



# The **EVERGREEN** Newsletter

Editor: Henny van Dijk

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

April, 2019

## An Enlightening Visit to the Bush Library



On Thursday April 11 the Harris County Precinct 1 bus will take us on an adventure to College Station and a visit to the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library.



The dramatic and emotional farewell thousands of Texas citizen payed the 41st President on his final train ride to College Station and his library, where he ,

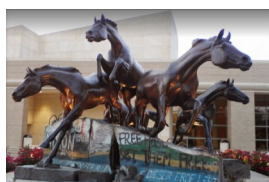
Barbara and daughter Robin are laid to rest.

The tour is an in-depth look into the life of one of America's most active civil servants: George H.W. Bush. Presidential Libraries have that added effect—you get a much more complete view of the human being,

George H.W. Bush served this country in so many ways, from the time he was 18 and in the naval air force in WWII over Japan, to being elected in 1988 as President. I also learned something I didn't know—he was only the second Vice President to be elected President other than those who, like Truman or Johnson, were forced into the role by the demise of a sitting President..

Every assignment he was handed has its own vignette in the museum and thus one learns of his time as Ambassador to the UN and to China, his CIA directorship, his VP time under Ronald Reagan and finally the White House.

There is also a good display of the Gulf War and the influence Barbara had on each stage in his career.



The Berlin Wall came down during his Presidency and the sculpture outside is a tribute to that, but inside is a full original slab of the wall with numerous graffiti of a people who wanted to be free--very impressive.

An added attraction is "the Grand Canyon Photographs" the first venue of this exhibit by photographer Mark Burns, who conceived the project to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Grand Canyon National Park in 1919. "I wanted to explore a variety of genres" Burns said because "for me it is not really about photographing what I'm seeing, but more what I am feeling at something as vast and majestic as the Grand Canyon".

The bus driver will be at OCB at 8:30 a.m. and will leave sharp at 9:00 a.m. The bus will not wait for people who are "on their way". We plan a rest stop at Buc ee's and arrive at Bush Library at 11AM - the tour is self guided. The cost is \$10 per person, payable by check to UTHRO - and send to our treasurer Margaret Zambrano, 20903 Imperial Ridge Ln., Spring, TX, 77379

Let Barry Rittman know by April 4th that you will attend. [barryrittman@gmail.com](mailto:barryrittman@gmail.com) or call 713-542-8108



Lunch will be at Rudy's BBQ in College Station on your own dime. A sandwich, a side and a drink will set you back about \$10, but if you want to go all out with dessert you will be spending a couple of bucks more. In any case the reviews are great.

We expect to arrive back at OCB between 3 and 3:30 PM.

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## A Paradigm Shift For Stroke

*“Stroke is an acute condition where time is everything. The more cells we can preserve, the more function we can preserve, and the more we can preserve the person overall.”*



“I really wanted to work in an area where there is a huge public health need, a condition that irrevocably changes someone’s life—and their entire family,” says Sean Savitz, MD “And where there’s an opportunity to

intervene quickly that can actually reverse damage to the brain.”

Savitz applies his scientific background in the mechanisms of neurons to study the effects of stem cells on stroke. His initial studies used the patients’ own stem cells—harvested from their bone marrow—to determine the effects on the brain. With funding from the National Institutes of Health to continue his research, working closely with the Food and Drug Administration for approval and to determine safety.

The paradigm shift came when researchers determined that stem cells from a healthy volunteer could work just as well. This provided a much less invasive option and opened the door for Savitz to work on different versions of an “off-the-shelf” product approach.

In the fall of 2018, Savitz began leading a definitive phase III clinical trial to determine the effectiveness of using a stem cell product derived from a volunteer to reduce damage to the brain following a stroke. After a stroke, or any major injury to the brain, the body response with a massive migration of inflammatory cells to the brain, which can cause secondary damage.

“The stem cells seem to change that entire process and modulate the inflammatory response in a way that neutralizes the detrimental effects of inflammation and increases the recovery aspects,” explains Savitz.

If results of the phase III trial are promising, Savitz hopes that stem cells may become a standard of treatment for stroke care in the near future. “Once that happens, we will explore different ways to optimize the approach and identify the time window in which these cells will work best,” Savitz estimates that the window to react is between 10 and 36 hours, possibly even longer. “That’s actually a huge window in comparison to what we have been doing in stroke over the past 20 years. Now, using other therapies, we have to treat people within three hours to be able to help them.”

