



Meet Our New Office Manager Jeanne Allison

By Ann Bordelon

As of Feb. 1, 2026, Jeanne Allison, a long-time member and volunteer at Treasure of the Hills (TOH) Senior Center, will become TOH's office manager.

Jeanne's close friend, Lisa Leirvaag, retired as director of the organization at the end of January. "Lisa has done so much for TOH over the years," Jeanne says, smiling. "But thank goodness she's not leaving us; she's just going to relax a bit." Lisa will continue as secretary for the TOH board.

Jeanne is familiar with TOH and its operations. As a volunteer, she has worked with TOH's membership program in years past, and she spent two weeks in January learning other aspects of the operation from Lisa.

"Jeanne's bookkeeping and office management experience make her a good choice for TOH," says Board President Ellen Fannin. "She is good with people, very practical and always upbeat. I'm sure she will continue Lisa's legacy of dedicated support for TOH programs."

"I like to work with people," Jeanne notes. "That's why this job seems so right for me. I already know some of the people I will be working with, and I'll get to meet even more members as time goes on."

Although she was born in Ohio, Jeanne calls Southern California home, having moved there when she was one year old. She and her husband Calvin moved to Austin most recently in 2010.

She still keeps the books for a law firm she has worked for since 1989, in Tyler, Texas. "My boss there doesn't like change, so when I moved back to Austin, he suggested I continue to do their bookkeeping online."

She also was office manager for the Tyler firm for several years. "I was in charge of buildings, computers, making sure everything worked." She looks forward to doing the same thing at TOH. "I think I'm going to like this job," she says, "It suits me, even the problems. I like solving problems."

Jeanne and her husband Calvin—who is now in a memory-care center—have been married for 30 years. Jeanne's son, with two children, lives nearby in Westlake. Her daughter, with three grown children, lives in Cedar Park. Jeanne is looking forward to her oldest granddaughter's wedding in March. Jeanne's hobbies include walking (she and Lisa have been walking buddies for years), reading and playing Pinochle and Canasta. She is also the owner of a two-year-old Maltese/Chihuahua named Daisy. "She gives me a lot of love," Jeanne notes.

"I hope Lisa enjoys her retirement," Jeanne says. "As for me, I'm looking forward to my new role at Treasure of the Hills."



Retirement Reception on Monday, February 2nd



The Board of Directors is hosting a Retirement Reception honoring our out-going Managing Director, Lisa Leirvaag, on Monday, February 2nd from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. TOH members are invited to stop

by to say "thank you" to Lisa for her years of service to TOH. We will serve cake and coffee or tea, as well as other snacks for all to enjoy. Please register to attend so that the food can be planned. A sign-up sheet is available in the Front Office.

A monthly publication of Treasure of the Hills Senior Center, 408 Ridge-wood Dr., Cedar Park, TX 78613, 512-331-6000, www.toth-seniors.com. Open Monday thru Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Annual Membership-\$35

Editor & Graphics: Ellen Fannin

Proofreaders:

Jeanne Allison • Lisa Leirvaag
Doc Rainey

Contributors

Elaine Allan • Jeanne Allison
Jeff Anderson • MarEllen Basalyga
Ann Bordelon • Chris Campbell
Shirley City • Denny Clauson
Heidi Eichenauer • Kevin Hallett
Sterling Hartman • Sue Holmes
Lisa Leirvaag • Linda Rettinger
Mary Riordon • Josh Rodrigue

Deadline for articles is the 20th of the previous month.

Email submissions to gazette.toth@gmail.com

Table of Contents

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| 2026 Holiday Closures | 12 |
| 90-Minute Crafts..... | 6 |
| Behind the Desk..... | 3 |
| Board Notes | 5 |
| Book Clubs | 7 |
| Chuckles & Grins | 7 |
| Constable's Corner..... | 10 |
| Craft Show Planned | 4 |
| Cricut Demo & Quilling..... | 6 |
| February Anniversaries..... | 13 |
| February Birthdays..... | 13 |
| February Calendar | 15 |
| From the Director..... | 3 |
| GriefShare | 4 |
| Helping Refugee Families..... | 10 |
| Hugs & Sunshine..... | 8 |
| Leadership Personnel | 14 |
| Lunch & Learn..... | 3 |
| Meet New Office Manager | 1 |
| Membership Dues..... | 9 |
| Music Bingo | 7 |
| New Member Recognition | 13 |
| Parks & Recreation..... | 9 |
| Pippin Rescheduled | 4 |
| President's Message | 2 |
| Pressed Flower Craft..... | 6 |
| Retirement Reception | 1 |
| Rich at Heart..... | 8 |
| Senior Scribblers | 8 |
| Treasurer's Report | 2 |
| Upcoming Events..... | 12 |
| Valentine's Day..... | 8 |
| Vice Versa: VP Report..... | 3 |



President's Message

By Ellen Fannin

I remember my mother always saying, “*There is nothing as constant as change.*” It was one of her favorites.

Change often arrives uninvited. Sometimes it tiptoes in quietly; other times it barges through the door, rearranging everything we thought was settled. For many of us, the word itself can feel unsettling. After all, we have earned our routines, our familiar faces, our well-worn ways of doing things. There is comfort in knowing what to expect.

