

# TOWN



# NEWS

DALLAS, TX

JUNE 2021



Mark your calendar for Monday, June 14, 2021 for our first in-person TOWN meeting since Feb 2020.

**What?** TOWN Dallas Monthly meeting, Cookies and Crudites provided - BYO Beverage

**When?** Monday, June 14th from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM or as long as you want to stay. Social hour 6:30 -7, presentation and business and then more social time.

**Who?** Lois Jacobs will be our speaker. She is going to share info about Making Jewelry from Recycled Packaging.

**Where?** 3330 SpringPark Way  
Garland, TX 75044

We will meet in the picnic area of the SpringPark Neighborhood Clubhouse. The picnic area is located below the Tennis Courts with 10 picnic tables and plenty of shade.



Our hike from the Bob Jones Park Nature Center.

**Guests always welcome**

**ANNUAL DUES ARE \$20**

Dues paid in 2020 will cover your membership through 2021

## Camping Trip

### No bake oatmeal raisin energy bites

Ideal for a pre-hiking treat!

#### Ingredients:

One cup of rolled oats  
½ a cup of peanut butter  
2 tbsp ground flax seeds or other nuts  
2 tbsp unsweetened shredded coconut  
2 tbsp honey or agave syrup  
¼ cup raisins  
¼ chocolate chips (optional)

**Directions:** In a large bowl combine oats, peanut butter, flax or nuts, coconut, honey and raisins. Stir until mixture is uniform. Use tablespoon to scoop out mixture and roll tightly into a ball. Place ball on parchment-lined baking sheet. Repeat for 12 balls. Freeze 2 hours. Enjoy from freezer, cooler or at room temperature.

**What?** Join us for 3 nights of camping among the majestic trees and natural beauty of the East Texas Pineywoods in Huntsville State Park. We will have 4 water only (no electricity) campsites on the peninsula jutting into Lake Raven. We can explore the 21 miles of trails, paddle (rent or bring your own) kayaks or canoes, check out the bird blind or do a little geocaching. Or you can relax at the campsite or along the lake shore for the weekend. We will do some shared meals for this trip.

**When?** October 14 - 17, Thursday through Sunday

**Who?** Organizer is Shirley Meurer 972-890-2491 [sameurer@yahoo.com](mailto:sameurer@yahoo.com) Please respond to me directly if you want to sign up for this trip.

**Where?** Huntsville State Park <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/huntsville>

Hope you can join us!

## June Hike

**What?** Hike the trails at Spring Creek Forest Preserve

**When?** Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM

**Who?** Organizer is Shirley Meurer 972-890-2491 [sameurer@yahoo.com](mailto:sameurer@yahoo.com)

**Where?** 1787 Holford Road, Garland, TX 75044 Meet in the parking lot.

Join me for an easy morning walk through Spring Creek Forest Preserve.

This area is described as pristine bottomland forest in the floodplain of Spring Creek and is a haven of towering trees and unusual wildflowers on the edge of a dynamic North Garland community. It will take about an hour to walk the Nature Loop Trail. If you want to walk more we can do the Nature Loop again or head down the road a quarter mile and do one of the other trails.

Please respond to Shirley directly, email or text, if you plan to walk.

# So, you think you know... Janet Smith?

By Rosie Alaniz



Most of the current TOWN members have known Janet Smith through travel, gatherings, and numerous conversations. We know that Janet is a Master Naturalist, Master Gardener, that she is in charge of the Native Landscape Certification Program in Dallas County, and belongs to the Native Plant Society of Texas. Janet is also a cat lover, a birder, possessing an incredible knowledge in migratory birds and butterflies, especially Monarchs and hummingbirds.

However, Janet is such a "Renaissance" woman, that I decided to ask her 20 questions that will help us to know her even better. Here we go!

## 1. In what city were you born and did you grew up there?

Born in Jersey City, NJ. Lived in Westwood, NJ until I was 9, then Oreland, PA till 12, then Maracay, Venezuela for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade, then Arlington, TX for high school, Austin College in Sherman for 2 years, then 2 in Tucson at the U of Arizona. Then an apartment in Dallas for 6 years and now 42 in my house. Yes, I'm still growing up!

## 2. What was your nickname as a child and do you have a middle name?

The family called me Jan, but my mother asked me if I wanted to be known as Jan or Janet when I went to school and I chose Janet. My middle name is Dora after my dad's mother who died when he was 3 but now I like that Dora is an explorer.

## 3. What major world event happened when you were a teenager?

JFK was killed the day after I had seen him in person in Fort Worth. I also saw Bobby Kennedy about a month before he was shot and killed. I have not seen a national politician since.

## 4. What was your favorite concert as a teenager?

The Chad Mitchell Trio at Austin College because John Denver was in the group and he had gone to high school with several of my classmates. The next summer he was a pop star and I was always a big fan.

## 5. What is your favorite book and author?

Any of Tony Hillerman's books and David Baldacci's camel club mysteries.

## 6. What is your favorite museum in the world?

The Dale Chihuly Glass Bridge in Tacoma WA.

## 7. What music do you enjoy listening the most?

Oldies from the 50s and 60s

## 8. What was the last book you read? Was it any good?

Coyote America for my natural science book club. Interesting book but everyone thought it was way too long. It's amazing how much money and effort the federal government has spent trying to control the coyote population with no success.

## 9. What was the last movie you watched? Was it any good?

Don't remember.

## 10. Favorite place on Earth.

The mountains or a beach with big breakers.

## 11. What are your three top bucket list spots?

Lake Louise in the Canadian Rockies, Australia and an African safari. OR North & South Dakota and Idaho, the only states I've missed.

**12. Name 3 people (dead or alive) you would like to have dinner with and the kind of food you would prepare (or order) for them.**

Paul McCartney, Thomas Jefferson, and Doug Tallamy (my naturalist hero). I certainly wouldn't cook for them and I would let them choose their meal because they might have food sensitivities or preferences I don't know about. Of course I know McCartney is a vegan.

**13. Have you met any celebrity or have you seen somebody famous?**

Baseball players from the 1950s when I was a walking encyclopedia of baseball stats and stories.

**14. What is your guilty pleasure?**

That's MY secret!

**15. Your friends don't know that you....?**

Fell asleep at the wheel driving home from my one and only Big Bend TOWN trip. No one was hurt and the car was fine, just needed to be towed out of an open field.

**16. What are you most proud of?**

Donating 280 units (35 gallons) of blood, mostly platelets. Also having re-invented myself in my retirement to become so involved in gardening and nature and sharing it with others

**17. What would you do if next week you would inherit half a million dollars?**

Faint, then splurge! Upgrade my HVAC, get a new car with all the safety and comfort options, and a chin lift! And complete my bucket lists.

**18. Funniest joke or riddle you know by heart.**

I'm not good at jokes.

**19. What is your favorite TOWN memory?**

So many good ones...but seeing the pods of orcas in the San Juan islands and swimming with sea lions and petting the gray whales in Baja, zip lining in Costa Rica, camping and river rafting in Colorado and of course making new friends with so many interesting women.

**20. What would be your best advice for friends?**

Take care of yourself and live life as you want!

