



THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello Gorgeous, yes you!

With our beautiful Fall and Winter celebrations, Thanksgiving and Christmas, despite life's challenges, this is a time to gather with family and friends. These two months of merriment encourage us to appreciate what we have and to enjoy each moment. Nothing may be perfect, but there's always perfection to be found in each day. If we're alive, it's because our purpose on earth is not over. With 2025, let's rejoice and be glad in it. Happy New Year!

To recap, we had a fabulous 2024 Christmas Faire. Our mansion came alive with brilliant Christmas decorations. Everyone who participated in decorating, thank you, it was a Winter Wonderland with all the white, gold and silver. Our new Christmas Tree stood in our foyer with elegance.

As you know, I had an accident in late October that required I have hip replacement. Surgery went well but I am still recuperating. I want to thank the many of you who prayed for me, sent me lovely get well messages and brought me meals. These actions tell a story of how we are committed to each other with love. Thank you for caring.

In closing, let's be thankful for this special time of year as we celebrate according to our different beliefs, customs and traditions. Amidst our celebrations, let us not forget those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity.

See you on January 8 for our WC General Meeting.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa,

Sandra

GOLDEN BOOK

Submitted by: Sandy Salinas

- ❖ In memory of member Nancy Cooke, by Antia Oberle
- ❖ In honor of the 22nd birthday of Sophia Christiansen, by Brian, Johanna, Harold & Tessa Christiansen

CARE AND CONCERN

- ❖ Member Angela Sanchez was in the hospital early in December and will be having another procedure done later this month. Prayers are appreciated. Well wishes can be sent to: Angela Sanchez, 6222 Pow Wow, San Antonio, Texas 78238

- ❖ Member Virginia Van Cleave's husband Bill was hospitalized early in December with pneumonia. He is back at home and well on his way to full recovery.

THE AUCTION CORNER

Hello everyone!

We are seeking member volunteers to assist with our two major auctions in 2025, which are crucial fundraisers for WCSA. Your help is invaluable for making these events as successful as they were in 2024.

Our first committee meeting will be at the end of January. If you're interested in volunteering, please email Amanda Alarcon-Hunter at minxandonyx@gmail.com and Melissa Rogers at melissarogers85@yahoo.com.

Thank you for your dedication and support!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Sandra Carson-Miller	Jan 1		Karen Ward	Jan 13
Carolyn Sanders	Jan 1		Erin Trevino	Jan 17
Faye Davenport	Jan 3		Sophia Christiansen	Jan 20
Leanna Laubach	Jan 4		Barbara Niemann	Jan 21
Patricia Broyles	Jan 9		Linda Champagne	Jan 25
Margaret Stycko	Jan 9		Frances Garza-Alvarado	Jan 25
Eileen Potts	Jan 10		Carmen Ingram	Jan 25
Gretchen Stepke	Jan 11		Michael Quintanilla	Jan 25
Victoria Hatcher	Jan 12		Irma Iris Duran	Jan 27
Joan Cleary	Jan 13		Elaine Staller	Jan 27
			Rosalinda Mancha	Jan 28

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

We are excited to introduce these prospective new members to the WCSA in January!

Elizabeth Avelar-Elizabeth goes by Liz and is coming back as a reinstatement. In the past, Liz made our club a fantastic video about the history of the WC and the Woodward house. This amazing video is a must see! She is willing to make a brand-new updated version for our club. Her goal is to help us market and bring in new members to our beautiful club. Liz is a project manager and truly enjoys video editing and community projects. She is also part of the Rotary of San Antonio and Women in Aviation.

Deborah Riffenburg-Delgado-Deborah is a licensed insurance agent. She is an expert at grant writing enjoys public speaking, event planning and is even a notary. Deborah belongs to many other organizations such as NAHREP, GED Brunch Founders Committee, Incarnate Word PTO, IWHS Alumnae committees

Ashley O'Leary-Ashley is a development director at Corazon Ministries. She has worked in women's recovery for about 5 years. She is looking to get more involved in events and philanthropy through the Woman's Club.

Ruth Gonzales- Ruth is a nonprofit director for WINGS. Her passion to help women and advocate for proper healthcare for them is what she strives to do daily. She knows a lot of women already in the WCSA and hopes to make a difference with all of us in 2025. Ruth truly loves philanthropy and networking with other likeminded professionals. Ruth has one daughter and one granddaughter.

