



Newcomers News

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

March
2011

DATES TO REMEMBER

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March 3 & 17

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SUNDAY SUPPER for 8
March 6

**VOLUNTEER AT THE
STATE THEATRE**
March 2 & 17

Visit us on the web
at
gtnewcomers.org

Join us for the March Program:

Mardi Link An Evening with a Local Author

Tuesday, March 22
6:30 PM

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

Mardi Link was born in Detroit and grew up in the state's southeastern suburbs, spending summers up north on Lake Michigan. Like many of the Newcomers from downstate and out-of-state, she ended up making northwestern Michigan her home. She is a graduate of Michigan State University's school of journalism, a former police and general assignment reporter, magazine editor, and freelance writer.

Her first book, *When Evil comes to Good Hart*, was published in 2008 and marked the 40-year anniversary of the Robison family murder investigation. The book spent four months on the Heartland Bestseller List and was a finalist for the Michigan Notable Book award. Her second book, *Isadore's Secret*, was published in 2009, and chronicles the mysterious disappearance in 1907 of a Felician nun from her convent in the small town of Isadore, near Cedar in Leelanau County.

Mardi's work has appeared in Bellingham Review, Publishers Weekly, The Bookseller, Traverse Magazine, Dunes Review and The Bear River Review, among other publications. She is a frequent speaker on historic cold cases and has taught a workshop at Northwestern Michigan College on *Writing and Researching the True Crime Book*.

Her experience as a crime reporter and writer promises to make for an interesting evening and discussion. Mardi will take questions after her talk.

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PRESIDENTS' NOTE

March 2011



I want YOU.



Jo Anne Gerben & Marshall Persky

There are many opportunities to serve and several are opening up now for your favorite organization. The Newcomers Board is looking for a few dedicated members to serve on our Board. Board positions can only be held for 3 years, ensuring a regular infusion of new ideas and fresh perspectives. This is essential to keep Newcomers a club where you will meet new friends and participate in interesting activities. This year we have a number of such opportunities for members to choose from. The Board openings are: Co-President, Secretary, Calling Committee, Directory Editor, Helping Hands, Membership and Public Relations. To express interest or for more information, call or email Jo Anne or Marshall. We will do the rest.

Local writer Doug Stanton spoke at the Newcomers meeting last month after having to change a previously scheduled talk last April. Well, the votes are in, and he was well worth the wait. The turnout was a record with around 100 in attendance at our new venue, The History Center of Traverse City. Thanks Doug!

Conventional wisdom says February and March are months to hunker down and wait for winter to wear itself out, but that is not the case if you are a Newcomer. Check out all of our activities – card playing, dining out, movie watching, etc. – that are going strong whatever the weather.

Isn't it great how Newcomers are everywhere? The Comedy Festival, restaurants, the grocery store. Wherever you go you see members of your club. Think about filling a Board position or leading an activity. Keep it going.

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773-251-8685c
marshallpersky@gmail.com

Jo Anne Gerben
231-228-2158
jmgerben@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, April 26: Michelle Ferrarese of Birch Point Farm will speak on Community Supported Agriculture. CSA farmers grow insecticide-free vegetables that allow members to get fresh high quality organically grown produce.

Tuesday, May 24: Plans are underway for a fun-filled evening of food and games for all to enjoy.

NOTE: Just a reminder that this meeting will be held at The History Center of Traverse City (formerly called the Grand Traverse Heritage Center), 322 Sixth Street, Traverse City. Look for more information about this and other upcoming programs in future editions of the Newcomers News.

NEW MEMBER CORNER

Paula & Brad Connors
West Bloomfield, MI

Robert Sullivan
Middle East

ROMANCING THE BIRDS

by Joe M. Coffman

“The cats will love it too; it will be their TV set.” She pointed toward the bay window to the open patch of earth between our fence and the house, the one and only special vista on our meager city lot. “And you don’t have to be a bird nut or anything; we’ll start out small with just one feeder.”

