

APRIL 2026



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 Fahrenthold
Treasurer..... John Widmier
Parliamentarian Carolyn Mashburn
Immed. Past President Brenda Pearson
Newsletter Editor Marjorie Isgitt



**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



REMINDERS

April or May
Optional Donations

- *Sneakerdoodles (new sneakers for school children)
- *Candy for Humble ISD facilities workers' treat bags
- *Gift bag door prizes for Humble ISD facilities workers



MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT LINDA SPIRO

Seventeen HARTA members drove to the Berry Center in Cypress on March 25 to attend the first ever part online, part in-person statewide TRTA House of Delegates. District 4 also held our annual Spring Conference after the state-wide House of Delegates. HARTA had eight voting delegates counting Mary Widmier who participated as District 4 Treasurer and TRTA State Legislative Chair. Delegates from all over the state voted in a secure online system to eliminate the word “local” from “local chapters” in various statements since chapters are by definition local. After some technical difficulties delegates approved an increase in state TRTA dues to \$48 from the present \$35 (about \$1.08 per month) since there has been no dues increase in 17 years. (Note that this increase does not begin until July of 2027.) TRTA has been working to reduce costs as much as possible. For example, you’ll notice *The Voice* is much thinner to save on mailing costs. Delegates also elected the new TRTA state officers and approved that district officers and committee chairs must be a member of a chapter within a district and that district officers must be receiving an annuity from TRS. Unlike state and district officers, chapter officers as well as district and chapter committee chairs are not required to receive a TRS annuity to serve. This allows those who were college and university educators under the ERS system or who didn’t have enough years to qualify for retirement under TRS or retired under a different state’s pension or are beneficiaries of living TRS annuities to serve as district and chapter committee chairs and chapter officers, but not to be delegates. At the district meeting HARTA was recognized for giving away the most books (over 8,000 compared to the next best of around 2,500), and for providing the most scholarship funds among large chapters along with the Houston HART chapter. As TRTA District 4 Health Chair Carolyn Mashburn led a fun dance video, and Mary Widmier was installed as the district treasurer for another term.

In August HARTA will honor Humble ISD facilities members. This summer we’ll make treat bags for the 310 custodians and 50 maintenance workers. If you have a nice gift that doesn’t match your décor or interests, please

consider bringing it to the April 13th or May 18th meeting to include in gift basket drawings. Also needed are bags of candy to make small gift bags this summer for each facilities employee. Additionally, Trilla Cook is collecting children’s sneakers at the April and May meetings to bring to HAAM to distribute to children in August so kids will have a new pair of shoes to start the school year.

HARTA members really enjoyed a recent trip to the Hemi Hideout and Brookwood. More great trips are coming up including in the summer so please read the trips’ section.

The HARTA year is coming to a close, and I hope you’ve enjoyed it as much as I have. Consider bringing a fellow retired education employee with you to the next meeting to share in the fun.



FEBRUARY PROGRAM - Janie Branham

Vicky Stansifer will be speaker at our April meeting

Vicky worked for Chevron Phillips Chemical Company as an Environmental Health and Safety Technician and trainer. Vicky has certifications from OSHA in health and safety standards and best practices. Vicky’s expertise includes ergonomics and safe body positioning for everyday life. Since retiring, Vicky has volunteered with the Battenberg Martial Arts working with the Village Learning Center for adults with IDD. Also, Vicky assists with the Battenberg’s Rock Steady Boxing which is designed to strengthen people battling Parkinson’s disease.



HEALTH - Dawn Meador

Best and Worst Sleep Positions for Older Adults

During the day, you often change positions to save yourself from discomfort. But at night, many people fall asleep in these compromising positions, unaware of the pain it’s causing until it wakes them.

