



# Michigan State University Community Club 2023-2024 Newsletter



## A Message from the President

Dear MSUCC Members:

It's the start of the holiday season and we've had a wonderful start to MSUCC's 2023-2024 year. Our Tailgate presentation in October from Coach Robyn Fralick was extremely well attended and appreciated. Then, on November 10, we heard from Dr. Kevin Leonard, Director of the MSU Native American Institute at MSU. He was an entertaining and informative speaker and we learned so much about the history of Native Americans in Michigan. Topping off Dr. Leonard's presentation was a surprise visit from a descendant of Chief Okemos. His wife, Deb, gave us a wonderful sense of the Chief and his contributions to the Anishinabek people.

Our holiday event this year will be held on Thursday, December 14, at the Turner Dodge Mansion in Lansing where we will learn about the history of the home from the Curator. Many thanks to the Program Co-Chairs, Kathy Jacobs and Joanne Schutz, for setting up such enjoyable programs this year.

I look forward to seeing you on December 14!

*Lyn Farquhar*  
MSUCC President 2023-2024



### **IMPORTANT DATES**

Monday, December 11 - Board meeting, 10:30 AM, MSUFCU Community Room

Thursday, December 14 - Holiday Open House Reception, 1:30 to 3:30 PM  
Turner Dodge House, 100 East North Street, Lansing

January - No Board meeting or general membership meeting

Monday, February 12 - Board meeting, 10:30 AM, MSUFCU Community Room

Friday, February 16 - General Membership Meeting, 1:00 - 3:00 PM, MSUFCU Community Room  
"Cooking with Grace" - introduction to her cookbook by member Grace Nicodemus



## **October General Membership Meeting with Kevin Leonard, Ph.D. Interim Director Native American Institute of MSU**

Forty members and guests were hosted at the Nokomis Cultural Heritage Center in Okemos, with light refreshments provided by the Family Links interest group and table decorations by Kathy Esselman.

Dr. Leonard gave a comprehensive talk about the state of affairs of the indigenous people of Michigan and explained the very important Land Acknowledgment treaties, which greatly affect the education of Native American youth. All who attended were impressed with Dr. Leonard's friendly personality and knowledge, even as he explained

the horrors of the Indian Schools, relocation of indigenous people to Western states, and the broken treaties that disadvantaged his people for generations to come.

Special visitor Ken Fisher, Great-Great-Great-Great Grandson of Chief Okemos, was accompanied by his wife Deb, and they shared documents and photos of Okemos ancestry and interesting information about Chief Okemos, who was only 21 years old when he signed treaties between Native American groups and the State of Michigan.



Members and guests listening to Deb and Ken Fisher share generations of ancestry information from Chief Okemos down to their grandson, whose elementary school class project on Chief Okemos was featured in the local newspaper.

*(article continues on next page)*



These are some of the lovely quilts that were on sale by the MSUCC Spartan Quilters at their second Holiday Sale.

They sincerely thank everyone who purchased items at the November General Meeting at the Nokomis Cultural Heritage Center. A total of \$201 in merchandise was sold, which when added to the earnings from the Holiday Sale at the October General Meeting, totaled \$571 for the MSUCC Endowed Scholarship Fund.

The Quilters look forward to bringing MSUCC members new items at their next sale at the April 2024 Spring Luncheon.

As an item of interest, this photo was sent to us by member Joyce Benvenuto. It is the gravestone of Chief Okemos, and is located along the Grand River near Portland, MI. Joyce commented on the number of tokens and mementoes at the gravesite, which were remarkable in number and variety – She particularly mentioned the black Iraqi Freedom Veteran cap that had been left there.





We have recently had several deaths among our MSUCC family and extended family. Cards have been sent from MSUCC, but you may wish to send your own card or note.

Long-time member Iris Horner died on October 10. A card was sent to her husband David at their home: 2166 Tamarack Drive, Okemos 48864-3912

Former long-time member Laura Wilkinson died on November 9. She and her husband Roger had moved from their Okemos home to Red Cedar Lodge, 210 Dori Lane, Apt. 411, Lansing 48912

Josh Prentice, son-in-law of former long-time member Barb Sjolander, died on November 13. Barb and her husband Karl moved to be closer to Josh and their daughter Emily last year. Barb's address is now 777 East Woodward Heights Blvd. #204, Hazel Park 48030



### **Scholarship Report**

Scholarship Committee Co-Chair Jacqueline Holecek has requested that we remind MSUCC members and friends that they still have the opportunity to donate to the Endowed Scholarship fund before the end of 2023. Monies given to the scholarship fund are tax-deductible. The more money we have in the account, the more interest the fund earns and the more money we can give to deserving students!

