

Kalamazoo Area Newcomers Club

November 2023

Celebrating 83 Years of Service

Kalamazoo, Michigan

NOVEMBER GREETINGS FROM Patricia Niewoonder~ PRESIDENT

I hope by now everyone one of you who attended the October luncheon at Hop Cat has installed the Smart911 app on your phones. Our speaker from the Portage Fire Department impressed upon me the need for better safety and security and this is one simple step we can all take to do just that. It's on my phone. Is it on yours?

Speaking of safety and security, I want alert everyone that someone has been "phishing" using information gained from our KANC website and using my name (thankfully, not my email address) and asking for gift cards for a non-existent veteran's group. Please, please - do not respond to bogus solicitations - KANC would never ask you to send gift cards.

On a happier note, we are into the wonderful and colorful month of November and our thoughts go from safety/security to thinking of all of the things we are thankful for - family, friends, faith, and health.

My challenge to you this month is to think about all of the things you are thankful for in your life and to make every day a day of thanks and not just on Thanksgiving.

Patricia Niewoonder
KANC President

November Luncheon- Thursday, November 16~ 12:00 noon

Traveler's Cafe~ 5225 Portage Road      

Our November 16th Luncheon and Program is one **YOU** do not want to miss!!! It's all about "SHOES!" Yes, SHOES! We are **EXCITED** to have Maggie Hesketh, Executive Director of "FIRST DAY SHOE FUND" with us! Maggie hails from the United Kingdom, so first of all, you will fall in love with her and her accent! Second of all, "FIRST DAY SHOE FUND" provides a new pair of athletic shoes to ANY student who attends a Kalamazoo County Public Elementary School at no cost to families!

"FIRST DAY SHOE FUND" is our charity for our 2023-2024 year. Our charity is funded by our 50/50 donations. We here at KANC can make a difference. Mark your calendar, pick your lunch, mail your reservations and payment. Don't delay!! It's important!

The Chef from Travelers Cafe has offered the following plated menu choices:

1. Strawberry Spinach Salad-Baby spinach topped with strawberries, pecans & crumbled blue cheese with raspberry vinaigrette on the side. (add chilled smoked chicken if you like at no additional cost)
2. Tex Mex Shrimp & Corn Salad-Crispy tortilla bowl filled with Mexican street corn, smoked shrimp, lettuce, tomato, pickled onions, corn chips, Cotija & cheddar cheeses. Served with mild salsa & sour cream on the side.
3. Alabama Smoked Chicken Sandwich-House smoked with white BBQ sauce on a Brioche bun, served with house kettle chips & French onion dip.
4. Brisket Dinner-Sliced Brisket with mashed potatoes, gravy & vegetables

Gluten free option is available upon request.

All lunches include your choice of soda, coffee, iced/hot tea or water. Free refills are available. Lunches also include Double Chocolate Chunk & Oatmeal Raisin Cookies served family style at your table. All menu choices are \$22 per person chosen in advance. Travelers has a full bar which you may order from and purchase individually on a separate check.

Mail in Luncheon Registration

Thursday, November 16 at 12noon at Traveler's Cafe- 5225 Portage Road
Make out your \$22 check to **KANC** and mail to **Angela Sawyer by November 9**
6499 Trayburne Trail, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Member Choice _____ Guest Choice _____

November Birthdays

11/2 Virginia Graham
11/13 Barb Vanrenterghem
11/15 Linda Vanderberg
11/16 Nancy Dekoff
11/17 Katie Martin
11/19 Judy Brewer
11/22 Ellie Clark
11/22 Jean Smith
11/23 Louise Javery
11/29 Diane Tuenessen

KANC Board 2023-2024

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/Recruitment~ Nancy Greer
Publicity~ Paula Lucking
Hospitality~ Janet Wappenstein
Special Interests~ Patty Litwiller



SPECIAL EVENT— THE GREAT KANC Holiday COOKIE EXCHANGE — SAVE THE DATE- Thursday, DECEMBER 7 4:30-6:30 p.m

What: Gather up gramma's favorite recipe, dust off your worn holiday recipe cards, think of the smell of warm cookies in your house, and start baking

Here's how it works:

Bake 4 1/2 dozen of your favorites (no cheaters with store bought cookies allowed 😊) and bring to a delightful holiday gathering at Nancy Greer's house on Thursday, December 7~ 4:30-6:30 p.m.

