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Your Board of Directors

LOAFERS, Inc. is incorporated as a not-for-profit 501(c)3.

Officers

Roxanne Cherico President
 Lavita Marks..... Vice-President
 Dawn Harrell Treasurer
 Janis Smith Secretary
 Arden Eversmeyer President Emerita

Directors

Danita ColeDirector
 Lucretia Copeland.....Director
 Margaret Thibodeaux.....Director

Newsletter

Danita Cole Editor
 Dawn Harrell Tech Writer



LOAF NEWSLETTER

PO Box 7207, Houston, TX 77246-7207

loafhoustonTX@gmail.com

Issue: No. #2021-11

December 2021

December Calendar

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- Thursday, December 9.....Board of Directors Meeting6:00 pm**
 Online Via Zoom
- Sunday, December 19**Meet and Greet2:00 pm
 Online Via Zoom
- Tuesday, December 21**Newsletter Deadline COB

December Meet-n-Greet

December 19th, 2:00 pm



We have missed everyone. Join us at the Montrose Center in December for our Holiday Meet-n-Greet! LOAF will be catering pizza (vegan included) and salad. Let's enjoy an afternoon of catching up with each other

members. Standard COVID protocols will be followed. RSVP (including guest) for our "in-person" Meet-n-Greet at loafhoustonTX@gmail.com no later than Friday, December 17th.

- Just remember that Indoor activities with social distancing and masks required should be safe for vaccinated members.



December Birthdays

07	Pam Perry
14	Deanna Webb
16	Linda Cecere-O'Bannion
17	Elizabeth McLane
19	Donna Junker
23	Cathy Mahan Steve
26	Brenda Kruger

In Memoriam - December

2004	Candy Candelari
2015	Rusty Cunningham
2012	Casey Davis
2016	Anne Goetshe
1991	Margaret Hall
2008	Marie Mariano
2017	Stephanie McClain
2011	Margaret Meade
2018	Joan Myers
2006	Carol Pazman
2018	Kim Peirce
1999	Diane Portilla
2011	Lorene Pouncy

Open Invitation

LOAF BOD meetings are currently being held via Zoom on the 2nd Thursday of the month. They are always open to the membership. If you would like to attend, please email your request to loafhoustonx@gmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

Would you like to help?

If you have 2-4 hours of free time each month and want to reach out to members, contact Roxanne Cherico @ 713.598.6875.

Call for Volunteers

We need volunteers to serve on the many committees, such as Socials Committee and Meet & Greet Committee. Please email Lavita at lavitasm@aol.com for more information.

Newsletter Edits

If you have a correction or addition for our newsletter, please send an email to loafhoustonx@gmail.com.



January newsletter articles are due by December 21st.

LOAF Needs You!



LOAF is now accepting nominations for our Annual Election for officers and directors. Elections are held at our December Meet-N-Greet.

Please consider giving back to our group by serving on the Board. Definitions of the responsibilities of each position are provided on Page 6 of this issue. If you have an interest, please email Arden at arden1931@att.net and loafhoustonx@gmail.com. The nominating committee will vet** all candidates and then recommend a slate for election.

** **Vet** means to perform a background check to protect the members of LOAF.

Thoughts and Prayers



Please keep the following LOAF members in mind. A card, email or phone call is always welcomed.

- LOAF member Karen Green passed away after a long illness. Condolences to her partner Melanie Nau.
- Please keep Cindy Cecere-O'Bannion in your prayers. She is having back surgery on December 8th and could use our good thoughts and well wishes.
- Please send continued prayers for recovery and healing for Dawn Harrell
- Condolences to Brenda Krueger.
- Condolences to Suzy Lovejoy on the passing of her mother, July 9th.
- Susan Fronck (she is house bound) 713-861-8427 4010 Feagan Street, #2, Houston, TX 77007.
- Pam Kunkle-Moberley still grieving her wife Connie, has had her brother pass. Continued Prayers to her & her family. 832-275-0724, kunklepa@sbcglobal.net

If you would like to be added to this list, or know of someone who should be either added or removed from this list, please send an email to loafhoustonx@gmail.com.

