



NEWCOMERS AND FRIENDS OF GEORGETOWN

May 2023

GeorgetownNewcomers.COM



Diane Habas



MaryAnn Sossamon

From the Co-Presidents

Dear GTNF Members,

As we continue "Honoring Our Past and Securing Our Future", we would like to share with you some thoughts from Long-timers and Newer-timers regarding the longevity of our organization and what it has meant and now means to them. Here are their responses:

After 23 years, I'm still enjoying my membership in GTNF. I appreciate the programs which help us to learn about our community and I especially value friendships I've made with women who don't live in Sun City. SIGS such as Reel Women, Book Club, and Wine Tasting cement those friendships and offer opportunities to meet more new women. -- *Necia Chessman*

After moving to Sun City 7 years ago, I immediately joined GTNF and have rejoined every year since. I have made such wonderful friends, many of whom I met through our joint love of activities, specifically Scrabble and movies (Reel Women). GTNF has lasted so long because of its emphasis on connections and friendships. Here's to 50 more years! Thanks to all who make the organization work so well! -- *Karen Harrison*

I feel that Newcomers Club is a great lifeline/friendship line for new people in the area. As a recent member, I have found every person in the club so friendly and welcoming. You can become involved as little or as much as you want. Also, I think the idea that you can stay in Newcomers for as long as you choose, is a way to keep the club healthy and strong. -- *Candace Hitchcock*

GTNF has lasted 50 years because the people are warm and welcoming. My aunt, Vickie Percy, joined Newcomers when she and her husband retired and moved to Georgetown in 1983. I remember her talking about the new friends they made. When I retired and moved to Georgetown in 2011, I elected to live closer to my family rather than live in Sun City. Joining Newcomers enabled me to make new friends and join groups such as bridge groups and a walking group that I was interested in. As I made new friends, I was invited to join other organizations as well, but I have remained a member of Newcomers. I made a new "best" friend, Karen Liechty, who started a new lunch group. It became very popular and so I worked with her to start a second lunch group. Karen moved, but the lunch group is still active today. (Karen and I are friends for life. We correspond frequently and travel together too.) -- *Mary Lou Percy*

We owe a BIG Texas-sized thank you to our "good as gold" dream team of Board Directors (in alpha order): Ann M, Ann R., Barbara, Carolyn, Debbie, Donna, Joyce, Judy, Kathy, Mary, Mary Jo, Norma, Peggy, Patti, Ruby, Susan. You have kept us GTNF Strong.

Gratefully,
MaryAnn Sossamon & Diane Habas – Co-Presidents

Newcomers General Meeting
May 4, 2023 10:00 am
Sign-in & Social 9:30—9:55
Georgetown Library in the Hewlett Room
402 W 8th Street, Georgetown, TX

Annual Style Show and Luncheon

Newcomers pauses our general meetings in the summer, so this will be the last time we gather until September. The May meeting is a special one, marked by our annual Style Show and luncheon. We'll also vote on and install the new board members.



Our Style Show is once again hosted by Pink Poppy ARTisans Boutique. Store owner Kay Briggs says, "Pink Poppy is not your ordinary boutique. By design, it is an extension of what I love in this world - art, fashion, women, and community. Pink Poppy offers Made in the USA clothing, gifts, handbags, accessories and locally produced apparel, jewelry, and art. Women's clothing is available in sizes 2-18, with styles ranging from classic to artistic, and fitting a wide variety of body shapes. Exclusive lines include Brighton, Consuela, Bryn Walker, HOBLO, Vera Bradley and more. Pink Poppy's culture is that beauty comes in all shapes, sizes, and taste. So we celebrate women here at Pink Poppy and hope to see you in our boutique!"

We have seven members who have volunteered to model, and each will wear 2 or 3 different outfits, so you'll have an opportunity to see the wide variety of styles that Kay offers in her boutique.

After the show, we'll enjoy luncheon on site from Little Lemon at the Library.

Mark your Calendars

Watch this space for future events!

Summers are often filled with even more events than usual—family vacations, graduations, weddings, etc. While there are no general meetings in June, July, or August, many of the SIGs continue to meet. The newsletter will also be on hiatus. There will be one publication mid-summer, then regular monthly issues will resume with the September edition landing in your inboxes in late August. Please continue to post your photos on our private Facebook page, or send them to me at GTNF.Newsletter@gmail.com.

