

FANfare

FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS WOMEN'S CLUB

FAN General Meetings

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 6th.

We will celebrate FAN's 45th Anniversary along with Membership Appreciation!

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

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



President's Message

Kim Gerrish, President

The January General Meeting was a bustle of activity as members visited each stop in the FAN EXPO coordinated by **Kathy Court**. The Boot Scootin' FAN Dancers: **Elsie Colwell, Paula Altman, Susan Kleimann, Lois Redford, Emma Rice, and Ernye Zawitkowski** with **Maggie Farhadi** as the Lead, amazed us with their footwork. And we discovered what the Montgomery County Women's Center mcwctx.org does for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors from our program guest speaker, Linda Quiroz!

YOU DO NOT want to miss the Board SURPRISES for EACH and EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU at the February 6th General Meeting. Not only is this FAN's 45th Anniversary Celebration but also Member Appreciation! Plus, the fabulous Solid Rockers Senior Choir is going to WOW us!

Happenings you will find in this FANfare:

- **Carolyn Grimes'** next Day Trip sign-up for the February 16th trip to 'Fallen Warriors and the National Museum of Funeral History.'
- The 'Stayin' Alive for 45' Spring Luncheon sign-up chaired by **Donna Morris**.
- **Mary Papageorge**, Charity Chair, is seeking Charity Recommendations.
- The Nominating Committee, chaired by **Kathy Court**, is accepting nominations for the 2024-2025 Executive Board.

See you at the February 6th FANTabulous 45 General Meeting. Can't hardly wait ...

January General Meeting

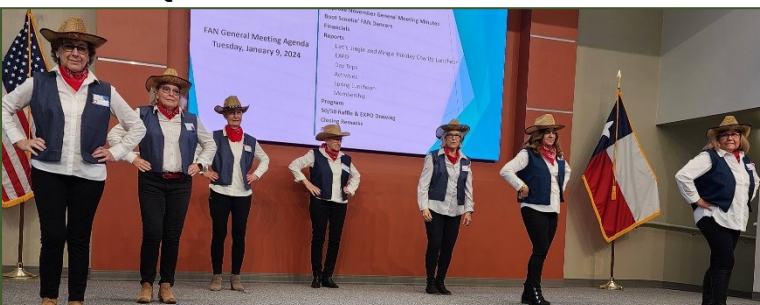
We had a great turnout at our January General Meeting. Guest speaker Linda Quiroz shared about the Montgomery County Women's Center, and we also enjoyed fun dances from our Boot Scootin' FAN Dancers.



Linda Quiroz



Boot Scootin' FAN Dancers



Boot Scootin' FAN Dancers: (left) **Lois Redford, Paula Altman, Elsie Colwell, Maggie Farhadi, Emma Rice, Susan Kleimann and Ernye Zawitkowski**.

"We had a great time performing for the January General Meeting. Even with all our missed steps, we had FUN. We hope you enjoyed our first attempt at dancing for an audience and had as much fun as we did," said Boot Scootin' FAN Dancers lead **Maggie Farhadi**.

Celebrating 45 Years of FAN-TABULOUS Ladies: The History of Friends And Neighbors Women's Club (FAN)

Originally Written by Arlene Skaggs, Advisor 2002-2003

As we celebrate FAN's 45th Anniversary, it's a great time to honor the club's history and our founder, who started the club we all continue to enjoy 45 years later.

FAN began as a Welcome Wagon Club in 1979 when founder Joanne Thomas moved to Houston from Massachusetts where she was involved in a Welcome Wagon Club. When learning that no Welcome Wagon Club existed in this area, she began talking to her neighbors in Lakewood Forest about her project to start a Welcome Wagon Club. In February of 1979, a meeting was held at Cypress Creek Christian Community Center, and thus, Welcome Wagon was "born." By 1986, membership had grown to 171. Welcome Wagon met continually at Cypress Creek Christian Community Center, except for the years 1981 and 1982 when they met at Northwoods Presbyterian Church. Eleanor Knerr, the Historian, recorded this information on April 1, 1986.



In 1994, Welcome Wagon headquarters informed all clubs to drop members who had been in Welcome Wagon for more than three years because it was only for "newcomers" to the area. They also suggested that non-newcomers start an "alumni" club of sorts. However, so many friendships had been created, and members appreciated the opportunity to meet other newcomers that this proposal did not appeal to our club. In addition, meeting programs were limited to Welcome Wagon sponsors and community groups only, and membership was restricted only to ladies who had "moved" into the community.

