



# NEWCOMERS AND FRIENDS OF GEORGETOWN

March 2023

GeorgetownNewcomers.COM



Diane Habas



MaryAnn Sossamon

## From the Co-Presidents

Dear All Georgetown Newcomers and Friends,

Some of us might recall February meetings of the past that had to be cancelled due to weather/energy issues. We are sorry that this has happened once again; we thank you for your consideration and support when we felt we had to call off our February 2 Fire Station meeting. We have tended to follow the lead of the GTISD – if school is cancelled or on a delayed start, we have followed suit. Now, we invite you to look ahead to March when there are more meetings and opportunities for gathering included within this Newsletter.

Here is a bit of history. It has been noted that Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are the heart of GTNF and have contributed immensely to the longevity of our **50-year-old** organization. We consulted our SIG Chairperson for historical input. As far as longevity goes, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Book Club is at least 25 years old, founded by a member of the Berry Springs Park family, and Wander Walkers has been around for 16-17 years. The SIG with the largest representation appears to be Reel Women, with 70 some members on its roster. Currently, our membership is at 229 members, with 480 SIG participants, meaning that members are in more than 1 SIG. Facebook has 113 members on our private page so that a little over 50% of our membership views the fun activities offered.

The following are SIG reminders for all:

Guests may attend a SIG one time to see if they might be interested in joining. (Be sure to alert the hostess so that an extra person might be accommodated.)

Members should RSVP to gatherings in a timely manner and likewise should communicate to the SIG Lead if you decide that you can no longer participate, as there are Wait and Sub Lists for many groups. (Within one month, there may be as many as 70 transactions or changes among groups.)

Share SIG hosting responsibilities and consider other available sites such as amenity centers and library study rooms that can be useful.

Thanks to all SIG Leads and to SIG participants for making our 50 years of GTNF so enduring and rewarding.

Your Co-Presidents,  
MaryAnn Sossamon & Diane Habas



# General Meeting Sign-In Update



Monthly General Meetings are an integral part of our organization and we all look forward to them for various reasons. For some, it is the program topic, for others, socialization with members, or it may be an opportunity to explore what we're all about. In an effort to meet all needs efficiently, here are some adjustments to the sign-in procedures prior to the start of the meeting as well as a redesigned entry table arrangement for smoother traffic flow.

Beginning at the March 2nd General Meeting, please join us at **9:30 a.m.**, members and guests alike, for coffee, tea, water, and plenty of conversation. In addition, the following schedule will be in effect:

**9:30** - Meeting Sign-In  
After Meeting Luncheon Sign-Up  
Other Events Sign-Ups  
Enjoy a Beverage & Visit with Members/Guests

**9:55** - Meeting Sign-In will Continue (on your own, see note below)  
Luncheon & Other Events Sign-Ups will Close

**10:00** - **Meeting Promptly Begins**  
Meeting Welcome  
Introduction of Presentation & Speaker  
Board of Directors Updates

**11:00/11:15** - Meeting Concludes

**NOTE:** At 9:55 our membership team will join the audience for the meeting. There will be a sign posted directing arrivals after the meeting has begun to sign in on their own and seat themselves.

At the conclusion of the meeting, **Luncheon and Other Events sign-ups will reopen for 20 minutes** so that any late arrivals have a chance to add their names to a list if they so choose.

We look forward to seeing everyone on March 2nd!



**Newcomers General Meeting**  
**March 2, 2023 10:00 am**  
**Sign-in & Social 9:30—9:55**  
**Georgetown Library in the Hewlett Room**  
**402 W 8th Street, Georgetown, TX**

*Please be advised that the elevator in the library is currently broken. We understand and regret that this may affect your ability to attend the meeting. We'd love to have you join us for lunch afterwards at Masfajitas at 11:30, though! Please advise Peggy Sklar at [psklar1@gmail.com](mailto:psklar1@gmail.com) if you intend to join us for lunch. We'll keep you advised as we know more.*

## **Scraps of the Past**

Mickie Ross retired in 2020, after spending 12 years in her dream job at The Williamson Museum, and 21 years as an elementary school teacher. She and her husband Dale, a local CPA, fell in love with Georgetown after their first visit and moved here in 2000. They found their forever home in Old Town in 2004, and love being a part of this community. A sixth-generation Texan, Mickie's love of history was destined from the beginning and she enjoys sharing the stories of Georgetown's past.



