

ALTRUSA TIDINGS



ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL INC. OF RICHARDSON, TEXAS

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2012

WORKING TODAY -- BUILDING TOMORROW

VOLUME 43, ISSUE 8

2011-2012 Board of Directors

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Kimberly Kierce

Vice-President
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Toni Garrett

Corresponding Secretary
Sue McElveen

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BONNIE'S BASICS—WELCOME TO 2012!

It is hard to believe that we have completed the first half of my Altrusa year as president. We have had many highlights -- just to name a few - a successful and exciting Outstanding Woman of Today, the recognition from the Richardson Independent School District for the Education Committee's work at Terrace, the Pillow Case Project, the accomplishments of all of the committees including the ongoing work of the finance committee, our great newsletter, Wild Apricot, and many more. It is exciting to look forward to the "second half" and what other significant things we will accomplish.

So, here's to Spring, 2012.!

It will be a busy time for us! Of course we will continue to work with the re-branding as directed by Altrusa, International, Inc. which will involve more changes for us. We have started on some of these and will continue to respond to Altrusa International, Inc. and District Nine as they share information with us.

Wild Apricot is in the process of becoming the communication link to our club members as well as the community. We will need to embrace it and use it in every way possible so that we can be more effective and efficient in keeping in touch with each other.

Tidings, our newsletter, will change somewhat and be used as a tool to communicate also externally with our sponsors and potential sponsors, advertisers, OWT

nominees, and other interested persons.

Our committees will continue to work on their projects and plans that they will finish by the end of May..

And there are new projects!

Our past presidents, chaired by Julianne Lovelace and Mimi Tanner, are going into the community and interviewing leaders to ask them about needs of the community and how they see Altrusa being involved. This will give us new information and also an opportunity to share information with them

I am looking forward to hearing the results of these interviews.

We will also be scheduling Cafe Conversations, co-chaired by Susan Frenley and Marcia Peters. This project was brought back to us from those who attended International Convention, and we will be implementing the project this spring. You will hear more about it later.

Membership is always important and we will be involved as always in talking to people who we believe would like to join us as members. Think of the women who know who might want to learn about Altrusa or might be just waiting for an invitation.

Thank you, as always, for all that you do. I am proud to be your president.

Bonnie Perry,

President 2011-2012



WORKING TODAY - BUILDING TOMORROW

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2011-2012 ANNOUNCED*By Marsha Peters*

The Nominating Committee has completed its task of developing the proposed slate of officers for 2011-2012 and advised the President, President-Elect, Recording Secretary, and “Tidings” editor. The slate was presented to the current Board of Directors at its meeting on Thursday, January 26th. At the club's request the nominating committee is presenting a single slate.

The nominees are as follows:

- President-Elect Pam Kovacs
- Vice President Cindy McIntyre
- Recording Secretary Janet Vance

- Corresponding Secretary Toni Garrett
- Administrative Treasurer Carolyn Swanson
- Foundation Treasurer Jan Swallow
- New Directors: Linda Korn and Courtenay Tanner

Kimberly Kierce, current President-Elect will be our President..Genevieve Hamulak and Gloria Sandoval will return for their second year as Directors.

The election will be held at the March 2 business meeting.

Members in good standing (dues and fees paid) wishing to vote absentee should then request an absentee ballot from the Chair of the Nominating Committee. Absentee ballots must be returned to the

Nominating Committee Chair no later than the day before the election. All ballots must contain the member's printed name. Absentee ballots received the day of the election will not be counted. A member may request an absentee ballot be sent via email, but it will be the responsibility of that member to verify that the Nominating Committee Chair received the member's vote by return email. The email must contain the member's name that is voting.

The Nominating Committee was chaired by Marsha Peters. Committee Members were Deb Bourland, Dena Davis, Janie Jaquier, and Julianne Lovelace.



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**

- Received foundation financial report; OWT net is approximately \$14,000
- Approved hotel contract for 2012 OWT
- Received \$750 from Verizon in honor of Janice Swallow

SPECIAL REPORT

DISTRICT NINE CONFERENCE DELEGATES ELECTED

At the January 19 meeting, we elected our delegates and alternates to the Fifty-Sixth Annual Conference of District Nine, Altrusa International, Inc. Based on our number of members, we are entitled to send five delegates and five alternates. (Conference will be April 20 – April 22, 2012 at the Hilton/Waco Convention Center. The theme for Friday Fun Night is Celebrate Altrusa Mardi Gras.)

Delegates are Kimberly Kierce, Barbara Cornelius, Pam Kovacs, Sue McElveen, and Marsha Peters.

Alternates are Bonnie Perry, Linda Olivera, Bobbi Klein, Nancy Rohm, and Gloria Sandoval.

Delegates and alternates are responsible for presenting oral and written reports on all important and fun aspects of the Conference or Convention. Written reports are published in *Altrusa Tidings*. Suggested top-

ics are:

- Elections/Appointments
- New Objectives/Programs
- Budget Adoption
- Bylaws Revisions
- Workshops/Seminars
- Speakers
- Awards
- Resource Materials
- Foundation Progress
- Social Events

More information is in the *Altrusa Encyclopedia*.



FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET SURVEY RESULTS ANNOUNCED

By Janie Jaquier, Finance Committee Co-Chair

The Finance Committee greatly appreciates your participation in the Finance Survey. Over half our members responded. Your input will help us prepare budget recommendations. The following is a brief summary of the results from the administrative portion of the survey:

- 80% of the members surveyed are willing to support administrative fundraisers
- 87% are agreeable to including the program meeting room costs in the operational costs with a \$15 increase in dues and a \$2 decrease in the cost per dinner
- The majority think the club should pay for 50%,

or less, of the delegates' registration fees for District Conference and International Convention

- The majority (60%+) are not willing to increase dues to cover District Conference and International Convention registration fees for delegates and alternates
- 52% are agreeable to a dues increase in addition the \$15 increase (which will include program meeting room costs as an operational expenses) with a \$2 decrease in dinner costs

For more details on the survey results, go to our web site.

