



November, 2017

Moving Forward...

When you read this newsletter, October will have passed and we will be on to other things. A look back will reveal how successful our *Outstanding Women of Today...Builders of Tomorrow Luncheon* has become. At this writing, we have 275 confirmed luncheon guests. Many thanks to our luncheon co-chairs, Mary Osentowski and Sylvia McCloskey, for their tremendous job in leading this effort. Thanks also goes to our five Team Leaders; Laura Trainor-Collins, Carol Ruskowski, Brenda Boston, Cindy McIntyre, and Ginger Tonne - a big thank you for your hard work and dedication to make this event successful.

We will be electing a nominating committee at the December Business Meeting. Please use this month to think about the leadership role you wish to play in the coming year and think about those to nominate for this important work. We will need 5 nominees for nominating committee. Check out the website and read all the job descriptions for positions on the Club Board of Directors and for the Foundation Board. Be prepared to accept one of these leadership positions if asked. It is a great way to hone your leadership skills and provide a valuable service to our club.

There are several activities coming up during November, so go to the website and find an activity or service that suits you and sign up. Many hands make light work...so get involved. Also, Thanksgiving is just around the corner. I wish each of you a wonderful celebration with family and friends.

The Membership Recruitment Committee, led by Bobbi Klein and Susan Fischer, have a great holiday party planned. Please go online and sign up to attend and bring a guest. For those of you that are new to Altrusa Richardson, this is a great event to invite your spouse, a friend, or relative to come see what Altrusa is all about. So, make plans to come celebrate "A Texas Holiday Party" with entertainment by Debbie Perrone, a Patsy Cline tribute artist. She will perform several Patsy Cline songs and then lead us in some favorite holiday tunes.

Upcoming Events:

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

Nov 2	Education - Teddy Bear Time (5:45p)
Nov 2	Retention Cmte Meeting (6p)
Nov 2	Monthly Business Meeting (7p)
Nov 4	Ability House - Shelley's Birthday (1p)
Nov 7	Int'l Rel. - World Peace Art Contest (3:15p)
Nov 7	Seniors - Appletree Court Auction (6:15p)
Nov 8	Seniors - Atria Bingo (6p)
Nov 9	Retention-Lunch Bunch/Fernando's(11:30a)
Nov 14	Int'l Rel. - World Peace Art Reception (6p)
Nov 16	Monthly Dinner / Program Meeting (7p)
Nov 23	Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov 25	UN - Int'l Day for Elimin. of Violence Day
Nov 27	Retention - Book Club (6p)

Altrusa Board Report

By Gayle Ingle

The Club Board met on October 12th at Friend's Place. There were no actions taken by the Board at this meeting. Jean Stuart gave a Treasurer's Report. The Board discussed several items including Make a Difference Day and the project by the Sophomore Sisters at Café Momentum. It was also reported that the Community Outreach Committee had 367 books to donate after the Friends of the Library Book Sale. These books were donated to Hope's Door and NETWORK. Awards Luncheon updates and upcoming committee activities were also discussed. Our Club continues to stay very involved! And we, as a Club Board, continue to work for you!



Sue McElveen, President, 2017-18

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Membership Recruitment Committee
Membership Connections at Fall Orientation
By Bobbi Klein

On October 14th, the Membership Recruitment Committee held a very successful Fall Orientation event at the home of Bobbi Klein. The event was expanded from the typical format to include an “Add An Altrusan Day” and “Outstanding Women of Today Nominee Meet & Greet” component. The committee mailed invitations to all of our Outstanding Women of Today Nominees requesting the pleasure of their company. We were pleased to have five of the nominees accept our invitation. In attendance were Shana Sims-Bradish, of the City of Richardson; Angela Lightfoot-Pumford, of GN Hearing USA; Christina Crane, of Unlocking Doors; Naomi Emmett, of UT Dallas; and Kathy Shockley, of the Dallas Chapter of The Alzheimer’s Association. These special ladies had a chance to get to know each other and some of us in Altrusa, too. Great connections were made and we all enjoyed the food and company in a casual setting.

