We've Raised the Cost of our Monthly Luncheons. Here's Why:
There have been a few questions about the recent increase in the cost of our monthly luncheons from $25 to $30. Please know that your board spent many hours trying to avoid this increase. Hard, cold reality, however, made holding the luncheon cost to $25 virtually impossible.

As you all know, our beloved Green Pastures closed for renovations in January. This necessitated finding a new venue for future luncheons. A lot of pavement pounding, phone calls, and visits to about 30 possible restaurants around the city made it painfully clear that “nice places” in Austin that can accommodate our 50 to 90 attendees AND offer a lovely lunch for $25 including taxes, tip, and parking simply don’t exist in today’s thriving restaurant scene.

We understand this increase is difficult for some of you and your board deeply regrets its necessity. Please know our decision was not made lightly.

ZILKER – AUSTIN GARDEN CENTER
The Zilker Botanical Garden is ideally located in the center of Texas' capital city. The gardens are on parkland that is magnificently endowed by nature with handsome trees, natural grottoes and aquatic features that have been integrated into a design of spectacular beauty and tranquility.

See more Zilker photos on page 4 and page 15.

Did you know that Austin's own Zilker Park has the oldest organic club in the US?? Did you know that the facility is over 50 years old? Do you know how many different garden clubs are in the Austin area? You will learn the answers to these questions and many more when we have a tour of the gardens and a picnic lunch for our May meeting. Austin has its own unique terrain and climate and that maybe frustrating to those new to Austin or new to gardening. This event we will put you in touch with people who can address your challenges. Wear your best garden hat and join us May 18th.

2220 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX 78746
Price $30

Price includes entry to gardens, tour and lunch
Meet at the Auditorium at 10:00 AM for tour and coffee
Picnic lunch to follow tour

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR NEXT TERM

We've Raised the Cost of our Monthly Luncheons. Here's Why:

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**ANC May Board Meeting**

Wednesday, May 4th
9:30 AM Social, 10:00 AM Meeting

**Where:** Meritage Apartments Clubhouse
4500 Steiner Ranch Blvd.
Renee Bazar 818-512-8588

**RSVP:** Jan Jones jones6lp@gmail.com
Rene Bazar 2rmbazar@gmail.com
or RSVP on the website

**Directions:** 360 North to 2222; left on 2222 to 620; left on 620 to Steiner Ranch Blvd.; left on Steiner Ranch Blvd.; Meritage Apartments are on the right.
Park on the street or in the guest parking lot.

**AUSTIN NEWCOMERS SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR THE 2016-2017 YEAR**

The Nominating Committee would like to announce the slate of officers for the 2016-2017 Executive Board of Directors and Standing Committees. This slate will also be announced at the April General meeting and then voted on during the May General meeting.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

President: Susi Spies
President Elect: Sangie Krishnan
1st VP Membership: Donna Withrow
2nd VP Program: Kathy Finley/Laurie Gillig
Secretary: Paul Parrish
Treasurer: Valerie Ojeman
Meetings Director: Laurie Gillig/Kathy Finley
Newsletter Editor: Cindy Fenton
Webmaster: TBD
Publicity/Communications Director: Diane Gallagher

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

Interest Chair: Alison Seaman
Member Services: Annie Prasad
Calendar: Don Kirmis
Historian: Beth Oliver/Jane VanDellen
Board Transition: Mary Pat Bolton
Name Tags: Peggy Sklar
Greeter: Evelyn McMillen
Letter from the President

Where oh where does the time go? It is a good problem to have to “squeeze” in my tasks as President, such as writing this letter to you and preparing for our monthly Board meeting tomorrow in between my many fun activities I attend with this great group. I just got home from the MOST amazing day at the Bamburger Ranch organized by Twan Brady. Twenty plus members had a private tour of this 5,500 acre ranch near Johnson City, a heartwarming and powerful story of one man’s mission to restore this land and now educate us about conserving and understanding the complicated Texas eco-system. Boy did we learn a lot we never knew about those pesky cedar trees and water in Texas! The educational and delightful tour ended with a chance to meet Mr. Bamburger himself (88 years spry), and we were treated to some of the best story telling I have heard since 3rd grade.

Last week after my bi-annual trek antique shopping in Round Top, I attended another great Shop Austin event in the town with the “most beautiful town square in Texas”, Georgetown. Just another perfect day in Texas with Austin Newcomers including a tour of the historic square as well as the courthouse (trivia learned: the movie “Bernie” was filmed in this courthouse.) Shopping, lunch and wine tasting topped off the day where I got to know a few newer members much better. This is by far the most fun part of this job - the joy of getting acquainted with the newer members which frequently turns into another “it’s a small world” experience! (That is the topic of a book I may write - connections I have discovered with many Newcomer’s!) I always say I can never quit Newcomer’s because I am continually treated to activities and outings that I would never do otherwise.