Mickie currently serves as the Board Chair for Preservation Georgetown, the heritage non-profit that has been taking care of historic Georgetown for almost 46 years. She will share information on Georgetown's rich history as we celebrate the 175th birthday of the city and of Williamson County in 2023. Her presentation will include stories about the early citizens of Georgetown and events that shaped our community. Come hear what is sure to be a fascinating presentation and learn more about the mission and activities of Preservation Georgetown, and how people can get involved.

# Mark your Calendars

**March 2, 2023**—General Membership Meeting in the **Georgetown Public Library, Hewlett Room, 2nd Floor**. Lunch afterwards at **Masfajitas, 3010 Williams Drive**. There will be a signup sheet for lunch at the meeting. *The elevator in the library is out of commission until repairs can be completed. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please feel free to join us later for lunch at 11:30. And please advise Peggy Sklar at [psklar1@gmail.com](mailto:psklar1@gmail.com) so she can make an accurate reservation.*

**April 6, 2023**—General Membership Meeting. Andy Weir of Weir Wildscapes will present the program at **The Cowan Creek Pavilion, 1433 Cool Spring Way, Sun City**. Lunch to follow at **Mulligan's, 150 Dove Hollow Trail, Sun City**.

**April 18, 2023**—Coffee & Conversation at the home of Ann Mayberry, 409 Casa Verde Drive in Georgetown, starting at 9:30 a.m. Ann has selected "The Locker" as her charity for donations. There will be signup sheets at the March and April meetings.

We encourage new members to attend, as there are many board members present to answer any questions or concerns you may have in a relaxed setting. Directions to Ann's home will be available in the April newsletter. See you all soon!

**April 19, 2023**—Bus trip to the Painted Churches. We have had a great response to the Painted Churches bus trip. There are 40 people who have signed up and 8 people on the wait list. If you are unable to attend and need to cancel your seat, please contact Ann Mayberry [annierfd@gmail.com](mailto:annierfd@gmail.com). She can arrange for one of the 8 people on the wait list to take your place and reimburse your fare. We look forward to sharing this trip with you.

**May 4, 2023**—**May 4, 2023**—General Membership Meeting, annual Style Show, and luncheon. Fashions will again be provided by Pink Poppy. Lunch will be delivered by Little Lemon after the style show. We will provide the menu selections in the April newsletter, and take orders at the April meeting. The cost of the box lunch is \$10. May is our last meeting for the 2022-2023 Year, and the Style Show is always a big hit. Do plan to join us!



## WE WANT YOU!

The Nominating Committee has been busy this month working on the slate of Officers for 2023-2024. To date, the Program, Hospitality, and Coffee and Conversation positions all have nominees. However, we are looking for the perfect candidate(s) for the **Vice President** office. This position can be held by 1 or 2 candidates.

The Vice President(s) is responsible for the following:

- ✓ Assist the President with the organization and planning of meetings.
- ✓ Preside in the absence of the President.
- ✓ Serve as chairperson(s) of the Nominating Committee.
- ✓ Oversee welcoming and greeting current and prospective members at the monthly meetings.
- ✓ Assume the role of President upon installation of new officers and may appoint a Parliamentarian.

If you would like to fill this role or know of someone, please contact Ruby Branham at [btaggiemom@msn.com](mailto:btaggiemom@msn.com) or Donna Hood at [donnalynnehood@verizon.net](mailto:donnalynnehood@verizon.net).



# 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 now has over 200 members. Approximately half of our group's membership lives in Sun City. 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!

Newcomers & Friends meets the first Thursday of each month (September through May). 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, the Susan G. Komen Foundation, Friends of the Georgetown Library, the Caring Place, Master Gardener Naturalists, the Assistance League of Georgetown, and Ride on Center for Kids.

Yearly dues are \$25. Each member of the household is included in the membership dues. Most members are women, but men are welcome. We currently have 229 members, and 53 of these are new!

