

2020-2021

Club Board of Directors

President

Samanthia Slaight

President-Elect.

Vacant

Vice President

Rosemary Gouger

Recording Secretary.

Jane Merz

Corresponding Secretary

Lynn Solomon

Treasurer

Lynda Calkin

2020-2022 Directors

Mary Shiroma

Susan Fischer

2019-2021 Director

Robbin Murley

Thanh Tran

Immediate Past President

Bobbi Klein

2020-2022

Altrusa Richardson

Foundation Trustees

Marsha Peters

Brenda Boston

Sarah Nesbit

2019-2021

Altrusa Richardson

Foundation Trustees

(serving their second year)

Deb Bourland

Jean Stuart

Cindy McIntyre

Jane Tucker

President's Message



I hope that everyone has thawed out after our unusual freezing weather. Several days without power definitely made some of us wish for warmer Spring days.

Our 55th Birthday celebration, though postponed due to the weather, was literally a virtual success. Thanks to our Program Committee, under the leadership of Jane Tucker, brought the theme “Nothing Bundt Success this Year” to fruition with coupons for tasty cupcakes from

Nothing But Bundt Cakes. It is truly amazing what we can do virtually to make things fun and exciting. District Nine Governor, Mary Pearson, our distinguished District guest, filled us in on news from District Nine. It was indeed a pleasure to have her at our meeting. Unfortunately, with Covid 19 still a threat, the District Nine board decided to cancel this spring’s conference in Georgetown, opting instead to hold the conference virtually once again. (*More info to come shortly.*) Mary also confirmed that the Altrusa International convention will still be held in person in Charlotte, North Carolina, July 28 –31, 2021, but will be offered virtually as well. We will be hearing more in the next few weeks. Also, because this has been a most unusual year, there will be some changes to our reporting dates. Once I receive Mary’s e-mail with that information, I will inform everyone of the changes.

In addition to the birthday festivities, the Nomination Committee presented the Administration and Foundation slate of officers for the 2021-2022 year. Since voting will take place at the March meeting, I urge everyone to attend and cast your vote. If you are unable to attend virtually, you can cast your vote, **no later than 5:00 pm on March 18**, by email to Barbara Berthold (barbberthold74@gmail.com). I applaud the nomination committee under the leadership of Barbara Berthold for their hard work.

Speaking of hard work, Laura Trainor Collins and Kimberly Kierce have put together the Shamrockin’ photo contest and fundraiser on Facebook. Check your e-mails for instructions on how to participate and “get your green on.” Also, I want to give a big thank you to the hard working Kind-

Continued page 2

“Achieving wonderful things through *Unity, Teamwork, and Compassion*”

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued)

ness Committee, who gathered supplies and created beautiful handmade Valentine cards for our senior citizens who reside in area retirement homes. Kimberly Kierce graciously collected and took the cards to The Cottonwood Festival Committee who delivered them. In addition, the Kindness Committee delivered over 100+ Beanie Babies to agencies we serve including the residents of Ability House.

On another note, **remember to log-in your volunteer hours** since your time is a valuable service to our community. This is especially important because the reporting time to District Nine will likely be **the end of March!!!**

It is hard to believe that the year is almost over. We have had so many challenges, and we have done an amazing job.

President 2020-2021

Nominating Committee

Proposed Slate for 2021-2022 Club Year

Altrusa International of Richardson

Elections will be held at the March 18th meeting via Zoom. Absentee ballots will be accepted until 5:00 pm, March 18th, via email to: Barbara Berthold at barbberthold74@gmail.com.

Altrusa International of Richardson, TX

Club Board of Directors

- President** Samantha Slaight
- President- Elect** Ginger Tonne
- Vice President** Christine Hart
- Recording Secretary** Gayle Engle
- Corresponding Secretary** Ann Turner
- Administrative Treasurer** Lynda Calkin

Directors

- New: Carol Ruszkowski, Sylvia McCloskey
- Completing two year term: Susan Fischer, Mary Shiroma