And yet, if we reflect back, change has always been our companion. We changed from children to adults, from workers to retirees, from parents to grandparents, from “someday” to “today.” We have watched neighborhoods grow, technology transform daily life, and traditions evolve. Each season of life asked something new of us—and somehow, we adapted.

Our Senior Center is a perfect reflection of this truth. Programs shift, schedules adjust, new members arrive, and new ideas take root. Even as some things change, the heart of the center remains the same: connection, community, and care for one another. Change here is not about losing what we value, but about making room for what’s next.

Change does not erase our past; it builds upon it. Our experiences, wisdom, and stories give us perspective. We know that change can bring challenges, but we also know it can bring growth, laughter, new friendships, and unexpected joy.

Perhaps the invitation is not to resist change, but to meet it with curiosity and grace. To ask, “What can this teach me?” or “What new opportunity might be hiding here?” When we do, change becomes less of a threat and more of a reminder that we are still living, still learning, still part of something unfolding.

In a world that never stops shifting, one thing remains certain: together, we can navigate change—one day, one conversation, and one shared moment at a time.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Denny Clauson, Board Treasurer

- December income :\$8,712
- December expenses :\$12,849

Note: expenses include several items which will be reimbursed by the City or from Memorial Fund.

- Investments increased \$984

At year end, the Center was a couple hundred dollars under planned annual budget.



Vice Versa

Insights from the VP

By Sue Holmes, Board Vice President



On February 2nd, we are having a Retirement Reception for Lisa. Please sign up so we will have a head count for the refreshments.

On February 11th, we are having a dessert potluck. Bring your favorite dessert and share sweets with other members!

On February 18th, Advanced Pain Care is tentatively sponsoring a Lunch & Learn. The last time they scheduled, the doctor couldn't make it. I hope he can this time.

We are starting the planning for a Wine Tour in Spicewood. More about this later.



February Lunch & Learn

Advanced Pain Care is scheduled to host a Lunch & Learn on Wednesday, February 18th. The topic will be on "How to Manage Chronic Pain." Lunch will be provided so please register to attend in advance. There is a sign-up sheet in the Front Office.

Advanced Pain Care has been a supporter of Treasure of the Hills for several years, always participating in the Senior Expo and providing snacks and desserts for various events.

Wednesday, February 18—12:00 noon

Seniorific News

What does Seniorific have for our Millions of Readers:

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Humor | Games | Medicare News |
| Health News | Lifestyle | Education |
| Finance News | Retirement News | |

Subscribe Today - www.seniorific.com/subscribe
 To Advertise Call: Kelly at 1-800-736-7350 ext 105



From the Director

By Lisa Leirvaag

Four and a half busy, fun-filled, interesting, and very rewarding years have come to an end. I feel lucky that I can start my retirement earlier than originally planned. I am looking forward to retired life and new challenges. However, I will not become a stranger to TOTH. I have already paid my 2026 dues and will continue to pursue my volunteer duties.

Thank you for taking over, Jeanne Allison. I know you will be a great Office Manager.

Signing off... *Lisa Leirvaag*

Behind the Desk

by Jeanne Allison, Office Manager



Greetings from the New Office Manager

Hello and Nice to Meet You!

My name is Jeanne Allison, and I am very happy to introduce myself as the new Office Manager here at Treasure of the Hills Senior Center. I'm excited to be joining this wonderful community and look forward to getting to know all of you.

This center is a special place, and I feel grateful to be part of a team that is dedicated to creating a welcoming, supportive, and engaging environment for our seniors. My office door is always open, and I'm here to help. Whether you have questions about membership, need assistance with forms or sign-ups, or are looking for information about our senior activities, programs, and events, please don't hesitate to stop by. No question is too big or too small—I'm always happy to assist.

I truly look forward to meeting you, hearing your feedback, and helping make your time at the senior center enjoyable and stress free. Please feel free to come say hello anytime.

Thank you for the warm welcome!

GriefShare Class to Begin in February

Because of the severe winter weather the last weekend of January, the beginning date for the GriefShare Class was moved to Monday, February 2nd. The 13-weeks will now be completed on April 27th.

This seminar and support group provides a safe, welcoming environment where participants can learn practical tools for healing while connecting with others who understand what grief feels like. Each session is led by compassionate facilitators who have experienced grief themselves and are committed to walking alongside you as you begin to rebuild your life.

GriefShare will meet on Mondays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., beginning February 2, 2026, at Treasure of the Hills Senior Center. The cost is \$20, which covers the workbook (if needed.) Registration is available in the office or online at: <https://find.griefshare.org/groups/284101>

If you or someone you know is navigating loss, this group offers comfort, understanding, and gentle guidance for the days ahead.

Mondays, Feb. 2 thru April 27—10:30 a.m.
Necessary Workbook is \$20

PIPPIN Performance Rescheduled

The Saturday, January 24th performances of the musical, PIPPIN, by the Cedar Park High School Drama Department have been rescheduled. The new performance dates are Wednesday, February 4th and Thursday, February 5th at 7:00 p.m.

Pippin is a bold, magical musical that follows a young prince on a quest to find meaning, fulfillment, and his “extraordinary” purpose in life. *Pippin* invites audiences to step into a world where nothing is quite as it seems.

