

DECEMBER 2025



HARTA

Humble Area Retired Teachers Association

Local Chapter of Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) District 4

HARTA is an organization for all retired educators & school employees who reside in the Humble, TX area.

2025-2026 HARTA OFFICERS

President..... Linda Spiro
1ST VP Membership..... Bobby McAndrews
2nd VP Books & PR Chris Pieknik
3rd VP Programs Janie Branham
Secretary Margaret Farenthold
Treasurer..... John Widmier
Parliamentarian Carolyn Mashburn
Immed. Past President Brenda Pearson
Newsletter Editor Marjorie Isgitt



**MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT
LINDA SPIRO**

HARTA MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMS 2025-2026

August 18: Welcome Back and Pot Luck Luncheon
September 15: Congressman Crenshaw & Sen. Creighton
October 13: The Women's Storybook Project
December 8: High School Choir and Pot Luck Luncheon
February 9: *Butterflies: A Practical & Spiritual Guide*
April 13: Safety Presentation by Vicky Stansifer
May 18: Installation/Awards and Pot Luck Luncheon

Social time—9:30 a.m.; Meeting—10:00 a.m.
Eggers ISC, 4810 Magnolia Cove Dr., Kingwood, TX 77345

To access HARTA Webpage and Facebook:

Go to www.trta.org, Districts & chapters, District 4, scroll down to Humble.

Need to contact us? hartamembers2@gmail.com

The Voice of all Public Education Retirees



**Join us for
HARTA's Holiday Meeting and
Potluck Luncheon**

Bring your favorite dish (appetizer, salad, main dish, bread, or dessert).

HARTA will furnish lasagna.

Monday, December 8 at the ISC,
Social 9:30 am; Meeting at 10 am.

Holiday Entertainment by Kingwood
Park High School Choir.

Please bring a wrapped or bagged
gift for the scholarship-money raffle.





MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT LINDA SPIRO

December is my favorite time of year with music, lights, decorations, special church services, and holiday traditions transforming the ordinary into the magical. Despite so many of our members suffering the loss of loved ones this year, we hope the holidays will still bring joy and good cheer to all. It's also a time to thank HARTA members for their generosity in giving both their time and treasure to support book giveaways for children and retirees (board books through large-print books); candy, raffle items, and recognition/rewards for teachers and support staff; collections of school shoes and personal cleanliness items; and bedding for children finally receiving a bed of their own.

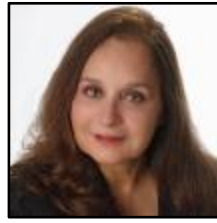
In December your generosity continues by bringing burp cloths, bibs and/or footed sleepers for babies born to teen mothers helped by Humble ISD's educational support services. December is also the month when one of Humble ISD's wonderful school choirs (from Kingwood Park this year) provides us with a memorable holiday performance.

Topping off the December 8th meeting is the opportunity to taste the yummy food HARTA members bring to our holiday potluck dinner. It's a meeting not to be missed (9:30 am social time and 10 am meeting time at the ISC). We hope you'll be able to attend and bring a fellow education retiree and remember, the next meeting is not until February 9th when we elect new officers.

To all of you near and far, may your holidays be filled with joy, peace and love.

Those bringing centerpieces for the December Meeting:

Linda Spiro (2)	Janie Branham
Brenda Pearson (3)	Dawn Meador (2)
Patti Sano	Cindy McAndrews
Hayley Manuel	Cheryl Reid
Marlece Davis	Marjo Stach
Trilla Cook	Margaret Farenthold
Jan Blackwell	Shirley Williams
Carolyn Mashburn	Carolyn Baldwin



DECEMBER PROGRAM - Janie Branham

The Kingwood Park Madrigal Singers are an elite group of high school students who love to share their passion for music with the community. They perform traditional Christmas carols in Victorian costumes, spreading joy and love during the holiday season. You may catch them singing at your local elementary school, grocery store, restaurant, or even on the streets of downtown Houston. They also perform private events such as parties and corporate events. Their beautiful voices and festive spirit are sure to get you into the holiday spirit!

