

Kalamazoo Area Newcomers Club

February 2024

Celebrating 84 Years of Service

Kalamazoo, Michigan

February Luncheon

Main Street Pub~ Gull Road~ Thursday, February 15~12 noon

FUN IS GOOD! And the place to find it is at the KALAMAZOO Valley Museum!

Bill McElhone, Museum Director and Chief FUNMAKER is our February speaker. Come find out how to have FUN at the museum. It's FREE!

The museum is located in downtown Kalamazoo and there are FUN exhibits and programs being planned all the time.

Fun is good and so is the food at **Main Street PUB**. Join us at **Noon on February 15th for lunch at Main Street Pub at 5462 Gull Rd, Kalamazoo, 49048**. This restaurant doesn't close on snow days, so we will hold the luncheon regardless of the weather. Their parking lot is large and plowed. Doors open at 11:45 with the luncheon beginning at noon. See you there!

Lunch options are:

1. **Pot Roast dinner**- A generous portion of tender, slow cooked pot roast, vegetable, and mashed potatoes. \$23
2. **Pub's Turkey Club** - Smoked turkey & crisp bacon piled high with lettuce, tomatoes & mayo on sourdough bread. Served with a side of fries. \$18
3. **Pecan Chicken Salad** - A tasty mix of fresh romaine, grilled chicken, blue cheese crumbles, pecans & sun dried cranberries with a raspberry vinaigrette dressing \$20

Lunches include your choice of coffee, tea, soda or water. The Pub has a full bar which you may order from and purchase individually on a separate check.

Please mark your calendars, choose your lunch and mail your registration form with your check made out to KANC- send to **Angela Sawyer, 6499 Trayburne Trail, Kalamazoo, Mi. 49009** by **Wednesday, February 7, 2024**.

Mail in Luncheon Registration

Thursday, February 15 at 12noon at Main Street Pub- Gull Road
Make out your check to **KANC** and mail to **Angela Sawyer by February 7**
6499 Trayburne Trail, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Member _____ **Choice** _____ **Guest** _____ **Choice** _____

February Message from the KANC President— Patricia Niewoonder

Hello Kalamazoo Area Newcomer members. We definitely are in the heart of winter. I am relearning how to drive on slippery roads, walking like penguin to keep from slipping on the ice, and curling up on the couch with a good book.

I've got 2 books I am currently reading for our monthly book clubs - "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store" by James McBride and "The Violin Conspiracy" by Brendan Slocumb. Both good books so come join the discussions.

We are more than halfway through our fiscal year and I thought I would give you a quick update on the fundraising for our designated charity for this year. As you know, we have chosen First Day Shoe Fund, and you got to hear how the students in our county truly benefit from a small act of generosity with new shoes.

What a worthwhile charity. So far, we have raised \$374 from our 50/50 raffle at our luncheons. Our goal is to raise a minimum of \$500 but we will provide more depending upon how much we raise. If you haven't been able to attend our luncheons and participate in the raffle, you still may contribute by sending a check to KANC and ask that it be dedicated to our charity. Every little bit helps.

Finally, I want to let you know that I have appointed a nominating committee comprised of Sandie Curtis (269-986-5307), Sharon Fielder (517-962-8113) Nancy Greer (269-599-8495), and Linda Vanderberg (269-254-2936). They may be calling on you to see about your interest in serving on the Board for next year. We are looking for enthusiastic individuals to help out as secretary, programs/luncheons, and vice president. If you are interested, give any of these members a call and volunteer.

Patricia Niewoonder
KANC President

February Birthdays

2/2 Dottie Dail
2/4 Charlotte Hosking
2/7 Rita Achenbach
2/10 Carol Vuilleminot
2/15 Micki Verne
2/15 Kim Gabriele
2/17 Barb Hibiske
2/18 Patty Litwiller
2/24 Marge Bokar
2/24 Linda Kubinski
2/27 Louann Orton
2/28 Kathy Walz

KANC Board 2023-2024

President~ Patricia Niewoonder
Vice President~ Sandie Curtis, Sharon Fiedler
Secretary~ Judi Blanchard
Treasurer~ Donna Ring
Luncheons~ Nancy Schwander and Irene Smith
Programs~ Kathy Eklov and Marcia Hokin
Reservations~ Angela Sawyer
Membership~ Pat Rose
Hospitality ~ Linda Vanderberg
Newsletter/Web/Recruitment~ Nancy Greer
Publicity~ Paula Lucking
Special Interests~ Patty Litwiller

Important Notice - Change in Meeting Cancellation Policy

At the January meeting of the KANC Board, the Board had a discussion about the policy of KANC to cancel its luncheons or other events if the public schools in the area are closed. The Board made the decision to officially "suspend" that policy until the necessary changes to the Bylaws can be made.

