

President's Message

Our own Past Governor, Mary Osentowski; your Delegates, Sue McElveen, Nancy Rohm, Mary Beth McLemore, Robbin Murley and Bobbi Klein; and Alternates, Jane Tucker and Pam Johnson, to the Altrusa international Convention in Reno Nevada had a very interesting and busy four days.



The Convention was one of the best I've attended since I became an Altrusan in 2000. There were, of course, business meetings to attend, which very interesting and productive. All the meals were provided along with something interesting to listen to, learn or do.

There were many interesting and informative workshops to choose from and most were offered several times during the weekend, so you had an opportunity to attend everything you were interested in. The workshops had varied topics to appeal to those interested in International level involvement, District and Club level topics and just fun. The most fun workshops on Thursday gave everyone a chance to participate in hands on service for Days For Girls, Support Our Troops, Paper For Water, Children's Cabinet and No-Sew Blankets.

The Luncheon's included a Conversation Café' where we were able to meet people from all over to share ideas and projects. A Foundation Luncheon, where we found out about the various areas funded by the Foundation and what donations were made during the 2017-2019 Biennium. For more information see page 7.

Our Club received some excellent notoriety during the Saturday Kindness Luncheon, for which Brian Williams was the speaker. We sat together at a table upfront wearing our Kindness Ninja t-shirts. Our club and Kindness projects were mentioned by Dana Vierck, who introduced Brian. Then Brian mentioned us several times and photos of our Choose Kind libraries at Audelia Creek and Tumani School in Kenya were included in the side presentation. We also got to meet members from our "baby" Kindness Ninjas from the Kelso Wash-

ington club, started by Ilona Kirby, after she was introduced to our project at the 2015 District Nine Conference, when she was our International visitor. I think some real interest was generated in other clubs about our Kindness Ninjas and the Choose Kind Libraries.

The Installation of Beverly Hardy the 2019-2021 International President and her Board was interesting and engaging. (continued page 2)



Clowning around with Brian Williams after the Kindness Luncheon: (l-r) Jane Tucker, Sue McElveen, Brian Williams, Pam Johnson (behind Brian) Mary Osentowski, Mary Beth McLemore, Nancy Rohm, Robbin Murley and Bobbi Klein

Upcoming Events for AUGUST

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

- Aug. 1 7:00 pm Business meeting
- Aug. 3 1:30 pm Ability House
Robert's Birthday Party
- Aug. 6 6:30 pm Membership Committee at
Friends Place
- Aug.15 7:00 pm Program/Dinner Meeting
"OWT Bar-B-Que! "
- Aug. 22 6:30 pm Club Board meeting
Friends Place All Club Members Welcome
- Aug. 26 Noon Tidings Deadline
- Aug. 26 6:00 pm AWCLS Book Club
"Bluebird, Bluebird", Richardson
Reads One Book Selection

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued)

President Beverly Hardy's theme for the Biennium is "Teamwork Makes the Dream Work".

The 2021 Altrusa International Convention will be held July 21-24, 2021 in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada, so pull out your passport and make sure it will be up to date!

There is so much more we want to share about Convention that there will be a Special Convention Edition coming out later in August. All of us who attended will be sharing Tidbits at meetings and in future issues of Tidings.

Altrusa hugs,



Bobbi Klein, President, 2019-2020

Raklein77@yahoo.com

972-998-0160

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board of Directors Meeting, July 25, 2019

by Bobbi Klein, President



President's Report: The president officially welcomed new Director Thanh Tran to her first Board meeting. The International Convention was excellent. Our club received special recognition at the Kindness Luncheon; being included in the Brian Williams' introduction and during Brian's speech. Since the change in the Benediction was not approved, the club will select which version we want to use at the August business meeting.

President-Elect's Report: (Administrative Committee Liaison) The Administrative Committees have been meeting to plan the year. Samanthia has asked that all committees alert her to meetings, so that she can attend, and send minutes of their meetings to her.