“These positions become painful because they test your range of motion, which tends to narrow with age,” Scott Bautch, D.C., a Wisconsin-based chiropractor says. That’s why it’s so important to sleep in a neutral position, mean-

ing no body part is stretched, squeezed, or awkwardly placed, says Kathleen Walworth, P.T., D.P.T., a physical therapist and geriatric clinical specialist with Athletico Physical Therapy in Brooklyn, Michigan.

Fixing your sleep posture can help relieve pain right away or even prevent it from happening in the first place, Bautch says. But it's not just about orthopedic issues. Adjusting your sleep position can also help boost overall quality of life.

So whether you're dealing with joint pain, a stiff neck, or sleep apnea, there's a position that can help—or hurt—you. Here are the best and worst ways to sleep for common ailments.

1. Back Pain

Best: On your back with a pillow under your knees.

Worst: On your stomach.

2. Stiff Neck

Best: On your back or side with a pillow that holds your head in neutral.

Worst: On your stomach.

3. Shoulder Injury or Pain

Best: On your good side or back with a pillow to support your bad shoulder.

Worst: On your bad shoulder.

4. Hip Pain

Best: On your back with a pillow under your knees, or on your good side with a pillow between your knees.

Worst: On your bad hip.

5. Knee Pain (That's Not Due to Knee Replacement)

Best: On your side with the good knee and a pillow between your knees, or on your back with a pillow underneath them.

Worst: On your bad knee.

6. Post-Knee Replacement

Best: On your back with a pillow under your legs lengthwise so knees are straight.

Worst: With knees bent.

7. Sleep Apnea

Best: On your side or elevated on your back.

Worst: Flat on your back.

8. Poor Circulation

Best: On your left side.

Worst: On your right side.

(condensed Silver Sneakers Oct 2021)



Last Name	First Name	B-Day
Trautman	Diane	Apr 01
Flim	Lois	Apr 02
Reviere	Brenda Kaye	Apr 02
Smith	Jerald E (Jerry)	Apr 05
Smith	Margaret	Apr 07
Fisher	Pricilla	Apr 08
McAndrews	Robert (Bobby)	Apr 14
Manuel	Hayley	Apr 15
Quillin	Linda	Apr 16
Hiller	Faith	Apr 18
Laney	Glenda	Apr 18
Huxohl	Debra (Debbie)	Apr 19
Piggott	Dale	Apr 20
Keng	Bea	Apr 21
Albers	Emma	Apr 23
Ortiz	Paula	Apr 23
Schoenfeld	Karen	Apr 23
Jorgensen	Loweta	Apr 28
Wiggins	Sharlene	Apr 29
Resell	Jan	Apr 30
Williams	Lynn	Apr 30





BOOK PROJECT
- Chris Pieknik

HARTA BOOK PROJECT

On March 25, at the TRTA House of Delegates and District 4 Spring Conference, HARTA received awards for having distributed the most books, and the most books per member. **You have done an outstanding job!** Thank you for your donations and your hours of volunteering. But, that is now in the past, and we must keep moving forward.

In January, we distributed 400 books: 300 to Magdalene House Social Services, and 100 to the Houston Livestock Show. In February, we distributed 2,166 books: 1,159 at Mardi Gras in the Park, 465 at River Pines Elementary, 490 to Magdalene House Social Services, 50 to Books for Development, and 2 to the Garden of Hope Library. In March so far, we have distributed 100 books to Magdalene House. As of March 25th, the total of books distributed is 2,666.

We have book giveaways at Park Lakes Elementary on March 26 and at the Shadow Forest Elementary Sharkfest on Friday, March 27. There is a major change for Easter in the Park. We learned on March 24th that **Easter in the Park will be Saturday, April 4th, NOT March 28th**. The hours are 10 AM to 4 PM with setup at 8:30 AM. If anyone can help on that date, please contact me, Chris Pieknik, by phone or text at 540-660-2879 or email me at pieknikpw48@yahoo.com.



