



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  
AT HOUSTON  
UTHRO Retiree Organization



# The EVERGREEN Newsletter

## Lunch at Saltgrass

I know this is a bit short notice, but we will be meeting at Saltgrass Steak House in Meyerland Plaza on April 7th at 11:00 AM.



The address is 520 Meyerland Plaza, Houston, TX.

Be prepared to meet your UTHRO friends and have a good time. Your lunch is on your own. Please RSVP to Janice Thomas so that we know how many places to reserve.

*Please RSVP by April 1st to Janice Thomas at [uthro@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:uthro@uth.tmc.edu).*



Our tour guide spoke about the history of the



church, and then we took pictures.

After this church we continued to Oakridge



## Painted Churches

On March 24th, a good group of our Retirees visited the famous Painted Churches in Schulenburg, TX. We took a bus from OCB and picked up our Tour Guide at the Schulenburg Chamber of Commerce. We proceeded to High Hill for our first church. Here are some pictures:

Smokehouse for a great buffet lunch. Then we moved on to St. Mary's Church. Note the beautiful blue ceiling with golden stars. Then we returned to OCB.



## In Memory of Henny



Henny van Dijk, retired director of Graphics Communications Group at the Medical School, died Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026. He was 86.

Henny grew up in Holland and served as a cadet in the Royal Dutch Air Force. He and his family

immigrated to Durham, North Carolina, where Henny took a job at Duke University. In 1972, the family moved to Houston as Henny was recruited to join the new UT Medical School. Here he flexed his creative muscles, serving as photographer and videographer for the school, as well as overseeing the Graphics Communications Group and numerous creative projects. After 33 years of service, he retired from the UT Health Science Center in 2005. Upon his retirement, he was a dedicated member and leader of the University of Texas Houston Retiree Organization, serving as the group's newsletter editor for years. He was actively involved with the group up until his death and was planning to travel Greece with UTHRO this spring with his son Stef.

Henny made an indelible mark upon the Medical School and so many of his colleagues. His enthusiasm for the Medical School and its history was contagious. He never forgot a birthday and made special care to honor deceased UTHRO members with thoughtful and complete obituaries in the Evergreen newsletter.

"He was my mentor, a great friend and always there with his quick wit and charm. He will be truly missed," Mary Ann Salas Cantu said.

"Henny gave me my first professional job out of college in 1979 at the UT Health Science Center. He was more than a boss, he was a positive role model and encouraging teacher. I'll always remember him with great respect and fondness," wrote Carole Schatz Robberson.

"Henny became my first boss at the University of Texas Health Science Center Houston, he hired me as photography technician and he opened the door, to my lifelong journey, working for the University of Texas M D. Anderson Houston and the University of Texas Austin School of Architecture," Charlotte Pickett said. "Henny was also a phenomenal mentor and teacher to so many of us who were blessed to have been able to work closely with him as our department supervisor; he will be forever and always in our hearts' precious memories!"

"He was one of the first people I met when I began work at UT Health Science Center in the fall of 1979. Joe Sigler, who worked with Henny at Duke University Medical Center, introduced us. Henny was not only a very skilled photographer, but also a wonderful, warm and wise friend," Ina Fried said.

"Henny van Dijk was truly one of a kind," Meredith Raine wrote. "He was a friend, a gifted photographer, a storyteller, and, in many ways, an unofficial historian of UTHealth Houston. He had a remarkable gift for connecting people, remembering their stories, and making everyone feel like they were part of something bigger. No one championed this university or its retiree organization with more pride or more heart."

"He was my memory. He did so many of my art, posters, and videos. I would not be who I am today without him. He has been an institution at UT. So many people depending on him," Jacques Chelly, MD, recalled.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Joke. He is survived by his son Stef and his wife Diane; his daughter Monique Stephens and her husband Mark; and grandchildren Eric, Bryan, and Matt.

Per his wishes, there will be no memorial services. Instead, if you would like to remember Henny, please make a donation in his name to the UTHRO Endowment for Health Aging (form may be found on the UTHRO website at [https://www.uthro.org/forms/UTHRO\\_EndowmentGiftPledgeAgreement.pdf](https://www.uthro.org/forms/UTHRO_EndowmentGiftPledgeAgreement.pdf) )

*by Margaret "Darla" Brown*

## More about Henny

I knew Henny through the University of Texas Houston Retiree Organization (UTHRO). He was the backbone of that organization for many years. He served as its president from 2011 through 2013 and was very passionate about keeping it active. He encouraged me to become more active and to assume a leadership role. He served as editor, publisher, author of the monthly UTHRO newsletter, the Evergreen. He worked very hard to find and write articles of interest to the members and communicated well with everyone around him. Henny organized the annual Health Symposium for UTHRO, securing free immunizations for members and inviting speakers on topics of medical interest to us. He was always positive in his philosophy and a good and caring friend to many. He will be missed.

*by Peggy O'Neill*

## from President Kibby

I am pleased to announce that Michael Patriarca, MBA, MS, FACHE, will join UTHealth Houston as executive vice president and chief business affairs and strategy officer, effective April 30, 2026.

This newly created role reflects the university's continued growth and the increasing scope of our academic, research, clinical, and administrative operations. As executive vice president and chief business affairs and strategy officer, Michael will join the executive team and work closely with our deans and senior leaders to ensure that institutional priorities are translated into coordinated action across UTHealth Houston.

*by Melina R Kibbe, MD*

<b>UTHRO OFFICERS 2026</b>		
<b>President</b>	Barbara Kelly	UTHRO has a general purpose email address: <a href="mailto:uthro@uth.tmc.edu">uthro@uth.tmc.edu</a> . This is a "forwarding" email that will send copies to designated committee members who will then forward to the appropriate person.  Including the recipient's name in your subject will be very helpful; e.g. Subject: For Janice, BBQ lunch.  If UTHRO members already know the phone number or personal email address of an officer then continue using that for your communication needs.
<b>Vice-Pres</b>	Cathy Findley	
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<b>Treasurer</b>	Sondra Faul	
<b>Events</b>	Janice Thomas	
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<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Glenn Schreyer	

## UTHRO

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