Vice-President's Report: (Foundation Committee Liaison and Liaison to Foundation) The Kindness Committee, Ability House and Community Outreach have met and begun planning. The Sophomore Sisters will meet soon. Scholarships will begin activities later in the year.

Treasurer's Report: The Finance Committee presented a Recommendation to adopt the 2019-2020 Foundation Budget. There were some questions brought by the Board and the Finance Committee was asked to review and bring the budget back after questions have been resolved.

Directors' Report: The August program will be hosted by the Outstanding Women of Today Luncheon Committee.

The Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement was signed by all Board members in attendance.

The website update has begun and is visible to the club. A lot of the backup documents are still being added. It will have additional features and have a version compatible with cellphones and other devices.

The Finance Committee recommended that club membership in the Richardson Chamber of Commerce be reconsidered. The Recommendation was approved and will be brought to the members at the August Business meeting.



The Board and Club members are encouraged to attend The Compassion Conference 2019, presented by **Compassionate DFW**, the same organization that sponsors *Feeding Children Everywhere*. It will be hosted by First Methodist Church on September 14th 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. This is a day long event with ten excellent workshops .

For more information and tickets :

<https://compassionconference2019.simplertix.com>

Altrusa Richardson To Participate in North Texas Giving Day



The Altrusa International of Richardson Foundation Board of Trustees and the Club will be participating in the North Texas Giving Day, September 19, 2019. Donations to our Foundation will be encouraged from outside sources throughout the day.

The Club will also have a booth at the Richardson Giving Day Celebration from 4:30—7:00 pm at the CityLine Plaza, 1251 State Street in Richardson. The Celebration is sponsored by HASR and will include performances, activities, games, prize drawings, donation stations and much more. Our booth will offer information about our community involvement, Outstanding Woman of Today Luncheon, membership and accept donations.



MEETINGS/ PROGRAM COMMITTEE

OWT Bar-B-Que Dinner Meeting August 15

Our meal this month will be a fun BBQ. Our Program Meeting will be hosted by the **Outstanding Woman of Today, Builders of Tomorrow** Committee. Join us to learn more about OWT Sponsorship and Underwriting.

Please register on-line by 6:00 pm the Monday before the meeting.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

TOOLS 4 Schools Donation to NETWORK

By Jackie Scrivener, NETWORK Project Chair

Club members show off some of the school supplies that were collected at the July business meeting. We will continue to collect items through the August Business meeting. If you choose to make a donation, bring your items to the August Business meeting. For a list of needed items go to last month's Tidings or the NETWORK website. The donations will go to the NETWORK Tools 4 Schools.



KINDNESS COMMITTEE – Helping Agencies Serving Richardson

News From HASR

By Mimi Tanner, Club Liaison to HASR

October 25 is the date of the second HASR signature event, yet to be officially named. This is a daylong seminar featuring Larry James, keynote speaker; lunch and breakout sessions. It's a great opportunity to work on leadership skills, learn new things and have fun. Even though it is a few days before OWT, plan your OWT work schedule to allow time to attend this great event. (Besides, Altrusa's HASR rep, Mimi Tanner, will be coordinating all the volunteers and will be looking for all kinds of help!)

Observations from a Past President; You CAN Do It

By Pam Johnson, President 2013-2014

An Altrusa club cannot exist without an active and dedicated board and members. It's that simple.

I have served on the nominations committee four or five times since I became an Altrusan. While this has been both an honor and a privilege, we all know it has been a challenge these past few years to find members willing to serve on our board and in other leadership positions. With a club as large as ours, it appears that everyone tends to think that someone else can - and will volunteer.



Pam Johnson

It appears that often smaller clubs may not have as much difficulty as we do. With fewer members, it's more apparent that everyone is going to have to serve in some capacity to fill a board and the chances are great that a President will probably need to serve more than one term. With a club as large and established as ours, we have seemingly reached the point of (what I call) the Great Divide. We have a vast number of long-standing, devoted members that have already served many years in various positions and now with retirement, life changes or a host of other reasons, prefer not to serve again.