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.

Contact *Tidings* Editor for contracts and guidelines

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.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

YOUR HELP NEEDED! PLEASE RESPOND TO SURVEY BY FEBRUARY 7!

By Kay George

The 2012 Member Evaluation Survey has been emailed to everyone. Thanks to the Strategic Plan Committee for the time, thought, and creativity of its members to design this important measurement tool for the club. The information gathered will enable the club leadership to identify the needs and expectations of the members, areas that have room for improvement, and provide new ideas and strategies for existing as well as future activities.

Please fill out the Survey and bring with you to the Business Meeting on Thursday, February 2. There

will be extra copies at the meeting for those of you who do not have an opportunity to complete it prior to the meeting. It will also be posted on the website in the “Members Only” section. **The deadline for all responses is Tuesday, February 7th.** If you are unable to attend the meeting, please mail your completed survey to Kay George, address in the yearbook. Each of you is a vital part of the club and your response to the survey is critical. Your input is anonymous so please be candid.

Thank you!

ALTRUSA ACCENT

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

From 2011-2013 Altrusa International Bylaws and Policies, Revised September 29, 2011 (emphasis added)

Article XIII: Election of Officers and Directors

Section 1. Election

(a) All officers, except the Immediate Past President, shall be elected by ballot at a regular business meeting in March and shall be installed so as to take office on June 1, and shall serve for one (1) year or until their successors are elected and installed. In the event there is only one nominee for an office, the Secretary may be instructed to cast the ballot. Officers of a newly organized Club shall serve until the 31st day of May following such organization, except that Officers of Clubs organized after January 1 and before June 1 may serve until one year from the next June 1.

(b) Any candidate who shall receive a majority of all valid votes cast shall be declared elected. In the event there shall be more than two (2) candidates for any one office, and no candidate shall receive the majority of all valid votes cast on the second ballot, the candidate receiving the least number of votes shall be eliminated from each succeeding ballot.

Section 2. Incoming Board of Directors

Officers and Directors may meet at any time after their election, at the call of the incoming President, for the purpose of organization and to ratify committee appointments.

SPECIAL REPORT

MEETING MINUTES AND ATTENDANCE RECORDS NOW ON WEBSITE

By Toni Garrett, Recording Secretary

You now have instant access to minutes and attendance from our Altrusa meetings. Go to <http://www.altrusarichardson.com>. On the left side of the page, select “Member-Only Access.” When you click on “Minutes,” you’ll find the dates of all of our club meetings since June 2011, with the most recent at the top. Select the date for

the minutes you want to review, and be sure to read them before each business meeting.

You can also check to see if your attendance is recorded correctly. The attendance roster will always be posted at the top of the list. Please notify Toni Garrett if any corrections are needed.

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE REPORT COMMITTEE INFORMATION PRESENTED AT ORIENTATION/RE-ORIENTATION

On December 10, Kimberly Kierce's lovely home, lavishly decorated for the holidays, was the venue for our most recent Orientation/Reorientation. The fourteen attendees were treated to a tasty brunch, followed by an informative session about our committees and activities.

There will be another Orientation in the Spring (date to be announced) so plan to attend, learn something more about Altrusa, and get credit for a make-up meeting!



Starting at top, left, Orientation/Reorientation attendees were Dena Davis, Mary Osentowski, Toni Garrett, Carolyn Swanson, Brenda Boston, Jo Leeper, Bobbi Klein, Jean Stuart, Jan Skinner, Pam Kovacs, Kay George, Suzanne Cotton, Bonnie Perry, and Kimberly Kierce.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY CLUB NEEDS ENTERTAINING SPEAKERS

By Andrea Rutledge, Education Committee Chair

Pat Hanson and Andrea Rutledge lead a group of eight bright and eager kindergarten children in the Wednesday Club. We need a guest speaker for the group on February 8 at 1:30. Carla and her puppy, Roger, have spoken to the group and were very happily received. We would ask you to speak, or rather present, for about 30 minutes. The children are quite small and young; they are age 5 and 6 and still believe in Santa

Claus. The best presentation would be concrete and hands-on. Hands were on Roger, and Carla brought coloring sheets and a single message. Our purpose with Wednesday Club is enrichment. You could demonstrate a skill, such as quilting or model building or a special interest, or your job. You will enjoy the children.

Please contact me if you can help.

OWT COMMITTEE REPORT

OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF TODAY: ITS HISTORY, ITS FUTURE*By Cindy McIntyre*

Our first Outstanding
Women of Today
Nominees in 2004

The Altrusa Club of Richardson had been hosting a labor intensive dinner dance with silent auction for several years. It was modified to include casino games for two years but the club wanted a change. Carla Weiland worked for the Richardson YWCA and Altrusa President Janice Swallow had helped her with an event honoring women in the community. When this annual event was moved to the Dallas YWCA, our members sprang into action. The year was 2004 and the first Outstanding Women of Today luncheon was held at the same location we use today. There

were 14 nominees, 140 meals served, \$1402.50 in sponsorships and a net profit of \$2,694.13. Ginna Coffey and Janice served as Co-Chairs.

Today our event is much bigger; the budget, audience, and net profit to the club are much larger. The community support is growing every year – the Richardson City Council loves us! But the hope is to continue to improve, to have more outsiders and fewer club members sponsoring and underwriting portions of the event.

We have one fundraiser per year and one opportunity and many ways you can shine.

So the challenge goes out. Be thinking how you can contribute, perhaps with a deserving woman in your sphere of acquaintances who can be a nominee, or a friend in the printing business who could underwrite some of our expenses in return for advertising, a vacation home or condo in a fun locale that would be a great prize option, or just by letting us know your strengths so you can be in a leadership position. Contact Cindy McIntyre or Brenda Boston, co-chairs for our 2012 OWT fundraising event.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

SENAYDA ISABELA IS OUR NEW STUDENT IN GUATEMALA*By Jane Tucker*

A number of years ago our Altrusa club started donating to an organization called HELPS International to sponsor the education of a Guatemalan child. This month we heard that our child, Isabella de la Cruz Medina, had graduated in October from the 12th grade. The director of the Partners in Education Program, Cheryl Weeks-Rosten, writes that it was very moving to hear Isabella's father express his gratitude for his daughter's education. She plans to study at Landivar University in Quetzaltenango, the second largest city in Guatemala.

