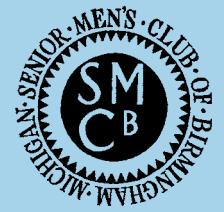


# The Reminder



February 2015

Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, Michigan

## Inside

- 2 Membership News
- 3 Games
- 4 Senior Health
- 5 Groups
- 6 Special Events
- 7 TCH Annual Fund Drive
- 8 Mystery Lyrics



## John Horiszny: A Gift that Keeps on Giving

Diploma in hand, Lansing-area native, John Horiszny, found his way readily to the nearby Oldsmobile Plant and a 37 year career with General Motors in 1940. Young Horiszny was however, quickly discovered and called to service by the Army Air Corps which had other plans for his youthful talent. Offered a choice of duty assignments in the Far East or Europe, John opted for the European tour and landed in Belgium in 1942. There, he spent 39 months with the Air Transport Command (ATC), gaining experience in logistics that would carry him forward. Released by the Army Air Corps in 1946, John returned to GM where, after rigorous testing by the American Society of Traffic & Transportation, he became one of only three Certified Members in the U.S. In 1948, John married Carolyn and was granted his degree in Business Administration at GMI in 1950. But, once again, his GM career plans were disrupted when, as a member of the U.S. Naval Reserve, he was called to active duty for 19 months at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station during the Korean conflict.



Advancing in wisdom and knowledge, John and Carolyn moved from Lansing to Birmingham in 1963 where he was promptly discovered and recruited by the Senior Men's Club, spending 6 years "in training" as an Associate before his 1999 induction. John concluded his varied 37 year career with GM in 1977, returning to active employment with Texas Instruments in 1980 where he worked ten years in their logistics area.

*continued on page 4...*

## FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

FEBRUARY CHAIRMAN: Bob Kenning

- 6 Margo Strebig, Detroit Chamber Wings and Strings ..... *Why I Love Music*
- 13 Joe Sternad, Mgr. Customer Service, Birmingham, US Postal Service..... *Challenges to the U.S. Post Office*
- 20 Joseph Hall, Belle Isle State Park..... *Plans for the Newest Michigan State Park*
- 27 Joe Valentine, City Manager, Birmingham ..... *Birmingham Projects for 2015*

## MARCH PROGRAMS

MARCH CHAIRMAN: Dick Bradley

- 6 Dr. Ted George, Chairman, Michigan Parkinson Foundation ..... *Parkinson's Disease and Challenges*

## FEBRUARY DISCUSSIONS

FEBRUARY CHAIRMAN: John Perryman

- 6 Dave Dinger, SMC Member ..... *Field Artillery in the Civil War*
- 113 Don Hoefl, GM Retiree ..... *Experiences of 44 Years in 48 Countries with General Motors Export Division*
- 20 Tom Shipley, SMC Member ..... *Global Warming*
- 27 Tim Exelby, Birmingham Police Department. .... *The Birmingham Police Dept. Shooting Range*

## MARCH DISCUSSIONS

MARCH CHAIRMAN: Roger Krieger

- 6 Lisa Mammoser, Beaumont Speech, Language & Hearing Dept. .... *Memory Tidbits for Daily Living*

## New Member:



**Keith D. Butler**  
2638 Hounds Chase Dr.  
Troy, MI 48098-2340  
248-905-4022  
kbutler@cranmgmt.com  
Sponsor: George Miller

## Reinstated:

**James W. Williams**  
1824 Pine St.  
Birmingham, MI 48009  
248-514-0355  
jimwilliams@alumni.duke.edu

## New Contact Info:

**Cliff Snedeker** - cliffordsnedeker@gmail.com

**Cal Hudson** - 248-705-7557

**Bill Kelly** - 586-731-3274

**Mike Albright** - 248-260-7142

## Deaths:

**Richard S. Ellis**, joined June 2007

**Ray E. Hughes (Life)**, joined January 1988

**Marvin J. Malik**, joined October 1999

**James F. Peters (Life)**, joined March 1990

**William C. Waltsgott, Jr. (Life)**, joined February 1981

**Robert C. Warren**, joined April 2013

## New Associates:

**Frank J. Ambrose**  
1400 Breer Ct.  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302  
248-891-3009  
FrankA@ambrose-solutions.com  
Sponsor: Perry Driggs