The other half of our members are the newer ones. The definition or time reference to the word "new" varies considerably and is often synonymous with "I'm not ready yet". There is a reluctance to step up with many expressing views that they are not "leaders" or feeling like they would not be able to measure up to the many others that have led our club in the past. There also exists a sizable group that are "too busy".

What "newer" members often fail to realize is that they only need one critical qualification - **a willingness** to serve our club. We have an enormous number of supportive members eager to follow our Leaders. For those with a willingness to stand at the helm and lead, their ship will be filled with countless crew members ready to row with all their might to ensure we successfully make it to our destination.

This 2019-2020 club year is bringing in many changes that will enable us to continue to grow in a meaningful and positive way to ensure our future as one of (probably THE best) club in District Nine.

Altrusa is not about seeking out successful leaders. Altrusa is a Builder of Women, it develops leadership, and believes in "arousing women to their responsibilities and their possibilities so that their accomplishments will blaze the trail for greater things".

Our club will have many positions to fill. With our current eighty-seven members, that means that we have about eighty-seven members willing to support, encourage, teach, and guide. And, I can promise you, that if you ask, they will follow. You just need to be willing to serve.

The decision to elect a standing nomination committee enables us to invest the time to seek out the best candidates while, more importantly, gives all members the opportunity to investigate and explore the possibility of serving our club in a board capacity. When you are contacted by the Nominating Committee (or to assume a committee role) please think twice (or more) about how you can grow in your Altrusa membership.

Remember... Every single Altrusan wants their leadership to succeed.

ALTRUSA ACCENT

Celebrating Altrusans



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Kimberly Kierce	August 1	Samanthia Slaight	August 20
Shirly Waller	August 1	Brenda Duckett	August 26
Brenda Boston	August 11	Susan Long	August 27
Linda Calkin	August 13	Cindy Murray	August 29
Jean Stuart	August 18	Freda Hanley	August 30
Courtenay Tanner	August 20		

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – RETENTION

Bonjour, Celebrating the Richardson Sophomore Sisters

By Laura Trainor-Collins, Retention

Twenty-Four Altrusans and Guests said “Bonjour”, and celebrated our newest Richardson Altrusans at a Bastille Day Party on July 14th at Desperados Restaurant. Talk about International. Everyone had a fine time in their berets, enjoying happy hour and visiting with our newest Altrusans, Mary Boyter, Thanh Tran, Linda Caron, Lynda Calkin and Patsy Paine (who transferred her membership from Garland). Thank you, Linda Griffith, for the use of the stunning Paris centerpiece for the main table. New members took home a special prize and everyone received their own pink and black Eiffel Tower/Paris hand fan as a party favor. After lots of laughs and lots of hugs, everyone said “Au revoir...until we meet again”.

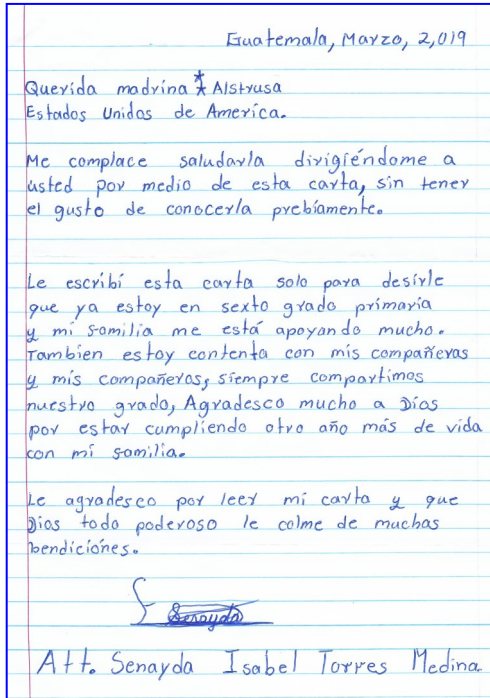


Three of our Sophomore Sisters, celebrate themselves at the Bastille Day Celebration. (l-r) Mary Boyter, Thanh Tran and Linda Caron

KINDNESS COMMITTEE UPDATE – International Relations
Greetings From Our IHELPS International Student



Senayda Isabel Torres Medina



Guatemala, March, 2019

Dear Altrusa Godmothers,
United States of America:

I am pleased to greet you through this letter, without the pleasure of knowing you personally.