Making the event even more special, speakers from four partnership organizations that our Club works with on an on-going basis were also invited to share information about their organizations and our involvement with them. After brunch, we gathered to hear our speakers. Our guests were impressed with finding out more about what we do for our community and even our “seasoned” members learned lots of new things, too.

Ryan Thomas of **Hope’s Door New Beginning Center** spoke of the needs that their organization addresses in our area. He expressed gratitude for the many needs that Altrusa has addressed, especially for the recent grant we provided for software needed to more efficiently track clients and services they provide. Ryan exchanged business cards with Nominee Angela Lightfoot-Pumford, who offered to work with Hope’s Door New Beginning Center to provide free hearing tests.

Justin Banta of **Ability Connection Texas** (Ability House) spoke to us about the expanded services that Ability Connection has been able to provide since becoming an independent agency. The Dallas Stars recently visited Ability Connection and Justin told them about our long-time involvement with Ability House. After hearing about it, they responded, “We want to do that, too!” So, they will be adopting some of the other residential homes based on the example we have set.

Lindsey Theobold, librarian for Northlake Elementary (one of our **Choose Kind Library** locations), highlighted the projects we have provided in addition to the popularity of the books in the Choose Kind library. She is very generously assisting us with getting our newest libraries started in Forest Ridge, Spring Valley, and Forest Lane Elementary schools.

Our own Samantha Slaight spoke to us about **Mike’s Kids**, which she and her late husband started several years ago after a visit to the Rio Grande Valley.

Samantha’s son now runs the organization in his father’s memory. Working with local churches and other agencies, they provide clothing, shoes, and household items to those in need both in Texas and across the Rio Grande.

Three of our guests expressed an interest in finding out more about Altrusa membership. We are looking forward to seeing them all at the Outstanding Women of Today Luncheon on October 27.



Our OWT nominee guests enjoyed themselves at the brunch. (Right to left) Shanna Sims-Barish, Christina Crane, Kathy Shockley, Naomi Emmett and Angela Lightfoot- Pumford.

(seated at right) Christina Crane (one of our nominees and guest from the Downtown Dallas Altrusa club) shares a hug with Susan Fischer.



(pictured below l - r) Enjoying the good company is. Gayle Ingle, Angela Pumford (guest), Cindy Murray, and Deb Bourland.



Community Outreach Committee Report

Altrusa Donates Art Carts to Hope's Door-New Beginning Centers to Focus on National Domestic Awareness Month

By Jane Tucker

Hope's Door and New Beginnings merged last September creating one of the largest domestic violence programs in Texas. For several years, our Community Outreach Committee has organized projects for both centers, which include making handmade pillowcases and donating pillows, pajamas, socks, baby diapers, and toiletries. This year, at our October 4th Business Meeting as part of National Domestic Awareness Month, our club presented an art cart to each center (pictured at right). The carts contained over 330 items, which will be used in art therapy sessions at each site; thereby, greatly enhancing their counseling program. The Community Outreach Committee worked closely with Counselor and Therapist Yvette LeBlanc, MS,LPC, (pictured top right) and Volunteer Coordinator Beth Leos (pictured lower right) to obtain supplies most beneficial to their art therapy program.



Art therapy uses the creative processes of art to improve and enhance mental and emotional health, resolve problems, develop interpersonal skills, and increase self-esteem. In donating the art carts, we hope that our club has created an art program for both centers to give victims of domestic violence a way of safely expressing their

feelings and thoughts when words fail them. In accepting the art carts on behalf of Hope's Door-New Beginning Centers (now one of the largest domestic violence programs in Texas since the merge), Yvette LeBlanc shared how she has seen first-hand the benefits of art therapy and expressed her delight with our generous donation.



The Committee even enlisted the help of Jerry McElveen (pictured above), Club President Sue McElveen's husband, who used his wood-working skills to construct nine drawing boards.



