



Welcome Mat

Learn about the Dougherty Arts Center



The Dougherty Arts Center is Austin's oldest community Arts center offering provocative theater, music and dance performers, lively date nights, intriguing art exhibits, also a robust studio arts program for adults and youth. Dougherty Arts Center has been the heart of the arts in Austin since 1978.

Lucy Miller-Downing, our February luncheon speaker, will be letting us know of the opportunities in our community to view theater, dance, and a spectrum of visual arts that are offered for our pleasure and enlightenment. She will also talk about ways we can create art with qualified instructors. *(Note that Art Treks is planning a visit to Dougherty Arts Center on February 18 — see p. 3)*

February 16, 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 February 9, or mail check and reservation form (page 2) by February 4

February Board Meeting

When: February 2, 10:00 am

Where: Home of Donna Withrow
12312 Palisades Pkwy, Austin 78732

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President's Message



Valentine's cards with the grandkids and back up cell phone chargers; Heart shaped message candies and the tool for turning off the water main at your curbside.



As we deal with more unpredictability from Covid and its variants no one can foresee the future. Preparing for Valentine's Day or the possibilities of an ice storm this month seem like something we can deal with.

ANC has wonderful activities planned for this month, as we do every month. The Interest Group chairs are scheduling

It's Winter in Austin, in fact it is February. So, here is a list of things you should consider having for this month (based on last year's February):



Valentines for your honey and spare jugs of bottled water; Boxes of chocolates and extra

blankets;

Romantic movies ready to watch and extra propane tanks for your bar-b-que grill;



Reservations at a quiet, cozy restaurant and canned goods in the pantry;



Flowers in her/his favorite variety and color and salt or sand for your sidewalks; Red, pink and white construction paper, glue sticks, and glitter to make



book club meetings, lunch bunch, hikes, photography groups, knit and stitch gatherings, and the monthly luncheon. We will continue to plan ANC events. If a Covid variant raises the threat level and

things have to be canceled, we'll deal with them as they occur.

You should make decisions about participating based on your comfort level. I recommend you get vaccinated and boosted and wear a mask in public. Be kind to others.

Stay well,
Pamela



See page 1 for details

Luncheon/Program Reservation — February — Chez Zee

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

Price: \$30 per person payable online (online deadline: February 9). 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 February 4.

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.

Welcome New Members!

Karen Goff
163 York Timbers Way
Austin, TX 78737
510-305-9980
karengofftalk@yahoo.com

Jenni Kroplin
10701 S IH 35 #121
Austin, TX 78747
737-231-5905
jennikroplin@gmail.com

Mary Sparks
mpmirabal@hotmail.com

AROUND AND ABOUT AUSTIN

Art Treks

Dougherty Arts Center

When: February 18, 11:00 am

Address: 1110 Barton Springs Road

Cost: \$5.00 (to Karen before the tour)

RSVP: February 13

Details: Discover why the Dougherty Arts Center has been the Heart of the Arts in Austin since 1981. Explore the gallery, exhibits, take a tour through the DAC studio space, and theater. End your time with a fun hands on arts experience with one of the DAC professional art instructors. A delicious optional lunch will be held at el Alma restaurant. The chef is from New Mexico and is influenced by Mexican flavors

and ingredients but with a creative edge using wonderful food combinations. There are 10 flavors of margaritas. The restaurant is across the cross walk from the art center. Please bring a covering for your clothes for the art project. Parking is free by getting a parking pass from the Doughty Art Receptionist. You can stay parked there until after lunch.

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



MUSIC

Armadillo Music Group

When: Wednesday, February 16, 5:00 - 6:15 pm

Cost: None

RSVP: Friday, February 11

Zoom Host/DJ: Jim Kochanski

Details: Want to find out more about Austin's famous music scene? Come join us on Zoom. We will hear and discuss up-and-coming musicians, Austin regulars and legends,



and discuss what's happening in the live and virtual music scene. We'll watch a couple videos together, with plenty of time for discussion and interaction and sharing. It's a great chance to connect with ANC friends and have a unique music experience.

RSVP to Jim Kochanski to get the preview videos and Zoom details prior to the session.

