

Your latest news in a flash!

# Altrusa Tidings eNEWS Edition Aug 2016



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[Calendar of Events](#)

## *President's Message*

### **EVERY DAY IS A CELEBRATION!**

We are making progress toward achieving some of our goals for the year. Goal 5 from our Strategic Plan is Financial – Achieve and Maintain Financial Solvency. At the July Business Meeting, the club approved the Administrative Budget proposed by the Finance Committee. Also, they reviewed the proposed Foundation Budget and recommended it to the Foundation Board. The Trustees will review this budget and approve it, assuming it meets the requirements for money spent by a Foundation.



Goal 3 is Membership – Retain, Recruit and Involve. This month, we initiated four new Altrusans, **Mary Ann Johnston, Janet McCulloch, Karen Tate, and Ruth Tinnes**. On July 14, we had fun while getting to know members better at a Social held by the Retention Committee, hosted by our newer members. It was attended by about 30 members plus a guest who is now a prospective new member. The theme continued at our July dinner meeting featuring mixer activities to help Altrusans become better acquainted with each other and learn things they didn't already know about others. Thanks to the Co-Chairs of the Recruitment and Retention Committees, **Nancy Crowe, Sherri White, Jenn Rohm and Laura Trainor-Collins**, for organizing this program and thanks to **Brenda Duckett** for the patriotic table decorations.

As incoming President, the Past Presidents recently treated me to lunch. After lunch, they gave me several helpful ideas. They recommended we have an Usher at each meeting. This will be a Past President whose job will be to help people find a place to sit at meetings. This should be especially helpful to new members and guests who arrive alone. Another suggestion is we go back to having a colored piece of paper draped over each chair at the dinner meetings. When a person finds a place to sit they are to remove the paper and place it on the table. It will be easier to find a place by looking for a chair with a PURPLE sheet of paper over the back!

Together we can accomplish great things.

*Everyday is a Celebration!*

*Service, Leadership, Friendship*

*Nancy R. Rohm*

2016-2017 President  
[nancyraltруса@gmail.com](mailto:nancyraltруса@gmail.com)

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A Friendship note from Altrusa, Ocala, Florida



**A VERY KIND GESTURE**

On July 21, 2016, Altrusa Richardson received a very kind card by mail from Altrusa International of Ocala, FL, Inc. It read:

“Even though peacefulness and tranquility were shattered in Dallas last week, Altrusa bonds of friendship remain unscathed. George Eliot said, “Friendship is so precious, it cannot be bought with fold. Yet friendship everywhere abounds for loving hearts to hold.” Sending you and your community Altrusa love and hugs at this difficult time.”

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**Welcome to our Newest Members**



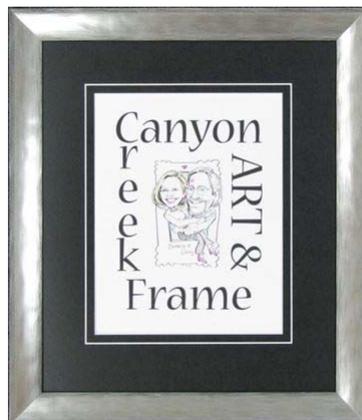
On July 7, 2016, our newest members (pictured l-r) **Karen Tate, Ruth Tinnis, Maryann Johnston** and **Janet McCulloch** were initiated.

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*Dinner Meeting Preview: August 18, 2016*

**Supporting our Community with the Arts by Jerry Cornelius**

by Nancy Rohm, Program Committee



Join us for the August 18, 2016 Dinner program when we will learn more about:

**Busy Fingers Art Festivals®** which strives to create the best art show experience, while providing a proven fund-raising program for the elementary age school art programs. This special event creates a life-long memory for both the young artist and parents; and **Life Expressions® ~ Photographs and Memories**, a unique program showcasing framed photographs shared by the residents within their Senior communities.

Don't miss learning about these two exciting programs being done by our own, Jerry & Barbara Cornelius.

[Register NOW to attend!](#)

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*Dinner Meeting Preview: September 15 , 2016*

**Suzy Humphreys – Laugh Yourself to Happy**

by Nancy Rohm, Program Committee



Professional motivational and inspirational humorist **Suzie Humphreys** will present the program at our September 15, 2016 Dinner Meeting. Richardson Altrusans are encouraged to make reservations early for themselves and their guests. If space in Founders Hall allows, we want to invite other nearby Altrusa Club Members to attend. We asked Suzie to bring her books and CD's to sign and sell. The title of Suzie's new

book is Laugh Yourself to Happy.

[Register NOW to attend!](#)

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*Membership Retention Committee Update*

**AWCLS: Altrusa Wine and Chocolate Literary Society (Book Club)**

Christine Hart, Membership Retention Committee Member



The fourth Monday of the month is a highlight each month when book club meets at Friend's Place. This past month Janice Campbell led a lively discussion on the book *The Secret Chord*. It was a wonderful evening with great conversation, friendships made and deepened, good food and drink.

