



The Golden Gazette

Treasure of the Hills Senior Center

December 2024

Volume XXXIV

Number 12

Christmas Luncheon Registration Open

It's time to put on your holiday finery! The 2024 Christmas Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 18th beginning at 12:00 noon in the Great Room at the Center. It is imperative that you register in advance for the Luncheon. Space only permits seating for 80 people. We will keep a "Wait List" once the registration is full.

If you have registered, but find yourself unable to attend, please call the Front Office, (512) 331-6000, as soon as possible so we can notify those on the waiting list.

The Board discussed a gift exchange, but opted rather to collect funds for Hill Country Community Ministries (HCCM). There will be a basket available at the luncheon for donations. (See *information below.*)

The meal will once again be provided by Chef Felix. The menu consists of Roasted Ham, Scaloped Potatoes, Sauteed Green Beans and Rolls. Dessert will also again be provided by Ketan Ajmera from The Springs Healthcare & Rehabilitation.

The entertainment will be by the Pierson Keating Duo with Pierson and Mark Scott as the musicians.

Pierson, who will be on the keyboard and provide the vocals, has already had a substantial music career, performing in venues ranging from

street corners to piano bars to cruise ships to concert halls. In addition to performing, Pierson also composes and teaches music. Since March 2021, he has been active in the Austin music scene as a bandleader for groups made up of musicians he handpicks to breathe life into his original music.

Guitarist Mark Scott is also a songwriter and educator. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of North Texas with a bachelor's degree in Jazz Studies, and earned his Masters in Jazz Studies in May 2023 from the University of Texas in Austin, where he serves as a Teaching Assistant for the jazz program. As an accomplished guitarist, Mark works regularly as both a leader and a sideman, performing in many notable venues across Texas, including Parker Jazz Club, The Elephant Room, The Continental Club, Monk's Jazz, the Denton Arts & Jazz Festival, Stubb's, & others.

Be sure to register for the Luncheon as soon as possible. The sign-up sheet is in the front office.



Pierson Keating,
Keyboard & Vocals



Mark Scott, Guitar

Hill Country Community Ministries

Christmas is a time of giving. In that spirit, the TOTH Board voted to provide a basket for donations to the Hill Country Community Ministries.

HCCM was founded in 1983 and operates as a nonprofit organization. Their mission is to extend a helping hand to those grappling with crises and poverty in southwest Williamson and northwest

Travis counties. With respect and empathy, they strive to offer support in the spirit of community.

They operate a food bank and a thrift store.

Your gifts, both large and small, will help them to achieve their mission to break the grip of hardship, hunger, and hopelessness by improving the health and well-being of our neighbors.

Golden Gazette

Volume XXXIV No. 12

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Deadline for articles is the 17th of the previous month.

Email submissions to gazette.toth@gmail.com

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President's Message

By Ellen Fannin

It is difficult to believe that we are already nearing the end of the year. Time seems to go faster and faster.

We were looking to put together a trip to see Christmas lights, but kept running into all sorts of roadblocks. We had determined that the best light show would be the Peppermint Parkway at the Circuit of the Americas location. The pricing and dates were great, but we were limited to the size bus we could take. Time kept ticking and we've run out of time and ideas. I'm disappointed, as I am sure many of you are, but we're not giving up on these types of activities.

We are starting now to plan a Vineyard Tour for the Spring. With enough participants, we will be able to spread the cost of the bus and make it fun for everyone.

I always get a little nostalgic as we say goodbye to another year. But, I am also filled with gratitude for all those who have helped to make this year a successful one. I wish I had space to name and thank each one of you individually, but alas...

Just know that you are deeply appreciated for your contributions to Treasure of the Hills. We have made some great progress with our Center and I know there will be much more to come. I look forward to 2025 with anticipation and joy!

In the meantime...



TREASURER'S REPORT

By Denny Clauson, Board Treasurer

Total Income \$2,383

Total Expenses \$15,246

(which includes transfer of money from Memorial Fund for such items as new sound system, bridge scoring system, sign, etc.)

Investment accounts decreased \$4,367 (expected to be volatile for the next few months after election.)

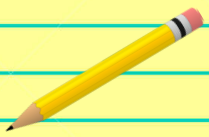
No unusual expenses for the month.



