



President's Message

EVERY DAY IS A CELEBRATION!

Where did 2016 go? To me it seemed to be gone in a flash. A new year always gives us the opportunity for a new beginning. Have you decided on your Resolutions for 2017? My hope for you is that you continue providing Community Service as a Richardson Altrusan, continue honing your Leadership abilities and make new Altrusa Friendships during this year and for many more to come!

If you attended the December Business Meeting, you heard about the many service activities our service committees are doing. When you hear this information all at one time, it is amazing the many things we accomplish. I am so proud to represent such a great group. At this month's Business Meeting you will hear the Mid-Year Reports of four of our Administrative Committees. Many things are happening in the Administrative arena also.

If you were unable to attend our December Holiday Program make-up meeting, you missed a wonderful evening. Those in attendance especially enjoyed the opportunity to visit with friends, have their photo taken and enjoy the beautiful music of the Madrigals!

At our January 5 Business Meeting you will elect Delegates and Alternates to the District Nine Conference to be held in Waco, April 21 – 23. The Delegates are the members who will represent our club in the business portion of the meetings; the Alternates are members who will attend conference and make themselves available in case a Delegate becomes unable to attend or serve.

Upcoming Events:

See online calendar for event details, location, and sign-up at <http://altrusarichardson.com>

- Jan 5 RETENTION Committee Meeting (6p)
- Jan 5 Monthly Business Meeting (7p)
- Jan 11 SENIORS Atria Bingo (6p)
- Jan 19 Dinner / Program Meeting (7p)
- Jan 24 RETENTION Painting with a Twist (6:30p)
- Jan 26 Board of Directors Meeting (6:30p)
- Jan 28 RETENTION/ RECRUITMENT – Memorial Pillowcase Tribute (10a – 1p)

Perhaps this is a way you would like to represent our club.

Together we accomplish great things.

Every day is a Celebration!

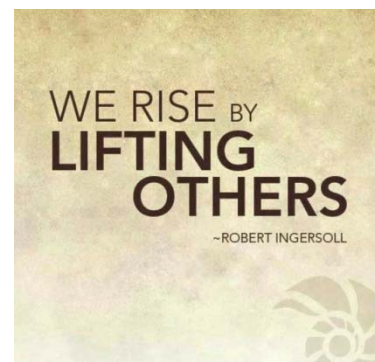
Service, Leadership, Friendship

Nancy R. Rohm, President, 2016-17



Club Board Actions

In November, the Club Board held a joint November/December Board meeting. At that meeting it was reported that mid-year Administrative reports will be presented at the January Business meeting by the Recruitment, Retention, Leadership and Strategic Planning Committee leaders. Ginger Tonne reported about the upcoming February 25 leadership event.





Spotlight on Altrusans

Gerry Carron and Susan Long interviewed each other for the December 1st Meeting SPOTLIGHT

Gerry Carron is genuine, honest, and compassionate. She has two wonderful daughters and fabulous grandchildren. Gerry has two dogs, Missy, her old black adopted sweetheart, and Magic Mikey the Chihuahua. She is retired and looks for friendship and purpose in Altrusa. The next book on her reading list is *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles and her favorite musician is Freddy Mercury. Gerry is inspired by positive people who take on really big issues like the Dakota and Keystone pipelines; people who stop what they are doing to preserve their land and clean water; people who fight for what is right and are not afraid to be heard. Her favorite vacation spot is a log cabin in Idaho with flannel shirts, a whole lot of wine, fantastic books and maybe a lumber jack! Her bucket list includes taking a train across North America and she would also like to travel what still exists of Route 66. Her words to live by: "Let it go."

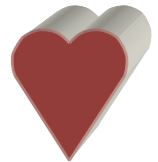
Susan Long is a top-producing real estate agent, multi-million dollar agent, and was named rookie of the year. She joined the Richardson Woman's Club to be their business manager and run the entire estate! But being a devoted mother of twin daughters, Alison and Caroline, now 20 years old and in college, her family comes first. One twin is attending the University of North Texas, studying Art and the other is attending Texas A&M studying biomedical science. Susan's fantasy dinner party guests would include her favorite musician, Freddie Mercury; her fabulous husband of 23 years, Brad; and her amazing twin daughters, Alison and Caroline. Her pets include 11 year-old Jack Russell Terrier, Luckygirl and 16 year-old Beagle, Duchess. Susan's favorite vacation spot is Destin, Florida. She is currently reading *The Book Thief* by Marus Zusak. Susan's favorite Altrusan memory was a dinner meeting getting to know Altrusans by sitting at different tables and asking fun questions. Her words to live by are "Never give up. Everything always works out."

