A Message from the President...

The TIHAA Spring Event (Bingo) has been confirmed for Saturday May 23rd from 12:30 - 3:00 p.m. at the new Texas Instruments building on University Blvd, just off the Southwest Freeway - see the attached brochure for more details.

The date was changed from the tentative April date to allow more planning to make this a bigger and better event this year. The TI location has a maximum of 65 people so make your reservation early at the TIHAA email or phone numbers on the brochure. The board voted to give priority to members for this event. After the member reservation cutoff date of May 13th, guests will be allowed on a space available basis. Guests who provide transportation to members can sign up before May 13.

Bob Gruber and Israel Morales are heading up a committee to come up with plans and new events with goals of larger membership attendance and increasing club membership in 2015 and the following years. Your input to Bob (bob@gruberspace.com, 713-772-9296), Israel (morales36@comcast.net, 281-498-2219), or any board member with your ideas for events and bus trips will be greatly appreciated.

The TI sponsored BBQ dinner has been confirmed for Friday, September 18th at the Stafford Centre. Additional information will be published as it becomes available.

With all the closures at TI-Stafford over the last 3 years it is more important than ever to talk to your friends, attend events, and encourage new and renewal membership to keep TIHAA a club that people are excited to be a participant in.

I want to wish everyone a great spring and summer 2015. I hope to see y'all at TIHAA events this year.

Gary Luckett  garyluckett@gmail.com  TIHAA phone: (832) 551-8025  TIHAA Email: tihaamail@gmail.com

Treasurer’s Report

March 25, 2015

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<th>Description</th>
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Submitted:  Jean Houston  713-434-1235 or 281-536-3718 (cell) or jhouston_1@myway.com
Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:  
April: None.  
May: Gary Luckett.

Anniversaries  
April: Luanne & Gary Luckett.  
May: None

Each issue, this list is compiled from members that attend the monthly luncheon meetings over the past year. If you know of a club member with a birthday or anniversary that is not on this list, contact Gary Luckett at 281-565-5191 and he will add them to our listing.

February 11th Meeting

Attendance: 36  
Program Speaker: None.  
Birthdays: Lydia Barker, Tom Johnson, Sarah Harvey.  
Anniversaries: Bill & Mary Young, Richard & Pat Oates-Collier  
Raffle Winners: Kay Cook, Darren Welch, Mary Green, Betty Dixon, Mary Cameron, Lonnie Buckner, Mary Gomez, Allen Brown, Estella Garcia, Daryl Moss, Bill Young, Mary Young, Della DuHart, Ralph Garcia, Gwen Dickey, Lucy Salas, Pat Oates-Collier.  
Gifts Donated by: America Buffet, Lydia Barker, Bob Gruber, Mary Cameron, Dorothy Wanza.

March 11th Meeting

Attendance: 38  
Program Speaker: Marisol Rodriguez with AARP.  
Birthdays: Evelyn Church, Mary Green, Tom Croissant, Sandy Zamora.  
Anniversaries: None.  
Raffle Winners: Bob Gruber, Tony Leigh, Mary Lee Cameron, Bobbie White.  
Gifts Donated by: America Buffet
SPRING FLING PARTY

The Event this year is aimed at getting as many Members as possible together and to have fun as one group, eating and enjoying playing Fun White Elephant and Regular BINGO with each other on a Saturday afternoon.

AND IT"S COMING UP SOON!

This very low cost party will be at the New TI Plant in Sugar Land on May 23, 2014 at 12:30 PM to about 3:00 PM, 13905 University Blvd, Sugar Land (map enclosed). Note: Space is definitely limited — we have to observe a first come/first paid, and we will — so all are encouraged to RSVP now for you and your partner.

The format will be similar to recent years but the climate will be definitely improved with several items. As example, if you haven't yet seen the new building, this as a good opportunity. (No tours but you will get a good overview from the party room.) The food will be first class, and the entire program will really move, plus there will be lots of door prizes!. We are structuring it throughout better and I know you will find it well enjoyed.

To RSVP, just call the TIHAA 24hr recorded Line at 832/551-8025 and tell us the names of you and your partner, then pay the low $3.00 total per attendee cost at the next Luncheon meeting or mail it in, and you are all set to come. As a convenience, we have also arranged so you can call me to register at 713/772-9296 or Israel Morales at 281/498-2219, then pay the $3.00 at the next American Buffet Luncheon or mail it. This also makes you all set and we will be counting on seeing you at the event, but do sign up in advance.

Don't miss out on this one; I personally guarantee it will be an especially good one! Thanks.

P.S. Almost forgot: If transportation getting there is a problem, call me or Israel and we will try to arrange a remedy.