Vice Versa

Insights from the VP

By Chris Campbell, Board Vice President



Suggestions have been pouring in (from at least one member) for possible events that Treasure of the Hills might consider adding to our plethora of planned trips, excursions, outings, and dalliances. Nearby, there's an Austin Steam Train Museum over on Whitestone which just begs shouting, "All aboard!" Then there's the ever-stimulating LBJ library on the UT campus; though I hear the ferris wheel is no longer functioning.

Speaking of museums, there is the Blanton Art museum, which Elaine has been trying to get me to go to for years. Seriously, I love art. Within walking distance is the Bullock TX State History Museum, which I HAVE been to, more than once. Also nearby is the TX Science & Natural History Museum, perhaps my personal favorite. Who doesn't love a skeleton or two - or one hundred of them - this soon after Halloween, I ask you?

And the myriad of museums continues with the Elizabet Ney Museum (I guess the "h" wasn't working on the pediatrician's typewriter), the Texas Military Forces Museum, the O Henry Museum, the George Washington Carver Museum, the French Legation State History Museum, and the DPS Historical Museum. No promises, but we'll try not to schedule them all on one day.

Some of these are not museums, but "centers." For instance, there's the Harry Ransom Center (Bring extra money for snacks and, well, ransom.) In a cultural mecca like the Austin Metro Area, there is no end to the museums and centers, so the outgoing picture looks outstanding. Oh, and for the ladies, someone mentioned - I have this in writing - a little known venue apparently called "Sterling's Suspender Museum." Like a Chippendale's Museum, only not, is my guess.

This is and has been (with emphasis on the "has been"!) your 2024 Vice President, Chris Campbell. Over and OUT!



From the Director

By Lisa Leirvaag

- The Monday after Thanksgiving, I will bring the Christmas tree, ornaments and decorations from the shed to the front office. Anybody who would like to help decorate the tree and the center is welcome to do so.
- We are also looking for volunteers to decorate a table or two for the Christmas luncheon. If you are interested, please sign up at the front office! If you would like to help setting up tables and chairs for the Christmas lunch, or clean up afterwards, please get in touch with me.
- The center will be closed for the Christmas holidays December 24-25. Happy Holidays!



Board Notes

At the November Board of Directors meeting, several important topics were discussed and voted on.

Finance Committee—The Finance Committee is made up of five members of TOTH. Lori Rainey, bookkeeper and TOTH member was appointed to join Denny Clauson, Frank Mignoli, Mike Perkins and Lois Birdwell.

Website—Denny & Barb Clauson have offered to redesign and maintain the TOTH website. We will be purchasing a laptop that will be devoted to this project.

Volunteer Appreciation Reception—We will host a reception in February for all those who have given of their time and volunteered in 2024.

Free Items—There are two glass top tables that TOTH no longer needs, as well as the player piano in the TV Room. If you are interested in taking one of the tables, you can come see it in the Puzzle Room or just contact Lisa in the Front Office.



Christmas Decorations—On Monday, December 2nd, Christmas decorations will be going up. We need volunteers to come help.

GAME Results day

Fun was had by all at Game Day, Saturday, November 16th from 10 AM – 2:30 PM. There were five (5) and ½ tables of duplicate bridge and nine (9) others played Canasta in the TV and Puzzle Rooms.

A light lunch was served that included chicken salad on a croissant or Nature Made Artisan thick slice bread, chips and a pickle spear. Pat Fiero, the chief cook, was innovative by adding vegetables to the broth from cooking the chicken to make a chicken vegetable soup. Donations from the players covered the expenses.

We also got to taste the pies from the Pie Contest. So our light lunch turned into a hearty meal. (See Photo Gallery on page __.) Hats off to the kitchen staff headed by Pat Fiero and Lisa Leirvaag.

The winners of the Bridge Game were

N/S

- 1st Joan Neely & Tom Brandt
- 2nd Larry & Liz Hagler
- 3rd Ken Birdwell * Denny Clauson

E/W

- 1st Joyce Francis & Sheila Perkins
- 2nd Porter Kier & Frank Mignoli
- 3rd Carolyn & Roger Patrick

A booby prize, a \$10 gift card to Maggiore's was given to Ellen Bailey & Phil MacDonald for having the lowest percentage of all players.

The Canasta games were won by Nancy Weller and Linda Rhea. They also received a \$10 gift card to Maggiore's.

Board Installation



Standing from left to right: Emma Sue Johnson, Pat Fiero, Jim Anderson, Denny Clauson, Lisa Leirvaag, Sue Holmes, Ellen Fannin and Mary Riordon.