August is always a special month because we read the **Richardson Reads One Book** which is *Spare Parts* this year. August 22, 2016 at 6 pm, Mary Beth McLemore will lead our discussion. The author, Joshua Davis will be speaking on September 20th at Richardson High School. This is always a fun evening with many book clubs and book lovers coming together sharing common interests.



All are welcome at book club- AWCLS. Altrusa Wine and Chocolate Literary Society. If you have any questions, please contact Christine Hart at [christinehart1000@gmail.com](mailto:christinehart1000@gmail.com).

[Register NOW to attend!](#)

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*Membership Retention Committee Update*

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Retention Committee Annual Book Swap**

Laura Trainor-Collins, Membership Retention Co-Chair



Our wonderful Pam Johnson has agreed to host the Annual Book Swap party at her home on Saturday, September 10, 2016 from 5 to 7 pm. Hot dogs, buns and condiments will be provided and members are asked to bring side dishes and drinks. We will have a sign up for food items and attendance on the website after the Retentions Committee meeting on August 4th. Please bring your books to swap with each other and any extra books will be used in club service projects. Feel free to bring a guest, spouse, potential member, etc. to this fun event.

[Register NOW to attend!](#)

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*International Relations Committee Update*

### **Altrusa Continues Donations to Fisher House**

Jane Tucker, International Relations Past-Chair (2015-2016)

On Tuesday, June 7th, 2016 the International Relations Committee delivered its second group of ten floral centerpieces to Fisher House.

These arrangements were designed and assembled by Courtenay Tanner with a patriotic theme, perfect for the 4th of July. Also donated were Bath and Body gift sets which the Fisher House gives to guests who have a birthday during their stay or are just in need of a little surprise to lift their spirits.



The Fisher House has been a part of the VA North Texas Health Care System since 2007. Its purpose is to show support to military families through providing high quality temporary lodging to families of veterans who are undergoing inpatient or extensive outpatient treatment at the VA Health Center. As part of providing a warm and compassionate environment for family members our Altrusa club was asked by Lydia Gray-Henderson, Fisher House Manager, to provide seasonal table centerpieces for their formal dining room. This helps enhance the "home away from home" atmosphere they strive to provide their guest. Two more groups of centerpieces are already being planned, one for fall and one for Christmas. Altrusa hopes our contribution makes families feel comfortable and remembered.



Pictured accepting our donation are Lydia Gray-Henderson, Fisher House Manager and a 2015 OWT award winner in the government category, and Eric Szczepkowski, Program Support Assistant.

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*Grants Committee Update*

**Now Accepting Grant Applications**

Janet Vance, Grants Committee Chair



We are currently accepting applications for grants to area non-profits to fund special projects benefiting the community. Grant awards typically range from \$250 to \$1500. Applications are available on the club's web site at

[www.altrusarichardson.com](http://www.altrusarichardson.com) ; The

deadline for submission is August 31, 2016. Decisions on funding will be made in the fall with all applicants receiving notification of results prior to October 31, 2016.

For more information click here - [Grants](#)

For more information about the grant submission process, please contact Janet Vance at [janetvance@gmail.com](mailto:janetvance@gmail.com).

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*United Nations Celebration*

### International Youth Day, August 12



The theme of the 2016 International Youth Day (IYD) is "The Road to 2030: Eradicating Poverty and Achieving Sustainable Production and Consumption". The annual celebration was adopted by the United Nations. It was first celebrated on August 12, 2000. The UN uses celebrations like this to draw public awareness to problems surrounding a particular global demographic. IYD focuses on the youth, their issues and their contributions.

It focuses on the rights of young people to have full access to education, adequate healthcare, employment opportunities, financial services and full participation in public life. Along with ensuring their rights, an equally important goal of IYD is to shape the youth not just as a force for positive social change but also a source of innovation, creativity, energy and foresight

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### Past Presidents Luncheon

Past Club Presidents met on July 9 for a luncheon to honor President Nancy Rohm. They offered support and shared words of wisdom.



Pictured: (Seated l-r) Mary Osentowski, Nancy Rohm, Cindy McIntyre, Jo Leeper, (Standing l-r) Pam Johnson, Gloria Sandoval, Mary Beth McLemore, Cindy Murray, and Bonnie Perry.

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### Spotlight on Altrusans

**Cindy Murray** and **Sharon Nash** interviewed each other for the July 7th Meeting SPOTLIGHT

**Cindy Murray's** five fantasy dinner guests would be Golda Meier, Margaret Thatcher, Susan B Anthony, Betty Ford and Laura Bush. Her favorite musician is Celine Dion. Her favorite Altrusa memory was at the Puerto Rico Convention in 2004. She hiked in the rain forest, walked the beaches and stayed the last night at El Convento (a former convent) in San Juan. She is currently reading The Rainbow Comes and Goes: A Mother and Son on Life, Love and Loss by

Gloria Vanderbilt and Anderson Cooper. Cindy is inspired by her loving, patient and generous Mother and her favorite words to live by are "Life is too short to sweat the little things".