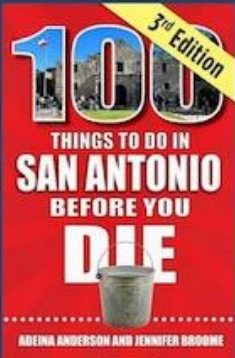
UPCOMING LUNCHEONS AND EVENTS

Tawana Timberlake, Vice-President

RSVP to the Woman's Club office @ 210-732-4811 for credit card payment

THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF SAN ANTONIO

January Meeting
Authors Adeina Anderson & Jennifer Broome
Present their book
"100 Things To Do In San Antonio Before You Die"
January 8, 2025
1717 San Pedro Avenue
10:30 am social, 11:00 am meeting, 12:00 pm lunch
Please purchase tickets by TicketLeap or call
(210) 732-4811 by noon on January 6th
Menu: Egg Drop Soup, Chicken Imperial Style-WC
Cook Book pg. 110, White Rice, Asian Roasted
Vegetables, & Carrot Cake



[Tickets for January General Meeting in San Antonio from TicketLeap](#)

WCSA WORK DAY
Spring Cleaning

FEB 1 10 -
2



Students: Bring your volunteer hour logs to receive credits

The Bake Shoppe offered a wide variety of cookies, breads, jellies, candies, rolls, cakes, and gingerbread houses. Angela Pfeiffer, Kathy Littlefield, and the other "gingerbread ladies" baked and assembled 137 kits. Special thanks go to Tina Zimmerman, who arranged for special delivery of the pecans and walnuts and to Arlene Chalkley, who created the gold, white, and silver decorations. Chairman Marsha Metz thanks Jeanne Koplan, assistant chairman, and helpers Helen Jones and Rose Reyna-Sanchez, as well as all who patronized the Bake Shoppe.



100 Things to Do in San Antonio Before You Die, Third Edition

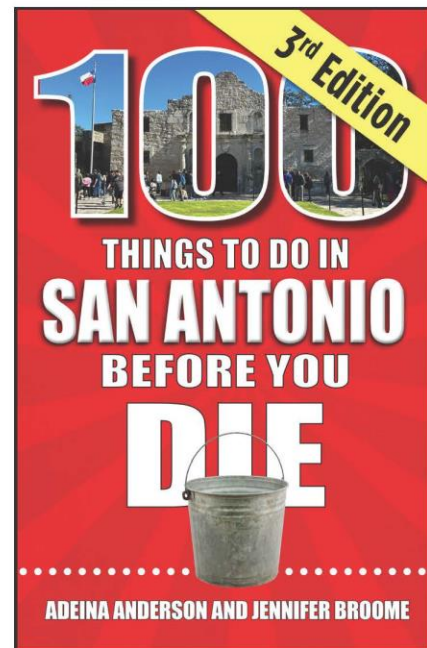
by Adeina Anderson and Jennifer Broome



San Antonio has been a destination at the confluence of cultures for centuries. Military City USA® has had a consistent military presence for over 300 years dating back to 1718 when Spanish soldiers founded San Antonio de B  xar Presidio, making it one of the oldest cities in America.

San Antonio is where you “Remember the Alamo,” explore the iconic River Walk, and indulge in tacos and margaritas. Kick up your boots to eat and drink your way through this UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy. With its theme parks and wild attractions, San Antonio is the ultimate affordable family destination. Natural wonders, wineries, iconic live music halls, and captivating small towns also await you with short drives from downtown. It’s a must-see if you’re a history buff, culture seeker, or foodie.

From Rodeo to Fiesta and Alamo Bowl, San Antonio is ready with a warm welcome of “Howdy y’all” and “Bienvenidos.” This is your guide to experiencing the best of the Alamo City.



BOOK INFORMATION

ISBN: 9781681065410

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Available 9/1/24

ORDERING INFORMATION

Phone 314-833-6600 | Fax 866-999-6916

orders@reedypress.com

About the Authors

Adeina Anderson is a freelance multimedia travel journalist and lifestyles expert for broadcast, digital, and print outlets like *A Girls Guide to Cars*, *Texas Travel Talk*, and multiple television lifestyles shows including KSAT’s *SA Live*. She’s also a content creator and speaker. She specializes in pet-friendly travel, automobile reviews, and road trips throughout Texas and across the country including road tripping to 34 states in 30 days.

Jennifer Broome is a freelance multimedia travel and environmental journalist for broadcast, digital, and print outlets like AAA, The Weather Channel, and multiple television stations across the country including a decade at News 4 San Antonio. She’s a television meteorologist with over 30 years of experience and a sought-after travel expert, content creator, and speaker. She’s flown with the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and trekked to Everest Base Camp. She’s been to all 50 U.S. states and is on a quest to visit all of the National Park Service sites.

