

Kalamazoo Area Newcomers Club

December 2023

Celebrating 83 Years of Service

Kalamazoo, Michigan



Merry and Bright December Luncheon



Kalamazoo Country Club~ Thursday, December 14 ~12 noon

Merry & Bright December Luncheon

Cheer and joy awaits you at our annual holiday luncheon at the Kalamazoo Country Club 1609 Whites Road on December 14. Doors open at 11:45 a.m. and lunch buffet starts at noon. Wear your holiday red and green and join us .

We will be entertained by the "OLD THYME HARMONY QUARTET " who have traveled 7 states and all parts of Michigan to spread song and joy to all who attend. They can be serious but prefer being " goofy" so be prepared to laugh and have fun!

The holiday luncheon includes:

A pasta bar (two sided buffet) including: Lasagna, homemade pasta, roasted garlic and basil tomato sauce, parmesan alfredo, homemade meatballs and garlic chicken, caesar salad and dinner rolls.

Included will be custom cookies and brownies served table side to finish off your delicious meal.

Self serve beverage station includes regular/decaf coffee, water, lemonade and ice tea.

Please note preference for gluten free

ALL OF THIS YUMMY MEAL FOR \$25

Anyone wishing beer, wine (\$9) or soft drink (\$4) can purchase at their table .

Send your reservation and \$25 check into Angela Sawyer ~ 6499 Trayburne Trail, Kalamazoo

Mail in Luncheon Registration

Thursday, December 14 at 12noon at Kalamazoo Country Club

Make out your \$25 check to **KANC** and mail to **Angela Sawyer by December 8**

6499 Trayburne Trail, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Member _____ Guest _____

December Message from the KANC President— Patricia Niewoonder

Can you believe how fast this year has gone by? We've had a wonderful year at KANC with great speakers and activities that have piqued the many interests of our members. A new Special Interest Group to discuss "coping" began this past year and an "evening book club" was inaugurated last month with a good number of members. If you have an interest or hobby that you would like to share with others, please let any one of our Board members know about it.

But now that the holiday season is upon us and our schedules get very busy, very fast, I want to remind you that our December luncheon is being held one week earlier than usual and I encourage you to get your reservations in today.

Don't delay. I think you will truly enjoy not only our meal at the Kalamazoo Country Club but our entertainment is known to be quite a wonderful harmonizing ensemble. **Come celebrate with your KANC friends on December 14!**

My closing thoughts for this month and my most heartfelt wish for you is that you find JOY! Joy in the little, everyday things - such as watching birds in your front yard, seeing the first flakes of snow, a child's laughter. Don't you just love to hear a small child squeal with excitement at the smallest things. I know I do.

Let's take a lesson from our children, or grandchildren, or the neighborhood kids

playing outside - find your joy each and every day.

Patricia Niewoonder

KANC President

BIG BIRTHDAY BASH 🎂🥳

Come join the fun at Buddy's Pizza on Wednesday, December 6 at 12 noon.

**ALL KANC friends with birthday's in October, November or December invited
RSVP to Linda Vanderberg by December 4 please 269~254~2936**

December Birthdays

KANC Board 2023-2024

12/1 Lisa Reed

12/4 Patricia Lisa

12/6 Sue Clark

12/6 Barb Hemphill

12/9 Barbara Rider

12/10 Kathy Smothers

12/17 Sylvia Blum

12/18 Nancy Struck

12/31 Lisa Morgan

President~ Patricia Niewoonder

Vice President~ Sandie Curtis, Sharon Feildler

Secretary~ Judi Blanchard

Treasurer~ Donna Ring

Luncheons~ Nancy Schwander and Irene Smith

Programs~ Kathy Eklov and Marcia Hokin

Reservations~ Angela Sawyer

Membership~ Pat Rose

Newsletter/Web/Recruitment~ Nancy Greer

Publicity~ Paula Lucking

Hospitality~ Janet Wappenstein

Special Interests~ Patty Litwiller

SPECIAL EVENT— Holly Jolly COOKIE EXCHANGE

Thursday, DECEMBER 7 4:30-6:30 p.m

Here's the scoop:

—**Bake 3 dozen** of your favorite holiday cookie. **Just 1 recipe please!**

That's right— dig out grandma's old recipe box and find that gem you haven't made for years, think back to your best memory of Christmas cookies as a child, something you family always loved? **BAKE IT!**

—You will "exchange" cookies with your KANC friends and everyone will take home a yummy assortment of different types of cookies. Can't eat them all — think shut ins, neighbors, church, friends. Cookies freeze well too!

—Plus— A sampling of your cookies we will all enjoy that evening along with other delectable snacks and holiday beverages. Come hungry!

