



# ***NEWCOMERS AND FRIENDS OF GEORGETOWN***

***APRIL /MAY 2020***

***WWW.GEORGETOWNNEWCOMERS.COM***

When we last met on March 5, it was almost impossible to envision the drastic changes that our lives would undergo in a few short days. Since our Newcomers year had to come to such an abrupt end, I am doubly happy that we had our Member Appreciation Breakfast before that meeting. We had an amazing 86 members gather to enjoy our breakfast and then a very informative program about new businesses planning to open in Georgetown.

I want to give a huge thank-you to our current board members and non-board chairmen, who have done an outstanding job of taking care of Newcomers business. They have been great collaborators in decision making all year, and they have risen to the occasion in navigating the uncertainty of the last few weeks. With such a great board, the president's job is one of the easiest, so thank you so very much, ladies.

When we asked our members to vote electronically for the 2020-21 board, we received 130 responses, many more than would have voted at the April meeting, and the new board was elected unanimously. Thank you to the new board and to everyone who took the time to vote. Since we were not able to get them together to take a group picture, individual pictures of the board are included in this newsletter and will be on the website in a few weeks when they assume their duties. The new board is a great mix of returning and new officers and committee chairmen. They will have the challenge of figuring out how Newcomers and Friends of Georgetown will function as we go through this coming year.

The members who really are the glue of our organization are our SIG Leaders. About 9 out of 10 of us belong to at least one SIG, and they would not function without the leaders. So we all owe you many thanks for enabling us to participate in such great activities and make such good friends.

In these unsettling times, all of our Newcomers friends are being affected by the COVID-19 virus in various ways. Amid isolation, illness, unemployment, cancelled trips, missing out on birthday celebrations and funerals, children and grandchildren home from school, I hope that you are all doing okay and keeping in touch with friends and family. This certainly was not the way we anticipated ending our Newcomers year. We all miss seeing each other at our monthly meetings and at our SIG events. If you need a little advice on ways to stay in touch, elsewhere in this issue is an article by our Communication Chairman, Linda Baker, to help us take advantage of some of the great technology that is available to facilitate communication.

We certainly look forward to the days when we can get together again! Watch for newsletters to come when we hopefully start gearing up somewhat in the fall.

I wish all the best to you and your families this summer!

*Laura Packard, President*



Laura Packard



## ***Mark Your Calendars***

September 3 ..... General Membership Meeting

October 1..... General Membership Meeting



Sheila Mills



Mary Dunn



Dorothy Noack



Patti Groce



MaryAnne Sossamon



Linda Baker



Carol Machmer



Peggy Sklar



Susan Barton



Mimi Rhea



Ann Mayberry



Laura Packard

## 2020-2021 Officers

### Executive Committee

President..... Sheila Mills  
 1st Vice President..... **Open**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Membership..... Mary Dunn & Dorothy Noack  
 Secretary..... Patti Groce  
 Treasurer ..... MaryAnne Sossamon

### Standing Committee Chairpersons

Communications/Website ..... Linda Baker  
 Hospitality..... Carol Machmer  
 Programs..... Peggy Sklar  
 Publicity ..... Susan Barton  
 Special Interest Groups..... Mimi Rhea  
 Coffee & Conversation..... Ann Mayberry  
 Past President (ex officio) ..... Laura Packard

### Appointed Non-Board Positions

Corresponding Secretary ..... Emelie Young  
 Day Trips ..... Linda Barde-Zimmerling  
 Name Tags ..... Susan Barton  
 Newsletter ..... Carol Elsasser

The new board will assume responsibilities in the middle of May 2020. To contact board members, go to the Website [www.georgetownnewcomers.com](http://www.georgetownnewcomers.com) and click on Contact. Leave a brief message and you will receive a response.

## ***Special Interest Groups (SIGs)***

Please consult our Website for a list of all of our special interest groups. At the discretion of the individual interest group leaders, activity will resume when the restrictions from COVID-19 are lifted.