CHRISTMAS FAIRE

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR... EXCEPT THAT... we can never find enough time this time of the year!

By the Time you read this, the rush should be over, so I hope that you take some Time to enjoy the Hush of the season, relaxing, reflecting on the past year and planning for the New Year to come which we are counting on being spectacular!

December was a magical time at the Woodward Mansion. The Club was delightfully decorated in the elegance of gold, silver and white to follow the theme our President chose and to complement the tree she had commissioned.

A huge THANK YOU goes to the ladies on my committee that came forward to do the hard work of getting the dining rooms set up. Putting the chair covers on is always labor intensive but it always brings a professional finish to the room. A very special thanks goes out to RosieBella Gastelum for creating the beautifully decorated garland that surrounded the inside front doorway and to Arabella Dalton for creating the decorations for the 12 tables that seated 65 guests, and for the decor on the two mantles. She used a lot of twinkling lights to give us that magical feel. Linda Parsons designed a fabulous forest of various shapes and sizes of trees on the main dining sideboard. Karin Fee and Heather Hays gracefully draped a glamorous garland of glittery gold & silver mesh on the stair rails with silver snowflakes dangling. Jeanne Koplan provided the beautiful gold silver mesh that adorned the mantle and bookshelves in the bake shop.. Kathy Littlefield set up the wonderful Manger Scene on the first landing and she also placed the silver garland on our outside rails that brightened our entrance immensely! Our powder room was beautifully done by Monica Bridges. A gorgeous panel of gold with beautiful ornaments and tinsel created by Sue Walski sat directly next to the Christmas tree decorated by Kathy Tarkington that greeted guests as they came through the basement door and the added touch of white velvet pillows with embroidered gold Christmas trees on the chairs and benches in the basement entrance, gave an inviting homey feel. The back of the Mansion stairs and entrance grounds were well done by Karin Fee. Heather Hays and Jennifer Brearley worked very hard as Co-Chairs of this annual fair, and pulled together some great vendors! And of course, the very best highlight each day was the wonderful piano and harp music played by our talented Past Presidents, Jane Stone and Robin Steinhauser, that filled the air in the foyer as guests checked in and mingled, and shopped in our boutique stock full of Christmas jewelry and accessories, and in the Bakke Shoppe that had an array of delicious desserts homemade by our members! And, at the end of the last day, we drew the name of the raffle winner of the full length fur donated by member Marcella Schroeder.



YES, IT WAS A MAGICAL THREE DAYS OF SHOPPING WITH OUR VENDORS, DINING TO TINA'S SUPERB CULINARY DELIGHTS AND GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER AND MEETING OUR NEW MEMBERS IN THIS MOST JOYOUS TIME OF YEAR!

Cheers! Tawana Timberlake, Vice President





Breakfast with Santa was a great success. Diana Reyes and her wonderful committee put together a delicious meal and magical experience for the children.





The Scholarship Committee hosted a brunch on December 17th at the Mansion for our scholarship recipients. We celebrated their success and a delicious brunch was served. Members for the San Antonio College Empowerment Center and Administration also attended. Jane Stone told us about the history of the house and took everyone on a tour. The students discussed how the scholarships affected their academic studies and their lives.

DECEMBER MEETING

Dear Members,

Our Christmas Faire was a busy, successful and crazy 3 days of festivities, ending with the drawing of the winner of the mink coat that was donated by member Marcella Schroeder. We had a big launch at our hat luncheon in April for ticket sales and publicized that we would continue selling tickets and announce the winner the last day of our Christmas Faire. DRUM ROLL... and the **winner was Tracey Keller**. I called Tracey and left a generic voicemail that I was the VP of the Woman's Club and would like her to give me a call (I didn't want to leave the news... hoping to tell her vocally on the phone.). Alas, on Monday when she hadn't called me back, I left a voicemail that she was the winner of the fur coat.... and I quickly received a call back! I indicated that we were having our last general meeting luncheon of the year on the 9th, with a terrific artist speaking, and if she would like to come, we would present her with her fur at that meeting! So, yes, she bought a ticket and the stage was set. A little background: Tracey is not a member. I asked how she came to have a ticket and she indicated she came to our August summer lunch as a guest of our co-membership chair, Rachael Weisensee,



when the speaker was Teri Wilson. As tickets were being sold for the coat, a member approached Tracey and said you are beautiful and tall, why don't you model our coat, and I'll give you a ticket for the drawing. Tracey was happy to oblige, but also bought more tickets. In my conversation with her about how she came to buy a ticket she also expounded saying, *"you know, I'm a life coach by trade and I'm always talking about manifesting what you want. I told myself while I was modeling that I would WIN the coat, and I told my daughter that, and she said yes, mom you will win!"* Mind you that was August when she bought the ticket and she has not been back, so when I called and told her she wone she said she was shocked but then she remembered what she had said that day, so it really made the win special!