HARTA Book Giveaway



Volunteer Services/Community Involvement Committee
- Patty Murphy

Happy Spring!!! Three months of 2026 have already zoomed by! The flowers are blooming and I bet many of you are “springing into action” around the house and garden with spring clean-up and planting. Even with our busyness, I know that there is an abundance of volunteer hours “springing into action” as well. Please be prepared to report your volunteer hours at our next meeting on **April 13th**. As always, index cards will be available on each table at the April meeting to report your hours OR you can text, me (832-444-6630); email me at 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 2026**. Up to 12 hours per day may be reported as volunteer hours! Did you make or buy dinner for a friend, babysit, drive someone to the doctor, sit with a sick family member or friend, volunteer at church or HAAM? Make your hours count for HARTA by reporting them.



READERS LOVE TEACHERS
- Jan Resell / Patti Sano

At our Book Giveaways children are asked about their favorite teacher and each month a teacher is chosen for our READERS LOVE TEACHERS award. They are given a certificate, \$25, and a beautiful 3D paper apple made by Brenda Pearson.

Our January recipient was Alison Alford, a Woodland Hills teacher, who wrote a grant for a book vending machine.



Ms. Wilkins, Kingwood Park HS, CTE Department

Two high school girls shared their experiences in Rolanda Wilkins class who was our February recipient. Ms Wilkins teaches in the Teaching and Training program within the Career and Technical Education program which prepares high school students for careers in education. Students learn about classroom instruction, child development, and teaching methodology. They are also involved in hands on application in Humble ISD classrooms throughout the year.



Ms. Denton awarded certificate on March 27, 2026

Our March RLT award was presented to Ms. Denton, a 5th grade teacher at Jack Fields Elementary. She was nominated by a student who said Ms Denton teaches her students problem solving so they can become friends instead of fighting. She is a kind and understanding teacher.



SAFETY
-Trilla Cook

Spring Safety Tips for April

Warmer weather makes April a great time to get outside for gardening and walking. While enjoying spring activities, remember a few simple safety tips.

When gardening, start slowly and stretch before working to avoid muscle strain. Use proper lifting techniques when moving soil or plants, wear gloves to protect your hands, and stay hydrated while working outdoors.

If you enjoy walking, wear supportive shoes and watch for uneven sidewalks, wet surfaces, or loose gravel that could cause trips or falls. Bright or reflective clothing can help drivers see you more easily, especially in early morning or evening hours.

Spring also brings seasonal allergies for many people. Checking pollen levels, wearing sunglasses outdoors, and

changing clothes after spending time outside can help reduce exposure.

By taking a few precautions, you can enjoy the beauty and fresh air of spring safely.

Stay safe!



TREASURER'S CORNER
- John Widmier

As of March 22, 2026, HARTA has a balance of \$24,527.86 in the Business Checking Account at PNC Bank.

The Certificate of Deposit held at PNC Bank earned \$91.83 in interest in January, February and March and now has a balance of \$10,315.76. The CD will mature on April 22, 2026. At that time the balance will be rolled into a new CD.

The Monroe/Beard Endowed Fund with the Humble ISD Education Foundation had a balance of \$40,826 at the end of the fourth quarter of 2025 (December 31, 2025). In April HARTA will receive an updated report with the balance in the fund at the end of the first quarter of 2026 (March 31, 2026). 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, 2025.

Members may now pay their TRTA and HARTA dues for the 2026-27 fiscal year. Those who do so will be paid through June 30, 2027. Just a reminder that you may pay your TRTA (\$35) and HARTA (\$10) dues with one check to HARTA in the amount of \$45.00.

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

johnwidmier@yahoo.com.



LEGISLATIVE NEWS
- James Ellis

Elections! Lots of elections!

Election times are when politicians have a really keen sense of hearing. They are a good time for you to ask your questions and express your views to those running. Three elections are happening in April and May.

April 4 is a regular election day for many city councils, school boards, and other local entities. No Humble school board seats are on this year's ballot, but you want to check your county clerk's website (for example Harris-votes.com) to see if you have something else to vote on. Early voting is March 18-31.