LOAF Spotlight

We Love West Texas! By Roxeanne Chericco

We wanted to take a nice long trip to West Texas. We both love the area but had never traveled there together. We tried to make reservations for Big Bend, but because of various improvement projects in the park, we were unable to. We finally agreed that Davis Mountains State Park was our destination. We also decided that this would be a “no screens” vacation. Kindles, only for reading, do not count as a screen. Deb’s reMarkable does not count as a screen as it does not play games, videos, or music. Also, we agreed we would be patient with each other’s tendency to yell “stop the car!”



As we did not want to set up in the dark, we stopped in Ozona the first night and found a reasonably priced, clean, and quiet hotel, Americas Best. The person behind the desk gave us a great place to park our car/camper combo that did not involve unhitching the camper (or backing up! We are still working on that part!) We had dinner at a local café, spent a quiet evening, and crashed early.



The next morning, off to Davis Mountains State Park! On the way we stopped at Balmorhea State Park to check it out. The camping sites are still closed for

We arrived at Davis Mountains Park and found our site to be as beautiful and convenient as Roxanne had researched it to be. Plenty of shade! We set up with little drama and enjoyed

a nice dinner. The weather was perfect for camping, cool nights and mild days, although we were happy to have a small heater the first couple of nights! Deb insists there be no food in the tent, not even snacks. The cooler and any other food supplies are stowed in the car every night. And, ta da! it paid off. Deb woke up to noises in the camp and

asked Roxanne to look to see what it was. Well, it was a group of javelinas strolling through and rooting into the non-food boxes we left under the picnic table. Deb went outside with her walking stick, herded them out of camp, cleaned up the mess, and put everything on top of the table and out of reach.

The McDonald Observatory was fantastic and worth the time and money. We viewed real time images of the sun and all the goings on there. There is an interactive display highlighting what the researchers do and the history of the observatory. The gift shop is not to be missed! Note: it is absolutely necessary to make reservations in advance!

Also, not to be missed is the scenic Skyline Drive in the Park. There are numerous pull off places so you may enjoy the views. There are also several CCC-constructed observation areas, one of which is totally wheelchair accessible. On our day trip to Alpine, we wandered the arts district (very wheelchair accessible) and took a break at the “Bread and Breakfast” cafe. We enjoyed our talks with the various proprietors and especially enjoyed the company of Cooper the Corgi at one of the boutiques. We did not find Marfa, which Deb used to love, worth the time. Their “arts district” is decidedly not wheelchair friendly. The Hotel Paisano was interesting. They have many artifacts from the filming of the movie Giant and a truly amazing gift shop. We did go the Marfa lights viewing station and actually saw the lights. Bucket list cross off for Deb! The night sky put on an incredible display, even the Milky Way was visible!



We were enjoying a lovely campfire (yes, of course we had s’mores!) when a skunk came to visit. Roxanne employed the “shoo shoo” method while Deb was getting far away (guess which one of us has cleaned up a skunk-sprayed dog).



There is a small grocery store in Ft. Davis, Porter’s, that had everything from ice and firewood to individual servings of hollandaise sauce found in their lovely produce section. We will never again grocery shop before coming to DMSP.

Birders will enjoy this wonderful park, also. There are two wildlife viewing areas. Deb saw a Western Scrub Jay to add to her life list.

We will definitely camp here again. In fact, Deb is going back in March. Where she can look at birds, lizards, rocks and desert as much as she wants.

Upcoming Social: January 13th

Georgia O'Keeffe Photography @ MFAH



LOAF is planning an outing to see the photography works of Georgia O'Keeffe at the Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet St., Houston, Texas, on Thursday, January 13th. Admission is free on Thursday, but you have

to pay for museum parking so carpooling would be a good idea. Parking is \$6 for MFAH members and \$10 for nonmembers for up to 4 hours. The museum opens at 11 am and our goal is to arrive at opening and avoid the afternoon crowds. After seeing the exhibit, members will have some time to explore the museum and take pictures if they like. The galleries within the museum offer great opportunities for interior architectural images, as well as photographing sculptures and paintings. We can grab lunch nearby afterwards before heading out.



Please RSVP to loafhouston.tx@gmail.com no later than December 30th so Advanced timed tickets can be obtained.