BUT WAIT, THERE IS MORE.... but I will finish the ironic twist AFTER I talk about our phenomenal local artist speaker, Jeanne Philippus.

What a program to end our year... Jeanne's emotional and inspiring story had us in tears. Her journey is nothing short of amazing and a testament to the strength and resilience women have when they set their minds and hearts and lean on their faith... yes we can do anything, despite heartbreaking obstacles. I cannot put into words the eloquent story that unfolded but I'll try to briefly summarize.

I met Jeanne around the end of 2017 when I was shopping at a clothing store behind Eddie V's off of Huebner and 1604. As I walked out I noticed a store named The Shard Studio. Intrigued, I went inside... beautiful art made from broken. pieces. of. glass. Thus, the title of her program BEAUTY FROM BROKEN PIECES.

In 1986 she was swept off her feet by her first love... marriage, travel, beautiful memories... then a pregnancy... at 4 months, she took him to the airport (he was a pilot) to begin his day... she stopped to do some shopping, but doubled over in pain ended up being taken by ambulance to hospital, and her baby was almost strangled by umbilical cord. Jeanne had gangrene and an emergency surgery. They somehow got a hold of her husband before he took off to Alaska - he made it back - and when she woke up, he was walking in, and he doubled over in pain... and unfortunately, his story was advanced melanoma.... he passed away 2 months later when she was 6 months pregnant.

Her resolve was that she was not going to cry or be sad because she heard it would affect her unborn baby and it's personality forever. She persevered; went back to school and 3 years later got a job at City



Hall. She met another man who swept her off her feet, Al Philippus. This was the 90s, he was the Police Chief of San Antonio, and they started an exciting life. Al adopted her beautiful daughter Mary. They had a set of twins 8 years later, and she became busy raising her babies. Her twins were getting ready to go off to college and she is confronted with being free of their everyday care when she suddenly feels depressed and angry. She feels a boiling uncontrollable rage... Her point is that if you don't deal with grief when it comes, it will find you. She said, she realized she had not ever dealt with the grief of losing her first husband and she's sitting alone and feeling consumed with the pain of loss and thinks this is crazy I'm sad and angry over something 21 years ago? But she never dealt with it back then and it found her that morning. And all of a sudden she picks up a beautiful blue vase in the garage and hurled it. Of course it shatters into pieces. She remembers standing looking at the shattered pieces. She said, no, this is not me, I am not shattered. She started pulling the pieces together in the shape of a shellfish on the garage floor and thought, Whoa, that's pretty cool. So she bought a canvas, and placed the pieces on the canvas, poured resin over it and viola, she thought I'm going to sell this... I'm going to make more... That's when she realized, there is something inside of me I have not tapped into... She got a studio and started making art, every day, and

she could feel the healing with each piece. An interior decorator came in and said, this is great, this can be sold... and so it began. As it grew (she has sold over 800 pieces here and around the world) she started classes.

And I was lucky to have taken 3 of her classes! They truly were cathartic ... donning your goggles, putting on gloves and sticking your hands in a small opening where glass bottles and pieces of colored glass are in a bin with a plastic see through top, and picking up a hammer and smashing those pieces, and then taking those pieces in a tray to a table. You decide on what you want to create, a dog, a mermaid, seashell, a butterfly, palm trees... Jeanne has outlined your design in pencil and you place them in the spaces and at the end pour resin over it and setting overnight. It really turns out incredible. And is so satisfying...

Back to Jeanne ... as she continues her story describing the many commissions she receives, and installations for Parade of Homes, bookings in colleges, her studio, team building seminars, she is very gratified that her clients tell her it's true... it is a healing process creating this art. But, her business became so large and intense, that yes, it started to take a toll on her marriage, as he is now retired and she is forever gone to class, seminars, etc.... and so sadly, we are the first to hear it, as her last speaking engagement is with us.... that she is hanging up her paint brush for now, and going to travel! Her purpose of her story is to tell you that Art is Healing... in whatever form, culinary, writing, sewing, painting ... follow your instincts and do what brings you joy. She will continue to create in her own way for fun, but no longer as a business with commitments. She saw a quote in California on her travels that hit home.