Christine Donley has directed the KPark Madrigal Singers since 2022. She has been with Humble ISD for 10 years.

Christmas truly is "the most wonderful time of the year," and the KPark Madrigal Singers are thrilled to have the chance to perform for HARTA!



HEALTH - Dawn Meador

Keep your blood pressure down during the holidays!

1. Older adults should keep salt intake under 1500 mg a day.
2. Stay hydrated - drinking water flushes sodium through kidneys.
3. Exercise at least 150 min a week - walk after the meal.
4. Not getting enough sleep can raise blood pressure.
5. Watch sugar and carb intake to avoid weight gain that may cause a rise in blood pressure.
6. Alcohol directly affects your blood pressure.
7. Stress can raise your blood pressure.

Studies show feelings of gratefulness lower stress and improve blood pressure! 😊

* Dr Adam Rosenbluth, internist & cardiologist in NYC (AARP Nov 2025)



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

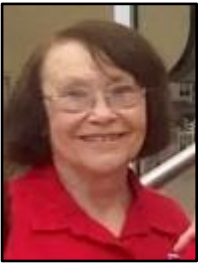
Jacqueline	Navarro	6-Dec
Joseph (Joe)	Weir	6-Dec
Annette (Toni)	Gentili	7-Dec
Autumn	Hawes	8-Dec
Claudia	Brookover	9-Dec
Beverly	Silloway	9-Dec
Margaret	Armstrong	11-Dec
Linda	Chow	11-Dec
Dorma	Kindle	11-Dec
Marian	Mannix	12-Dec
Catherine (Cathy)	Reading	13-Dec
James	Ellis	14-Dec
Susan	Lastrapes	14-Dec
Angela (Angie)	Shepherd	14-Dec
Dr. Sherian G.	Doyle	15-Dec
Glenda	Weiffenbach	15-Dec
John Charles (J C)	Evans	16-Dec
Ann	Rice	16-Dec
Betty	Austin	19-Dec
Irmgard	Davis	21-Dec
Patricia	Hicks-Faulkenberry	21-Dec
Mimi	Monks	22-Dec
Bette	Guillo	24-Dec
Brenda	Pearson	24-Dec
Arlene (Dolly)	Smith	24-Dec
Krista	Malmstrom	25-Dec
Margaret (Angela)	Doepping	26-Dec
Suzanne	Barker	27-Dec
Danielle	Coulanges	28-Dec
Kathleen (Kathy)	Johnson	29-Dec
Charles	Jones	29-Dec
Lois	Wellborn	29-Dec
Joyce	Pope	30-Dec
Margaret (Peggy)	Bussard	31-Dec
Artie	DeHart	31-Dec
Dennis	Flim	31-Dec
Laura, Dr	Wilson	31-Dec



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Peggy	Hanks	1-Jan
Barbara	Moynier	2-Jan
Terri	Parker	2-Jan
Susan	LeMaster	4-Jan
Kay	Signorelli	4-Jan
Charles	Dinhoble	7-Jan
Diann	Millstid	7-Jan
Sandra	Rasmussen	7-Jan
Delroy	Smith	7-Jan
Nancy	Schettler	8-Jan
Eva Ruth	Meredith	9-Jan
Nancy	Rogers	9-Jan
Bill	Bivin	11-Jan
Elizabeth (Libby)	Sievertson	11-Jan
Sharon	Hensarling	12-Jan
Mary	Sanders	12-Jan
Virginia	Cowen	13-Jan
Janet	Orth	13-Jan
Cathy	Shepeard	14-Jan
Carolyn	Austin	15-Jan
Cynthia	Jones	15-Jan
Mary Anne	Evans	17-Jan
Emelyn	Stalnaker	17-Jan
Donna	Belger	19-Jan
Rebecca (Becky)	Galey	19-Jan
Juanita	Jordan	19-Jan
Charles	Cezeaux	20-Jan
Cynthia	Griffin	20-Jan
Marlece	Davis	22-Jan
Janine	Nerad	22-Jan
Beverly (Gayle)	Noll	23-Jan
Janet (Jan)	Sherrill	23-Jan
Eugenia (Genie)	Pearce	24-Jan
Linda	Freeman	25-Jan
Lois	Ventura	25-Jan
Cheryll	Williams	25-Jan
Marcy	Keating	26-Jan
Paula	McKinley	26-Jan
Judy	Rice	26-Jan
Gayle	Sampley	27-Jan
Veronica	Vickery	27-Jan
Norma	Kinchen	28-Jan
Ruth	Cortez	29-Jan
Bill	Beard	30-Jan