### **Tentative Plans for Tailgate Silent Auction in October, 2024**

MSU Women's basketball coach Robyn Fralick, our October 2023 program speaker, gave us an autographed women's basketball. The MSUCC Board has discussed planning a silent auction of MSU sports memorabilia as a fund raising opportunity to benefit the MSUCC Endowed Scholarship Fund. We will solicit more donations from the Athletics Department and MSU, and will gladly accept donations from MSUCC members and friends of MSU sports memorabilia. Please email Joy Jacobs at [jacobsj@msu.edu](mailto:jacobsj@msu.edu) with questions about this event or to donate a collectible sports item.

### **Corrections to the Membership Directory**

Please make the following changes to your new MSUCC Directory:

- On page 9, the Sequence interest group meets on the third Wednesday, not the third Thursday.
- Also on page 9, The phone number of the Chair of Visual Arts, Gwendolyn Taylor, is 517-285-6894, not 517-285-6994.
- On page 22, the email address for Lynda Moore should be corrected to be [lflamingolynda@gmail.com](mailto:lflamingolynda@gmail.com)



**MSUCC Holiday Open House Reception  
Turner-Dodge House  
Thursday, December 14 - 1:30 to 3:30 PM**

The photo above shows the home decorated for the holidays. Come enjoy the reception with your Community Club friends and learn more about this beautiful home, which is now a museum and historical center. It was built by Michigan pioneers who helped develop the capital city and the State. They were progressive leaders, supporters of higher education for women, abolition, and the development of the arts and culture.

In 1847, the State legislature had established a new capitol in Lansing. Merchant James Turner moved to Lansing from Mason, selecting a home site at this location. Turner was elected to the State legislature as a Representative, and later served Lansing as Mayor.

Construction of the house began in 1855. James' wife lived on in the home after his death. The house passed to his son, James M., and then to James M's sister Abbey and her husband Frank Dodge. In 1900, the Dodges hired Lansing architect Darius Moon to modernize and renovate the home. Members of the Turner family continued to live there until the Great Lakes Bible College acquired the house in 1958. In 1972, the college moved to another campus, and the city of Lansing purchased the property, with substantial renovations done in the 1990s and 2000s.

The Turner-Dodge Mansion is a large Georgian Revival brick house. It has a three-story central section flanked by two-story wings, and a large front porch with columns. Inside, the house has large classical doorways, multiple fireplaces, and beveled and leaded glass windows.

Ms. Barbara Loyer, Event Manager and Program Manager of the mansion will present a short historical program during our open house. We look forward to seeing and hearing about this beautiful home, which will be decorated, inside and out, for the holidays!



MSU Safe Place is a relationship violence and stalking program that offers advocacy, counseling, support groups, shelter, and educational programs for MSU students, staff, faculty, retirees, their partners and the greater Lansing community. We have been offering free and confidential services since 1994. The support that we receive from community members like you is vitally important for us to continue our mission in the years ahead.

**You can help by donating any of the items listed below.**

**Most needed items:**

- ◆ Used cell phones, smart phones, iPods and iPads (which will be sent to SmartphoneRecycling.com to raise funds for our program)
- ◆ CATA bus passes (student and adult)
- ◆ Gift cards for Kroger, Meijer, Target or Walmart
- ◆ Gas cards
- ◆ Paper towel, Kleenex, toilet paper
- ◆ Bleach, spray cleaner, Pine Sol, Scrubbing Bubbles, Soft Scrub, toilet cleaner, glass cleaner
- ◆ Mops, brooms, sponges, wipes, SOS pads, rubber gloves
- ◆ Laundry soap, hand soap, dish soap
- ◆ New pillows
- ◆ New or gently used pots and pans

**Less urgent but often needed items:**

- ◆ Socks and underwear (new) for women & children
- ◆ New or gently used backpacks

**Holiday needs:**

- ◆ Gift cards, such as Meijer, Kroger, Target, Walmart, etc. (can be used for food or other assistance for families)
- ◆ Gas cards
- ◆ Gifts for children, teens, and adult women

If you have questions, or items not on the list that you think we could use, please email us at [noabuse@msu.edu](mailto:noabuse@msu.edu)

**Options for financial donations:**

- Go to <https://givingto.msu.edu/crowdpower/safe-place-emergency-funds>
- Write a check payable to Michigan State University, specifying MSU Safe Place in the memo line. Send check to: University Advancement, 535 Chestnut Way, Room 300, East Lansing, MI 48824.

All financial and in-kind contributions are tax deductible. Thank you, in advance, for supporting our program!

