



**December 2025**

# **The Troy Newcomers Topics**

---

## **A Message from Your Board**



---

## **Annual Holiday Luncheon**

**December 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Da Francesco's  
49251 Van Dyke Ave  
Shelby Twp 48317  
Meet at 12:00 pm**

This year we are continuing our annual tradition of enjoying our members' fellowship and a delicious luncheon meal in a beautiful holiday setting in the banquet room at Da Francesco's.

We will also continue our tradition of an optional gift exchange. Bring a wrapped or bagged gift valued at \$20 and enjoy the exchange that is good for a couple of laughs and lots of holiday cheer.

**Price for the meal is \$35.00, PayPal is \$36.77**

The meal will be served family style and includes:

- Penne Pasta with Meat Sauce
- Breaded Chicken Picante
- Potatoes Santa Anna
- Sauteed Garden Vegetables
- Meals include fresh baked bread and green garden salad
- Non-alcoholic beverages are included
- Dessert is included – Thank you Pam Mayhew!

**This is our biggest luncheon of the year and is very well attended**

**Please get your reservation in by December 18!**

**Make checks payable to **Troy Newcomers** and mail to :  
Karen Patterson, 3508 Tothill Drive, Troy, MI. 4808**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Board Meeting

Our next board meeting will take place in the back room of Escape Lanes, on Thursday, December 4th at approximately 11:30 am.

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for articles for the January Newsletter is December 23rd. Note the earlier date due to the Christmas Holiday. Please send your articles to:

[troynewcomerstopics@gmail.com](mailto:troynewcomerstopics@gmail.com).



Karen Gard	4
Alfia Coski	7
Linda Shepherd	8
Marie Hochstein	10
Gail Trendler	10
Joyce Utter	17
Patty Waynick	21
Verna Meinershagen	22
Pam Mayhew	29
Pat Wehrung	30

**Wishing each of you and your families  
a very Merry Holiday!  
-The Troy Newcomers Board**

**Visit us on our Facebook Page!**

**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/troynewcomers>**

## **SERVICE– Michele Burns & Eileen Winkel**

### **THANKSGIVING UPDATE**

The staff at the Open Hands Food Pantry and Garden were extremely happy to receive our bags of cereal, soup and toothpaste as well as our check for \$1,763.58. At their food distribution weekend earlier this month they served over 300 families with pre-packaged groceries & personal/toiletry items, meat, bread and fresh greens. They even have a “pole tent” where they are able to grow renewable greens well into the cold weather – chard, collard greens, etc.! It was very impressive how they organized the distribution of the food – everything from the drive-by pickup to the packing and dispersal of the food!!

Thank you for being a part of their process to address hunger in our neighborhoods!

### **SERVICE CHRISTMAS UPDATE**

**WHAT:** It is time for our annual Christmas Service Project. This year we are participating in Troy Police’s Operation Blue Sleigh. The program has operated for 31 years. The Police in cooperation with the Troy School District have identified 41 families

that need help this Christmas. Our family has 4 kids and 2 adults.

**WHO:** Our family consists of Timothy (16 yr-old male), Trevan (14 yr-old male), Jaylen

(12 yr-old male) and Sofia (4 yr-old female), Mom, and Dad. The gifts the family would like are divided into a list of Needs, Wants, and Would Like items. The 3 boys need beds which we will hopefully purchase with donated monies. Any extra money will go towards unadopted items or a gift card for food & gas. Items go from necessities like sheets to fun stuff like a football & princess toy. Hopefully, all members can find something they would be interested in donating.

