



The Golden Gazette

February 2024

Treasure of the Hills Senior Center

Volume XXXIV

Number 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Ellen Fannin

During the interview with Lois Carlson's daughter last month, when we honored her as one of the earliest members of Treasure of the Hills, I was reminded that the founders of TOTH created our organization as a volunteer organization. And, 33 years later, we continue as a volunteer organization.

What this means is that we rely on volunteers to serve in the numerous capacities that help the Center to function and thrive. We are extremely fortunate to have a very dedicated Managing Director we rely on, and although it is a paid position, she is only one person and has myriad duties that consume her hours.

The majority of our members are retirees, and we (me included) often feel like we've given our time and talents in the past, and we're ready to let someone else do it. We're ready to just come play our games or enjoy the meals.

The problem with this is that the Center may need your skills and talents to help in certain areas. There are several teams where we need volunteers. Below is a list of some of the volunteers we need. Please read through the following paragraphs and if you possess skills that could help, consider donating your time and talent to the Center.

How do you volunteer? There are several ways:

- 1) Call the Center, 512-331-6000, and talk with either the receptionist or Lisa, our Managing Director.
- 2) Email toth.director.tx@gmail.com and let Lisa know where or what you are interested in helping with. You can also email me, your board president at fanninellen@gmail.com.
- 3) Talk with any of the current Board members. There is a list of the members later in this newsletter. Any of them would be happy to help direct you to the right person.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Publicity & Public Awareness: As methods of communication change, we need to change with them. We are looking for people who are familiar with not only marketing, networking and publicity, but with websites, social media and other current forms of communication. We want to get TOTH's name and activities out to the community.

We are in need of a team leader and team members who can help with our website, our facebook page, and our presence on social media. Others are needed to attend networking events.

Receptionists: Mary Riordon oversees and schedules the receptionists who work in the front office, answering phones and helping those who come into the office with a variety of questions. Mary provides in-depth training and works with your schedule when assigning times to work. No training is currently scheduled.

Nominating Committee: Sandy Williams has agreed to act as the Nominating Committee Chairperson for 2024 but is in need of others to serve on the team. The Nominating Committee finds individuals willing to run for the Board. It is helpful for team members to have been around the Center for awhile and to know other members.

Annual Planning: On Monday, February 5th at 10:30 a.m., we are holding an open Annual Planning session. We will be scheduling events and presentations for 2024 and would love to have input from members, old and new, about things they are interested in having at the Center. All members are welcome to attend.

Event Coordinator: As we schedule events for the coming year, we will be in need of people to serve as coordinators for specific events. If you are more interested in short-term volunteering, this is a perfect opportunity. For example, if we want to put a Super Bowl Party on the schedule, we need someone to act as the go-to person for that event.

Graphics: Planning for the 2024 Senior Expo has already begun and we would like to produce a flyer with new information to send to potential vendors. We also have the TOTH brochure and literature that needs updating. If you have an eye for graphics, we need your help.

VP NOTES

by Chris Campbell

Years ago, in a self-help book - I don't remember which one - a highly successful person revealed his number one secret to success; "Surround yourself with people who are smarter than you are." Well, through dumb luck, I seem to have stumbled into just that situation! Treasure of the Hills has an impressive President, Treasurer, Secretary and Board. I'll try to keep up!

We have been brainstorming various areas of events and activities, looking at securing dates for the traditional ones and always with a view to any new ideas members may have. To this end, we are hosting a brainstorming session to help us determine events and groups we want for 2024. You and all members of TOTH are invited to join us on Monday, February 5th at 10:30 am for an annual planning meeting. We will be discussing new events and possibly reviving old ones. We want your input so please join us. I, for one, wouldn't mind seeing a Scrabble group emerge if there's any interest! Let me know! And we have a fledgling book club getting off the ground too, if that appeals. (So far we have covered "Dubliners," by James Joyce, "The Black Echo," by Michael Connelly, and are currently reading "Killers of the Flower Moon," by David Grann. All genres are game, so all suggestions are welcome.)

Also, feel free to come to me with any "issues" regarding our wonderful Center. I'm a good listener, and a fair and impartial confidante/mediator with my background working with large groups of teenagers (especially at an all-girls school - you can probably imagine!)

Thanks for allowing me to be your new VP!



MEMBERSHIP DUES

Time is running out to renew your membership for 2024 if you have not already done so.

Members who have not renewed by February 15th lose membership privileges, which means not getting TOTH communications and not being able to participate in member activities.

