



Welcome Mat

The Surprising Case for Modern Art in 40 Minutes (Or Less) In Just One Artwork (or So)

Our January luncheon speaker, Dr. Hannah W. Wong, is an art historian and the founder/CEO of the Austin-based startup Vox Omnibus Consulting, which offers arts-based professional development experiences for better team collaboration, communication and creative thinking. She earned her doctorate from the University of Texas and has held fellowships with the Smithsonian, National Gallery of Art and the Blanton Museum of Art. With a decade of experience teaching art history in higher education institutions such as the University of Texas at Austin and Baylor University, Hannah has also served as a frequent lecturer at the Blanton Museum and created several of their adult learning courses. Most recently, she launched a popular online series of live art history courses, including an upcoming 2022 course, *On the Road to Marfa*.



Art Historian On The Loose

<https://www.hannahwwong.com/>

<https://www.voxomnibus.com/>

January 19, 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 January 12, or mail check and reservation form (page 3) by January 7

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President's Message



Ok, I know we all thought we were glad to see 2020 in the rearview mirror. And now we have bid adieu to 2021 as well. Covid is definitely overstaying its welcome. But we have a strategy for co-existing with it, right? Mask, distance, vaccine and booster. Quarantine and test if you have an exposure or symptoms. The new reality.



I hope you had good holidays as we launch into this new year wondering what it will bring. ANC has renewed its goal to welcome those new to Austin or maybe just experiencing something new in their lives like downsizing or retirement. Please be ambassadors to those in your sphere who are looking for new friends or activities. Remember that new folks can try out 2 ANC events or groups without committing to joining. I think that our \$35 annual membership fee is a bargain!

The January monthly luncheon at Chez Zee will feature Dr. Hannah Wong as speaker. I am so pleased that we were able to reschedule Hannah after having to cancel the September luncheon. She is a very busy lady and we weren't sure we could get back onto her schedule. She is a Blanton Museum lecturer and expert on Art History. Please get your reservations soon. For new members, the first monthly luncheon is complimentary. Just let Marsha Hayden (VP Membership) or Linda Poyser



(Director of Luncheons) know that you want to attend. We mingle and visit before actually taking our seats, so there is a good opportunity to meet folks.

Apparently, there has been some confusion about the luncheon time and schedule. Allow me to clarify. We gather at 11:00 to socialize, then take our seats at 11:30. There are just a few introductions before the meal. Our speaker begins as coffee and dessert are served. After some Q & A, we are done by 1:00pm.

There is a terrific opportunity for new and prospective members to meet and hear all about ANC's myriad activities on January 23. Member Services will be hosting a meet and mingle party at the home of Pattie and David Schieck. The Board members will be there as well as Interest Group Chairs to tell folks what their group does. If you have questions about a particular activity or role in the club, this will be your chance to find the answer. We are excited because we haven't been able to have a Member Services welcoming party in two years!



ANC has many Interest Groups; Books, Games, Dining, Exploring, so many. But I want to invite you to come forward if you have an idea for a new Interest Group. If you have enjoyed an activity in other settings and think it will work here, let us know. If you think we need a gardening group, speak up. Or if you really enjoyed the HOT DATES Ping pong night last summer and think it would be a fun thing to keep doing, let us know. Contact Lynne Davis (Interest Group Coordinator) if you want to explore something new. ANC isn't static, it's your club. Help us make it what you'd like it to be.

As we advance into Winter, stay warm. Make sure you have spare water and blankets just in case the temperatures drop like they did last year. Reach out to those you know who live alone.

I look forward to seeing you all at ANC events. Stay safe and well.

~Pamela

January Board Meeting

When: January 5, 10:00 am

Where: Home of Marcia Hayden
10402 Treasure Island Dr, Austin 78730



Welcome New Members!