If you purchased tickets for the performance, they will be honored for either of the rescheduled times.

If you have not purchased tickets, you can click on the website link below to purchase them. Tickets are \$12 for Seniors.

<https://sites.google.com/leanderisd.org/southpac/home>

Calling All Crafters! Craft Show Planned for March 28

A craft show is being planned at Treasure of the Hills for Saturday, March 28th and will coincide with our March Monthly Breakfast.

The show is open for participation to anyone who wishes to exhibit and sell their creations. Individuals who are not members of TOTH are also welcome to participate. Mary Riordon is the coordinator for the event.

Here are the details for potential vendors:

- Contact Mary Riordon to reserve a space. She is at the front desk on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. She can also be reached by phone, 512-260-8876 (land line only) or email msriordon@yahoo.com.
- Show will be in the TV Room. Overflow will be in the Reception area, if needed.
- The hours for the show are from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The show is open to the public.
- Center will provide a table and two chairs. Table coverings and other display equipment should be provided by the vendor.
- Set up can be on Friday evening prior to the show from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. or beginning at 8:00 a.m. the day of the show.
- Each vendor is accountable for their own sales and financial transactions.
- There is no charge for the space. Vendors will pay TOTH 20% of their sales. Please price items accordingly. Vendors are responsible for turning in their funds at the end of the show.

Let us know as soon as possible if you plan to participate as a vendor at the show.



Board Notes

At the first Board meeting of 2026, the Board of Directors accepted (reluctantly) the resignation of Lisa Leirvaag as Managing Director, effective January 30, 2026.

We then voted to hire Jeanne Allison as the Office Manager to step into Lisa's duties. Jeanne trained with Lisa the last weeks of January and will take over on Monday, February 2. Jeanne's hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Facilities Manager

We are currently seeking to hire a Facilities Manager who will be responsible for setting up and breaking down our events and activities, as well as handling janitorial tasks. Ideally, this role is envisioned as a full-time position; however, we are open to starting someone on a part-time basis. We will be offering a competitive salary in line with current market rates for this type of work.

If you know of anyone who is interested in this position, please have them contact the front office and provide their contact information so that an interview can be scheduled.

Board members also reviewed the 2026 calendar and scheduled special events for the year. Our goal was to have some type of Center-wide event every month.

2026 Calendar

Below is a listing of the scheduled events with the name of the Board member who will be coordinating that event. We are always in need of volunteers to help with events. If you are willing to help, please either contact the individual Board member or Jeanne Allison in the front office and provide us with your contact information.

Upcoming 2026 Events

Valentine's Dessert Potluck

Wednesday, February 11—1:00 p.m.

Coordinator: Sue Holmes

Polling Location

Tuesday, March 3—7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Coordinator: Jeanne Allison

Craft Show

Saturday, March 28—10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Coordinator: Mary Riordon

Mother's Day Tea Luncheon & Fashion Show

Wednesday, May 6—12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Coordinator: Ellen Fannin

Father's Day Lunch

Wednesday, June 17—12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Coordinator: Denny Clauson

July 4th Picnic & Dessert Contest

Wednesday, July 1—12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Coordinator: Pat Fiero

Summer Luau

Wednesday, August 12—12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Coordinator: Ellen Fannin

Annual Membership Meeting

TBA (Sept/Oct) - At this point, we are not certain when we will need to schedule this meeting. Much is dependent on our negotiations with the City of Cedar Park.

Senior Expo

Saturday, October 3—9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Coordinator: Ellen Fannin

Halloween Lunch

Wednesday, October 28—12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Coordinator: Sue Holmes

Polling Location

Tuesday, November 3—7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Coordinator: Jeanne Allison

Thanksgiving Luncheon

Wednesday, November 18—12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Coordinator: Ellen Fannin/Jeanne Allison

Christmas Luncheon

Wednesday, December 16—12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Coordinator: Ellen Fannin/Jeanne Allison

Other Events to be Scheduled:

Spring Wine Tour

We are in discussion with the City Parks & Rec Department for another Wine Tour sometime in March or April. Details have not been finalized as of yet, but we anticipate an announcement in the very near future.

Board members are always open to hear from members regarding ideas for events and activities. Treasure of the Hills is your Senior Center and we welcome your input.

90-MINUTE CRAFTS

90-Minute Crafts is a new program being offered at Treasure of the Hills, featuring a variety of crafts you can come learn. You will walk away from

each class with an item that you created. Most classes will be limited to a small number of participants (8 to 10) and there will be a minimal charge to cover the cost of materials (usually \$5 to \$10, depending on the craft). Classes will be offered on Wednesday mornings from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. If you would like to share your crafting talent, please contact the front office, 512-331-6000, or email Ellen Fannin at fanninellen@gmail.com. We are looking for all types of crafts that can be anything, including cooking, sewing, etc.

Cricut Demonstration and Quilling

A Cricut is a versatile die-cutting machine that is a favorite of many crafters. It is used in crafting precisely cut designs from materials such as paper, vinyl, cardstock, fabric, and thin wood. It can also write, score, and draw, allowing crafters to create custom decals, cards, apparel designs, home décor, and personalized projects with ease.

Quilling is a paper craft in which narrow strips of paper are rolled, shaped, and glued together to create decorative designs. It is often used to make intricate patterns, images, and embellishments for cards, artwork, and keepsakes.