One bird feeder. I remembered that simple wood wren house I made as a cub scout, the only crafts project I had mastered. And I recalled that dimmed fantasy of watching hummingbirds sail beneath my breakfast window, not to mention renegade canaries and parrots. Besides, I knew a hawk from a handsaw, well, chainsaw anyway.

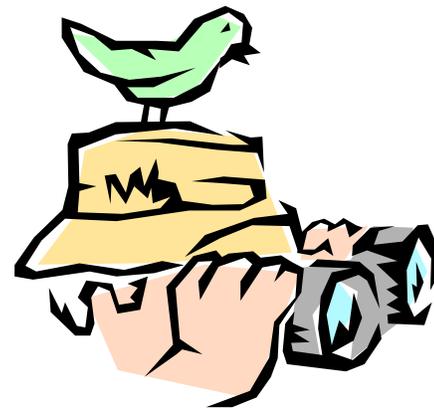
Bedazzled would put it mildly when it came to the choices of feeders first seen at the store by this flight-challenged Philistine. No wren houses, alas, but enough shapes and sizes to impress Frank Lloyd Wright, not to mention special armatures and gizmos to control furry miscreants plus ground weights and poles hefty enough to handle an orangutan. We opted for an 18-inch glass cylinder wrapped with a copper canopy and filigree of pine trees I deemed artful. But we included an ominous eight-foot black metal base and support pole with thick hooks which would hold the candy apple globe guaranteed to bring in my hummingbird friends.

The hummingbirds never came. We tried sugar water, maple syrup water and I considered Grand Marnier. “Patience,” my wife said. “Anyway, we’ll get cardinals with this seed mixture.” What we got were hordes of house sparrows. A morning prologue of “cheep-cheep” calls were soon followed by hundreds zooming in daily battling for position at the feeder like feathered planes jockeying for fueling and take-off.

A few cardinals finally showed up. The bright red flashes made my day and I sat with coffee and a cat before the house sparrows again invaded. Then another eternal verity became evident: squirrels rule. Long-tailed rats, mindless peripatetic nonsense. They climb poles, up or down, swoop from roofs, fences or trees, pry, hang, swing and flip—all to get their quota of birdseed. You can grease the bird stand, move it, twist it or twirl it—they will find a way.

The only solution: more feeders. We tried long square Plexiglas boxes, hexagons with secret entrances, squat chunks of cedar that seemed to require a password to enter, and a feeder encased in a chain mail grid that Sir Walter Scott would have loved. The squirrels beat them all.

One Saturday morning, I noticed very few birds jostling and no squirrels in sight. A strange metal arm jutted out from the feeder pole holding three netted bags with a shallow wood platform on top and other bits of twisted metal secured by snap



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ACTIVITY GROUPS

BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, March 1, 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM

Both the morning and the afternoon book groups meet on the first Tuesday of the month in the lower level of Horizon Books. All books that have been selected for reading are listed on our website: gtnewcomers.org, under "Literary Activities".

March's book is *Little Bee* by Chris Cleaves. This book tells how two strangers, a British woman and a Nigerian girl, meet and become bound by an event. *Little Bee* is Chris Cleave's second novel which was short-listed for the prestigious Costa Award for Best Novel.

Carol Thompson will lead the morning book discussion. Lynn Huffman will lead the afternoon discussion.

Katie Brown is the activity leader for the morning session. You may contact her at 231-922-9389 or jkbrow@att.net.

Terrill Persky is the activity leader for the afternoon session. You may contact her at 231-922-8153 or terrillpersky@gmail.com.

MIXED PARTY BRIDGE

Thursday, March 17, 7:00 PM

This group meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. All skill levels welcome. Different hosts each month.

Contact Rick and Kathy Bodette, 271-7524 or richardrbodette@cs.com.

DINNER OUT

Sunday, March 20, 6:00 PM

They say March roars in like a lion. Well I say "We're over the hump" and Spring is just around the corner so get out of that house, get dressed, get in that car and join us for dinner on Sunday, March 20, at the legendary Boone's Long Lake Inn.