Patricia Barrientos
patibarr57@gmail.com

Mike Greene and Charlotte Bentch
michaelgreene959@gmail.com

Gary and Mary Myrick
 1003 Justin Ln, Apt 1035
 Austin, TX 78757
 916-827-5325
fitbit.gary@gmail.com

Debbie & Neil Hanley
 3118 Reunion Blvd
 Austin, TX 78737
 954-650-9623
rrdebbie5@gmail.com

Ruth and Tom Dombrowski
 12721 Oxen Way
 Austin, TX 78732
 843-860-7929
ruthdom@comcast.net

MUSIC

Armadillo Music Group

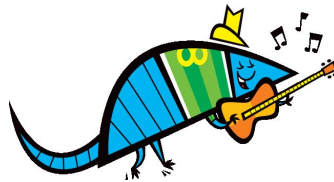
When: Wednesday, January 19, 5:00 - 6:15 pm

Cost: None

RSVP: Friday, January 14

Zoom Host/DJ: Jim Kochanski

Details: ANC's Armadillo Music Group is resuming in January. Come explore the Austin music scene with us! We will hear and discuss up-and-coming musicians, Austin regulars, and Austin legends & dis-



cuss what's happening in the live & virtual music scene. We will preview some Austin musicians ahead of the meeting and then watch additional videos together, with plenty of time for discussion and interaction. The focus is on having fun, learning more about Austin musical artists and venues, sharing experiences and having a unique music experience with friends. RSVP to Jim Kochanski to get preview videos and details prior to the Zoom session.

Chairs: Jim Kochanski jameskochanski@gmail.com
 512-599-7735
 Ellen Honey eshoney10@mac.com

See page 1
 for details

Luncheon/Program Reservation — January — Chez Zee

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

Price: \$30 per person payable online (online deadline: January 12). 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 January 7..

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.

FOOD/SOCIAL

THE FOOD CORNER

Perla's Seafood & Oyster Bar

Perla's Seafood & Oyster Bar Restaurant is consistently on the top of many Austinites' list for best oak-shaded patio, food, ambiance, and staff. Their comfortable airy dining features a huge saltwater fish tank, poured concrete oyster bar and open kitchen. Perla's was founded in the Spring of 2009 by chefs Larry McGuire and Tom Moorman with the goal of establishing a great oyster bar & seafood joint on beloved South Congress Avenue. Perla's offers fresh fish and oysters flown in daily from both coasts with an emphasis on sourcing from the Gulf of Mexico and simple, clean preparations. If you like oysters, they were some of the best that we've had. Both fresh and grilled were outstanding. Our party of four had fish and shrimp ceviche, halibut and branzino entrees. Also excellent were the grits with king crab and fried okra.

Everything was delicious. The bar makes delicious coastal cocktails, and the wine list is stocked with fun sparkling, rosé & white wines. Perla's offers lunch and dinner daily, brunch Saturday and Sunday, and happy hour Tuesday through Friday. We will definitely return.

Parking: Free 2 hour validated at the restaurant parking is available in the garage lot behind Perla's, accessible from West Gibson.

Perla's Seafood & Oyster Bar 737-271-3200
1400 S. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78704

— Submitted by Pattie Cabrera Webster

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



In Vino Veritas

When: January 8. SAVE THE DATE. Watch for details!

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



New Members Welcome Event

When: Sunday, January 23, 3 pm to 6 pm

Address: Home of Pattie Webster & David Schieck
1182 Jacksdaw Drive, Austin 78637

Cost: None

RSVP: By January 19,
To: MemberExperiences@Austinnewcomers.com

Details: Come by and meet some of the Newcomer Board of Directors and Interest Group Leaders. This will be a

good chance to ask questions about the club and the interest groups. Bring your favorite desert or appetizer to share. We look forward to seeing you there!

Directions:

S MOPAC to Hwy 45 East 2 miles, Left on Hwy 1826. Go 1.8 miles to the Reunion Ranch Community. Left on Reunion Blvd, Pass the community Pavilion. Left on Jacksdaw Drive. Go thru the four way stop at Jacksdaw and Reunion Blvd. Continue on Jacksdaw to 1182 on right hand side.

