

## 2013-2014

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## President's Message

## LITERACY: START BY FALLING IN LOVE WITH WORDS

In 1977, Altrusa International adopted literacy as our ongoing major service commitment. Each September we are again reminded of the importance of this serious focus as we observe National Literacy Month and World Literacy Day on September 8<sup>th</sup>, which is officially recognized as an International Day of Observance by the United Nations.

You can only imagine how pleased I was to discover that my birthday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, is listed under September Days to Celebrate as "Read a Book Day". That interesting fact also got me to wondering when and how my love of reading began because I really don't remember hardly any books being around the house when I was growing up. Of course, when I was little I had some Golden Books. Dad had some Mickey Spillane paperback mysteries but only for his business trips. But, I honestly don't recall any books or even a book case to store "real" books like many of my friends had at their homes.

Then, recently I read a quote by Art Spiegelman, an American cartoonist, editor, and comics advocate. He said "Comics are a gateway drug to literacy" and I remembered something special. We always received the daily morning news as both my parents enjoyed reading the paper and my mother was an avid crossword puzzle fan. And, I loved

reading the comic strips. Rather, I loved listening to my dad read the "funnies" to me each evening after dinner. I would sit with him in his big chair and if I read the name of the comic strip, he would read all of it to me. And, then we would laugh together.



When we traveled twice a year – two day car trips each way – to see my grandparents, stacks of comic books made the trip with me and provided hours and hours of entertainment in the car. As I got older, books about the Bobsey Twins, then, Nancy Drew mysteries became my best travel companions. Even now as an adult, I can't imagine a vacation without a really good mystery!

Like many of my Altrusa sisters, English has always been my favorite subject and books an integral part of my life. What is there not to adore about books? ...about words? They educate, entertain, and inspire. I didn't join Altrusa for its focus on literacy but have quickly embraced all of our many projects that are truly making an

(Continued on page 2)

## "Leading Loudly, Serving Proudly!"

## Project Preview

**LET'S HELP WITH THE WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S IN ALLEN**

By Gloria Sandoval, Seniors Committee

September 28<sup>th</sup> is the Walk to End Alzheimer's at Celebration Park in Allen. Kailey Posey, Walk Manager, said, "the Alzheimer's Association always needs lots of volunteers for the Walk and we would love to have as many Altrusans as possible. Altrusans are the experts when it comes to handling registration of our



Walkers." After the Walk there is always breakfast. Last year Mimi's Restaurant on McDermott in Allen was a great place for a delicious breakfast and mimosas. What better way to end a Walk to End Alzheimer's.

Please sign up on our website if you can participate in this early Saturday morning (7 a.m.) project, and be sure your registration is visible to other members! The box next to Attendee List should be checked. Please leave the check mark in the box! Please consider joining us this year!

**President's Message** (Continued from page 1)

enormous difference in communities. It is heartbreaking to learn that Texas rates 47 out of 50

states in terms of English literacy, according to US Department of Education. "1 out of 3 adults cannot read this sentence," reports the National Assessment of Adult Literacy.

Sometimes I hear people—especially young people—say they don't like to read. They can and should still be encouraged to read even if it means reading outside of books. There are words all around us. Everyday everywhere there are lots of opportunities to recognize and read words. They are on signs, newspapers, billboards, and cereal boxes. It gives people of all ages the chance to fall in love with words while seeking the perfect first book to fall in love with. Dr. Frank Serafini, Associate Professor of Literacy Education and Children's Literature at Arizona State University is often quoted as saying, "There's no such thing as a child that hates to read; just children that have not found the right book."

According to the US Department of Education, "the number one determinant in the success of a child's education is a parent who reads". How fortunate I was to have parents that embraced words and a loving father that took the time each and every day to read to me. It might have just been comics, but for me it was the beginning of a life-long love affair with books and words. As Altrusans, our commitment to literacy projects for our worldwide community is why we should all be "Leading Loudly, Serving Proudly".

*Pam Kovacs*

President, 2013-2014

pamkovacs@friendsplaceads.com



Council Members pictured from left to right:  
Steve Mitchell, Paul Voelker, Mayor Pro Tem Bob Townsend,  
Mayor Laura Maczka, Mark Solomon, Scott Dunn and Kendal Hartley.

## Meeting Highlights

### AUGUST 15 MEETING: WHY WOMEN ARE KEY TO ENDING POVERTY

By Barbara Berthold, International Relations Committee Co-Chair

Education is the key to a successful life. Women can change the world. All of us feel strongly about the two statements and we know they are true. How reassuring, however, to actually see proof of what can be achieved through education and training. At the August 15, 2013, Program Meeting, Rev. Bill Matthews, the South Central Division Representative for the United Nations Association and past president of its Dallas Chapter, presented a talk about the [United Nations Millennium Development Goals](#). He described each goal and provided examples for strategies to achieving them. All projects focused on educating and engaging women. For example, in Eritrea, special U.N. programs: "have led to



intensified maternal health campaigns that have provided information about, and increased awareness of, maternal issues in the country. They have also conducted local-language training sessions in rural areas to improve traditional birth attendants' delivery skills and better prepare them for difficult labor" ([http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/womenempowerment/successstories/eritrea\\_reducingmaternaldeath/](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/womenempowerment/successstories/eritrea_reducingmaternaldeath/)).

Having a longstanding relationship with HEIFER International, our club has first hand experience in supporting such successful projects.

As usual, even the centerpieces reflected the program presentation. This month, they were designed by International Relations Committee Co-Chair Jane Tucker and masterfully assembled by committee members. Jane was inspired by the 2012 documentary, ***Girl Rising***, which the speaker had brought to our attention.

***Girl Rising*** is a documentary that showcases the strength of the human spirit and the power of education to change the world and nicely fit in with the projects highlighted in Rev. Matthews' talk. We plan on showing ***Girl Rising*** in the Fall as it facilitates our continued discussion and focus on topics related to empowering girls and women around the world. Watch the [trailer](#) now and stay tuned for more information.

## Meeting Preview

### SEPTEMBER 19 DINNER MEETING TO FEATURE NOVELIST JULIA HEABERLIN

By Cindy McIntyre, Program Committee

You will not want to miss our September program featuring a woman who knows words! Her name is Julia Heaberlin, a novelist and former writer for the ***Ft. Worth Star Telegram***. You may recall, Julia was set to talk with us last year when she became ill at the last minute and sent her literary friend, Tim Madigan, author of ***I'm Proud of You***. Julia was so disappointed she contacted us to re-schedule, which we were delighted to arrange.

The ***Dallas Morning News*** wrote the following about her first novel, ***Playing Dead***: "Feverishly compelling...Heaberlin tells the



Photo by Jill Johnson

story with whip-smart dialogue, an insistent pace and keen wit." And, about her newest novel, ***Lying Still***: "Julia Heaberlin's second psychological thriller is set in the wild landscape of Texas. Only this time, the protagonist is a New Yorker, and the wild landscape is a wealthy small town near Dallas. When Emily Page arrives in Clairmont, pregnant and hopeful, she is ready to leave her haunting past behind. Instead, she is almost immediately swept into a club of crazy Texas women."

Intrigued? Attend our September 19 program with Texas' own Julia Heaberlin!



## Project Report

**ALTRUSA WINE & CHOCOLATE LITERARY SOCIETY READS ON & ON**

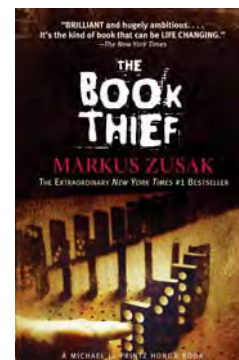
By Kay George, Membership Retention Committee

Mary Beth McLemore led us in a stimulating and thought-provoking discussion of *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, the 2013 Richardson Reads One Book (RROB) selection. The discussion can be compared to an appetizer that whets our appetites for the main course, which is the RROB event on September 10<sup>th</sup> at First United Methodist Church Richardson. Among our guests were members of the RROB Board of Directors: Susan Allison, Assistant Director of Library Services for the Richardson Public Library, our very own Altrusan Jane Merz, and Sandra Moudy.

It is an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul. Narrated by Death, the book is set in Nazi Germany, when the narrator notes he was extremely busy. It describes a young girl's relationship with her foster parents, the other residents of their neighborhood, and a Jewish fist-fighter who hides in her home during the escalation of World War II. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still.

The extraordinary #1 *New York Times* bestseller will be in movie theaters on November 15, 2013.

Our selection for September is *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Eric Maria Remarque. One of the most acclaimed novels about war, it follows a former American enemy. Paul Bäumer is a nineteen year old German soldier who has been sent to fight in France. (World War I had multiple sites of war—the Eastern Front was located in Eastern Europe, whereas the Western Front was in France). Paul and his friends joined the war because of the hype and glory that their society impressed upon them. However, Paul quickly learned that war can be full of terror more than glory.

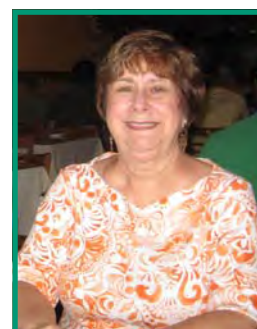


**REMINDER** – AWCLS meets on the fourth Monday of every month at **Friends Place**, 1960 Nantucket Drive in Richardson. As always, we begin at 6:00 PM and end by 7:30 PM. It is not necessary to have read the book to participate. Attendees are asked to register for the meeting on our website, indicating what they plan to bring and share: snacks, chocolate, or red or white wine. We always have a great time!

