



## Michigan State University Community Club

December 2024 Newsletter



### ***A Message from Your President:***

The Holiday Reception on Friday, December 6, will be a fun and festive way to usher in the holiday season. I hope to see you there.

As you think about your end-of-year giving plans, please consider donating to our MSUCC Endowed Scholarship Funds. Donations of any amount, large or small, are welcome. The MSUCC Scholarships are a wonderful way to help support MSU's outstanding students.

Call University Advancement at Michigan State University at (800) 232-4678 and explain which of the endowment funds (listed below) you wish to support.

the General MSUCC Scholarship  
the Irene Arens Scholarship  
the Karen Harsh Scholarship

Have your credit card number handy to make your donation that way, or you can mail a check payable to Michigan State University to University Advancement, 535 Chestnut Road, Room 300, East Lansing, MI 48824. Your donation will be appreciated.

Have a wonderful and joyful holiday season!

*Nancy Craig*  
*MSUCC President*



### ***Mark your calendar:***

Friday, December 6 - Holiday Reception  
1:00 - 3:00 PM, Okemos Presbyterian Church  
2258 Bennett Road, Okemos  
Entertainment by Capital Ballet Theatre, donation opportunity  
for MSU Safe Place, Quilters' sale of gifts and quilt raffle

January - No General Membership Meeting

Friday, February 21, 2025 - General Membership and Annual Meeting  
1:00 - 3:00 PM, Community Room of MSU Federal Credit Union  
Corner of Farm Lane and Mt. Hope Road Election of 2025-2026 Officers  
Presentation "Changes in Hospice" by James LaBerge, DO  
and Kathy Mrozinsky, Director of Marketing & Development,  
Hospice of Lansing, Stoneleigh Residence and Ionia Area Hospice

# Annual MSUCC Holiday Reception

December is a month of many holidays, including Christmas, Chanukkah, Kwanza, and Denali, which are all celebrated in different ways. MSUCC is a diverse group, and it is our tradition to have a Holiday Reception in early December.



This year our reception will be on

**Friday, December 6, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM  
at the Okemos Presbyterian Church, 2258 Bennett Road**

*(see map on next page)*. This will be a delightful afternoon with a performance by six children from the Children's Ballet Theatre and, of course, refreshments.



Another way to celebrate the holidays is to share our life's gifts with others less fortunate. MSU Safe Place representative, Ms. Tana Fedewa, will also be with us Friday. At our last several Holiday Receptions, we have supported MSU Safe Place by donating needed items to assist those they help. Many items can be bought online (link below) at Target, but you will need to pick up the item(s) you order. You could also bring cash, gift cards, or a personal check.

Bring your donation(s) with you, and Ms. Fedewa and MSUCC volunteers will get them to Safe Place. This is the link to the Target Gift Registry website where MSU Safe Place has indicated some of the needs of their clients:

<https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/e5a67e20-5b5b-11ef-b33e-db6c62a120a7>

The MSUCC Board members and your CC friends look forward to having you with us!



