

Editor: Henny van Dijk

www.uthro.org

August, 2022

Annual Benefits Meeting



This year the Fair was indeed a fair, well attended by retirees and employees in the atrium of the IMM bldg. I estimated the crowd to be in the 150 – 200 range with some 20 vendors showing up, one of them UTHRO for the very first time invited by the Benefits people.

Several interesting aspects came to light: we had 5 people representing UTHRO at the Fair and we did get several new members, some renewal members and wait for it... our own give-away, a beautiful pen with a stylus on the end. Daun Gray said, " We had a great time introduc-



ing UTHRO and saw some old friends and hopefully made new ones. Our table was next to the entrance and the big UTHRO banner couldn't be missed." We do need to get a fitting skirt around the table as we were the only table without telling visitors who we were, except for a paper tag. There were no former presentations as in the past, one would simply browse the vendors, pick up their literature, ask questions and on the way digest the changes in our Medical Plan. That Plan has several and I'll address them. The Medical Plan for retirees have the following changes: NO Change for a UTretiree, (still \$0); however, if you include your spouse the monthly premium will go up as of Sep 1 to \$290.70 a \$20.28 increase. If you have a child on your plan it increases \$21.22 to \$304.04 monthly. There are no changes in either Delta Plans or Vision plans. The Group Term Life Insurance benefit has a major increase in **value** going from a \$6,000 value to \$10,000 for employees.

All in all a very positive experience for UTHRO till I had to get my car out of the garage and had to pay \$20 for 4 hrs of parking.

If you want to change your plan you must do that between July 15 and July 31.

Henny van Dijk

Just a Thought...

Dust If You Must

Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better
To paint a picture or write a letter,
Bake a cake or plant a seed,
Ponder the difference between want and need?

Dust if you must, but there's not much time,
With rivers to swim and mountains to climb,
Music to hear, and books to read,
Friends to cherish and life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the world's out there,
With the sun in your eyes, the wind in your hair,
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain.
This day will not come round again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind,
Old age will come and it's not kind.
And when you go - and go you must -
You, yourself, will make more dust.

irelandcalling.ie
Rose Milligan

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Visit to the Transtar Bldg...



Our visit to Transtar on July 7 was an eye-opener. I thought this governmental agency was solely interested in traffic flow and making sure the Metro system would run smoothly. Well, how wrong I was. Not only is the PR dept. a most gracious host and its managing director an absolute whirlwind of great information, Houston TranStar is a unique partnership of representatives from the City of Houston, Harris County, METRO and TxDOT who share resources and exchange information under one roof to keep motorists informed, roadways clear and lives safe in the fourth most populated city in the United States.

Their toughest assignment was the Superbowl in 2017. Managing Director Misty Gunn, Emergency Operations Center Manager for the Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management says that 42 employees run the computer screens 24/7 in a room mimicking the famous NASA room with its myriad computers and 6 large screens per cubicle all individually dedicated to one area and fed info from over 1,900 CCTVs. The strangest thing is the HPD doesn't have a rep in this "three-letter alphabet" but FBI, Harris County, FEMA, and many more while at the same time tracking traffic. While we were there we saw 2 overturned vehicles being taken care of efficiently, while we also saw the pipeline explosion in real time. During Harvey the emergency management team discovered a very useful piece of communication—the "yellow post-it notes"; there is a huge blank wall in that room and the team divided the wall in section N,E,S,W and posted calls for help in the pertinent areas so they could exchange immediately in real time the problems people or volunteers faced. It probably has become a standard for other major cities dealing with the kind of emergency Harvey posted.

Because people have to spend some 8 hours in front of a screen they have the most comfortable chairs I've ever set in. The whole building is spacey, the people friendly and all 23 of us got a nice bag with goodies. One very good piece of advice – download the free app on your phone for "Tow And Go" a FREE towing service when stuck on the road, something I definitely plan to install.

Henny van Dijk

The 2022 S.T.A.R Awards...



