During the summer, we like to hold our general membership meeting in the evening so more working members and spouses can attend.

This month we will combine a short general meeting with Happy Hour. Why not join us and then stay for dinner?

Because this will be a casual event, we do not need reservations, but it would be helpful to know how many will attend so please RSVP.

**When:** Tuesday, July 17, 4 - 6 p.m.

**Time:** Mostly social time with short meeting, we promise

**Where:** Cover 3 Downtown ATX
1717 W Sixth St
Parking: Free floors 1-4 but you will need a stamped restaurant receipt for floors 3 and 4.

**Cost:** Your food and drink, separate checks

**RSVP:** [Online]

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**Don’t Forget to Renew Your Membership for 2018-2019**

We hope you agree that your $35 membership in Austin Newcomers Club is a terrific bargain. We have almost 40 interest groups holding events during the day and evening every month. Whatever your interest, you can find other people to enjoy it with. Or you can even start a new group. See page 5 for information on our new rolling renewals and how to renew for 2018-2019.
Happy New Year! This month starts the beginning of the 2018-2019 Austin Newcomers Club (aka ANC) calendar year.

We have just ended a fabulous year, and I want to thank all the outgoing members of the 2017-2018 Austin Newcomers Board. The board members dedicate their time to make this club relevant to the needs of our members. Thank You.

Austin Newcomers is blessed with volunteers that make all the events happen. Each month these volunteers, such as interest group chairs and monthly event hosts/hostess, provide Austin Newcomers Club with wonderful activities to fill our days, opportunities to learn more about our new city, and most important, the opportunity to meet new friends. Bravo to all our volunteers.

I moved to Austin three years ago. I read about Austin Newcomer Club in a magazine I was reading at a library. When I got home, I immediately searched the internet to find out about the Austin Newcomers organization. I have a surprising confession; this was my first exposure to a newcomer organization. I am so lucky my first experience was with the awesome Austin Newcomers Club.

Austin Newcomers Club has made my transition to Austin an exciting adventure because I have participated in a variety of interesting local experiences, and I have developed wonderful friendships. I truly hope you all feel the way I do about Austin Newcomers Club. It is a treasure that continues to make Austin my happy home. It is my intention to highlight, in future messages, the treasures that you can experience as a member of this club.

This summer we are having our July and August monthly general meetings in the evening. Please join us on Tuesday, July 17, with the Happy Hour group at Cover 3 from 4 - 6, 1717 West Sixth Street. This event might be the beginning of many treasures you find with Austin Newcomers Club.

Valerie
BOOK GROUPS

Book Groups

When: Thursday, July 26, 10:00 a.m.
Details: We now have two book groups: Bluebonnet and Yellow Rose. Books are chosen annually in the fall, and both groups read the same book each month. If you would like to join a book group, please contact Gayle Cannon, gayle.cannon70@gmail.com

Bluebonnet Group

Host: Jayne Polly
11105 Scotland Well Dr., 78750
RSVP: By July 25, email Jayne below.
Chairs: Jayne Polly
Jayne.polly@hotmail.com
Alison Seaman
alisonseaman@yahoo.com
Dina Steiner
dinasteiner@gmail.com

2018 Books
July - *A Piece Of The World*, Christina Baker Kline
August - *My Promised Land*, Ari Shavit
September - *Before We Visit the Goddess*, Christina Banerjee Divakaruni
October - *The Underground Railroad*, Colson Whitehead
November - No Meeting
December - *Exit West*, Moshin Hamid

Yellow Rose Group

Host: Gayle Cannon
10700 Gold Yarrow Dr.
RSVP: Email Gayle below to RSVP.
Chairs: Gayle Cannon
gayle.cannon70@gmail.com
Lou Blemaster
loublemaster@gmail.com

Afternoon Mystery Book Group

When: The Afternoon Mystery Book Group does not meet during the summer months. We will resume on Wednesday, September 12, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss *Bluebird Bluebird* by Attica Lock. See further details in August.

Chair: Susan Nichols
snichols222@sbcglobal.net

Men’s Book Club

When: We don’t meet in July or August. Happy summer reading.

Book: Check the August issue for the September book.