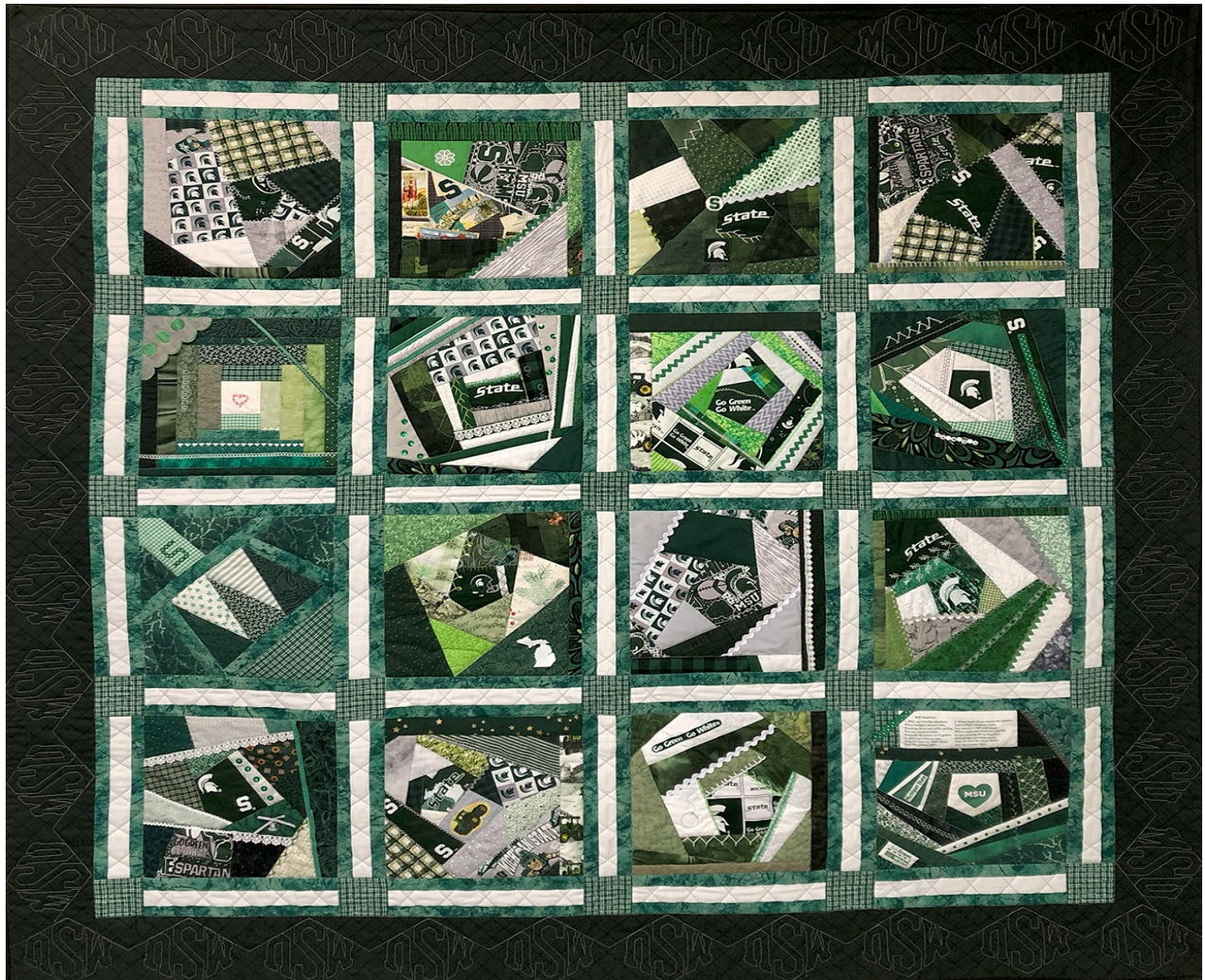
Running North and South is Okemos Road. The curved street running East and West is Bennett Road. There's a stop light at this intersection, and on the Northwest corner is a dentist's office (the white-roof building), which has a parking area to the left (driveway onto Bennett). Farther left, past that driveway, is another driveway to a short road running East and West. There are two entrances on the North side of that road into the parking lot of the church. Enter the church social hall through the door directly North of the left line of trees in the parking lot.

## The Spartan Quilters Group is Preparing for the Holiday Event!

The MSUCC Spartan Quilters will have some captivating items for your holiday shopping at the annual Holiday Reception on Friday, December 6. We will hold a drawing for the beautiful MSU lap-sized quilt shown below. A ticket for the drawing will cost \$5.00, or you may buy 3 for \$10.00. If you are unable to attend, be sure to ask a friend who will be there to buy tickets for you. We cannot sell tickets ahead of the event.

Our holiday store will contain some exciting new gift options, some of which include tree ornaments, small purses for party wear, pillows, catnip toys for your favorite cat, whimsical things, paper book covers, holiday vests, tea towels, and much more.