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 the outstanding faculty and staff and honor them for their commitment and dedication. This year UTHealth will celebrate employees with five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 or 45 years of service with a STAR Awards reception later this year. 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.

<hr/> <div>30</div> <hr/> Lally, Kevin P Christie, Peter J. Hill, Renita Gail Wood, Geraldine .L Au, Kit Sing Kaplan, Heide B. Koehler, Theresa M Bihm, Cynthia C. Spudich, John L. Kenney Michelle L. Kennney, Thomas. E Perez, Lourdes V. Riggs, John W. Rivas, Debbie A	<hr/> <div>30</div> <hr/> Eissa, Mona A. Longuet, Devin S Lille-Nieto, Rita Y Barker, Carmelita Bauri Moore, Anthony N Garcia, Anthony N. Wilson, Elaine S. Smith, Mary Ann Van Tho, Jacquelyn H. Milewicz, Dianna M Barratt, Michelle S Santos, Cynthis W. Bogdanov, Mikhail V Fornage, Myriam
<hr/> <div>35</div> <hr/> Wanger, Audrey Vicinanze, Nancy L Boerwinkle, Eric Hebert, Adelaide A. Montufar-Solis, Dina	<hr/> <div>35</div> <hr/> Jenkins, Quinton Granberry, Tammy L Tortolero Emery, Susan York, Brenda Valary Putkey, John
<hr/> <div>40</div> <hr/> Kahn, Andrew M Franz, Kathy S Davidson, Jonetha A Dougherty, Anne H Work, Robin K.	<hr/> <div>40</div> <hr/> Zapata, Helen Fay, Vaunette P Powell, Peggy L. Kirkeeide, Richard L Hanis, Craig L
<hr/> <div>45</div> <hr/> Ross, Patti Jayne	<hr/> <div>45</div> <hr/> Butler, Ian J
<hr/> <div>50</div> <hr/> Warner, Raymond L.	<hr/> <div>50</div> <hr/>



When I look at the names above I can only say how lucky I was to have been working with a good number of those colleagues and even if I subtract the 15 years I've been retired that still leaves at least 15.. That I consider a gift!

Henny

An Early Heads-Up...

Texas Modernism(s): Houston/Dallas in the 1930s
An Exhibition at the Julia Ideson Building of Houston Public Library
August 27 to November 5, 2022

During the 1930s, even as the depression dug in and the dust bowl blew, art flourished in Texas, and Modernism, that most current of art movements at the time, made its way to the Lone Star State. But Texas is vast and varied, so the Modernism(s) that took root in the major cities and academic centers in the state was varied too.

In Houston and Dallas, Modernism became the central focus for two small groups of local artists, made up mostly of youngsters, along with their forward-looking mentors – in Houston, the Cherry-McNeill Group, and the Dallas Nine up north. Though not even 250 miles apart, the approaches to Modernism of the two groups in the two cities were markedly different, and were in some respects a microcosm of the different paths to Modernism on the national level.

Including over 70 paintings from private collections and The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the exhibition explores the looks and philosophical underpinnings of two seminal aspects of the art history of Texas, which strongly influenced later developments in their two cities, as well as the state in general. At the same time, the exhibition demonstrates that Modernism, when it came to America, was not limited exclusively to the art centers of the East and that it was not a single thing, even in a relatively contained region such as Texas. It was, rather a liberating force that could take its disciples along markedly different routes toward the shared ideal of creating a modern art for America.

Randy Tibbitts, Art Historian and UTHRO member



Gene Charlton

Exterior No. 1 - Arrangement Around Two Houses, ca. 1936

We have the precinct bus reserved for Tuesday Sept 27. Pick up at OCB at 10 am, Randy Tibbitts will give us a tour of the art exhibit at the Ideson Building downtown then lunch at Treebeards and back to OCB by 2 pm. Let Gill Rittman know you will be on the tour by September 22. 713-542-1865 or email gillianrittman@gmail.com

Some Short Notices ...

