



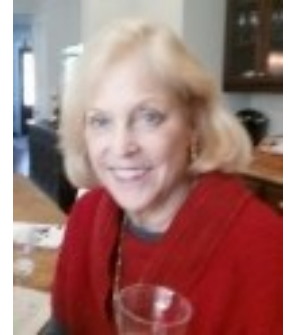
Austin Newcomers Welcome Mat

March 2021 ★ Vol. 73, No. 8

President's Message



It is March and that means Spring! And in Texas that means it is time to plant a garden. Having spent 40 years in the Northeast and Midwest it is still very hard for me to get used to the planting season here in Texas. In Michigan, as some of you other transplants know, you dare not plant before Memorial Day lest there is a late frost!



Even if you don't garden, you'll want to get out and enjoy seeing beautiful gardens. Now that the weather is warming up, we can start gathering outside. As Covid vaccinations increase and incidents of virus decrease, we are hoping that we can resume interactive

ANC activities soon, too. We'll begin with hikes, walks and outside tours that allow everyone to stay socially distant. We will still require masks and frequent hand washing at any gathering. As these Interest Group events are developed they will be posted on the ANC calendar.

March brings another activity to Austin Newcomers as well. In March, we typically begin to compile the slate of new officers for the next Board year. Normally, the Nominating Committee would be in touch with members of ANC to discuss the roles on the Executive Board and Standing Committees. These contacts occur at luncheons, happy hours and Interest Group activities. The various roles are discussed and accepted. The slate of nominations is voted on at the May luncheon. The new Board takes office in July after a transition luncheon in June. Clearly, these opportunities for interaction, discussion and transition cannot occur this year with the limitations forced on all of us by the pandemic.

I have asked members of the Board to serve an additional year in their current role. Several members have agreed to do so, but there are a number of roles that still need to be filled for next year.

I am asking you as members of the ANC to consider serving on the Board. As any volunteer organization, ANC depends on the active participation of its membership in leadership roles. The Board provides the infrastructure that supports the overall function of the group as a whole. A year serving on the Board is a good way to give back to ANC. If you are a new member, it is also a way to meet and make new friends in ANC.

So, happy March, happy Spring. Please consider contacting Lynne Davis, Head of the Board Nominating Committee, to discuss potentially serving on the ANC Board. Thank you,

Your President, Pamela Craig

Special Message From the Nominating Committee

It's that time of the year again: The election of Austin Newcomers Board for 2021-2022! The election of Board Members will take place in May and the new ANC Board will begin in July.

Since we have been unable to meet in person for almost a year, obtaining a new Board is a bit difficult. Fortunately, many of the current Board Members have agreed to continue in their roles for the coming year. However, there are a few

(continued on p. 2)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	1
Nominating Committee	1-2
Food/Social	2-4
Grandparents Connection	5
My ANC Story	6
Music	6
Book Groups	7
Movies	8
Games	9
Languages	9
Hobbies	10
Calendar	11



March Board Meeting

When: March 3, 10:00 am

Where: Zoom

New Members!



Robin and John Fruehe
robinfruehe@gmail.com

(Nominating Committee, Continued from page 1)

positions that will be open, and we are appealing to you, our members, to consider filling those positions. Becoming a Board Member will be an opportunity to assist this wonderful organization as we transition back into a more normal life.

The Board openings are in the following areas: Secretary, Member Services, Name Tags, Board Transition, and Greeter. We hope you will take a moment to consider taking on one of these roles and joining the 2021-2022 Board. A description of the duties for each of these Board positions can be found in the "Members Only" section of the ANC website.

To make it even easier for you to choose the position you would like to fill, you may contact anyone on the Nominating Committee, and they will be glad to talk with you about the open positions. Or, for further information, they can refer you to the person who is currently holding that position.

Being on the ANC Board is a great way to learn more about our organization and to make new friends. If you are interested in filling one of these roles, please let us know by the end of March.

The Nominating Committee looks forward to hearing from you.

