



Loyalty
Cooperation
Friendship

Tri-V Umph
December 2013

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President's Message

The tree is up, the stockings are hung, and the kids are starting to get excited. The magic of the Christmas season is alive in the minds and hearts of all the children. That was certainly evident at the children's Christmas party. It was so nice to see so many little ones this year playing together with friends and family. Thank you so much to the committee for putting this event together, it truly was one for the ages. Thank you to Matt V. for playing the role of Santa Claus once again. If this was his last year, he certainly has left some big boots to fill for the next Santa.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all my Tri-V friends and family a very merry Christmas. We have a lot to be thankful for both as a club and individually. Take the time this holiday season to reflect upon your many blessings and remember those that are no longer with us. Pray for those who are in need. Most importantly, take notice of the eyes and the smiles on the faces of the children. It is there that the magic of Christmas lives.

Have a blessed holiday everyone. William Trachsel

Council Party

Rat Partei

Hallo,

Der Rat Partei wird am 18. Januar und dem Dakota Inn Ratskeller statt. Die Dakota Inn Detroit einzige authentische deutsche Bar und Restaurant. Die Teilnehmer werden an deutsche Lebensmittel, Cash-Bar mit 9 authentische Biere vom Fass und Live-Unterhaltung behandelt werden. Der Parkplatz wird von Sicherheitsleuten eingezäunt und überwacht, so Mercedes Benz werden sicher sein. Das Abendessen wird um 6:00 Uhr mit Live-Unterhaltung deutschen um 7:00 und 10:00 Uhr beginnen, wenn Sie sich entscheiden zu bleiben. Wir rechnen die Kosten auf weniger als zwanzig Dollar pro Person für das Abendessen. Wenn Sie an diesem Event zu planen, kontaktieren Sie Steve Trachsel oder Ihr Ratsmitglied wissen, so bald wie möglich trach1s@hotmail.com (586) 850-0161. Die Dakota Inn befindet sich in 17234 John R RD. in fabelhaften Detroit Michigan. Ich bin ein berliner.

Council Party

Hello,

The council party will be held on January 18th and the Dakota Inn Rathskeller. The Dakota Inn is Detroit's only authentic German Bar and Restaurant. Attendees will be treated to German foods, cash bar with 9 authentic beers on tap, and live entertainment. The parking lot is fenced and monitored by security guards so your Mercedes Benz will be safe. Dinner will begin at 6:00 with live German Entertainment at 7:00 and 10:00, if you choose to stay. We anticipate the cost to be less than twenty dollars per person for dinner. If you plan on attending this event please let Steve Trachsel or your council member know as soon as possible trach1s@hotmail.com (586)850-0161. The Dakota Inn is located at 17234 John R rd. in fabulous Detroit Michigan. I am a Jelly Donut

Tri-V Wives Meeting

The January 2014 meeting for the Tri-V Wives will be held on Wednesday, January 8 at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Jacqui Schaefer. All women of Tri-V are invited to join us.

Book Club

There will be no book club information until the spring.

This is a book of fiction.

I know that we will not be having book club discussion until next spring but I wanted to let you know about a book which was recommended to me. This book is very good but also sad at times. There are historical accounts of Hawaiian stories and customs.

Book is "Moloka'i" by Alan Brennert.

This is a story of a woman's journey as she arises above a devastating illness which began at the age of seven.

Pinochle

The pinochle season has begun and the number of players continues to decrease. If we are going to continue to have pinochle as a Tri-V activity, we are going to have to keep the current players and introduce new players to the game. It seems that pinochle has gotten the bad reputation of being too competitive and of being difficult to learn. If you are playing this year, please show good sportsmanship. Let's help the newer players and be understanding when another player bids differently or plays differently than you do. We all make mistakes. Let's try to make pinochle less intimidating and more fun. Let's try to remember that the social part of the evening is more important than the winning or losing. Brian Trachsel

TRI-V PINOCHLE 2013-2014

November Pinochle at the Schaefers

The most outstanding news of the evening was the 40 point score of Romas. We had never heard of anyone getting a score like that before in our club. Jacqui must say it was her big 10 that helped him reach his score. We are thrilled for him. Brain, Jane, Robin, Jay, Kate, Ken, Michael, Jack, and Jacqui all had lots of laughs. I think Jay plays better cards when eating candy. We did have lots of good food besides the candy.