## Project Report

**LUNCH BUNCH WAS GREAT! PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND IN NOVEMBER!**

Look at the Lunch Bunch photos from Aboca's Italian Grill on Friday, August 23! We do this quarterly: good food, good friends in a Richardson restaurant. Ann Eisemann of the Membership Retention Committee plans the best get-togethers! The next one will be in November.



## Project Report

**BOOK SWAP + SCHOOL SUPPLY PARTY = SUCCESS***By Mary Beth McLemore, Membership Retention Committee Co-Chair*

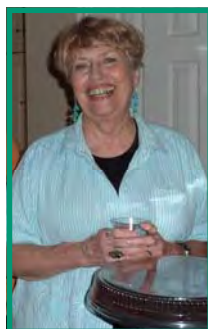
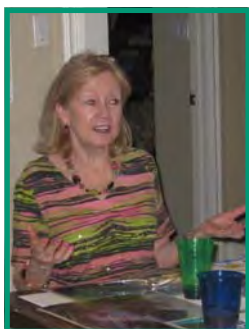
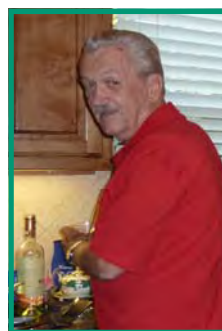
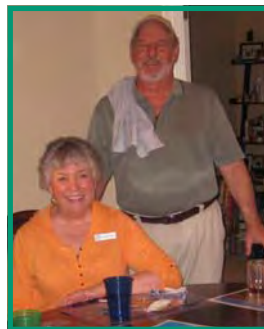
Over thirty Altrusans and spouses arrived with wonderful food and lots of laughter at Carl and Mary Beth McLemore's house. Texas weather gave us low 80's to enjoy some outside seating on the patio. Ginna Coffey arrived early along with other committee members to help get ready. John Hamulak took over the hot dog cooking while Genevieve greeted.

The Membership Retention Committee provided hot dogs with all the trimmings. Jean Stuart made the best corn casserole. Great desserts, fruits, dips, chips, stuffed jalapenos (from Carolyn Swanson), and, of course, wines were enjoyed.

Everyone left with new books to read and so many books were brought that Sandy Martin had three boxes

and two bags of books that will be added to the Friends of the Library book sale. Kay and Ronnie George's car trunk was packed full of school supplies. The one box Mary Beth put out to hold supplies overflowed with generosity.

Pam Kovacs and Mike Johnson, Nancy and Tom Rohm, and Janie Jaquier were lots of help with the clean-up. Attendees met new Altrusans Christine Hart and Donna Buhr and their husbands, who fit right in to the party. It was good to see Carole Buffington back from her travels. If you missed this fun evening, the Membership Retention Committee hopes to see you at our next event. It's a great way to get to know your Altrusa Sisters on a different level.





## Project Report

**COMMITTEE CELEBRATED BIRTHDAYS WITH ABILITY CONNECTION TEXAS FRIENDS**

Ability Connection Texas (ACT) provides caring, family-style living environments for adults with disabilities through its residential services program. Ability House is one of seven homes operated by ACT throughout the North Texas area. These homes, sometimes referred to as group homes, allow individuals with disabilities to live with as much autonomy and independence as possible.

In addition to holiday celebrations, our Ability House Committee throws birthday parties for the residents. Cake, ice cream, soft drinks, cards and gifts are provided

by Altrusa, and everyone is encouraged to attend. Ginna Coffey and Janie Jaquier are Co-Chairs of the committee.

**Ability Connection Greetings!**

Enthusiastic! On Saturday, August 3, we all agreed that "enthusiastic" was the correct word to describe Robert's response to his Altrusa birthday party! The attached photo captures the pure joy of his celebration with Altrusa friends.

Robert loves cards – and he held his Altrusa card for the entire party (it is in his left hand in the photo). His celebration started with him at the dining room table long before any of us arrived. He enthusiastically encouraged Vera, Nina, Shelly, Kathleen and Roberto to join him. As a side note, Roberto wore his Cowboys Altrusa birthday shirt from two weeks ago. After the singing of "Happy Birthday" Robert started blowing out the candles on his cake while it was still being set down in front of him. He was delighted that the cake had his name on it. He eagerly consumed the cake and two cups of chocolate Blue Bell ice cream – his housemates also enjoyed the cake and ice cream. After washing down the treats with two soft drinks Robert eagerly opened his Altrusa card and gleefully showed everyone the Apple gift card inside the card.

We all enjoyed Robert's exuberance as he waved his arms joyfully as we took his birthday photo! Robert did note that September is not his favorite month, because he does not have eleven fingers to hold up to remind us all that there are ONLY eleven months until his next birthday.

We hope Robert's smile helps you remember how very much he and Vera, Shelly, Nina, Roberto and Kathleen enjoy their Altrusa friends! On behalf of all of us at Ability Connection – thank you very much & cheers!

*Bill*

Bill Knudsen  
President/CEO  
Ability Connection Texas

**Ability Connection Greetings Altrusa of Richardson!**

Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup> was a happy day for Roberto and his Ability House mates – for it was the day his Altrusa of Richardson friends helped him celebrate his birthday! And what a wonderful celebration it was – after two singings of "Happy Birthday", the blowing-out of candles, the eating of cake and Blue Bell ice cream and the drinking of soft-drinks – Roberto politely noted his card, but was much more focused on his Cowboys shirt birthday gift! You can see him happily wearing the shirt in the attached photo, with a surprise guest – his brother – and his Altrusa friends.

It was a wonderful way for the Ability House residents to start-out the Altrusa of Richardson New Year. On behalf of Roberto, Vera, Shelly, Nina, Kathleen and Roberto – thanks very much for the wonderful party and best wishes

*Bill*

Bill Knudsen  
President/CEO  
Ability Connection Texas

**Roberto's Altrusa Birthday Party!**

2013

**Altrusa 2013 Birthday Party for Robert!**

## Project Report

# SENIORS COMMITTEE AND HEAVY READING: MORE THAN A TON OF BOOKS!

By Gloria Sandoval and Janet Vance

On August 3, 2013, nine hardy volunteers from Altrusa Richardson and six from the Exchange Club of Richardson moved 1200 large print books among eleven sites where the Richardson Public Library maintains Outreach Collections. The sites include retirement homes, nursing homes, senior independent living apartments, and the Richardson Senior Center. Books are rotated among the facilities quarterly.

Each book weighs about 2 pounds. (That's about 2400 total pounds!). Should the group be called the One Ton Club?

The Altrusa volunteers were Kay George, Julie Horan, Sandy Martin, Mary Beth McLemore, Brenda Moreland, Ann Payne, Gloria Sandoval, Debbie Simms, and Rose Daughety. The Richardson Men's Exchange Club with nine Altrusans is a good number to quickly get the books relocated within an hour.

Above right, Paul Vance, Gloria Sandoval, and Kay George, are getting ready to roll. Right, Altrusans and Exchange Club of Richardson members pose at the Library before the hard work begins. (Photographs by Richardson Exchange Club President, John Tregilgas.)



## Committee Report

# SCHOOL DAYS HAVE BEGUN AT TERRACE ELEMENTARY

By Andrea Rutledge, Education Committee Co-Chair

Terrace Elementary School Principal Sharon Newman asked that I let all Altrusans know that their contributions at Terrace are having a measurable, positive impact on the children, the school, and the community. Many more Pre-K children who live in the Terrace neighborhood are attending Terrace Elementary School for Kindergarten this year – this is a great vote of confidence in the neighborhood school. Sharon says that the Pre-K Education Backpack Program has had an impact far and wide since she takes the idea everywhere she goes for school meetings.

We know that Maribeth Nakwaasah and Cheryl Sefton, Maribeth's aide, are incredible teachers and deserve to see their successes, but Altrusa has played a valuable part in many ways through all of our enrichment activities. It is wonderful to see our work changing lives. Terrace Elementary received three distinctions this past year for academic achievement, making them part of a small elite group.

The Education Committee plans to continue Altrusa's commitment to Terrace and Altrusans will have many more opportunities to help change children's lives (even if you are working). We will keep you informed.

Thank you to the 14 Altrusans who answered the call to help Terrace children with particular needs. Needs will be verified by the school counselor and then communicated to us from Maribeth Nakwaasah. It is not anticipated that there will be many occasions where our help will be needed, but, when it is, Terrace Elementary Giving Club members will be contacted with specific information. RISD has a PTA-sponsored clothes closet that provides complete outfits to children who need them. The Terrace Elementary Giving Club will meet a different need. It is not part of the Education Committee's funded projects, nor is it related to the Altrusa Richardson Foundation.



## Committee Report

### **RICHARDSON, COLLIN COUNTY CLUBS HELP CAMP SUMMIT**

*By Bobbi Klein, Community Outreach Committee*

In July, the Community Outreach Committee partnered with the Collin County Altrusa Club for a hands-on project to provide 450 animal masks...kangaroos, tigers, Koala bears, and monkeys, which were a summer art project for the campers at Camp Summit in Argyle. The masks were part of Camp Summit's summer theme, "Camp Summit Safari Experience", and were for campers attending the second half of the summer (Camp Summit serves up to 880 campers during 11 weeks of summer camp.) The Richardson Altrusa Club bought the poster board and traced the masks to be cut out. The accompanying picture shows the Collin County club cutting out 50 masks during their July meeting while Richardson Altrusans cut out the rest at our July dinner meeting—as well as with help from some of our friends/family. We hope to share pictures of campers wearing and/or decorating the masks soon.

