

## President's Message



To start with please make every effort to attend the upcoming March 5 business meeting. It will be a jam packed meeting. The 2020-2021 Club Board and Foundation Trustees will be elected. We will be initiating new member Maryann Weglowski. In addition, the service committees will make short 2–3 minute mid-year reports to update you on what has been going on in areas that you may not be personally involved in.

I apologize for the premature announcement of changes in the April meeting schedule due to conflicts with District Nine Conference events and our regularly scheduled Scholarship Awards at the April 17th dinner meeting. After a productive and cooperative meeting with the Scholarship Committee a better solution has been found. Instead of recognizing the Scholarship recipients in April, the Scholarship Committee requests the presentations be made at the May 21st dinner meeting. The April 17th meeting will be cancelled so that we may properly serve as Conference hosts.

With the agreement of Incoming President Samantha Slight and the Incoming 2020-2021 Officers, Directors and Foundation Trustees, Installations will be held during the May 7th Business meeting. No additional business will be conducted that evening. To even more properly mark the occasion, the Scholarship Committee has very graciously offered to host a reception prior to the meeting. More information will be announced as plans are firmed up.

Speaking of changes, kudos to the Ad Hoc Committee who are working so diligently to find the most responsive way to develop the meeting schedule for the 2020-2021 Club year. After developing and administering multiple surveys, Town Hall meetings and Café Conversations to determine the wants and needs of the entire membership, the Commit-

tee is now working to compile their recommendation to be presented to the membership about changes to both Club and Board meeting schedules for the coming year. More specific information and the exact date for the presentation of the recommendation will be announced in advance and will occur before the end of this club year. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

On another note, I regret to announce the resignation of Beth Blair as the Governor of District Nine. Governor Elect Mary Pearson has stepped in and assumed the position of District Governor. Please see the announcement letter from Governor Pearson on page 3.

Don't let another day pass by without registering for Conference. As Conference hosts we need the gifts of all our members to make this the most memorable Conference ever!! See page 4.

Doin' That Kindness Thing,

*Bobbi Klein*

President, 2019-2020

972-998-0160

### Events for March

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

Mar. 5 6:15 pm KAN Weekend Planning

Mar. 5 7:00 pm Business Meeting

Mar. 7 1:30 pm Ability House –  
Kathleen's B-Day Party

Mar. 19 6:30 pm Social Time  
7:00 pm Dinner Program Meeting

Pam Johnson speaker

Mar. 21 10:00 am Days For Girls Workshop

Mar. 21 1:30 pm Ability House –  
Henry's B-Day Party

Mar. 23 Noon Tidings Deadline

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

**The 2020-2021 PROPOSED Slate of Officers for Club Board of Directors and Foundation Trustees**

2020-2021 Board of Directors

President... Samantha Slaight  
President-Elect... Vacant  
Vice President... Rosemary Gouger  
Recording Secretary... Jane Merz  
Corresponding Secretary... Lynn Solomon  
Treasurer... Lynda Calkin  
2020-2022 Director... Mary Shiroma  
2020-2022 Director... Susan Fischer  
2019-2021 Director... Robbin Murley  
2019-2021 Director... Thanh Tran  
Immediate Past President... Bobbi Klein



2020-2022 Foundation Trustees

Marsha Peters  
Brenda Boston  
Sarah Nesbit  
2019-2021 Foundation Trustees (serving their second year)  
Deb Bourland, Jean Stuart, Cindy McIntyre, Jane Tucker

Submitted by Nominating Committee; Laura Trainor Collins, Linda Griffith, Sylvia McCloskey and Carol Ruszkowski

The Election of Officers, Directors Foundation Trustees for the 2020-2021 year will be held at the March 5 Business Meeting. Your vote counts, so please attend this important meeting. If you are unable to be present, you may submit an absentee ballot by email to Laura Trainor-Collins at [lauratrainer@verizon.net](mailto:lauratrainer@verizon.net). Absentee ballots will be accepted only through Wednesday, March 4.