Don't let this happen to you!

TAX SERVICES

from John Schlembach, AARP

The Treasure of the Hills Senior Center has partnered with AARP (American Association of Retired People) Foundation Tax-Aide to provide federal tax preparation help to anyone, free of charge. The focus is on taxpayers who are over 50 and have low to moderate income.

Why TOTH Partnered with AARP Foundation Tax-Aide

AARP Tax-Aide is the largest free, volunteer-based tax assistance and preparation program in the U.S. There is no need to be a member of AARP or the Senior Center for this free service. The U.S. tax code is complicated. As a result, many taxpayers overpay, turn to services they can't afford, or don't file — missing out on credits and deductions they've earned. AARP volunteers will help you obtain the highest refund to which you are legally entitled. They are trained and IRS-certified every year to make sure they understand the latest changes to the tax code.

When Will this Service be Available?

The Senior Center will be hosting AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers on Wednesdays in February (and part of March if necessary).

How Do I Obtain this Service?

It is just a two step process.

1. Call 512-333-0471 to make an appointment to meet at the Center with a Tax-Aide volunteer to prepare your taxes. You will be given additional information then and your questions will be answered.
2. Return to the Center to review and sign your completed return.

We hope you find this service beneficial.

Enjoy the little things in life because one day you'll look back and realize they were the big things.

Kurt Vonnegut

TOTH BOARD NOTES

by Zane Lowenstein

AARP will conduct a free federal tax service for low to moderate income people at TOTH on Wednesdays from 11 am to 3:30 pm from February 7 to March 19. It will be open to TOTH members and the general public.

The second meeting to complete the Bylaws Review was scheduled for 9:30 am on January 29. The proposed Bylaws revisions were presented to the Board of Directors for approval prior to presentation to the TOTH members for final approval.

The TOTH Policies & Procedures must also be reviewed to ensure consistency and continuity with the revised Bylaws. The Bylaws review committee will conduct the review of the Policies & Procedures review.

The Board of Directors approved Sandy Williams as chair of the 2024 Standing Nominating Committee.

MISSING

Has anybody seen the small metal scoop that used to be on top of the icemaker? If you know where it is, please tell Lisa or get it to her. Thanks!

LOST AND FOUND

by Lisa Leirvaag

The "Lost & Found" drawer is filling up again. Does any of this belong to you? (See picture!)

- Thermal bag
- Stainless tumbler
- Plastic tumbler
- Mug
- Small plastic cow
- Sunglasses
- Paperback: Judgment at Bridge by Mike Lawrence
- Rings
- Tennis ball (not in the picture)



JEWELRY CLASS

by Mary Riordon

We freelance on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 10am in the TOTH library. The group on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays hopes to continue class in March.

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Denny Clauson

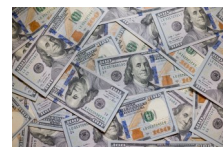
Total income for December \$5,245

Total expenses for December \$4,868

As expected, the investment account gained \$14,904 in December. That is about a \$30,000 gain during the last two months, which is typically matched by a similar loss in the first quarter. But overall good gains for 2023.

For the year total income was \$50,762 vs. budgeted income of \$40,723.

Expenses for the year were right on plan at \$57,215 actual vs. \$57,352 budgeted.



MEMORIAL FUND

A contribution was made in honor of

Jeri Finn by

Lisa Leirvaag



NEW: WALKING GROUP

The new TOTH Walking Group met for the first time on Saturday, January 13th at 10 am in the Twin Lakes YMCA parking lot. We walked 2.46 miles on the Brushy Creek Trail in 57 minutes. All 5 participants enjoyed the walk, and we decided to continue to meet. Date, time and location might change. Please contact Lisa Leirvaag for more information, or if you would like to join this group. Walks are expected to take 45 minutes to an hour.



CALLING ALL PINOCHLE

PLAYERS!

We are looking for an additional 4 to 8 players. The schedule is wide open – Monday thru Friday, any times. Currently four people play every Thursday from 11:30 am to 2 pm. But we are looking for more players and are flexible in scheduling so more interested people have an opportunity to play. Also – feel free to bring your own 'way of playing' and start a new table! Please contact the office to provide your contact information and someone will get in touch. We want to have more tables, and maybe start a tournament in the spring!

PUBLICITY POSITION

We are looking for members for the Publicity and Public Awareness Committee.