Carrie Boggess, Assistant Camp Director, said the project worked out very well and she expressed her gratitude for our assistance. Camp Summit would be pleased to have us do something like this again, perhaps even for the coming fall camp session, which will run from September 22 through November 22 and will serve approximately 576 campers age 16 and up.

Camp Summit is an overnight camp providing children and adults who have either physical disabilities or developmental delays with outdoor camping experiences, such as; fishing, swimming, horseback riding, sports and games, cookouts, and even an adapted ropes course - complete with zip-line. There is no upper age limit (one camper this summer was 84 years old) or a limit on the severity of the disability. If the person's can be medically managed by the staff, the camper is welcome at Camp Summit.



The Collin County Altrusa Club cuts out masks for Camp Summit as part of a partnership project with us .

## Committee Report

### **APPLETREE COURT AUCTION WILL BE OCTOBER 22**

*By Carole Buffington, Seniors Committee*

The Seniors Committee will once again sponsor an auction at Appletree Court Assisted Living Center, 870 West Arapaho in Richardson, on Tuesday, October 22. We do this twice a year, once in the Fall and again in the Spring. The residents use "Apple Bucks" to pay for their winning bids. They earn huge piles of Apple Bucks by participating in activities at Appletree Court. The bidding is fast and furious, and one never knows what will be the most popular item of the evening. Recently, it was a soft, cuddly brown bear that sold for the outrageous price of 4,000 Apple Bucks!

The auction is always an exciting evening for the residents and Altrusans. Carole Buffington asks that you check your closets for re-giftable items and bring any donations (NO candles) to a September meeting. Any new items would be greatly appreciated. Holiday things, all-occasion greeting cards, lap robes, toiletries, and stuffed animals would be appropriate. There are several new men residents, and we are always needing items suitable for a man. Contact Carole if you have any questions.





## Altrusa Accent

**WHAT IS AN INVOCATION? WHAT IS AN ACCENT?**

**An Altrusa Invocation** is a two-minute presentation at a Club meeting—either business or dinner—that provides an inspirational, uplifting message. It is most often an entertaining or heartwarming presentation that conveys positive messages or words of encouragement and/or reflects the principles and ideas of Altrusa. Since Altrusa's focus is literacy, some Altrusans choose to share their one of their favorite short stories, poems, or prose.

**An Altrusa Accent** is a two-minute presentation at a Club meeting that covers such items as an upcoming International or District event, new Altrusa materials, Altrusa historical highlights, or bylaw and policy changes. The Altrusa Accent can provide helpful information in membership orientation. The Accent is sometimes a reading of a bylaw or policy that explains actions to be taken during the order of business for the meeting, such as the election of Conference delegates.

## Meeting Highlights

**NEW MEMBERS INITIATED AUGUST 1**

Pictured above are our newest members, and their bios are elsewhere in this issue.

- ♦ Christine Hart, sponsored by Kay George and Gerry Carron
- ♦ Janice Campbell, sponsored by Janie Jaquier and Ginna Coffey
- ♦ Claudia Tatum, sponsored by Laura Maczka and Bobbi Klein

[Editor's Note: New Member Donna Buhr was not available for a photograph. Her bio will appear in the next issue of *Altrusa Tidings*.]

## Committee Report

**IT IS A LIVING DOCUMENT**

*By Kay George and Jean Stuart,  
Strategic Planning Committee Co-Chairs*

The Strategic Plan is a Long-Range Success Plan and a living document that is to be used as a guide when fulfilling club goals and reviewed/updated on a quarterly basis by the Strategic Planning Committee. At these quarterly reviews, the status of each Action Plan is measured.

The Committee met in June to review the 2012-2013 Strategic Plan and make appropriate changes and updates for the 2013-2014 Plan. Committee members include Co-Chairs Kay George and Jean Stuart; Barbara Berthold, Bobbi Klein, Susan Frensley, Toni Garrett, and new Altrusans Laura Maczka, and Claudia Tatum.

The first quarterly committee meeting was held on August 8. At the meeting, a process was created in which members of the Committee will contact appropriate Foundation and Administration Committees to ensure they are aware of their role in the Strategic Plan and the timeline for completion of each action item.

The Committee will meet in November, February, and May to monitor the Plan and then will provide updates to the Board of Directors.

## Member Highlights

**NEW MEMBER JANICE CAMPBELL**

Janice Campbell was born in Hickory, NC and lived there until she was 14. The family moved to Deerfield Beach, Florida, where she completed High School. From there, she moved to Arlington, TX to attend college and has remained in the Dallas area since. Janice worked in the insurance industry for over 35 years, with a last position as Manager of Medicare Claims for TrailBlazer Health Enterprises. TrailBlazer lost the Medicare contract in 2012 and Christine lost her job and retired in November 2012.

Christine met her husband, Ron, here in north Texas; they will have been married 40 years this December. She has one child of her own and two step children. She also have seven grandchildren.

Christine enjoy readings—it has been a passion since she was a child. She and Ron are also wine enthusiasts and enjoy studying wine, going to tastings and wineries, and, of course, drinking it! They also love

to travel and are looking forward to a trip to the California wine country soon!

Christine also have a great fondness for cats and has owned many! Currently, there is just Missy, their sweet baby! She met Janie Jaquier at work, too many years ago to

count. Janie often asked Christine to get involved in Altrusa, but that had to wait until she retired. Christine says she enjoys helping others and feels that being involved with Altrusa will help fulfill this need.



## Member Highlights

**NEW MEMBER CLAUDIA TATUM**

Claudia Tatum was born and raised in El Salvador. She lived in Los Angeles until the military brought her to Fort Hood, Texas. She likes Texas and the “Great” City of Richardson. She is employed by UT Dallas in Safety/Business Continuity. Claudia served one-year tours in the military—in Korea and Iraq—as an Automated Logistics Specialist before joining the Reserve Officers Training Corps program. Prior to UT Dallas, she worked as a government contractor in Qatar.

Claudia met her Altrusa Sponsor, Laura Maczka, at a local coffee shop and they talked about Altrusa. Claudia has always been inspired to give back to the community, to perform volunteer work, and to be part of something meaningful and bigger than herself. She believes in living a legacy and impacting people’s lives—one person at a time. She wants to be the voice to those who have not been heard and ears to those who have not spoken.

Claudia is interested in inspiring and empowering young people, women, and minorities to attend school and graduate from college. Her love of education and

her passion for innovation and change have driven her to pursue a doctorate in management. She is a graduate of the Richardson Citizens Police Academy and the Citizens Fire Academy. She holds a Homeland Security (CHS-I), Sensitive Security Information (SSI), and Professional Continuity Practitioner Certification.

She likes to read, travel and do outdoor activities. Her favorite books include *Lean In* by Sheryl Sandberg, *Spoken from the Heart* by Laura Bush, *Living History* by Hillary Rodham Clinton. Claudia has a German Shepherd named Nikki.





## Focus on Literacy

**ABOUT THIS ISSUE**

By Kimberly Kierce and Carolyn Swanson, Co-Editors

This issue of *Altrusa Tidings* is quite long—again! But perhaps during Literacy Month, you will enjoy reading about reading. It did not require too much arm-twisting to get a number of Altrusans to write essays on what literacy means to them. Some called literacy a gift, while others shared their memories of learning to read.

Illiteracy is not just a third-world problem. In Texas, 19% of adults cannot read a newspaper. According to the National Assessment of Adult Literacy, “One in three adults cannot read this sentence.” It is hard to imagine living in such a vacuum! How fortunate we are, to be Altrusans, to help others, to promote literacy. Read this newsletter, and count your blessings!

Jane Merz suggested we include a literacy test that used to be given to would-be voters in Louisiana. What an eye-opener! Could we all pass the test?

Barbara Berthold submitted Ann Turner’s delightful poem, “Read.” Ms. Turner is a critically-acclaimed poet and the author of more than 35 books for children and young adults. After a year of teaching high school English, she decided she would rather write books than teach them. In responding to our request for permission to reprint, she said, “Reading is so crucial, so important, and such a life-long gift.” When you read the essays in this issue, it will be apparent that Altrusans are of like mind.

**“Read”**

by Ann Turner

Do you remember  
learning to read?  
That book full of squiggles  
like ants, escaped.  
the teacher's big thumb  
on the page,  
your heart beating inside  
afraid that all you'd ever see  
was ants---  
Then a word popped out.  
"See," and another, "cat,"  
and my finger on teacher's  
we read "I see cat."  
I ran around the room  
so happy I saw words  
instead of ants.

(Used with the poet’s kind permission)

## Member Highlights

**NEW MEMBER CHRISTINE HART**

Christine Hart grew up in Rochester, New York. She has a Master’s Degree in Music Education and teaches both in Garland ISD and privately in her home studio, where she specializes in piano and woodwinds. Christine studied her piano privately with Julliard’s Dr. Raymond Jackson for two years while she studied music in NYC. She has performed in various bands on piano, saxophone and bass.

