



# Welcome Mat

## UT Longhorn Singers

We are excited to welcome the UT Longhorn Singers to our December luncheon on December 15. This terrific group of Texas students has performed for ANC before and promises an exciting program of new songs, UT music and holiday standards. Please register early to ensure your seat at this fun event.

Founded in 1958, Longhorn Singers is the premier show choir of the University of Texas at Austin. Since their creation, they have performed by their motto, "Entertainment in the Finest College Tradition", and strive to uphold this statement and the values of UT Austin in all they do. Longhorn Singers is open to music majors and non-music majors alike, representing schools and colleges all across the UT campus. They produce three main-stage shows each school-year, featuring the individual talents of the group, choreography, and of course, singing!



They also love to sing around campus and the Austin-area, spreading Texas cheer throughout the community. Past performances include the Distinguished Alumni Awards, Trail of Lights, Texas Exes events, Songs of the Season, and former President Fenves' birthday.

The Longhorn Singers is an entirely student-run organization. This means they do not receive any funding from the university, and must arrange for their director, uniforms, transportation, music, venue, etc. on their own. Longhorn Singers take pride in maintaining their long-standing reputation and are so glad to be back together this year to continue this time-honored tradition. To find out more about LHS, visit [www.longhornsingers.com](http://www.longhornsingers.com).



**December 15, 11:00 am — 1:00 pm**

**Chez Zee American Bistro**

**5406 Balcones Dr.**

**Austin 78731**

**\$30/person**

**Attendees are asked to have been vaccinated and to wear masks, except when eating. Register and pay online by December 8, or mail check and reservation form (page 3) by December 3.**

# President's Message



What Interest Group activity are you looking forward to enjoying? The annual Book Club December luncheon has been opened to the entire ANC group this year. The invited speaker guest is S. Kirk Walsh author of The Elephant of Belfast. The luncheon is being offered as a Holiday Picnic this year.



In Vino Veritas had a successful reopening last month. We're looking forward to more fun gatherings with Antra and Tim. Have you tried an outing with Hearty Hikers or Happy Trails? Our inveterate trail blazers, Donna and Laurie will show you great hiking trails seemingly buried in the Austin urban landscape. Austin truly has beautiful natural vistas awaiting your discovery!

The end of 2021 is fast approaching. Boy, what a roller coaster it has been. We thought we were on our way out of the Covid pandemic last summer, then the Delta variant arrived. It threw us all back into a tailspin. Cases rose again, we all went back to staying apart, avoiding indoor gatherings, fearing interactions. Austin went back to Stage 5 precautions.

Then Booster vaccines were approved and started to be administered. A vaccine for little kids got approved. The case numbers started down.

Now we are on our way out again. Austin has reduced the threat level to stage 2. Families got together for Thanksgiving! ANC Interest Groups are back to full swing.

This month the University of Texas Longhorn Singers will be performing at the monthly luncheon at Chez Zee. This is a great group of UT students who just love music. UTLS is not



supported by The University. They fundraise to cover their rehearsal and performance expenses. Please come hear them sing and enjoy the fellowship at our annual Holiday gathering.

Looking for a game to play or an opportunity to practice your foreign language skills? Check out this month's Welcome Mat for the where and when.



ANC with all its diversity is open to you. Come try something new. Meet some ANC folks you haven't met yet.

And have great holidays. Happy Hanukah! Merry Christmas! Or simply celebrate the fellowship of family and friends in this sharing and caring month.

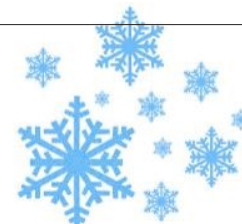
Be well,  
Pamela

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## December Board Meeting

**When:** December 1, 10:00 am  
**Where:** Home of Gloria McGiveran  
403 Sitlington Lane, Lakeway 78738



# Welcome New Members!

Katy and Buzz Pruitt  
2109 Airole Way, Austin TX 78704  
979-777-5080  
pruittkaty@gmail.com

Natalie Schleisman  
4107 Edgemont Dr., Austin TX 78731  
415-205-9939  
naschleisman@yahoo.com

Cheryl and Paul Selvage  
4805 Globe Mallow Dr, Austin TX 78739  
440-371-0334  
cselvage@icloud.com

