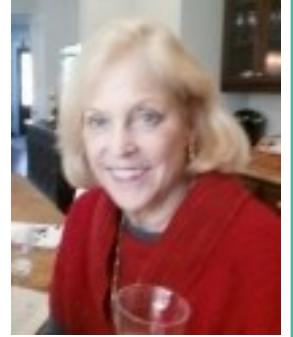




Austin Newcomers Welcome Mat

February 2021 ★ Vol. 73, No. 7

President's Message



Hello, all of you wonderful ANC folk. I hope you are well and safe. I do have a question for you.

What do we do in February? It's a funny little month.



One of my favorite holidays is GROUND HOG DAY which occurs on February 2. We all watch Punxsutawney Phil in hopes that Spring is right around the corner. Well this year that includes the wish that we all get to emerge from this Winter of Covid into the Spring of renewed social interaction and enjoyment. So, cross your fingers that Phil does NOT see his shadow.

Then there is Valentine's Day. This is such a fun and frivolous occasion to reach out to those you love and say you love them. You can get silly with your children or grandchildren and make construction paper Valentines covered with glitter and lace cutouts. And OF COURSE, there is always CHOCOLATE! So, I wish a Happy Valentine's Day to you and yours.



As a nation we celebrate President's Day. This is a chance for all of us to stop and reflect on the greatness of our past historical leaders. This year we certainly wish that President Joe Biden is able to channel the wisdom and strength of his forbearers, making wise decisions for all of us. Our nation is in need of courageous, enlightened leadership, perhaps more than ever before.

We are also seeing Covid Vaccine distribution to the general public. Thank goodness our first responders began receiving theirs starting in December. Residents of Nursing homes are being inoculated and are safer. The Covid virus continues to challenge and keep us separated from those we love and enjoy. When you have an opportunity to get your vaccine, I urge you to step up and get in line.

Please use your ANC connections to reach out and be involved. Even though we are still socially distancing which means limiting many activities, there are ANC ways to engage. You can join a **BOOK CLUB** discussion. You can explore the **PHOTOGRAPHY** Interest Group. **EXPATS, FRENCH and SPANISH LANGUAGE** give you a chance to stretch your brain beyond the old movies and Netflix bingeing you may have been doing.

The **SOCIAL CHAT** gatherings are a really nice small group way to reach out and touch someone. Marcia Clark hosts a morning gathering and an evening meet up every month. If you prefer to keep busy with your hands, I recommend the **KNIT AND STITCH** group. This is an informal and friendly group of ladies that knit, quilt, needlepoint, embroider and always create a welcoming atmosphere.



Don't be socially isolated. That is a real danger for any age group and especially for anyone who lives alone. We have a ZOOM education packet that will assist everybody to use this communication medium. Just contact Lynne Davis, our Interest Group Coordinator or Lynne Marcus, our Communications Director.

I look forward to getting back to actual gatherings, not just virtual. Let's hope February is the month it starts.

Stay safe, get vaccinated if you can and **BE ENGAGED**.

Pamela Craig, ANC President

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**February Board Meeting****When:** February 3, 10:00 am**Where:** Zoom*New Members!*

Gloria and Jay McGiveran
 403 Sitlington Lane
 Briarcliff, TX 78669
 (203) 253-9877
gmcgiveran@gmail.com

FOOD/SOCIAL**Tired of your own company? Join a Zoom social group****ANC Morning Sunshine Social****When:** February 10, 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:** February 26, 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

pieous.

simply devoted to great food...

Hands down the best pizza (and pastrami) in Austin! Strange combination you say? Well yes, but they do the best in town! When the Austin Chronicle called their pastrami as the best brisket in town, it turned the Austin BBQ scene upside down! Guy Fieri of Diners, Drive-ins and Dives featured Pieous on his show and his chalk likeness is on the wall. Pieous is, quite simply, a local treasure!



We discovered Pieous when we moved to Dripping Springs and are now faithful regulars. All the pizzas are handmade and cooked in a wood-fired oven. They have over a dozen choices, some usual and some kind of out-there, as well as the build-your-own option. A family run business, they treat all their customers like family and know almost all of them by name. They also have a great selection of salads and

sweet treats for dessert. All scratch — made in house.

When COVID hit, they did a pivot. They were closed for about a month, created a website for on-line ordering, and built a pick-up window so that they could continue to serve their 'family' safely.



