

**2012-2013
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President's Message

Kimberly's Adventures



Literacy is something we take for granted - the ability to read and write in order to reach one's full potential within our families and communities. In today's fast-paced, technology-driven world, it is easy to get wrapped up in our daily tasks and responsibilities, never giving a second thought to how we communicate with others regardless of the media (phone, fax, email, text, etc.). However, nearby, and closer than you think, there is someone who is unable to communicate as effectively as we can and someone who finds every day to be a struggle to survive in our new millennium society. Illiteracy is connected to many socio-economic factors: unemployment, poverty, and criminal activity, just to name a few. Globally, illiteracy is linked to extreme poverty, gender abuse, high immortality, and spread of infectious diseases. Research shows that two-thirds of all illiterates in the world are female. For these, and many other reasons, Altrusa International adopted literacy as its international focus in 1977. While great strides have been made since that time, there is still a long road ahead.

Today, I am proud to see so many literacy programs continue to take place locally and internationally through many Altrusa Richardson Foundation Committees that help eradicate illiteracy. While we cannot solve all the world's problems overnight (although we like to think we can), Altrusans are doing their part one-day-at-a-time to positively impact the lives of those around us so they can be given an opportunity to achieve their fullest potential - just like we have. Literacy is how we connect and communicate as a society - and no one should be left out. Illiteracy can cause feelings of shame and inequality and we should be mindful of the signs and reach out to those in need and help everyone feel connected around us. Discover the potential of literacy and the powerful impact it has in the lives of those around us! Do your part today to share literacy and Altrusa with others.

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Kimberly takes a break from shopping for treasures of the American Southwest during her 2011 trip to Albuquerque and Santa Fe to enjoy some regional cuisine and a good book (on her Kindle, of course).

Discover Altrusa!

Kimberly D Kierce

2012-2013 President

Kimberly.Kierce@cor.gov

972.744.4502

Discover Altrusa: Your Passport to Adventure

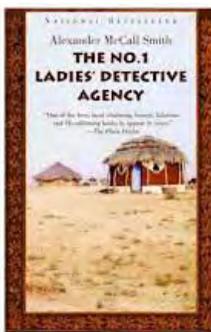
Project Preview: Membership Retention Committee

AWCLS TO DISCUSS *THE NO. 1 LADIES' DETECTIVE AGENCY* IN SEPTEMBER

By Kay George, Altrusa Wine and Chocolate Literary Society

Thanks to Jan Skinner for leading our August discussion of *The Tin Roof Blowdown* by James Lee Burke. Mr. Burke is the winner of two Edgar Awards, author of twenty-six novels, and two collections of short stories including several New York Times bestsellers. In the waning days of summer 2005, a storm with greater impact than the bomb that struck Hiroshima peels the face off southern Louisiana. As the novel begins, Hurricane Katrina has left the commercial district and residential neighborhoods awash with looters and predators of every stripe. The power grid of the city has been destroyed, New Orleans reduced to the level of a medieval society. There is no law, no order, and no sanctuary for the infirm, the helpless, and the innocent. In a singular style that defies genre, Burke has created a hauntingly bleak picture of life in New Orleans after Katrina. Filled with complex characters and depictions of people at both their best and worst. *The Tin Roof Blowdown* is not only an action-packed crime thriller, but a poignant story of courage and sacrifice.

On September 24, 2012., Genevieve Hamulak will lead the discussion of *The No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall-Smith. This first novel in Alexander McCall Smith's widely acclaimed Ladies' Detective Agency series tells the story of the delightfully cunning and enormously engaging Precious Ramotswe, who is drawn to her profession to "help people with problems in their lives." Immediately upon setting up shop in a small storefront in Gaborone, she is hired to track down a missing husband, uncover a con man, and follow a wayward daughter. But the case that tugs at her heart, and lands her in danger, is a missing eleven-year-old boy, who may have been snatched by witchdoctors. *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* received two Booker Judges' Special Recommendations and was voted one of the International Books of the Year and the Millennium by the *Times Literary Supplement*.



We meet at Friends Place Adult Day Services, 1960 Nantucket Drive in Richardson, at 6:00PM on the 4th Monday of each month. Even if you don't have a chance to read the featured books, we hope that you will join us for a great time of fun, fellowship, discussion and sharing.