Now that the school year has ended, a new school year will begin in January. HELPS International is

busy training U.S. teachers to enable them to start teaching by mid January. Dr. Donna Phillips conducted a workshop in November with teachers, helping them create books in Ixil, the first language of the people in the highland village of Santa Avelina.

This month our Altrusa International Relations Committee donated \$350 to HELPS to support our new student. Her name is Senayda Isabela, and she is in Kinder, which is what they call Young Fives or our Pre-K. Cheryl Weeks-Rosten will be returning to the school in January, and plans to get our club a new school picture of Senayda and keep us updated on her education.

MEMBERSHIP RETENTION COMMITTEE REPORT

THE ALTRUSA WINE AND CHOCOLATE LITERARY SOCIETY

By Kay George

There was no meeting in December but we started the New Year with a discussion of *Gifts of War* by Mackenzie Ford. Jan Skinner did a **FABULOUS** job of leading us through a discussion of *Gifts of War* by Mac-



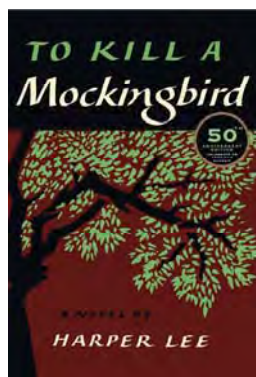
kenzie Ford. During the Christmas Truce of 1914, Hal Montgomery, a British soldier, is given a photo by a German soldier, Wilhelm Wetzlar, and they make a pact. Hal promises to find his enemy's English girlfriend, Sam, and let her know her fiancé is alive and thinking of her. Several weeks later, Hal --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. Wow, there were some pretty emotional responses to this book. Some of us were angry and/or disappointed with Hal, some with Sam, and a few with the author for the abrupt ending. At any rate, it was a spirited discussion.

Thanks to Barbara Cornelius, Kay George, Bobbi Klein, and Cindy Martin for snacks. A special **HURRAH** to Barbara and Bobbi for providing snacks at the last minute. Marsha Peters brought a box of chocolates that were sinfully delicious. Our undying gratitude to Gerry Carron, Brenda Duckett, Janie Jaquier, and Cindy Martin for provided libations and, as always, Pam Kovacs for plastic ware, cups, etc.

We're really excited about the February selection, the timeless classic *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee. Published in 1960, the book is Lee's her first and only novel and she won a Pulitzer Prize. The book is still admired, widely-taught, and beloved. The movie, starring Gregory Peck, received several Academy Awards in 1962.

Told through the eyes of Jean Louise "Scout" Finch, you learn about her father, Atticus Finch, an attorney, who plays the role of teacher to Scout, her brother Jem, and his town. Atticus believes that people usually contain aspects of both good and evil, but that good



will usually prevail. Atticus teaches this to his children, but also to the town, as he works to defend Tom Robinson, an innocent black man accused of raping a white woman. In the racist town of Maycomb in the heart of America's South during the Depression era, this is a Herculean task. Despite the challenge of overcoming the town's deeply ingrained racism and forcing people to change their social perspectives, Atticus struggles on, because he believes that one day, goodness will prevail over the evils of racism and racial equality will exist.

We have a fantastic variety of books for your reading pleasure in 2012. We made an effort to include classics, new books, mysteries, non-fiction, and just plain fun reads. If you would like to read ahead, our March selection is *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*.

Selections for the remainder of the year are:

- March—*Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson.
- April - *Rescuing Sprite-A Dog Lover's Story of Joy and Anguish* by Mark Levin
- May - *Bossy Pants* by Tina Fey
- June - *The Street Sweeper* by Elliot Perlman
- July - *Before You Know Kindness* by Chris Bohjalian
- August - *Tin Roof Blowdown* by James Lee Burke
- September - *#1 Ladies Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall-Smith
- October - *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- November - *11/22/63* by Stephen King

We hope that you enjoy these selections and will join us at Friends Place Adult Day Services, 1960 Nantucket Drive in Richardson, at 6:00 PM on the fourth Monday of each month for a great time of discussion and sharing.

Altrusa International, Inc.
of Richardson, Texas
P.O. Box 832101
Richardson, TX 75083

Carolyn Swanson, Newsletter Editor

contact@altrusarichardson.com

www.altrusarichardson.com

PROJECT REPORT**TRASHY TREASURE SWAP—MORE TREASURE THAN TRASH, AND LOTS OF FUN!***By Gerrie Carron and Jane Merz*

Our annual Trashy Treasure Swap was Saturday, January 21st. Many thanks to Sandy Martin for hosting the annual event at her remarkably beautiful home. If you know Sandy, you know that everything was laid out in perfect order for us to eat, sip, and swap. Seventeen eager swappers ate their way through a delicious spread of goodies, and enjoyed several pitchers of mimosas made possible by champagne bottle-opening queen Brenda Duckett and aided by the fine measuring skills of Gypsy Jane. Food was abundant and tasty, and thanks to Nancy Rohm's urn, we had plenty of coffee.

As usual, the treasures ran the gamut of taste – from the sublime to the OMG! Some of the more tasteful items were the giraffe-patterned mixing bowls, a pair of crystal dolphins and a trio of tall cranberry crystal candle holders – festive for the holiday season. The absolutely, undeniable winner of most ‘amazing’ item up for grabs was the Leg

Lamp Nite Lite from the movie *The Christmas Story*. Although there was not exacting a bidding war on the item, everyone was envious of Jean Stuart who took this unique item home to her husband, Bill.