You will go home with 4 dozen amazing holiday cookies baked with love by your fellow KANC friends.

We will have plenty of savory snacks and beverages to enjoy and a chance to create an easy holiday craft for those interested. More details to follow -And if you can't wait let Nancy Greer or Marilyn Jauch know now you plan to attend!!

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

Jill Engels

Nancy Warshawsky

Special Interest Groups

Garden Group Events for year - All subject to change

Nancy Stern 269~598~3638 nnc.stern@gmail.com Donna Ring 269~370~1337 dring7@gmail.com

Have you thought about joining the Garden Group and exploring the wide variety of events they have planned for the upcoming year— now is the time to come be involved with these engaging group of friends. Give Nancy or Donna a call if you want to learn more. Here is the tentative schedule for the upcoming year.

November 2023: no Garden Club meeting

December 2023: Center pieces for Christmas luncheon

January 2024: KVCC Food Innovation Center

February: Wedel's or Romence Gardens

March: Dried flower craft project

April: Meijer Garden Butterflies

May: Ruthmere and Haviland houses in Elkhart

June: Fernwood Gardens Niles

July: Lavender Farm

August: MSU Botanical Garden

September: potluck planninga meeting

Afternoon Bridge

Susan Lushin 630-303-0146

Afternoon Bridge is a great time!

Monday, November 13~ Micki Verne will be the hostess

Monday, November 27 - No bridge

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 start playing bridge at 12:30 p.m. We often have lunch at restaurant prior.

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

Garden Group will not be meeting in November so everyone can enjoy Thanksgiving with family or friends.

Mark your calendar's now for December 13 ~ 10:00 a.m. — Patty Litwiller's home 2566 Ramblewood Dr.

Will be crafting centerpieces for the December luncheon. Bring your greenery and holiday bling, enough to share if you have it.

Lunch afterwards. Location TBD.

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.

Tuesday, November 7 and 21~ 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.

Consumer File Box

Lois Loeffler 269~372~0038

loisloeffler@gmail.com

The Box has lost a listing for a **TAILOR/ SEAMSTRESS**. Also needed are listings for **CLEANING HELP**. Please call or email me with your recommendations.

Out to Lunch Bunch

Dannie Hickson 269~720~0504

Nita Comensoli 269~598~2497

We will meet at 12 noon on November 8th at Carrabba's Italian Grill 5690 S Westnedge Ave

Members and guests are always welcome. Come and visit with Newcomer friends and enjoy a wonderful lunch.

RSVP via of phone call or text to either Dannie or Nita above

Diners Club

Patty Litwiller - 586-243-8886

Barb Starring - 269-569-0292

Join us Wednesday, November 8, 5:30 pm for a unique dining experience at Waco Kitchen located at 15955 S Airport Rd in Battle Creek. Waco Kitchen is located on the second story within the Waco Aircraft Corp. it offers an intimate and unique dining experience with large observation windows for a behind the scenes glimpse into the manufacturing of Waco's biplanes and an open balcony where you can see and hear planes taking off and landing.

A rotating menu and weekly specials curated by internationally trained chefs ensure each dish has only the freshest ingredients. Please rsvp Barb Starring, 269-569-0292 or Patty Litwiller, 586-243-8886 by November 5. Spouses welcome.

Breakfast Club

Janet Wappenstein 269-998-9957

Join us on Saturday, November 18 at 9:30 a.m. for breakfast.

We will meet at Michelle's on Romence Road
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

Come for happy hour Wednesday, November 1, 4:00 pm on the patio (if the weather cooperates) at Fletchers Pub; 6946 W Q Ave, Kalamazoo

Be sure to RSVP to Patty or Linda so they can save you a seat.

Friends, Food and Fun

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

We will be dining at Carrabba's Italian Grill on November 11 at 5:30. Please join us for good food and friendship.

Let us know by November 7 by calling Marilyn Jauch 372-7751 or Carol Beckius 372-6950

Hiking/Biking/ XC Skiing

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

Join us at the Round Barn Winery for our second annual sip and hike Friday, November 17, 11:45 a.m.

We will explore over 3.5 miles of trails thru woods and vineyards between Round Barn Estate and Tabor Hill Winery beginning at Round Barn Winery, 10938 Hills Rd. Baroda to grab our beverage and then hit the trail. We can enjoy a glass of wine at Tabor Hill Winery before we hike back to Round Barn for lunch.

Please contact Patty or Nancy to RSVP and coordinate carpooling.

