



*President's Message*

**EVERY DAY IS A CELEBRATION!**

Thanks to all who participated in the Strategic Planning session at the March Dinner/Program Meeting or by sending in your ideas prior to the

meeting.

Several of members donated gently used books to Friends of the Library at our March Dinner meeting. With additional help from **Sandy Martin**, we have donated 905 books. We can still add books to our total. If you have books to donate, please let Sandy Martin know how many books you leave off at the library. If your committee purchases additional books, please let me know how many.

At our April Business Meeting, we will learn about Outstanding Women of Today, our October Fundraiser, and the exciting plans for our 2017 event, the Recruitment Committee will initiate new members, we will have "Spotlight on Members" and Celebration Certificates.

Please come and bring a guest to our April 11 Lunch Bunch when we celebrate Altrusa's Centennial Day.

The Scholarship Committee has interviewed student applicants and determined which of them will receive Scholarships this year. The April Dinner/Program is always special: Each student stands before us and tells us about her or himself. These young almost-adults are always impressive.

Our club will be well represented at Conference. Those who attend will return "fired-up" about all things Altrusa. It is important to share good times with others and learn what they do for their communities. Our own **Kimberly Kierce** is a single-slate nominee for District Treasurer. Those of us who are in Waco will host a reception to honor Kimberly and welcome those from other clubs to meet her.

Together we accomplish great things.

**Upcoming Events:**

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

- Apr 4-5 EDUCATION: Manners Party AM / PM
- Apr 6 Monthly Business Meeting (7p)
- Apr 8 Richardson Kindness Action Ninja Day
- Apr 11 Lunch Bunch/100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party 11:30a
- Apr 12 SENIORS: Atria Auction (6:15p)
- Apr 17 TRUSTEES Meeting (6:30p)
- Apr 20 Dinner Meeting - Scholarships (7p)
- Apr 21-23 DISTRICT Conference - Waco
- Apr 24 Book Club (6p)
- Apr 25 SENIORS: Appletree Court Auction (6:15p)
- Apr 27 Board of Directors Meeting (6:30p)
- Apr 29 ABILITY HOUSE: Nina's Birthday (1:30p)

*Every day is a Celebration!*

*Service, Leadership, Friendship*

*Nancy R. Rohm*, President, 2016-17



**Club Board Actions**

The Club Board Members and Foundation Trustees held a joint meeting on March 23, 2017 at Friends Place. The Board voted approval of Membership Applications. It was announced that Richardson Altrusa is receiving the Spirit of RISD Award from RISD Excellence in Education Foundation, Inc. at their gala on March 31. The Board recommended a written Mentoring Plan that will be presented to the club for a vote. Board Members were asked to update their written job descriptions by April 27.

The Trustees presented a list of items/details for Board consideration. These items will be reviewed by an Ad-Hoc committee, then presented to the club for input and a vote. The Board voted to install the Trustees at the May 18 installation. This fall, the Foundation will present an update to the club about their work.

## Membership Renewals Due

Jean Stuart, Treasurer



June 1<sup>st</sup> is the beginning of the new club year. Check out the club website for information and instructions for renewing membership no later than May 25, 2017.



### Program Highlights – March Meeting

## Members Provide Direction for 2017-2020 Strategic Plan

Club members provided suggestions at the March 23 dinner meeting for the upcoming Strategic Plan. Members of the Strategic Plan Committee will incorporate these suggestions into a three-year plan and will present this to the Club Board and club members for review and then for implementation during the next three years. Members of the Strategic Plan Committee include Chair **Kay Hopper**, **Alma Benoit**, **Brenda Duckett**, **Jo Leeper** and **Mary Osentowski**.



Pictured above: Members discuss and provide input and feedback about the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan. Pictured below (l) **Alma Benoit** and (r) **Bobbi Klein** and **Carol Ruskowski** participate in membership feedback.



## CENTENNIAL QUIZ ANSWERS FROM MARCH TIDINGS – answers in red

1. What is Altrusa's motto? **Patriotism, Efficiency and Service**
2. Where and when was the first Altrusa Club Organized? **Nashville, TX 04/11/1917.**
3. Who was the first National President? **Mamie L. Bass.**
4. Altrusa became an international organization in **1935** with expansion into **Mexico.**
5. Altrusa International is comprised of **14** Districts.
6. In 1977 Altrusa adopted **Literacy** as its major Focus of Service.
7. The Altrusa Brand logo contains the tag line: "Leading **to a Better Community.**"
8. Charter strength for an Altrusa club is **20** Members.
9. The Altrusa International 100th Convention will be held in **Nashville, TN.**
10. The name of the current International President is **Silvia Silverman.** She will be the International Representative at Conference in Waco in April.



### Retention Committee Report

## Retention Event at Lakewood Brewery

Laura Trainor-Collins



Seventeen Altrusans and Altrousers enjoying the Beer Garden, tasting beers, and taking the Brewery Tour at Lakewood Brewery in Garland in March. This was a fun event and everyone learned about the beer making process, had some snacks from the Sausage Food Truck, and tasted some unique brews. Cheers!