P.P.S. In the event that we have not filled the available room with confirmed reservations by May 13th, we will accept additional reservations then for guests to attend who are not members, by handling them individually. Contact Israel Morales or myself if you have such a situation right away if you wish to be accommodated this way. We hope this does not occur but I wanted to mention it up front, just in case.
Marisol Rodriguez, Associate State Director of Outreach & Advocacy in Houston with AARP speaks at March Luncheon

Programs Chairperson Bobbie White welcomed our luncheon speaker for March to an audience of 38 members and guests at the America Buffet.

Marisol Rodriguez, with the Houston Chapter of the AARP, gave us a very informative presentation on aspects of caregiving. Before she spoke, she handed out an assortment of material from AARP, including a booklet entitled Prepare to Care - A Planning Guide for Families. She pointed out the various sections of the booklet and how they can be used by caregivers to make things more comfortable for both the patient and the caregiver.

Ms. Rodriguez stressed the importance of caregivers setting up a support team and taking adequate care of themselves. Caregiver burnout is a major issue much of the time.

Sections in the booklet cover:
starting the conversation
forming the team
making a plan
finding support
caring for yourself.

Also included in the booklet are a glossary of terms, helpful resources, a goals & needs checklist, charts & checklists and sample caregiving plans. The booklet is available online at tinyurl.com/n5dkq7o. In particular, pages 22-35 in the booklet are special checklist pages (with samples) to be cut out and filled in prior to actual beginning caregiving. All the important facts about the wants and needs of the patient are set in writing, reducing the chance of error by the caregiver.

Ms. Rodriguez also spoke of AARP’s support for The Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) Act in the Texas Legislature. More than three million Texans are caring for an aging parent or loved one, helping them to live independently in their own homes. These family caregivers have a huge responsibility, and we can take some common sense steps that would make a world of difference to them. The CARE Act recognizes the critical role family caregivers play in keeping their loved ones out of costly institutions.

She said that AARP was looking for caregivers, or former caregivers to go to Austin at AARP’s expense, to talk to state legislators in support of the CARE Act. Volunteers can contact Amanda Fredriksen at 512-480-2425.

Ms. Rodriguez, as Associate State Director of Outreach & Advocacy in Houston, advocates for the lives of those in the 50+ community and provides education to organizations on the important work AARP is doing in Houston. She has worked in several other positions in various political and social organizations in the Houston area.

Ms. Rodriguez answered questions from the audience and said that she would be glad to answer further questions via email at rdrodriquez@aarp.org or 832-325-2230.
We received the following report from **Israel Morales**, concerning their recent Rodeo outing:

Again, as we have for the last four years, **Nora** and I attended the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Cook-Off.

And again we were invited by our close friends, Jeff & Nancy Graebert. And again, we went in style - in a limo. We weren’t the only ones invited, so were ten other family members and friends. **Ralph & Estella Garcia** are usually invited, but Ralph wasn’t feeling well and had to take a ‘rain-check’. Hopefully he’ll join us next year. Israel says that he made sure that he consumed all of the BBQ that Ralph would have eaten.

The event is called the “World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest.” The Houston Rodeo Cook-Off is a Texas sized Houston BBQ Cook-Off held just before the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo in order to kick off Texas' largest rodeo. As we walked through the ‘streets’ outside the NRG Stadium parking lot, the freshly cooked BBQ was unbearable. There were over 300 booths in this gigantic BBQ Festival. You can imagine the aroma. We salivated all the way to the booth where Jeff and Nancy had tickets to. Once there, it was eat all you want of BBQ chicken, BBQ beef, BBQ ribs, potato salad, beans, cold slaw, onions, pickles, jalapenos, and drinks. Nora and I happened to know the cook. He lives just a few houses away from us in Meadows Place. Every Thursday and Friday we can smell his BBQ as he gets ready to cater his services. After a couple of hours of eating and after we had had our fill, we gathered and returned to our limo. But the night was not over yet. Jeff loves to dance. He had the limo driver takes us to a ballroom for more merry-making and dancing. At the ballroom we were entertained by a very funny stand-up comedian. We got home by close to 4:00 a.m.
We received the following report from **Daryl Moss**:

**Daryl & Brenda Moss,** along with Brenda's brother and aunt, recently took her dad, BJ Robinson, to Flores' Tex-Mex Restaurant in Austin to celebrate his 94th birthday. Having arrived early, the aunt had secretly arranged for the wait staff to come to our table as an ensemble (with attentive fanfare — we've all seen similar elsewhere) and very loudly pronounce his "21st birthday" again to the entire room, and encourage all to sing the customary song, Happy Birthday to BJ. Thereafter, he received a yummy, flan dessert. To our utter delight, he was surprised and embarrassed by all this attention.

