

# ALTRUSA TIDINGS



ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL INC. OF RICHARDSON, TEXAS

MAY 2012

WORKING TODAY -- BUILDING TOMORROW VOLUME 43, ISSUE 11

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### BONNIE'S BASICS—WHAT A GREAT YEAR!

At our business meeting last week, I mentioned the fact that in some ways it seemed as if I had been president of Altrusa forever, and in another way, it seemed as if I was just installed a few days ago.

And both of those statements felt true. I remember my excitement when I was elected president. I remember also my sense of being so responsible and that I was following so many of my friends who had been president and what a great job they had done. So I understood the responsibility of leading such a group of amazing women. So that seems such a short time ago.

And then the idea of forever. I have been so immersed in all of the facets of our club and have shared so many great experiences with you. From spending time with Kimberly Kierce as we have worked together and spend hours planning and executing plans for the club, to finance committee meetings, to OWT, to all of the committee's work, to welcoming new members, to writing

Bonnie's Basics, and the list goes on and on.

I want to thank each of you for being a member of Altrusa. You are, as I have told you many times, an amazing group of women. All of the things we have accomplished this year make me so proud of our club and you. I know I will be a better member since I have been your president. And I am looking forward to it!

I know that Kim has many of the same thoughts that I had at this time last year. She has been busy preparing for her year and she will be ready. I am looking forward to being in the past president's role and supporting her and I know you are.

So, here's to all of us for spending 2011-2012 in Working Today -Building Tomorrow.

*Bonnie Perry,*

President 2011-2012



WORKING TODAY - BUILDING TOMORROW

## SPECIAL REPORT

### CLUB MEMBERS SHOW AWARDS ON WAY TO GOVERNOR'S BANQUET



## SPECIAL REPORT

**SENIORS COMMITTEE RECOGNIZED BY RICHARDSON LIBRARY***By Janet Vance*

At the Richardson Library's annual volunteer appreciation dinner on April 12<sup>th</sup>, special recognition was given to Altrusa International of Richardson for their almost ten year commitment to rotating Large Print Library books among Senior Living facilities in Richardson.

Sandy Martin, Norma Hammerlund, and Debbie Simms were at the dinner to accept the award. Community Outreach Librarian (and proud Altrusan!) Janet Vance noted in her remarks that this outreach project would not have been possible without a dedicated group of volunteers willing to provide the labor and give up a big part of their weekend to bring these books to homebound readers.

Volunteers from Richardson Altrusa's Seniors

Committee move over 1300 Large Print Library books between Brandywine, El Dorado, The Wellington (two sites), The Gardens, The Villages at Richardson, Linden Park, Appletree, Twin Rivers, The Plaza at Richardson, and the Richardson Senior Center every three to four months. The Atria will be added as a twelfth site this summer. Sandy Martin chairs this project, aided by past chair Gloria Sandoval, who has been involved with this project since its inception and chaired the project for many years.

Other regular book movers include Gloria's husband Isaac, Ann Payne and her husband Jim, Norma Hammerlund, Debbie Simms, Barbara Cornelius and a host of other Altrusans over the years.

A recent card from El Dorado retirement home signed by 40 residents says it all "due to your labor and time in bringing us large Print books we are kept alive with ideas, old dreams and a zest for living."



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.



Janet Vance, Norma Hammerlund, Debbie Simms, and Sandy Martin at the Richardson Library's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

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## APRIL 19 MEETING REPORT

**SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO LOCAL STUDENTS***By Mary Osentowski*

Altrusans enjoyed the presentation from the scholarship winners at the dinner meeting April 19. The accomplishments of these winners provide optimism for the future as these young women are already making their mark at their schools and in the community.

**Tana Peavy**, the Quality and Risk Manager at Richardson Regional Medical Center, won the Medical Scholarship. She has exhibited her abilities to lead, mentor and direct necessary changes in her current role and is eager to continue her education to earn a bachelor and masters degree to pursue her career in the medical field.

**Carla Boudreaux**, a senior at Richardson High School who was honored with the Distinguished Student Award, has a passion for learning, initiative and enthusiasm for life. She will graduate with high honors in the Arts and Science and Leadership Magnet and plans to attend Baylor University and pursue a career in the medical field.

**Brinkley Field**, a senior at Lake Highlands High School, ranks 9th in her class of 510 with an average of over 100. Her enthusiasm for learning and dedication to

achievement are reflected in her volunteer activities as well as in her academic record. She will attend the University of Texas and pursue a career in the medical field and play soccer at UT.

**Marlene Campos**, a senior at Richardson High School, has studied Japanese for four years, won 1<sup>st</sup> place in a regional Japanese competition. 2<sup>nd</sup> in the State and qualified for a national competition. She was one of 32 high school students selected to visit Japan. She ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in a class of 542 students and plans to attend SMU and pursue a career in International Business.

**Ashley Brandish**, a senior at Lake Highlands High School, is a determined student with high standards and ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in her class. Her motivation to pursue a career as a physical therapist was impacted by soccer injuries she suffered and overcame. Competition is a part of Ashley's genetic make up, according to one of her teachers. She will attend the University of Texas.