At the beginning of the Thanksgiving Luncheon on November 20th, Mary Riordon, one of our board's previous presidents, installed the board for 2025. Thank you, Mary, for the always excellent job.

The incoming board for 2025 is:

President—Ellen Fannin

Vice President—Sue Holmes *

Treasurer—Denny Clauson

Secretary—Lisa Leirvaag

Director (2-year term) —Jim Anderson

Director (2-year term) —Pat Fiero

Director (1-year term) —Emma Sue Johnson

Director—Sandy Williams (*continues in her term*)

* *The in-coming Vice President, Midge Norris, resigned prior to the installation. The board, as noted in the by-laws, appointed Sue Holmes to fill the position. Thank you, Sue, for stepping up.*

The board is here to serve the needs of the Center and its members. Please contact any of the board members with concerns, suggestions and ideas you may have to make our Center even better. You can contact any of the board members through the front office or the toth.director.tx@gmail.com email address.

Holiday Harmonies!

Celebrate the Holidays with Harmony at the A Cappella Texas Christmas Concert!

Join us on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Our first show in our new home at the Memorial United Methodist Church.

The program will brighten up your Holiday Season!

Tickets only \$20 and Kids under 12 are free!
We'll See you there!

A CAPPELLA TEXAS

HOLIDAY HARMONIES



TUESDAY
DECEMBER 10TH
7:00 PM



MEMORIAL UNITED MC
6100 BERKMAN DR
AUSTIN, TX

\$20

GA SEATING



UPCOMING EVENTS

December Shared Meals

Members and friends are invited to join us for any of these events. Please remember that reservations are required! You can register in the front office of the Center or call 512-331-6000.

TOTH Dinner Club

Thursday, December 5 at 5:30 p.m. *(note the time change.)*

Longhorn Steakhouse, 1469 E. Whitestone Blvd., Cedar Park
Contact: MarEllen Basalyga, 512-905-1102

“Meet & Eat” Lunch Group

Tuesday, December 17 at 1:00 p.m.

Reales Italian Restaurant; 13450 Research Blvd., #230, Austin.

We will be doing a White Elephant Gift Exchange for all who want to participate. Gifts should not exceed \$10. Bring a gift and join the fun!

Contact: MarEllen Basalyga, 512-905-1102

Monthly Breakfast

Due to the holiday luncheon we host in December, we will not have the Monthly Breakfast in December so that the chefs and kitchen help can enjoy the holiday as well.

December Presentations, Meetings & Events

Puzzler Party

Saturday, December 7—1:30 to 4:00 p.m. *(see article on page 6)*

Cozy Club Book Club

Friday, December 13—10:00 a.m.
(see article on page 10)

Music Bingo

Monday, December 16—3:30 p.m.
Bring snacks to share. Music Genre: Christmas

Christmas Luncheon

Wednesday, December 18—12:00 noon
(see article on page 1)

BCH Book Club (Books in the Cedar Hills)

Friday, December 27—10:00 a.m.
(see article on page 8)

Be sure to register for these and other upcoming events.



HELP YOUR COMMUNITY DONATE FOOD ITEMS

Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

Food collection bin in the Front Office through December 13

Any questions, please text Gail Brennen, 512-922-5273 or Darrel Docking, 979-373-6465

Non-perishable—Unopened—Not Expired

A few suggestions

Canned Chicken
Canned Vegetables

Canned Tuna
Canned Fruit
Boxed Desserts (Cookies, Cake, Brownies)

Pasta & Sauce
Instant Potatoes

Mac & Cheese
Breakfast Bars



December Puzzler Party

Saturday, Dec 7—1:30 p.m.—\$15 per team

Have you registered yet for the Puzzler Party? There is still time to put together a TOTH team. You can register and find members for your team, or you can let the front office know that you are looking for a team to join.

TOTH is again partnering with Cedar Park Parks & Recreation to bring a puzzle building extravaganza for everyone!

Teams will compete against each other in a race against the clock to see who can complete their 500-piece puzzle fastest. Laughter and friendly competition are sure to come!

Teams will consist of 1-6 puzzlers. This event is for all ages, from 5 to 105! (Just a word of advice from previous puzzlers: Teams of 4-6 are the most advantageous size.)

Awards will be given to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams. All teams will be able to take their

puzzle home after the event as well as choose additional puzzles from the TOTH Puzzle Room.