All this great fun and socializing aside, please know that your Board works very hard to keep this club not only functioning, but thriving and most importantly, adapting to the needs of our members and trends of the times. Please make sure to read the article on the next page explaining a survey you will soon receive via email seeking your very valued input regarding what information you need and how to best receive it. We need your opinion!

Please note that in May we will be voting on our slate of nominees for our Board of Directors for the 2016-2017 year, which begins July 1st. Please see the posting on the previous page of the wonderful members who volunteered to serve, and come to our meeting May 18th prepared to vote. Also note that you will be able to nominate from the floor. Please thank the Nominating Committee for their dedication and hard work in searching for the perfect candidates. This slate is packed with talent. Unfortunately, as I write this, we DO NOT HAVE A WEBMASTER! Please let us know if you or someone you know would be willing to take on this task. We are very proud of our new website but it does require maintenance. Please call Donna Withrow if you know of anyone who may be willing to consider this position.

Your membership renewal forms will be sent to you in June. We hope as many of you as possible will take advantage of our new website’s ability to easily renew and pay online. The annual fee is incredibly reasonable for the magnitude of offerings and opportunities to explore Austin and socialize with friends old and new alike.

Although we have had to raise the price of the monthly luncheons/meetings (see the Page 1 article by Susie Spies), we have been able to hold the annual dues at the same amount, prorated for those who join later in the year. Thank you for your continued support and remember this is YOUR CLUB. The Board has your best interests at heart and we WELCOME your input. You are always welcome at Board meetings!

Warm Regards,

Jan
Website Tip of the Month – Adding ANC Website Pages to Your Homepage

Did you know that you can add your favorite pages of our website to home screens on your phone? So, for instance, if you want the scrolling Calendar or the ANC Directory or Members Only page as easy access on your phone you can put that page right on one of your Home Screens.

**Here’s how:**

We’ll use the **ANC Scrolling Calendar** as an example.

1. Go to the web browser on your phone and open the ANC Website – [www.austinnewcomers.com](http://www.austinnewcomers.com)
2. When the Austin Newcomers website opens click on **News and Events**
3. The **News and Events** page should open. This has the scrolling calendar with all of our upcoming events on it
4. While this page is open – go to the button on your phone that looks like an open book if you have an I-Phone or if you have an Android phone, click on the three little buttons in the upper right hand corner. Doing either of these things on the I-phone or the Android with provide you with a menu that should give you an option that says: **Add to Home Screen**
5. Click on Add to Home Page
6. It should automatically add a button onto the first available Home Page on your phone
7. Now you can click on that button and that page will automatically open for you on your phone
8. Once here you can click on the event and register, get information, and if available see a Google Map of the location

You can do the same with any page of the ANC website. So, if you want to add the Directory. You would open the Directory page. And follow steps 4 – 7.

ANC Communications Survey – YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT!

It is important that we regularly communicate with you and keep you informed about ANC events. However, in order to continue to provide our current communications tools we need additional resources to cover costs and volunteers who have the skills, time and willingness to fulfill specific job requirements. Our Board has created an Ad-Hoc Committee to address your communications needs but first we would like to know what they are. Please complete the brief survey that you will receive (or may have already received) in your email. This will provide your input as we plan for the future. If you do not have email, please contact Peggy Sklar at 512-350-1037 and she will mail you a survey. Thank you.

The Friends Connection

Why fly solo when you can share with a member of The Friends Connection. Find a friend to see a movie, eat out, take a day trip or attend an Austin Newcomer’s event. Put the word out to members of the group, see who else is interested and go together. Meeting times vary with activities. Join the group by contacting the group leader at [thefriendsconnection@austinnewcomers.com](mailto:thefriendsconnection@austinnewcomers.com) or contact Lynne Marcus, [lmarcus@marcusco.com](mailto:lmarcus@marcusco.com) or Renee Bazar, [4RBazar@gmail.com](mailto:4RBazar@gmail.com).

