February Luncheon
The Story Whisperer
Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mary Gordon Spence is a native Texan humorist and philosopher who delivers entertaining keynote speeches and addresses guaranteed to entertain, educate and inspire. And, in addition, she is a member of Austin Newcomers!

Mary Gordon can spot more magic in one seemingly mundane happening than most people find throughout their lives. She captures that magic and then showers her audiences, readers and clients with engaging and entertaining stories, helping them discover their own magic.

Mary Gordon lights up a room full of people with her gentle Texas flair and leads them to explore some of the off-the-beaten paths that she frequents daily. She brings insight, inspiration, wit and wisdom to every event; and after she's gone, her audiences and clients hold her messages dear for years to come.

Location: Chez Zee

Address: 5406 Balcones Dr., 78731

Cost: $30 pp
Cash bar available

Time: 11:00 am social time followed by a buffet lunch

RSVP: Online by 2/12
or postmark by 2/10

AUSTINNEWCOMERS.COM
As I sit down to write my February letter, Valentine’s Day, love, and thus, interpersonal relationships loom large. A recent editorial by the NY Times’ David Brooks (Intimacy for the Avoidant) seems particularly relevant. He points out that over the past decade there has been a decline in high-quality friendships. “In 1985, most Americans had about three people with whom they could share everything. Tragically, by the start of this century, 25 percent of Americans said that they had no one to fully confide in.”

This leaves many wondering if technology is making us lonelier. Instead of socializing, we’re perhaps sitting home surfing other people’s supposedly happy lives on FB. Digital media now consumes 5 ½ hours of our day and a study of female college students found they spend 10 hours a day on their cellphones.

Some of this is driven by FOMO, which stands for “fear of missing out”. Roll that around in your head. I found the concept very amusing when I first heard it—less so when I spent a little time applying it to myself. For an idea junkie like me, all that’s going on and being discovered and opined keeps me in an over-stimulated whirlwind. Think about your own lives and your children’s and grandchildren’s! Not only may their personal relationships be less rewarding than ours have been, studies are now showing that all the time spent on computers is changing children’s brains. Whether that change is for better or worse remains to be seen. Some researchers feel that the new, constantly engaged, “busy” brain may be necessary to succeed in our new much faster-paced world. Others worry that a brain constantly engaged will wreck havoc on our ability to quiet and comfort ourselves and who knows what else—it’s uncharted water. That’s pretty fascinating, and scary!

The good news? I’m pretty sure that even if Facebook taketh away actual friends and confidants, Newcomers will still provide them in joyful abundance. If you’re new in town or lonely, get off your cell phone and reach out. We offer friendship and fun events almost every day of the month. Just check the calendar on page 14 and see.

With happy expectations of new “interpersonal relationships” with those I don’t yet know, I wish all my existing Newcomer “Valentines” a very happy February!
# Book Groups

**Book Groups: Thursday, February 23**

**Social:** 10:00 am  
**Discussion:** 10:30 am  
**Book:** *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance

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

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## Bluebonnet Group

**Host:** Sue Naylor  
11310 Spicewood Club Dr. 78750  
**Facilitator:** Karen Rankin  
**RSVP by 2/21:** [Online]  
**Chair:** Sue Naylor  
ssnayl@gmail.com

## Yellow Rose Group

**Host:** Susan Stein  
8230 Spicewood Springs Rd, #3  
**Facilitator:** Jeanette Swenson  
**RSVP:** [Online]  
**Chairs:** Gayle Cannon  
gayle.cannon70@gmail.com  
Connie Esau  
connieesau@gmail.com

## Indian Paintbrush Group

**Host:** Susan Nichols  
4549 Golf Vista Dr., 78730  
**Facilitator:** TBD  
**RSVP:** [Online]  
**Chairs:** Andie Allen  
andreaalleninteriors@gmail.com  
Janet Lande  
jslaustin@gmail.com

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## Men’s Book Club  
**Tuesday, February 28 1:00 pm**

**Host:** Dennis Gregoire  
11800 Sterlinghill Dr.  
**RSVP:** [Online]  
**Chair:** Hector Barrio  
hebate@gmail.com

**Book:** *It’s even worse than it looks* by Thomas Mann and Norman Ornstein.

Two renowned non-partisan scholars evaluate the state of political gridlock due to both political parties becoming ‘vehemently adversarial’. They also discuss the role of the Tea Party in this time. A great book which explains the genesis of our current mess.