KINDNESS COMMITTEE – GRANT AWARD PRESENTATION

**Grant Awarded to Richardson VFW Post 8627 for Purchase of a New Dishwasher**



Accepting the \$400 award is Commander Phil Denny (center) surrounded by Kindness committee members (L-R) Bobbi Klein, Sarah Saunders, Robbin Murley, Lynda Calkin and Nancy Rohm

*DISTRICT NINE NEWS*

**Letter to District Nine Members From Mary Black Pearson**

From email on February 28, 2020



To one and all:

I am disappointed that I must convey news that Beth Blair has resigned as Governor of District Nine effective yesterday, 2/27/2020. She has personal and professional commitments that require her attention. Beth has given years of service to Altrusa at every level and we want to all thank her for her dedicated service.

As your Governor-Elect, I will immediately assume the responsibilities of Governor for District Nine. You have a board of directors that will step forward to make sure that District Nine continues to Defy Gravity. Conference is the first priority and we are collectively stepping forward to assist our Richardson Altrusans as needed. I am confident that conference will be as wonderful as promised and want you to encourage your club's Altrusans to get registered as quickly as possible.

In your role as President of your club, I ask that you convey this news and assure your fellow Altrusans that we are 1000 strong and will work to build on the foundation built by Beth. District Nine will soar to new heights with the upcoming conference and continue in its role as a leading district within the International organization.

Succession planning is in place in the event that someone is unable to fulfill the obligations of a specific position. It is my privilege to work to fulfill the unfinished term of Beth as Governor but I do so with mixed emotions. I am sorry that Beth is unable to move forward and I am proud to have had her as a mentor to develop as an Altrusan and as a leader within this organization. Please join me in wishing her well and thanking her for her service if you have the opportunity to visit with her personally.

Defy Gravity and rise to new heights. I hope to see you all at conference in April. Feel free to email me if you have any questions.

**Mary Black Pearson**

**Governor-Elect, District Nine**

3809 S. Gen. Bruce Dr., Ste. 103, #323

Temple, TX 76502

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*COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE*

**Annual Food Drive for NETWORK at Birthday Party**

by Jackie Scrivener

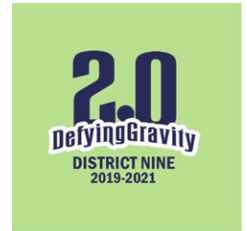


Altrusa Richardson has been spreading kindness in our area for fifty-four years. For many years the club has collected food for the less fortunate at the annual February Birthday Party. Again this year members brought food for Network to the party. In addition to what individual members brought \$300.00 of food was purchased with Community Outreach Committee funds. On February 21, 527.7 pounds of food was delivered to NETWORK.

In the photo left we gather to celebrate our food drive collection.



**Registering For Conference is Easy – Do It Now!**  
**Don't Miss Out on the Fun!!**



We are so glad you are going to attend Altrusa District Nine 2020 Conference. You won't be disappointed – many plans are afoot. For those who want to pay by **check**, you do not need the printed Registration Form. Just do the following:

If you use or have access to a computer, follow these steps: Go to <https://district-nine.altrusaevents.org/> When the page opens, select **“Read More”** below the Yellow Ticket.

On the next screen, under **“Register”**, select quantity: 1 ticket. Mark other information below that applies – (Bringing a banquet guest, name of Club, preferred entrée for Gov Banquet, and if you are President or First Timer). At the bottom press, **“Add to Cart”**.

Scroll up and press the green letters on the right, **“Cart”**.

A new screen will appear. It will confirm you bought one ticket and you will fill in your name, email, etc. At bottom **FIRST** press, **“Online”**, then **“Review Cart and Make a Payment”**

Another screen will appear. Enter your full address, then **FIRST** select, **“Update Address”** then **“Complete Reservation”**. **You are Registered!** The system receives your Registration information electronically.

Make your check to “Altrusa District Nine 2020 Conference” and mail it to: Nancy Rohm, Altrusa District Nine Conference, 2503 Springwood Lane, Richardson, TX 75082. You will receive acknowledgement by email soon after your payment is received.