Project Preview

SENIORS COMMITTEE TO HELP WITH ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION EVENT

By Gloria Sandoval, Seniors Committee Co-Chair



Again this year, we will help with registration of participants in the Walk to End Alzheimer's. We have chosen to help with the Collin County walk, which will be held at Celebration Park in Allen on September 15. We need to be at Celebration Park in Allen by 7:00am . As in years past, we will have carpooling for those that prefer it. Currently, the following have signed up for this worthwhile event: Barbara & Karl Berthold, Susan Fischer, Pam Fitzgearld (tentative), Kay George, Kimberly Kierce, Cindy Murray, Gloria & Isaac Sandoval, Jan Skinner, Samantha Slight, Elizabeth Smith, and Jean Stuart. We could always use more volunteers. Celebration Park is located at 701 Angel Parkway in Allen.

More information will be forthcoming as the date gets closer. Of course, breakfast is in the plans after we close the Registration area.

Ending Alzheimer's is important. The numbers are sobering and staggering. In the United States, an estimated **5.4 million people** are living with Alzheimer's disease, including at least **800,000 who live alone**. Unless something is done to change the trajectory of the disease, as many as **16 million** Americans will have Alzheimer's by 2050. The cost of caring for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias is estimated to total **\$200 billion** in 2012 and is projected to increase to **\$1.1 trillion** per year (in today's dollars) by mid-century.

BOARD ACTIONS

- ◇ Proposed HASR nominations
- ◇ Evaluated status of on-line dinner reservations
- ◇ Decided to purchase stationery with ribbon logo
- ◇ Confirmed Audit Committee report that had no significant findings

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

- ◇ Complete report on the Japan-America Grassroots Summit
- ◇ Introduction to New Member Irene Strejc

Project Preview

ORIENTATION/RE-ORIENTATION WILL BE SEPTEMBER 8**Calling All Richardson Altrusans!**

The destination is the Fall Orientation for Newer Members and Re-Orientation for our more Seasoned Altrusa Travelers.

Whether you are just beginning your Altrusa Adventure or have your tour guide rating, there's something here for you.

And don't forget to share the fun with someone else who is looking for adventure!

**Your Port of Call is
2503 Springwood Lane
September the 8th**

Itinerary:

- ◇ **9:00 am to 9:30 am** Breakfast buffet will be served -- Time to mingle with your fellow travelers
- ◇ **9:30 am to 10:00 am** Get to Know you Mixer—More time to mingle with your fellow travelers
- ◇ **10:00 am to 11:30 am** Get to Know More about the Altrusa Adventure—With stops for information and hands-on projects—Time to find out more about Altrusa Richardson



All Aboard for Altrusa! Your passport to Adventure!

Project Report

ABILITY HOUSE RESIDENTS AND ALTRUSANS HAVE REASONS TO CELEBRATE!

On August 4, seven Altrusans helped Robert celebrate his birthday at Ability House. Bill Knudsen, President and CEO of Ability Connection Texas was there and expressed his gratitude. He wrote:

As the attached photo proves - Robert's smile filled Ability House for his 25th birthday celebration on August 4th! He was sitting at the head of the dining room table when we all arrived ready for the party to start. After blowing out the candles he consumed three pieces of the chocolate birthday cake - & really enjoyed the Blue Bell ice cream and soft drinks. He was joined by his housemates Nina, Shelly, Vera, and Roberto - Kathleen was spending the day with her parents.

After quickly devouring the cake and ice cream, Robert was ready for his gifts. His smile broadened even more as he opened his \$10 Target gift card and \$25 iTunes gift card! And he even wanted the "Celebrate" gift bag so he could hold it for his official Birthday photo with his Altrusa friends! His delightful Birthday party ended with Robert happily reminding us there are only 12 months left until his next Birthday!

Robert, his Ability housemates...& all of us at Ability Connection send each of you our very best wishes!