May 2 is a special election for the District 4 seat in the Texas Senate, filling the vacancy caused by the resignation of Senator Brandon Creighton. That will be open to most HARTA members. Early voting will be April 20-28.

Then May 26 is the date of the second (runoff) primaries. Early voting is May 18-22. If you voted in the Republican or Democratic primary March 3, you are eligible to vote in that same party's runoff. If you did not vote March 3, you are eligible to vote in either runoff (but not both).



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS **- Bobby McAndrews**

Just as a reminder, The Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) membership year runs from **July 1 through June 30**. (Please refer to John Widmer's report in the Treasurers Corner)

Members may **NOW** pay their TRTA and HARTA dues for the 2026-27 year. Those who do so will be paid through June 30, 2027. Just a reminder that you may pay your TRTA (\$35) and HARTA (\$10) dues with one check to HARTA in the amount of \$45.00. to enter into a new membership year. (Often, members pay their TRTA dues by bank draft but forget to renew their HARTA local membership.) Please don't forget about HARTA!

When completing your membership renewal form, please don't forget **to fill out the bottom** of the membership form pertaining to what members want listed in the directory.

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.

We still have several copies of the 2025 – 2026 HARTA directory available for a small donation of \$3.00. For privacy and commercial security reasons, ***the directory is not available in electronic format.*** Please come to the next meeting to get your copy.

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 support 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 and if there is anything else I can do to serve you, please e-mail me at har-ta1stvp@gmail.com.

Thank you for being a HARTA Member.



FOUNDATION NEWS **- Glenda Laney**

A new program has become a part of the Foundation. It was created to honor two educators, Dr. Kate Bell and E. L. Galyean, who believed "those who devote their careers to serving others should never be forgotten when they face hardships of their own. Support may include help following natural disasters, medical emergencies or the everyday financial challenges that can arise when living on a fixed income." If you know a retired teacher in one

of these situations, refer to this contact. An application can be filled out at <http://www.trtf.org/initiatives>. The red Foundation envelopes will be on tables for the April meeting. I will not put them out at the May meeting since we have potluck lunch.
Please be generous!



MEMBER BENEFITS
- Becky Hendricks

Those who volunteered items for the April Meeting:

Those bringing beverages:

Beverly Webb
Marian Mannix

Those bringing water:

Becky Hendricks

Those bringing Snacks:

Angie Shepherd
Chris Pieknik
Libby Boyce
Patsy Spitzmiller
Artie DeHart
Tina Smith
Janet Roberts
Susan Burroughs

Those bringing door prizes:

Diana Hancock
Chris Pieknik
Patsy Holden
Martice Davis
Dottie Willner
Delores McCarter
Sarah Pinkerton
Terry Enderle
Mary Widmier
Carolyn Mashburn

Door prize funds support our Scholarships.

If you did not volunteer for this meeting, please sign up on Linda's clipboards for a future meeting

Planning ahead doesn't have to be stressful—or complicated. With the Whole Life Insurance Policy now available through TRTA and AMBA, getting coverage is refreshingly simple.

Everyone is accepted, with no medical exams, no health questions, and no screenings. You can even enroll online in just a few minutes.

This coverage may be a good option for association members who are looking for:

- Help protect your family from the rising cost of final expenses
- Guaranteed acceptance, regardless of health or lifestyle
- No medical exams or screenings—ever
- Your premium and coverage stay the same as you age
- As long as premiums are paid, your coverage can't be canceled
- Potential tax advantages and additional benefits

Enroll online today and enjoy the peace of mind that comes from knowing you've taken care of what matters most—for yourself and the people you love.

Enroll online now and give yourself and your loved ones lasting peace of mind.

AMBA is a trusted benefits provider for TRTA

TRTA
TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

ENROLL | CALL

Whole Life Coverage That Lasts A Lifetime.