Several factors led to this decision. One is that most of the venues where luncheons are held now charge a reservation fee - sometimes as high as \$250 - which is non-refundable if we cancel. The other part of the Board's discussion is that when that policy was implemented (possibly 50 plus years ago!), most of KANC's members were young mothers who may have had school-age children and would have had a challenge to find day-care for their children when the schools were closed. That is not the case today.

Therefore, KANC will no longer cancel a luncheon or other event just because area schools are closed. However, individual Special Interest Groups, can still decide to cancel an event (or make it a virtual meeting via Zoom as did the Book Club in January) due to weather or other reasons unrelated to school closings.

I am sure all of our members will understand this decision and agree that it is a necessary change to our policies and wonder why we didn't make the change years ago.

Special Interest Groups

Arts Entertainment and More

Paula Lucking 630~632~7771 Patty Litwiller 586-243-8886 Linda Vanderberg 269-254-2936 26269-254-2936

Save this date: February 20, 5:00-7:00 for Taps on Tuesday. What is it you might ask...

KVCC Sustainable Brewing and Culinary Arts students offer beer and food pairings at the 418 restaurant located in the Kalamazoo Valley Culinary building at 418 E. Walnut St. Great fun!

[Taps on Tuesday](#) **CLICK ON LINK TO LEARN MORE**

Rsvp Paula Lucking (630-632-7771), or Patty Litwiller (586-243-8886) or Linda Vanderberg (269-254-2936) by February 18

Afternoon Bridge

Susan Lushin 630-303-0146

Monday, February 12 - Eileen Jones will be our hostess

Monday, February 26 - Judy Hobson will be our hostess

Location will be determined by the hostess. If you have signed up to play, the hostess will be contacting you to determine how many tables and where we will be playing. We often meet at a restaurant and have lunch before we play. We start playing bridge at 12:30 p.m. New players and subs are always needed for bridge.

Don't hesitate to call if you have an interest in playing with this fun group in a relaxed atmosphere.

Garden Group and Beyond

Nancy Stern 269~598~3638 Donna Ring 269-270-1337

Garden Group is going beyond for February. On **FEBRUARY 28 at 10:30 a.m.** at **Huntington Run Clubhouse.**

We will be crafting our **pressed flowers glass containers** to create some beautiful sentiments of our gardens you can enjoy inside now. Nancy Greer will lead to group— we will provide the Mode Podge glue and brushes, etc. You need to bring a glass container (or has many as you would like) that is not embellished— smooth surface and any of the pressed flowers you saved from your garden. Lots of fun. No experience needed. **CLICK THIS LINK TO SEE PROJECT**

<https://onelittleproject.com/pressed-flower-lanterns/>

RSVP to Donna Ring 269-370-1337 or Nancy Stern, 269-598-3638 nnc.stern@gmail.com or dring7@gmail.com

Euchre

Linda Vanderberg 269~254~2936

Everyone is welcome to join the fun in this lively afternoon of fun and laughter. Never played. Come learn. This is a great way to meet new friends.

Tuesday, February 6 and 20 ~ Time: 1-3 p.m.

Where: Huntington Run Clubhouse 6225 Cranbrook Lane, Kalamazoo

Any questions, call or text Linda so she can save you a seat.

Diners Club

Patty Litwiller - 586-243-8886

Barb Starring - 269-569-0292

Come join us as we enjoy Northern Indian fare at Saffron Indian Cuisine **Thursday, February 22, 6:00 pm.** Saffron is located at 1710 W Main St, Kalamazoo.

Please rsvp by February 20 so we can make sure we have a seat for all.

We welcome everyone!

Consumer File Box

Lois Loeffler 269~372~0038

loisloeffler@gmail.com

Looking for referrals for attorneys that handle others things besides trusts and wills. Contact Lois if you have a recommendation.

