you might be looking for a great group of women to be your golf partners. The Crown Golf Course Ladies Tuesday League is a perfect fit. We play 9 or 18 holes on Tuesday mornings from May through August. This is not a Newcomer's Club activity but is open to all interested women in the Club. For more information, contact Ann DeBoer at acdeboer@charter.net or 231-933-6332 or Lori Brickman at rlbrickman@yahoo.com.



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our Sponsors**

Newcomers Go Toddlin' in Chicago

By Dennis Stockemer

The morning of December 6th was buzzing with excitement at the Kalamazoo Amtrak Station as 34 Traverse City Newcomers boarded the westbound train for a fun get-away to the Windy City. Each evening began with a bustling Hospitality Hour hosted by Pat Haber and Dan Klimaszewski in their suite. This gave everyone a great chance to compare notes on their day's activities and to circle up for evening dinner and entertainment plans.

The weather didn't disappoint. We were greeted each morning with clear skies and brilliant sun, and, oh yes, a little wind. (I can assure you—the Windy City had nothing on all the wind ablowin' during the Hospitality Hours!) Folks went on walking tours of the Chicago Gold Coast and the Hyde Park areas with visits to a couple of Frank Lloyd Wright designed properties. Others took in days of shopping, strolling along Michigan Avenue, and visiting Chicago's many museums. Evening activities included dinner and entertainment at one of Chicago's popular jazz clubs, a show at Second City, the *Million Dollar Quartet* musical at the Apollo Theatre, and *The Art of Leonard Bernstein* at the Royal George Theatre.

Friday marked a rather uneventful and quiet train trip home as folks caught up on reading and relaxing after a busy three days. The trip was indeed a success—loaded with laughter and the chance to make many new friends.



Ruth Winter, Tom Thibault, Dave Richard and Michele Richard enjoy an evening of jazz at Andy's Jazz Club.



After dinner at the Adobo Grill, Newcomers patiently wait for the Second City production of "The Sky's the Limit."

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