Questions: Pattie Webster - pattie@pattiewebster.com

Phone: 512-924-9923

AROUND AND ABOUT AUSTIN

Art Treks

Two Wimberly Art Galleries

When: January 21, 10:30 am

Address: Meet at Pitzer's Fine Arts
13909 Ranch Road 12, Wimberly, TX 78676

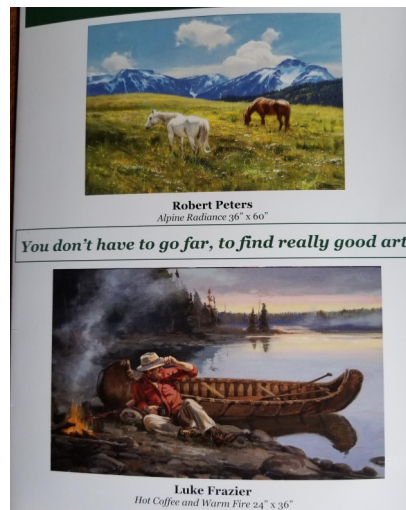
Cost: Cost of optional lunch

RSVP: January 19

Details: Wimberly was established in 1856 and started with a grain refinery. Now it is a tourist destination with a strong presence of artists in their community. The galleries featured are Pitzer's Fine Art and Art on 12 which is focused on local artists. An optional lunch will be at the Leaning Pear, a very special place for lunch. Their food is well crafted, deli-

cious, and fresh from established farms and ranches in the area. After lunch there is time for optional shopping.

Chair: Karen Werner karenwerner20@aol.com
817-896-4905



Daytrippers

This Daytrippers outing has a French accent!

When January 18, 11:00 am

Host/Location: The French Legation State Historic Site

Address: 802 San Marcus St., off I-35 at about 11th St.
Parking at 9th & Embassy

Cost: \$25.65 entrance fee payable on site

RSVP: January 14

Details: Not having a crystal ball, it's hard to tell in early December what Covid will be like in mid-January. So, instead of carpools and car trips, we're going somewhere right in Austin that we bet hardly anyone has ever been to. It's the beautifully (and just!) restored French Legation in easily-accessible East Austin.

For those who don't know and haven't done their (highly recommended) tour of the Bob Bullock Museum of Texas History, six nations have claimed sovereignty of Texas (Spain, France, Mexico, the Confederacy, The Republic of Texas, and the USA). During its tenure as The Republic of Texas, Texas was considered its own country. Austin, as its capital, was the required posting for a small diplomatic corps. The French Legation building we'll be going to see was, in effect, "The

French Embassy" here in Austin. (A more-official history will be imparted during our tour.) Almost everyone we talk to has seen The French Legation signage on the side of the I-35 at 12th, but no one I know has actually gotten there for a tour.

Let's change that and go. We'll be getting you all advance ticket info, but they are also easily available at the door. After our visit, please consider yourselves invited to lunch at wherever seems most delicious and most appropriate, given January weather and Covid numbers. We'll be letting you know the particulars a few days before, but we guarantee *beaucoup de joie pour toutes!* C'mon along!

Chairs Susi Spies susi.spies@gmail.com 310-291-4150
Dale Truitt



HEALTH & FITNESS

Hearty Hikers**Wild Basin Preserve****When:** Tuesday, January 25, 9:30 am**Where:** 805 N. Capital of Texas Hwy. (360), Austin 78711**Cost:** None**RSVP:** Register online. No deadline**Details:** Wild Basin is a 220-acre tract of beautiful Austin Hill Country, ideally situated on Bee Creek on the Balcones Escarpment. It is home to several endangered species of plants, animals, and birds as well as hundreds of commonly found species. This moderately difficult hike is filled with

views of Bee Creek, the Black-Capped Vireo Preserve and the city of Austin. There are some water crossings and a waterfall. The hike begins on the Easy Access Loop with impressive vistas and various plaques explaining flora and fauna found in the Preserve. We will follow the Triknee and Possum trails toward Bee Creek to Creek Trail, where we will make 2 water crossings until reaching the waterfall. There, we will be treated to a rock staircase and lush vegetation. After the 2-hour hike, we will go to lunch at The Grove on Bee Cave Road. Please click on the ANC calendar and register for the hike online. We will provide more details and directions when you register.

Chairs: Donna Dauenhauer donnadau@hotmail.com
(512) 584-5834
Laurie Zahn laurdon@flash.net
(214) 769-2388**Happy Trails****Circle C Ranch****When:** Saturday, January 15, 9:00 am**Where:** Metropolitan Park at Slaughter Creek
6301 West Slaughter Lane, Austin 78739**Cost:** None**RSVP:** Register online. No deadline**Details:** We will kick off the new year in South Austin for a scenic walk on this easy trail in Circle C Ranch. Cedars, live oaks and other hardwood trees grace this trail. Mourning

doves and other birds are frequently seen. Interest is added to the trail as it passes a fenced area that protects a "karst" cave. A karst is an underground area of eroded limestone, caves, and streams, and the karsts under central Texas allow groundwater to flow into the Edward's Aquifer. We will cross Slaughter Creek twice as we make a 2.4 mile counter clockwise loop. Leashed dogs are permitted. We will meet at the restrooms before the trailhead. More details and directions will follow when you RSVP. Please click on the Calendar and register for this activity online.