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## Afternoon Mystery Book Group

**Wednesday, February 8, 1:00 pm**

**Host:** Bobbie Barrio  
**Where:** 4704 Hickory Hollow, 78731  
**Book:** *A Daughter of Time* by Josephine Tey  
**RSVP by 2/6:** [Online]  
**Chair:** Dianne Killough, dianne2345@gmail.com

**Details:** We meet in member’s homes at 1:00 pm. on the second Wednesday of the month from September to May to discuss books whose subjects are always mysteries.

**Upcoming titles:**  
*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
**Art House Cinema South**
Friday, February 10, 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 the movie as well as select a film for the following month.

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

**Chair:** ArthouseCinemaSouth@austinnewcomers.com.

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**Critics Corner**
Friday, February 10, 7:30 pm

Members will receive an evite 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

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**Shop Austin!**
No event in February

Watch for details about our upcoming trip to Magnolia Market (featured in the show Fixer Upper) in March!
The Play’s the Thing

Coming Up Bloomsday

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:

- 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: Online

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.

For general information or questions email Rinette Seidner at plays@austinnewcomers.com.

Try This

Heart of Texas Orchid Society Show and Sale
February 11-12, 10:00 am - 5:00 am

Where: Zilker Botanical Garden
Cost: Free
Details: Come and see (and buy) beautiful orchids just in time for Valentines Day. Learn more about these special plants. Hotos.org.

2017 Ameripolitan Music Awards
Wednesday, February 15, 7:00 pm

Where: Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress Ave.
When: Doors open at 7:00 pm
Cost: Tickets $45-$75
Details: These awards benefit and acknowledge artists whose work does not readily conform to the tastes of today’s country or other music genres and organizations. It also provides fans with a means of finding these artists and their music. ameripolitan.com.

Austin Marathon
Sunday, February 19

Cost: Registration fees from $50 - $150
Details: The Austin Marathon begins on Congress St. and loops through the city ending at the Texas State Capital. Since this is Austin, there will be plenty of bands and music along the route. Youraustinmarathon.com

Austin Modern Home Tour
Saturday, February 25
10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Cost: $35
Details: The self-paced tour showcases 12 spectacular examples of modern design, constructions and decor throughout Austin’s premier neighborhoods. Modernhometouraustin.com

If you have suggestions for events please email them with a link to the website to Lynne Marcus at lmarcus08@gmail.com with “Try This” in the subject line.
Live Music Lovers  
Friday, February 17, 5:00 pm  

Where: Saxon Pub  
1320 Lamar Blvd., 78704  

When: Meet at 5:00 pm, music starts at 6:00 pm  

Cost: If you stay after 8:00 pm, there will be a cover charge  

RSVP: Online  

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

Details: Denny Freeman, Rodney Kraig, John X. Reed and Speedy Sparks will be playing.

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Come to Dinner - Bring a Plate  
Saturday, February 25, 6:30 pm  

RSVP: An email is sent to the people on the list the first of the month, and you should RSVP then. Once the guest list is complete, the hostess sends out menu information and the address and directions to attendees a few weeks before the event.

Details: Come to Dinner – Bring a Plate is a monthly 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. Contact Lynne Marcus if you want to receive the invitation.

We meet on the 4th Saturday night in groups of between four and twelve at one or two homes. The hostess plans the menu, compiles recipes, and asks guests to provide one of the dishes. This group has grown over the past several months, so 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  
lmarcus08@gmail.com; 505-340-5464

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Friends Connection  
No meeting in February
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.
**French Conversation**  
**Wednesday, February 8, 12:30 pm**  
**Host:** Rosa Schmid  
10719 River Plantation Drive, 78747  
**RSVP:** Online  
**Chairs:** Michele Abrio, 512-771-3372, abriol@mac.com  
Genevieve Antier, 737-932-3631, littlefrenchy44@gmail.com

**Spanish Conversation**  
**Monday, February 20, 10:00 am**  
**Where:** La Madeleine  
5493 Brodie Lane, Sunset Valley, 78745  
**RSVP by 2/19:** Online  
**Chair:** Susana Surbek, susana.surbek@hotmail.com  
512-740-2349

**Expats**  
**Saturday, February 18, 5:00-7:00 pm**  
**Host:** Jan and Carl Buesing  
2934 Thousand Oaks Drive, 78746  
**RSVP:** Online  
We request that anyone who needs to cancel notify both the hostess and Faith Stevens so that we can invite the next participant(s) on the waiting list. buesing78746@hotmail.com & stevensfai@aol.com.  
**Chair:** Faith Stevens, stevensfai@aol.com  
**Bring:** Couples, please bring a hearty appetizer (not a dessert) and a bottle of wine or beverage of your choice. Singles, please bring either a hearty appetizer or a beverage.  
**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.