Are you the outgoing type who loves to meet new people, is familiar with social media (especially Facebook), and is a bit computer savvy? If so, you might be just the person we're looking for!

The Publicity and Public Awareness Committee is responsible for generating awareness of the Senior Center to the news media and outlets that are read and/or frequented by its target audiences. The committee publicizes TOTH activities to its membership and other interested constituencies.

We are also in need of individuals who are familiar with social media and determining website content — individuals who can help us have more of a presence online.

If you are interested, please contact Ellen Fannin or Lisa Leirvaag for more information.



CRUISE

by Mary Riordon

It is less than 90 days until we depart on the Carnival Dream for Key West and the Bahamas, April 20 to April 28. Our Carnival Personal Vacation Planner is Barry Atlas, BAtlas @Carnival.com or 800-819-3902 ext 82327 I am the local contact, 512-260-8876 (a landline so no texts).



Our next meeting is Feb 15 at 2PM.

CONSTABLE'S CORNER

by Constable Jeff Anderson

In January, Constable Jeff Anderson presented a talk at TOTH about "Scams." We were so impressed with the information he provided, we have asked him to make regular contributions to the Gazette that will feature safety tips for seniors. If there is a specific question or topic you would like to hear about, contact the office and we will forward it to Constable Jeff.

Personal Safety

- Keep family and friends informed of basic information on how to find you such as Where, When, Who, and How Long.
- The adage "There is safety in numbers" is true.



CALENDAR NOTES

- TOTH is closed February 19th for Presidents Day.
- AARP Tax-Aide is available for appointments, Wednesdays 11 am to 3:30 pm.
- Dinner Club is February 1st at 5 pm at Midori Sushi, 13435 N Hwy 183, Austin, TX 78750
- The Annual Planning Meeting is February 5th at 10:30 am.

- Go out in pairs or groups whenever possible.
- Communicate the message that you are calm, confident and know where you are going! Stand tall, walk with purpose, and make eye contact with people around you.
- Familiarize yourself with the route to and from your intended destinations. Look at maps, know the cross-streets and surrounding landmarks familiar to most.
- Be aware of your surroundings! Look to see who is in front of you and behind you. If you are concerned about your safety, ask a friend to accompany you.
- Take different routes to recurring destinations so people cannot chart your routine.
- Trust your instincts! If you feel uncomfortable in a place or situation, simply leave.
- If you need to draw attention, yell "FIRE" as loud as you can repeatedly. People respond to the word "fire" more often and more quickly than they do to "help".
- You and your loved ones are your most prized possessions. Replaceable items are not worth your life. Do not engage attackers stealing property. Call '911."
- Consider investing in self-defense classes and defensive items such as pepper spray, and do practice drills. The more comfortable you are with these things, the better prepared you will be.

On The Street When Walking Alone

- Walk only on busy, well-lighted streets, even if it makes the trip a little longer.
- Bring a walking stick, umbrella, golf club, or long handled flashlight you can use as a weapon if necessary.
- If using earphones to listen to music, use only one earpiece, enabling you to still hear surrounding sounds.
- Carry your cell phone when walking or jogging.
- Avoid shortcuts such as parking lots, alleys, open fields, and wooded areas.
- Carry no more money or credit cards than you absolutely need.

- Bunco is trying to resume, February 7th and 21st at 1:30 in the Library.
- Meet & Eat is February 20 at 1 pm at County Line on the Lake, 2204 FM 2222, Austin, TX, 78731.





NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION

For November-December 2023, January 2024

Each quarter, we will be featuring the new members from the previous three months so that we can get to know them better and welcome them into our community.

This month, we are recognizing the new members from November and December 2023 and January 2024.

Each has a brief paragraph that will help you learn more about them.

Make a point of seeking them out and introducing yourself.

Duane & Emma Sue Johnson

Joined November 1, 2023

Emma Sue and Duane are friends of Midge Norris, who joined last year, so they decided to follow suit. They are very interested in doing things with others our age. They used to love scuba diving, but recently got rid of their gear although they still love to be around the water. They both sing every Sunday in Concert Choir at Bethany Methodist and love to play gin rummy. Duane was quick to say that watching children run around makes him laugh, and they both enjoy good, clean, funny movies. Emma Sue says she has to laugh when she thinks about all the joint replacements she has had and where we are in life.



