

# FANfare

FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS WOMEN'S CLUB



## Our next FAN General Meeting is Tuesday, April 2nd.

George H.W. Bush Community Center • 6827 Cypresswood Drive

Coffee & Social Mixer Starts at 9:30 a.m. • Club Business & Program Starts at 10 a.m.

### April General Meeting Program: Meet famous Houston Restaurateur Johnny Carrabba



Sandy Darst, 1st VP of Programs



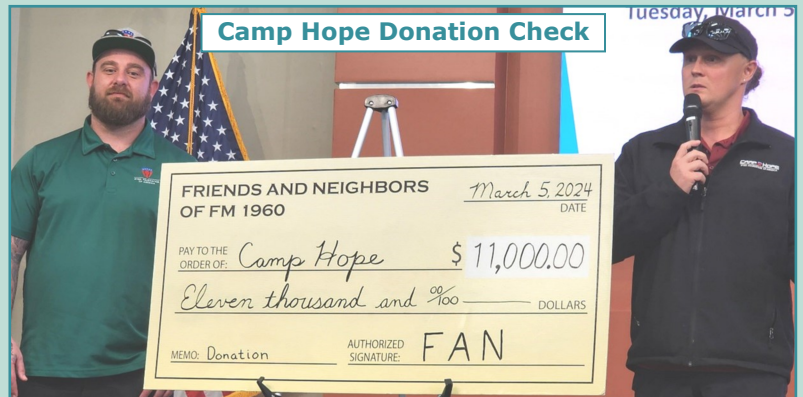
Johnny Carrabba III, a native of the historic East End Houston, was raised in his parent's family-owned business, Carrabba's Friendly Grocery. In 1986, Johnny opened the original Carrabba's on

Kirby, and a second location on South Voss Road opened its doors in 1988. The Carrabba family created a joint venture partnership with Outback Steakhouse and opened 230 restaurants nationwide, including ten in Brazil, and future locations in Mexico. Johnny and his family continue to own and operate the two original Carrabba's locations. In 2012, the family's new fast-casual concept, Mia's Table, opened one block behind the Original Carrabba's on Kirby. In 2014, Grace's, affectionately named after Johnny's grandmother, Grace Mandola, opened its doors, forging the fourth family-owned and operated restaurant. Mia's Table has five locations and continues to grow. Johnny is a philanthropist at heart and gives back to the community through many venues and charities, especially those benefiting children. He has two beloved children, Johnny IV and Mia.

### President's Message

Kim Gerrish, President

Way to go FAN ladies on your outstanding fundraising! It was pure joy to present our charity Camp Hope with a huge \$11,000.00 check, and the Lil' Wranglers wowed us with impressive and spectacular dance moves. Just a happy, smile worthy morning overall.



"Quest' anno sta volando veloce" (This year is flying by fast). We've enjoyed many "eccellente" (excellent) programs and events so far, and it's not over just yet! Come vote for the 2024-2025 Charity and Executive Board; plus, say "Ciao" (Hello) to our distinguished speaker Johnny Carrabba during the April 2nd General Meeting! Don't forget to sign up for the May 10th Day Trip *Houston's Past and Most Notable Residents*.

See you later in April ...

## FAN Charity Selections for 2024-2025

Mary Papageorge, *Charity Chair*

At the April 2nd General Meeting, attending members will vote on FAN's Charity selection for 2024-2025. The Charity receiving the majority vote will be selected and announced at the meeting.



The three Charity selections are described below in alphabetical order:



**Bridging for Tomorrow** assists families, single mothers, and children in the Klein and Aldine surrounding areas. They work closely with over 100 single mothers and families to help provide a food bank, counseling, mentoring, referral services, clothing, and housing to assist them in getting back on their feet. They partner with 13 local schools and receive support from local churches working together for the community. Additional programs they offer for adults are counseling, finance classes, reading, ESL classes, and government application assistance for benefits.

**Learn more at [Bridging For Tomorrow](#)**



**Inspiration Ranch** works with children, youth, and adults with physical, emotional, and social disabilities of approximately 100 individuals. They believe riding, equine therapy and various related activities help strengthen their core muscles, improve their walking, and improve their ability to communicate. They also have a mental health program that reaches out to those with severe emotional trauma by teaching new boundaries, skills, and how to overcome obstacles.

