



# Austin Newcomers Welcome Mat

December 2016 ★ Vol. 69, No. 6

## December Luncheon Holiday Luncheon Wednesday, December 14, 2016

**Location:** Sonesta Bee Cave Hotel

**Address:** 12525 Bee Cave Pkwy, 78738

**Cost:** \$30 pp

**Time:** 11:00 am social time  
followed by a plated meal

**RSVP:** Online by 12/9  
or postmark by 12/7



Musical entertainment by  
Kaycie Satterfield



**Join us for ANC's festive holiday luncheon at the Sonesta Bee Cave Hotel located at the Hill Country Galleria Mall. We have reserved this new contemporary hotel's beautiful ballroom for our December luncheon.**

Consider sponsoring a table for your friends/family to celebrate the season. Complimentary free parking is provided underground at the hotel. Holiday attire is encouraged!

## ANC collecting items for CARRYING HOPE

Interested in participating in the collection of items for children entering foster care? Our September speaker, Kristan Finan, started a nonprofit organization for these children and has provided us the information to participate.

We will be **collecting items for backpacks at our December luncheon** which we will deliver to the charity. Go to Amazon for easy purchase: [http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/1K9PYXSDVDWVP/ref=cm\\_wl\\_it\\_del](http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/1K9PYXSDVDWVP/ref=cm_wl_it_del). You can have your item/items delivered directly to the charity by using the gift registry address on Amazon, or you may bring your purchase to the luncheon.

Gift cards from Amazon, Target or Wal-mart are also needed.

**Thank you for your interest** in helping Austin's foster kids.

# President's Message



## Interest Groups & Events

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## November Board Meeting

**Wednesday, Dec. 7**  
**Meeting at 10:00 am**  
**Potluck Luncheon 12:00 pm**

**Host:** Jan Jones  
 6305 Mustang Valley Trail  
 Wimberly, TX 78676

**RSVP:** [Online](#)

**Questions:** [susi.spies@gmail.com](mailto:susi.spies@gmail.com)

Directions will be emailed  
 to attendees.



I Just walked in the door from a wonderful, laughter-filled trip to Vietnam and Cambodia with a group of old college friends. Even though I think it's been at least 36 hours since I crawled out of bed in Hong Kong some unknown morning ago, I can't stop thinking about the treasure that are the old, familiar friendships we make and keep all our lives.

For the many years of my life in California, I was always open to new friends. Like, I suspect, most of us, my real "true" friends were primarily comprised of old school, club, and volunteer friends or the friends my husband and I had made through our children and their schools. You may disagree with me but I think finding a new, good friend "later" is rare. We seem to get a little lazy and stick with what and who we know and are content in the warmth of familiarity.

That said, I moved solo to Austin two years ago without knowing anyone here but my children and grandchildren. What a blessing to be able to unpack in a new city and find yourself friending and befriended by the kind of fun, caring people we've all found, or are finding, within Newcomers. I think I personally will now count ALL my friends, both old and new, as my very best present this holiday season!

Make sure to peruse your December Welcome Mat carefully and make all your reservations for the month quickly. Lots of groups are celebrating with special holiday gatherings. Plus, our regular December monthly luncheon will be special as well. Our inspired luncheon program team has booked a wonderful room at the new Sonesta Hotel and they have some festive surprises in store.

In case you're wondering: the all-club holiday couples party that lit up last year's social season is a biennial event. So, while you won't find a repeat of that specific event on our 2016 calendar, you will find the all-club Casino Party at Great Hills Country Club that's coming up on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Reservations are first come, so that's an important reservation to make soon.

Can we be almost at the end of 2016? Amazing but true, so let me close this month's letter with my warmest and most sincere good wishes to every one of you for a very festive December and a bright, friend-filled New Year!

## BOOK GROUPS

**Book Groups: Thursday, December 1st****Time:** 10:30 am**Where:** Chez Zee  
5406 Balcones Dr.**RSVP:** Registration information will be sent out to book group members.**Book:** *A Friend of Mr. Lincoln***Facilitator:** Stephen Harrigan, author of the book**Questions:** Gayle Cannon, [gaylecannon70@gmail.com](mailto:gaylecannon70@gmail.com)

Bring books for the book swap table and find treasures to swap. Extra books will go to the Assistance League.

We have kept this group going by creating three groups: Indian Paintbrush, Yellow Rose and Bluebonnet. All groups read the same books, which are chosen annually in the fall.