Lynne Davis (elcdavis@sbcglobal.net) Beth Oliver (beth@betholiver.com) Bonnie Woodard (bonnieawoodard@gmail.com)

FOOD/SOCIAL

ANC Morning Sunshine Social

When: March 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

FOOD/SOCIAL

The Food Corner

I wanted to let everyone know about a restaurant that my husband and I are very fond of for special occasions. We first ate at Emmer & Rye in the summer of 2019. It was a delightful meal and atmosphere with excellent service. The menu is designed around what is available from local farms. They make their own pastas, breads and desserts. They also have vegetarian options available. Emmer & Rye is located at 51 Rainey Street, southeast of downtown. (emmerandrye.com)



They are on Instagram and you can browse their lovely food pictures!

After dinner, we walked across the street to walk by Lady Bird Lake. The sun was beginning to go down. Fabulous!

Sadly, 2020 has been a different story for in-restaurant dining. At Christmas, we wanted to do something special since it was just the two of us. Emmer & Rye to the rescue! They prepared a wonderful meal with some very special extras! We had Beef Wellington,

Potatoes Au Gratin, Green Beans, and a wonderful Brussel Sprouts salad. They sent along some cookies with icing for us to decorate!! We picked it up on Christmas Eve.



They are currently serving dinner on their patio so it may be a nice option as we head into Spring! Keep it in mind when you have a big birthday or something to celebrate!! They are also continuing with their Holiday special meals with Valentine's being the latest. Curbside pickup is also available. Bon appetit!!



— submitted by Linda Poyser



ANC Afternoon Social Hour

When: March 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



In Vino Veritas Open That Bottle Night

When: Saturday, March 6, 5-6 pm

Address: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9464474650>

Cost: Free

RSVP: March 5



Details: What is your wine story? If you drink wine, we bet you have at least one. And there is a dedicated day to share them with friends.

For more than 2 decades, wine lovers all over the world have been celebrating their special bottles, gathering for Open That Bottle Night (OTBN). Since its inauguration in 2000, the event has become a global phenomenon, and is held annually on the last Saturday of February. This year, the date is February 27.

OTBN was initiated by two reporters at The Wall Street Journal - Dorothy J. Gaiter and John Brecher.

The underlying premise of Open That Bottle Night is that wine is more than liquid in a bottle. With it comes memories of life's milestones, births, deaths and marriages, long lost loved ones and treasured holidays. These memories are too precious not to celebrate. So, the wine columnists wanted to encourage their readers to open a significant bottle and to share the related story.

On March 6, exactly one week after the "real" OTBN, we'd like to invite you for an hour of remembering your special wine moments.

Ideally, you would have a bottle to open and tell us about the wine and the story that comes with it. Maybe the wine is sitting in your cupboard or buried deep in your wine cellar, patiently waiting to be poured.

Alternatively, if that special bottle is already gone, just share the memory while sipping something else.

It means, NO GUIDELINES this time. NO pre-prepared presentations on our part. Your wine of ANY varietal, ANY country, ANY age, as long as there is a story attached to it. Let's walk down memory lane for a moment :)

The "in Vino Veritas" Saturday is March 6. Our regular time - 5 pm.
Let us know until the day before, March 5, if you'd like to join.

Cheers,

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

Host: Marcia Clark on Zoom

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



- Great conversation and fun!

Gigi Grandma
Grammy Grandpa Mimi
Zaza Pop Nana

MY ANC STORY

Before I moved to Austin in July 2012 I had my Austin Newcomers paper work filled out and ready to go! I made the decision to move to Austin to be closer to my daughter and son-in-law and now two granddaughters. I was lucky to have my son-in-law's mother send me the Newcomer's information. She thought I would enjoy this group. She was right! One of the best decision I could have made. I arrived in Austin on a Friday in July and made it to my first luncheon meeting the next Wednesday. I had so much unpacking to do, but I was not going to miss that meeting for anything.