**MSU Safe Place**

517-355-1100 [safeplace.msu.edu](http://safeplace.msu.edu) [noabuse@msu.edu](mailto:noabuse@msu.edu)

## MSUCC Interest Group News

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

[hillbergk@hotmail.com](mailto:hillbergk@hotmail.com) 881-4298

We play the second and fourth Mondays of the month, alternating between Schuler's in Meridian Mall and online using BridgeBase. If you are on our list, I will send an eMail reminder early in the week before our next play dates on December 11 (at Schuler's), January 8 (Schuler's) and January 22 (online).  
Kay



### **Creative Writers** - Chairs Kathy Esselman Lyn Farquhar

[esselmank@comcast.net](mailto:esselmank@comcast.net) 974-1834  
[farquha1@msu.edu](mailto:farquha1@msu.edu) 349-9569

The Creative Writer's November meeting was held at the home of Cele Friestater. Joyce Benvenuto read three poems from her most recent book called "Passage", and Linda Nuttal read a piece about buying a new car. In December, the group meets at Lyn Farquhar's home and each of us will read a one-pager on the topic of "Special Holidays."

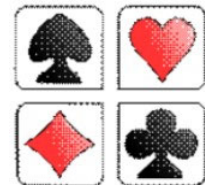


Joyce Benvenuto's fourth book of poetry was released November 17<sup>th</sup> and Jill Campbell Mason had a book launch of "Mario of my Life" on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Lyn Farquhar's newest mystery, "The Family Man," will be released January 9<sup>th</sup>, but is available for pre-order on Amazon.  
Kathy

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

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

This group started over 50 years ago as a group of MSUCC members and their spouses. We have evolved and are now open to all members, coupled or single. We meet the first Friday of the month at 5:30 PM in the University Club's "Mingle" restaurant for dinner, then we play bridge in a private room until about 10 PM. Our next gathering will be December 1. The U Club is closed from January 1 to 16, so we won't meet again until February 2. If you, as a single or with your spouse, are interested in joining us, please email me and you can join us in February!



jj

### **Evening Novel Discussion** - Chair Janet Brock

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

Join us for friendly, lively, and provocative opportunities to delve into the world of good literature. We read novels that are available in paperback in book stores, through the library, online, and as audio recordings. Meetings are the second Wednesday of each month, September through June, at 7:30 PM, with an opportunity to socialize. Book discussion starts promptly at 8:00 PM. We usually adjourn by 9:30 PM. Fall and Spring meetings will be in members' homes. We are experimenting with having a Zoom link available for those members who want to attend our live meetings online. During the Winter months, we switch to an all Zoom format. Let me know if you'd like to join us.



Janet

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

[cbold67@gmail.com](mailto:cbold67@gmail.com) 859-421-0014  
[sanrosgeb@gmail.com](mailto:sanrosgeb@gmail.com) 351-9318

We will not meet in December, but will meet on January 16, 2024, at the East Lansing Library from 3 to 4:30 PM. We will be viewing a webinar "History Clues in Your Old Family", about using clues from photos to help you determine information about early members of your family.

Sandy & Candy



**German Conversation** - Chair Helen LeBlanc

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

We meet at 2:00 PM the first and third Thursdays of the month. On the first Thursday we meet 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 coffeehouse or restaurant. We converse only in German, and discuss all kinds of topics.

Helen



**Golf** - Chair Kristi Broessel

[filfour@aol.com](mailto:filfour@aol.com) 323-8286

Our golf season concluded on September 21st with golf, lunch and prizes. It was an exciting golf season with one member scoring a hole-in-one and with the addition of several new golfers to our roster. Please contact me if you're interested in joining our golf league in the Spring. I know you'll enjoy playing golf with us.

Kristi



**International** - Chair Jean Friend

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

We last met on Wednesday November 15 at my home. We were enlightened by a talk by Hamis Abdelhady, a visiting scholar from Egypt, where she is Head of Grants and developing projects in an agriculture startup. Climate change is affecting Egypt as with all countries, and temperatures reach as high as 130 F, making some agricultural practices difficult.

We sampled some delicious Egyptian food such as their version of pita bread and rice pudding, and also persimmons, dates and pineapple. Our next meeting will be in February 2024.

Jean



**Mah Jong** - Contact Kathy Jacobs

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

Vivian Dwyer is taking names for Mahjong lessons this coming January. Classes are held at The Arty Party Studio, located at 2112 Hamilton Road, Okemos 48864. Hours are generally 1-3. Dates and days to be determined with what works for participants. All supplies included, \$25 for four consecutive weeks. Please phone Vivian at 517-582-1280 and leave a message with your name and phone number and she will get back to you.

Kathy



**Morning Eclectic Readers** - Chair Babs Krause

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

This group meets the fourth Friday of the month. New members are welcome. Contact me to be included.

