

Kalamazoo Area Newcomers Club

April 2023

Celebrating 82 Years of Service

Kalamazoo, Michigan

APRIL GREETINGS FROM SUZETTE ROSS~ PRESIDENT

This month, I am dedicating this space to honor Volunteer Month. Some members have sent information about their volunteer experiences. These women are a very few among the KANC membership of volunteers.

If we had time to talk to each member individually, we would no doubt learn that each one has volunteered at least once and probably many more times. Thank you for your caring, giving, compassionate offering to others.

Enjoy the information some of our members have shared about volunteering over the years few members have agreed to share their volunteer services for this newsletter. Some of the ladies volunteer history has been abbreviated, but each dedicated hour of service is an act of love, a gift to others. Thank you to those who shared their volunteer history, and to every member who has proudly given of their time and talent to make a difference for others. You each make the world a better place in many ways.

Paula Lucking*** As a member of a Law Firm, she provided free services to minor children in matters regarding parental rights and guardianship. At least 1000 volunteer hours dedicated to this service.***KANC Board Member, current

Carol Black*** Volunteer at the Kalamazoo Literacy Council for past 12 years.*** Teaches English as a 2nd language for Kalamazoo Literacy Council, currently and for the past three years.

Sharon Harris***Interfaith Hospitality Network-Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis (Committee for housing homeless families for 5 yrs). ** *Learning Disabilities Association of Indiana (State Board Member, various offices, 18 yrs)*** All Souls Unitarian Church, Indianapolis (various committees chairperson 18 yrs) ***Peoples Church, Kalamazoo(Committee Work) *** KANC, VP for 1/2 yr, participated on 80th Anniversary Committee.

Nancy Stern***Meals on Wheels***Committee Chairperson SIGs for KANC, current Board Member

Donna Ring. Family Support Advisory Council (FSAC) advises the ISK (Integrated Services of Kalamazoo) board on issues affecting families of youth with severe emotional disturbances, behavioral challenges, or substance use. I volunteered a member and the chair.

Helen Watson***KANC volunteer in several capacities: Luncheon, Programs, and Garden Club volunteer

Holly Vestal: *** (past volunteer history) YMCA Volunteer Program. Saturday bread baker at the old Simpson United Methodist church for the Peoples CoOp. *** Big Sister in the Big Brother+Little Sister Program. *** Volunteered at the YWCA Rape Crisis Center. *** Girl Scout Leader. *** In Duluth, MN, she was involved with Project SOAR, a work readiness program for women: a Reading Buddy program as part of the Men as Peacemakers Program. *** Weekly reader to students at daughters school library. *** Lake Superior Hiking Trail_ Lake Superior Water Trail. *** annual Kidney Walks in MN and MI. *** sewing mittens for Gospel Mission and women's shelter. *** Knitted hats for WMU Seita Scholars. *** Kalamazoo Torch Club. *** Kellogg Bird Sanctuary volunteer gardener. ** weekly winter bird counter volunteer at the Kz Nature Center

Carol Beckius: *** Served 4 different positions on KANC Board (volunteer history with KANC goes back to the mid-90's) *** Luncheons, 1997-98. *** Reservations, Community Service (collect and delivery items to YMCA for women in need). *** Ministry With Community food delivery donations. VP of KANC. *** active in various special interest groups KANC: Evening Bridge, Friends Food and Fun, Gardening Group, Hiking Biking and Skiing (co-chaired this group for over 10 years), and Marathon Bridge.

Pat Rose *** Volunteer history with Animal's Best Friend. *** First Day Shoe Fund. *** Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. *** Shepherd's Center (driving people who no longer drive to medical appointments). *** SPCA. *** KANC Board. *** Michigan Blood Donor. *** Cinderella project (prom dresses for deserving girls).

Suzette Ross: *** volunteer for Church activities as needed over the years. *** Michigan Blood Donor. *** Volunteered for many years at Christmastime with Food Drive, as a family project. *** Discovery Shop, Cancer Foundation. *** past 4 yrs Board Member of KANC. *** a sewing project Little Dresses for Africa, sewing dresses for little girls in Africa distributed through the orphanages, churches and schools in Africa.

