



# HELO Club

*A Greater Lansing  
Social & Charitable  
Organization*

*bloom where you are planted*

*Since 1961, dedicated to promoting fellowship  
among new and current residents of  
Haslett, East Lansing, Okemos, and adjacent areas*

## Summer 2026

Volume 63 Issue 9

## Important Dates

June 2	Board Mtg. (combined old and new)
June 23	General Membership Mtg and Luncheon: The English Inn, Eaton Rapids
<b>July 4</b>	
Aug 3	Board Meeting
Sept 1	Board Meeting
Sept 22	General Membership Mtg and Luncheon:

## Stay Connected!

Email: [heloclub@outlook.com](mailto:heloclub@outlook.com)



Follow us on Facebook!  
HELO Club

WEB Page: [www.HELOclub.org](http://www.HELOclub.org)

## President's Message

As we publish our final newsletter of the year, I reflect with immense gratitude on all we have accomplished together at the HELO Club — especially as we celebrate 65 years of friendship, community, and service.

For six and a half decades, HELO has connected women in the Greater Lansing area through fellowship, activities, learning opportunities, and charitable giving. This milestone year reminds us not only of our rich history, but also of the remarkable members whose dedication and spirit continue to shape our future.

Following thoughtful Tabletop discussions, we expanded our activity groups to better reflect members' interests and encourage greater involvement. We also strengthened membership efforts through initiatives such as participation in the Women's Expo, while improving outreach and communication to foster stronger connections and increased participation. Together, these efforts have resulted in meaningful strides forward for our Club and its future.

One meaningful event aligned with our goals was our Women's History Month program, coordinated by both general members and board members, which brought us together to celebrate the contributions of women in an inspiring way. Another highlight was the special outing to the Williamston Theatre, which supported our local performing arts community. Both events reflected the spirit of HELO—friendship, learning, diversity, and community connection.

I am deeply grateful to all Board members, whose countless volunteer hours, thoughtful leadership, and unwavering commitment helped guide the Club throughout the year. Their behind-the-scenes efforts often go unseen, yet they form the foundation of our success.

As we look ahead, I am excited to announce a new feature launching in our September newsletter: the HELO "Member Corner." We are inviting members to contribute short pieces that help us learn more about one another and celebrate the unique experiences within our Club community. Please review the separate article included in this issue for additional details. We hope "Member Corner" becomes another meaningful way for all of us to connect, inspire, and share a little laughter along the way — because every HELO member has a story worth sharing.

Serving as your President during this milestone 65th year has been both an honor and a joy. Thank you for making this year one filled with friendship, purpose, generosity, and memorable moments. As we celebrate HELO's proud history, we also look ahead with excitement and optimism for the future.

I look forward to seeing you in September.

**Shereen Tabrizi, Ph.D., HELO President**



## 2025-2026 HELO Club Board

### **Executive Officers**

President	Shereen Tabrizi	248-444-6055
Vice President	Gretchen Endres	412-496-6962
Secretary	Eileen DeGuire	216-926-9698
Treasurer	Ann Young	906-748-3011
General Meeting Director	Iva Corbett	734-904-8587

### **Appointed Positions**

Past President /Advisor	Carol Wolenberg	517-927-6796
Community Service Chair	Teresa Bass	517-410-8942
Directory Chair	Karen Wildrom	517-420-7511
Historian	Susan Southwick	517-927-2215
Membership Chair	Teri Thornburg	517-290-3040
New Member Hostess	Laura DeGuire	517-420-7388
Newsletter Editor	Barbara Breneman	517-648-2018
Newsletter Mailing	Siri Rainone	517-339-3466
Electronic Distribution	Siri Rainone	517-339-3466
Website Administrator and Publicity Chair	Kathy Rohac	517-420-0086
Special Events Coordinator	Joy Jacobs	517-675-5590

## Calendar Girls

*Sue Stevens*

This will be my last article for the HELO newsletter. Please Note that Calendar Girls are on hiatus until September, when Teresa Bass will take the helm.

Thanks everyone for your support thru the years!



(And we thank Sue!)

## Welcome New Members!

Merry Rosenberg, Lansing  
Cathy Norton, East Lansing

## Renew Your Membership!

*From Teri Thornberg, Membership Chair*

This is the time of year that we can begin renewing our memberships for 2026-2027!

Encourage your friends to join! We also encourage you to complete the new questions, "What skills or talents would you like to share with HELO? Tell us about your previous life experiences. What are your passions? What was your last profession?"

