



NEWCOMERS AND FRIENDS OF GEORGETOWN

Summer 2023

GeorgetownNewcomers.COM



Ruby Branham



Donna Hood

From the Co-Presidents

Hello Members,

It's summertime, and while our monthly general meetings have paused until September, many of our SIGs will continue through the summer months, and our Board of Directors is busily working behind the scenes to ensure we have an effective and informative program year planned for all of our members.

Our organization is being guided this upcoming year by Co-Presidents Ruby Branham and Donna Hood. Ruby is a native Texan, born and raised in central Texas, with a German heritage. That should explain her Texas slang. She has been married for 42 years and blessed with 3 daughters and 5 grandchildren. She spent most of her working years in the Houston area with all its traffic, heat, humidity and hurricanes. After working in the oil industry for 35 years, Ruby retired and moved to Sun City with her husband in 2019 to find a quieter place to live, not knowing anyone. Luckily the street she moved to just happened to have numerous ladies who already belonged to Georgetown Newcomers. In record time she was introduced to the club and joined. She cannot say enough about how this group helped make the transition to a new area of Texas fun and easy. The joining of multiple SIGs has allowed her to make some really good friendships. As Co-President of the club, it is her goal to help others have the same great experience.

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Donna and her family are originally from Tyler, Texas. She and her husband of 45 years have 2 married girls and 3 grandchildren, all residing in the Georgetown/Austin area. Their family relocated to northern California in 1996 upon her husband's acceptance of a job opportunity. In 2006, being homesick for their Texas roots, they decided to return to Texas, making Georgetown their home. Donna continued to work until 2016, when she retired from 28 years as an elementary educator. She spent the next 4 years working as a substitute teacher in GISD until the beginning of the Covid 19 pandemic. In September of 2020, after months of sheltering in place, she began a search for ways to meet people and to get involved in the community. It wasn't long before she found the Newcomers organization and its many benefits. Since then, she has consistently participated in several SIGs, met lots of people, and made some good friends. She has served on the Newcomers Board of Directors the previous 2 years in the capacity of Coffee & Conversation Coordinator and Co-1st Vice President. In addition to her involvement in GTNF, she volunteers when she is able, attempts to keep her flowers and garden alive in this extreme heat, and spends as much time as possible with her 3 grandkids.

We, Ruby and Donna, are both honored and very excited about serving as your Co-Presidents this year. We hope to make the year exciting for all of our members as well. We would like to remind everyone that our membership drive for the 2023-2024 year will begin August 1st and continue through September 30th. The dues will continue to be \$25.00 annually. If you have already paid your membership dues for 2023-2024, no worries, our membership team has you covered!

We'll see y'all in September,
Ruby & Donna
Co-Presidents, GTNF
2023-2024



2023—2024 Board Members

Here are the names of your board members for the fiscal year 2023-2024. The slate was presented to the membership at the April 6 general meeting, and the officers were voted in and installed at the May 4 meeting. The position of 1st Vice President is still open. Please consider volunteering to fill that spot and add your talents to this great group!

Executive Committee

Co-Presidents	Donna Hood Ruby Branham
1st Co-Vice Presidents	Position available
Membership	Debbie Krenek and Kathy Stevens
Secretary	Patti Groce
Treasurer	Carolyn Shaver
Communications/Website	Susan Harmon
Programs	Alice York and Joyce Gunderson
Publicity	Mary Jo Doggett
Special Interest Groups	Barbara Hansen
Coffee & Conversation	Rosemary Anderson
Hospitality	Sandy Mitschke

Non-Board Positions

Day Trips	Mary Dunn Ann Mayberry Peggy Sklar
Newsletter	Ann Ramage



Donna Hood



Ruby Branham



Debbie Krenek



Kathy Stevens



Patti Groce



Carolyn Shaver



Susan Harmon



Alice York



Joyce Gunderson



Mary Jo Doggett



Barbara Hansen



Rosemary Anderson



Sandy Mitschke

Newcomers General Meeting
September 14, 2023 10:00 am
Sign-in & Social 9:30—9:55
Georgetown Library in the Hewlett Room
402 W 8th Street, Georgetown, TX

We are looking forward to kicking off our new year with our members on September 14, 2023, the 2nd Thursday, in the upstairs meeting room in the Georgetown Library at 402 W. 8th Street.

