



## President's Message



Our 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday party on Thursday, February 21 was a rousing success. I thank all of you who attended and enjoyed hearing from District Nine Governor, Linda Moore. The Retention Committee orchestrated a wonderful themed celebration with props, costumes and quizzes that was enjoyed by all. Governor Moore also attended the Board Meeting prior to the Program/Dinner Meeting and offered her observations and wisdom as we moved through the agenda. I also want to thank Past President Sue McElveen for introducing our visitor and helping us make her feel welcome.

Governor Moore spoke warmly about the contributions and service of Richardson Altrusan, Kimberly Kierce. As we all know, she is a valuable asset to the Richardson club and the District Nine Board. The Governor's talk also touched on the important of Conference to all District Nine Altrusans and applauded our willingness to take on the 2020 Conference, which will be held in Richardson. Another topic of great importance to our club was leadership and how we nurture members to take on those roles in the club committees and on the board.

We will vote at the March Business Meeting on the slate of officers being recommended for the 2019-2020 year of service. This is an impressive group of leaders we are voting on and I thank Sue McElveen and all of the Nominating Committee members for their thoughtful approach to this process.

District Nine Conference packets are online and you should begin making plans to attend, if you have not done so already. Delegates and alternates were elected at the February business meeting and are as follows: Delegates are Bobbi Klein, Samantha Slaight, Cindy Murray, Cindy McIntyre and Jane Tucker. Alternates are: Mary Shiroma, Deb Bourland, Ann Turner, Mimi Tanner and Nancy Rohm.

A Member Orientation event will take place March 9 at Bobbi Klein's home from 9 am until 11 am. This is for new members and anyone who wants to know more about Altrusa as an organization and our Richardson Club specifically. Please make plans to attend and register online so we know how many to expect.

This is your monthly reminder to please bring your Volunteer Hours current online and try to do it monthly. It is much easier to do that way and we have a more accurate record of the valuable service we bring to our community.



Sarah Nesbit, President 2018-2019  
E-mail: Sarah.Nesbit@cor.gov

### Upcoming Events

See online calendar for event details, location, and to register at <http://altrusarichardson.com>

- Mar. 2 1:30 pm Ability House – Kathleen's B-Day
- Mar. 7 7:00 pm Business Meeting  
OWT Kick-Off – "On the Road Again"
- Mar. 9 9:00 am Spring Orientation
- Mar. 13 6:00 pm Atria Bingo
- Mar. 16 1:30 pm Ability House – Henry's Birthday
- Mar. 21 **6:00 pm** Dinner/Program Meeting  
Leadership – "Unlocking Your Super Powers"
- Mar. 25 6:00 pm AWCLS—Author Presentation
- Mar. 26 Noon Tidings Deadline

## CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

### February Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met on February 21, 2019, with visiting District Nine Governor, Linda Moore. Reports were submitted by Officers. Governor Moore asked questions and offered insights. She inquired about our club plans for attending Conference in April and commended us for hosting the 2020 District Nine Conference.

New business: Streamlining the Election process. Discussed having the Nominating Committee as a standing committee all year long to handle all elections; including Board and Trustee positions, delegate elections for Conference and Convention. The Board agreed to bring it before the membership for consideration. If approved, the change will be added to Club Policies.



District Nine Governor Linda Moore (left) is shown with President Sarah Nesbit after the Board meeting on February 21.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

### Vote for Club Board of Directors & Foundation Trustee Board 2019-2020, March 7th

By Sue McElveen, Nominating Committee Chair

#### CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT: Bobbi Klein  
 PRESIDENT-ELECT: Samanthia Slaight  
 VICE PRESIDENT: Donna Buhr  
 RECORDING SECRETARY: Rosemary Gouger  
 CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Lynn Solomon  
 ADMINISTRATIVE TREASURER: Mary Beth McLemore  
 DIRECTORS SERVING 2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR OF 2 YEAR TERM:  
 Laura Trainor Collins, Gayle Ingle  
 DIRECTORS NOMINATED FOR A 2 YEAR TERM:  
 Judy Blome, Robbin Murley