I can't say enough about this local business and the love they have for the community. Try it once and you'll be a fan for life!



— submitted by Monica Boyle

Grandparents' Connection

When: February 9, 10:00-11:30 am

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: Things to Mail your Grandkids.... 13+ care packages

Who doesn't like getting something fun and special in the mail! It is not as common as it once was...so let's bring back this amazing way to connect! Whether your grandkids are across town or in another state or country what fun! And maybe they will even send something back! Enjoy and have fun!



This website has some great ways to stay connected through Snail Mail. As the website shares...."Snail mail gives someone the gift of your time, your handwriting (I love seeing my grandma's writing on items I've saved!), and is often something tucked away to be read again at a later time. We hope that you enjoy trying out some of these ideas with your own grandkids!"

Website: <https://www.overtheriverlife.com/13-care-package-ideas/>

The Ultimate Guide to Snail Mail: <https://attachments.convertkitcdn2.com/321763/2188de23-339f-4d42-859d-35786af10c77/Ultimate%20Guide%20to%20Snail%20Mail.pdf>

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

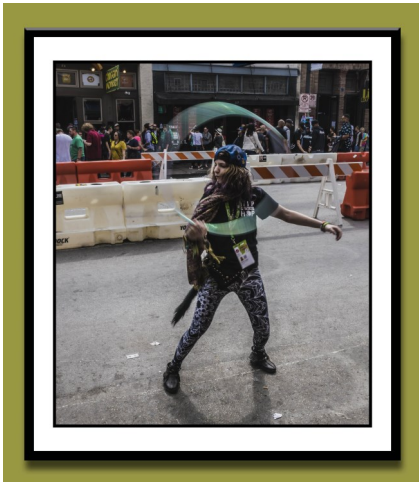
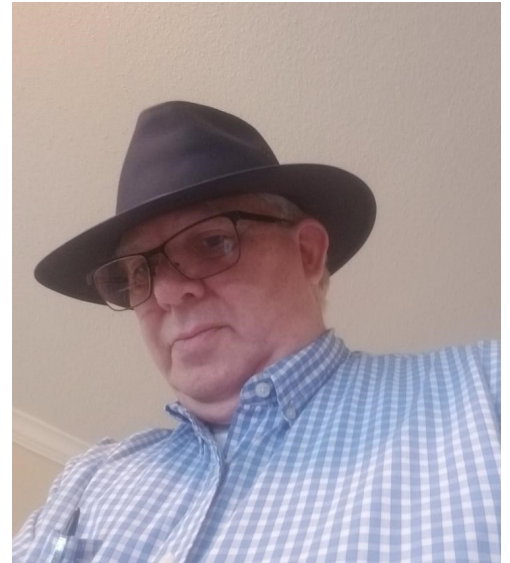
MY ANC STORY

Hello,

My name is George McCane. I moved to Austin in 2009 as a result of the 2008 recession. I moved to Austin from Phoenix, Arizona where I had lived for eleven years and before that San Diego, where I grew up from the time that I was ten years old.

My story of why I chose to move to Austin has been inspiring to many. I had basically lost everything that I had worked for in my life except a few possessions that I considered valuable like a laptop computer (I needed that to help find a job), my camera, and my clothes. I looked on the internet and asked, "Dr. Google", the top ten places to come out of the recession" and he came back to me with ten cities. Seven were in Texas and the other three were in other parts of the country. However, Austin was the farthest south.

Since I had only been in snow one time in my adult life (when I was in the military in South Korea), I chose Austin. It has snowed about two or three times since I have been here and it is amazing that one half inch of snow can shut a city down. I remember as a kid living in places where it did snow and they just scraped the streets.



After I retired from working, I was feeling rather lonely and searched "Dr. Google" for a "Welcome Wagon" type organization and Austin Newcomers popped up. I saw that they had a photography group and I thought, "Perfect!" I went to a meeting at Precision Camera, the people seemed friendly enough and I went to a Photoshoot where they took pictures for their theme that month and enjoyed myself, so I joined Austin Newcomers. I have also been to one trip of the Day Trippers, but haven't been to any other groups.



