



# Austin Newcomers Welcome Mat

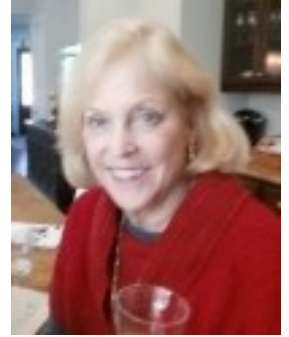
December 2020 ★ Vol. 73, No. 5

## President's Message

The election of 2020 is over. And as Americans and Texans, it's time to move forward together.



It is also December! It is the season for lighting the Hanukkah candles, baking cookies and decorating Christmas trees. We reach out to those dear to us. But unfortunately, Covid is still with us. This season it will be a challenge to continue our cherished traditions and festivities, as all the holidays of 2020 have been similarly challenging.



I am taking this opportunity to ask the membership of ANC to think of others during this season. Most of us have probably weathered the pandemic financially intact. Without going out to restaurants, subscribing to concerts or traveling on vacation; our monthly credit card statements have likely been a lot lighter. But we read every day of others not doing as well. All of those who have lost their jobs, performance gigs and even businesses are living more precariously than they might ever have thought possible. So, I am asking everybody to consider donating to help those that the pandemic has imperiled. There are so many ways to give:



Established charities like the United Way, Good Will, the Salvation Army, Texas Food Bank

Performance Organizations like Austin Symphony Orchestra, Austin Playhouse, Black Frett, Zach Theatre, the Long Center, Austin Shakespeare

Relief organizations like the Homeless Coalition, your church, HAAM (Health Alliance for Austin Musicians)

Gift cards from restaurants and businesses that are struggling on diminished receipts.

Wherever your interest and caring lie, there is a need. Please respond to that need as you can.



ANC continues to offer activities to our membership in creative, safety conscious ways. We know that many of your favorite groups can't meet right now. Groups that only work in actual, not virtual ways. But I hope you will take advantage of joining those groups that are gathering and having fun. Check out the book clubs, the new Grandparent sharing group and the new Social gatherings. If you have an idea for a Covid-safe interest group, please reach out to me ([pmcraig448@gmail.com](mailto:pmcraig448@gmail.com)) or Lynne Davis, Interest Group Coordinator ([elcdavis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:elcdavis@sbcglobal.net)).

Have a wonderful, caring, sharing and safe Holiday Season.

Pamela Craig, ANC President

## New Member!



Coaty Ostendorf  
4423 Marathon Blvd.  
Austin, TX 78756  
512-217-0300  
coatsworth\_ostendorf@redlands.edu

### December Board Meeting

**When:** December 2, 10:00 am

**Where:** Zoom

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## FOOD/SOCIAL

### Tired of your own company? Join a Zoom social group

#### ANC Morning Sunshine Social

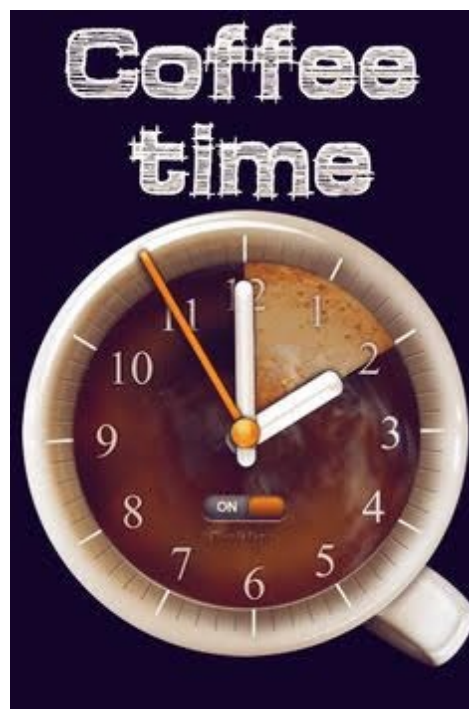
**When:** December 9, 11:00 am

**Cost:** Free

**RSVP:** By the day of the event.

**Details:** Second Wednesday of each month at 11:00 am. It is a great opportunity to meet new friends and stay connected with old ones! It is very relaxed and casual with great conversation. Bring your coffee and join us! To RSVP email [marcia@livingandlastinglegacy.com](mailto:marcia@livingandlastinglegacy.com). She will send you a Zoom link ahead of time. It's just that easy! If you need help with Zoom please contact her in advance. Hope to see you there!!

