



President's Message

As we begin to enjoy the warmer spring weather and make plans for the new season, I want to reiterate what Past President Sue McElveen said about "spring cleaning" in the April 2018 issue of *Tidings*: "Let us all think of new ways we can be of

benefit to our community. As we approach the end of our Altrusa year, let us work even harder to give service to those less fortunate, those that are lonely, need clothing or food, or even just a soft pillow to call their own." This really resonated with me as I think about the upcoming Celebration of Life for Kathy Yates and all the outstanding contributions Altrusa Richardson makes to our community.

Another fantastic Outstanding Women of Today Luncheon rollout occurred at the March Business Meeting and I know that everyone in the Club will choose an area to participate in to make this 2019 event the best one ever. Nominees and sponsors are some of the most pressing needs at this time, so put forth your best effort to help identify and secure prospects for the Nominee and Sponsorship committee chairs to follow up with.

Kindness Action Ninja weekend, started by Past President Cindy McIntyre, will take place April 6 with an exciting new project that launches this year that involves sending snacks, food enhancers, entertainment and writing materials to active military service people to make their deployment a little easier and enjoyable.

Two new Choose Kind Libraries are nearing completion at Stuits Elementary and Greenwood Hills Elementary schools with books ordered and paid for by the committee headed by Bobbi Klein and Rose Daughety. A third

location, Dover Elementary School is ordering their books and will go active soon, as well. This is such an important teaching tool in our schools to carry forward our mission of kindness and literacy. Kudos to those Altrusans doing this important work.

Let's all plan to be at the April 18 Program/Dinner meeting to greet our new scholarship recipients and please thank the committee for all of their hard work reviewing applications and doing the interviews. This is a very valuable service to our community and its young people.

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



Sarah Nesbit, President 2018-2019

E-mail: Sarah.Nesbit@cor.gov

Upcoming Events

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

- April 1 7:00 pm Foundation Board meeting
- April 4 7:00 pm Business meeting
- April 5 1:30 pm Kathy Yates Memorial
(see page 8 for additional information)
- April 06 8:30 am KAN Weekend
- April 10 6:00 pm Atria Bingo CANCELLED
- April 18 7:00 pm Program/Dinner Meeting
"Scholarship Awards Presentation"
- April 20 1:30 pm Ability Connection
Nina's Birthday party
- April 22 6:00 pm AWCLS (book club)
"Born A Crime" by Trevor Noah
- April 26-28 63rd Annual District Nine
Conference in Grapevine, TX
(see page 6 and districtnine.altrusa.org for info)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

March Board of Directors Meeting, March 28, 2019

by Bobbi Klein, President Elect



The March 28th meeting was a joint meeting with the Foundation Board of Trustees. President Sarah Nesbit reported that we received a clean audit report for both the Club and Foundation books in February. Foundation Chair Julianne Lovelace reported that the last Foundation Trustee meeting of the year is April 1, Foundation Trustee job descriptions have been updated, all IRS forms have been submitted, and the new board initiation was discussed and planned.

The Club and Foundation Committee descriptions were discussed and a recommendation to accept the new Committee Descriptions was made by Restructure Committee and was approved. The recommendation will be submitted to the Foundation Board for approval of Foundation (service) committee descriptions at their April 1 meeting. Organization for the 2019 Conference is almost complete. Ninja shirts and Friday Fun night shirts will be available at the next two meetings and during the April 6th KAN Project.

Marybeth McLemore, Administration Treasurer, and Cindy Murray, Foundation Treasurer, reported on the accounts. The board approved sending a \$25 honorarium to the newly chartered North San Antonio club.

Pat President Sue McElveen is chairing the review of the Club Board Job Descriptions. The updated descriptions will be finished to present to the Board at the next meeting.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

And the Winners Are...Find out April 18th

By Mimi Tanner, Scholarship Co-Chair

Wow! truly describes our Altrusa scholarship winners.

Do not miss the April dinner meeting when you will have a chance to meet them and to hear their stories.

Please come to congratulate these

Fantastic! Amazing! Awesome!

young people.



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 1975 to 1989. Make sure and give a special Thank You to each of these ladies for their 30+ years of service to Altrusa.