Grace Weaver: *** after retirement, volunteered at Lee Memorial Hospital in Dowagiac two days a week: one day in the Gift Shop, one day in Human Resources. *** Blood donor. *** Active volunteer with KANC, current for past several years co-SIGs leader with Sharon Weaver for the Out to Lunch Bunch.

Lois Loeffler: *** MEA (union) treasurer, MEA (union) building rep., Burr Oak Garden Club treasurer, Burr Oak Friends of the Library chairperson, Sturgis Hospital Magazine Guild chairperson, Sturgis Hospital Gift Shop volunteer, Sturgis Hospital Guild Board member, Kalamazoo Master Gardener Plant Sale volunteer, Kalamazoo In Bloom volunteer, People's Church Library Committee chairperson, People's Church Membership Committee member, People's Church White Elephant Committee member, People's Church Afghan Donations Committee member, Newcomers Garden Group chairperson, Newcomers Board secretary, Interfaith Afghan Resettlement Team member, Newcomers Garden Group chairperson, Newcomers Board secretary

Joyce Beattie *** Disaster reconstruction for 7 yrs with World Renew (prior to Covid). 2-4 weeks per year, mostly in southern and eastern US after tornadoes, floods, hurricanes and other natural disasters. (they have resumed working again this year)

Thank you to the women listed above and to all those who give back in so many ways. You are appreciated.



April Luncheon- Thursday, April 20 ~ 12:00 noon



Comensoli's Italian Bistro and Bar

April's Luncheon will happen during our first full month of spring 2023! Please join us as the weather gets better and better. We will be gathering at **Comensoli's Italian Bistro**, [762 W. Main St., Kalamazoo, Mi. 49006](#) on **Thursday, April 20th at noon.**

Our speaker will be **Jeanne Hess, Kalamazoo City Commissioner**. Many of you may recall listening to her last year about the "State of the City". She was such a dynamic, informative spokesperson, that we decided to have her back. She will be speaking on the "State of the City, Part 2". You won't want to miss this.

Luncheon menu choices are as follows and the cost per person will be \$20.50:

1. Full Caesar Salad-Romaine, Red Onion, Parmesan, Sliced Roma and Croutons
2. Vegetable Risotto
3. Chicken Parmesan-Breaded Chicken, House Marinara, Cheese, Spaghetti and Marinara
4. Meat Lasagna

Gluten free options are available for menu items.

All entrees include your choice of coffee, tea or soft drinks. All have free refills. All other drinks, including wine, will be paid by each guest on a separate check.

Please select one menu choice on your registration form, make your check (\$20.50) payable to KANC and mail both to Angela Sawyer by Tuesday, April 11th.

Mail in Luncheon Registration

Thursday, April 20 at 12noon at Comensolis Italian Bistro

Make your check —\$20.50 to KANC and mail to Angela Sawyer by April 11.

6499 Trayburne Trail, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Member _____ Entree Choice 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____

Guest _____ Entree Choice 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____

April Birthdays 🌂

4/1 Diane Moon
 4/2 Susan Madden
 4/4 Judi Blanchard
 4/7 Marilyn Jauch
 4/10 Sharon Jackson
 4/11 Katie Kincaid
 4/12 Nancy Greer
 4/14 Diane Wenger
 4/20 Toni Kowalski
 4/22 Pat Rose
 4/23 Gail Engle
 4/25 Barbara Jongeward
 4/25 Patricia Niewoonder
 4/26 Karin Moses

KANC BOARD 2022-2023

President~ Suzette Ross
 Vice President~ Patricia Niewoonder
 Secretary~ Judi Blanchard
 Treasurer~ Donna Ring
 Luncheons~ Nancy Schwander Irene Smith
 Programs~ Kathy Eklov and Marcia Hokin
 Reservations~ Angela Sawyer
 Membership~ Pat Rose
 Newsletter/Recruitment~ Nancy Greer
 Publicity~ Paula Lucking
 Hospitality~ Janet Wappenstein
 Special Interest~ Nancy Stern

A big Kalamazoo Newcomer Club welcome to our newest member! 🌻

We look forward to your participation in our many great activities!