Babs



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

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

The Out to Lunch Bunch does not meet in December. The next luncheon is scheduled at Blondie's Barn at 5640 Marsh Rd, Haslett, MI 48840 on Friday, January 12, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. The co-hosts are Martha Muth and Willa Swartz. We will all be celebrating Martha's birthday. The menu is available at [blondiesbarn.com](http://blondiesbarn.com)



If you would like to join us for lunch, please call, text or email me. If you would like more information about our group or would like to join us, let me know.

Kathy

**Sequence** - Chair Grace Nicodemus

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

We meet the third Wednesday of the month at Coral Gables restaurant. Please join us for lunch and Sequence. Lunch begins at 11:30 and we play afterwards. December 20 and January 17 are our next meeting dates.



Sequence is easy to learn and fun to play. Last month, one of the winning partners had never played the game before! Please RSVP. If you can come at the last minute, we'll make it work.

Grace

**Social Excursions** - Contact Kay Hillberg  
(formerly Social Singles)

[hillbergk@hotmail.com](mailto:hillbergk@hotmail.com) 881-4298

This group hasn't met since the pandemic, and we are hoping to re-start, brainstorming ideas such as eating at local restaurants; attending concerts, plays or special events; doing craft projects; or visiting interesting places in or near Lansing. Please contact me if you are interested in planning.

Kay



**Spartan Quilters** - Chair Martha Schwab

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

MSUCC Spartan Quilters will celebrate the holidays with a year-end party at my home on Dec. 6 complete with a buffet and gift exchange. We will then take a break for the holidays and reconvene on Wednesday, Jan. 3 at Country Stitches with a lesson on a small Valentine decoration. All are welcome to attend.

Martha



**Tennis** - Chair Phylis Floyd

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

Drills will continue regularly on Monday and Friday, 9:00 AM, at Court One East, Okemos. The per-session charge is \$9 for members of Court One or \$10 for non-members. Please remember to call Court One the day before to assure we have sufficient numbers for our coach. Contact me if you're interested in joining us!

Phylis



**Visual Arts** - Chair Gwendolyn Taylor

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

We have experienced a busy and productive start! Our October "field trip" to the Detroit Institute of Arts to see the exhibit - James Barnor: Accra/London, a Retrospective was phenomenal. In November we visited the Flint Institute of Arts



to see several touring exhibits including Decorative by Design: 250 years of Japanese Objects; Fabrication in Transit; and Visions of America 1900-1950.

In December, we will have a conversation with Roy Saper, founder and owner of Saper Galleries & Custom Framing, East Lansing. In January we will meet with Michelle Word, Director of Education, at the MSU Broad Art Museum. We will view several featured installations, including works in the CORE (Center for Object Research and Engagement). Contact me for more info.  
Gwen

**Women's Night Out** - Co-Chairs - Sue Bence [suebence@gmail.com](mailto:suebence@gmail.com) 420-0018  
Gabi Mayer [g57mayer@gmail.com](mailto:g57mayer@gmail.com) 655-2161  
Jean Zwier [zwierjlmr@gmail.com](mailto:zwierjlmr@gmail.com) 898-6254

Our next WNO will be at Bravo at Eastwood Town Center on Tuesday, 12/12, at 6 pm. Please let Gabi know by Wednesday, 12/6, if you would like to join us. There will be no January outing.



In February (date TBD) we will visit Everyday Authentic Chinese Cuisine in East Lansing.  
Sue, Gabi & Jean

**Women's Sports Supporters** - Chair Joy Jacobs [jacobsj@msu.edu](mailto:jacobsj@msu.edu) 675-5590

This group does not meet face-to-face, but we connect through our love for MSU women's sports. Members receive emails throughout the year with ticket costs, announcements, and sports information.

The volleyball, soccer, field hockey, and cross country seasons have ended, and basketball is off to a great start. They now have a 7 - 1 record and will next play Miami of Ohio on Sunday, December 3. Link to the basketball schedule:

<https://msuspartans.com/sports/womens-basketball/schedule>



The gymnastics team is beginning their season and will host their Green & White event at 1:00 PM on December 16. MSU's own 2023 Big Ten Coach of the Year Mike Rowe looks forward to another great year as he is returning 18 of last year's 19 athletes. Link to the gymnastics schedule:

<https://msuspartans.com/sports/womens-gymnastics/schedule>



Let me know if you want to receive information about MSU women's athletic events!  
jj



The MSUCC family supports our members through times of joy and sorrow. If you know of a member who would appreciate an appropriate card or note, please let us know.

Corresponding Secretary Joanne Keith [keith@msu.edu](mailto:keith@msu.edu)

Newsletter Editor Joy Jacobs [jacobsj@msu.edu](mailto:jacobsj@msu.edu)