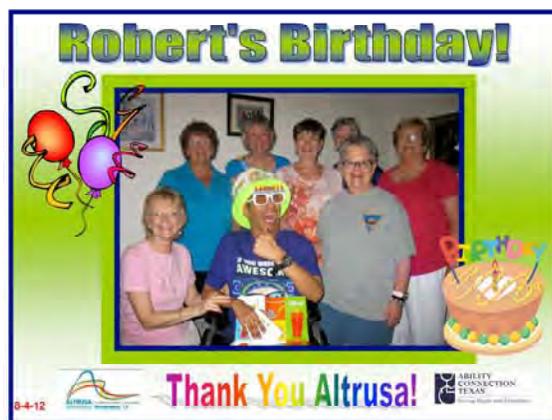
The Altrusans at the party were Barbara Cornelius, Jane Merz, Genevieve Hamulak, Deb Bourland, Dena Davis, Jan Skinner, and Mimi Tanner.

Ability Connection Texas (ACT) provides caring, family-style living environments for adults with disabilities through its residential services program. One of the seven group homes operated by ACT is Ability House, which is home for six adults with Cerebral Palsy.

Our Club adopted Ability House in 1995. Altrusans visit the residents to celebrate birthdays and holiday, usually on Saturday afternoons; we bring cake, beverages, and a gift from the Club. Residents enjoy our company and all members are encouraged to attend. To learn more about ACT, go to: <http://www.abilityconnectiontexas.org/>.



Bill Knudsen and
the Birthday Hat



Project Report

ONLY OUR MEMBERSHIP RETENTION COMMITTEE COULD HOST POOL-LESS POOL PARTY

By Jane Merz

Who said you couldn't have a Book Swap Pool-less Pool Party?? Don't tell the 25 hungry, book-swapping Altrusans who, along with their spouses, friends and relatives, met on Saturday evening at Chez Merz. They will tell you otherwise. The patio was awash with smoking tiki torches and the chiminea blazing to scare away the West Nile mosquitoes, but since it was 95 degrees outside everyone stayed inside where it was cool. We ate, drank and made merry, with books leftover for those who couldn't attend.

Max, the Official Host and Greeter, is shown at right. He took his duties very seriously, and, in fact, is the only attendee who did not behave like a chowhound. Max testified that indeed some book-swapping did occur, although it did appear that the missing pool and the books were merely excuses for the Altrusans and their guests to assemble, eat, and drink.



Meeting Preview

SEPTEMBER 27 PROGRAM WILL BE “ADVENTURES IN LITERACY”

Local author Julia Heaberlin will speak to us about “Adventures in Literacy” at our next program meeting.

Julia Heaberlin is an award-winning journalist who has worked for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, The Detroit News, and The Dallas Morning News. Before launching her career as an author, she was an assistant managing editor over features sections at large metropolitan newspapers. Many of those sections won national and state journalism awards. The Star-Telegram Life & Arts section was named as one of the Top 10 sections in the country during her tenure. She has edited real-life thriller stories that inform her writing, including a series on the perplexing and tragic murders of random girls and women buried in the desert in Mexico and another on the frightened women of domestic violence.

Playing Dead is her debut novel. She lives with her husband and son in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, where she is a free-lance writer and is at work on her second book, **Lie Still**, to be published by Random House in Summer 2013.



Photo by Jill Johnson

Special Report

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE TO BE OBSERVED ON SEPTEMBER 21

Following is UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s message to mark the 100-day countdown to the International Day of Peace, beginning on 13 June:

The International Day of Peace, observed each year on 21 September, is a global call for ceasefire and non-violence. It is a time to reflect on the horror and cost of war and the benefits of peacefully resolving our disputes. This year, I will use this important day to ask Governments and citizens of the world to focus on the important issues of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

The end of the cold war helped lift the burden of nuclear catastrophe from a generation that had lived under its cloud since the end of the Second World War. Nonetheless, the threat persists, as recent events attest. Unless we vigorously work for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, we will continue to face threats from existing nuclear weapons, as well as additional risks that more States, even terrorists, might acquire and deploy such weapons, potentially annihilating millions of people.

This alarming outlook is counterbalanced by a new momentum on the part of world leaders to address the issue of nuclear weapons. The United States and the Russian Federation have signaled a new commitment to cut their nuclear arsenals. Furthermore, the Conference on Disarmament, which includes all States with nuclear arms, has recently broken a decade-long deadlock and agreed to work to resolve some of the key issues related to disarmament and non-proliferation.