Linda Dowell  
lindo242@yahoo.com

## MUSIC

### Armadillo Music Group

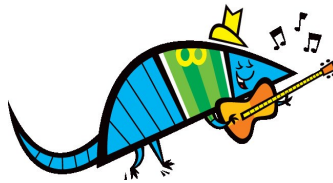
**When:** Wednesday, December 15, 5:00 - 6:15 pm

**Cost:** None

**RSVP:** Friday, December 10

**Zoom Host/DJ:** Jim Kochanski

**Details:** Austin is known as the Music Capital, so come explore the Austin music scene with us virtually! ANC's "Armadillo Music Group" meets monthly on the third Wednesday, 5-6:15pm on Zoom. We will preview some Austin musicians prior to the meeting from YouTube videos sent in advance, and also watch additional videos with time for discussion & interaction during our



meeting. Music may range from rock, blues, country, folk, latin or soul, featuring artists that play in Austin's venues. We'll share with each other what's happening in both the live & virtual music scene. The focus is on having fun, learning more about Austin musical artists & venues, sharing experiences & having a unique musical experience with friends. RSVP to Jim Kochanski to get preview videos & detail prior to the Zoom session.

**Chairs:** Jim Kochanski [jameskochanski@gmail.com](mailto:jameskochanski@gmail.com)  
512-599-7735  
Ellen Honey [eshoney10@mac.com](mailto:eshoney10@mac.com)

See page 1  
for details

### Luncheon/Program Reservation — December — Chez Zee

**Attendees are asked to have been vaccinated and to wear masks, except when eating.**

**Price:** \$30 per person payable online (online deadline: December 8). Or, send this reservation form and a check payable to **Austin Newcomers Club**.

Mail to Linda Poyser, 2608 Deerfoot Trail, Austin, TX 78704. Mail should be posted by December 3.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Guest \_\_\_\_\_

*Members with dietary restrictions: An alternative menu option is available at regular monthly luncheon meetings. Notice is required with your RSVP. Please include specific information regarding your restrictions. You are financially responsible for menu substitutions made at the event.*

## THE FOOD CORNER

### Clay Pit

Need a break from the holiday season whirlwind? Try escaping to Clay Pit, a locally owned contemporary Indian restaurant located in the historical Bertram building on Guadalupe Street in downtown Austin.

Recently my husband, Gen Z daughter and I indulged in an Indian feast on a Sunday night at Clay Pit. The restaurant is popular and can get busy, but with its brick-walled track lighting, soft music, and distanced tables, the dining spaces can feel intimate.

Service was attentive throughout our dinner. Mexican Martinis, made of premium Tequila, Rose's sweetened lime, and regular lime whetted our appetites while we scanned the menu.

The Paneer (cheese) Achari Kebab appetizer was mouth-watering. The roasted cheese absorbed the flavors of the peppers and onions around it. We paired it with Cheesy Garlic Naan.

The Tikka Masala, in tomato-based butter cream sauce with herbs and spices, tasted delicious to my daughter, who ironically doesn't like tomatoes. The Tandoor chicken and lamb in the Mixed Grill was moist and tender, and the lamb tasted fresh - not gamy, my husband noted. The Khuroos-E-Tursh medallions of chicken breast stuffed with spinach, mushrooms, onion and paneer in a rich korma almond sauce (not over-powering) tickled my taste buds.

The Mango Cheesecake, garnished with mango purée, was light and refreshing. The deep-fried milk pastries were too sweet for me, but perfect for my daughter, who is addicted to Chai.



**Clay Pit has an extensive wine selection. Our waiter suggested you try their new drink, Bollywood Passion.**

*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)*



**Acting manager Dread (far right), Kaya (center), and Rachel were tickled to be mentioned in the Welcome Mat, giving a "thumbs up" to Austin Newcomers!**

Consider a visit to Clay Pit as an introduction to the Austin vibe. You'll be pleasantly surprised by their extensive menu and reasonable prices!