**Learn more at [Equine Activities & Therapies | Inspiration Ranch](#)**



**Montgomery County Women's Center (MCWC)** believes in the right of all persons to live without fear, abuse, oppression, and violence. Their shelter provides a safe, secure, and confidential refuge to battered, abused, and sexually assaulted. MCWC provides temporary housing, clothing, food, and legal issue assistance for women in Montgomery County and surrounding areas assistance when they need it the most. They have a 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency shelter, outreach, counseling, education, and transitional housing, and provide advocacy and accompaniment during or following a crisis.

**Learn more at [Montgomery County Women's Center](#)**

### *Do You Have an Idea for a Program or Presenter for Our General Meetings?*



We are on the hunt for fun and interesting content to share at our FAN meetings for 2024-2025. Email Sandy at [sdarst52@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sdarst52@sbcglobal.net) with any suggestions. I am looking for the best of the best programs for our meetings next year!

### **5th Tuesday Fun Day**

**Kathy Court,**  
*5th Tuesday Fun Day Lead*

The next 5th Tuesday Fun Day is **April 30th**. An email with details of what, where, time, etc. will be sent to activity group members before the event. If you have not signed up for this group activity, look for the sign-up sheet at the April 2nd General Meeting. If you're not sure, call or text me at 713-385-7419.

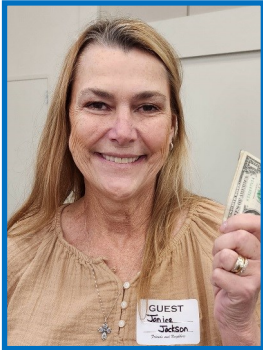




## March 50/50 Raffle

We choose 3 winners in the raffle to receive cash prizes! Here are our lucky winners:

Winners (each won \$47 x 3): \$141  
 FAN Funds: \$140  
 Total Collected: \$281



**Janice Jackson**



**Cynthia Overstrom**



**Helene Levar**

Shirley Bailey	4/2
Phyllis Doran	4/3
Linda Niermeyer	4/5
Debbie Laich	4/8
Gayle Fuchs	4/11
Maria Bocchino	4/12
Mary E. Golden	4/14
Lin Fish	4/15
Ellen Peckham	4/16
Cindy Krueger	4/16
Ann Parker	4/19
Sheila Gibbs	4/23
Joyce Uribe	4/25
Tina Snodgrass	4/27
Linda Vance	4/30

## Membership Updates

**Gayla Baker,**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> VP of Membership



*"We will all be FRIENDS until we are old and senile...then we will be NEW FRIENDS!"*

Greetings Ladies,

As of March 13th, we currently have 271 members. Many thanks to all of you members who brought their friends and neighbors this year to visit and join our club, and to all who have welcomed them in.

We have had an exciting season and it closes with our Spring Luncheon on May 7th, and restarts again June 1st, 2024.

At the April 2nd General Meeting we will start our open registration for Membership for the 2024-2025 season. The dues will remain \$25 for Membership lasting from June 1st, 2024 through May 31st, 2025.

At the March 5th General Meeting we had 118 Attendees: 109 renewed members, 3 new members and 6 guests.

We wish to extend a warm welcome to our new members who have joined since the March newsletter:

**Marcy Epps • Amanda Frueh • Dana Montroy**

Let all your friends and neighbors know about our club and encourage them to come to an activity or a meeting with you so they can see for themselves what a great group we are!

They can also check us out at [www.fanwomensclub.com](http://www.fanwomensclub.com), or email us at [fanwomensclub@gmail.com](mailto:fanwomensclub@gmail.com).

*Hugs 'til next month!*

## Railroad Canasta

**Kim Gerrish, Railroad Canasta Lead**

Upcoming date:  
 Tuesday, April 9th



\$2.00 + cost of lunch

Would you like to join?  
 Trained players get together on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Email me at [kimgerrish@yahoo.com](mailto:kimgerrish@yahoo.com) if you need training or if you wish to be added to the contact list each month.

### March Winners:



<b>1st Place:</b> Tina Snodgrass	<b>2nd Place:</b> Susan Kleimann	<b>3rd Place:</b> Donna Morris
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## Nominating Committee

**Kathy Court,**

*Nominating Committee Chair*

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following nominees for election to the Executive Board. Nominations remain open until March 31st. At that time, if there are no other candidates, this slate will be put forward for voting at the April 2nd General Meeting.



### **President: Kim Gerrish**

Kim has lived in Houston for 44 years, and her many years in Project Management give her the experience needed to be a great candidate for FAN President. She is active in her home life with grandkids and her husband of 41 years. Kim has been involved with the FAN Board for the past four years as a Fundraiser and Cookie Exchange chair during Covid, two years as the Newsletter Editor, and currently as President. She is the Railroad Canasta Lead, plays Mexican Train and Mah Jongg, and participates in Day Trips and Happy Hour Gals.