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

Applications available NOW at [www.georgetownnewcomers.com](http://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](#)

## 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.

Tracy Colton   Donna Craig   Mary Harlan   Debra Reineke

## March Birthdays

- 1 Mary Dunn
- 1 Beth Knape
- 5 Donna Hood
- 8 Anne Krishan
- 11 Diane Habas
- 15 Patti Groce
- 15 Barbara Tomeo
- 17 Cathy Hempelmann
- 19 Martha Williams
- 20 Rosemary Anderson
- 23 Lynn George
- 30 Mary Taylor



# 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](mailto:NewcomersSIGCoordinator@gmail.com)

Let me know your interest & I will coordinate from there. Maybe you can join right in to the SIG or maybe you start as a **sub** that later becomes a regular. Perhaps you are on the waitlist that gets 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.

### Dropping from a SIG

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

*Barbara*

*SIG Coordinator*

*Georgetown Newcomers & Friends*





# OPEN SIGs

<p><b><i>Wander Walkers</i></b></p> <p>Monday &amp; Wednesday 9-10am. The Lead emails 2 month schedule walking location</p>	<p><b><i>Walk-n-Talk</i></b></p> <p>Tuesday &amp; Thursday 9:30-11. Leads post the walking location to Georgetown Newcomers &amp; Friends private FB group a day or 2 ahead</p>	<p><b><i>2nd Friday Book Club</i></b></p> <p>Meet at Georgetown CC &amp; stay for lunch afterwards for those that would like. Twice a year members submit all genres of titles that are then voted on.</p>
<p><b><i>Mystery Book Club Divas &amp; Dudes</i></b></p> <p>Meets the 2nd Thursday 11:30~1, September - May, for lunch and book discussions at local eateries.</p>	<p><b><i>Page Turners</i></b></p> <p>Meets the 1st Wednesday of the month, 10am. We meet in member homes. We discuss all genres. We have a facilitator who guides us.</p>	<p><b><i>Cosmo Girls</i></b></p> <p>Meets 4th Tuesday 5:30-7:30 pm. Host rotates &amp; provides 2 cocktails while others bring nibbles.</p>
<p><b><i>Reel Women</i></b></p> <p>Monthly matinee movie &amp; drinks/ dinners out afterwards.</p>	<p><b><i>Divot Divas</i></b></p> <p>1st Monday at various locations</p>	<p><b><i>Bridge</i></b></p> <p>Formulating a new SIG of experienced players</p>
<p><b><i>Dragon Ladies</i></b></p> <p>2nd and 4th Thursday 1-4:00. Ladies gather with host providing packaged drinks &amp; snacks. Play for Mardi Gras beads, not \$. If enough people, we play with card to rotate tables</p>	<p><b><i>Evening Mahjong</i></b></p> <p>3rd Wednesday 5-8 pm. Each brings \$3 but we keep playing if one loses her money. Light snack &amp; drink provided by host who rotates monthly</p>	<p><b><i>Mahjong Mavens</i></b></p> <p>2nd &amp; 4th Thursday 1pm at the Berry Creek Country Club.</p>
	<p><b><i>Pennies from Heaven</i></b></p> <p>Meets the 1st Tuesday from 9:30-12:30 year round. Members take turns hosting in their homes. Pennies from Heaven is a version of Canasta that is played with four players of two partnerships using 5 decks of cards. Looking for subs</p>	

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

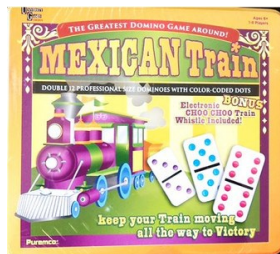
[NewcomersSIGCoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:NewcomersSIGCoordinator@gmail.com)



... a new SIG

Let's talk about it!

[NewcomersSIGcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:NewcomersSIGcoordinator@gmail.com)



Dinner Dames



These are just examples of some of the most popular SIGs

Games, Wine, Dine

Maybe start a theater or craft group? We'll help!



*Where Neighbors Become Friends*



American Mahjong classes  
For the beginner

We need a committed 4 weeks to get you a good start  
Best played in groups of 4  
Wednesday March 29, April 5, 12 & 19  
1-3:00pm

Email [newcomersSIGcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:newcomersSIGcoordinator@gmail.com)  
To reserve your spot

***Hurry! Only one spot left!!!***

# Tuesday Out to Lunch

## Texan Café & Pie Shop Hutto



All these tempting goodies!