Teams must check in before event start time. Anyone who arrives after the puzzle building starts will not be allowed to participate. Check-in is from 1:00 to 1:30 pm.

In order to register, scan the QR Code to the right. It will take you to the City of Cedar Park website. We are limited in the number of teams we can accommodate, so register early.

Everyone is invited to come watch the event and cheer on your favorite team. We'll have Christmas cookies and drinks to enjoy!



By Chris Campbell



That's right! One can never have too much Bingo! But it's more fun if you win more often, right?

This announces the beginning of a limited-participation version of your favorite pastime beginning December 2nd. There will be a sign-up sheet each week with spaces for TEN (or more in the future, who knows?) contestants, first come (signed) first served. This means the club could easily change "membership" each time it is held.

The catch? You never know when the sign-up sheet will be posted! (Insert maniacal laughter here.) So if you're in the habit of checking the sign-up sheets board regularly, you sort of have an advantage, right?

We have obtained the services of Caller Extraordinaire, none other than Barbara St. Marie to preside over the club (indefinitely? Again, who knows? We're kind of making this up as we go...)

to steer the ship (wield the "Club"?) with oversight from me, Chris, your (in)famous lame-duck Veep and others.

The time is currently set for Mondays from 10:30 - 12:00, same as on Fridays. Note: this is NOT a replacement for the currently fabulously successful Bingo sessions you now enjoy. In fact, I foresee that some Bingo-obsessives (rehab not included) will want to partake of the morning session followed by a one-hour lunch and then returning for the afternoon festivities (see the first two sentences above)!

Win often! Win big, maybe! And be prepared for some extra surprises along the way - see the fine print at the bottom. If you can find it. Questions? Email them to me, cecema@earthlink.net for more info. Thanks for enduring this rant!

Please notify the TOTH office when any of your contact information (address, email, phone number) changes so that we can keep the TOTH database up to date.



OF THE QUARTER
September thru December, 2024
—Sandy Williams—
Our Triple Threat

By Ann Bordelon



Our Volunteer of the Quarter for this issue is a triple threat.

Most TOTH members recognize Sandy Williams as one of the friendly faces behind the reception desk when they come through the front door. She was the team lead for the Expo Vendor Reception this year, doing an incredible job of putting it together. She also serves on the Treasure of the Hills Board and is Managing Director Lisa Leirvaag's backup when Lisa takes time off.

"That's not often," Sandy notes. "Lisa knows how much we depend on her."

Sandy and Lisa met shortly after Sandy moved to Cedar Park from Missouri. "Treasure of the Hills was closed because of Covid," Sandy remembers, "but I found Lisa working in the garden one day and we hit it off right away."

They have been fast friends ever since, and Lisa was thrilled when the TOTH Board voted to

name Sandy Volunteer of the Quarter. "She so deserves it," Lisa says.

Police Officer

TOTH members can feel secure when Sandy is on the premises because she had a long career in law enforcement before moving to Texas. She began

her career in 1976 as a sergeant with the Kansas City, Missouri, Police Department. "There were only a few women in the department when I started," she said. "It was a real learning experience... never boring."

After 24 years, Sandy's first husband, a motorcycle officer with the KCPD, retired, and they moved to Bates County, Missouri, where Sandy became the Undersheriff.

"Then, when I became too old for foot races, I went back to college to earn a teaching degree, and started teaching middle school," Sandy notes. She taught for seven years.

Volunteer

She also found the time to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity. "A highlight for me was when my two daughters came from Texas and St. Louis to help me do a 'Women's Build.' Professional builders taught us what to do. It was so much fun!"

Today, Sandy's life is still not boring. In addition to all her duties at TOTH, Sandy and her second husband, David, volunteer regularly at their church, setting up chairs and tables and helping clean up after services and other events.

David teaches karate at his own dojo, Austin Texas Okinawa Tomonokai.

And Sandy's family is growing, with six grandchildren, one new great-granddaughter and a great-grandson on the way.

We are so grateful for Sandy's dedication to TOTH and our activities. Congratulations on being the "Volunteer of the Quarter" for September through December 2024!