Program Meeting Highlight – December Altrusans Celebrate the Holidays

Laura Trainor-Collins

The Altrusa Richardson Retention and Recruitment Committees joined forces to *Celebrate the Holidays* with a festive December dinner meeting. Bardo Bard's Studio was available to take pictures of the 70+ members during the social hour as Altrusans mingled and visited with each other before dinner. The Studio will email the pictures to members and professional prints may be ordered. Instructions to order will be included in the individual emails.

The after dinner entertainment was provided by the world famous MadriGals. The program featured acapella versions of historical hymns and holiday songs and the MadriGals were given a standing ovation. Members brought unwrapped ornaments and placed them in the decorated basket at their table to serve as the table centerpiece during dinner. The evening was topped off by a fun "Night Before Christmas" ornament exchange using the centerpiece ornaments. It was a lovely event and a wonderful way to *Celebrate the Holidays*. Thank you to the Retention and Recruitment Committees for working together and planning such an enjoyable evening.



Accent

Altrusa's 100th Anniversary

Jane Merz

2017 marks the 100th Anniversary for Altrusa International, Inc. We'll be celebrating throughout the year, with the highlight being the Centennial Convention held July 21-24, 2017, in Nashville, TN.

I hope we have a good representation from our Richardson club. Nashville has so much to offer. Hotel details and registration information is already on the website. More information can be found in the Centennial Celebrations toolkit where there are some historical documents posted, 100 4 100 challenge information, centennial newsletters, and much more! Please consider donating to the Centennial fund to help our 100-year dreams come true.



Altrusa International News

Support our Centennial Celebration!

Brenda Boston

The Altrusa International Centennial Celebration continues. President Silvia Silverman announced that since the launching of the project in September, \$7,500 has been raised. We have until May 31, 2017, to complete our individual goal of 100 hours of service and to donate to our District Nine challenge of 900 books and help District Nine recruit 100 new members.

Program Preview – January Meeting

Remembering the Holocaust: The Stairs, the Ruins, and the Butterfly

Barbara Berthold

How can one comprehend the systematic mass destruction and extermination of European Jewry during World War II? The Holocaust challenges our assumptions and values, and raises questions of urgent importance about our humanity. Sarah Valente, a doctoral candidate at the University of Texas at Dallas and Belofsky Fellow at the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies, will provide a brief historical background on the Holocaust and will explore ways in which the Holocaust is remembered in survivor testimonies, works of literature, and poetry. Sarah will share insights that give us a glimpse of that world and show us that learning about the Holocaust is still extremely relevant, and important today.



Sarah Valente is a PhD candidate in Humanities at the University of Texas at Dallas, majoring in History of Ideas and focusing on Holocaust Studies. A Belofsky Fellow at the University's Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies, Valente is writing her dissertation on the Nazi legacy in post-Holocaust Jewish narratives in Brazil. She has presented her research on the legacy of the Holocaust and its aftermath in Brazil in a number of conferences in the U.S., including the Holocaust Educational Foundation's Lessons and Legacies, the Annual Scholar's Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches, and Columbia University's Institute for the Study of Human Rights Conference Historical Justice and Memory Networks. Valente participated in the Leo Baeck Summer University at Humboldt Universität in Berlin in 2016 and is a recipient of the Associate Fellowship of the Stephen S. Weinstein Holocaust Symposium at Wroxton College in Oxfordshire, UK.

Please register online by NOON MONDAY before the meeting - whether you plan to eat or not. Remember, you don't have to pay if you're not eating, but you may not have a seat if you don't register to let us know you're coming.

Community Outreach Committee Report

Altrusans Share Christmas Spirit at Children's Advocacy Center

By Alma Benoit

Altrusans covered FIVE of six available shifts on December 8 and December 9 at the Collin County Children's Advocacy Center. They assisted with collecting toy donations being dropped off during these times, moving the toys to the designated areas as needed, handling of gift cards/checks and multiple other tasks. You can glean from the happy faces what a rewarding experience it was for our Altrusa sister participants: **Jane Tucker, Gloria Sandoval, Carol Ruszkowski, Kay George, Nancy Rohm, Janet McColloch, Christine Hart, Linda McCollum, Cindy Murray and Karen Tate**. Also pictured is Cheryl Adams, Child Care and Special Projects Coordinator, CACCC, who expressed great appreciation for Richardson Altrusa's assistance with this vital holiday project benefitting so many children in our community. She commented "It was so much fun and the work they (the ladies) did was amazing!"



Welcome New Altrusans!

We are excited to welcome (pictured l-r) **Sylvia McCloskey** and **Toni Garrett** as new members of Altrusa Richardson. We look forward to getting to know you!