MaryAnn, Debra, Judy, Susan, Ann, Judy & Emelie. Connie & Laura left already , Barbara photographing



Grilled salmon, homemade mashed, green beans



Cobb salad

# Girls Who Cook

Theme was Italian/[juliasalbum.com](http://juliasalbum.com)



Susie, Annie, Jackie, Barbara



Baked brie & apples (Chee), cheese dip (Jackie) to start



Cheers!



Pasta with chicken, broccoli & bacon (Diane)



Lemon green beans w/ pine nuts & parmesan (Ann)



10-minute tiramisu (Barbara)



Table & buffet made by Diane's husband; teak dinnerware from Thailand

# Dragon Ladies



Judy Kelley, Peg Allen, Cynthia Kinler, Lita Nielsen



Dorothy Noack, Vickie Keith, Mary Dunn, Susan Smith

# Tile Toters



Rosemary Allen (L) & her winning hand (above)



## The Dinner Group

Lupe Tortilla  
Round Rock



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## Divot Divas

Dorothy Noack & Sally Nagy  
enjoying a day of golf at  
Stonetree in Killeen

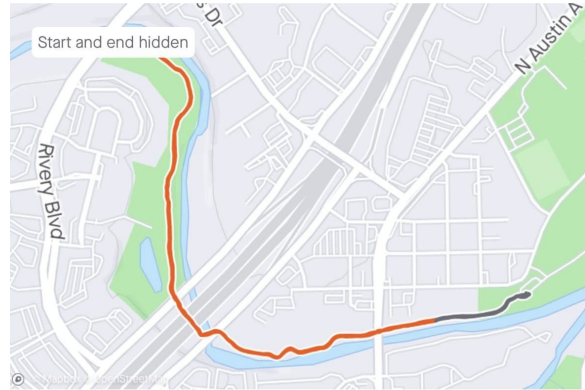


# Walk n Talk



Braving the cold at San Gabriel Park, 2/16

## Morning Walk



Distance  
2.73 mi

Moving Time  
1:02:42

## Café Crashers

—  
Goodfolks  
Georgetown



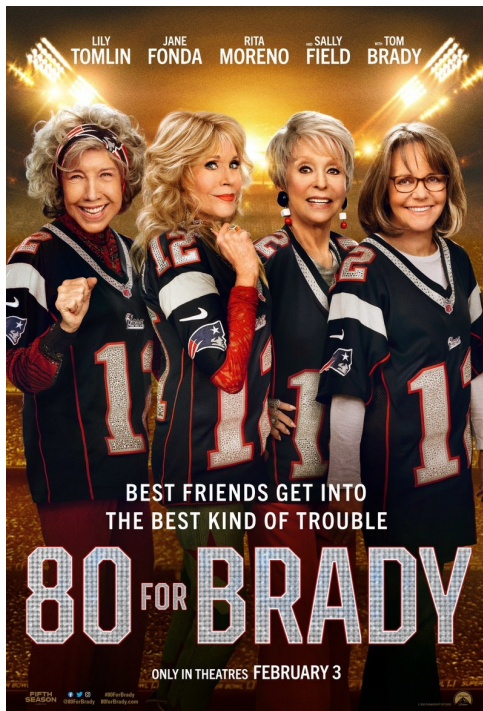


# Wine Divas Galentine's Celebration



Susan Messina-Davis, Carolyn Patterson, Lydia Pierce, Lisa Heisel, Sally Nagy, Sandy Lovvorn, Anne Turney, Toby Gebhardt, Dawn Dafinnee, Carlene Schultz, Marci Boone & Lynne Moran taking the pictures

## Reel Women



City Lights—Georgetown  
The Golden Rule





# Grape Expectations



Judy, Pat, Donna, Pam

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Host, Judy and SIG lead, Pat

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Mary, Betty, & Donna

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Betty, Judy, Barbara, Pat, Donna

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Just some of the yummys we enjoyed

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# Cellar Dwellers



Susie Logan hosted the Mardi Gras themed gathering this month



# 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.  
Find out about the groups, new places to visit.  
Post your pictures...



**Georgetown Newcomers and Friends** >  
Private group · 102 members

It is a private page that I verify membership before granting access.



This is what our page looks like.  
Ask to join. Answer the 2 questions which we will verify.  
Click on “Write something...” if you are already a member  
You can “post anonymously”  
Click on photo icon & it will take you to your gallery so we can see the fun your SIG is having

