President’s Message

Kimberly’s Adventures

Locally Going International

Altrusa’s impact on the community is felt near and far. This special edition newsletter focuses on a unique opportunity for which Altrusa Richardson was given the honor of being a valuable contributor and participant.

The Japan-America Grassroots Summit was presented to me by Altrusan Susan Frensley back in February 2012 before I took office as President. I did not have any idea what this event was about but saw the potential... for something big. Then President Bonnie Perry and I attended an informational meeting in March 2012 at the home of Betty and Paul Peck, Richardson Coordinators for Summit - and we were hooked!

Over the next several months, Betty Peck, Bonnie Perry, Barbara Berthold, International Committee Co-Chair, and I conducted several meetings to plan and coordinate the events of the City of Richardson’s part in this community-wide event. The Progressive Dinner was Barbara’s brainchild –what could be more American than that... And we all agreed!

The enthusiasm from local community supporters, leaders, and businesses was heartwarming and a sign that we were part of something big. Before we knew it, August 30th was here and the Japanese visitors arrived in North Texas and months of planning all fell into place.

While the preparation for this event was extensive, I think you will agree that the results of our effort and the participation of all Richardson Altrusans who contributed in large and small ways resulted in showing the community what an impactful organization Altrusa can be–and is! Locally, Richardson citizens had an opportunity to see Altrusans in action, making a positive impact on the community and being gracious hosts – and friends – to our Japanese visitors, who returned to their homes with a greater appreciation of American culture, Texas hospitality, and Altrusa Friendship.

Near and far, Altrusa Richardson is making its mark on the community!
NEW COR AD DEBUTS IN OWT PROGRAM

As a Platinum Sponsor of our Outstanding Women of Today Luncheon and Awards Presentation, the City of Richardson has a full-page ad in the event’s program and a quarter-page ad in Altrusa Tidings for a year. The City’s newly-designed advertisement incorporates President Kimberly Kierce’s theme of Discover Altrusa: Your Passport to Adventure and mentions our Club’s 45 years of service to the community.

City of Richardson’s support of Altrusa is obvious when the Council and many of the department heads attend our fundraiser!

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WEAR ORANGE TO NOV. 15 MEETING!
From Wikipedia.com, the free encyclopedia

In observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the International Relations Committee is asking everyone to wear orange to our November dinner meeting.

Women’s activists have marked November 25 as a day to fight violence against women since 1981. On December 17, 1999, the United Nations General Assembly designated 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (Resolution 54/134). The UN invited governments, international organizations and NGOs to organize activities designated to raise public awareness of the problem on this day as an international observance. Women around the world are subject to rape, domestic violence and other forms of violence, and the scale and true nature of the issue is often hidden.

This date came from the brutal assassination in 1960 of the three Mirabal sisters, political activists in the Dominican Republic, on orders of Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo (1930–1961).
During the 2012 Labor Day Weekend, North Texas hosted about 200 visitors from Japan, who participated in the Japan-America Grassroots Summit, an annual gathering of Japanese and American citizens, held alternately in Japan and the United States.

The Summit aims to strengthen the peaceful relationship between Japan and the U.S. by fostering friendships at the grassroots level.

The City of Richardson was among fourteen other cities chosen to host and entertain part of the group: 16 Japanese visitors ranging in age from 11 to 73, two of whom were Manjiro's direct descendants. (See story on next page.) A great honor for the City and all involved!

Altrusa International of Richardson happily joined the venture initiated by the Mayor’s Office of International Business and led by Betty and Paul Peck, Richardson Host Coordinators, pursuing Altrusa’s mission of making communities better through leadership, partnership, and service.

Our Altrusa Club contributed ideas for the City’s steering committee, staffed the Richardson Welcome Ceremony, organized and hosted a Progressive Dinner for about 50 people—Japanese visitors, home-stay hosts, and City leadership. Additionally, one of our members, Jean Stuart, served as home-stay host.