Waterfall in Zilker Botanical Gardens
## Book Groups: Thursday, May 26th

**Social:** 10:00 AM  
**Discussion:** 10:30 AM  
**Book:** May - “Ordinary Grace” by Kent Krueger

### Upcoming Books:
- June - “Being Mortal and What Matters at the End” by Atul Giwande  
- July - “Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher” by Timothy Egan  
- August - “The Little Paris Book Shop” by Nina George  
- September - “The Garden of Evening Mists” by Tan Twan Eng  
- October - “The Inheritance Loss” by Kiran Desai  
- November/December - “Transatlantic” by Colum McCann

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### Bluebonnet Group

**Home of**  
Mary Kevorkian  
4200 Jackson Ave  
(Game Room)

**Discussion Facilitator:** Lynn Davis

**RSVP:** Mary Kevorkian  
mkevorkian99@gmail.com  
512-206-4087  

**Chairs:**  
Judy Moore  
judya.moore@gmail.com  
Mary Kevorkian  
mkevorkian99@gmail.com

**Directions:**  
From Mo-pac exit at 45th Street and turn right onto Bull Creek. Park either in the North lot or the Visitor area between the two buildings. From the North entrance continue through the courtyard, past the Bistro dining area. The Game Room will be on your right. From the visitor parking enter at the flag pole entrance and take the elevator to the first floor. Exit the elevator and turn left. Continue on that hallway to the Game Room.

### Yellow Rose Group

**Home of**  
Linda Wittenbrook  
8209 Summer Place Drive

**Discussion Facilitator:** Jeanette Swenson

**RSVP:** Linda Wittenbrook  
wittenbrook@hotmail.com  
512-345-9537

**Chairs:**  
Shirlee Konopka  
shirkono@aol.com  
Susan Stein  
steinsusan365@gmail.com

**Directions:**  
From downtown, take MoPac north to Steck. Exit and turn left, west, onto Steck. In 3 blocks turn right onto Summer Place. 8209 is the second drive on the right. A small parking lot is across the street. From 360, (driving south) turn left, east, onto Spicewood Springs Road. Go up the big hill to Mesa turn left at the light. Go to the next light at Steck and turn right. Go past Anderson High School and keep going to Summer Place Drive. Turn left and 8209 is second house on the right.

### Indian Paintbrush Group

**Home of**  
Sharon Moore  
3400 Scenic Overlook Trail

**Discussion Facilitator:** Judy Gunnels

**RSVP:**  
Sharon Moore  
smoore7791@gmail.com  
512-349-2318

**Chairs:**  
Jackie Neuman  
Janeuman44@gmail.com  
Susan Nichols  
Sunichols222@gmail.com

**Directions:**  
Drive west on 2222 to 620. Turn left on 620, go about 4 + miles. You will pass Mansfield Dam. At the blinking yellow light at Cloudy Ridge, IMMEDIATELY get in the left turn lane to turn left into the Canyons at Lake Travis. 3400 Scenic Overlook Trail is on your right on the corner of Scenic Overlook Trail and Copper Ridge.

---

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:  
Judy Moore  
Judy.moore@gmail.com  
512-697-8251
**Arthouse Cinema North**
Friday, May 13th at 7:30 PM
$1.00/person

Arthouse Cinema North chooses an independent or art-house film or any other 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 the film for the following month.

We welcome new members. If you enjoy animated discussion, join us by sending your name, phone number and address to:

Kim Smith
tokimsmith@austin.rr.com

Kim 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.

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**Critics’ Corner**
Friday, May 13th at 7:30 PM

Location, RSVP, and Directions - Members receive information about the film and meeting place, and RSVP through Evite, which is sent out on the Wednesday following the meeting.

**RSVP** - (see above)

**Directions** - (see above)

The group operates as follows: At our monthly meeting, we vote on the film to be viewed, and then go to see the movie on our own. The following month, we get together for a lively discussion.

Refreshments are provided by our hosts and co-hosts. Everyone comes prepared for fun and movie suggestions for the following month.

If you would like to join Critics’ Corner, or are a member who is not receiving the monthly Evite, send your name and email address to:

Bobbi and Hector Barrio
bobbibarrio@gmail.com

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**Arthouse Cinema South**
Friday, May 13th at 7:30 PM
$1.00/person

Arthouse Cinema South welcomes new members. We meet at the homes of members and discuss a movie or two selected at the previous meeting. We rate the movies, then select a movie and back-up film for the next month.

To join, please send your name, phone number and email address to:

Roger Seaman
rogerseafarer@yahoo.com

RSVP and direction information will be emailed to members one week before the event.

---

**Mah Jongg**

**Thursday, May 12th**
Thursday, May 26th

We are now playing on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month.

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Café Express
3418 N. Lamar Blvd.

This group plays the American version of Mah Jongg and uses the National Mah Jongg card. We welcome anyone who is interested to join us. We now have a new location for our games and players are invited to come early for lunch if desired.