- Susan Frensley 1980
- Julianne Lovelace 1988
- Mary Beth McLemore 1989
- Mary Osentowski 1988

40+ years of service to Altrusa

- Jo Leeper 1975

Thank You For All You Do For Altrusa

COMMITTEE RESTRUCTURE AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATE

New Committee Restructure Plans to Be Explained at April 4th Business Meeting

By Bobbi Klein, Committee Restructure Chair

My sincerest thanks to the many members of our club who took time to work on re-organizing our service and administrative committees in preparation for the 2019-2020 club year: **Laura Trainor-Collins, Linda Griffith, Gayle Ingle, Sylvia McClosky, Carol Ruzskoski, Samantha Slaight, Jane Merz, Deb Bourland, Cindy Murray, Rose Daughety, Kimberly Kierce, and Betty Bruce.** (If I left anyone out, I apologize!) We had three fruitful meetings and though not everyone was able to be at all the meetings, we accomplished a lot.



This was a hard but satisfying job. It's wonderful that our club has gotten so big and we are able to do so much good in our community and the world. The downside is that we also evolved so many committees and even several projects that were not really affiliated with a specific committee. This caused oversight challenges. By simplifying the committee structure we will have better project management and require fewer volunteer hours to accomplish the same or more community service. It will allow better training for committee leaders and build stronger leaders for the future, by allowing more leadership opportunities and smaller time commitments.

We will still have all of our projects, so if you have a favorite or two, be assured that you will still be able to participate in them. But some projects have been consolidated into committees with like projects or intent. Committees will have a seasoned leader and a newer leader to assist. There will also be project leaders to oversee individual projects within the committee. These positions will give members the knowledge and confidence to step into higher leadership positions in the future. Altrusa builds leadership in women and we are strengthening our leadership training by this committee restructure.

Come to the April 4th meeting, so you can better understand the new committee organization and how projects will fit together. I'm sure you'll have questions and we will be glad to answer them all. We even have flow charts to illustrate what the committee restructure looks like!

MEMBER RECRUITMENT UPDATE

New Member Mary Boyter to Be Initiated April 4th

From Carol Ruzskowski and Kimberly Kierce, Co-Chairs

Welcome new member, Mary Boyter. Born in a German farming community, Mary enjoyed dancing her way to the Kilgore Rangerettes from the Wichita Falls Ballet Company as a youth.

She is proud of her two musically talented grandsons' and architectural son who live in the Woodlands.

Mary retired from the U. S. Public Health Service in 1994. Her last position consisted of directing a staff of 35-40 healthcare professionals and managing 13 health care programs in the five State Region of Texas, Arkansas, New Mexico, Louisiana and Oklahoma.



Mary Boyter

After retirement, Mary managed a network of foreign exchange student coordinators which enabled her to meet close to 300 foreign exchange students from 9 different countries. She personally hosted 8 of these students and is called "Nana" by 7 grandchildren currently in Brazil, Germany & Spain.

Her love for the dance translated to her joining the Richardson Symphony Board in 2013. Positions held in the Richardson Woman's Club include President, VP for Ways & Means, VP for Programs & Founder of their Golf Tournament in 2007. For a 10 year period, she volunteered for the Ark House Board as Chairman, Social Worker Liaison and Fund Raising Chair.

She enjoys singing alto in the Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church Choir, playing golf, traveling the world, and visiting the ancestral Jenne Grist Mill in Plymouth, Massachusetts, which is currently a non-profit teaching facility.

KINDNESS ACTION NINJA WEEKEND

They're Here!! The Ninjas Go To Work April 6th

By Cindy McIntyre, KAN Co-Chair

This is the fourth year of the Kindness Action Ninja (KAN) initiative Altrusa International of Richardson. In 2015-16, we helped first responders; in 16-17 we helped battered women and children in the Rio Grand area, in 2017-18 senior citizens. But what to do this year? Inspiration came by way of a new member, Kathy Yates, who declared at her initiation she would love to participate in a project helping deployed troops. Tragically, she was taken by cancer just a few short months later. So, in remembrance of Kathy and to honor our service men and women, we are gathering items for care packages, assembling and shipping approximately 200 overseas. We have enlisted the aid of Chaplain Potter in the Office of Public Affairs at the Joint Naval Air Station in Ft. Worth to provide addresses of deployed chaplains who are happy to distribute the boxes all across the middle east. Chaplain Potter knows how much joy these boxes provide as he was deployed no less than 6 times. The day gift boxes arrive are the very best days!