Past President Nancy Rohm

Upcoming Events March–May

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

- March 1–March 12 Shamrockin' Photo Contest
- Mar 6 1:30 pm Ability House Kathleen's B-day
- Mar 8 UN Day: International Woman's Day
- Mar 9 6:30 pm T
- Mar 18 6:30 Social Time prior to
7:00 pm Monthly Meeting via zoom
- Mar 20 1:30 pm Ability House Henry's B-day
- Mar 22 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm AWCLS Book Club
- Mar 25 6:30 pm Club Board meeting on Zoom
- Apr 7 UN Day: World Health Day
- Apr 15 6:30 Social Time prior to
7:00 pm Monthly Meeting via zoom
- Apr 16 District Nine Conference via zoom
- Apr 22 6:30 pm Club Board meeting on Zoom
- Apr 26 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm AWCLS Book Club
- May 1 1:30 pm Ability House Nina's B-day
- May 15 UN Day: International Day of Families
- May 20 6:30 Social Time prior to
7:00 pm Monthly Meeting via zoom
- May 24 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm AWCLS Book Club
- May 27 6:30 pm Joint New/Outgoing Board mtg

Altrusa International of Richardson, TX Foundation

Board of Trustees

- Marsha Peters Rosemary Gouger
- Brenda Boston Janie Jaquier
- Sarah Nesbit Donna Buhr
- Jean Stuart

Presented by the 2020-2021 Nominating Committee

- Mary Beth McLemore
- Telva Gale Wallace
- Barbara Berthold

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF RICHARDSON, INC.

Shamrockin' Photo Contest

To raise money for our annual scholarship fund for deserving high school students, we are hosting a photo contest. Take a St. Patrick's Day-themed photo and submit it for prizes. We have two St. Patrick's Day wearing of the green categories, PETS or PEOPLE.

ALTRUSA SHAMROCKIN' PHOTO CONTEST OFFICIAL RULES

1. **TWO PRIZES:** A \$50 amazon gift card will be awarded for the photo that receives the most votes in the PETS and in the PEOPLE category. Winners will be contacted by email March 18, 2021.
2. **ENTRY:** Fill out the Official Entry Form by registering for this event at altrusarichardson.com and click on the SHAMROCKIN' PHOTO CONTEST icon on the home page. You will pay a \$10 entry fee per photo entry; be sure to add a fun caption to your photo. Please, no photoshopped images.
3. Enter as many photos as you wish. You will need to fill out a separate Official Entry Form for each photo you enter.
4. Once registered and paid, you will receive an email with the link to submit your St. Patrick's Day themed digital image (JPEG formats only).
5. **Registration and photo entries must be submitted between 8am Monday, March 1, 2021 and 11pm Friday, March 12, 2021.**
6. **VOTING:** Photo voting opens on 8am, Monday, March 15th and closes at 5pm Wednesday, March 17, 2021. To vote for your favorite photo, go to altrusarichardson.com and click on the SHAMROCKIN' PHOTO CONTEST icon on the home page or you can access it under the Donations tab on the home page. You may vote as many times as you wish for as many photos as you wish. Select your photo choice(s) and add them to your shopping cart for \$5 per photo/vote.

(Example, if you want to vote for a photo three times, enter it in your cart, tap the quantity for 3 and pay \$15 at check out.)
7. By entering this contest, you agree that you have read the rules and are giving Altrusa International of Richardson, Inc. permission to use your PETS Photo or PEOPLE Photo for publication or use in electronic media for promotional materials and publicity efforts.
8. Void where prohibited.

Please forward this info to friends and family that you think may be inter-

Recommendation for Amended Membership Guidelines and Responsibilities

In light of the new club structure and schedule adopted in 2020, a recommendation has been brought to the Board to simplify the wording of the Club Membership Guidelines and Responsibilities. The Board of Directors has approved this change. The recommendation will be brought to the membership at the March 18th, 2021 meeting.

Proposed new structure:

Membership Guidelines and Responsibilities

1. Work on one service project and are strongly encouraged to work on more than one.
2. Take part in fund-raising activities by donating time to a Ways & Means subcommittee or money to the Foundation.
3. Attend Business /Program meetings to offer input and vote on club business.
4. Pay dues promptly.
5. Report at least five hours of volunteer time on our projects.

Original Structure with tracked changes:

Membership Guidelines and Responsibilities

1. ~~Members are required to work~~**Work** on one service project and are strongly encouraged to work on more than one.
2. ~~Members are required to take~~**Take** part in fund raising activities by donating time to a Ways & Means subcommittee or money to the Foundation.
3. ~~Members are expected to attend~~**Attend B**usiness / ~~Program M~~**meetings** to offer input and vote on club business.
4. ~~Members are expected to attend program meetings, and if unable to attend, to cancel their dinner reservation.~~
5. ~~Members are expected to pay for their dinner reservation if they do not attend and fail to cancel.~~
- 6.4. ~~Members are expected to pay their~~**Pay** dues promptly.
- 7.5. ~~Members are encouraged to report~~**Report** at least five hours of volunteer time on our projects.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE UPDATE

2021 Outstanding Women of Today — The Show Will Go On, Somehow

By Sylvia McCloskey

Ginger Tonne and I are looking forward to Co-Chairing our time-honored Altrusa Richardson tradition of honoring outstanding women of North Texas. Additionally, we have asked Carol Ruskowski to help with the logistics of this year's event. The first planning meeting took place two weeks ago and concluded with a long list of questions such as: What will this year's OWT look like? How do we celebrate and honor our nominees? We will be spending the next couple of weeks working out the details.