Coping (with Stress)

Sylvia Blum 269~323~1727

Come join our newest Special Interest group "Coping"

This month we will discuss handling stress and welcome your personal insights on what that means for you.

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

Monday, November 4 at 1:00 p.m.

Buddy's Pizza on Westnedge.

RSVP to Sylvia at 323-1727 by Nov. 2nd.

Future months we will be discussing nutrition and sleep.

Sit and Stitch

Charlotte Hosking 269~372~2430

Join us on Friday, November 17 at Chicks with Sticks— located on Portage Road (near Fields Fabrics) ~1:00 p.m.

We are a very relaxed group who like to chat, give each other a helping hand, and primarily have a good laugh. So whether you knit, cross stitch, crochet, sew or none of the mentioned— come join

Bunco Janet Wappenstein 260~998~9557

Thursday NOVEMBER 2 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!!

Note: Our November meeting will NOT be at Grand Traverse Pie. They'll be busy using our room for Thanksgiving pies. Instead, we'll be at the Parkview Hills Clubhouse on Greenleaf Circle (just past Martell's). We'll meet in the dining room which is at the back on the right. Thanks to Donna for suggesting and arranging this.

On Monday, November 20 th at 10am at Parkview Hills Clubhouse we'll meet to discuss: Deacon King Kong by James McBride Leader: Kathy Roberts

In September 1969, a fumbling, cranky old church deacon known as Sportcoat shuffles into the courtyard of the Cause Houses housing project in south Brooklyn, pulls a .38 from his pocket, and in front of everybody shoots the project's drug dealer at point-blank range. In Deacon King Kong, McBride brings to vivid life the people affected by the shooting: the victim, the African-American and Latinx residents who witnessed it, the white neighbors, the local cops assigned to investigate, the members of the Five Ends Baptist Church where Sportcoat was deacon, the neighborhood's Italian mobsters, and Sportcoat himself.

As the story deepens, it becomes clear that the lives of the characters--caught in the tumultuous swirl of 1960s New York--overlap in unexpected ways. When the truth does emerge, McBride shows us that not all secrets are meant to be hidden, that the best way to grow is to face change without fear, and that the seeds of love lie in hope and compassion.

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.

Book Nook Continued

Charlotte Hosking - 269-372-2430

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.

Attention all Evening Book Enthusiasts

Meeting November 2nd, Thursday at 5:30 PM at [this is a bookstore](#) ([3019 Oakland Dr.](#)) to discuss formation of an evening book club. Suzette Ross will facilitate the first meeting. Please RSVP to Suzette no later than October 30th if you are interested in this new group. To have a successful group, there should be at least five members interested and willing to participate. Bonding over Books, is a great way to meet members of KANC. If you are a bibliophile and want to spend one evening a month discussing interesting books with other bookworms, join in!
email suzross2@gmail.com
or text 269-501-0847

Upcoming Luncheon Venues 2023/2024-12 Noon

November 16, 2023 ~Travelers Cafe and Pub

First Day Shoe Fund with Maggie Hesketh, Executive Director ****our Charity for the year

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

November 2023 Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Happy Hour Fletchers Pub Q ave 4 p.m.	2 Bunco Buddy's Pizza 1:00 p.m. Evening book group discussion This is a bookstore 5:30	3	4
5	6 Coping ...with Stress Buddys Pizza 1:00 p.m.	7 Euchre Huntington Run Clubhouse 1-3 p.m.	8 Out to Lunch Bunch Carrabas 12 noon Diner's Club 5:30 p.m. Waco Kitchen	9 Board Meeting 10:00 a.m. Huntington Clubhouse	10	11 Food, Fun and Friends Carabba's 5:30 p.m.
12	13 Afternoon Bridge 12:30 p.m. Host- Micki Verne	14	15	16 Luncheon - 12 noon Traveler's Cafe Portage Road	17 Sit and Stitch Chicks with Sticks 1:00 p.m. Hike/Bike/ Round Barn 11:45 a.m.	18 Breakfast Club Michelle's Romance Road 9:30 a.m.
19	20 Book Nook Parkview Hills Clubhouse 10:00 a.m.	21 Euchre Huntington Run Clubhouse 1-3 p.m.	22	23 Happy Thanksgiving	24	25
26	27 Afternoon Bridge NO BRIDGE TODAY	28	29	30	COMING DECEMBER 7 KANC GREAT holiday cookie exchange	