Anita Falkofske Eaton

Joined November 14, 2023

Anita first heard about TOTH from friends who share her love of paper crafting. She joined the Center because of that but also she loves to play bingo. She has many hobbies and interests, things such as paper crafting, painting, reading and yoga. She enjoys crossword puzzles, especially the Wall Street Journal puzzle. She bakes and cooks and loves to travel. In fact, she has been to all the continents except Antarctica. Watching her cat and dog play together makes her laugh, as well as having fun with friends.



Keith & Colleen Regan

Colleen joined on December 1, 2023; Keith joined on December 4, 2023

The Regans have lived in Buttercup for 37 years and have watched our building transform from the build-

ers' office to the MUD office and finally to Treasure of the Hills Senior Center, which they are quick to say is a wonderful addition to the community. When Colleen retired in October 2023, she was looking for a way to meet new friends in the commu-



Keith & Colleen Regan

nity. Keith still works full-time but plans to go part-time in July, so for awhile Colleen will be coming by herself. The two of them have lots of hobbies and interests. They include: camping, hiking, kayaking, the gym, nutrition, cooking, spiritual pursuits, reading, puzzles and games. Colleen says that their senses of humor are ever-present and they find time to laugh every day at one thing or another.

Cathy Warmerdam

Joined on December 8, 2023

Cathy heard about Treasure of the Hills through her friend Emily Steude. She really liked the presentations we offer, so she joined. She enjoys crossword puzzles, reading and watching movies. The antics of her grandkid is what makes her laugh.



Connie Ellis

Joined January 5, 2024

Connie, our newest member, found Treasure of the Hills through an internet search and joined in order to meet new people and find new hobbies. Animal bloopers are her go-to for a good laugh.



Welcome to every one of you!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Nancy Osuna	01
Marilyn McCarthy	02
Caryn Cluiss	03
Porter Kier	03
Emilie Steude	03
Ben Trimble	04
Sharon Killough	05
Ann Gleaton	06
Emma Sue Johnson	06
Carol Hastings	07
Bobbie McKissick	07
Peter Klein	08
Cathy Meister	08
Doc Rainey	08
David Brewer	09
Penny Trimble	10
Mary Jane Moynihan	11
Janet MacFarland	13
Lyle Williamson	13
Kathy Moskwa	15
Lynne Bounds	16
Hiroko Miller	16
Ken Williams	17
Roger Patrick	18
Nancy Hayter	19
Kate Albrecht	21
Jane Herrin	21
Renay Lenz	24
Lori Rainey	24
Gloria Hoss	25
Lin Pastore	25
Jacquee Guida	27



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Kathie and Art Bacque	02
Dodie and Dennis Domanski	03
Evelyn and Roger Diamond	04
Harvey and Jo Koerner	12
Lin and Rich Pastore	20
Duane and Emma Sue Johnson	24
Greg and Renay Lenz	24
Patti and Warren Klein	29



NEW MEMBERS

Richard Baumgartner
 Connie Ellis
 Sidney Hodges, Jr.
 Jeri Snodgrass

FROM THE EDITOR


by Barbara Duprey

Another really full issue! You'll notice that the page showing personnel and their activities and responsibilities has been completely redesigned, and hopefully makes it easier to find what you're looking for. Ellen Fannin did the basic design — turns out she's a whiz at Publisher. Thanks, Ellen!


Please send feedback on the Gazette to bduprev@austin.rr.com.



A hug for you, my friend



Philip MacDonald
Ann Marie Logrippio



MarEllen Basalyga

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Ellen Fannin

Vice President

Chris Campbell

Treasurer

Denny Clauson

Secretary

Zane Lowenstein

Directors

Becky Goad
Frank Mignoli
Pat Thomas
Sandy Williams

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Lisa Leirvaag

Email:

toth.director.tx@gmail.com

512-331-6000

STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance: Denny Clauson

Nominating: Sandy Williams

Special Events & Resource Dev.:
OPEN

Publicity & Public Awareness:
OPEN

OPERATIONS

Bldg Maintenance: City of Cedar Park
(Lisa Leirvaag is contact)