We will share the details of the OWT 2021 event at the March business meeting. We have all been impacted in some way by the pandemic. For this reason, we would like to celebrate those who have made a difference during the pandemic. Therefore, our theme for this year will be "unsung heroes" and the two categories will be healthcare workers and first responders. Start thinking now of women Altrusa Richardson should honor this year.

We look forward to working with all our Altrusa Sisters to make this year's event a huge success.



ALTRUSA WINE AND CHOCOLATE SOCIETY
UPDATE

Updated Book Club Selection List

By Pam Johnson

Right is the updated list for the 2021 AWCLS Book Selections, which has recently been posted to our club web site. **Please note IMPORTANT change for March selection.** We will be reading *The Mermaid Chair* in March and on Monday, March 22nd Mary Osentowski will lead the discussion at our monthly ZOOM AWCLS meeting. The book *We Are All the Same in the Dark* by Julie Heaberlin has been postponed until September since it has only recently released. Hopefully, this will allow more time for the public libraries to have available copies and/or a softcover might be available and members could possibly purchase either the digital and print versions on sale or at a lesser cost. By then, many of us who have purchased a printed copy would be willing to share. Even better, there's still a chance that Julie Heaberlin might be able to join us by then for either a ZOOM meeting or in-person nearer that time.



Also, hope you will find this to be a bit of good news. As we slowly become able to cautiously return to normal activities, it was decided that beginning **May 24th** our book club will once again meet in person. Christine Hart has generously offered to host an outdoor event in her lovely backyard. More details to come as the date draws near.

Date	Title of Book	Author	Leader
Jan 25	<i>Where the Forest Meets the Stars</i>	Glendy Vander	Pam Johnson
Feb 22	<i>The Summer Cottage</i>	Viola Shipman	Samanthia Slaight
March 22	<i>The Mermaid Chair</i>	Sue Monk Kidd	Mary Osentowski
April 26	<i>The Downstairs Girl</i>	Stacy Lee	Robin Smith
May 24	<i>The Book of Two Ways</i>	Jodi Picoult	Janice Campbell
June 28	<i>Big Lies in a Small Town</i>	Diane Chamberlain	Samanthia Slaight
July 26	<i>The Book of Longings</i>	Sue Monk Kidd	Cheryl Toliver
Aug 23	<i>This Tender Land</i>	William Kent Krueger	Janet Vance
Sept 27	<i>We Are All the Same in the Dark</i>	Julia Heaberlin	Mary Beth McLemore
Oct 25	<i>The Home for Unwanted Girls</i>	Joanna Goodman	Need leader
Nov 22	<i>The Book of Lost Names</i>	Kristin Harmel	Need leader
*Dec 6	Annual Party and 2022 Book Selection	Details to be decided	-----

COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE

Donations of Knitted Caps and Beanie Babies to Network and Ability House

By Carol Ruskowski, Co-chair

February was a good time to keep your ears covered. Who would have thought we would be experiencing 10 days of freezing winter weather? But Altrusa jumped in to help with that situation and donated approximately 65 knitted hats to Network and 15 hats to Ability House residents and staff. Ears were covered and heads were kept warm.

In addition to the hats, we donated to Network, approximately 200 Beanie Babies and 15 Beanie Babies to Ability House residents and staff. We put a smile on the faces of a lot of people.

Many thanks to Susan Fischer who brought these goodies to Community Outreach from an outside donor.



