



*Light Tomorrow with Altrusa  
Today*

**Ginger Tonne**

## President's Message

In the words of the poet, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, "Light Tomorrow with today." Altrusans have lit the way for the world since their philanthropic and mighty beginnings in 1917.

This is the time of year for renewal. We have closed one chapter and begin a new one with a new Board of Directors and a great group of Committee chairs and members. I am thankful for members who have accepted leadership roles. Their preparation, planning and dedication will yield successes and achievements this year. Our membership truly serves a higher purpose. They are a wonderful group of women who because of their dedication and passion put their hearts into their projects and goals to achieve success.

I am so honored to be your President and thankful for your support and acceptance of the coming year's path and goals. Your support means the world to me. The installation ceremony presented by Sue McElveen was truly meaningful and touched my heart. The words from Kimberly Kierce and Mary Osentowski were spot on for my theme this year. A huge thanks to Sylvia McCloskey, Christine Hart and Samantha Slaight for the wonderful decorations and ambience for our Installation Dinner.

This is a time to remember our great accomplishments, but also move forward with new challenges and goals. We keep those projects that continue to "light the way" for our membership and our community. It is a blessing to be a part of this organization who serves the elderly, disabled, disadvantaged persons and children through a variety of donations and hand on projects. Serving others is at the heart of Altrusa Richardson. This organization is based on merit and accomplishments. Every member of our club has lit the way because of their devotion to the interests of others and are truly beacons for the future.

We will start our year with Leadership Training and communicating our goals and processes. This will make us even stronger as leaders. We will continue with our "Acts of Kindness" KAN and once again achieve success with OWT "Hearts for Humanity" event, assist in the "One Million Lives, One Book at a Time" project for District Nine and meet new challenges and plans as they arise.

Together we are "builders of women". Our sisterhood is strong. Together will we "Light Tomorrow with Altrusa Today."

Ginger Tonne  
Altrusa Richardson President  
2022-2023

## WATCH FOR THE JUNE SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUE WITH CONFERENCE PICTURES

### Coming events

Jun	6		World Environment Day
Jun	16	5:00 pm	Board of Directors
Jun	16	6:30 pm	Monthly meeting
Jun	27	6:00 pm	AWCLS (Bookclub)
			<i>Have you Seen Luis Velez</i>
			Catherine R. Hyde
Jun 30			Volunteer Hours Due

### Birthdays

June 3	Ginger Tonne
June 7	Ruth Tinnis
June 17	Susan Fischer
June 18	Rose Daughety
June 18	Rosemary Gouger
June 23	Donna Buhr
June 30	Laura Trainor-Collins



**There we are, dressed to the nines! Photo by Jane Gibson, Conference Photographer**

### CONFERENCE DELEGATE REPORTS

#### Conference Overview – Samantha Slaight

Fourteen Altrusans, along with Gloria Sandoval and Bobbi Klein's puppets, made the road trip to Georgetown, Texas for District Nine's Sixty-Sixth Annual 'Rise and Shine' Conference

which lasted from April 29 – May 1. Sunflowers were abundant and set the stage for a most informational and entertaining conference. At the beginning of each day, Governor Pearson invited attendees to take an early morning walk on the nature trail around the hotel. Those who walked were awarded sunflower motif participation awards. Friday was chockful of events starting with a Meet and Greet that recognized Presidents who served during the pandemic for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 years. During the Leadership Luncheon, key note speaker, Kent Julian, spoke to us about life events and how they can affect our outcomes. We were all impressed by the presentation and enjoyed conversing with other attendees regarding the message. In the afternoon, we attended a general session where everyone was able to participate. The inclusive sessions were very well received by the attendees; the bonus was that we got to participate in all the sessions. Later that evening, we attended the opening session and were introduced to the slate of candidates for the nominating committee as well as the district budget. Then, it was on to Friday Fun Night Dinner. It was quite amusing to see Altrusans dressed up as if on a ZOOM Call. The array of pajama pants and house shoes was very entertaining and served as a very interesting fashion show. As we know Altrusans love to dance, so there was quite a bit of lively music, laughing and dancing.