December Florida Pinochle

Florida group played on Friday December 6th. Six of us went out to dinner before playing. We have a new sub playing with Geri Ruetenik - Pat Wagner. Of course the sub had a double pinochle and 22 1/2 points. The Gies's were good hosts as you can see.

The Tri-V scores were as follows:

Geri Ruetenik	24
George Hofman	22
Onallee Trachsel	22
Bill Trachsel	20 1/2
Peg Hoffman	16 1/2
Karlyn Gies	14 1/2
Tim Gies	13

December Pinochle at Cashmans

We hosted Pinochle on December 7th for four couples. We were glad to have at our house Bob & Sherry Kuhr, Jack & Jacqui Schaefer and Jeff & Karen Trachsel, We started the evening at 6:30pm with great food and conversation. After enjoying our snacks and drinks we started playing cards. The cards were not fantastic but we all had a good time enjoying each other's company. The high score for the evening went to Bob Kuhr with 23 1/2 points followed by Cal with 22 1/2 and Jeff with 20. We enjoyed hosting and look forward to the rest of the Pinochle season with great friends.

January's Schedule

Host: N. Angelosano B. Trachsel

Romas/Robyn	M. Trachsel
K. Stress	B. Kuhr
C. Cashman	J. Trachsel
J. Lardin	J. Schaefer

Tri-V Wives Christmas Luncheon

All women of Tri-V are invited to our Christmas Luncheon. It will be held at Ginopolis Bar-B-Q Smokehouse on December 11th at 1pm. Ginopolis is located on the NW Corner of 12 Mile Rd and Middlebelt (27815 Middlebelt Farmington Hills). Bring a gift to exchange for around \$15. Questions: Call Sherry Kuhr 248-888-9335 or Ellie Connolly 248-473-8414

Kids Xmas Party

The Tri V children's Christmas party was held at Eddie Edgar ice arena on Dec. 8th from 1:30 to 4:30pm. As people arrived the kids worked on decorating and signing a banner to give to Santa while they waited for the open skating to begin. The opening skating went from 2:00 to 3:00. It was fun watching the kids and some adults ice skate many for the first time. I saw a great deal of skating improvement in just 1 hour. At 3:00 everyone came off the ice and moved into our room for a meal of pizza, pop and cookies. There kids were excited to get to the main reason for this get together, Santa. Our Jolly Saint Nick (Matt Vanhollenbeke) arrived around 3:45 and some of the kids expression were priceless. After Santa greeted the kids he began to pass out the presents. The kids all got to tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas (I hope the parents and grandparents were taking notes). I think it should be noted to the future committees to make sure Anthony Mackson gets a present quickly because I do not believe that waiting is his strong suit. When the gifts were all passed out Santa was given the banner the kids had made and then he headed back to the north pole to get ready for the big day. We had a great turn out with 49 adults (17 members and 2 prospective members) and 32 children. It is really great to see the number of small children growing at these family events. We collected \$3 for each adult present to cover the room and pizza costs. We would like to thank Matt V for being Santa again this year but sadly he will be hanging up his hat next year because his daughter will be old enough to recognize dear old Santa. Thanks again Matt. Thanks to everyone for coming we hope you had a fun day.
Your Committee: Nick Angelosanto, Jay Trachsel, Brian Trachsel

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

It was the night before Christmas, he lives all alone
In a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give
And to see just who in this home did live.

I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents not even a tree.
No stocking by the mantel, just boots filled with sand,
On the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.
He had medals and badges, awards of all kinds
And a sober thought came through my mind.
For this house was different, it was dark and dreary
I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor of this one bedroom home.

The face so gentle, the room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured a United States soldier.
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?
I realized the families that I saw this night,
Owed their lives to these soldiers who are willing
To fight.
Soon around the world, the children would play,
And grown-ups would celebrate a bright Christmas Day.

They all enjoy freedom, each month of the year,
Because of solders, like the one lying here.
I couldn't help but wonder how many lay alone,
On a cold Christmas Eve in a land far away from
home.

The very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees as I started to cry.
The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice
"Santa, don't cry. This life is my choice."
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
My life is my God, my country, my corps."