If you would like to join us, please **RSVP** to:

Ruth Ann Plotkin
512-582-0957
ruthann.plotkin@gmail.com
Men’s Book Group

Tuesday, May 24th
1:00 PM
Place: Home of Steve Saltwick
5900 Carry Back Lane

**Book to be discussed:** Book to be discussed: "Anti-intellectualism in American Life" by Richard Hofstadler

This classic analysis of anti-intellectualism is as fresh, powerful and revelatory as when it was written almost fifty years ago. The author demonstrates the importance of anti-intellectual impulses throughout American history in politics, religion, business and (perhaps most importantly) education.

Directions: From the North, take 360 South and turn left on Westlake Dr.; turn right onto Carry Back Lane.

Please RSVP to:
Hector Barrio, Chair: hebate@gmail.com
512-633-2103

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Knit and Stitch

Thursday, May 5th
10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

**Home of:** Barbara Story
1077 Grassy Field Road

**RSVP:** barbstory@hotmail.com
512-366-5075
OR: you may register online

We meet the first Thursday of the month to talk, knit, crochet, quilt, needlepoint and mend. Bring your handiwork and join us!

**Coordinator:** Elaine Doege 512-751-2674

**Directions:** From Mopac Expressway, take US 290 West. Turn left on Sawyer Ranch Road (first light after Belterra Drive). There will be a CVS on the right and a large Valero gas station on the left. Turn left into Highpointe at Cool Spring Way (1.5 miles). At Stop sign go right to stay on Cool Spring Way. Take a second left on Pure Brook Way (0.8 miles). Take immediate left to Grassy Field Road. 1077 is the fourth house on the left.

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Afternoon Mystery Book Group

Wednesday, May 11th, 1:00 PM

**Book:** “The Girl on the Train” by Paula Hawkins

**Discussion leader:** Bronwyn Bowen

**Host:** Bobbi Barrio
4704 Hickory Hollow

**RSVP:** 512-656-1420
bobbibarro@gmail.com

The Afternoon Mystery Book Group meets at 1:00 PM the second Wednesday of each month, September through May. Members take turns hosting and leading book discussions. This year’s list, which is based on member selections and includes both current and classic mysteries from a variety of genres, is listed on the Austin Newcomers website under Interest Groups/Afternoon Mystery Book Group.

For further information about the group, call Bronwyn Bowen at 325-370-5220 or email her at bbowen60@gmail.com.

**Directions:** From MoPac, take the 2222 exit, and head west (or east from Hwy. 360). Turn left onto Mesa Drive (there is a traffic light). Turn left onto Cross Valley Run, which becomes Mt. Bonnell Road. Take a right at Hickory Hollow and park in the center of the cul-de-sac.

Summer: The Afternoon Mystery Book Group doesn’t meet June, July or August. Meetings will resume in September 2016.
Photography Group
Welcome photographers! The photography interest group meets twice a month, once for a photo shoot usually on the second Tuesday and again on the fourth Tuesday for a photo share. Contact co-chairs listed below to be added to the distribution list.

PHOTO SHOOT
Tuesday, May 10th
Mayfield Park
10:00 AM: Meet in Mayfield Park and Nature Preserve
12:00 PM: Lunch TBA

Please be sure you’re on the Newcomers Photography e-mail list if you’d like to participate. Specific details will be e-mailed on or about May 6th.

RSVP: Linda Avitt
512-468-1542
biketrash@grandecom.net

PHOTO SHARE SESSION
Tuesday, May 24th
Send up to 6 photos to Kathy Jones at KAJones510@gmail.com. She will compile a show to project photos on a screen for other members to enjoy and to offer ideas.

Location: Precision Camera store’s classroom at 2438 W. Anderson Lane in the West Anderson Plaza

Time: 10:30 AM socializing — 11:00 AM share photos
Optional lunch afterwards at a nearby restaurant.

RSVP: Kathy Jones
512-241-1663
KAJones510@gmail.com

Mexican Train
Wednesday, May 11th
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Where: la Madeleine
5493 Brodie Lane
www.lamadeleine.com

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 11:00 AM, break for lunch, and end by 2:00 PM. Good food/good fun!!!

RSVP: Jane Jenkins 510-289-4650
jane7491jenkins@gmail.com

T.G.I.Social
Thank Goodness It’s Social!

It’s a time to kick back to meet and connect with friends old and new.

Saturday, May 14th
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Home of: Paul and Linda Parrish
631 Sad Willow Pass
Driftwood !!

Cost: $1.00 collected at the door to cover paper goods.

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

RSVP to both:
Linda Parrish
l-parrish@tamu.edu 979-709-7624 and
Charlotte Slack
cbs200@gmail.com 979-255-1680

Get a head start on June!
Sunday, June 26 5-7 (please note change in time)

Hosted by Jim and Kathy Finley
11708 Eagles Glen Drive

RSVP to Kathy Finley
jfinley825@aol.com 440-759-4742

Also RSVP to Charlotte (see above)

Directions:
From the East: Traveling west on Route 71/Ben White Blvd exit at Brodie Lane and turn left at the light. la Madeleine will be on the left.