We presented 2 art carts to Yvette LeBlanc, therapist, (top picture) and a \$1,500 Grant to Beth Leos, Volunteer Coordinator, (pictured above) both representing Hope's Door New Beginning Center.



Ability House News

Shelley's Happy Birthday Party

By Jane Merz, Ability House Co-Chair

Please celebrate Shelley's birthday with us on November 4th at 1:30pm. We invite all new members to visit at least one of the 6 birthday parties the Ability House Committee holds each year.



Club members gather with Beth Leos and Yvette LeBlanc for the donation of the art carts.

Grants Committee Report
2017-2018 Grants Awarded

By Janet Vance

The Grants Committee is pleased to announce ten recipients of Altrusa International of Richardson Foundation, Inc. Grants for the 2017-2018 grants cycle. The recipients are:

- **The Eisemann Center** (\$1,000) for outreach and residency activities
- **Fine Arts Center of Richardson**, aka Arts Incubator of Richardson (\$250) for Ricochet 2017—a showcase for creativity and arts in Richardson
- **Hope's Door** (\$1,500) for a software package for measuring the community impact of provided services
- **Network of Community Ministries** (\$1,000) for holiday baskets for seniors
- **Richardson Adult Literacy Center** (\$1,500) for classes for ESL for parents to help them better engage with their children's schools
- **Richardson Community Chorale** (\$250) to pay expenses for recruited singers, especially college students
- **Richardson Reads One Book** (\$1,000) to bring a significant author to Richardson for free public programs
- **Richardson Symphony** (\$1,000) for "Symphony Days" for children in the RISD and Richardson private schools
- **Unlocking Doors** (\$1,000) for services to reduce recidivism of former prisoners
- **Veteran's Center of North Texas** (\$250) for needed assistance to veterans

A total of \$8,750 was awarded this year, which is a significant increase from last year in grant funds awarded. Many of these grant recipients will introduce their agencies and their services to the Altrusa membership at business meetings this year.

Membership Retention Update
Altrusa Wine and Chocolate Literary Society
(aka Book Club) meeting October 2017

At the October 2017 Altrusa Wine and Chocolate Literary Society (AWCLS – aka "Book Club") gathering, member took a break from the social comraderie for a picture.



Seated (l-r): Shirly Waller, Christine Hart, Bobbie Klein, Lois Ferrara, Jackie Blume. Standing (l-r): Cat Zultner, Mouna Rouani, Mary Beth McLemore, Gerry Carron, Mary Osentowski, Janice Campbell, Carol Schwarten, Janet McColloch, Jackie Scrivener, Kay George, Cheryl Oliver. Photographer: Susan Fischer



District News

2018 District Conference – Save the Date!
by Kimberly Kierce



Save the Date for the 2018 District Nine Conference on April 20 – 22, 2018 at the Hyatt Regency North Dallas / Richardson hosted by the Garland, Greenville and Rockwall Altrusa clubs.

Senior Committee Report
Richardson Public Library Book Rotation
By Toni Garrett

On October 14th, five Altrusans and one Altrouser along with five members of the Richardson Exchange Club, volunteered to help with the Richardson Public Library Book Rotation Project. This project involves taking large print books on a rotation basis to several participating assisted and non-assisted living facilities throughout Richardson.

(pictured front l-r): Toni Garrett, Helen Bate, Dean Burroughs, Gloria Sandoval, and Ann Turner and Doug Turner. Others pictured are members of the Richardson Exchange Club.



Program Committee Highlights
October Program Meeting Report
 By Gerry Carron



Our October dinner program meeting, sponsored by Community Outreach Committee, featured Cindy Shafer, NETWORK of Community Ministries CEO (pictured at left), as well as our coats and toys donation for the children supported by NETWORK. Ms Shafer presented an eye-opening account of the services provided by

NETWORK to families of Dallas, Garland, and Richardson. Adults are offered everything from resume, interview, and job skills to a quiet place for meditation or prayer. With Cindy's leadership, Network is ever expanding to fulfill the needs of people in crisis.