The next morning, we had the Service breakfast where the Mamie L. Bass and the Letha H. Brown awards were presented. We were also updated on the “One Book at a Time” project. We then attended the General Business session with a report from international representative Lisa Boyd. Afterwards, Kent Julian held a workshop that helped us to find our personalities and determine how to use them to the advantage of our clubs. Afterwards, we attended the Astra and Membership Luncheon where Astra clubs were spotlighted and honored for their achievements. After the luncheon, we attended the afternoon session. There we were introduced to Families in Crisis, Inc. We learned how this organization helps to support and help abused women. Next, we had Club group photos and then we attended the Governor’s Banquet and heard Dr. Patricia Sulak’s presentation, “Graciously Giving for a Fulfilled life”. The Nina Faye Calhoun Award was presented and then we heard Governor Mary Pearson’s closing remarks. After the Banquet, we honored Kim Kierce with a well-attended wine, cheese, and chocolate reception.

Finally, on Sunday, we attended the Memorial Service where we remembered Altrusans who passed this year. Cindy McIntyre lit the candle for Courtenay Tanner who we lost to the pandemic this year. Afterwards, at the Closing Session, our club was presented the second-place award for Communications. The conference ended with remarks from Lisa Boyd who invited everyone to attend the convention that will be held next summer in San Antonio. Lastly, Governor Pearson encouraged us to Rise and Shine to our greatest potential. Then it was back to Richardson after three days of lots of information, fun, and renewal of friendships.

### Conference Report – Ginger Tonne

Conference “Rise & Shine!” was very informative and educational this year for me.

District Nine was transitioning from paper to digital/electronic on most Conference items. The voting was a breeze. The additional change to everyone being in the same room to hear the General Sessions was wonderful.

The General Session titled “Membership Response – Inclusion” generated ideas for the solidity of our membership.

There will be a new manual for Membership soon going out to all District Nine Clubs. We learned that a good Service project includes all your membership participating and Altrusa Richardson has a solid service project in KAN WEEKEND. Kindness for all.

We need to remember that who we are determines how we view things and to be aware and sensitive to all members and try to understand who they are to see and comprehend their view.

### Conference Keynote – Sue McElveen

At District Nine Conference in Georgetown, TX, I was assigned the report on one of our guest speakers, Kent Julian. He is the kind of speaker that makes you want to listen, and makes you feel that you can succeed at anything you really want to do.

Mr. Julian in his first presentation on Friday, April 29, spoke after the Leadership Luncheon. His talk was really applicable for our club. He focused on a formula for success and that was:  
**E + R = O**

That stands for **Event + Response = Outcome**. Basically, what he was saying is that how we **respond** to any event equals its outcome. The basic ratio has always been  $E = O$ , but his theory is how we respond to an event decides the outcome. So how we respond to events in our club will determine whether it will be a good outcome or not. Our **RESPONSE** is the controlling factor.

Also, during his presentation he stressed “**we teach what we know**” and “**we reproduce who we are**.” In all things we, as a club, must affirm ourselves in a positive way to be the best that we can be for our community.

If you want more information about his organization you can go to [www.LiveltForward.com](http://www.LiveltForward.com).

### Hybrid Meetings Program – Carol Ruskowski

Cannot make it to a meeting because of another commitment? Feeling a bit off? But you really want to be a part of the Altrusa Board meetings, committee meetings or general meetings to know what is happening? Want to be sure that your voice is heard when it comes to voting for a specific action?

Now you can do this through what we call “Hybrid Meetings.” You can find further instructions under Members Only Access, go down to ‘Hybrid Meeting & How to Zoom’ and click on the link to join the meeting on Zoom.

For further information or assistance, email Carol Ruskowski at [carolrusz@yahoo.com](mailto:carolrusz@yahoo.com)

### District-Wide Communications – Club Runner- Robbin Murley

During the general session one of the topics was the tool purchased by District Nine to manage the membership. This tool is called CLUB RUNNER. The tool was developed and introduced in 2013 for Rotary and has proved to be a successful supplement to the management of large groups.

Some of the basics are that CLUB RUNNER provides for a member login. All clubs are responsible for adding new people to the tool. The administrators of the tool are responsible for determining settings for users.

On the Members Only Tab the following information is provided:

- Directory
- Process for editing your profile

- Logo use and colors
- New members kit - has downloadable PDFs
- Forms
- Award Templates
- Events Calendar
- List of Texas Clubs

In summary, CLUB RUNNER provides a common platform for Altrusa District Nine information that is also accessible by all clubs.



**Your Foundation Trustee Board**

**A New Conference Format – Jean Stuart**

What a difference, and how inclusive and refreshing – not to mention high tech! We saw many clues of Kimberly's influence on the Conference.

