



Austin Newcomers Welcome Mat

January 2021 ★ Vol. 73, No. 6

President's Message



Goodbye, 2020, sorry to see you go, NOT. Don't come again. We've had enough, seriously.

Whew, now that that is behind us. Welcome to 2021!

I am looking forward to the release and distribution of the Covid Vaccine. I am sure it will make all of us safer. I hope you are all considering receiving one of the vaccines that will arm us against this deadly virus. I was 3 years old when I contracted Polio. I can't imagine the fear that must have caused in my parents. They were so grateful when the

Salk, and then the Sabine vaccines were developed. They could be sure that my three younger siblings wouldn't be facing the same challenges to their health that I had.

When enough of the population is deemed safely protected we can begin to reengage in in-person activities like hiking, art treks, day trippers, even sharing meals. Yea!

In the meantime, ANC is still meeting and sharing as we enter a new year. I hope you have taken advantage of the Interest Groups that are safely meeting via Zoom and engaging their members. Among others, the In Vino Veritas Group has had some wonderful wine gatherings. The Morning and Afternoon Social groups have provided an opportunity to meet and engage in small group discussions, getting to know each other. And of course, the Book Clubs are going strong. Refer to this Welcome Mat for a complete list of active groups. The Weekly Bulletin will remind you, as well.



If you know an ANC member who has been hesitating to join in because of concerns about Zoom proficiency, we can help! We have training material available for Interest Group Chairs as well as the general membership. Please refer anyone with concerns to Lynne Davis, Interest Group Coordinator. She can make sure that person gets access to the Training materials.

I hope the New Year is good for you. I look forward to seeing everybody virtually or in person.

Pamela Craig, ANC President



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Beth Oliver in festive attire for the December Board meeting

January Board Meeting

When: January 6, 10:00 am

Where: Zoom



FOOD/SOCIAL

Tired of your own company? Join a Zoom social group

ANC Morning Sunshine Social

When: January 13, 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. 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

ANC Afternoon Social Hour

When: January 29, 4:00 pm

Cost: Free

RSVP: By the day of the event

Details: Last Friday of each month at 4 p.m. It is a great opportunity to meet new friends and stay connected with old ones! It is very relaxed and casual with great conversation. Come join us!

To RSVP email 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



The Food Corner

Happy New Year! Who knows whether the start of 2021 will find us all still eating outside, still grabbing our food “to go”, or beginning to think about being able to eat inside, I’ve found Fresa’s is a great restaurant to know about (if you aren’t already a fan like me!)

There are two Fresa’s locations:

If it’s cold and wet out, the Fresa’s location at 9th and Lamar is the place to go order at their window or drive through and order something absolutely delicious and unlike any other “Takeout” spot in town. Here’s what to know:

915 N. Lamar - Open 8:00 am to 9:45 pm for B-L-D

This Fresa’s location was the first I found when I arrived in Austin. It’s kind of an absolutely delicious walk-up and drive-through, but with high quality, real restaurant food. Breakfast fast tacos, Migas, and lots of other yum breakfast choices. Lunch and dinner both feature Chicken al Carbon prepared several delicious ways (like Achiote & Citrus Chicken). At lunchtime and at dinnertime, you’ll also find a variety of fantastic Bols, Tortas, and four wonderful salads, beans galore, and lots more.

If, on the other hand, our erratic Austin weather gives you sunshine and balmy breezes on a bright January day, you may want to treat yourself to the Fresa’s on South First. They also offer full a full Takeout menu for late breakfast, lunch, and dinner, but the real treat, if it’s warm enough, is a reserved table in their huge, wonderful backyard. It’s relaxed and easy for lunch and downright romantic and glamorous when the sun goes down. Here’s what to know:

1703 South First — (512) 992-2946 — Open 11 am to 10 pm

My son and his family live near this Fresa’s location and since there’s a huge outdoor eating area, we used to go often and spend lots of daytime hours there when my grandchildren were little (and messy). Now, during the Pandemic months when we’ve all had to think twice about where we can eat safely (and always outside), I was trying to think of an outdoor restaurant down in the South Austin area. The only one I could think of with real outdoor facilities was Fresa’s. So I made a reservation for dinner. I drove in, parked, and walked through a gate into a virtual oasis. I’d never been to Fresa’s at night before. And boy what I’d missed. It felt like I was in a huge southern garden. The tables were all miles apart, so each felt nestled into the landscape and very private. The lighting was beautiful, the waiter was terrific, and the food was great. Hands down, Fresa’s at night has been my very favorite Covid eatery. Lovely lighting, romance, wine and cocktails, and fabulous food!