Immediately, I knew I was ready to get started with the interest groups. There were so many and I wanted to join them all. Since I did not work a full time job when I moved here, I did just that. Every group I joined I found amazing people. One of my favorite things was meeting new people and listening to their stories. The bonus was learning to navigate this city. Not an easy task. I discovered new restaurants, new events, new venues, new neighborhoods, and so much more. It wasn't long before my daughter, who had lived here for 6 years, said I knew more about Austin than she did. Kayaking, hiking, happy hour, book club, out to lunch bunch, Saturday evening wine socials, walking tours, and special events were a few of my first Interest groups. I could not

wait for the next interest group meeting as soon as one was over. Did I hear party? I love to plan a party and so I helped with a few in the last 8 years. I have an abundance of cherished memories made with Austin Newcomers. I plan on making many more in the years ahead. I am ready to get back to In Vino Veritas, Happy Hour, Socials, special events and so much more. What makes Austin Newcomers so special? It is the members. This is where I have made lifelong friendships. People who have a special place in my heart. Thanks to Austin Newcomers my life is so much richer. I am blessed.



Cindy Johnson

Hope to be able to see everyone again soon. Covid go away!

—Cindy Johnson

MUSIC

Armadillo Music Group

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

Cost: None

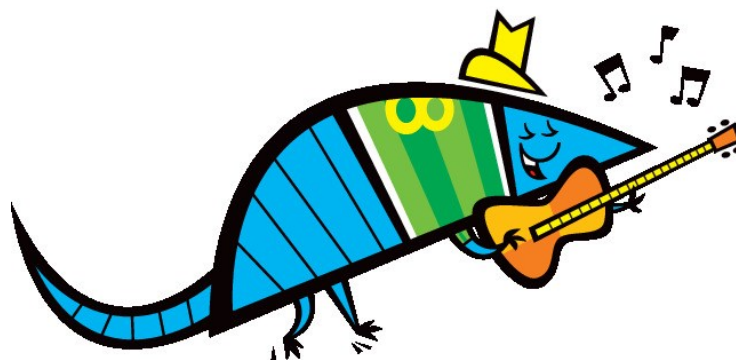
RSVP: Friday, March 12

Zoom Host/DJ: Jim Kochanski

Details: 3/17/2021-- Special St. Patrick's Day Edition!

Come join your ANC friends and explore the vibrant Austin music scene with us! The Armadillo Music Group on ZOOM highlights new, original Austin rock music and bands (which could range from blues, country, folk, latin & soul). We'll be featuring artists that play in Austin venues and are currently live streaming. Recently, we've become better acquainted with Tomar and the FC's, Beat Root Revival, and the Reverent Few, as well as many others. This music interest group, held every third Wednesday from 5-6:15 pm, will be watching and listening to two different bands/artists each month, with time for discussion & getting better acquainted. The focus is on having fun and having a unique musical experience with friends. To RSVP, email Jim Kochanski by March 12 to receive preview music & info.

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



BOOK GROUPS

Mystery Book Club

When: Wednesday, March 10, 1-3 pm

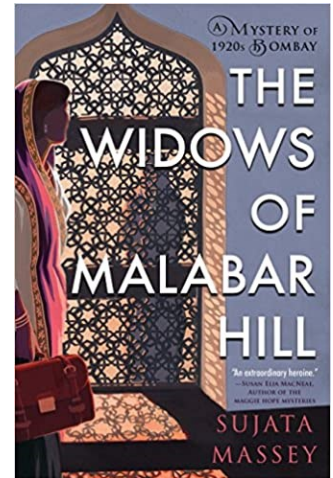
Discussion Leader: Bettye Halperin

Cost: Free, with ANC Membership

RSVP: No deadline

Details: This month's book to be discussed will be *The Widows of Malabar Hill*, by Sujata Massey. To join the group and receive Zoom access information, contact Melody Chatelle, Group Coordinator.