The Trashy Treasure Swap provided a couple of hours for friends to relax and laugh, not a bad way to spend a Saturday morning. We even snagged a new member, a family relations counselor and avid reader who wants to attend our Literary Society meetings. Again, thanks to everyone who came and to Sandy for her hospitality.



PROJECT REPORT

ALTRUSA VISITS ABILITY HOUSE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

By Bill Knudsen, President & CEO, Ability Connection Texas

Seasons Greetings Altrusa of Richardson!

On behalf of the Ability House residents – Vera, Shelly, Kay, Kathleen, Nina & Josie – we want to thank Bonnie Perry, Kim Kierce, Mimi Tanner, Barbara Cornelius, Jan Skinner, Jane Jaquier, Jane Merz, Ginna Coffey and Bobbi Klein for creating a holiday festive décor for Ability House when they decorated for the holidays on Saturday, December 10th.

The Ability House ladies enjoyed the festive holiday mood as the tree and house decorations were hung with smiles and anticipation of Christmas – and they all enjoyed the holiday cookies and soft drinks!

We hope you enjoy the attached two photos – and all of us at Ability Connection send our very best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!



Bill



Bill Knudsen
President/CEO
Ability Connection Texas
Direct: 214-247-4501
Cell: 214-676-1464
Fax: 214-351-2610
Email: BillKnudsen@AbilityConnectionTexas.org
Website: www.abilityconnectiontexas.org

Hello Altrusa of Richardson!

Christmas was very special for the Ability House residents – and two Ability House alumni residents thanks to Jo Leeper, Jan Skinner, Barbara Cornelius, Mimi Tanner, Bobbi Klein, Janie Jaquier, Barbara Berthold, Jane Merz and Ginna Coffey!

Nina, Shelly, Josie, Vera, Kathleen and Kay – along with alumni Shawn and Robert – loved their gifts and gift cards! There were many smiles and much laughter as the gifts were unwrapped, cards were read and gifts cards were carefully stashed away!

The holiday cookies...including Shawn's favorite homemade cookies with a Candy Kiss in the middle –were eagerly and enjoyably consumed – along with each residents favorite soft drink.

We hope you enjoy the attached three pages of photos – as a reminder of how very special the Altrusa friendship is with the Ability House residents. And also we want each of you to know – that you helped make Josie's Christmas very wonderful – and that the attached photo of Josie and Barbara is the last photo we have of Josie...

... & we all send our very best wishes to each of you for a New Year filled with happiness!

Bill



Thank You Altrusa!



2011 Ability House
Holiday Decorations





Thank You Altrusa!

We appreciate the time you take every year to make the holidays special for our clients.

Thank you for caring about the clients of Ability Connection Texas.




Josephine DaMommio
 January 8, 1929 -
 December 19, 2011

Josephine DaMommio, 82 - Josephine was the daughter of Beatrice and Antonio "Pop" DaMommio. Born in Kansas City, MO, she was the youngest of seven children who preceded her in death. She joined her beloved family on December 19, 2011. She was blessed with many nieces and nephews whom she adored greatly. The family wishes to express their deep gratitude to the staff of Ability Connection under whose loving care Josie enjoyed many years of happiness and fulfillment.

In lieu of flowers, please contribute to the work at Ability Connection by sending your memorials to Ability Connection, 8802 Harry Hines Blvd. Dallas, TX 75235.

2011



Shelly

Josie

Vera

Nina

Altrusa friends and Ability Connection Clients

2011



Shawn

Kathleen

Roberto

Altrusa friends and Ability Connection Clients



PROJECT REPORT

ALTRUSA HAS FLOAT IN RICHARDSON CHRISTMAS PARADE

The theme of the 2011 Richardson Christmas Parade, held on Saturday, December 3, was “The Spirit of Giving”.

Our float was based on the same idea as last year—all the gifts that Altrusa gives to our community and the world.



Mary Beth McLemore and Bobbi Klein were pretty snow ladies in the parade.

PROJECT REPORT

ALTRUSANS HELP VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION WITH GIFT WRAPPING

By Gloria Sandoval, Seniors Committee Co-Chair

The annual VNA Gift Wrap took place December 5th and 6th at the VNA Patrick and Beatrice Haggerty Center located at 1440 W. Mockingbird in Dallas. The **VNA Gift Wrap** is a way for volunteers from all over the Dallas area to come together to prepare holiday gift bags for 4,000 VNA Meals on Wheels clients. Volunteers wrapped toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, lotion, washcloths and socks, all donated by service organizations and companies of Dallas and surrounding communities.

Altrusa of Richardson, as part of the Seniors' projects, supported the VNA Gift Wrap by donating bags of washcloths and wrapping of packages at the VNA Center. Carol Buffington with Altrouser Buff, Ann Eisemann and Mimi Tanner gift wrapped on Monday, December 5th; and, Gloria Sandoval, Norma Hammerlund, Debbie Simms and Ann Payne wrapped packages the following day.

Mimi Tanner said, “I’ll bet I wrapped a million toothbrushes!”



PROJECT REPORT

TOYS FOR NETWORK

By Liz Luthans



The Community Outreach Committee was busy playing Santa's Helper in December. The committee purchased \$499 of toys to donate to NETWORK'S Santa program. Altrusa members donated additional toys.

Thanks to Sue McElveen for coordinating this effort and to everyone who participated in this important project.



Shout it OWT, Altrusans!
Outstanding Women of Today Luncheon
Date is set: October 26, 2012.
Calendar – Mark it NOW!

PROJECT REPORT

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE COORDINATES CARE PACKAGES*By Jane Tucker*

This month, members of the International Relations Committee coordinated care packages to members of the military in Afghanistan. Each package consisted of knitted hats, signed Christmas cards, and Christmas candy. Elizabeth Smith had members of her teacher's sorority, Alpha Delta Kappa, Fidelis Nu Chapter, sign Christmas cards. Susan Fischer donated hand-knitted hats and the International Relations committee donated the candy.