—Bring your cookies in a festive container to display! We have special take home containers for you to pack your "exchanged" cookies in. You can share your recipe if you would like.

WHEN: Thursday, December 7-4:30-6:30 p.m. **WHERE:** 1757 Hillshire Drive Kalamazoo

RSVP by December 3: Nancy Greer busyretailgirl@gmail.com or text 269-599-8495
or Marilyn Jauch ml.jauch47@gmail.com or call 269-372-7751

Special Interest Groups

Arts Entertainment and More

Paula Lucking 630~632~7771 or Louise Javery 269-548-7717

Arts and Entertainment leaders have planned a holiday event for **Tuesday, December 5th, at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park.**

We will carpool to the Gardens, leaving Kalamazoo at 9:30 am, first touring the grounds by car and then walking through the inside, displays of 46 Christmas trees decorated for the season and representing many cultures and traditions.

The entry fee is \$20, but \$15 for those aged 65 and older.

We plan to have lunch in the garden café.

Participants should plan to wear comfortable shoes. We will then return to Kalamazoo after our self guided tour is completed. Members should RSVP to Paula Lucking (630-632-7771) no later than November 29 at 6 PM. Participants will be assigned to a carpool by Monday evening or a meeting place at Frederik Meijer Gardens if they choose to drive themselves.

Afternoon Bridge

Susan Lushin 630-303-0146

Monday, December 11 - Linda Kubsinski, Nancy Jones and Eileen Jones will be our hostesses.

We will be meeting at Linda Kubinski's house at 12:30 p.m.

We will be doing a white elephant gift exchange Please bring a dish to share.

More information to come.

New players and subs are always needed for Bridge so don't hesitate to call Susan 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 269~370~1337

Bring along your creativity and join us on **Wednesday, December 13 at 10 AM** to make table centerpieces for the December Newcomers Holiday luncheon. This is always a fun get together!

We will meet at Patty Litwiller's home, 2566 Ramblewood, Kalamazoo.

Please bring holiday themed mugs, pruners and/or shears if you have them, fresh greens if you can, and decorations and "bling" for the centerpieces. Please RSVP

Nancy Stern 269~598~3638

nnc.stern@gmail.com Donna Ring
269~370~1337 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, December 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

Diner's Club will be taking the month of December off as there are so many family and friends festivities.

We will resume dinners in January with lots of wonderful places to explore and enjoy!

Happy Holidays! Barb and Patty

Consumer File Box

Lois Loeffler 269~372~0038

loisloeffler@gmail.com

In need of services or have someone who did outstanding work for you and you want to recommend?

Contact Lois Loeffler with your inquiries or recommendations. She has a great list of personal recommendations from our KANC members.

Out to Lunch Bunch

Dannie Hickson 269~720~0504

Nita Comensoli 269~598~2497

We will be meeting at Jac's Cekola's Restaurant December 13th at 12 noon. The address is 3112 S 9th Street, Kalamazoo 49009.

All members and guests are always welcome. Come and enjoy a great lunch with Newcomer friends.

Please rsvp by December 8th via text or phone to Nita or Dannie at the above numbers.

Breakfast Club

Janet Wappenstein 269-998-9957

Join us on Saturday, December 16 at 9:30 a.m. for breakfast.

We will meet at Berries Pancake house on South Westnedge

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

The Holiday season is upon us. Time for shopping and celebrating with friends and family so December Happy Hour will be cancelled.

Happy Holidays!

Friends, Food and Fun

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

On December 9 at 5:30 p.m. we will be heading to Martell's to celebrate the holidays together .
Let Carol know by December 5 if you plan to attend . Everyone is welcome. Carol Beckius 372-6950

Hiking/Biking/ XC Skiing

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

Join us for a walk at **Wolf Tree Nature Trail on Tuesday, December 12 at 10AM, 8794 W KL Ave, Kalamazoo.**

This walk meanders through woods and fields, and is about 1.6 miles long , though we can add to that distance if we'd like.

All are welcome!

Please contact Patty or Nancy to RSVP

Coping with Everyday Life

Sylvia Blum 269~323~1727

Come and join our newest Special Interest Group, *COPING*. This month we will discuss handling stress and sleep. We welcome your input on what this means for you and hope you will gain new insights through the suggestions and experiences of your peers
Led by Sylvia Blum, this open forum

discussion can benefit all of us as we go about our day-to-day lives. The group will meet on **Monday, December 4th at 1:00 p.m. Location - Buddy's Pizza on Westnedge.**

Please CALL SYLVIA TO RSVP by 12/1

Sit and Stitch

Charlotte Hosking 269~372~2430

Sit and Stitch will be taking a break for December ~ Hope you can find time during the busy holidays to relax and enjoy your knitting, sewing, needlepoint or whatever you enjoy!
See you in January.

