



Kalamazoo Area Newcomers Club



March 2024

Celebrating 84 Years of Service

Kalamazoo, Michigan

March Luncheon

Comensoli's Italian Bistro and Bar ~ Thursday, March 21 ~ 12 noon

Imagine being a low income homeowner in need of critical repairs of your home that are unaffordable. Following lunch, please welcome **Chris Praedel**. He is the executive director of **Community Homework's**, which is a local nonprofit organization in Kalamazoo. He will explain how this nonprofit can provide home repairs that protects homeowners health and safety and educate the community along with providing maintenance and repair workshops to qualified homeowners.

Please join us at noon on March 21st at Comensoli's Italian Bistro & Bar, 762 W. Main St., Kalamazoo, Mi. 49006

Doors open at 11:45am with luncheon beginning at noon. Hope to see all of you there!

Menu choices for lunch are \$25 each per person:

1. **Full Caesar Salad with Chicken** ~Romaine, Red Onion, Parmesan, Sliced Roma Tomato, Crouton, Chicken. Gluten free upon request and /or vegetarian option is without chicken

2. **Spaghetti Marinara with Meatballs**

3. **Chicken Parmesan**~ Lightly breaded Chicken Breast, House Marinara, Spaghetti, Cheese, House Vegetables ~Gluten free upon request

4. **Fettuccine Alfredo with Chicken**~ Gluten free upon request and/ or vegetarian option is without chicken

Each lunch includes bread at your table and your choice of water, coffee, tea or soda. Free refills are available. Comensoli's has a full bar from which you may order from and purchase individually

Mail in Luncheon Registration

Thursday, March 21 at 12noon at Comensoli's Italian Bistro and Bar

Make out your \$25 check to KANC and mail to Angela Sawyer by March 13

6499 Trayburne Trail, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Member _____ Choice _____ Guest _____ Choice _____

March Message from the KANC President— Patricia Niewoonder

The month of March, to me, is the time of rebirth and for rejoicing. As a native Michigander, I know Spring will soon be here. Spring flowers start to bloom and leaves are sprouting on the trees. I think this is my favorite time of the year.

Because we have so much to include in this month's newsletter, I will keep my comments brief. First, I want to let you know that the Nominating Committee is busy working to finalize nominations for Board members for FY 2024-25. The list of potential officers will be announced at our March 21st luncheon and then voted upon by all in April. I want to thank everyone, especially the nominating committee members, for working so hard to bring the slate of officers for KANC forward.

I also have some good news to share. We have reached our goal of \$500 for our donation to our designated charity - The First Day Shoe Fund. That amount plus any additional monies raised will be presented to the director of the charity at our May meeting. So keep your donations and contributions to our 50/50 raffle coming.

See you March 21st at Comensoli's for a wonderful luncheon and speaker

Patricia Niewoonder
KANC President

March Birthdays

KANC Board 2023-2024

3/2 Sherri Seifert
3/6 Tracy Buschert
3/7 Jeanne Taylor
3/9 Nita Comensoli
3/11 Marcia Kolinske
3/12 Barb Starring
3/13 Karen Stoops
3/16 Rita Bendfelt
3/17 Jill Engels
3/17 Judy Hobson
3/19 Eileen Jones
3/26 Kathie Ragains
3/28 Cheryl Omans
3/31 Rosemarie Nedeau-Cayo

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

 Hey Birthday Girls it's time to celebrate You! 

All January, February and March Birthday's plan to meet at Buddy's Pizza, 5315 S Westnedge Ave. for the BIG BIRTHDAY BASH!

Tuesday, March 26 at 12:00!! Don't miss out on the fun !

HOSPITALITY COFFEE AND OPEN HOUSE

For everyone who is new to KANC (or those who just want to meet our newest members) — Save the date— We will be hosting a welcome coffee and informational meeting on **Tuesday, April 23 at 10:00 a.m. at Linda Vanderberg's house- 1842 Cumber Street Kalamazoo.** Linda Vanderberg, our hospitality chair will be contacting all of our newbies soon with more information

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

The Arts and Entertainment group will meet at the Kalamazoo Museum , 230 N Rose St, on Tuesday, March 12 at 1:45.

We will attend the Adult Discovery Series. The theme this month is "Getting Ready for the Eclipse".