One reason for this is that I am not able to drive for medical reasons. About a year or two after I joined Austin Newcomers, I volunteered to put on the Photoshare for the group. About a year after that, I volunteered to be the coordinator for the Photography group. Just before the Covid crisis hit and it was time to appoint new people to head the group, I said that I wanted to take the group in a slightly different direction. I had said, "Since everyone likes to shoot different things, we would shoot what we want". Another member suggested



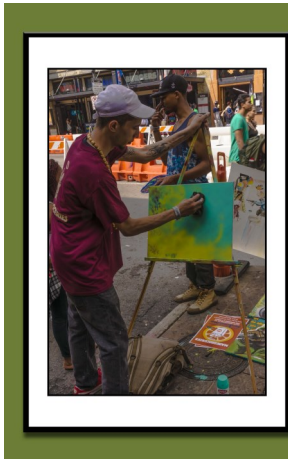
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MY ANC STORY

(continued from page 5)

that we have a challenge to go along with it and so I incorporated that idea into our monthly theme. The members agreed and when the city got locked down, I just went with that direction for the group.

For our Photoshares, we went with Zoom meetings for safety purposes. The Zoom meetings have worked out really well for us. Our Photoshares last roughly an hour (depending on how many photographs are submitted) and our members have everything from an iPhone or



Android phone, to a point and shoot camera, to a full frame DSLR camera, so there is no reason to be shy about what camera you have. Also, some of our members enjoy processing pictures. We also recognize that some don't care to process their pictures or like to challenge the members that do enjoy processing pictures to process the pictures that they have taken. We have a very friendly group and several members are more than happy to lend advice as to how your picture could be improved. Also, we are always looking for new members to join our group. Our Photoshares happen on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

At this point in time, the beginning of a new year, many of us look forward to making goals for the new year. Mine is to find a travel companion that would enjoy going places and taking pictures. I am hoping that during 2021, this Covid crisis gets behind us and we can resume a life that, prior to 2020, would have appeared "normal". Until then, do what you can to be safe and healthy and let's everyone do their best to have a very happy 2021.



In Vino Veritas

Details: Our group will take a pause in February. Stay posted for future events this Spring!

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



BOOK GROUPS

Mystery Book Club

When: Wednesday, February 10, 1-3 pm

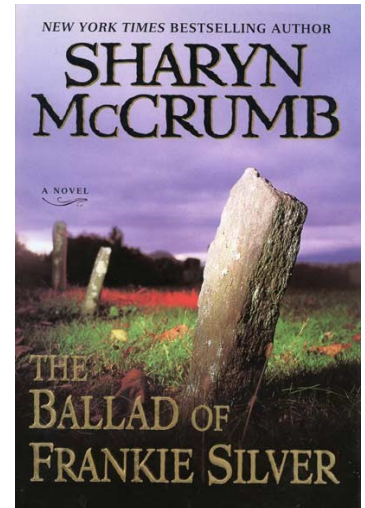
Discussion Leader: Susi Spies

Cost: Free, with ANC Membership

RSVP: No deadline

Details: We will discuss *The Ballad of Frankie Silver*, by Sharyn McCrumb. For Zoom access information, contact Melody Chatelle, coordinator.

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



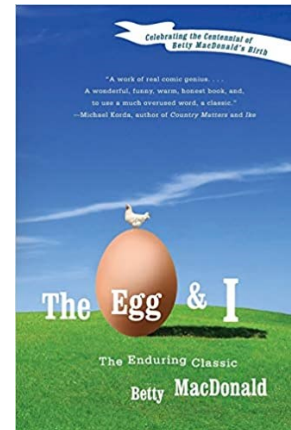
Bluebonnet and Yellow Rose Book Clubs

When: Thursday, February 25, 10:00 am

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

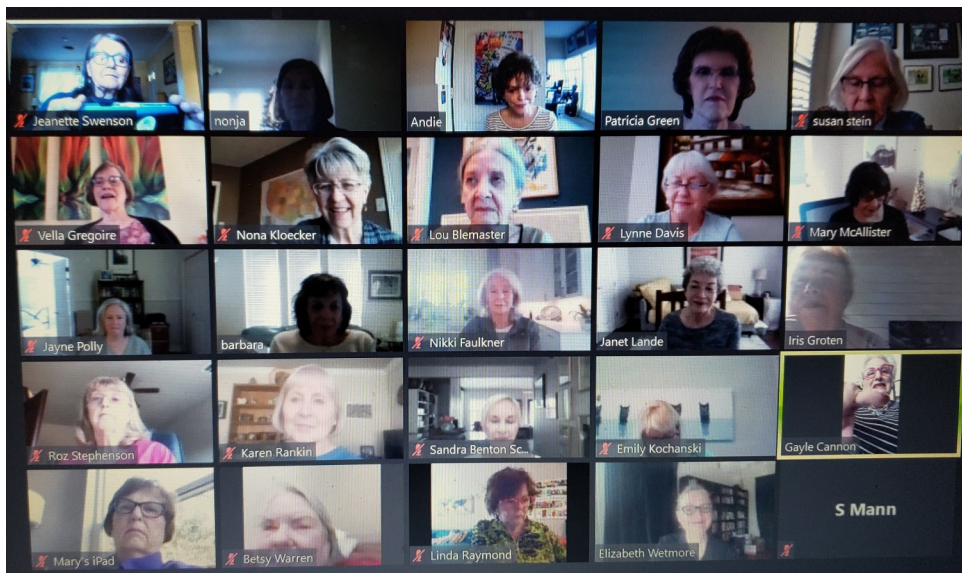
RSVP: By February 24, to Jeanette or Gayle (see addresses below)