The next day, Sunday, we again celebrated at BJ's church, their 4th Sunday lunch for all, with a birthday cake and song. (Note: BJ has been on a couple of past day trips with TIHAA, several years ago.)

**Joe & Lola McMann** went on a 6-day cruise on the *Carnival Magic* out of Galveston. Their son, who works for the school district, was on Spring Break the week of March 9th, so he got to experience his first cruise. Lola’s daughter was also on the cruise and she was celebrating her birthday, so it was a great celebration all around.

In Cozumel they took a tour at a tequila tasting store. The tequila was flowing and this little donkey was holding them up so they could take the picture.

Overall it was a fun family time.

**Ralph & Estella Garcia** were busy from the last part of January to the middle of March. On January 20th, Ralph had a medical procedure performed and according CD testimonials from others that had it done, they only suffered minor discomforts. The procedure itself was not too much of a problem but the recovery was, and it was to take 3-6 weeks. Ralph was doing better but still had problems at the end of the 6 weeks, and that is when events started happening.

They were invited to the Houston Livestock Bar-B-Q-Cook-off by very good friends and former neighbors of Israel and Nora Morales. Regretfully they declined because Ralph did not want to hold them back. They did however attend the day after with their son and daughter in law. It was slower paced and they basically went
and ate BBQ, listened to a little music and came back home.

That same week of the cook-off they lost a very good friend as well as one of Ralph’s cousins. They wanted to attend both funerals but interments were on the same day, one in Houston and one in South Texas. They attended the Rosary for their friend in Houston on a Tuesday night and left a Wednesday at 4:30 am and made the cousin’s morning rosary and afternoon interment in Falfurrias, Texas.

The following weekend, March 7, they attended the wedding in Houston of Estella’s nephew. The grandparents of the groom are club members Israel and Sandy Zamora. The wedding ceremony and the reception all took place at the Houstonian. Following the wedding ceremony everyone made their way to the reception hall for Hors d’Oeuvres and beverages prior to dinner. After dinner, entertainment music was provided by the band “Password”. The wedding was excellent and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

The weekend of March 14th, they were off to Ralph’s niece’s wedding in San Antonio. They were part of the wedding party and Friday they had a rehearsal at the Church. Following the rehearsal they attended a rehearsal dinner. The wedding ceremony was at Saint Matthews Catholic Church. Ralph and Estella were Padrinos de Arras and were also selected to bring up the gifts to the alter. The reception was held at Cranberry Hills. Ironically the Grooms cake was in the shape of a TI-89 Titanium Calculator. The Groom is a music major and teaches math. There was lots of picture taking of family members and friends, a special one was of Ralph (Youngest) and his four siblings. Also one of Ralph’s family although missing their youngest daughter who very regretfully and sad was unable to attend. The music was great. There was lots of dancing and they catered to young and old with English and Spanish music. Although different, both weddings were excellent in their own way and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.
Nora & Israel Morales took a 7-day Caribbean Cruise aboard the Carnival Magic on Feb. 1st. Destinations were Key West with stops in Freeport and Nassau Bay, in the Bahamas. We have been on similar cruises before, so we try to do something different every time we go. This one was very unique. It rates as one of the most enjoyable cruises we’ve taken. Instead of the excursions that are sold aboard ship we decided on doing things on our own. We did a walking tour in Key West, a Jeep tour in Freeport and hired a van to explore Nassau. It could have been more exciting for the younger set, but no matter! The fun we had aboard ship, though, is going to be hard to match. What made this cruise so special was that it wasn’t just Nora and I that took the cruise. Forty-two others signed up to go with us. These were all family members and friends. We had planned this cruise for almost six months as a way to celebrate a fifteen year-old niece’s birthday – a “quinceniera celebration”, if you will. It turned out to be a seven day celebration as we partied all over the ship.

Sunday, was Super Bowl Sunday and we had different teams we wanted to win. We took almost all of the lawn chairs on the top deck as we watched it on the enormous screen.

Monday, we roamed all over the ship to show the kids around. That night we had a reserved restaurant for our group. We partied there.

Tuesday after visiting Key West, we continued our get-together with another reserved restaurant and partied some more. We then let everyone go on their way. The kids roamed the ship, swimming at the pool, playing various kids games the ship had for them. They ate as much as they pleased, and were awed with life aboard a cruise ship. And what did the adults do? Well, we had fun too. We took some excursions at the ports we visited. We took a walking tour of Key West, we drove jeeps in Freeport, and a guided tour of Nassau.

