

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

## SPECIAL EDITION

### President's Message

As we welcome the new year and enter the spring season, we find ourselves still in the uncertainty of the virus that has been with us since last year. While we now have some hope with the administration of the vaccine, we will continue to gather together via Zoom meetings. Our Christmas party looked very different, but we still had a great time with a wonderful program provided by Patsy and Bob Brooks. In January, we learned how to be prepared for an emergency in the program presented by The Richardson Office of Emergency Management.

This February, we celebrate our 55<sup>th</sup> Birthday! Our Program Committee has come up with a fun celebration which Jane Tucker coined, “**Nothing Bundt Success this Year**”. Just a hint, our celebration has something to do with Bundt cakes. Our District Nine Governor, Mary Pearson, will be our distinguished District guest. Thanks goes to our Program committee for their innovation and creativity in a new and very different year.



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*Please join us for our 55th Birthday Celebration*

*February 18th at 6:30 pm*  
*Social time — 7:00 pm Meeting*

*Special Guest Speaker District Nine Governor Mary Pearson*

Don't Forget to Register and get your “coupon”  
for a FREE Bundt cake and pick it up before the 18th  
so you can celebrate with us on Zoom



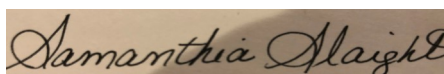
*“Achieving wonderful things through Unity, Teamwork, and Compassion”*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued)

Planning for the rest of the year, the Nomination Committee has presented the slate of officers (please see page 3) for the 2021-2022 year which will be presented at the February meeting. Voting will take place at the March meeting. The committee had a difficult task, and did a superb job in finding a very impressive group of leaders who are eager to take on the task of leadership in our club. A huge thank you to the Nomination Committee for your devotion and hard work.

The hard working Kindness Committee, has planned a lovely and caring project that will benefit our senior citizens who live in retirement homes. Homemade Valentines will be assembled and delivered via The Cottonwood Festival Committee. In addition, thanks to Susan Fischer, the Kindness Committee will receive over 100+ Beanie Babies to be distributed for Valentine's Day to agencies we serve and to the residents of Ability House. While we are still brainstorming ideas for many of our spring projects, our OWT chairs have been hard at work planning for an out of the box event for next fall to honor our First Responders and Healthcare workers. They will need all the help that they can get, so when they call upon you, please think about how you can best serve.

Again, as we are challenged with obstacles due to Covid-19, the District Conference that was to take place in Georgetown has been cancelled. Instead, the District Board is looking into holding the event virtually. There will be more to come regarding the event in the weeks to come.



President 2020-2021

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### *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 March 17th only via email to: Barbara Berthold at [barbberthold74@gmail.com](mailto: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 Ruskowski, Sylvia McCloskey

Completing two year term: Susan Fischer, Mary Shiroma

**Past President** Nancy Rohm

*Presented by the 2020-2021 Nominating Committee*

Mary Beth McLemore

Telva Gale Wallace

Barbara Berthold

### **Altrusa International of Richardson, TX Foundation**

#### **Board of Trustees**

Marsha Peters                      Rosemary Gouger

Brenda Boston                      Janie Jaquier

Sarah Nesbit                      Donna Buhr

Jean Stuart

### **Upcoming Events February**

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

Feb. 09 6:30 pm Together Tuesdays on Zoom

Feb. 19 7:00 pm Monthly Meeting via zoom

Feb. 22 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm AWCLS Book Club

Feb. 25 6:30 pm Club Board meeting on Zoom

Feb. 27 1:30 pm Ability House Kathleen's B-day

## 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.

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#### 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.



*STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE*  
**Mid-Year Committee Reports Summary**

By Mary Osentowski

The goal of the Strategic Planning/Leadership Committee was to assure that the Strategic Plan be a living document. The Mid-Year reports verify that much is being accomplished by the Club Committees despite a pandemic that has prevented face-to-face meetings.

Congratulations to all Committee Chairs and member for the many accomplishments. I encourage you to continue your efforts through the end of our Club year.