### **1st VP - Programs: Sandy Darst**

Sandy graduated from the University of St. Thomas. She has been married to her husband, Tommy, for 52 years, and together, they run a successful business. She is a retired educator and an active community member through her memberships and board positions in various organizations. Sandy joined FAN in 2019 and served two years as our Directory Chair before becoming the 1st VP of Programs last year. She is the First Thursday Lunch Bunch lead and plays Mah Jongg and Mexican Train. She is kind, compassionate, and willing to serve our organization.

### **2nd VP - Membership: Gayla Baker**

Gayla recently retired from Chevron after 43 years. She is very involved in community organizations as a member of Northwest Forest Republican Women, Pearl Guild, AAUW, SAFD, and PTDA. She also volunteers as a finance instructor at a local charity. Gayla has been a FAN member for two years and jumped into the 1st VP of Membership role last year. Her primary focus is bringing new members into the club. She participates in many FAN activities since she loves to play games and lunch with friends.

### **Secretary: Marybeth Magallanes**

Marybeth recently moved to Houston from Atlanta, where she was active in a local women's club, holding various board positions. She also volunteered at the Forsyth County Alzheimer's Respite group. Marybeth grew up in Chicago, married and raised her two sons in upstate New York, and, over the next ten years, lived in Japan, Korea, Argentina, and Mexico. She retired in 2013 after working 35 years for GE as a Human Resources Manager. Marybeth joined FAN in 2023 and has quickly gotten involved in many activities. Her passion for community service and avid interest in reading and playing games makes her an excellent addition to FAN.

### **Treasurer: Karren Sims**

Karren hails from San Antonio, where she was a member of the San Antonio Loavers, a bread-making club. She has been married to her husband, John, for 41 years and has a grandchild who is her pride and joy. She loves quilting and reading. Karren joined FAN in 2021. Last year, she accepted the challenge of being our Treasurer after serving as FAN's first VP of Programs. She is a First Thursday Lunch Bunch member and plays Mah Jongg and Railroad Canasta.

### **Auditor: Gail Stone**

Gail came to Spring, Texas, from Southern California, Miami Beach, FL, and Brooklyn, NY. She was PTA Treasurer for two years, worked in the banking industry for eight years as assistant head teller and branch auditor, and spent 11 years in the insurance industry doing claims adjudication and federal compliance audits. Her creative talents include doing arts and crafts. Gail joined FAN in 2021 and accepted her first board position as Auditor last year. Her FAN activities include Mexican Train, Mah Jongg, Railroad Canasta, Antiquers & Junkers, and bus trips.

### **Newsletter Editor: Laurie Nimberger**

Laurie worked as a marketing specialist in the Oil & Gas industry and was instrumental in developing the company newsletter, website, and literature. She is currently a successful business owner. She enjoys decorating and traveling, and family is important to her. Laurie joined FAN in 2021 and immediately offered to help us with our website. The result is a fabulous dual-purpose website that serves FAN's internal and external needs. Laurie served on the board as Social Media Manager (website and Facebook) for two years before becoming the Newsletter Editor.

### **Historian: Claudia Gallagher**

Claudia loves to stay active. In addition to FAN, she is actively involved with Northwest Forest Republican Women, AAUW, Pearl Guild, and MNW Garden Club. Claudia joined FAN in 2019 and soon became chairperson for the 2020 Spring Luncheon, which became the 2021 Spring Luncheon. Due to the pandemic, 'Wine, Women and Song' had to be postponed and replanned several times. She has played a lead role in organizing all holiday fundraising auctions since joining FAN. She served as FAN's 2nd VP Membership for two years before accepting the position of Historian last year.



## Fun Dress Western Day at March General Meeting



**Debbie Blailock**



**Gayla Baker and Lois Redford**



**Kim Gerrish and Mary Papageorge**



**Susan Kleimann**



**Rande Sabar**



**Maggie Farhadi**



**Cathy Harrison**



**Margaret Burgess**

## FAN Activities: *New Activity Groups!*

Mary Ales, Activities Chair



We are excited to announce our newest FAN activity.....**CASINO TRIPS**. The group will travel to the Naskila Casino in Livingston, Texas. For more information and to sign up, contact **Ernie Zawitkowski** at [ezjz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ezjz@sbcglobal.net) or 713-898-1049.



