

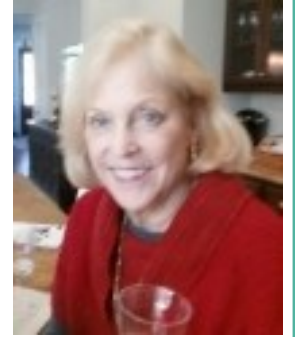


# Welcome Mat



## President's Message

I love April. April is the ultimate spring month; blooming Texas wildflowers, chirping baby birds, it's comfortable to be outside for picnics and bike rides.



Usually Easter occurs during April. Whether you are religious or not, Easter has wonderful cultural activities; coloring Easter eggs, Easter egg hunts and lawn egg rolls, exchanging flowering plants with family and friends, sharing a traditional family meal of ham or lamb. In most cultures this is a time of renewal and rebirth.

I cannot help but be optimistic about Spring this year. The Covid rates are steeply decreasing and the vaccination rate with now three varieties of vaccines is surging ahead. Maybe, maybe there is finally a light at the end of the tunnel. I know so many of our ANC members have rarely ventured out this entire year of Covid even to shop, much less to gather for social or entertainment purposes. Is this the month when we can start small gatherings? Maybe with family or neighbors.



If the City of Austin continues to lower the threat risk to allow for social gatherings, ANC will welcome the announcement. We will encourage some Interest Groups to go forward with planning in person outdoor events such as Happy Hour, Lunch Bunch, Hardy Hikers and others. I know some of you feel that this is overdue, while others may still feel reticent. Obviously, participation will be an individual choice and responsibility.

Look for communication from the Interest Group chairs regarding resuming some in person events. If you hope to plan events, they must be reviewed by the Interest Group Coordinator (Lynne Davis) and be placed on the ANC calendar (Bonnie Woodard).

We had some response to my call for members willing to step up for Executive Board and Standing Committee jobs. Not all of the roles were filled, however. I ask again that you consider volunteering to serve on the ANC Board for 2021-22. These roles will begin in June of this year. If you have any questions about any of these jobs, please contact Lynne Davis who is Nominating Committee Chair.

I hope you share my enthusiasm for April as this tough time seems to be finally losing its grip on all of us. Please pursue the Covid vaccine, continue to practice social distancing and wearing a mask while in public in order to be safe and protect others.

Your President,  
Pamela Craig

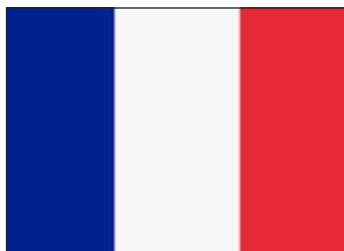


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**April Board Meeting****When:** April 7, 10:00 am**Where:** Zoom**LANGUAGES**

*French and Spanish are spoken widely throughout the world. Choose one (or both)!*

**French Conversation****When:** Wednesdays, April 7, 14, 21, 28, 2:00 p.m.

Flag of France

**Spanish Conversation****When:** Mondays, April 5, 12, 19, 26, 5:00 p.m.

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



Flag of Uruguay

**FOOD/SOCIAL****ANC Morning Sunshine Social****When:** April 14, 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)

**ANC Afternoon Social Hour****When:** April 30, 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](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)

# Grandparents' Connection

**When:** April 13, 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: Grandparent Rocks**



Such fun ideas for Easter Gifts...or anytime gifts!  
<https://uniquegifter.com/easter-gift-ideas-for-grandparents/>



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



## FOOD/SOCIAL

## The Food Corner

Looking for a family-friendly / pet-friendly restaurant to grab a bite to eat? Or a place to kick back with a terrific view right on the lake? Great food at a restaurant that screams "laid-back Austin vibe"? Look no further than Ski Shores Café!

Originally opened in 1954, it is beloved by both locals and visitors. The menu features American diner food with an Austin twist - from quintessential country meals like catfish or chicken tender baskets, wings, fried pickles, coleslaw, onion rings, and fries, to more Austonian takes on favorites like breakfast tacos, Greek salad, fish and shrimp tacos, and a delicious mouth-watering burger. Don't miss out on the Mexican martinis or the full bar with excellent assortments of beers. They've got something for everyone, including a game room. They even have a kids' menu and a playground to boot!



One of my favorite things about Ski Shores is the wildlife at your tableside. Located on the Lake, and I mean right on the lake, you see swans, turtles, fish, and ducks right from your table on the patio. Truly, the ambiance alone at Ski Shores makes it worth the visit. Dining lakeside while watching animals and water skiers go by is so much fun!

Throw in some live music on the weekends, special Friday Movie Night, and Ski Shores Cafe will have you and your family singing about your cheeseburgers and friends! This restaurant has a place in my heart because our past president, Dolores Carpenter's son, Cory, owns and manages these restaurants. He is also an amazing chef.