Chair: Donna Dauenhauer donnadau@hotmail.com
(512) 584-5834

GAMES

**Mexican Train
(and lunch)****When:** January 12, 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:** January 10**Details:** Join us for a fun time and a delicious lunch. Email Pam Vonmende (address below).**Chairs:** Priscilla Gabbi priscilla@planetgabbi.com
Pam Vonmende runpamrun@yahoo.com

GAMES

Kitchen Bridge**When:** January 26, 10:00 am**Where:** Home of Suzanne Davis**RSVP:** To mysuzannedavis@gmail.com**Cost:** \$1.25**Details:** Email Suzanne or Bidisha for details.**Chair:** Bidisha Roy (512) 584-4147
bidisha.mukherjee@gmail.com**3rd Thursday Bridge****When:** January 20, 11:00 am**Where:** Café Blue, Hill Country Galleria**Cost:** No cost to play. Just tip the waiter**RSVP:** To Deidre, by email or text, after January 1.**Details:** We will play at a new time and venue as of the

January 20, 2022 game. We will gather at Café Blue in the Hill Country Galleria. We'll play bridge from 11:00 until 3:00 and somewhere in there order delicious lunch no matter what we each choose. Those of you who have been playing at IHOP over the years will understand the need for the changes.

Chair: Deidre Brightman 512-750-3948
deidre1025@gmail.com**Mah Jongg****When:** Second and fourth Thursdays
January 13 and 27, 1:00 pm**Where:** To be determined**Cost:** Minimal**RSVP/Registration:** 24 hours in advance

Details: if you enjoy playing Mah Jongg, we hope you will join our group. We play on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. We play the American version of Mah Jongg and use the National Mah Jongg League card.

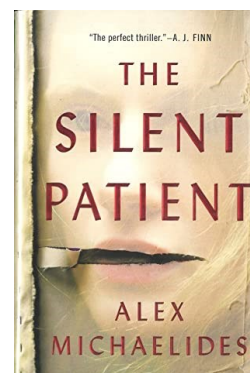
To RSVP or for more information, please contact Lynne Davis.

Chair: Lynne Davis, elcdavis@sbcglobal.net

BOOK GROUPS

Afternoon Mystery Book Group**When:** Wednesday, January 12, 1:00 — 3:00 pm**Host:** To Be Determined**Where:** In-person (probably) - To be announced**Cost:** None**RSVP:** Jan. 10 to host and to DJillH@comcast.net**Details:** We meet monthly on the 2nd Wednesday from 1 pm to 3 pm and are grateful that we are again meeting in-person (vaccinated, please).The book for January is *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides.

The *Silent Patient* is a shocking psychological thriller of a woman's act of violence against her husband—and of the therapist obsessed with uncovering her motive.

Chair: Jill Haines
717-471-3011
DJillH@comcast.net**Men's Book Club****When:** Tuesday, January 25, 2:00 — 3:00 pm**Where:** TBA**Details:** We meet the fourth Tuesday of each month. A final

decision will be made at the December 27 meeting about whether we'll meet via Zoom or in person in January. Contact me to join our mailing list and get the 2022 reading list and meeting details..

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

BOOK GROUPS

Bluebonnet and Yellow Rose Book Clubs

When: Thursday, January 27, 10:00 am

Book for January: *Celestial Bodies*, by Jokha Alharthi.

Bluebonnet Details

Where: Home of Susan Nichols
4549 Golf Vista Dr, Austin 78730

RSVP: The first 10 people to RSVP to Susan Nichols
sunichols222@gmail.com

Details:

- Attendees are limited to the first 10 FULLY VACCINATED members to RSVP to Susan Nichols' email address. Attendees will be sent the gate code.