First, almost everything was electronic. You needed a smart phone to pull up a detailed copy of the schedule – but you had a small, concisely put-together booklet that gave you the facts. You needed a smart phone to bid on auction items, and to find out when your group picture would be taken – lots of QR codes. Worked beautifully!

Second, there were no breakout sessions. We were all in the same room at the same time, hearing the same thing. Training sessions for officers will be held separately.

Then, we had great programs led by Kent Julian and Altrusans – mostly Altrusans – and they did a great job!

Returned from Conference feeling renewed and looking forward to next year. What will Kimberly think of next?

**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

**2022-2023 Club Board and Trustee Board were installed in Founders Hall at the Woman's Club on June 19, 2022**



**Samanthia passes on the antique President's Pin to Ginger**



**Your New Club Board of Directors**

**Introducing 2022 Altrusa Scholarship Winners**



L-R Mary Beth McLemore, Brandon Beller, Laurel Dorminy, Victor Macias, Brenda Boston, Charles Thompson, Jennifer Davidson, Barbara Berthold, Ravienne Hodgson, Maricarmen Hernandez, Gavin Campbell, Gayle Ingle and Lynda Calkin

**Brandon Beller**

Lake Highlands High School student Brandon Beller is quite the Renaissance man dividing his free time among a wide range of extracurricular interests from playing basketball for his school team to dancing for the Wildcat Wranglers country western dance team to presiding over the LHS Latin Club. He also finds time to serve as a middle school leader/mentor for Young Life and to run his own L-Streets Lawn Care Company. Despite his busy schedule, Brandon is ranked #3 in his class of 583 students. He plans to attend Texas A & M and pursue a career in business or possibly medicine.

When asked to choose his proudest accomplishment over his school career, Brandon mentions his efforts to be kind and non-judgmental as he negotiates high school life. He will be a great representative of Altrusa and our values.

**Charles Thompson**

Pearce High School senior, Charles Thompson, realized in tenth grade that the baseball team in which he had invested a great deal of time was no longer a source of happiness. But band (where he was also involved) did make him happy. At that point, he quite baseball, devoted the extra time to practicing the

trumpet, and took a deep dive into all the different musical activities Pearce had to offer with band being his particular passion. Charles also enjoys being a Pearce SOS lifeguard which is a mentorship program with upper classmen being available to a group of freshman students to help them succeed in high school.

Charles will graduate in the top 10% of his class and plans to attend either Louisiana State or Oklahoma State with the goal of becoming a band director. He believes that as a music educator he will be in a position to potentially transform kids' lives. Charles shares that the diversity of band encourages kids to be inclusive, to try new things, and to develop positive leadership skills. He looks forward to helping kids lead successful lives.

### **Victor Macias**

Victor will graduate from J.J. Pearce High School this May. During his time in high school, he has been part of the AVID program (Advancement Via Individual Determination) and enjoys mentoring middle school students in ways to better serve their community. He also enjoys doing service projects with St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church.

Victor's dream is to pursue a career in the auto/diesel industry, eventually opening his own shop, expanding his business, and creating his own brand. He will be attending Universal Technical Institute to earn an Associate degree along with his Diesel Mechanic's certification. Victor loves everything about this industry and is passionate about creating a successful business in his chosen field. We on the Altrusa Scholarship Committee look forward to being a small part of Victor's vision for his future.

### **Maricarmen Hernandez**

Pearce High School graduating senior Maricarmen Hernandez credits the hard work of her parents as the inspiration for her own hard work to achieve an excellent high school record. She juggles many extracurricular activities and maintains an "A" average GPA, all while working 25 hours per week throughout high school. She is a Pearce athletic trainer, holds leadership positions in the school's chapter of Healthcare Occupations Students of America (HOSA), is a Richardson Healthcare Career Academy Ambassador, and enjoys being part of the AVID program. Maricarmen was also one of 12 RISD seniors selected for the prestigious Superintendent's Student Advisors Council (Super SAC) which provides student perspectives on many current topics to the Superintendent and School Board.

Maricarmen plans to pursue a master's degree in architecture, possibly at UT Arlington. Her dream is to design beautiful structures that will be enjoyed by future generations. The sky's the limit for this highly focused Altrusa scholarship winner!