**claypit.com**

*Open daily. Hours vary. Take out and delivery options.*

*If the side parking lot on the north side is full, park in the street or in one of the two nearby parking garages for free, generally on any evening after 6 PM. Cellar and parlor can be reserved for small gatherings; banquet room upstairs is available for large gatherings.*

— Submitted by Mary Jo Wood

## AROUND AND ABOUT AUSTIN

**In Vino Veritas****'Tis the Season**

**When:** Saturday, December 4,  
5:00 pm

**Where:** Home of Antra & Tim  
Getzoff  
6904 Telluride Trail, Austin  
78649

**Cost:** \$25 per person at the door

**RSVP:** December 1

**Details:** Let's ring in the holidays of this crazy year by doing something unusual!

Join us for a wine cocktail party on Saturday, December 4, at 5 pm!



We will be serving 5 winter-inspired wine-based drinks paired with appetizers and homey fire at our place, 6904 Telluride Trail in SW Austin. All you need to do is show up and mingle.

Due to space limitation, this event is open to the first 18 registrants - if you would like to come, please RSVP at your earliest convenience through the Newcomers' website or by sending an e-mail to [antrrra@gmail.com](mailto:antrrra@gmail.com).

We kindly ask everybody who registers to be fully vaccinated. The cost of \$25 per person payable at the door will cover everything served.

We look forward to a fun night in the great company of wine-loving friends.

Yours,

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

## HEALTH &amp; FITNESS

**Happy Trails and Hearty Hikers**

No activities are planned for these groups in December.

Happy Holidays, Everyone!



**Chairs:** Donna Dauenhauer [donnadau@hotmail.com](mailto:donnadau@hotmail.com)  
(512) 584-5834  
Laurie Zahn [laurdon@flash.net](mailto:laurdon@flash.net)  
(214) 769-2388

## LANGUAGES

**Spanish**

**When:** Mondays, December 6, 13, 20, 27, 5:00 pm

**Where:** Zoom meeting

**Cost:** None

**RSVP:** Email Susana by 48 hours before the meeting.

**Details:** Join us for interesting conversation. Email Susana for Zoom information.

**Chair:** Susana Surbek 512-740-2349  
[susana.surbek@hotmail.com](mailto:susana.surbek@hotmail.com)



## LANGUAGES

### French

**When:** Wednesday, December 1, 15, 2:00 pm

**Where:** TBA

**Cost:** None

**RSVP:** Email Elaine by 48 hours before the meeting.

**Details:** Join us for interesting conversation on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. All conversation is in French, but you are welcome to join us no matter what your level is. Email Elaine 48 hours prior to the meeting if you would like to attend. She will respond with the meeting details.

**Chairs:** Elaine Crockett [helainecrockett@me.com](mailto:helainecrockett@me.com)  
Verena Wilson [wilsontrav@aol.com](mailto:wilsontrav@aol.com)



## MOVIES

### Art House Cinema North

**When:** December 10, 7:15 pm.

**Host:** TBA

**RSVP:** RSVP to email sent to group each month. No deadline but there is a limit to meeting size. If you are new, please email one of us.

**Cost:** \$1/person at the door.

**Details:** Each month the group selects a film to see before the next meeting. We see the film and then discuss and rate it as a group, as well as select a film for the following month. Details of upcoming gatherings for this group are sent in a separate email to group participants with details about the movie selection, location, and any additional information. Contact us for more information.

**Chairs:** Bill Edwards [wmedwards191@gmail.com](mailto:wmedwards191@gmail.com)  
210-274-4496  
Ann Edwards [annann@austin.rr.com](mailto:annann@austin.rr.com)  
512-799-1148



### Cinema South

**When:** Friday, December 10, 7:00 pm (live)  
Friday, December 17, 7:30 pm (zoom)

**Host:** Pattie and David Schieck (Dec. 10)

**Cost:** \$1 per person

**RSVP:** ASAP

**Details:** If the current virus trend continues, we plan to have two meetings in December. There will be a live meeting on December 10 at 7 pm, hosted by Pattie and David Schieck, [deschieck@yahoo.com](mailto:deschieck@yahoo.com). On December 17 at 7:30 pm, there will be a Zoom meeting.

If you have any questions, email us at the address below.