Also, we received advice and counsel from an amazing woman in Ft. Worth, Colleen Canion. Colleen and her ever-growing, ever-changing band of wonderful volunteers have shipped over 1000 boxes to our troops since 2003. She adopts units and when that unit returns stateside, she gets a new unit contact's name. America owes her an immense debt of gratitude.

Richardson Altrusan Susan Fischer, a long-time resident and friend of our community, has knitted caps for our soldiers – 3000 personally since 9/11. Susan led a statewide knitting team that won an Americanism award from Texas for the 25,000 caps they sent overseas! Her caps will be included in many of our care packages as well.

Additional support for the project has been provided through a \$1500 grant from the Altrusa International Foundation, Inc. These monies will help defray packaging supplies and shipping costs - shipping alone is \$50 per box and our greatest hurdle. Other friends in the community have made significant contributions to this effort – Richardson Dentistry (200 toothbrushes, toothpaste, & floss), Penzeys Spices (1000 packets in 5 different flavors), and Ocumed Plus, Inc. (significant monetary donation) were very generous. Indeed, members of our Altrusa Club have also been contributing items since October- batteries, pens, Sunday comics, toiletries, paperback books, condiments, snacks, etc.

All the boxes will be assembled on April 6, 2019 at Friends Place (located in Richardson) and taken to the DFW airport post office.

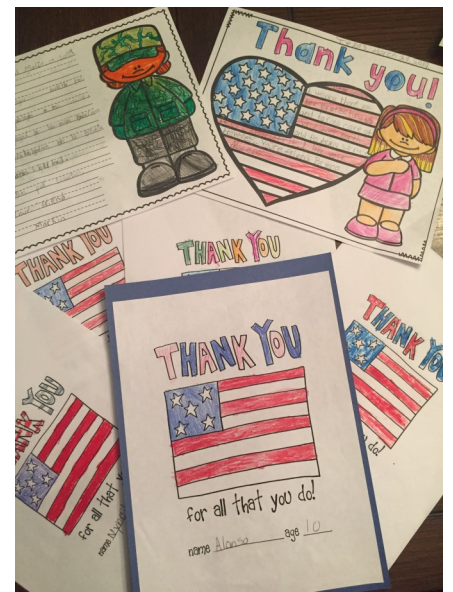


Donations of many items to go in our care packages are being collected at Friends Place, where many of the clients are veterans or are families of veterans.



Also, as part of our KAN (Kindness Action Ninja) initiative, members will be putting together 200 kits for the Days for Girls organization – sustainable feminine hygiene products for women world-wide. To date, they have given supplies and education to more than 640,000 women! Without this wonderful organization and our help, many girls would not be able to attend school for several days each month.

Pictured left and right are some of the kindness notes of thanks to the troops written and colored by elementary students at Stultz Elementary, one of our new Choose Kind Library locations.



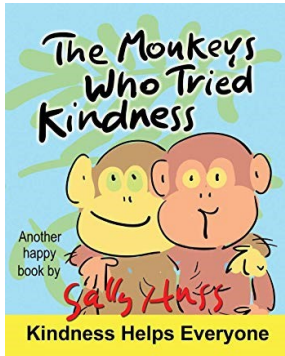
You're Not Gonna Want to Miss the Fun!

By Bobbi Klein, Conference Organizer



If you haven't registered for conference yet, it's not too late! You don't have to miss out on the fun. Your conference registration even includes all your meals!

FRIDAY: There is an event for First Timers, so if you've never gone to conference before, you'll get the low down straight from incoming Governor Beth Blair to get you started right. The District also holds Officer's trainings and workshops to get your leaders off to a good start. Then, there is the Delegate briefing and the First Business meeting.



The finale of the day is "Friday Fun Night" with great food and **live** entertainment by the "Cat Daddies", who play great 60's – 80's dance music...and we dance!! But half the fun is seeing the different "costumes" that clubs adopt for the night. We've been asked to dress as book characters and bring several copies of the book to use as centerpieces. Our books are "Little Monkey Calms Down" and "The Monkeys That Tried Kindness". The Richardson Kindness Ninjas will transform into **Kindness Monkeys!** We have monkey ears, noses, tails, a furry chest and bow ties...our costume even makes monkey sounds! So cute!