The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours, so silent so still,
And we both shivered from the night's cold
chill.
I didn't want to leave on that dark, cold night,
This guardian of honor so willing to fight.
Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft
and pure,
Whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas,
All is secure!"

Christmas Greetings

Where does the time go? So much happens in a year. The future offers no promises, but the past leaves us lots of memories. We have had a busy year. We've visited family in AZ and CA. We've gone to funerals and parties. Both Our children have moved farther away. But we are thankful they are still close. We had a close call with Nick's 89 year old father's health. Luckily, his heart problem was found by in a routine visit to the doctor's office to clean his ears. His heart was shocked and is beating perfectly again. We spend a lot of time watching grandchildren's hockey and soccer games. Our house isn't as clean as it once was, but there is more joy in it. It isn't as quiet as it once was, but there is more laughter. Our memories have been mostly good this year. We'll let the others slide away. Hopefully, all your memories this year were happy. We again send a wish and a prayer that you make happy memories this coming year. May your CHRISTmas be blessed and filled with all the things you love. **Nick and Victoria Angelosanto**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our friends of TRI-V. This can be a very stressful time of the year or a joyous time, only you can decide which it will be, but always remember to be a blessing to others. We value our friendships that we have made in TRI-V over the years and pray that this wonderful club will continue to be a place where friendships and memories are in abundance. Love to All, **Cal & Jan**

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from **Matt, Kali, and Stella VanHollebeke**

What a wonderful time of the year as we get to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. He came from such humble beginning and gave His life so we might be able to enjoy ours. We thank Him every day for all the blessings He has bestowed upon us and our TRI-V Family. He looks after each of us as we also look after each Club Member sharing in their joys and sorrows throughout the year. We are fortunate to be a member of such a wonderful and caring group of people. May we all share in the joys of His Birthday as we wish everyone a very, very Merry Christmas and a joyful and prosperous New Year. All our love to you. **Judy and John Lardin**

Greetings from the Plocharczyks and Art Trachsel! Wishing all our TriV friends and family a wonderful and blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the love of Christ fill your lives and give you peace, hope and happiness. We Love you! **Ken, Diane and Art**

MERRY CHRISTMAS TRI-V, This is the time of the year when we reflect on the many blessings in our lives. An extended family that shares love is one of our most precious gifts & that is what we have with our TRI-V family. Peace & love to all during this Christmas season and the rest of the coming year. **TERRY & Ellie Connolly**

Dear Friends,

Life has been pretty busy over the last few years and a few calendars have been replaced since we've been in touch with our Tri-V friends. Aunt Clara hasn't been heard from in a dog's age and we believe she's been put into a home for the feeble-minded. We hope she'll break out soon and start writing her notes to all of you once again. Meanwhile, we wish you bountiful blessings on this, the holiest of

holidays; the celebration of our Savior's birth. Raise your voices and rejoice! In your showers, cars, and kitchens as well as in your hearts. Make a joyful noise, even if it's off-key. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your families. Your long-lost Tennessee friends, **Susie and Terry**

To all of Tri-V Family.... Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for the warm South of Florida. Christmas is different here... one of the differences is in the Christmas lights... Santa and his sleigh is pulled by eight alligators through the palm trees. But the real meaning is never lost. We need to keep that in mind as we go rushing around this time of year. God Bless You All....**George and Peg Hoffman**

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We hope you have a very safe happy holiday season. **Jay and Liz Trachsel**

We wish every one in TRV a very Blessed Christmas and healthy New Year. Love to all **Barb & Jerry Gies**

God Bless You, Tri-V. At this season of peace and beauty the most loving thoughts and wishes are with you all. May the beauty of Christmas fill your world, May the peace of Christ fill your hearts, and may the love of family and friends bring you joy. We are so very thankful for our Tri-V family!!!
MERRY CHRISTMAS!!! Bob & Sherry Kuhr

Dear Tri-V Friends,
Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May the baby Jesus bless you all this wonderful season and in the New Year. **Lee & Marian**

Merry Christmas and happy new year from the Mackson's. Every year we are grateful for the family and friends that we have through Tri-V. We hope the new year brings blessings to all. **Robyn & John**

Schaefer's Christmas message to all our wonderful Tri-V family. May your days be blessed with peace and love of the season. May all our travelers stay safe and enjoy the beautiful families we are blessed to have. Hugs and Love **Jack and Jacqui**

Dear Tri-V family - We are very thankful to be a part of such a great group! It is always so much fun to see everyone when we have an opportunity to get together! We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Love, **Geoff, Sherry, Kayla, and Alyssa Steinhauer**

Greetings to all Tri-Vers - Hope you all have a great Christmas and Happy New Year. I moved into Senior Housing in New Hudson a month ago and am enjoying it. I met lots of new people but am having trouble remembering all their names. They put up 18 trees though out the building and it is a

beautiful sight. I'm only 15 minutes away from my son Bill so I see him often. Happy Holidays.