Yes, back by popular DEMAND we will dine alongside the warm cozy fireplace in our private dining room. Just as last year, Nick is kindly providing complimentary appetizers for all. So if you are interested in the partaking of one of the finest martinis you will ever experience and cut into the juiciest, most tender and tastiest piece of beef you may ever bite into, don't miss out—join us at Boone's; it's just a little bit of "cholesterol heaven."

Come and meet some new folks, enjoy great conversation as well as food and drink in this lovely up north atmosphere. The fun and cocktails begin at 5:30 PM and perhaps you'll get lucky and have one or two "snowbirds"

fill you in on all the great weather they think you missed. HA! We've been here enjoying a TC winter wonderland and loving it.

We will be ordering from the daily menu which offers something for everyone and as usual drinks are on your own. Please reserve your spot by contacting Michele Richard at 944-5844 or richard.michele@rocketmail.com before March 16.

Boone's Long Lake Inn
7208 Secor Rd.
Traverse City 946-3991



EUCHRE

Euchre groups meet once a month in each other's homes. We currently have seven groups. Each group is made up of three to four tables. Group members change tables and partners throughout the evening which makes for a lot of opportunity for lively conversation. Of course, food and drink are involved.

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

FILM GROUP

Thursday, March 10

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.

Watch your email or check the web site for specifics each month. Notification as to the film, time and place is

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ACTIVITY GROUPS

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emailed to group members a few days before the outing. Anyone interested in joining the group may contact Judy Pelto at jpelto1@charter.net.

FISHING

Ice fishing continues throughout the state. Steelhead fishing should improve in March as the spring migration intensifies. Contact one another for any special trips or fishing opportunities."

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

MEN'S BOOK CLUB

Monday, March 28, 10:00 AM

The Men's Book Club meets in the lower level of Horizon Books in Traverse City. Our selection for March is *The Last Stand* by Nathaniel Philbrick. We welcome any man who might want to participate, regardless of whether or not he has previously attended our meetings and even read the book. We always have a friendly, interesting and insightful discussion, usually followed by lunch at a local eatery.

Members and potential members are cordially invited to join us. Contact Ralph Mittelberger for questions and information, mittelberger.ralph@arentfox.com.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Wednesday, March 9, 9:00 AM

This group meets at the Omelette Shoppe next to the Wild Birds Unlimited store in Campus Plaza every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 9:00 AM. We meet all year around and always meet regardless of the weather. Bring all the testosterone you can muster.

Contact George Kobernus: gkobernus@chartermi.net or 933-9321.

NEWCOMERS NEEDLERS

March 3 & 17, 1—3 PM

Winter days getting too long? Take a break, pick up your needles or hooks, and join the Needlers Group. We meet twice a month to work on a project, sit by the fire, and enjoy an afternoon *cuppa*.

We meet on the first and third Thursdays, 1—3 PM, at the Aroma's Coffee Shop (<http://www.aromascoffeeshop.com/>) at Kid's Creek shopping center on Division, just south of 14th Street. The next dates are March 3rd and 17th.

Have questions, want to be on the email list, or just want to

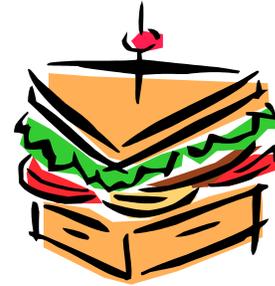
let us know you'll be there? Contact Sandy Seppala, sansep19@earthlink.net, 421-3343 or 703-597-7925 (cell).

OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, March 9, 1:00 PM

Join us for lunch at a Traverse City landmark. Since 1882, people have been coming to **Sleder's Family Tavern** to enjoy good food, good drink, and good talk in an intimate and nostalgic family atmosphere. One of Michigan's oldest, continuously-operated taverns, Sleder's (717 Randolph, TC) is an important piece of the unique tapestry of Traverse City and a treasured part of the area that locals proudly share with visitors.

Please contact Sis Leake at 929-7036 by Monday, March 7 if you plan to attend, for reservations and so that car pools can be formed.



