

January 2026

HARTbeat

<https://www.houstonretiredteachers.org/>

The *HARTbeat* is edited by Cherry Wong

Volunteer



Friday, January 9, was HART's official membership volunteer day for the month. President Johnnie Robinson dropped in to visit while Les Pronin and Rosa Espinosa decorated Kids' Meals lunch bags. As you can see, there's room for more volunteers. The Kids' Meals staff had only great things to say about our HART Volunteers who make sandwiches for the little ones on Wednesday mornings.

By Rosa Espinosa

Finding NEW HART Members

Most of us belonged to professional organizations during our teaching careers. I belonged to AATSP, TFLA, TESOL, PASF, and a local chapter, HATFL. I will approach these and other professional organizations by either rejoining the chapter, especially if the dues are affordable, or by sending them a rack card or business card.

My challenge to you is to contact at least one of your professional organizations and voice concerns about the current working teacher environment and their benefits.

As Tim Lee expressed at the November HART General Meeting, there are many retirees who have never heard about TRTA or our local chapter, HART. Please take the time to get the mailing addresses of your organizations so you can mail them a letter and business card inviting them to our next general meeting in February. Let's also follow up with an email to them.

By Rosa Espinosa

Expanding Horizons

Trip to Brookwood

Expanding Horizons on the way to the Brookwood Community. November 18, 2025.



"Travel and change of place impart new vigor to the mind." - Seneca

We have some exciting trips planned for 2026. So, check your calendars and be prepared to sign up for the following Expanding Horizons' adventures.

Date and time	Destination	Estimated Cost \$ = 0-15 \$\$ = 15-50	Additional Comments
Friday, February 27, 2026 10 AM-3 PM	Houston Maritime Museum	Admission \$10 Lunch \$\$	Learn how maritime trade and innovation have shaped Houston and its economy. Afterwards, we will have lunch at a nearby restaurant.
Friday, March 27, 2026 9 AM-4 PM	River Rendezvous and Yellowstone Paddlewheel	Admission\$24 Lunch \$\$	Enjoy a paddlewheel ride on the San Bernard River and enjoy some Southern cuisine at Dido's restaurant.
Wednesday, April22, 2026 9 AM-4 PM	Beaumont Part II	Admission TBD Lunch \$\$	We will complete the tour of the McFadden House and continue to Spindle Top.

To register for all or any of the above trips, please email Suzanne at suzannemihaloglou@yahoo.com. Remember to provide the following information:

- Your name
- Your email address
- Your cell phone number
- The name of an emergency contact
- The phone number of your emergency contact.

You can also sign up for the trips at the regularly scheduled HART meetings.

By Suzanne Mihaloglou, co-Chair

TRTA Trip to Newport, Rhode Island



I, along with 23 other TRTA members, enjoyed a fantastic trip with Boscov's Travels from December 2 to December 6, 2025, to Newport, Rhode Island, for "A Gilded Age Christmas." We visited four mansions decorated for Christmas and enjoyed the Boston Pops Holiday Show.

We began our adventure with a guided driving tour of Newport with "Mrs. Caroline Astor," followed by a tour of Marble House, home of William K and Alva Vanderbilt. Other homes toured were Blithewold Manor, established as a summer retreat for Augustus and Bessie Van Wickle; The Breakers; and The Elms Mansion, built as a summer residence for Mr. and Mrs. Edward Berwind.

The trip concluded with a Boston Pops Holiday Concert. Capturing the magic of the Christmas season and the winter charms of New England, the Boston Pops performed their signature Sleigh Ride, as well as other Holiday classics, a new arrangement of seasonal favorites, and a visit from Santa Claus himself.

While waiting for our departure back to Houston, we were treated to a light snowfall at the Boston Airport!

By Jane Eixmann

HART Scholarship Fund Report 2025

Thank you to all who supported the HART Scholarship Fund in 2025. We collected a total of \$3,123 for the year. General donations throughout the year accounted for \$773. The Holiday Luncheon produced \$515 from the poinsettia sale and \$1,860 from member donations.