Please join us for learning, lively discussions, light refreshments, and enjoying each other's company.

There is a charge of \$3 and advanced registration is required. To register call 269-373-7990 ~For more information go to kalamazoomuseum.org

Rsvp to Paula, Patty or Linda if you want to join us at this fun event.

Afternoon Bridge

Susan Lushin 630-303-0146

Monday, March 11 - Jeanne Shewchuk will be our hostess

Monday, March 25 - To Be Determined

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

To all gardeners, Jeff at Romence Gardens, will give us tips on landscaping. Get a heads up on planning your yard for spring. Join the Garden Group at Romence Gardens on **Wednesday, March 27 at 10:30, 9660 Shaver Road, Portage**. Lunch afterward TBA.



<https://romencegardensonline.com/landscaping/>

RSVP to Donna Ring 269-370-1337 or dring7@gmail.com

Nancy Stern 269-598-3638 or nnc.stern@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, ~March 5 and 19 ~

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

Diners club will not be meeting in March but will meet again in April at one of their favorite locations!

Out to Lunch Bunch

Dannie Hickson 269~720~0504

Nita Comensoli 269~598~2497

Join the Lunch Bunch on March 13th at 12 noon at the Crew Family Restaurant at 5200 Portage Road.

thecrewrestaurantandbakery.com

Everyone is welcome. Come meet new friends.

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

Breakfast Club

Pat Rose 269-303-1647

Join us for a yummy breakfast on Saturday, March 23 at 9:30 at Tiffany's on West Main. (down from Old Navy)

RSVP to Pat Rose 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!

Consumer File Box

Lois Loeffler 269~372~0038

loisloeffler@gmail.com

The Consumer File Box is literally a pretty cherry wooden box. It contains 3 x 5 index cards which are each headed by a category of service determined by recommendations received. The name of the business and/or person who provides that service follow. The phone number and/or email address is included as is a website and/or physical address if they are known. The name of the KANC member who provided the recommendation and the date it was received is also on the card as are any comments provided by the recommending member. Whereas some business categories have received several recommendations (Example:electricians), others have only one business provider listed in the box (Example: air duct cleaning). New listings are always welcomed as are comments on the quality of service received from a suggested business provider

Special Interest Groups

Happy Hour

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

Join the Happy Hour fun Wednesday,
March 6, 4:00 pm at Buddy's Pizza
located at 5314 S Westnedge Ave.



Please rsvp to Linda or Patty by March 3

Friends, Food and Fun

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

Our Saturday, March 9 dinner will be held at the
new Traveler's BBQ and Whiskey Bar at 5:30
p.m. Please let Carol or Marilyn know by Wed.,
March 6th if you are coming or not. This is the
first time our group has met here so we hope you
will enjoy it.

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 !

**Join us for a hike Tuesday, March
12, 10:00 am at Chipman Preserve,
located at 8395 E Main St,
Galesburg.** Nice trails through forest
and prairie.

Please rsvp to Nancy or Patty. Let us
know if you need a ride or are willing to
offer a ride.

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, March 4,
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, March 15th 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, sew or just want to chat— Join
us. No need to RSVP

Bunco

Angela Sawyer 434~996~1776

**Thursday, March 7 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 learn.

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. No need to RSVP— Just show up!

**On March 18th at 10am we'll meet at Parkview Hills Clubhouse to discuss:
Our Missing Hearts by Celeste Ng**

Leader: Linda Kubinski

Twelve-year-old Bird Gardner lives a quiet existence with his loving but broken father, a former linguist who now shelves books in a university library. Bird knows to not ask too many questions, stand out too much, or stray too far. For a decade, their lives have been governed by laws written to preserve "American culture" in the wake of years of economic instability and violence. To keep the peace and restore prosperity, the authorities are now allowed to relocate children of dissidents, especially those of Asian origin, and libraries have been forced to remove books seen as unpatriotic—including the work of Bird's mother, Margaret, a Chinese American poet who left the family when he was nine years old.

Future Books:

April 15th - Dinners with Ruth by Nina Totenberg

Leader: Rosemarie Nadeau-Cayo

May 20th - Trust by Hernan Diaz

Leader: Holly Vestal

Evening Book Nook

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

Attention all Evening Book Enthusiasts

The Evening Book Group will meet March 4th 5:30 PM.