**Mallory O'Sullivan**, a senior at Berkner High School, plays French horn in the band, serves as editor of the school newspaper and has a passion for writing. According to one teacher, "Ms. O'Sullivan's positive demeanor and dedication have created lasting leadership skills." She will attend Texas A & M University and pursue a career in journalism.

In addition to being recognized at the Altrusa meeting, Altrusa Scholarship committee members will recognize these winners at their respective high school award/recognition programs during the month of May. Co-chairs of the Scholarship Committee selecting these winners include Ingrid Palet, Shannon Ydoyaga, and Mary Osentowski. Other committee members include Jo Leeper, Samantha Slaight, Susan Frensley, June Rentmeester, and Cindy McIntyre.



Altrusans Ingrid Palet, (far left) and Mary Osentowski (far right) are shown with scholarship winners Mallory O'Sullivan, Ashley Brandish, Brinkley Field, Marlene Campos, Tana Peavy, and Carla Boudreaux, .

## PROJECT REPORT

**ALTRUSA MARKET PLACE: ANOTHER HUGE SUCCESS!***By Marsha Peters*

The fourth annual Altrusa Market Place a success!!

Sixteen vendors participated including our own Jane Tucker (Beads for Life), Julianne Lovelace and Courtenay Tanner (4 Women Shopping), Norma Hammerlund (Sweet Things by Norma), Jan Skinner, Sandy Martin, Sue McElveen, and Linda Olivera. Other vendors were Leland's Gold & Diamonds, Celebrating Home, Jewelry by Hilary, Tupperware (Susan Marsh-Taff), Premier Design Jewelry, and Silpada Designs. We raised a total of \$707 for our administrative budget from the vendors at the event.

Altrusans really out did themselves for the Bake Sale. They donated wonderful brownies, lemon bars, cookies and cakes. Those that didn't donate baked goods were there to purchase these delicious creations. We raised \$270 for the Sister's Fund!

A special thanks to Jane Tucker for organizing the vendors, Ellen Stephenson and Gay McAlister for organizing the Bake Sale, Rose Daughety and Ellen for manning the Bake Sale, Pam Kovacs for providing the location and helping with set-up and clean-up, Gerry Carron for making the directional signs and helping with set-up and clean-up, and Janie Jaquier for helping with set-up.

In Altrusa style, everybody stepped up to make this event successful in their own way either by volunteering, participating

as a vendor, donating baked goods, and/or purchasing the fabulous items.

Thank you for your contribution to this event and for the great teamwork.

**BOARD ACTIONS**

- Decided that our delegates to District Conference will automatically include the President-Elect, President, and Immediate Past President, if they are able to attend
- Decided that our delegates to International Convention will automatically include the President and her two immediate predecessors, if they are able to attend
- Received update on our website: it is being used to send dues invoices; PayPal for Administration is activated and dues may be paid via PayPal; letterhead is available under "Member Access"
- Approved three new members



## PROJECT REPORT ANOTHER LIVELY AUCTION!

By Debbie Simms

# Appletree

Assisted Living Residence



The Spring Auction at Appletree Assisted Living Residence was held April 10 and lasted an hour. As always, the bidders were gathered early, in anticipation of out-bidding each other. They spent their “Apple Bucks,” on wraps, (modeled by Carol) stuffed animals, porcelain dishes, and more.

Auctioneer Gloria Sandoval encouraged very enthusiastic bidding even though she could hardly talk. Ann Eisemann, Debbie Simms, Norma Hamerlund, and Carole Buffington also attended.



## PROJECT PREVIEW

### CHANCE DRAWING PRIZES; AND HOW DO YOU PLAN TO HELP WITH OWT?

By Cindy McIntyre, OWT Committee Co-Chair

Have you still not signed up to work on an Outstanding Women of Today Committee? Well, we have some positions left! How about working on the Chance Drawing Committee? With one of our big prizes secured thanks to Julianne Lovelace—a week in Corrydon Lodge, a Scottish hunting lodge, for you and eight of your friends—how fabulous! See

[www.corrydonlodge.com/](http://www.corrydonlodge.com/) for more information.

And thanks to Jane Tucker and with persistence from Brenda Boston, we will have the addition of a lovely jewelry piece from Leland’s Jewelry. With a couple more high value items, there should be lots of excitement potential, and tickets

should be an easy sell.

Also, we need you to be working your business and retail connections for potential sponsorships and underwriting. What company in this current economy

wouldn’t appreciate the exposure to 300 of Richardson’s movers and shakers? Of course no one likes to ask for monetary or “in-kind” donations, but this is our one shot, folks: our one money maker of the year and we want to do it right. Nothing ventured, nothing gained, so just put on your brightest Altrusa smile and go for it! We are making it easier than ever for people to donate, support their nominee with program ads, etc. More about this next time. . .



## ABILITY HOUSE PROJECT REPORT

**ALTRUSANS CELEBRATE NINA'S AND SHAWN'S BIRTHDAYS**

*By Bill Knudsen, President/CEO, Ability Connection Texas*

Ability Connection Greetings!

Ability House rocked on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> as Altrusa celebrated Nina and Shawn's Birthdays!