Where: TBD

RSVP: Not required

Chair: Hector Barrio
hebate@gmail.com
**Art House Cinema North**

**When:** July 19, 7:15 p.m.

**Cost:** $1.00/person at the door

**RSVP:** RSVP to email sent to group each month. No deadline but there is a limit to meeting size. This group is closed to new members.

**Details:** Each month the group selects a film to see before the next month. We see the film and then get together as a group to discuss and rate it as well as select a film for the following month. Details of upcoming gatherings for this group are sent in a separate email to group participants with details about the movie selection, location, and any additional information that they need.

**Chair:** Beth Knight, knightfe57@hotmail.com
Joel Longstreth, sandytzone@juno.com

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**Art House Cinema South**

**When:** Friday, July 13 and July 27, 7 p.m.

**Cost:** $1/person at the door

**RSVP:** All members currently on the Art House Cinema South email list will receive an email with details about this event. Meetings fill up fast so RSVP as soon as possible.

**Details:** We meet at homes of members and discuss and rate two movies selected in the previous month. Members choose to attend one of two meetings each month, on either the second or fourth Friday. Each host sets the maximum capacity they can accommodate. Details of meetings will be sent ahead of meeting dates via email once first timers have responded via online and then have been added to the email list.

**Chair:** ArthouseCinemaSouth@austinnewcomers.com
512-632-1305

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**Critics’ Corner**

**When:** No meetings in July and August. See you in September.

**Details:** Critic’s Corner meets at 7:30 on the second Friday of each month. We send details of upcoming meetings in a separate email to group participants with information about the movie selection, location, etc.

**Chair:** Tom Taylor
tomtaylor9@gmail.com
214-642-3873
Renewal time for most returning members of the Austin Newcomers Club has almost begun. You will receive an email twenty days before your membership expires to remind you to renew. Renewal is $35. There are no discount codes this year. **The price will remain $35.** If you would like to receive a paper Welcome Mat, you can also renew that service at the same time for an additional $20. The Welcome Mat is always available online and you can print it out from there.

**How to Login to your Account**

You can log into your account to pay your dues and/or see what your renewal date is by going to the *Members Only* tab at the top of the home page of the website. Click on *Manage Account* and go to the bottom of the page to see your renewal date or click on the *Renew, Upgrade or Update Billing* button to renew your membership.

After thirty days, your online access to the Welcome Mat will be unavailable if your membership is unpaid.

**Rolling Membership Renewals**

This year we have switched to rolling membership renewals. This means that new members will have their renewals due one year from their anniversary join date. This change is retroactive for those who joined January 1, 2018, or later. For example, if you joined on February 10, 2018, your renewal date will be February 10, 2019, and not July 1, 2018, as was our prior practice.

**How to Pay for your Membership**

Online renewal is the optimal choice, but if you choose to pay by check, please mail it to:

Marsha Hayden
10402 Treasure Island Drive
Austin, Texas 78730

If you have any questions, please email vpmembership@austinnewcomers.com
Art Treks

When: Art Treks will not meet over the summer, and our next meeting will be in September. Please contact us if you have any suggestions for our fall and winter schedule.

Chairs: Linda Poyser, 713-291-7545
       Karen Werner, 817-896-4905

Daytrippers

See you in September. There will be no Daytrippers outing until September when the weather, hopefully, cools off enough for our adventuring little group to head off to yet another of Texas’s fascinating little outposts. Stay tuned.

Chairs: Susi Spies, susi.spies@gmail.com
       Dale Truitt, daledtruitt@gmail.com

Interest Group Photos

We want photos of your interest group events for Instagram and the 2018-19 Yearbook

Please submit photos of your interest group events to historian@austinnewcomers.com.

We will post them on our Instagram page and in the 2017-18 photo book.

Austin 101

When: The next outing of Austin 101 will be in September.