ART MATTERS BECAUSE: It is beautiful. Because it requires hard work. It is a universal language. It reveals and inspires creativity. It makes us see the world in new ways. It is what remains when civilizations are destroyed. It challenges our assumptions. It makes us feel good. Art matters because it matters to you.



AND NOW THE IRONY OF THAT DAY.... The winner of the fur, Tracey Keller walks in on the 9th and sees Jeanne's display in the library and says wow, Jeanne what are you doing here, wait are you the speaker? OMG, remember I told you I had won a fur coat and it was being presented to me today? Well, I didn't tell you that this is the place where I attended the lunch in August and bought the ticket! Jeanne had told her she would have gone with her, but that she had a speaking engagement! Never once in their conversations had either of them mentioned the place they were going! They have been close friends for over 20 years! What are the chances!

MAY THE REMAINING DAYS OF DECEMBER BRING YOU COMFORT AND JOY! I LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEW YEAR AND ALL WE HAVE PLANNED...

IN JANUARY: Co-authors Adeina Anderson and Jennifer Broome of ***100 Things To Do In San Antonio Before You Die*** will be our speakers and they will have their books to purchase. I can't wait to know the probably 80 things I don't know about! LOL

Cheers

Tawana Timberlake, Vice-President



Exciting News: Award Ceremony on January 8th, 2025!

Great news, everyone!

The Woman's Club of San Antonio is set to receive a monetary award on January 8th, 2025! Congratulations to our board member, Amanda Alarcon-Hunter for shining a light on our club and receiving this award and recognition!

Event Details:

- **Date:** January 8th, 2025
- **Time:** 5:30 PM
- **Location:** Braço Brazilian Steakhouse, [19210 West Interstate 10](#)

Join us as the Business Professionals of San Antonio (BPSA) collaborates with our nonprofit club to present this award. All proceeds from the expected attendees at the door will support the Woman's Club of San Antonio. This is a fantastic opportunity for us to showcase our 126-year history, discuss our community contributions, and promote membership to over 100 attendees. Let's show our support for our remarkable organization by attending this important event!

We look forward to seeing everyone there!

ROUND TABLE CORNER

Fiesta Round Table

extends a hearty thank you for the OVERwhelming response to the UNDERwear situation at Beacon Hill Elementary School. Our neighbors are more than grateful for your generosity. The closet that was empty is now brimming with warm undies and socks for their little ones in school.

Merry Christmas from all of us at Fiesta Round Table, and thank you for all you do for the Woman's Club"



The Woman's Club Ingenues hosted their annual Christmas party for the Respite Care children!! The party consisted of food, games, decorating gingerbread houses & cookies, a visit from Santa who had a special present for each child, a special flower for each teacher, and ringing bells while singing Christmas carols!! A check was also presented by our Teen Queen Bella Walski to Respite Care. Respite Care is an official charity of The Woman's Club. The Ingenues love putting on this party each year for these very special children!!

Submitted by Johanna Christiansen, Ingenue Chair





Ingenues'
SPAGHETTI
Luncheon

\$15

To go orders
also available

<https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/wcosa/ingenue-spaghetti-lunch-1872351557>

January 20 @ 11 AM
1717 San Pedro

A circular inset image showing a white bowl filled with spaghetti topped with a meat sauce. A silver fork is stuck into the spaghetti.


JANUARY 2025 HOUSE CALENDAR

SUN 29	MON 30	TUE 31	WED Jan 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
		New Year's Eve	New Year's Day	11am SAWF Board	Christmas Decorations Take Down	
5 Christmas Decorations	6	7	8 11am WCSA General	9 10:30am Noon Time	10 10:30am San Antonio	11
12	13 11am Carousel Ride	14 11:30am Friendship	15 11:30am Fiesta Ride	16 11am SAWF General / 11:30am Books at	17	18
19	20 Inauguration Day (r) Martin Luther King Ingenue Pasta Lunch	21 6:30pm Soiree Ride	22	23	24 10am Bridge Round	25
26	27 11:30am Fine Arts	28 10am San Antonio 11:30am Modernism	29 10am Combined	30 4pm DDD Alumni	31	Feb 1 Mansion Cleaning -

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Editor:Carolyn Snyder

Assistant Editor: Vacant

Members are invited to submit relevant photos of people or events for possible use in the newsletter and/or Facebook to womansclubnewsletter@gmail.com. **Advertising in Rustling Leaves is available** at the following rates: full page - \$100; half page - \$50; and, quarter page - \$25. Your ad may include business cards, recognition/celebrations, and announcements of upcoming events. The deadline for submission and payment for advertising is the 15th of the month prior to the publication month./.