**Robert H. Gillow**  
2039 Somerset Blvd., #201  
Troy, MI 48084  
248-379-4638  
rgillow@comcast.net  
Sponsor: Chuck O'Connell

**Matthew H. Johnson**  
235 Poppleton  
Birmingham, MI 48009  
248-885-2611  
Matt1865cl@gmail.com  
Sponsor: Mel Zoschnick

## Death:

Willard A. Irwin, Associate

—Pete Kass, Membership Chairman

—Robert Beach, Database Chairman

—Bill Shaffmaster, Tom Booth  
& Gene Markel, Photography

## Associates Meeting

All Associates are invited to the next Associates Meeting to be held at 9:00AM, Friday, February 20 – prior to the regular Club meeting.



Subsequent meetings will be held in June and October. Contact Chairman John Klein at 248-363-3020 or klein60@yahoo.com with any questions.



*Past president John Steele received his Presidential Plaque in recognition of his outstanding year of service. In turn, Steele presented the ceremonial gavel of authority to incoming president George Stern, symbolizing the formal transfer of club leadership.*



# Games



## Winter Golf

On Thursday, February 12 Edgewood Country Club's teaching golf professional, Dave VanLoozen, will be available to tidy up our golf swings. He will first go through the fundamentals of the golf swing. He will then observe each golfer's swing and offer tips for improvement. Dave will return on Thursday, March 12 to check progress and offer more tips.

The annual Chipping Contest will be held on Thursday, February 19. An entry fee of \$2 will be charged for each contestant to fund the prize pot. The Prize Pot will be awarded to the first, second, and third place winners on a 50%, 30%, 20% basis.

The fee is \$10 for all the balls you wish (or can) hit for one and one half (1 1/2) hours. Starting time is 9:30AM. Fee includes complimentary coffee and donuts.

Following practice, plan to gather at Hero's Restaurant for lunch and fellowship. Hero's is offering the same great discount on the whole meal as last year.

The Dome is located at 5328 Highland Rd., Waterford, Michigan, (248)673-0100

—The Committees

## Bowling

After five weeks of our second half, a tight and competitive battle has developed for league leadership. The Sierras (Chuck Frederick, Ken Beres, Bob Klein and Pete Kass) are in first place with 28 points. They are followed closely, by two teams with 26 points, two with 22 points and one with 20 points. Our season still has ten weeks left, so we have lots of time for good bowling and position changes – stay tuned.

As for individual honors, Phil Owen jumped into first place with the high series of the year at 595, including a strong 225 game. Another Phil – Buccini, that is – continues with our best average at 171. Bruce Smiley came back from a health time-out and led his team to a strong 8 point performance. With our snowbirds about to fly south, we can really use new bowlers. Call Tom Venier (248)642-2386 with any questions or just show up Monday or Wednesday (practice) morning at 9:00AM at Thunderbird Lanes on Maple Road. We guarantee camaraderie and fun!

—Dick Harper



## Monday Golf

WOW! Spring 2015 is just around the corner. Monday Golf will begin at Lincoln Hills on April 20 and continue until August 20. The Birmingham Recreation Department has delivered our proposed contract. Tee times are 7:30 to 9:00AM. Greens fees are the same as last year - \$14 per nine-hole round (payable in advance, totaling \$224) for "regulars" or \$15 per round for "walk-ons". You will recall that "regulars" have assigned tee times and foursomes. "Walk-ons" are encouraged and welcomed and start on a first come/first served basis in available openings in the regular schedule.

Sign-up sheets will be posted at the Friday Club Meetings beginning in February. In the interim you may call Bill Spreitzer (248)647-5140 or catch him at the Oakland Yard practice sessions on upcoming Thursdays for advance reservations or with any questions.

ADDITIONAL GOLFERS ARE NEEDED OR WE STAND TO LOSE TEE TIMES. Please reach out to prospective new players and invite them to join in the fun, games and good exercise.

—The Committee



## Men on the Go

The SMC Walkers continue to meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8:00AM to walk and talk around Birmingham. Shain Park and Barnum Park are the venues they use when the weather is nice. The Somerset Collection or the The First United Methodist Church's indoor track are the destinations in cold or rainy conditions. A core group of six to eight members make up the "regulars."