When life-changing science like this relies on the National Institutes of Health for funding, it could take decades before treatments come to fruition. Savitz says that with philanthropic support, advancing new treatments could happen at a much faster rate.

“UTHealth is truly unique and ideal for these studies because we have the infrastructure to carry out breakthrough technologies,” says Savitz. “The science that’s being worked out on stem cells is right here. We were first.”

*Sean Saitz, MD, professor and director of the Institute for Stroke and Cerebrovascular Disease at UTHealth.*

## The S.T.A.R 2019 Recipients



Every year I try to publish the recipients of the STAR Awards—STAR the acronym for Service, Tradition, Achievement and Recognition and are the university’s way to recognize our outstanding faculty and staff and honor them for their commitment and dedication. This year UTHealth will celebrate employees with five, 10 and 15 years of service with a STAR Awards reception on Tuesday, March 26. Employees with 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 or 45 years of service will be honored at the STAR Awards luncheon on Thursday, March 28. Because there are so many who have served, I concentrated on those our members might know and remember! If you see one you know send him/her a congratulations.

*Robin Baker  
Brenda Nassham  
Claire Brunson  
Wanda Clemons  
Charles Davis  
Mark Farnie  
Daniel Felleman  
Jose Garcia  
Rhonda Hanby  
Dorothy Harris  
William Hinton  
Robert Jenkins  
Donna Liling*

**30**

*Ronda Lowe  
Mark Lybarger  
Lashawda Martin  
Mary McAtee  
Rachel McBride  
Nancy McNeil  
Hazel Needham  
Tandra Pluet  
Mary Ross  
Joy Schmitz  
Kavindra Singh  
Michelle Thomas  
Margaret Uthman*

*Perry Ball  
Oscar Brown  
Patricia Butler  
John Corbett  
Mamie Ellis  
Deborah Franklin  
Fredi Franks  
Elma Gallardo  
Brenda Gaughan*

**35**

*Tressie Jackson  
Robert Lieberum  
Steve Massey  
Shahla Nader-Eftekhari  
Donna Oldfield  
Philip Orlander  
Tri Phan  
Neil Waxham*

*Francisco Fuentes  
Arthur Jeske*

**40**

*Beverlyn Sanders  
Cheryl Spitzenberger*

*Charles Garcia*

**45**

*Karim Marani*

**50** Fred Garrett



UTHRO likes to welcome our newest members  
**Barbara Skjonsby** (returning member)  
**Ted & Gabrielle Pate**  
who retired in 2017 from SoD



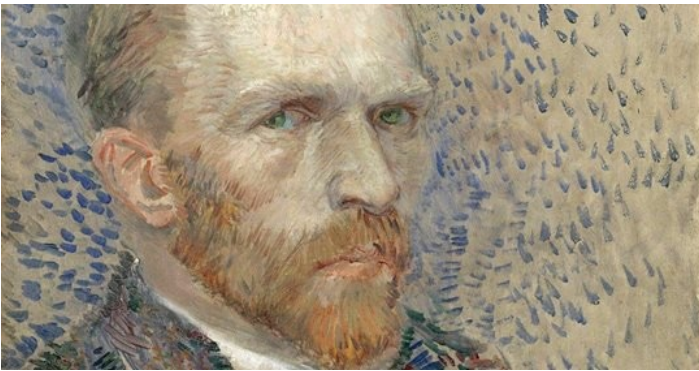
### The La Bahia Bluebonnet Trail



One of my favorite Bluebonnet trails is along a portion of the La Bahia road, starting in Washington-on-the-Brazos and ends in Burton, a 34 mile, one hour drive where the bluebonnets thrive from mid March till mid April. Washington-on-

the-Brazos is of historic significance where a group of Texans declared independence from Mexico on March 2 1836, has a fine museum, and bluebonnets. From there, head NW on FM 1155 E, turn left on TX 105 W; turn right at Co Rd 93/Wm Penn Rd, turn right at FM 390 E/La Bahia Trail—Voila Bluebonnets galore and worth the trip.

### Van Gogh at the MFA Houston



A Major Exhibit of one of the most important artists of the Post-Impressionist era will be in Houston **From March 10 through June 26**

On display more than 50 paintings—landscapes, portraits, still-lives, the works—along with replicas of letters he wrote to his older brother/patron Theo, coordinated with help from the van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam and another Dutch museum, the Kröller-Müller in Otterlo.



**He was only 37**  
Van Gogh died practically unknown, but his reputation soared in the early 20th century thanks to the careful stewardship of his sister-in-law Jo van Gogh-Bonger and nephew Vincent Willem

van Gogh. Today the few van Goghs that do come on the open market fetch such astronomical sums because the Dutch-born painter embodies the image of the mentally tortured soul who suffers for his art, often in dire circumstances.

