### WIDOWED PERSONS SERVICE NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2024

Serving Tarrant County and Surrounding Areas

Office Hours: 10 AM to 2 PM Mon - Fri Phone: 817-551-2922 Fax: 817-551-2377

Web Site: wpstc.org Facebook

Facebook: Widowed Persons Service of Tarrant County (closed group - contact office for access)

Email: wpstc@att.net

#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Good morning to all our WPS family!

WPS is offering two great bus trips in the near future. From April 20-22, there is a trip to the Paragon Casino (they also have a movie theatre) and the Angola Prison Rodeo (where you can buy items made at the prison) in Marksville, LA. This trip is now full, but there is a wait list (contact First Travel of Burleson). From May 14-16, join us for a trip to the beautiful city of San Antonio. Details of this trip are in last month's newsletter. There are still a few seats available, so call First Travel of Burleson at 817-447-8747. Hope to see you at one or the other.

Bus trips are a great way to travel, as they are like having your own private taxi. They are comfortable (offering water and snacks and have a restroom). They stop approximately every two hours for us to have a break and stretch our legs, grab an extra snack and use the restroom. They take us right up to the venue door, so there is no waiting in line. They pick us up at the hotel and return us.

What a great way to have a break from our routine and leave the driving to the bus driver. We don't have to worry about driving, finding a parking space, missing our exit, etc., so that we can concentrate on having a great time with our friends.

Partnering with First Travel of Burleson, we were able to arrange another bus trip to Branson, MO, this year on December 2-6. The Site and Sound Theater will be featuring the "Sounds of Christmas," and we will attend other shows as well. Full details are in the flyer this month. So, clear your calendar and come and enjoy. It will fill up fast.

WPS receives funds from these trips to help keep the office open and newsletters coming to you. Your support is very important to our great organization.

Just a **REMINDER**, our first **General Meeting** of the year is Thursday, April 18, at Spring Creek Barbeque in Mansfield. If you want some great BBQ, join us at 12 Noon for lunch. The meeting will start at 1:00 PM sharp.

Spring is here; enjoy the beauty!

Phyllis Weisheit, President

#### **OUTREACH GRIEF SUPPORT**

Good morning, Dear Ones,

We did not ask for, or know, how to anticipate this journey of grief in the wilderness, but Spring brings a time of hope and renewal.

What is this journey? It started with the loss of our husband or wife. It put us in a fog at first, trying to work through the many mixed emotions of shock, panic, numbness, denial, outbursts, anger, fear, etc. We not only lost our loved one but also experienced secondary losses, such as friend, gardener, provider, listener, mechanic, companion, bill payer, lover, tax preparer, confidant, shoulder to cry on, secret sharer or cook. I am sure you can come up with even more secondary losses. Grief is connected to ALL aspects of our life when widowed. Our daily, normal life we had prior to the death completely disappeared leaving us with a new day not knowing who we are or what our purpose is. Then comes isolation and loneliness. This is not necessarily in order, as there is no right way to grieve, just our way and our time. Then, as time (our time) passes, with support, we start to see hope.

How do we get this hope? Through a Surviving Spouse Group such as WPS. We specialize in the grief that only a person who has experienced the death of their spouse is feeling, whether it has been months or years. We provide education and hand-outs about grief and coping, but the main thing you receive is sharing with the experiences of others and finding out "you are not alone." We provide goals for grief healing. These are **not short term** goals; they are **long term** goals. You will not as a griever go through these steps before you are ready to do so. Grief healing is designed to help you better understand the emotions, feelings, and steps in this process. We are here to help you accomplish these goals, **not** force you through them. The choice is yours.

You cannot be given a life by someone else. Of all the people you know in your lifetime, you are the only one you will never leave or lose. To the questions of your life, you are the only answer. To the problems of your life, you are the only solution. Hugs, and see the "total eclipse" this month.

**Ruth Turner**, Outreach Chairman & Certified Grief Support Facilitator

NOTICE: The next Board Meeting will be held at the WPS office on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at 10:30 AM.

Our current Grief Support series began on March 24 and continues thru April 28. Refer to Page 3 for the complete 2024 Grief Support series schedule.