We must build on this momentum. To that end, I am launching the WMD-WeMustDisarm! Campaign. Over the next 100 days, the United Nations and our partners around the world will work to raise awareness of the true costs and dangers of nuclear weapons. Between now and 21 September, we will issue 100 reasons to disarm, via Twitter, MySpace, Facebook, email, text message, radio and from friend to friend. Celebrities will also help us spread the message. And finally, as we observe the International Day of Peace with world leaders gathered in New York for the sixty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly, I will proclaim one strong, simple message: We must disarm!



OWT Committee Report

OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF TODAY LUNCHEON WILL HAVE OUTSTANDING SPEAKER

With thanks to www.annesadovsky.com



Anne Sadovsky, Certified Speaking Professional, will be the keynote speaker at our ninth annual Outstanding Women of Today (OWT) Luncheon and Awards Presentation on October 26. She is the owner of a local marketing, consulting, and seminar firm—where she and her associates provide training, keynotes and counsel to a variety of industries, business, and associations.

Anne is a widely published author and a popular guest on radio and television talk shows nationally. Her success story has been written about in many newspapers and magazines, including *Money Magazine*, *Texas Business*, and *Ladies Home Journal*. A couple of her keynote speeches are “If the Horse You’re Riding is Dead...Get Off” and “Nobody Picks up Pennies Anymore.”



Altrusan Jan Belcher knows Anne Sadovsky and invited her to speak at our OWT luncheon. Anne’s clients describe her as entertaining, informative, amazing, and inspiring. Having a great keynote speaker is just another reason you shouldn’t miss our OWT event!

Committee Report

ALTRUSA RICHARDSON IS A MAJOR SPONSOR OF RICHARDSON READS ONE BOOK

By Janet Vance, Community Outreach Committee

Chitra Divakaruni, author of the Richardson Reads One Book 2012 title “One Amazing Thing,” will present a free lecture on September 20, at 7:30 pm at Richardson High School. Richardson Reads One Book is a community reading program where everyone in the Richardson Community is encouraged to come together to read and discuss the issues in a single book. Altrusa International, Inc. of Richardson is a major sponsor for Richardson Reads One Book and also provides a dozen “hands-on” volunteers to usher at the lecture. Altrusans Mimi Tanner, Jane Merz, Bonnie Perry, Mary Beth McLemore and Janet Vance serve on the Richardson Reads One Book Board of Directors. Jane and Mimi were instrumental in getting the RROB program up and running almost ten years ago.

The author’s 2-day visit to Richardson also includes teaching classes at Richardson High School and an interview by UTD Dean of Humanities, Dr. Dennis Kratz, at a luncheon at the Richardson Woman’s Club. Check out the RROB web site at <http://onebook.cor.net> for a listing of other RROB events and public discussions.

The graphic at right was created by the Richardson’s graphic artist and was enclosed in the approximately 32,000 water bills last month. What a nice acknowledgment of our sponsorship!

(Our September dinner meeting has been postponed for a week—until September 27—to allow Altrusans to volunteer and attend this event! I hope that everyone can come.)



One Amazing Thing



Author Chitra Divakaruni

Lecture & Book Signing
by Chitra Divakaruni

Thursday, Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m.

Richardson High School
Auditorium

1250 Belt Line Rd.
Richardson 75080

Doors open at 6:45 p.m. Free tickets available at the Library beginning Tuesday, Sept. 4.



One Amazing Thing is the 2012 pick for the 9th annual Richardson Reads One Book program. Author Chitra Divakaruni will speak Sept. 20 at Richardson High School. Book discussion groups across the community are encouraged to add *One Amazing Thing* to their schedules. Public discussion groups and events are also scheduled for late summer and fall. For more information on Richardson Reads One Book, call the Library at 972-744-4350 or check the website: <http://onebook.cor.net>

Many thanks to the following One Book Sponsors:

- Altrusa International of Richardson
- Richardson High School/RISD
- The City of Richardson through the Richardson Arts Commission
- Richardson Public Library
- Humanities Texas
- Friends of the Richardson Library
- Richardson Adult Literacy Center
- Richland College
- Richard Huckaba
- Richardson Woman’s Club
- Methodist Richardson Medical Center

Committee Report

WE HAVE TWO IMPORTANT WAYS TO SUPPORT HELPS INTERNATIONAL

By Jane Tucker and Gloria Sandoval

Donating to Give the Gift of Literacy

HELPS International is a nonprofit organization established in 1984 in the State of Texas to provide a circle of hope to the people of Guatemala. It is legally recognize as a relief and development organization striving to assist these people by providing not only educational programs, but also medical, economic development, and infrastructure development programs. HELPS favors a holistic approach to supporting people to help themselves.