#### FOUNDATION BOARD TRUSTEES:

Mimi Tanner – 2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2-year term  
 Cindy Murray – 2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2-year term  
 Bonnie Perry – 2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2-year term  
 Jane Tucker – New 2-year term  
 Jean Stuart – New 2-year term  
 Deb Bourland – 2<sup>nd</sup> new 2-year term  
 Cindy McIntyre – New 2-year term

Make sure you cast your ballot for the 2019-2020 Board of Directors and Foundation Board of Trustees, A vote will be taken at the March 7th Business Meeting. If you will not be able to cast your vote in person, absentee ballots may be requested from the Chair of the Nominating Committee (Sue McElveen, suemcelveen@yahoo.com). Absentee Ballots will be accepted from members in good standing no later than the day before the election (March 6, 2019). Absentee ballots received the day of the election will not be counted.

## DISTRICT NINE CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

### Your Attendance at District Conference Is Important!!

The Board of Directors strongly urges you to attend District Nine Conference in Grapevine, April 26-28. This is an important part of your growth as an Altrusa. You will see how Altrusa works at the District level but more importantly, it is a wonderful way to get to know your Altrusa sisters better and a great way to make new friends, within ur club and all over Texas. Please be sure to register directly with District Nine AND **register also on our website**, so we will know who is attending. The Conference registration packet is available at [districtnine.altrusa.org](http://districtnine.altrusa.org)

You are also responsible for making your own hotel reservations. Courtyard Marriott & Towne Place Suites, 2200 Bass Pro Court, Grapevine, TX 76051 CYM 817-251-9095 TPS 817-421-612 – **ask for the Altrusa Rate.**

Bobbi Klein, will serve as Conference Coordinator and will assist with arranging for roommates. Plans are also under way for our club “costume” for Friday Fun Night. Contact Bobbi at [raklein77@yahoo.com](mailto:raklein77@yahoo.com), if you have any questions.

*DISTRICT NINE CONFERENCE UPDATE*

**Conference Delegates and Alternates Selected**

The club selected our delegates and alternates to represent us at District Nine Conference at the business meeting on February 7th.

Our delegates are: Bobbi Klein Samantha Slaight Cindy Murray Cindy McIntyre Jane Tucker

Our alternates are: Mary Shiroma Deb Bourland Ann Turner Mimi Tanner Nancy Rohm

Delegates and alternates attend all conference business meetings. Delegates are authorized by the club to vote on behalf of the club for District Nine Board members and any other items requiring a vote. Alternates are to be available to step-in in case a delegate becomes unable to fulfill her duty as a representative of the club.

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*DISTRICT NINE UPDATE*

**Sixtythird Annual District Nine Conference Is April 26-28, 2019**



The District Nine Board of Directors invite you to attend our Sixty-Third Annual Altrusa International District Nine Conference at the Courtyard and Towne Place Suites by Marriott to be held in Grapevine, Texas on April 26-28, 2019. The theme of our Conference is “**Play it Again District Nine**”. This will be the Grand Finale of this biennium

hosted by Altrusa International of Dallas.

Consult your Conference Packet found on the District Nine website ([www.districtnine.altrusa.org](http://www.districtnine.altrusa.org)) for information to entice you to register early and get those hotel reservations now! These hotels are joined together and also have plenty of conference space attached. We have once again changed a few things up, so you won't want to miss this one! If you have attended conference regularly, you will notice some changes in the schedule and also notice that all meals during conference are included!! If you have never attended conference before....please come and learn what District Nine “The Mighty Ninth” is all about. There is a First-Timers event on Friday afternoon that will introduce you to our past and present, and show you how you can be a part of our future!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Conference Committee:

Program Chair Mary Pearson [marybp21@gmail.com](mailto:marybp21@gmail.com)

Conference Co-Chairs Gillian Allen [gillianallen.altrusa@gmail.com](mailto:gillianallen.altrusa@gmail.com) Karen Wise [wisek59@gmail.com](mailto:wisek59@gmail.com)

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*ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL BI-ENNIAL CONVENTION*

**International Convention in Reno, Nevada**

Altrusa International holds a Convention in the odd numbered years (bi-annually). This Convention is to conduct the business of the International Organization. Altrusa International of Richardson is allowed the maximum of five delegates and five alternates. Delegates and Alternates will be selected by a vote of the club members.