Out to Lunch Bunch

Dannie Hickson 269~720~0504

Nita Comensoli 269~598~2497

Come celebrate Happy Hearts Day with the Out to Lunch Bunch. Always a fun time wherever they go. ❤️

We will be meeting at Traveler's Cafe on February 14th at 12 noon. The address is 5225 Portage Rd, Portage, MI.

Please rsvp via text or phone to Nita or Dannie at the above numbers.

Breakfast Club

Nancy Greer 269-599-8495

Join us on Saturday, February 17 at 9:30 a.m. for breakfast.

We will be meeting at Wyman's Cafe- 8675 Portage Road (old Bucky's location)

RSVP to Nancy Greer if you can attend. It is a great way to meet people in a small group and socialize.

Everyone is welcome to join the fun!

Special Interest Groups

Happy Hour

Patty Litwiller 586~243-8886
Linda Vanderberg 269~254~2936

A special Happy Hour is planned for our first in the new year. A **happy hour vintage potluck mashup extravaganza!!** So dig through your old recipes (or your Moms) and bring an oldie but goodie along with your beverage of choice to **Patty Litwiller's (2566 Ramblewood Dr, Kalamazoo) February 7, at 4:30.** You don't want to miss the

Friends, Food and Fun

Carol Beckius 269-372-6950
Marilyn Jauch 269~372~7751

On Saturday, February 10th, plan to join us for a 5:30 dinner at the University Roadhouse.

Please let either Carol or Marilyn know by February 7th if you plan to attend or not.

Hiking/Biking/ XC Skiing

Patty Litwiller 586~243~8886
Nancy Stern 269~598~3638

Looking for outdoor activity— this group is just perfect for you !

We will meet at Al Sabo Preserve parking lot on Texas Drive, on **Tuesday, February 13, 10:00AM.**

If there is snow, we will XC ski.
If not, we will walk. Stay tuned for more info closer to the date. All are welcome!
RSVP Patty Litwiller or Nancy Stern

Coping with Everyday Life

Sylvia Blum 269~323~1727

Led by Sylvia Blum, this open forum discussion can benefit all of us as we go about our day-to-day lives.

Join the discussion on **Monday, February 5, 2024.** We will be meeting for lunch at Buddies Pizza on Westnedge at 1:00 p.m.

All are welcome to join us, as we discuss coping with the everyday stresses in our lives.

Please call Sylvia if you plan to attend.

Sit and Stitch

Charlotte Hosking 269~372~2430

Join us on **Friday, February 16 at 1pm in the backroom of Chicks with Sticks.** (Chicks with Sticks is in the same shopping center as Fields Fabrics in front of the airport on Portage Road.) Whether you knit, crochet, cross stitch or just want to chat, come join. No need to RSVP

Bunco

Angela Sawyer 434~996~1776

Thursday, February 1 AT 1:00 PM. AT BUDDYS PIZZA at 5314 S WESTNEDGE. PORTAGE. 49002

RSVP TO Angela Sawyer 434-996-1776

Bring \$2 😊. We play for money but keep that a secret.....

Never played? No problem. Anyone can

Book Nook

Charlotte Hosking - 269-372-2430

Come join us on the third Monday of every month at 10am. We are always happy to welcome new friends, whether you've read the book or liked it! We have a new location!

From now on we'll meet in the **Parkview Hills Clubhouse in the dining room**. Thanks to Donna Lindsay for arranging this for us.

On February 19th at 10am we'll meet at Parkview Hills Clubhouse to discuss:

The Violin Conspiracy by Brendan Slocumb

Leader: Donna Lindsay

Ray McMillian loves playing the violin more than anything, and nothing will stop him from pursuing his dream of becoming a professional musician. Not his mother, who thinks he should get a real job, not the fact that he can't afford a high-caliber violin, not the racism inherent in the classical music world. And when he makes the startling discovery that his great-grandfather's fiddle is actually a priceless Stradivarius, his star begins to rise. Then with the international Tchaikovsky Competition—the Olympics of classical music—fast approaching, his prized family heirloom is stolen. Ray is determined to get it back. But now his family and the descendants of the man who once enslaved Ray's great-grandfather are each claiming that the violin belongs to them. With the odds stacked against him and the pressure mounting, will Ray ever see his beloved violin again?