It first started out in rural areas striving to provide just the basic necessities of food and clothing. HELPS then enlarged its outreach program to include education and literacy programs, installation of vented cooking stoves, and construction of homes for war widows, schools, water systems, and airstrips. Today, this organization also has an extensive medical care system staffed by 65 highly trained medical/surgical professionals that reach out to the residents of the highlands of Guatemala to help assist with the current healthcare crisis in this country.

Our Altrusa club has contributed to this organization for many years through an annual donation to sponsor a child's education. Our first child has successfully completed elementary and secondary school. It is because of our monetary gift this child has acquired the education necessary to now be attending a university.

We are currently sponsoring Senayda Isabel Torrez Medina who will be a second grader this year. The International Relations Committee has requested our annual donation of \$350 be sent to HELPS International this month as part of our United Nations Literacy Day celebration and we will soon be receiving new pictures of Senayda and an update on her progress in school. Thank you to all of you for giving the gift of education.



Selling premium Guatemalan coffee

The International Committee sold premium Guatemalan coffee for HELPS International in support of their Coffee Program for \$10.00 a 12.5 oz. bag at the August 16th dinner meeting. Jane Tucker brought 18 bags of three different flavors to sell and before dinner had started, Jane and Bobbi Klein had sold all of them.

Guatemala is a place that grows the best tasting coffee in the world. In an effort to provide economic assistance to the country, HELPS International is now offering its own private labeled Guatemalan coffee. In addition to the great taste, this coffee offers a great benefit: all the profits from the sale of HELPS Coffee go to programs specifically designed to improve the lives of the Guatemalan people.

The coffee program also contributes to the ecosystem of Guatemala and provides much needed jobs for coffee workers who would otherwise be jobless without the success of the coffee industry in their country. These are the ways the HELPS coffee program contributes directly to the coffee industry and the lives of those working in the coffee fields:

- ◇ HELPS buys roughly 66% of its coffee from small producers and larger farms that follow a 100-point program of "Social Responsibility". This program relates to better working conditions, protection of environmental conditions, and other areas to improve the lives of the people associated with the coffee industry.
- ◇ HELPS pays the producers of its coffee approximately 76% more money than the "going" market price for coffee.
- ◇ HELPS sells its "private label" coffee line here in the United States and ALL of the profits from each sale go back into Guatemala and into the different HELPS programs

The International Committee will send the proceeds from the sale of the bags of coffee to HELPS International in support of their Coffee Program.



Member Highlights

NEW MEMBER ZORA BLANKENSHIP

I was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee. I attended East High School and later the University of Memphis for my Recreational Therapy Certification. My background is working in the healthcare field. I worked at St. Francis Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee for eighteen years. What led me to my current position was working as a Recreational Therapist on the Skilled Care floor. The floor was new to the hospital and I took it over as the recreation person. It was a challenge for me being new to the senior population as I had previously worked with Psychiatric, Drug and Alcohol, and Adolescent patients. I started researching senior resources and called the Atria Assisted Living that was located behind the hospital. I met the Activity Director and became friends with her and we exchanged successful therapeutic activities for seniors. I must say that was where I learned how much I loved working with the senior population. It was very rewarding helping them relax and have fun after a hard day of Physical Therapy. Bringing joy to their day was my goal. To make a long story short, my friend at Atria Assisted Living moved on to another position and they offered me the activity position at Atria. It was a hard choice to leave the hospital, but it was the best move I ever made. Atria has given me many opportunities and I have worked in several positions with my company and have enjoyed them all. I guess my favorite position would be my current position as Executive Director of Atria Richardson Assisted Living. I get to enjoy the whole community on a daily basis and love caring for my residents.



My husband, Danny, and I met at Atria in Memphis, Tennessee. We married in 2004, and moved to Texas the next week. Danny worked as a quality enhancement director at Atria. The old saying is, "I was not born in Texas, but I got here as fast as I could". We truly love Texas and feel as if this is our true home. We have a wonderful blended family consisting of my two boys, Danny's two girls, twelve grandchildren, eight grand dogs. My grandkids' ages range from two to 24, and I have my first great-grandchild due in September. Spending time with my grandchildren is one of my greatest joys. My passions are my family, working with my seniors, cooking, collecting cook books, reading, making new friends, helping people, and traveling to different Texas towns when I have the time.