BOOK PROJECT

- Chris Pieknik

Book Project Report for December 2025

Our last reported book distribution total was 14,293 books. On October 24, we distributed 1,173 books at HEB (site change from My Happy Place due to rain), 115 books were delivered to the Humble Early Childhood Center, 243 to Magdalene House, 18 to Creativity Shell, 12 to a home-school teacher, and 1 to family for a total of 15,857.

Christmas in the Park, Saturday, December 6, 2025 Help needed, please!

HARTA will be in Town Center distributing books on Saturday, December 6. Please, sign up to help! We especially need help in the afternoon. We do not have a meeting before this event, so we need you to call Chris to select your time. Phone: (540) 660-2879. Shifts are as follows: 9-10:15 AM (set-up), 10:00 AM-11:15 AM, 11:00 AM-12:15 PM; 12:00, noon-1:15 PM; 1:00 PM-2:15 PM, 2:00 PM-3:15 PM; 3:00 PM-4:15 PM, 4:00 PM-5:15 PM.



Volunteer Services/Community Involvement Committee

- Patty Murphy

Happy Fall—Happy Thanksgiving— and soon it will be Merry Christmas!!

I know everyone is busy getting ready for the holidays, yet volunteering endeavors continue!!!

We are coming in to the “home stretch” for the 2025 calendar year of recording our volunteer hours. As always, index cards will be available at the December meeting to report your hours OR you can text me (832-444-6630; , email me (patty253@gmail.com) OR you can go to our web page: TRTA.org , Districts & Chapters, District 4, Humble Area RTA. Click on the button that says, Update Your Volunteer Hours. Up to 12 hours per day may be reported as volunteer hours and there are so many activities that count!

Dinner for a sick friend? Knitting or quilting for prayer shawls or blankets? Driving a neighbor to the doctor? Book giveaway events? **YOU ARE A VOLUNTEER!**



READERS LOVE TEACHERS

- Jan Resell / Patti Sano

Our October “Readers Love Teachers” award and cash contribution was presented to an Eagle Springs Elementary teacher nominated by her student.



SAFETY

-Trilla Cook

Staying Safe During the Holidays

The holiday season is a time for joy, family, and celebration—but it’s also a time when accidents and scams tend to increase. By taking a few precautions, you can help keep your home and loved ones safe this season.

1. Preventing Physical Falls

Holiday decorating often involves ladders, cords, and cluttered spaces. Always use a sturdy ladder and have someone nearby holding the ladder when hanging lights or decorations. Keep walkways clear of cords, boxes, and rugs that could cause trips or slips. If weather conditions are icy or wet, wear shoes with good traction and spread salt or sand on outdoor steps and driveways.

After the gifts are opened, be mindful of wrapping paper, ribbons, and gift bags scattered on the floor. These can easily become slip or trip hazards—especially for children, pets, and older adults. Collect and dispose of wrapping materials promptly, and keep gift bags and boxes out of high-traffic areas.