We heard back from one group receiving the hats along with a picture. They were sent to the legal operations office at Camp Sabalu-Harrison, adjacent to Bagram Air Base near Kabul, Afghanistan. Currently, weather temperatures at the camp are bitterly cold and the recipients are actually keeping the hats on while working to help keep warm. They wish to thank us for our thoughtfulness and wish us all a Happy New Year!



MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

- Stop eating like a pig is my resolution. I'm sure I'm the lone ranger on that one!—Jan R. Skinner
- To "anticipate positively" for the new year.—Toni Garrett
- Finish at least one quilt top and one other UFO (Un-finished Object) each month.—Linda Olivera
- Get organized, so I can spend less time looking for things!—Carolyn Swanson
- Participate in more Altrusa service projects.—Anonymous

MEMBERSHIP RETENTION**LUNCH BUNCH**

Tuesday, February 14

11:30 AM

Chocolate Angel Café and Tea Room,
615 W. Campbell Road, Richardson

Contact Ann Eisemann for reservations.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT PREVIEW

Wow! Committee Will Help Clean Out Your Closets!

By Liz Luthans

The Community Outreach Committee had a productive meeting in January - reviewing our budget, discussing the merits and exploring the possibility of beginning an ASTRA Club, and deciding on our spring project. Since NETWORK is opening a Clothes Closet within the month, the committee decided to hold a clothes drive. The project is a "hands-on" endeavor requiring no cash donations from members.

The committee is providing an opportunity for members to bring gently worn clothing for both genders and all ages, with an emphasis on "interview" clothing and large sizes, to meetings. Accessories, such as hand bags and shoes, in good condition, are also welcome.

The committee will be collecting clothing from Feb-



ruary through the May business meeting. Sue McElveen will make pick-ups directly from your home if you give her a call. Tax receipts will be available at the meetings for those bringing donations. The

Outreach Committee is supplementing in-kind member donations with purchases of new under garments and socks for the Clothes Closet with remaining budgeted funds.

When you start to tackle your spring cleaning projects, please keep NETWORK in your thoughts. Let the Community Outreach Committee help you out by taking those soooooo last year tops off your hands. Have you been hitting the gym? Do you need to make room in your closet for a new wardrobe? Who ya gonna call? Sue!

PROJECT PREVIEW

STRENGTHSFINDER WORKSHOP FOR YOU AND FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

By Janet Vance, Leadership Development Committee Co-Chair

"Do you have the opportunity to do what you do best every day? Chances are, you don't. All too often, our natural talents go untapped. From the cradle to the cubicle, we devote more time to fixing out shortcomings than to developing our strengths."

—StrengthsFinder 2.0

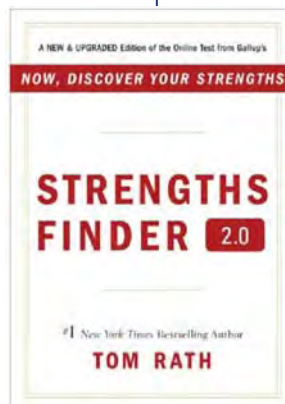
The Leadership Development Committee and the Membership Recruitment Committee are joining forces to offer a workshop based on the StrengthsFinder leadership materials that may already be familiar to some club members through their participation in Leadership Richardson. The event will be at Mary Beth McLemore's home (3606 Cypress Grove Court in Richardson) on Saturday, March 3, from 9 am until 1 pm with a break for brunch at 11:00 am.

Our own Bonnie Perry will be the

facilitator for the program which will offer more in-depth training than the mini workshop held for new Altrusa leaders in the fall. Everyone should come away with a better understanding of their top five strengths and of the strengths of fellow Altrusans. Ultimately this knowledge will strengthen our club as a provider of leadership in our community

Everyone is encouraged to read *StrengthsFinder 2.0* to build on the skills learned at the workshop. The Richardson Library owns two copies of the book and it is also available through Amazon for about \$15, or (used) through thriftbooks.com for about \$5.

All new and seasoned Altrusans are invited to attend. This would also be a great opportunity to introduce a prospective new member to our club. RSVP for this event on the new Altrusa of Richardson website.

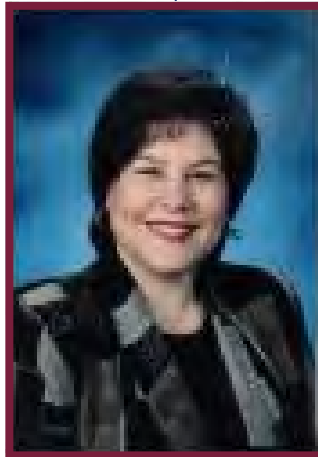


MEETING PREVIEW

FEBRUARY 16 PROGRAM MEETING: DISTRICT VISITOR, OUR BIRTHDAY

For our February 16th Dinner Meeting, the Recruitment Committee will “Celebrate the Building of Our Club” with Bonnie’s theme of “Building Altrusa”. Our guest speaker will be Sylvia Zamora, Second Vice Governor of District Nine.

Sylvia Zamora has been a member of Altrusa International since 1999 and is currently a member of Altrusa International Inc. of San Antonio. Sylvia received a BS and Master’s degree in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Texas-Pan American. She is an educational consultant and also manages her family business-ZAMTEX Investments. Sylvia has been married to her high school sweetheart, Ruben, for 34 years and they have two children. Lauren, an Altrusan, is a practicing attorney in San Antonio, and their son Aaron is a stu-



dent at the University of Texas-San Antonio. Still living at home are Saity and Sasha, their two schnauzers. Her hobbies includes reading, antiquing, and attending musicals and sports events. To get into the celebration, members are asked to wear a picture of the United States President who was in office when you “became an Altrusan”. The picture can be pinned above your Altrusa pin. Check your Yearbook if you do not remember when you “became an Altrusan”. Members are also encouraged to bring their Altrusan photos or President’s scrapbook to share the memories. Prizes, fun, and always a great party and dinner will be the order of the evening.

Come at 6:30 for visiting, wine, and remembering. Guest are encouraged as this is a great night.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

JAN. 19 MEETING FEATURED DEAN GEORGE FAIR

Our guest speaker at the January 19 meeting was George Fair, PhD, Professor and Dean of Interdisciplinary Studies at UTD.