**Chair:** Marcia Clark (512) 619-8310  
[marcia@livingandlastinglegacy.com](mailto:marcia@livingandlastinglegacy.com)



## The Cook's Corner

Season's Greetings! A few years ago our family elected to keep our Christmas Eve dinner simple by ordering pizza. Then on Christmas Day we go all out with our big traditional turkey and dressing dinner with all of the trimmings.

Our favorite pizza parlor in Austin is the iconic Conan's Pizza which opened its doors in May 1979 at the corner of Anderson Lane and Burnet Road at 2438 West Anderson Lane, 78757, phone (512) 459-3221. They also have another location south at 2018 West Stassney and Manchaca, 78745, phone (512) 441-6754.



"The Austin Chronicle" readers voted Conan's Pizza their "favorite pizza in Austin."

Although known for its deep-dish pizza, we prefer the thin-crust "Savage" piled high with sausage, hamburger, pepperoni, green peppers, white onions, mushrooms, black olives, and jalapeños. Hold the anchovies, please.

When Austin restaurants first closed to inside dining in March, Conan's was the first place we ordered take-out. They were grateful for the business. (And we were grateful they were still open.)

Although they deliver, we live outside their service area, so we stop by in person. We can either go inside to pick up our order or let them bring it out to our car.

Now Conan's does have dine-in service available, observing social distancing. Gary and I have ordered "Savages" several times during the pandemic. Following tradition, we will definitely order a "Savage" again on Christmas Eve!

— submitted by Beth Oliver



## Grandparents' Connection

**When:** December 8, 10:00 — 11:30 am

**RSVP:** No deadline

**Host:** Marcia Clark on Zoom

**Details:** "Grandparents' Connection"

\*Are you looking for ways to stay connected with your grandkids?

\*Would you like new ideas and fun activities?

\*Do you have ideas, projects, etc. that you would like to share with other grandparents?

\*Are you looking for support as we navigate grandparenting in 2020 and beyond?

\*Not a "grandparent," but an Aunt, Uncle, significant adult who loves kids? **Join us!**



***Join us for the Grandparents' Connection – a casual and interactive small group! We would love to have you!***

### What to expect:

- Host will share a "Tip of the Month"
- Interactive group to share ideas, projects, activities, and challenges we are facing
- Focus will be on connecting from a distance via technology and in person
- Will provide support for each other
- Gain new grandparent friends
- Great conversation and fun!

Attendees: ANC Grandparents...or Aunts, Uncles, significant adult who loves kids

**Sign Up:** If you would like to join our group, email Marcia Clark, and she will send you a Zoom link to join. If you need help with Zoom, just email or give her a call.

### Tip of the Month:

**KidsOutAndAbout.com** is a great way to stay connected with your grandkids virtually 24/7 and across the world.



KidsOutAndAbout.com has created a list of 24/7 online learning experiences. There are hundreds of experiences to suit all ages and interests: Zoo webcams, museum tours, exhibits, online activities for kids, streaming performances, reading/Storytime, **and stuff that's just for fun**, from North America and all over the world. You can find daily LIVE events plus lots of lists of other activities. It is a wealth of information also! You may want to explore other regions of the world together!

Here is the link for Austin <https://austin.kidsoutandabout.com/> OR if you want to change the region just click on "Change Region" in the black menu bar at the top. You can select the region where your grandkids are and see all the virtual activities. Have fun exploring them together to stimulate great conversation!

You can also sign up for their weekly newsletter for your region.

**Chair:** Marcia Clark (512) 619-8310  
marcia@livingandlastinglegacy.com



## In Vino Veritas

### It is BUBBLES time of the year

**When:** Saturday, December 5, 5 — 6 pm

**RSVP:** By email to [antrrra@gmail.com](mailto:antrrra@gmail.com) (yes, 3 r-s) by December 3 to get the meeting link

**Hosts:** Antra & Tim Getzoff

**Details:** To wrap up 2020, join us for an online class and tasting of some bubbles!



We will meet on Zoom on Saturday, December 5, at 5 pm.