Where: Special places in Austin

Cost: Depends

Chair: Janna Smith
       jannaks55@gmail.com
Out to Lunch Bunch - Las Palomas

When: Friday, July 27, 11:30 a.m.
Where: 201 Bee Caves Rd. 
Ste. 122, West Winds/Steinmart Shopping Center
RSVP: Online or to Susi by email below by July 24.
Price: Separate checks not available so keep track of your own cost.
Details: I had no idea this big, delicious Mexican restaurant was tucked away in the back corner of the Steinmart/Post Office/Michael’s shopping center, did you? I was just there and had grilled salmon with chimichurra sauce, which was fantastic. So, great food, great location, big and sunny, and not too noisy. What more could we lunch bunchettes ask for? See you there.
Chair: Susi Spies
susi.spies@gmail.com

TGI Social (Thank Goodness It’s Social)

When: Sunday, July 15, 6 - 8 p.m.
Where: Saj and Joanie Maqsood  
908 W. Elizabeth St., 78704
Price: $1/person at door for paper goods
RSVP: Online or tgisocial@austinnewcomers.com
Details: It’s time for some summer fun. Summer is definitely a time to kick back and relax, a time to reconnect with old friends and connect with new friends, couples and singles, with nothing but fun on the schedule. Couples bring a hearty appetizer and your favorite drink to share, (beer, wine, tea, lemonade, soft drinks, etc.) and singles bring a hearty appetizer or your favorite drink to share.
Chairs: Janie and Jim McClam
jalommc@msn.com
512-301-9230

Come to Dinner - Bring a Plate

Details: Come to Dinner – Bring a Plate is a monthly dinner group for single ANC members who enjoy cooking and socializing. We meet in small groups in a member’s home. In July and August we meet in a restaurant.

Contact the chair to be placed on the list to receive the monthly invitation. You will get an email after the first of the month with the date and host, and you should RSVP then, NOT online. Once the guest list is complete, the hostess sends out menu information and the address and directions to attendees. Each guest brings a dish.

When you join the list, we expect a commitment to be a host or co-host at least once every 12-18 months.
Chair: Lynne Marcus
lmarcus08@gmail.com

Happy Hour and Short July Meeting - Cover 3

When: Tuesday, July 17, 4-6 p.m.
Where: Cover 3 Downtown ATX  
1717 W Sixth St.
Free parking floors 1 and 2. Free parking floors 3 and 4 with stamped restaurant receipt.
Price: Cost of food and drinks, separate checks.
RSVP: Online
Chairs: Charlie and Louise Brown
charlieb7127@gmail.com
Saj Maqsood
sajidmaqsood@gmail.com
**Friends Connection**

**When:** Friends Connection will meet at another interesting spot for brunch in either August or September. Be sure to watch for details next month. Looking forward to seeing you again soon.

**Where:** TBD

**Cost:** Separate checks, medium price range

**RSVP:** TBD

**Details:** See the August or September newsletter for details.

**Chair:** Lynne Davis  
elcdavis@sbcglobal.net, 512-368-5660

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**Live Music Lovers - The Fabulous Chevelles**

**When:** July 6, 7:30 - 10:30 p.m.

**Where:** Angel’s Icehouse  
21815 State Hwy 71 West, Spicewood 78669

**Cost:** Cost of drinks/food. No cover. Please tip the band.

**RSVP:** Online

**Details:** The Fabulous Chevelles: Authentic Old School Rock and R&B. Live from Austin Texas.

**Chair:** Ellen Honey  
eshoney10@mac.com, 737-703-5248

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**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Danny and Adriana Alviar  
10222 Darden Hill Rd., 78737  
512-507-6440  
From: Lago Vista

Mary Ann Barber  
12508 Alcanza Drive, 78739  
952-412-7448

Cris and Nonja Bisgard  
110 San Antonio Street #1410, 78701  
425-417-4311  
From: Bellevue, WA

David and Shannon Doherty  
12413 Beverly Villas Ct., 78732  
985-400-8310  
From: Houston

Kathleen Hall and Loren Stell  
106 Chestnut Hill Cove, Lakeway 78734  
512-431-2126  
From: Detroit

Catherine McKinney  
1520 Juliette Way, Apt. 1304, Cedar Park 78613  
832-260-2456  
From: Houston
Photography

Welcome photographers. The Photography Interest Group meets twice a month, once for a photo shoot, and again on the fourth Tuesday for a photo share session. We welcome anyone wishing to improve their digital photography skills. During the photo review session members share techniques for improving skills ranging from photography techniques to digital processing.

For monthly photo shoot information or to be added to the email list, please email Dwight Reck, dreck1066@gmail.com.