Diana Hiebeler and Ellen Fannin are teaming up for a craft demonstration on Wednesday, February 25 at 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$5 per person and the class is limited to 10 participants.

Ellen will demonstrate the basic features of the Cricut, along with providing samples and a project that participants can easily complete.

Diana will show participants the beauty of quilling and present a quilling project.

Please register in advance. A sign up sheet is in the front office. Payment can be made at the time of the class.

Wednesday, February 25—10:30 a.m.—\$5

Pressed Flower Cards With Taffy Gauger

The first pressed flower card making session, led by Taffy Gauger, was held on January 21st with several very satisfied participants. Below are photos from the class.

Taffy will host another class on Wednesday, February 18 at 10:30 a.m. She provides all the needed materials and is there to help with instructions. Taffy plans to continue to offer the class once a month for as long as there is interest. Supplies cost is \$5 per person.

Be sure to sign up in advance. Payment can be made at the time of the class.

Wednesday, February 18—10:30 a.m.—\$5



Taffy demonstrates techniques to Sue Holmes while Elaine Allan watches on.



The creations from the class displayed.



Close-up of two cards created with the pressed flowers.

BOOK CLUBS

By Chris Campbell

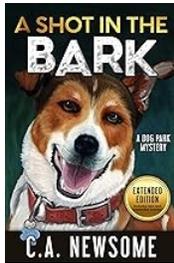
The book clubs are always open to anyone who would like to join in the discussion.

Friday, February 13 —9:30 a.m.



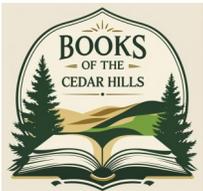
The Rated PG Book Club meets on the 2nd Friday of the month at 9:30 a.m.

The February book is *A Shot in the Bark: A Dog Park Mystery*, by C. A. Newsome. The book is available in paperback, on Audiobooks and Kindle. The Rated PG Book Club is open to all and drop-ins are welcome!



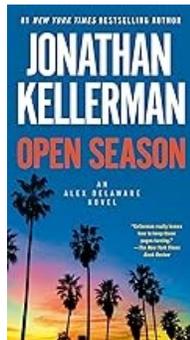
Friday, February 27 —9:30 a.m.

The "Books in the Cedar Hills" Book Club gathers on the 4th Friday of the month at 9:30 a.m.



The January book is *Open Season*, by Jonathan Kellerman.

This book is available in Kindle. The BCH Book Club is open to all and drop-ins are welcome!



The book club discussions are led by TOTH members. The groups are always open to new book suggestions.

March Selections

We are in the process of selecting the books for discussion in March. Watch for an update.



COME JOIN THE FUN!

February 2026 Session:

Monday, February 9

3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Great Room

Bring your favorite snack to share;

\$2 per card/No card limit

(2 max is recommended)

Cash Prizes

Music Genre for February:

Love Songs

Here's a tip if you've never played before:

Download the Shazam app

on your phone in advance

to help you identify the songs.



SHAZAM

*Wanna sing along?
Join us at the Sing-Along Table!*



Contributed by Sterling Hartman

Just in time for Valentine's Day, here are...

Ten Senior Pickup Lines

1. Do you have an oxygen tank? Because you take my breath away.
2. Like to come by and see my medicine cabinet?
3. Make like a compression sock and give me a squeeze.
4. Ever had a lap dance in a wheelchair before?
5. Do you play bingo? I swear I've seen you **B-4**.
6. Let's go test out my new hip replacement.
7. That sure is a pretty smile of yours, it would look good in a glass on my nightstand.
8. You're not dead yet either? We have so much in common!
9. Your heating pad or mine?
10. Come here often? If so, could you tell me where I am?



By Kevin Hallett

The Senior Scribblers met twice in January and selected two stories for February's Golden Gazette, two personal experiences of Valentine's Day.

The Senior Scribblers want to put together a booklet of short stories from members. We are seeking contributions from TOTH members of short stories about a member's "Longest Day," whatever that term means to each member. We have a sign-up sheet for those interested in contributing to this booklet.

In February, we will be meeting on the 11th and 25th. Stop by to join us at 9:30 am in the Puzzle Room.

Valentine's Day

by Kevin Hallett

Rich at Heart

by Heidi Eichenauer

We got off the elevator one floor down from the entrance foyer of City Hall. When we turned the corner toward the registry office, we encountered a linoleum corridor with dozens of couples lining both sides. Although rarely surprised, this scene was far from what I expected.

Some folks had dressed properly; however, most hadn't, including us. Miriam and I strolled between the lines of waiting couples, each with at least one witness. Our witness was Miriam's mom, who would soon become my mother-in-law. After checking in, we found a spot to stand, leaning against the corridor walls. Getting into the reception room remained impossible as no seats were available. As we waited, I heard two brides fighting over a chair, leaving one with a black eye for their wedding photos.

Yesterday, on February 13th, we decided to get married right away, even though Miriam had accepted my proposal a month earlier. We came that day, expecting to get our license and ceremony on the spot. These corridors were deserted then. However, New York City law required at least 24 hours between getting the license and completing the civil ceremony, which meant returning the next day. It may seem silly now, but I didn't put two-and-two together until I saw the mob of marriage matches lining the walls.