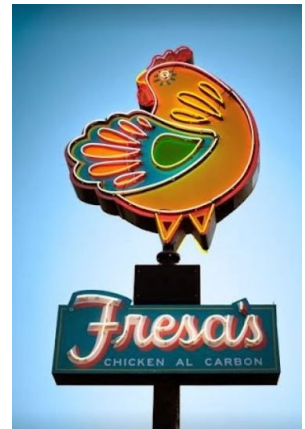
You can do all the same great breakfast items available at the Fresa’s Drive through on 9th and Lamar as well as the various Chicken al Carbon dishes and salads, but you’ll also find Grilled Sweet Potatoes and Crispy Brussels Sprouts, the best Queso in town, Guacamole, four kinds of Salsa, Posole, Agave Lime Chicken Quesadillas, At dinner time, there are Aji Glazed Prawns, a Chimichurri Skirt Steak, Yucatan Spice Chicken and lots more.

Liquid refreshments in the evening: Margaritas, Wine and Beer, plus my favorite: made-fresh-daily Watermelon and other Aguas Frescas.

There is only TO GO and the beautiful patio meal service at Fresa’s 1st Street location. No inside seating, so pick a pretty day or clear night and dress for the season.

Most importantly, you MUST have a reservation to get a table!!!

— submitted by Susi Spies



Grandparents' Connection

When: January 12, 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:



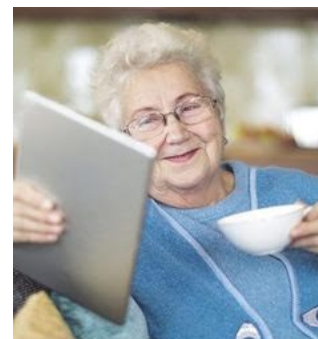
Adventures in NanaLand

This website is amazing for ideas for Long Distance Grandparents....

<https://adventuresinnanaland.com/15-ways-awesome-long-distance-grandparents/>

We have discussed quite a few of these in our sessions.
Connecting Generations and Building Memories

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



In Vino Veritas

Baby It's Cold Outside (Fire and PORT)

When: Saturday, January 2, 5:00-6:00 pm

RSVP: By December 30

Host/Location: Zoom tasting



Details: Most of the year, Texas weather is better for enjoying a well-chilled Rose or a crisp, refreshing Sauvignon Blanc, but NOT NOW! The time around New Year's Eve is perfect for the fireplace and a warming sip of rich Cabernet or... PORT.

Tim and I would like to invite you to join us in early January and explore the types of Port and how to know what you are ordering after dinner or buying from the local wine merchant. Ruby or Tawny? 10-year-old or 25? Pay the asked \$25 per tiny shot of vintage Port or is it too rich?

It is a fascinating world.

Like there is true Champagne and "Champagne", there is true Port and Port-style wine. Technically, it MUST come from the Duoro Valley in Northern Portugal to be called Port, and a lot of it is not available outside Portugal or even the native Porto region. But you will find some in Austin, too.



I was lucky to spend some time in Porto 18 months ago and visit a couple of their most famous Port houses. Happy to share some of the tips I learned and share a tasting over Zoom.

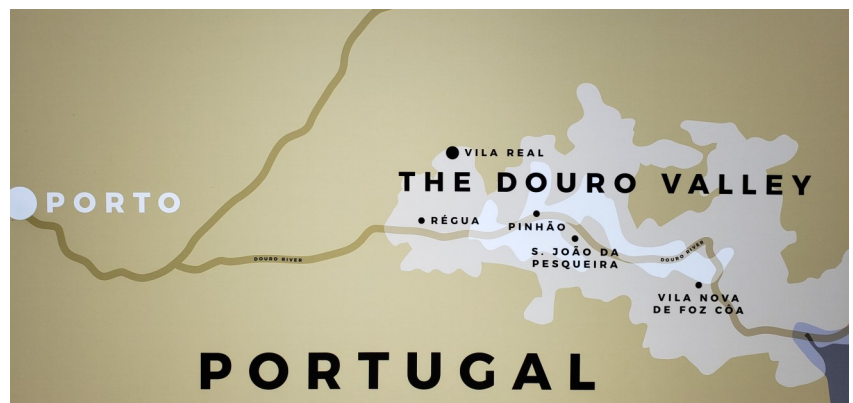
SO, we will meet on the first Saturday, as always - January 2 at 5 pm.