We will meet at Parkview Hills Library. Donna Ring will lead the discussion of *Mystic River*, a thriller/mystery novel written by Dennis Lehane 2001.

The story follows the lives of three childhood friends who suffer a traumatic event. They are forced to reconnect twenty five years later after the death of one of their teenage daughters.

Please RSVP to Donna Ring at 269-370-1337, or Dring7@gmail.com if you plan on joining the discussion group in March.

Other books selected through May are:

April - *The Murmur of Bees* by Sofia Segovia

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!

Suzette Ross will be happy to share further specifics of the group to anyone

Special Note— Jane Hamilton Memorial Service— Long time KANC member
The gathering for Jane will take place on Saturday, March 9 at 1 pm at
Kalamazoo's First Presbyterian Church. All are welcome.

The service will also be live streamed on YouTube on the FPC Kalamazoo
Events channel - <https://www.youtube.com/@fpckalamazooevents7687>.

**INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP~ VOLUNTEERING
Holly Vestal— Please RSVP via of text 269-312-6950**

Here's the scoop on our Volunteering SIG Group: KICKING OFF IN APRIL

- One time each month we will help out at a community organization, or for a community event.
- We'll be meeting on a variety of days, and at a variety of times, to give more of us a chance to participate. Come once, once-in-awhile, or come every time!
- There will always be both old and new friends! You'll get a first hand chance to learn more about the work of each organization and to feel good about contributing to their efforts.
- We're getting started in April and Holly has planned the first 3 months. We'll take a break during July and August and be back at it in September.
- Upcoming Volunteering dates are even planned for a few Saturdays!
- There are so many wonderful organizations in our area, so many unmet needs, and so many very grateful workers at every location. We are going to have so much fun working together toward meeting those needs!

Here's what's in store so far.

Loaves and Fishes - Wednesday April 17th 12:30 - 3:30pm

Kalamazoo's Food Bank, fighting hunger throughout the community.

First Day Shoe Fund - Wednesday May 8th 9:30-11:30

Helping kids to put their best foot forward by providing new athletic shoes to students in Kalamazoo County public elementary schools at no cost.

Care Collective of Southwest Michigan - Wednesday June 12th 9:30-noon

Located in St Luke's Church, CCSM provides access to diapers, baby wipes, and menstrual products for young people, at no cost.

Please RSVP to me, Holly Vestal @ 269-312-6950, text preferred, so I can communicate our numbers to each organization.



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

Stay in the "Know" of KANC events:

- You can follow Kalamazoo Area Newcomers Club on Facebook!— Event pictures often posted.
- You can find our newsletters and other information on our website at kazooneewcomers.com
- You can read this newsletter and also the weekly email updates to find out all that is happening this month!

A Special Welcome to our Newest Members — Mary Portera and Jeanne Taylor
So happy to have you in our Club!

March 2024 Calendar of Events

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 Coping Buddy's Pizza 1:00 p.m. Evening Book Club 5:30 p.m. Parkview Hills Clubhouse | 5 Euchre Huntington Run Clubhouse 1-3 p.m. | 6 Happy Hour Buddy's Pizza 4:00 p.m. | 7 Bunco Buddy's Pizza 1:00 p.m. | 8 | 9 Friends, Food and Fun Traveler's BBQ and Whiskey Bar 5:30 p.m. |
| 10 | 11 Afternoon Bridge 12:30 Jeanne Shewchuk | 12 Hike/Bike/XC Ski Chipman Preserve 10:00 a.m. | 13 Out to Lunch Bunch The Crew Restaurant 12 noon | 14 Board Meeting Huntington Run Clubhouse 9:30 a.m. | 15 Sit and Stitch Chicks with Sticks 1:00 p.m. | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 Euchre Huntington Run Clubhouse 1-3 p.m. | 20 | 21 March Luncheon 12:00 noon Comensoli's Italian Grille | 22 | 23 Breakfast Club 9:30 a.m Tiffany's on West Main |
| 24 | 25 Afternoon Bridge 12:30 p.m Host TBD | 26 Birthday Bash 12 noon Buddy's | 27 Garden Group 10:30 a.m. Romence Gardens | 28 | 29 | 30 |