



*Light Tomorrow with Altrusa  
Today*

## Ginger Tonne

### President's Message

I sincerely hope everyone has recovered from the holidays and the many tasks completed in 2022. It went by fast and we Altrusans were super busy doing great things for our Club and our Community. We have a lot going on for the remainder of this year 2023. There is a calendar of events listed on our website that gives you an overview of the many months' activities. Please review it and schedule accordingly.

First of all, I would like to thank our Nominating Committee members, (Mary Shiroma, Deb Bourland and Lynda Calkin) for rising to the task of slating a new board for 2023-2024. This is not an easy task but an often-tedious project. We want to show support for our incoming President and give her the best possible board for her year. So, please I ask you if the Nominating committee contacts you, please be courteous and call them back, regardless of your decision. They need to move forward quickly to keep everything in place. However, I do encourage you to step up when asked if at all possible for you. This is a wonderful organization and we have a wonderful incoming President who needs our support.

Next, let me say how honored we are to have our Altrusa Governor Mary Pearson attend our February meeting on the 16th. We have a fun and informative meeting planned and the Governor will speak to us briefly about the upcoming District Nine 100th Anniversary celebration. She will update us on plans for the April Conference in Grapevine this April 21-23rd. We have already selected our Conference Delegates and Alternates. So, Richardson is ready to put our best foot forward as always. Plus, we want to show our continued support for Kimberly Kierce in her progress in moving to Governor-Elect.

If you are planning on attending Conference in April, before you leave, please let Carol Ruskowski know. She has graciously offered to keep us organized again regarding contact information while attending Conference. Please let her know your roommate, contact numbers, transportation method and if you need possible transportation. Thank you, Carol.

Two SHOUT OUTS to two of our many special ladies!!! First, let us thank and support Sue McElveen and her committee for planning Richardson's contribution to the 100th District Nine Anniversary celebration. Again, if called, please help. We all need to do our part and remind all just how strong a club Richardson is and has been through the years. Second, our incoming President, Christine Hart has been leading the charge for Altrusa Richardson regarding the City of Richardson's 150th anniversary. People of all ages are asked to volunteer 150 minutes (2.5 hours) serving the community by helping a neighbor in need, a local non-profit or even a governmental agency. Our club can easily participate in this volunteer "150 minutes" for the event. We give so much more than that as a pillar of Richardson Community support. So spread the word. Christine will let us know what her needs for this celebration are and how we can help to make Richardson shine once again. Be sure to show your support for these ladies!!

Remember to register for District Nine Conference. The packet of information and registration is on the District Nine website. So, as you can see, we are just getting started for the year 2023 and again will be making Altrusa Richardson proud and the place to be. We all acknowledge that "we serve our fellow man" in our endeavor to "Light Tomorrow with Altrusa Today."

### **CONFERENCE**

**April 21-23**  
**Courtyard by Marriott, Town Place Suites**  
**Grapevine**

**Conference Recommendation**  
**District Nine Conference 2023**

By: Nancy Rohm

I joined Richardson Altrusa in 1992. Although becoming an Altrusan turned out to be life-changing for me in a very good way, things about Altrusa were not transparent as they are today. Things were shared more on a "need to know basis". It was a while before I learned what the annual District Nine Conference was. I was surprised that even though I was "just a member", as opposed to being an officer, I could attend. I'm guessing it was in 1993 or 94. I recall it was in Waco, I know we packed the car trunk-full of clothes, because we had no idea how dressy it might be, and I have a good time.

I'll never forget, I came home soooo pumped about Altrusa and all the good things happening across the state of Texas. It made a long-lasting impression on me. I've missed very few conferences since. The main reason I continue to attend is I learned early on the conference experience is good for my soul.

If you are considering attending conference, please take the plunge! The sisterhood we have in Richardson stays alive and well at conference. From gathering in one room at the end of the day to share together, to learning things I never knew about my sister Altrusans. But it's more, it's a sisterhood of Altrusans across the state – big clubs, medium size ones and small.

If you have any questions, please ask any of us who have attended before.

**SEE YOU AT CONFERENCE!**

**[Click Here to register for Conference](https://www.crsadmin.com/eventportal/registrations/publicfill/eventpublicfill.aspx?evtid=782275b9-c568-45e9-83df-4f9fe82ec9a1)**