2. Avoiding Internet Scams

Online shopping peaks during the holidays, and so do cyber scams. Be cautious of emails or texts offering deals that sound “too good to be true.” Shop only on secure

websites (look for “https” in the web address) and avoid using public Wi-Fi to make purchases. Never share personal or financial information through email or social media messages, and monitor your bank accounts regularly for unauthorized charges.

3. Cooking and Kitchen Safety

Holiday meals bring everyone together, but cooking fires are one of the leading causes of home fires during this season. Never leave cooking food unattended, and keep flammable items—like towels or oven mitts—away from the stove. Use timers to remind you when cooking times for recipes are done, and turn pot handles inward to avoid spills. Keep a fire extinguisher nearby and make sure smoke detectors are working properly.

A Safe Season is a Happy One

By taking a few extra steps to prevent falls, avoid online scams, and cook carefully, you can ensure your holidays are filled with warmth and cheer—not unexpected emergencies. **Stay safe, stay aware, and enjoy the season.**



LEGISLATIVE NEWS

- James Ellis

The Christmas/New Year's holiday season is punctuated by politicians announcing their candidacies for offices ranging from Justice of the Peace to U. S. Senator in the coming year's elections. Filing for the 2026 Republican and Democratic primary elections is open until December 8.

Even before the March primaries, special elections will fill vacancies in a U. S. House seat last held by Representative Sylvester Turner and a Texas Senate seat last held by Senator Brandon Creighton.

If you or any family members have moved and need to update voter registrations, that needs to happen at least thirty days before any election in which you need to vote. Use every opportunity you have to question candidates about issues important to you, including but not limited to those related to education and retirement.

They are paying you more attention now than usual!



TREASURER'S CORNER

- John Widmier

As of October 18, 2025, HARTA has a balance of \$22,983.85 in the Business Checking Account at PNC Bank.

The Certificate of Deposit held at PNC Bank earned \$32.71 interest in October and now has a balance of \$10,158.20.

The Endowed Fund with the Humble ISD Education Foundation had a balance of \$40,060 at the end of the third quarter of 2025 (September 30, 2025). Approximately \$5,000 will be taken from the Endowed Fund in the spring of 2026 to pay for educator grants for 2025-26 that were awarded in November.

If you have any questions regarding HARTA's finances, please feel free to contact me at (281)798 8735 or johnwidmier@yahoo.com.



FOUNDATION NEWS

- Glenda Laney

This is a special thank you to all who contributed to the October fundraiser for the Foundation. Thanks to you for your donations in the red envelopes. Thanks to you who contributed donations for the wine gift basket raffle. Thanks to all who bought tickets for the raffle. Congratulations to Susan Clark for buying the winning ticket.

Our total for the October fundraiser was \$365.50. Our total for the 2025 year contributions was \$538.50. Thanks to ALL who helped Texas retired teachers in need of emergency funds and/or those who experienced a disaster of some kind.

Red envelopes will be on the tables in February to collect again for the 2026 Foundation. Save your change. :o)



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

- Bobby McAndrews

Thank you to everyone who has renewed your dues for the current (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026) membership year. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so today. If you are not sure whether you did or not, please email harta1stvp@gmail.com or contact our treasurer, John Widmier. Often, members pay their TRTA dues by bank draft but forget to renew their HARTA local membership.

Since our last meeting, many of you have renewed. Currently, the Humble Chapter has 439 paid TRTA members and 232 paid HARTA local members.

Thank you for helping HARTA to attract new members. By growing our membership, we can keep this chapter vital and strong. We are stronger when we come together for a common purpose as a voice for interests of all Texas Retired Educators. The work you do to support education with books, scholarships, and support of our students and teachers is commendable. Let's spread the word and give all retired school employees the same opportunity to serve our community. After all, who doesn't want to help kids become more literate? Who doesn't want to help kids without beds get one? Who doesn't want to support our current teachers? Who doesn't love our school children? Who is not interested in retired teachers' benefits? Who doesn't like to visit with old friends and make new ones? Who doesn't love to go on fun trips and outings with friends? These are all great reasons why we must invite every retired school employee to join HARTA.