Donor	In Honor Of	In Memory Of
Allen, Dr. Alma	Lawrence Allen	
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Putman, Susan	Gail Rosenthal	
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Salmon, Judy		
Schauer, Darleen	Pat Bonner	
Selig, Cappy		
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Shirley, Jason		
Smith, Edith		Carleen Laurentz
Spencer, Barbara		
Stalnaker, Joy		
Stoger, Terry		Martin Stoger
Teykl, Brenda	Jane Eixmann	
Upchurch, Kenajah		
Walker, Mary		
Westmoreland, Dolores		Robert Westmoreland
Wicker, Janet		
Widmier, Dr. Mary	Rosalind Haynes	
Wilson, Anna		
Wolf, Sheila		

By Jane Eixmann

Special Announcements

- TRTA is proposing a dues increase to take effect in 2027. This will be voted on in the House of Delegates Session, March 25, 2026. Details forthcoming.
- Our HART Chapter will be 75 years old this year! We are planning a FABULOUS CELEBRATION! Details coming soon!
- February 9, 2026 - HART Board meeting at Bayland Community Center from 9 AM - 11 AM. Attendance is very important! We need to work on our list of delegates for our TRTA Session scheduled on March 25, 2026.
- **The HART Nomination Committee** (By Margaret Preston) is proud to submit the following list of candidates to stand for election at the March 13 general meeting:
 - President – Rosa Espinosa
 - 1st Vice-President – Howard Bruce
 - 2nd Vice-President – Patricia Green
 - 3rd Vice-President – TBA
 - 4th Vice-President – Cappy Selig
 - Recording Secretary - Ralph Reed
 - Corresponding Secretary – Mary Mattison

We are also electing a new Nominating Committee that will submit a list of candidates at least 30 days before the next election in March of 2028. Nominating Committee candidates are Fay Dunwood, Gary Patterson, Colleen Cummings and Judy Simon. Johnnie Robinson will serve as the chair of this committee. All these people have made a commitment to serve you and the organization to the best of their ability. Let's all look for ways to support them in their journey.

Books for Children

Books for Children is happy to announce that the school for 2025-2026 is Windsor Village Elementary. The principal, Shantelle Louis, is very excited to have HART gifting her students with books. If you are on the BFC committee, look for more information, by email, in a few weeks.

Sending kudos to everyone whose help, physically or financially, has made it possible for the BFC project to continue. Happy Reading!

By Bonnie Herst, Terry Stoger, Marcia Pepper

Holiday Luncheon

At the Holiday Luncheon members, friends, family and Special Guests enjoyed great food and games!





President's Corner



What Are Your Personal Goals for This Year?

Happy New Year to one and all! I pray that each of you enjoyed all your holidays!

Well, enough of that! Let's get down to business.

Every year we all are guilty of reflecting on the past year and making statements about how we need to "do better," or make improvements in our life by setting goals. Many of us have the nerve to write down these goals. Some of the standard goals we set are reading and studying the Bible more, memorizing and sharing more Bible verses, losing weight, contacting our families/friends more often, saving more money, not spending as much money on unnecessary items, keeping our vehicle maintained better, donating to charities, and many others. How well we know ourselves will usually determine which goals should be short term and which ones should be long term is a challenge as well. There are two ways to look at this situation: Looking forward to opportunities to have a happier and healthier life or not looking forward to having to starting all over again and usually ending with negative results. It's a mind thing!

So, HARTinnians and friends, what are your personal goals for this year?

Houston Area Retired Teachers

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Houston, TX 77265-6727

Mark Your Calendar

- February 13 – General Meeting: Our Financial Future
- March 13 – General Meeting: Books for Development
- April 10 – Celebrating *Nart 75* – Come for a 1950's birthday party!
- May 8 – General Meeting: Installation of Officers

All General Meetings are at the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, 9600 S. Gessner, 9:30 a.m. social time, 10:00 a.m. meeting time. Handicap parking is on the Northeast side. Please do NOT park on the grass.