ABILITY HOUSE UPDATE

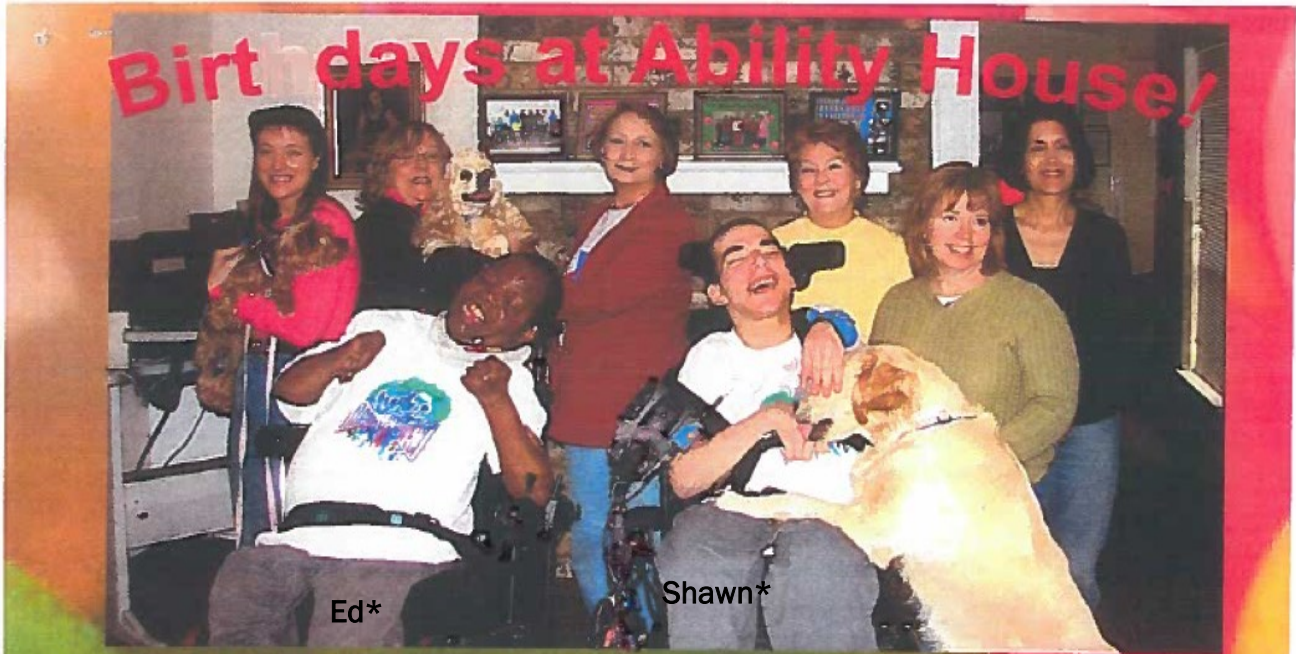
Ability House Memories of Absent Friends

Altrusa Richardson has been working with our friends at Ability House since 1998. Sadly we have lost some of our very special friends along the way. Let's celebrate the lives of our absent friends and the joy we brought to our friends and the joy that we received in return.

Many thanks to Landon Cole for sending these lovely reminders.



The new Ability Connection logo



* Denotes departed friends

* Denotes departed friends



KINDNESS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Valentine Cards for Seniors

From Kimberly Kierce

FYI... Community support was overwhelming for this project. No surprise they far exceeded the count needed for the targeted senior population so the City will be donating the remainder of the cards to all hospital staff, personnel and patients at the hospital – especially those in the COVID units. They will hold some cards back to deliver another time to keep spirits up.

The goal was 800 cards to provide enough for senior facilities – they received over 3,000 cards! Now we are enriching the lives of those in the hospital. Richardson generosity is amazing.

Thank you Sue McElveen and Gayle Wallace for embracing this project and helping make this happen in a big way!

From: Dianna Lawrence <Dianna.Lawrence@cor.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 3:36 PM
To: Kimberly Kierce <Kimberly.Kierce@cor.gov>



Dianna Lawrence and Kimberly Kierce



DISTRICT NINE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

April 16th, 2021 Via Zoom

No Fee to Attend

More information coming soon!

In Memoriam

Tracy Carron

Tracy Carron, an Altrusan since 2018, was the daughter of long time Altrusan Gerry Carron. Tracy loved attending Altrusa meetings and outings and attended when she could. Unfortunately, she lost her fight with breast cancer in February. Gerry was with her when she passed.

Cards and remembrances may be sent to:

Gerry Carron 2000 Clearfield Circle, Richardson, TX 75081

Maryann Wegloski

Mary Ann Wegloski passed away in March, 2021. She was originally planning her initiation in 2018 but delayed her initiation due to cancer. Ironically, her initiation to our club was the last in-person meeting, March, 2020, due to the Covid outbreak, so many of us did not have the pleasure of knowing her well.

