

ALTRUSA TIDINGS



ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL INC. OF RICHARDSON, TEXAS

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DECEMBER 2011

WORKING TODAY - BUILDING TOMORROW

VOLUME 43, ISSUE 7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BONNIE'S BASICS—GRATITUDE AND CELEBRATIONS!

Thanksgiving has always been a very special day for me. It is a time to celebrate and be thankful for family and friends—not to mention all of the good food. During the month of November I heard the question come up many times in conversation - What are you doing for Thanksgiving?

This brings to mind a good question to ask ourselves: What are we doing to be thankful as Altrusa members? Just to name a few: We have the opportunity to join together and support so many worthwhile projects with funds and also time. We have people who take on big projects, make them happen, and change people's lives in the process. We have each other, which includes close Altrusa friendships and sisters who are always willing to help and encourage each other. And maybe the most special thing of all is the time we get to spend together, planning, meeting, learning, celebrating. Think of all of the people you have met at our Club, and at District Conferences, Leadership Events, and International Conventions.

So, let's be thankful! And as we think about all of the things listed above, let's resolve that we want to share that with others. We need to think of women who would be good Altrusans and ask them to visit our club. It is important for new members to join us. They come with

fresh ideas and excitement and help us reach our goals, and that is good for all of us. So let's look around us and think of women we know who should become members during 2011-2012.

Then, of course, we are going into the holiday season. We will be celebrating with people who are important to us.

Think of the invitations you have already received and what a warm feeling you had when you received it - the excitement that was there just thinking about it and how you were going to enjoy attending it. I am sure all of us are looking forward to our own holiday celebration and are thankful for our members who are planning a wonderful occasion for us. I know I am.

So, let's be thankful and celebrate together and resolve to invite other women to become members of our club. We have so many significant projects that we can do together and we can make a real difference is our community. Let's do it!

And I want to say that I am thankful for each of you and for your support of me as your president. I am looking forward to the last half of my year and know that I will be amazed at what we will do together.

Bonnie Perry,

President 2011-2012

WORKING TODAY - BUILDING TOMORROW



MEMBERSHIP RETENTION COMMITTEE REPORT

MORE REASONS TO BE A MEMBER OF ALTRUSA OF RICHARDSON

By Mary Beth McLemore, Membership Retention Committee

There is no doubt about it, our Membership Retention committee has the best ideas for encouraging Altrusans to get together and have a good time!

LUNCH BUNCH

A larger than usual number of Altrusans were part of the Lunch Bunch that met at Casa Milagro on Friday, November 18.

Lunch Bunch, sponsored by the Membership Retention Committee, is a quarterly get-together at a Richardson area restaurant. Ann Eisemann is in charge of finding a great place for us to meet for lunch.

The next luncheon will be sometime in February, 2012, so watch your newsletter and email for the time and location! Everyone is encouraged to attend.

DINNER AND THE SYMPHONY!

On February 11, Altrusans and friends will meet for dinner and the Richardson Symphony concert, Romantic Classics.

The evening will begin with dinner at 6:30 PM at Maestro's Restaurant inside the Renaissance Hotel. The Club will make a group reservation for our dinner together. The estimated buffet cost will be \$18.95 (plus tax and tip, subject to change).



After dinner, we will take the short walk to the Eisemann Center for the performance by the Richardson Symphony Orchestra, which begins at 8:00 PM. The Symphony website says:

Join guest conductor Clay Courturiaux for an evening of great love songs and romantic classical favorites plus a special performance by the renowned vocal ensemble *New Direction*.

To purchase your symphony ticket(s) call 972-234-4195, or go to www.richardsonsymphony.org. A fun evening with our Altrusa family and support for the Richardson Symphony's wonderful, romantic Valentine's Day music is the goal of our Retention Committee.

GIRL'S DAY OUT: SOMEONE WARN OKLAHOMA!

The Committee has decided to set a Saturday in April for a Girl's Day Out free bus trip to the Choctaw Casino in Durant, Oklahoma. We will need 20 Altrusans or girlfriends for a day of fun together. More information will be forthcoming .



The Richardson City Council congratulates Altrusa for its 44 years of continued service in our community.

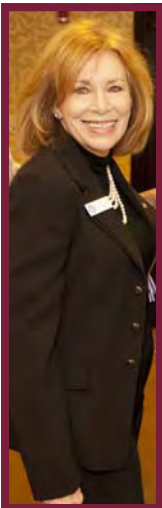
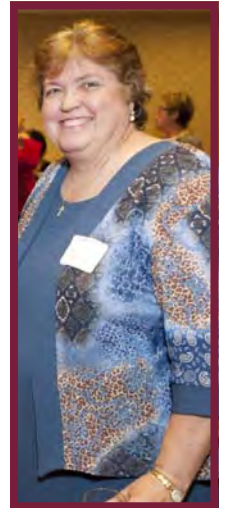
Council Members standing from left to right: Steve Mitchell, Amir Omar, Scott Dunn, Kendal Hartley and Mark Solomon. Seated: Mayor Bob Townsend and Mayor Pro Tem Laura Maczka.



BOARD ACTIONS

- None; meeting cancelled due to holidays
- Next Foundation and Club board meetings are scheduled for December 1

OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF TODAY COMMITTEE REPORT A FEW MORE PHOTOS FROM OUR 2011 OWT AWARDS LUNCHEON



EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

WANT TO HAVE SOME FUN WITH TERRACE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS?