Nina and her twin sister Dina enjoyed the beautiful birthday cake with flowers on the frosting. After the signing of Happy Birthday Nina opened her card and wonderful gifts of two flowered blouses, lotions and fragrances!

Shawn – always holding court in the family room – really liked his spider cake! After he blew out his candles and opened his card, he was delighted with the two scary DVD's that he received and shared that he had not seen either of the movies before!

Kathleen, Roberto, Robert and Shelly all enjoyed the birthday cakes, ice cream and soft drinks. Vera made her entry near the end of the party and as you can see from the attached 3 pages of photos posed with Nina for a Birthday picture. There were also a number of family guests at the party – besides Nina's sister Dina, Kathleen's Mom and Dad attended, and Roberto's uncle also enjoy the party. And of course Robert wanted everyone to know that there are only 4 months until his Birthday!

We hope the attached photos help remind you-all of how very much your Altrusa friendship means to the Ability House residents!

Have a wonderful weekend and cheers!

*Bill*

President/CEO, Ability Connection Texas  
Website: [www.abilityconnectiontexas](http://www.abilityconnectiontexas)



## SPECIAL REPORT

**THANKS TO ALTRUSANS AND OTHERS, CAMP SUMMIT IS SUMMER-READY**

*Carla Weiland, Camp Summit Executive Director*

It was a beautiful Saturday morning when 125+ volunteers, including Altrusa's own Norma Hammerlund and Debbie Simms, arrived at Camp Summit to help with the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Work Day. Each spring volunteers come together to help ready camp for the summer and fall seasons. It's because of volunteers like these that Camp Summit can have camp ready and looking fresh for our remarkable campers.

It was an amazing day at camp on that sunny March day! We now have ten painted bathrooms, completed weather sealing, two new doors installed, ten painted cabins, miles of clean fence line, clean fire pits, a cleared out building ready for demo, a completed shed, a clean ropes course, a painted med lodge, painted



The mission of Camp Summit is to provide barrier-free outdoor experiences that promote personal growth and foster independence for children and adults with disabilities.

*A remarkable place. For remarkable people.*

trash bins, cleaned and planted flower beds, a sparkling clean office, clean pond, lots of tree trimming, new base boards in the lodge and lots of laughs, smiles and new friends! We could not have done this without the most AMAZING group of volunteers. Thank you to each and every volunteer -- we could not have camp ready each year without your help. Our campers are so lucky to have volunteers who care so much about their experience at camp. Thanks again for another remarkable work day!!



## MEMBERSHIP RETENTION COMMITTEE REPORT

## THE ALTRUSA WINE AND CHOCOLATE LITERARY SOCIETY

By Kay George

The AWCLS is becoming increasingly important to those who attend on a regular basis. New friendships are being forged and existing friendships are strengthened by this monthly gathering. One of our group commented that there is a palpable force at work in the room when we meet – something akin to a “united heartbeat”. It is an atmosphere of trust and emotional safety that allows us the freedom to express our feelings and reactions honestly and without reservation.

We began the April meeting with a birthday toast to William Shakespeare. The actual date of Shakespeare's birth is not known, but, traditionally, April 23, St George's Day, has been Shakespeare's accepted birthday. Far be it from us to ignore the great bard!

Lois Ferrara, a renowned dog lover, led our discussion of *Rescuing Sprite-A Dog Lover's Story of Joy and Anguish* by Mark Levin. This charming book about the unconditional love that exists between dogs and their families is a real tear-jerker. Mark Levin is a constitutional lawyer and a nationally syndicated broadcaster, but he is, first and foremost, a dog lover. In 1998, he and his family welcomed a half-Border Collie/half-Cocker Spaniel they named Pepsi into their lives. Six years later, his wife and son persuaded him to adopt a dog from the local shelter, a Spaniel mix. It turned out he was older than

originally thought, and he was the most beautiful dog they'd ever seen. They named him Sprite. Their lives would never be the same.

Prepare to laugh your way through our May meeting when Jan Belcher leads us through *Bossy Pants* by Tina Fey! At last, her story can be told. From her youthful days as a vicious nerd to her tour of duty on *Saturday Night*

*Live*; from her passionately halfhearted pursuit of physical beauty to her life as a mother eating things off the floor; from her one-sided college romance to her nearly fatal honeymoon -- from the beginning of this paragraph to this final sentence. Tina Fey reveals all, and proves what we've all suspected: you're no one until someone calls you bossy.

This isn't a memoir. It's a spiky blend of humor, introspection, critical thinking and Nora Ephron-isms for a new generation. Before Liz Lemon, before "Weekend Update," before "Sarah Palin," Tina Fey was just a young girl with a dream: a recurring stress dream that she was being chased through a local airport by her middle-school gym teacher. She also had a dream that one day she would be a comedian on TV. She has seen both these dreams come true.