If you and your spouse/partner/friend like to mingle with other FAN members and enjoy an awesome evening all around town, check out our **SOCIAL GROUP**. Contact **Rosanne Brumley** at [mrsb7823@att.net](mailto:mrsb7823@att.net) or 281-814-2259.



Since the weather is lovely, now's the time to hit the **GOLF** course with FAN. Contact **Ernie Zawitkowski** at [ezjz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ezjz@sbcglobal.net) or 713-898-1049.

Be sure to check out the Activity table at our next meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me. [maryales13@gmail.com](mailto:maryales13@gmail.com).

## Party Bridge Activity Group Enjoying An Afternoon of Cards and Friendship



Above L to R: **Carolyn Grimes** (hostess), **Sharon Wiers**, **Jacque Stamates**, and **Judy Gunn**



Above L to R: **Lena Habiby**, **Valerie Minyen**, **Sherry Dunn**, and **Leslie Pelazo**



## Membership Directory

**Susan Butler**, *Directory Chair*

Plants for All Seasons will help you get your yard looking great for Spring!

Who needs a vacation? Let FAN Member **Rena Malinowski** help you with your travel needs.

Crust Pizza – Louetta, Las Mañanitas Mexican Restaurant, Oriental Gardens Chinese Restaurant, Rudy's Grill & Cantina, Salata Salad Kitchen, The Sweet Greek – visit them for all your lunch or dinner cravings!

Remember to let all of our advertisers know that you saw their ad in the FAN Directory.



## Socials Group

**Rosanne Brumley**,  
*Socials Lead*

Do you and your spouse/partner enjoy socializing with others on weekends? If so, join our group! We will plan fun outings (such as dinner at a restaurant, game night, wine and cheese night) for fun and fellowship. If interested contact Rosanne Brumley at [mrsb7823@att.net](mailto:mrsb7823@att.net).



*In each newsletter, we will feature our Membership Directory advertisers. Show them your support!*

## Nature Walkers

**Jacqueline Webster**,  
*Nature Walkers Lead*

FAN nature walkers meet twice a month and walk for about 60 to 90 minutes in the various Precinct Three Parks. The dates we walk are weather and participation dependent. If you wish to join us, send your email and cell phone number to [jcwebster1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jcwebster1@sbcglobal.net). Looking forward to meeting you on the next FAN nature walk.



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## Dirt Divas:

### Mercer Botanical Gardens

**Etta Gager**,  
*Dirt Divas Lead*

The next Dirt Divas outing will be a trip via bus to Mercer Botanical Gardens in Humble on

**Tuesday, April 23rd.**

**Gaye Ires** will be hosting, and will send an email with the agenda and bus details to all of the Dirt Divas at the beginning of April. Email [egager8@yahoo.com](mailto:egager8@yahoo.com) for info.



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## Happy to Share Little Rays of Sunshine

Lin Fish, *Sunshine Chair*

Our FAN friends who've received a cheery note in recent weeks include **Annette Murray**, **Pat O'Brien** and **Barbara Cady**, all of whom were ill, followed by a recovery period at home.

**Pat Ramsey** moved from the ICU to rehab to recover her strength. Please send her a cheery note.

**Doris Rimmer** is staying at home, awaiting hip surgery early in April; I'm sure she'd love to hear from her FAN friends. She has a new email address, so please let me know if you want me to send it to you.

**Kim Gerrish** and **Helen Timpe** have both been caring for husbands Mike and Jerry; Mike had eye surgery and Jerry is in rehab following an illness.

Email me at [linden7723@att.net](mailto:linden7723@att.net) or text me (my number is in the directory) to share your news.



FAMOUS FAJITAS, JUMBO MARGARITAS, AND GOOD TIMES!

FAJITAS



MARGARITAS



TACOS



**HAPPY HOUR:**  
MONDAY - FRIDAY  
3PM - 6PM

**BREAKFAST / BRUNCH:**  
SATURDAY & SUNDAYS  
9AM - 2PM

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**Mark your Calendar for these upcoming FAN events!**

**April 2nd:** General Meeting with Houston's own restaurant pioneer and author Johnny Carrabba

**May 7th:** FAN Spring Luncheon 'Stayin' Alive for 45'

**May 10th:** Day Trip 'Houston's Past and Most Notable Residents'

**NOTE:** After April, our General Meetings will be on summer break until September. Most Activity Groups will continue throughout the summer, but verify with your Activity Group Lead.