Christine was an exchange student in Finland and Russia and she and her husband, Peter, who is from England, share a love of travel. Christine met Peter in New York and they married and moved to Richardson in 1993. They agree it was a wonderful move and love all the exciting and varied opportunities that the Dallas

area has to offer. They have five children and eleven grandchildren.

Christine said: “When I visited Altrusa’s book club as Kay George’s guest, I knew that these were women with values I shared and ideas that were inspiring and exciting. I know this is where I belong.”



## Focus on Literacy

## RICHARDSON READS ONE BOOK: OUR TENTH YEAR AS A SPONSOR

Richardson Reads One Book (RROB) is celebrating its tenth birthday this year and Altrusa of Richardson has been a sponsor for all ten years!

The concept of an entire community reading the same book began in 1998, in Seattle, with Nancy Pearl, executive director of the Seattle Public Library's Washington Center for the Book. The book was *The Sweet Hereafter* by Russell Banks. In the years since, communities across the country have adopted and adapted the program.

According to Susan Allison, Assistant Director of Library Services,

The Richardson program began in 2003 when several interested people in the community decided to give it a try. The original committee included several of us at the Richardson Public Library, a former Richardson Arts Commission chair and English professor at Collin College, and the director of the Richardson Adult Literacy Center. To our knowledge, Richardson was the first city in the Dallas area to attempt a One Book program, and

one of only a handful in Texas. We knew there were lots of readers in Richardson—interest was high. The challenge came with starting a community-wide program with little money. We've been amazed and gratified at the number of individual donors and loyal community entities, such as the hospital, community college, and civic groups, who have supported the program for the last seven years.

One of those groups is Altrusa of Richardson, a supporter since *Pay it Forward*, by Catherine Ryan Hyde, was the first Richardson Reads One Book selection in 2004. Altrusans Mimi Tanner and Jane Merz were instrumental in getting the RROB program up and running. The current RROB Board of Directors includes Altrusans Mimi, Jane, Mary Beth McLemore, Bonnie Perry, and Janet Vance, Secretary.

The graphic below was created by the Richardson's graphic artist and was enclosed in the approximately 32,000 recent water bills. What a nice acknowledgment of our sponsorship!

## Project Preview

### FALL ORIENTATION IS SEPTEMBER 14

By Bobbi Klein, Membership Recruitment Committee

PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR: Saturday, September 14, 9:30 - 11:30 AM at 2503 Springwood Lane! This is the Fall "Leading Loudly and Serving Proudly" Orientation/Reorientation event. As usual, we will begin with a yummy breakfast buffet and will start the program "Leading an Altrusa Lifestyle", at about 10:15 AM. The Orientation events are always fun and entertaining, offering members new, and not so new, a chance to share information about our club. It's a wonderful opportunity to get better acquainted with members you haven't had a chance to visit with at a meeting. Looking ahead, our Spring event will be held February 15<sup>th</sup> same time same place.

Each Altrusa Club has the responsibility for building enthusiasm in its members through total, ongoing dissemination of information about Altrusa on the Club, District and International levels.

*The Book Thief*, starring Geoffrey Rush, Emily Watson, and newcomer Sophie Nélisse, will be in theaters November 15. Try this: Ctrl/click [movie trailer](#) to watch the just-released trailer.

## Project Preview

### LUCKY 12 GET TO BE USHERS FOR RROB!

By Kimberly Kierce, Community Outreach Committee Co-Chair

Twelve Richardson Altrusans, through the Community Outreach Committee, have signed up to be ushers at the RROB Author Book Signing and Lecture on September 12. Janet Vance, Richardson Public Library Community Services Supervisor and fellow Altrusan, reports that tickets to the event are already gone.



## Focus on Literacy

**WHAT IS LITERACY?**

By Barbara Berthold

**Literacy is functional.** "People always have a reason to read or write. We read and write those things that apply to our lives, from the auto license renewal form to our grocery lists to holiday greetings. We never *practice* writing grocery lists, for example; we scribble one before we go shopping. If we buy a birthday card, the card is for a particular person, and we select one appropriate to that person's age and personality."

**Literacy is social.** "No one of reads or writes in a

vacuum. We talk about what we're reading and writing. Listening to a friend recommend a book often makes us pick up that book at the library. After a heated discussion about current politics, we write our political representative or the editor of the local paper."

[From: Franzis E. Kazemek & Pat Rigg (1995):

**Enriching our Lives: Poetry Lessons for Adult Literacy Teachers and Tutors.** Newark, Delaware: International Reading Association, p. 3-4.]

## Focus on Literacy

**READING SPANS A LIFETIME**

By Zora Blankenship

When asked to write about literacy, I immediately thought of the senior citizens I work with everyday. "Books really are my friends," an 89-year-old resident once said when I asked what literacy means to her. Many residents living in assisted living communities feel the same way. "I started reading at about three years old," says another resident. Another one proclaimed, "I love children's books, because I was a teacher for many years."

As people age, even if they have dementia, their ability to read remains. It is comforting and familiar to

be reading anything from the newspaper to a novel. Loving literacy as a child continues throughout our lives to enhance the quality of each day.

Encourage those you come in contact with everyday to be readers and expand their influence to teach others to love the written word.

## Focus on Literacy

**TREASURED MEMORIES**

By Ginna Coffey

It gets dark, in England in the winter, by 4:00 PM. I remember coming home from school and having tea. After tea, my mother and I would settle by the fire and she would read to me. We laughed and cried together over *The Secret Garden* and *Black Beauty* and many more books.

I was quite able to read to myself but there was something special about sharing the story with my mother. When my brother or I were ill and in bed, she would come to our room every afternoon and read to us. These are memories I will always treasure.

**LITERACY...OR WHY I LOVE MY KINDLE...**

Tasha, Kimberly Kierce's 15-year-old Maine Coon cat, likes to relax with a good eBook; it's easier for her to carry to a new sunlit spot and to turn the pages. More importantly, when she feels the urge to chase birds, she can come right back to where she left off.

## Focus on Literacy

**READING AND FRIENDSHIP**

By Rose Daughety

I went to school at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School in a town founded in 1699, called Falls Church, Virginia. It is located seven miles from Washington, DC. Many of my classmates had names of famous statesmen and were very proud of their Virginia heritage. Having been born in Northern Ireland, I admired these people who seemed very special. One name I remember is Zachery Scott Taylor, another was Mary Maurice Tackney, whose relative was in the Civil War.

Our first and third grade teacher was Mrs. Alum. She understood the history of the families of many students. She knew their heritage by their family names. Mrs. Alum loved biographies and encouraged us to explore Virginia history by reading these books. Each month she had a reading contest for those who

read the most biography books. I took the challenge very seriously and would stay up very late every night reading. I remember my mother taking me to the library and I would get as many books as they would let me check out. There was always a race between a boy named Stephen and myself. Each month the prize was a silver dollar. We seemed to take turns winning the prized money.

I adored Mrs. Alum. She instilled in me the desire to read, to learn more about Virginia and about my friends. A Virginian herself, she helped me to have pride in my new country. When I became a citizen of the United States, she was there to congratulate me. Mrs. Alum's memory is with me and, thanks to Facebook, many of these people are still my friends. Stephen is one of them.

## Focus on Literacy

**FOND MEMORIES**

By Cindy McIntyre

My fondest memories involving reading center around summertime, our screened porch in Ohio, and barreling through all the Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys series. Only one room in the house was air conditioned so the porch was the next coolest. The shade of giant oaks and maples plus a comfy chaise lounge complete the picture. I think I was nine or ten and, obviously, was at the mercy of someone who could drive to the club for a swim so many hours of fun reading was definitely the way to go. In further reflection, reading may have had an even greater impact on me. The first grade readers featured Dick, Jane, and the dog Spot but introduced a blonde curly headed little sister named Sally. Hmmm, my daughter's name is Sally.



## Focus on Literacy

**READING IS A FAMILY GIFT**

By Jenn Rohm

One of my greatest memories is the ritual of reading at bed time. It started with being read to by mom and dad. Then, as time passed, I had a few words I could read. Then, it advanced to entire sentences, and then whole paragraphs. Eventually, it was me reading to them or trading off for entire books.

We combined family road trips with reading. Mom would get books from the library like *Wizard of Oz*,

*Through The Looking Glass*, *Swiss Family Robinson*, etc. and she would read aloud to both daughters with Dad behind the wheel. This ritual has continued today and has turned in to road trips that include my sister's kids with me reading and using different character voices.

I am grateful every day for the gift of reading.



## Focus on Literacy

**MY LOVE AFFAIR**

By Kay George

Many of you know about my love affair, but for those who don't, I'm ready to tell all! Before you jump to the logical conclusion, let me clarify that this affair is with the **"written word"**. Since September is International Literacy Month, it seems like a good time to share with you a few details.

I love books, magazines, newspapers - even product labels - and all else that is available to read. I learned to read when I was four years old. My grandmother and I sat on the front porch swing and sang hymns from the Methodist hymnal. Before long, I was reading the words by myself. When I started first grade, my teacher had no idea what to do with me. "See Dick and Jane" and "Run Spot Run" didn't challenge me in the least and, of course, a child who is not challenged often gets into mischief. After deliberating with other teachers, she arranged for me to go to the school library and check out books that were more at my level - Third Grade! I was thrilled. I read, and read, and read. This one small act set the groundwork for my love of reading that exists to this day.