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



Bluebonnet and Yellow Rose Book Clubs

When: Thursday, March 25, 10:00 am

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

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

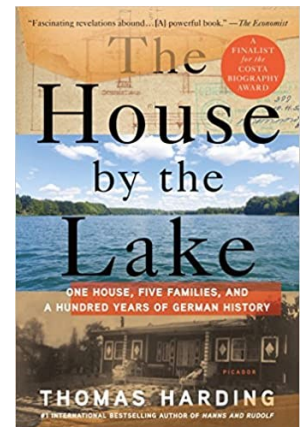
Details: We will discuss the book: *The House by the Lake*, by Thomas Harding.

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



Men's Book Group

When: March 23, 2:00 pm

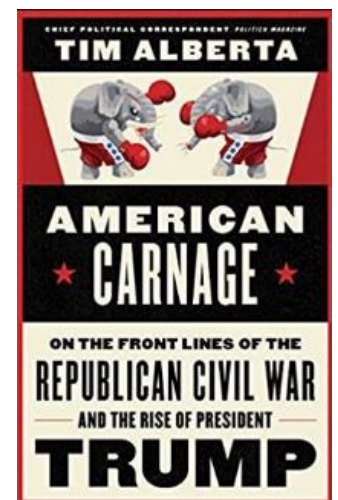
Host: Zoom Meeting.

RSVP: No deadline

Cost: None

Details: We will be reviewing the book *American Carnage: On the Front Lines of the Republican Civil War and the Rise of President Trump*, by Tim Alberta. Email Harry Polly for Zoom information.

Chair: Harry Polly
harry.polly@hotmail.com, (214) 598-5071



MOVIES

Arthouse Cinema North

When: March 12, 7:00 pm

Host: Zoom Meeting.

RSVP: No deadline

Cost: None

Details: Each month different members lead a discussion of Netflix or Amazon movies. To receive email notices of what movie is being reviewed, email Harry Polly.

Chair: Harry Polly
harry.polly@hotmail.com
(214) 598-5071

**Cinema South**

When: Friday, March 19, 7:30 pm

Host: Zoom Meeting.

RSVP: ASAP

Cost: None



Details: The movies this month will be decided at our February 19 meeting. Netflix is our source for movie selections. All members currently on the Cinema South email list will receive an email with details about the March 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, March 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, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 2:00 p.m.



Flag of Belgium, where French is one of the national languages

Spanish Conversation

When: Mondays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 5:00 p.m.



Flag of Mexico, Spanish-speaking nation in Central America

HOBBIES

Photography

Photoshare

When: March 23, 11:00 am

Where: Your computer, smart phone, or tablet device

Cost: None (Zoom meeting)

RSVP: March 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 March our challenge is "Black and White". Black and White is the oldest form of photography and is able to be done with your Smart Phone or Tablet device. It is interesting to see how the simple colors that we take for granted are changed with a simple medium. If you don't know how to take pictures in Black and White with your phone or tablet, that is ok, you can submit them anyway.

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

March 13, deadline to submit your photographs to be processed. You are welcome to submit two photographs for our members that enjoy processing pictures to process the pictures. How the interpreter tells the story in their mind can be interesting. Submit your photos to George McCane (see below). I will send you an email that I received your photographs for processing.

March 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. I will confirm the number of photographs that I received from you.

March 21st, deadline to request a link to our zoom meeting. Please send your request to George McCane.

March 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, March 4, 10:30 am

Cost: None (Zoom)

RSVP: No deadline. Register online or email Arlene.

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.

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



March 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 In Vino Veritas
7	8 Spanish Conversation	9 Grandparents' Connection	10 French Conversation Morning Sun- shine Social Mystery Book Club	11 Mah Jongg	12 Arthouse Cinema North	13
14	15 Spanish Conversation	16	17 French Conversation Armadillo Music Group	18	19 Cinema South	20
21	22 Spanish Conversation	23 Photoshare Men's Book Group	24 French Conversation	25 Bluebonnet & Yellow Rose Book Clubs Mah Jongg	26 Afternoon Social Hour	27
28	29 Spanish Conversation	30	31 French Conversation			



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.