If you would like to join a Book Group, please contact:  
Sue Naylor  
[ssnayl@gmail.com](mailto:ssnayl@gmail.com)

**Bluebonnet Group****Chair:** Sue Naylor  
[ssnayl@gmail.com](mailto:ssnayl@gmail.com)**Yellow Rose Group****Chairs:** Gayle Cannon  
[gayle.cannon70@gmail.com](mailto:gayle.cannon70@gmail.com)  
Connie Esau  
[connieesau@gmail.com](mailto:connieesau@gmail.com)**Indian Paintbrush Group****Chairs:** Andie Allen  
[andreaalleninteriors@gmail.com](mailto:andreaalleninteriors@gmail.com)  
Janet Lande  
[jslaustin@gmail.com](mailto:jslaustin@gmail.com)**Afternoon Mystery Book Group**

We meet in member's homes at 12:00 pm. on the second Wednesday of the month from September to May to discuss books whose subjects are always mysteries.

**When:** Wednesday, Dec. 14**Time:** 12:00 pm**Host:** Doreen Hyde**Where:** 3205 Desert Willow Cove, 78735**Book:** *Bruno, Chief of Police* by Martin Walker**RSVP:** Online by 12/10**Chair:** Dianne Killough, [dianne2345@gmail.com](mailto:dianne2345@gmail.com)

**Details:** We will begin with lunch. Please bring food associated with France in honor of the protagonist of the book. After the discussion, we will have a book exchange. Please let Doreen know what food you will bring. Bring a gently used book or books for the exchange.

**Upcoming titles:***The Blackhouse* by Peter May*Daughter of Time* by Josephine Tey*The Art Forger* by B A Shapiro*A Small Death in the Great Glen* by A D Scott*The Nature of the Beast* by Louise Penny**Men's Book Club****No meeting in December**

## ENTERTAINMENT &amp; OUTINGS

**Art House Cinema North****Friday, December 9, 7:30 pm****Cost:** \$1.00/person

**Details:** Arthouse Cinema North selects a film of the group's interest. We see the film separately, then get together as a group to discuss and rate the movie as well as select a film for the following month.

**RSVP:** [Online](#)

**New Members:** We welcome new members. If you enjoy animated discussions, join us by sending your name, phone number and address to: Ingrid Sarraat, [isarratster@gmail.com](mailto:isarratster@gmail.com). Ingrid will place your name on the group's email list and contact you by email with specific information about the next film and meeting location.

**Art House Cinema South****Friday, December 9, 7:00 pm****Cost:** \$1.00/person

**Details:** Love to go to the movies? Love to discuss them with others who share your passions? Would it be most convenient for you to meet on the south side of town? Arthouse Cinema South is right for you. The group chooses a current film (and usually a backup film) at its monthly meetings. Members see the movies on their own, and then get together as a group to discuss and rate their selections. The group meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Friday of the month. The meeting places are south of Lady Bird Lake and Lake Austin, but you can view the films anywhere in town.

For more information contact  
[ArthouseCinemaSouth@austinnewcomers.com](mailto:ArthouseCinemaSouth@austinnewcomers.com).

**Critics Corner****Friday, December 9, 7:30 pm**

Members will receive an invite with information about the movie and the location of the meeting. Members see the movie on their own, then we meet at a member's home for a lively discussion. Members are asked to bring one of the following: a hearty appetizer or a dessert or a beverage (such as a bottle of wine to share). Couples should bring two items.

**RSVP:** [Online](#)

**New Members:** Bobbi Barrio  
[criticscorner@austinnewcomers.com](mailto:criticscorner@austinnewcomers.com)

**Day Trippers****The next tour will be in January**

**Chair:** Twan Brady  
[brady@gvec.net](mailto:brady@gvec.net)  
512-627-1363

**Dance Austin!****No event in December**

**Chairs:** Alison Seaman,  
[alisonseaman@yahoo.com](mailto:alisonseaman@yahoo.com)  
Karen Kirmis, [kkirmis@gmail.com](mailto:kkirmis@gmail.com)





## ENTERTAINMENT &amp; OUTINGS, continued

**Shop Austin!****Monday, Jan, 30**

**Where:** Whole Earth Provision Co.  
4477 S Lamar #200, 78745

**RSVP by 1/23:** [Online](#)

**Hosts:** Diane Gallagher & Janet Jones

**Questions:** Diane, [cd\\_gallagher28@hotmail.com](mailto:cd_gallagher28@hotmail.com)  
Janet, [jones6lp@gmail.com](mailto:jones6lp@gmail.com)

**Details:** For more than 40 years Whole Earth has remained true to its ideals of providing goods that are relevant, educational and high quality and/or low cost. One more criterion has been added to the list: FUN! Toys for all ages are an important part of what makes a Whole Earth Provision Co. store a favorite with the whole family. Stores are filled with toys and nature oriented gifts like windchimes, birdfeeders and hammocks; quality shoes; casual, travel and active clothing; travel and outdoor gear and accessories and, of course, books!

We'll learn how to experience, enjoy and preserve our planet Earth. If you haven't been into one of these store's three locations – this is the time. There's something for everyone. We'll tour the store and have lunch at Central Market after. And, for those who are interested, head to Back Home, a French inspired furnishings boutique in the same mall.