(Includes *Special, Never-Before-Solicited Opinions on Breast-feeding, Princesses, Photoshop, the Electoral Process, and Italian Rum Cake!*)



The advertisement features a photograph of Jan Belcher, a woman with short blonde hair wearing a blue patterned jacket and black pants. To her right is a white real estate sign for Keller Williams. The sign includes the text: 'Serving Richardson, Plano, Allen, McKinney and Frisco', the Keller Williams logo, 'Jan Belcher 469-693-3899', and a testimonial: 'We create a fun and worry-free experience of buying, selling, leasing or investing in real estate. Call today for a free consultation.' At the bottom of the sign are the Keller Williams logo and a house icon.

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> of month for content; fee must be paid to Treasurer by third Thursday of month prior to publication.

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> of month; fee must be paid to Treasurer by third Thursday of month prior to publication.

Contact *Tidings* Editor for contracts and guidelines

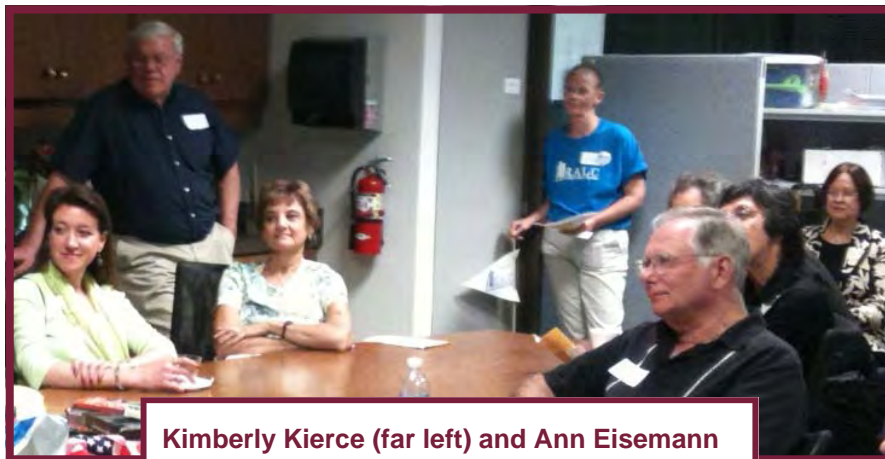
COMMUNITY NEWS

**RALC'S MURDER MYSTERY RAISED FUNDS TO SUPPORT LITERACY**

By Jane Merz

The interactive murder mystery play, *Murder at the End of the World*, at the Richardson Library, was held April 28. The annual fund-raising event attracted approximately 240 people, among them a number of Altrusans.

More than \$10,000 was raised to support the mission of the Richardson Adult Literacy Center: to transform lives by meeting the functional literacy needs of adults in the Richardson and RISD areas.



Kimberly Kierce (far left) and Ann Eisemann (far right) and other sleuths, trying to solve the mystery at the library.

SPECIAL REPORT

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!**

Ability Connection  
Texas  
Walk, Roll, Stroll  
June 15, 9-2  
Greenhill School,  
Addison

Tie One On  
for Fathers' Day  
June 15  
11:30-1:30  
Friends Place Adult  
Day Services

Outstanding  
Women of Today  
Nominations  
Deadline  
July 31, 2012

Retention Committee's  
Bus trip to Oklahoma  
(Choctaw!)  
Date TBD

Outstanding  
Women of Today  
Awards Luncheon  
October 26, 2012

An adult activity center designed to enable individuals to maintain a life with dignity, meaning & purpose, while remaining as independent as possible.

Friends Place Adult Day Services

Providing daytime memory care programs & services to benefit participants as well as their families including:

- ♥ Mind Fitness Program
- ♥ Companionship & reassurance
- ♥ Wellness program - full time nurse
- ♥ Offering more than 20 planned indoor/outdoor activities
- ♥ Information & referral for families
- ♥ Support groups, educational programs & caregiver classes
- ♥ Reliable, compassionate & well trained staff with 1:5 ratio

1960 Nantucket Dr., Richardson, TX 75080  
Phone 972-437-2940 • www.friendsplacads.com

SPECIAL REPORT

**ANOTHER VIEW OF OUR DISTRICT AWARDS**



With the help of Linda Olivera, Lois Ferrara, Carolyn Swanson, Mary Osentowski, and Kimberly Kierce, Immediate Past President Mary Beth McLemore shows off the awards presented to Altrusa of Richardson for the 2010-2011 club year.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT ATTENDS DISTRICT NINE CONFERENCE

International Policy 15: District Conference requires that an International Representative shall attend District Conferences, as designated by the International

al President. The representative to the 2012 District Nine Conference was International President Dona Garretson.



International President Garretson at the Governor's Banquet (left), and with Richardson Club members Hazel Weathers and Kimberly Kierce, during the Saturday Awards Luncheon (right).

## INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION NEWS

## SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH HIV/AIDS

By Rose Daughety



**Nancy Rohm**  
Realtor® Broker

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Why A+?  
Because YOU deserve the Best!