Whether you have professional experience, leadership expertise, creative talents, technical skills, volunteer experience or special interests and hobbies, we'd love to learn more about the unique strengths and experiences our members bring to the Club! The membership form included in the newsletter can be printed and filled out, or you can use the QR code to renew!

## Thank You!

*From Carol Wolenberg, Presidential  
Advisor*

Many thanks to our members who donated clothing as part of our collaboration with the Zonta Club of East Lansing. As a result of your generosity as well as other partners, over 1,500 items were delivered to the Women's Center of Greater Lansing and The Against All Odds Foundation. THANK YOU!

## We Care for Each Other

*The HELO Club will support members during times of challenge or accomplishment by sending an appropriate note or card. If you know of a member who would appreciate the Club's support, please contact our Secretary, Eileen DeGuire, at 216-926-9698. We will, of course respect the privacy of individual situations.*

# Happy Summer Birthdays

## June

- 1 Susan Ravlin
- 8 Irene McGinn
- 9 Laura Brown
- 9 Mary Lou Dillon
- 12 Nancy House
- 14 Patricia Farhat
- 16 Peggi Ticcony
- 17 Kary Devereaux
- 17 Paula Donaldson
- 17 Grace Nicodemus
- 22 Pat Menning
- 22 Lissa Sell
- 23 Jean Friend
- 25 Joan Boylan
- 25 Claudia Doolen
- 26 Paula McKay
- 27 Diane Aitken
- 30 Nina Silbergleit



## July

- 1 Mary Graven
- 6 Jayne Erickson
- 6 Katie Hanson
- 7 Karen Rapelje
- 9 Ruth Goergen
- 9 Marcia Merando
- 9 Peggy Wade
- 10 Carol Verboncoeur
- 12 Janice Dodge
- 13 Denise Moore
- 16 Deb Stanaway
- 17 Elizabeth Boyd
- 17 Susan McGillicuddy
- 19 Louise Gordon
- 19 Jan Sipola
- 19 Charlene Smith
- 20 Carol Umbarger
- 22 Elizabeth Namie
- 22 Loretta Zumbaugh
- 24 Carla Michaud
- 25 Cheryl Zeiger
- 28 Elaine Drake
- 29 Maureen McGrail



## August

- 2 Sharon Viol
- 4 Pat Lamison
- 4 Emma Reardon
- 5 Carole Davis
- 7 Marjorie Austin
- 7 Bridget McCarthy
- 10 Babs Krause
- 10 Susan Southwick
- 10 Karen Wildrom
- 14 Marilyn Moore
- 16 Ann Riley-Gawura
- 18 Anita Dunham
- 19 Sharon Hetrick
- 20 Laura DeGuire
- 21 Patricia Kateley
- 23 Sherry Corwin
- 23 Pamela Robison
- 24 Deb Mosher
- 25 Melinda Pope
- 29 Sue Harrison
- 31 Nirmala Shah  
Claire Von Buchwald



# Summer Activities

## Book Club 1

Emma Reardon  
(337-6335)

Please call for current information.

## Book Club 2

Terri Brantley  
485-4258

Current information is unavailable. Have a happy summer!

## Book Club 4

**"Between the Lines"**  
Pam Robison 203-1010  
Sue Stevens 927-0508

The group will meet June 16th at 1:00 PM at the Hannah Center to discuss *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans. We will not meet in July but will resume on August 18th to discuss *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi and to select books for the coming year.

*(Currently closed due to space)*

## Book Club 5

Mary Jakubiak  
230-0376

We meet again June 11th. Our book is *The Proving Ground* by Michael Connelly, and Patricia will lead discussion at 1:00 PM. WE ARE TAKING A TWO MONTH SUMMER BREAK. After June 11th, we will not meet again until September 10th, still at Jimmy's. Our September book is *Look Closer* by David Ellis, and Arlene will lead our discussion. See you at the year-end luncheon on June 23rd.

## Book Club 6

**"Historical Fiction +"**  
Laura DeGuire  
420-7388

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The group gathers in a study room at the East Lansing Public Library at 1:00 PM. Our June 17th book will be *The World According to Fannie Davis* by Bridgett M. Davis. The group will be taking July off and will resume meeting in August

## "Mostly Mysteries"

**Book Club**  
Sharon Viol  
242-2467

Mostly Mysteries meets the second Wednesday of the month at One North. Our June book is *The Ascent*, July is *We Are All Guilty Here*, and August is *The Love We Found*.