UTHRO Travels Portugal & Spain:

Treasures Along the Golden Douro River

UTHRO is traveling to Portugal and Spain on September 22, 2023. I know this may seem a long time from now, but the trip only books 126 passengers. Our UTHRO group already has 11 people booked and several more will be signing up in the next week. You can reserve your spot with a \$500 per person deposit. Attached is the flyer with booking information.

For questions or more details, please contact Barbara Kelly at 832-465-1040 or email at bkelly0127@gmail.com

Hope you will join us for this fun adventure!

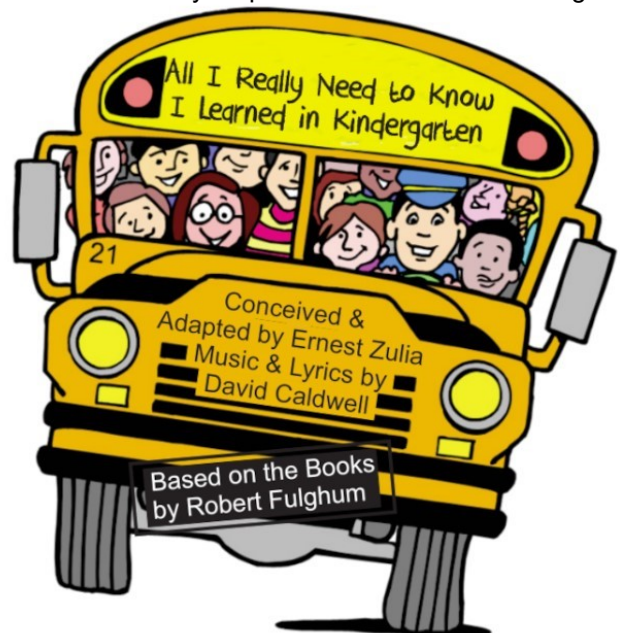


Tuesday, September 13, 10 a.m.

to 2 p.m. for voting and presentation of a seed grant award from the UTHRO Endowment for Healthy Aging. Interest earned from the Endowment will allow our

organization to present a \$7,000 award this year and you, the members, have the opportunity to choose the recipient. Requests for proposals have been sent out by our partners, the Consortium on Aging. Once proposals have been received, they will be reviewed by our committee, and the top entrants will be invited to make a presentation to the membership. The members present at the meeting will then vote for the top presenter, and the award will be made. This is your opportunity to decide how our Endowment funds are used. Please plan to be there and participate. More detailed information will follow in the September Evergreen.

Several UTHRO members have attended performances by Theatre Suburbia and from July 22 through August 20 the group will perform a delightful play/musical, so if anyone is interested go to the website and order your tickets. Even the title is funny. <https://web.theatresuburbia.org/>



UTHRO

The University of Texas Houston Retiree Organization
5827 White Clover Dr.
Richmond, TX 77469

To update your address or phone number
please contact us at 281-655-1983

And Now For Something Completely Different... Musings from my friend Tom..... :

I can't believe I ate that whole pineapple, Tom said **doleful**
I dropped the toothpaste, Tom said **crestfallen**
That's the last time I pet a lion, Tom said **offhanded**
We don't have a homerun hitter, Tom said **ruthlessly**
I dig another ditch around the castle, Tom said **remotely**
I keep shocking myself, Tom said, **revolted**
I shouldn't sleep on railroad tracks, Tom said, **beside** himself
My steering wheel won't turn, Tom said **straightforward**
I've lost a lot of weight, Tom **expounded**
I keep banging my head on things Tom said **bashfully**
I'll have to telegraph him again, Tom said **remorsefully**
I can't get down from the mountain, Tom **alleged**
Let's play a C, E, and G, says Tom's band, in **accord**
You call this a musical, asked **Les miserably**
I must make the fire hotter Tom **belowed**

UTHRO OFFICERS 2022

President Kathryn Bradley
Vice-Pres Barbara Kelly
Secretary Daun Gray
Treasurer Margaret Zambrano
Web Administrators Henny van Dijk, 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. This is a "forwarding" email that will send copies to both the UTHRO president and Efen 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.
Newsletter Editor Henny van Dijk