



March, 2018

So much to be thankful for...

Let me begin my letter by saying WOW! Our club just witnessed the most terrific birthday party in recent history! We began the evening with "ELVIS". He sang while Altrusans danced and sang along. All the while, the blackjack tables were filled and poker chips were being won. And, this, dear sisters, was just the beginning. I would like to thank the Retention Committee under the leadership of Laura Trainor-Collins and Karen Tate for their hard work and over the top entertainment. You guys rock!

The only down side to the evening was the absence of Beth Blair, Governor-Elect for District Nine. She had to decline our invitation due to illness. We wish her well and a speedy recovery. However, she did send greetings through our own Kimberly Kierce who is on the District Nine Board of Directors as Treasurer. Thanks, Kimberly, for pitching in at the last minute.

The most incredible part of the evening was a visit from Brian Williams from the Think Kindness Organization. For those of you that were not there and do not know who Brian is, he spoke to us four years ago when we were establishing the Think Kind libraries for some of our RISD elementary schools. He was in town again and I was able to get him to come to our birthday party to speak. He brought with him a most delightful young lady named Grace. She is from one of the orphanages in Kenya where he took shoes on one of his first trips to Africa. She was so sweet and was very impressed with the work we do and also very thankful for the shoes we supplied to her orphanage. We will be talking more about Grace at our meetings, so be sure you attend.

We have started our soft soled shoe collection and will be collecting through the April dinner meeting. Gather up all those gently used shoes that are taking space in your closet that you never wear, or buy new ones, and bring

them to a meeting. Samantha Slaight and Freda Handley, co-chairs of our International Relations Committee, will be collecting at each meeting. They were provided boxes for mailing (postage free) all the shoes we collect and sending them to Brian's Think Kindness organization.

Your invitation to District Nine Conference has been sent to you from the district. The dates for the conference are April 20 - 22. Please register to attend and make your hotel reservations as soon as possible. It is such fun and so very informative. To those of you that are new to Altrusa, it is a great source of information and help in getting acclimated to this wonderful organization. I hope to see you all there.

Please stay connected to what is going on in our club by logging on to our website and signing up for the upcoming events. I can't believe that the year is almost over. Only three more months until the incoming officers take their place.

Altrusa Love,

*Sue McElveen*, President 2017-2018

[suemcelveen@yahoo.com](mailto:suemcelveen@yahoo.com)



## Upcoming Events:

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

Mar 1	Business Meeting - (7p)
Mar 14	Seniors - Atria Bingo - (6p)
Mar 22	Seniors - Atria Auction (2:15p)
Mar 22	Dinner/Program Meeting (Social -6:30)
Mar 22	Education Committee Mtg (6p)
Mar 26	AWCLS Book Club - (6p)
Apr 5	Business Meeting - (7p)

Senior Committee

**Richardson Public Library Book Rotation**

by Toni Garrett

On February 3, 2018, seven Altrusans along with 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 in Richardson.

Altrusans participating in this event were: Judy Blome, Alma Benoit, Coralie Miller, Dean Burroughs, Carol Ruskowski, Helen Bate, and Toni Garrett.



Altrusans pictured in order starting from left: Helen Bate, Dean Burroughs, Judy Blome, Toni Garrett, Carol Ruskowski, Coralie Miller, and Alma Benoit.



**Altrusa Board Report**

by Gayle Ingle

The Club Board met on February 15, prior to the Dinner Meeting, at the home of Brenda Boston. Governor-elect from District Nine, Beth Blair, was scheduled to meet with the Board, but was unable to meet due to illness. As an action item, the Board approved the membership of Robbin Murley. Reports were given from the liaisons for the Service and Administrative Committees. The Retention Committee was recognized for its hard work on the Super Bowl Party and especially on our Altrusa Birthday Party! The Leadership Seminar has 30 registered with the possibility of at least 3 more attending. It was also reported that the Can Weekend is in April, and we will vote on the Name Badge proposal at the March Business Meeting. It was announced the Club Board and the Foundation Board of Trustees will hold a

joint meeting on Thursday, March 29 at Friend's Place. Altrusa members continue to be very busy, and, we, as a Club Board, continue to work for you!