**Sharon Nash** became an Altrusan to meet people and make a contribution to the community. She has just finished reading Spare Parts and currently reading Shifting Gears about retirement. Sharon retired on June 30, 2016. Her favorite vacation spot is the beach and she would like to travel to Alaska, the Canadian Rockies, Yosemite, Europe, Caribbean, Australia, Africa and Asia. Basically would like to be a world traveler. She would like to get reacquainted with watercolor painting and pottery and photography. Sharon was inspired by her paternal grandmother. She was small in stature but taught Sharon many things: to crochet, to love flower gardening and stars on a quiet summer night and poetry.

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**Spotlight on Altrusans**

**Betty Bruce and Janet Vance** interviewed each other for the July 21st Meeting SPOTLIGHT

**Betty Bruce** is an interior designer who spent most of her career designing corporate projects and high end condos. Today she keeps busy doing smaller residential projects that allow her to spend more time with her four grandchildren and volunteer activities. She is also a founding member of Saint Joseph's Catholic Church where she is part of the Eucharistic ministry. Betty devoured Nancy Drew mysteries as a child. She favors classical music and light jazz. Her favorite vacation spot is Santa Fe and skiing anywhere in the West. Betty became an Altrusan for more opportunities to serve the community and for the camaraderie that she admires about the club. She looks forward to making Altrusa memories.

**Janet Vance** and Betty Bruce met following the infamous New Member Moustache Happy Hour. Both would like to have their families as guests of their fantasy dinner along with their deceased parents and siblings. It would be a dream come true for them to have such an evening. Janet's favorite book is Old Fashion Girl. Janet is a librarian and involved in Richardson Reads and the Literacy board. One of Janet's favorite Altrusa memories was her time interviewing graduating high school seniors for the Altrusa college scholarships. A couple of her favorite places include Asheville, North Carolina and Big Bend. Janet has two grown children, a son who is completing his PhD work at Notre Dame and a daughter who is a financial planner.

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*Membership Retention Committee Follow-up*

**Mustache Party was a huge success!**

Laura Trainor-Collins, Membership Retention Co-Chair



What do you get when 30 Altrusans show up for the New Member

Mustache Happy Hour? You get a whole lot of fun, a bunch of margaritas, a mustache parade and some great pictures. Thanks to Ginger Tonne for the Senor Chachote connection. Congrats to **Betty Bruce** (pictured below) for winning the favorite mustache award, a lovely bottle of Sangria. Thanks to all those attending for making our first Retention event of the year such a great success. Keep checking the club calendar for future Retention events.



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#### *Membership Retention Committee Social Event*

#### **Description of AIR Time with RROB**



Season 7 of AIR Time presented by AIR (Arts Incubator of Richardson) kicks off on September 14 as we interview Dr. Robert Gregg— Assistant Professor of Bioengineering and Mechanical Engineering and the Director of the Locomotor Control Systems Laboratory at the University of Texas at Dallas. His research concerns the control mechanisms of human locomotion with applications to high-performance prosthetic and

orthotic devices.

This special Season 7 opener for AIR Time is in partnership with the **Richardson Reads One Book** program where the focus is on encouraging an entire community to read the same book then come together to discuss it, share ideas and experience a presentation by the author. This year's selection is *Spare Parts* by Joshua Davis. The book centers on four Latino teenagers in Arizona who enter a national underwater robotics competition. The movie selection is the movie version of the book, SPARE PARTS, from 2015 (114 min) starring George Lopez and Jamie Lee Curtis.



What is AIR Time? AIR Time is a guest artist interview series featuring North Texas artists and creative thinkers.

Following the interview (7:00-7:45pm), guests are invited to stay for the movie. Admission is FREE, but when reserving a seat online you must purchase a \$5 food voucher which can then be used at the event. Ticket information will be available at this site closer to the event:

<http://drafthouse.com/dfw/richardson>

All AIR Time events are held at Alamo Drafthouse in Richardson, 100 S. Central Expressway, Richardson, TX 75080.

AIR (Arts Incubator of Richardson) is a 501c3 that is living its Mission and Vision while seeking funding to secure a space. AIR is a center for creativity, innovation and collaboration. Its Mission is to provide the Richardson community and beyond with a facility and resources for nurturing artists and innovative thinkers; and igniting a spirit of creativity that permeates the community.

This project funded in part by the City of Richardson through the City of Richardson Cultural Arts Commission.

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*Dinner Meeting Highlight*

**Mix-it Up Progressive Patriotic Party Fun**



Attendees of the July 21 Dinner Meeting enjoyed dressing patriotically, eating heartily, and sharing joyfully.



**Brenda Duckett** (pictured above L) helped decorate the patriotic tables and **Barbara Cornelius** (above R) models her latest patriotic ensemble.

**Kimberly Kierce** (pictured below L) and **Mary Osentowski** (below R) begin the Patriotic Picnic Buffet line catered by Weddings & Celebrations.



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