*Stayin' Alive at 45*



*Tuesday, May 7th  
11:00 am to 2:00 pm*

*Gleannloch Pines Golf Club  
19393 Champion Forest Drive*

**THE FAN SPRING LUNCHEON IS SOLD OUT.**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR NAME TO BE ADDED TO THE WAITLIST, PLEASE CONTACT DONNA MORRIS.**



## FAN Day Trip: 'Houston's Past and Most Notable Residents' on Friday, May 10th

Carolyn Grimes, Day Trips Chair

**Are you ready for some Houston history? Then this is the tour for you.**

**We are scheduled for a 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Glenwood Cemetery Art & Architecture walking tour.**

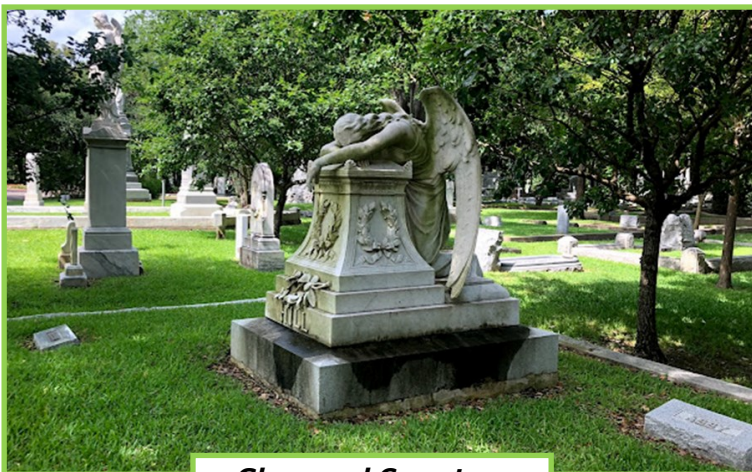
Glenwood is the resting place of some of Houston's most notable residents. It's also a sculpture garden filled with examples of outstanding funeral art from the past century and a half, outstanding monuments, the symbolism and stories behind the monuments, and the lives of Houstonians, both famous and forgotten, who commissioned them.

**We will have lunch at Treebeards The Cloister, which is located at Christ Church Cathedral.**

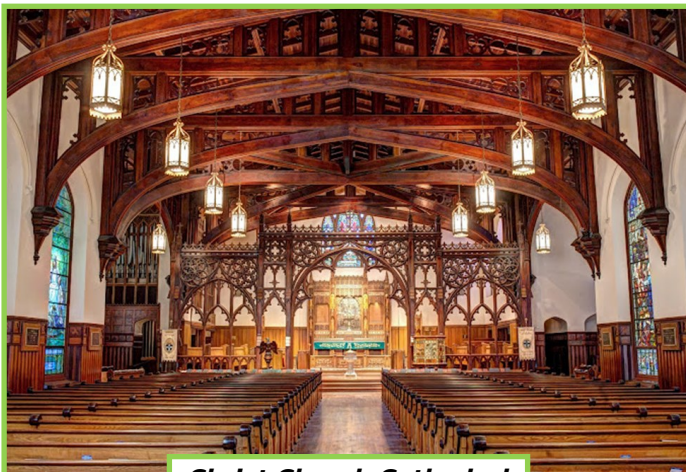
Christ Church was established in 1839 when Texas was still an independent republic. Many of Houston's notable were also parishioners at Christ Church. **We are scheduled for a 1:00 p.m. tour of the cathedral.**

The Precinct 3 bus will depart from the George H. W. Bush Community Center located at 6827 Cypresswood Drive in Spring. The bus will be available for boarding at 8:30 a.m. and will depart at 9:00 a.m. We should return around 4:00 p.m.

Sign up ASAP at the April 2nd General Meeting or by mail. **The deadline to pay will be Friday, April 26th after which no refunds can be made.** Please bring a check for \$23 (payable to FAN) to the General Meeting or mail it to Carolyn Grimes, 8838 Leaning Hollow Lane, Spring, TX 77379. Final details will be emailed to each participant by May 3rd.