#### **WAYS & MEANS**

#### Dances:

Debbie Smith and Eula Plummer hosted a WPS sponsored dance March 13 at the Arlington Elks Lodge.

Nancy Sheffer-Poole and Phyllis Weisheit will be hosting a WPS sponsored dance on Wednesday, April 10, at the Arlington Elks Lodge. See the attached flyer for details.

Ann Barnes hosted a WPS DJ Dance at the Burleson Senior Center on March 22. The next scheduled WPS DJ Dance will be Friday, April 26. **See the attached flyer for details**.

#### Travel:

The WPS sponsored bus trip to Marksville, LA, has been filled, but you can get on a wait list. The bus trip to San Antonio still has a few seats available as of this writing. Contact First Travel of Burleson at 817-447-8747 to make a reservation for either of these trips.

Again, this year, together with our partner, First Travel of Burleson, WPS is sponsoring a bus trip to Branson, MO, on December 2 - 6. **See the attached flyer for details**. Your continued support of these trips is necessary for us to continue offering them, so please consider participating.

#### Directory:

The WPS Directories have been delivered to all members who submitted a Directory input form along with the \$10 fee.

#### **Donate 2 Impact:**

The next donation period scheduled is May 13 - 26. This is a great way to clear your home of unwanted items and support WPS. See the attached flyer for details.

#### **October Drawing:**

We have received confirmation that Spring Creek Barbeque will again print our Discount Coupons for our yearly drawing. Spring Creek Barbeque has supplied us with these coupons for many years. Please support them when you can.

#### **Additional Notes**

It is important that the office have your correct mailing address in the WPS database if you are an active WPS member regardless of whether you normally receive your newsletter via US Mail or email. Everyone receives the July newsletter by US Mail, since the Discount Coupons for the Drawing are mailed out at that time with the newsletters.

Ron Zembek, Ways & Means Chairman

#### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Barbara White Jean Moulder
Cindy Pryor J. B. McCoy
Coramae Julien Mary Ann Huslig
C. T. Neill Mary Lee Powell-Cole

Ed Gordon Roye Nicklas Glenda Jute Ski Lieske

#### **MEMORIALS**

George Wirtz in Memory of Ruth Ellen Wirtz Joe Harris in Memory of Becky Harris Lan Coleman in Memory of Bill Coleman Phyllis Staton in Memory of Don Greer

#### **DONORS**

Pat Reardon Susan Tyner

#### **ILLNESSES**

Bruce Mershon Eula Plummer Ken Hulsey Rita Sanders Suzy Flynn

#### **DEATHS**

Rene Peterson

#### STILL WORKING?

For members still working, WPS offers a Facebook group and occasional Saturday brunches. Contact Robin Parr at rparr822@sbcglobal.net.

#### **HOSTS STILL NEEDED**

Hosts are still needed for the <u>Arlington Dinner</u> and the <u>Mansfield Dinner</u>. If you would consider volunteering to host either of these events, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Diane Bowman, at 817-996-2337. See also page 5 for more details.

#### WPS GRIEF SUPPORT SCHEDULE 2024 2:30 - 4:30 PM SUNDAYS\*

\*NOTE: Any changes to this schedule will be announced in both the newsletter and on our Facebook page, so check each month for any changes. For any other information on Grief Support, call the WPS office 817-551-2922 Mon-Fri 10AM-2PM, or Ruth Turner 817-713-9372. If no answer at either number, please leave a voicemail, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

<u>JAN 14, 21, 28; FEB 4, 11</u>: Pleasantview Baptist Church, 4400 Pleasantview Dr, Arlington. Facilitator: Merryl Kloster.

<u>FEB 18, 25; MAR 3, 10, 17</u>: First Baptist Church, Burleson, 317 W Ellison St, Burleson (park behind church). Facilitator: Ruth Turner.

MAR 24, (SKIP 31); APR 7, 14, 21, 28: St John Lutheran Church, 1218 E Debbie Ln, Mansfield (in Youth Bldg at back of church). Facilitator: Phyllis Weisheit.