Bunco Janet Wappenstein 260~998~9557

Thursday December 7 AT 1:00 PM. AT BUDDYS PIZZA at 5314 S WESTNEDGE. PORTAGE. 49002

RSVP TO JANET WAPPENSTEIN

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 10 am 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, December 18th we'll meet for our Christmas Brunch and book discussion at Charlotte Hosking's home at 10am.

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt Leader: Kathy Eklov

Remarkably Bright Creatures is an exploration of friendship, reckoning, and hope, tracing a widow's unlikely connection with a giant Pacific octopus. After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, mopping floors and tidying up. Keeping busy has always helped her cope, which she's been doing since her eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat in Puget Sound over thirty years ago. He forms a remarkable friendship with Tova.

Tova becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors—until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova.

On Monday, January 15th at 10am we'll be back at Grand Traverse Pie Co. to discuss: The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese

Leader: Suzette Ross

A stunning and magisterial new epic of love, faith, and medicine, set in Kerala and following three generations of a family seeking the answers to a strange secret. Spanning the years 1900 to 1977, The Covenant of Water is set in Kerala, on South India's Malabar Coast, and follows three generations of a family that suffers a peculiar affliction: in every generation, at least one person dies by drowning—and in Kerala, water is everywhere. The family is part of a Christian community that traces itself to the time of the apostles, but times are shifting, and the matriarch of this family, known as Big Ammachi—literally "Big Mother"—will witness unthinkable changes at home and at large over the span of her extraordinary life. All of Verghese's great gifts are on display in this new work: there are astonishing scenes of medical ingenuity, fantastic moments of humor, a surprising and deeply moving story, and characters imbued with the essence of life.

Book Nook Continued

Charlotte Hosking - 269-372-2430

On Monday, February 19th at 10am we'll meet at Grand Traverse Pie Co. 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?

Attention all Evening Book Enthusiasts

The new special interest group for KANC met for the first time in November and agreed to meet on the first **Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m.**

Location to be decided each month by the facilitator of the book.

On Monday, December 4 at 5:30 p.m., the group will discuss the book **"Something in the Water"** by Catherine Steadman. It is a mystery thriller where a young couple makes a startling discovery in Bora Bora. The book discussion will be led by Diane Wenger and will be held at the Parkview Hills Clubhouse.

Please RSVP to Suzette Ross at suzross2@gmail.com and join the discussion.

Other books selected through May of 2024 include:

January - The Bandit Queens by Parinil Sheriff

February - The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride

March - The Murmur of Bees by Sofia Segovia

April - Mystic River by Dennis Lehan

May - The Waters by Bonnie Jo Campbell

or text 269-501-0847

Upcoming Luncheon Venues 2023/2024-12 Noon

December 14, 2023 ~(second Thursday of month) Kalamazoo Country Club**
Entertainment by "Old Thyme Harmony Quartet"

January 18, 2024 ~Louie's at Texas Corners
West Michigan Air Care with Sara Sturgeon, Flight Nurse

February 15, 2024 ~Main Street Pub on Gull Road
Kalamazoo Valley Museum with William Gould-McElhone, Educator

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

Meet our Newest Members: Welcome! So happy to have you!

**Sue Clark
Patty Anderson**

December 2023 Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	4 Coping 1:00 p.m . Buddy's Pizza Evening book group Parkview Hills Clubhouse 5:30	5 Arts and Entertainment Meijer Gardens 9:30 a.m. Euchre Huntington Run 1-3 p.m.	6 Birthday Bash Buddy's Pizza 12 noon	7 Board Meeting 9:30 a.m. Bunco Buddy's Pizza 1:00 p.m. Cookie Exchange Nancy Greer's 4:30-6:30 Hanukkah starts	8	9 Friends, Food and Fun Martel's 5:30 p.m.
10	11	12 Hike and Bike Wolf Tree Nature Trail 9:30 a.m.	13 Out to Lunch Bunch Jac's Cekola 12 noon Garden Group Patty Litwiller 10:00 a.m.	14 Luncheon Kalamazoo Country Club 12 noon	15	16 Breakfast Club Berries Pancake 9:30 a.m.
17	18 Book Nook Charlotte Hosking House 10:00 a.m.	19 Euchre Huntington Run Clubhouse 1-3 p.m.	20	21	22	23
24	25 Merry Christmas	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Happy New Year						
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~Merry and Bright ~
December 14 Holiday lunch performers at Kalamazoo
Country Club ~ 12 noon
Old Thyme Harmony Quartet