This activity is open and encouraged for all SMC members interested in keeping fit. Please contact Charlie Blank, coordinator (clank56@gmail) for more information and schedules.



## Sergeant-at-Arms Committee

The SMC Sergeant at Arms Committee essentially is responsible for keeping order at Friday meetings and for providing medical support for members if and as needed. Chairman John Horiszny and Dave Dinger of this committee recently reported to the Executive Board the urgent need for additional member participation with this committee. The Board authorized this appeal to the membership asking for participation.



Members are urged to contact John or Dave with any questions in this regard. Your club needs you. As long time President Art Burgott often noted "You never appreciate the full benefits of membership until you actively participate in Club activities."

...continued from page 1

### John Horiszny

To his great credit, John remains an active leader with the SMC. With 10 years of service on the Special Events Committee, he has also chaired the Sergeant-At-Arms Committee for more than 5 years. The Table Setting and Legacy Endowment Committees also benefit from John's time and talent as does BASCC, where he represents SMC and is volunteer Tax Program Coordinator with AARP (20 years).

John has been a member of First United Methodist Church of Birmingham since arriving here in 1963 and, in 2014, shared Volunteer of the Year honors along with Eunice Orton. John values the many lasting friendships he has made during the many years he has been associated with the SMC.

—John Flintosh

## Senior Health Matters What Can Men Do to Reduce Their Risk for Cancer?

The new European Code against Cancer drawn up by the International Agency for Research on Cancer of the World Health Organization outlines 10 things that men can do to reduce their risk for cancer.

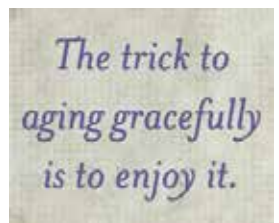
1. Do not smoke. Do not use any form of tobacco.
2. Make your home smoke free. Support smoke-free policies in your workplace.
3. Take action to be a healthy bodyweight.
4. Be physically active in everyday life. Limit the time you spend sitting.
5. Have a healthy diet:
  - Eat plenty of whole grains, legumes (dry beans and peas, lentils and chickpeas).
  - Limit high-calorie foods (foods high in sugar or fat) and avoid sugary drinks.
  - Avoid processed meat; limit red meat and foods high in salt.
6. If you drink alcohol of any type, limit your intake. Not drinking alcohol is better for cancer prevention.
7. Avoid too much sun. Use sun protection. Do not use sunbeds.
8. In the workplace, protect yourself against cancer-causing substances by following health and safety instructions.
9. Find out if you are exposed to radiation from naturally high radon levels in your home. Take action to reduce high radon levels.
10. Take part in organized cancer screening programs for bowel cancer.

—Augustine L. Perrotta, DO  
Chairman, Visitation-Health

## Aging Gracefully

On many an occasion, we have pointed out how belonging to and being active in the Senior Men's Club keeps us alert, involved and with it. All of this contributes to longer and fuller lives for members. Database Chairman Bob Beach recently provided some member statistics which clearly demonstrate this fact of life. As of December 31, 2014 we had 106 members age 90 or more – nearly 17% of our total. OK, so they don't come to every Friday meeting, but they do participate when able and keep up with our events and activities.

Twenty-five of these members are 95 or older – wow! One of this exalted group – **John Lavrakas** – reached centenarian status on January 17. Hearty congratulations, John!

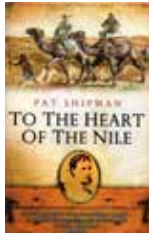


# Groups



## Book Reading Groups

On Wednesday, February 4 at 10:30AM we will discuss *To The Heart of the Nile* by Pat Shipman which recounts the courageous and adventurous life of Lady Florence Baker. Born in Transylvania and orphaned, she was taken to an Ottoman harem and sold in a slave auction to the pasha of Viddin in the Balkans. She was later abducted by another auction bidder, a wealthy middle-aged English adventurer named Samuel Baker. Independent, cultured, and beautiful, Florence possessed a fiery spirit and worldly curiosity that rivaled Samuel's. In 1861 they went on a quest to discover the source of the Nile River and continue their soulful romance free from the scrutiny of her extreme youth and shadowy past.