If you are paying by **PayPal**, follow the first steps above, but do not press “Online”, instead go directly to “Review Cart.

ALTRUSA ACCENT	<b>MARCH BIRTHDAYS</b>	
<b><u>Celebrating Altrusans</u></b>		
	Sharon Nash	March 1
	Sarah Nesbit	March 2
	Mary Shiroma	March 14
	Barbara Berthold	March 17
	Ann Payne	March 27

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – RECRUITMENT

**New Member Initiation at March Business Meeting**

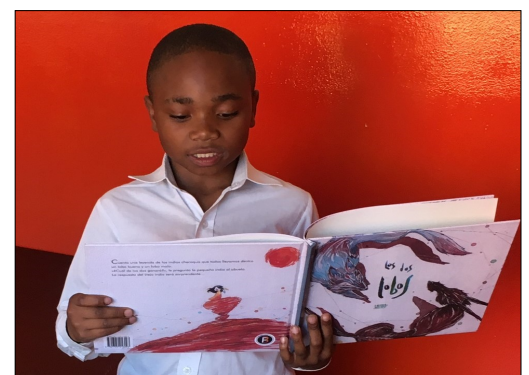
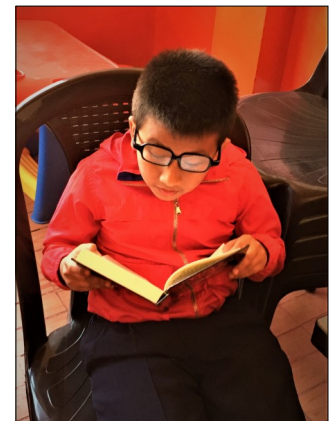
Please help welcome new member Maryann Weglowski, who will be initiated at the March 5 Business meeting. Maryann is the House Manager and the Art Gallery Coordinator at the Eisemann Center. She is sponsored by Sarah Nesbit and Nancy Rohm. Maryann counts volunteerism as an important part of her life and is looking forward to meeting like-minded people and serving in ways big and small. Introduce yourself.



## Choose Kind Library a Big Hit in Bogota, Columbia

By Jane Tucker

Just take a look at happy faces on some of the children of the El Puente Children’s orphanage enjoying the joy of literacy. They are reading books donated by the Choose Kind Library Project. The orphanage is located in Bogota, Columbia and joins our other Choose Kind Library in South America. We have an established library in Santa Avelina, Guatemala and a brand new library in the Mike’s Kids orphanage in Matemores, Mexico. Please note the Choose Kind sign in a couple of the pictures.





## Spring Creek Elementary Holds Their Choose Kind Ribbon Cutting



(L-R) Librarian Allison Alford, School Counselor Jessica Bradshaw, Altrusans Bobbi Klein and Rose Daughety and Principal Sharon Erickson



Bobbi Klein and Rose Daughety share about Altrusa and the Choose Kind Libraries



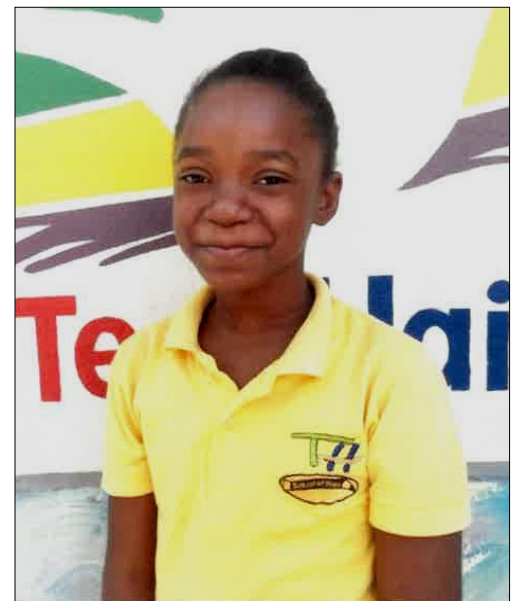
The Ribbon Cutting opening the newest RISD Choose Kind Library at Spring Creek Elementary was held first period on February 18, 2020, to kick-off of their schoolwide Kindness Week. There were nearly a hundred students and their teachers invited by Ms. Alford, the librarian. The fifth and sixth mentors brought their Kindergarten and first grade buddies. Ms. Alford talked to students about the special section and Ms. Bradford, the school counselor, spoke about the significance of the opening and Kindness Week. Bobbi Klein got to share a little about Altrusa, what we do and about the other Choose Kind Libraries in the RISD and that we also have six libraries around the world. We talked about setting up pen pals with the Spring Creek students and our international students.