The photographs taken at City Hall and during the Progressive Dinner beautifully tell the story of a unique event, which not only provided the Japanese visitors with a taste of Southern hospitality, but also allowed Richardson residents a glance at the Japanese culture. Moreover, we learned to see our community through the visitors’ eyes and to value the beauty of our culturally diverse community.
“In 1841, an American whaling boat rescued five shipwrecked Japanese fishermen who were marooned on a remote Pacific island. Among the five was a fourteen-year-old boy named Manjiro. Manjiro’s intelligent good nature soon earned him great respect among the American crew. He was given the name John, and taken back to Fairhaven, Massachusetts to receive an American education. Under the care of the ship’s Captain William H. Whitfield, Manjiro studied not only English, science and navigation, but also about American culture and values, such as freedom, democracy and hospitality.

At that time Japan was under the rule of the Tokugawa Shogunate, whose policy of isolationism meant that leaving the country was an offense punishable by death. After 10 years in America, however, Manjiro was determined to return home, to pass on the knowledge and goodwill he had received from Whitfield and the community of Fairhaven. Not long after Manjiro returned to Japan, Commodore Matthew Perry arrived calling for an end to isolationism, an event which lead to the birth of modern Japan. John Manjiro played a crucial role in these events, introducing and explaining American culture, values, technology, etc., to the Japanese.

The friendship between John Manjiro and Captain Whitfield has resulted in nearly 170 years of friendship, reunions, and visits between their descendants. Members of the Whitfield and Nakahama families attend every Grassroots Summit, serving as a reminder of the enormous potential of grassroots exchange.”
JAPAN-AMERICA GRASSROOTS SUMMIT SCHEDULES
North Texas Itinerary (source: www.northtexasgrassrootssummit.org/itinerary; 2012-09-28)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Aug 28</td>
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<td>Arrival at DFW International Airport</td>
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<td>Daytime</td>
<td>Japan-America Friendship Night at the Rangers Ballpark</td>
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<td>Evening</td>
<td>Hilton Fort Worth</td>
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<td>Wednesday, 1Aug 29</td>
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<td>Optional tours:</td>
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<td>1. Rangers Ballpark, American Airlines</td>
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<td>2. Pioneer Plaza, Sixth Floor Museum, Dealey Plaza in Dallas</td>
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<td>4. Museum of Fort Worth Museum of Science and History</td>
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<td>5. U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Cabela’s in Fort Worth</td>
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<td>Experience the Fort Worth Stockyards and cattle drive</td>
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<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>Opening Ceremony, BBQ, and line dancing at Billy Bob’s Texas</td>
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<td>Evening</td>
<td>Hilton Fort Worth</td>
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<td>Thursday, Aug 30</td>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>Walking tour of Fort Worth heritage sites and Sundance Square</td>
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<td>Departure for host cities</td>
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<td>Friday, Aug 31</td>
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<td>Local sessions in host cities</td>
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<td>Daytime</td>
<td>Second night of homestay</td>
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<td>Saturday, Sep 1</td>
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<td>Local sessions in host cities</td>
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<td>Daytime</td>
<td>Third night of homestay</td>
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<td>Sunday, Sep 2</td>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>Visitors and hosts join the Closing Ceremony in Dallas</td>
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<td>Overnight</td>
<td>Arts District tours</td>
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<td>Dallas Marriott City Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Sep 3</td>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>Depart for Japan or Post-Summit Tours</td>
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Progressive Dinner Itinerary

4:30 p.m.  Meet at Library, receive program, directions
5:15—6:15 Appetizers (home of Carl Youngberg & David McNair)
6:30 —7:15 Soups (home of Mary Beth & Carl McLemore)
7:30 —9:00 Main course
   Visitors to Texas Restaurant;
   Volunteers, dinner hosts, artists, musicians to
   Mary Boyter’s home
9:15 —10:00 Desserts (home of Betty & Paul Peck)
**VISITORS FROM JAPAN EXPERIENCE SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY, ALTRUSA STYLE**

Altrusans began planning for our participation in the Japan-America Grassroots (JAG) Summit many months before the event. Betty Peck visited with us at a club meeting last Spring, and the project took off from there.

