

**Editor: Henny van Dijk**

[www.uthro.org](http://www.uthro.org)

**January, 2025**

**UTHRO's January Event...**

**A Thank You Note ...**



UTHRO is excited to host our **January 15th** event .

***“Bingo For The Endowment”.***

*So don't forget to bring your loose change for the Endowment Jar and, also your cans and can tabs for the Endowment.*

The event will be held at OCB from 11:00AM to 2:30PM.

Crockpot taco soup will be provided for lunch with all the fixings, along with dessert and drinks. The cost will be \$10 per person for lunch, prepaid to Margaret Zambrano, Treasurer by January 8 via Zelle at [zambrano1123@gmail.com](mailto:zambrano1123@gmail.com) or check made out to UTHRO and mailed to Margaret Zambrano at 20903 Imperial Ridge Lane, Spring, Texas 77379.

You will be given two Bingo cards and we will play 10 games with prizes!  
All proceeds will be going to the Endowment.

**RSVP by January 7th to  
Janice Thomas  
832-515-0280 [flyte99@yahoo.com](mailto:flyte99@yahoo.com)**

***Parking will be validated.***

At our November 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Holiday Luncheon, the UTHRO membership elected new officers for a two-year Term beginning in January 2025. The officers elected were Barbara Kelly, President; Cathy Findley, Vice President; and Margaret Zambrano, Treasurer. The Position of Secretary was unfilled. However, during the luncheon Claire Brunson approached me and volunteered to serve as Secretary. The Executive Committee approved Claire's appointment to the Committee. Thank you, Claire for stepping up and joining the Committee!

Without the UTHRO Executive Committee UTHRO would cease to exist. The volunteers who served on the 2023 – 2024 Executive Committee and its subcommittees are invaluable to the inter-workings of UTHRO. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank them for their gifts of time and service. They are as follows:

**Vice President, Cathy Findley:** Cathy joined the Executive Committee as a Member-at-large and then stepped into the Vice Presidency when vacancy became available. She has been very active in the recruitment of new members and always helps with other activities.

**Treasurer, Margaret Zambrano:** Margaret has served as our Treasurer for several terms and continues to maintain UTHRO's financial records and membership role in perfect order. The Executive Committee conducts an annual audit of the financials which always pass with flying colors due to Margaret's diligence.

**Secretary, Daun Gray:** Daun has served as the Executive Committee Secretary for the last 5 years. She has maintained our official record of our monthly Executive Committee meetings with great professionalism and accuracy. Daun is happy to pass the torch to Claire!

**Henny van Dijk, Communications Chair:** Henny is our chief of all communications for UTHRO. His Newsletter is always informative and a joy to read. Henny keeps us apprised of all UTHRO happenings. His team also includes Pat Grealy and Glen Schreyer who assist in maintaining our UTHRO.org website. I often call on Pat and Glen for technical questions and they are always helpful. Without these guys we would all be in the dark! Henny also plans our Annual Health Symposium and selects speakers with the input of the Executive Committee. *Continued on page 2*

**Thank You ...cont.**

Janice Thomas, Chair Events and Marilyn Wells, Assistant, Chair Events: Enough cannot be said about these two ladies. They are responsible for every event UTHRO holds which is no small feat. Without Janice and Marilyn, we would not have an event to go to, a bus to take us there or a comfortable conference room for OCB events. Nor would we get to enjoy a nice lunch or park for free.

Peggy O'Neill, Chair Endowment Committee: Peggy has championed our Endowment for Healthy Aging since its inception. She works closely the UT Health's Development Office to maintain the integrity of the fund and with UT Health's Institute on Aging for the annual call for proposals for the Endowment grants. Peggy also leads our annual campaign for donations.

Mary Johnson and Lettye Dismukes, Members-at-large: Mary and Lettye are relatively new to the Committee but have quickly jumped in to assist where ever they are needed. They serve as an important part of the Committee discussion and decision making.

Efren Pena, Ex-officio member: Efren generously facilitates the Committees' monthly Zoom meeting. Without him I would be lost in the technology!

I am thankful to each of these people for making the job of President much easier. Each one of them is essential to our cohesive and seamless executive team. The next time you see them at a UTHRO function, please offer your thanks as they work tirelessly for our organization.

*Barbara Kelly  
President, UTHRO*

**Peggy Amante Remembered...**



Peggy was one of my favorite colleagues since the time I came to Houston and UT in late 1972. She was a student and colleague at the School of Public Health, while I was recruited at the School of Medicine which was not really physically existing, We both loved our first Dean – Peggy with her Stoney and I with Smythe. We both decried the lack of interest in the history of our schools and so when the time came to celebrate an event or person we just contacted each other and commiserated, but ultimately came up with the facts about the ones we knew and worked with. After we both retired we still stayed connected through UTHRO and as the editor of the monthly newsletter, Peggy contributing articles and at one point she gave me a WW2 ration book from her mother that I still have as a memorabilia of her. Peggy passed away December 16.