At the September 1994 General Meeting, Selina Patterson, President, with the approval of the FAN Board, offered a proposal to the general membership to organize our group under a new name, "Friends And Neighbors of FM 1960 Women's Club." With the new name came a new purpose, which was to include all ladies who were indeed "newcomers," and also to include other friends and neighbors who resided in the Northwest area and surrounding communities who were interested in our club and its activities. A further benefit of this organization is that we could now provide programs for the General Meeting of a greater variety and interest to our members.

In March of 2020 our Bylaws were revised to include a reflection on the growth of Northwest Houston whereas we changed the group name from "Friends And Neighbors of FM 1960" to the current "Friends And Neighbors Women's Club (FAN)."

Nominating Committee

Kathy Court, *Nominating Committee Chair*

We are looking for eager volunteers to serve on the FAN Executive Board for 2024-2025. If you are imaginative, organized and love to have fun, then you are a perfect candidate.

The Executive Board consists of:

- **President**
- **1st Vice President - Programs**
- **2nd Vice President - Membership**
- **Secretary** - *records minutes of Board and General Meetings*
- **Treasurer**
- **Auditor**
- **Historian** - *records the year in photos*
- **Newsletter Editor**
- **Advisor** - *typically a Past President*



Please consider serving if asked. Or, if you know someone who would be perfect for the job, ask her to consider it, then contact the Nominating Committee Chair at kacourt@att.net with her name and position.

Membership Updates

Gayla Baker, 2nd VP of Membership



"Friendship is the only cement that will ever hold the world together." -Woodrow Wilson

Greetings Ladies,

As of January 10th, we currently have 250 members.

At the January 9th General Meeting we had 113 Attendees: 96 renewed members, 9 new members and 8 guests.

We wish to extend a warm welcome to our 9 new members who have joined since the January newsletter:

- Janet Bryan
- Marie Draycott
- Carol Eiermann
- Nancy Gobel
- Susan Helms
- Linda Putback
- Cathy Salyers
- Peggy Schneider
- Sarene Smith

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, or email us at our email fanwomensclub@gmail.com.

Hugs 'til next month!



Blaire Calabro	2/1
Helene Levar	2/1
Judy Gordon	2/2
Patricia Natole	2/2
Elizabeth Rice	2/2
Debbie Blailock	2/6
Sharon Wiers	2/6
Eva Grigg	2/12
Mary Ales	2/13
Elaine Jones	2/14
Patsy Justice	2/14
Kathy Ghiselli	2/16
Patti Suitt	2/16
Heather Graham	2/17
Tiffany Cady	2/18
Harriette Kinkade	2/21
Christel Clark	2/23
Haroline Hatley	2/25
Heather George	2/26
Valerie Minyen	2/28



February General Meeting Program: Solid Rockers Senior Choir

Sandy Darst,
1st Vice President of Programs

Don't miss the Solid Rockers Senior Choir, who will be performing at our February General Meeting. Solid Rockers are a nonprofit group of singers aged 55 and older who perform at local hospitals, nursing homes, churches, and other venues, making their audiences smile. Their delightful repertoire of favorites will get our toes tapping.



TOPPING THE CHARTS

The Solid Rockers Senior Choir welcomes anyone age 55 or older who would like to sing a variety of secular, religious and holiday songs at community concerts.

BIBLICAL HYMNS:

- * "The Lord Bless You and Keep You"
- * "Take Me To The King"

GENERAL REPERTOIRE:

- * "You Are My Sunshine"
- * "Singing In The Rain"

SEASONAL SELECTIONS:

- * "Salute To The Armed Forces"
- * "Silent Night"
- * "O Holy Night"
- * "Come On Ring Those Bells"

FAN Activities

Mary Ales,
Activities Chair



Happy New Year and Welcome 2024!

We are **"Looking For A Few Good Ladies"** who would like to be leaders for some fun FAN activities. Bring your talent and enthusiasm as an Activity Lead. No experience necessary, but lots of FUN!

Calling all ladies who like to **GOLF**. Get ready to hit the greens with our newest activity. Contact **Ernestine Zawitkowski** at ezjz@sbcglobal.net or 713-898-1049 for more information.

Contact me at maryales13@gmail.com if there are any questions, concerns or if you would like more information about leading a group.