2. Attendees must wear a mask and seating will respect social distancing.

CDC Guidelines <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

Yellow Rose Details

Where: Home of Naomie Ritchie
7404 Teak Cove, Austin 78750

RSVP: To jrnfrdar@yahoo.com by 1/25

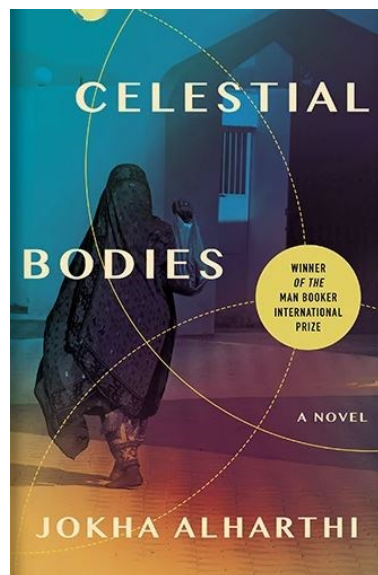
Facilitator: Lynne Davis

Selections for Bluebonnet and Yellow Rose for 2022

- 01/2022 *Celestial Bodies* by Jokha Alharthi
- 2/2022 *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig
- 3/2022 *The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon
translator Lucia Graves
- 4/2022 *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro
- 5/2022 *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles
- 6/2022 *The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris
- 7/2022 *Sweet Tooth* by Ian McEwan
- 8/2022 *After the Last Border: Two Families and the Story of Refuge in America* by Jessica Goudeau
- 9/2022 *The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing and the Future of Human Race* by W Isaacson

10/2022 *Where We Come From* by Oscar Casares

1/2023 *Libertie: A Novel* by Kaitlyn Greenidge

**Chairs:** Bluebonnet

Linda Raymond 425-761-6616
lindaraymond@gmail.com
Mary McAllister 737-802-6058
mary_mcallister@hotmail.com

Yellow Rose

Karen Rankin
karenrankin@austin.rr.com
Susan Stein 512-636-0684
steinsusan365@gmail.com

LANGUAGES

French Conversation

When: Wednesday, January 5, 19, 2:00 pm

Where: TBA

Cost: None

RSVP: Email Elaine 48 hours prior to 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
Verena Wilson wilsontrav@aol.com



MOVIES

Art House Cinema North

When: January 14, 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
210-274-4496
Ann Edwards annann1148@gmail.com
512-799-1148



Cinema South

When: Friday, January 14, 7:00 pm (live)
Friday, January 21, 7:30 pm (zoom)

Cost: \$1 per person

RSVP: ASAP

Details: If the current virus trend continues, we plan to have

two meetings in January. There will be a live meeting on January 14 at 7 pm. On January 21, at 7:30 pm, there will be a Zoom meeting. Additional meeting information will be emailed later.

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

Chairs: Paul Miller
Pattie & David Schieck
CinemaSouth@austinnewcomers.com

HOBBIES

Photography: Photoshare**When:** January 25, 11:00 am**Where:** Your computer, laptop, tablet, or smart phone**Host:** George McCane**Cost:** None (Zoom meeting)**RSVP:** January 23

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 January, our challenge is "Winter Scenes or Stairways" That is right, two different possibilities.

January tends to be one of the colder months of the year, so we made the decision to go with the season.

If it is too cold, or if it is nice, you can find stairs in a number of places, you might even have some in your home. There are some interesting stairs in the State Capitol building, UT, the Bob Bullock Museum and other places. As far as Winter scenes, it is that time of year. The grass turns brown, the trees

lose their leaves and there are other signs that Winter has dug its feet in. I am sure you can think of other aspects of Winter with the suggestions that I have given to you.

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

January 15th, 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.

January 23rd, 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.

January 23rd, deadline to request a link to our zoom meeting. Please send your request to me (see below).

January 25th, 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 6, 10:30 am — 12:30 pm.**Where:** Home of Bidisha Mukherjee
7509 Lenape Trail, Austin 78736**Cost:** None**RSVP:** Register online or email Arlene by Monday,

Jan. 3. 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
617-759-1464

January 2022

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5 ANC Board Meeting French Conversation	6 Knit 'n Stitch	7	8 In Vino Veritas
9	10	11	12 Afternoon Mystery Book Group Mexican Train	13 Mah Jongg	14 Art House Cinema North Cinema South	15 Happy Trails
16	17	18 Daytrippers	19 ANC Luncheon French Conversation Armadillo Music Group	20 Third Thursday Bridge	21 Cinema South Art Treks	22
23 Newcomers Welcome Event	24	25 Hearty Hikers Men's Book Group Photoshare	26 Kitchen Bridge	27 Bluebonnet & Yellow Rose Book Clubs Mah Jongg	28	29
30	31					



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

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.