Dean Fair is an advocate for public education and the attainment of quality education regardless of background or socioeconomic status.

An expert on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which was later made a part of the No Child Left Behind Act, Fair worked with North Texas school districts to obtain and apply grant funds to educate homeless children.



Fair explained his association with three UT Dallas programs: the Academic Bridge Program, the new College Readiness Initiative and Jumpstart.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS TO ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Altrusa Richardson is making a donation to Altrusa International in honor of Altrusans and their immediate family members who have passed away in the last year. In order to make sure that our list is complete, we are asking for your assistance.

If you know of someone who should be included in this memorial donation, please contact Toni Garrett before February 16, 2012.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER 15 PROGRAM MEETING: WHAT A NIGHT OF MERRIMENT!

By Pam Kovacs, Membership Retention Committee Co-Chair

Most people think of dessert when someone says, “I’m saving the best for last.” At this year’s holiday party, a stellar performance by the Breakaway Quartet provided the perfect ending to a wonderful evening... and there was no question that they were the best part of an already fun-filled party.

As always, there was the feeling that the party had started before it officially began. Members that arrived early were able to introduce husbands and guests, visit and enjoy wine graciously provided by Bill Knudsen, President/CEO of Ability Connection Texas and the residents of Ability House. Kim Kierce helped coordinate a photographer from her church that was willing to volunteer his time and expertise to take photos of new members or others wanting to update existing directory photographs.

Once again, members of the retention committee rallied to create an extraordinary party.

Dena Davis and Genevieve Hamulak took charge of planning party details, entertainment, and decorations. Janie Jaquier and Ginna Coffey personally provided cookie baskets, chocolates, and wine for our door prizes which ensured there were plenty of happy winners. Friends Place generously loaned the table centerpieces.

Following a truly outstanding dinner--complete with “meat and potatoes” to please our guys--Dena, with great dramatic flare, provided the answers to a challenging holiday trivia game. Everyone at the winning table received a holiday scratch-off lottery ticket

for their successful efforts and good-luck-winning wishes.

Although the trivia provided a little competition between tables and an entertaining table-mixer, it really served to enable our quartet members to enjoy a lovely meal as well as have time for their food to settle before singing their hearts out for our pleasure. And, what a pleasure it was! They even led us all in a popular, interactive song which had everyone laughing quite literally out of their chairs. Even if someone wasn’t a fan of audience participation songs, they would have to admit that it was great fun.

The Breakaway Quartet members, Gwen Smith (lead), Connie Light (tenor), Peggy Whited (baritone), Diane Brilz (bass) are all members of the Rich-Tone Chorus, a women's a-cappella chorus. Genevieve, who is also a member of the Rich-Tone Chorus, arranged for the group to entertain and tells us that these singing parts (lead, tenor, and baritone, bass) are specific to the Barbershop-style of singing a-cappella music. Since most people know about school and church women singers as 'soprano' and 'alto,' it often comes as a surprise that Barbershop singers have 'male' part titles. She also clarified that The Rich-Tone Chorus is always referred to as a 'chorus' rather than a choir.

With the holidays always being made more special by family, what better way to end our year than together ...surrounded by our “sisters” in a room filled with Altrusa love!



MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

KIMBERLY KIERCE TRAVELS FRANCE AND SPAIN

Kimberly Kierce enjoyed 12 fabulous days in France and Spain this past holiday season. While in Paris, sightseeing included the Louvre, Champs Élysées and Notre Dame Cathedral, just to name a few places. She also ascended the Eiffel Tower for a fabulous panoramic view of the city.

There is nothing else like Paris at Christmas time – the lights are a feast for the eyes! In the Loire Valley, Kimberly visited the Palace of Chenonceau for a festive picture by the palace Christmas tree. A guided walk through the old city of Lyon was a beautiful way to get to interact with the locals. At Chateaufort du Pape, she enjoyed a tour of the winery and especially the wine tasting session. Kimberly's favorite visit was to St Paul-de-Vence, a medieval fortified village perched high

with a gorgeous view of the sea. The beautiful cities of Nice, Monte Carlo, Cannes, and the principality of Monaco were an added bonus of the tour.

After traversing over the Great Pyrenees Mountains into Barcelona, a guided walking tour through the Gothic quarter showed the splendor of this amazing city. The Cathedral of El Pilar, located in Zaragoza, was a luxury for the eyes. A short drive from Madrid is the town of Toledo where a guided tour revealed how Muslims, Jews and Christians have built houses of worship and lived and prayed amongst each other for centuries in peace.

The tour ended in Madrid with a festive New Year's Eve celebration with fellow travelers after exploring the sights of this bustling capital city.



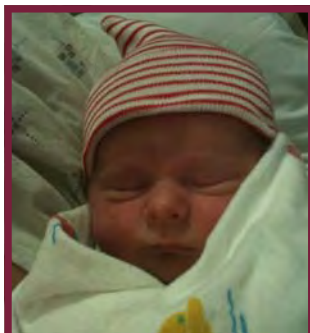
MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

CHEERS

Let's all give a big cheer for:

- Let's give a big cheer for the Finance Committee's excellent questionnaire which required the questioned to actually think.
- Courtenay Tanner and Janie Jaquier, who are taking over the duties as coordinators for the Altrusa bridge group (from Linda Olivera)
- Toni Garrett, for typing up the Immediate Past President's Committee member comments.
- Jenn Rohm, for coming up with "4 Calling Birds" - You had to be there.
- A great big THANK YOU to Kimberly for opening her home for Orientation and taking us in at the last minute.
- Norma Hammerlund, who helped me out at the last minute with two boxes of delicious peppermint bark -- the attorney I gave it to shared with the office and it went fast! Was a big hit with everyone! (from Suzanne Cotton)
- Liz Luthans, who told us about Wild Apricot., and Kimberly Kierce and her helpers who are turning our website into a fantastic resource!