I anticipated a long wait since forty couples were ahead of us. I felt a little guilty about putting Miriam's mom in this situation and hoped they wouldn't tell us to return tomorrow because she had taken the day off work to witness her daughter's marriage.

Continued on page 9

Like many young couples, finances were a bit tight when we first got married. Add a young toddler to the mix and things were even tighter. So, celebrations such as birthdays, anniversaries and Valentine's Day were sometimes met with little or no celebration. There were usually cards and maybe a homemade birthday cake. But extravagant presents and fancy dinners were off the table.

But this year was different. My husband, Dean, told me several days before that he wanted to take me to dinner on Valentines Day and that I needed to dress nicely, like something I'd wear to church. Back in those days people wore their best suits and dresses to church. It wasn't casual as it is today.

So, at the appointed time, I was ready in my favorite dress. It was red and white with a drop waist. The top was solid red with the bottom being red and white stripes. I actually even had red shoes to match. Of course, February in Ohio also meant winter coats. But I knew once I had my coat off, I'd be "sitting pretty".

After helping me with my coat, Dean slid into his overcoat that he used only when wearing one of his suits. His suit was one of two custom suits he had made in Japan. It was very high quality. He had been stationed there prior to our meeting. And as a young, single guy, he could drop some extra cash on suits and an overcoat. They even had his name embroidered on the inner pockets of the jackets and overcoat. Really high class. Since he had gone to the trouble of dressing so well, I knew we were in for a lovely evening. Little did I know.

(continued on page 11)

Valentine's Day *(continued from page 8)*

With no chance to sit, we could only stand with the others as they announced names before ushering some lucky group into the inner sanctum to become a married couple.

When they called us, I assumed it was about an issue with our license because it was nowhere near our turn. But they directed us into a small chamber where a gentleman sat behind a high bench. He introduced himself as Judge so-and-so before asking some brief questions. To be frank, it remained foggy until he announced we were now man and wife.

For me, my wedding memories are dominated by a crowded corridor and two brides getting into fisticuffs over a seat. Although our start together

was tumultuous, we shall celebrate our fortieth anniversary on February 14th, 2026. It isn't important how the partnership starts, but rather how it ends.

2026 Membership Dues

To maintain your membership privileges at Treasure of the Hills, please submit your 2026 membership dues by February 15. Annual dues are \$35 and may be paid by cash, check, or credit card at the front desk.

Your membership allows you to participate in a wide variety of activities, events, and games—so be sure to renew promptly and continue enjoying all that Treasure of the Hills has to offer.



What's Happening ...

by Josh Rodrigue, Recreation Manager
Parks & Recreation Department



Parks & Rec Update:

RE|CREATE and New Recreation Coordinator

The Cedar Park Parks & Recreation Department has an exciting new project coming spring 2026!

In 2024, planning began to turn what was previously the Cedar Park Library into a new recreation facility named *Re|Create*. The new facility, aptly named for its intention to recreate an old space into something new, will expand opportunities for Cedar Park residents and visitors to explore Cedar Park.

Re|Create will offer classes in the arts, STEM, education, and classes designed specifically for seniors and people with special needs. The facility will also host monthly cultural and social events such as trivia nights, cultural festivals, and musical experiences. As an additional resource to the community, Re|Create will also hold community rooms available for individuals and organizations to rent space for their meetings. Exciting features will include an indoor playground, small theatre, and a dedicated dance room.

The Parks & Recreation Department's events and programs team will be officed at this facility working on designing and cultivating events and experiences for our community. We cannot wait to unveil this new facility later this spring!

GRANT MEEKS, SENIOR COORDINATOR



Grant Meeks will be Cedar Park's first ever Recreation Coordinator/Senior and Adapted Programs. Grant comes to the city from Indiana and will split his time between overseeing senior programs – like bus trips, puzzle parties, and more fun

opportunities to come and adapted programs for people in the community with special needs.

Grant brings a great mixture of energy and thoughtfulness for this role and we're excited to have him! Grant's first day is set for February 2.



Safety Matters for Seniors

As our loved one's age, it's crucial to be aware of the safety issues that affect their well-being. Here are some key concerns and tips to help ensure their safety:

1. Falls:

The leading cause of serious injury among older adults. To prevent falls, install handrails, use non-slip footwear, and keep living spaces well-lit and free from clutter.

2. Medication Safety:

Ensure medications are stored in their original containers, checked for expiration, and taken as directed. Clarity is key!

3. Beware of Scams:

Seniors are often targets of financial scams. Stay informed about common scams and encourage your loved ones to be cautious with their personal information.

4. Combatting Social Isolation:

Staying connected with family, friends, and community activities can significantly improve mental health and reduce the risk of falls.

5. Recognize Elder Abuse:

Be vigilant for signs of abuse and know how to report suspicions to keep seniors safe.

6. Home Safety:

Regularly inspect living spaces for hazards. Install smoke detectors, ensure good lighting, and create an emergency escape plan.

7. Driving Safely:

If driving becomes unsafe, explore alternative transportation options. Always have emergency contacts ready and discuss any concerns with healthcare providers.

By addressing these safety issues proactively, we can help seniors maintain their independence and enhance their quality of life. Let's look out for each other!