International Relations Committee

**UN DAY: International Women's Day**

#PressforProgress

With the World Economic Forum's 2017 Global Gender Gap Report findings telling us that gender parity is over 200 years away - there has never been a more important time to keep motivated and #PressforProgress. And with global activism for women's equality fuelled by movements like #MeToo, #TimesUp and more - there is a strong global momentum striving for gender parity. While we know that gender parity won't happen overnight, the good news is that across the world women are making positive gains day by day. Plus, there's a very strong and growing global movement of advocacy, activism and support. We can't be complacent. Now, more than ever, there's a strong call-to-action to press forward and progress gender parity. A strong call to motivate and unite friends, colleagues and whole communities to think, act and be gender inclusive March 8 sees the annual IWD campaign theme kick off for the year ahead. The IWD campaign theme provides a unified direction to guide and galvanize collective action. The campaign theme does not end on International Women's Day. It's just the start. Throughout the year many groups worldwide adopt the IWD campaign theme for further campaign work, gender-focused initiatives, continuing activity and events. Started by the Suffragettes in the early 1900's, the first International Women's Day was celebrated in 1911. International Women's Day belongs to all communities everywhere - governments, companies, charities, educational institutions, networks, associations, the media and more. Whether through a global conference, community gathering, classroom lesson or dinner table conversation - everyone can play a purposeful part in pressing for gender parity. So make International Women's Day YOUR day and do what you can to truly make a positive difference for women. Press for Progress!



*Finance Committee and Club Board Report*

**Logo Compliant Name Badges**

by Nance Rohm

At the request of the board, I researched Logo-Compliant name badges for our membership. After doing so, I discussed the results of the research and the cost with the Finance Committee. They voted to provide all Richardson Altrusa members renewing for the 2018-19 year with a new magnetic logo-compliant name badge; subsequently the board approved this expense as well. The members in attendance at the March 1 business meeting will vote on this action. There is currently an undesignated balance of \$2,690.21 available in the Administrative Account.

The new badges would be similar to the sample shown, except they would include the year the member joined to



the right of the city and state. The licensed vendor for Altrusa International, Doc Morgan, sells name

badges on their web-site for \$14.95 + \$6.95 shipping. In communicating with the Altrusa International Office, I learned we can have our name badges produced by a different vendor, as long as Altrusa International receives a 10% royalty.

The current company we use, Recognition USA located in Richardson, was by far the least expensive of all the companies I contacted. They can supply our name badges (in bulk) for \$8.80 each, including the royalty and they will not charge us a set-up fee. For example, if 95 members re-join, it will cost \$836.00. As always, each future incoming member would pay for her own name badge as part of her New Member Fee. Please contact me or President Sue before the meeting if you have questions.



*International Foundation News*

**Spring Grant Cycle**



The Altrusa International Foundation awards grants between \$250.00 and \$2,000.00.

The number of grants funded and the amount of each grant is dependent upon the available funding and the number and quality of applications. Grant recipients are obligated to use the grant award for the intended purpose and must file a report 6 months after the grant is awarded. Altrusa Clubs are limited to one grant per fiscal year. March 15 is the deadline for Spring Grant Cycle.

*Membership Retention Committee*

**Happy Easter to Your Secret Ninja**

by Laura Trainor-Collins



Be sure to wish your Secret Ninja a Happy Easter. Remember, this is an opportunity to care, encourage, and get to know another Altrusan. You can send notes, cards and even leave little gifts (less than \$5) in the Ninja box before the monthly club meetings and Retention members will deliver for you. Please put the members 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 and keep it a secret.



*Membership Retention Committee*

**Book Club's Fabulous February Highlights**

by Christine Hart

Fifty Seven guests joined the Richardson Altrusa Book Club (AWCLS) on Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> to hear an amazing guest author! We were thrilled to welcome Kaufman County's current District Attorney, Erleigh Wiley who has written a book, "A Target on My Back". This book discusses an ordinary day in January 2013 that forever changed her life, the lives of her family and residents of Kaufman County. Ms Wiley shared the story of the horrifying events leading up to the murder of Asst. D.A. Mark Hasse as well as Kaufman County D.A., Mike McLelland and his wife. Erleigh Wiley is the first African American countywide office holder in Kaufman County. She was a Kaufman County judge for 10 years and is now serving as District Attorney. Ms. Wiley had us on the edge of our seats as she shared her personal experiences and then was gracious enough to stay and sign books after the presentation. We were thrilled to have her present at our AWCLS book club meeting!



Left to right: Christine Hart, Erleigh Wiley, Susan Fischer, Janas and Sheriff David Byrnes, and Sue McElveen

**Leadership Development Committee  
Spring Leadership Seminar**

by Toni Garrett

On February 17, 2018, about thirty Altrusans and guests attended the Spring Leadership Seminar hosted by the Leadership Committee at Canyon Creek Country Club. Attendees enjoyed a delicious meal of quiche, salad, and dessert.



Keynote speaker Kim Quirk, Executive Director of Leadership Richardson leadership message. After the meal, Kim Quirk gave an inspirational message on our Altrusa theme "Welcome Diversity, Cultivate Kindness, and Practice Tolerance." She used personal stories and quotes to remind us of ways

we can lead with these qualities as Altrusans and as women.