Left: Allison Alford and Jessica Bradshaw cut the ribbon to open the library

## Introducing Our New Sponsored Girl From TeachHaiti

The International Relations Project of the Kindness Committee has just found out that, sadly, the young lady that we were sponsoring at the Port au Prince TeachHaiti school, Shepathia Herwine Joseph had to be taken out of the school by her parents.

Altrusa has been assigned a new student, Willnise Pierre Louis. Her birthday is February 19, 2010 and is in the fifth grade. Willnise has two brothers. She shares that her hobbies are running and jumping rope. We have also received the following message from her parents; “Thank you for your precious support. We appreciate it! May God bless you!”





MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE — RETENTION — AWCLS

**AWCLS Book Club Annual Author Visit With Diane Cobalt**



Garland resident Diane Cobalt was the featured author and speaker at this year's "Author's Visit", sponsored by the Altrusa Wine and Chocolate Literary Society on Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at Friends Place. The Membership Retention Committee provided snacks before and a lovely reception to end the event.

Front Row (L-R) Samantha Slaight, Diane Cobalt, Pam Johnson, Christine Hart; Middle Row (L-R) Mary Osentowski, Judy Blome, Donna Buhr, Ruth Tinnes, Jackie Scrivener-Susan Fischer, Mary Beth McLemore, Nancy Rohm; Back Row (L-R) Gerry Carron, Lynn Solomon, Laura Trsinor-Collins, Janet McColloch, Guest, Jane Merz

OUTREACH COMMITTEE—Seniors Project

**Richardson Library Lone Star Book Rotation with Richardson Exchange Club**

By Lynn Solomon



On February 15, 2020, four Altrusans and four members of the Richardson Exchange Club, volunteered to help with the Richardson Public Library Senior Book Rotation project. This project involves taking large print books on a rotation basis to several participating assisted and non-assisted living facilities in Richardson. Altrusans participating in this event were: Judy Blome, Carol Ruszkowski, Alma Benoit, and Lynn Solomon.

Altrusans pictured on back row left are: Judy Blome and Carol Ruszkowski and front row left is Lynn Solomon and Alma Benoit is on far right front row. The Exchange Club volunteers are shown in middle front row and back row on the left.

*DISTRICT NINE ACCENT—*

## **The Final North Texas District Nine Days for Girls Workday in Preparation for Conference**

By Jane Tucker

Altrusa District Nine planned three workdays for North Texas Altrusa clubs to help prepare for the District Conference Days for Girls Service Project. The first two workdays were well attended and very productive. The goal to assemble the parts of 400 kits looks like it will be 500 kits to be assembled at Conference. Altrusa Clubs all over Texas are meeting in different locations to help sew drawstring bags, transport bags, shields and liners. There are tasks that do not require sewing skills - like cutting, pressing, putting in snaps, or threading ribbons in bags.

The final workday will be March 21<sup>st</sup> @ 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. at Friends Place, 1960 Nantucket Dr., Richardson, Tx. We will finish preparing all items during KAN Saturday on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

More information and online registration are available on our website on the events calendar: [Days for Girls District Workdays](#).



**EVERY THOUGHT MATTERS ♦ EVERY WORD MATTERS ♦ EVERY ACTION MATTERS**

*DISTRICT NINE ACCENT—*

## **Spreading the Days for Girls Message to College Students**

By Jane Tucker

These are UTA students who did a Days for Girls educational presentation with help from Altrusa Richardson and a local Days for Girls Team. Barbara Berthold says, “The students were perfect. The presentation and demonstration went very well. And the young men in the room were amazed. We are also considering making Days for Girls our Service Learning project this semester, but the class will decide this later during the semester.”