Cruisin' to Alaska

with the Recycled Teenagers



The Discovery Princess cruise from Seattle to Alaska is scheduled August 24-31, 2025. Our contact with the Princess Cruises, Dan Swislow (we're calling him "Princess Dan") reports we have 6 cabins reserved at this time.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. in the TOTH Great Room. We will be discussing "day before" reservations in Seattle, Maple Ridge residents taking care of our "fur babies" at no charge, a military credit, and anyone needing a roommate for the trip. Bring your questions. Mary Riordon is our local info source. You can reach Mary by calling 512-260-8876 (landline, NO TEXTS).

Email Dan for cabin prices, and other questions at dswislow@princesscruises.com.

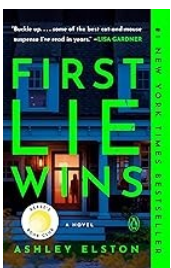
Ports of Call

- Day 1—First full day at Sea
- Day 2—Ketchikan; 6:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Day 3—Endicott Arm & Dawes Glaciers
- Day 4—Juneau; 12:30 to 9:00 p.m.
- Day 5—Skagway; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Day 6—At Sea & with a brief stop in Victoria, Canada; 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.
- Day 7—Seattle; docking at 7:00 a.m.



Friday, December 13—10:00 a.m.

The Cozy Club Book Club meets 2nd Friday of the month. The December book is *Chocolate Chip Cookie Murder*, by Joanne Fluke. The book club is open to all and drop-ins are welcome!



Friday, December 27—10:00 a.m.

The Books in the Cedar Hills Book Club meets 4th Friday of the month. The December book is *First Lie Wins*, by Ashley Elston. The book club is open to all and drop-ins are welcome!

Constable's Corner



by Constable Jeff Anderson



It's important to respect handicap parking spaces!

These spots are designated for those who truly need them, and parking illegally can prevent someone from accessing essential services. Let's show kindness and consideration for others. Remember, a little respect goes a long way!

You can find Texas law regarding parking violations, including those related to handicap parking, in the Texas Transportation Code. Here are a few resources where you can access this information:

1. ****Texas Transportation Code****: The relevant sections can be found on the official website of the Texas Legislature (<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/>. <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/TN/htm/TN.681.htm>). Look for Chapter 681, which addresses parking regulations and violations.
2. ****Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)****: Their website provides information on handicap parking laws and regulations, including the fines for illegal parking.
3. ****Local City Ordinances****: Many cities in Texas have their own specific ordinances regarding handicap parking. Check your local city government website for more detailed information.

Remember to check the most up-to-date information, as laws can change.

A Simple Ask at Christmas

As we approach the holidays and the time of the year when giving is on our minds, we ask that you add Treasure of the Hills to your year-end giving. Gifts to TOTH, as a non-profit organization, can help you avoid unwanted taxes.

The real advantage is that we will not send multiple texts or emails asking for donations. You will simply have our appreciation for your generosity to help us defray the cost of holiday luncheons and other activities.



Puzzle Group

By Barbara Duprey



The November issue of TOTH Puzzles is out. If you'd like to subscribe (free, of course!), please email Barbara Duprey, bduprey@austin.rr.com. Back issues for June through October are also available, and a few copies are always in the reception area if you are interested (or somebody waiting for you is) -- just ask at the front desk.

This issue contains three word-based puzzles (a puzzle based on Morse code, anagrams, Associated Words): three logic-based puzzles (Star Battle, Suguru, Bridges), and three math-based puzzles (Inky/Calcudoku, Killer Sudoku, Mathematical Reasoning), either original or from favorite sites, all of whose owners have agreed to allow their puzzles to be printed by TOTH for free as long as attribution is provided and they are for personal use only. Several of these puzzle types are making their first appearance in this collection -- hope you enjoy them!

Barbara would love to get any feedback about how to make these issues more fun for you. It would also be great to have a meeting each month for in-person interaction, but again, feedback is required to set this up. If any days or times are particularly good (or bad) for you, please let her know.

Happy Solving!



Culture Day

The Culture Day sessions we have enjoyed began last year. Every presentation and lunch was offered by a member of TOTH.

We are looking for more people willing to step up to do a Culture Day. It can be on a country, a region, a city, a culture, special celebrations... culture encompasses so much.

The agenda for previous presentations included a talk and PowerPoint program with information about the topic. Lunch is food from the region that either you cook or purchase from a restaurant. The Center reimburses you for the cost of the food.

If you have an idea, but you are not sure how to proceed, email us at gazette.toth@gmail.com. Someone will contact you to provide information.