*(Currently closed due to space)*

## NEW ~ Book Club ~ Evening ~ NEW

Beth Boyd  
810-241-7947

We're going to take a hiatus over the summer. We will review *A Gentleman in Moscow* on September 9th, 6:00 PM at Schuler Books.

## Bridge and Lunch

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

We will meet on June 15th (third Monday) but will not meet in July or August. Let me know if you'd like to be included in this group starting in September.

## Bridge – Social

Pat Lamison  
927-3130

Do you like to play bridge? I can assist in forming new, or in joining existing bridge groups, for beginners, intermediate, or more advanced players. Games are fun and there is no commitment to inquire! Email me at [plamison@comcast.net](mailto:plamison@comcast.net) or call.

## Bunco Babes

Carol Baratta  
641-6373

The Babes will get together on June 8th at Donna Schumann's, on July 13th at Kathy Foley's, and on August 10th at Mary Jakubiak's.

## Bunco Dolls

Denise Stevens  
214-6728

Bunco Dolls meet the third Wednesday of the month at 1:00 PM, though we don't meet in December, July, or August. We are currently looking for two permanent members and are always interested in subs. Please contact me if you have questions or are interested.

## Euchre – Afternoon

Loretta Zumbaugh  
517-449-1415

We meet the third Monday of the month at 1:00 PM in members' homes. We will be meeting over the summer. Please contact me for more information at: [Lzumbaugh@comcast.net](mailto:Lzumbaugh@comcast.net).

## Euchre – Evening

Jean Kaufmann  
347-7555

John and Jean Kaufmann will host Euchre on June 5th, and that is the last date for the summer. Attendance will be closed when the host gets enough groups of 4 to fit the number of tables they have room for. We start at 6:30 PM with social/snacking time and play begins at 7:00. Please bring a hearty appetizer to share.

# MORE Summer Activities

## Fiber Arts

Barbara Breneman  
648-2018

Fiber Arts meets in members' homes the first Wednesday of the month from 1-3:00 PM. We will meet in June, take a break in July, and resume in August. All members and projects are welcome. Please call or text if you'd like to be on our list so you know where we meet next.

## Games

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

We'll play on June 4th (first Thursday) and will decide then about July 2nd and August 6th. Be sure I have you on my list if you're interested in this group. I'll be letting those on the list know via email about our June 4 decisions.

## NEW ~ Garden Club - Women Who Grow ~ NEW

Mimi LaLonde  
455-8813

The MSU Botanical Garden, 1066 Bogue Street, is in bloom, check it out. Beal Botanical Garden, 330 W. Circle Drive is also on campus and a 'must see'. In Lansing, Cooley Gardens, 213 Malcom X Street, and the Shigematsu Japanese Gardens located off Capitol Avenue just north of Dart auditorium are both lovely. Grand Rapids Meijer Botanical and Sculpture Gardens is hosting a Dale Chihuly exhibit through the summer. Planting tip: Bleeding Hearts like coffee grounds. For further information call or text me!

## Golf

Marcia Merando  
202-2718

We continue play at Indian Hills Golf Course in Okemos on Monday mornings through August.

## NEW ~ Ladies Dining Out ~ NEW

Karen Wildrom  
420-7511

This newly formed group meets monthly for dinner at a local restaurant. All club members are welcome — including singles, divorced, and widowed members — however, spouses and significant others do not attend. We meet during the third week of each month, rotating the day of the week to make it easier for more members to participate. For more information or to be added to the growing list of interested members, please contact me.

## Mah Jongg

Deborah Wolf  
490-5230

Mah-Jongg continues this summer! On June 2nd we will be at the home of Jane Rich, on June 16th we'll be at the home of Deborah Wolf, on July 21st we will meet at Carol Nelson's home, on August 4th, we will meet at Jane Rich's home, and on August 18th we will meet at an unnamed location and Bonnie Mernitz will be our host. Beginning in September, Mah-jongg will meet on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. Please call me if you have any questions or if you would like to join the Mah-jongg group.

## Purple Rose Theatre

Janet Emery  
930-2643

Below is the synopsis of the next play, '*Emma's Wedding*'. Tickets are \$50.40, due to me no later than July 30th. You can Zelle using my cell phone, 930 2643. Let me know only if you are planning to attend.