**Chairs:** Paul Miller  
Pattie & David Schieck

## BOOK GROUPS

## Bluebonnet and Yellow Rose Book Clubs

## Holiday Picnic

**When:** December 2, 11:30 am — 1:30 pm

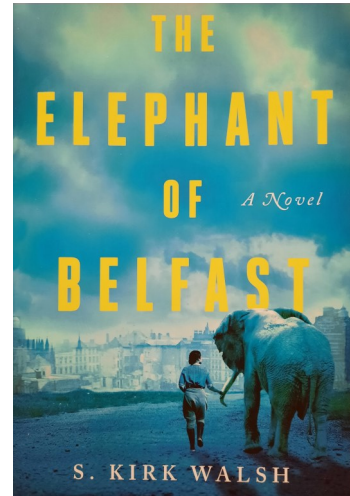
**Where:** First Unitarian-Universalist Church  
4700 Grover Avenue, Austin 78756

**Cost:** \$25 by check, made to Karen Rankin  
5909 Miramonte Dr., Austin 78759

**Deadline:** November 15

**Details:** The Bluebonnet and Yellow Rose Book Clubs will not meet in their usual format in December. However, we hope to see you at the Holiday Picnic December 2, where S. Kirk Walsh will discuss her novel *The Elephant of Belfast*.

Checks are due November 15th. Details, including food options you may choose, are on the following page.



## Afternoon Mystery Book Group

**When:** Wednesday, December 8, 1:00 — 3:00 pm

**Host:** Doreen Hyde

**Where:** Will be provided by email

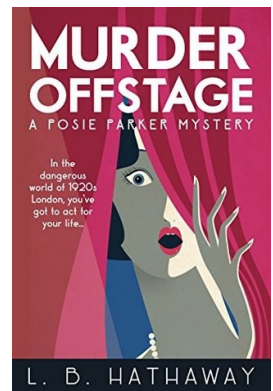
**Cost:** None

**RSVP:** To Doreen by Dec. 5 [doreen1963@gmail.com](mailto:doreen1963@gmail.com)

**Details:** We meet every second Wednesday from September through May. Starting with the December meeting, we will be meeting in person at a host's residence. You must be fully vaccinated and RSVPs are required as capacity will be limited.

December's book is *Murder Offstage* by L. B. Hathaway. Described as a classic murder mystery, this is the first book in the Posie Parker mysteries. Set in London in 1921, *Murder Offstage* is full of intrigue and red herrings!

**Chair:** Jill Haines  
717-471-3011  
[DJillH@comcast.net](mailto:DJillH@comcast.net)



## Men's Book Club

**When:** Tuesday, December 28, 2:00 — 3:00 pm

**Where:** TBA

**Details:** We meet the fourth Tuesday of each month. A final decision will be made at the November 23 meeting about

whether we'll meet via Zoom or in person in December. Contact me to join our mailing list and get the 2021 reading list and meeting details..

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

## BOOK GROUPS

## Newcomers Book Groups Holiday Picnic

Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021  
11:30 am to 1:30 pm

At First Unitarian Universalist Church  
Howson Hall  
4700 Grover, off 49<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, TX 78756

Our guest speaker, S. Kirk Walsh, will discuss her novel

### THE ELEPHANT OF BELFAST

"Walsh delivers a turbulent portrait of life in a divided city... A unique perspective of a country at war and the lengths people will go for those they love." Kirkus Reviews



S. Kirk Walsh

Please mail your check for \$25 made out to Karen Rankin, 5909 Miramonte Dr., Austin, TX 78759 (512-506-8549) beginning October 20.

Indicate your choice of meal on your check:

A – Sandwich & Salad: half of a smoked turkey sandwich on multigrain bread with lettuce & tomatoes, side salad, plus a cranberry, walnut, & oatmeal cookie

B – Chicken Salad (made with pineapple & almonds), lettuce & tomato on country white bread, chips, pickle, and a cranberry, walnut, and oatmeal cookie

C – Vegetable Wrap (organic vegetables with veggie cream cheese, red bell pepper, green onions, garlic, and asiago in an organic wheat wrap), and a cranberry, walnut, & oatmeal cookie

D – Smoked Turkey Sandwich with lettuce and tomato on gluten-free bread, chips, pickle and a cranberry, walnut, and oatmeal cookie

Deadline for reservations – November 15, 2021

© Gartner Studios



## GAMES

## Mexican Train (and lunch)



**When:** Thursday, December 16, 11:00 am

**Address:** Jack Allen's Kitchen 360  
3600 N. Capital of Texas Hwy, Austin 78746

**Cost:** \$2 prizes plus the cost of lunch

**Registration deadline:** December 13th

**Details:** Please join us for a fun time and delicious lunch. Email Pam Vonmende (address below).

**Chairs:** Priscilla Gabbi [priscilla@planetgabbi.com](mailto:priscilla@planetgabbi.com)  
Pam Vonmende [runpamrun@yahoo.com](mailto:runpamrun@yahoo.com)

