

Kalamazoo Area Newcomers Club

February 2025

Celebrating 85 Years of Service

Kalamazoo, Michigan

February Luncheon

Old Burdicks Bar and Grill~ Wings West~ Thursday, February 20~12 noon

Calling All Newcomers! Meet up with us for our February Luncheon.. It is happening at Old Burdicks Bar and Grill located at Wings West, 5076 Sports Dr. Kalamazoo, Mi. 49009. For those who don't know, Wings West is an ice arena event center off of N Avenue near the 9th St intersection. We will enter thru the Main entrance on the east side of their building where you will find ample parking. Our speaker this month will be Christina Anderson who is a City Planner for Kalamazoo. Want to know what's going on in Kalamazoo? This is your chance? As we enjoy each others company over lunch, we will be seated in a warm and cozy event room overlooking a glassed in ice rink that will be open for public skating.

Luncheon Menu:

1. **Chicken Ranch Salad**-Mixed greens, crispy chicken tenders, frizzled onions, hard boiled egg, cheddar jack, tomato, bacon, ranch dressing. \$24
- 1b. Ranch Salad as above, but without chicken and bacon (vegetarian option). \$17
2. **Burdick's Burger**-8oz. Custom grind patty on a brioche bun with choice of cheese, lettuce, tomato and onion. Served with sea salt fries. \$22
- 2b. Burdick's Burger with sea salt fries as above with a gluten free bun at no extra charge instead of brioche. \$22
3. **Beef Tacos**-3 Shredded Beef street tacos, queso fresco, pico de gallo, lettuce and creamy chipotle sauce in a soft shell corn tortilla. Served with chips and salsa. \$23
4. **Club Sandwich**-Roasted turkey, smoked ham, bacon, Swiss, lettuce, tomato and garlic mayo on a buttered brioche bun. Served with sea salt fries. \$23

Lunch includes your choice of either coffee, tea, soda or water along with a cookie for dessert and gratuity. Old Burdick's has a full bar which you may order from and purchase individually on a separate check.

Questions contact Nancy Schwander (269) 806-3851.

Mail in Luncheon Registration

Thursday, February 20 at 12noon at Burdicks Bar and Grille — Wings West
Make out your check to **KANC** and mail to **Angela Sawyer** by **February 11**
6499 Trayburne Trail, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Member _____ Choice _____ Guest _____ Choice _____

February Message from the KANC President— Patricia Niewoonder

February finds us in the heart of winter...it is so cold and wintry at times that it may seem hard to leave your toasty, warm home. But, KANC has many activities that make venturing out worth it to join your new friends at KANC.

Take a close look at this month's activities and make a pledge to attend an indoor event - bunco, euchre, bridge, or the garden club. The hiking/biking group are hearty folks who tend to explore the outdoors and trails in just about any kind of weather. And, of course, we have numerous dining groups who always have great meals and conversations.

February is also a time for the KANC Board to begin planning for the new fiscal year. We are setting goals for the FY 2025-26 year and looking for volunteers to serve in various Board positions.

As part of our planning, we invited the chairs of the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to help plan for our future.

Several goals have been drafted, including 1) establishing an electronic payment method for our dues and luncheon payments, 2) getting more people to use the BAND app, and 3) creating a committee to improve the onboarding process for new members.

More information about these goals will be shared as we continue our planning.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our numerous events this month. Come join the fun!

Patricia Niewoonder
KANC President

February Birthdays

KANC Board 2023-2024

2/2 Dottie Dail
2/4 Charlotte Hosking
2/7 Rita Achenbach
2/8 Charilyn Robertson
2/10 Carol Vuilleminot
2/13 Peg Keane
2/15 Micki Verne
2/17 Barb Hibiske
2/18 Patty Litwiller
2/24 Marge Bokar
2/24 Linda Kubinski
2/28 Kathy Walz

President~ Patricia Niewoonder
Vice President~ Kathy Roberts, Patty Litwiller
Secretary~Gayle Leavitt
Treasurer~ Donna Ring
Luncheons~ Nancy Schwander and Irene Smith
Programs~ Kathy Eklov and Marcia Hokin
Reservations~ Angela Sawyer
Membership~ Pat Rose
Hospitality ~Judi Blanchard
Newsletter/Web~ Nancy Greer
Publicity~ Paula Lucking
Special Interests~Lori Miller

Looking for Volunteers To lead in 2025/2026

If you have an interest to support our KANC Club in a more direct way consider volunteering for a position on our Board of Directors.