Future Books:

March 18 th - Our Missing Hearts by Celeste Ng

Leader: Linda Kubinski

April 15 th - Dinners with Ruth by Nina Totenberg

Leader: Rosemarie Nadeau-Cayo

Evening Book Nook

Suzette Ross 269-501-0847 or email suzross2@gmail.com

Attention all Evening Book Enthusiasts

On Monday February 5, 5:30 Barb Starring will be leading the discussion for *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* at The Grand Traverse Pie Company, 5303 S Westnedge Ave.

The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store is a novel by writer James McBride. It was released in 2023 and follows the fortunes of a group of Jewish immigrants and African Americans who live together in the Chicken Hill neighborhood of Pottstown PA in the 1920s and '30s. The novel interrogates prejudice and celebrates the belief that "every act of living was a chance for 'tikkun olam' to improve the world"

Please rsvp Barb at 269-569-0292 and join the discussion.

Other books selected through May are:

March - *The Mummer of Bees* by Sofia Segovia

April - *Mystic River* by Dennis Lehman

May - *The Waters* by Bonnie Jo Campbell

We invite anyone interested in sharing the love of books to join us in this newly formed book group!

This group will be rotating locations of where they meet monthly at the discretion of the hostess. Meet time will be 5:30 p.m.

Suzette Ross will be happy to share further specifics of the group to anyone interested. Call or text her with questions.

Here's a February Event you
don't want to miss!!

The Vintage Mashup Potluck— February 7~4:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the Happy Hour

Crew and hosted at Patty Litwiler's home



What: Dig thru Mom and Gramma's old recipes or even your own and pick your favorite delicious dish! Make it! Bring it! And don't forget to bring your favorite beverage. After all, this is sponsored by our great Happy Hour crew!

When: Wednesday, February 7 ~ 4:30 p.m.

Patty Litwiler's house ~2566 Ramblewood Drive Kalamazoo

RSVP to Patty by February 5--586~243~8886

Just think: Where's that favorite Spam recipe? (Ha Ha) did someone say Jello? What about that tuna noodle fav ? Mom's German chocolate cake ? endless possibilities.



Friend Bologna Anyone?

Upcoming Luncheon Venues 2023/2024-12 Noon

March 21, 2024 ~Comensoli's Italian Grille

Community HomeWorks Kalamazoo City Commissioner, Chris Praedel

April 18, 2024 ~North 11

Confections with Convictions

Chocolates for every Occasion with Dale Anderson, Founder

May 16, 2024~Martell's

Charity Contribution to First Day Shoe Fund, Maggie Hesketh

Introduction of Board 2024-2025

Special message of thanks from the Janet Wappenstein's family:

"Thank you for the many thoughts and prayers and kind words and condolences shared in cards and in person for our Mom, Janet Wappenstein.

For those of you who were able to visit it was a comfort to hear your many kind words and shared stories about our Mom ". From the Praeger and Wappenstein families

We will all deeply miss Janet's caring kind and caring soul, her friendship to so many KANC members, and all of her support and love to KANC.

A Special Welcome to our Newest Members — Cheryl Omans and Dolores Moore

February 2024 Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Bunco Buddy's Pizza 1:00 p.m.	2	3
47	5 Coping Buddy's Pizza 1:00 p.m. Evening Book Club 5:30 p.m. Grand Traverse Pie Company	6 Euchre Huntington Run Clubhouse 1-3 p.m.	7 Vintage Potluck Happy Hour 4:30 a.m. Patty Litwiller's home	8 Board Meeting 9:30 a.m.	9	10 Friends, Food and Fun University Roadhouse 5:30 p.m.
11	12 Afternoon Bridge 12:30 Eileen Jones	13 Hike/Bike/XC Ski Al Sabo Preserve 10:00 a.m.	14 Out to Lunch Bunch Travellers Cafe 12 noon 	15 February Luncheon Main Street Pub ~ Gull Road 12 noon	16 Sit and Stitch 1:00 p.m. Chicks w Sticks	17 Breakfast Club Wymans Cafe 9:30 a.m.
18	19 Book Nook Parkview Hills 10:00 a.m.	20 Euchre Huntington Run Clubhouse 1-3 p.m. Taps on Tuesday KVCC 5 p.m.	21	22 Diners Club Saffron 6:00 p.m.	23	24
25	26 Afternoon Bridge 12:30 Judy Hobson	27	28 Garden Group Pressed Flowers Huntington Run 10:30 a.m.	29		