Details: We will discuss the book: *The Egg and I*, by Betty MacDonald



Chairs: Bluebonnet
Jeanette Swenson 512-627-1295
jeanetteswenson64@gmail.com
Nikki Faulkner 512-994-5677
faulhome2@aol.com

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



Joint meeting of Bluebonnet and Yellow Rose Book Clubs, Dec. 10, 2020, with author Elizabeth Wetmore, discussing her book *Valentine*.

MUSIC

Armadillo Music Group

When: Wednesday, February 17, 5:00-6:15 pm

Cost: None

RSVP: Friday, February 12

Zoom Host/DJ: Jim Kochanski

Details: Come explore the Austin music scene with us! ANC's "Armadillo Music Group" on Zoom highlights new, original Austin rock music & 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. Since September we have listened to 10 different artists including Black Pumas, The Reverent Few, Shiny Ribs, Cari Hutson & Ben Balmer, just to name a few. This music group, held every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 5-6:15, will be watching & listening to two different artists/bands each month, with time for discussion between music selections. The focus is on having fun, learning more about Austin musical artists, and having a unique music experience with friends. Come join us. RSVP to Jim Kochanski to get preview info & details.

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



MOVIES

Cinema South

When: Friday, February 19, 7:30 pm

Host: Zoom Meeting.

RSVP: ASAP

Cost: None

Details: The movies this month will be decided at our January 15 meeting. We use Netflix to make movie selections. All members currently on the Cinema South email list will receive an email with details about the February 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, February 11 and 25, 1:00 pm

Host: Lynne Davis

RSVP: No deadline

Cost: Minimal



Details: Join us for an exciting game(s) of Mah Jongg on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. 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

These languages are spoken widely throughout the world. Choose one (or both)!

French Conversation

When: Wednesdays, February 3, 10, 17, 24, 2:00 p.m.



Flag of Burkina Faso, French-speaking nation in W. Africa

Spanish Conversation

When: Mondays, February 1, 8, 15, 22, 5:00 p.m.

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



Flag of Argentina, Spanish-speaking nation in South America

HOBBIES

Photography

Photoshare

When: February 23, 11:00 am

Cost: None (Zoom meeting)

RSVP: February 21

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 February our challenge is to take a picture that could be a magazine cover and tell us what magazine (rather real or fictitious) that the photograph would appear on. The real challenge in this is leave enough space for the writing on the cover. To get ideas of what I am talking about here, check out the magazines at your local grocery store and see how they are laid out. Those who process photos will need to leave enough space for the type on the cover of the picture.

Here are the important dates for February:

February 13th, deadline to submit your photographs to be processed. You are welcome to submit two photographs 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.

February 21st, 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 via email (see below). I will confirm the number of photographs that I received from you.

February 21st, deadline to request a link to our zoom meeting. Please email your request to George McCane (see below).

February 23rd, 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, February 4, 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



February 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 Spanish Conversation	2	3 ANC Board Meeting French Conversation	4 Knit 'n Stitch	5	6
7	8 Spanish Conversation	9 Grandparents' Connection	10 French Conversation Morning Sun- shine Social Mystery Book Club	11 Mah Jongg	12	13
14	15 Spanish Conversation	16	17 French Conversation Armadillo Music Group	18	19 Cinema South	20
21	22 Spanish Conversation	23 Photoshare	24 French Conversation	25 Bluebonnet & Yellow Rose Book Clubs Mah Jongg	26 Afternoon Social Hour	27
28						



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.