We will soon be finalizing our nominations for our open Board positions for the 2025-2026 year and presenting as nominations at our luncheon in March. If you are inclined to learn more about the Board needs for the next fiscal year and the qualifications we are seeking —perhaps attend one our our monthly meetings to observe how the Board functions and how you might assist — contact Kathy Roberts, Patty Litwiller or Nancy Greer for further information.

Special Interest Groups

Arts Entertainment and More

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

Meet us in the upper level lobby area of **Chenery Auditorium Saturday, February 22, at 7:00 pm for a 7:30 'World of Dance' performance by the Kalamazoo Concert Band.**

Selections will range from Waltz to Paso Doble with everything in between. Should be a fun concert.

Did I mention that it is free!? Please rsvp Linda Vanderberg or Patty Litwiller so we are on the look out for you.

Afternoon Bridge

Susan Lushin 630-303-0146

Monday, February 10 -Delores Moore will be our hostess
Monday, February 24 - Susan Lushin 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

Lori Miller 269-370-4152

February's meeting will be on the 26th at Wedels Nursery and Garden Center at 5020 Texas Drive, Kalamazoo, 49009 at 10:00 am.

Our speaker will discuss what's new in the plant world for 2025- improved hybrids & new varieties of old favorites, including non flowering shrubs.

Join us for this informative and inspirational(since we're not currently seeing anything green outside) presentation.

Call or text Lori Miller at 269-370-4152 to rsvp.

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 4 and 18 ~ 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

Kathleen Smothers
Paula Lucking

If you haven't had dinner at **Bell's Eccentric Cafe** in a while you may not know that they now have a new large dining room.

This will be an opportunity to enjoy the newer space for a wonderful meal and your favorite or new beer. We will meet earlier in the month this time, due to Valentine's holiday in February.

Let's meet in the entrance hall at 5pm, on Thursday, February the 6th, for some great food, beverage and fun!
RSVP to Paula or Kathleen

Consumer File Box

Lois Loeffler 269~372~0038

This time of year you might be thinking of getting some help with indoor painting projects, or asking for tax preparation help, or perhaps your computer needs a 2025 tune up or repair. The **Consumer File Box** can help with recommendations from KANC members. Please call my landline 372-0038 and leave a message

Out to Lunch Bunch

Dannie Hickson 269~720~0504
Nita Comensoli 269~598~2497

Please join the Lunch Bunch for food, fun and friendship. **On February 12th at noon we will be meeting at Main Street Pub, 4514 West Main Street.**

Everyone is welcome.

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

Breakfast Club

Martine Goedynne 269~873~8864

Join us on February 15 at 9:30 at Rykse Eatery and Bakery

7141 West Q avenue, Kalamazoo (Texas township)

Text Martine at 269 873 8864 by February 13th if you plan on coming. Looking forward to seeing you.

Special Interest Groups

Happy Hour

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

Join us **February 5, 4:00 pm at University Roadhouse** (1332 W Michigan) for the first Happy Hour of 2025!
Free parking in lot or on street. Please rsvp Linda Vanderberg or Patty Litwiller so we can save a seat for you.

Friends, Food and Fun

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

Friends Food and Fun will not be meeting in February.

Look for their next adventure in the March newsletter.

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 take a winter walk on the KalHaven trail on **Tuesday, February 11**. Meet at 10:00AM at the KalHaven trailhead parking lot, 4143 N Tenth St. Kalamazoo.

All are welcome!

RSVP to Patty Litwiller or Nancy Stern. All are welcome!

Volunteering Adventures

Holly Vestal

Our next Volunteering Adventure will be the last week in April and it will be at the First Day Shoe Fund which is our charity recipient! More details will follow soon.

Sit and Stitch

Charlotte Hosking 269~372~2430

Join us on **Friday, February 21 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.)