Sherri Seifert

📢 **The proposed slate of Board Members for 2023-2024** 📢
 (Will be voted on by members at our April luncheon)

OFFICERS:

President~ Patricia Niewoonder
 Co-Vice Presidents~ Sandi Curtis, Sharon Fiedler
 Secretary~ Judi Blanchard
 Treasurer- Donna Ring

BOARD MEMBERS :

Luncheons-Nancy Schwander and Irene Smith
 Programs~ Kathy Eklov and Marcia Hokin
 Reservations- Angela Sawyer
 Membership~ Pat Rose
 Hospitality~ Janet Wappenstein
 Newsletter~ Nancy Greer
 Publicity ~ Paula Lucking
 Special Interest~ Patti Litwiller

Special Interest Groups



First EVENT for Arts and Entertainment Special Interest Group!

Exciting news for Newcomer members! The Arts and Entertainment group is a launching it's first event with our leaders Paula Lucking and Louise Javery ! Thank you ladies.

Here's the scoop:

Wednesday, April 12 the group will be touring the first floor exhibits of Kalamazoo Institute of Arts with Newcomers member Lila Hauge-Stoffel as our docent.

We will meet at the KIA, 314 S. Park St. Kalamazoo at 1:15pm. The tour is limited to 15 members (including co-hosts) determined by first to respond. Entry to KIA is \$9 per person.

We will have an optional lunch at 11:15 am at Old Burdick's Bar and Grill located on the first floor of the Radisson, 100 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo.

Please RSVP Louise Javery at ljavery23@gmail.com. Respondents will be notified if they are included or wait-listed.

Afternoon Bridge ♠️

Susan Lushin 630-303-0146

Afternoon Bridge is a great time!
 April 10 - Nancy Jones will be our hostess
 April 24 - Carol Vuilleminot 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 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 so don't hesitate to call Susan

Bunco 🎲

Janet Wappenstein 269-998-9557

Thursday, April 6 from 1-3 p.m. AT
 BUDDYS PIZZA at 5314 S WESTNEDGE.
 PORTAGE. 49002

Never played?— its been awhile?— we welcome you. **RSVP TO JANET WAPPENSTEIN**

Bring \$2 😊. We play for money but keep that a secret.....
 Please come early if you want to enjoy lunch prior to playing !

Special Interest Groups

Euchre

Linda Vanderberg 269~254~2936

Come join the gang and play Euchre.
Don't know how to play?
Everyone welcome !

April Dates:

Tuesday, April 4 and April 18

Time: 1-3 p.m.

Where: Huntington Run Clubhouse

Any questions, call or text Linda Vanderberg

Garden Group and Beyond

Linda Vanderberg 269~254~2936

Patty Litwiller - 586-243-8886

Doug McLaughlin, Executive Director of the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council will join us **April 26 at 10:00 am** to give us an overview of the important work they do restoring and protecting the water in our wetlands, streams and rivers within the watershed. **Shirley Wise** has graciously opened her home for our meeting at **8190 Contingo Terrace, Kalamazoo**. Should be a very informative program. Hope to see you there Please RSVP Patty or Linda.

Out to Lunch Bunch

Sharon Weaver -269- 327-4606

Grace Weaver 269-324-5776

We will meet for lunch at The Blue Dolphin, 502 S Burdick St

Kalamazoo on April 12th at 12 noon.

Please have your reservations in by Monday, the 10th.

Call or email Sharon Weaver 327-4606

swcats@sbcglobal.com or Grace Weaver 324-5776 graceawleo@gmail.com

Members and guests are always welcome.