**HOW:** You can donate in the following ways:

- Sign-up to buy a gift at a Newcomer event. We will be at the following events with the gift lists:

- o Bowling (Dec 4 & 11)

- o Evening Euchre (Dec 6) & Morning Euchre (Dec 9)

- o Mah Jongg (Dec 5)

- o Pickleball (Dec 10)

- Use the shared Google sheet. The family’s **NEEDS, WANTS, and WOULD LIKE lists can be immediately accessed at [Christmas Lists 2025](#)** . This is a shared spreadsheet which can be accessed from a PC, MAC or phone (phone may require a download of the “Google Sheets” app.) To use the list on Google sheets:

- o Click the link above

- o Scroll through the list until you find an item you would like to donate

- o Type your name & phone number beside the item(s) you want to donate

- o Click “enter” to save your update (for PC’s & MAC’s, no need on phones)

- o Close the tab

**Continued next page**

- Drop off cash/checks at a Newcomer event or mail it! Checks should be made out to "Troy Newcomers Club" with "Christmas" in the memo field and if mailed, addressed To: P.O. Box 103, Troy, MI 48099. **ALL CASH/CHECKS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12.**
- Donate on the Newcomers website with PayPal. A donate button is available on the Service/Volunteering webpage.
- Contact Michele or Eileen to check the list for you.

**WHEN:** Due dates are as follows:

- Wrapped items, including gift receipt and gift tag, are due to Michele/Eileen no later than Tuesday, Dec. 16
- Cash/checks are due to Michele/Eileen Friday, Dec. 12
- Purchased items can be dropped off at an event or contact Michele/Eileen to arrange a drop-off/pickup

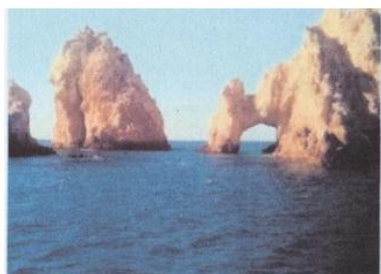
WHY: It's the season of giving!

If you have any questions, please contact Michele or Eileen.

Thank you for helping to give a family who needs support a beautiful Christmas!

Michele Burns - [michelemburns@gmail.com](mailto:michelemburns@gmail.com) – 248-408-2494

Eileen Winkel – [ew1001@icloud.com](mailto:ew1001@icloud.com) – 248-841-5560



*Mexico*



*Hawaii*

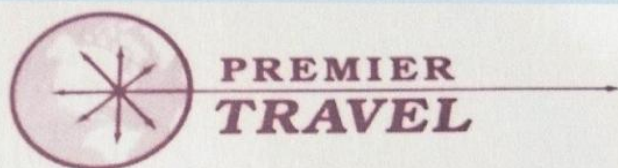


*Europe*



*Golf*

# Let Us Personalize Your Travel



**PREMIER  
TRAVEL**

**248-816-6700**

**cwtpremiertravel@yahoo.com**

- *Destination Weddings*
- *Honeymoons*
- *Group Rates*
- *And more at ...*

**... Michigantravelplan.com**



## Rose Awards – Kathy Holm

### White Rose, Karen Gard



It has been just over 3 years since Karen joined the Newcomers, and it is already hard to imagine the club without her. Last year she planned our socials (who could forget Drag Queen Bingo). This year she is working with Diana Alexanian, and the two ladies are doing a remarkable job.

Karen has taken over the widows' group since the tragic passing of Sandy Navratil. This group was very important to Sandy, and all her friends are very grateful to Karen for taking this on.

Karen also enjoys bowling, book club, luncheons and socials. She has also attended a game night and really enjoyed it.

Karen has three sisters in New Orleans, and she is spending several weeks there. This will put her there over Thanksgiving where there will be lots of fun, laughing, and of course shopping.

Louisiana is not the only state Karen vacations in. For the past 10 years Karen and a group of friends travel to Florida. Oddly enough, this tradition began when Karen's best friend had to chaperone her daughter on a school trip. Deciding that the girls should not have all the fun, Karen organized a group of moms to vacation in the Sunshine State. This trip has survived for 10 years. (None of the original students were available for comment.)

Karen and her son Christopher suffered the loss of their husband and father this past year. Karen told me how much the support of the Newcomers meant to her. She was amazed at the calls, cards, and number of friends who attended his Memorial Service.

She is grateful for all the new friends she has made since joining the Newcomers. Thank you, Karen, for all you contribute to the club.