We decided to organize a Progressive Dinner featuring regional cuisine. We chose the recipes, decided who would prepare them, how they would be served, arranged for artists and musical entertainment at each venue, what our “uniforms” at the event would be...it was a big job! And it was ultimately very satisfying, and something we could be proud of! (Recipes for two of the most popular dishes are included in this newsletter.)

**BANANA PUDDING RECIPE**

*By Sue McElveen*

To make the Banana Pudding, I started with the famous “Not Yo’ Mama’s Banana Pudding” recipe by Paula Deen, and made a few changes.

**Ingredients:**
- 2 bags Pepperidge Farm Chessman Cookies
- 6 to 8 bananas
- 2 cups milk (I used 1% fat milk)
- 1 (5 oz.) box instant French vanilla pudding
- 1 (8 oz.) package cream cheese, softened (the 30% less fat kind)
- 1 (14 oz.) can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 (12 oz.) container frozen whipped topping, thawed, or equal amount sweetened whipped cream

Line the bottom of a 9 x 13 x 2 inch dish with 1 bag of cookies and layer sliced bananas on top. In a bowl, combine the milk and pudding mix blending well using a hand-held electric mixer. Using another bowl combine the cream cheese and condensed milk together and mix until smooth. Fold the whipped topping into the cream cheese mixture. Add the cream cheese mixture to the pudding mixture and stir until well blended. Pour the mixture over the cookies and bananas and cover with the remaining cookies. Refrigerate until completely chilled. Right before serving cover the top with whipped topping and serve cold.

Instead of the Chessman cookies, I just used regular Vanilla Wafers. I used a trifle bowl so I could layer. Using this method I put a layer of wafers in the bottom of the trifle dish, followed by a layer of sliced bananas, covered that with about 1/2 of the pudding, cream cheese and condensed milk mixture. I placed some wafers on their side around the outside of the bowl, then placed another layer of wafers flat, then another layer of sliced bananas, followed by the rest of the mixture. Last, I placed another layer of wafers on the very top, covered the dish with Saran Wrap and let it chill until the next night. I covered the top with Cool Whip before serving.

I used this method since we wanted to serve “traditional” southern dishes. I suspect the recipe would be even better with the Chessman cookies. Hope you all enjoy and let me know when you serve it what you think!
ALTRUSANS GREETED VISITORS AT RICHARDSON CIVIC CENTER RECEPTION
APPETIZERS IN THE GARDEN OF CARL YOUNGBERG & DAVID MCNAIR

APPETIZERS
Deviled Eggs
Spinach Artichoke Dip
Tortilla Rolls
Pimento Cheese
Sandwiches
Shrimp Dip
SOUP COURSE AT THE HOME OF MARY BETH AND CARL MCLEMORE

COLD SOUPS
- Cucumber Soup
- Strawberry Soup
- Gazpacho

Strawberry Soup
Bonnie Perry’s recipe, prepared by Janice Swallow

1 and 1/2 cup strawberry preserves
1 and 1/4 cups sour cream
3/4 cups half and half or yogurt
1 pint fresh strawberries halved
(semi-pureed and mixed in, or diced, sliced, etc.)

In large bowl whisk preserves with sour cream. Stir in half and half. Cover and refrigerate.
Just before serving, fold in strawberries.
Texas restaurant at The Shire in Richardson hosted the guests from Japan, the home-stay families, and City dignitaries for the main course. Meanwhile, the volunteers, dinner hosts, artists, and musicians met to take a break from their duties and enjoy their main course at Mary Boyter's home.
A PERSONAL NOTE FROM AN EVENT CHAIR  
By Barbara Berthold, International Relations Committee Co-chair

Just a week after the JAG Summit at our 2012 Altrusa Orientation/Reorientation meeting hosted by Nancy Rohm, one of my Altrusa sponsors, her husband, Tom, whom I am proud to call friend, jokingly asked if I was speaking Japanese now.