My "affair" has allowed me to travel through time and space, explore cultures in other eras, and witness historic (and romantic) events through the eyes of great

authors. Does it get any better than Rhett Butler's infamous line - "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn"? Throw in Sherman's march to the sea and the burning of Atlanta and I've borne witness to part of the Civil War. To me, Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird* sets the bar for attorneys (no pun intended). I've discovered that, as a result of my passion, I have developed a talent for criminal investigations, solving mysteries, (without reading ahead), and am a hopeless romantic.

While this article has been all about "ME", I hope it serves as an example of the importance of literacy and the difference it can make in a person's life. I also hope that it will encourage each of you to honor International Literacy Month by introducing someone to the joys of an affair with the **"written word"**.

By the way, my father could neither read nor write, and I often wonder how it would have changed his life if someone had taken the time to sit with him on the front porch swing.



## Focus on Literacy

**TREASURED MEMORIES**

By Claudia Tatum

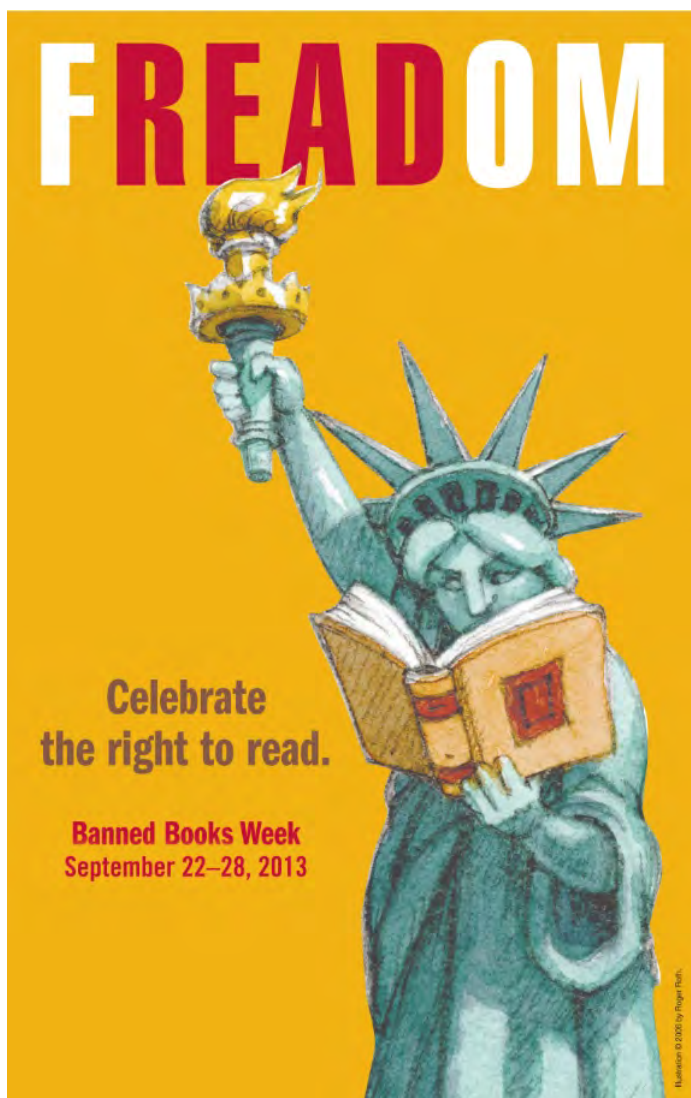
My best reading memories were grasped with my nieces and nephews. I have three sisters. My older sister has three kids. My second sister has two and my third sister has three. The most memorable moments with my nieces and nephews were when we read books together. I did not formally teach them how to read or write, but I am sure they learned a word or two from our reading adventures.

I joined the military in 2002. During my military service, I used to visit my family twice a year, for a week or two. At that time, my older sister's daughter was 3 or 4 years old. Every time I visited my family, I would read books to her. She would bring me her favorite books

(mostly about Cinderella and Disney princesses). She knew all the Disney princesses and although I tried to explain the "story and theory" behind the princesses, she always seemed to know more than I did. She had an advantage though: she spent hours watching and studying Cinderella and the Disney princesses movies and I did not ☺. Sometimes, she would bring me book-after-book-after-book, either until she fell asleep or got tired of carrying books. How could I tell a precious child that I was not going to read her another book? That might have been our last story together. I had to return to my military duty and could not know if I would come back. I always left home, wondering if I would ever see her again and have the pleasure of reading her one more princess story.

I always looked forward to seeing my family, especially after a long deployment. The times I held my niece in my arms, on my lap, while reading to her are the most precious and memorable moments of my life. Years went by and she turned 10. The older she got, the more we grew apart. I would still come home and talk about the Cinderella and princess posters I had sent her from overseas. But, all of sudden the Cinderella stories were not as popular as when she was four years old. What happened? Who would teach me about Disney princesses now that she is grown? My little 4-year-old niece is now a beautiful 13-year-old girl, living in California.

As I mentioned earlier, my second sister has two kids: an 8-year-old boy and a 6-year-old girl. I see them twice a month, and we read and sometimes we draw (I love drawing). I miss the reading adventures with my older niece, and although I have tried to replicate the experience with my other nieces and nephews, the Wii and Play Station have made my job difficult. While on the phone with my nephew, I tried to read him a book and he hung up on me! What happened? Have I lost my ability to enchant children? The next day, his little sister called and asked me to read her a book (I have not lost my touch with kids, after all ☺). She made my day! I realized that I still have the talent to read and captivate

*(Continued on page 17)*



## Focus on Literacy

**ALTRUSANS FOCUS ON LITERACY IN SEPTEMBER**

By Mary Osentowski

September is Literacy Month and September 8 is World Literacy Day. Richardson Altrusans have an opportunity to support literacy by serving as ushers for the Richardson Reads One Book project, by volunteering with Teddy Bear Time, and by volunteering to help the Education Committee with other projects at Terrace Elementary. Three Altrusans serve on the Richardson Adult Literacy Board, six Altrusans serve on the RALC Advisory Board and others have served as office assistants.

Altrusans worldwide have focused on Literacy since "Action for Literacy" was introduced in 1977 in an effort to conquer illiteracy. The Altrusa International Foundation began supporting literacy schools in India in 1982 and accepted Literacy as a major focus in 1987. The International Board of Directors established the Letha H. Brown Literacy Award in January of 1994 in order to recognize outstanding club literacy projects. The Award was named after Altrusa's 33<sup>rd</sup> International President

who was instrumental in establishing literacy as a major emphasis in the organization in 1977. Letha H. Brown Awards are given at International Conventions.

Although Altrusans are doing much to combat illiteracy, major needs still exist. According to the Literacy Texas Fact sheet, 3.8 million people in Texas need the services of adult education programs, but only 100,000 are served. Low literacy can be connected to almost every socio-economic issue: 60% of federal and state corrections inmates can barely read and write; **low health literacy costs billions** each year; 85% of juveniles who interface with the court system are functionally illiterate. According to the U.S. Department of Education, Texas ranks 47 out of 50 states in terms of English literacy levels. But, if we think this does not impact our community, we are mistaken because 10,000 Richardson residents do not speak English well.

Do your part in Altrusa and in our community to promote literacy.

**TREASURED MEMORIES** *(Continued from page 16)*

my niece with a book. Sometimes, she likes to read to me more than she wants me to read to her (she has a great imagination). I embrace it though, because I realized that someday she will be 13, and she will be a little too big to sit on my lap or fall asleep in my arms while I read her a Cinderella story.

I wish I would have cherished the time with my little nieces and nephews more; but when duty called, I had to be there. Now that I am out the military, my nieces and nephews are grown. My third sister has a 4-year-old though, so I might try to enchant her with my Cinderella story skills—over the phone because she is in El Paso. I am pretty sure she would not hang up on me like my nephew did! I have sweet and precious memories, memories created while reading a book to my nieces and nephews, a book being read to me and when I was schooled on Disney princesses. I cling to the memories created with my nieces, nephews and the power of books.

**LITERACY...OR AT LEAST LIKING BOOKS...**

Poppy Nordmeyer, Carolyn Swanson's newly adopted 10-lb, 10-mo.-old Chihuahua mix, chose her book for September 6, Read a Book Day. Not pictured is her dachshund sister, Lily, who devours books.

## Focus on Literacy

**FOR THE LOVE OF READING**

By Janet Vance

I have always loved to read to the exclusion of most other activities. My mother will tell you that I taught myself to read. She was a kindergarten teacher and a big fat comprehensive "Dick and Jane" text book was lying around the house when I was young. That book, added to the fact that I was almost seven when I started school (no public kindergarten in Richardson Texas in those days) added to the fact that I was read to every night of my life until I only wanted to read my own books at night, insured that I was a fluent reader by the time I entered first grade. I was always skeptical of my Mom's "teaching myself to read" story until I witnessed the same phenomenon with my son. After reading to him every single night of his life (continuing until he was halfway through grade school), he too was reading fluently when he started school—in his case kindergarten. A favorite book from my preschool years was probably Dr. Seuss's *McElligot's Pool*, which was my father's "special book" and often read to us by him. To this day, I can recite it practically word for word.