From the West: Traveling east on Route 71/Ben White Blvd exit at Brodie Lane and turn right at the light. la Madeleine will be on the left.
**Third Thursday Bridge**  
**Wednesday, May 25th**  
10:30 AM - 3:00 PM  
Home of: Barbara McCollum  
129 Clear Pond Cove  
(out 290 near Dripping Springs)  
RSVP: Barbara McCollum  
512-829-7603  
t.mccollum3@yahoo.com  
Chair: Mimi Rhea  
512-491-0744  
eerhea@att.net  
Directions: From Loop 360 take Mopac North. Take the Rollingwood/Bee Cave Road exit. IHOP is on the right side after the Bee Cave Road traffic light.

---

**Euchre**  
**Saturday, May 21st**  
7:00 PM  
Get out of the sun and come play EUCHRE, the fun, fast, always entertaining card game. You are welcome if you need lessons, can use a refresher or are an expert player. Just sign up -- gnilsson5900@gmail.com -- bring a drink and a snack to share and be ready to laugh and enjoy. The evening begins at 7:00 PM on May 21st and ends after a few round robin games.  
Email gnilsson5900@gmail.com to register and get driving directions.

E-mail Jerry at: gnilsson5900@gmail.com  
Jerry and Susan Nilsson-Weiskott

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**First Friday Social Bridge**  
**Friday, May 13th**  
Social: 6:30 PM to 7:00 PM  
Play: 7:00 PM to 9:45 PM  
Lamar Senior Activity Center  
2874 Shoal Creek Avenue  
Cost: $5.00 per person  
All bridge players are welcome, both couples and singles. Players of all levels are invited to join for a fun night of Bridge.  
RSVP:  Ed and Edna Stokes  
512-280-4117  
edward@stokes.biz

*Note: We will be playing on the second Friday of May because the Lamar Senior Center is being used for its Annual Art show.

**Last Month’s Winners:**  
First Place: Ted Clark - 3380  
Second Place: Ed Stokes - 3300  
Third Place: Pat Banish - 2350  
Directions: The Lamar Senior Activity Center is located off Lamar at 29th Street on Shoal Crest Avenue.

---

**Kitchen Bridge**  
**Wednesday, May 25th**  
10:30 AM - 3:00 PM  
Home of: Barbara McCollum  
129 Clear Pond Cove  
(out 290 near Dripping Springs)  
RSVP:  Barbara McCollum  
512-829-7603  
t.mccollum3@yahoo.com  
Chair: Mimi Rhea  
512-491-0744  
eerhea@att.net  
Join us for some relaxed hands of bridge. Bring your own lunch; beverages provided.

---

**Daytime Buddy Bridge**  
Players meet monthly from September through May in participant’s homes.  
Players are assigned to differing opponents each month, but dates and times are determined by the players. This is a great way to get to know other members and visit different areas of Austin. Interested bridge players may contact either chairperson for additional information.  
Ethel Tarleton  
512-243-6651  
Betty Grisamore  
512-288-8823

---

**Bunco**  
**Tuesday, May 17th**  
10:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
Home of: Carolina Holme  
Current Bunco members RSVP to Carolina at 512-288-4499  
edholme@sbcglobal.net  
Newcomers are invited to contact Donna Burgess if you are interested in joining the group as a regular player or a substitute.  
Chair: Donna Burgess  
512-346-5443  
diburgess@austin.rr.com
### Canasta

**Mondays, May 2d, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th**
**11:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

**Location:** Rocco’s Grill  
12432 Bee Cave Road  
Bee Cave

Our Canasta group meets every Monday at Rocco’s Grill to play Hand and Foot Canasta. We play a few hands and break for lunch (order from the menu, separate checks) and continue to play afterward. It’s very easy to learn - if you haven’t played before, just come and we’ll teach you.

New players contribute $15.00 toward cards and supplies.

**RSVP to Dottie Thoms**

dottie.thoms@gmail.com

### Golfing around Austin

**Golfing around Austin**

The Golfing around Austin Group uses a simple format. We pick a target date each month, usually the 2nd Monday.

For May, our date will be **Monday, May 9th**, weather permitting. Interested golfers should call or email about one week in advance, in this case by Sunday, May 1st.

Barbara McCollum has replaced Marj Lowe as chair of the group in 2016. She will be continuing current practices to include arranging the course and tee times, and will advise participating players.