**Photo Shoot:** TBD

**Share Session:** Fourth Tuesday of the month 10:30 a.m. We often meet for lunch nearby afterwards. Precision Camera store classroom 2438 W. Anderson

Knit and Stitch

**When:** Thursday, July 5, 10 a.m. - Noon

**Host:** Babette Stevenson
7409 Vol Walker Dr., 78730

**RSVP:** Space is limited so you must RSVP by July 2 to Deborah Marks below

**Details:** We meet on the first Thursday of each month to knit, crochet, or do laptop needlework projects. Join us for coffee, crafting, and conversation.

**Chair:** Deborah Marks
dmarksny@aol.com
917-696-3647
**Expats**

**When:** Saturday, July 21, 6-8 p.m.

**Where:** Rocio and Fernando Torre  
16205 Coral Stone Way, Austin 78738

**RSVP:** Online by July 18

**Details:** We enjoy sharing our overseas experiences, learning about other cultures, and being with members who are from outside the US. If you have to cancel, please notify the host and one of the chairs below so we can notify the waiting list. Please bring a hearty appetizer to share and a beverage of your choice.

**Chairs:** Sharon King, sharonktraveler@gmail.com  
Norman Allen, allen2030@gmail.com

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**French Conversation**

**When:** TBD

**Where:** TBD

**RSVP:** TBD

**Details:** Directions and discussion topic to be announced.

**Chair:** Nedra Low, 512-351-9113  
nlow@austin.rr.com

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**Spanish Conversation**

**When:** We will not meet in July or August.

**Where:** TBD

**RSVP:** Usually online

**Chair:** Susana Surbek, 512-740-2349  
susana.surbek@hotmail.com
**Canasta**

*When:* Mondays, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
*Where:* Café Blue (new location)  
12800 Hill Country Blvd., G-115  
Hill Country Galleria, Bee Cave  
*RSVP:* By day before game, email  
canasta@ austinnewcomers.com  
the Sunday before each date.  
*Details:* We meet every Monday for a relaxing day playing a Hand and Foot version of Canasta, which 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 at 11:00 a.m., break for lunch about 12:30 p.m., 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:* Marti Glyer  
martiglyer@hotmail.com

**Bunco**

*When:* Bunco will not meet n July  
*Where:* See the August newsletter  
*Cost:* $5  
*RSVP:* TBD  
*Details:* Please contact Connie Gardner if you are interested in joining Bunco as a regular member or substitute.  
*Chair:* Connie Gardner  
peplett@aol.com  
915-203-4522

**Daytime Buddy Bridge**

*July 15 signup deadline*  
*What:* 2018 - 2019 registration  
*Cost:* $15  
*RSVP:* By July 15 to chairs below  
*Details:* You and your Buddy Bridge partner will be assigned to play a different Buddy Bridge team each month, September-May. You will receive a schedule in August assigning you and your partner a team number and listing the team you will play each month. These small groups of four are a wonderful way to get to know one another so grab a partner and sign up now for 2018-2019. We can help find a partner for you if you like.  
*Chairs:* Cathy Cotter, catcot72@gmail.com  
512-465-9472  
Sandi Ladd, sladdtx@gmail.com  
512-250-9339

**Kitchen Bridge**

*When:* Wednesday, July 25, 10 a.m.  
*Where:* TBD  
*RSVP:* On or after (NOT before) July 1 Online or email person provided by chair. After three tables are filled, you will go on the sub list.  
*Details:* The chair emails all people on the player list before the first of the month with the name and contact information of the hostess for the month and the person to email with your RSVP. Bring a sandwich for lunch.  
*Chair:* Hansa Nasta  
hnasta@yahoo.com  
512-328-1886

**3rd Thursday Bridge**

*When:* Thursday, July 19, 10 a.m.  
*Host:* Nancy Cosby  
*Where:* iHOP  
1101 South Mopac  
*Cost:* $3.00/person  
*RSVP:* By July 12 , Email Nancy Cosby below.  
*Details:* This group of average to expert bridge players enjoys playing together. We like the competition and challenge of party bridge and the opportunity to meet new people. Bridge is open to all.  
*Chair:* Nancy Cosby  
ncosby@flash.net, or 817-360-0494
**Ladies Poker**