## ***Membership Applications Available Now at***

**[www.georgetownnewcomers.com](http://www.georgetownnewcomers.com)**

The 2020-21 membership forms are on our Website. Several of our members have shown their optimism and support by already paying their \$25 dues for next year.

On the Website, under “Upcoming Events” on the right side of the page, click on the word “membership” to go to the renewal page, where you will have the choice to choose either the paper membership form (for paying by check) or the on-line membership form.

If you have general questions about membership, contact Mary Dunn or Dorothy Noack through our Website.

## ***Inclement Weather Policy***

Our general meetings at Berry Creek Country Club are held on the first Thursday of each month except for June, July and August.\* If the schools are closed, the meeting is canceled. If schools are delayed two hours, we will still hold our meetings at 10:00 a.m. When in doubt, you can go to [www.georgetownisd.org](http://www.georgetownisd.org) where the school information will be posted.

\*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meetings for April and May 2020 were cancelled.

## ***Outgoing Executive Board & Committee Heads***

### Executive Committee

President.....Laura Packard  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President .....Susan Barton  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Membership.....Mary Dunn & Dorothy Noack  
Secretary.....Sheila Mills  
Treasurer .....Susan Smith

### Standing Committee Chairpersons

Communications/Website .....Linda Baker  
Hospitality.....Carol Machmer  
Programs.....Peggy Sklar  
Publicity .....Nanci Horton  
Special Interest Groups.....Susie Logan  
Coffee & Conversation.....Donna Hurley

### Non-Board Positions

Corresponding Secretary  
and Parliamentarian. ....Emelie Young  
Day Trips .....Linda Barde-  
Zimmerling  
Name Tags.....Connie Carden  
Newsletter.....Barbara Wisenburg  
Past President.....Linda Barde-  
Zimmerling

## ***In Sympathy***

Would you please contact us if you know of a member who has lost a spouse or loved one so that we can send a card from Newcomers? You can reach our Correspondence chair, Emelie Young, through our Website.

## ***Follow Us on Facebook!***

We have a Facebook page, for our members only. If you are interested in joining, go onto your personal Facebook account and search for Georgetown Newcomers and Friends.

## ***Name Tags***

If you would like to have a name tag to wear to our meetings and other functions, an order form is available on our Website. Price is \$9.00 each.

## *Wanting to meet virtually?*

by Linda Baker

There are quite a few options available to you! The following Websites offer a list of choices, as well as provide pros/cons for each one listed:

- 5 Best Web Conferencing Software Tools for Online Meetings in 2020  
<https://themeisle.com/blog/best-web-conferencing-software/>
- The Best Alternatives to Zoom for Video Conferencing  
<https://www.theverge.com/2020/4/1/21202945/zoom-alternative-conference-video-free-app-skype-slack-hangouts-jitsi>
- Best Video Conferencing Service  
<https://thewirecutter.com/reviews/best-video-conferencing-service/>

## *Want to play cards or games?*

- Jigsaw Puzzle Explorer – pick the puzzle and number of pieces you wish to assemble  
<https://www.jigsawexplorer.com/categories/>
- Playing Cards (and ask your friends to join you)  
<https://playingcards.io/>  
Includes checkers, euchre, crazy eights, go fish, or create your own custom 52 card deck game.
- Free Online Games  
<https://www.arkadium.com/free-online-games/>  
Solitaire, Mahjongg, freecell, sudoku, jigsaw puzzles, golf solitaire, scramble words, chess, blackjack, crossword puzzles, poker, and more.
- Trickster Cards  
<https://www.trickstercards.com/>  
Pinochle, spades, hearts, euchre, 500, bridge, and more. Allows you to play on multiple devices (phone, tablets, computers) and set up games with friends.
- Cardzania  
<https://www.cardzmania.com/>  
canasta, euchre, freecell, rummy, hearts, pinochle and more.
- Kosmi  
<https://kosmi.io/>  
Hangout with friends via chat or video, watch a movie or play games online.