## **Red Rose, Monica DiMaggio**



Back in the year 2022, Monica was on the Troy Garden Walk. She mentioned to her friend that she was feeling a little lonely since losing some dear friends. Suddenly there appeared a booth manned by the Troy Newcomers and Monica went over. She signed up for the upcoming kick-off event and that started everything. The kick-off was at Raintree Park and everyone had a wonderful time. Good food, good friends and Monica was hooked.

Since joining Monica has been involved in Meadowbrook ushering, golf, book club, winetasting and pickleball. Along with Lynn Sarosik she is starting a culinary club. (Sounds like extra calories and additional pounds to me.)

Monica retired from nursing at St Josephs Mercy; she and her husband Rich have 2 sons and 2 grandchildren. They are very lucky that their sons live nearby in Sterling Heights and Commerce Township.

Monicas' friends are for keeps. They recently vacationed with friends they met 13 years ago and hadn't seen in 10 years. They spent 10 days in Portugal and had a great time.

Monica thinks it is a wonderful club and encourages everyone to take advantage of all the activities offered.

Thanks, Monica, for all your help with the Newcomers



## **Red Rose, Terry Slater**

As the old saying goes "England's loss is our gain." The official version of Terrys' story is that she and Andrew came to the U.S. for Andrews' job. I happen to believe that word of our awesome club spread to Europe, and Terry really wanted to join. Whichever version you choose to believe Terry and Andrew arrived in 1985, and Terry joined the Newcomers in 1986.

Many of the women I interviewed in the past said that the club's playgroup was a big incentive to join the Newcomers. Terry was instrumental in setting up the group. Terry and Andrew have 3 girls, Eleanore, Jennifer, and Amanda. They have 2 granddaughters, Madeline and Clair. The girls live in Ann Arbor, so after visiting relatives in Australia, it feels like they are right around the block. Terry and Andrew have been to Australia several times to visit relatives. They are going to Western Australia this January. (The weather is very similar to California.) She also enjoys backpacking and has a trip planned along the Manistee River Trail.

Currently Terry participates in ushering, bowling, mahjong, wine-tasting and some luncheons.

In her spare time, Terry sings in her church choir, delivers Meals on Wheels, and teaches adults to tap dance. We are very grateful to Terry for all she contributes to our club.

Thank you, Accent Florist for donating the roses for our Awards this month! Please remember them for all your floral needs



**ACCENT FLORIST**  
The Prettiest Corsages & Boutonnieres in Town  
(248) 689-4240

4048 Rochester road  
NE Corner of Wattles & Rochester roads  
Troy, MI 48085

website:  
accentflorist.net

email:  
accentflorist@gmail.com



**MY GUY HANDYMAN  
SERVICES LLC**

---

FREE ESTIMATES.  
FULLY INSURED

**NICHOLAS AVERY - OWNER**  
**586-784-7595**

MYGUYHANDYMANSERVICES@MYAHOO.COM

*email ↗*



## ACTIVITIES

### Book Club – Janet Gole, Activity Leader



Please join us at the December 17 meeting, hosted by Claudia Zernec. Her book is **Mr. Dickens and his Carol** by Samantha Silva, very fitting for the season!

This book takes you on a Scrooge-like journey that tests everything Charles Dickens believes about generosity, friendship, ambition, and love. The story he writes will change Christmas forever.

Please contact Claudia at [cjzernec@yahoo.com](mailto:cjzernec@yahoo.com) or 586-405-6668 to confirm you will attend. We'll meet at 6:30 pm. Find her address within the TNC directory.

*And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God bless Us, Every One!*



### Bowling – Darcel Connors, Secretary

Members have been bowling their hearts out and besting their personal high scores. In first place is Team #1 (Kathy Holm, Pam Mayhew and Ardin Moenaert) very close behind with only 1 point difference is Team #7 (Darlene Glaze, Lynn Sarosik and Carol Henderson) and in third place we have Team #4 (Cindy Olczak, Kaoru Goda and Marie Watson). High game was replaced by Jane Egermann with a hard to beat 202! High Series was also replaced by Carol Henderson with another hard to beat score of 514. Most Turkeys has been overtaken by Barb Emmer with 3. There is a tie for most Splits converted (5) by Diana Alexanian, Kaoru Goda and Darlene Glaze. We are looking forward to celebrating the holidays with our brunch on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like to join as a substitute bowler, contact Darcel at [darcelc@prodigy.net](mailto:darcelc@prodigy.net).