This month we welcome Easter 

Diners Club

Patty Litwiller - 586-243-8886

Barb Starring - 269-569-0292

Join us for dinner at **Roca, Friday, April 14 at 5:30**. Their menu is based on locally sourced ingredients, and classic scratch cooking with flavors inspired by Latin American culture and cuisine. Roca is located at 247 South Kalamazoo Mall.

Please rsvp to Barb Starring 269-569-0292 or Patty Litwiller 586-243-8886.

Breakfast Club

Join us at **Full City Cafe on Oakland and Centre on April 22**. We will meet at 9:30. Come and enjoy the fun and good food.

RSVP to Janet Wappenstein if you can attend.
Everyone is welcome to join the fun!

Special Interest Groups

Happy Hour

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

Happy Hour is taking a break for the winter and will reconvene when they are able to enjoy socializing outside.

Hiking/Biking/ XC Skiing

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

Join us on the Vicksburg Trail April 11 at 10:00am.

Trailhead parking is located off North Street on the SW corner of N Richardson and North Street in Vicksburg.

The Vicksburg Historic Village is across the street on North Richardson. The trail is paved and about 4 miles total out and back.

Afterward we will walk (or drive) on into Vicksburg for lunch. Location tbd. Hope you can join us for walking and talking and enjoying the Spring air! RSVP Patty Litwiller or Nancy Stern.

Friends, Food and Fun

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

Please join us at **D'Nicio's Parlour on Saturday, April 15 at 5:30.** They have a menu from sandwiches, salads, wraps, hotdogs, and more. But save room for the ice cream dessert.!

D'Nicio is located at 6880 W.Main St. Kalamazoo.(in front of Menards.) we are meeting a week later because of Easter the week before.

Please call Marilyn Jauch at 372-7751 or email her at ml.jauch47@gmail.com or call Carol Beckius 372-6950 by April 10 to RSVP.
Hope to see you there!

Consumer File Box

Lois Loeffler 269~372~0038

For those of you who have requested computer help recommendations from the Consumers File Box, I would like to share the following information:

The Kalamazoo Public Library offers technology help by having a tech person available at specified times and locations. Example: a Tech Person is available at the Oshtemo branch on Saturdays from 10am to 2pm to help with computer and cell phone questions. Call the specific library location you use to learn of a tech person's availability.

The Portage District Library offers technology help also. Call the Adult Information Desk at PDL for an appointment although walk in times are also possible. Go to www.portagelibrary.info and click on the "Get Help" tab. Select "Computer and Tech" and "One-on-One Tutorials" for a description of the type of help you can receive and also what would not be available in a session. You

Sit and Stitch

Charlotte Hosking 269~372~2430

Come join us on Friday, April 21 st at 1pm in the backroom at Chicks with Sticks on Portage Road. Chicks with Sticks is in the same plaza as Field's Fabrics.

We're a very relaxed group who like to sit and chat, give each other a helping hand, and primarily have a good laugh. So, whether you knit, crochet, cross-stitch, sew, or none of the above, come join us for an afternoon of good companionship and laughs. If you'd like to learn to knit come along and we can help you get started.

Charlotte Hosking - 269-372-2430

Come join us on the third Monday of every month at 10am at Grand Traverse Pie Company. We are always happy to welcome new friends, whether or not you've read the book or liked it!

**On Monday, April 17th at 10am we'll meet at Grand Traverse Pie Co to discuss:
Scarlet in Blue by Jennifer Murphy**

Leader: Shirley Wise

A beautiful and gripping psychological novel about a mother and daughter who, after a lifetime on the run from a dark and dangerous past, land in a small Michigan town that may hold the key to ending their fugitive lifestyle.