Be sure to visit our NEW and improved Webpage and Facebook group page by going to www.trta.org. Simply click on Districts and Chapters > District 4 and scroll to Humble RTA.

Our webpage has everything HARTA members need to stay informed including announcements, meeting dates, newsletters, trips and events, meeting minutes, new member/renewal application and more.

If you are a donor, please consider the benefits of joining as a non-annuitant member in 2025-26. Paying the additional \$35 to join TRTA allows you access to sup-

port teacher initiatives and to purchase AMBA's member services and discounts.

If you are new or have misplaced your name tag, please let me know and I will make a new one. You may message me via email at harta1stvp@gmail.com.

Thank you for being a HARTA Member.



MEMBER BENEFITS

- Becky Hendricks

GUIDE TO YOUR TRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

Dental & Vision Plans
Flexibility and Freedom are the words best described when it comes to your Dental and Vision plans. Easy-to-use, broad coverage and discounts with a wide range of providers.

Home Health Care Insurance
This policy is designed as an affordable solution that helps give you the flexibility and freedom to utilize the type of care that's right for you - in your very own home.

Medicare Solutions
Medicare doesn't provide all the coverage you need and can lead to high out-of-pocket costs such as deductibles, co-insurance and co-pays. That's where a Medicare coverage plan comes in. Please Note: TRTA strongly supports TRS-Care. There are certain provisions that may impact your future eligibility. Please contact 888-237-6762 for questions.

Long Term Care Insurance
AMBA will build a policy to match your needs. You select the daily benefit amount, elimination period, and benefit period which best suits your needs for care.

Medical Air Services Association (MASA)
MASA is dedicated to providing life-saving emergency assistance from home or while traveling. The coverage is designed to protect members against catastrophic financial loss when emergencies arise.

Cancer, Heart and Stroke, Accident and Disability Insurances
Benefits paid directly to you. You select the benefit level that best suits your needs.

Hospital Stay Coverage
A plan designed to help protect your savings and security for the future. This insurance can help offset the cost of deductibles, co-pays, and unexpected or additional expenses incurred but not covered by other insurance plans.

Life Insurance
You can choose plans that protect your family now and at the end of life. Easy issue and Traditional plans available.

Tax-Deferred Asset Protection
Tax-deferred accumulation of interest for qualified or non-qualified funds with the ability to participate in market gains with no downside risk. No underwriting required. Multiple options with lifetime income and Long Term Care benefits available.

Those who volunteered for the December Meeting:

Those bringing beverages are:

Lynn Williams	Carolyn Baldwin
Fran Simister	Marlece Davis
Pat Winkler	Janet Roberts (Water)

Those bringing snacks are:

Carole Hood	Terry Enderle
Janet Brinkley	Autumn Hawes

Those bringing Door Prizes are:

Everyone for the scholarship-money raffle.

The HARTA Educator Scholarship committee met on Nov. 17 to review the 48 applications received from teachers in the Humble ISD. Twenty-five recipients were chosen to receive awards totaling nearly \$10,000, thanks to an additional donation from the Humble ISD Foundation. These awards help send teachers to workshops, conferences, or pursue certifications or master's degrees.

Many thanks to Melinna Lopez at the Foundation for her ongoing help. Thanks also to committee members Liz Brod, Carolyn Mashburn, Carolyn Monroe, and Christie Jordan for their patient work.

Susan Burroughs



A check for \$250 to purchase infant books was presented to Melissa Whittington of Humble ISD Pregnancy Related Services so newborns will have a positive start on literacy.



WOMEN'S STORYBOOK PROJECT UPDATE

At the October meeting, Tiel Rainelli held our attention with her information about the Women's Storybook Project and the possibility of HARTA members volunteering.