Saturday: Is a day of learning, growing and celebration; with business meetings, election of the new board, Awards Luncheon, keynote speaker, workshops and club photos, topped off by the Governor's Banquet. This is a chance to dress up and be elegant. The new District Nine board will be installed; including our own **Kimberly Kierce**, who will become Second Vice Governor. Go girl!

Sunday morning will start with a Thank you Breakfast followed by the Memorial Service honoring Altrusans that have passed on in the last year. Sadly, we lost one of our members, **Kathy Yates**, to cancer. Come to honor her and the other dedicated Altrusans who no longer share their talents with us. The Closing Session follows and we will be addressed by our International visitor, **International President, Leanne Milligan**.



International President

Leanne Milligan

And we need all of our members to be at the Closing Session to be part of Altrusa Richardson's "Invitation to 2020 Conference". We will wear our Ninja shirts with black pants and pass out magnifying glasses, so that everyone can see clearly why they need to come to 2020 Conference in Richardson. Some of us will sing an adapted version of "I Can See Clearly Now", and we will formally invite everyone to attend Conference. Since our club is hosting in 2020, we need everyone to attend the 2019 Conference so we can plan the best way to host next year. We want the 2020 Conference to be the best EVER!

Participate in the District Nine Conference Service Project Helping Victims of Human Trafficking in Dallas/Fort Worth

1. Donate gas cards for \$10 and Visa, Mastercard, Target or Walmart cards for \$10–\$25
2. Donate small sizes of spices for two spice baskets our club will donate, which will be used as centerpieces for the Awards Luncheon and Governor's Banquet on Saturday.
3. Donate cooking utensils for spice baskets.
4. Donate a copy of our book, "The Monkeys That Tried Kindness"; available on Amazon for \$12.99 each, to be used as centerpieces for Friday Night Fun Night.

**Bring your donations to April business meetings and/or
get them to Bobbi Klein or Rose Daughety,**

ALTRUSA WINE AND CHOCOLATE LITERARY SOCIETY
It Was Retention, Outreach, Recruitment; It Was Altrusa.

By Christine Hart

Our March 25th Author Reception was a lovely evening with Monica Shaw, who gave a wonderful presentation on her novel, *The Rainwater Secret*. Janet McColloch found us a great author and I greatly enjoyed seeing this event come together. The evening brought nine new visitors to an Altrusa Book Club event and there were thirty-nine guests in all.

As with any Altrusa Wine and Chocolate Literary event, we enjoyed wine and chocolate and much more. Thanks to **Laura Trainor Collins** and **The Hearing Wizard** for providing the snacks and champagne, **Pam Johnson** for providing the Friend's Place for our venue and **Peter Hart** for providing the audio/visual.

All the Altrusa brochures were picked up by our visitors and I will be following up with each of them. If you brought a visitor, thank you so much and you will soon be hearing from me.



This is a collage of pictures from from the Author Reception. Above: Christine Hart (left) thanks Monica Shaw (right) for her presentation.

Above Right: Attendees line up for the book signing..

Middle Right: Monica Shaw (seated) graciously signed books for all who wanted one.

Below: More people are lined up for a book and autograph, in the back others enjoy another trip to the refreshment table.

Bottom Right: Pictured are three guests new to Book Club



On the Road Again to a Successful OWT

By Laura Trainor-Collins, 2019 OWT Chair

The 2019 *Outstanding Women of Today...Builders of Tomorrow* Chairs are **Laura Trainor-Collins** and **Gayle Ingle**. The 2019 OWT Kickoff was held during the business meeting March 7th. The Team Leaders were introduced and each Team gave the membership information about their team members, 2019 goals and volunteer opportunities available. The sponsorship forms and nominee forms are available online on the club website. The Sponsorship Team is asking for club members to contact them with potential sponsors. **Sue McElveen** and **Courtenay Tanner** are the Sponsorship Team Leaders.

The Nominee Team is asking the club members to begin the nominee search. Please think about who you would like to nominate and go online to review the process. **Ann Turner** and **Rose Daughety** are the Nomination Team Leaders so please contact them with any questions. We are counting on **You**, the members of Altrusa of Richardson, to make this fundraiser a success. There will be a special OWT newsletter each month to keep the membership informed of the sponsorship goal progress and the progress in filling in the nominee categories.