### Culinary Group – Lynn Sarosik & Monica DiMaggio, Activity Leaders

Food is adventure!

We are planning our first coffee meet-up to discuss ideas for this new group. Please join us and bring ideas of things you'd like to experience, restaurants you'd like to try and skills you'd like to learn. We're planning to explore different culinary cultures and maybe learn a new thing or two. It might be a cooking demonstration or personal specialty related to food. We would like everyone to take part to create something unique and interesting. And we need a name for the group.

We already have several people signed up. If you haven't been in contact, please either of us via email: [lynnsarosik@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnsarosik@yahoo.com) or [mdimaggio@comcast.net](mailto:mdimaggio@comcast.net) so we'll know how many to expect, or if you have questions.

Here are the details:

Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> 10:30 am

Tour les Jours Bakery & Café 1699 Crooks Road, Suite 200 Troy, MI  
(Just north of Maple Road, west side of street)



### **Morning Euchre – Gina Kossick, Activity Leader**



We are playing this month on Tuesday , December 9 at 9:15 am at the home of Darcel Connors. Darcel lives in Rochester Hills, see directory for address. Please RSVP to her by Saturday, December 6 at 248-396-5371 or email at : [darcelc@prodigy.net](mailto:darcelc@prodigy.net). If you are not a regular hostess, please let Darcel know if you wish to bring a breakfast item that morning.

We are beginner friendly and can teach you how to play that day, just let hostess know so you are not included in the euchre count.

### **Evening Euchre – Darlene Glaze, Activity Leader**



Our next and last euchre of 2025 is at the home of Darcel Connors. It is Saturday, December 6, and starts at 6:45pm. If you are going, let Darcel know - [darcelcprodigy.net](http://darcelcprodigy.net)

Thank you, Janet Griffin for hosting in November. Our first place winner was Bill Locricchio, 2nd place was Sue Jones, 3rd was Christopher Markoff, and our 4th place winner was Barb Emmer. Congratulations! I want to welcome Mary Markoff and her husband Christopher who have happily joined our euchre group,

Please set your calendars for the first euchre of the new year -01/17/2026 - Claudia Sparschu - [csparschu@yahoo.com](mailto:csparschu@yahoo.com)

We need a hostess for February, March, and April, 2026.

### **Ladies Game Night – Jill Miceli, Activity Leader**



We will not be meeting in December. I hope everyone has a safe and fun holiday season. I am looking for a hostess for January. Please let Jill know if you would like to pick a date.

### **Mah Jongg – Jane Egermann, Activity Leader**



DATE CHANGE ALERT! Morning mah jongg (9:30 am) will meet on Friday, December 5th at Jane Egermann's house. We can decide if we will have an afternoon play date (possibly the 19th ?) at that time. (I'm betting no one is interested in playing on the 26th !)

We will resume normal play dates in the new year. Make your resolution early to make 2026 the year you learn mah jongg.

Please let Jane know if you plan to attend or need directions to her house. Her email is [jane48085@yahoo.com](mailto:jane48085@yahoo.com).

## **Meadowbrook Ushering – Michele Burns & Joann Twigg , Activity Leaders**



*A Christmas Carol* is one of the most well attended plays at Meadowbrook Theatre and also one of the most confusing for the Newcomer ushers as times/dates for ushering change! We usher the 4<sup>th</sup> week of the play from December 10-14. Continue to arrive 45 minutes prior to your performance start time and have an entertaining time!

Please remember the new schedule!

- Wednesday Matinee – Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm
- Wednesday Evening – Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm &
- Thursday Evening – Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm &
- Friday Evening – Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm #
- Saturday Evening – Saturday, December 13 at 6:30 pm #
- Sunday Matinee – Sunday, December 14 at 2:00 pm

& - designates a day and time change      # - designates a time change

As always, if you cannot attend your scheduled performance, please get a substitute. Please welcome new Newcomer member Ginny Roche-Kelly to the sub list!