This group helps incarcerated women record books for their children and then provides a copy of both the book and the recording to those children. Over a dozen HARTA members are meeting regularly to mentor each other through the training process. We encourage you to join us. Simply Google womensstorybookproject.org to get started. Training begins with a 10 question test and promises to continue for several weeks. At this time, Carolyn Mashburn carolynmashburn44@gmail.com is keeping a list of interested HARTA members and other friends. Please let her know if you might want to join the group.



BABY CLOTHES DONATION

HARTA has donated baby board books to Humble ISD's pregnancy support program for several years. We recently learned of their need of footed sleepers, bibs, and burp cloths. At the December meeting Melissa Whittington will accept our donations. They prefer size 3 to 6 months. Carolyn Mashburn recently found these items at the Kroger on 59 and the Beall's store in Porter. \$5 - \$6.

If you would like to bring a gift bag for your items, please keep the bag folded flat so they can be stored neatly until needed.





October Meeting Centerpieces. -Brenda Pearson

I really enjoyed making the October HARTA meeting centerpieces that became door prizes for some members. If you still have your pumpkin, you might be interested in a few details. The natural elements came from these sources: the Spanish moss from my property on the Trinity River; the acorns from the ground below the oak trees on the east side of the Kingwood Community Center; the succulents from Kingwood Garden Club member Alan Raymond; the pumpkins from the produce section of Krogers on Hwy 59; and everything else from local craft stores. The succulent on each pumpkin is living, and some water should be placed on the green moss that holds it in place about twice a month. The pumpkins should last for a long time, but eventually they will start to deteriorate. I suggest keeping the pumpkin on a dish that would catch any liquid that might leak out. The top of the pumpkin can then be carefully sliced off and placed onto a bed of soil in a shallow container. Or, the succulent can be removed and transplanted. The other decorations on the top can be repurposed. The pumpkin stem should surely be saved in an open-air bag for use in making a velveteen pumpkin. I would love to hear how long your pumpkin lasts.

HARTA Activities



HARTA presented 90 large-print books to Stillwell's Bob Herndon for their library.



Carolyn Mashburn led our dance session at the District 4 Conference.



Book Giveaway at HEB Celebration



HARTA trip to Madisonville Christmas store.



HARTA visit to Kim's Home and Garden Center in Huntsville.

TRIPS AND TOURS

- HARTA MEMBER SPONSORS

All trips are sponsored by HARTA members. Please sign up at the meetings or contact the trip sponsor. **Some trips require pre-payment which can be done at the meeting.**

"IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE" - STAGES THEATER

(The bus is full, but sign up for the waitlist.)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2025

Bus leaves the ISC at **3:45 PM** and returns about 10:00 PM. Dinner on your own at Barnaby's Café. Performance begins at 6:30 PM. Tickets \$46 plus \$5 for the bus = \$51.

Contact: CAROLYNMONROE36@GMAIL.COM

Checks to Carolyn Monroe or Zelle 832-724-9052.



January - Dawn Meador

Save the date (January 7, 2026) for one of our amazing



Humble ISD school tours. Planning is still in the works, but sign up now while seats are available. We'll leave the ISC Building at **8:30 am** and tour two elementary schools. At 11 am the district will serve us

a meal at the Humble ISD School Administration Building. After lunch we can shop at the Spirit/Mosaic store before boarding the bus. We'll then tour a secondary school and be back at the ISC at 2:30 pm.

Million Dollar Quartet - Hobby Center - February 17

Linda Spiro, 713-703-7240, gglspiro@gmail.com

Join fellow HARTA travelers for **the Tuesday, February 17th performance of the Million Dollar Quartet** based on the night Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Louis, Carl Perkins and Johnny Cash had a special jam session at Sun City Rec-



ords. All the tickets are taken, but we have a few bus seats available if you want to buy your own ticket and ride with us. Please contact Linda Spiro

first to be sure no one else has claimed the seats. You can also get on the waitlist for \$70 or \$45 tickets since there always seem to be cancellations with those canceling hoping to sell their tickets. The bus will leave the ISC building at 4 pm so please arrive no later than 3:45 pm. We'll eat at Barnaby's at 414 W. Gray and then arrive at the Hobby Center by 6:45 pm since we must pick up the tickets before 7 pm. We'll arrive back at the ISC around 10:45 pm.