*Emma is getting married. Again. For the fourth time, actually. But she's determined that this one will be the one. Gathering her less-than-enthusiastic best friends, they revisit each of Emma's previous weddings, leading to a hilarious romp through the decades, complete with '80s hair, dial-up internet, Boone's Farm wine and the enduring power of friendship.*

## Stepping Out

Kim York  
983-9582

Please contact me for current information.

## Supper Club

Siri Rainone  
339-3466

We will meet at the home of Gretchen and Tom Endres on Saturday, June 20th. Members will be notified via email with further details. If you'd like to be added to the email list, please contact me at [sirirainone@gmail.com](mailto:sirirainone@gmail.com). It hasn't been determined if we'll continue to meet during the summer; stay tuned for possible summer gatherings; July 18th and/or August 15th.

## NEW ~ Travel Companions ~ NEW

Gretchen Endres  
412-496-6962

Please contact me if you're interested in this new group and would like to be added to the growing list.

## Walkers and Strollers

Roxanne Murner  
575-7551

Walkers and Strollers: Our walking dates for JUNE are the 2nd, 9th, and 16th at 10:00 AM. Meet at the end of Hannah Blvd. off Hagadorn in East Lansing across from the Residence Inn, turn left into the MAC parking lot. We will walk to the MSU gardens. In JULY meet at the former Foods for Living store parking lot and park at the far end to walk to the MSU campus on the 7th, 14th, and 21st at 10:00 AM. In AUGUST meet in the back parking lot of Grand Traverse Pie off Jolly Road in Okemos to walk the Okemos-Hartrick Trail at 10:00 AM on the 4th, 11th, and 18th. As always, check the hourly weather forecast. Hope to see you there!

## NEW ~ Wine Tasting ~ NEW

Linda Lillie  
290-0189

Please call for current information.



# BOARD REPORTS

## 2026 – 2027 Community Service Selected

*From Teresa Bass, Community Service Chair*



Our club has always evolved in how we serve the community. Over the years, we've adjusted our policies to create deeper, more meaningful impact — and this year, the board voted to continue supporting Haven House for another year, with the possibility of extending the partnership annually.

Member feedback has made one thing clear: our members want to do more than donate — they want to participate. Through events like Pancake Palooza, meal preparation, and holiday activities, we've built a hands-on partnership that allows our members to make a real difference.

Strong relationships take time to build. In just two years, Haven House has come to know and trust our club, even featuring HELO Club in communications reaching thousands of people. These opportunities not only strengthen our impact but also help introduce more people to our mission and values.

Most importantly, we've become a reliable partner that Haven House can count on. The longer we invest in a partnership, the greater our impact becomes — for our members, for Haven House, and for our community.

### **Thank You to HELO Club Volunteers**

A special thank you to all of our amazing volunteers who continue to give their time and energy to support our club and community efforts.

Each month at our luncheon, Gloria Rubis has generously helped with the raffle by collecting money, preparing tickets, and balancing the totals. Thank you, Gloria, for your hard work.

We'd also like to recognize the many members who volunteered — often multiple times — at Haven House: Susan Southwick, Maureen McGrail, Marcia Merando, Pam Robison, Mayuri Patel, Melissa Riggs, Bonnie Wilson, Heather Brown, Kathy Rohac, Shereen Tabrizi, Lora Bruder, Siri Rainone, Patti Lonier, Karen Wildrom, Iva Corbett, and even David Riggs.

Your willingness to serve is what makes our club's impact possible. Thank you all!

## OUR HELO CLUB GUESTS

*From Carol Wolenberg, Presidential Advisor*

Do you ever wonder what happened to the guest(s) you brought to our monthly luncheons? They were introduced to those in attendance, got a round of applause, and then what? We learned that some guests joined, some are thinking about it, and some just wanted to hear a particular speaker.

In September, we began tracking how many of the guests you brought decided to join HELO. The numbers are interesting. From September 2025 through April 2026, we had a total of 31 guests attend our luncheons. Of that total, 11 (roughly 35%) joined. Looking at the total new members this year, the 11 guests who joined make up 23% of our 47 new members.

So, what do these statistics tell us? They tell us that every time you reach out to a friend or family member and bring them to a luncheon, or each time you mention HELO to an acquaintance or suggest they go to our webpage, it matters! Many thanks to each of you who brought a guest or told someone about our terrific organization. Our club is growing because of your positive outreach.