Visit <http://www.wholeearthprovision.com> to learn more.

**Come to Dinner - Bring a Plate****Saturday, December 10, 6:30 pm**

**RSVP:** An email will be sent to the people on the list around the first of the month. RSVP then. The hostess will send out menu information to attendees a few weeks before the event.

**Details:** Come to Dinner – Bring a Plate is a dinner group for single ANC members who enjoy cooking and socializing. If you would like to meet other singles around the warmth of a dinner table enjoying delicious food and interesting conversation, this group is for you. We meet on the 4th Saturday night (except November and December) in groups of between four and twelve or more at one or two homes. The hostess plans the menu, compiles recipes, and asks guests to provide one of the dishes. We would like a commitment when you join the list to be a hostess or co-hostess at least once every 12-18 months. Some homes are small and parking can be an issue, but even a small group would enjoy spending time in your home. This group works because of the generosity and kindness of the members.

**Chair:** Lynne Marcus  
[marcus08@gmail.com](mailto:marcus08@gmail.com)  
505-340-5464

**Friends Connection**

The Friends Connection will not meet in November and December. We will see each other again in January.



## ENTERTAINMENT & OUTINGS, continued

### The Play's the Thing

#### Coming Up Baskerville, a Sherlock Holmes

##### Mystery

As a group, theater lovers will attend a diverse and exciting lineup of plays in the Austin Playhouse 2016-2017 season.

Mark your calendars for the following plays and dates:

- December 3, *Baskerville, a Sherlock Holmes Mystery* by Ken Ludwig;
- February 4, *Bloomsday* by Steven Dietz;
- March 4, *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller
- April 1, *Sense and Sensibility* by Kate Hamill;
- June 3, *Guys and Dolls* by Frank Loesser, Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows

Prior to each performance, we will meet at 5:30pm at Vino Vino at 4119 Guadalupe for some wining and dining.

**RSVP for Vino Vino:** [plays@austinnewcomers.com](mailto:plays@austinnewcomers.com)

For subscriptions and single tickets, call Cyndi at the Austin Playhouse box office at 512-476-0084. Mention that you are with Austin Newcomers. Subscriber services, including unlimited rescheduling if you have a date conflict, are all handled directly with the box office. For play descriptions and directions to the theater, go to [www.austinplayhouse.com](http://www.austinplayhouse.com).

For general information or questions email Rinette Seidner at [plays@austinnewcomers.com](mailto:plays@austinnewcomers.com).



### TGI Social

#### Thank Goodness It's Social

**Saturday, January 14, 4:00 - 6:00 pm**

**A time to kick back to meet and connect with friends old and new. Nothing but FUN on the agenda!**

**Hosts:** Dave and Pattie Schieck

**Where:** 10212 Banks Court, 78739

**Cost:** \$1.00 at door for paper goods

**RSVP by 1/12:** [Online](#)

**Bring:** Hearty appetizers and beverages of your choice to share: beer, soft drinks, wine, tea, lemonade, etc. Singles bring beverage or appetizer. Couples bring both.

**Chair/Questions:** Charlotte Slack  
cbs200@gmail.com  
979-255-1680

**Mark your Calendar:** Sunday, February 12  
2:00 - 4:00 pm  
Home of Saj and Joanie Maqsood

### Live Music Lovers

**Monday, December 5, 6:30 pm**

**Where:** C Boys Heart & Soul  
2008 South Congress, 78704

**RSVP:** [Online](#)

**Chairs:** Dona Reynolds, grdr@hotmail.com  
Ellen Honey, eshoney10@mac.com

**Details:** C-Boy's Heart & Soul is a neighborhood juke-joint featuring classic soul and R&B music onstage, a spacious outside patio and the cozy upstairs "Jade Room" lounge styled after 50s era Japanese GI bars. Join us for blues with C Boys house band Presto Chango.



## ENTERTINMENT &amp; OUTINGS, continued

**Try This**

**December is full of holiday events. So much to do and no time to do it all. Here are some interesting events in December.**

**Ice Skating on the Plaza**

**Whole Foods, 525 North Lamar**

**All month**

Do you miss winter? Spend an afternoon on the rink at the Whole Foods flagship store on North Lamar. Then head inside for a cup of cocoa or cider and live, local music on the weekends. [wholefoodsmarket.com](http://wholefoodsmarket.com).

***A Christmas Carol and  
The Santaland Diaries***

**Nov. 23 - Dec. 31**

*A Christmas Carol* is back to ring in the holidays. This rockin' show provides a modern twist on the classic tale. In fact, this show has proven to be such a hit among locals and visitors that it is the most popular show in the theatre's history. David Sedaris' *The Santaland Diaries* is a holiday adult comedy that will make viewers laugh until they cry. [zachttheatre.org](http://zachttheatre.org).

