



NEWCOMERS AND FRIENDS OF GEORGETOWN

GeorgetownNewcomers.COM



Ruby Branham



Donna Hood

From the Co-Presidents

February is the month of love even if the cold temperatures don't make you feel all warm and fuzzy. However, it is not just pink hearts, dinner by candlelight and boxes full of chocolate. February is also known for Groundhog Day, President's Day, Heart Health Awareness, Make a Friend Day, Random Acts of Kindness Day, and the list continues. It's also the month that we want all our members to know how much they are loved for all they do to make Newcomers & Friends such a great social organization.

Our next General Membership meeting will be on February 8, 2024, **the second Thursday** of the month, in the Hewlett Room at the Library beginning at 9:30 a.m. We will be hearing from Clark Thurmond, Co-Owner & Co-Publisher of the Williamson County Sun Newspaper. His presentation will be on the history of The Sun and how reporting and publishing is done in the age of technology and artificial intelligence. It should be a very informative presentation that you won't want to miss. More details of this program are on page 3.

We look forward to seeing you on February 8. Let's all wear something red in honor of the month of love.

Ruby & Donna
Co-Presidents



Mark Your Calendars

February 8, 2024 — General Membership Meeting, **Second Thursday**, Georgetown Public Library, Hewlett Room 2nd Floor. Check-in & social time, 9:30—9:55 a.m. Meeting begins promptly at 10:00. Clark Thurmond of the Williamson County Sun will give a presentation on the history of the paper and on how reporting is done.

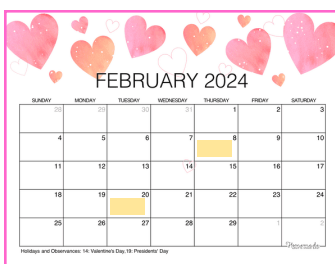
February 20, 2024—Coffee & Conversation, 9:00 a.m. in the home of MaryAnn Sossamon, 305 Canyon View Road (Wolf Ranch). MaryAnn has chosen Helping Hands for charitable donations. There will be a sign-up sheet at the February 8 meeting. More details on page 4.

March 7, 2024 - General Membership Meeting, **First Thursday**, Pok-E-Jo's Smokehouse, 610 N. Austin Avenue, 9:30 a.m. Matt Lindemann, a 21-year veteran of the Texas Rangers, will talk about the Rangers, from inception to the present day. We'll stay at Pok-E-Jo's for lunch following the meeting.

April 4, 2024 – General Membership Meeting, **First Thursday**, at The Den Amenity Center at Wolf Ranch, 10:00 a.m. Andy Brazell from Weir Wildscapes will bring a variety of native plants and talk about incorporating them into your landscape.

April 17, 2024 — Day Trip to the Texas Ranger Museum and The Homestead in Waco. **Reservations and payments due by February 8.** Details on page 5.

May 9, 2024— General Membership Meeting and Annual Fashion Show & luncheon, **Second Thursday**, Georgetown Public Library. Fashions will be provided by Pink Poppy Artisans Boutique. Box lunches will be provided by Sweet Lemon, and orders will be taken in April. More details will be coming in future newsletters and at the meetings.



Georgetown Newcomers & Friends

General Meeting – Georgetown Public Library, Hewlett Room

2nd Thursday, February 8, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

Sign in & socialize 9:30—9:55 a.m.

Meeting 10:00 a.m.

Meet the Co-Owner & Co-Publisher of the Williamson County Sun Newspaper
and

Learn about the history of The Sun and how reporting and publishing is done
in this age of technology and Artificial Intelligence.



Clark Thurmond, Publisher
(Shown with wife Linda Scarborough)
Co-Owner & Co-Publisher

The Williamson County Sun
707 Main Street
Georgetown, TX 78626

Lunch will immediately follow at
2020 Scratch Kitchen

1500 Rivery Blvd., Suite 1100, Georgetown, TX 78628

A sign up sheet will be available at the meeting.