Remember that all proceeds go to the MSUCC Endowed Scholarship Fund, so invest in MSU students' futures by buying lots!



## Review of November General Membership Meeting

Forty-five people attended the meeting on November 15 to hear Charles Ballard, Professor Emeritus of the Department of Economics, present “The Election’s Over. Now What??” Charley is well-known to many of our members, and brought up several scenarios that could possibly come to pass when the new administration takes over. He is an engaging, funny, irreverent, and thoroughly entertaining speaker!



Refreshments were provided by the Creative Writers Interest Group, whose members also helped set up before and clean up after the meeting.

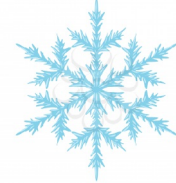
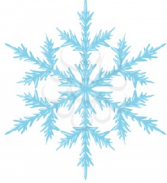


MSUCC Second Vice President Sandy Gebber (far right) facilitates meeting refreshments and table decorations for our membership meetings and other events.

Also pictured are (left to right) Assistant Treasurer Helen LeBlanc, Treasurer Gretchen Forsyth, and Creative Writers Group member Carol Johnson.

## **New MSUCC Members for the 2024-2025 Club Year**

Joyce Banish - Bath  
Judy Chapman - Mason  
Linda Hanson - East Lansing  
Rachael Hackel - East Lansing  
Diane Kearns - East Lansing  
Denise Moore - East Lansing  
Susie Quillen - Holt  
Pat Quinn - East Lansing  
Aria Schalter - Holt  
Teresa Schulz - Lansing  
Lyn Scott - Lansing  
Sue Stevens - East Lansing



### **MSUCC Scholarship Endowments Report**

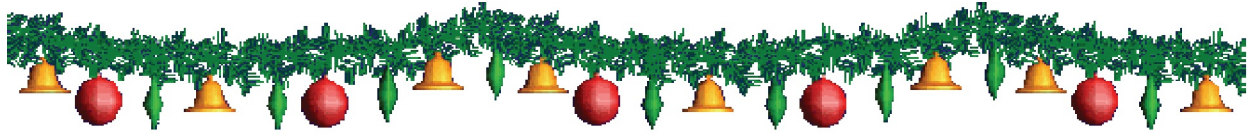
The Scholarship Committee was elated to have our three separate endowed funds generate enough interest income this past year so that the Club could provide each of eight students with a \$2,500 scholarship for the 2024-2025 academic year. Increasing the amount of money in the funds will generate more interest income so that we can either (or both!) award more scholarships or increase the amount of each scholarship.

Please see President Nancy's message on the first page of this newsletter for information on how to donate to one of our scholarship endowments.

Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs  
Jacqueline Holecek and Joanne Schutz



## Interest Group Activities for December and January



### **Afternoon Bridge** - Chair Kay Hillberg

[hillbergk@hotmail.com](mailto:hillbergk@hotmail.com)

881-4298

We play at 1:00 PM on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at Schuler's in Meridian Mall. Some of us have lunch together at 12:15 before we play. Because of the Christmas holiday, our only December play date will be on the 9<sup>th</sup>. We will resume playing twice a month in January, on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.



I will send an eMail reminder before each play date. If you are not on our list but would like to play, we would love to have you join us.

Kay

### **Creative Writers** - Co-Chairs Lyn Farquhar

[farquha1@msu.edu](mailto:farquha1@msu.edu)

349-9569

Kathy Esselman

[esselmank@comcast.net](mailto:esselmank@comcast.net)

974-1834

We last met at the East Lansing Public Library on November 6<sup>th</sup> at 12:30.

Jacque Foss was the hostess for the event and brought coffee, cookies, and candy. Attending the meeting were Joyce Benvenuto, Kate O'Neill, Kathy Esselman, Jacquie Foss, Jo Brown, Jill Campbell, Linda Nuttal & Cele Friestater. Two readers presented at the meeting. Joyce Benvenuto read five poems and one prose piece. The topics ranged from canning tomatoes to desirable foods, to gardening, to her Aunt Merle who was the first woman in Michigan to be granted a divorce. Canning tomatoes was especially evocative to the group as the putting up of foods from gardens was often a chance for the women of the family to bond and is rarely done today.