The following is a summary of club committee activity through the end of 2020. The club committees have addressed the activities identified in the Strategic Plan for 2020-2021. Most of the committees have completed activities or are addressing activities currently in progress.

**Goal One: Service—Improve quality of life in the community**

The following committees have completed activities supporting Goal One:

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Kindness           | Grants             |
| Community Outreach | Membership         |
| Scholarship        | Ability Connection |

The following committees are addressing activities or involved with ongoing activities in Goal One:

|                |                               |         |
|----------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| Communications | Strategic Planning/Leadership | Program |
|----------------|-------------------------------|---------|

**Goal Two: Communication and Marketing- Enhance image and increase visibility to stakeholders**

The following committees have completed activities supporting Goal Two:

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Kindness           | Grants     |
| Community Outreach | Membership |

The following committees are in progress addressing activities in Goal Two:

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Communications (on-going throughout the year) | Scholarships |
| Ability Connections                           | Programs     |



**Goal Three: Membership Recruitment/Retention- Retain Recruit and involve**

The following committee has completed activities supporting Goal Three:

Membership

The following committees are in progress addressing Goal Three:

|         |            |
|---------|------------|
| Program | Membership |
|---------|------------|

**Goal Four: Leadership-Provide leadership development skills for all members**

The following committees have completed activities supporting Goal Four:

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Strategic Planning/Leadership | Communications |
| Community Outreach            | Membership     |

## Strategic Planning Mid-Year Summary continued

The following committees are in progress addressing activities in Goal Four:

Ability Connection      Grants                      Program

### **Goal Five: Financial—Achieve and maintain financial solvency**

The following committees have completed activities supporting Goal Five:

Kindness    Grant

The following committee is in progress addressing activities in Goal Five:

Ability Connection

### **Goal Six: Virtual Meetings: Provide continuous communication among members**

The following committees have completed activities that support Goal Six:

Communication                      Kindness  
Scholarship                          Strategic Planning/Leadership

The following committees are in progress addressing activities in Goal Six:

Ability Connections                  Community Outreach  
Grants                                      Membership

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## *FINANCE COMMITTEE*

### Mid-Year Report for Altrusa International of Richardson

Monthly reports for June through Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> 2020 are available and Balanced. The November and December reports are located on the Website.

#### **Budget Review:**

When the Administration Budget was prepared last spring the committee assumed a near breakeven deficit of \$522.00 for the year. **Administrative Budget balance of December 31, 2020      \$2,990.32.**

Due to Covid constraints revenues and expenditures were curtailed due to in-person event cancellations reduced costs and revenues.

Total revenues were lower due to the \$0 balance of Dinner Income, \$ 0 for Other Income (Birthdays, Brags, Fines, Name Badges, Yearbook Sales, Rental Deposit). These lower numbers were offset by slightly higher Membership renewals than assumed, donations, and greater but modest interest income.

Expenses were also lower due to the constraints of the Covid outbreak. International Convention costs have been \$0 vs. \$1000 assumed. Dinner expenses; membership expenses (Holiday, Leadership team & new membership kits); general operating expenses, such as marketing, PR, scrap book, conference photo CD, and membership directories, are \$0 or lower as well. District expenses related to conference functions were not incurred. No Officer Administrative costs have been requested. Expenditures that were funded: Business meeting room deposit of \$510, Website maintenance expenses increased \$100 to support Zoom meetings, and minimal PayPal fees.

**Cash Balance as of December 31, 2020      \$8,598.01**

**Proposed 2020-2021 Ability House Event Calendar**

The Altrusa Book Club currently meets at 6:30 pm on the fourth Monday of the month (see calendar below) via Zoom. Please register in the events calendar on the website to receive the zoom link. Everyone is invited to participate so tell your friends, they just may be looking for a new activity (and new friends) during these stay-at-home days. You don't even have to have read the book!