## LUNCHEON REMINDERS . . . What to know:

*From Iva Corbett, General Meeting Director*

Please be aware that refunds are not given for any reservations after the deadline has passed. However, if you cannot attend, you may have someone come in your place by notifying Ann Young **prior to the deadline**.

Two weeks prior to the luncheon date, the venue is notified of the number of meals that are needed, based on registrations received. Those meals are provided only for those attending and cannot be requested as 'take-out' for a person not attending.

If you want to attend a luncheon but did not make a reservation prior to the deadline, please contact Ann Young. You can always come to the event and wait to see if there are any members who do not show up, and you may purchase a meal at that time if space becomes available. You do, however, run the risk of not being able to stay if everyone registered shows up.

HELO signs a contract with each luncheon venue, so if any member has an issue with her meal, she should contact Iva Corbett directly. Calling the venue to complain is not appropriate.

Thank You for attending HELO luncheons; we hope you enjoy the events that we've planned.

## NICE JOB!

*From Barbara Breneman, Newsletter Editor*



I'd like to thank each and every one of you who has helped to make all nine of the 2025-26 newsletters possible, by contributing news and information, ideas and inspirations, activity updates and so much more. And a special thank you to Siri Rainone, who makes sure that we receive them all electronically!

# MEMBER CORNER

## ***The Heart of HELO — Where Members Share, Shine, and Stay Connected*** ***From Shereen Tabrizi, President***

A few HELO members have suggested creating a “**Member Corner**” in our newsletter starting in September 2026. Board members support the idea and believe it would strengthen connections among members, celebrate individual experiences and talents, and keep our newsletter engaging.

Here are several ideas for consideration:

<p><b>Travel Tales (Suitcases &amp; Stories)</b></p> <p>Members share:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A favorite trip</li><li>• A dream destination</li><li>• A funniest travel mishap</li></ul>	<p><b>Recipe Box</b></p> <p>Feature a member’s favorite recipe each month:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Family traditions</li><li>• Holiday specialties</li><li>• Quick-and-easy favorites</li></ul>
<p><b>Member Spotlight</b></p> <p><i>(Fun prompt: What’s something about you that would surprise us?)</i></p> <p>Feature one member each month:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Life story</li><li>• Career highlights</li><li>• Favorite retirement activities</li><li>• Best life lesson</li></ul>	<p><b>Wisdom Worth Sharing</b></p> <p>Feature one question each month:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What advice would you give your younger self?</li><li>• What have you learned about friendship?</li><li>• What does happiness mean to you now?</li></ul>
<p><b>Book Nook</b></p> <p>Members recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A favorite book</li><li>• What they’re currently reading</li><li>• A classic everyone should read</li></ul>	<p><b>Blast from the Past</b></p> <p>Members submit vintage photos and the story behind them.</p>
<p><b>Bloom Where You’re Planted Corner</b></p> <p>In honor of our club motto, members share how they are growing, learning, trying new things, or giving back to others.</p>	<p><b>Hidden Talents (Showcasing the unexpected!)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Playing an instrument</li><li>• Speaking another language<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Woodworking</li></ul></li><li>• Stand-up comedy (yes, really!)</li></ul>
	<p><b>Grandkids Say the Funniest Things</b></p> <p>A lighthearted section with funny quotes or stories.</p>

We encourage you to participate by submitting one or more of the ideas listed above—or by sharing a topic of your own. Your contribution doesn’t have to be long or formal; a few heartfelt paragraphs can inspire, entertain, and help our members get to know one another better. And if writing feels intimidating, don’t worry—we are happy to help edit and polish your piece. We hope many of you will join in and help make our new Member Corner a warm and engaging space for everyone!



Announcing HELO Club's



# June Luncheon

11:30 - 1:30 June 23rd

## The English Inn



677 S. Michigan Road, Eaton Rapids



Year-End Celebration & The  
Installation of Officers 2026-2027

& The Mad Hatter Tea Party!

(hat & gloves optional)



Choose lemon caper chicken with sauce or vegetable stuffed pepper with balsamic glaze. Sweet treat, coffee, hot & iced tea, cash bar.

Reservation \$30  
Deadline June 12th by 5 PM,  
All Payment Types.

Send a check payable to HELO Club to Ann Young, 1430 W Herbison Road, Dewitt 48820. ALL changes & questions: call 906-748-3011.

Or scan the QR code to pay with Omella or go to <https://omella.com/4ij8e>