**Genie Art Bazaar**

**Nov. 25 – Dec. 24**

**6100 Airport Rd, 78752**

The Blue Genie Art Bazaar is a fixture of the Austin holiday season. Shoppers can browse thousands of

original works ranging from serious art to fun and kitschy items. A great way to buy hassle-free holiday gifts and support local artists.

[bluegenieartbazaar.com](http://bluegenieartbazaar.com).

**Handel's *Messiah***

**Austin Symphony Orchestra**

**Dec. 6**

**Hyde Park Baptist Church**

This night of musical magic will comfort you through its familiarity and fill you with the joy of rediscovery. Begin your winter celebrations with a performance full of rejoicing. [austinsymphony.org](http://austinsymphony.org).

**Austin's New Year**

**Dec. 31**

**Auditorium Shores**

This alcohol-free, family-friendly event celebrates the diversity and creativity of the city with visual art installations, jugglers, storytellers, fire dancers and other festive performances. [austintexas.gov](http://austintexas.gov).

If you have suggestions for events please email them with a link to the website to Lynne Marcus at [lmarcus08@gmail.com](mailto:lmarcus08@gmail.com) with "Try This" in the subject line.

## FOOD/SOCIAL

**Out to Lunch Bunch**

**Will meet in January**

We meet the last week of every month to explore different restaurants in the Austin area. We go south, north and in the middle. Because we meet the last week of the month, we will be "dark" in December due to the holidays. Please be ready to mark your calendars when the January Welcome Mat arrives. We look forward to lunch with you in January.

**Chairs:** Jan Jones, [Jones6LP@gmail.com](mailto:Jones6LP@gmail.com)  
Peggy Sklar, [psklar1@gmail.com](mailto:psklar1@gmail.com)

**Happy Hour**

**Tuesday, December 20, 5:00 pm**

**Where:** The W Hotel, Red Room  
400 Lavaca St., 78701

**RSVP by 12/18:** [Online](#)

**Price:** Cost of food and drinks, separate checks.

**Details:** It will be a fun event where we can meet and mingle and enjoy happy-hour-priced appetizers, cocktails, & wines. Upon entering the W, turn left & look for the Red room, also called the Secret room.

**Chair:** Debbie Highbarger, [mombcool@aol.com](mailto:mombcool@aol.com)

## LANGUAGES/EXPATS

### Expats

**Saturday, December 17, 5:00 pm (new time)**

**Host:** Priscilla & Umberto Gabbi

**Where:** 3330 Far View Drive, 78730

**RSVP by 12/12:** [Online](#)

**Chair:** Faith Stevens, [stevensfai@aol.com](mailto:stevensfai@aol.com)

**Details:** We enjoy sharing our overseas experiences and being with members who are from outside the US. If you are curious about other cultures, while sharing yours or your overseas travel experiences, please join us at our monthly gatherings. Each individual or couple is requested to bring a large appetizer and a bottle of wine for a stand-up mix and mingle supper.



### French Conversation

**No meeting in December**

**Chairs:** Michele Abriol  
512-771-3372

[abriol@mac.com](mailto:abriol@mac.com)

Genevieve Antier

737-932-3631

[littlefrenchy44@gmail.com](mailto:littlefrenchy44@gmail.com)

### Spanish Conversation

**No meeting in December**

**Chair:** Susana Surbek

[susana.surbek@hotmail.com](mailto:susana.surbek@hotmail.com)

512-740-2349

## GAMES

### 1st Friday Bridge

**Friday, December 2, 6:30pm - 9:45 pm**

**Host:** Edna and Ed Stokes

**Where:** Lamar Senior Activity Center  
2874 Shoal Crest Drive

**Cost:** \$5.00 per person

**RSVP:** [Online](#)

**Chairs:** Edna or Ed Stokes  
[edward@stokes.biz](mailto:edward@stokes.biz)  
512-280-4117

**Chair:** Ed Stokes, [edward@stokes.biz](mailto:edward@stokes.biz), 512-280-4117

All Bridge players are welcome both couples and singles. Players of average to very good are invited to join us for a fun night of bridge. Social time is from 6:30 to 7:00 pm and bridge is from 7:00 to 9:45 pm.

### 3rd Thursday Bridge

**Thursday, December 8**

**9:45 am Social Time**

**10:00 am play begins promptly**

**Host:** Marj Lowe

**Where:** IHOP, 1101 S Mopac Expy

**Cost:** \$3.00

This is a group of average to expert bridge players who enjoy playing together. We like the competition and challenge of party bridge and the opportunity to meet new people. Bridge is open to all.