Join us for the **Hemi Hideout and Brookwood Experiences on Tuesday, March 10!**

Hemi Hideout offers a blast from the past featuring a unique collection of Plymouth and Dodge muscle cars from the 60s and 70s, an exquisite display of over 600 porcelain and neon signs, antique tractors and motorcycles, and much more.

The tour of the Brookwood community will start with lunch at the Brookwood Café which offers an extensive menu of superbly prepared gourmet meals. Afterwards we will tour the Brookwood facilities and learn about the latest developments in this vibrant community where the citizens are making the most of their abilities. You will surely be impressed with the expansive garden center and the exceptional gift shop.

Cost for this event will be \$15 and can be collected at the February meeting. Please contact Chris or Phil Pieknik to make reservations for this trip. Chris (540) 660-2879; Phil (540) 660-2566; Email: pieknikpw48@yahoo.com.

April 22, 2026: A Stroll Through Old Town Spring: Where History Meets Fun!

If you're looking for a getaway that's close to home but full of charm, Old Town Spring is the perfect pick. This historic little district—once a bustling railroad hub—is now a lively maze of boutique shops, quirky eateries, and colorful character around every corner. Every storefront offers a delightful surprise: vintage treasures, handcrafted jewelry, Texas-inspired décor, hat bars, breweries and Michelin Star rated BBQ. If you haven't visited lately, it's time to plan a stroll—you never know what treasure you'll find next!

Bus leaves the ISC at 9:45 am

Cost: \$5 cash (bus driver's lunch & scholarship fund)

Patti Sano, PatriciaSano63@gmail.com

May 2, 2026: Stepping Back in Time: Galveston's Historic Homes Tour

There's something magical about walking through history—and Galveston's Historic Homes Tour delivers that magic with every creaking floorboard and sweeping staircase. Enjoy a look into some of the island's most storied residences, each one offering a window into Galveston's rich past and remarkable resilience. If you're seeking inspiration, architecture, or simply a beautiful day by the water, the Galveston Historic Homes Tour is an experience worth adding to your calendar. It's a journey through time you won't want to miss!

Tentative schedule:

Bus will leave the ISC at 8:00 am and return by 4:00 pm
Cost: \$5 cash (bus driver's lunch & scholarship fund)
Tour tickets: Cost to be determined sometime in March.
 Lunch and shopping at your expense.
 Patti Sano, PatriciaSano63@gmail.com



ROAD SCHOLAR TOURS 2026 - Carolyn Mashburn

HARTA has an opportunity to earn over \$6,000 for our scholarship program through sponsoring a wonderful educational adventure to PANAMA! Please join us; tell your family and friends, neighbors, cousins, Sunday School class and bridge group. You get the idea. The more the merrier. This program is open for registration. No need to contact me. Road Scholar will let me know that you've registered. **Hurry! The program is currently exclusive to us but will open to the public soon.**

ROAD SCHOLAR

A Learning Adventure for HARTA Members
Program # 9901—Grit and Glory: Exposing the Panama Canal
Friday, September 18 to Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Program Overview:

The Spanish thought about it. The French drew plans for it. In the end, though, it took a revolution, technology, money, determination and grit to complete the Panama Canal. On this unique journey, traverse the canal by boat and learn about the epic struggle to carve a nautical shortcut from one ocean to another. Learn about the canal's construction and its impact on world history, commerce and medicine.