ABILITY HOUSE COMMITTEE UPDATE

**Altrusa Receives A Trophy**

Last month we announced that Altrusa won the Ability Connection Christmas Decorating Contest. The contest fundraising component asked people to pay a dollar to vote for their favorite decorated house. Altrusa Richardson raised \$200 of the \$500 donated through this contest.

In the picture on the right, Landon Cole, the Volunteer and Community Outreach Manager for Ability Connection, presents Rosemary Gouger, the Ability House Committee Chair, with a beautiful glass trophy in recognition of our decorating and fundraising. The trophy will be on display at Ability House.



ABILITY HOUSE COMMITTEE UPDATE

**My Little Pony Rides through Vera’s Birthday**

February 15th saw us celebrating Vera’s birthday with her and the rest of the Ability House residents. Rosemary Gouger again demonstrated her skills and presented Vera with a beautifully decorated cake to go with the “My Little Pony” theme. The ladies sported unicorn horns and the gentlemen sported glittery hats. Vera’s presents were socks and a CD of “100 Motown Hits” to party down to. You really are missing a lot of fun if you aren’t joining us for these joyful parties. Mark your calendar for March... Kathleen’s party is March 7th and Henry’s party is March 21st at 1:30 pm.



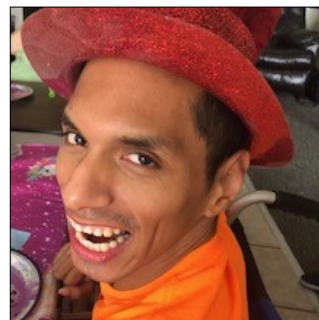
(L-R) Shelly, Donna Buhr, Vera and Rosemary Gouger



Rosemary Gouger helps Vera to read her birthday card.



Vera is having the time of her life and loves to show it.



Henry (top) and Robert (bottom) enjoy the party, too

## Richardson Altrusans Celebrate 54 Years of Community Service

By Laura Trainor-Collins

Altrusa International of Richardson, Tx, Inc. celebrated 54 Years of Community Service with a Studio 54 Disco party on February 20, 2020. Fifty-four Altrusans and guests did the hustle and toasted with champagne. Altrusans danced under the disco ball and played a disco era lingo game to win prizes. The flashing blinking disco ball lights centerpieces were given out as door prizes. Pam Johnson won a \$50 gift card from Desperados for favorite disco outfit. Stevie Ray won runner up with a \$25 gift card from Chamberlains Fish Market Grill. The program speaker was District Nine visitor Shirley Raymer (Garland), 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Governor. The Outreach Committee gathered over 500 pounds of canned food donated by the Altrusans for NETWORK's Food Pantry. Way to go Richardson Altrusans!

As usual, we invited the District Nine visitor to celebrate with us. We applaud First Vice-Governor Shirley Raymer for stepping in at the last minute due to Governor Elect Mary Pearson's illness. Shirley met with the Board of Directors prior to the meeting. As our speaker, since we are hosting the District Nine Conference, Shirley concentrated on sharing information about Conference.

We again benefited from having a professional photographer, Jennifer Markley. Jennifer also took photos of our Holiday party. We even had a photo booth

For the complete set of Holiday 2019 photos we have a link to our own private photo gallery set up for us by Jennifer Markley. Yes, you can download your choice of these images for yourself.

<https://jenmarkleyphotoart.photoshelter.com/gallery/Holiday-2019/G0000WB7Qca1OZTg>

Password: Holidisy2019 (yes, it is Holid~~s~~y – with an S — not Holiday2019)

For the complete set of Studio 54 birthday photos

<https://jenmarkleyphotoart.photoshelter.com/gallery/Altrusa-Studio-54-Party/G0000DLXUYYHLuS0>

Password is : Studio54



Birthday Reception



Mimi Tanner and Gypsy Jane Merz



The Board with First Vice-Governor Shirley Raymer



(L-R) Susan Long, Donna Buhr and Gloria Sandoval "Do the Hustle ..."