I would like to thank Pam Kovacs, my sponsor, for inviting me to Altrusa Richardson. I could tell Altrusa was a very special group when she was speaking about it. You could see her excitement and I knew I wanted to attend the meeting. I thank everyone for making me feel so welcome and look forward to sharing this wonderful organization with other people.

Member Highlights

NEW MEMBER SHELLEY SAVARIAN

I was born in Huntington Beach, California, and lived there until I was 12, then moved to Texas with my parents. I am the oldest of six children (three girls and three boys) and have the best parents in the world. After graduating from Lake Highlands, I attended East Texas State. I married the love of my life, Mahmud, in June, 1978. We have one son, Ali John, and one daughter, Laila Ann. Our son is married to Megan and they have given us our wonderful grandson, Alex; there is another grandbaby due in February, 2013.

I manage the First Community Bank in Richardson and have lived in the Richardson area for over 25 years. I love to read, travel, and go to the movies. I like most kinds of music and love playing with my two dogs, Sofia (14, a German Shepherd) and Roscoe (4, a Pekingese mix). I was introduced to Altrusa through Melody Terry whom I have known for the last 20 years. She told me what Altrusa is about and how she enjoyed the work they do. I love planning parties and weddings and do a pretty good job of it.



Member Highlights

NEW MEMBER SAMNATHA WOODMANCY

I was born in Travis Air Force Base, California, into a military family. My Dad retired from the Air Force after 21 years of service and as a family we traveled quite a bit. I have lived in California, Turkey, Missouri and, of course, Texas. Even though I consider Texas my home state and I consider myself a Texas girl, most of my family originated in Detroit, Michigan. Both of my parents are from Detroit and we still have family that lives there, but some have migrated south as we did. I have been living in Texas for 16 years and pretty much grew up in San Antonio, where I graduated from High School, and then moved up to Dallas in 2004 to attend the University of Texas at Dallas.

I majored in Public Affairs and was very involved in community service organizations. I became a member and student leader for the UTD Alternative Spring Break program where students spent their Spring Break volunteering at locations throughout the state and the nation. This was a great experience and reminded me why I wanted to go into public service. I graduated with my Bachelor's Degree in Public Affairs in 2008, and began full-time work in the City of Garland in the Human Resources Department following graduation. While working full time, I was also completing my Master's Degree. I worked for the City of Garland for four years in multiple roles, including compensation, recruiting, HRIS, and wellness.

I graduated with my Master's Degree in Public Affairs from UTD in 2010 and continued working for the City of Garland. While I enjoyed my work in Garland, it didn't take much to get me back to Richardson where it all started for me at UTD. I was hired in the City Manager's Office in July, 2011, and have been enjoying my work ever since. I went to college knowing I wanted a career in public service, particularly city management, and I now have that opportunity with Richardson.

I have a house in Wylie with my boyfriend, Eric, and we love to travel and eat good food, and while he is golfing, I love to get mani's and pedi's :) We are currently planning a trip to Washington D.C. in November and a joint Ireland/Scotland trip in May, 2013.



Meeting Highlights

AUGUST 16 MEETING: NEW ZEALAND TRAVEL INFO FROM AN AUSSIE

By Gay McAlister, Program Committee

Our August program presenter delighted us with the romantic adventure story of meeting and proposing to his wife (he had known her for three days when he proposed), intrigued us with facts and quirky bits of information about New Zealand (nine sheep for every person, filming location for the trilogy Lord of the Rings, and NO snakes in the land), and enticed us with descriptions of a beautiful and temperate land (no place is more than 120 miles from the beach). The most popular tourist attraction is Lake Taupo, site of the earth's largest volcano eruption 70,000 years ago. New Zealand in 1893 was the first nation to allow women to vote and is the birthplace of Sir Edmund Hillary. Both New Zealand and Australia are under the British monarchy by choice.