#### What to "bring"?

Just pick a bottle of your favorite bubbly (or one that you always wanted to try but somehow never did).

It may be French (look for Champagne, Cremant, or Blanquette de Limoux - all made in the traditional way called Methode Champenoise),

It may be Spanish (look for Cava),

It may be Italian (choose between Prosecco, Lambrusco, Franciacorta, or Asti Spumante if you have a sweeter tooth),

It may be German (look for Sekt), OR

Why not American? (in most cases, the bottle will say "sparkling wine").

There are American "household names" like Korbel or Mumm Napa, or the Top 3 in ratings - Roederer Estate, Schramsberg, and Gruet.

The choice is completely yours.

#### What to expect?

Some pairing suggestions before the event.

Some festive cocktail recipes that you may try in preparation for New Year's Eve.

A brief presentation on the distinctive methods of making sparkling wines, their types, and dryness levels.

An exchange of choices and experiences - when we talk about the types of wine, everybody drinking that type will chime in.

We hope it will be a little learning/ much fun experience.

Team up with another newcomer, invite family members, or just pour yourself a glass. Why not?

All you need is to pick a bottle and CHILL IT WELL (sparkling wines should be consumed the coldest), plus prepare a little snack (for example, salty and fatty potato chips go extremely well with a dry bubbly).

Let's leave this crazy year behind with a loud pop!

Cheers,

**Chairs:** Antra & Tim Getzoff  
[antrrra@gmail.com](mailto:antrrra@gmail.com) (214) 235-8014

## MY ANC STORY

Hello,

My name is Marcia Clark. I have been in Austin since 1987 when I moved from Minnesota. I have three children and six grandchildren. They all live in Austin. I enjoy gardening, watching tennis and football, walking/hiking, reading, local music, dining out, traveling, and mostly having family and friends over to relax. I spend a lot of time with my grandchildren so when Covid hit that was really hard. I gained a whole new appreciation for my friends who don't get to see their grandchildren very often. I had to come up with creative ideas to stay in their lives via Zoom/Facetime/Facebook Messenger.

I have been a member of ANC since last October. I enjoyed Day Trippers, Art Treks, and the luncheons and joined the ANC Board. I was just getting started and meeting a lot of people when Covid hit. But thankfully that didn't stop me from meeting people. When Dolores set up the Socials via Zoom, I was thrilled that I could still meet people. With her passing, I was very grateful when the Board asked me if I would continue them in her honor. They have given me the chance to still meet people and get to know them on a deeper level. I hope we continue them even when we are back meeting in person.



Based on that experience, when the Board decided to offer even more activities via Zoom I thought it would be fun for Grandparents to have a way to connect. We could share ways to stay in touch with our grandkids via online or in person activities, projects, etc. And support each other through this challenging time of trying to stay close to our grandkids in 2020 and beyond. I hope you join us for Grandparents' Connection! And it is not just for grandparents...it is open to any one who love kids!! I hope that this, too, continues after we are back meeting in person and we can do both. With the traffic challenges in Austin and our membership being across a wide geographic area, it is so easy to meet via Zoom.

I hope you are all staying safe and discovering and enjoying some new things that you may not have done before the pandemic!

Wishing you all the best and hope to see you soon!

Marcia

*Make this an amazing day! Every moment matters!*

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

## BOOK GROUPS

### Mystery Book Group

**When:** Wednesday, December 9, 1-3 pm

**Discussion Leader:** Dianne Killough

**Cost:** Free, with ANC Membership

**RSVP:** No deadline

**Details:** We will discuss *March Violets*, by Philip Kerr. For Zoom access information, contact Melody Chatelle, coordinator.