Maybe you have a bottle at home. If not, there is enough time to order one online or stop by a wine shop.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and CHEERS to a much better 2021!

We'll see you over a glass of Port,
Antra & Tim Getzoff

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



MY ANC STORY

Hello!

My name is Belen Benavides. I moved to Austin in September of 2019 from Kearney, Nebraska where I lived for 20 years. I'm originally from Texas, although, I spent my school years elsewhere since my father was in the Army. I have four children and only one of them currently lives in Texas. Luckily, it is Austin!

Upon moving to Austin, I searched online for a welcoming group and was so excited to see AUSTIN NEWCOMERS pop up. My hopes were to meet people and to explore the surrounding communities. I immediately joined and since then I have met many lovely members and have participated in a few ANC interest groups. Through ARTreks, Come to Dinner – Bring a Plate, Hearty Hikers, Ex-Pats, Spanish Conversation, In Vinos Veritas, Out to Lunch Bunch and Hello Austin!, I have experienced museums, nature, Austin events, socializing in members' homes, new restaurants, new wine and new friendships!

Then COVID-19 hit...so now I Zoom. ANC has been doing an amazing job during this challenging time as they transition to a virtual platform! I have Zoomed with the Spanish Conversation and Come to Dinner – Bring a Plate groups. I missed the In Vinos Veritas one – no wine for me that day!

I hope our members are staying safe and are finding new ways to be entertained, stay involved and keep connected with their loved ones.

Happy Holidays! Peace to Y'all! May we meet soon!

Belen

(ANC Historian, My ANC Story Coordinator)



It's winter *somewhere*!

BOOK GROUPS

Mystery Book Club

When: Wednesday, January 13, 1-3 pm

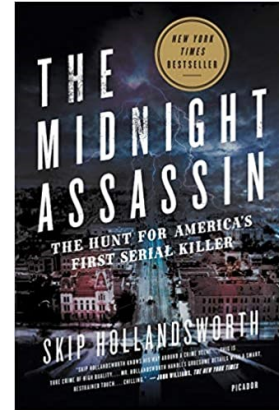
Discussion Leader: Joanie Maqsood

Cost: Free, with ANC Membership

RSVP: No deadline

Details: We will discuss *Midnight Assassin*, by Skip Hollandsworth. For Zoom access information, contact Melody Chatelle, coordinator.

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



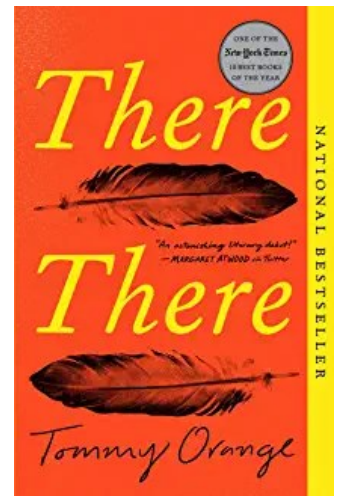
Bluebonnet and Yellow Rose Book Clubs

When: Thursday, January 28, 10:00 am

Zoom Host: Jeanette Swenson (Bluebonnet)
Gayle Cannon (Yellow Rose)

RSVP: By January 27, to Jeanette or Gayle (see addresses below)

Details: We will discuss the book *There There*, by Tommy Orange. This is the first novel by the Cheyenne and Arapaho author Tommy Orange. Published in 2018, the book opens with a prologue essay by Orange, and then proceeds to follow a large cast of Native Americans living in the Oakland, California area. The characters struggle with a wide array of challenges, ranging from depression and alcoholism, to unemployment, fetal alcohol syndrome, and the challenges of living with an "ambiguously nonwhite" ethnic identity in the United States. All of the characters unite at a community pow wow and its attempted robbery.



The book explores the themes of Native peoples living in urban spaces (Urban Indians), and issues of ambivalence and complexity related to Natives' struggles with identity and authenticity. *There There* was favorably received, and was a finalist for the 2019 Pulitzer Prize. The book was also awarded a Gold Medal for First Fiction by the California Book Awards.