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

FOOD/SOCIAL

THE FOOD CORNER

Rosewood Gulf Coast Chop House

A succulent nod to Chef Jesse DeLeon's south Texas roots, the food at the Eastside Rosewood is nothing short of fabulous. I was lucky enough to be with a group seated on the covered outside patio on New Year's Eve, and whoa, what a meal! First of all, the wonderful old Victorian that houses Rosewood has been beautifully restored. The view of downtown is stupendous, the bar offerings are wonderfully and deliciously creative, and the food is fresh daily from the fisherman of the Gulf Coast and the farmers and ranchers of the Texas Hill Country. Food quality? Absolutely delicious and so inspired we spent the evening marveling, sharing bites and savoring everything on the New Year's Eve menu. (Never pass up shrimp, mushrooms, or fried chicken at Rosewood!)

A couple of things to know; Rosewood is open Tuesday thru Saturday from 5:00 to 10:00 and on Sundays for brunch from 11:30 to 2:00; There is both a regular menu and an 8 to 9 multi-course tasting menu served Saturday nights at 7:30. (Available



for a maximum of six people; see a sample menu on Rosewood's website if you're interested.) Yes, there's a happy hour; two in fact. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 5:00 to 6:30 and on Thursday nights from 6:00 to 9:00. Dogs are welcome in the outdoor areas. Parking is in an adjacent parking lot on the property.

Open Table for reservations. Grub Hub for food deliveries. Food to order for pick up via Toast.

All in all, everything about Rosewood is a feast for the eyes-- and a treat for the tummy.

Rosewood's
1209 Rosewood Avenue, Austin Texas 78702
512/838-6205

— Submitted by Susi Spies

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

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

FOOD/SOCIAL

Happy Hour

When: February 8, 4:00 pm
Address: The Park at the Domain
 11601 Domain Dr. #200, Austin 78758
Cost: None
RSVP: To Don Kirmis by February 1
 kirm68@gmail.com 701-570-3078

Details: It has been a long time since our last Happy Hour and we've missed the gatherings with all our friends from Newcomers. The Park at the Domain has a large outdoor patio with heaters if needed.

Chairs: Don & Karen Kirmis
kirm68@gmail.com 701-570-3078

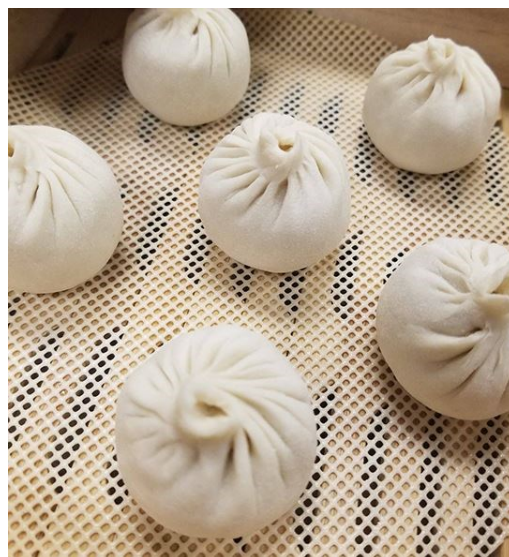
**Lunch Bunch****QI Austin: Modern Asian Kitchen**

When: Friday, February 25, 11:30 am
Address: 835 W. 6th Street, Austin 78703 (Free Parking)
Cost: Separate Checks
RSVP: Tuesday, February 22 (Maximum 12 to 14 allowed at main table)

Details: In 2019, a fabulous Dim Sum restaurant named Wu Chow opened in downtown Austin. The opening dim sum chef at Wu Chow was Ling Qi Wu. A couple years later, Chef Wu left Wu Chow to open her own restaurant, Lin Asian Bar--great, but noisy. A year or so after that, Chef Wu opened QI Asian Kitchen, our Lunch Bunch destination for February. It can be a bit pricey, but we're going for the fabulous Dim Sum, so if we're careful, it will be affordable. It's a beautiful restaurant, and I think you'll love it. There's free parking on the 4th and 5th floors of the building's parking garage, then you ride the elevator down to the street floor and restaurant. It is an inside restaurant, but we'll be in an area somewhat separate from the primary dining room, and as with all ANC activities, we request that attendees be vaccinated and wear

their masks in public areas. WORD OF WARNING: Our big, grand table only seats 12 to 14, so get your reservations in promptly. If we surpass our table's capacity, I'll try to book a regular table or two in the main dining room, but no guarantees. As always, there'll be fun and great Dim Sum for one and all; I'll send more specific parking instructions in my "day before" email. Hope to see you there!