By Andrea Rutledge

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS



Altrusa is sponsoring a trip for Pre-K, Special Needs Pre-K, and kindergarten to Santa's Village on Friday, December 9. This trip is short, slightly strenuous, and very, very much in the Season. You need to be at Terrace at 8:15 AM; we will return by

11:00 and then we are planning to go to Café Max for lunch. Our Pre-K teachers, Maribeth and Cheryl, will join us. Contact Andrea if you can chaperone.

READ TO ME TIME

Our kindergarten program, patterned after Teddy Bear Time, begins on Tuesday, January 10, at 5:45 in the Terrace library. This six-week long program uses new Scholastic books as the texts. The program includes a lap-sit with the child and parent, a craft, and a snack. We expect 12 kindergarten students to partici-

pate. This is the second year of the program; last year, we learned and the kindergarten teachers learned. To sign up to help, see the sign-up sheet at the Altrusa meeting or contact Andrea.

GUD SPELERS NEEDED

Spelling Bee judges were needed, but thanks to Susan Frensley, Mimi Tanner, and Mary O, we have our judges for the event on December 12 (Monday) at 8:15 AM in the Terrace library. This is a traditional Altrusa activity.

HERE'S A THOUGHT...

Since we have traditionally purchased Christmas gifts for a needy family or children, and since the Club is not doing that this year, would you like to adopt a Terrace family to help this season? This is not a committee activity or a Club sponsored activity (no nickel - and dime-ing), but some of us enjoy the pleasure of a child and family receiving gifts and are blessed with the ability to help. We have no commitment yet, but if enough of us are interested, Maribeth or the counselor will give us a family. Let me know by December 2 if you want to participate.

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

NEW MEMBER TO BE INITIATED, ORIENTATION TO FOLLOW!

By Norma Hammerlund and Sue McElveen, Committee Co-chairs

Well, it's the time of the year to both rejoice and dread. Rejoice that we have families and friends we want to share a table with and dread that awful mess in the kitchen.

Rejoice that we have people we love to shower with presents (most likely that would be the joy of spoiling our grandchildren) and dread the trips to the mall. However you plan to spend your holidays, our wish is that you are filled with joy at all the possibilities.

The Membership Recruitment Committee is happy to announce the initiation of our newest member, Melody Terry. She has already been to several meetings and we hope you all have had a chance to meet her. We will hold her initiation ceremony at our December Business Meeting on Thursday, December 1. Please plan to attend and if you can, bring a prospec-

tive member to share in the celebration.

Our fall orientation/reorientation has gotten off to a slow and fitful start, but now we are on track. This is for ALL the club, not just new members, but anyone wanting to spend a morning with Altrusa sisters. It is a great time to visit, eat and learn a little more about Altrusa. It is a time to bring that friend or associate that wants to know what Altrusa is all about. Also, for those of us with less than perfect attendance, it is an opportunity for a make up meeting. So, mark your calendars for Saturday, December 10. A flyer is located elsewhere in this newsletter, giving you all the details. Please plan to attend, for a good time will be had by those that come.

We hope your Thanksgiving holiday was wonderful and we wish you a fun time shopping, decorating and just enjoying your friends and family this holiday season.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

SHARING THE ALTRUSA LOVE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

By Toni Garrett, Committee Co-chair

We wanted to let you know how we are sharing Altrusa love with others during this holiday season. This week we donated \$500 to NETWORK, designated to be spent only on items to replenish the food pantry. This is their busy time of year, and they are out of necessities: flour, sugar, cooking oil, and toilet paper. Our donation will be used to replenish these supplies.

In addition, Sue McElveen will use our remaining NETWORK funds to purchase toys for their Santa

program. Parents have already signed up their children for the program, and Sue will purchase items for their wish lists.

If you would like to help with the Santa program, please bring an unwrapped child's gift to our meeting on December 1. All gifts donated by Altrusans will be delivered to NETWORK and distributed through the Santa program.

MEMBERSHIP RETENTION COMMITTEE REPORT

THE ALTRUSA WINE AND CHOCOLATE LITERARY SOCIETY

By Kay George

It was another exciting meeting of the *AW&CLS*. We seem to have more fun now that we're a full-fledged "literary society". Janie Jaquier led our discussion of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Steig Larsson. (Forty years ago, Harriet Vanger disappeared from a family gathering on the island owned and inhabited by the powerful Vanger clan. Her body was never found, yet her uncle is convinced it was murder and that the killer is a member of his own tightly knit but dysfunctional family. He employs disgraced financial journalist Mikael Blomkvist and the tattooed, ruthless computer hacker Lisbeth Salander to investigate. When the pair link Harriet's disappearance to a number of grotesque murders from almost forty years ago, they begin to unravel a dark and appalling family history. But the Vangers are a secretive clan, and Blomkvist and Salander are about to find out just how far they are prepared to go to protect themselves.