Chairs: Bluebonnet
Jeanette Swenson 512-627-1295
jeanetteswenson64@gmail.com
Nikki Faulkner 512-994-5677
faulkhome2@aol.com

Yellow Rose
Gayle Cannon
gaylecannon70@gmail.com
Lou Blemaster
loublemaster@gmail.com

MUSIC

Armadillo Music Group

When: Wednesday, January 20, 5:00-6:15 pm

Cost: None

RSVP: Friday, January 15

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 (which may include elements of blues, country, folk, latin & soul.) We'll be featuring artists that play in Austin venues like The Saxon, Continental Club, Far Out Lounge & others. This music interest group, held every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 5-6:15pm, will be watching & listening to two different artists/bands each month, with time for discussion between music selections. The focus is on having fun and having a unique music experience with friends. To RSVP, email Jim Kochanski by Jan. 15, 2021.

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



MOVIES

Cinema South

When: Friday, January 15, 7:30 pm

Host: Zoom Meeting.

RSVP: ASAP

Cost: None

Details: The movies this month will be decided at our December 18, meeting. All members currently on the Cinema South email list will receive an email with details about the January 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



A U S T I N

GAMES

Mah Jongg

When: Thursday, January 14 and 28, 1:00 pm

Host: Lynne Davis

RSVP: No deadline

Cost: Minimal

Details: Join us for an exciting game(s) of Mah Jongg.

Whether you are an experienced player or fairly new to the game, we hope you will be part of our group. We are playing online using "realmahjongg.com." It's easy and fun to play. We also merge our phones (again, easy to do) and talk to each other as we play. It's almost like being together again - in person.

For more information contact Lynne Davis.

Chair: Lynne Davis, elcdavis@sbcglobal.net



LANGUAGES

Choose one (or both)!

French Conversation

When: Wednesdays, January 6, 13, 20, 27, 2:00 p.m.



RSVP: By 48 hours before the meeting, to Chair: Susana Surbek
512-740-2349,
susana.surbek@hotmail.com

Spanish Conversation

When: Mondays, January 4, 11, 18, 25, 5:00 p.m.



HOBBIES

Photography

Photoshare

When: January 26, 11:00 am

Cost: None (Zoom meeting)

RSVP: January 24

Details: The photography group is still going strong and is holding their Photoshare Meetings 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 January, our challenge is "Every Picture Is A Lie". This theme was taken from a question that Ansel Adams was asked regarding Yosemite National Park. The writer of the question asked, "Mr. Adams, why is it that everytime I go to Yosemite, it never looks like your pictures?"

Here are the important dates for our group for the month of January:

January 16th, deadline to submit your photographs to be processed. You are welcome to submit two photographs (One for December in which our theme was "Photograph Something That Is Familiar To Everyone" and one for January) for other members of the group to process and show you the

interpretation they had of your photograph. Every photograph tells a story. How the interpreter tells the story in their mind can be interesting. Submit your photos to George McCane at photoman401@gmail.com. I will send you an email that I received your photographs for processing.

January 24th, deadline to submit all photographs for our photoshare. Each person is welcome to submit a total of six photographs. If you submitted photos to be processed, then you are welcome to submit four more pictures. Submit your photographs to George McCane at photoman401@gmail.com. I will confirm the number of photographs that I received from you.

January 24th, deadline to request a link to our zoom meeting. Please send your request to George McCane at photoman401@gmail.com.

January 26th, our Photoshare happens at 11:00 A.M. Our meetings last for approximately one hour, but can go longer depending on how many photographs are submitted. We typically start letting people in five minutes early to the Photoshare.

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

Knit 'n Stitch

When: Thursday, January 7, 10:30 am

Cost: None (Zoom)

RSVP: No deadline

Details: We meet on the first Thursday of each month to knit, crochet, or do laptop needlework projects. We would love to have you join us for crafting and conversation.

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



January 2021

All meetings listed on the calendar are Zoom meetings

For online registration, go to austinnewcomers.com, sign in, and access the calendar.

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



PO Box 49841

Austin TX 78765-0841

Welcome Mat

Email 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

Welcome Mat Editors - Beth & Wes Grantham

anc.mat.bethandwes@gmail.com

Calendar - Bonnie Woodard, bonnieawoodard@gmail.com

Visit our website,

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.