## **Pickle Ball – Michele Burns, Activity Leader**



The first session of pickleball has ended and Session #2 will start on December 10 through January 28 (6 weeks as there is no pickleball on Christmas or New Years Eve.) We have a few spots left so if anyone is interested in playing or learning how to play, please [contact me](#) by December 1.

We play on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00-3:00 at the First United Methodist Church of Troy on Livernois. The cost to play is the gym rental fee divided by the number of players. The roster & cost will be determined and sent to players by December 3. The fee is due December 10 by cash/check made out to Troy Newcomers Club.

## **Scrapbooking – Darcel Connors, Activity Leader**



We will not be meeting to scrapbook in December, as we are all so busy making new memories. Please check back here in January for the date, but plan on scrapbooking at my home then. Enjoy the Holidays!

**Somerset Golf League 2026 Season**  
**Debbie Risko & Karen Hrit, Activity Leaders**



Looking forward to the next season starting in the spring of 2026.

**Sylvan Glen Golf League 2026 Season – Gail Trendler, Activity Leader**



Stay tuned for information regarding the 2026 golf season.

**Widows Group, Karen Gard – Activity Leader**



Our 2nd Widows Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12.2.25 from 6:00 pm – at my home. This meeting will once again be a casual potluck dinner. Our first group meeting was very successful with ten ladies attending. It was decided at our first meeting to gather on a quarterly basis. All those who have lost a partner are welcome. If you would like to participate in this group, please RSVP to Karen at [kgard7@comcast.net](mailto:kgard7@comcast.net) or via cell: 248.506.7412. Please state what you will be bringing so we don't have a lot of duplication.

Our December meeting will focus on strategies for the holidays and getting to know one another a little bit more. Let us come together in remembrance, support, and hope. With gratitude, Karen Gard

**Winetasting, Ann Britton – Activity Leader**

If you are interested in trying some new wines, enjoying good conversation and sampling a selection of appetizers and pot luck type dishes, consider attending a wine tasting evening.

Each wine tasting evening is hosted by a Troy Newcomer member. Wine Tasting evenings are held once a month. The members attending may bring a spouse or friend, along with an appetizer, their wine glasses and \$10 per wine drinker which will contribute to the cost of the wine. Those who do not drink wine are welcome to attend contributing an appetizer but are not asked to pay the \$10. Everyone brings their own wine glass.

The hostess chooses the wines she would like to serve. The hostess supplies the coffee and desserts. This is held once a month on a Friday or Saturday evening of the hostess's choice beginning at 6:30pm.

The December wine tasting evening will be on Saturday, December 20. Martha Brosseau will host this event. If you are planning on attending, please contact Martha at 248 891-5987 by December 17. If you will not be drinking wine, please tell Martha when you RSVP.





# December 2025

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1 Social	2 Widow's Group	3 Culinary Group	4 Bowling Board Meeting	5 Mah Jongg	6 Evening Euchre
7	8	9 Morning Euchre	10 Pickle Ball Ushering	11 Bowling Ushering	12 Ushering Last Day for Donations	13 Ushering
14 Ushering	15	16	17 Pickle Ball Book Club	18 Bowling Luncheon	19	20 Wine Tasting
21	22	23	24	25 <b>Merry Christmas</b>	26	27
28	29	30	31 <b>New Year's Eve</b>			