Info from the MFAH website:

Georgia O'Keeffe forged a career as one of the most significant artists of the 20th century. She became famous for her paintings of flowers, skyscrapers, and landscapes, yet her lifelong connection to photography has not been explored in depth until now.

Premiering at the MFAH, Georgia O'Keeffe, Photographer is the first exhibition devoted to O'Keeffe's work as a photographer. Nearly 100 photographs from a newly examined archive reveal the American icon's Modernist approach to the medium. Complementing the photographs are paintings and drawings to represent the full scope of her career.

Captured on film throughout her life—in early family pictures, travel snapshots, and portraits by a cavalcade of photographic artists—O'Keeffe (1887–1986) was no stranger to the medium. She expressed her unique perspective through all aspects of her life, and by the time she began her photographic practice in the mid-1950s, her singular identity and artistry were well established.

Newsletter Valentine Messages



**ROMANTIC
VALENTINE'S DAY
MESSAGES**

Send your special someone a message in the February LOAF Newsletter! All you have to do is provide the name of your "Object of Desire", add your special message, then your signature. The signature can be your actual name, or a nickname, or you can even give an anonymous signature if you want to send a flirt! What a fun way to wish a special day to a very special person! Send the details of your Valentine's message to loafhouston.tx@gmail.com no later than January 20th.

Potpourri

Overcoming Holiday Blues

The holidays are supposed to be the happiest time of the year, yet for many, they can trigger deep feelings of sadness and anxiety. Many people experience a drop in mood in anticipation of the holidays. The good news - seasonal doldrums tend to fade once the festivities are over.

Beating the Holiday Blues

Let's meet you where you are with six dimensions - Purposeful, Emotional, Physical, Social, Spiritual, and Intellectual. The philosophy for each of the dimensions can be applied in helping to prevent the holiday blues.

Purposeful - Volunteer your time to help others in need. The benefits can help you reduce stress and provide a sense of purpose.

Emotional - Although it can be tempting to isolate yourself when you have the holiday blues, it can be beneficial to spend time with your friends and family.

Physical - A quick 10-minute walk will get your heart rate up and release mood-boosting endorphins.

Social - Instead of spending the holidays alone at home, get your friends or family together for a dinner party.

Spiritual - Don't be afraid to ask others for help in running holiday errands to lighten your load. Be sure to set aside time to meditate and reflect.

Intellectual - It can be difficult to be alone around the holiday season. Instead of sitting at home, fill-up your calendar with activities and perhaps learn something new.

Don't forget that as a community, LOAF members are a band of sisters and here to help one another. Reach out if you have a need; we are here for each other.

Member Spotlight

Meet Leslie Bonnie by Dawn Harrell



Leslie Bonnie is a native Houstonian and has been a member of LOAF since 2015. As the only child of two professional dancers, it's no wonder she began her career in Film and TV. She was even named after the beautiful and talented Leslie Caron! She once spent 48

hours with Aerosmith recording a music video! But when a consistent paycheck was needed, she pivoted to a career with Continental Airlines. And why not, since she loved to travel?! She spent 11 years with the airline. One of her most important jobs with the airline was her role on the Emergency Response Team. Members of this team reached out to family members of airline crashes, transporting them to the crash site (or as close as possible), and provided for them during the investigations, which extended to meals, clothing, etc. She was a member of the team that helped the families of military passengers on a plane that crashed over Area 51. She reports that some details from the flight and crash were kept very hush hush. LOL! Leslie was even a member of the Emergency Response Team that contacted the families from the plane crashes on September 11th. During a time when the whole nation was mourning those sacrifices, Leslie was reaching out



and helping the families of those passengers. This reader believes Leslie was definitely an angel to deal with such a sad and surreal situation so up close! After being laid off from Continental, Leslie

traveled all over Europe and contemplated what next to do with her career. She expected that would include going back to school. She pondered her father passing from AIDS, her mother's preplanning of funeral arrangements, her own bout with breast cancer (she has been cancer free since 2008) and with inspiration from a TV show (6 Feet Under) decided that she had many things in her life that pointed toward the death industry. She got her degree Funeral Services and maintains a

license as a certified Funeral Director. Leslie currently sells preplanning services, funerals and cremations, for 35 Funeral Homes, 10 cemeteries, and can preplan anything one might need anywhere in the State of Texas. She also holds seminars about preplanning services for big groups, so she continues to use her experience from her Film and TV career and Emergency Response Team service in this iteration of her career. Maybe if we ask nicely, she can hold a seminar for LOAF! If you are interested in talking to Leslie personally, email her at Leslie.Bonnie@dignitymemorial.com. She was truly a delight to interview, and I am sure she can help you with your needs.