**Chair:** Melody Chatelle (512) 922-4622  
melody@chatelleandassociates.com

### Bluebonnet and Yellow Rose Book Clubs

**When:** Thursday, December 10, 10:00 am

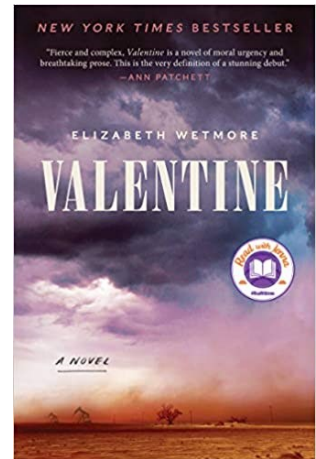
**Cost:** None

**RSVP:** By December 9, to [gaylecannon70@gmail.com](mailto:gaylecannon70@gmail.com)

**Details:** "*Valentine* joins the best Texas novels ever written." Marion Wink, Star Tribune

"Brilliant writing and page turning plot." Kathleen Rooney, Chicago Tribune

"A revelation not for what it explores, but how." Mary Helen Specht, Texas Observer



These are just a few of the many comments on Elizabeth Wetmore's book, *Valentine*, about how a vicious assault on a teenager affects the Odessa community in 1976, right before the next oil boom. Elizabeth will discuss her book at a joint meeting of the Bluebonnet and Yellow Rose Book Groups via Zoom on December 10, 10:00 AM. If you are not a member, but wish to receive a Zoom invitation, please contact [gaylecannon70@gmail.com](mailto:gaylecannon70@gmail.com). All book group members will receive a Zoom invitation without any charge. Please join us!!

**Chairs:** Bluebonnet  
Jeanette Swenson 512-627-1295  
[jeanetteswenson64@gmail.com](mailto:jeanetteswenson64@gmail.com)  
Nikki Faulkner 512-994-5677  
[faulkhomes2@aol.com](mailto:faulkhomes2@aol.com)

Yellow Rose  
Gayle Cannon  
[gaylecannon70@gmail.com](mailto:gaylecannon70@gmail.com)  
Lou Blemaster  
[loublemaster@gmail.com](mailto:loublemaster@gmail.com)



## MUSIC

## Armadillo Music Group

**When:** Wednesday, December 16, 5:00-6:15 pm

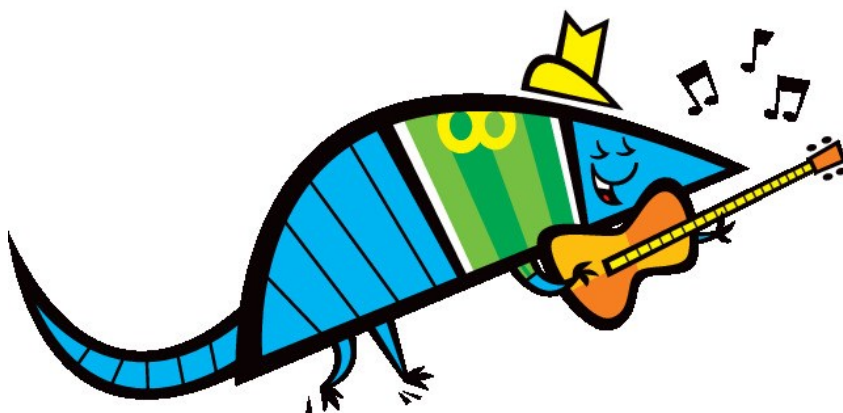
**Cost:** None

**RSVP:** Friday, December 11

**Zoom Host/DJ:** Jim Kochanski

**Details:** Interested in the Austin music scene? ANC's "Armadillo Music Group" on Zoom highlights new, original Austin rock music and bands and may include elements of blues, country, folk, club, soul & lounge music. We'll be featuring artists that play in Austin clubs like The Saxon, Continental Club, & others. This music interest group, held every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 5-6:15 pm, will be watching & listening to 2 different artists/bands each month, with time for discussion between music selections. The focus is on the fun of a common and unique music experience with friends. To RSVP, email Jim Kochanski by Dec. 11.

**Chair:** Jim Kochanski, jameskochanski@gmail.com  
512-599-7735



## MOVIES

## Cinema South

**When:** Friday, December 18, 7:30 pm

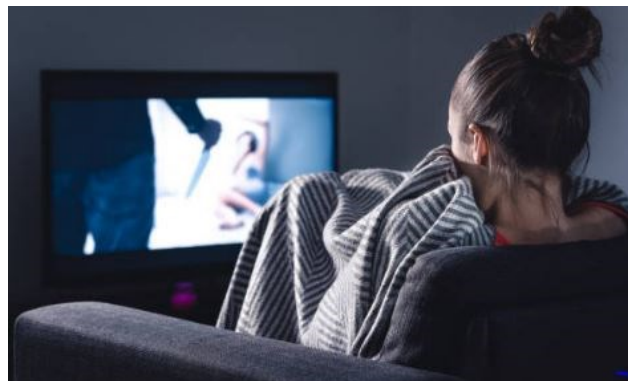
**Host:** Zoom Meeting.