POKER

Tuesday, March 1, 1:30 PM

The poker group meets the 1st Tuesday of the month, with winter hours of 1:30 – 4:30 PM and summer hours of 6:30 – 9:30 PM. The group meets on a rotating basis at each member's home. The game is small stakes to keep the game and conversation fun and friendly. The host merely has to provide the home and setup, while members bring snacks and drinks.

The March meeting will be hosted by Joe Harris. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 1, from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM. Please contact Joe by email at grizharris@charter.net or by phone at 231-223-9844 if you plan to attend.

You may also contact Mike Huffman, the group coordinator if you plan to attend this meeting. Mike's email is wdcspike@yahoo.com. Mike's phone # is 517-655-3374.

SOLOS

Thursday, March 3, 7:00 PM Movie at the Dennon (free). Call Judy (922-9619) if you plan to go. This film chronicles the story of Rose Mapendo and how she escaped from the

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ACTIVITY GROUPS

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ethnic violence of the Democratic Republic of Congo to become a vital voice to help mend her divided country. She has assisted dozens of survivors to recover and rebuild their lives. But there is still one person Rose must teach to forgive – her daughter Nangabire.

Friday, March 4 Fiddler on the Roof at the Playhouse. Opening party with hors d'oeuvres at 7:00 PM, play at 8:00 PM. Call Judy – reservations required by March 1st.

Sunday, March 6, 11:15 AM Brunch at the Apache Trout Grill. \$14.95. Call Judy if you plan to go.

Friday March 18, 7:30 PM Interlochen Band Concert at Corsen Auditorium. \$10 Call Judy if you plan to go.

Sunday March 20, 3:00 PM TSO Symphony (\$38) followed by dinner (place to be decided). Reservations required. Call Judy if you plan to go.

SUNDAY SUPPER for 8

Sunday, March 6, 6:00 PM

The next Sunday Supper for 8 will meet on Sunday, March 6, at 6:00 PM. Anyone interested in coming for a great meal, meeting interesting people, and having good conversation, the supper group needs you.

Please join us as a guest for March. Contact: Izzy Semrau @ izzyandmike@yahoo.com or 231-421-8171

Please Note: this is the last meeting of the season for the Supper for 8. This activity will resume in the fall.

VOLUNTEER AT THE STATE THEATRE

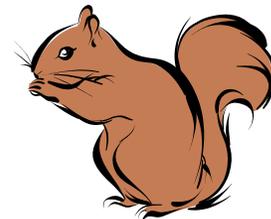
Wednesday, March 2 & Thursday, March 17

State Theatre Volunteers: Join us as we work in the concession area, take tickets, sweep floors, usher, run errands, and sometimes we even get to watch the movie.

Free popcorn and pop, a voucher for another movie, and tokens for the parking ramp complete the experience. Our afternoon shift is sometimes slow and sometimes busy. Give it a try and perhaps you might like to move to a busier time on your own. You are more than welcome to remain at this less active level too.

We now have two shifts per month and you may choose the one you prefer. We now work on the first Wednesday and the third Thursday of each month from 2:30 PM until 5:15 PM. Join us for dinner afterwards if you have time. The dates for March are March 2 and March 17.

Contact Nancy Johnson at johns526@msu.edu or 231-668-9633 if you would like to be added to the list of potential volunteers.



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hooks. Looking down I saw bright yellow corn bouncing in the wind and more corn fastened with countersunk screws hanging amongst a pine branch on our cedar fence beyond the feeder. It looked like some engineering student had gone berserk with designs for a Batman movie. I inquired. "It's the only way to deal with the squirrels. They've got their own stash now." "Right. Diversionary tactics," I said, just as a juvenile squirrel did a head dance and dangled from the bird pole with his hind feet while he chomped on one of the net bags.

The only solution: another trip to the bird store. We returned with a thick Plexiglas feeder with spring trap openings that closed on squirrels. We also got a log with ten holes for suet to bring in woodpeckers and shelled seeds to minimize carpets of safflower hulls.