Shirley Suchner

Very blessed year for the Untener's. Bonnie's daughter had a baby girl, Hannah, on June 10 and Tom's daughter had a baby boy, Beau, on November 1st. Hope you all have a lovely, peaceful holiday. All is well in Milwaukee. Merry Christmas/Happy New Year, With love, **Bonnie and Tom**



Best wishes to all, **Art & Kathie**

We would like to wish our Tri-V family a very blessed Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year!!! **Jeff & Karen**

Trifles

From the J. Lardins

With the Holiday Season here once again people will be on the move. Judy and John Lardin had Judy's niece, her husband and daughter from IL come visit for Thanksgiving weekend. They left Wed. morning and hit snow around the Indiana state line and Benton Harbor area. A normal six hour trip took over eight hours and needless to say they were exhausted when they arrived. Judy and John will be leaving on Thur., Dec. 12th for Corpus Christi TX to celebrate grandsons' Jacob seventh birthday along with Christmas. Upon their return we will be making final arrangements for FL. Current plans are to leave for Ft. Myers on Jan. 5th and return on April 6th.

Calendar of Events

December

- 7th Pinochle
- 8th Kids Xmas Party
Edgar Ice Arena (1:30pm)
- 11th Wives' Xmas Luncheon
Ginopolis (1pm)
- 11th Men's Mtg
Walkers Speakeasy (6:30 pm)

December Birthdays

- 1st Michelle Trachsel
- 14th Terry Connolly

January

- 4th Pinochle
- 8th Wives' Mtg
Schaefer Home (1pm)
- 8th Men's Mtg.
Walkers Speakeasy (6:30 pm)
- 18th Council Party
Dakota Inn (6 pm)

January Birthdays

- 2nd George Hoffman
- 17th Diane Plocharczyk
- 23rd Geoff Steinhauer

27th Bob Kuhr
30th Jack Schaefer

December Anniversaries

none

January Anniversaries

1-3-75 Tim & Karlyn Gies

MEMORIES FROM THE DECEMBER 2003 ISSUE OF TRI-V UMPH

As we prepare for what is supposed joyous time of the year we still have members of the TRI-V Family in need of our prayers. Lorraine Trachsel fell on Nov. 24th suffering a fracture of the left hip area. They did successful surgery on Dec. 2nd to replace the femoral neck and ball area plus inserting a spike into the femur. Sophia Ayotte's grandson, Burt, passed away from a heart attack on Nov. 26th. Sophia received the news while returning from Vegas at the airport. Kim and Larry Lardin, number three son of Judy and John who reside in San Antonio TX lost the baby they were expecting in April. This is the second loss of a child for Kim and Larry this year. To all we ask you to remember them in your prayers. In Nov. Jenna Barnes, daughter of Lynne and Brett participated in her schools spelling bee and came in eighth place and advanced to the district bee and her brother, Corey, who plays trombone, is sitting in first chair in the school band. Robyn Mackson just finished producing the Pantomime Show at Stevenson High School, Livonia. With cast and crew there were over 150 students involved in this years production. John Mackson is coaching the girls basketball team at Kennedy High School, Taylor, and they finished above 500 this year which is an improvement from last year. With no time off John is now coaching the boys team. A couple of the TRI-V Family were involved in accidents. John Mackson was rear ended when all stopped for an ambulance except the guy behind him and "POW" John was rear ended. Dian Plocharczyk was involved in an accident on Nov. 7th when a young woman ran a red light and totaled Diane's company car. Fortunately both John and Diane did not have any serious injuries. Those traveling were Judy and Mike Lardin to IL on Thanksgiving evening to spend the weekend with Judy's Mom and Dad and on their return Judy and John left for a week to spend time with Kim and Larry in San Antonio TX. Sherry and Bob Kuhr and oldest son Rob spent the Thanksgiving Holiday in Sherry's family in KY. The Florida Anniversary Party was scheduled for Jan. 20th and 21st in Port Richey FL. Plans include card playing and attending the Show Palace Dinner Theatre in Hudson to see the musical "Chicago." The TRI-V Wives Christmas Dinner was scheduled for Dec. 17th at the home of Ellie Connolly. Men's wallyball was set for Jan 19th and Final Golf was set for Gaylord area the weekend of Aug. 20th – 22nd. There were 34 TRI-V Members and guest enjoying dinner and feather bowling on Nov. 8th at Cadieux Café, Detroit. Pinochle standings through Dec. play with scores adjusted had Brian Trachsel in first place with 86.3 points, Sherry Steinhauer in second place with 85.7 points and Sherry Kuhr in third place with 85.6 points.