**1st Friday Bridge**  
**Friday, February 3, 6:30 - 9:45 pm**  
**Where:** Lamar Senior Activity Center  
2874 Shoal Crest Drive  
**Cost:** $5.00 per person  
**RSVP:** Online  
**Chairs:** Edna or Ed Stokes  
edward@stokes.biz  
512-280-4117  
**Details:** 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.  
**Chair:** Ed Stokes, edward@stokes.biz, 512-280-4117

**3rd Thursday Bridge**  
**Thursday, February 16  
9:45 am social time  
10:00 am play begins promptly**  
**Host:** Edna Stokes  
**Where:** IHOP, 1101 S Mopac Expy  
**Cost:** $2.00  
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 2/13:** Online  
**Chair:** Felicia Morrison, 512-619-0100, feliciamorrison@hotmail.com
Canasta
Mondays, February 6, 13, 20, 27, 11:00 am

Host: Felicia Morrison  
7608-A Watson, 78757

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: Dottie Thoms  
canasta@austinnewcomers.com  
512-820-5980

Bunco
Tuesday, February 21, 10:30 am - 1:00 pm

Host: Heather Ashbee  
6301 Farndale Ln., 78749

RSVP: Not necessary.

Chair: Connie Gardner  
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
Wednesday, February 22, 10:30 am

Host: Felicia Morrison  
7608-A Watson, 78757

Cost: $2.25  
Bring your lunch

RSVP after 2/1: Online

Chair: Mimi Rhea  
512-491-0744  
eerhea@att.net

Euchre
Saturday, February 11, 6:30 pm

Host: Nancy Shipley

Cost: Free

RSVP by 2/10: Online

Chair: Kasha Petrea, 716-393-1991  
kasha.action@gmail.com

Details: 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.
**Ladies Poker**  
**Thursday, February 23, 6:30 pm**  
**Host:** Judy Floyd  
10304 Rhett Butler Drive  
**RSVP:** Online  
**Chair:** Inge Eichberg  
512-351-9807  
inge@austin.rr.com

**Mexican Train**  
Check online calendar for updated information  
**Chair:** Nancy Belmont  
nbeltmont1@gmail.com

**Mah Jongg**  
**Thursday, February 9 & 23, 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

**Second Sunday Scrabble**  
**Sunday, February 12, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm**  
**Where:** Russell’s Bakery & Coffee Bar  
3339 Hancock Dr.  
**RSVP:** Online  
**Chair:** Sandy Longstreth,  
sandytzone@juno.com  
513-293-5523

Would you or someone you know like to join the Austin Newcomers Club, but don’t have a computer? You can call me and I will enter all your information into the computer for you. Donna Withrow, 512-369-3563.
Golfing Around Austin
Monday, February 13

Where: Course to be determined

Cost: Greens fees vary, pay at course

RSVP by 2/5: Online

Details: On December 12, Nine ANC golfers played a “Select Best Ball” scramble at the Plum Creek Golf Club near Kyle which was the first time many of us had played there. It was a very nice course, and I think we all had fun. In addition to the upcoming February 13 play date, other planned play dates include March 13, April 10 and May 8 (we typically play the 2nd Monday of each month). Since we usually play a best ball format, there is not a lot of pressure and golfers of all abilities can have fun. So, come on out and enjoy the cooler weather on the golf course. Call or e-mail me if you have any questions.

Chair/Information: John Cates, 832 814-8402, jwcates3@gmail.com

Hearty Hikers
Violet Crown Trail
Tuesday, February 14, 10:00 am

Where: Meet in the Spec’s parking lot on Hwy 290

Cost: Hike is free. Optional self-pay lunch after the hike at Serranos Restaurant

RSVP by 2/13: Online

Details: Enjoy a scenic, moderate hike along Barton Creek on the Violet Crown Trail. This trail is mostly shaded, with a few hills and rocky spots over dry stream beds and includes a stop at Twin Falls. This hike will be about 4 miles and last about 2 hours.