The Community Outreach Committee (pictured below l-r: Jane Tucker, Gloria Sandoval, Jan Flesch, Ann Tuner, and Gerry Carron) and individual club member donations provided toys for NETWORK's Christmas Shop for the upcoming holidays.



Jackie Scrivener, Altrusa Richardson's NETWORK liaison, purchased 46 children's coats and jackets for distribution (pictured above) and toys were collected as well for the Santa Program (pictured below).



SECRET KINDNESS NINJAS



Membership Retention Committee Update
Are You Having Fun With Your Secret Ninja?
 By Laura Trainor-Collins

Thank you to those who signed up and are participating in the Secret Kindness Ninja's Project, which is an opportunity to care, encourage and get to know another Altrusan. Participants are reminded that they can send notes, cards, and even leave little gifts (less than \$5) in the Ninja box before each club meeting and a Retention Committee Members will deliver this item for you so you can remain anonymous. Please remember to put the member's name on each item. Gift giving and receiving is fun and rewarding, but it is the love behind the gift that matters most. Please do something once a month and try to get to know more about her but make sure to keep it a secret.



Education Committee Report

Altrusans Help Northlake Elementary Students Celebrate International Dot Day

On September 15th, members of Altrusa Richardson helped Northlake Librarian, Lyndsey Theobald (pictured at right reading to children), celebrate International Dot Day with her students as part of a Choose Kind Library event inspired by our Kindness Ninja weekend event last spring. International Dot Day is based on a book entitled “The Dot” by Peter H. Reynolds, which illustrates how believing in yourself and being creative can inspire the whole world. The book shares the story of a girl who begins a journey of self-discovery after a caring teacher challenges her to “make her mark.” Lyndsey read this book to Kindergarteners through third graders and then



had the students create pictures on cards for seniors to thank them for making their mark on the world. Altrusan members Brenda Boston (pictured left), Bobbi Klein, Sue McElveen, Susan Fischer, Janet McCulloch, and Jane Tucker worked different shifts throughout the day to help the students

create their cards.

Richardson Altrusans distributed these cards to seniors at assisted living centers and to clients at Friends Place Adult Day Services. The purpose of this project was to use children’s talents to inspire and energize in such a way as to move the world to a better place. The seniors who have received these cards have been so pleased that children would make this type of effort to remember them. The seniors have expressed a desire to send thank you notes back to the students to tell them how much they were touched by their gesture of kindness. Teaching children how simple acts of kindness can impact others is truly a wonderful way to energize our community. (pictured above with these cards, Altrusa Richardson Club President Sue McElveen and Librarian Lyndsey Theobald)



(pictured above) Librarian Lyndsey Theobald reads *The Dot* to the children of Northlake Elementary to celebrate International Dot Day.



Membership Recruitment Committee

Welcome to Our Newest Altrusan!

by Bobbi Klein – Recruitment Committee Co-Chair



The Membership Recruitment Committee is pleased to welcome Judy Blome (center) into Altrusa Membership with her sponsors (l) Christine Hart and (r) Dean Burroughs.

Invocation

7 Little Thoughts of Blessings

Once upon a time, all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer all the people gathered but only one boy came with an umbrella.-That's FAITH

When you throw a baby in the air, she laughs because she knows you will catch her.-That's TRUST

Every night we go to bed, without any assurance of being alive the next morning but still, we set the alarm to wake up.-That's HOPE

We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. -That's CONFIDENCE

We see the world suffering, but still we get married.-That's LOVE

On an old man's shirt was written a cute sentence, "I am not 60 years old, I am sweet 16 with 44 years experience" -That's ATTITUDE

Now that you've been blessed, don't be stingy with the blessing, share that with your friends-That's CARING.



International News

Membership Sponsor Awards Discontinued



For the past four biennia, we have run a program recognizing sponsors of new members on a cumulative basis with the "number pins". Unfortunately, during

this time, our membership numbers have continued to decrease. It has been decided that this program is to be discontinued. The Board is considering other options for promotion and recognition of recruitment and retention in the coming months and, if you have ideas, please submit them to President@altrusa.org.