We are very appreciative that Kim generously chose to donate her Honorarium back to Altrusa (See pictured below).

Leadership Committee members who planned and sponsored this event were: Donna Buhr, Jo Leeper, Samantha Slaight, Bonnie Perry, Brenda Boston, Kay George, Toni Garrett, and Ginger Tonne, Chair.



Presentation of the Honorarium (pictured l-r) Sue McElveen, Kim Quirk, Ginger Tonne, and Bonnie Perry

*May your blessings outnumber  
the shamrocks that grow,  
and my trouble avoid you  
wherever you go.*

*~Irish Blessing*



**February Dinner Meeting  
Altrusa 52<sup>nd</sup> Birthday Celebration Photos!**



Birthday festivities kicked off with Elvis entertaining the crowd sparking stage dancing by

(l-r) Gloria Sandoval, Bobbi Klein and Rose Daughety



Think Kindness founder, Brian Williams, spoke about the great work of his organization and how Altrusa Richardson has helped achieve

his mission. (pictured l-r Grace, Sue and Brian).

We were honored to meet Grace, an orphan Brian met on his first trip to Africa in 2009. Grace (shown below) is the picture of truth and hope that a simple act kindness (i.e. the gift of shoes) can change the direction of one's life.



**Sophomore Sisters Committee  
Sophomore Sisters Lead Kindness Action  
Ninja (KAN) Weekend**

by Nancy Rohm

SAVE THE DATE! KAN Activities will be Friday, April 6, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. and Saturday, April 7, during the morning until 1:00 p.m. The final details will be made available to soon with opportunities for you to sign-up to participate. There will be hands-on activities to help others in our community. Stay tuned!



## What's Going on at International?

by Leanne Milligan, International President



Well 2018 has been off to a busy start. The International Board and Office team have been busy working on action points that came out of our January 27th board meeting.

The International Program team and task forces have been off and running making steady progress on tasks and strategic programs. And the office staff – well they have been busy finalizing documents, posting items onto our website and preparing communications for members. Here are some of the highlights:

- Work is underway on the revision of Policy 10, providing greater guidance for Governor's and Clubs when a club decides to disband.
- We have revised the Club Treasurers Guide (should be released soon) and the Financial Procedures manual (in final review stage) and a team is developing a new District Treasurers guide.
- We are preparing new Group Tally guides with accompanying videos to help members using Group Tally.
- Convention Planning for Reno 2019 is underway with the timetable outline prepared and the hunt for key note speakers is on.
- A "suggestion box" has been created in the Member area of the International website which will allow members to suggest ideas for improving Altrusa 24/7.
- The new membership tool kit has been updated by the International Membership Committee and is now available on the Website.
- The International Service committee are busy finalizing details for the roll out of the Days for Girls program.
- The International ASTRA committee have revised the Scholarship Application process for 2018.
- The Website Task force are working furiously on the development of a new website on a new platform hosted by a new host and we hope to have something ready for "show and tell" at Conferences in April/ May.
- The Board and the International BRR committee are working on a program of reviewing all International policies. We are on target for completion in October this year (it's a big job!!).
- New task forces have been set up to investigate "Member Initiatives", developing new programs that are attractive to new members and "Gender Neutrality"

in our documents to continue our commitment to greater diversity.

- A survey has been sent out to our Clubs at Large so that we can investigate ways to increase our support of these clubs and another one has been sent to members seeking information to help with the development of a mentoring program.
- We have a team looking at how we can improve Group Tally, both in data collected, how we collect it and how we report it back to the office and Districts.
- New questions have been developed for the Club Annual Report and these have been sent out to Club presidents. We are currently working on converting this into a survey format, so we can collect our 2017/2018 report in this way.
- The New Club Building and Virtual Club task forces have been busy streamlining the process for building clubs and developing new forms and tools to help us build more clubs. Its exciting to see so many clubs/districts out there working on extension efforts at the moment.
- Katie McKenzie has been appointed as our Altrusa UN Youth representative. Welcome to the team Katie. \*New templates for elections and conference evaluations have been developed in Survey Monkey for our Districts to use.



### District News

## Over 1,000 Members Strong

by Kimberly Kierce



Altrusa has been active in Texas since 1930. Today, Altrusa District Nine's boundaries is the entire state of Texas, while other Districts are composed of several states. Today, Altrusa District Nine is one of the strongest membership districts in all of Altrusa. As of February 28, 2018, District membership total is 1,008.

For the 2017-2018 club year, District Nine has 36 clubs, 876 Members, 1 Lifetime Member, 34 Emeritus Members, and 132 New Members for a grand total of 1,008 members strong.

Check out the District website for the latest updates on District happenings and information:

<http://districtnine.altrusa.org>