Attending International Convention is an excellent way to enhance your Altrusa experience. Representation from our club by as many members as possible is essential to keeping our club up to date on matters at the organization's international level. Register for Convention and the hotel through the member area on the International website (you will need to log in). See Member Information on our website if you need the log in and password. Space is limited, so register early.

**Reaching Out**

Altrusa International Convention  
July 17-20, 2019  
Reno, NV



***The Leadership Committee Presents***

***Unlocking Your Super Powers by Cindy Mitchell***

**6 pm, March 21, 2019 Dinner Program**

***By Samantha Slaight and Laura Trainor-Collins***



**Cindy Mitchell**

**Dynamic Leadership Speaker and Strengths Coach**

**Proven Innovative Leader, Passionate Speaker and Strengths & Executive Coach**

Cindy is an expert in using assessments as tools in developing leaders, relationships, teams and organizations. She will lead us in better understanding ourselves and others leadership and communication styles. Cindy will begin the program at 6pm. There will be participation prizes and a raffle so bring a guest and come have fun with the Leadership Committee.

***Quoted from Cindy's Facebook: Leaders don't light a fire under someone they light it within - be someone's spark today!***

Members are encouraged to pay in advance for this dinner meeting. Mary Beth McLemore will be available at the March 7<sup>th</sup> business meeting to collect the \$20 dinner payment. Checks may be mailed to Mary Beth at: 3606 Cypress Grove Court, Richardson, TX 75082.

***The Richardson Altrusa Believers***

The Monkees Recorded *I'm A Believer* in October 1966 and released it in November 1966. That same year Altrusa of Richardson was organized on February 16, 1966. The Membership Retention Committee would like to honor all the Altrusa Believers each month by their dates of service. This month we are congratulating the Richardson Altrusa Believers from 1990 to 1999. Make sure and give a special Thank You to each of these ladies for their **20+ years of service to Altrusa.**

- |                            |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Janie Jaquier 1995         | Barbara O'Dell 1991 |
| Cindy Murray 1999          | Wilma Oliver 1990   |
| Bonnie Perry 1995          | Marsha Peters 1996  |
| Nancy Rohm 1992            | Mimi Tanner 1992    |
| Laura Trainor-Collins 1998 |                     |

***Thank You For All You Do For Altrusa***

***PROGRAM COMMITTEE UPDATE***

**Thank You to January Program Speaker, Dr. Terry Parsons**



Gayle Ingle (left) thanks our January Speaker Dr. Terry Parsons (right).

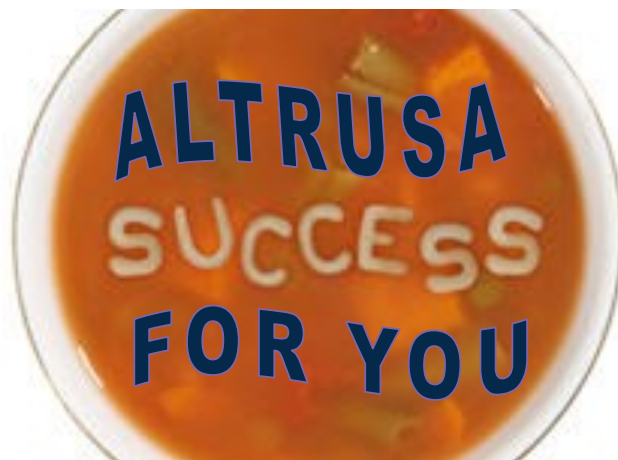
MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE

**Don't Miss Spring Member Orientation**

Carol Ruskowski and Kimberly Kierce, Co-Chairs

March 9th, 9:00am at Bobbi Klein's house

Your Altrusa Success is supported by continuing your Altrusa Education. A fun and easy way to do that is to come to the Member Orientation. New members, especially those initiated 2017-2019, are highly encouraged to attend but all members will benefit. We're serving up some tasty **Altrusa Alphabet Soup** to help you learn about Altrusa, all those crazy acronyms, and our amazing service projects. We guarantee that you will learn something new...whether you are a brand new Altrusan or are a more "seasoned" member.