MEMORIES FROM THE DECEMBER 2008 ISSUE OF TRI-V UMPH

The health of our Members was much better than in Dec. 2003. Two of our long time members, Bill Suchner and Earl Tishler were in need of our prayers. Bill was rushed to the hospital on Nov. 14 with severe pain on his right side. Bill was diagnosed with a hernia and was operated on that same night and was sent home the following day with instructions not to lift anything more than 5 pounds, no golfing and no driving until he saw the doctor. Earl on the other hand was moved to Oakwood Commons, Dearborn, an independent living community on Dec. 6th. It was a hard decision for daughter, Susie, to make but was necessary for Earl's safety and security. We ask you to remember Bill, Earl and all others of the TRI-V Family in need of our prayers. This is the time of year when many are traveling or having out of town guest in for the holidays. Karlyn and Tim Gies had their daughter

Lisa and family in from PA for the Thanksgiving Holiday while Jacquie and Jack Schaefer had their daughter Stacey and the two grandchildren coming in from Japan for two weeks. The Schaefer family are then to travel to Bloomington IN to celebrate Thanksgiving with son Mark and family. Peg and Bob Wendt and Kathie and Art Dushary along with Shirley and Bill Suchner spent Thanksgiving at Peg and Bob's daughter Carole in Vero Beach FL while Judy and John Lardin along with Bev and Mike spent the Thanksgiving weekend at Judy's Mom in IL. Upon their return Judy and John would head to Corpus Christi TX to celebrate the second birthday of grandson Jacob. The story goes that each time Kim took a Christmas decoration of Santa Clause, Jacob would pick it up or point and say "Grandpa." John cannot how Jacob sees any resemblance between Santa and him. There was an article explaining the concept of the TRI-V Girls Club and encouraging all wives, significant others, fiancées, daughters to join them monthly. The Christmas Dinner for the Wives was set for Dec. 17th at the House of Ing, Farmington. The Council Party was set for Jan. 17th at Cranberries Café, Goodrich, for a Murder Mystery Dinner. Pinochle standings through Dec. play had Robyn Mackson in first place with 93 points, Bud Massoll in second place with 77 points and John Mackson in third place with 76 points. This wraps up another trip down memory lane. In 2003 the list of those celebrating birthdays from the 14th of Dec. to the 7th of Jan. had nine members of the TRIV Family. Today of the nine there are only two still with. Pray for those that have left us. For the Christmas greetings there were 25 in 2003 and 24 in 2008. Unfortunately the count has not changed much over the years. Did the invitation published by the girls club to encourage more participation have any drawing power? This is the holiday season that we can think back, reflect with our family members and friends how it was when we grew up or even how it was 15 or 20 years ago, such precious memories. This is also the time of year that we should take a minute to thank "THE MAN" for all we have and to pray for those less fortunate than we are. The special gift we have is our TRI-V Family to be here for us when in need, to help share in the bad times and the happiness in the good times. There are many memories that do not appear in The Umph because they do not involve the Club and are personal to each other lives and families. Still take the time to share those with your children grandchildren and friends. **REMEMBER, MEMORIES ARE THE GTREASURES THAT TIME CANNOT DESTROY. THEY ARE THE HAPPY PATHWAY TO YESTERDAY'S BRIGHT JOY!** Until we see you in print next month, the Good Lord willing, take care of each other and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year