Monday, December 16

3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Bring your favorite Christmas Snack to Share

TOTH will provide drinks

\$2 per card/No card limit

(2 max is recommended)

Cash Prizes

Music Genre for December:

Christmas Themed Songs

Be sure to wear your favorite Ugly Christmas Sweater

Sign up by Dec. 13 in front office

Music Bingo is held the 3rd Monday of the month.

Come Join the Fun and Sing Along!

Member Ads now available at \$10 per month

Business Ads available at \$25 per month

Email gazette.toth@gmail.com for information

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- * Accepts VA & Medicaid
- * Possible LTC



Adult Day Care in Austin Texas
www.townsquare.net

13330 Research Blvd., #100
Austin, TX 78720
Phone: 512-375-4328 Fax: 512-375-4328
Closed on Weekends

Call 512-375-4328 to learn more!

December Birthdays

Barbara Duprey 1	Pat Daniels.....9	Stella Brittnacher..... 20
Zamira Sharshenova 3	Coty Guerra.....9	Patti Klein.....21
Jenny Rogers 4	Pat Zwernemann..... 11	Avis Burton..... 23
Anita Falkofske-Eaton..... 6	Rachel Garner 13	Francis See 25
Pam Havel-Moser 6	Helen Holland 14	Madeleine Boskovitz 27
Karon Thiem..... 7	Becky Goad 17	Mary Richmond 28
Bill Adair 8	Blanca Barrera..... 19	Richard Baumgartner 30
Sharie Wiseman 8	Nancy Hargarten..... 19	Shirley City 31
	Dick Johnson 19	

December Anniversaries

Stella & im Brittnacher13	Elaine Allan & Chris Campbell..... 27
Michele & Michael Teter23	



The following individuals donated a memorial for Dick Planck who passed in October.
Lisa Leirvaag • Barbara Duprey

If you would like to make a memorial donation honoring a TOTH member, please contact Lisa Leirvaag in the office.



Jewelry Making Opportunities

Until we are able to schedule an instructor for the Jewelry Making Class, anyone who would like to continue to meet to work on their own is welcome to do so.

We normally meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays to work on our own, but since Christmas is on the 4th Wednesday, we'll only be meeting on the December 11th. We have plenty of supplies that have been graciously donated by others that can be used on any project.

It is helpful to know if you are planning to attend. Please sign up in the front office.

Wednesday, December 11—10:00 a.m.

Hugs & Sunshine

If you or another member of TOTH is experiencing an illness or loss and need a little more sunshine in their lives, please contact the front office, 512-331-6000, to let us know.

We've all gone through, and may still be going through, a rough patch physically or emotionally. This is when we need to surround ourselves with others who often want to help in any way they can.

We, as seniors, often isolate ourselves when things are not going right or we feel bad. This is the time when we need to reach out to the caring friends we have at TOTH.

Every member is important to us and we want to know that your are doing well.

Member Ads in Gazette

Do you have a retirement hobby or sideline to make a few bucks? The Golden Gazette would be a good place to advertise it.

The board voted to offer advertising to members for \$10 per issue. Ads should be business card size (3.5"x2"). If you need help with the layout, we can help.

If you would like to advertise, contact Ellen Fannin at gazette.toth@gmail.com, for info.

Photo Gallery: **GAME** day



Above: Canasta players (left to right) Kay, Rhoda, Sophia and Pat.



Other Photos: Bridge Players, too many to name.



& Pie Contest



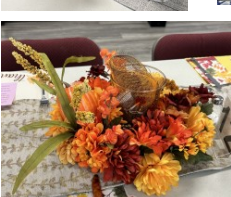
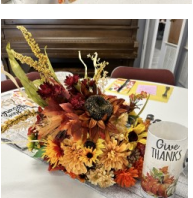
Left: Pie judges MarEllen Basalyga and Nancy Weller (Carolyn Patrick not pictured). Their job was not easy.

Left Bottom: Winners, First Place, Tom Brandt for Apple Pie; Second Place, Sue Holmes for Cranberry Blueberry Pie; Third Place, Lisa Leirvaag for Apple Tart.

Right Bottom: After the awards, everyone enjoyed pie.