<u>JUN 2, 9, 16, 23, 30</u>: Pleasantview Baptist Church, 4400 Pleasantview Dr, Arlington. Facilitator: Arlyne Clements.

<u>JUL 14, 21, 28; AUG. 4, 11</u>: Genesis United Methodist Church, 7635 S Hulen St, Ft Worth. Facilitator: Ruth Turner.

<u>AUG 18, 25; (SKIP SEP 1), SEP 8, 15, 22</u>: Lucas Funeral Home, 1321 Precinct Line Rd, Hurst. Facilitator: TBA.

<u>SEP 29; OCT 6, 13, 20, 27</u>: Pleasantview Baptist Church, 4400 Pleasantview Dr, Arlington. Facilitators: Sharon Ellershaw & Merryl Kloster

HOLIDAY GRIEF SUPPORT: NOV 3: 2:30 - 4:30 PM (note Daylight Saving Time change). Pleasantview Baptist Church, 4400 Pleasantview Dr, Arlington.

NOV 10: CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL SERVICE: 3:00 PM, St. John Lutheran Church, 1218 E Debbie Ln, Mansfield.

## DONATION OPTIONS <u>for</u> MEMBERS, FAMILY & FRIENDS

- 1. Cash or check to the WPS office. See form below.
- 2. <u>Electronic Bank Transfer</u> to Routing # 311 981 614 and Account # 0008 196110.
- 3. Kroger Community Rewards Program. Call 866-221-4141 or register online at kroger.com/account/ enrollCommunityRewardsNow/ with your Kroger Plus Card number or alternate ID (your phone number). Enter Organization #IA786 (Widowed Persons Service of Tarrant County). To re-enroll (if "WPSTC" is not at bottom of receipt), use same procedure.
- **4. Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).** Contact your financial institution for details.
- **5.** <u>Leave a Legacy</u>. Consider including WPS in your estate planning. Your thoughtfulness and generosity will enable WPS to continue helping other widowed persons into the future.

#### **BUSINESS PARTNERS**

Donate 2 Impact
First Travel of Burleson
Hoopla Magazine
Kroger Markets
Mastercraft Printed Products and Services
Spring Creek Barbeque

#### **EVENT VENUE PARTNERS**

Arlington Elks Lodge #2114
Burleson Senior Center
First Baptist Church, Burleson
First Methodist Church, Mansfield (games)
Genesis United Methodist Church, Fort Worth
Lucas Funeral Home, Hurst
Pleasantview Baptist Church, Arlington
St John Lutheran Church, Mansfield

#### **CASH OR CHECK DONATION**

To ma	il a donation to WPS, please provide the information below and mail to:
Widov	wed Persons Service of Tarrant County, 2906 SE Loop 820, Suite A, Fort Worth, TX 76140-1030
Amou	nt of donation: \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$
Specif	y if donation is a Memorial gift In memory of (name)
Specif	y where to send donation acknowledgement:
Name	
Addre	ss
City, S	tate, Zip



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
FORT WORTH, TX
PERMIT NO. 2389

#### **DATED MATERIAL: PLEASE DELIVER BY APRIL 1, 2024**

## OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS WIDOWED PERSONS SERVICE OF TARRANT COUNTY FOR YEAR 2024

<u>OFFICERS</u>

**BOARD MEMBERS** 

Ron Zembek

President: Phyllis Weisheit Barbara Brickley Diane Bowman **Ruth Turner** Vice President: **Arlyne Clements Margaret Davis** Judy Baker Sharon Ellershaw Secretary: **Gary Frye** Mike Grissom Treasurer: Kay Hall **Bob Howard** Jane Morton Eula Plummer Nancy Sheffer-Poole **Debbie Smith** 

WPS of Tarrant County is a Grief Support Program for widowed persons of all ages
WPS of Tarrant County is a TAX EXEMPT NON-PROFIT Organization funded by Memorials, Gifts and Donations

**Carol Stacy** 

<u>WPS PURPOSE</u>: To aid bereaved men and women of all ages regardless of race, creed, and/or economic status, to adjust more effectively to the loss of a spouse through death and to build a new life.