Coffee & Conversation

The Coffee and Conversation for Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 9:00 AM will be held at MaryAnn Sossamon's home at 305 Canyon View Road (Wolf Ranch) in Georgetown. The charity that MaryAnn has chosen for donations is Helping Hands of Georgetown. Helping Hands of Georgetown has been serving the underserved and homeless population in the Georgetown community since 2016. Helping Hands of Georgetown is a 501(c)3 non-profit whose mission is to raise community awareness and serve those in need.

One of the ways that Helping Hands lends a hand is through the Mobile Food Pantry that is located every Monday through Thursday in the parking lot on 8th street in front of the Georgetown Public Library. A representative from Helping Hands of Georgetown will be present at this gathering to answer any questions.

Coffee, tea, water, and refreshments will be available. Please feel free to bring a snack to share.

There will be a sign up sheet for the Coffee and Conversation available at the February 8th General Meeting.

Tuesday, February 20 - 9:00 A.M
305 Canyon View Rd (Wolf Ranch)
Georgetown, TX 78628



Day Trip

Newcomers' next day trip will be to the **Texas Rangers Hall of Fame and Museum** in Waco on **Wednesday, April 17**. This will be a timely follow-up to our March general meeting, where our speaker will be a retired Texas Ranger.

<https://www.texasranger.org>

After touring the museum, we will head to the Homestead Craft Village for lunch at the **Café Homestead**. After lunch, there will be time to stroll, browse, & shop. There are lots of exhibits, crafts, pottery, gifts, a market, and a even specialty cheese store! <https://www.homesteadcraftvillage.com/>

The trip will be from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and the cost is \$35. That includes the bus, tip to the bus driver, and entrance to the Texas Ranger museum. Lunch will be on your own.

So far, 43 people have signed up, leaving 13 spots available. As of February 1, these spots will also be open to guests and non-members. To sign up now, please contact Mary Dunn marydunn73@hotmail.com.

Payment is due by the February 8th general meeting to reserve your spot. Please bring a check for \$35, payable to Georgetown Newcomers & Friends. We also accept cash – exact change only. Alternately, you can mail your check to **Mary Dunn**, or drop it in the box on her porch at **121 Stockman Trail (Sun City)**.



Meet the Board

We hope you're enjoying meeting your Board of Directors, and learning about the responsibilities of each position. This is the time of year that our Nominating Committee selects a slate of candidates for the following year's board. The slate will be presented at the March meeting, and nominations can be made from the floor – with prior approval from the nominee. The vote will be held at the April meeting, and the new officers installed in May.

Who might you know who would be a good candidate? What skills do *you* have that you can contribute to Georgetown Newcomers & Friends? We need to have a board to continue to operate. This is a great opportunity to meet new people, make new friends, and share your talents.

Please contact either of our Nominating Committee chairs: Barbara Hansen at newcomersSIGcoordinator@gmail.com or Patti Groce at pgroce5@gmail.com.



Meet the Board

Treasurer



Carolyn Shaver

Role:

In charge of all of the funds of the organization, updating/maintaining its financial systems throughout the year.

Responsibilities:

- primary person in charge of the organization's bank account
- receive and deposit all membership dues & other monies coming into the organization
- make all disbursements as approved by the Board of Directors
- provide monthly financial reports to the BOD at board meetings
- update/maintain all financial data on the membership master spreadsheet
- provide a year-end-report that reflects the actual income and expenditures compared against the previously agreed upon budget
- provide the data and any extra information as part of the year-end audit after the close of the May financials
- as a member of the Executive Committee on the BOD, attend all general membership meetings

Skills Required:

- strong organizational skills
- financial background or experience in a related field
- knowledge of Google apps, Excel, and Word

Meet the Board

SIG Coordinator



Barbara Hansen

Role:

Coordinate and oversee all of the activity among SIGs and ensure that all SIG participants are paid club members.