See you at our February meeting!

Help Recommend the Charity That FAN Supports in 2024-2025

Mary Papageorge, *Charity Lead*

We are accepting charity recommendations for our 2024-2025 fundraising efforts. The Charity Committee, led by **Mary Papageorge**, will review completed forms and information, provide all choices to the Board, then submit three choices for members to vote on at the April General Meeting. The deadline for submissions is March 10th. Please complete this form and email to mary.papageorge1@gmail.com, or turn the form in at the February and March General Meetings.



Name of Charity: _____

Type of Charity: _____

Charity Contact Information: _____

Charity Website and Social Media Pages (Facebook, etc.): _____

Who does the charity benefit? Why is this charity a good choice for FAN?

Please provide written material such as a brochure. **Thank you!**

Antiquers & Junkers

Etta Gager,
Antiquers & Junkers Lead

The February outing for Antiquers & Junkers will be held on **Wednesday, February 21st** with a trip to Magnolia.



Mary Ales and Charlotte Duff are the Hosts, and will email details to A&J members at the beginning of February. Please contact egager8@yahoo.com for any additional questions.

Railroad Canasta

Kim Gerrish,
Railroad Canasta Lead

Upcoming date: Tuesday,
February 13th

\$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 if you need training or if you wish to be added to the contact list each month.

FAN Day Trip: 'Fallen Warriors and the National Museum of Funeral History' on Friday, February 16th

Carolyn Grimes, *Day Trips Chair*

We are scheduled for a 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. tour of the Fallen Warriors Gallery, followed by a tour of the Memorial. Ken Pridgeon, Sr. is the artist who paints portraits of those who paid the ultimate price for the rest of us who live in freedom. He works things into the foreground of the paintings that had meaning to these fallen heroes. We see them as individuals who played the guitar or football, as an example. Ken Pridgeon knows each fallen warrior as if they were his sons or daughters, and consequently, each of his paintings tells a story. Mr. Pridgeon will personally do the tour.

We will have lunch at a restaurant to be determined.

After lunch, we are scheduled for a docent-led tour at the National Museum of Funeral History, including the much anticipated new permanent exhibit 'The Most Famous Burial of All Time: The Shroud of Turin,' which opened in April 2023.

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 9:30 a.m. and will depart at 10:00 a.m. We should return around 4:00 p.m.

The cost for these tours is \$21.00.

Sign up ASAP at the January 9th or February 6th General Meeting or by mail. The deadline to pay will be Friday, February 9th after which no refunds can be made. Please bring a check for \$21.00 payable to FAN or cash to the GMs or mail it to Carolyn Grimes, 8838 Leaning Hollow Lane, Spring, TX 77379. Final details will be emailed to each participant by February 9th.

Ken Pridgeon, Sr. Fallen Warriors Gallery



Fallen Warriors Memorial



National Museum of Funeral History



RESERVATION FORM: Mail to **Carolyn Grimes** at 8838 Leaning Hollow Lane, Spring, TX 77379
Friday, February 16th: Fallen Warriors and the National Museum of Funeral History

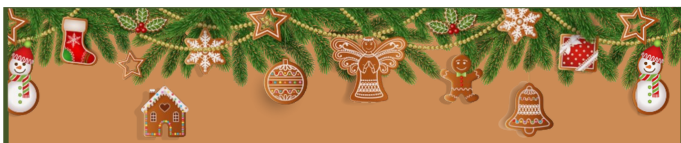
Name (Please print): _____

Full Address (Street, City, Zip): _____

Email: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

Emergency Contact Name & Tel. #: _____

Check #: _____ Amount: _____ Date: _____



Festivi-Tea and Cookie Exchange!

Jennifer Banks,
Special Holiday Event Chair

Thank you to my fabulous committee for making the Festivi-Tea a success. A great time was had by all!

The Golden Spatula winners were:



Sandy Darst:	Kim Gerrish:	Heather Graham:
<i>Most Yummy</i>	<i>Best Decorated</i>	<i>I Tried</i>

And many thanks to our Queen of Tarts, **Betsy Calabro**, for judging all of the cookies.



Blaire Calabro and **Betsy Calabro** enjoying time at the Festivi-Tea and Cookie Exchange.

Let's Play Yahtzee!