"On the Road Again" Teddy Car Favors passed out to the members in attendance made by Laura Trainor-Collins and Gayle Ingle

Above: The 2019 OWT Team Leaders from left to right. Jean Stuart, Treasurer; Sue McElveen, Sponsorships; Deb Bourland, Reservations, Rose Daughety, Nominations; Gayle Ingle and Laura Trainor-Collins, 2019 OWT Chairs; Mary Shiroma, Hotel Logistics; Courtenay Tanner, Sponsorships; Ann Turner, Nominations; Gloria Sandoval, Hotel Logistics; Linda Griffith and Pam Johnson, Marketing/Communications; Sherri White, Reservations.

New District Nine Board of Directors to be Elected at Conference 2019

From the News of the Mighty Ninth Winter 2019

2019-2021 District Nine Board of Directors



Governor: Beth Blair, Dallas

Previously elected and will serve as Governor for the 2019-2021 Beinnium

I have been an Altrusan since 1997, and my vision is simply to make being an Altrusan an honor for which prospective members clamor. As program coordinator for Past Governor (and current International Vice President) Kathy Folley, I began to think differently about how District Nine should be serving you, the individual members, and your Clubs. In the coming biennium, you will witness those thoughts come into sharp focus.

As far as an Altrusa pedigree, I have held every club and district office except Treasurer (nobody wants to see me do that). That includes District Nine Governor in 2013-2015—Yes, I am back for another swing. I have also served as vice chair of the International Leadership Development committee, which gave me the honor of training the class of current governors, including Linda Moore (teacher's pet), and of rewriting the Club Presidents Manual. I have also served twice on the International Communications Committee. I serve at the pleasure of my beloved District Nine.

Governor-elect: Mary Pearson, Temple



Mary Black Pearson, an ALTRUSAN since 1995 with Altrusa International of Temple, Inc., currently serves District Nine as First Vice Governor. She previously served as Director on the District Board. She is the past chair for several committees on the program teams of former District Nine Governors including, fundraising and new club building. She served as President of the Temple club for the year of 2009-2010 after serving on its board as President-Elect, Vice President, and Director. She is a former member of the Board of Directors for the Foundation for Altrusa International of Temple. She is former chair of the following committees: Caring Ball supporting the Temple Community Free Clinic (now known as the Temple Community Clinic); co-chair of several committees for the club's Taste of the Holidays fundraising event; membership chair; and community service chair. Mary's past honors include being honored as Altrusan of the Year the Altrusans of Temple, as Woman of Distinction by the Bluebonnet Girl Scout Council, Equal Justice Partner by Legal Aid of Central Texas, Lawyer of the Year by the Bell County Bar Association, and received the Pro Bono Award for her service to Legal Aid of Central Texas. She has practiced law in Bell County, Texas, for almost 30 years and owns the firm of PEARSON & PEARSON. Mary's community service and professional involvement include serving as President of the Bell County Bar Association, current member of the board of directors for Families In Crisis, Inc., current board member for the Cultural Activities Center, past president of the board for United Way of Central Texas, past president of the board for Temple Community Free Clinic and former board member for the Bluebonnet Girl Scout Council, and Temple Community Theater.

1st Vice Governor: Shirley Raymer, Garland



Shirley became an Altrusan in May 2003, six months following the charter of Altrusa International of Garland, Inc. She was immediately asked to chair the community service committee. Shirley's background in education provided the foundation for establishing the Garland Altrusa literacy programs in the schools of GISD. She served on the board of her Garland club from 2004-2018, serving as secretary, vice president, president-elect and 4 years as club president. She serves on the board of Garland Federation of Clubs, has served on the board of Garland Civic Theatre and is a member of Garland Retired School Personnel. Shirley has served on the District Nine Program Team since 2011 serving as chair of Membership Development, chair of Leadership Training, International Foundation Liaison chair and is currently the Communications Award coordinator. She served as a director on the District Nine board 2015-2017 and is now serving as Second Vice-Governor. Shirley led her Garland club in hosting the 2014 Fall Leadership Event and assisted in Garland Altrusa sponsoring Altrusa International of Rockwall, Inc. Shirley continues to serve as mentor to the Rockwall club and is a dual member of that club. She is also manager of the food pantry at her church.

Serving the community was the factor that drew Shirley to Altrusa but says she has been rewarded in other ways. She now has another circle of dear friends and the leadership opportunities provided through Altrusa have helped her grow as an individual. Shirley is married to her childhood sweetheart, Glynn, and has 3 sons and five grandchildren. She loves to spend time with her family, travel, read, cook, entertain and serve her community.