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Cindy Murray's Christmas gift! Grandson Owen Robert Morris was born on Dec. 22, 8.14 lb., 21.5 in.

THE SENIOR'S COMMITTEE WISHES BLESSINGS AND THE BEST OF THE NEW YEAR

TO ALL OUR SISTER ALTRUSANS AND THEIR FAMILIES!!!

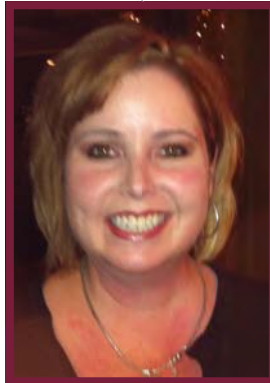
**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

NEW MEMBER MELODY TERRY

Hello fellow Altrusans! My name is Melody Terry and I am so thrilled to be part of such an amazing group of women!

I was born in Garland, Texas, and graduated from Berkner High School here in Richardson. After graduation, I got a job at a bank. . .and I found my passion! I started as a teller, worked my way up to new accounts, then to assistant manager and finally to manager. So 22 years in banking and 13 as a manager and I am still in love with my job! I worked for a small bank that was gobbled up by a big bank, decided that wasn't the place for me and got over to First Community Bank as quick as I could! I love the feel of the community style bank. Our motto is "We aren't trying to be the biggest bank, just the best"—this is where I feel at home!

I married late in life. I actually met my husband, Ben, on Match.com and we just celebrated our 5 year anniversary! (I got my money's worth out of that sub-



scription, right?!) We have not been blessed with children, but we have nephews that we spoil rotten (then send them home all sugared up!!) Ben and I love to travel all over, our favorite vacations being on the Amtrak train, exploring parts of the country that you can't see by car!

Random things that you may find interesting about me are. . .I can do the worm, backwards! I could live off of Mexican food. My favorite quote is "Tough Time Don't Last, Tough People Do!" My favorite color is hot pink (my cell phone, my lap top, my iPod—everything is hot pink!). My favorite vacation destination is Las Vegas. I truly believe that family comes first. My favorite day of the year is Christmas Eve. I am addicted to Facebook. I was sponsored by Dena Davis after meeting her at the bank. I am most excited about working with the kids and volunteering my time at Terrace Elementary where my Dad went to school!

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

NORMA HAMMERLUND SAVORS HER ROLE AS MRS. CLAUS

By Gloria Sandoval

Altrusans are always filled with Holiday Spirit. Altrusan Norma Hammerlund shows her true holiday spirit every year by giving of herself to the children of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Richardson. Breakfast with Santa, sponsored by the St. Joseph Women's Guild, has been a tradition for many years, and for the past several years Norma has played a major role as Mrs. Claus.

You can hear the children's excited little voices in anticipation of seeing Santa and Mrs. Claus. Just as they are finishing their breakfast Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive led by Santa's elves. All the children jump up and follow in a mass parade to Santa and Mrs. Claus' special chairs to tell their wishes for Christmas. Norma talks to all the children and passes out her fabulous homemade gingerbread or sugar cookies...yummm.



Norma (Mrs. Claus) visiting with the children at Breakfast with Santa

PROJECT PREVIEW DINNER AND THE SYMPHONY

For the latest information about this Membership Retention event, go to our website. The Symphony has announced the music—see the poster reproduced below.

The Richardson Symphony presents

Romantic Classics

Saturday, February 11, 2102 at the Eisemann Center - 8 p.m.



Join special guest conductor **Clay Couturiaux** and the Richardson Symphony as they perform many of your favorite love songs and romantic favorites. The evening also features the renowned jazz vocal ensemble *The New Collection* performing their one-of-a-kind arrangements of great romantic tunes.

Plus...continuing the RSO Valentines tradition...every couple receives a complimentary rose and box of Russell Stover chocolates!

PROGRAM
The Richardson Symphony - Clay Couturiaux, conductor

Love Notes Medley: A Time for Love, Feel Like Makin' Love, The Shadow of Your Smile, Just the Way You Are ... arranged by Walter Barr
I Can't Believe ... arranged by Darmon Meader
Stardust ... Hoagy Carmichael, arranged by Darmon Meader
Andante Cantabile ... Piotr Ilych Tchaikovsky
Viva Puccini! (Famous melodies from *Madama Butterfly*, *Girl of the Golden West*, *Gianni Schicci*, *La Boheme* and *Turandot*) ... Giacomo Puccini, arranged by Robert Wendel

INTERMISSION
The Richardson Symphony and Clay Couturiaux with The New Collection



My Funny Valentine ... Rodgers and Hart, arranged by Paris Rutherford
Libertango ... Astor Piazzolla, arranged by Paris Rutherford
Windmills of Your Mind ... Michel Legrand, arranged by Paris Rutherford
Flight of the Foo Birds ... Neal Hefti, arranged by Paris Rutherford
The Romance Medley: My Romance, Alone Together, Easy to Love ... arranged by Paris Rutherford

Don't miss this romantic evening just in time for Valentines Day!
Call 972-744-4650 for tickets or order online by clicking [HERE](#).

OUR SYMPATHY TO ELIZABETH SMITH

Elizabeth's brother, Paul A. DuBose, age 44 of Cotter, Arkansas, passed away Friday December 9, 2011 at his residence after a long battle with a rare neurological disease, Stiff-Man's Syndrome. He was born May 30, 1967, in Memphis, Tennessee, to Jacob and Doris DuBose.

He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Sandra; sons Andrew (age 19), Matthew (age 11), and Phillip James (age 5); two brothers and a sister, Elizabeth. Prior to the onset of his debilitating and painful disease, Paul had been a Presbyterian minister.

IMOGENE JONES, ED.D.



A celebration of life for Dr. K. Imogene Jones, 88, was held at 2pm Friday, 01/27/12 at Grace Presbyterian Village, 550 E. Ann Arbor, Dallas, TX. Dr. Jones passed away 01/22/12 in Dallas, with her

family and friends by her side. She is preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, Harold R. Jones and brother Lowell Burnside. She is survived by one son Dr. Clark R. Jones and granddaughters Kendall and Devon Jones.