There will be no meeting in December. We will resume in January with a discussion of *Gifts of War* by Mackenzie Ford. During the Christmas Truce of 1914, Hal Montgomery, a British soldier, is given a photo by a German soldier, Wilhelm Wetzlar, and they make a pact. Hal promises to find his enemy's English girlfriend, Sam, and let her know her fiancé is alive and thinking of her. Several weeks later, Hal—now injured—is discharged from the army and goes to Stratford on Avon to fulfill his promise. But things take an unexpected turn when he meets the woman in the photo and falls in love with her himself. As their romance blossoms, Sam

shares with Hal her most private confidence: Her newborn son is of German lineage, information that threatens her reputation and her job as a schoolteacher. Fearful that he will lose Sam, Hal holds tight to the secret—and the photograph—that brought them together. The scene shifts to London, where Hal becomes involved with military intelligence and is introduced to Sam's sisters and a different kind of secrecy. Against the broader landscape of England in wartime, *Gifts of War* captures the era and the fates of men and women caught in the sweep of history. A vivid tale of romance, adventure, and intrigue, the novel is a remarkable narrative that explores what made War World I so tragic, so revolutionary, and so exciting. (Editorial Note: This sounds like a "delicious" read!!!)

As always, we meet at Friends Place Adult Day Services, 160 Nantucket Drive in Richardson.

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Carolyn Swanson, Newsletter Editor

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Thanks to Cindy Martin and Pam Kovacs for snacks, Cindy Martin and Marsha Peters for our libations and, as always, Pam Kovacs for plastic ware, cups, etc.

PROJECT REPORT
APPLETREE AUCTION

By Debbie Simms, Seniors Committee Co-Chair

Appletree



Assisted Living Residence

The Apple Tree Auction was a hit, as always. The big ticket item was the crocheted purple afghan that went for \$1000.00 apple bucks. The other items that brought in the BIG money were the lap quilts, blankets, tins full of pencils, pens, post-it notes and

paperclips, wraps, hot beverage travel mugs and a flashlight. Everyone had a great time and thanks to all who donated. Connie (the Appletree Court Activity Director) set back some of the items for the next auction in the Spring.

Debbie Simms and Sandy Martin watch for bidders (below) while Gloria Sandoval, Auctioneer, encourages higher bids.



PROJECT PREVIEW

HO, HO, HO, IT'S DECEMBER AND TIME FOR ANOTHER RICHARDSON PARADE!

By Bobbi Klein

COME JOIN THE FUN!

Our club will be participating in the annual Richardson Christmas Parade on Saturday December 3rd. The theme for this year's parade is "The Spirit of Giving".

The Parade route is from Richardson Square to Apollo Road. We will meet at the Sears Parking lot at 8:00am. Our float this year will be based on the same idea as last year - all the gifts that Altrusa gives to our community and the world. We will dress as snow-ladies so try to wear a white or gray sweat shirt. More info to follow...

Don't be square...see you there... at the Square!



PROJECT REPORT

ALTRUSANS SAVE THE DAY AT WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S!

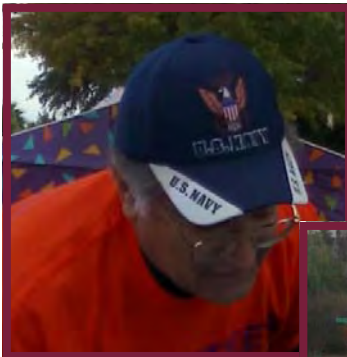
By Gloria Sandoval, Seniors Committee Co-Chair

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's is the nation's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer care, support and research. This year's Walk in Dallas was held at Fair Park to accommodate the large increase in participants the past several years. The 2010 Walk at the Dallas Zoo was so large that Walkers were turned away. For the past six years Altrusa

Richardson has participated as part of the volunteer force; the last four of those years were working the registration table.

If it hadn't been for our

club, this year's organizers would have been scrambling to find volunteers to handle all the participants. The second group assigned to work the Registration Tables never signed in. Kailey Posey, Volunteer Coordinator for the Dallas Chapter, was very relieved that Altrusa Richardson was there with all our volunteers and that we just took charge and set-up the whole registration area. This year's volunteers for the 2011 Walk to End Alzheimer's were Sue McElveen, Elizabeth Smith, Jo Leeper, Genevieve Hamulak, Debbie Simms, Norma Hammerlund, Gloria Sandoval, Altrouser Isaac Sandoval, Kim Kierce, Barbara Berthold, Ann Payne and Jane Tucker. **Thank you** to all our Altrusa Volunteers who worked so hard at this important and major event.



LEAD THE WAY.



Your Business Ad Can Go Here!

An advertisement in *Altrusa Tidings* is a great way to spread the word about your services or products!

Ads are business card-sized; \$25 for one insertion, \$100 for six consecutive months.

Camera-ready content due by 15th of month; fee must be paid to Treasurer by third Thursday of month prior to publication.

Contracts and guidelines will be available by Dec. 10.

Your Big Brag Goes Here!

Thank You...Celebration...Recognition...Achievement
Special Event...Award...Congratulations...Just Because!

If you would like to share your big news in a big way, contact the Altrusa Tidings Editor about creating your colorful, attention-getting 3.5-in. x 2-in. message.

Only \$25 for a one-time personal brag! Deadline is 15th of month for content; fee must be paid to Treasurer by third Thursday of month prior to publication.

PROJECT REPORT

SWEET DREAMS PILLOW PROJECT

By Nancy Rohm

The Sweet Dreams Pillow Project was a new project for our club this year. We selected Hope's Door, which has a domestic violence shelter, as the recipient. We purchased pillows and pillow cases and decorated the hem edges of the pillow cases. We attached a card (in English and Spanish,) telling the recipients to sleep well in this safe place.