It is necessary to move our general meetings to the 2nd Thursday for September and October because we were unable to reserve space on our customary first Thursday.

We are happy to announce that we have arranged for a private tour of the Williamson County Courthouse. We'll begin around 10:30 am in the library meeting room with an introduction by a Williamson County Museum staff member.

Wear comfortable shoes to take the 5-minute walk from the library to the courthouse and to walk the tour. You are welcome to drive your car and meet us at the front of the courthouse at 710 S. Main Street. The tour guides will split us into 2 groups. One group will tour the 26th District Courtroom and hear about its history, while the other group will take the regular 20-minute tour. The groups will then switch and take the other tour.



So, round up your friends and invite them to join our membership!

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

Mark your Calendars

September 14, 2023—General Membership Meeting in the **Georgetown Public Library, Hewlett Room, 2nd Floor**. Tour of the County Courthouse to begin about 10:30. Lunch afterwards to be determined.

Thursday, October 12, 2023—General Membership Meeting in the **Georgetown Public Library, Hewlett Room, 2nd Floor**. Mayor Josh Schroeder is our scheduled speaker.

Listing of 2022-2023 GTNF Donations to Good Causes

Donations designated by General Meeting speakers went to:

GTX Film Festival
Friends of the Georgetown Library
Blue Santa
Living Grace Canine Ranch
Georgetown Library
Preservation Georgetown
Lady Bird Wildflower Center
We Are Not Broken



Monetary and Item Donations from Coffee and Conversation gatherings were designated for the following:

Williamson County Animal Shelter
Georgetown Backpack Buddies
The Locker

Annual Donations to Non-Profit Organizations:

The Annunciation Home



L to R—Ruby Branham, Co-President GNF; Jennifer Morgan, Director of Donor Interest; Donna Hood, Co-President, GNF

Faith in Action



L to R—Janna Elliott, Dir of Business Operations; Tracy Barber, Program Director; Ruby Branham; Lisa Hill, Executive Director; Donna Hood

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.

Emily Galpin	Sheree Tamer	Nancy Weber	Susan Carlstrand
Cynthia Gibson	Jenna Lucroy	Judith Orr	Becky Sloan

June Birthdays

- 1 Teresa Canant-Finch
- 3 Kathy Hembd
- 6 Heide Mansouri
- 6 Carolyn Shaver
- 6 Susan Carlstrand
- 11 Joan Vogel
- 11 Mary Allen
- 12 Linda Barde-Zimmerling
- 14 Marianne Bruett
- 15 Melinda Planchard
- 15 Paula Hamblen
- 16 Linda Baker
- 17 Carlene Schultz
- 19 Kathy Stevens
- 20 Lynette Jackson
- 21 Barbara Hansen
- 23 Claudia Yanchak
- 24 Nina Cronin
- 25 Lynn Ramsey
- 27 Gwendolyn Matisziw
- 29 Teri Wildrick
- 30 Judy Carle



July Birthdays

- 1 Lynne Moran
- 2 Margaret Ricketts
- 4 Susan Barton
- 5 Necia Chessman
- 7 Mary Hrbek
- 9 Delores Humphries-Dolsen
- 9 Vickie Keith
- 10 Peggy Sklar
- 13 Betty Luedecke
- 13 Lisa Heisel
- 14 Jena Lucroy
- 15 Georgia Bishop
- 16 Judy Conklin
- 18 Ann Mayberry
- 18 Carol Wilson
- 21 Beryl Bogan
- 22 Terry Dolan
- 24 Kare Wright
- 25 Delma Guerrero
- 28 Becky Sloan
- 30 Lydia Pierce
- 31 Pat Butterfield
- 31 Donna Craig



July Birthstone

• Ruby •



A **ruby** provides strength, vigor, and nobility, helping protect its wearer from the evils of the world. It signifies love and passion while attracting good luck.