Robbert Van Bloemendahl is actually an Aussie transplanted to Dallas because of his wife of 26 years. Robbert owns Travel Leaders travel agency in Rowlett and is an adventurous traveler and amateur photographer himself and has posted gorgeous photos of his many travels to Mexico, Kenya, Hawaii, Australia, Europe, and Mediterranean countries. Robbert shared the many attractions to be found in Australia such as the gorgeous coast with the whitest sands anywhere in the world, the iconic Sydney Opera House, Great Barrier Reef, as well as cattle ranches so huge and sprawling that helicopters are used for roundups! Robbert encouraged Altrusans traveling to the International Convention in July 2013, to take a few extra days after enjoying New Zealand's mild climate, sightseeing mountains and fiords, viewing a kiwi (the bird) and eating kiwi (the fruit) to see Australia, too, while you are in the neighborhood.



Member Highlights

IT IS OBVIOUS: WE ENJOY EACH OTHER'S COMPANY WHETHER WE ARE...



Planning a progressive dinner for our new friends-to-be from Japan



or becoming culturally aware



or donating fabric for quilts for American Heroes



or initiating three new members



or getting together as Lunch Bunch at Aboca's



or adjourning to Besa's after a business meeting.

Special Report

EIGHT WAYS ALTRUSANS CAN HELP ALTRUSA

Adapted by Bobbi Klein from an article by Nell Edgington on the Texas Non-Profits Website www.txnp.org

1. Invite Friends to a Meeting, Orientation, or Hands-On Project

If you feel truly passionate about the work of the nonprofit you serve, then you should want to show your friends that work. You show off your new car, your son's graduation photos, or your best recipes, why wouldn't you want to show off something that is near and dear to your heart—the organization you spend many hours a year supporting and building? And if one of your friends feels the spark and wants to become involved with the Altrusa themselves then that is a new supporter you've found for the organization.

2. Talk About Altrusa on Facebook

You talk about everything else on your Facebook page, why not dedicate a post or two to your favorite nonprofit? Share a recent blog post, or pictures of the children you work with, or an invitation to the next event or our Outstanding Women of Today (OWT) fundraiser. And do the same on Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, wherever you currently hang out. If even just a few of your friends noticed and started to become involved, you could be bringing new supporters to Altrusa or OWT.

3. Show Up to OWT, Altrusa Event or Project

Just the simple act of being present at an event could have huge benefit for your nonprofit. A potential member or supporter who sees and talks with members from the organization is going to be much more likely to become interested. People who witness a member's support in person and get to chat with them about why they serve and what they love about the organization could easily become new members or supporters.

4. Think About and Tell The Story Of Why You Serve

If you feel really passionate about your nonprofit, capture that story. Let your club do a video interview of you, or write your story down yourself. These stories are gold. Turn your story into a YouTube video, a blog post, an e-newsletter article, a section on the website, a Facebook post and on and on. It's a domino effect. If we can demonstrate to others the passion and commitment that exists in the membership, we can translate that into more support and members.

5. Help Craft a Case for Support

It is really hard for a nonprofit to raise money without a compelling argument for why someone should give. Encourage your fellow members to sit down together to **craft a case for support**. The exercise of articulating why people outside the organization should care strengthens the organization's ability to ask for money and energizes and re-engages board and staff in the process.

5. Analyze Your Networks

Every single one of us is part of many networks. Our circle of friends, our co-workers, our neighbors, our fellow church-goers, other parents at our kids' school. The list goes on and on. If you took 20-30 minutes to analyze all of the people you know and whether they might have an interest in your club and the capacity to become a member or give a gift, you could uncover some prospects for your organization. But don't worry, just because you come up with those prospect names doesn't mean you have to ask them for money or to join. You can give those names to the Recruitment Committee or OWT Sponsorship Committee and ask them to pursue them as a potential lead.

5. Go on a Solicitation Call for OWT

Simply going on a call doesn't mean you ever have to actually ask for money. Leave that up to the Sponsorship Committee members who go with you. When a prospect is ready for the ask, you should go in pairs, and the sponsorship /member pair is ideal. The sponsorship member can do the actual asking, and the member can be there to voice the community's support for and investment in the organization. And that demonstration of support and investment goes a long way to turning a prospect into a donor.

5. Give a Gift or Support and work on OWT

You don't have to ask anyone for money if you actually give a gift yourself. If you truly believe in the organization enough to volunteer your time, expertise, connections and experience, then why wouldn't you consider supporting our own projects?