Forty-nine members, two guests (and one dog!) dec-

orated pillow cases and/or provided donations to this project. We had \$400.00 from the club (designated the previous year) for the project. We received an additional \$83.00 in monetary donations from members. Wal-Mart gave us \$40.00 towards pillows, 8 pillow cases were donated by members who decorated those cases (estimated in kind of \$24.00) and some members donated supplies for the decorating (estimated in kind of \$30.00) for a total of \$577.00. One member's

mother sewed pillowcases from pastel-colored fabric purchased by the club.

We gave Hope's Door 80 pillows and 72 pillow cases. The project was timed to recognize the UN's "International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women."



Altrusans Nancy Rohm and Janet Vance help Hope's Door's Melissa Hannon stack the pillows in the hallway awaiting their new quarters in the donation room.



Nancy and Tom Rohm managed to stuff those pillows into their van.

NEWS FROM OTHER CLUBS

ANDERSON COUNTY CLUB RAFFLES RIFLE

At the conclusion of the Fall Festival—this year with a theme of "Fall into Fun"—in Palestine, Texas, Altrusa of Anderson County held a drawing for a Savage 270 rifle with scope, valued at \$800. (Palestine is located halfway between Dallas and Houston.)

The raffle tickets were sold for \$5 each, or five for \$20. The pro-

ceeds from the fundraiser were used to fund the Club's Make a Difference Day Project.

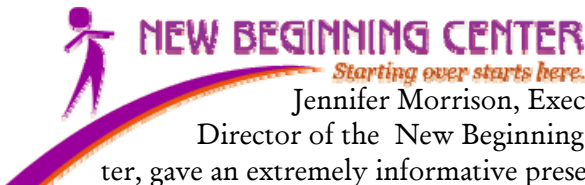
The Anderson County Club paid half of the wholesale value of the gun, and Action Pawn Shop donated the remainder. The amount of money earned has not been announced, but ticket sales were reportedly brisk.



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEMBER 17 PROGRAM MEETING: ERADICATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

By Jane Tucker


Jennifer Morrison, Executive Director of the New Beginning Center, gave an extremely informative presentation at the November 17, 2011, dinner meeting. As someone who has been with the New Beginning Center since 2008, and serves on many state level committees regarding domestic violence public policy, she gave up-to-date statistics on the rise of domestic violence during 2010 in Texas, and what might be the causes for increased numbers.

The goal of the New Beginning Center is to foster an environment of safety, support, and respect for families affected by domestic violence through crisis inter-

vention, counseling, shelter, education, and diverse community partnerships. She believes that through community awareness and intervention domestic violence can be prevented. Jennifer concluded her presentation by challenging Altrusa members to go out and tell five people about the New Beginning Center, by doing five hours of community service work in the next month, and by giving of our time and financial support to continue to maintain organizations such as the New Beginning Center.



MEETING PREVIEW

DECEMBER 15 PROGRAM MEETING: 'TIS THE SEASON FOR A PARTY!

By Pam Kovacs, Membership Retention Chair

'This might very well be our best Altrusa Holiday/Christmas Party ever! And, it is certainly one that you will not want to miss. Members are welcome and encouraged- to bring husbands (limit one husband per member please), friends, or a significant other to join us for dinner and a wonderful evening of merriment.

Reservations are required for everyone. Since we will be serving a special holiday dinner, the cost is \$20 per person. Be sure to call in a reservation, even if you do not plan on eating dinner to enable us to plan for adequate seating.

Entertainment will be provided by "Breakaway", a quartet from the Rich-Tones Chorus. From all accounts, they are sure to make this evening's event especially memorable. Expect a few surprises, a lot of laughs and plan on having a great time

If this is your first time to join us for our annual holiday dinner party and you're not sure what to wear, the answer is simple. Some ladies dress up a bit, some wear Christmas sweaters, some dress up a lot and some come in business casual. As far as the men, in answer to their big question... "Do I have to wear a coat and tie?" the answer is "only if you want to". Many of the men tend to wear a turtle neck or open

shirt - with or without a jacket. Again, business casual is perfectly acceptable.

Come a little early and start celebrating the season with wine, friends, and good cheer at 6:30. The dinner meeting will begin promptly at 7pm. Santa comes but once a year, so let's gather together for some holiday cheer!



**The Breakaway Quartet
from the Rich-Tones Chorus.**

IN THE MEDIA

FROM NOVEMBER 25 *neighborsgo*

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neighborsgo.com

Arts & Life

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Melissa Han- non (left), development and volunteer coordinator for Hope's Door, recently spoke to the Altrusa members who created pillowcases, such as the one shown by Nancy Rohm.



Photo submitted by MIMI TANNER

Pillowcases get personal touch from Altrusans

By **MIMI TANNER**
Contributor

Four sewing machines, three ironing stations and two tables of snacks recently greeted a large group of Altrusa members, who painted, sewed, ironed, embroidered and stitched pillowcases for clients at Hope's Door, a shelter and counseling center.

Members of Altrusa International of Richardson are observing the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which is Friday, by supporting the work of Hope's Door.

In a project dubbed "Sweet Dreams," Altrusa members have been making and decorating the hems of pillowcases, which add a personal touch to the donation of 60

pillows and cases that will be given to clients who are starting new lives.

"No two pillow cases look exactly alike. Some have ribbon, some have words of hope or laughter, some are simple and others are very fancy," said Nancy Rohm, Sweet Dreams chairwoman. "It is not that it is such a big gift, it is that it is such a special one."

Hope's Door offers comprehensive programs and services that are designed to help break the cycle of domestic abuse and provides direct intervention and prevention services to families affected in Collin County, Dallas County and surrounding areas.