My best friend, Shelley, gave me my first chapter book for Christmas in second grade. It was a Nancy Drew book—I think *The Secret of the Old Clock*. It was unbelievably wonderful and I was hooked until I had found and read every book in the series. From there, I went on to other great literature. Standouts include reading stacks of Betty and Veronica comic books and some tabloid called True Love. These were widely available at Girl Scout and YMCA summer camp. I also loved advice columns. My grandmother would cut out all her Dear Abby and Ann Landers columns for me and send them to me in a big envelope, which I was always thrilled to receive. It was very educational. I remember in the early 1960's having my grandmother explain the meaning of "homosexual" to me. That was the "PC" term at the time. As a Tween, I became addicted to everything that Frances Parkinson Keyes ever wrote as well as my mother's romance novels. I also read a lot of 1950's teen books by Betty Cavanna. Remember her? Teen books are way different now. Another highlight of the young teen years was Jacqueline Susann's *Valley of the Dolls*. It was shared in group reads at Girl Scout camp and was rolled up in the tent flaps between visits from the camp counselor.

From my reading history, there are two things that I know to be true. First, for the sake of sparking your baby's love of reading and to give a gigantic boost to your baby's eventual success in school, read aloud to him every night and then read some more. Second, when children take over the task of choosing their own books, don't obsess too much about the quality of the reading. It is enough for kids to be hooked on reading ANYTHING. From my inauspicious start, I read and enjoy a lot of the good stuff today. For those who love reading, the world is limitless.





## Special Days

**INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY SEPTEMBER 8***By Jane Tucker, International Relations Committee Co-Chair*

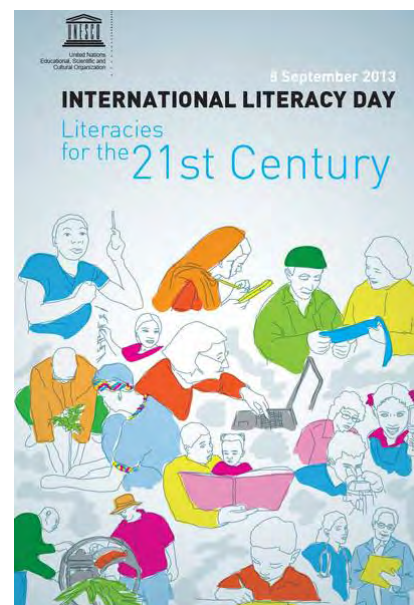
Since 1965, UNESCO has been celebrating International Literacy Day through events all around the world which focus on literacy as a human right and a means to gain personal empowerment and human development. UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) feels that literacy provides the opportunities to eradicate poverty and promote gender equality. As we teach literacy skills, the skill itself becomes a tool to promote literacy. Literate children grow up and become literate adults who instill the importance of literacy in their children, thus creating future societies geared towards autonomy and economic development. UNESCO feels that education is the right of all humans and it plays a crucial role in the development of our world's social and economic development.

The theme of this year's United Nations Literacy Day is "Literacies for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century".

This theme represents the hope of the UNESCO Director General, Irina Bokova, that by the 21<sup>st</sup> century every child will be able to read and will be able to use

the skill to gain autonomy. As part of achieving this goal, UNESCO is targeting 35 countries with the highest rates of non-literate populations to facilitate an "International Plan of Action" to promote literacy. It is in these countries where more than 50% of 10 million people are non-literate, UNESCO plans to train

facilitators to create formal and non-formal approaches to education. They hope to create environments that will foster respect for gender, linguistic, and cultural diversity and promote local community responsibility to manage the development of these programs.



## Special Days

**UNITED NATIONS PEACE DAY IS SEPTEMBER 21***By Jane Tucker, International Relations Committee Co-Chair*

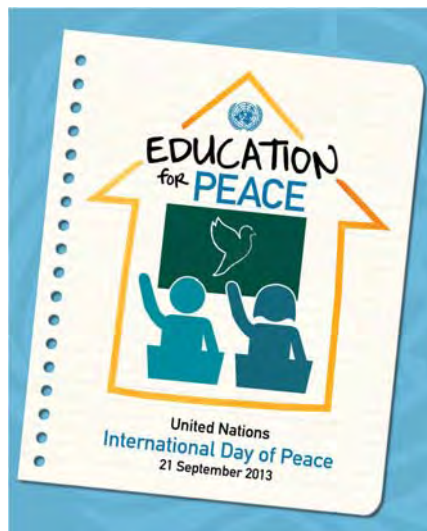
On September 21, 2013 the United Nations will call on all combatants around the world to lay down their

arms in order to find a means towards peace. It is at this time every year that the world "takes a break" from violence and conflict.

The theme for this year's UN Peace Day is "Education for Peace." Through this theme the United Nations will

examine the role education can play in promoting global citizenship. The United Nations feel that by cultivating education we also cultivate a respect for others in the world; thus, moving towards a more inclusive, peaceful society.

The UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, has as his central focus the "Global Educational First Initiative" which calls for governments to place education at the top of their agendas and, by doing so, he hopes the world can create a universe of peace. This peace comes by supporting peace education programs; protecting students and teachers from conflict; rebuilding schools destroyed by war; and ensuring both girls and boys have access to a quality education. Through these types of efforts, education can play a key role in ending violence around the world.





**The State of Louisiana**

**Literacy Test (This test is to be given to anyone who cannot prove a fifth grade education.)**

**Do what you are told to do in each statement, nothing more, nothing less. Be careful as one wrong answer denotes failure of the test. You have 10 minutes to complete the test.**

1. Draw a line around the number or letter of this sentence.
2. Draw a line under the last word in this line.
3. Cross out the longest word in this line.
4. Draw a line around the shortest word in this line.
5. Circle the first, first letter of the alphabet in this line.
6. In the space below draw three circles, one inside (engulfed by) the other.

**Editor's Note:**

The original test had 30 questions that were supposed to be answered in 10 minutes. If you did so well on the first 13 questions that you want to see the entire literacy test, send an email request to [contact@altrusarichardson.com](mailto:contact@altrusarichardson.com).

7. Above the letter X make a small cross.
8. Draw a line through the letter below that comes earliest in the alphabet.

Z V S B D M K I T P H C

9. Draw a line through the two letters below that come last in the alphabet.

Z V B D M K T P H S Y C

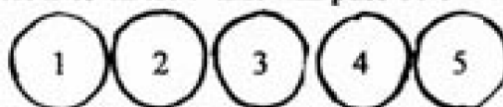
10. In the first circle below write the last letter of the first word beginning with "L".



11. Cross out the number necessary, when making the number below one million.

10000000000

12. Draw a line from circle 2 to circle 5 that will pass below circle 2 and above circle 4.



13. In the line below cross out each number that is more than 20 but less than 30.

31 16 48 29 53 47 22 37 98 26 20 25

## International News; Convention Delegate Report

**A CONFESSION: IT WASN'T ALL WORK AND NO PLAY!***By Linda Olivera, Delegate to Altrusa International Convention*

Each day at International Convention, 10 AM was Tea Time. At this time they had traditional New Zealand tea cake type items and tea and coffee.

Every day during the Convention, we had visits from Freda Dagg a local farmer who gave us the announcements. She was well portrayed by Patricia O'Donnell of the Wellington, New Zealand club. She added a time for laughter and fun. During each session there was also an impromptu "exercise" time with the District 15 Governor, who led us in some movement exercises to release tension from sitting so long.

I have the Handouts from the Service Workshop - "Where in the World Could I Serve?", and will give that to Pam for whomever needs it. This was a different workshop and was directed more towards entries for the awards and not only for the service award. During the first half of the workshops the two presenters spoke on International projects, and how clubs could spend \$2500-3500 per Altrusan and go to Ghana or Cambodia to help groups there. They mentioned that there were many other organizations that Altrusans could travel to and provide service. One of the other handouts was a page full of "definitions" of Literacy. This is not something our club has ever expressed interest in. The rest of the Workshop was almost entirely devoted to Literacy and Fundraising projects. The presenters had attendees tell about their best fundraising or service projects; ones that were mentioned were ours (I told what we did with the OWT Luncheon), a golf tournament, a club that built a \$40,000 trailer that they take to fairs and other events and sell something that sounded like a type of funnel cake, and some other clubs who had smaller craft or garage sales. This Workshop was not very informative, even for the smaller clubs, because many ideas presented required numerous man-hours of service or a large bankroll.

There was no Convention "Fun Night"; however, there were three cultural excursions offered and they were attended by all four of the Richardson Delegates:

At the **Mitai Experience** we went to the Mitai Maori Village where our host talked of how the Maori lived and were given a tour and shown the Maori earth oven (Hangi) and then ate a Maori meal that was cooked in the oven. We walked through the village and watched a warrior canoe pass by on the river, saw a cultural performance of chanting/singing and dancing, and walked to an area of

the village where there were many glow worms in the water. It was a very interesting event and was very enjoyable. The meal was delicious, with several choices of meat, vegetables, and deserts.

The **Skyline and Rainbow Springs** event was a gondola ride up to the top of Mr. Ngongataha with a huge buffet meal. After dinner we walked a short distance to Rainbow Springs, a Kiwi Conservation Centre, where we saw Kiwi and other animals in their natural habitat. Again, it was interesting seeing all the animals and hearing their calls. Our group only saw one or two Kiwis that came out from their cover.

The last event we experienced was the **Te Puia Guided Tour**. This was the only event attended in the daytime. We went to a geothermal reserve with boiling mud pools and geysers. We saw the Maori carving and weaving schools and had a small informative talk at each area. We also were given an ear of corn cooked in a geothermal "oven" in the ground.

The three tours were very interesting and informative and helped the attendees to more fully understand some of the Maori culture.