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

**ABILITY HOUSE UPDATE**

**Covid 19 Update and A Letter from Landon Cole**

January 10, 2021

From Rosemary Gouger, Ability House Committee Chair,

I wanted to let you know what we found out when the committee went to break down the Christmas lights and decorations in the front of Ability House. I had been told a couple of days ago that the caregivers wanted us to also break down the Christmas tree, inside but when I went to check on this we found out from Landon Cole that Ability House was in a severe "lock down" and even worse, that our sweet Robert is in hospital with Covid -19! At this time no one else has come down with it but I will keep checking on them.

As of January 14, 2021: Due to HIPAA regulations Ability Connection could not confirm status of residents.

January 22, 2021

From Landon Cole, Volunteer Coordinator at Ability Connection

I wanted to give you a quick update on Ability House. So everyone in the house has tested positive for COVID, but everyone is doing great! Robert came home from the hospital earlier this week. Will remain in the house for at least another week.

Our Training Center is still shut down probably will stay shut down until February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Also good news is we have access to the vaccine, and many of our members and staff have already received the vaccine.

In other news, we have been cleaning out old files and came across some past pictures of Altrusa at Ability House.

*Editors note: Pictures will be featured in March 1st issue.*

## ABILITY HOUSE COMMITTEE UPDATE

### Mid-Year Committee Reports Summary

By Rosemary Gouger

Several have asked me about sending cards to the sweet souls at Ability House to help encourage them and engage them while they have to endure the many "lock downs" due to Covid-19. I hope you all received the email that I sent along from Landon Cole last week (see page 6) letting us know that although everyone at Ability House did test positive for Covid, only Robert had to be hospitalized so far, and he is now back home.

Here is the plan:. I have written my first round of cards to each of the residents. At the top or one side of the card I write some kind of encouraging phrase like for Robert I wrote: " You are my Super Hero Spiderman"! Then on the bottom half or other side I write a little note with mine and John's name reminding them of who we are. I speak of how much we miss being with them and that this won't last forever that we are all working very hard to make things better so we can all be together again! Then I tell them to stay well and be good! (Especially Kathleen! LOL)

I date the card and note that it's from Altrusa, send hugs and kisses. I will print some pictures of me and John, some of the parties we have had with them in the pictures and maybe some of the dogs or garden flowers etc.

I would like to be able to do this once a month.....not just me but everyone. When I send them out it will be one at a time, IE. Nina get's sent today, two days later Robert's goes out and so forth. It's more fun to stagger them so they don't get all excited for one day and then nothing! But if enough of us are doing this we can keep them entertained for a good long while!

So, if you would like to join me please do! You can send the cards to:

**Ability House**

**615 Woodhaven Place**

**Richardson, TX 75081**

Don't forget! You can also send notes of encouragement and thanks to the hard working caregivers! I have also thought about maybe sending out some little gift cards or meal gift cards as well. Let me know if you choose to do those so we can work together and make sure everyone will get something!

Thank you so much for showing your desire to find a way to help us with our charges at Ability House Richardson! In our Board of Directors meeting January 28th, Susan Fischer has also offered some donated Beanie Babies that we can share with Ability House too! All ideas are warmly welcomed!

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## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

### Website Calendar Event Posting

**EVERYONE!** Please check the Events / Club Calendar before planning committee meetings. And be sure to notify **Jean Stuart or Linda Caron** when your committee makes its plans, so your meeting can be added to the calendar. Help us avoid conflicting events!

Also, as committee plan events throughout the year, please notify Jean Stuart and Linda Caron ASAP to put it on the calendar and lock in your event to avoid conflicts. The following information is needed for event postings on the website:

Website Calendar Event Posting Information To avoid delays in posting, please send all this information directly to Jean Stuart at [Jeanstuart37@gmail.com](mailto:Jeanstuart37@gmail.com) and Linda Caron at [lindamcaron@gmail.com](mailto:lindamcaron@gmail.com)

**PLEASE SEE THE NEW FILLABLE EVENT POSTING FORM ON THE MEMBER INFORMATION PAGE**

**SAVE THE BLANK PAGE, FILL IT OUT AND EMAIL TO JEAN AND LINDA**