Helping a Newly-Arrived Refugee Family in Our Community

Many of you know Elaine Allan for her ongoing work assisting newly-arrived, legally-documented political refugees as they begin new lives here in Central Texas. Elaine is currently helping a new refugee family living in Austin, and they are in immediate need of household and basic living items.

The family arrived on December 18 and includes Shah Tanai, age 57, who worked for the U.S. Army in Afghanistan for nine years, his wife, five sons, and a 6-year-old daughter. Like many families starting over, they arrived with very little and are grateful for any support our community can offer.

Items Needed (New or Gently Used)

- Very large stew pot (serves 8)
- Large kitchen knives
- Pots and pans
- Baking sheets
- Mixing bowls
- Blankets
- Insulated carafe for hot tea
- Bath towels
- Backpacks for school
- Area rugs
- Computer
- Television
- Wi-Fi access

New Items Needed

- Socks (no one in the family has any)
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper (for a family of eight)

Donations may be picked up by Elaine from homes in Austin or Cedar Park, or items may be dropped off at TOTH and placed directly into the SUV. Some donors from Cedar Park also bring items to Elaine's home in northwest Austin, and others choose to have items shipped there. If you are able to help or would like more information, please contact Elaine Allan by phone or text at 512-750-7730.

Even one item can make a meaningful difference. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Rich at Heart *(continued from page 8)*

He helped me into the car and was smiling ear to ear as he went around to get in on the driver's side. This was very special as we had, like so many couples, dropped the door opening gesture after a few years. So, I knew he meant for the night to be very, very special.

We lived about five miles out of town at the time in a little community called Ayersville. Ayersville was a school, a church and an ice cream stand with houses and farms all around. As we were on our way into Defiance, I began to wonder where he was taking me. Defiance was the big town, about 15,000 or so. We had the typical chain restaurants for the time. Not a whole lot of fancy places. I thought it might be the new steak house that had opened recently, or perhaps the Black Lantern. It was probably the most expensive place in town. The anticipation was building. Each time I had asked where we were going, it was met with a simple, "You'll see."

As we made our way into town, we went right past the new steakhouse. So that wasn't it. Maybe it really was the Black Lantern. As I was contemplating any other options, he turned the car into a parking lot. I looked up and saw something very familiar. The golden arches! Yes, we were at McDonalds. I was stunned. This was not what I was expecting. When I looked over at Dean, he was grinning ear to ear. As he was getting out of the car he looked back and said, "Stay with me."

He came to my side and opened the door, helped me out and extended his arm to escort

me in. He made a very big deal of opening the door for me and as we entered, rather than going up to the counter he headed straight for the dining area and said, "Madam, would you like a table by the window?" He was still grinning ear to ear. I smiled and said, "Yes, that would be fine." He made a very big deal of helping me out of my coat and getting me seated. He proceeded to take my coat along with his and laid them on a nearby table. He took something out of his coat pocket and came back to my table, placed a small candlestick and candle on the table and lit it. He then took out a small cassette player and started playing my favorite love songs. He'd made a special tape of the ones he knew I really liked.

Next thing I knew, he had taken off his coat and came back with a towel draped over his arm, just like a waiter in the fancy restaurants. He had a small pad and pen and asked, "And what will madam have this evening? I hear the fish sandwich is especially fresh today." I started laughing and gave him my order. He wrote everything down meticulously and smiled and said, "This shouldn't take too long. The chef was not especially busy tonight." I then realized that he had pulled all these little supplies out of his coat pockets.

As he proceeded up to the counter, I started noticing the whole restaurant had been watching all of this. Most people were looking at me and smiling, even chuckling to themselves. A few were talking among themselves and looking our way, but with what might have been pity. I didn't care. He was my guy. He was having fun and so was I.

He got back with our order, sat down and we had a great meal. The conversation flowed freely and we just truly enjoyed one another. I could not have enjoyed myself anymore, even if we had gone to the expensive steakhouse.

When we were done, we made our way out to the car where he once again opened my door. Once inside, I slid way over to the middle of the seat, right next to the driver. It had been a long while since I had ventured in that direction. It paid off. Once we were in our driveway, I rewarded my date for the evening with one great big kiss. I knew that though finances were tight, we were really rich at heart.



Hugs & Sunshine



**Pat Thomas • Ann Mignoli
Janet Lobsenz**

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 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, February 5 at 5:30 p.m.

Texas Roadhouse (*the new one off of 183A*)

1416k Sparkle Lane, Leander

(Limit 15)

Contact: MarEllen Basalyga, 512-905-1102

Meet & Eat Lunch Group

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

New Fortune 2

12300 RR 620, Austin

(Limit 15)

Contact: MarEllen Basalyga, 512-905-1102

Monthly Breakfast

Saturday, February 28, 9:00 a.m.

TOTH Senior Center Great Room

(Free for members; \$5 for guests. Sign up in advance; deadline is January 21. Seating is limited to 40 people.)

2026 Holiday Closures

January 1st—New Year's Day

January 19—MLK Day

February 16—President's Day

May 25—Memorial Day

June 19—Juneteenth

July 3—Independence Day

September 7—Labor Day

November 11—Veteran's Day

November 26 & 27—Thanksgiving

December 24 & 25—Christmas

Thank you to this months advertisers:

Seniorific News • Toyota of Cedar Park

February Presentations, Meetings & Events

Retirement Reception for Lisa Leirvaag

Monday, February 2—10:00 a.m.