New District Nine Board of Directors to be Elected at Conference 2019 continued

2nd Vice Governor: Kimberly Kierce, Richardson



Our Own
Kimberly!

Kimberly D. Kierce has been a member of Altrusa International of Richardson since 2001. She has served as President, President Elect, Vice President, Secretary, and Foundation Treasurer. Kimberly has also served as Chair of many committees, namely Membership, Communications, Finance, Fundraising, and various Service Committees. Kimberly also serves as the Website Administrator for the Altrusa Richardson website. Ms. Kierce was a founding member of the Altrusa Richardson Foundation Board of Trustees and served as the Foundation Treasurer.

For Altrusa District Nine, Kimberly served as the Service Committee Chair (2009-11, 2011-13), served as a member of the Revitalization Committee (2013-15), Revitalization Chair (2015-17), and currently serves as the Treasurer (2017-19).

Ms. Kierce earned a BA in Psychology from the University of North Texas. She has 25+ years of experience in municipal courts and is the Court Administrator for the Richardson Municipal Court. She earned her Level III Clerk Certification (CMCC) in 2010 and her Certified Court Manager Certification (CCM) from the Institute of Court Management in 2014. Ms. Kierce is a longtime member of the Texas Court Clerks Association (TCCA). She has served as President of her local TCCA chapter and currently she serves as the TCCA Treasurer. Ms Kierce has received several awards/recognitions from the association, and, most recently, received the 2018 Board of Directors award for her work as Treasurer as well as Website Administrator and Trainer.

Although Ms. Kierce is a native Texan, she loves to travel and see the world. Her adventures have taken her all over the United States, Canada, China, the Caribbean, and most of Europe, namely, Italy, Ireland, Turkey, France, Spain, UK, Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Greece, and Croatia, to name a few.

Treasurer: Laure Bruner, Anderson County



Laure Bruner has been a member of Altrusa International of Anderson County since 2006. She has held several leadership positions on the club level, including three terms as president; 2009-2012. She is currently serving as Club Service Committee Chair. She has served District Nine on the Membership Committee, Communications Committee, as District Nine Treasurer and as the District Nine Social Media Coordinator. She currently serves as District Nine Director and as a member on Finance Committee and New Club Building Committee. Laure has also served on the International Leadership Committee and on the International Membership Development Committee.

Laure holds degrees in computer science and paralegal sciences. Laure and husband Ken live in Palestine. Together they have two children, five grandchildren and a very spoiled house cat. They enjoy bowling, hunting, fishing, sports and travelling. Laure worked for attorney Jim Parsons for over 12 years; where she developed her affinity for the law. Mr. Parsons is retiring at the end of the year and will resume the bench as a visiting District Judge. Together with Ken, Laure opened her own litigation support business, serving attorneys statewide.

Director: Tina Hampton, Southeast Tarrant County



Tina Hampton has been a member of Altrusa International Southeast Tarrant County Early Risers, (S.E.T.C.E.R) since 2006. She has served two terms as President from 2011-2012 and 2012-2013, Secretary for two terms, Treasurer for two terms and Committee Chair on various committees. She has volunteered at the District level on committees to include Service, Nomination, Programs and Revitalization. Tina is a Registered Nurse, working at the Veterans Hospital with homeless veterans in the Homeless Program of North Texas. She volunteers at a local nursing home assisting the residents with playing bingo. She has two grown sons and two grandchildren ages six and five. Tina enjoys volunteering, serving the community and being an Altrusan.

New District Nine Board of Directors to be Elected at Conference 2019 continued

Director: Linda Hurt, DFW



Linda J. Hurt has been a member of Altrusa DFW since December 2002. She is currently the Co-President and was previously the President from 2015-2016. She has held several positions such as Treasurer, VP-Membership, VP-Service, Secretary, Foundation President (currently as well as previously) and many others. Linda has also served in many positions for District Nine. She was Treasurer (2011-2013), Conference Treasurer (2016) and Conference Registration Chair (2015).