Leadership Committee Report

SAVE THE DATE: Spring Leadership



“Communication with a Purpose”

Speaker – Erica Yeager

Luncheon and Program

Sat, Feb. 25, 2017

11:30am – 1:00pm

Canyon Creek Country Club

Cost is \$25 - check payable to Altrusa International of Richardson. Checks should be given to/mailed to Ginger Tonne. Registration and program details on website.

Registration due by Feb. 17.



Retention and Recruitment Committee Report

Memorial Pillowcase Tribute

Laura Trainor-Collins

Altrusans will be gathering on Saturday, January 28th to make pillowcases for the New Beginning Center and Hopes Door as a tribute to **Carolyn and Ernestine Swanson**. The Community Outreach, Retention and Recruitment Committees are still in the planning stages. Brunch is being planned.

Location: Friends Place

Time: January 28, 2017, 10am to 1pm

Members will be needed for stations for cutting fabric and pinning, sewing with a machine, ironing, and packaging. We need at least 4 sewing machines. Details and sign-ups will be available at the January 5th business meeting.

Tue, January 24, 2017
Altrusa International of Richardson
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Like 0 Tweet G+ 0
\$35
per seat

Come one; Come all for an evening of fun!!! Bring a snack to share and your own wine/beer or other beverage. All paint supplies are provided: paint, canvas, easel, and brushes. Aprons are provided, but wear something you wouldn't mind getting a little paint on, just in case. Plan to arrive by 6:30 pm to check in, enjoy snacks, get set up and be ready to paint by 7:00 pm. We are allowed a maximum of 30 minutes after the end of the class to finish up your painting. If we stay longer than 30 minutes, we will be charged \$50 additional fee.

The deadline to register is **January 12**. Register: <http://www.paintingwithatwist.com/events/viewEvent.aspx?eventID=850998> Pass Code: 819



Ability House Holiday Celebration

April Allen, Chief Program Officer, Ability Connection



On December 10, 2016, Altrusan celebrated Christmas with the residents of Ability House with a fun party. I cannot thank you all enough for what you do for our residents at Ability House each year. They always look forward to the birthday parties, but Christmas in particular is a special time for all of them. Thank you for the generosity of your time, gifts, snacks and love that you have for our clients. It was such a great day! Thank you all for a wonderful year and we look forward to our continued partnership in 2017.

Senior Committee Report

Altrusa at Atria Bingo!

By Lynn Solomon, Senior Committee Co-Chair

Atria Bingo was held at Atria Assisted Living in Richardson on Wednesday, December 14, 2016. Assisting with the December Bingo were Altrusans **Toni Garrett** and **Carol Ruzskowski**. There were 10 Atria residents in attendance!



District Nine Conference Updates

Nancy Rohm

The 2017 Conference is April 21 - 23, 2017 at the Hilton Waco Hotel. Call 855-275-4790 for reservations. Hotel Code is ACTWHHF. Group Code is ADN. The special room rate is \$139. Make your reservations as soon as possible.

It is hard to describe the experience of attending conference. When members from the entire state gather together you see that you are a part of something bigger than our club. You will learn new ideas, make new friends, and get to know your Richardson Altrusa Sisters better! If you have not attended a conference, please ask one of us who has attended what it is like and plan to join us.



Altrusa International Foundation News

Altrusa Richardson Receives Grant for Choose Kind Library

Brenda Boston

Recently, Ida J. Hill, 2015-2017 Foundation Chair,

Altrusa International Foundation, Inc. reported on the Altrusa

International Foundation Board of Trustees



meeting of November 11, 2016. An important item on the agenda was approval of local club grants for the fall cycle. The approved amount was \$43,900.00. This included twenty-seven grants across nine districts. Nine clubs in District Nine received grants totaling \$16,300. Richardson received \$1,700 for "Being Different is Normal: Choose Kind Library". The Grants Committee had previously updated the applications to make the process more user-friendly in hopes that with the updated application more clubs will apply. The purpose of these grants is to assist local clubs with projects as they work to build better communities. Your feedback is always appreciated.



District Nine News

District Nine Cocktail/Mocktail Contest

District Nine reports that the International Centennial Committee has asked that each district create a cocktail/mocktail recipe to be entered at Convention. District Nine Clubs are asked to enter their favorite recipe in the contest to be held at our 2017 District Conference in April. The winning club's recipe will be selected and announced.

If you have a recipe for a delicious and refreshing beverage, please send a copy to the Richardson Club President no later than the end of February. After the deadline, our club will select the best recipe to submit to District Nine. Perhaps our recipe can be both a cocktail **and** a mocktail, with an alcoholic version and with an ingredient change becoming non-alcoholic.