Bring/wear: Wear layers and sturdy shoes, sun screen and sunglasses/hat. Bring water and hiking sticks are optional.

Chair/Information: Beth Holcomb
bethholcomb7@gmail.com
908-963-9731
Dorothy Docherty
dotinsg@hotmail.com

Happy Trails
Ladybird Lake Boardwalk/Lakeshore Point
Saturday, February 25, 9:00 am

Where: From I-35 take the Riverside exit and go east on Riverside Rd. Take a left at Lakeshore Blvd. and park along side the street. We will meet at the restrooms (green buildings) on the left, at Lakeshore Point.

RSVP: Online

Details: Let’s celebrate our city with a scenic walk along Ladybird Lake. We will take the new Boardwalk Trail from Lakeshore Point to the Austin American Statesman property for an approximate 3-mile round trip walk--about one hour. We will traverse a portion of the 7,100 ft. project, that runs from east Congress Avenue to Shores Park east of Interstate 35. Bring your cameras for this waterfront promenade, and capture some gorgeous skyline views of Austin. Leashed dogs are permitted. Bring water, sunscreen; dress for the weather.

Chair: Donna Dauenhauer
donnadau@hotmail.com
512-852-9535
**Hello Austin! Is Going Bowling!**  
**Sunday, February 26**  
**5:00 - 7:00 pm**

**Where:** Dart Bowl  
5700 Grover Ave.

**Cost:** $20 per person includes  
2-hours of bowling, shoes and PRIZES!

**RSVP by 2/20:** [Online](#)

**Details:** We are going to have a fabulous time at Dart Bowl—voted best bowling alley by Austin Chronicle readers for 15 years straight. Home of the famous Dart Bowl Cafe where they serve great enchiladas. (We’ll go here after!) They have plenty of bumper bowling lanes just for kids! Bumpers are great to keep the bowling balls out of the gutters and smiles on the faces of your small children. Please note that the bumper guards are delicate and are intended for children 52” and under.

**Questions:** Helloaustin@austinnewcomers.com

**Register:** www.austinnewcomers.com  
**Questions** helloaustin@austinnewcomers.com

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**Knit and Stitch**  
**Thursday, February 2, 10:00 am - noon**

**Host:** Heather Ashbee  
6301 Farmdale Lane, 78749

**RSVP by 1/31:** [Online](#)

**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

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**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 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

**Time:** 10:30 am socializing - 11:00 am share session  
Email 6 photos to Bill Sofer at 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.
Every year the Austin Newcomers Historian(s) - this year it’s Beth Oliver and Jane VanDellen - put together a Scrapbook of Newcomer activities to preserve the memories of the Club. Additionally, we use some of these photos for our Online Gallery and print publications. Beth and Jane can’t possibly attend every ANC function so they appreciate your submission of photos to historian@austinnewcomers.com. Thanks to all who have submitted photos and please keep the photos coming!
# February 2017

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

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RSVP REQUIRED: Click here or complete form below

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING RESERVATION for February 15.
Meeting Price: $30.00  Make check payable to: Austin Newcomers Club

Name(s) __________________________________________________________________________

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 Feb. 12th. Call (614) 361-4936 or luncheondirector@austinnewcomers.com

Welcome New Members

Sharon Arffa
1400 FM 2769, Leander, 78641
512-330-4033
Moved from: Pittsburg

Wendy Barrett
2223 Waterloo City lane, #343, 78741
512-234-9983
Moved from: Durango, CO

Mary Boyd
6512 Orchard Hill Dr, 78739
314 602 5851
Moved from: Bismark, ND

Alice and Preben Hammer
8112 Cahill Dr, 78729
512-552-9310
Moved from: Chicago area

Kim Hill
11617 Woodland Hills Trail, 78732
512-626-5721

Joan Moran
3018 S. 1st St. #201, 78704
310 869 2527
Moved from: Los Angeles

Christie Nelson
7418 Anaqua Dr, 78750
512-914-8401

Michele & Bob Seidel
11000 Anderson Mill Rd, Unit 3
512-574-2478

Juanita and Gavin van Tonder
10906 Twisted Elm Drive, 78726
512-986-0592
Moved from: France

Roy & Dale Truitt
1233 Spyglass Drive, 78746
214-683-0821

Ryan and Colleen Vergari
4008 Sierra Drive, 78731
415-342-0851
Welcome Mat Staff

Newsletter Editor  Cindy Fenton
Proofreader  Brandon Jones

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