As noted before, it is useful to have a contact list (email and phone). If you have interest in the Golfing around Austin program and want to get on the roster, please contact:

Barbara McCollum  
512-829-4485  
t.mccollum3@yahoo.com

### Ladies Poker Night

**Thursday, May 26th**

**6:30 PM:** Social/Appetizer  
**7:00 PM:** The Game Begins  
**Cost:** $5.00 per person

**Hostess:** Sharon Lindemann  
6105 Tasajillo Trail  
512-773-2686

**RSVP:** Inge Eichberg  
512-351-9807  
inge@austin.rr.com

Bring a snack/appetizer to share and remember it's BYOB. Hostess will provide water or soda.

**Directions will be given at time of RSVP.**

**Questions:** Contact: Inge Eichberg  
512-351-9807

### Second Sunday Scrabble

**Sunday, May 8th**

**3:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

**Where:** Russell’s Bakery & Coffee Bar  
3339 Hancock Drive

Please Join us for a couple of fun games of Second Sunday Scrabble.

**RSVP:** by May 5th to:  
bhornaday@austin.rr.com

Directions will be provided if needed.
Hello Austin!!

Dear Newcomer Friends
Below are some details of our events followed by the list of our other planned activities for this year. Watch the Welcome Mat for information as it becomes available. If you are interested in participating in an event and/or want more information you can go online at www.austinnewcomers.com, then to calendar OR contact Chairperson, Pattie Webster at 512-924-9923 or pattie@pattiewebster.com. Watch our Weekly Bulletin Eblasts for revised event information and/or spontaneous activities hosted by the Group. We look forward to seeing you at Hello Austin Events!

University of Texas College Baseball Game Sunday, May 1st. (Time to be Determined)
Theresa Green
Join us and other sports lovers for a great game of college baseball. The Longhorns play Oklahoma State. Tickets are $16.00 and must be purchased in advance. You can register and pay online on the website or Contact HelloAustinSports@Austinnewcomers.com to get info to mail your check to the organizer. Registration and all payments must be arranged by March 19th in order to purchase a block of seats so that we can all cheer the Longhorns to victory together.
The are several dining options nearby and one will be selected two weeks prior to game time.

Hello Austin Planning Party - May 22, 2016, 4:00 PM, Pattie Webster & David Schieck
Get your thinking caps on! We will be reviewing the past year’s favorite events. We will be deciding what we will be repeating and looking forward to new ideas for 2016-2017. You can register on the website or Contact HelloAustinPlanning@Austinnewcomers.com. Dinner will a Barbeque. Please bring either appetizer or side plus your favorite beverage. Please leave your choice of appetizer or side in the message area. More details to follow.

FUTURE EVENTS:
• Con’ Olio Oils and Vinegars – Tour and Tasting – Diane Gallagher and Cindy Johnson
• Lake Travis Boating Adventure

Volunteer as a Greeter at our Monthly Meetings
Looking for an easy way to get involved with ANC? We’d love to have your help as a greeter at our monthly luncheons or evening meetings. The job requirements are simple: just arrive a few minutes early, stand near the entry table, and offer a warm smile and a friendly hello as members and guests arrive.

Greeters help our newest members feel welcome and connected—and often, our greeters make new connections themselves. No matter how long you’ve been in Newcomers, taking part in our ‘meet and greet’ is a good way to share your ANC experience.

If you’re willing to be a greeter at an upcoming luncheon or evening meeting, please contact Mary Pat Bolton at:
marypatbolton@icloud.com when you register for the event. We appreciate your help!
Hearty Hikers at Violet Crown Trail

Austin Area Jazz Festival
Try This – in May

National Wildflower Week – May 2-8, Ladybird Wildflower Center. The first full week of May marks National Wildflower Week each year. The Wildflower Center offers guided walks in their lush gardens. www.wildflower.org

Shakespeare in the Park – May 4-29, Free. See Macbeth performed at Zilker Hillside Theater. Pack a picnic dinner and enjoy quality theater under the stars. www.austinshakespeare.org

The Weird Homes Tour – May 7. According to a 2014 Zandan Poll, “nine out of 10 Austinites think ‘Austin is Weird’.” Through this tour of homes (which is self-paced and self-guided) many homes and people are highlighted to embrace the uniqueness of our city. www.weirdhomestour.com

Pecan Street Festival – May 7-8. Attend this twice-a-year arts & crafts festival on Sixth Street. www.pecanstreetfestival.org

Mini Maker Faire – May 7-8, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Palmer Events Center. This family-friendly event dares you to invent, learn and be inspired. www.austinmakerfaire.com

Austin Jazz Fest – May 24, 2016. This festival will benefit East Austin Music Academy. www.austinjazzfest.com

**email Donna Dauenhauer at donnadau@hotmail.com with your ideas, using “Try This” in the subject line**

Ex-Pats

Date: Saturday, May 21st
Time: 6:00 PM
Home of: Miriam and Dilvio Miranda
7112 Doswell Lane

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.