Carl McLemore

Carl McLemore, husband of Mary Beth McLemore, passed away on March 7, 2021. Carl had been in ill health for several years and had been diagnosed with lung cancer earlier this year. Mary Beth has been a member of our club for more than thirty years and served as President twice.

Cards and remembrances may be sent to:

Mary Beth McLemore 3606 Gypress Grove Court, Richardson, TX 75082

James Price

James (Jim) F. Price passed away February 16, 2021. Jim was married to Diane Sullivan Price, who was President of Richardson Altrusa from 1979-1980. Jim was preceded in death by Diane. Jim and Diane were both active in our community for many years. One of Jim's sons, David, is married to Mary. Mary Price was a member of our club for several years.

Donations may be made to:

Network of Community Ministries

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

Call to International Convention

Excerpted from President's Message by Beverly Hardy, International President

See Call to Conference Packet on Altrusa International Website: www.altrusa.org

A preview of information you need to know for planning to come to Convention in beautiful Charlotte, NC, "The Queen City". Yes, previously our Convention was planned to take place in Quebec City, Canada. However, due to the global pandemic of COVID 19 that was not possible. I am convinced that our new location is as wonderful as the one in Canada and it will not disappoint!

I would feel remiss if I didn't address this past year and all the trials we have successfully navigated as an organization. The year 2020 was indeed a year that imposed many challenges on our individual members, clubs, districts and yes on the International level also. With so much pressure on our members, it can be hard to come up with just the right words to express new year wishes for friends, family, and my cherished Altrusa membership. This is especially true if this past year's challenges still linger for our organization. I'm so proud of all Altrusans accomplishments this past year in spite of all the restrictions we have been under.

The future is our story to write ... so let us make 2021 the best one yet. This year is a chance to welcome a fresh start to reinvigorate our enthusiasm and accomplish new goals for Altrusa Leading to a Better Community.

We can start with making new memories and accomplishing our goals by embracing our individual District Conferences this next Spring. As an organization we must make every effort to participate in our 2021 Convention in the last week of July. Altrusans we need this after all we have been through this past year! The COVID vaccine is out and everyone who chooses to take it will be covered by July. I feel very encouraged that this will help many, if not all, feel comfortable attending in person. The Convention will begin Wednesday July 28, and end on Saturday July 31st with the installation of our new International Board. The registration fee of \$350 will remain the same as in previous conventions.



You will see a lot more advanced promotion of the Convention as requested, starting with this call to Convention and then after the International Altrusan in May 2021 there will be special Pre-Convention Newsletters for registrants and First Timers information packs. We will have lots more information also readily available on the International website.

Yours in Altrusa service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beverly Hardy".

Beverly Hardy
International President



<http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/C/CLTHUHF-ALTRUS-20210725/index.jhtml>



Event Information

[Attendee Reservations](#) | [Hotel Information](#)

[Help](#) [Print](#) [Email a Friend](#) [Bookmark Page](#)

[Need to Book Multiple Group Reservations?](#)

Altrusa International Convention

Welcome to the Altrusa International Convention reservation site!

A block of rooms has been reserved for July 25, 2021 - August 2, 2021.

Booking a reservation from our site is simple. To begin the process, click on "Book a Room" below to receive your group's preferred rate.

See you at the Hilton Charlotte University Place in July! We hope you enjoy your stay and your group's event!

Quick and Easy Reservations for Attendees

Attending an event at our hotel? Special room rates have been arranged for this event. Click on the room type below to view room details.

Special Room Rates:

[LARGE PARLOR SUITE](#)

rates from
139.00 USD/Night

[1KING STE WHIRLPL
LAKEVIEW](#)

rates from
139.00 USD/Night

[2 DOUBLE BEDS DELUXE
ROOM](#)

rates from
139.00 USD/Night

[1 KING BED DELUXE ROOM](#)

rates from
139.00 USD/Night

Check-in Date:

25 July 2021 - 02 August 2021

Book **early** to reserve your room!

[Terms & Conditions](#)

[Book a Room](#)

Hilton Charlotte University Place

[Tour Hotel](#) [Directions](#) [Maps](#)



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Charlotte, North Carolina 28262
USA
Tel: +1-704-547-7444
Fax: +1-704-549-9708

Amenities



Hilton Charlotte University Place offers a tranquil lakeside escape near UNC Charlotte and the area's best shopping destinations. Whether you're here for business or leisure, you'll appreciate our lakeside location just 15 miles from the Charlotte Douglas International Airport. Dine lakeside at our on-site Edgewater Bar and Grille and enjoy stunning lake views from many of our guest rooms and meeting rooms.