July

BIRTH FLOWER

positivity
open heart
dignity
grace
first love



LARKSPUR

August Birthdays

- 5 Carolyn Patterson
- 5 Donna Holt
- 8 Ann Ramage
- 8 Cindy Woodbyrne
- 12 Angie Henley
- 14 Michelle Wright
- 14 Nancy Weber
- 16 Rosemary Dawsey
- 18 Rosemary Berkley
- 19 Joyce Gunderson
- 22 Jeretta Fischer
- 22 Miriam Hussey
- 22 Judy Howard
- 22 Debra Reineke
- 24 Judith Coroneos
- 25 Mary Hoverson
- 25 Leslie Shiller
- 26 Deborah Laperouse
- 26 Mary Jo Doggett
- 26 Jeanne DuBois
- 27 Sandy Mitschke
- 28 Maureen Walsh Greger
- 28 Setta Smith
- 29 Janellyn Lipinski
- 30 Mary Klute
- 31 Ann Holliday

★ HAPPY ★
BIRTHDAY!

August Birthstone

Peridot



Symbolizing dignity, fame, and prosperity. **Peridots** have been used in jewellery through the ages to achieve peace and success, and to attract love and good fortune. Hawaiians believe the traces of peridot found in volcanic ash are the tears of the volcano goddess, Pele.

august

BIRTH FLOWER

strength of character
faithfulness
integrity
infatuation
persistence



GLADIOLUS

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 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>3rd Thursday, starting at 1 pm for experienced players. Will rotate homes amongst members. Just tell us how many you can accommodate & we will try to fill with fun folks.</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><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><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 & Verde Vista clubhouse. 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><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><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>		<p><i>K.I.S.S.</i> <i>(Keep It Simple Supper)</i></p> <p>4 times a year with a flexible meet day & time, usually been on a weekend. Next gathering will be September. Hostess makes main dish- others bring sides. Meet in each other’s homes, with each taking a turn to host.</p> <p>Looking for 1 couple</p>

NEW & UPCOMING

<p><i>New Couples Dinner</i></p> <p>Looking for one more couple.</p>	<p><i>Friday 8am Walking</i></p> <p>Looking to start this fall, probably in October, when things cool somewhat</p>	<p><i>Theater SIG????</i></p>
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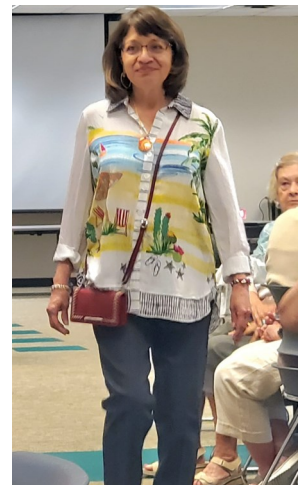
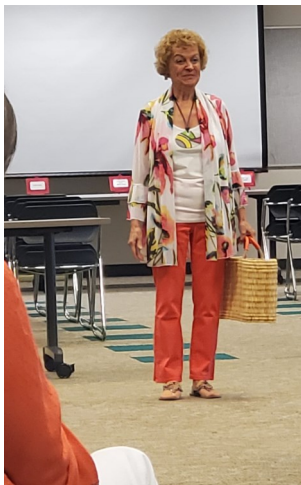
May General Meeting Georgetown Public Library



Annual Style Show featuring fashions from **Pink Poppy Artisans Boutique**, and modeled by our members

L—R: Kay Briggs, owner; Ruby Branham; Cindy Chavez; Belinda Sikorski; Eunice Balke; Ann Ramage; Mary Dunn; Susan Streeter; superhelper Christina

Luncheon provided by **Little Lemon** at the Library



Tuesday Out to Lunch



Fish City Grill—Georgetown in May

In June, we enjoyed Louisiana Longhorn
Café in Round Rock



Grape Expectations



Above — April with host Pam McKee

Below & right—May, celebrating National Wine Day



Grape Expectations

June—Season Three Winery—Briggs, TX



Guys' Poker Night



May



June

Reel Women



City Lights—Georgetown
Brix & Ale



The Dinner Group



**Celebrating Memorial Day
& Mike Dunn's birthday
Roaring Fork Restaurant in
North Austin**



SIG Appreciation Brunch



Front to back—Debbie (host & Page Turners), Sally (Divot Divas), and Betty (Scrabble)

Thank you, Debbie, for hosting us!