They have two Locations:

1. Ski Shores Cafe On Lake Austin at 2905 Pearce Road, Austin, TX 78730
2. Ski Shores On Barton Springs 1608 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX 78704 <https://skishoresaustin.com/lake-austin>

— submitted by Marsha Hayden

*Austin Newcomers hopes you are enjoying the monthly "Food Corner" feature. We encourage and welcome our members to share their experiences with restaurants they have enjoyed during the pandemic. Just send your article to Beth Oliver at [beth@betholiver.com](mailto:beth@betholiver.com)*

## GAMES AND HOBBIES

### Mah Jongg

**When:** Thursday, April 8 and 22, 1:00 pm

**Host:** Lynne Davis

**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](http://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](mailto:elcdavis@sbcglobal.net)

### Knit 'n Stitch

**When:** Thursday, April 1, 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. Join us for crafting and conversation.

**Chair:** Arlene Agree, [aagreezell@gmail.com](mailto:aagreezell@gmail.com)  
617-759-1464



## HOBBIES

## Photography

### Photoshare

**When:** April 27, 11:00 am

**Where:** Your computer, smart phone, or tablet device

**Cost:** None (Zoom meeting)

**RSVP:** April 25

**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 April 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. One thing that you might notice is that magazines typically have a "Portrait" rather than "Landscape" orientation.

While this might seem a repeat of our February challenge, we were not able to have out Photoshare due to a technical difficulty caused by the inclement weather in February.

Here are the important dates for April:

**April 17th**, 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 me (see below). I will send you an email confirming that I received your photographs.

**April 25th**, 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 me (see below). I will confirm the number of photographs that I received from you.

**April 25th**, deadline to request a link to our zoom meeting. Please email your request to me (see below).

**April 27th**, 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

## MUSIC

## Armadillo Music Group

**When:** Wednesday, April 21, 7:00 - 8:15 pm

**Cost:** None

**RSVP:** Friday, April 16

**Zoom Host/DJ:** Jim Kochanski



**Details:** Don't miss the opportunity to explore Austin's 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 feature artists that play in the Austin venues like The Saxon, Continental Club, Far Out

Lounge, & others. Recently, we got acquainted with Love & Chaos, Grace Pettis, The Reverent Few, Beat Root Revival, just to name a few. This music interest group, held every 3rd Wednesday of the month, NOW FROM 7-8:15 pm, will be watching & listening to 2 different artists/bands each month, with time for discussion between musical selections. The focus is on having fun, learning about Austin musicians, and having a unique music experience with friends. To RSVP, email Jim Kochanski April 16, 2021 to receive preview info and details.

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

## BOOK GROUPS

## Mystery Book Club

**When:** Wednesday, April 14, 1-3 pm

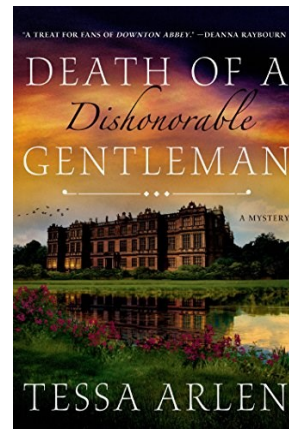
**Discussion Leader:** Susan Nichols

**Cost:** Free, with ANC Membership

**RSVP:** No deadline

**Details:** This month's book to be discussed will be *Death of a Dishonorable Gentleman*, by Tessa Arlen. 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, April 22, 10:00 am

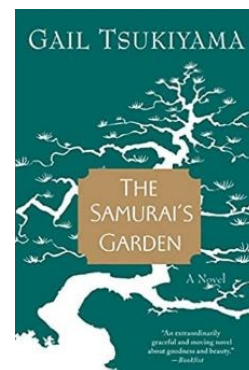
**Zoom Host:** Jeanette Swenson (Bluebonnet)  
Gayle Cannon (Yellow Rose) - Facilitator: Karen Rankin

**RSVP:** By April 21, to Jeanette or Gayle (see addresses below)

**Details:** We will discuss the book: *The Samurai's Garden*, by Gail Tsukiyama

**Chairs:** Bluebonnet  
Jeanette Swenson 512-627-1295  
jeanetteswenson64@gmail.com  
Nikki Faulkner 512-994-5677  
faulxhome2@aol.com

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



## MOVIES

## Cinema South

**When:** Friday, April 16, 7:30 pm

**Host:** Zoom Meeting.

**RSVP:** ASAP

**Cost:** None

**Details:** The movies this month will be decided at our March 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 April event. If you are new,

email (see below) to be placed on our member list.

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



# April 2021

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
				1 Knit 'n Stitch	2	3
4	5 Spanish Conversation	6	7 ANC Board Meeting  French Conversation	8 Mah Jongg	9	10
11	12 Spanish Conversation	13 Grandparents' Connection	14 Morning Sun- shine Social  French Conversation  Mystery Book Club	15	16 Cinema South	17
18	19 Spanish Conversation	20	21 French Conversation  Armadillo Music Group	22 Bluebonnet & Yellow Rose Book Clubs  Mah Jongg	23	24
25	26 Spanish Conversation	27 Photoshare	28 French Conversation	29	30 Afternoon Social Hour	



A U S T I N



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## 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.