I wrote this letter just to tell you that I am already in the sixth grade of elementary school and my family supports me a lot.

I'm also happy with my classmates. We always share in our grade.

I thank God very much for fulfilling another year of life with my family.

Thank you for reading my letter and may God bless you.

Sincerely,
Senayda Isabel Torres Medina

The lovely young lady above, Senayda, is the second student, whose education we have sponsored through HELPS International. She attends the William H. Botan School in Santa Avelina, Guatemala and we have sponsored her for three years so far. In June, she sent us the picture of herself, the letter in the center, and a drawing, which was included in last month's Tidings. We had to have the letter translated. The first young lady that we sponsored went to the same school and has graduated and gone on to nursing school.

Our Club has also sponsored a Choose Kind Library in the William Botan School since 2016.

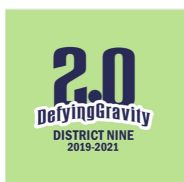
In Memorium

Former Altrusan, **Diane Thorpe**, passed away July 8, 2019. According to her daughter, Melanie Thorpe, services were Saturday, July 27, at Saint Luke's in Richardson. Diane was an avid Library user and RALC volunteer as well as an Altrusan. Memorial gifts for Diane be made to the Richardson Public Library. Here is her daughter's info: Melanie Thorpe
11092 Quest Drive
Frisco TX 75035
972-979-9890

Former Altrusan **Janice Swallow's** brother and father passed away in July, within two weeks of each other. A few years ago Janice moved to Iowa to be with and help her brother as well as her dad. This is a very sad time for Janice and her family. Please include them in your prayers. She could use cards of support at this time. She has lots of family there but her close girl friends are here.

Her address is: Janice Swallow jdswallow6@gmail.com
8 Friendly Lane
Ottumwa, Iowa 52501

DISTRICT NINE ACCENT Call To Action in 2019-2021 Biennium



"Defying Gravity" is Governor Beth Blair's Theme for the 2019-2021 Biennium. One of her goals is to *Defy Gravity* by doubling the membership of District Nine from 1,000 to 2,000. Be on the look out for potential members, not only for our Club, but all over District Nine. Contact Susan Fischer, fischer-gop@abcglobal.net, with potential members for our club.

Do you know a fabulous friend who lives in Texas that doesn't have a local club? Maybe it is time to get a new club started there.

Contact District Membership Chair, Wendy Santiago, wendy@santiagolegalservices.com with potential members for other Texas clubs. And for New Club Building ideas, contact Denise Edmonson, Redmonson1@hotmail.com or Melanie Harrell, mjharrell425@gmail.com New Club Building Co-Chairs.



At the Thursday Night Convention Awards Dinner, Clubs and individuals were encouraged to dress as a song. Most of District Nine wore black with line green scarves to represent Governor Blair's Theme Song "Defying Gravity". It was defying something to try to get all of District Nine together for a photo.

Altrusa International Inc. Foundation 2017-2019

From the 2019 Convention Foundation Luncheon

Altrusa International Foundation’s mission is to empower Altrusans, in providing effective, local community service programs, and to serve Altrusa and it’s International community. Through the Foundation Grants, Club 21, and the Disaster Relief Programs, Altrusans personally experience the power behind Altrusa International – Leading to a Better Community. The Altrusa International Foundation Board of Trustees is committed to you and your clubs and thank you for your continued support of the Foundation’s programs.”



“The

The Foundation distributed a total of **\$455,681** throughout the 2017-2019 Biennium.

The **Grants Program** is the major focus of the Altrusa International Foundation. This past biennium the Foundation distributed **\$345,769** to Altrusa Clubs to assist them with their local service projects.

The **Club 21 Program** centers around supporting children and their families affected by disease and disability. In addition, funds work to support healthcare programs in West Africa. The organizations receiving funding are all 501c3 organizations. You can be a Club 21 Member with a donation of \$21. Contact Mimi Tanner for more info.