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 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 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



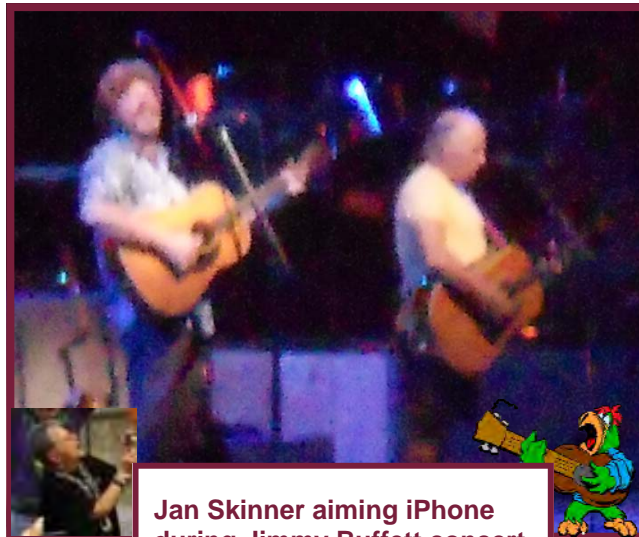
Altrusans are proud. Since its inception, Club 21 has funded Safe Haven Camps for children with HIV/AIDS. Camp Safe Haven is free of charge to the children, and the entire staff of professionals and volunteers donate their time and services. Funding from Club 21 also sponsors the Ghana Health Education Initiative in Africa which provides HIV/AIDS education to a population that badly needs it.

Signing up can be done on the Altrusa International website ([www.altrusa.org](http://www.altrusa.org)) website or you can give your money to Rose Daughety and she will do the work for you.

### MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Jane Merz, in Myanmar, eating larvae, witnessed by Julianne Lovelace in yellow



Jan Skinner aiming iPhone during Jimmy Buffett concert

#### MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

### FROM MAY, 2012 RICHARDSON TODAY

## City Secretary Pam Schmidt retires

Richardson's City Secretary, Pam Schmidt, retired from the City of Richardson at the end of April after more than 25 years of public service.

Schmidt was appointed to the position of City Secretary in June 2003. Prior to her service with Richardson, she worked as City Secretary for the City of Carrollton 1995-2003; City of Duncanville 1990-95 and served as City Secretary for the City of Balch Springs from 1987-90.

Schmidt plans to spend time with her family and enjoy the out-

doors as much as possible. "I feel very fortunate to have been able to work in this community, and with the many members of the City Council and management team," she said.

"It has been a privilege for this community to have a City Secretary who has her level of dedication and who is so widely recognized as a leader in her profession," said City Manager Bill Keffler.

A native of Louisiana, Schmidt gave many years of service in a large number of roles to the Texas Municipal Clerks Association.



City Secretary Pam Schmidt



As we go forth with high ideals. . .



## COMMITTEE REPORT

## JAPAN-AMERICA SUMMIT

By Barbara Berthold

The Japan-America Grassroots Summit is an annual gathering of Japanese and American citizens, held alternately in Japan and the United States. The 22nd America-Japan

Grassroots Summit is organized by the Japan-America Society of Dallas/Fort Worth and the John Manjiro Whitfield Commemorative Center for International Exchange in Japan and the U.S. It is presented in cooperation with the Consulate-General of Japan in Houston, host cities, and community organizations.

### 2012 Japan-America GRASSROOTS SUMMIT in North Texas, August 28 – September 3

The Summit will bring together 150-200 Japanese visitors with as many host families in 15 cities across North Texas. Richardson is one of them. Participants will experience Texas culture from its cowboy heritage to its stellar achievements in arts, business, sports, and education. Texas friendliness and hospitality are legendary. Altrusa International, Inc. of Richardson, TX invites you to share the love for your City and State. Host families and event helpers are needed. Please consider volunteering:

- Welcome a guest to stay with you (Thu, Aug 30 to Sun, Sep 2)
- Welcome the group to Richardson (Thu, Aug 30, 2:30 PM)
- Showcase Richardson's artistic side, help with an event (Sat, Sep 1)
- Invite the group over for a progressive dinner, several courses at different locations (Sat, Sep 1)

Check out the event website for more information:

[www.northtexasgrassrootssummit.org](http://www.northtexasgrassrootssummit.org). Look for sign-up sheets at business and dinner meetings through July. Contact Kimberly Kierce or Barbara Berthold if you have any questions.



JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY  
OF DALLAS/FORT WORTH



財団法人ジョン万次郎ホイットフィールド記念  
国際草の根交流センター  
John Manjiro Whitfield Commemorative  
Center for International Exchange

## HELEN SMITH



Deb Bourland's mother, Helen Brintlinger Smith, passed away April 9 after a short battle with cancer. She

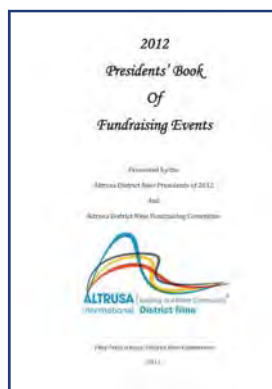
was 95 years old. She was born on April 5, 1917 in Decatur, Illinois to Elmer and Jessie Brintlinger. Helen received her Bachelors in Education from Arizona State University and moved to Dallas in 1947 with her husband, Marvin. Helen was a member of First United Methodist Church in Richardson, Texas. Playing bridge and spending time with her grandkids and great grandkids at their sporting events was a favorite hobby of hers. She was an avid fan of the Dallas Cowboys and Dallas Mavericks. She was preceded in death by her husband, Marvin D. Smith; brother, Harold Brintlinger; and her parents.