RSVP: Miriam Miranda
heymiriammiranda@gmail.com
512-394-0873

(Please do not RSVP using the ANC website, as your email will be sent to the Chair instead of the Host.)

Chair: Sara Pavliscak
512-970-7460
sarapavliscak@hotmail.com

Directions: From north Austin, take TX-1 Loop South. Mopac Expressway South becomes TX-45. Turn right onto Spruce Canyon Drive. Turn right onto Doswell Lane. The house is on the right.

Pecan Street Festival
May 7-8
**Come to Dinner - Bring a Plate**

**Saturday, May 28th (4th Saturday) at 6:30 PM**

**Location:** Homes of Laurie Zahn and Barbara Foxwell

**Directions** will be given when you RSVP to Iris Groten at [irisgroten@gmail.com](mailto:irisgroten@gmail.com) between May 3rd and May 7th.

This group of single women meets once a month for dinner at the home of a fellow member.

The hostess plans the menu and distributes recipes to the guests. The guests are responsible for preparing one of the recipes.

Our aim is to get together for an evening of good food and friendship.

Our membership roster is full and unfortunately we will have to close this group to new members. If anyone would like to chair another Single Women’s dinner group contact Iris Groten and she would be happy to help you get one started.

Iris Groten
512-351-8569
irisgroten@gmail.com

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**Spanish Conversation**

**Bienvenidos**

**Monday, May 16th at 10:00 AM**

**La Madeleine Restaurant**

Westlake Hills Shopping Center
Bee Cave Rd. (FM 2244) and Capital of Texas Hwy South (Loop 360)

**Directions:** From Capital of Texas (Loop 360) turn east on Bee Cave Rd., shopping center is on the right.

**Topic:** Whatever inspires you, as long as you speak in Spanish!

**For information or to RSVP, contact:**

Susana Surbek
512-382-6859
susana.surbek@hotmail.com

A todos aquellos que les gusta practicar el español, se los invita cordialmente a participar de nuestras reuniones. En estas reuniones gozamos de una taza de café, compartimos información y hablamos de muchos temas de interés común.
Shop Austin! in May

Sadly your Interest Group Coordinator has been battling a sports injury for several years that now needs surgery so there won't be a Shop Austin! activity in May. In the meantime, put your shopping shoes on and walk the 2nd Street District or stroll the shops at the Domain. The weather is spectacular and a little retail therapy never hurt anyone.

ArTreks  There is no ArTreks meeting in May.

Day Trippers
There will be no more trips until the fall.

For information about Day Trippers contact "Twan" Brady at brady@gvec.net or 512-627-1363.

Photos from Zilker Botanical Gardens
Site of the May Luncheon
Hearty Hikers

Tuesday, May 10th  (last hike until the Fall)

McKinney Falls State Park, 5808 McKinney Falls Pkwy.  512-243-1643.  Meet at the entrance to the park.

9:30 AM

Cost:  $6

Bring:  Water and wear sturdy shoes (and bring water shoes in case we need to cross the water), a hat, and sunscreen.  Hiking stick (optional).

Lunch (optional):  Bring a picnic lunch!

McKinney Falls State Park is in southeast Austin, only 13 miles from the state capital!  Trails run along side Onion Creek, spilling over limestone ledges into beautiful waterfalls and pools of blue water!  There may be water crossings so bring your water shoes!  The trails are fairly easy and well groomed.  Parts of the trails are in the shade and some parts are in the open so you are able to enjoy all different habitats!  We will be hiking around 3-5 miles, depending on how much water there is along the trail, for about a 2 to 2 1/2 hour hike.

RSVP with your name and cell phone number to:
Beth Holcomb
908-963-9731
bethholcomb7@gmail.com
and
Dorothy Docherty
512-351-6724
dotings@hotmail.com

Directions:  From the north, take US Hwy. 183 south to McKinney Falls Pkwy.  Take pkwy. to the entrance of the park.
From the south, take Hwy. 290/71 east, then south on Hwy. 183 to McKinney Falls Pkwy.  Take the pkwy. to the park entrance.