The Maori are an interesting people. The Opening Banquet started with a welcome from a group of Maori Dancers and Singers, in full costume and painted faces, men and women both. During the cultural tours we learned more about their costumes and culture. Their greeting involves running noses, and their fighting look includes bugged out eyes and scary faces, made even more scary with their painted faces.



## International News; Convention Delegate Report

**INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS: BRR AND BUDGET RESULTS***By Linda Olivera, Delegate to Altrusa International Convention***BYLAWS, ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**

Six Bylaws, Resolutions, and Recommendations items were to be considered and voted on at Convention this year. The exact wording changes affecting the Items voted on at Convention are shown in the May 2013 issue of the International Altrusan, which was sent out to all club members. Below are the results on each item:

**Item 13-01 International Articles of Incorporation**

Amend and Restate the Articles of Incorporation to streamline them, to eliminate material which is duplicative of that in the Bylaws and to avoid having to amend both Articles and Bylaws on any particular matter.

Proposed by the Board of Directors, Legal Advisor and BRR Committee with the recommendation of the Board of Directors that it be approved by the Members.

After Jane Hart, the International BRR Committee chair, presented the justification and after a little discussion from the floor, this item passed with a vote of 157 For and 0 Against and 0 Abstains.

Because this item passed, one very important change requires that clubs that are incorporated revise the way their name is shown on all printed documentation, and each Club must complete these changes by December 31:

1. Instead of Altrusa International, Inc. of Richardson, Texas, our name should now be **Altrusa International of Richardson, Texas, Inc.**

2. This change needs to be made in the incorporation papers:

- a. File the paperwork with the Secretary of State
- b. Pay the filing fee
- c. Take the Secretary of State form to the Bank

3. Change name on Club paperwork:

- a. Checking Accounts
- b. Stationery
- c. Brochures and all other advertising

**Item 13-02 Articles of Incorporation**

Amend to eliminate "Inc." in the middle of Club Names; provide for implementation of policies necessary to preserve Association, District and Club tax exempt status.

Proposed by the International Board of Directors, Legal Advisor and BRR Committee, with the recommendation by the Board of Directors that it be approved by the Members.

Because Item 13-01 passed, Item 13-02 became a moot point and did not need to be voted on.

**Item 13-03 District Bylaws and Club Bylaws**

Amend to permit District Board of Directors and Club Board of Directors to act by mail ballot, and to specify vote required depending on state law requirements.

*(Continued on page 23)*

Pictured above are the District Nine Altrusans who attended the 2013 Altrusa International Conference in Rotorua, New Zealand.



Pictured below are the District Nine Altrusans at the Altrusa International Conference in Rotorua. Perhaps our delegates would like to explain this photograph?



## **INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS** *(Continued from page 22)*

Proposed by the BRR Committee at the request of Members, and approved by the International Board of Directors.

Both the District and Club sections of this Item 13-03 passed by a 2/3 majority vote and because of this and based on applicable state law, both District and Club Board of Directors can vote via mail ballot, and "mail ballot" is to include electronic mail or facsimile. Ballots not returned in the required time limit shall be counted as abstentions.

### **Item 13-04 Club Bylaws**

Amendments to the terms of Club Directors and Officers and to eliminate the requirement for annual elections at the Club level.

Proposed by Altrusa International of Oxnard, California, Inc. This Item was Withdrawn and did not need a vote.

### **Item 13-05 District Bylaws**

Clarify that all District Officers and Directors are elected in the odd-numbered year. Proposed by the BRR Committee.

The first part of this Item affects Article VII (not Article XXVIII as shown in the printed copies) Board of Directors Section 5 Elections. This part of Item 13-05 was withdrawn and did not need a vote.

The second part of this Item affects Article XI (not Article XXXII as shown in the printed Convention copies) Elected Officers Section 2. Elections (a). The current article has a blank line and the vote was to include "odd-

numbered" where the blank line was previously shown. This passed with a 2/3 majority vote.

### **Item 13-06 Club Bylaws**

Eliminate specific numbers and dates from Bylaws with respect to late fees and dates for dropping members from membership rolls. The Finance Committee has just completed a revision of Finance Policy that details this information. See Policy 16.

This Item affects Article XVII Member Dues and Fees Section 6 Late Charges.

The vote passed with a 2/3 majority vote. This means that the Club Treasurer needs to ensure that members understand and adhere to the due dates for dues and that after a certain deadlines when dues are not paid to International that they can be dropped from the rolls and there will be additional fees charged for them to be reinstated.

## **2013-2015 BUDGET**

The proposed Budget for the 2013-15 Biennium was explained by the International Treasurer and after minimal questions and discussion was passed unanimously.

The only line item that was questioned from the floor and discussed was under Communication Expenses Item 16510 International Altrusan – Production & Postage. The 2011-12 amount of \$16,901 was reduced in 2013-14 to \$0, and the 2012-13 amount of \$23,428 was reduced in 2014-15 to \$11,000. The justification for this was that there will be no hard copy of the International Altrusan printed in 2013-14, and only one hard copy in 2014-15 containing important BRR and other Convention information. Other issues of the International Altrusan will be placed on the International website and will be accessible online only.

## International News; Convention Delegate Report

**NOTES FROM LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOPS**

By Bobbi Klein, Delegate to Altrusa International Convention

The **LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP - Succession Planning: Focus on Mentoring to Build the Leadership Pipeline**, presented by International Leadership Committee Co-Chairs; Kathleen Schrein, Dayton, OH and Robin Hall, Lake City, FL, turned out to be of particular interest to me in my capacity of Membership Recruitment chair for our club and Membership Retention Chair for the 2013-2015 District Nine Program Team.

The workshop presenters began with some chilling statistics about Altrusa International from the last 6 years or so, which served to demonstrate how important it is to build stronger clubs through stronger new members. In 2007, there 10,644 members and in 2012 there were 8,932 members; a loss of nearly 2,000 members. In 2007, there were 387 clubs in Altrusa International. In 2012, there were only 348 clubs; a loss of 38 clubs. During this time, only 8 new clubs were chartered. In 2007, 34% of the clubs were "Under Charter Strength" (fewer than 25 members) and, in 2012, 37% were under charter. Not only did we lose clubs, but we have lost whole Districts, which may be the saddest statistic of all.

Over the years our club has initiated Mentoring programs that focused mainly on a single or co-mentors. But this workshop suggested developing a specific year-long plan for building stronger new members, and thus building a stronger club. Our Membership Recruitment Committee is in the process of drafting our own Succession Plan for New Members, which will be initiated with our 2013-2014 new members.

The benefits of a specific plan for the new member are: (1) the opportunity for growth as an Altrusan, (2) building stronger relationships with other members, (3) building confidence in leadership abilities, and (4) becoming self-sufficient as an Altrusan and as an individual.

First of all, this type of plan requires the participation of many individuals, as "mentors", as the new member proceeds through her first year of membership, during which she will be investigating and participating on many club levels. Each individual "mentor" has the ability to determine, along with the new member, when and where their segment of the process will occur. They also can expand and/or add their own steps. Another option would be "reverse mentoring" in which the mentor allows the new member to "teach the process or concept" to the "mentor".

The following steps were presented as a suggested template for clubs to use in preparation of their own 12 month Succession Plan. The presented items are focused on New Members but I would like to suggest that a similar plan could be used for building stronger board members, pre-preparing the incoming president or pre-preparing

committee chairs. **The Desired Outcome:** Stronger Succession: Stronger Future of Altrusa

**TEMPLATE - 12 MONTH SUCCESSION PLAN****STEP 1. PRIOR TO MEMBERSHIP**

- ◇ Attend two meetings
- ◇ Log into the website

**STEP 2. INITIATION MONTH**

- ◇ Attend New Member Orientation
- ◇ Receive and become familiar with New Member materials
- ◇ Possibly review Club and Altrusa International history

**STEP 3. BEGIN 12 MONTH PLAN (can be done in any order)**

- ◇ Attend a Board Meeting
- ◇ Attend a Foundation Meeting
- ◇ Shadow the Club President
- ◇ Work with the Secretary
- ◇ Work with the Treasurer
- ◇ Work on or contribute to the Club Newsletter
- ◇ Participate in at least one hands on project
- ◇ Assist in planning for a committee project
- ◇ Attend District Conference and/or International Convention
- ◇ Assist with a Membership event
- ◇ Plan a meeting program with the Program Chair
- ◇ Assist with planning or participate in Fundraising event

I also attended the **COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP: "Cruising the Social Media Seas"**, which was presented by International Communications Chair, Sharon Mai Ocala, FL and Vice-Chair Kathleen Howard, Tiffin, OH, and focused on developing use of social media; websites, Facebook, Twitter, blogs, You-tube, etc. They began by reminding us of the information and resources available on the "Members Only" area of the Altrusa International website, specifically the Marketing Tool Kit. A lot of the workshop time was spent answering specific technical questions from individual clubs and it was not really as applicable to our club. They did make a couple of suggestions that we as individual Altrusans can try:

**Facebook Friday:** Start a conversation on your page. Post 5 words about Altrusa as your status. Then see what your friends say. FOLLOW UP if someone expresses an interest.

**Tweet on Tuesday:** Same thing. FOLLOW UP if someone expresses and interest.

Don't forget letting people know you're an Altrusan in your **Linked-In Profile**.