At 3:00PM on Monday, February 16 we will discuss *China: Key Success Factors* by Warren Liu. Since China opened its doors to foreign investment in 1979, many businesses large and small have tried their luck. In his groundbreaking book, Liu analyzes very precisely eight industries and identifies what factors were key to their success in China. He identifies China's changes in demographics, its natural resources, government, and culture. Warren Liu takes the chaotic process of getting access to the country, finding local partners, customers and resources and distills it into eleven key success factors.



—Chuck Travers



## Camera Group

Making a great photographic image takes many creative skills and imagination. On Tuesday, February 10 at 2:00PM SMC Member Tom Halsted will explain how to "Collect Great Photographs" by artists like Alfred Stieglitz, Walker Evans and Edward Weston who used many kinds of cameras and darkroom techniques. The "wet darkroom" as we know it is being replaced by the ink-jet printer and the pigment print. A few of the things to consider are: the size of the image, format (e.g. digital or film), color or black and white, condition, cost, presentation, and framing. Actual prints and slides will illustrate Tom's ideas.

—John Slocum



## Classic Movie Group

On Monday, February 9 at 1:00PM, Fred Hansz will present one of his favorite Humphrey Bogart films, "Dead Reckoning" (1947.) In this mystery classic, Bogie plays paratrooper Rip Murdock who uses all of his sleuthing skills to determine who murdered his best friend, Johnny, who had saved his life during the war. Tracing his friend's shadowy past leads Rip to Coral Chandler (Lizabeth Scott), Johnny's old sweetheart. Is Coral just an innocent night club singer - or is she a predatory siren leading Bogie to a final day of "Dead Reckoning"? So please plan to join us, in February, to find out the answer and enjoy this great '40s film noir classic. You can expect a crisp bright black and white picture, with subtitles, an excellent sound track and great theater popcorn.



—Fred Hansz



## Investment Group

On Wednesday, February 11 at 2:45PM Alan D. Miller, CPA, PFS, Tax Director at LJPR Tax Services, LLC with offices in Troy and Warren will speak about "Individual Tax Issues: What Affects Your Tax Return?" Alan has 30 years of tax and financial guidance experience. He guides individuals, families and small business owners to avoid/overcome unnecessary tax burdens with personalized and tested planning strategies. Alan's presentation last year was very favorably received and helped SMC members.

Jerry Peck remains in first place in the Stock Game with an impressive 67.7% gain in less than three months. Bob Rossi (last year's winner with a 34.3% gain) is close with a 67.3 % gain. Mike Clement, Kirby Callam, Charlie Blank, and Tom Venier follow. Forty-nine of the 65 players have gains. The market is very volatile; expect more changes.

—George Miller



## Computer Group

No Computer Group meeting in February.

—Ron Denton

# Special Events

## A Night on the Town

On Thursday, March 19, we will enjoy an evening featuring dinner at Lily's Seafood Grill & Brewery and the Neil Simon's play, "Rumors." This outing in Royal Oak is very convenient as parking, dinner and the theater are all within two blocks walking distance. This is a drive yourself event.



At Lily's we will have soup or salad, a choice of four entrees (Mesquite Grilled Salmon, Sesame Crusted Chicken Salad, Pan Roasted Chateau Chicken Breast or Cracker Crusted Great Lakes Whitefish) and a choice of three tasty desserts. We will then walk around the corner to the Baldwin Theater where we will see Neil Simon's hilarious door-slamming farce about mystery, mayhem and miscommunication set in New York City. The play has intrigue, a shooting, a missing person and confusion. NBC-TV says "Not only side splitting, but front and back splitting." Ticket sales started January 23 at a very reasonable \$37. Get your tickets early as we are limited to 50 tickets.

—Jerry Stribbell

## Sing Loud and Proud

The SMC Chorus is taking a hiatus for the winter months, but will start singing again at Friday meetings starting April 17. Ten members are currently on the roster, but additional voices are welcome to join. Please contact Charlie Blank, Coordinator, (bclank56@gmail.com) if you are interested.



## Special Exhibit at DIA

Inform your significant other and mark your calendar now! On Tuesday, April 21, 2015 we will experience a "blockbuster, once in a lifetime" special exhibit at the Detroit Institute of Arts. The exhibit features Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo works created during the highly productive year of April 1931 through March 1932 they spent in Detroit.



