**Getting to Know You, Now That We’re Out of Bobby Socks**

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# AP Style

Remember the days of high school and college when it was easy to make friends? We were thrown together for hours every day and fell into, or were assigned to, a certain group or perhaps, even an exclusive clique.

Then we got involved in work and/or families and our social circles narrowed to those in our small spheres. For those who are ready to branch out and make new acquaintances, try the following ideas on where to meet and greet in Big D.

If you enjoy live jazz, fine art and good wine, you can’t beat “Jazz in the Atrium” at the Dallas Museum of Art (DMA). And it’s free! Every Thursday night the DMA opens its doors to the public to enjoy priceless works of art to the accompaniment of various jazz bands. Sip wine as you stroll through the museum and strike up conversations about the band or a particular work of art. You’ll find all you need to know on the DMA Web site.

For reasons I don’t fully understand, some people seem to actually enjoy exercise—serious exercise. For those fitness types I recommend a trip to Richardson Bike Mart. According to Geoff Godsey, many ReZoomers are switching to cycling because it’s easier on the joints. “We offer a new category of bikes called ‘fitness bikes’ that allow the rider to sit in a more comfortable position than traditional bikes,” Godsey says.

The Bike Mart also sponsors various events and teams. Coming up soon is the “Richardson Bike Mart Superbowl Sunday Ride.”You can find a whole calendar of such rides that combine fitness with sociability at [bicycle-stuff.com](http://www.bicycle-stuff.com) .

One of the great benefits of being a ReZoomer is that many of us finally have time to get back to activities that have been on the back burner—activities like expanding our minds. The Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture offers a multitude of opportunities to do just that. Among its many offerings is the Friday Night Salon, part of the growing nationwide movement that provides a chance to discuss meaningful topics with knowledgeable people.

Like to talk? Talking and listening are both emphasized at Big D Toastmasters, plus it’s reported to “be the most fun you can have in town with your clothes on!” While I can’t personally vouch for that, you will at least learn how to confidently and graciously present a toast at family weddings.

If you are into acoustic performances by terrific folk musicians then the intimate venue of Uncle Calvin’s Coffee House on Friday Nights in Northpark Presbyterian Church is a great place to meet. The doors open at 7:30, but plan to be there by 6:30 or earlier, depending on the popularity of the band. It’s first-come, first-served for seating at banquet tables for eight. Choose your table, then wait for others to join you. Your mutual interest in the evening’s performers will pave the way for conversation.

For an even more intimate and casual setting, check out the East Dallas Concert Series. These are house concerts, usually held outside beneath a Red Oak tree. You might want to come prepared with an instrument and music of your own to participate in the song circle following the concert, weather permitting.

Since we’re not in high school anymore, we have to take the time and the effort to seek out new friendships. It isn’t always easy, but be patient and persistent. You don’t have to be a cheerleader or football star anymore to be part of your own “in crowd.”

<http://dallasmuseumofart.org/Dallas_Museum_of_Art/index.htm>

<http://bikemart.com/index.cfm>

<http://www.bicycle-stuff.com/>

<http://www.dallasinstitute.org>

<http://www.dallastoastmasters.com>

<http://www.unclecalvins.org/>

<http://www.dolphinblue.com/concerts>