Along with holding many positions in Altrusa, she was on the Board for the Center for Transforming Lives (formerly known as YWCA of Fort Worth and Tarrant County) as Board President (2013-2015), Executive Committee (2011-2016) and a participating Board Member for about fifteen years (ending in 2016). Linda graduated from Emporia State University and is currently on the Board as a Foundation Board of Trustees Member and Finance Committee since 2015. She joined the Executive Committee this year.

After a long career with BNSF Railway Company (and its predecessor companies), she retired in 2010. She held multiple positions and ended her career as a VP Investor Relations (2007-2010) and Treasurer (2000-2007). She represented BNSF as a National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust Trustee for several years.

Director: Wendy Santiago, Rockwall

For Wendy Santiago, Altrusa is a family affair. An Altrusan since 2013, Wendy is a member of Altrusa International of Rockwall Texas. Members of Altrusa Rockwall include her husband, son and sister. Her daughter also participates in many of Rockwall's service projects.



After attending Stephen F. Austin State University for a year, Wendy enlisted in the US Army as a behavioral science specialist. Upon discharge, began a legal career while she attended paralegal school. She then met her husband, AJ, who was a soldier at Fort Hood. While stationed at Fort Hood, Wendy volunteered for the First Calvary Division Judge Advocate General's office teaching military attorneys how to use Westlaw in the courts-martial section. Although she enjoyed being an Army wife, she was pleased when AJ retired from the service in 2004.

During her paralegal career, she became recognized as a Registered Paralegal by the National Federation of Paralegal Associations. Once eligible, she became a Board-Certified Paralegal in the area of Civil Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. During her career, she was a member of the Paralegal Division of the State Bar of Texas where she served a Continuing Legal Education Chair for District 2 for two terms and as Membership Chair for District 2 for one term. After 25 years as a paralegal, Wendy joined her husband in running Santiago Legal Services, a process service and mobile notary business. She is a licensed process server and a member of the Texas Process Servers Association. She continues paralegal work for a small selection of clients.

Wendy aided in the formation of Altrusa Rockwall and is a Charter Member. She began her Altrusa career as Membership Committee Chair. Her first office was President-Elect where she continued as Membership Committee Chair. She has been President of Altrusa Rockwall for the past two years. She also served District Nine as Co-Chair for the 2018 District Nine Conference. She was instrumental in obtaining two grants from Altrusa International Foundation for her club. She has been a dual member of Altrusa Garland for the past three years.



Director: Vickie Smith, Southwest Dallas County



Dr. Vickie A. Smith, a happily retired teacher after 34 years with Dallas ISD, is the author of a bilingual, Christian, children's book, CAUGHT RED HANDED (www.drwickiesmith.com) She launched her costumed characters business (Next2DBest.com) in 2017, and was accredited by the Better Business Bureau in Feb. 2018. She provides nonlicensed characters for Christmas and birthday parties. She is an ordained minister, who actively serves at The United Methodist Church of the Disciple in Desoto, TX , taking Communion to the sick/shut in within the community.

She is currently President of Altrusa International of SW Dallas County, Inc. She has served as Club Vice-President, Foundation Treasurer, Director, and active member on all service projects.

She volunteered as Communications Chair her first year (not aware of the submission date a few months later) and was delighted to have won 2nd place on her submission of the Club's Yearbook.

She is a Notary Public and licensed nail technician. She and her husband, Keith, are owners of No Horsing Around Heat/AC & No Horsing Around Autoplex. She is married to Keith Smith, Sr., and they have one child, Keith, Jr, owner of Wayne's Transportation, and they are the proud grandparents of a spoiled grandbaby, Kailyn.

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION NEWS

District Nine Altrusans Are Joining in the Disaster Relief Fundraiser.

From LaVone Arthur, District Nine Foundation Liaison



Join us in fundraising to support the mission of the Disaster Relief Fund
The response from Altrusans to the unprecedented need of the Disaster Relief Fund last year inspired the foundation board to show the impact of Altrusans great work by *Reaching Out to Light the Way in 2019.*



Last year, the Altrusa International Foundation, Inc. distributed (300) Luci lights to areas in Puerto Rico without electricity. The Luci light is portable, lightweight, solar-powered, and holds a charge for 24 hours.

The Luci light serves countless needs - from students studying at night to healthcare volunteers working in remote villages without power.

The lights will be available to purchase at the 2019 District Conferences and donations will go towards giving Luci lights to the Ghana Health & Education Initiative, Medicine for Mali, and Altrusa International of District Fourteen.