Left to cherish her memory and life are her daughter Deborah Bourland and husband Dan and her son David Smith and wife Barbara. Grandchildren: Chad Bourland and wife Heather, Jared Bourland, Colleen Sosbee and husband Steve, Lauren Smith, and nephew, Dan Brintlinger. Great Grandchildren: Keegan, Avery, Quinn and Owen Bourland, and Hayden and Evan Sosbee. See the photo gallery of her life at: <http://obits.dignitymemorial.com/dignity-memorial/obituary.aspx?n=Helen-Smith&lc=2251&pid=156915526&mid=5061773&locale=en-US>

## DISTRICT NINE NEWS

## NEW FUNDRAISING BOOK!

The 2012 Altrusa Presidents in District Nine were given the opportunity to contribute descriptions of their fundraising projects for a book to be published by the District Nine Fundraising Committee. The book can be found on [www.altrusadistrictnine.org](http://www.altrusadistrictnine.org) website under News Room, then District News and Newsletters, then click on Book.

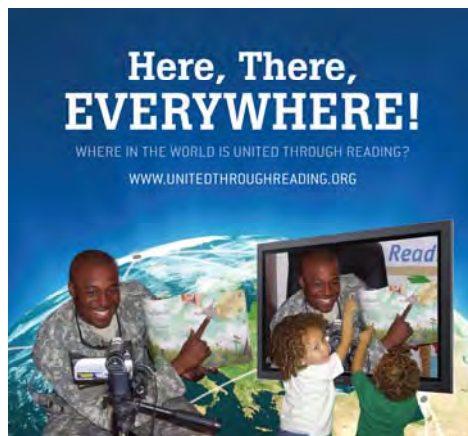


**COMMITTEE REPORT****CLUB SUPPORTS LITERACY PROGRAM***By Jane Tucker*

The month of May 2012 has been designated by Congress as National Military Appreciation Month. This month includes Loyalty Day (1<sup>st</sup>), VE Day (8<sup>th</sup>), Armed Forces Day (19<sup>th</sup>), Military Spouse Appreciation Day (11<sup>th</sup>), and Memorial Day (30<sup>th</sup>). It is only natural that this would be the one month of the year to recognize our armed services and celebrate the historical impact our military has had on America. It is during this month that our country is to honor, remember, recognize, and appreciate all the military personnel who have served throughout our country's history and all those who continue to serve and even give their lives to protect our country.

It is for this reason that the International Relations Committee has used this month to honor our military through a \$125 donation to the United Through Reading Program. Ever since 2009 when International Relations and Support Our Troops blended into one committee, our club has made a donation to purchase books to support the United Through Reading Program. This program helps ease the stress of separation for military families by having deployed parents read a child's book aloud via DVD. Then their child receives the DVD and book so they can watch it at home over and over again to stay connected with the deployed parent. The parent at home can capture the child's reaction to the DVD and take a photo or email back to the deployed service member, thereby providing a way for the whole family to stay connected during deployment.

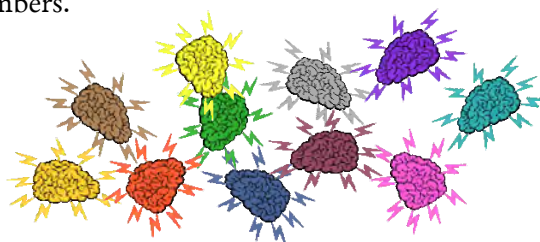
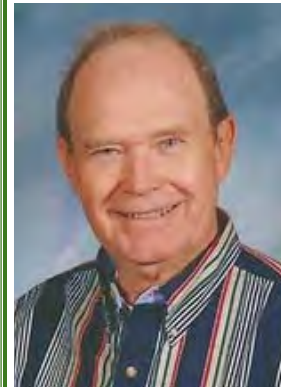
Because this program combines the importance of both literacy and family, the International Relations committee feels it an excellent project for our club to support.

**MEETING PREVIEW****JUNE 21 MEETING: BRAINSTORMING FOR OWT***By Cindy McIntyre*

To help inspire and motivate members to find nominees and sponsors for OWT, the June dinner meeting (June 21st) will be a brainstorming session. In preparation for the meeting, please review past nominees listed on our website; then bring your ideas, business contacts and any relevant names, emails, and phone numbers.

New members will learn how the application process works. To keep things fun, nice prizes will be awarded during the session.

Don't miss it!

**WILLIAM STUART**

Jean Stuart's husband, William Blackwell Stuart passed into the arms of his Lord and Saviour on April 9, 2012, after

a long struggle with congestive heart failure. Bill was born May 3, 1932 at home in Mercedes, Texas to Harold Duane and Beulah Bell (Blackwell) Stuart. After graduating from Baylor University, he proudly served in the United States Air Force. Bill was discharged in December of 1956 and married Jean Spurlin on December 15, 1956. He was a salesman in the paper industry. After retirement, Bill was a substitute teacher for Kindergarten through Fifth grade in the Plano ISD. He especially enjoyed mentoring children at Forman Elementary School in Plano. Bill also coached baseball and football, and was a Sunday School teacher.