## International News; Convention Delegate Report

# AN INTERESTING EXPERIENCE SERVING ON ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

By Julianne Lovelace, Delegate to Altrusa International Convention

I was asked by President Dona Garretson to serve on the Elections Committee. One delegate from each District was selected, there were twelve of us. This proved to be an interesting experience.

We were all set up for the elections when someone noticed that a candidate's name was in the wrong category. Uh-Oh! We had to fend off avid voters while the ballots were reprinted. After voting was finished, we took the three boxes to a private room, divided them in half, and six teams of two counted. The halves were then exchanged and counted by another team. Counts were validated. Announcement of new officers was made by Elections Chair at meeting. The Elections Committee had no clue as to the winners previous to the announcement.

As luck would have it, there had been two additional nominations from the floor for Director. There are four Directors. Three candidates were clear winners with a 50% majority vote. This called for a run off for the fourth spot. Back to the elections tables and ballot boxes, then on to the private room again, same procedure.

Uh-Uh! The vote was extremely close. This was the second day of the Convention and we had lost six of the delegates entitled to vote. We attempted to run them down and secure a vote from them. Not all could be found. Still a problem as the vote was so close we had to have a determination from legal council as to whether the winner would be majority of those ELIGIBLE to vote or those ACTUALLY who voted. Fortunately, the determination was

majority of those who actually voted and a winner was declared. 2013-2015 International Officers are:

- ◇ President: Silvia Silverman
- ◇ Vice President: Leanne Milligan
- ◇ Treasurer: Donna Johnson
- ◇ Directors: Kathy Carmack, Diane Eberhard, Carol Latham, Bev McCalvin
- ◇ Nominating Committee: Linda Smith, Sara Burt, Margaret Goodhue Elaine Wolf, Barbara Ann Hughes
- ◇ Foundation Board: Ida Hill, Eula Tatman, Patricia O'Donnell

Having spent most of my time at the Elections table, I did not attend a lot of other meetings. I did, however, go to Martha Hardwick Hofmeister's Workshop on Individual Club Foundations. She told me I did not need to be there as we already had one. Most club foundations are set up under the International umbrella. As she pointed out, we were ahead of the curve and set ours up previous to International making it easier to use the umbrella. I picked up the packet which has some good information and will share it with the Ad Hoc Non-Profit Compliance Committee.

## International Foundation News

# IT'S TIME TO APPLY FOR A GRANT!

By Mimi Tanner

It's time for our club to think about what project we want to apply for a Foundation Grant.

"Through the Foundation Grants Program, the Foundation provides assistance to individuals and helps Altrusa Clubs carry out the independent programs of community service with funds for vocational assistance; graduate school assistance to international students from developing countries; literacy projects; and community service projects sponsored by local Altrusa Clubs. Grants range from \$250 to \$2,000, based on needs and funds available and are subject to specific selection criteria. Altrusa Clubs are limited to one (1) grant per fiscal year (June through May). The Altrusa International Foundation reserves the right to make all final decisions on applications."

Source: the Altrusa International Foundation website.

## AWARDS PRESENTED AT INT'L CONVENTION

By Linda Olivera

### Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Awards

- ◇ Winner: Richardson, TX International Pen Pals, including a \$300 check
- ◇ 1st Honorable Mention: Hermiston, OR, A Committee Providing Hope
- ◇ 2nd Honorable Mention: TeAwamutu, Positive Ripples

### Letha H. Brown Literacy Award

- ◇ Winner: Mansfield, Ohio, Enhancing Literature
- ◇ 1st Honorable Mention: Central Texas, Share Your Story
- ◇ 2nd Honorable Mention: Montgomery, AL, Just One Book

### Mamie L. Bass Service Award

- ◇ Winner: Lubbock, Texas, Red Raider Riders
- ◇ 1st Honorable Mention: Red Oak, IA, Coats for Kids
- ◇ 2nd Honorable Mention: Muncie, IN, Winter Wonderland

The Awards Luncheon program contained a thumbnail write-up of each project that was in the running. It was nice to see what other clubs have done.



## International News; Convention Delegate Report

**KEYNOTE AND GUEST SPEAKERS AT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

By Marsha Peters, Delegate to Altrusa International Convention

The guest speakers at the International Convention were outstanding. The keynote speaker, **Deb Bell**, has lived in Rotorua for 40 years and has a background in banking and management. The title of her speech, "Experience the Energy of Living your Legacy", was a perfect topic for a vivacious woman committed to making a difference. She began with a video of Jackie Evancho, singing "To Believe", which left few with dry eyes. If you haven't seen Jackie's performance, the link is [here](#).

Deb then focused on The Four Gives:

1. Give - have a spirit of generosity
2. Give In - be the first to be gracious
3. Give Up - be forgiving
4. Be Giving - be of service

She also believes that when you give without expecting anything in return and without hooks, you will receive back tenfold. I'm not sure why she is not an Altrusan!

**Ingrid Visser** spoke on the last day of convention about her true love, Orca. She is the only researcher specializing in orca in New Zealand. We were lucky to get to hear her because her speaking engagement had a contingency clause. If she had received a call indicating that orca were in the area, she would have to cancel. Ingrid has named all of the orca in the New Zealand seas that she has encountered and has helped save many beached orca. She enjoys educating people about Orca - I didn't realize that the life expectancy for an orca in the wild is 90 years while that of an orca in captivity is 9 years! Ingrid has spent a considerable amount of money trying to free Morgan, a young female orca that was found in an emaciated condition off the coast of the Netherlands. Morgan was captured by the Dolfinarium Harderwijk for 'rehabilitation and release'. Unfortunately, after more than a year, the Dolfinarium has yet to release Morgan and now refuses to do so.

Ingrid is a dedicated and tenacious woman who founded the Orca Research Trust. If you are interested in more information, go [here](#).



Keynote Speaker Deb Bell



Guest Speaker Ingrid Visser

**District Nine News****DISTRICT NINE IS ALL OVER THE WEB! CHECK OUT THESE CONNECTIONS!**

Ctrl/Click (Put your cursor on an underlined phrase, hold down the CTRL key, and click your left mouse button) to visit District Nine!

- ◇ Have you checked out the District Nine website lately? [www.districtnine.altrusa.org](http://www.districtnine.altrusa.org)
- ◇ Have you participated in any of the Facebook Friday challenges? Sign in to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and type in "Altrusa International District Nine."
- ◇ Have you been reading our District Nine blogs? [www.districtninealtrusa.blogspot.com](http://www.districtninealtrusa.blogspot.com)
- ◇ Have you joined the Altrusa online book club? [www.bookclubit.com/default.aspx](http://www.bookclubit.com/default.aspx) Free registration: create your profile & search for "Altrusa District Nine"
- ◇ Have you watched the current Altrusa video on YouTube? [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and type in

"Altrusa District Nine."

Did you answer NO to any of these questions? If so, then we encourage you to "Get Connected"!

**BOARD ACTIONS:**

- ◇ Selected Altrusans to be nominated for HASR awards, and assigned members to do the write-ups.
- ◇ Approved new email policy for announcements
- ◇ Determined that all membership applications should use a new form which is to be posted on website and published in newsletter. Paper forms will be available at meetings.
- ◇ Approved applications of two new members

## ALTRUSA RICHARDSON RECOMMENDATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday (MM-DD-YY) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State ZipPrimary Phone: Home ☐ Work ☐ Mobile ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_Secondary Phone: Home ☐ Work ☐ Mobile ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ Other #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Can you receive information electronically? Yes ☐ No ☐Firm, corporation or organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If retired, list last position) \_\_\_\_\_Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Title or Position: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of time in position (yrs): \_\_\_\_\_

Description of responsibilities: \_\_\_\_\_ Retired: Yes ☐ No ☐Other Significant  
Employment Positions: \_\_\_\_\_

Club/Organization affiliations (include leadership positions held): \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you want to become an Altrusan? \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor ID#: \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor ID#: \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Two active or active (retired) members)

Membership Committee:

- ☐ Approved  
☐ Not Approved

Altrusa Board:

- ☐ Approved  
☐ Not Approved

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason if not approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Invitation: Issued \_\_\_\_\_ Accepted \_\_\_\_\_ Declined \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Date Date

Reason if invitation Declined: \_\_\_\_\_

Initiation Event: \_\_\_\_\_ Dues/fees paid: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Date



# Club Calendar September 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Gay McAlister bday</i>	2 <i>Carole Buffington bday</i>	3	4	5 New Members (2012-13) Cmte. Planning Mtg. Business Meeting	6 <i>Genevieve Hamulak, Pam Kovacs bday</i>	7 Membership Retention Cmte. Mtg.
8	9	10 Teddy Bear Time Richardson Reads One Book Author Lecture	11 <i>Marguerite Anderson bday</i>	12	13	14 Fall Orientation/ Re-Orientation
15	16 <i>Norma Hammerlund bday</i>	17 Teddy Bear Time <i>Lois Ferrara, Debbie Sinms bday</i>	18	19 Dinner Meeting <i>Laura Maczka bday</i>	20 <i>Elizabeth Smith bday</i>	21
22	23	24 Teddy Bear Time	25	26	27 <i>Wilma Oliver bday</i>	28 Walk to End Alzheimer's <i>Kay Hopper bday</i>
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, 7 PM, 4th Thursday, Friends Place Adult Day Services

Events on this page are copied from the calendar on our website.  
See the event listing at [www.altrusarichardson.com](http://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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