Chair: Susi Spies susi.spies@gmail.com
 310-291-415



HEALTH & FITNESS

Hearty Hikers

Commons Ford Ranch Metropolitan Park

When: Tuesday, February 22, 9:30 am

Where: 614 N. Commons Ford Road, Austin 78733

Cost: None

RSVP: Register online. No deadline

Details: This is one of the lesser-known parks in the Austin area. It is known as the Commons Ford Prairie Restoration project. Like all the land in Texas, the area around Commons Ford Ranch Park was originally occupied by Native Americans, who often fished and hunted along the creeks and rivers. There are wonderful views of Lake Austin, gradual hillside elevations as well as flat paths along the water. Groves of pecan trees and lovely vistas are abundant. As al-

ways, wear sturdy shoes, bring water and a walking stick. Sunscreen, hat and insect spray are advised. No dogs please. Directions: From Capital of Texas (360) drive west on FM 2244 (Bee Caves Road). After 3.5 miles, take a right at the light at Cuernavaca Drive. Go 0.5 miles and turn left on Commons Ford Ranch Road which is the first street on the left. Drive 1.6 miles to the park entrance on the left. The sign says, "Commons Ford Ranch." Enter park onto a dirt road and drive 0.5 miles to the far visitors parking lot. You will pass various parking areas but keep going. There will be a barn and house.....the road basically ends there. After our hike, we will have lunch at County Line BBQ, 6500 W. Bee Cave Road, Austin 78746.

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



Happy Trails

Milton Reimers Ranch

When: Saturday, February 19, 9:00 am

Where: 23610 Hamilton Pool Road, Dripping Springs

Cost: Age 62 and older, \$3.00 per person
Under 62, \$5.00 per person
Pay at Ranger Station (cash only, no credit cards)

RSVP: Register online. No deadline

Details: If you would like to jump into the Hill Country full-on for your Saturday morning walk, then there's no better place than Milton Reimers Ranch on Hamilton Pool Road in Dripping Springs. This private ranch-turned-public park is

an outdoor playground with everything from fishing to mountain biking, to some of the best rock climbing in Texas. It also boasts a crushed gravel, ADA-approved walking trail, as well as more rigorous hiking trails. This pristine parkland has spectacular views of the Pedernales River and panoramic views of the Texas Hill Country. We will meet and begin our walk at the Reimers Pavilion (restrooms available there). We will walk on the trails above the river and then continue down to the beach area. This walk has full sun and little shade. Please wear a hat, bring water and sunscreen. You will want your camera for this one

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

GAMES

Kitchen Bridge

Due to the surge in Covid-19 infections, putting Austin in stage 5, Kitchen Bridge will not meet again until further notice.

Stay tuned!

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

3rd Thursday Bridge

When: February 17, 11:00 am — 3:00 pm

Where: Café Blue, Hill Country Galleria

Cost: No cost to play. Just tip the waiter

RSVP: After February 1.

Details: Text Deidre to sign up.

Chair: Deidre Brightman 512-750-3948
deidre1025@gmail.com

**Mah Jongg**

When: Second and fourth Thursdays
February 10 and 24, 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 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

**Mexican Train
(and lunch)**

When: February 9, 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: February 7

Details: Join us for a fun time and a delicious lunch.

Chairs: Priscilla Gabbi priscilla@planetgabbi.com
Pam Vonmende runpamrun@yahoo.com

BOOK GROUPS

Men's Book Club

When: Tuesday, February 22, 2:00 — 3:00 pm

Where: TBA

Details: We meet the fourth Tuesday of each month. A final

decision will be made at the January 25 meeting about whether we'll meet via Zoom or in person in February. 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, February 24, 10:00 am

Book for February: *Midnight Library*, by Matt Haig

Bluebonnet Details

Where: Home of Susan Sharon Moore
3400 Scenic Overlook Trail, Austin 78734

Facilitator: Libby Steckler

RSVP: Please email Sharon at smoore7791@gmail.com to RSVP. She will respond with the gate code to her home.

Details: Attendance is limited to 15. Members must be triple vaccinated to attend. Sharon's home is in the Canyons at Lake Travis development. The driveway entrance to the development is just north of the XSpace Storage facility on 620.