#### **RECURRING EVENTS**

#### **Hosts Needed for Arlington and Mansfield Dinners !!!**

Volunteers are still needed to host the <u>Arlington and Mansfield Dinners</u>. For many newly widowed persons, WPS sponsored meals are their first exposure to WPS. Hosting a meal is simple and does not require a great deal of time but is rewarding and greatly appreciated. If you would be willing to host one of these events, please contact Diane Bowman at 817-996-2337.

#### **ARLINGTON**

Breakfast: Every Saturday 8:00 AM: Skillet & Grill, 1801 W Division St, Arlington. Contact Suzy Flynn, 817-483-5518.

Lunch: APR 11 ONLY, 11:45 AM: Division Street Diner, 1800 W Division St, Arlington. Contact Rita Sanders, 817-907-7878.

Dinner: CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. Host needed for this event.

#### **BURLESON**

**Breakfast : Every Tuesday 8:30 AM : Our Place Restaurant,** 950 N Burleson Blvd (I-35 service road), Burleson. Contact Diane Bowman, 817-996-2337.

Lunch: <u>APR 11 ONLY</u>, 11:30 AM: Longhorn Steak House, 12549 South Fwy (I-35 service road), Burleson. Contact Ann Barnes, 817-774-6073.

**Dinner:** APR 15 ONLY, 4:30 PM: Antonio's Mexican Restaurant, 344 SW Wilshire Blvd, Burleson. Contact Ann Barnes, 817-774-6073.

#### **GRAND PRAIRIE**

Brunch: Every Wednesday 10:30 AM: Theo's Bar & Grill, 107 NW 8th St, Grand Prairie. Contact Debbie Smith, 469-684-9982.

#### MANSFIELD

**Breakfast : Every Saturday 8:30 AM : The Porch,** 2771 E Broad St, Mansfield (across from Methodist Hospital). Contact Arlyne Clements, 817-366-0430.

Lunch: APR 5 ONLY, 12:00 NOON: Mama's Pizza, 26 E Debbie Ln, Mansfield. Contact Judy Baker, 817-320-3825.

**Dinner: CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.** Host needed for this event.

**Games: Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday 1:30 - 4:00 PM :** First Methodist Church, Mansfield, 777 N Walnut Creek Dr, Mansfield. Contact Jane Morton, 972-977-7899.

#### **NORTHEAST**

**Breakfast : Every Saturday 9:00 AM : The Corner Café,** 7901 Mid Cities Blvd, Ste 242, N Richland Hills. Contact Sharon Wallace, 817-226-5095.

Lunch: APR 10 ONLY, 1:00 PM: Outback Steakhouse, 813 Airport Fwy, Hurst. Contact Alice Baum, 817-793-6015.

Dinner: APR 16 ONLY, 5:00 PM: Italianni's, 1601 Precinct Line Rd, Hurst. Contact Sharon Ellershaw, 817-233-4064 (this month only.)

#### **SOUTHWEST**

**Breakfast : Every Thursday 9:00 AM : Cracker Barrel,** 8010 SW Loop 820 (exit Winscott Rd), Benbrook. Contact Carol Stacy, 817-360-8066.

Lunch: <u>APR 1 ONLY</u>, 11:30 AM: Cracker Barrel, 8010 SW Loop 820 (exit Winscott Rd), Benbrook. Contact Phyllis Bell, 817-657-5579, if you plan to attend (restaurant needs a head count).

**Dinner:** <u>APR 16 ONLY</u>, **4:00 PM : Olive Garden**, 4700 SW Loop 820 (across from Hulen Mall), Fort Worth. **Contact Joe Harris**, 817-929-8658, if you plan to attend (restaurant needs a head count).

#### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Friday, MAR 22: Dance, Burleson Senior Center.

Wednesday, APR 10: Dance, Arlington Elks Lodge. See the attached flyer for details.

Thursday, APR 18: General Meeting, Spring Creek Barbeque, Mansfield. See the attached flyer for details.

Friday, APR 26: DJ Dance, Burleson Senior Center. See the attached flyer for details.