And to top it all we had a very surprising coincidence happened while aboard ship. On the fourth day of our cruise, just after dinner, we unexpectedly met up with two good friends of ours: Tony and Susan Leigh, who were also celebrating a birthday. We couldn’t believe it. We repeated the phrase “it’s a small world after all” more than twice. We failed to take pictures of our meeting since we weren’t carrying our cells or cameras. But believe us, it was a great surprise. You never know who you’re going to meet no matter where you go. The kids will remember this cruise for a long, long time and so will we.
The first week of February, **Tony & Susan Leigh** took a cruise to the Bahamas on the *Carnival Magic* from Galveston, to celebrate Tony’s 77th Birthday. The ship called in port at Key West, where they walked down to the most southern point in the USA and visited The Butterfly House and Ernest Hemingway’s house and saw the multitude of 6-toed cats who apparently own the house. In the Bahamas they went on a glass bottomed boat in Freeport. At Nassau they went on an Island tour and visited the Ardastra Gardens.

One amusing incident that happened on board ship was as we were listening to the Karaoke singers at the Ocean Plaza and Sue said to me, “That guy walking down there looks just like Israel from the back doesn’t he”? I turned just in time to see who she was referring to and from the back he looked just like Israel. Neither of us thought any more about it. Then the following day after we were just coming out of dinner Sue had been to the restroom when she came rushing out and said “Tony it was Israel” She had just bumped into Nora as she was coming in. Small world isn’t it? With 3000 guests on the ship, it’s amazing that you can find someone you know.

Susan is busy planning for the “*Daughters of the British Empire*” Fundraiser tea party at the moment. This was clashing with the Retiree’s Spring Event which is why we are not organizing the Spring event this year. There is only so much one can do. Watch out for announcements at future retiree meetings. She would love to have a contingent of TI retirees join her and the other DBE members to wait on you for a “Downton Abbey” type Tea Party. The tea party will be at the end of May.
TIHAA Day Trip to Visit Burton Cotton Gin and Chappell Hill Lavender Farm

Date: Saturday, May 16, 2015

Cost: $10 per person (Lunch is out-of-pocket)

- **Highlights of the Trip**

  - ...step back in time when cotton was king. The historic 1914 Burton Farmers Gin is nestled in the heart of Burton, Texas - located on the same site where it was built almost 100 years ago! Designated on June 19, 2009 as the Official Cotton Gin Museum of Texas

  - An aromatic lavender farm with quaint surroundings and a scenic hillside view, we're about 8 miles north of historic Chappell Hill, just off of the Texas Independence Trail

  - Lunch at Must be Heaven Restaurant (Out-of-Pocket)

We Leave Bayland Park at 8:00am (please be there at 7:45am)

Guest welcome! Must be 50 yrs. young to sign up

For more information call or email:
Mary Brown
832-498-5980 c
832-939-2433 w
m-brown@ti.com

To secure your reservation please call before 4-22-15 & send your check before 5/1/2014 to:

Mary Brown
13905 University Blvd.
M/S 102
Sugar Land, TX 77479
SPRING FLING PARTY
SATURDAY MAY 23, 2015
12:30 – 3:00 PM
AT TI'S NEW BUILDING IN SUGAR LAND

MEMBERS - YOU ARE INVITED TO BE AT THIS LOW COST PARTY TO EAT, GAB, AND PLAY WHITE ELEPHANT (FUN) BINGO, AND TO JUST ENJOY YOURSELF - AND IT WILL BE IN THE DAYTIME TOO!

TO PARTICIPATE ALL YOU MUST DO IS REGISTER AND THEN PAY THE $3.00 ATTENDANCE TOTAL FEE BY MAY 13, THEN TO BRING ONE (OR MORE) WHITE ELEPHANT PRIZE - A FUNNY ONE, CASUALLY WRAPPED, BUT ONE YOU DON'T WANT ANYMORE.

AND! YOU CAN COME AND BUY FINAL BINGO CARDS THERE (IF YOU WOULD LIKE) FOR $5.00 EA TO WIN ONE OR MORE OF THE MANY ADDITIONAL CASH AND CARD PRIZES AWARDED!!!

SO! ALL ARE REALLY URGED TO COME & ENJOY

BUT THERE IS A CAPACITY PROBLEM AND WE WILL HAVE TO LIMIT SPACES AT 65 DUE TO ROOM SIZE SO REGISTER NOW VIA THE TIHAA 24 HR AUTO LINE @ 832/551-8025 OR YOU CAN CALL BOB GRUPER OR ISRAEL MORALES TO SIGN UP. THEN PAY THE $3.00 AT THE NEXT MEETING OR MAIL IT TO JEAN HOUSTON AT 4206 EBBTIDE DR, HOUSTON 77093. YOU ARE NOW IN!!

OUR GOAL: MEMBERS FILL THE ROOM - LET US HEAR FM YOU
Saturday May 23, 2015

And now today, we have the beautiful new home for Texas Instruments in Sugar Land, TX.