This is a must see opportunity for everyone interested in the major contributions of the Detroit art community to the development of the arts. You may have seen the Diego Rivera mural "Detroit Industry" on the four walls of the DIA gathering space. During the same period Frida Kahlo developed her now renowned artistic identity.

Tickets are just \$20 per person, which includes motor coach transportation, exhibit fee, an instructional lecture prior to the exhibit and an audio guide for each attendee. Cafeteria style lunch is on your own in the DIA Café.

The bus will arrive in the First Presbyterian Church parking lot at 9:00AM and leave at 9:30AM. Arrive at DIA John R. St. entrance at 10:15AM for a meet and greet and instructional lecture by DIA staff, tour exhibit at 11:00AM, lunch in Café at 12:30PM, depart DIA at 3:00PM, arrive in Birmingham 3:45PM. The DIA gift shop is located at the Farnsworth St. entrance.

Some ticket buyers have a DIA Family Membership which may entitle them to special consideration on ticket price. Verify with the DIA that your membership is current and bring your Family Membership card when purchasing tickets. DIA requires verification before the exhibit tour date.

Tickets go on sale Friday March 20, 2015. This event is expected to be a sellout, so purchase your tickets as soon as possible.

—Wenzel Koch

## Fabulous February



# Community Service Coordinator

Chairman Jim Bayson of the Improvement Committee has directed efforts toward general improvement of Club activities and more specifically to expanding awareness of what the Club is all about and of our contributions to the community. Our charter notes that a major Club commitment is the "rendering of community service". The only organized and ongoing effort in this regard has been our continuing financial support for the Oakland County Children's Village. However, it is well known that many individual members are actively involved with a broad array of specific community organizations.



To document this, Jim asked Club members to provide a list of charitable organizations where they volunteer. An impressive and lengthy list of more than 65 organizations resulted. This subject was discussed in detail at the Executive Board meeting on January 7, 2015 along with a proposal that a Community Service Activity be established and that a Coordinator be appointed to organize and formalize Club efforts in this regard. We wish to provide a means for individual member volunteering participation. Member Charlie Blank has accepted responsibility for chairing these efforts.

A specific list of responsibilities will be developed for the Coordinator including dissemination and communication of information about community volunteering opportunities for membership consideration. These responsibilities will be communicated to the membership via email blast, website posting and/or *The Reminder*. Periodically, *The Reminder* will carry articles about specific volunteer opportunities and describe the activities.

## The Community House Annual Fund Drive

The Community House has provided the Senior Men's Club with rooms and facilities at no charge for our activities for the full 58 years of our existence. Hence, we have a strong interest in the continuing viability of TCH and a special interest in supporting the Annual Fund Drive. 2014 was no exception – our individual contributions for the year totaled \$67,367 – within \$3500 of the all-time high set in 2013.

This support clearly benefits the SMC, The Community House and of equal importance – the entire community. Congratulations to our generous members!

—Jack McLaughlin, Special Projects Chairman

## 2014 Attendance Champs

Attendance Committee records indicate that the following members were Club attendance champions in 2014. Congratulations to:

Dick Harper - 41

Dick Kamp - 41

Jim Slosberg - 41

John Steele - 41

Frank Auld - 40

Geno Markel - 40

Bob Babcock - 39

John Groves - 39

John Horiszny - 39

Pete Kass - 39

Jim Peters - 39

John Flintosh - 38

John Kary - 38

Jim Nordlie - 38

Dick Smith - 38

## SMC 2015 Dues Coupon

2015 dues were due before January 1, 2015. A \$10 late fee **must** be added for dues paid after January 1, 2015. Make checks payable to SMC and pay at a meeting or by mail. Please use the coupon if paying by mail.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If paying by mail, send to:

Senior Men's Club - Dues  
The Community House  
380 South Bates Street  
Birmingham, MI 48009

Dues:

\$40 Active Member

\$40 Associate Member

\$0 Life Member\*

*\*Life Members pay no dues, but many use the coupon to make a voluntary contribution for financial support of our Club.*

## Mystery Lyrics

Apparently, a goodly number of our members had some experience with college drinking songs. No fewer than nine of them recognized that these lyric lines:



*Gentlemen songsters off on a spree  
Doomed from here to eternity*

are from that Yale University classic "The Whiffenpoof Song." Hearty congratulations to John Flintosh, Chuck O'Connell, Dick Hameister (welcome back Dick), Dave Schwartz, Riggs Miller, Chuck Himelhoch, Tom McNally, Dick Smith and the ever present Clay Gordon.