Photo Gallery: *Thanksgiving Luncheon*





Full
House
Great
Friends
Good
Food
Lovely
Music





Holiday Eating Tips


Editor's Note: *I found the following tips several months ago and have been holding on to it for this December edition of the Golden Gazette. I don't even have anyone to credit for because I think I got it from a Facebook post that didn't have an author. Bur, the humor and sarcasm, with a little bit of truth thrown in, are just fun! And...it's Christmas!*


 Avoid carrot sticks. Anyone who puts carrots on a holiday buffet table knows nothing of the Holiday spirit. In fact, if you see carrots, leave immediately. Go next door, where they're serving rum balls.


 Drink as much eggnog as you can. And quickly, it's rare. You cannot find it any other time of year but now. So drink up! Who cares that it has 10,000 calories in every sip? It's not as if you're going to turn into an eggnog-alcoholic or something. It's a treat. Enjoy it. Have one for me. Have two. It's later than you think. It's Christmas!

 If something comes with gravy, use it. That's the whole point of gravy. Gravy does not stand alone. Pour it on. Make a volcano out of your mashed potatoes. Fill it with gravy. Eat the volcano. Repeat.


 As for mashed potatoes, always ask if they're made with skim milk or whole milk. If it's skim, pass. Why bother? It's like buying a sports car with an automatic transmission.


 Do not have a snack before going to a party in an effort to control your eating. The whole point of going to a Holiday party is to eat other people's food for free. Lots of it. Hello?


 Under no circumstances should you exercise between now and New Year's. You can do that in January when you have nothing else to do. This is the time for long naps, which you'll need after circling the buffet table while carrying a 10-pound plate of food and that vat of eggnog.

 If you come across something really good at a buffet table, like frosted Christmas cookies in the shape and size of Santa position yourself near

them and don't budge. Have as many as you can before becoming the center of attention. They're like a beautiful pair of shoes. If you leave them behind, you're never going to see them again.

 Same for pies. Apple, Pumpkin, Mincemeat. Have a slice of each. Or if you don't like mincemeat, have two apples and one pumpkin. Always have three. When else do you get to have more than one dessert, Labor Day?

 Did someone mention fruitcake? Granted, it's loaded with the mandatory celebratory calories but avoid it at all cost. I mean, have some standards.

 One final tip: If you don't feel terrible when you leave the party or get up from the table, you haven't been paying attention. Re-read tips; start over, but hurry, January is just around the corner. Remember this motto to live by: "Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate and wine in one hand, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming "WOO HOO what a ride!"

*From the Board and Staff at
Treasure of the Hills Senior Center...*



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Ellen Fannin
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Pat Thomas
Sandy Williams
(one vacant position)

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.
Chris Campbell
Communications & Publicity
Open

OPERATIONS

Bldg Maintenance: Cedar Park (City)
(Lisa Leirvaag is TOTH contact)
Bookkeeping: Lori Rainey
Kitchen: Lisa Leirvaag
Supplies: Lisa Leirvaag
Membership: Lisa Leirvaag
Jeanne Allison
Barbara Duprey
Reception: Mary Riordon
Memorials: Jan Clark
Sunshine: Jan Clark
Mem'l Garden: Jim Anderson
Historian: Ruby Banks
Gail Brennen
Library: Ruby Banks
Bulletin Board: Connie Ellis
Newsletter: Ellen Fannin
Website: OPEN

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Breakfast (monthly)	Pat Fiero & Frank Mignoli	Sign up & Pay in advance
Salad or Soup (monthly)	Frank Mignoli	Sign up & Pay in advance
Meet & Eat Lunch (monthly – locally) ...	MarEllen Basalyga	Sign Up Required
TOTH Dinner Club (monthly – locally) ..	MarEllen Basalyga	Sign up Required
Jewelry Making (1st 4 weeks).....	Mary Riordon	Sign up Required
Golf.....	Frank Mignoli	
Sit & Fit (3 x week)	Pat Fiero	
T'ai-Chi (weekly).....	Dr. Tom Barrett	
Quilting Bee (weekly).....	Cindy Glenn	
Special Events & Presentations.....	Lisa Leirvaag	Sign up & Pay in advance

GAMES

Bingo (Monday)	Barbara Duprey	
Bingo (Friday).....	Barbara St. Marie	
Bunco (1st & 3rd Wednesday).....	Ruby Banks	Sign up Required
Bunco (2nd & 4th Wednesday).....	Barbara St. Marie.....	Sign up Required
Canasta (Weekly).....	Sign up Required
Cribbage (Weekly).....	Stan DeRocher	Sign up Required
Hearts (Weekly).....	Chris Campbell	
Mahjong (Weekly).....	Georgia White	
Mexican Train (Weekly).....	MarEllen Basalyga	Sign up Required
Pinochle (Weekly on Tue. & Thurs.).....	Becky Goad	
Poker (Weekly).....	CW Clark	

