

The Time Trade Circle Newsletter

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www.timetradecircle.org



From the Director

As we begin the New Year, I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Time Trade Circle for your participation! We have had a wonderful year exchanging services and building community. In 2007, 34 new members joined, and 2062 hours were exchanged! We have had four events. Two of us attended the International Time Bank Conference in Madison, WI. It has been a full and successful year!

In the coming year, the Time Trade Circle plans to become its own non-profit organization, with a Board of Directors and all that goes with it! As many of you know, in order for the Time Trade Circle to sustain itself successfully, we need funding. So, one major goal for the coming year is to develop creative and effective fundraising strategies.

As I've said to many of you personally, the Time Trade Circle is small enough for each person to really

make a difference. It can be whatever we want it to be! I want to encourage each of you to participate by trading, as well as volunteering for the day-to-day operating tasks of the Time Trade Circle. We need volunteers for the Fundraising Committee, the Event Planning Committee, the Membership Committee, and the Publicity Committee. Remember, you earn hours by participating in these committees, so I encourage you to volunteer to help the Time Trade Circle thrive.

I want to give special thanks to those members who have participated in our events and who have made other contributions to the Time Trade Circle. It is our members who make the Time Trade Circle successful and I look forward to another year of Time Trading with all of you!

-Katherine Ellin

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Reflections

By Ann Ward, TTC Member

Throughout my life I have heard of various acts of social networking and civic engagements throughout communities. However, after learning about time banking and all that it had to offer I was immediately intrigued. I knew that I wanted to stay in my own home for as long as possible and the idea of neighbors helping neighbors would encourage that.

I initially joined the Time Trade Circle with limited expectations, which have all been exceeded with the advancement of this organization. I have had the privilege to attend social functions including a lovely picnic last

summer and potluck last month. Having the opportunity to have members in your community assist in your daily activities is one if not the greatest asset the Time Trade Circle offers to its members. Since becoming a member I have had a ride to the airport, help with my computer and cooking assistance.

The Time Trade Circle has been a great asset to my life. I have met new friends, younger and older, who are stimulating and interesting. It is an extremely positive organization. I look forward to this upcoming year and all that the organization has to offer.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Membership Orientation



Wayne Jenski
Member since Nov 2007

Membership Spotlight

This month's member profile is about Wayne Jenski. Since becoming a member of the Time Trade Circle, Wayne has taken an active role. Wayne has been a member of the TTC for about three months and offered his testimonial relating his experience.

Having only moved further and further from home and family, it is nice to feel a connection to this new community in some fashion. This is my primary- perhaps even selfish- reason for becoming part of the Time Trade Circle. As I plan to stay in Massachusetts for a while, it seems like a great way to quickly connect to the community. There are some other inherently attractive, oft-mentioned attributes of the organization: the equal exchange of time and services between and among the retired, the professional, doctors and cabbage farmers; the notion of acquiring desired knowledge outside of a formal structure and one-on-one to boot. In addition to these great things, it allows one to live vicariously through another.

For example, I haven't a garden here as I am an apartment dweller, but I'd love to work in one once in awhile; naturally, I created an ad offering gardening assistance.

Though that has yet to come into fruition, I have had several other very positive trades including helping someone clean out their basement and another with some computer problems. The most unusual perhaps, was serving as a pallbearer for a member who didn't have enough family nearby to serve during two services. These small windows into others' lives are quite fascinating and enjoyable- even when considering the circumstances. I look forward to many more trades in the future.

If interested, please visit my website www.waynejenski.com for more about me and my work.

*"Go confidently in the
direction of your dreams!
Live the life you've always
imagined."*

--Henry David Thoreau

Membership Exchanges

One of The Time Trade Circle's primary goals is to increase membership participation. We know that it is easier to contact other members and to actively trade once members have met. Through the year we have held group orientations and social events to provide opportunities for members to meet one another. With the success of such events, we are pleased to announce that the Time

Trade Circle currently has 66 members, with an average of one trade a week. In addition to growing our membership, our goal is to increase the number of trades among members.

Exchange Notes and Notables!

Most Common Trade: Technical Assistance
Most Unusual Exchange: Pallbearer request
Most Exchanges: Louisa & Wayne
Quickest Member to Exchange Upon
Joining: Wayne

Thank You

A Special Thank You goes out to everyone who participated and helped facilitate last month's potluck. The event was a great success, and we're looking forward to many more TTC social events.

Support the Time Trade Circle

The beginning of this year is an exciting time for the Time Trade Circle. Capitalizing on the amazing talents of our members, we are planning to initiate a fundraising campaign, increase membership and spread the word to others in the community.

We are moving towards being an independent and self-sustaining organization. To do this we need your

help. We are currently looking for members to join these committees:

- Fundraising Committee
- Event Planning Committee
- Membership Committee
- Marketing/Publicity Committee

If you are interested, please contact Katherine Ellin at k.ellin@verizon.net

Upcoming Events

Events for 2008 are currently in the planning stages. Some ideas people have suggested are:

- Membership Orientations
- Potlucks
- Jazz/Blues Boat Cruise on the Charles
- Game/Movie Nights
- Book Club Discussions

We need help organizing these events so please get involved. If you are interested in helping with event planning, please contact Ann Ward at abward@post.harvard.edu, or Charlie Allen at Ceallen1@verizon.net.



*“Do what you can
with what you have
where you are.”
- T. Roosevelt*

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do you have to live in Cambridge to Join?

A: No. You can join if you live in the greater Boston area. If you live far from other members, your exchanges might start slowly, but you can encourage your neighbors to join and then you'll have Time Trade Circles who live near you!

Q: What are time dollars?

A: Time Dollars represent that amount of time one Timebank member has spent in the exchange of a service with another member. When you spend an hour helping another member, one Time dollar gets added to your account and subtracted from the account of the member who received the service.

How to Join

To join, go to www.timetradeircle.org and follow the directions for joining. If you have any questions, contact Katherine Ellin, k.ellin@verizon.net or Wayne Jenski, wjenski@gmail.com. After you complete your online application, a coordinator will contact you to set up an orientation. Then your account will be activated and you can begin trading.