## Altrusa Leadership Luncheon Staring Erica Yaeger

Sarah Riehm

On February 25, the Altrusa Leadership Committee hosted the annual Leadership Luncheon at Canyon Creek Country Club. Keynote speaker was Erica Yaeger, who co-founded and serves as the Publisher of *Richardson Living* magazine. She is also the Assistant Dean of Development and Alumni Relations at UTDallas.

From our website: “The goal of Altrusa is to make our communities better through leadership, partnership and service.” Changing the community for the better requires four key elements: vision, strategy, commitment and **leadership**—by which we can execute our vision and strategy. That’s why we provide leadership training for our members. Erica made several key points worth sharing:

1. **Tell your story.** Before you meet with community leaders and organizations, have a clear idea in mind about the purpose of Altrusa, what it does and why it matters. What is your story? Why are you involved in Altrusa? This is important whether you are trying to recruit new members or lead community projects. Practice an elevator pitch—a short, succinct statement of the what and why before your next opportunity to meet with either a potential member or to pitch a community project.
2. **Project your passion.** Real leaders project confidence and commitment to others—it is catching! Before you meet with someone or present a proposal, do your homework and develop a strategy to engage them in what you are doing. Remember, it is not about you. It is about what you are trying to accomplish to help others.
3. **Perfect your pitch.** If you are presenting to a group via Powerpoint, use Erica’s 10-20-30 rule if you want to be effective. No more than 10 slides, over a 20-minute timeframe, and use at least a 30-point font with lots of graphics. That’s about the outer limit of people’s attention span.
4. **Eye contact and a smile are KEY.** People underestimate the power of good eye contact and a friendly, smiling face. Eye contact helps you concentrate. It exhibits confidence and conviction. It slows down your speech. Whether giving a formal presentation or just engaging in conversation, use vocal variety. Watch your posture—don’t slump.

5. **Take a high-quality leave-behind.** Whether you are trying to recruit new members, volunteers, or work with an organization, you want them to remember you and the reason for your conversation long after you are gone.



(pictured l-r: Ginger Tonne, Erica Yaeger, and Sarah Nesbit)

Thanks to Committee Co-Chairs **Ginger Tonne** and **Sarah Nesbit** plus the other dedicated Leadership Committee members for hosting such a fine event.



Senior Committee Update

### Altrusa at Atria Bingo!

By Lynn Solomon, Senior Committee Co-Chair

Atria Bingo was held on Wednesday March 8, 2017. Altrusa volunteers were **Susan Fischer** and **Carol Ruszkowski**. Thank you ladies and thank you Atria Assisted Living Richardson for providing Altrusa this opportunity to serve our community.

There will be no Bingo on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Atria has chosen to replace Bingo for that night only with their Spring Auction. The Auction will be held on April 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 pm. Please register to volunteer for the Auction on the website. We will need about 5 volunteers to insure that the event runs smoothly. They usually have about 25 residents attending. So please sign up to help!

Please note that May Bingo will be held as scheduled on the second Wednesday which will be May 10<sup>th</sup>.



## Accent

### What is an Accent and an Invocation?

Members will be offered the opportunity to give the Accent or the Invocation at an upcoming meeting, and newer members may wonder what is involved in each of these. According to the "International Altrusa Resource Guide," An Altrusa **Accent** is a two-minute presentation at a Club meeting that covers such items as news on an upcoming International or District event, new Altrusa materials, or Altrusa historical highlights. The Altrusa Accent can provide helpful information in membership orientation.

An Invocation is the act of appealing to a higher authority for help. An Altrusa **Invocation**, as recommended by Altrusa International, is Altrusa Grace; however, we use the Altrusa Grace immediately before the dinner meeting meal. In our club, the Altrusa Invocation is selected by the person presenting the Invocation and is often a reading that is related to women, or a published prayer or non-denominational prayer they may find on the internet or in literature. It is not hard to do an Accent or an Invocation, so please step up when you are asked.



## Altrusa International News

### International President-Elect

At the International Convention in Kansas City in 2015, Silvia Silverman was installed for the 2015-2017 biennium as the President of Altrusa International. Silvia's term will end at the Convention in Nashville in July. Next in line for President in International President-Elect, **Leanne Milligan**. Leanne will be installed for the 2017-2019 biennium this summer, on July 24.



Leanne became an Altrusan in 1994. Coming from Te Awamutu, New Zealand, in District Fifteen. She speaks with a lovely accent in a calm manner. She has held many offices in her club including President, and many district offices including Governor of District Fifteen. She has

been active in many international offices and committees as well. She chaired the International Convention in Rouroua, New Zealand in 2013.

## Membership Committee Update

### April Lunch Bunch Celebrates Altrusa's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Add an Altrusan Month!

When: April 11, 2017 at 11:30 am

Where: Into My Garden Tea Room, 1726 Ave K, Plano

Join us April 11 and bring a guest as we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Altrusa International. We will have a cake to celebrate the big milestone. Price for lunch, drink, tax, and tip will be \$15.50 per person. RSVP required on website.