Now if all this wasn't interesting enough, guess what Leslie does with her spare time? She happens to be a 1st degree Chayonryu black belt! And she tells us that before we get too impressed with that knowledge, we should know that her partner of 17 years, Anne, is a 7th degree Kampo black belt, at one time ranking 3rd in the world in sparring and 1st in forms and weapons! Both Leslie and Anne are also instructors. Well, I am impressed with both of them and can't wait to meet them in person at a LOAF event soon!



Membership Updates

If you have moved or experienced a phone number change and need to update your membership records, provide that change to any Board member, or email your changes to loafhoustontx@gmail.com.

Future Social Gatherings:

January Meet-n-Greet

Something to look forward to!



At LOAF's January 16th Meet N' Greet, we will be making Valentines, the old-fashioned way! Bring on the construction paper and hearts, maybe even some lace! Plan to join us for this refreshed way to show your loved one that you care.

February Social



If you haven't been to one of our Annual gatherings at Sudie's, then we have a treat in store for you!

Coming back from the pandemic, mark your calendars for February 12th @ 2 p.m.!

Definitions and Responsibilities of Board Positions

President: supervises the business of LOAF, presides over meetings, other duties as prescribed by the Board of Directors. The President does not make unilateral policy decisions as LOAF Board operates by consensus, not a mere voting majority.

Vice-President: presides in the absence of the President; coordinates program events; performs other duties as assigned by the President or the Board of Directors.

Secretary: takes minutes of the meetings; records minutes of the annual meeting held in December; and delivers a copy to Moore & Hunt, our Corporate Attorneys. Files any required paperwork with the Texas Secretary of State.

Treasurer: receives monies; makes bank deposits; pays bills; prepares annual financial statement; prepares records for tax return (Hubbard Financials); must have a working knowledge of bookkeeping and banking. Keeps membership records.

Director(s): they help plan LOAF functions like our Socials and Meet-and-Greets, and/or help prepare content for our monthly Newsletter...it is also a great way to get involved.

Join our Facebook Group!



Did you know LOAF has a Facebook Group? Well, we do -- and you can easily find many of our announcements and meeting links there. Also,

we post additional local information and stories that we feel are of interest, but we don't have enough space to include it in our Newsletter. Our Group is a "private" group and **will not show up on your personal Facebook page**. Contact one of our Admins and request to join; then we can send you an invitation. Admins are Janis Smith, Danita Cole, or Dawn Harrell.



LOAFers, Inc.

Private group

About LOAF

LOAF is a social networking and support group for lesbians fifty (50 years of age and older, and their partners, whatever their age). LOAF is incorporated without a formal membership, so we do not have dues, but instead request contributions. This allows us to avoid submitting membership rolls to the State. This money is then used to cover the cost of the newsletter, website, supplies for some of the socials, etc.

Contributions are \$30 per single and \$45 per couple.

Please Zelle contributions from your bank to loafhoustonTX@gmail.com or mail contributions to

- LOAF
PO BOX 7207
Houston, TX 77248-7207

Contributions will be prorated. All participants are to renew their membership in January of each year. A lapse of 3 months will prevent individual distribution of the newsletter. We offer a trial period for distribution of the newsletter to interested prospective members for 3 months. If, after the trial period has expired, the prospective member has not become a member, distribution will be discontinued.

Any woman experiencing financial hardship may participate on scholarship, free of charge. Scholarships are confidential. Contact any officer on the Board of Directors.

The newsletter team welcomes input for publication, i.e., articles of interest, poetry, etc. Please contact any Board member or email your submission to loafhoustonTX@gmail.com.