Program Highlights:

- Learn about the history of the Panama Canal during exclusive boat transit.
- Witness the workings of the busy Miraflores and Gatun Locks and the Alajuela Dam.
- Admire the eclectic architecture of Casco Viejo — a UNESCO World Heritage Site — during a walking exploration of its cobblestone streets.



Program Only Prices:ⁱ

- Double Occupancy: \$2,499
- Single Occupancy: \$2,929

Activity Level: On Your Feet – Walking and standing for up to 90 minutes at a time in hot, humid weather. Getting on/off a boat, ascending/descending steps, no wheelchair access.

Program Price Includes:

- 5 nights of accommodations
- 14 meals (5B, 4L, 5D)
- 1 expert-led lecture
- 8 expert-led field trips
- Performance
- Group travel and transfers throughout the program
- A Group Leader to accompany you throughout the program to handle all logistics
- Modest gratuities, taxes and destination fees
- The Road Scholar Assurance Plan, including 24-hour assistance for medical and other emergencies

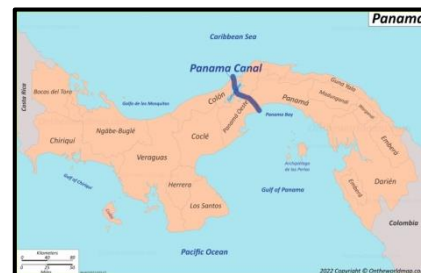
Accommodations:

Radisson Hotel Panama Canal, Panama City, 3 nights

- Modern hotel located at Fort Amador, on the boardwalk overlooking the entrance to the Panama Canal and the Bridge of the Americas.

Gamboa Rainforest Resort, Gamboa, 2 nights

- Resort is strategically located on the banks of the Chagres River and the Panama Canal, near the Soberania National Park. The lush surroundings and quiet neighborhood are a nice refuge from the hustle and bustle of Panama City, just 30 minutes.



To learn more, please contact Carolyn Mashburn at carolynmashburn44@gmail.com



Updated
March 2025



HARTA MEMBERSHIP FORM for Enrollment or Renewal (Please fill in all blanks)

Name _____ Date _____ New Member _____ Renewing _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Birthday: Mo _____ Day _____ Cell Phone _____ and/or Home Phone _____
 Email _____ TRTA Member # (if known) _____
 Emergency contact for trips: Name _____ Relationship _____ Cell # _____

I receive a monthly annuity from TRS.

- ____ I am paying both my TRTA dues of \$35 and my HARTA dues of \$10. I owe \$45
 ____ I already pay my TRTA dues monthly by TRS annuity auto deduction, I am paying my HARTA dues. I owe \$10.
 ____ I already pay my TRTA dues monthly by bank draft auto deduction, I am paying my HARTA dues. I owe \$10.
 ____ I have already paid my TRTA dues of \$35 by check or credit card. I am paying my HARTA dues only. I owe \$10.

I do not receive a monthly annuity from TRS, but I want TRTA group benefits.

- ____ I am paying both my TRTA dues of \$35 and my HARTA dues of \$10. I owe \$45.
 ____ I already pay my TRTA dues monthly by bank draft auto deduction, I am paying my HARTA dues. I owe \$10.
 ____ I have already paid my TRTA dues of \$35 by check or credit card. I am paying my HARTA dues only. I owe \$10. ____

I am a Donor / Friend / Spouse who wishes to support HARTA. I owe \$10.

Designate donation to: _____ General Funds or _____ Scholarship Funds or _____ Where Needed

Or Donation Honoring (Name) _____ Address to notify honoree (if desired) _____

Amount Paid _____ Cash _____ or Ck # _____ Mail Checks payable to **HARTA**, PO Box 5102, Kingwood, TX 77325

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- ____ Please include my name, address, email address, phone # and birthday (no year)
 ____ Please include my name only **OR** ____ Please do not include me in the directory (opt out entirely)
 ____ I give permission for HARTA to use my likeness in photographs, videos, or digital media in its publications.