Linda Nuttall read a piece of family memorabilia. It described the distinctively Michigan event of going up North to see the leaves turn colors in Fall. Comments were that it wonderfully captured the time and place.

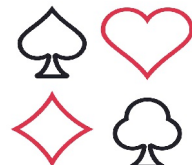
The group's next meeting will be on December 4<sup>th</sup> at Lyn Farquhar's house for our traditional holiday party. We will do one-page readings on the topic of Holiday Media. Lyn and Kathy

### **Dinner & Bridge** - Chair Joy Jacobs

[jacobsj@msu.edu](mailto:jacobsj@msu.edu)

675-5590

We will meet in December on Friday, the 6<sup>th</sup>, but will not meet in January because the University Club will be closed for the two weeks after New Year's Eve. The first Friday in February will be the 7<sup>th</sup>, and that will be our first meeting date of 2025. If you are interested in joining us, please let me know.



jj

**Evening Novel Discussion** - Chair Janet Brock

[jpbrock@mac.com](mailto:jpbrock@mac.com) 292-7873

This book group reads novels. We meet the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM at a member's home, with a Zoom option September through November and from April through June. We meet on Zoom in December through March and do not meet in July or August. Please contact me if you would like to join us or if you have questions.

Janet



**Family Links** - Co-Chairs - Sandy Gebber

[sanrosgeb@gmail.com](mailto:sanrosgeb@gmail.com) 351-9318

Laurie Koochesfahani

[koochesf@comcast.net](mailto:koochesf@comcast.net) 349-3135

We will not meet in December, but in January Dr. Lois Fermaglich will talk about how she found her roots. We will meet at the East Lansing Public Library from 3:00-4:30 PM on January 21st. We hope to see you there.

Sandy and Laurie



**Advanced German Conversation** - Helen LeBlanc

[helen\\_48895@yahoo.com](mailto:helen_48895@yahoo.com) 655-6454

We meet at 2:00 PM on the first and third Thursdays of the month. The meeting on the first Thursday is by Zoom, because our membership ranges from California to southern France. On the third Thursday we meet in member's homes and share wonderful desserts, or we meet in a restaurant or coffeehouse. We converse only in German, and discuss topics from politics to current movies. Please contact me if you are interested.

Helen



**International** - Chair Jean Friend

[friend.jean@att.net](mailto:friend.jean@att.net) 285-5469

Our group will not meet in December or January. Watch for information about our next meeting in the February newsletter.

Jean



**Mah Jong** - Contact Kathy Jacobs

[khjacobs@hotmail.com](mailto:khjacobs@hotmail.com) 332-2737

The first class this Fall has finished successfully, and the next class will start December 3. That class may meet twice a week to finish before the holidays. Please contact me with questions and to register for a new class.

Kathy



**Morning Eclectic Readers** - Babs Krause

[krauseb02@comcast.net](mailto:krauseb02@comcast.net) 337-2713

We meet the fourth Friday of the month at 10 AM. If you'd like to join us, please get in touch with me.

Babs



**Out-to-Lunch Bunch** - Chair Kathy Esselman

[esselmank@comcast.net](mailto:esselmank@comcast.net) 974-1834

We take off December and January, but will resume in February.

Information on our next meeting will be in the February newsletter.

Kathy



**Quilters** - Chair Martha Schwab

[mmschwab17@gmail.com](mailto:mmschwab17@gmail.com) 676-7011

The Quilters will hold their final meeting of the year at their annual holiday party on December 4. They will not meet again until January 8, 2025.