Orientations are always a treat, but there is an added bonus: *You can use the orientation as a make up meeting!*

We're also serving up a yummy brunch buffet supplied by our members. (We will all appreciate it if you can contribute to the brunch by bringing a favorite item to share with your Altrusa sisters.) Please sign up for the event on our website so we can properly plan.

MEMBERSHIP RETENTION COMMITTEE UPDATES

**The Altrusa Wine and Chocolate Literary Society Invites You**

**To Hear Local Author Monica Shaw**

March 25, 2019

6:00 pm at Friends Place

1960 Nantucket Drive



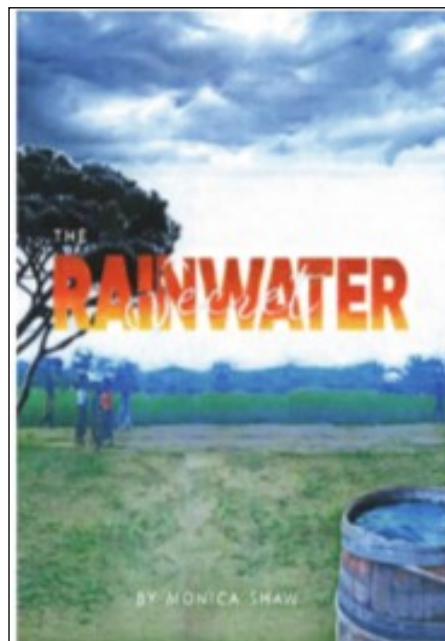
**Rainwater Secret**

By Monica Shaw

Join AWCLS (aka Book Club) for our second author presentation. Local author Monica Shaw will lead a discussion of her book The Rainwater Secret. We will meet during at our regular Book Club time and place.

Copies of this book are available for \$15. See Janet McCulloch for a book. Or it is available on Kindle for \$4.99.

*Presented and Sponsored by  
Altrusa Wine and Chocolate Literary Society and The Hearing Wizard*



MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT UPDATE

**Altrusa Celebrates 53 Years of Service to Richardson**

Altrusa International of Richardson, Tx was organized February 16, 1966, and Chartered May 23, 1967. This year's anniversary/birthday was celebrated on February 21. The theme was "Feelin' Groovy" Since 1966. So, of course, we dressed in 60's attire, listened to music from the 60' and guessed important celebrities from the 60's. We also had appetizers and **three groovy cakes**. Our special guest was District Nine Governor Linda Moore, who spoke to us about some of the District news and encouraged us to attend District Conference in Grand Prairie, April 26-28, and International Convention in Reno, Nevada in July. As usual, a great time was had by all.



Jean Stuart gives an informative and funny Altrusa Accent highlighting some of the milestones in our club history.

Above: THREE birthday cakes make a huge celebration! Shown left to right are the cake decorators: Carol Ruzskowski, Tracy Carron, Mouna Rouani and cake creator extraordinaire Rosemary Gouger



The table centerpieces reflect the 1960's; a tie-dyed globe to represent our International ties and our wish for peace represented by the peace symbol.



Dinner is served. Left line (front to back) Sarah Nesbit, Sue McElveen, Bobbi Klein (behind Sue), Ginger Tonne, and Mouna Rouani. Right Line (front to back) District Governor Linda Moore, guest Beth Giniewicz, Mary Beth McLemore.

## More Birthday Celebration Photos



Pictured at one of the tables just before dinner are : (left to right) Jan Flesch, Janet McCulloch (behind Jan), Jackie Scrivener, Kay George (back to camera), Tracy Carron and Gerry Carron.



Governor Linda Moore took advantage of the opportunity to have her picture snapped at the Photo Booth.

### *COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE*

## Collection of Pantry Needs For NETWORK At the Birthday Party

By Jackie Scrivener, NETWORK Liaison

Altrusans stepped up to honor our tradition of giving by bringing “gifts” of items needed by the NETWORK food pantry. Urgently needed items were diapers in larger sizes and cooking oil. The collected items were delivered to NETWORK on Tuesday, February 26 by Jackie Scrivener.