When: TBD
Where: TBD
Cost: $5
RSVP: TBD
Chair: Inge Eichberg
       inge@austin.rr.com
       512-921-4034

**Mah Jongg**

When: Second and fourth Thursday, July 12 and 26
Where: Café Express
       3418 North Lamar Blvd.
Details: This group plays the American Version of Mah Jongg and uses The National Mah Jongg League card. We welcome anyone who is interested to join us.
Chair: Ruth Ann Plotkin
       Ruthann.plotkin@gmail.com
       512-582-0957

**Mexican Train**

When: July 11
Where: Jack Allen’s Kitchen
       3600 N. Capital of Texas Hwy
       Hwy 360 and Westlake Dr.
Cost: Lunch on your own
RSVP: Online by July 9
Details: We start play at 11 a.m., break for lunch, and finish by 2 p.m. Mexican Train is fun and easy to learn but has some challenges, Low/high score splits the pot. Please sign up in advance so I can let the venue know the head count. Questions or comments e-mail Eugenie below.
Chair: Eugenie Whalen
       eswhalen@sbcglobal.net

**Second Sunday Scrabble**

When: Sunday, July 8, 10, 3 - 5 p.m.
Where: Russell’s Bakery & Coffee Bar
       3339 Hancock Dr., 78731
RSVP: By July 6 to sandytzone@juno.com
Details: Join us for some fun and sample some great food and pastry at this independent Austin business. This group is not competitive.
Chair: Sandy Longstreth
       sandytzone@juno.com
**Happy Trails**

**When:** There will be no Happy Trails in July.

**Where:** Your favorite trail

**Cost:** Free

**RSVP:** TBD

**Details:** Take some time to visit your favorite trails.

**Chair:** Donna Dauenhauer  
donnadau@hotmail.com, 512-852-9535

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**Hearty Hikers**

**When:** Hearty Hikers won’t be hiking over the summer. In September, the day will change to the fourth Wednesday of the month.

**Where:** Nearby trails

**Cost:** Free

**RSVP:** TBD

**Details:** None

**Chair:** Laurie Zahn, laurdon@flash.net  
Dana Thor, danathor@gmail.com

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**Golfing Around Austin**

**When:** Monday, September 10

**Where:** Course to be determined

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

**RSVP:** By Sunday, September 2, email t.mccollum3@yahoo.com

**Details:** We’ll take June, July, and August off and restart our monthly play beginning on Monday, September 10. We usually play the second Monday of each month. Other planned play dates through the end of 2018 will be October 15 (moved because of Columbus Day), November 19 (moved because of Veterans Day), and December 10. We play a select -best-ball scramble and try to play a different Austin area course each month. If you have any questions about the ANC golfing group, please e-mail or call me. Hope everyone has a nice summer, and we’ll see you in September.

**Chair/Information:** John Cates  
jwcates3@gmail.com  
832-814-8402
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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING RESERVATION not required for July

Price: free

Name(s) ____________________________________________________________

Phone ________________________________

Check one: ☐ Continuing member household  ☐ Have not joined yet

☐ 1st dinner/luncheon as member  ☐ 2nd dinner/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 Austin 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.

Members with dietary restrictions: An alternative menu option is available at regular monthly luncheon meetings. NOTICE IS REQUIRED WITH THE RSVP. Please include specific information regarding your restrictions. YOU ARE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR MENU SUBSTITUTIONS MADE AT THE EVENT.
Welcome Mat Staff

Newsletter Editor: Judy Largent
Proofreader: TBD

Austin Newcomers Officers

President: Valerie Ojeman
VP-Membership: Marsha Hayden
VP-Programs: Pending
Secretary: Delores Carpenter
Treasurer: Linda Poyser
Meetings Director: Pamela Craig
Interest Group Coordinator: Peggy Sklar
Newsletter Editor: Judy Largent
Director of Communications: Lynne Marcus
Publicity: Katherine Tendall
Parliamentarian: Susi Spies/Marj Lowe
Member at Large: Donna Withrow

Email vpmembership@austinnewcomers.com for address corrections or changes.

Visit our website austinnewcomers.com for information about our activities or to join our club. Find out more about the Austin area too.

Please submit your Welcome Mat articles or information about your interest group online.

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

Thank you.