(see article on page 1)

GriefShare

Monday, February 2, 9 & 23—10:30 a.m.

(see article on page 4)

Pippin at Cedar Park High School

Wednesday & Thursday, Feb. 4 & 5—7:00 p.m.

(see article on page 4)

Conversational Spanish Classes

Thursdays, February 5, 12, 19, 26—10:30 a.m.

Music Bingo

Monday, February 9—3:00 p.m.

Date has moved due to holiday on 3rd Monday.

(see more detail on page 7)

Senior Scribblers Writer's Group

Wednesdays, February 11 & 25—9:30 a.m.

(see article & stories on page 8)

Rated PG Book Club

Friday, February 13—9:30 a.m.

(see article on page 7)

Pressed Flower Cards

Wednesday, February 18—10:30 a.m.

(see article on page 6)

Lunch & Learn: Advance Pain Care

Wednesday, February 18—12:00 p.m.

(see article on page __)

90-Minute Crafts

Wednesday, February 25—10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Cricut Demo and Quilling

(see article on page 6)

BCH Book Club (Books in the Cedar Hills)

Friday, February 27—9:30 a.m.

(see article on page 7)

GenLink Technology Session

Saturday, February 28 (*tentative*)—10:00 a.m.

Watch for details.

Always check the Weekly Update for changes in events.

February Birthdays

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Darryl Cook..... 1 | Doc Rainey8 | Marty Callahan 19 |
| Nancy Osuna 1 | David Brewer9 | Alicia Liermann.....20 |
| Kathy Bonardi..... 2 | Carole Newsom.....10 | Henry Luna.....23 |
| Paul Katsus 2 | Lynn Moynihan 11 | Renay Lenz.....24 |
| Marilyn McCarthy 2 | Sandra Phillips 12 | Lori Rainey 24 |
| Porter Kier..... 3 | Janet MacFarland 13 | Gloria Hoss 25 |
| Emilie Steude 3 | Lyle Williamson 13 | Lin Pastore 25 |
| Emma Sue Johnson 6 | Patricia Hollis 15 | Tom Richardson 25 |
| Carol Hastings 7 | Kathy Moskwa 15 | Jacquee Guida.....27 |
| Peter Klein 8 | Ken Williams 17 | Amelia Malone 27 |
| | Roger Patrick..... 18 | |

February Anniversaries



| |
|----------------------------------|
| Lorann & Michael DeFrees 1 |
| Rosa & Zia Din 14 |
| Miriam & Kevin Hallett..... 14 |
| Rashi & Pragna Shah..... 19 |
| Lin & Rich Pastore 20 |
| Emma Sue & Duane Johnson..... 24 |
| Renay & Greg Lenz..... 24 |
| Patti & Warren Klein..... 29 |

NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION December 2025/January 2026



We are so grateful to our new members at Treasure of the Hills (or TOTH, as we know it). As we finish up 2025 and head into 2026, we are thrilled with so many brand new members. TOTH is a special place where you can develop some wonderful friendships and participate in fun and entertaining events. Please know how much we appreciate each of you!

welcome!

December 2025

Gene Mork
Gladys Mork
Dennis Moore
Rebecca Moore
Baldev Chaudhari

January 2026

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Ellen Esposito | Mike Chase |
| Elaine Adams | Tena Pinion |
| Nanci Heller | Curt Kubitza |
| Sara Worley | Betty Nolan |
| Sharon Richards | Paula Knape |
| Randy Richards | Tom Richardson |
| Deborah St. Pierre | Margie Nolen |
| Gerry Booth | |

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Ellen Fannin

Vice President

Sue Holmes

Treasurer

Denny Clauson

Secretary

Lisa Leirvaag

Directors

Jeanne Allison

Jim Anderson

Pat Fiero

Emma Sue Johnson

OFFICE MANAGER

Jeanne Allison

Email:

toth.director.tx@gmail.com

512-331-6000

STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance

Denny Clauson

Nominating

TBD

Special Events & Resource Dev.

Sue Holmes

Communications & Publicity

Open

OPERATIONS

Bldg Maintenance: Cedar Park (City)

(Jeanne Allison is TOTH contact)

Bookkeeping: Lori Rainey

Kitchen & Supplies: Lisa Leirvaag

Membership: Barbara Duprey

Reception: Mary Riordon

Memorials: Colleen Sanchez

Sunshine: Colleen Sanchez

Mem'l Garden: Jim Anderson

Historian: Ruby Banks

Gail Brennen

Library: Ruby Banks

Bulletin Board: Open

Newsletter: Ellen Fannin

Website: Open

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Breakfast (monthly) | Pat Fiero & Frank Mignoli | Sign up Required |
| Lunch & Learn/Snack & Learn..... | Sue Holmes..... | Sign up Required |
| Meet & Eat Lunch (monthly – locally) | MarEllen Basalyga..... | Sign Up Required |
| TOTH Dinner Club (monthly – locally) | MarEllen Basalyga..... | Sign up Required |
| Jewelry Making (currently on hiatus) | Open | |
| Golf (weekly) | Frank Mignoli | |
| Sit & Fit (3x week) | Pat Fiero & Diana Hiebeler | |
| Quilting Bee (weekly) | Cindy Glenn | |
| Crochet Class (weekly)..... | Sue Chesnut | |
| Technology Classes (3rd Saturday) | GenLink Students..... | Sign up Required |
| Book Clubs (2nd & 4th Fridays)..... | Chris Campbell | |
| Senior Scribblers (2nd & 4th Wednesdays) | Kevin Hallett | |