2017-2019 Club 21 Program Distribution	
Camp Dreamcatcher of Kennett Square, PA	\$5,000
Camp Sunshine of Aurora, OH	\$5,365
Cavett Kids of Oklahoma	\$6,500
Camp Dreamcatcher of Temple, Tx	\$6,500
Sherwood Forest Camp of St. Louis, MO	\$4,000
Ghana Health & Education Initiative	\$6,000
Medicine for Mali	<u>\$18,000</u>
Total	\$51,865

The **Disaster Relief Programs** offer the Altrusa International Foundation an opportunity to respond with swift and direct aid to residents impacted by natural disaster worldwide. A total of **\$41,847** was distributed to the following locations in Disaster Relief grants in 2017-2019: District Three – Chipola Area Habitat for Humanity; District Seven – American Red Cross; District Nine – Oak Forest Elementary School and Little Cypress Elementary School; District Eleven – Santa Barbara Public Library and Golden Valley Community Fund; District Fourteen – Salvation Army, Fundacion Stefano Steenbakkers, Initiative Comunitaria and 300 Luci Lights.

In addition to the Foundation programs, your contributions funded the following awards, totaling **\$16,200** in 2017-2019:

ASTRA Scholarships and Awards	\$5,000	Letha H. Brown Awards	\$3,400
Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun Awards	\$3,100	Mamie L. Bass Service Awards	\$2,200
Anna H Settle Community Leadership	\$2,000		



Ask yourself: Have I been kind today?
 Make kindness your daily modus operandi and change your world.

— Annie Lennox

August 2019 U.N. Days and Other Observances

Excerpted from www.un.org and www.altrusa.org



Why Do We Mark International Days?

International days are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity. The existence of international days predates the establishment of the United Nations, but the UN has embraced them as a powerful advocacy tool.

International Youth Day, August 12: There are currently 1.8 billion young people between the ages of 10 and 24 in the world. This is the largest youth population ever. But 1 in 10 of the world's children live in conflict zones and 24 million of them are out of school. Political instability, labor market challenges and limited space for political and civic participation have led to increasing isolation of youth in societies.

August 12 was first designated International Youth Day by the UN General Assembly in 1999, and serves as an annual celebration of the role of young women and men as essential partners in change, and an opportunity to raise awareness of challenges and problems facing the world's youth.

2019 Theme: "Transforming Education"

This year's theme highlights efforts to make education more inclusive and accessible for all youth, including efforts by youth themselves. Rooted in [Goal 4](#) of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) – to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" – International Youth Day 2019 will examine how Governments, young people and youth-led and youth-focused organizations, as well as other stakeholders, are transforming education so that it becomes a powerful tool to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

World Humanitarian Day, August 19: World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is held every year on August 19th to pay tribute to aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service, and to rally support for people affected by crises around the world.

2019 WHD campaign: #WomenHumanitarians



This [World Humanitarian Day 2019](#) we honor the work of women in crises throughout the world. We focus on the unsung heroes who have long been working on the front lines in their own communities in some of the most difficult terrains, from the war-wounded in Afghanistan, to the food-insecure in the Sahel, to those who have lost their homes and livelihoods in places such as Central African Republic, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen. And we salute the efforts of women aid workers from across the world, who rally to people in need.

Women make up a large number of those who risk their own lives to save others. They are often the first to respond and the last to leave. These women deserve to be celebrated. They are needed today as much as ever to strengthen the global humanitarian response. And world leaders as well as non-state actors must ensure that they – and all humanitarians – are guaranteed the protection afforded to them under international law.

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition, August 23: The night of August 22 to 23, 1791, in Santo Domingo (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic) saw the beginning of the uprising that would play a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

It is against this background that the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is commemorated on August 23rd each year.

This International Day is intended to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples. In accordance with the goals of the intercultural project "The Slave Route", it should offer an opportunity for collective consideration of the historic causes, the methods and the consequences of this tragedy, and for an analysis of the interactions to which it has given rise between Africa, Europe, the Americas and the Caribbean.