We will hold a drawing for the MSU quilt we have made at the Holiday Event on December 6. See page 4 of the newsletter to see a photo of the quilt.  
Martha

**Sequence** - Chair Grace Nicodemus

[revgrace@icloud.com](mailto:revgrace@icloud.com) 831-747-4222

Come join in the fun and excitement of a game of Sequence. You can be a winner even if you have never played before. It is so simple and easy. We can handle up to 16 players at a time. We meet at Coral Gables on the third Wednesday of the month and have lunch at 11:30 AM and start playing at 12:30 PM. We next meet on December 18 and then again on January 15. Hope to have you with us! Please RSVP to me so that we can plan the number of players.  
Grace



**Tennis** - Chair Phylis Floyd

[floyd@msu.edu](mailto:floyd@msu.edu) 980-2526

Shelly Kindig, the tennis pro at Court One North, has assumed direction of our drills on Mondays and Fridays at 9:00 AM. We have changed location to Court One North, 1609 Lake Lansing Rd. Telephone: 517-372-9531. Cost is \$9 for members of Court One, or \$10 for non-members.



Please call Court One the day before to assure sufficient numbers. Contact me if you're interested in joining us!  
Phylis

**Visual Arts** - Chairs Gwendolyn Taylor  
Carmen Dykema

[gmtaylor22@gmail.com](mailto:gmtaylor22@gmail.com) 285-6894  
[carmendykema@gmail.com](mailto:carmendykema@gmail.com) 230-3046

On November 7, we spent the day at The Kalamazoo Institute of Art, experiencing works from the museum's special exhibition - *Legendary Voices: Art for the Next Century*. Our December 12 field trip will be to the MSU Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum. Special exhibits include *Esmāa Mohamoud: Complex Dreams*, *Diasporic Collage: Puerto Rico and the Survival of a People*; and *Samia Haley: Eye Witness*.



On January 16, 2025 (from 10 AM to 12 noon), Lyn Farquhar will host members at her home. She is the granddaughter of the renown American illustrator Eugene Iverd, and she will share his art and the story of his career as an illustrator, teacher, and painter.

We invite MSUCC members to join us for any or all of our monthly field trips. Please contact us for additional information.  
Gwen and Carmen

**Women's Night Out** - Chair Jean Zwier

[zwierjlmr@gmail.com](mailto:zwierjlmr@gmail.com) 898-6254

We will meet at Bravo in Eastwood Towne Center at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, December 10. Please let me know if you plan to join us.



For information on our January meeting (date TBD), Please contact me.  
Jean

**Women's Sports Supporters** - Chair Joy Jacobs

[jacobsj@msu.edu](mailto:jacobsj@msu.edu) 675-5590

This group has never met in person, but we connect through our love for MSUCC and for MSU women's sports. Athletic Department messages and information about upcoming games are forwarded to group members as I receive them.



The **soccer** team made it to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament, but lost to Duke on Duke's home field. During the season, MSU had their first #1 ranking nationally, and also had the longest winning streak in the nation from August 15 to October 13.

The **volleyball** team has now ended their up & down year. The Big Ten is unarguably the toughest conference for volleyball, with six to eight teams moving into and out of the national top 25 over the season. MSU's record does not reflect how good they could be -- when they were playing their best, they were formidable. Senior Recognition Night was on November 27, when the team honored six seniors who completed their eligibility this year. Their last match was at Wisconsin on November 30.

The **basketball** team is doing great so far. They are undefeated in their first eight games, having won a Thanksgiving tournament in Palm Springs, California, and they have scored over 100 points in five of their games! Their highest margin of victory is 65 points. This team is such fun to watch - it has grad students who transferred here with one remaining year of eligibility, some fantastic freshmen, two players who are back after season-ending injuries last year, and the core group we've enjoyed watching in the past. Come to a game and you'll become a fan!

Link to their schedule (you will need to copy & paste)

<https://msuspartans.com/sports/womens-basketball/schedule/2024-25?grid=true>



## Message from the Newsletter Editor

This issue of the MSUCC newsletter is the last one for 2024. The next issue will be sent around February 1. We do not write a January newsletter at the end of December, but include January news in the December issue each year.

Have a wonderful holiday season! Enjoy your family and your neighbors, and have a blessed 2025.

jj