This month let's try another in this vein – maybe a little less well known. The mystery lyrics are:

*Like all good jolly fellows  
I drink my whiskey clear*

Can you name that college drinking song? (Although we sang this often in Ann Arbor, this is not a Big Ten school.)

## Sports Trivia

Once again we learned that we have a cadre of Tiger fans with long time memories in our membership. We asked if you could remember the Tiger pitcher who won only five games in a season while losing 19, but two of the wins were no-hitters. It was in 1952 and the pitcher was Virgil "Fire" Trucks – Bill Burnie, Lynn Evans, Dave Schwartz, Dick Smith, Tom McNally and Clay Gordon are our champs.

This month we have another Tiger Trivia challenge – a little off beat. Over the years, the Tigers had players with these nicknames – "Hoot", "Coot" and "Boots". Can you name these players – of course the first is pretty easy, but the other two may be more difficult?

—Dick Harper

## THE REMINDER

A monthly publication of the Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, which meets on Fridays at 10:30AM at The Community House, 380 South Bates Street, Birmingham, Michigan 48009.

Officers for 2015 are: George L. Stern, president; Eugene P. Jacoby, first vice president; Richard A. Kamp, second vice president; Robert I. Hayes, recording secretary; Charles R. (Dick) Bradley, corresponding secretary; John P. Groves, treasurer; James A. Bayson, assistant treasurer; Charles J. Blank and Pradeep (Pete) Mehra, officers at large; George A. Grove, parliamentarian.

THE REMINDER includes: Dick Harper, editor; Chuck Ragains, and John Flintosh, associate editors; Tom Booth, Bill Shaffmaster, and Geno Markel, photography; Mary Kennedy, computer layout; Bob Jordan, mailing.

Senior Men's Club of Birmingham  
380 South Bates St., Birmingham, MI 48009  
[www.tchserves.org](http://www.tchserves.org)

## CLUB DATES TO REMEMBER

**Executive Board Meeting:** Tuesday, February 10 at 9:30AM

**Reminder Deadline:** Friday, February 13

### Games

**Bowling:** Mondays at 9:00AM at Thunderbird Lanes

**Bridge:** Tuesdays at 9:00AM and Friday after lunch

**Thursday Golf:** Oakland Yard Dome at 9:30AM

**Monday Golf:** Begins at Lincoln Hills on April 20

### Special Events

**"Rumors":** Thursday, March 19, 2015 at Baldwin Theater, Royal Oak

**DIA Special Exhibit:** Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 9:30AM

### Group Meetings

**Book Reading Groups:** Group A: Wednesday, February 4 at 10:30AM

Group B: Monday, February 16 at 3:00PM

**Classic Movie Group:** Monday, February 9 at 1:00PM

**Camera Group:** Tuesday, February 10 at 2:00PM

**Computer Group:** No meeting in February

**Investment Group:** Wednesday, February 11 at 2:45PM

*All events at The Community House unless otherwise stated.*

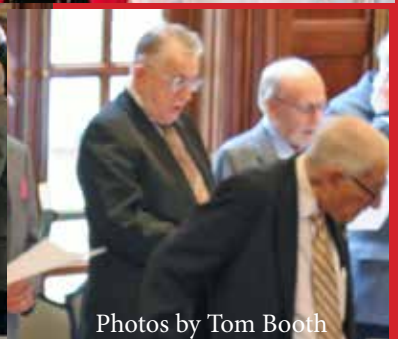
### SMC ON THE WEB:

[www.seniormensclubbirmingham.com](http://www.seniormensclubbirmingham.com)

[www.tchserves.org/outreach-and-clubs/clubs/senior-mens-club-of-birmingham](http://www.tchserves.org/outreach-and-clubs/clubs/senior-mens-club-of-birmingham)



# 2014 Hostess Luncheon



# 2014 Christmas Dinner