Mimi Tanner contributes to neighborsgo on behalf of Altrusa International of Richardson.

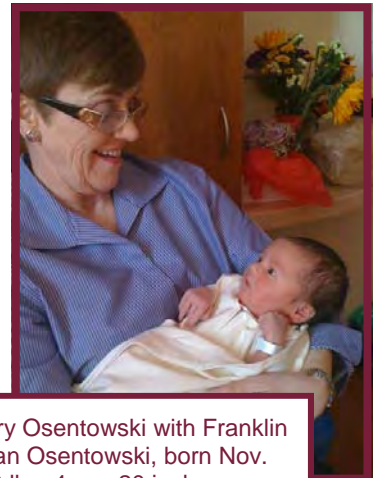
MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

CHEERS

Let's all give a big cheer for:

- Kim Kierce for volunteering, at the last minute, to host the fall orientation/reorientation at her home. According to her, she now has an excuse to get her Christmas decorating done early! Thanks, Kim, for your generosity of spirit and your willingness to go the extra mile.
- Bonnie Perry for her stellar leadership and for her HASR award.
- Linda Korn for her HASR award.
- Altrusa International, Inc. of Richardson for the Outstanding Volunteer Organization HASR award.
- Mimi Tanner and Kimberly Kierce for outstanding media relations—look at all the publicity we have been getting!

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Mary Osentowski with Franklin Dean Osentowski, born Nov. 9. 8 lbs.,4 oz.; 20 inches

Altrusa International,
Inc. of
Richardson

Altrusa Orientation

Saturday, December 10, 2011
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

3009 Warm Springs Lane, Richardson, Tx 75082

Before you head out for an afternoon of holiday shopping....

Join us for an informative and fun morning
learning more about Altrusa and its members.

Discover how Altrusa impacts our community,
learn about Altrusa projects, find out how you can get involved and
be a part of this dynamic group of community leaders!

Know someone who is
interested in Altrusa?
Bring a guest (or two)
to this event!

This is a make-up meeting
for anyone working on
perfect attendance.

RSVP:

www.altrusarichardson.com
or Kimberly (214.274.5409)

IN THE MEDIA RICHARDSON TODAY, DEC. 2011



HASR volunteers, left to right are: Bonnie Perry, Linda Korn and Woody Alexander

HASR honors volunteers

Helping Agencies Serving Richardson (HASR) held its annual Volunteer of the Year Luncheon in November. There were 16 nominees in four categories. The winners were: Community Leadership: Bonnie Perry, nominated by members of the Richardson community; Humanitarian: Linda Korn, nominated by Neighborhood Youth and Family Counseling; Education: Woody Alexander, nominated by Richardson Adult Literacy Center, and Group: Altrusa International of Richardson, nominated by NETWORK of Community Ministries.

The HASR purpose is to improve the delivery of social services in Richardson in a nonprofit, nonpolitical forum for better communication, coordination and cooperation among the service agencies serving RISD.

Dear Altrusa Sisters:

You all are very special ladies. With all that we do as a group, of course we would win the 2011 Volunteer of the Year Award at the HASR Luncheon. Congratulations to our very own Bonnie Perry for winning the Community Leadership award, and Linda Korn for the Humanitarian award.

I am sorry that I was not part of the Altrusans that attended the Luncheon. I am very proud of all my Altrusa sisters. Again, congratulations Altrusa Richardson!!

Gloria Sandoval

IN THE MEDIA RICHARDSON TODAY, DECEMBER 2011

Altrusa honors "Outstanding Women of Today"

Altrusa International, Inc. of Richardson honored six winners as they were named Outstanding Women of Today. Builders of Tomorrow at the 8th annual luncheon Oct. 21.

Of the 19 women nominated, the winners were: Corporate: Sally L. Crawford, J.D. (Jones Day Law Firm); Education: Pamela K. Quinn, M.S. (The LeCroy Center for Educational Telecommunications); Government: Rep. Stefani Carter (State of Texas House of Representatives); Nonprofit: Kirsten Brandt James (Junior Players); Small Business: Susan McMahan (Close to You, Inc.); and Outstanding Woman of Tomorrow: Celina Ann Cardenas (Richardson ISD).



2011 Richardson Altrusa honorees—(l-r) Pamela Quinn, Sally Crawford, Kirsten Brandt James, Susan McMahan, Rep. Stefani Carter and Celina Ann Cardenas

Dear Altrusa Sisters,

I hope all of you know how proud I am to be a member of such a wonderful organization as Altrusa International of Richardson. Thank you Gloria and Pat for being such good examples and sponsoring me.

Congratulations to Altrusa, Bonnie and Linda for doing us proud.

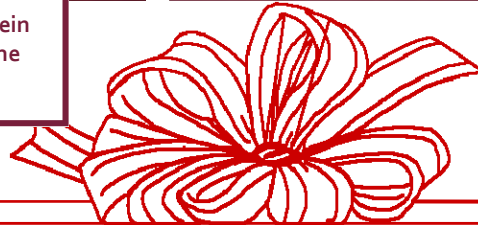
Norma Hammerlund

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Altrusans visit with Santa Claus at the Rich-Tones' concert. [Ed. note: Remember, he know if you've been bad or good...]