## Membership Committee Update

### Spring Orientation / Reorientation

Jane Tucker



On March 18, 2017, members of the Recruitment Committee hosted the annual Spring Orientation/Reorientation at the home of President, Nancy Rohm. **Dena Davis** graciously introduced many of our club's past presidents who discussed the roles of our current Administrative and Foundation Committees as well as gave members and guests information on upcoming events. Each past president also gave highlights from their term as President. It was rewarding to be reminded of the long history our club and its members that have been doing great things in our community for over 50 years



Pictured at right:  
**Jo Leeper**, President 1981-82, proudly displays her Edith Debusk President's Award

## Retention and Recruitment Committee Report

### Mardi Gras Celebration

Laura Trainor-Collins

Twenty-one Altrusans and guests “Let The Good Times Roll” while wearing their Mardi Gras masks and beads. President **Nancy Rohm** was crowned Queen of the Altrusa Krewe with a unique head piece. Everyone enjoyed the Desperado Tacos, Margaritas and King Cake (talk about diversity) at Desperados Mexican Restaurant. This was a fun time with great food and drinks. **Christine Hart** won a prize for “Favorite Mask”. **Kimberly Kierce** won a prize for knowing the meaning of the colors of Mardi Gras. Purple symbolizes justice, green – faith, and gold – power. **Cindy McIntyre’s** husband **Curt McIntyre**, was fortunate to find the baby in his piece of King Cake. He was rewarded with a prize and we know who will be buying next year’s King Cake.



Pictured top (l-r):  
**Marybeth McLemore, Tom Collins, Christine Hart, and Cindy McIntyre** compete for best mask.

Pictured above (l-r):  
**Nancy Rohm, Curt McIntyre** (King Cake winner), and **Laura Trainor-Collins**



Altrusa International Foundation

### Foundation Community Leadership Award



As stated in the “Club Board News” on page 1 of this *Tidings*, you may have noticed the Board met with our Foundation Trustees.

In many ways, our Foundation mirrors the International Foundation. Altrusa’s International Foundation oversees Grant Requests and Disbursements, the Club 21 program, the Lamplighter program and Disaster Relief programs. International Foundation also manages the ‘Community Leadership Award’. The criteria for this award is that a nominee:

- (1) Has chaired a specific community service program which provided, or continues to provide, a benefit to the community;
- (2) Chaired an Altrusa project or program (not a fundraiser) – they may have chaired a project sponsored in cooperation with another civic or charitable organization,
- (3) Lives or works in the community;
- (4) Is a true volunteer, not a paid staff member.
- (5) Does not have to be an Altrusan.

The deadline for submission for this award is May 15. The monetary prize of \$2,000 is given to the winner’s project or service project of their choice and a plaque for the individual.

District Nine News

Thank You

FROM GOVERNOR, SYLVIA ZAMORA

Dear Altrusans,

I enjoyed attending your club's 51<sup>st</sup> birthday party last month. What a wonderful celebration! I also want to thank you for your club's contribution to the International Foundation's Endowment Fund in my honor. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity. Looking forward to visiting with you again next month at Conference.

Until then, best wishes,  
Altrusa love, Gov. Sylvia



Welcome New Altrusans!

We are excited to welcome (pictured l-r) **Mary Shiroma** and **Coralie Miller** as new members of Altrusa



Richardson. We look forward to getting to know you!



Altrusa Backpage Flashback!

2016 Kindness Action Weekend



2016 was the first KAN Weekend and it was embraced by the community with great success as Kindness Action Ninjas celebrated our first responders.

Pictured left: Our youngest Kindness Ninjas show kindness to Richardson Firefighters.

Community Outreach Committee Report

Kindness Action Weekend Returns

Cindy McIntyre

Our Second Annual KAN (Kindness Action Ninjas) Project is almost here. The school children at all four of our Choose Kind Library Schools (Terrace, Northrich, Audelia Creek, and North Lake) have what they need to make darling greeting cards to be delivered to seniors in 5 of our Richardson Communities.



Juan Ramirez (pictured above center with (l) **Cindy McIntyre** and (r) **Ann Turner**) at Northlake Elementary asked a very nice mom - who was there enrolling her children - if she would catch a photo of us under the "Kindness Matters" sign handing over our bag of goodies - ink pads, lots of stamps, and a toy for each child who thinks of others and makes a card.

On April 7, 2017, the Ninjas will pick up the "masterpiece" cards, and then, on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, the club will convene at 10 am at Friends Place. There we will put the finishing touches on two presentations from the Community Outreach and International Relations Committees to Hope's Door and Mike's Kids. Of course, we will let our own kids and granddads fashion some cards too, and eat tons of brunch snacks.

Then, it's off to the nursing homes for the ninjas to deliver our good wishes. Each of the five homes asked us to come around lunchtime so we can catch all the residents together. I can't wait!

The community has been so supportive again this year - Richardson is just the best! We hope everyone young and old will find some act of kindness during the weekend. We are doing our part to spread it around - bet you can too.