Barbara Pack, Yahtzee Lead



FAN has a fun Yahtzee Activity Group. If you didn't sign up yet, contact me at 832-381-4468 and I'll add you to the email. We meet at Las Mañanitas 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!!!!

Membership Directory

Susan Butler,
Directory Chair

It's a new year, make it a great one and start out with two free personal training sessions at UFIT Health.

Is Pilates more your style? Check out West End Cypress Pilates and get moving.

Please remember to support all the FAN advertisers who were kind enough to support FAN!



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

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FAN Day Trip: 'Weird & Wacky Iconic Houston' on Friday, March 15th

Carolyn Grimes, Day Trips Chair

Are you ready to tour some of Houston's iconic landmarks? Then this is the tour for you.

We are scheduled for a 10:00 a.m. tour of the Beer Can House. It is a folk art house covered with beer cans, bottles, and other beer paraphernalia. Beginning in 1968 and continuing for 18 years, John Milkovich began altering his home and garden in Houston's Rice Military neighborhood, one beer can at a time, into an elegant and original showplace.

We are scheduled for a tour of the iconic Orange Show. Starting in 1956, Jeff McKissack, a mail carrier in Houston, personally transformed a small suburban lot in honor of his favorite fruit. He used bits of junk and material salvaged along his mail route, and it opened to the public in 1979. It's 3,000 square feet filled with a multi-decked building and series of rooms, a wishing well, an amphitheater with an array of old tractor seats, a pond, and an oasis.

We will visit mosaic-covered Smither Park, an urban space developed over time with help from artists and friends of the park. Visionary artist and builder Dan Phillips worked with Stephanie Smither to form the park in memory of her late husband, John H. Smither.

We will plan lunch at a nearby restaurant, location to be determined. The Precinct 3 bus will depart from the George H. W. Bush Community Center at 6827 Cypresswood Dr., 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. **The cost for these tours is \$15.00, not including lunch.**

Please sign up ASAP at the February 6th or March 5th General Meetings or by mail. **The deadline to pay will be Tuesday, March 5th, after which no refunds can be made.** Please bring a check for \$15.00 payable to FAN or cash to the GMs or mail it to Carolyn Grimes, 8838 Leaning Hollow Lane, Spring, TX 77379. Final details will be emailed to each participant by March 8th.

Beer Can House



The Orange Show



Smither Park



RESERVATION FORM: Mail to **Carolyn Grimes** at 8838 Leaning Hollow Lane, Spring, TX 77379
Friday, March 15th: Weird & Wacky Iconic Houston

Name (Please print): _____

Full Address (Street, City, Zip): _____

Email: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

Emergency Contact Name & Tel. #: _____

Check #: _____ Amount: _____ Date: _____



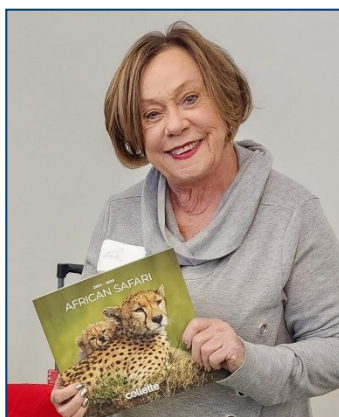
FAN EXPO 2024 Was Another Success!

Kathy Court,
EXPO Event Coordinator

Thank you to everyone who visited the EXPO tables at the January General Meeting. The tables were bustling with members supporting members.



Tiffany Cady owner of *Angel Pets Mobile Grooming & Boarding*



Rena Malinowski with *Cruise Planners*



Sandy Darst with husband Tom are the owners of *Forest Lawn Funeral Home*, shown talking with **Lin Fish**.



MaryAnn Lucas with *MaryAnn Lucas Fine Art* talking with **Ann Parker** (left)



Mila Walker with *Mary Kay Cosmetics*

Nature Walkers

Jacqueline Webster,
Nature Walkers Lead



THINK ON YOUR FEET
(From the AARP bulletin)

To help improve your brain's health, lace up your sneakers and hit the road. Walking may help you grow new brain cells, boost your creativity, enhance your mood, reduce the risk of cognitive decline, and decrease brain-damaging stress.

All the more reason to join the FAN nature walkers. We meet twice a month and walk for about an hour in the various parks in Precinct 3.

Email jcwebster1@sbcglobal.net to be put on the list. I'll see you on the nature trail.