Altrusans Genevieve and Bobbi Klein are singing their hearts out with the Rich-Tones Chorus! (in the circle)



THE GIFT OF BEING AN ALTRUSAN

by *Mary Beth McLemore*

Do you ever look around a room and think, "I don't know who that is.?" Anywhere but Altrusa this is something that might happen, does happen or will happen. At Altrusa, this shouldn't happen! It is every one's responsibility to know her Altrusa sisters. You are cheating yourself when you don't. You are missing one of the extra perks that comes with Altrusa membership. Two advantages to knowing each of our members are: 1. You now have over 80 new friends, not acquaintances. These are people who care and offer themselves to help you and/or just hug you. 2. You know their talents, their weaknesses, and their lives, and thus it is easier for you to work with them. You become a stronger leader. You become a better person. You enrich yourself through their knowledge and interest. It's like reading a book, which many of us love to do, and finding so much fun and laughter and new information. Research shows that women with true girlfriends lead healthier, happier lives.

Yes, most of us joined Altrusa to serve our community. But, Altrusa is a builder of women, a builder of leaders. Mamie L. Bass, our founder in 1917, knew that women could help other women succeed, grow and serve. Deb emphasized our "Helping Hands". I

"Empowered Altrusa". Bonnie is "Building our Club". We are all unique women. During these seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas, I challenge each of us to give the joy of Altrusa. First, you could invite someone to visit and become an Altrusan. Second, challenge yourself to do something a little different. In Janice's year, Altrusans were challenged to "Think Out of the Box," another good President's theme. Get involved with a project you have not done. Third, look for an Altrusan you admire and think, "Why do I admire or like them?" "Why do I see them as a leader or true friend?" Then study them and improve yourself. Finally, make a real effort to learn more about your Altrusa sisters. Sit in different areas; start a conversation with someone you don't know well. Ask someone you want to know better to dinner or lunch to help you solve a problem, or to share her opinion. Write thank you notes to brighten someone's day.

I'm thankful and feel blessed to be an Altrusan. Hopefully, the above ideas will give a few of you a new thought about becoming a better person, a better Altrusan, and building our Club to make our community better. Altrusa can definitely make a difference in your life, but you have to be open to finding the best in each Altrusan so that you can build the best in you.

IN THE MEDIA

“LET’S PRAISE THE UNSUNG GO-GETTER”

(From page 1 of the November 23 Metro section of *The Dallas Morning News*.)

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION OF THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS.

I had never been invited to the dedication of a shade structure before. In fact, I wasn’t even sure I knew what one was.

But last Sunday, on a perfect autumn afternoon, I joined in as a playground shade structure in the Lake Highlands area of Dallas was dedicated to the memory of Pat O’Shea.



It was a simple, sweet, neighborly kind of gathering to honor a man who was one of the doers in his corner of town. He died almost three years ago at age 79.

“This was our backyard,” daughter Sheila O’Shea said in welcoming me to White Rock Trail Park. “We lived right there,” she said, pointing across the way to a house backing up to the park.

Frank Meneghetti grew up next door. “Mr. O’Shea was really a big part of keeping this park up. He just cared about the neighborhood,” Frank said. “I would like to have seen the park named for him, but he didn’t want that. He didn’t care for credit.”

Nola DeLoach, who lives a street over, said, “If you needed something done in the area, you didn’t call City Hall. You called Pat O’Shea.”

He was the guy who coached the Little League teams, patrolled the neighborhood as a Police Department volunteer and served on the board at the YMCA. For years, he was president of the White Rock Valley Neighborhood Association.

Sheila said her father simply had a great love for his city. His roots were deep. His grandfather, Cornelius “Con” O’Shea, joined the Dallas Police Department in 1896 and later became the city’s first traffic officer, she said.

About 40 people were on hand for the shade structure dedication. One measure of their fondness for O’Shea: The ceremony took place during a close Cowboys-Redskins game — an *overtime* game.

And for the record, though I suppose shade structures come in all styles, the one dedicated to O’Shea’s memory is an elegant metal wing supported by stone pillars. It provides a shady oasis for parents next to the park’s playground.

The ceremony consisted of cheery tributes, followed by cookies and lemonade. Among the speakers was former Dallas City Council member Alan Walne, who represented the area.

Walne said that when his two children grew up and began to shop for homes in Dallas, he didn’t try to steer them back to Lake Highlands. But if that’s where they chose, he advised them to buy in the White Rock Valley neighborhood.

And he gave O’Shea much of the credit for building such a strong, safe and stable community. His kids followed dad’s advice.

Now maybe you’re thinking that O’Shea sounds great and all, but that across Dallas and its suburbs, there are thousands of men and women like him.

Exactly.

And it’s why on this Thanksgiving Day, I’d like for us to honor not only Pat O’Shea but all those who carry on in a similar way. They’re the unheralded doers who make a city work.

Today, let’s salute the scoutmasters and room mothers, Lions and Optimists, Altrusans and Junior Leaguers, PTA officers, soccer coaches, Meals on Wheels drivers, nonprofit board members, neighborhood watch captains, Salvation Army bell ringers, shelter dog walkers, after-school tutors, clothes closet sorters and food pantry stockers.

Like O’Shea, they’re the generous spirits who pitch in when others hang back, who change lives while the rest of us change channels. And we ought to be deeply thankful for them.

Someone said that real heroes are those who plant trees in whose shade they will never sit. And I’d say that goes for nifty new shade structures, too.