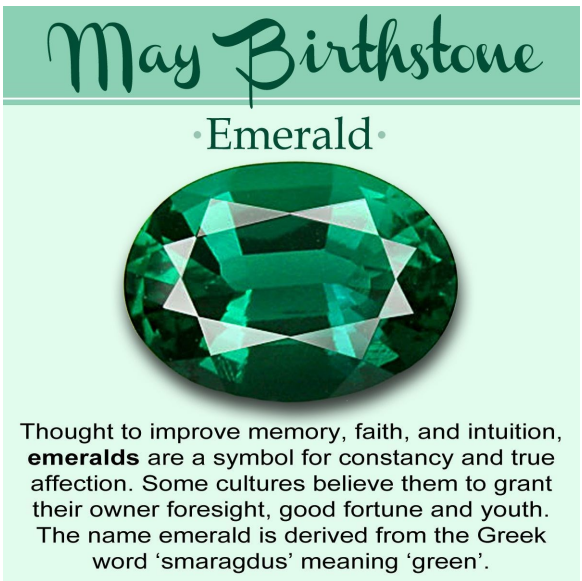
New Members

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.

Nancy Fitzgerald Tammy Raiford Laura Wellbrock

May Birthdays

- 1 Rickie Rieck
- 2 Linda Pinkston
- 3 Louise Smith
- 4 Vicki Lindsay
- 5 Mary Harlan
- 5 Lynne Hester
- 7 Judy Robinson
- 10 Virginia Lee
- 12 Deborah Peoples
- 14 Lois Hammelman
- 14 "Mo" Mohamid
- 17 Linda Baer
- 17 Anne Hanner
- 19 Alice York
- 21 Mary Ann Molliver
- 22 Mary Dececchi-Baros
- 22 Panchita Garrett
- 23 Joan Paduano
- 24 Kathy Cox
- 26 Becky Switzer
- 26 Geri Tease
- 27 Diane McIntyre
- 27 Ann Weir
- 29 Cavitt Richmond
- 30 Rosemary Allen



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 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 & 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><i>Wander Walkers</i></p> <p>Monday & Wednesday 9-10am. The Lead emails 2 month schedule 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 that 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>Page Turners</i></p> <p>1st Wednesday of the month, 10am. We meet in member homes. We discuss all genres. We have a facilitator who guides us.</p>	<p><i>Sleuths</i></p> <p>3rd Friday, 10 a.m.—noon, year-round. Books are exclusively mystery books. Each member has a turn to host in her home. December meeting is usually an “out to lunch” event.</p>
<p><i>Reel Women</i></p> <p>Usually 3rd Tuesday. Gather for a matinee movie at Georgetown City Lights. 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>1st Monday at various locations</p>	<p><i>Bridge</i></p> <p>Formulating a new SIG of experienced players. Will most likely meet Wednesday or Thursday afternoons. Please let us know if you’re interested & we’ll keep you posted.</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 \$. If enough people, we play with card to rotate tables</p>	<p><i>Evening Mahjong</i></p> <p>3rd Wednesday 5-8 pm. Each brings \$3 but we keep playing if one loses her money. Light snack & drink provided by host who rotates monthly</p>	<p><i>Mahjong Mavens</i></p> <p>2nd & 4th Thursday 1pm at the Berry Creek Country Club.</p>
<p><i>Hand & Foot Canasta</i></p> <p>1st Thursday from 1:30 to 4 or 5 p.m.</p>		<p><i>Pennies from Heaven Canasta</i></p> <p>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>

MORE OPEN SIGs

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ready to Roll Bunco</i></p> <p>1st Wednesday 6:30~9pm. Each member will host one month while offering food, drink & hostess gift. The food for example can be... A casserole with salad, cookies/ cake & drinks. OR Chili/pulled pork with all the fixings/toppings, salad, cornbread, soda/water/wine & dessert(s). We eat for 30 minutes then play. \$5 pay-in for the hopeful big payouts.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Wine Divas</i></p> <p>2nd Thursday, 4—6 p.m.. September—May. Does not meet in the summer. We meet in a member’s home & 2 people choose the wine and the appetizers. Sometimes go out to a wine bar. We discuss the wines and review information. Light education and loads of fun!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Grape Expectations</i></p> <p>4th Thursday at 4:30 p.m. Each member volunteers to host in her home once a year. Hostess provides appetizers and 5 wines based on a theme (can be as simple as “wines my friends & I enjoy”). Each attendee donates \$10 to help cover the hostess costs.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Tuesday Traveling Tasters</i></p> <p>2nd Tuesday of the month to explore new restaurants & enjoy fun conversation. Does not meet in the summer.</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



Always fun!