Fundraiser Committee

Awards Luncheon is another "Outstanding" Success



On October 27th, Altrusa International of Richardson, Foundation, Inc. hosted its 14th Annual Luncheon and Awards Luncheon honoring 23 outstanding women recognized for their contributions in their chosen field. Two hundred and seventy-four attendees celebrated this occasion. Check out the special edition of the Tidings - Awards Luncheon Edition coming soon.



2018 "Outstanding Women of Today ... Builders of Tomorrow" honorees in seven categories are:

- Kayci Prince (Outstanding Women of Tomorrow – under age 35 one of the following 6 categories),
- Shanna Sims-Bradish (Government),
- Angela Renee Lightfoot-Pumford (Corporate),
- Pia K. Jakobsson (Education),
- Melissa Hailey (Small Business),
- Christina Melton Crain (Nonprofit) and
- Cheryl Koch (Health Care).

Program Meeting Preview
Refugee Services of Texas



Our Dinner Program on November 16th will be focused on Refugee Services of Texas presented by Lily Heine. Refugee

Services of Texas (RST) was founded in 1978 as a social-service agency seeking to welcome refugees and other displaced people to Texas and support them in integrating and thriving in their new communities. Guided by the principles of human dignity and compassion, RST has welcomed hundreds of refugees, asylees, and victims of human trafficking to Dallas through providing core services of resettlement, case management, employment services, intensive case management, and legal aid.

Lily completed her undergraduate degree at Baylor University in International Studies with an emphasis in the Middle East. After graduating, she interned at the International Rescue Committee Dallas alongside the Case Managers handling the first ninety days of the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program. In the summer of 2016, Lily moved to the Middle East to work at an NGO as a Community Development Liaison in the surrounding area of the Za'atari Refugee Camp. Currently, at Refugee Services of Texas, Lily works to connect the Dallas community to RST in order to make Dallas a welcoming and safe city for our new neighbors.

Sign up on line and join us November 16th at 7pm for this informative program.



UN Days
International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women - November 25



The United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is an occasion for governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to raise public awareness of violence against women. It has been observed on November 25 each year since 2000.

Various activities are arranged around the world to draw attention to the need for continuing action to eliminate violence against women, projects to enable women and their children to escape violence and campaigns to educate people about the consequences of violence

against women. Locally, women's groups may organize rallies, communal meals, fundraising activities and present research on violence against women in their own communities.

An ongoing campaign that people are encouraged to participate in, especially around this time of the year when awareness levels for the day are high, is the "Say NO to Violence Against Women campaign". Through the campaign, anyone can add their name to a growing movement of people who speak out to put a halt to human rights violations against women.

On November 25, 1960, three sisters, Patria Mercedes Mirabal, María Argentina Minerva Mirabal and Antonia María Teresa Mirabal, were assassinated in the Dominican Republic on the orders of the Dominican ruler Rafael Trujillo. The Mirabel sisters fought hard to end Trujillo's dictatorship. Activists on women's rights have observed a day against violence on the anniversary of the deaths of these three women since 1981.

On December 17, 1999, November 25 was designated as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women by the UN General Assembly. Each year observances around the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women concentrate on a particular theme, such as "Demanding Implementation, Challenging Obstacles" (2008).

Events around the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women are coordinated by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). The logo of this organization consists of "UNIFEM". The letters "U" and "N" are in blue and the letters "I", "F", "E" and "M" are in a darker shade of this color. An image of a dove surrounded by olive branches is to the right of the word. The image of the dove incorporates the international symbol for "woman" or "women". This is based on the symbol for the planet Venus and consists of a ring on top of a "plus" sign.



Altrusa Richardson Club President, Sue McElveen, presided over the October 5th Business Meeting to address important business matters of the club with its membership, to initiate a new member, present a "Big Check" to one of our many grantees. Thank you for your leadership, Sue!