### Sponsored by Widowed Persons Service

### **Come Dance/Listen to**



# "David Graham & Rusty Strings Band"



Wednesday, April 10, 2024 6:30 to 9:00 PM \$10 PER PERSON AT DOOR

# BRING YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS !!! IT'S OPEN TO THE PUBLIC !!!

Arlington Elks Lodge 601 W. Pioneer Pkwy, Arlington



Serving Food 5:30 to 6:30 PM @ \$8 per Person

Proceeds from food go to ELKS National Foundation

**Drawings for Door Prizes and MORE !!!** 

Information: Nancy 812-593-1578 or Phyllis 817-371-2151



## **General Meeting**

Thursday, April 18, 2024 1:00 PM

(If having lunch, be there by 12 Noon)

Spring Creek Barbeque
1724 US 287 Frontage Road, Mansfield

- Officer and Committee Reports
- Meet & Greet Friends and Other Members
- Meet your 2024 Officers & Board Members (Refer to page 4 for list)

# Sponsored by Widowed Persons Service Come Dance/Listen to

Country & Western

Songs from the Past and Present

with

Travis Moncrief as Disc Jockey

Friday, April 26, 2024 6:30 to 9:00 PM



**Admission: Donations Only** 

Snacks available at the break

Bring Your Family & Friends !!!

It's Open to the Public !!!



**Burleson Senior Center** 216 SW Johnson Ave, Burleson





**Information: Ann 817-774-6073** 



### Get Rid of those clothes that don't fit you anymore or extra household items you don't need, and WPS will receive a donation.

Donate 2 Impact is a non-profit organization that accepts items for resale and reimburses other charitable organizations for them at a rate of \$0.09 per pound. WPS has signed up with this organization, and they have given us the **donation period of May 13 - 26, 2024**.

Items may be dropped off at the following location: <u>6020 S. Cooper St. Arlington</u>. Their hours of operation are Monday – Saturday 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM and Sunday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. <u>Donations must be made</u> <u>during the WPS Donation period for WPS to receive credit</u>.

When you drop off your items make sure you tell them that your organization is **Widowed Persons Service of Tarrant County (WPS)**.

You also have the option to have them pick up your items. You must schedule the pickup between <u>May 13 - 26, 2024</u>, and you must have the items outside your house for pickup. Call (972) 619-7880 to schedule a pickup. When you schedule a pickup, they will give you a date that they will pick up. They can schedule up to 2 weeks after the WPS donation period. Again, make sure you tell them that your organization is **Widowed Persons Service of Tarrant County (WPS).** They also request that items be separated as much as possible (i.e, clothing, shoes, appliances) and that breakable items be protected with packing.

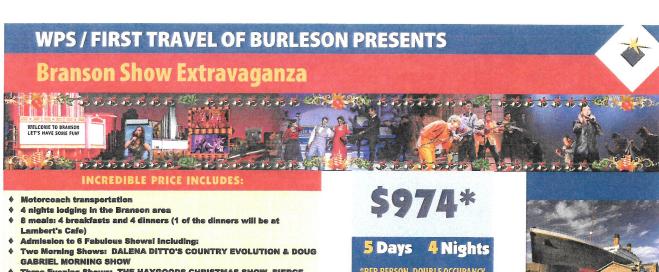
#### Below is a list of Items that they Accept:

Clothing (all types and sizes), Shoes, Purses/Backpacks, Jewelry & Accessories, Linens/ blankets, Household items, Bath and Kitchen items, Books, Toys, Electronics, Small Appliances, and Small Home Décor.

#### Below is a list of items NOT Accepted:

Any used Medical Supplies, Anything Toxic or Flammable, Blinds, Building Materials (bricks, lumber, fence posts, tile, etc.), Cabinetry, Chemicals/Oils/Paints, Countertops, Doors, Food (animal or human), Hospital Beds/Adjustable Beds, Hot Tubs, Large Appliances, Large Exercise Equipment – Heavy Dumbbells, Light Fixtures, Magazines, Mattresses/ Box Springs, Newspapers, Office furniture, Cubicles, Desks, File Cabinets, Pipes, Scrap Fabric, Sheet Rock, Sinks, Soiled/Torn/Damaged/Stained Furniture, Swing Sets, Tires, Toilets, Trash, Tube TVs, CRT and Projection TVs, Unframed Mirrors, Unprotected Glasses, Used AC/Heating Units, Water Beds, Water Heaters, Weapons/Guns,/Swords/Knives, Wet/Rusty/Broken Items of any kind, Windows.