**RSVP by 12/5:** [Online](#)

Nancy Hargarten

512-327-1646

[nancyhh84@gmail.com](mailto:nancyhh84@gmail.com)

**Chair:** Felicia Morrison, 512-619-0100,  
[feliciamorrison@hotmail.com](mailto:feliciamorrison@hotmail.com)



## GAMES, continued

**Kitchen Bridge****Wednesday, December 28, 10:30 am - 3:00 pm****Home of:** TBD**Cost:** \$2.50

Bring your lunch

**RSVP:** [Online](#)

Reservations may be made no earlier than the first of the month of the event.

**Chair:** Mimi Rhea  
512-491-0744  
[eerhea@att.net](mailto:eerhea@att.net)**Bunco****Tuesday, December 20, 10:30 am - 1:00 pm****Host:** Debbie Highbarger  
2421 Vista Lane**RSVP:** [Online](#)Debbie, [mombcool@aol.com](mailto:mombcool@aol.com), 512-750-1354**Chair:** Connie Gardner  
[peplett@aol.com](mailto:peplett@aol.com)Contact Connie Gardner if you are interested in joining Bunco as a regular member or substitute.  
Directions will be provided when you respond.**Canasta****Mondays, December 5, 12 & 19, 11:00 am****Location:** Mimi's Cafe  
2613 Galleria Circle  
Hill Country Galleria, Bee Cave**RSVP:** Register [online](#) the Sunday before each date.**Details:** We meet every Monday for a relaxing day playing a Hand and Foot version of Canasta. The game is easy to learn. New players are invited to join in. You're welcome to play as often as you like - every week or just occasionally.

We begin playing at 11:00 am, break for lunch about 12:30 pm and continue to play afterward. We order from the menu and get separate checks.

Join us for a fun day of cards and conversation with a group of interesting ladies.

**Cost:** New players pay a one time fee of \$15 when they join to cover the cost of cards and supplies.**Chair:** If you have questions, email or call Dottie Thoms at [canasta@austinnewcomers.com](mailto:canasta@austinnewcomers.com), 512-820-5980.**Euchre****Saturday, December 10, 6:30 pm****Host:** Greg & Nancy Shipley**Cost:** \$5.00**RSVP by 12/9 :** [Online](#)**Chair:** Kasha Petrea, 716-393-1991  
[kasha.action@gmail.com](mailto:kasha.action@gmail.com)

This game is quick and easy to learn but with enough challenge to make it interesting. We welcome seasoned and new players looking for an evening of fun playing cards. Limit 8 players. Please bring a snack to share and what you want to drink, other than water.



## GAMES, continued

## Ladies Poker

### Not meeting in December

**Chair:** Inge Eichberg  
512-351-9807  
[inge@austin.rr.com](mailto:inge@austin.rr.com)



## Mah Jongg

**Thursday, December 8 & 22, 1:00 - 4:00 pm**

**Where:** Café Express, 3418 North Lamar Blvd.

**Hosts:** Jeanne Broussard and Jeannette Van Deventer

**Details:** This group plays the American Version of Mah Jongg and uses The National Mah Jongg League card. We welcome players who have knowledge of the game. Players are invited to come early for lunch if desired.

**RSVP:** [Online](#)

**Chair:** Jeanne Broussard  
[Jeanne.marie.broussard@gmail.com](mailto:Jeanne.marie.broussard@gmail.com)



## Mexican Train

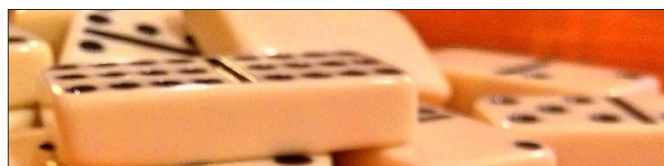
### Not meeting in December

**Location:** Café Express, 3814 N. Lamar (near Seton)

**Cost:** \$2.00

**Details:** We meet the second Wednesday of the month for a game of dominoes. It is important to arrive on time so we can get the tables set. The game is fun and quick to learn. We play for an hour starting at 11am, break for lunch and end by 2pm. Good food/good fun! Bring an extra set of Mexican Train dominoes, if you have them.

**Chair:** Nancy Belmont, [nbelmont@austin.rr.com](mailto:nbelmont@austin.rr.com)



## Pinochle

**Tuesday, December 6, 7:00 pm**

**Host:** Nancy & Greg Shipley  
5812 Tributary Ridge Dr.

**RSVP:** [Online](#)

**Chair:** [nshipley@me.com](mailto:nshipley@me.com)  
832-236-9909

**Details:** All levels of players welcome! We play single, double or triple deck Pinochle with lots of laughter! Come join us for an evening of fun at Nancy Shipley's house in north Austin.

## Second Sunday Scrabble

**Sunday, December 11, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

**Where:** Russell's Bakery & Coffee Bar  
3339 Hancock Dr.

**RSVP by 12/8:** [Online](#)

**Details:** This is a non competitive group and we strive to have fun. Join us and sample some of the great food and pastry at this independent Austin business.