Move around, meet people, eat,
drink with this SO fun game!

First Wednesday of the month, 6:30—9:00

Each member hosts a month, supplying host gift, food,

Game is best with 12, so regulars & subs are always needed

Contact NewcomersSIGCoordinator@gmail.com



April General Meeting Cowan Creek Pavilion



Andy Brazell, of Weir Wildscapes gave a great program about creating native gardens with plants that are drought- and deer-resistant, and that attract pollinators.



35—40 of us braved the cold & rainy day, and were rewarded with an excellent presentation.



Warming up after the meeting with lunch at Mulligan's in Sun City



Bunco



Hostess Kare Wright



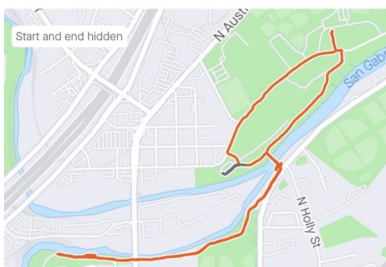


Enjoying all the beautiful poppies downtown on our April 5th walk

Walk n Talk



Distance 3.00 mi Steps 7,782 Time 1h 15m



San Gabriel Park

Coffee & Conversation



Hostess Ann Mayberry presenting Karen Crosby, founder & Executive Director of The Locker, the charity Ann chose for donations



Donations for The Locker



The Locker brochures—and a yummy casserole from Barbara



Door prize winners



Door prizes



Cellar Dwellers



Linda Pinkston replicated the menu served at the recent rehearsal dinner for her son and daughter-in-law



A touch of formality first—and then, hilarity...

Who has the most comfortable shoes? ??



Painted Churches Bus Trip

Thirty-five of us enjoyed a tour of four painted churches in the towns of Praha, Dubina, Ammannsville, & High Hill. After a stop for lunch at The Oakridge Smokehouse in Schulenburg, we finished off the day in La Grange at the Replica of the Grotto of Lourdes.