ENROLL ONLINE »

OR CALL 855-961-5285 »

MON - FRI 8AM-6PM CT



The scholarship committee met in January and selected two deserving students who plan to major in education and will be attending a Texas college in the fall.

Evella Inman – A senior at Kingwood Park High School. Evella is a member of the National Charity League, NHS, Choir, Cheerleading Squad, and is a class officer. She has been an intern in a local elementary school for the last two years.



Alyssa Batey – A senior at Humble High School. Alyssa is a member of NHS and has had an internship in a second-grade classroom for two years. She plans to become an elementary school teacher. She states that “as a foster child, teachers became a source of stability and encouragement in her life”. She wants to be that for other children.

Alyssa writes – *“I am very grateful and again would like to thank you for selecting me for this amazing scholarship.”*

I want to thank the committee for their work in choosing these two well-deserving young ladies: Janie Branham, Brenda Pearson, Glenda Laney and Jan Resell.

-----Sandra Fountain, HARTA Scholarship Chairperson

HARTA Scholarship Fundraiser

Monday, April 13, 2026 - 11 AM to 9:30 PM

Hacienda Palomas Mexican Restaurant.

4580 Kingwood Drive

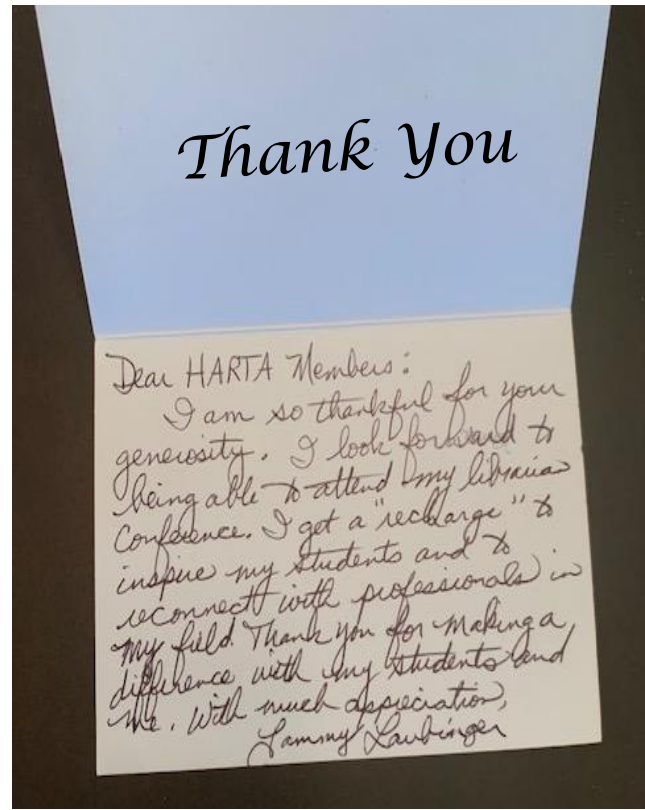
Kingwood, TX 77345

Come out and support our Scholarship Fund. Just tell your server that you are there to support HARTA and a percentage of your bill will be donated to HARTA for scholarships.

Bring your friends and family. Come for lunch after the HARTA meeting or enjoy dinner that evening. Takeout orders will also be included.

TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Sandra Burroughs shared this Thank You note from a teacher scholarship recipient:



HARTA Opportunities



SCHOLARSHIPS
Scholarship Fundraiser
Come on out and support us!
Monday, April 13, 2026 • 11 am to 9:30 pm

Just mention to your server that you are there to support HARTA and a percentage of your bill will be donated to HARTA for scholarships.

Bring your friends and family, come after the HARTA meeting or for dinner that evening. Take out will also be included.

Thank you for your support!