**Glenwood Cemetery**



**Christ Church Cathedral**



**RESERVATION FORM:** Mail to **Carolyn Grimes** at 8838 Leaning Hollow Lane, Spring, TX 77379  
**Friday, May 10th: Houston's Past and Most Notable Residents**

Name (Please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Full Address (Street, City, Zip): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name & Tel. #: \_\_\_\_\_

Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Literary Review Book Club

**Kathy Court**, *Literary Review Lead*

Date: April 24th  
Time: 1 p.m.  
Hostess: **Gayla Baker**  
Book: *Last Light*  
Author: Terri Blackstock

## Page Turners Book Club

**Adrienne Juno**, *Page Turners Lead*

Date: April 10th  
Time: 1:30 p.m.  
Hostess: **Linda Fisher**  
Book: *The None Of This Is True*  
Author: Lisa Jewell



# BOOK CLUBS

## Antiquers & Junkers

**Etta Gager**, *Antiquers & Junkers Lead*

The March outing for Antiquers & Junkers will be held on **Wednesday, April 17th** with a carpool trip to Conroe to visit antique and resale shops and boutiques.

**Linda Comeaux** and **Gail Stone** are the Hosts, and will email details to A&J members at the beginning of April. Email me at [egager8@yahoo.com](mailto:egager8@yahoo.com) for details or questions.



## Boot Scootin' FAN Dancers

**Maggie Farhadi**,  
*Boot Scootin' FAN Dancing Lead*

If you're interested in a friendly, fun, and healthy activity, come join us!

**Meet us Mondays, April 1st and 15th from 2-4 p.m. at the George H.W. Bush Community Center.**

Beginners are welcome! Contact me at 713-213-3178 for any additional info.



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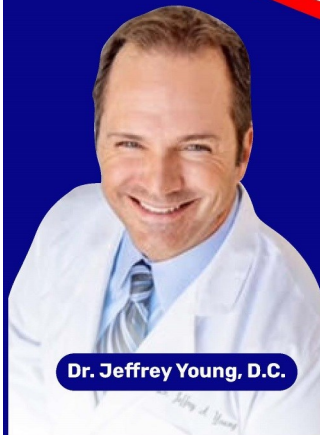
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## Let's Play Yahtzee!

**Barbara Pack**, *Yahtzee Lead*



FAN has a fun Yahtzee Activity Group. If you didn't sign up yet, contact Barbara Pack at 832-381-4468 to be added to the Yahtzee monthly email and sign-up. We meet at Las Mañanitas on Louetta at 11:30 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The cost to play is \$2 and the prizes will be cash. Let's get ready to roll!!!



**Thanks to Susan Butler for proofreading the FANfare newsletter each month!**



# Friends And Neighbors Women's Club

EST. 1979

*All New and Renewing Members must complete this form.*

**2024-2025 Application: New Member \_\_\_\_ Renewing Member \_\_\_\_**

## Section 1: Member Contact & Personal Information (Please print)

Name <i>(First/Last)</i>			
Address			
City		HOME Phone Number	
Zip Code		CELL Phone Number	
Subdivision			
Email		Birthday <i>(Month/Day)</i>	
The Year I Joined FAN		Spouse's Name	

## Section 2: Membership Information

A.	Annual dues are \$25, covering the period of <b>June 1 through May 31. Make check payable to FAN.</b> <b>Note:</b> <i>Membership dues are not deductible contributions.</i>
B.	Membership information must be received by <b>June 30</b> to be included in the directory.
a.	<b>Sign here if you do NOT want your information in the directory.</b> _____ <b>Note:</b> <i>The Directory is not distributed to anyone outside of FAN.</i>
b.	The Membership Directory will be available at the FAN general meetings. <b>Directories are not mailed.</b>
C.	Newsletters are available on the club website: <a href="https://www.fanwomensclub.com/">https://www.fanwomensclub.com/</a> . An email with a link to the newsletter is sent to members when a new issue is posted.

## Section 3: Volunteer Interests (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Assist at the General Meeting as a Greeter	<input type="checkbox"/> Assist with Set-up for Special Events/Luncheons
<input type="checkbox"/> Assist at the General Meeting Sign-in Table	<input type="checkbox"/> Assist with Computer Skills – Word, Excel, Publisher
<input type="checkbox"/> Assist at the General Meeting Hospitality Table	<input type="checkbox"/> Assist with Event Planning / Organizing / Decorating

**Return form to: Gayla Baker at 7703 Hertfordshire Drive • Spring, TX 77379**





FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS WOMEN'S CLUB

**Newsletter Editor:**

*Laurie Nimberger  
18506 Florence Bend Drive  
Cypress, Texas 77429*



### **FAN's PURPOSE**

- To provide an opportunity for members to become acquainted with others in the community in an atmosphere of friendliness, goodwill, and helpful information.
- To undertake and to promote charitable and humanitarian projects within the community.
- To form enduring friendships.