He is survived by his wife, Jean Stuart of Richardson, Texas; sons, David Blackwell Stuart and wife, Cheryl of Southlake, Texas, Robert (Bobby) Stuart and fiancé, Niki Caradine of Richardson, Texas, and Paul Christian Stuart and wife, Kristin of Spring, Texas; grandchildren, Brooke Ashley Stuart, Brandon Blackwell Stuart, William Blackwell Stuart, II, and Colin Christian Stuart; brother, John Harold Stuart of Dallas, Texas; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

## RISD INSIDER UPDATE

By Bobbi Klein



The last two months of the RISD Insider have been very interesting. In March, we went to Lake Highlands High School to find out about the fine arts in RISD. We were treat-

ed to a scene from a play, met and watched some of the Drill Teams, listened to the Men's Chorus, and visited a drawing class and a video design class.

In April, we met at the Ram/ Wildcat Stadium where we were able to see how the various RISD team sports fit into the world of Texas 5A and 4A athletics and how participating in the athletic programs affects the lives of the participants. It was really interesting. Another interesting side note is that the RISD is the only district in Texas that has country western dance teams at every high school. We were treated to some exciting boot scootin' talent, too. Both sessions allowed time to meet some of the students and talk to them about why they had chosen to be in their particular programs, about their feelings about their education, and to learn a little about them as individuals. I have to say the future is looking really good if these kids are our future. Let's hope they ALL stay in or come back to Richardson in the years to come!!

## IN THE MEDIA

FROM APRIL 6 *neighborsgo*

14  
SATURDAY

ALTRUSA MARKETPLACE — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Friends Place, 1960 Nantucket Drive in Richardson. Altrusa Richardson will host its annual marketplace, featuring jewelry from around the world, handmade crafts, baked goods and more. Admission is free. For more information, visit [altrusa.richardson.com](http://altrusa.richardson.com).

6R April 6, 2012



Richardson | Lake Highlands  
Far North Dallas

## IN THE MEDIA

FROM APRIL 6 *neighborsgo*

## KNOW YOUR LIBRARIAN

## Steve Benson celebrates value of books every day

## STAFF REPORT

Steve Benson serves as the director of library services at the Richardson Public Library. He answered the following questions from *neighborsgo* in honor of National Library Week.

## What drew you into the library services field?

I was just hanging around libraries all the time and thought it could benefit me to be paid for being there. I love the concept of a shared community resource that helps folks entertain and educate themselves. And, I liked the idea of being a part of this process. I had some familiarity with the occupation because my grandmother was a librarian.

## What does National Library Week mean to you and the Richardson Public Library?

At RPL we have never been extravagant at celebrating the week. I'm not sure why, except that we are so busy and every week seems to be a celebration of our value and service in this community.

## What are some of the biggest technological developments your library has made during the last decade or even five years?

The biggest change is one that is still in progress and that is the digital revolution. The Internet and the web made huge changes in service demands for reference assistance and collections of reference materials.

The skills a reference librarian possesses are still valuable, and now there is more opportunity for in-depth service because folks can find so much themselves online. The reference librarians aren't spending too much time looking up lots of isolated bits of information.

## What are some programs that set your library apart from other ones in the area?

I'm not sure what makes us different or if we are different. We just try to offer a lot of programs and do them well. We have long offered reading programs for children that are very popular. In recent years we have added programming for teens. We have a very creative librarian, Cindy Oser, who coordinates our teen programming and who has brought us teen gaming nights, teen book clubs, and teen monster movies.

Adult programming has had renewed energy under the guidance of librarian Janet Vance. Adult programs cover a wide spectrum of topics and include the Book-Babble book discussion groups and our large print collections that rotate amongst (with the help of volunteers from Altrusa) many of the senior living facilities in Richardson.

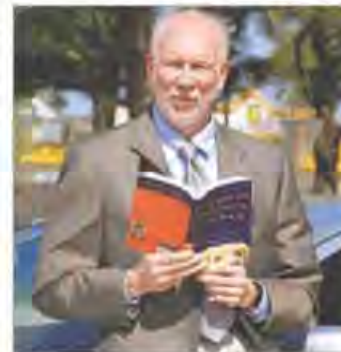


Photo submitted by STEVE BENSON

**Richardson Public Library director Steve Benson** enjoys reading about economics, politics, history and mysteries.

## How important is teaching young people to not only learn to read but enjoy it?

Reading is an easy way to entertain oneself throughout life. It's also a good way to discover and explore new ideas, to broaden one's horizons and challenge one's conceptions of the world around us. But learning to love to read can be a challenge. I think sometimes it's having the right person to spur that interest — perhaps a teacher, librarian, a parent or sibling. Sometimes it's just coming across the right book at the right moment that spurs an interest.

## What was your favorite book as a child?

I remember reading a lot of the Hardy Boys and Tom Swift. As I got beyond elementary school, I started reading from a collection at home that included some beautifully bound and illustrated editions. *Robinson Crusoe* was one of these. My favorite children's books as an adult are those written by David Wiesner.