**Chair:** Sandy Longstreth,  
[sandytzone@juno.com](mailto:sandytzone@juno.com)  
513-293-5523



## HEALTH/FITNESS

## Golfing Around Austin

### Monday, December 12



**Where:** Course to be determined

**Cost:** Greens fees vary, pay at course

**RSVP by 12/4:** [Online](#)

**Details:** The ANC golfing group usually plays the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at various area golf courses. We had a fun best ball scramble at Morris Williams on Oct. 17. The December play date is Monday, December 12. Other upcoming play dates are January 9, February 13, March 13, April 10 and May 8.

**Chair/Information:** John Cates, 832 814-8402,  
[jwcates3@gmail.com](mailto:jwcates3@gmail.com)

## Happy Trails

There will not be a scheduled Happy Trails walk in December. We hope you will embrace the cooler temperatures and enjoy a walk in your favorite place.

**Chair:** Donna Dauenhauer  
[donnadau@hotmail.com](mailto:donnadau@hotmail.com)  
512-852-9535

"Beauty surrounds us, but usually we need to be walking in a garden to know it." ~Rumi

## Hearty Hikers

### Tuesday, December 13, 9:30 am

**Where:** Lady Bird Lake  
Meet at the "rock"

**Google Maps:** Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail on Veterans Dr.

**RSVP by 12/12:** [Online](#)

**Details:** Join us for a festive walk around Lady Bird Lake in downtown Austin. The Ann and Roy Butler Hiking Trail crosses back and forth over Lady Bird Lake (Town Lake). We will walk about 3 miles along the flat trails crossing over 2 foot bridges to make a loop. This is an easy trail. Afterward, we will go for coffee nearby for a short holiday social (optional).

**Bring/wear:** hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, sneakers, and water.

Restrooms are available at the beginning and end of the hike.

**Chair/Information:** Beth Holcomb  
[bethholcomb7@gmail.com](mailto:bethholcomb7@gmail.com)  
908-963-9731



**GO GREEN**  
**GO PAPERLESS**

Sign up to get this newsletter via email.

Send an email to:

[vpmembership@austinnewcomers.com](mailto:vpmembership@austinnewcomers.com)

## HELLO AUSTIN!

## Holiday Sing-Along and Downtown Stroll

**Saturday, December 3,  
6:00 - 9:00 pm**



**Where:** Begins at south steps of the Capital  
Look for the Hello Austin Flag

**RSVP:** [Online](#)

Please register so that we will look for you!

**Details:** Join us for the annual KUT and KUTX Holiday Sing-Along, Lighting of the Tree, and Downtown Stroll, with sing-along led by John Aielli.

After an hour of enthusiastic singing, participants will observe the lighting of the Capitol Christmas Tree at 11th & Congress at 7:00 pm and then proceed down Congress to visit shops and other venues until 9:00 pm. Congress Avenue will be abuzz with holiday cheer during the Downtown Stroll. Join us to hear live music and enjoy fun family-friendly activities! Shops, restaurants, galleries, and museums will also be open late and will feature special activities and offers. If you can, please support fellow members of the community by bringing non-perishable food or cash donations to the Capitol Christmas tree for the Capital Area Food Bank.

**Parking:** This event attracts more than 20,000 attendees each year, so we encourage you to bike or use public transportation. On-street metered parking and garage parking are available.  
<http://www.downtownaustin.com/experience/parking>

**Organizers:** Linda and Paul Parrish

**Questions:** [HelloAustin@austinnewcomers.com](mailto:HelloAustin@austinnewcomers.com)

## Broadway by Request

**Presented by the Austin Symphony**  
**Thursday, December 29, 8:00 pm**  
**Doors open at 6:30 pm**



**Where:** Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd.

**Cost:** \$47 per person

**RSVP:** [Online](#)

**Details:** You choose which songs you'd like the Austin Symphony to perform- from *Wicked* to *Les Miserables*. Select from various duets, male and female solos, and many others. It's an exciting way for you to have a voice in what you'd like to hear!

We will bring our favorite appetizer/desert dish to enjoy this concert in a cabaret style setting. Please bring enough to serve 10. We will have two tables of ten persons each. Wine, beer and sodas available for purchase.

Please come at door opening time or shortly thereafter. This will give us time to enjoy our appetizers/deserts before they turn down the lighting.

Parking available in garage attached to the Palmer Event Center. This is a very crowded event so please come early.

The following is a link to the selection list from which to choose. Just complete the survey at:  
<http://www.austinsymphony.org/broadway>

**Event Coordinator:** Cindy Johnson

## Texas Stars Hockey VS Bakersfield Condors

**Saturday, Jan. 28, 7:00 pm (doors  
open at 6:00 pm)**



**Where:** HEB Center, Cedar Park

**Cost:** \$25; children ages two and older require a ticket; under two years are free as a lap child.  
Food and drinks are available for purchase.