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Happy Trails - Marry Moore Searight: Metro Loop Trail

Saturday, May 21st

9:00 AM

Canine Capability:  Leashed dogs permitted

Bring:  Water, sunscreen, sturdy shoes, and hats, cameras; dress for the weather

RSVP:  With name and contact phone number to:
happytrails@austinnewcomers.com
(prefer email response)  Donna Dauenhauer  (H) 512-852-9535
(C) 512-584-5834

We are going to head to southeast Austin for a lovely walk.  Set back from Slaughter Lane, Mary Moore Searight Metropolitan Park is 344 acres of fields, trees and wildlife.  The park is the lasting legacy of its namesake.  The City of Austin purchased 88 acres from Searight using a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department grant.  Searight donated an additional 206 acres.  The city named the park after her in November 1988.  Newspaper articles at the time had compared the acquisition’s significance to that of Zilker Park.  This is a very picturesque walk where many of the live oaks are festooned with Spanish moss.  We will walk a 2.4 lollipop loop on this very easy dirt and asphalt trail.

Directions:  Take I-35 south to Slaughter Lane exit.  Follow Slaughter Lane west for 1.3 miles to the park entrance at 407 Slaughter Lane.  The Mary Moore Searight entrance road is just past Yarsa Blvd.  Proceed about 0.7 miles on the entrance road and park at the south side near the pavilion and restrooms.  We will meet near the restrooms.
## NEW MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City, State</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mary Ahner</td>
<td>18524 McGloin Trail</td>
<td>Austin, TX</td>
<td>713-412-4966</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mahner@aol.com">mahner@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>from Sugar Land, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peggy Appleby</td>
<td>2328 Amur Drive</td>
<td>Austin, TX</td>
<td>512-423-4213</td>
<td><a href="mailto:peggy_appleby_artist@mac.com">peggy_appleby_artist@mac.com</a></td>
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<td>from Florida</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kris Druffel</td>
<td>12166 Metric 324</td>
<td>Austin, TX</td>
<td>269-932-5050</td>
<td><a href="mailto:krisdruffel@gmail.com">krisdruffel@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom and Robyn Meier</td>
<td>7600 Crossmeadow Drive</td>
<td>Austin, TX</td>
<td>414 248-2124</td>
<td><a href="mailto:casameier@wi.rr.com">casameier@wi.rr.com</a></td>
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<td>(cell)</td>
<td>512 987-2835 (home)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>12166 Metric 324</td>
<td>Austin, TX</td>
<td>269-932-5050</td>
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## HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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<td>Leslie Pugatch</td>
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<td>Catherine Honey</td>
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<td>Ron VanDell</td>
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<td>• 10:00 AM Spanish Conversation</td>
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<td>• 11:00 AM Canasta</td>
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<td>• 11:00 AM Canasta</td>
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**Take a Camera Along!**
Please take some pictures

We would like to receive and publish pictures taken by the Interest Groups. Please include the name of the group and the date of the event.

Please send copies to:

- **Historian@AustinNewcomers.com**
- **wm.submissions@hotmail.com** (Welcome Mat)
- **Webmaster@AustinNewcomers.com**
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON RESERVATION
for Wednesday, May 18th   (Reservations deadline is Friday, May 13th)

Name(s) ________________________________

Please print

Phone _______________________________________________________________________

Check only one of the following:
___ Continuing member household   ___ Have not joined yet
___ 1st luncheon as member   ___ 2nd luncheon as member

Austin zip code _______________ moved from _______________________________________________________________________

Guest ________________________________________________________________________

Check only one of the following:
___ guest qualifies for membership   ___ guest does not qualify for membership

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 LUNCHEON.

BUFFET PRICE: $30.00 if received by May 13th

No reservation requests after May 13th

Register on line or make check payable to:
Austin Newcomers Club

Please mail check with the above reservation form to Luncheon Director:
Peggy Sklar
6006 Salton Drive
Austin, TX 78759

Reservations due by Friday, May 13th
Allow 3 days for delivery.

Cancellations due by Friday, May 13th

Contact Peggy Sklar
512-350-1037 or psklar1@gmail.com

Kindly check in upon arrival, as your name tag will be your buffet ticket! Child care is not available.
The Welcome Mat
Austin Newcomers Club
PO Box 163343
Austin TX 78716-3343

The Welcome Mat Staff
Newsletter Editor   Brandon Jones
Proof reader       Kathy Jones

Austin Newcomers Club Officers
President           Jan Jones
VP-Membership       Annie Prasad
VP-Programs         Susi Spies
Secretary           Renee Bazar
Treasurer           Darlene Mahanay
Luncheon Director   Peggy Sklar
Interest Group Coordinator
Newsletter Editor   Alison Seaman
Webmaster           Brandon Jones

Address Corrections or Changes?
Send an email to vpmembership@austinnewcomers.com or call 512-520-5911

Visit our website — www.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 wm.submissions@hotmail.com

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