GAMES

| | | |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Bingo (Weekly on Monday) | Barbara Duprey | |
| Bingo (Weekly on Friday) | Barbara St. Marie | |
| Bunco (Weekly on Wednesday) | Ruby Banks/Barbara St. Marie | Sign up Required |
| Canasta (Weekly)..... | | Sign up Required |
| Cribbage (Weekly)..... | Stan DeRocher | |
| Hearts (Weekly)..... | Chris Campbell | |
| Mahjong (Weekly on Thursday)..... | Georgia White | |
| Mexican Train (Weekly)..... | MarEllen Basalyga..... | Sign up Required |
| Music Bingo (3rd Monday)..... | Ellen Fannin | Sign up Required |
| Pinochle (Weekly on Tues., Thur. & Fri.) ... | Sue Holmes | Sign up w/Leader |
| Pinochle (Weekly on Monday) | Becky Goad | |
| Poker (Weekly on Tues.)..... | CW Clark | |

BRIDGE

Duplicate Bridge

Tuesday (weekly) Frank Mignoli | Sign up Required |

Friday (weekly)..... Ken Birdwell..... | Sign up Required |

2nd Saturday..... Carolyn Patrick..... | Sign up w/Leader |

Rubber Bridge

Tuesday (weekly) Open | Sign up Required |

February 2026

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



1

9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
10⁰⁰ Retirement Reception
10³⁰ GriefShare
 10³⁰ BBCP Pinochle
 1⁰⁰ Cribbage
 1⁰⁰ Bingo



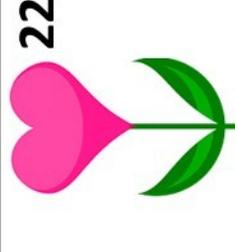
8

9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
10⁰⁰ Board Meeting
10³⁰ GriefShare
 10³⁰ BBCP Pinochle
 1⁰⁰ Cribbage
 1⁰⁰ Bingo
 3⁰⁰ Music Bingo*



15

Center Closed

22

9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
10³⁰ GriefShare
 10³⁰ BBCP Pinochle
 1⁰⁰ Cribbage
 1⁰⁰ Bingo

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

3

9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
 9/10⁰⁰ Cardiology
11⁰⁰ Exec Comm Mtg
 1⁰⁰ Bunco*
 3⁰⁰ Crochet Class*

4

10/11⁰⁰ Mahjong
10³⁰ Conv Spanish*
 11⁰⁰ Pinochle
 12⁰⁰ Quilting Bee
 12³⁰ Mexican Train*
5³⁰ TOTH Dinner Club*

5

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

6

7

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

10

9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
 9/10⁰⁰ Cardiology
9³⁰ Senior Scribblers*
 1⁰⁰ Bunco*
1⁰⁰ Dessert Potluck*
 3⁰⁰ Crochet Class*

11

10/11⁰⁰ Mahjong
10³⁰ Conv Spanish*
 11⁰⁰ Pinochle
 12⁰⁰ Quilting Bee
 12³⁰ Mex Train*

12

9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
9³⁰ Rated PG Book Club
 10³⁰ Bingo
 10³⁰ Pinochle
 1⁰⁰ Dup Bridge*

13

14

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

17

9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
 9⁰⁰/10⁰⁰ Cardiology
10³⁰ Press Flowers*
12⁰⁰ Lunch & Learn*:
Advanced Pain Care
 1⁰⁰ Bunco*
 3⁰⁰ Crochet Class*

18

10/11⁰⁰ Mahjong
10³⁰ Conv Spanish*
 11⁰⁰ Pinochle
 12⁰⁰ Quilting Bee
 12³⁰ Mex Train*

19

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

20

21

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

24

9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
 9/10⁰⁰ Cardiology
9³⁰ Senior Scribblers*
10³⁰ 90-Minute Craft*
 1⁰⁰ Bunco*
 3⁰⁰ Crochet Class*

25

10/11⁰⁰ Mahjong
10³⁰ Conv Spanish*
 11⁰⁰ Pinochle
 12⁰⁰ Quilting Bee
 12³⁰ Mex Train*

26

9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
9³⁰ BCH Book Club
 10³⁰ Bingo
 10³⁰ Pinochle
 1⁰⁰ Dup Bridge*

27

28



February 5 TOTH Dinner Club: Texas Roadhouse* — 1416 Sparkle Lane, Leander—5:30 p.m.—Limit: 15
February 17 Meet & Eat: New Fortune 2* — 12300 RR 620, Austin—1:00 p.m.—Limit: 15
February 28 Monthly Breakfast: Treasure of the Hills*—9:00 a.m.—Limit: 40

*The red asterisk indicates that Sign-Up is required



Treasure of the Hills Senior Center