No need to RSVP

Whether you knit, crochet, cross stitch, sew or just want to have a good chat, we'll be there to have a few laughs and help each other with our projects.

Bunco

Angela Sawyer 434~996~1776

Thursday, February 6 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 in the dining room of the Parkview Hills Clubhouse. We are always happy to welcome new friends, whether you've read the book or liked it! There is no need to RSVP.

February 17 th - Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey to Freedom by Ilyon Woo

Leader: Jean Grossman

The remarkable true story of Ellen and William Craft, who escaped slavery through daring, determination, and disguise, with Ellen passing as a wealthy, disabled White man and William posing as "his" slave.

March 17 th - Queen of Dirt Island by Donal Ryan

Leader: Jean Smith

April 21 st - The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See

Leader: Patricia Niewoonder



Did you know:

Research suggests that reading regularly can contribute to a longer lifespan by preventing cognitive decline, reducing stress, improving memory, and enhancing brain function, essentially acting as a form of mental exercise that keeps your mind sharp as you age; studies have even shown that avid readers tend to live longer than non-readers, with some studies indicating a potential lifespan increase of up to two years.

Evening Book Nook

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

Attention all Evening Book Enthusiasts

- The KANC evening book group meets once a month, the 1st Monday of each month at 5:30. The meeting place is the library at Parkview Hills.
- **Feb3rd** the group will discuss *Virgil Wander* by Leif Enger. Discussion leader is Diane Wenger.
- **March 3rd** Holly Vestal will lead the discussion of *Wandering Stars* by Tommy Orange,
- **April 7th**, Holly will lead the discussion of *North Woods* by David Mason .
- **May 5th**, Patty Litwiller has arranged for a guest speaker from Portage Public Library to discuss books to be considered for a book club such as the KANC evening group
- **June 2**, Discussion of *The Hummingbird's Daughter* by Luis Alberto Urrea will be led by Donna Ring.
- **July 7th**, Diane Wenger will lead the discussion of *James* by Percival Everett.
- Send your book suggestions via email to suzross2@gmail.com from April 1st through May 26th for the next year. Voting will be at the June evening meeting,
- I will be on vacation from Jan 28 through March 5th. If you have questions, reach out to the discussion leaders, please.
- Everyone is welcome to join one or all of the book group meetings. The gatherings are always interesting, insightful and fun.

Upcoming Luncheon Venues 2025-12 Noon

February 20, 2025 Burdick's Wings West

Program: " YES there is a Kalamazoo" , Christina Anderson, City Planner

March 20, 2025 Comensoli's

Program: " Come Fly with Us" , Craig Williams, Kalamazoo-Battle Creek
International Airport


April 17, 2025 Martell's

Program: Modern Medicine: Recreational and Medicinal Marijuana

May 15, 2025 Park Club

Program: "Kalamazoo in Bloom" talk /Charity presentation

February 2025 Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Evening Book Club 5:30 p.m. Grand Traverse Pie Company	4 Euchre Huntington Run Clubhouse 1-3 p.m.	5 Happy Hour University Roadhouse 4:00 pm.	6 Bunco Buddy's Pizza 1:00 p.m. Diners Club Bell's 5:00 p.m.	7	8
9	10 Afternoon Bridge 12:30 Delores Moore	11 Hike/Bike/XC Ski Kal Haven Trail 10:00 a.m.	12 Out to Lunch Bunch Main Street Pub- West main 12 noon	13 Board Meeting 9:30 a.m.	14 Happy Valentines Day! 	15 Breakfast Club Ryske's Cafe 9:30 a.m.
16	17 Book Nook 10:00 a.m. Parkview Hills Clubhouse	18 Euchre Huntington Run Clubhouse 1-3 p.m.	19	20 February Luncheon Old Burdock's Grille West ~ 12 noon	21 Sit and Stitch Chicks with Sticks 1:00 p.m.	22 Arts and Entertainment Chenery Auditorium 7:00 p.m.
23	24 Afternoon Bridge 12:30 Susan Lushin	25	26 Garden Club Wedels 10:00 a.m.	27		