*Henny van Dijk*

**EAP SERVICES FOR RETIREES**

For those of us who could use some help once in awhile, the Employee Assistant Program offers three important services for the UT Retirees—us thus.



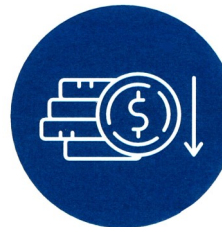
**COUNSELING**

Retirees who want to address mental health issues are eligible for free confidential counseling appointments. To learn more about those benefits call 713.500.3327 or go to [go.uth.edu/wellness/retirees](http://go.uth.edu/wellness/retirees)



**WORKLIFE**

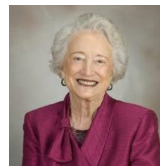
To access your worklife benefits go to [go.uth.edu/worklife](http://go.uth.edu/worklife) where you have access to info about information on mental and physical wellbeing, 60+ helpful webinars and over 500 legal documents.



**DISCOUNTS**

Here you might find discounts on a variety of useful products and services. Many local and national businesses offer special discounts to the UTHealth family. Learn more at: [go.uth.edu/discounts](http://go.uth.edu/discounts)

**Dean Starck Remembered...**



Patricia L. Starck, PhD, RN, FAAN, the longest serving dean in the history of Cizik School of Nursing at UTHealth Houston, passed away Dec. 8, 2024, at the age of 86 "Pat Starck, our 'dean of deans,' was a true legend whose vision transformed Cizik School of Nursing into a nationally renowned institution," said Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, MD, "Her dedication to nursing education has left an indelible mark on our university and our community. We honor her tremendous impact, celebrate her considerable legacy, and thank her for showing us how to be a servant leader." She led the school from 1984 to 2015, through decades of growth and innovation. In 2023, Dr. Starck was among 13 people honored by [Nurses With Global Impact, Inc.](http://Nurses With Global Impact, Inc.) (NWGI) at the United Nations in New York City. Dean Starck joined UTHRO in Dec. 2022.

**UTHRO OFFICERS 2025**

- President** Barbara Kelly
- Vice-Pres** Cathy Findley
- Secretary** Claire Brunson
- Treasurer** Margaret Zambrano
- Newsletter Editor** Henny van Dijk
- Web Administrators** Pat Grealy & Glenn Schreyer

To protect our officers' personal information on our website, UTHRO has instituted a new general purpose email address: [uthro@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:uthro@uth.tmc.edu). This is a "forwarding" email that will send copies to both the UTHRO president and Efren Pena who will then forward the email to the appropriate person. Including the recipient's name in your subject will be very helpful; e.g. Subject: For Barry, BBQ lunch. If UTHRO members already know the phone number or personal email address of an officer then by all means continue using that for your communication needs.

**It's Time to Renew Your Dues ..!**

**UTHRO  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HOUSTON RETIREE ORGANIZATION  
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

**JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31**

As stated in the Bylaws, annual dues are payable on or before the first day in January. Please use this form to pay your dues and include information that will be used for UTHRO's records.

**\$15.00** Retiree (includes spouse) and also includes any employee not yet retired but anticipates membership upon retirement.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell/Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency contact (for bus trips and outings):**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are payable by check (do not send cash). OR by ZELLE Cash App.  
Return this form with check payable to: UTHRO and mail to the Treasurer  
Margaret Zambrano, 20903 Imperial Ridge Lane, Spring, TX 77379  
If paying by ZELLE sent to: [zambrano1123@gmail.com](mailto:zambrano1123@gmail.com)  
In description please put your name and purpose (renewal for year)

## **UTHRO**

The University of Texas Houston Retiree Organization  
1851 Crosspoint, Suite 1.204,  
Houston, TX 77054

*To update your address or phone number  
please contact us at 713 906 0437*

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### **And Now For Something Completely Different...**

**“Why” might be THE Question in 2025...!**

If the No.2 pencil is the most popular, why... is it still No. 2 ?

Why... do we press harder on the remote when we know the batteries are weak ?

Why... are you in a movie, but on TV ?

What... was the best thing BEFORE sliced bread ?

Why... do we drive on parkways & park on drive ways ?

Why... do “fat chance” and “slim chance” mean the same thing ?

Why... do British people never sound British when they sing ?

At a movie theater, which arm rest is yours ?

Why... are there no “B” batteries ?

Why... do people say “Heads Up” when you actually should duck ?

*Original quote source unknown*