Yellow Rose Details

Where: Home of Lynne Davis

RSVP: To elcdavis@sbcglobal.net by Feb. 22

Facilitator: Lynne Davis

You must be vaccinated to attend.

**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

Afternoon Mystery Book Group

When: Wednesday, February 9, 1:00 — 3:00 pm

Host and Discussion Leader: Karen Kirmis

Where: To be finalized at January meeting and communicated via email

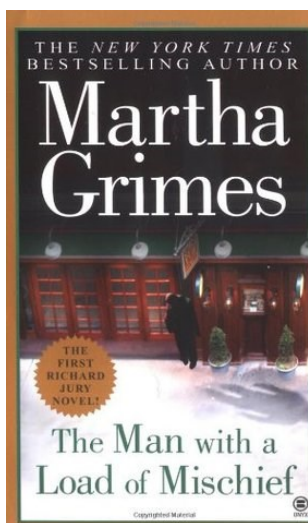
Cost: None

RSVP: To Karen at kkirmis@gmail.com or 701-570-5472

Details: The book for February is *The Man with a Load of Mischief*, by Martha Grimes. Multiple English pubs and dead bodies, what more could a mystery-lover want? This is considered a "police procedural" and is the first of more than 20 mysteries with Scotland Yard's Detective Chief Inspector Richard Jury and his sidekick aristocrat Melrose Plant.

We will make a decision at the meeting in January as to where

we will be meeting in February. It will either be at Central Market on North Lamar or in the first floor reception space of Karen's building (501 West Avenue - corner of Fifth and West).



Chair: Jill Haimes 717-471-3011
DJillH@comcast.net

LANGUAGES

French Conversation

When: Wednesdays, February 2, 16, 2:00 pm

Where: TBA

Cost: None

RSVP: Email Elaine 72 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 72 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



French group at Westlake Wine Bar, Dec. 2021

MOVIES

Art House Cinema North

When: February 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, February 18, 7:30 pm (zoom)
Friday, February 11 or 25, 7:00 pm (live, MAYBE)

Cost: \$1 per person

Details: Two meeting approaches will be considered for February, depending on the virus conditions at the time. In either case, there will be a Zoom meeting on February 18, at 7:30. If conditions permit, we will also have a live meeting, at 7:00, on either February 11 or February 25. Date to be determined.

Additional information will be emailed later. If you want to join or member list, email us at the address below.

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



HOBBIES

Photography: Photoshare**When:** February 22, 11:00 am**Where:** Your computer, laptop, tablet, or smart phone**Host:** George McCane (via Zoom)**Cost:** None**RSVP:** February 20

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. Also, a new variant is running rampant (as of this writing anyway) and many of us are older so it tends to be a wise thing to stay in where we are not being exposed to the virus.

Because so many members of our group enjoy shooting different things and different aspects of photography (such as just taking the pictures, processing or simply learning how to take better pictures, we shoot what we want. Some of our members enjoy having a challenge. For the month of February, our challenge is "Still Life".

February tends to be the last breath of winter and as you might recall we had a very harsh February last year. While one of the beauties of still life is being able to stay in, much of the challenge is finding the right subject to photograph. An excellent example of this is Edward Weston's picture of a bell pepper.

With his lighting of the bell pepper, it truly looks like a body

(you can Google it for yourself). Over the years, people have used fruit and all sorts of things to photograph or paint still life. It is easier to photograph odd numbers (composition wise) than to try to photograph even numbers. Let your imagination run wild with this one.

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

February 12th, 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 at photoman401@gmail.com, and I will send you an email that I received your photographs for processing.

February 20th, 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 at photoman401@gmail.com, and I will confirm the number of photographs that I received from you.

February 20th, deadline to request a link to our zoom meeting. Please send your request to me at photoman401@gmail.com.

February 22nd, 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.

Chair: George McCane
photoman401@gmail.com 512-981-0196

**Knit 'n Stitch****When:** Thursday, February 3, 10:30 am — 12:30 pm.**Where:** Home of Marsha Steinback
1200 Barton Hills Dr., Apt. 204, Austin 78704**Cost:** None**RSVP:** Register online or email Arlene by Monday, Jan. 31. 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

February 2022

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

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

*Depending on the Corona virus situation, Cinema South may meet in person on February 11 or 25 (in addition to the zoom meeting scheduled for February 18).



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.