“I think that it’s the tragedy of his life that intrigues people,” says David Bomford, Curator of the Department of European Art at the Museum of Fine Arts.

“Despite these tremendous difficulties, his tremendous mental troubles, and [the fact] that he really struggled with his art at the beginning, he produced some of the most radiant images we’ve ever seen,” he adds.

### In Memory of Louise Hooper



Mary Louise Jones Hooper one of our early UTHRO members and wife of Clyde Hooper, a UTHRO Board member passed away in February. It was at the University of Houston where she met the love of her life, Dr. Wilford Clyde Hooper.

In support of her husband's profession, Louise served as President of the Women's Dental Auxiliary of Houston and Texas. Over the years, Louise and Clyde traveled the world by air, land, and sea. And, Louise was always looking for her next bridge game when she could find those willing to play against her. Louise is survived by her twin sons, and two grandsons.

*Image by Michael Thompson at the 2010 Holiday Luncheon*



### Now That We know How To Do It...



If you missed our group travel European River Christmas Cruise Adventure in 2018, we are going again! This time we are off to France. I am very pleased to offer you, your family and friends the opportunity to travel with the UTHRO group for a France Culinary Delights: Paris to Normandy River Cruise. We will depart from Houston on **March 22, 2020** for Paris France and board the MS River Venture. This is a 10-night, 11-day cruise with 14 total days of travel. We will board Ms River Venture in Paris and our ports of call will be Conflans, Vernon, Caudebec-en-Caux, Honfleur, D-Day Beaches of Normandy, Le Havre, Rouen, Les Andelys and Paris.

Please study the attached brochures for more information about the trip and the places we'll visit. France, Paris, the city of lights and the famous French Cuisine, what more would one like to experience on a vacation—11 days being entertained and educated without changing hotels or driving for miles on end to the next stop, no not this time. I have also enclosed a personal letter so you have a better idea of some of the highlights.

Looking forward to this new UTHRO adventure.

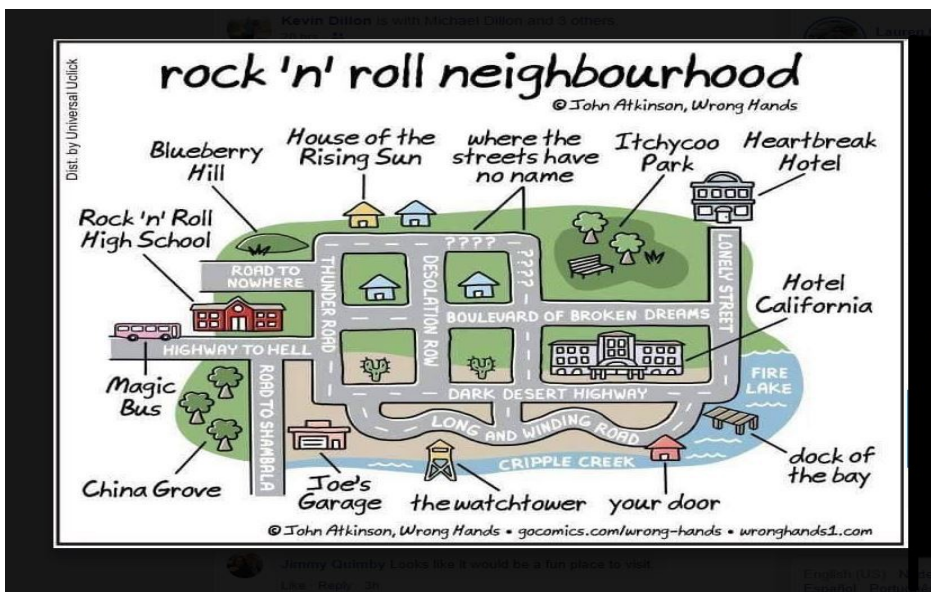
*Barbara Kelly*

# 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 281-655-1983

## And now for something completely different ...



I spotted this John Atkinson cartoon and immediately identified with it because this was my neighborhood as well—all those streets, so familiar sounding and recalled memories of days gone by. Atkinson recreated that neighborhood and I remember walking on that boulevard of broken dreams or the long and winding road to end at your door. The fun for you guys is now to match up the names with the band or artists in the neighborhood.

Have fun!

## UTHRO OFFICERS 2019

|                          |                     |              |   |                          |
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