## Soup Kitchen Bridge

**When:** December 8, 10:00 am

**Where:** Home of Deidre Brightman

**Cost:** \$1.25

**Details:** No need to bring your lunch. We'll have soups, cheese, bread and desserts. And probably much more. Please sign up with Deidre Brightman to play ([deidre1025@gmail.com](mailto:deidre1025@gmail.com)). Thanks.

**Chair:** Bidisha Roy (512) 584-4147  
[bidisha.mukherjee@gmail.com](mailto:bidisha.mukherjee@gmail.com)

## 3rd Thursday Bridge

Third Thursday Bridge will not have a meeting in December.

We will relocate our games to Café Blue in the Hill Country Galleria effective as of January 20. We're changing up the hours as well. Our play will begin at 11:00 and finish at 3:00. Those of you who have played at IHOP will understand why

the change of venue is important to the players. Thank you to Suzanne Caldwell for her wonderful suggestion.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year until then. Please make a reservation with me for the January 20 game beginning January 1. Either email or text work equally well.

**Chair:** Deidre Brightman 512-750-3948  
[deidre1025@gmail.com](mailto:deidre1025@gmail.com)



## Mah Jongg

**When:** Thursday, December 9th, 1:00 pm

**Host:** To be determined

**Cost:** Minimal

**RSVP/Registration:** 24 hours ahead

**Details:** Whether you are an experienced player or fairly

new to the game, we hope you will join our Mah Jongg group. We usually play on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month; however, in December we will only be playing one time, on December 9th, due to the holidays. We play the American version of Mah Jongg and use The National Mah Jongg League card.

For more information, contact Lynne Davis.

**Chair:** Lynne Davis, [elcdavis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:elcdavis@sbcglobal.net)

## HOBBIES

**Photography: Photoshare****When:** December 28, 11:00 am**Where:** Your computer, smart phone, or tablet**Host:** George McCane**Cost:** None (Zoom meeting)**RSVP:** December 26

**Details:** While many clubs are starting to meet in a common location so they can intermingle with people, the photography group has chosen to meet via zoom. Zoom is working well for us and some of our group have grandchildren who under the CDC guidelines are not able to be vaccinated. Thus, in the interest of keeping everyone safe, we have decided to meet 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 "Symbols of the Holidays".

This year Hanukkah is celebrated between November 28th until December 6th and Christmas (December 25th) falls on a Saturday before our Tuesday meeting, and Kwanzaa falls between December 26th and January 1st. Different people have different ways of celebrating the holidays. Most of the events evolve around lights and decorations. This is an opportunity to test your skills and see what you can come up with, then

share it with other photographers.

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

**December 18th**, 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), and I will send you an email that I received your photographs for processing

**December 26th**, 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), and I will confirm the number of photographs that I received from you.

**December 26th**, deadline to request a link to our zoom meeting. Please send your request to me (see below).

**December 28th**, 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](mailto:photoman401@gmail.com) 512-981-0196

**Knit 'n Stitch****When:** Thursday, December 2, 10:30 am — 12:30 pm.**Where:** Home of Deborah Marks  
4526 Avenue G, Austin 78751**Cost:** None**RSVP:** Register online or email Arlene by Monday, Nov. 29. Space is limited, so you must RSVP to attend.

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

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



# December 2021

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> ANC Board Meeting French Conversation	<b>2</b> Knit 'n Stitch  Holiday Picnic sponsored by Newcomers Book Groups	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> In Vino Veritas
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Spanish Conversation	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Kitchen Bridge Afternoon Mystery Book Group	<b>9</b> Mah Jongg	<b>10</b> Art House Cinema North  Cinema South	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Spanish Conversation	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> French Conversation Armadillo Music Group ANC Luncheon	<b>16</b> Mexican Train	<b>17</b> Cinema South	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Spanish Conversation	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Spanish Conversation	<b>28</b> Photoshare  Men's Book Group	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	





PO Box 49841

Austin TX 78765-0841

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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)

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.