Notes

	<b>Board of Directors</b>		
President	Marie Watson	<a href="mailto:president@troynewcomers.com">president@troynewcomers.com</a>	
1st VP Programs	Gail Trendler	<a href="mailto:luncheons@troynewcomers.com">luncheons@troynewcomers.com</a>	
2nd VP Luncheons	Barb Shimoura	<a href="mailto:luncheons@troynewcomers.com">luncheons@troynewcomers.com</a>	
Advisor	Darcel Connors	<a href="mailto:advisor@troynewcomers.com">advisor@troynewcomers.com</a>	
Business Luncheon Secretary	Karen Patterson	<a href="mailto:luncheonsecretary@troynewcomers.com">luncheonsecretary@troynewcomers.com</a>	
Fundraising	OPEN	<a href="mailto:fundraising@troynewcomers.com">fundraising@troynewcomers.com</a>	
Newsletter Editor	Darcel Connors	<a href="mailto:newsletereditor@troynewcomers.com">newsletereditor@troynewcomers.com</a>	
Membership Secretary	Martha Brosseau	<a href="mailto:membership@troynewcomers.com">membership@troynewcomers.com</a>	
Publicity	OPEN	<a href="mailto:publicity@troynewcomers.com">publicity@troynewcomers.com</a>	
Recording Secretary	Lynn Sarosik	<a href="mailto:recordingsecretary@troynewcomers.com">recordingsecretary@troynewcomers.com</a>	
Service	Michele Burns	<a href="mailto:service@troynewcomers.com">service@troynewcomers.com</a>	
	Eileen Winkel		
Socials	Karen Gard	<a href="mailto:socials@troynewcomers.com">socials@troynewcomers.com</a>	
	Diana Alexanian		
Treasurer	Martha Brosseau	<a href="mailto:treasurer@troynewcomers.com">treasurer@troynewcomers.com</a>	
Website	Barb Emmer	<a href="mailto:website@troynewcomers.com">website@troynewcomers.com</a>	
	<b>Committee Leaders</b>		
50/50 Luncheon Raffle	Gina Kossick		
Advertising	Darcel Connors	<a href="mailto:advisor@troynewcomers.com">advisor@troynewcomers.com</a>	
Kick Off Committee	Marie Watson	<a href="mailto:clubactivities@troynewcomers.com">clubactivities@troynewcomers.com</a>	
Membership Directory	Martha Brosseau	<a href="mailto:membership@troynewcomers.com">membership@troynewcomers.com</a>	
Interviewer	Kathy Holm	<a href="mailto:interviewer@troynewcomers.com">interviewer@troynewcomers.com</a>	
Newsletter Distribution	Darcel Connors	<a href="mailto:newsletereditor@troynewcomers.com">newsletereditor@troynewcomers.com</a>	
	<b>Activity Leaders</b>		
Book Club	Janet Gole	<a href="mailto:bookclub@troynewcomers.com">bookclub@troynewcomers.com</a>	
Bowling, Ladies	Darcel Connors	<a href="mailto:ladiesbowling@troynewcomers.com">ladiesbowling@troynewcomers.com</a>	
Euchre, Daytime	Gina Kossick	<a href="mailto:ladieseuchre@troynewcomers.com">ladieseuchre@troynewcomers.com</a>	
Euchre, Evening	Darlene Glaze	<a href="mailto:eveningeuchre@troynewcomers.com">eveningeuchre@troynewcomers.com</a>	
Golf Somerset	Karen Hrit	<a href="mailto:golfsomerset@troynewcomers.com">golfsomerset@troynewcomers.com</a>	
	Debbie Risko		
Golf, Sylvan Glen	Gail Trendler	<a href="mailto:golfsylvanglen@troynewcomers.com">golfsylvanglen@troynewcomers.com</a>	
Ladies Game Night	Jill Miceli	<a href="mailto:gamenight@troynewcomers.com">gamenight@troynewcomers.com</a>	
Mah Jongg	Jane Egermann	<a href="mailto:mahjongg@troynewcomers.com">mahjongg@troynewcomers.com</a>	
Meadowbrook Theater Ushers	Michele Burns	<a href="mailto:meadowbrook@troynewcomers.com">meadowbrook@troynewcomers.com</a>	
	Joann Twigg		
Pickle Ball	Michele Burns	<a href="mailto:pickleball@troynewcomers.com">pickleball@troynewcomers.com</a>	
Scrapbooking	Darcel Connors	<a href="mailto:scrapbooking@troynewcomers.com">scrapbooking@troynewcomers.com</a>	
Widows Group	Karen Gard	<a href="mailto:widowsgroup@troynewcomers.com">widowsgroup@troynewcomers.com</a>	
Wine Tasting	Ann Britton	<a href="mailto:winetasting@troynewcomers.com">winetasting@troynewcomers.com</a>	