Well... I had learned a couple of phrases. However, was my only desire to learn about another culture that had made JAG so special to me? Why did I enjoy being involved in it so much? What was I hoping the visitors would carry away from their stay in Richardson?

I wanted them to experience American culture the Richardson way, wanted to show off what Richardson is all about: diverse neighborhoods, each of them displaying its own beauty; beautiful homes and gardens; unparalleled hospitality; amazing, open-minded, and curious people willing to work together for a common cause.

Yes, Richardson embodies all of this, and its Altrusa Club is one of the driving forces behind this vibrant and welcoming community.

Arigato (Thank you), Tom, for your thought-provoking question.

WHAT THEY LIKED ABOUT THE EVENT!

"Altrusa knows how to throw an amazing party! The hospitality, the food, and the fun was conducted in true Altrusa style! What an amazing club doing amazing work in the community!"

—Kimberly Kierce, Altrusan, President

"High energy synergy!"

—Betty Peck, Richardson's JAG coordinator

"We really enjoyed being Richardson ambassadors. It was interesting as well as fun to welcome the Japanese visitors and their hosts to our home."

—Mary Beth & Carl McLemore, Altrusan, Dinner hosts

"It may have been only one event, but what a DIFFERENT one!"

—Carolyn Swanson, Altrusan, Newsletter editor

"I thought Richardson displayed a real family camaraderie in hosting JAG which is what makes Richardson so special!"

—Jane Tucker, Altrusan, Co-chair International Relations Committee

"Hello. I could back to my house safely yesterday night. Thank you so much for your kindness, ally you did to me. I was so happy being with you. I’d like to say thank you for all people I’ve met at ?Texas as well. Thank you again. I will send some photos on PC but I will do that later. See you at Skype soon."

—Kumiko Kawahara, Altrusan Jean Stuart’s houseguest

"What I loved about the JAG event was twofold. I got to meet great folks from Japan and got to know them and we also got to spend great time with some people right here in Richardson with whom we don't get enough quality chats. It was the perfect storm of an event."

—Carl Youngberg & David McNair, Dinner hosts

JOINT VENTURE

The Japan-America Grassroots Summit in Richardson was a joint venture of these organizations:

- City of Richardson/Paul and Betty Peck
- Richardson Chamber of Commerce
- Richardson Mayor’s Office of International Business /Mike Skelton
- Richardson Civic Arts Society
- WOW-Women of Watercolor
- Richardson Symphony Orchestra
- The Richtones Chorus
- Richardson Community Band
- Classical Chic
- Japan-America Society of Dallas/Fort Worth
- John Manjiro Whitfield Commemorative Center
- Consulate-General of Japan in Houston
- Altrusa International, Inc. of Richardson, TX
Week in Review, Aug. 31, 2012

Community Welcomes Visitors for Japan-America Grassroots Summit

About a dozen Japanese visitors are staying at homes in Richardson during the 2012 Japan-America Grassroots Summit, which began Thursday when Mayor Bob Williams welcomed the guests to City Hall.

The event runs through Sept. 2 and promotes new opportunities between Japanese and Richardson businesses.

The summit includes a tour at the University of Texas at Dallas and Fujitsu Network Communications and a progressive dinner for the visitors and their home stay hosts. More than 150 visitors from Japan are touring North Texas during the summit.

Richardson is one of 16 North Texas cities selected to host the visitors as part of the annual gathering of Japanese and American citizens. The summit, held alternately in Japan and the U.S., began as the first friendship between a Japanese person and an American in 1941 and continues in their descendants ever since.

Prairie View College Prep

Transpacific summit plans stop in Richardson

In August, Richardson hosted 12 Japanese visitors and a high school exchange student, who were welcomed to the city by Mayor Bob Williams during the 2012 Japan-America Grassroots Summit.

The summit was organized by the University of Texas at Dallas and the Richardson Chamber of Commerce, and it is designed to promote cultural and educational exchanges between Japan and America.

On Labor Day weekend, the summit will continue with a welcoming ceremony hosted by Mayor Bob Williams at 10 a.m. on Sept. 3.

Community: August 30, 2012

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