Bookkeeping: Lori Rainey

Bulletin Board: Becky Goad

Historian: Ruby Banks,
Gail Brennen

Kitchen: Lisa Leirvaag

Library: Ruby Banks

Membership: Lisa Leirvaag,
Jeanne Allison,
Barbara Duprey

Memorials: Jan Clark

Mem'l Garden: Jim Anderson

Newsletter: Barbara Duprey

Reception: Mary Riordon

Sunshine: Jan Clark

Supplies: Lisa Leirvaag

Website: OPEN

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Breakfast (Monthly)	# \$	Pat Fiero & Frank Mignoli
Salad or Soup (Monthly)	# \$	Frank Mignoli
Meet & Eat Lunch (Monthly local)	#	MarEllen Basalyga
TOTH Dinner Club (Monthly local)	#	MarEllen Basalyga
Crafts/Jewelry Making (1st 4 wks)	#	Mary Riordon
Golf		Frank Mignoli
Sit & Fit (3 x week)		Pat Fiero
T'ai-Chi (Weekly)		Dr. Tom Barrett
Quilting Bee (Weekly)		Cindy Glenn
Special Events and Presentations	# \$	Lisa Leirvaag



Contact

Information for
these members
is available by
calling

512-331-6000

GAMES

Bingo (Monday)		Barbara Duprey
Bingo (Friday)		Barbara St. Marie
Bunco (1st and 3rd Wednesday)	#	Ruby Banks
Canasta (Weekly)	#	Bobbie McKissick
Cribbage (Weekly)	#	Stan DeRocher
Hearts (Weekly)		Chris Campbell
Mahjong (Weekly)		Georgia White
Mexican Train (Weekly)	#	MarEllen Basalyga
Pinochle (Weekly)	#	Becky Goad
Poker (Weekly)		Jerry Rubin
42 (Weekly)		Nancy Kingston



BRIDGE

<u>Duplicate Bridge:</u>	#	Tuesday (weekly)	Frank Mignoli
	#	1st and 3rd Tuesday	Sheila Perkins
	#	Friday (weekly)	Ken Birdwell
	#	3rd Friday	Joyce Francis, Sheila Perkins
<u>Rubber Bridge:</u>	#	2nd Saturday	Carolyn Patrick
	#	Tuesday (weekly)	Ed Williams, Eileen Brown

Signup Required \$ Pay in Advance



February 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
# Signup Required \$ Pay in Advance	DAILY: 9 ⁰⁰ Sit&Fit 11 ⁰⁰ '42' 1 ⁰⁰ Cribbage# 1 ⁰⁰ Bingo	DAILY: 9 ³⁰ RbrBrdg# 10 ⁰⁰ Canasta# 1 ⁰⁰ DupBrdg# 1 ⁰⁰ Poker	DAILY: 9 ⁰⁰ Sit&Fit 9 ⁰⁰ and/or 10 ⁰⁰ Hearts	DAILY: 10 ⁰⁰ T'ai-chi 11 ⁰⁰ Mahjong# 11 ³⁰ Pinochle# 12 ⁰⁰ Quilting 12 ³⁰ MexTrain#	DAILY: 9 ⁰⁰ Sit&Fit 10 ³⁰ Bingo 1 ⁰⁰ DupBrdg#	
				1 DAILY+ 5 ⁰⁰ TOTH Dinner Club#	2 DAILY	3
4	5 10 ³⁰ Annual Planning Meeting	6 DAILY+ 9 ³⁰ DupBrdg#	7 DAILY + 11 ⁰⁰ Tax- Aide 10 ⁰⁰ ExCmte 1 ³⁰ Bunco#	8 DAILY	9 DAILY +	10 1 ⁰⁰ DupBrdg#
11	12 DAILY+ 10 ⁰⁰ BOD	13 DAILY	14 DAILY+ 11 ⁰⁰ Tax- Aide 10 ⁰⁰ Jewelry Making#	15 DAILY	16 DAILY 9 ⁴⁵ DupBrdg# 11 ⁰⁰ Finance Cmte	17
18	19 CLOSED for PRESIDENTS DAY	20 DAILY+ 9 ³⁰ DupBrdg# 1 ⁰⁰ Meet&Eat*	21 DAILY+ 11 ⁰⁰ Tax- Aide 1 ³⁰ Bunco#	22 DAILY	23 DAILY	24 9 ⁰⁰ Break- fast Day # \$
25	26 DAILY	27 DAILY	28 DAILY + 11 ⁰⁰ Tax- Aide 10 ⁰⁰ Jewelry Making#	29 DAILY		



Please Remember:
 Sign in and out
 Sign up for classes and meals

Missing something? Check the Lost and Found!
 Gazette Deadline —
 17th of each month



Treasure of the Hills Senior Center

408 Ridgewood Drive, Cedar Park, TX 78613

Phone 512-331-6000

Open Monday-Friday 9am-3pm

www.toth-seniors.com