I wouldn't say all this has worked, but as I write I am looking at purple finches and pine siskins as they pop in and out on the net feeders, downy woodpeckers and the astounding hairy woodpeckers with bold red swatches on their heads as they chisel suet off the hanging log. I've had rare sightings of redpolls and witnessed the morphing of a dozen goldfinches as they turned from soft green to blazing yellow in a nod to the reigning sun. Most of the engineering contraptions have been downsized with no guarantees for the future. Nine bird books now grace a table near the window.

I'm still waiting for hummingbirds. I know if we build something special, they will come.

JOE M. COFFMAN is an essayist, fiction writer and film critic. 612-518-4309, e-mail: joemcoffman@yahoo.com



Attention NC golfers, the 2011 season is just around the corner. Look for this year's schedule in the April newsletter. We will be playing every Monday starting May 2. If you have not signed up before and would like to play email Ralph Brickman at brickmanbus@yahoo.com and I will add you to the list. The league is open to all Newcomers who like to golf. Skill is not a requirement. Liking to meet new people and having fun is what the league is about.

I will send out a test email in mid-April to check the list and make up dates. THINK SPRING, THINK GOLF. See you on May 2.

Activity Group Leader Needed

A Leader and/or Co-Leaders are needed for the Gardening Group.

If you are willing to help with this group, please contact Pauline Watt at 929-1107 or email her at jwatt1107@charter.net.

NEWCOMERS CANADIAN ROCKIES TRIP

We regret to announce the cancellation of the Canadian Rockies trip for May due to a small response.



WEBSITE

See if you can find yourself or some of your friends on our Newcomers website at www.gtnewcomers.org. We've recently added photos to our home page and 'Photos' tab; Newsletter archives have been added to our 'Newsltr' tab; and we've added a euchre scorecard and our Facebook page to our 'Links' tab.

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

PLEASE HELP RECRUIT MEMBERS!

Do you know someone who has just moved to the area?

Contact Sharon Finch, City Hostess, with their names and she will do the rest.

947-8403, hsfinch@charter.net



Patronize our sponsors

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231-995-9700

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Joseph M. Stayman, D.D.S.
10850 E. Traverse Hwy, TC
946-9644

Banfield Pet Hospital
2544 Crossing Circle (next to
PetSmart), TC 922-9844

Bank of Northern Michigan
Debbie Highway/Mortgage
130 South Union St., TC
231-922-1422
231-357-5577 (cell)

**Benjamin Franklin —The
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929-9999

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2282 Cass Rd., TC 941-4064

**Brian N Feeney, DDS PC
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946-2497

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231-590-0272

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941-4578

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Dennos Museum Center
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995-1055

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946-8930

Goodyear Auto Service Center
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922-2600

G.T. Ophthalmology Clinic, PC
929 Business Park Dr., TC
947-6246

Grand Traverse Heritage Center
322 Sixth St., TC
995-0313

Grand Traverse Resort & Spa
231-534-6750, 1-888-437-2772

Grand Traverse Children's Clinic
3537 W. Front St., Ste. G
Traverse City
935-8822

Interlochen Center for the Arts
4000 S. M-137 Hwy.
Interlochen, MI
231-276-7200

Kids Creek Children's Clinic
5024 North Royal , TC
935-0555

Mary Kay Cosmetics
Pat Westbrook 929-1830

Merrill Lynch
Briant Sikorski, 231-922-6831
333 W. Grandview Pkwy, TC

**Munson Healthcare Regional
Foundation**
935-6482

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

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

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

Old Town Playhouse
148 E. Eighth St., TC
947-2210, ext. 3

Oryana Nat. Foods Coop Mkt.
260 East Tenth, TC

Pizza Hut
3030 US 31 South, TC
947-2077

Precision Plumbing & Heating
2829 Cass Rd., T.C.
231-947-0100 or
231-275-5273

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www.recycyclesmart.info
Recycle Hotline 941-5555

**Reynolds-Jonkhoff
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305 6th St., TC
947-6347

State Farm Insurance
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800-786-6333

**The Mom's Club of Grand
Traverse Area**
www.TheMomsClub.net

Traverse City Beach Bums
Wuerfel Park
333 Stadium Drive
Ticket office: 231-943-0100

**Traverse City Record Eagle
Newspaper**
946-2000



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