**RSVP:** ASAP

**Cost:** None

**Details:** The movies this month will be decided at our November 20, meeting. All members currently on the Cinema South email list will receive an email with details about the December event. If you are new, email us (see below) to be placed on our member list.

**Chairs:** Susan Holland & Robert Nutt  
Pattie & David Schieck  
CinemaSouth@austinnewcomers.com





## GAMES

## Mah Jongg

**When:** Thursday, December 10, 1:00 pm

**Host:** Lynne Davis

**RSVP:** No deadline

**Cost:** Minimal

**Details:** Online Mah Jongg has begun! If you are an experienced player or fairly new to the game, we hope you will be part of our group. We are playing using "realmahjongg.com." It's easy and fun to play online. Although we will usually play on 2nd and 4th Thursdays, we will be playing only once in December due to the holidays. Please join us on December 10th at 1:00 p.m. For more information, contact me.

**Chair:** Lynne Davis, elcdavis@sbcglobal.net



## LANGUAGES

*Choose one (or both)!*

## French Conversation

**When:** Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16, 2:00 p.m.

## Spanish Conversation

**When:** Mondays, December 7 and 14, 5:00 p.m.



**RSVP:** By 48 hours before the meeting, to Susana

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



## HOBBIES

## Photography

There will be no Photoshare for the month of December.

The photography group is still going strong and is holding their Photoshare via Zoom. Because so many members of our group enjoy shooting different things, we shoot what we want. Some of our members enjoy having a challenge. For the month of December, our challenge is "Photograph Something That Is Familiar To Everyone".

There will be no Photoshare this month because of the Holiday Season. We wish everyone a happy and joyous holiday and I am sure that I can hear the echoes now, but a much better 2021 to everyone.

**Chair:** George McCane  
photoman401@gmail.com, 512-981-0196



## Knit 'n Stitch

**When:** Thursday, December 3, 10:30 am

**Cost:** None

**RSVP:** No deadline

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

**Chair:** Arlene Agree, aagreezell@gmail.com  
617-759-1464



# December 2020

All meetings listed on the calendar are Zoom meetings

For online registration, go to [austinnewcomers.com](http://austinnewcomers.com), sign in, and access the calendar.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> ANC Board Meeting  French Conversation	<b>3</b> Knit 'n Stitch	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> In Vino Veritas
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Spanish Conversation	<b>8</b> Grandparents' Connection	<b>9</b> French Conversation  Mystery Book Club  Morning Sunshine Social	<b>10</b> Mah Jongg  Bluebonnet and Yellow Rose Book Groups	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Spanish Conversation	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> French Conversation  Armadillo Music Group	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Cinema South	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		



PO Box 49841

Austin TX 78765-0841

## Welcome Mat

Email [vpmembership@austinnewcomers.com](mailto:vpmembership@austinnewcomers.com) for address corrections or changes.

Please submit your *Welcome Mat* articles or information about your interest group online by the first of the month preceding the publishing month (ex. January 1 is the deadline for the February *Welcome Mat*).

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

### ANC Communications Staff

Lynne Marcus, director

Austin Newcomers' website - Lynne Marcus, [lmarcus1819@gmail.com](mailto:lmarcus1819@gmail.com)

Welcome Mat Editors - Beth & Wes Grantham

[anc.mat.bethandwes@gmail.com](mailto:anc.mat.bethandwes@gmail.com)

Calendar - Bonnie Woodard, [bonnieawoodard@gmail.com](mailto:bonnieawoodard@gmail.com)

Visit our website,

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

for information about our activities  
and how to become a member.

All participation by club members in any event sanctioned by the club is strictly voluntary, and the club assumes no liability of any kind. Members assume all liability for their conduct, behavior, and its consequences.