Dr. Jones served as teacher and supervisor of elementary schools in Gary, Indiana, taught graduate classes at Purdue University and retired as Asst. Superintendent from Portage Township schools in Indiana. Degrees were earned from Indiana State University, Indiana University and University of Miami. Dr. Jones was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, Phi Delta Kappa and numerous other educational organizations.

She served as an officer of Altrusa of Richardson and state president of ASCD. The Indiana Legislature presented a resolution honoring her for contributions to education in the state. Dr. Jones was active in church service clubs and community activities. She was also co-founder of SAIL (Seniors Active in Learning) at Collin County Community College.

Her life long motto was "Love makes the World Go Round" and often quoted Robert Frost's "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference." In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, www.Michaeljfox.org.

DISTRICT NINE NEWS

PERFECT ATTENDANCE AWARD IN HONOR OF SUE POWELL

By Beth Blair, Governor-Elect

It isn't every day—in fact, it's very rare—that the District honors one of its own with the naming of a special award, but the time is right.

Beginning with the Perfect Attendance Awards presented at the Fifty-Sixth Annual District Conference in April 2012, Altrusans will have the distinct honor of earning the Sue R. Powell Perfect Attendance Award. This award, which has the same criteria as our current Perfect Attendance Award, has been renamed to honor Past Governor Sue Powell, a member of Altrusa International, Inc. of Dallas since 1968. Our beloved Aunt Susie has achieved perfect attendance *every year* since she be-

came an Altrusan, and has attended every District Conference and International Convention during that time!

The District Board voted to rename the award after Sue at the recent midyear board meeting. It's a perfect tribute to ask our District Nine sisters to aspire to meet the example Sue has set for us by achieving an honor named especially for her. Governor-Elect Beth Blair, also a member of Altrusa International, Inc. of Dallas, and Director Janelle Williamson, broke the news at a recent meeting of the Dallas Club, after which Sue remarked, "I can't believe they would do this. I'm just floored!"

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION NEWS

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL ASKS FOR DONATIONS

In addition to the August renewal opportunity, **Club 21 members now have the opportunity of including their Club 21 renewal in their response to the yearly Foundation solicitation. Donations may be made online at <https://foundation.altrusa.org/Make-A-Contribution.aspx>.**

The Altrusa International Foundation's Club 21 Program was established in 1997 to support children with HIV/AIDS. HIV/AIDS is a global epidemic, affecting people in all countries and from all walks of life, but innocent children bear the brunt of this disease. Club 21 gives Altrusans the opportunity to extend their hands to these children



and their families. With an annual contribution of \$21 (US) or more to the Altrusa International Foundation, you will become a member of Club 21. As a member you will receive the special gold and white Club 21 pin, signifying your participation in a program of which Altrusans are proud.

Since its inception, Club 21 has funded Safe Haven Camps for children with HIV/AIDS. Camp Safe Haven is free of charge to the children, and the entire staff of professionals and volunteers donate their time and services.

Funding from Club 21 also sponsors the Ghana Health Education Initiative in Africa which provides HIV/AIDS education to a population that badly needs it.

SPECIAL REPORT

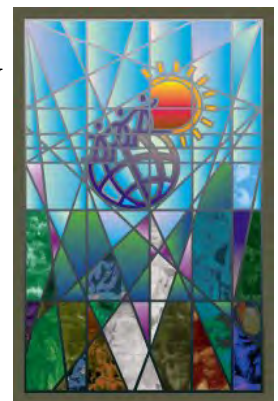
WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE IS FEBRUARY 20

From www.un.org/esa/desa

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 20 February as World Day of Social Justice at its sixty-second session in 2007, inviting Member States to devote the day to promoting national activities in accordance with the objectives and goals of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly. Observance of World Day of Social Justice should support efforts of the international community in poverty eradication, the promotion of full employment

and decent work, gender equity and access to social well-being and justice for all.

No information about the theme for the 2012 World Day of Social Justice is available at the time of publication of this newsletter.



CLUB CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2012

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			

- Thurs., Feb 2 (7:00 PM) Business Meeting (Clubhouse)
- Thurs., Feb 9 (5:30 PM) SMALLS at Rockfish
- Sat., Feb 11 (6:30 PM) Dinner and Symphony
- Mon., Feb 13 (Noon) Reservations for Feb. 16 Meeting
- Mon., Feb 13 (7:00 PM) Bridge at Location TBD
- Tues., Feb 14 (11:30 AM) Lunch Bunch at Chocolate Angel
- Thurs., Feb 16 (7:00 PM) Dinner Meeting (Founders' Hall)
- Sat., Feb 18 Vera's Birthday at Ability House
- Mon., Feb 20 (6:00 PM) Tidings Deadline
- Mon., Feb 27 (6:00 PM) Wine & Chocolate Literary Society

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 15 Marsha Peters
17 Jane Tucker
21 Jill VanOs
24 Deb Bourland
27 Cindy McIntyre

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

COME JOIN US!!

The next meeting of **SMALLS**
The Sisterhood of Merry Altrusa Liquid Libation Sippers

will be **February 9 th**

at **Rockfish Seafood Grill**

(on the NE corner of Colt Road and Campbell Road)

Between **5:45 pm and 7:15 pm**

(or when ever we feel like going home!)

COME JOIN US!!

MEETINGS

Business Meeting

7 PM, February 2

Clubhouse

at Richardson Woman's Club

Dinner Reservations

for everyone

due by Noon, Monday, February 13

Contact: Jean Stuart

Dinner/Program Meeting

7 PM, February 16

Founders' Hall

at Richardson Woman's Club

Board Meeting

6 pm, Feb. 16 and 23

MEMBERSHIP RETENTION

BRIDGE

Monday, February 13

6:30 PM Schmoozing

7:00 PM Let's play bridge

Location TBD