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International News

ALTRUSA FEATURED IN ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT MAGAZINE

Forum is a monthly publication of the Association Forum of Chicagoland, whose mission is to advance the professional practice of association management.

"Altruism Through Association" by Heather Ryndak Swink, CAE, is a 6-page article featured on the front page of the magazine. It explains the Leadership Exchange, created by Altrusa International President Dona Garretson and launched at the 2011 International Convention in Rapid City, S.D. Beth Blair, District Nine Governor-Elect, describes the Exchange held during 2012 District Nine Conference in Waco.

The article may be found on the Forum website at <http://www.associationforum-digital.com/associationforum/201208#pg14> or go to www.altrusa.org, select News Room, click on Forum on Altrusa International, and click on the link to the digital edition of Forum.



International Foundation News

ACCIDENT CLAIMS LIFE OF ALTRUSA'S DISASTER RECOVERY SERVICE GRANTS CO-CHAIR

Nancy Sue Taylor, 70, of Clovis, NM, passed away Thursday, August 2, 2012 as the result of an accident. Nancy served as Altrusa International Foundation Trustee from 2005-2009. She felt strongly about the International Foundation providing assistance to those in need, who were struggling in the aftermath of a disaster, and was instrumental in the development of the new Disaster Relief Programs, which were announced in 2009. Nancy was serving as co chair of the Club Disaster Recovery Service Grants for the 2011-2013 biennium. She was a member of Altrusa International of Clovis, NM. Nancy believed, "We're all put in certain places in our lives at certain times for, I believe, specific purposes."

District Nine News

SHARE ALTRUSA LOVE AND FUN ALL OVER TEXAS!

By Bobbi Klein, New Club Building Committee

District Nine is a very strong district in Altrusa International, Inc. and we want to keep it strong. Altrusa of Richardson is a strong club because we seek and find strong women with whom we can share the love and the fun. And to keep District Nine strong we need to keep sharing the love and fun all over Texas!

The New Club Building Committee is researching the possibilities of planting clubs in several new places; Athens, Fredericksburg, Spearman and Frisco and maybe McKinney. Athens was recommended by a couple of Altrusans who gave us names of friends there who would be great Altrusans. Fredericksburg and Frisco are being looked at because we will be having District events in the fall and spring, which will present wonderful opportunities to introduce Altrusa to those areas.

So now **you** can help us sow the seeds of Altrusa love and fun (and you don't even need a green thumb) by letting us know who you know in any of these areas who would also be great Altrusans. Please contact the New Club Building Committee: Linda Whitner-Gomez for the Fredericksburg area; Margot Cox for the Athens area; or Bobbi Klein for Frisco and/or McKinney. Contact information for the New Club Building Committee members is on our Website: Members Only, District Nine Yearbook. [Editor's note: You can give the names of potential members in the specified areas to Bobbi and she will pass them along.]





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Club Calendar September 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Japan-America Grassroots Summit Gay McAlister bday
2 Japan-America Grassroots Summit Carole Buffington bday	3	4	5	6 Altrusa Business meeting Genevieve Hamulak, Pam Kovacs bday	7	8 International Literacy Day Orientation/ Re-Orientation Altrusa Great Read
9	10	11 Marguerite Anderson bday	12 Atria Bingo	13 SMALLS dinner	14	15 Collin Co. Walk to End Alzheimer's
16 Norma Hammerlund bday	17 Debbie Simms, Lois Ferrara bday	18 Ellen Stevenson bday	19	20 Richardson Reads One Book Elizabeth Smith bday	21 International Day of Peace	22
23	24 AWCLS	25	26	27 Altrusa Dinner, Board Meetings Wilma Oliver bday	28 Kay Hopper bday	29
30						

Business Meetings, 7 pm, 1st Thursday, Clubhouse at the Richardson Woman's Club
 Dinner/Program meetings, 7pm, 3rd Thursday, Founders' Hall, at the Richardson Woman's Club
 Board meetings, 6 pm, 4th Thursday, Friends Place Adult Day Services

Events on this calendar are copied from the calendar on our website. See the event listing at www.altrusarichardson.com for details of time and place.

If you choose, you may bring a gift (worth about \$5) 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. Proceeds are used for our administration budget.

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