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**Coming events**

Feb	3	11:30	Lunch Bunch, Spring Creek BBQ
Feb	4	3:45	Movie, '80 for Brady', Cinemark Plano
Feb	9	6:30	Board of Directors Meeting, Friends Place
Feb	13-17	various	Altrusa Kindness Week Literary Project
Feb	16	6:30	Annual Birthday Meeting/Dinner, Woman's Club, Founders Hall
Feb	18	1:30	Ability House, Crystal's Birthday 615 Woodhaven, Richardson
Feb	20		U.N. World Day of Social Justice
Feb	20	6:30	Altrusa Bridge, Julianne Lovelace's home
Feb	21	5:00	Celebrate Mardi Gras at Desperados Mexican Restaurant
Feb	23	6:30	Foundation Board of Directors Meeting, Marsha Peter's Home
Feb	25	1:30	Ability House Birthday Party, Vera's birthday
Feb	27	6:00	AWCLS aka Book Club at Nancy Rohm's house
Feb	28	6:00	AWCLS After – via Zoom
Feb	28		February volunteer hours due

**Birthdays**

Feb	3	Jennifer Davidson
Feb	12	Alma Benoit
Feb	15	Marsha Peters
Feb	16	Sylvia McCloskey
Feb	17	Jane Tucker
Feb	24	Deb Bourland
Feb	27	Cindy McIntyre

**Altrusa Scholarship Applications Now Available**

Applications for the Altrusa International Scholarship and the Jo Leeper Memorial Scholarship are now available on the Altrusa Richardson website. To be eligible to apply, students must be graduating seniors who attend a RISD high school or reside in the City of Richardson and attend a public high school.

Scholarships are awarded based on financial need, grades, as well as extracurricular and community activities. In addition to the application, students must submit a transcript of grades and a short essay describing their career goals and why they are applying for the scholarship. All applications are done online and are due no later than February 17.

From the applications submitted, the Scholarship Committee will interview 10-15 students they feel are the best candidates. After the interviews, the Committee will determine how many scholarships to award and the amount given.

This year, \$10,000 will be awarded for Altrusa Scholarships and \$3,000 for the one Jo Leeper Memorial Scholarship.

Recipients will be honored at the April 20 Dinner Meeting.

**Altrusa Krewe Celebrates Mardi Gras Party**



By: Laura Trainor-Collins, Membership Retention

Please join The Altrusa Krewe to Celebrate Mardi Gras at Desperados on February 21, 2023, 5 to 7pm. We will have a favorite mask and favorite Mardi Gras outfit contest with prizes as well as king cake. We will be getting to know our newest members and welcoming them to the Altrusa Krewe. Michael is giving us "Something to Taco Bout" with the Desperado Taco Special, \$10.99 chicken or \$11.99 beef and of course it's happy hour drink prices until 7pm. The regular menu is also available.

We will have social time and mask/outfit judging from 5 to 5:30ish and then order our dinners. Dust off your boas, gather your green, gold and purple doodads, masks and don't forget the beads.

Altrusans, Altrousers, friends and relatives are welcome. Please sign up (including your guests) on the club event page by February 17th so we know how many to expect in the Krewe.

Laissez les Bons Temps Roule. Let the Good Times Roll.

## **Community Outreach Committee COMING IN MARCH – ALTRUSA SUPPORTS NETWORK'S DRIVE FOR FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS**

By Mary Shiroma

Feminine hygiene products are a never-ending need at Network, so Altrusa is stepping up with a drive for feminine hygiene products of all types and sizes. Money-smart shoppers from the Community Outreach Committee will utilize more than \$400 from budgeted club funds to buy in bulk, but the need is so great the committee is asking members to bring additional products to the March meeting. You will see a few up-coming reminders, so when you shop, please pick up a box or two of sanitary napkins and tampons to bring to the March meeting.

## **Altrusa Opens New International Choose Kind Library**

By Jane Tucker



Sembach Elementary School in Sembach, Germany is the newest location for a Choose Kind Library. It opened in January, right after the students returned from Christmas break.

This elementary school services students from ages 3 to 11 who come from Sembach Kaserne (formerly called Sembach Air Base). Sembach Kaserne is part of a U.S. Army Installation and is about 19 miles east of Ramstein Air Base and Sembach Elementary is a member of the DoDEA Europe East District which serves military connected children. According to their librarian, Jodi Benavides, the students were so excited to see the books

as they entered the library and have already checked out over a third of the books.

Because books and the stories they convey have the capacity to open family discussions on potentially difficult topics such as family separation, deployment, moving, grief, and crisis, our Altrusa club hopes these books can help make a difference in these children's lives.

## **Altrusa Accents**

### **Why are Accents important?**

An Altrusa Accent can provide helpful information to our membership. Many clubs have an accent presented at each meeting, others include accents in their newsletters. You can find accent suggestions and samples on the District Nine website, Club Runner. Just click on 'search' at the top of the page and then Accent on Altrusa. This will lead you to a login and you can download the Accent on Altrusa at the bottom of the page.

## **Altrusa Bridge**

By Sandy Martin

The game of bridge is known to be one of the most challenging, strategic, frustrating, thought-provoking, and FUN card games there is! Regardless if you're a novice or a seasoned player, we would love to have you join us in a monthly game, which is hosted by one of the players on a rotating basis. The game provides ample opportunities to learn about another Altrusan and/or strengthen friendship, general and current events, etc. etc. The games are on the third Monday of the month, with a social time with refreshments at 6:30 pm and bridge beginning at 7:00. If interested, please contact Mary O. (our current coordinator) at 214/679-0722.