**RSVP:** [Online](#)

**Details:** If 30 members sign up, we will each get the opportunity to try a slapshot into the goal and a photo of us all! Also, anyone in our group who is interested in riding the Zamboni will be put into a drawing for an opportunity to do that. After you sign up online, email Hello Austin and let us know that you are interested in riding (can be an adult or child). So sign up soon for a night of fast and furious entertainment!

**Parking:** Parking is included in all ticket prices.

**Register:** [www.austinnewcomers.com](http://www.austinnewcomers.com)

**Questions** [helloaustin@austinnewcomers.com](mailto:helloaustin@austinnewcomers.com)



## HOBBIES

**Knit and Stitch****Thursday, December 1, 10:00 am - noon****Host:** Priscilla Gabbi  
3330 Far View Drive, 78730**RSVP:** [Online](#)  
Priscilla Gabbi  
[priscilla@planetgabbi.com](mailto:priscilla@planetgabbi.com)**Details:** We meet on the first Thursday of each month from 10am-noon to knit, crochet or do laptop needlework projects. Join us for coffee, crafting and conversation.**Chair:** Heather Ashbee, [heatherashbee@comcast.net](mailto:heatherashbee@comcast.net)**Photography**

Welcome photographers! The photography interest group meets twice a month, once for a photo shoot usually the second Tuesday and again on the fourth Tuesday for a photo share session. If you would like to join the group, please email [kajones510@gmail.com](mailto:kajones510@gmail.com) to be added to the email list.

**PHOTO SHOOT****Location and time:** TBD

Instructions will be emailed to all members before each photo shoot giving the location, time and directions.

**PHOTO SHARE SESSION****Date:** Fourth Tuesday of each month, except Dec.

**Time:** 10:30 AM socializing - 11:00 AM share session  
Email 6 photos to Bill Sofer at [billsofer@mac.com](mailto:billsofer@mac.com). He will compile a slide show to project the photos on a screen for all members to enjoy and to offer ideas.

**Location:** Precision Camera store's classroom at 2438 W. Anderson Lane in the West Anderson Plaza.  
Optional lunch afterwards at a nearby restaurant.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CASINO PARTY

**Start 2017 with a winning streak!**

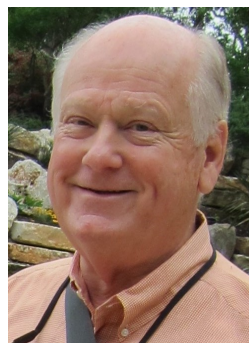
**When:** Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>**Where:** Great Hills Country Club**Time:** 6:00 pm sign in, tables open at 6:30 pm

**Cost:** \$60 per person  
Price includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, one drink and \$20,000 in chips

**RSVP:** [Online](#)  
limit of 66 guests

**Terrific Prizes:** Wine baskets, B&B, dinner and Top Golf!

Blackjack. Craps. Roulette. Texas Hold'em.  
Professional Dealers – Great Food – Space Limited

**RSVP Now!**

Fred Thoms  
1940—2016

The Austin Newcomers Club extends its deepest sympathy to Dottie Thoms with the loss of her beloved husband Fred Thoms.

Services will be held at 2:00 pm on Nov. 15 at Weed, Corley, Fish in Lakeway. Fred will be laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you please make a donation to the Juvenile Diabetes Association at [jdrf.com](http://jdrf.com).





# December 2016

If you are viewing this newsletter as a PDF, note that all underlined text below are links!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				<b>1</b> <a href="#">Book Groups</a> 10:30 am  <a href="#">Knit &amp; Stitch</a> 10:00 am	<b>2</b> <a href="#">1st Friday Bridge</a> 6:30pm	<b>3</b> <a href="#">Hello Austin-Downtown Stroll</a> 6:00 pm  <a href="#">The Play's the Thing</a> 5:30 pm
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <a href="#">Canasta</a> 11:00 am  <a href="#">Live Music Lovers</a> 6:30 pm	<b>6</b> <a href="#">Pinochle</a> 7:00 pm	<b>7</b> <a href="#">Board Meeting</a> 10:00 am	<b>8</b> <a href="#">Third Thursday Bridge</a> 9:45 am  <a href="#">Mah Jongg</a> 1:00 pm	<b>9</b> Arthouse Cinema <a href="#">South</a> , 7:00 pm <a href="#">North</a> , 7:30 pm  <a href="#">Critics Corner</a> 7:30 pm	<b>10</b> <a href="#">Euchre</a> 6:30 pm  <a href="#">Come to Dinner</a> 6:30pm
<b>11</b> <a href="#">Second Sunday Scrabble</a> 3:00 pm	<b>12</b> <a href="#">Canasta</a> 11:00 am  <a href="#">Golfing Around Austin, TBA</a>	<b>13</b> <a href="#">Hearty Hikers</a> 9:30 am  <a href="#">Photography Group - Photo Shoot</a> , TBD	<b>14</b> <a href="#">Monthly Luncheon</a> 11:00 am  <a href="#">Mystery Book Group</a> , Noon	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <a href="#">Expats</a> 5:00 pm
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <a href="#">Canasta</a> 11:00 am	<b>20</b> <a href="#">Bunco</a> 10:30 am  <a href="#">Happy Hour</a> 4:00 pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <a href="#">Mah Jongg</a> 1:00 pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <a href="#">Kitchen Bridge</a> 10:30 am	<b>29</b> <a href="#">Hello Austin—Broadway by Request</a> 6:30pm	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