Our GOAL is \$65,000! The Disaster Relief fundraiser results will be announced at the Foundation Luncheon in Reno. Thank you for your continued support.

Go to <https://foundation.altrusa.org> to see a short video about the Luci Lights and to donate to the Disaster Relief Fundraiser.

Altrusa International Convention July, 2019

Now is the time to make your reservations for the Altrusa International Biennial Convention. The four-day program includes doing the business of the organization, election and installation of International leadership, a variety of workshops, keynote speakers, recognition awards, the opportunity to connect and socialize with Altrusans from across the world, and a lot of fun!

The next International Convention is July 17-20, 2019, at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino, Reno, Nevada. For more info go to <http://www.altrusa.org/convention>

This photo was taken during the Parade of Club Flags at Convention 2017, and is on the Altrusa International website, when you click on [Convention](#).

Look who is right in front! Pictured front to back:

Sue McElveen, (front left corner) and in the circle : Cindy Murray (in profile) Nancy Rohm is behind Cindy, Pam Johnson and Kimberly Kierce.



ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL, INC. UPDATE

The Information and Simplification Task Forces

From the Altrusa International website (www.altrusa.org)

Information Task Force

Currently Altrusa International collects information through Club Annual Reports, Governor's Annual Report and the International Representative Reports, which are prepared by different people, have significant duplication, and collect information that is not used.

Objectives

1. Review information currently collected from each source and remove duplication and information that is not relevant to the strategic plan or necessary to effect efficient operations of Altrusa.
2. Review information required to assess progress on Altrusa's strategic plan and how this would be best collected.
3. Ascertain most effective method to collect, collate and report information (e.g. use of Survey Monkey).
4. Review how best to manage the Distinguished Club Awards program.

Simplification Task Force

In research conducted four years ago members were asked for feedback on Altrusa and one of the key themes that emerged from this was members desire to reduce red tape and simplify the requirements of membership, leadership and governance.

Objectives

1. Review bylaws and policies and develop recommendations to reduce complexity of our "rules" and the interpretation of them
2. Review club and district operations and liaise with Executive Director re Office operations with the aim of reducing "red tape".
3. Review Altrusa's leadership development process – can this be streamlined?
4. Consider re-organization of International Policies – grouping policies on similar areas together to make it easier.
5. Review for Gender neutral language.

News From HASR

(Helping Agencies Serving Richardson)

By Mimi Tanner, Our HASR Representative



Peer to peer networking groups of people of like interests are being formed to meet as is convenient, hopefully monthly, to discuss ideas and share on topics of common interest. Examples would be CEO, Board members, financial people, volunteers, etc. This is not just for Altrusa activities but other things you may be involved in. Let Mimi Tanner know if you would be interested; more information about this is expected very soon.

Save the Date! October 25: This will be the date of an HASR signature event (yet to be officially named). This will be a daylong event featuring a keynote speaker, lunch and breakout sessions. It'll be a great opportunity to work on leadership skills, learn new things and have fun. Even though it is a few days before our fundraiser (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!)

Go to Sign-Up Genius link below:

<https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/8050c4daaaa2ca0f94-peer/31404378>

UNITED NATIONS OBSERVANCES

April 2019 U.N. Days and Other Observances

From www.un.org and www.altrusa.org

WORLD HEALTH DAY, April 7 2019: Universal health coverage is the World Health organization's number one goal. Key to achieving it is ensuring that everyone can obtain the care they need, when they need it, right in the heart of the community.



Progress is being made in countries in all regions of the world. But millions of people still have no access at all to health care. Millions more are forced to choose between health care and other daily expenses, such as food, clothing and even a home. This is why WHO is focusing on universal health coverage for this years' World Health Day, on April 7, 2019..

World Health organization www.who.int



Celebration of Kathy Yates' Life

Friday, April 5, 2019 1:30–3:00 pm Richland College Campus, Sabine Hall #S118



Join us as we celebrate the life of **Kathy Yates**. While her time with Altrusa Richardson was short, she left a lasting impression and as she was the inspiration for the 2019 KAN (Kindness Action Ninja) Weekend's focus on the Military.

Please register online for an accurate headcount and ensure we all sit together. Once registered, you will receive instructions on where to park. If attending, plan to arrive at the campus by 1pm.

Contact Sue McElveen if you have any questions