For Blue Lake's entire life, she and her mother, Scarlet, have been on the run from HIM--the man who Scarlet, a talented and enigmatic painter, insists is chasing them. But now, at fifteen years old, Blue has begun to resent the nomadic life that once seemed like an adventure, increasingly unsure what to make of the phantom pursuer she's never seen. She only yearns to settle down in one place, to live a normal life. When Scarlet and Blue arrive in the beachfront town of South Haven, Michigan, it seems that Blue's wishes might finally come true. She makes a good friend, is falling in love for the first time, and has found a piano teacher who recognizes her budding talent. But even as Blue thrives, she cannot shake her worry about her mother, whose eccentricities and art are only becoming increasingly difficult to understand. Scarlet, meanwhile, has very different intentions for their stay in South Haven. It was no accident that she brought them there and, with the help of the psychoanalyst she's sought out, Henry, she is determined to find a way to finally escape the shadow of her traumatic past, no matter the cost.

**On Monday, May 15th at 10am we'll meet at Grand Traverse Pie Co to discuss:
Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World by Tracy Kidder**

Leader: Charlotte Hosking

At the center of Mountains Beyond Mountains stands Paul Farmer. Doctor, Harvard professor, renowned infectious-disease specialist, anthropologist, the recipient of a MacArthur "genius" grant, world-class Robin Hood, Farmer was brought up in a bus and on a boat, and in medical school found his life's calling: to diagnose and cure infectious diseases and to bring the lifesaving tools of modern medicine to those who need them most.

On Monday, June 19th at 10am we'll meet at Grand Traverse Pie Co. to vote on next year's books. If you have suggestions for our voting list, please send them to Charlotte.

Special Interest Groups IMPORTANT UPDATES

SPECIAL NOTICE: FORMATION OF EVENING BOOK GROUP

The formation of a new Special Interest Group, an evening book group, did not peak any interest. This endeavor will be on hold until fall.

WE NEED YOUR HELP: PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING TO SUSTAIN OUR SIG GROUPS:

The Out to Breakfast Group is looking for a leader(s) for 2023-2024. They meet the third Saturday of every month at a local restaurant the leader arranges. Interested — Contact Nancy Stern for more details.

Garden and Beyond Group is searching for leaders. There is a fun year planned for 2023 already!

March 22 - Raising Butterflies - Helen W

April 26 - Kalamazoo River Watershed Council

May 6-14 - Tulip Festival (will select a date when we get closer to May)

Jun 28 - Composting and recycling

July 8 - Marshall Garden Tour

Aug 23 - Tour of Ruthmere or Havilah

Beardsley House in Elkhart - Angela

Sept 27 - Potluck

Remaining Monthly KANC Luncheons— Hope you can attend!

April 20

Comensoli's

Kalamazoo City Commission

Jeanne Hess~

"The state of the city- part 2"

May 18

Kalamazoo Country
Club -

by Cherri's, Chef de Chocolat

Note change in location

KEEP IT A SECRET.....YOUR Birthday Party is coming for APRIL, MAY, JUNE Birthday Gals! 🎂🎂🎂

We're not telling just yet, and it will be a big big surprise.....so look forward to the May Newsletter for details! Your birthday bash committee is hard at work!! 🎂🎂🎂

April 2023

KANC Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4 Euchre Huntington Run Clubhouse 1-3 p.m.	5	6 Bunco Buddy's Pizza 1-3p.m.	7	8
9	10 Afternoon Bridge 12:30 p.m. Host-Nancy Jones	11 Hiking/Biking Vicksburg Trail 10:00 a.m.	12 Out to Lunch Bunch Blue Dolphin 12 noon Arts and Entertainment KIA 1:15 p.m.	13 Board Meeting 10:00 a.m. Huntington Clubhouse	14 Diner's Club Roca 5:30 p.m.	15 Friends, Food and Fun D' Nicios Parlour 5:30 p.m.
16	17 Book Nook Grand Traverse Pie 10:00 a.m.	18 Euchre Huntington Run Clubhouse 1-3 p.m.	19	20 Luncheon Comensolis 12 noon	21 Sit and Stitch Chicks w Stick 1:00 p.m.	22 Breakfast Club Full City Cafe 9:30 a.m.
23	24 Afternoon Bridge 12:30 p.m. Host-Carol Vuillimenot	25	26 Garden Group Shirley Wise house 10 a.m.	27	28	29
30						