IN THE MEDIA

FROM NOVEMBER 18 *neighborsgo*

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION OF *neighborsgo*.

neighborsgo.com

EDITOR'S NOTE

Selecting top volunteers a tough task

When volunteer extraordinaire Mimi Tanner asked if I would be a judge for the Helping Agencies Serving Richardson Volunteer of the Year Awards Luncheon, I had no idea what a tough task lay ahead.

Each of the 16 nomination forms I read were full of impressive acts of selfless service, and as I read through each one I wished that awards could be presented to all of the nominees.

My job, however, was to vote for one nominee in the four categories. After carefully reading, comparing and re-reading the forms, I painstakingly cast my votes.

The other judges were Richardson Mayor Bob Townsend and Richardson ISD school board member Karen Ellis.

The winners were announced at a luncheon Nov. 10 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Richardson.

They are Bonnie Perry in the Community Leadership category, Woody Alexander in the Education category, Linda Korn in the Humanitarian category and Altrusa International of Richardson in the Group category.

Perry is a leader in the local arts community, but her giving spirit doesn't



ANN MARIE SHAMBAUGH
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stop there. She's also involved in Altrusa, a Rotary club, the chamber of commerce and several other organizations.

"Bonnie Perry is a tireless community leader who brings together organizations and individuals from the arts, education, business and local government, benefiting the work of all and strengthening each organization," stated her nomination letter.

Alexander is a faithful volunteer at the Richardson Adult Literacy Center who has developed a course on American history and government to help his students pass the citizenship test, among other accomplishments.

"Woody's work sets an example for future volunteer generations; he is a role model, not only for our volunteers but also for our male students," stated Alexander's nomination form.

Korn spends 10 to 16 hours a week

volunteering at Neighborhood Youth and Family Counseling, where she leads fundraising efforts, provides mentorship and works with clients.

"Linda Korn joined NYFC's volunteer team when it needed her most, energized NYFC's fundraising efforts and served as a mentor to the new executive director. Tireless, committed, honorable, passionate ... to NYFC, this is Linda Korn," stated her nomination letter.

Altrusa International of Richardson provides volunteers for several of Network of Community Ministries' service programs. The group's volunteers had given 480 hours of service in 2011 at the time the nomination form was completed.

"Altrusa International of Richardson is a tremendous ally to Network. Altrusa's monetary and volunteer contributions have impacted many lives," stated its nomination form.

I could list one accomplishment after another from all of the nomination forms, and each nominee is deserving of recognition and respect for making our community a better place.

See a photo of the winners on Page 32.



Representing Altrusa of Richardson at the HASR Awards Luncheon were Susan Frensley, Mimi Tanner, Brenda Boston, Janie Jaquier, Linda Korn (winner), Andrea Rutledge, Sue McElveen, Barbara Berthold, Bonnie Perry (winner), Carolyn Swanson, Janet Vance, Jane Merz, Dena Davis, and Kimberly Kierce.

**IN THE MEDIA
FROM NOVEMBER 11 CITY OF RICHARDSON EMAIL**



Nov. 11, 2011

Here is the latest edition of *Week in Review* - a series of weekly messages from the Mayor and City Council to help Richardson residents and businesses keep up to date on events at City Hall. A list of links for stories in this edition is available at the bottom of the page.

HASR Luncheon Honors Volunteers

Helping Agencies Serving Richardson (HASR) held its annual Volunteer of the Year Luncheon Nov. 10 at the Hilton Garden Inn Dallas/Richardson. There were 16 nominees in four categories.

Winners were:

Community Leadership: Bonnie Perry, nominated by Richardson Community

Humanitarian: Linda Korn, nominated by Neighborhood Youth and Family Counseling

Education: Woody Alexander, nominated by Richardson Adult Literacy Center

Group: Altrusa International of Richardson, nominated by NETWORK of Community Ministries

COMMUNITY NEWS

ALTRUSANS WIN 3 OF 4 HASR VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS!

Altrusa International, Inc. of Richardson, Texas, won the 2011 Volunteer of the Year Award in the Group Category at the HASR (Helping Agencies Serving Richardson) Volunteer of the Year Awards Luncheon hosted on November 10, 2011, at the Hilton

Garden Inn.

Altrusa also celebrates the following Altrusans who won in their respective categories:

Altrusa President Bonnie Perry

won 2011 Volunteer of the Year - Community Leadership and Linda Korn won 2011 Volunteer of the Year - Humanitarian.



Altrusa was well represented at the HASR Luncheon and many fellow Altrusans attended to support their Altrusa sisters. Thank you to all who submitted the nomination paperwork and attended the luncheon! Thanks to Brenda Boston, Janie Jaquier, Jane Merz and Andrea Rutledge who handled check-in duties. Altrusa's HASR Representative, Mimi Tanner, assisted with the judges and nominees.



Bonnie Perry, Linda Korn, and Woody Alexander with their Volunteer of the Year Awards.



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Interim Vol. 4

The 82nd Texas Legislature: November 4, 2011

Dear Friends,

October proved to be a very eventful month. I attended many events in the district, and I look forward to attending future events in the coming months. This edition of the newsletter will highlight various district events that I attended, as well as provide you with an overview of the proposed constitutional amendments that will appear on the November 8 election.

ALTRUSA RICHARDSON LUNCHEON

I was honored on October 21st at the Altrusa Richardson Luncheon where I was awarded the *Outstanding Women of Today...Builders of Tomorrow Award*. Altrusa International, Inc. has a rich history of recognizing women leaders in civic organizations dating back to its founding in 1917. The award is a distinguished honor for women in leadership who exemplify determination and innovation and have made an outstanding contribution in their respective fields. I was humbled to be awarded such an eminent honor amongst a room of such accomplished women in leadership.