- ♦ Three Evening Shows: THE HAYGOODS CHRISTMAS SHOW, PIERCE ARROW COUNTRY SHOW & MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS Show at the Sight & Sound® Theatre
- ♦ One Dinner Show: SHOWBOAT BRANSON BELLE
- ♦ Admission to TITANIC: THE WORLD'S LARGEST MUSEUM ATTRACTION

For more pictures, video, and information visit: www.GroupTrips.com/FirstTravelofburleson

5 Days 4 Nights

\*PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

(Mon - Fri)

Dec 2 - 6

2024

#### Departure: First National Bank, 740 Southwest Wilshire Blvd, Burleson, TX @ 8 am

Day 1: Board your spacious, video and restroom equipped Motorcoach and set off for the "Live Music Show Capital of the World" - Branson, Missouri. This evening you'll enjoy Dinner and check into your Branson area hotel for a four night stay.

Day 2: Today, after a Continental Breakfast, you'll enjoy a visit to the impressive TITANIC: THE WORLD'S LARGEST MUSEUM ATTRACTION. You can experience the hallways, parlors, cabins, and Grand Staircase of this replica of the world's most famous luxury liner, view actual artifacts, and more. You can also hear passenger stories and pay tribute to their memory. Next, visit GRAND VILLAGE SHOPS for some free time and shopping. After Dinner at Lambert's Cafe, you will be dazzled by the PIERCE ARROW COUNTRY SHOW. With a focus on country, this show hits everything from classic to modern top hits. Don't miss out on this incredible show!

Day 3: Enjoy a Continental Breakfast, then you'll experience DALENA DITTO'S COUNTRY EVOLUTION. This show takes you back through the humble beginnings where Country Music began and brings you up to date on the incredible lives of those singers and songwriters who pour their heart and soul into telling the American story. Join Dalena Ditto and her Live band "The Boys" and see what people of all ages are loving about this new show. Later, you'll have some free time for shopping. Later, you'll sit down to a three-course meal onboard the famous SHOWBOAT BRANSON BELLE, where you will be treated to a spectacular show as you cruise on the pristine waters of Table Rock Lake. Tonight, you'll take in THE HAYGOODS CHRISTMAS SHOW. All you favorite Christmas Songs are presented with the Joy and Magic of the Season as only the Haygoods can perform them! This is an amazing experience you don't want to miss!

Day 4: Enjoy a Continental Breakfast and then start your day with the DOUG GABRIEL MORNING SHOW. This good, clean, family show has lots of variety. It has a talented cast, rib-tickling comedy and a terrific ensemble of musicians. Plus, Doug plays his World Famous Mufftar (a guitar made out of a 1969 Thunderbird muffler)!!! Then, you will go to BRANSON LANDING and discover waterfront shopping, dining, and attractions on Lake Taneycomo's beautiful waterfront. After Dinner, you'll take in "THE MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS" show at the Sight & Sound Theatre\*. The Theatre will be grandly decorated with lights, greenery, Nativity scenes, and a spectacular Christmas tree. All of the holiday finery is only a prelude to the thrilling story of Christmas.

Day 5: After enjoying a Continental Breakfast, you'll depart for home... a time to chat with your friends about all the fun things you've done, the great shows you've seen, and where your next group trip will take you!

#### ADD PEACE OF MIND TO YOUR TRIP...

With Diamond Tours Exclusive *Travel Confident* ® Protection Plan. See separate advertisement...

\$75 Due Upon Signing. \*Price per person, based on double occupancy. Add \$144 for single occupancy. Final Payment Due: 9/25/2024

#### FOR INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

Lila Glazener @ (817) 447-8747







THE HAYGOODS CHRISTMAS SHOW