Responsibilities:

- process all incoming SIG request forms by either placing in a SIG, adding to a waitlist for that SIG, or removing someone from a SIG as per request
- create formal waitlists for SIGs that are at maximum capacity
- maintain accuracy of all SIG data on the membership master spreadsheet
- maintain communication with SIG leaders and supporting them as needed
- ensure awareness of all SIG openings via newsletter, general meetings, etc.
- attend all monthly general membership meetings and board meetings
- provide monthly updates on number of SIGs, number of participants in SIGs, current openings, and new SIGs at general meetings and board meetings

Skills Required:

- organizational skills
- interpersonal communication skills
- knowledge of Google apps, Excel, and Word

New Members

A **BIG** welcome to our newest members! There are many activities for you to get involved in to meet new friends. Take advantage by attending our functions and joining available SIGs.

Cassandra Cheek Colleen Forrester Jan King Sally Loomer

February Birthdays

- 4 Carol Machmer
- 7 Diane Bartulevicz
- 7 Connie Bowman
- 8 Susan Darlington
- 11 Laura Wellbrock
- 12 Elizabeth Cochran
- 16 Toby Gebhardt
- 16 Marcy Lowe
- 16 Jere Hanchak
- 21 Danielle Moore
- 22 Anne Turney
- 25 Phyllis Brugger
- 25 Ellen Balay
- 27 LaNell Hill



Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Barbara Hansen, Coordinator

You must be a current member of Georgetown Newcomers and Friends in order to participate in our SIGs, either as a regular or a substitute.

How to join a SIG

1. Complete a SIG Request Form

<https://www.georgetownnewcomers.com/sigform.html>

2. Email NewcomersSIGCoordinator@gmail.com

Let me know your interest & I will coordinate from there. Maybe you can join right into the SIG, or maybe you start as a **sub** and later become a regular. Perhaps you are on the waitlist and will get moved up eventually. It really does happen a good bit.

OR maybe you **START A NEW GROUP**. You can shadow or be mentored by another like group Lead or do your own thing. *We are always looking for new SIGs! What is your interest? Let's spread the fun! We will help you!*

Dropping from a SIG

Please email NewcomersSIGCoordinator@gmail.com & the Lead for that SIG. This will allow us to notify those on the waitlist or to advertise.

Barbara
SIG Coordinator
Georgetown Newcomers & Friends



OPEN SIGs

<p><i>Wander Walkers</i></p> <p>Monday & Wednesday 9-10am. The Lead emails 2-month schedule with walking location</p>	<p><i>Walk-n-Talk</i></p> <p>Tuesday & Thursday 9:30-11. Lead posts the walking location to Georgetown Newcomers & Friends private FB group a day or 2 ahead</p>	<p><i>2nd Friday Book Club</i></p> <p>Meet at Georgetown CC & stay for lunch afterwards for those who would like. Twice a year, members submit all genres of titles that are then voted on.</p>
<p><i>Mystery Book Club Divas & Dudes</i></p> <p>2nd Thursday 11:30~1, September - May, for lunch and book discussions at local eateries.</p>	<p><i>Reel Women</i></p> <p>Usually 3rd Tuesday. Gather for a matinee movie at Georgetown City Lights (now Film Alley). Afterwards we head someplace close for drinks/dinners out. Come for both or just the part that works for you.</p>	<p><i>Divot Divas</i></p> <p>4th Wednesday at various locations</p>
<p><i>Dragon Ladies</i></p> <p>2nd and 4th Thursday 1-4:00. Ladies gather with host providing packaged drinks & snacks. Play for Mardi Gras beads, not \$.</p>	<p><i>Mahjongg Marvels</i></p> <p>Meet every Wednesday from 1:00—4:00 in Sun City. Looking for a few subs.</p>	<p><i>Pennies from Heaven</i></p> <p>1st Tuesday from 9:30-12:30 year round. Members take turns hosting in their homes. <i>Looking for subs.</i></p>
<p><i>Grape Expectations</i></p> <p>4th Thursday at 4:30 p.m. Ladies each volunteer to host once a year in our homes. Hostess provides appetizers and 5 wines for the tasting based on a theme (can be as simple as “wines my friends and I enjoy). Each attendee donates \$10 to help cover the hostess costs. Does not officially meet in the summer.</p>	<p><i>Stitch Together</i></p> <p>3rd Monday at 10:00 a.m. in the home of Candy Hitchcock, 232 Rosetta Loop, Liberty Hill, Santa Rita Ranch North.</p>	<p><i>Coffee Rounds</i></p> <p>2nd & 4th Monday at various coffee shops around the area. 2nd Monday will be bring the kids or grandkids, & 4th Monday is kid-free. Watch for the event to be posted on the Newcomers Facebook page.</p>

ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW SIGs. WHAT IS YOUR INTEREST? LET'S FIND LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE. IF YOU ARE WILLING TO BE THE LEAD/ ORGANIZER, WE WILL HELP. LET'S SPREAD THE FUN... TALK TO ME FOLKS!! NewcomersSIGCoordinator@gmail.com

STITCH TOGETHER

Come together & chat while
working on your project

3rd Monday @ 10:00 a.m.
at the home of Candy Hitchcock
Santa Rita Ranch North
232 Rosetta Loop, Liberty Hill



GRAPE EXPECTATIONS



Group meets at the hostess' home on the 4th Thursday,

September—June, 4:30—6:30 p.m.

(except November & December, when we meet on 3rd Thursday)

The hostess provides appetizers and 5 wines.

Each attendee contributes \$10 to help defray costs.

** Alternative: Hostess may ask participants to bring an appetizer and contribute \$5. **

Mahjongg



LOOKING FOR A FEW SUBS.
EVERY WEDNESDAY 1:00~4:00.
AT SUE'S HOUSE IN SUN CITY
KEEPING IT SIMPLE WITH NO FOOD
OR DRINK.
JUST HERE TO PLAY &
HAVE A NICE TIME


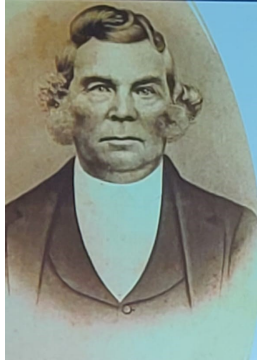
General Meeting



Preservation Georgetown's History

Formed in 1977 as Georgetown Heritage Society

- Organization was formed to facilitate ongoing historic preservation
- America's Bicentennial heightened interest in historic preservation
- Citizens purchased and restored multiple structures around the city
- Organized many events, some have been turned over to other city organizations
 - Christmas Stroll (Downtown Commission)
 - Red Poppy Festival (City of Georgetown)
 - Courthouse & Square Tours (Williamson Museum)
 - Visitor's Center (City of Georgetown)
 - Home Tour (PG's major annual fund raiser)


George Washington Glascock

A Man of his Times

60 members attended the presentation by Alton Martin, the President of Preservation Georgetown. We learned so much about our town—from the founding, right up to the present day and ETJs.

In 1848, Central Texas was rough country!

- What is now Williamson County was part of Milam County (east)
- Land records had to be filed in the county courthouse, which was 40 to 50 miles away for people in western Milam County.



- Approximately 250 to 275 people lived in what became Williamson County when the petition to create the county was filed with the state in early 1848.
- Petition was approved on March 13, 1848.



Tuesday Out to Lunch Bunch

Freda's Seafood Grille—Austin



Clockwise: MaryAnn Sossamon, Barbara Hansen, Mary Lou Percy (SIG Lead), Susan Streeter, Ann Ramage, Betty Luedecke, Emelie Young, Colette Ballard, Judy Coroneos



L: Shrimp Scampi Pasta

R: Grilled Salmon Florentine



Below:

L: Crab Cakes

Center: Blackened Catfish

R: Fish Tacos



Ladies Who Lunch



Our newest SIG met for this first time January 10th at Sweet Lemon.

Everyone said what a WONDERFUL time they had.