**RSVP REQUIRED: [Click here](#) or complete form below**



**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING RESERVATION for Wednesday, Dec. 14th**

**Meeting Price: \$30.00** Make check payable to: **Austin Newcomers Club**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please print

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Check one:** ☐ Continuing member household ☐ Have not joined yet  
☐ 1st luncheon as member ☐ 2nd luncheon as member

Austin zip code \_\_\_\_\_ moved from \_\_\_\_\_

Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Please print

We always need greeters at our monthly meetings. It's an easy job and a great way to get acquainted with other Newcomers. Let us know if you are willing to help at this meeting or a future one. The Greeter Coordinator will call you with additional details. ☐ I'm willing to be a greeter at this meeting. ☐ I'm interested in being a greeter at a future meeting.

**FOR MEMBERS WITH DIETARY RESTRICTIONS, AN ALTERNATIVE MENU OPTION IS AVAILABLE—NOTICE IS REQUIRED WITH THE RSVP. Please include specific information regarding restrictions.**

**MEMBER IS FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR MENU SUBSTITUTIONS MADE AT THE EVENT.**

Please mail check and form to Laurie Gillig, 11701 Shadestone Terrace, Austin, TX 78732.

**Cancellations due by Dec. 9th.** Call (614) 361-4936 or [luncheondirector@austinnewcomers.com](mailto:luncheondirector@austinnewcomers.com)

Postmark by  
Dec. 11. Online  
RSVP by Dec. 9.

## Welcome New Members

Laura Eldrige  
PO Box 41655  
Round Rock, 78680  
409-291-1545

Mary Fitzpatrick  
16025 Scenic Oaks Tail  
Buda, 78610  
512-767-5222  
Prev: Scottsdale, AZ

Joseph and Zosia Hunt  
6309 Big Cat Cove, 78750  
512-349-082511  
Prev: Boca Raton, FL

Pamela Jordan  
5900 Marchmont Lane,  
78749  
719-306-4699

Joan Quenan  
3801 Berkman Dr. #234,  
78723  
715-468-7710  
Prev: Shell Lake, WI

Joan and David Saidel  
2010 Goodrich Ave, Unit 1A,  
78704  
301-807-8258  
Prev: Rockville, MD

## Recruit 5 new members; get next year's dues free!

Our ANC membership has never been healthier! We now have over 400 member households and new members joining every month.

Many new members have mentioned that an existing member encouraged them to join. We would like to say "Thank You" to those members that recruit someone new.

**Time Period:** July 1, 2016 to July 1, 2017

Ask new members to put your name on their application as a referral. Only one sponsor per new member.



PO Box 163343  
Austin TX 78716-3343

### Welcome Mat Staff

Newsletter Editor *Cindy Fenton*  
Proofreader *Brandon Jones*

### Austin Newcomers Officers

President *Susi Spies*  
VP-Membership *Donna Withrow*  
VP-Programs and Luncheons *Kathy Finley*  
*Laurie Gillig*  
Secretary *Paul Parrish*  
Treasurer *Valerie Ojeman*  
Interest Group Coordinator *Alison Seaman*  
Newsletter Editor *Cindy Fenton*  
Director of Communications and Publicity *Diane Gallagher*  
Parliamentarian *Marj Lowe*

### Address Corrections or Changes:

Email [vpmembership@austinnewcomers.com](mailto:vpmembership@austinnewcomers.com) or call 512-520-5911.

**Visit our website — [austinnewcomers.com](http://austinnewcomers.com)** for information about our activities and a membership registration form to print. Find out more about the Austin area too!

**Newsletter Articles:** Send all information related to the Welcome Mat newsletter to [newsletter@austinnewcomers.com](mailto:newsletter@austinnewcomers.com)

**Reminder:** Members may **not** make **commercial solicitations** at any meeting or activity, nor use our directory for any commercial solicitations. Thank you.



### PHOTOS WANTED!

Our historians Jane VanDellen and Beth Oliver very much want photos of every interest group! Please send them to **Historian@[austinnewcomers.com](mailto:historian@austinnewcomers.com)**.