Representative Carter pictured with fellow Altrusa award recipients.

SPECIAL REPORT

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY IS DECEMBER 10, 2011

By Jane Tucker

December 10th is the day annually set aside by the United Nations as a global observance of human rights and the importance of upholding these rights throughout the world. By definition, human rights are the basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person in the world. As humans we all have interlinked and interdependent rights that are inherent to every person, without being discriminated against because of nationality, ethnic origin, sex, religion, language, or cast and creed.

The original draft of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was completed in December of 1948.

Thus, for over 60 years, the aim of this day is to form the basis for human rights for all. It is considered as the most translated document in modern history and is currently available in more than 360 languages. The day is celebrated all over the world, with many events aimed at focusing on the importance of human rights education, and allows us a time to reflect about the meaning and need for human rights awareness.



DISTRICT NINE NEWS

DISTRICT NINE HAS RECEIVED NEW LOGO

Shown at right is the new logo for Altrusa International District Nine. Now that the districts all have their logos, distribution of club logos should begin soon. Judy Sall, District Nine Website Coordinator is working to implement the new “brand-compliant” District Nine website.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATION SEEKS INPUT FROM MEMBERS

From International Altrusan, November 2011

We welcome information and articles from membership that share how Altrusans are Leading to a Better Community; as well as others related to your monthly theme. Many of our themes reflect United Nations Days that we recognize according to our International Bylaws. Next month's theme is Human Rights and January's theme is Travel (related to District Conferences.) Information or articles that a member would like considered for the International Altrusan are to be submitted by the 10th of each month prior to publication. You are welcome to submit articles on any topic that you believe may be relevant to Altrusans; even if it is not related to a specific theme. Please send information and articles to altrusa@altrusa.com.

ALTRUSA ACCENT

CLUBS AT LARGE



Clubs in areas that do not have enough clubs to form a District are called “Clubs-at-Large”. Their liaison with Altrusa International is the Clubs-at-Large Committee (appointed by the International President), which works closely with the International Office to bring service to these clubs.

The programs and projects of Clubs-at-Large are shared with the general membership through Club Activity Reports, articles in *International Altrusan*, International Conventions, and Sister Clubs. Altrusa currently has clubs-at-large in England, Ireland, Scotland, Russia, and Ukraine.

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION NEWS

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL ASKS FOR DONATIONS

Adapted from solicitation letter from Ann Marie Snyer, Foundation Chair

In 2012, the Altrusa International Foundation will celebrate its 50th Anniversary. Through the years, the Foundation has strived to achieve its mission to empower Altrusans to provide effective, local community service programs, and to serve Altrusa and its international community. Through the Foundation Grants Program, Club 21, and the Disaster Relief Programs, Altrusans experience the impact of Altrusa International – Leading to a Better Community. As the Foundation begins its next 50 years, the trustees are asking

you to continue your commitment to the Foundation and its programs.

You may donate by going to www.altrusa.org. If you choose to make a contribution in honor or in memory of someone, an acknowledgement will be sent to the individual or family you designate. If you need assistance making your donation, please contact the Foundation Office at foundation@altrusa.com.



CLUB CALENDAR DECEMBER 2011

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- Thurs., Dec 1 (7:00 PM) Business Meeting (Founders' Hall)
- Sat., Dec 3 (8:00 AM) Parade at Richardson Square Mall
- Mo, Tu Dec 5,6 (various times) VNA gift wrapping
- Sat., Dec 10 (9:30-10:30 AM) Kimberly Kierce's home
- Mon., Dec 12 (Noon) Reservations for Dec.15 Mtg.
- Mon., Dec 12 (7:00 PM) Bridge at Location TBD
- Thurs., Dec 15 (7:00 PM) Holiday Party (Founders' Hall)
- Mon., Dec 19 (6:00 PM) Tidings Deadline

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Remember, if you choose, you may bring a gift to the dinner meeting in the month of your birthday. There will be an oppor-

- 4 Jane Merz
- 5 Pam Fitzgearld
- 9 Ann Eisemann
- 9 Pat Hansen
- 15 Janet Vance
- 30 Nancy Rohm



tunity to put our names in a drawing (only \$1 per chance!) to win a birthday gift. The guideline is that the gift should cost around \$5.

MEETINGS

Business Meeting
7 PM, December 1
Founders' Hall
at Richardson Woman's Club

Dinner Reservations
for everyone
due by Noon, Monday, December 12
Contact: Jean Stuart

Dinner/Program Meeting
7 PM, December 15
Founders' Hall
at Richardson Woman's Club

Board Meeting
6 pm, December 1, Founders' Hall

NOT SO ROYAL DECREE:

*By order of the Second Thursday Meet & Greeters
Be it henceforth forever known that our new appellation shall be*

S M A L L S

The Sisterhood of Merry Altrusa Liquid Libation Sippers

*There will be NO meeting of S M A L L S in December
The next official meeting of S M A L L S will be January 12th
at Casa Milagro (on the NE corner Plano and Campbell Road)*

*Between 5:30 pm and 7:00pm
(or when ever we feel like going home!)*

MEMBERSHIP RETENTION

BRIDGE

Monday, December 12
6:30 PM Schmoozing
7:00 PM Let's play bridge
Location TBD