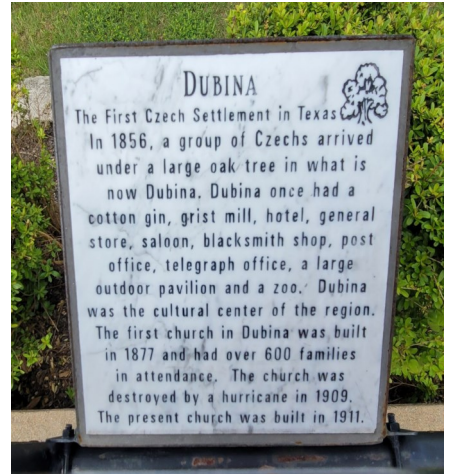
St. Mary's Catholic—Praha



Texas wildflowers grow in this heaven



Painted Churches Bus Trip



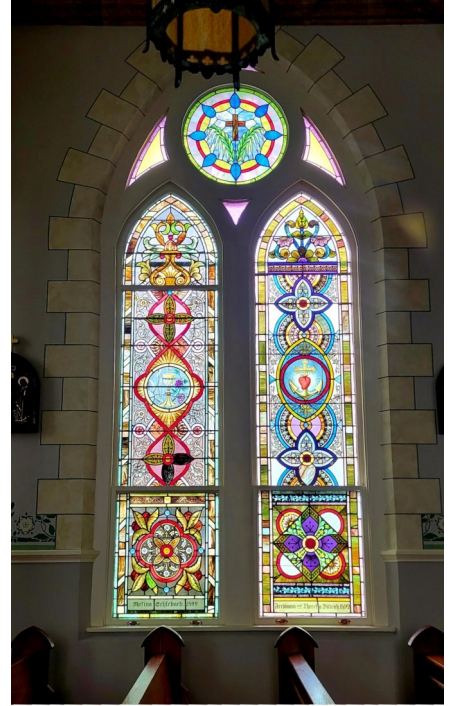
St. Cyril & Methodius—Dubina



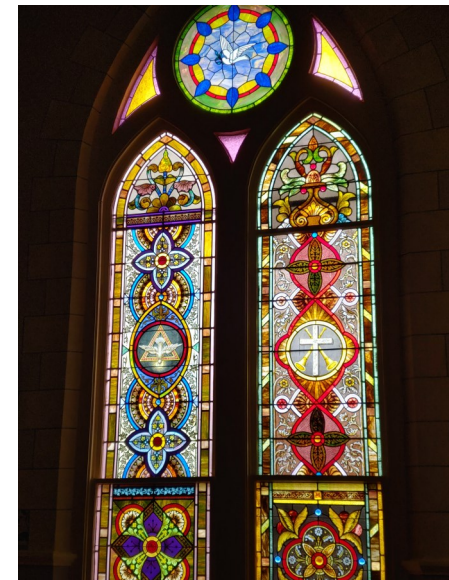
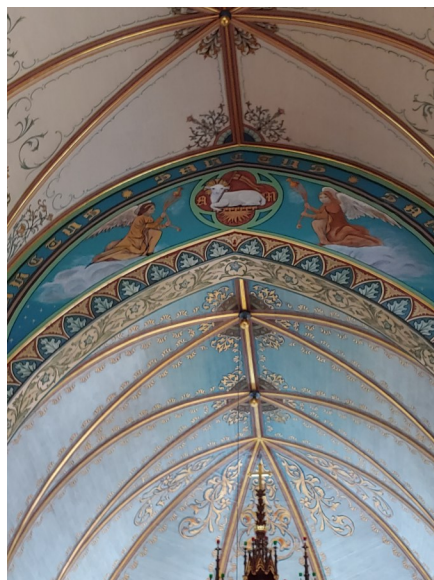
Painted Churches Bus Trip



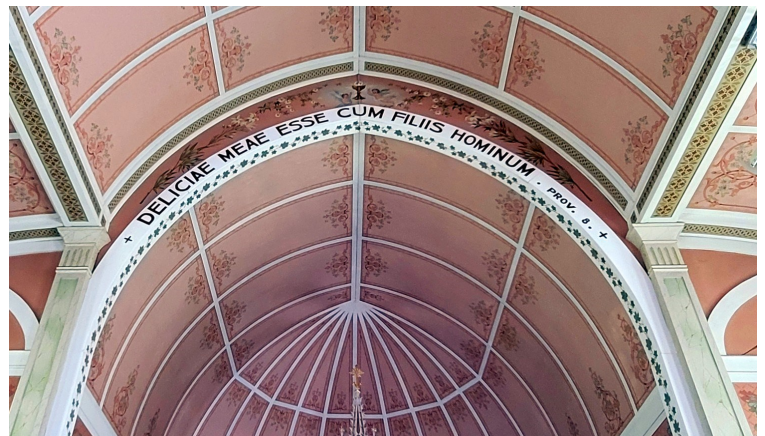
St. Mary's—High Hill



This church had the most stunning stained glass windows



Painted Churches Bus Trip



St. John the Baptist Catholic—known as “The Pink Church”

Ammannsville

Painted Churches Bus Trip



Replica of the Grotto
at Lourdes, France
La Grange

The church burned,
but the Grotto
remains



Mystery Book Club- Divas & Dudes

At Dale's in Walburg , discussing *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*, by Alexander McCall Smith. Lively conversation & the best burgers in Texas!



The Dinner Group

Tuscano Italian Kitchen
Cedar Park

Cosmo Girls



Fountain of Youth



Leslie, Cheryl, Debra, Barb



Michele, MaryAnn, Donna



Kitten Fizz



Assorted yummys



Flowers picked & arranged by hostess Mary Hoverson

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 238 members, and 62 of these are new. 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.

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](#)

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 110 members following the Facebook page, so come and join us there!