L to R: Candy Hitchcock, Lois Hammelman, Diane Bartulevicz, Pam Gardner, Anne Ballard Hanner (Lead), Barb Tomeo, Becky Switzer, Angie Henley

Girls Who Cook



Chicken Pot Pie by Susie



Cape Cod salad by Diane



Brussel Sprouts by MaryAnn



Breads by Chee



Salmon Deviled Eggs by Donna



Soup Shots: Tomato soup with grilled cheese bites & Pea soup with roast prosciutto crumbles by Barbara

Whisky Sour welcome drink by Ann

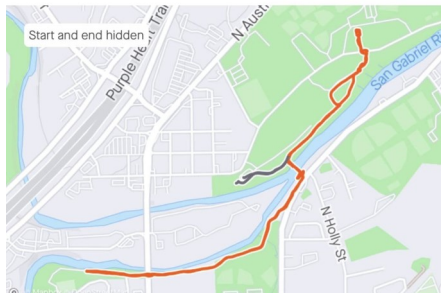
L to R: Susie (hosting), Mary Ann, Annie, Chee (Lead), Diane, Donna, MaryAnn, Barbara



Walk n Talk

Morning Walk

Distance 2.94 mi Time 1h 11m Elev Gain 81 ft



San Gabriel Park—2.94 miles



Lake Georgetown & Overlook Park—3 miles

Guys Poker Night

An almost full house in January



Dragon Ladies



Dragon Ladies had three full tables at this gathering. Always looking for more to join!
Fill out the SIG form to join <https://www.georgetownnewcomers.com/>

Vintage Diners

Farmers Commons Florence

L to R: Diane Habas, Kathy Bratton, Susan Hannah, Carolyn & Scott Patterson, Randall, Steve Bratton, Greg Habas



The Dinner Group



Delores, Mary, Heide

Three couples (left) dined at Kyoto Asian Cuisine: Hossein & Heide Mansouri, Mike & Mary Dunn, Sam Dolsen & Delores Humphries-Dolsen. Two couples (above) dined at Ichiro Asian Bistro & Bar: Bruce & Carol Wolitarsky and Carol & Warren Elsasser.

Cosmo Girls



MaryAnn, Barbara, Barb, and Laura won 2nd place in the trivia contest at Bar Louie in Round Rock!



Membership

Founded in 1973, Newcomers & Friends of Georgetown offers a personal invitation to you! We strive to create warm connections to anyone living in the Central Texas/Georgetown area.

As a way of promoting new friendships and sustaining existing ones, Newcomers & Friends is home to about 40 special interest groups. These range from physical fitness to games to dining out.

Newcomers & Friends meets September through May on either the 1st or 2nd Thursday of the month. *Please watch the newsletter announcements for the specific date.* Each month's meeting features a program. Instead of receiving an honorarium, guest speakers choose a charity or non-profit to receive a monetary donation. Donations have been made to Southwestern University, Hope Alliance, the Georgetown Animal Shelter, and the Susan G. Komen Foundation, to name but a few.

Newcomers & Friends now has 228 members, and 33 of these are new. Our membership year runs from September through August, but you can join at any time! Members have moved to the Georgetown area from all parts of the United States and beyond. Members do not have to have recently moved to Georgetown - many of our more recent members discovered our group after living in the Georgetown area for many years! Yearly dues are \$25. Each member of the household is included in the membership dues. Most members are women, but men are welcome.

It's all about forging new bonds to make a new location "home"!

Find applications and lots of info here www.georgetownnewcomers.com



Name Tags

Would you like to have a name tag to wear to our meetings and other functions? Cost is \$10, and you can order one from our website. [Click Here](#)

We still have a few unclaimed name tags. If you have ordered one, you can pick it up at any general meeting. Or contact Mary Jo Doggett to make other arrangements. pmjdogg@gmail.com or 281-658-9007.

Follow us on Social Media

Follow Us on Facebook!

We have a Facebook page, for our members only. If you are interested in joining, go onto your personal Facebook account and search for Georgetown Newcomers and Friends and request to be added to our private group.

Join us on Facebook to see some of the fun!
Learn about the groups and new places to visit.
Post your photos...



Georgetown Newcomers and Friends

This is a private page. The admin will verify your membership before you are granted access. Above is the current profile pic for our group. Click the join button, and answer 2 simple questions. That's all there is to it!

If you're already a member, click on the "Write something" box, then on the Photo/video icon and share what fun your SIG is having. There is also an option to post anonymously.

We currently have 127 members following the Facebook page, so come and join us there!