HARTA
Humble Area
Retired Teachers Association

Hacienda PALOMAS
Mexican Grill

Location: 4580 Kingwood Drive
Next door to K&M Ace Hardware



Sneakerdoodles
"So no foot is left behind"

HAAM
A MISSION OF HELP AND HOPE

BACK TO SCHOOL SNEAKER NEEDS
Every child deserves new back-to-school sneakers. This project strives to provide new sneakers to kids K-12 thru HAAM.
Donations of new sneakers accepted

Trilla will be collecting children's sneakers at the April and May meetings to be given to children before school starts in August. She will take the donated sneakers to HAAM.

April or May Optional Donations

- *Candy for Humble ISD facilities workers' treat bags
- *Door prizes for Humble ISD facilities workers

Join the Book Giveaway Group:



HARTA Activities



Seventeen HARTA members at District 4 Conference



Hemi Hideout Tour



Hobby Theater for Million Dollar Quartet



Brookwood Tour



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.**

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

Astros Game Day Trip: Friday, June 5, 2026

We're stepping up to the plate for a day of fun, friendship, and baseball! Join us for an evening at the ballpark where the crack of the bat and the cheer of the crowd will make for a memorable experience.

Save the Date: **Friday, June 5, 2026** (The Athletics vs Astros) Clipboard Sign-up Sheet: Reserve your seat on the bus (April HARTA monthly meeting)

Departure Time: 5:00 PM from Humble ISD Instructional Support Center

Location: Daikin Park [501 Crawford St. Houston, TX 77002](https://www.houstonastros.com/daikin-park)

Return Time: 11:45



Price: \$10 a ticket

Let's enjoy America's favorite pastime together with Friday night fireworks and an Astros win— we'll save you the best seats

on the first floor!

If you have any questions, call Janie Branham at 281-961-1732.

Join HARTA in July for an amazing experience at Kuhl-Linscom, a store with 5 connected showrooms where

shoppers are offered margaritas and maps! See the furniture, linens, tabletop accessories, men's and women's fashions and children's gifts & clothing areas. Recommended by *Condé Nast Traveler* as a MUST SEE place in Houston!!



Lunch with us at Aperitivo, a new, elegant Mediterranean-inspired restaurant overlooking Buffalo Bayou and the downtown skyline. Bring \$5 to the bus. Mid-July date will be announced soon. Sign up at the April meeting or let Carolyn Mashburn know that you are interested.

Proposed Trip (Pending Confirmation of Dates and Times)

Mark your calendar for **August 12th** for a fun evening beginning with Dinner at Brennan's (Restaurant Week) and a show at **Stages Theater**. A new show in the Late Nite Catechism series features Denise Fennell as Sister. The



church needs a new roof, so Father Murphy has decided that Sister, with her extensive gambling experience running the Church Bingo for the last 25 years, will organize a Las Vegas Night! Sister will tackle topics ranging

from magicians to show girls. Don't forget: "What happens in Vegas may stay in Vegas," but God sees everything!



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. 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.

Program # 9901—Grit and Glory: Exposing the Panama Canal. Learn the story of the Panama Canal as you journey through this history-altering feat of engineering. Plus, board the transcontinental train for a historic ride alongside the 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 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.

NEW Program # 22250 -- French Canada: Montréal & Québec City from 5/11/2027 to 5/17/2027:

***Daily Schedule:** <https://www.roadscholar.org/find-an-adventure/22250/French-Canada-Montr-al-Qu-bec-City>

Program Reviews: <https://www.roadscholar.org/find-an-adventure/22250/French-Canada-Montr-al-Qu-bec-City/reviews/>

Activity Level: Keep the Pace -- I like to spend much of the day exploring. Whether walking through historic neighborhoods at a moderate pace or out and about on a coach, I prefer to keep my days full. Stairs don't bother me, and I love to keep up with the group.

Minimum/Maximum: 18/24

Program Only Prices:

Double Occupancy: \$2,849

Single Occupancy: \$3,529

At the time of enrollment, airfare will be available for purchase through Road Scholar Travel Services.

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.

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☐ 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. _

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