Tile Twisters National Mah Jongg Group

Tiffany Cady,
Tile Twisters Lead

For Trained National Mah Jongg Players

We meet at 1 p.m. on the second Friday of each month.

Anyone with playing experience is welcome to join. We meet at the George H.W. Bush Community Center at 6827 Cypresswood Drive. Also, we do not play for money. For more information, just text me at 281-658-9661.

FAN EXPO 2024 (cont'd)

Not pictured:
Marianne Steinbacher with *Sunrise Pool Renovations*.



Congratulations to **Joyce Uribie** who won a \$25 Sweet Greek gift card, and **Maggie Farhadi** who won a \$50 *Angel Pets* gift certificate!



Mark your Calendar for these upcoming FAN events!

- February 6th:** General Meeting with the Solid Rockers Senior Choir. Also Celebrate FAN's 45th Anniversary, along with Membership Appreciation!
- February 16th:** Day Trip to Fallen Warriors and the National Museum of Funeral History (*sign up by February 9th*)
- March 5th:** General Meeting featuring Lil' Wranglers Dance Troupe
- March 15th:** Day trip to Weird & Wacky Iconic Houston (*sign up by March 5th*)
- April 2nd:** General Meeting with guest Houston's own restaurant pioneer and author Johnny Carrabba
- May 7th:** FAN Spring Luncheon "Stayin' Alive for 45"

Literary Review Book Club

Kathy Court,
Literary Review Lead

Date: February 28th
Time: 1 p.m.
Hostess: Charla Hannibal
Book: *The Henna Artist*
Author: Alka Joshi

Page Turners Book Club

Adrienne Juno,
Page Turners Lead

Date: February 14th
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Hostess: Susan Busler
Book: *The Mostly True Story of Tanner & Louise*
Author: Colleen Oakley



Thanks to Susan Butler for proofreading the FANfare newsletter!

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, February 5th and 19th from 2-4 p.m. upstairs at the George H.W. Bush Community Center.

Beginners are welcome, and no experience is required.

Contact me at 713-213-3178 for any additional information.

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Happy Hour Gals

Rena Malinowski,
Happy Hour Gals



Wow! What a great way to end 2023. We had our FAN happy hour at my house which was all decorated for Christmas. As usual, we were laughing and having way too good of a time to remember to take photos.

Our next Happy Hour Gals get together will be **February 15th**. See you then!

Dirt Divas: Martha's Bloomers

Etta Gager,
Dirt Divas Lead

The next Dirt Divas outing will be a trip to Martha's Bloomers in Navasota on **Tuesday, February 27th**.

Claudia Gallagher will be hosting, and will send an email with the agenda to all the Dirt Divas at the beginning of February. Email egager8@yahoo.com for any additional details.



January 50/50 Raffle

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



Winners (each won \$42 x 3):	\$126
FAN Funds:	<u>\$127</u>
Total Collected:	\$254



**Barbara
Blindauer**



**Lois
Redford**



**Dorothy
Parmenter**



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(832) 422-2019

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11:00am - 8:00pm
Sunday
11:00am - 5:00pm

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11:00am - 8:00pm
Closed Sunday & Monday

www.TejasChocolate.com



Sunshine Wishes for Our FAN Friends

Lin Fish, *Sunshine Chair*

FAN friends who might welcome a cheery note include **Jill Richmond, Annette Murray, Sue Behnke** and **Sheila Gibbs**, all recovering at home.

Let's send extra gentle hugs to **Kayce Christian**, recovering from fractures to her spinal column.

Our sympathies go to **Sharon Wiers** on her sister's recent death.



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

Gleannloch Pines Golf Club
19393 Champion Forest Drive
Spring, Texas 77379

Come and enjoy a delicious buffet lunch, entertainment, raffles and more!

Tickets are only \$30. Wine and cocktails will be available for purchase.

Make checks payable to FAN and mail checks with completed form to:

Donna Morris • 12510 Oak Park Drive • Houston, TX 77070

The deadline for reservations and refund requests is April 28.

Seats for up to 10 per table can be reserved as long as they are available and once payment is received. If you wish to share a table with friends, please list your tablemates' information below and submit this form **with payment** to reserve the seats. All efforts will be made to accommodate timely requests. Individuals will be seated at open tables.

Name

Phone

Email *(required)*

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10.			



FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS WOMEN'S CLUB

Newsletter Editor:

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



Friends And Neighbors Women's Club

EST. 1979

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.