## What is your favorite genre of book?

I'm all over the map — politics, economics, histories of certain time periods, literature. Fiction is usually a diversion between nonfiction books. Standbys are mysteries by Cussler, Robert B. Parker, Walter Mosley.

## What is your fondest memory of library visits when you were younger?

I grew up visiting the Aurora Public Library in downtown Aurora, Ill. The fiction books were on a dimly lit mezzanine with a glass block floor. I just thought that setting was cool and kind of adventurous.

Information compiled by *neighborsgo* editor Ann Marie Shambaugh.

## SPECIAL REPORT

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES IS MAY 15

*United Nations Press Release: Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's statement*

This year's International Day of Families highlights the need for work-family balance. The aim is to help workers everywhere provide for their families financially and emotionally, while also contributing to the socio-economic development of their societies.

Current trends underscore the growing importance of work-family policies. These include greater participation by women in the labour market, and growing urbanization and mobility in search for jobs. As families become smaller and generations live apart, extended kin are less available to offer care, and employed parents face rising challenges.

Millions of people around the world lack decent working conditions and the social support to care for their families. Affordable quality childcare is rarely available in developing countries, where many parents are forced to leave their preschool children home alone. Many young children are also left in the care of older siblings who, in turn, are pulled from school.

A number of countries offer generous leave provisions for mothers and fathers. Many more, however, extend few comprehensive benefits in line with international standards. Paternity leave provisions are still rare in the majority of

developing countries.

Flexible working arrangements, including staggered working hours, compressed work schedules or telecommuting, are becoming more widely available – but there is much room for improvement everywhere. I am committed to this in our own organization, where we are currently looking at our own arrangements, and seeing what we can do better.

We need to respond to the ever-changing complexities of work and family life. I welcome the establishment of family-friendly workplaces through parental leave provisions, flexible working arrangements and better childcare.

Such policies and programmes are critical to enhancing the work-family balance. These actions can also lead to better working conditions, greater employee health and productivity, and a more concerted focus on gender equality.

Work-family balance policies demonstrate both a government's commitment to the well-being of families and the private sector's commitment to social responsibility.

On this International Day of Families, let us renew our pledge to promote work-family balance for the benefit of families and society at large.



## ALTRUSA ACCENT

## ALTRUSA EMBLEM AND ALTRUSA LOGO



In use since 1949, the Altrusa International emblem (at right) consists of three concentric circles. The outer ring bears the name "Altrusa International, Inc." In the second circle is Altrusa's motto, "Patriotism, Efficiency, Service." The center shows a polar view of the world, symbolizing Altrusa's international scope and interests.

First unveiled at the 2011 Altrusa International Convention, the new logo (shown at right) varies, depending on whether it is used by the international organization, a district, or a club.

Our membership pins feature the emblem, and will continue to do so. You will see our new logo appearing on letterhead stationery and other items.



## TAX FREE SHOPPING FOR ALTRUSA

*By Mary Beth McLemore*

Wal-Mart has Altrusa of Richardson on file.

Go to the Customer Service desk.

They check their computer.

You receive a card.

Present to cashier.

No tax is added to your bill.



## CLUB CALENDAR MAY 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	30	31		

- Thurs., May 3 (7:00 PM) Business Meeting (Clubhouse)
- Sat., May 5 (10:30 AM) Fashion Show at Drapers and Damons
- Mon., May 7 (5:00 PM) Foundation Grant Applications Due
- Thurs., May 10 (5:45 PM) SMALLS Dinner at Texas Land and Cattle
- Fri., May 11 (1:15 PM) Mothers' Day Tea at Friend Place
- Mon, May 14 (Noon) Dinner Reservations Due
- Mon., May 14 (7:00 PM) Bridge (Location TBD)
- Tues., May 15 International Day of Families
- Thurs., May 17 (7:00 PM) Dinner Meeting (Founders' Hall)
- Mon., May 21 (6:00 PM) Wine & Chocolate Literary Society
- Wed., May 23 (12:00 PM) Lunch Bunch at Main Street Bistro
- Thurs., May 24 (7:00 PM) Old and New Boards at Friends Place

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 16 Mary Osentowski
- 16 Gloria Sandoval
- 24 Bonnie Perry
- 26 Jan Skinner

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.

### CLUB MEETINGS

Business Meeting  
7 PM, May 3  
Clubhouse  
at Richardson Woman's Club

Dinner Reservations  
for everyone  
due by Noon, Monday, May 14  
Contact: Jean Stuart

Dinner/Program Meeting  
7 PM, May 17  
Founders' Hall  
at Richardson Woman's Club

Board Meeting  
6 pm, May 24 at Friends Place

The next dinner and meeting of **SMALLS** will be Thursday, May 10 at Texas Land and Cattle, NW Corner of Spring Valley and Central Expressway Between 5:45 PM and 7:15 PM (or whenever we feel like going home) **Come join us!**

### MEMBERSHIP RETENTION

#### BRIDGE



Monday, May 14  
6:30 PM Schmoozing  
7:00 PM Let's play bridge  
Location: TBD