## **Recruitment Committee Update Club Birthday Celebration**

By: Nancy Rohm

Our upcoming February club birthday dinner meeting marks the 57th year since our club was chartered. It is the perfect opportunity for you to invite prospective members to visit. Also, if you know a former Richardson Altrusan well, don't hesitate to invite her. There's something special about breaking bread together in celebration with friends, enjoying the time together, laughter and good food.

I know many of you have been thinking, "Altrusa", as you are out and about, spreading the word about the opportunities of becoming an Altrusan. Many of you are helping add to our already

strong membership, but in our wonderful sisterhood there's always room for more.

## Adam's Animals



DeAnna Golson, pastor of Disciples of Christ Church where donated stuffed animals are gathered to be delivered. She inspired us to do more. We donated 70 Teddy Bears in November of 2022.

Adam Hurst had a favorite Teddy Bear and when he was tragically ill with leukemia, he befriended a little girl who was a fellow patient. For his birthday the year he died, his parents took balloons and a donated animal to the hospital – and gave that animal to the little girl. This spawned a wonderful ministry and since that time 87,633 new stuffed animals have been given to sick children at area hospitals!

## Richardson Elementary Kindness Week Project

By Jane Tucker



Through an Altrusa International Grant, our Altrusa club has been able to work closely with the RISD to bring the author, Meredith Davis, to Dallas to talk to the schools with our Altrusa Choose Kind Libraries about her book “Her Own Two Feet”. The book is a true story about a Rwanda girl who came to America at age 9 to have corrective surgery on her legs. It provides to readers an inspirational story of how a child can show strength through adversity. She will be here for Richardson’s ISD “Kindness Week” which is from February 13th through the 17th giving presentations to schools selected by Laura Blatzheim, an Elementary Support Counselor, and Alejandra Isais, Library and Information Technology Director for RISD. During kindness week it is hoped that this initiative will be just another way of encouraging kindness, understanding, and acceptance among classmates and people of all cultures across RISD.

## Altrusans of Richardson – Your City

By Christine Hart



Here is our chance to shine in our city. We want to connect our community KAN event with the city of Richardson’s 150th celebration promoting non-profits. I’m asking the membership for ideas. Think out of the box, big or small, all ideas are welcome! 2023 KAN is focusing on Kindness for Animals. We will have other projects, such as Days for Girls and New Life happening also.

We will have Altrusa’s logo on everything as well as “150” to connect and promote Altrusa of Richardson.

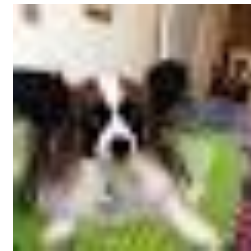
Please email me any and all ideas you may have!

Thank you all,  
Christine Hart

[christinehart1000@gmail.com](mailto:christinehart1000@gmail.com)

## Altrusa Kindness Committee

By Cindy McIntyre



The Kindness Committee has been hard at work. We have been in conversation with The Richardson Animal Shelter, The Richardson Humane Society, Mazies Mission, Furry Friends of Richardson and Chewys about our project coming up April 1st - **Kindness to Animals**. What other group needs our help more right now than those who cannot speak or help themselves? Dogs who were adopted during the epidemic are being dumped off again and each spring approximately 70 litters of kittens arrive at the shelter - that’s about 420 kittens that need fostering,

So, we will have a large adoption portion of the day on the parking lot near Chocolate Angel (Corner of Floyd and Campbell) so we get lots of drive-by attention. Homemade doggie treats will be for sale and vendors will have tables to hand out coupons etc. Plus, there will be many dogs and cats available for folks to adopt. Other projects will be happening at Friends Place too.

We are also putting together kitten kits for all those annual spring births. These kits will be given to foster moms with items needed to raise the kittens to the point they can be adopted. Children in our Choose Kind library schools will have an opportunity to visit an animal at the shelter and write a note about it to hang on the adoptee’s

cage to help people learn more about the animal and continues our focus on literacy!

We are not requiring each committee to find an individual project - **the animals are the main focus** and we'd love 100% participation.

So much more is planned so stay tuned and think about how YOU can help!

## **Thank you from Beth Leos – Hope's Door New Beginnings**

I would love to thank the members of Altrusa for putting together these beautiful gift bags for the women at Hope's Door New Beginning center. These are folks who may not have been looking forward to Christmas and the kindness shown by this group made their holiday brighter.



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Website: [altrusarichardson.com](http://altrusarichardson.com)

District Nine Website: [www.altrusadistrictnine.org](http://www.altrusadistrictnine.org)