BRIDGE

Duplicate Bridge

Tuesday (weekly)	Frank Mignoli.....	Sign up Required
1st & 3rd Tuesday	Sheila Perkins	Sign up Required
Friday (weekly)	Ken Birdwell	Sign up Required
3rd Friday	Joyce Francis/Sheila Perkins	Sign up Required
2nd Saturday	Carolyn Patrick.....	Sign up Required

Rubber Bridge

Tuesday (weekly)	Eileen Brown	Sign up Required
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December 2024

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1



9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
1⁰⁰ Cribbage
1⁰⁰ Bingo

2

9³⁰ Dup Bridge*
9³⁰ Rubber Bridge*
10⁰⁰ Canasta*
11⁰⁰ Pinochle
12³⁰ Poker
1⁰⁰ Dup Bridge

3

9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
9⁰⁰/10⁰⁰ Hearts*
11⁰⁰ Exec Comm
1⁰⁰ Bunco*

4

10⁰⁰ T'ai Chi
11⁰⁰ Mahjong
11¹⁵ Pinochle
12⁰⁰ Quilting Bee
12⁰⁰ Mex Train*
5³⁰ TOTH Dinner*

5

9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
10³⁰ Bingo
1⁰⁰ Dup Bridge*

6


1³⁰ Puzzler Party*

7

8



9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
10⁰⁰ Board Mtg
1⁰⁰ Cribbage
1⁰⁰ Bingo

9

9³⁰ Rubber Bridge*
10⁰⁰ Canasta*
11⁰⁰ Pinochle
12³⁰ Poker
1⁰⁰ Dup Bridge

10

9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
9⁰⁰/10⁰⁰ Hearts*
10⁰⁰ Jewelry Class*
1⁰⁰ Bunco*

11

10⁰⁰ T'ai Chi
11⁰⁰ Mahjong
11¹⁵ Pinochle
12⁰⁰ Quilting Bee
12⁰⁰ Mex Train*

12

9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
10⁰⁰ Cozy Club
Book Club
10³⁰ Bingo
1⁰⁰ Dup Bridge*

13

1⁰⁰ Dup Bridge*

14

15



9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
1⁰⁰ Cribbage
1⁰⁰ Bingo
3³⁰ Music Bingo*

16

9³⁰ Dup Brdg*
9³⁰ Rbr Brdg*
10⁰⁰ Canasta*
11⁰⁰ Pinochle
12³⁰ Poker
1⁰⁰ Meet & Eat*
1⁰⁰ Dup Bridge*

17

Sit & Fit cancelled
9⁰⁰/10⁰⁰ Hearts*
12⁰⁰ Christmas Luncheon*
1⁰⁰ Bunco*

18

10⁰⁰ T'ai Chi
11⁰⁰ Mahjong
11¹⁵ Pinochle
12⁰⁰ Quilting Bee
12⁰⁰ Mex Train*

19

9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
9³⁰ Dup Bridge*
10³⁰ Bingo
1⁰⁰ Dup Bridge*

20

21

21

22



9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
1⁰⁰ Cribbage
1⁰⁰ Bingo

23

Closed for Christmas Eve

24

Closed for Christmas

25

10⁰⁰ T'ai Chi
11⁰⁰ Mahjong
11¹⁵ Pinochle
12⁰⁰ Quilting Bee
12⁰⁰ Mex Train*

26

Sit & Fit cancelled
10⁰⁰ BCH Book Club
10³⁰ Bingo
1⁰⁰ Dup Bridge*

27

28

28

29



Sit & Fit cancelled
1⁰⁰ Cribbage
1⁰⁰ Bingo

30

9³⁰ Rbr Brdg*
10⁰⁰ Canasta*
11⁰⁰ Pinochle
1⁰⁰ Dup Bridge*
12³⁰ Poker

31

December 5 Dinner Club: Longhorn Steakhouse—5:30 p.m. (note time change)
December 17 Meet & Eat: Reales Italian Restaurant—1:00 p.m.

31



* **The red asterisk indicates that Sign-Up is required**
Reminder: Sign In & Out each visit to the Center and tidy up after activities.