(L-R) Susan Long, Donna Buhr, Jackie Scriver, Gloria Sandoval and Christine Hart



Gerry and Tracey Carron



Studio 54 continues



Disco Ball centerpieces



Pam Johnson — Best Disco Costume



Stevie Ray — 2nd place costume



Kimberly Kierce and her friend Robert Taylor make quite a disco statement



(L-R) Rosemary Gouger, Bobbi Klein, Susan Long, Lynda Calkin, Jackie Scrivener, Donna Buhr, Gayle Ingle, Brenda Boston and Janet Black



Rosemary Gouger (in front) in the background are Marsha Peters, Janie Jaquier, Lynda Calkin, Gayle Ingle and others



(L-R) Christine Hart, Jackie Scrivener, Donna Buhr and Gerry Carron consult about lingo on answers

*MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – Retention*  
Fat Tuesday/Mardi Gras Celebration



Celebrating Fat Tuesday at Desperados were: (L-R front row behind their masks) Karen Tate, Gerry Carron, Christine Hart, Nancy Rohm (L-R back row) Tom Collins, Laura Trainor-Collins, Mimi Tanner, Mark and Lynn Solomon, Pam and Mike Johnson, Susan Long, Robert Taylor and Kimberly Kierce

Hard times can serve as a reminder that our relationships are a gift. Loss can remind us that life itself is a gift.

Remember to love yourself. You deserve it. You are a gift.

Louise Hay & David Kessler

[www.yourwisdomfromyourheart.com](http://www.yourwisdomfromyourheart.com)

## **March 2020 U.N. Days and Observances**

Excerpted from [www.un.org](http://www.un.org)



### **International Women’s Day, March 8, 2020:**

The theme of International Women’s Day 2020 is, “*I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women’s Rights.*” The theme is aligned with UN Women’s new multigenerational campaign, Generation Equality, which marks the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the most progressive roadmap for the empowerment of women and girls, everywhere.

This year we will also be celebrating other major UN anniversaries, such as the 10th anniversary of the establishment of UN Women, among others.

The emerging global consensus is that despite some progress, real change has been agonizingly slow for the majority of women and girls in the world. Today, not a single country can claim to have achieved gender equality. Multiple obstacles remain unchanged in law and in culture. Women and girls continue to be undervalued; they work more and earn less and have fewer choices; and experience multiple forms of violence at home and in public spaces. Furthermore, there is a significant threat of rollback of hard-won feminist gains.

The year 2020 represents an unmissable opportunity to mobilize global action to achieve gender equality and human rights of all women and girls.

### **International Day of Happiness, March 20, 2020:**

It’s a day to be happy, of course! Since 2013, the United Nations has celebrated the International Day of Happiness as a way to recognize the importance of happiness in the lives of people around the world. In 2015, the UN launched the [17 Sustainable Development Goals](#), which seek to [end poverty](#), [reduce inequality](#), and protect our planet – three key aspects that lead to well-being and happiness.

### **World Water Day, March 22, 2020:**

World Water Day celebrates clean water for all and raises awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water. It is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis. A core focus of World Water Day is to support the achievement of [Sustainable Development Goal 6](#): water and sanitation for all by 2030.

The idea for this international day goes back to 1992, the year in which the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro took place. That same year, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a [resolution](#) by which 22 March of each year was declared World Day for Water, to be observed starting in 1993.

Later on, other celebrations and events were added. For instance, the [International Year of Cooperation in the Water Sphere 2013](#), and the current [International Decade for Action on Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028](#). These observances serve to reaffirm that water and sanitation measures are key to poverty reduction, economic growth, and environmental sustainability.

World Water Day 2020 is about water and climate change – and how the two are inextricably linked. The campaign shows how our use of water will help reduce floods, droughts, scarcity and pollution, and will help fight climate change itself.

By adapting to the water effects of climate change, we will protect health and save lives. And, by using water more efficiently, we will reduce greenhouse gases.