Our tireless SIG leader and organizer extraordinaire, Barbara Hansen -

Many thanks for all you do!



Sandy (Bunco & Hospitality)
Susie (Cellar Dwellers)

Some of our leads weren't able to attend. Know that you were there in spirit—and are greatly appreciated!



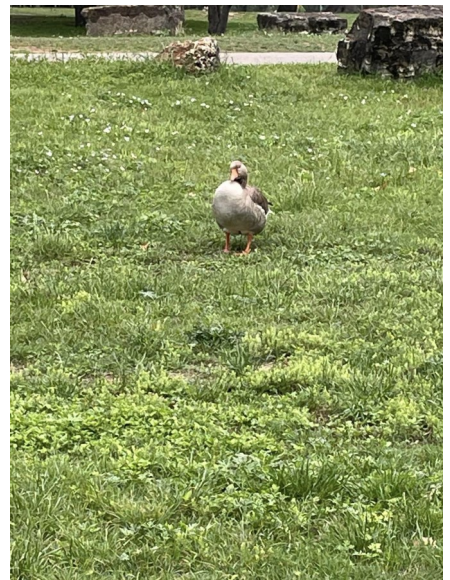
Ann (Co-Reel Women & Newsletter); Maryann (Co-Cosmo Girls & (past) Co-President)



Judy (Co-2nd Friday Book Club)
Kathy (Hand & Foot Canasta)
Emelie (Sleuths Book Club)



Walk n Talk



Still walking—even in the heat. Just starting a little earlier.

Recently, we've been to Overlook Park, Stilling Basin and San Gabriel Park.



Girls Who Cook



Grilled pork chops with berry summer salsa—Chee Hart



Avocado caviar—Donna Hurley & Barbara Hansen



Mandarin cranberry wild rice—Susie Logan



Mixed greens with hearts of palm—Mary Ann Molliver

Yummy spread, hosted by Chee Hart and featuring recipes by Sandra Lee. Chee also provided a berry mimosa!



Berry cobbler with vanilla ice cream—Diane Hill

Tile Toters

Hosted by Patti



Bunco



Above—Belinda hosted in May

Right & below—Linda hosted in June



Cosmo Girls

Hosted by Barbara—and featuring cocktails made with Sotol



What is sotol, anyway?

Sotol is a distilled spirit made from the sotol plant native to the Chihuahuan Desert, which spans West Texas, northern Mexico and southern portions of New Mexico and Arizona. The spiny desert shrub, also known as desert spoon, grows wild and weed-like. It is part of the asparagus family and a distant cousin to agave, which is the source of mezcals, including tequila. Sotol plants resemble sea-urchins and have a tall stalk with a white or yellow flower shooting from the center during the summer months.



MATADOOR

- 50mL Bottle of Desert Door Original Texas Sotol
- 6 oz Can Dole Pineapple Juice
- Lime Wedge or Juice
- Chili Lime Salt (Optional, For Rim)

Before cracking open the can, rub lime wedge around the rim. Dip can rim in chili lime salt. Open can and take a big sip of pineapple juice. Squeeze lime and pour in the Desert Door.



Desert Door Distillery's Texas Sotol is sold in blue ceramic bottles that were custom-made in Mexico. The brand was founded in Driftwood, Texas, by three military veterans and natives of the state.

Desert Door Distillery

MAPLE SOTOL'D FASHIONED

- 2 oz Desert Door Oak-Aged or Original Texas Sotol
- 1 Teaspoon Maple Syrup (0.25 oz)
- 2 Dashes Angostura Bitters
- Orange Peel

Stir syrup, bitters, and sotol in your cup. Using your pocket knife, peel an orange over cocktail and place on top. Add ice.

Cellar Dwellers



Jere Hanchack hosted a Mexican-themed evening— Mexican wines and yummy food!



Membership

Reminder—Please let Sandy Mitschke know when you joined Newcomers, if you haven't already done so. Email her at newcomers@georgetownnewcomers.com.

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 245 members, and 69 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!