### *COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE*

## Who Gives a Sheet?

By Laura Trainor-Collins

The Community Outreach Committee contacted Beth Leos at Hopes Door/New Beginning Center to discuss their current immediate needs at the shelters. Beth told us they really need gently used bath towels, wash cloths and twin sheet sets.

We told her Richardson Altrusans will give a sheet. Have you redecorated and have extra towels you can donate? Have your grandkids outgrown their spider man sheets and you would like to donate them? We will be collecting gently used towels, wash cloths and sheets at the March 7<sup>th</sup> and April 4<sup>th</sup> business meetings. The committee is going to use their budget to purchase bath towels from an online hotel source in bulk. Items will be picked up by Beth at the April 6<sup>th</sup> KAN event at Friend’s Place.



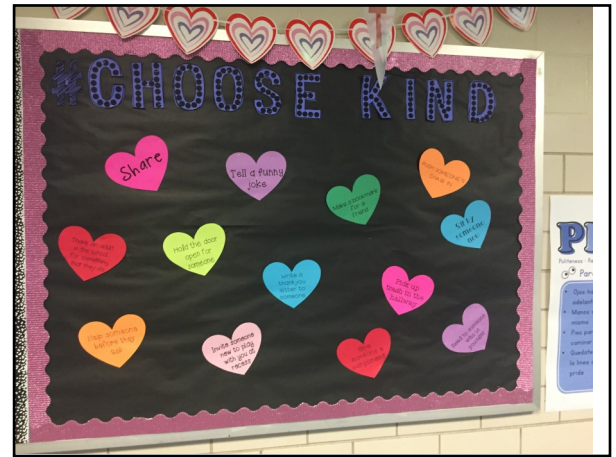
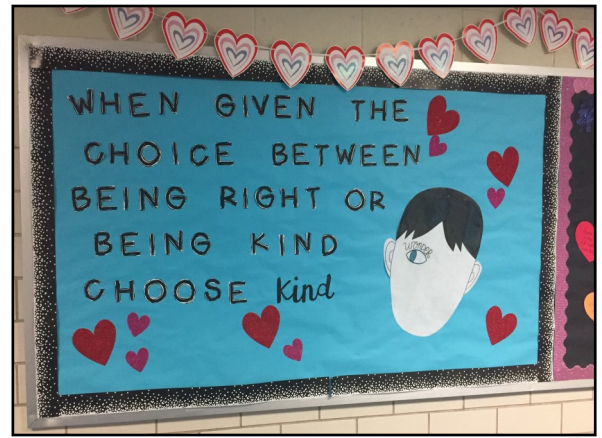
*CHOOSE KIND LIBRARY COMMITTEE UPDATE***Two New Choose Kind Libraries Near Completion**

By Bobbi Klein and Rose Daughety, Co-Chairs

The books for two of our new Choose Kind Libraries; Stultz Elementary and Greenwood Hills Elementary, have been ordered from Follett books and paid for by our committee. Signs and bookplates which say, "The Choose Kind Library at (school) Elementary. A special project of the Altrusa International of Richardson Foundation" are being printed, also. We are waiting for notification from the librarians when the books arrive, then we will put the bookplates in the books and present the sign to designate the special section of the libraries. Plans are being made for opening celebrations for each of the school libraries, before the end of the school year.

Our third new library location, Dover Elementary, is still in the process of ordering their books.

The two photos to the right are bulletin boards in the halls of Stultz Elementary. They both indicate the emphasis that the school is placing on choosing kindness as part of the culture of the school. Our placement of the Choose Kind Library fits in perfectly.

*INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/KAN PROJECT UPDATE***Bring Donations to March Meetings for Kindness Action Weekend April 6**

**Please Note: NO chocolate, chocolate chip cookies, alcohol...anything that would melt in the desert heat.**

**Nothing offensive to other religions (pork or pork by products)**

**SUGGESTED ITEMS:** SNACKS – Salty and Sweet

COOKIES – plain/iced oatmeal, raisin, peanut butter, sugar and molasses, homemade or store bought

CRACKERS – no saltines, but Trisket, Chickn-in-a-basket, Ritz, Wheat Thins, etc.; Chips in cans; cheese crackers

FRUIT SNACK – (Resealable bags) dried banana chips, apple slices, apricots; golden raisins; freeze dried berries; Trader Joe's fruit tapes

NUTS – cans or small individual sleeves of mixed nuts, honey roasted peanuts, almonds, pistachios, macadamias, sunflower or pumpkin seeds

DIPS/CONDIMENTS – small cans of bean or cheese dip

MEATS/FISH – Slim Jims or other individual packaged beef (no pork); non-perishable beef jerky or beef sausage; (make sure labeled USDA Beef); Quality canned sardines, smoked oysters or clams

BEVERAGES/SOUP – (to mix with water or milk) instant breakfast; Gatorade/sweetened drink mixes, water enhancers (liquid or crystal); instant coffee or cocoa, lemonade, tea bags, creamer; soup in a cup

CEREAL – (small 6 /8 packs) Frosted Flakes, Trix, Cheerios,

Nuts & Honey, Honeycomb

ENERGY/PROTEIN BARS – granola bars, small bags of trail mix (no chocolate), snack cakes

ENHANCERS – to mix with MRE's (Meals Ready to Eat), ramen noodles, seasoned salt, packets of hot sauce, mustard, relish, ketchup; taco seasoning for meat or chicken

TOILETRIES – toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss piks; cotton swabs, shaving lotion, disposable razors, shampoo, small packages tissues; individually packaged baby wipes, eye drops, lip balm, lotion; aspirin and other pain relievers; feminine hygiene products; zinc oxide crème in tubes; moleskin, foot powder

ENTERTAINMENT – paperback books, current magazines, comic books, word games, crossword puzzles, foam footballs and basketballs, frisbees, hacky sacks, playing cards, yo-yos, Sunday comics, coloring books and colored pencils

OTHER HELPFUL ITEMS – large rolls of "gaffers" tape in black green and tan (like duct tape but fabric) *matte finish only – not shiny*; Batteries (no lithium) size AA & D are in high demand

WRITING MATERIALS – notepaper, stationary, envelopes, pens pencils and stamps



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

## News from TeachHaiti

By Miquette Mahon, Founder and Executive Director of TeachHaiti



February 21, 2019

# Students return after protests, political unrest



**By: Miquette Denie McMahon**

Many of you may be aware that our beloved Haiti has been in "lockdown" for about 10 days. My heart has been broken for our TeachHaiti families stuck in their homes with little food and water. The main purpose of the unrest was to request the current president to step down. Finally on Sunday the Prime Minister addressed the nation. His speech brought some comfort to our people as he made many promises to ensure a better life for those living in poverty.

On Monday, we had a staff meeting with our TeachHaiti staff and teachers to discuss the week and how to proceed with our students. We decided to resume school on Tuesday. Not very many students showed up, but it was great seeing the students and the staff who came.

I understand the frustration of the Haitian people. They are tired of living in the perpetual cycle of poverty. They are fighting for their children to have a better life and their frustration is always visible through the trail of destruction they leave behind. Here is the key to CHANGE: a proper education for our young people. We must properly equip our future leaders to be contributing members of our society. We can only accomplish this through education! Learn more about [student sponsorship](#) here.

I want to thank you for your support of TeachHaiti. Your prayers have been a huge encouragement to me. We will get through this and we will see change through the power of education!

## ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT

**Days for Girls Southwest Regional Conference**

By Jane Tucker, District Nine Liaison



The Days for Girls Southwest Regional Conference was held in McKinney, Texas on February 8th and 9th. Pictured from left to right are Mary Cary, Terri Keese, and Sarah Tharnstrom from the Central Texas Altrusa Club, Celeste Mergens, Founder and CEO of Days for Girls, Jane Tucker from the Altrusa Richardson Club and Susan Cory from Altrusa of Temple. Not pictured but also in attendance was Carol Ruszkowski from Altrusa Richardson. The Conference was attended by Days for Girls volunteers from Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and even North Pole, Alaska! All enjoyed the informative two day conference and the opportunity to become Certified Ambassador's of Women's Health.

## ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT UPDATE

**District Nine Days For Girls Report – January**

Excerpt from Report to District Nine Board,

by Jane Tucker, District Nine Liaison

District Nine Clubs are diligently working on Days for Girls (DfG) projects. This past spring, Altrusa International of Temple completed 200 kits which were sent to Haiti, Uganda, and Malawi and submitted the project for the Dr Nina Fay Calhoun International Award. In central Texas, several clubs realized they were too far from existing Days for Girls Teams but with the help of those Teams they formed their own Team in Belton, Texas. (Four Altrusa clubs, Temple, Copperas Cove) The Chisholm Trail and Central Texas are now jointly participating in monthly cutting, sewing, and kit assembly sessions and have completed over 113 kits since forming a Team. The Central Texas Chapter applied for a grant and in December received \$1,200 from Altrusa International to purchase equipment to sew Days for Girls kits.



A little farther north, the Collin County, Garland, Greenville, and *Richardson* clubs have been working with the DFW Metroplex Team, located in Highland Village, Texas. Members from these clubs have helped assemble kits for Kenya and Uganda. The Collin County Club has set a goal of assembling 100 kits per year. In November, the Garland Club had the DFW Team members give a Days for Girls presentation at an Altrusa meeting. Also, in November, the Greenville Club had a service event to assemble kits with help from the DFW Metroplex Team. *The Richardson Club has collected Ziplock bags, washcloths, and underwear and has a Days for Girls assembly event planned for April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The goal for this event is to assemble 200 refugee kits to send to Uganda this June.* These clubs also helped the DFW Metroplex Team pre-assemble kits for a senior class project at Flower Mound High School. This project was a huge success at the high school is becoming an annual event.

The San Antonio Club has reported they had a work session in January 2019 and completed 50 kits headed for Zambia. The Days for Girls Team in Fair Oaks, Texas helped them with this project and similar sewing and assembly sessions are being planned.

Many of our District Nine members attended the Southwest Regional Conference held February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in McKinney, Texas and were able to meet Days for Girls Founder, Celeste Mergens. Our District is planning a Days for Girls presentation at our Conference in April, plus we are planning a conference display to highlight the District's Days for Girls projects.

## UNITED NATIONS OBSERVANCES

**March 2019 U.N. Days and Other Observances**From [www.un.org](http://www.un.org) and [www.altrusa.org](http://www.altrusa.org)**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, March 8, 2019:**

International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.

The 2019 theme [Think equal, build smart, innovate for change](#) focuses on innovative ways in which we can advance gender equality and the empowerment of women, particularly in the areas of social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure.

The achievement of the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals ([SDGs](#)) requires transformative shifts, integrated approaches and new solutions, particularly when it comes to advancing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

Innovation and technology provide unprecedented opportunities, yet trends indicate a growing gender digital divide and women are under-represented in the field of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and design. It prevents them from developing and influencing gender-responsive innovations to achieve transformative gains for society. From mobile banking to artificial intelligence and the internet of things, it is vital that women's ideas and experiences equally influence the design and implementation of the innovations that shape our future societies.

Echoing the priority theme of the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women ([CSW63](#)), in 2019 we look to industry leaders, game-changing start-ups, social entrepreneurs, gender equality activists, and women innovators to examine the ways in which innovation can remove barriers and accelerate progress for gender equality, encourage investment in gender-responsive social systems, and build services and infrastructure that meet the needs of women and girls.

On 8 March 2019, join us as we celebrate a future in which innovation and technology creates unprecedented opportunities for women and girls to play an active role in building more inclusive systems, efficient services and sustainable infrastructure to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs and gender equality.

International Women's Day is also an opportunity to consider how to accelerate the [2030 Agenda](#), building momentum for the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially goal number 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; and number 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.

**Some key targets of the 2030 Agenda**

- By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and Goal-4 effective learning outcomes.
- By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and preprimary education so that they are ready for primary education.
- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.
- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
- Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.