### **Ravienne Hodgson**

Ravienne dealt with childhood trauma to become an impressive senior at Pearce High School as well as developing a personal mission to improve mental healthcare services for children. She is #14 in her class at Pearce, resurrected the school's mental health club (raising \$600 for suicide prevention in just 24 hours), and was selected three years for the all-region choir. In her spare time, she studies advanced French on-line.

She is currently enrolled for her second year in the Pearce AP Capstone program doing college level research studying the efficacy of various ways to treat depression in children.

Last summer Ravienne participated in the Mayor's Summer Internship Program interning at a community center that helps refugee women find success in this country. After her paid internship was completed, Ravienne has continued to volunteer weekly for this important non-profit. She plans to complete an advanced degree in Clinical Psychology and hopes to develop a career that focuses on providing better trauma therapies for children, reforming pediatric psychiatric care, and giving abused children better access to legal justice and a better safety net. Ravienne is well prepared to meet these great goals.

### **Gavin Campbell.**

Gavin is a graduating Senior at Lake Highlands High School with plans to attend Texas A & M at Corpus Christi to study nursing next fall. Gavin has been deeply involved in choir, theater and musical theater during his high school career, holding leadership positions in both theater and choir while achieving an "A" average GPA. Gavin is skilled in both the performing and technical sides of theater and is also interested in creating magic and performing as a magician.

Gavin wants to focus on a career that helps others and betters his community. He found inspiration in the caring team of nurses that helped his mother in her losing battle with cancer. This experience led Gavin to choose nursing as his path to reach his goals for making a difference.

### **Laurel Dorminy, Jo Leeper Scholarship**

Laurel has a daunting list of extracurricular activities at Lake Highlands High School including varsity cheerleading, the Wranglers country western dance team, student council, Presidency of the LHHS chapter of the National Charity League, and participation in many other service projects and clubs. However, Laurel is most proud of her #4 ranking in the graduating class while taking many advanced placement classes and maintaining a busy calendar.

After graduation, Laurel plans to attend the University of Wisconsin at Madison to earn a degree in computer engineering. She thinks more women should demonstrate the confidence to pursue careers in math and science. She plans to make an impact by contributing to the promotion of women into positions in STEM field. Lest you think that Laurel is all work and no play, she was voted by her classmates as "Most Humorous Senior Girl." She confesses that she has never met a pun that she didn't like. Jo Leeper, who we lost this year and greatly miss, was a longtime member of the Altrusa scholarship committee and the provider of this scholarship. She would have loved to have met Laurel Dorminy.



**Laurel, Brandon, Victor, Charles, Ravienne, Gavin, Maricarmen**

## MOTHER'S DAY TEA



Jane Tucker, Sharon Nash, Pam Johnson, Julianne Lovelace, Jean Stuart. Not pictured, Susan Fischer, Norma Hammerlund, Sylvia McCloskey, Robbin Murley, Gloria Sandoval, Lynn Solomon, Samantha Slaight – and Nancy.



Nancy Rohm Serves Tea

don't know her particulars yet and haven't met her. Robert has already been moved to an All-Men's group home called the Wentworth House a couple of streets over from Ability House. Henry, who has been having behavior issues is being moved to another specialty home to address those concerns.

I am not sure what, if anything can be done to keep up with Henry, but Gayle, Donna and I are determined to keep bringing birthdays to Robert at his new home!

I will be researching this new Wentworth house in the near future, and I will send the information back to the committee and Altrusa Richardson.

**Rosemary Gouger, [boadlcearose@sbcglobal.net](mailto:boadlcearose@sbcglobal.net)**

### Altrusa Contributes to Friends Place Mother's Day Tea

Friends Place has historically had a Mother's Day Tea and Altrusa has always volunteered in some way. Last year due to the Covid pandemic the Tea was cancelled. This year, although volunteers are still not able to help with events, Altrusa was able to assist in the Mother's Day Tea by donating Nothing Bundt Cake Bundtini's. The Tea was held on May 7th and was a huge success. The ladies thoroughly enjoyed being able to socialize and thanks to Altrusa for helping to make the event a success.

## Ability House

### Nina's Birthday



### Hello from the Ability House Committee

Ability House Committee has been on the job as usual! In March we hosted Kathleen's birthday with a Panda party! Henry's was soon after with a big Batman Bash! Nina was our April birthday! Now, every year I ask Nina what kind of a birthday cake she wants and every year she says, "Pineapple Upside Down Cake"! This year I was gob smacked when she told me, "I want lemon cake"! I asked her why and she told me because I can't do a theme cake on the pineapple upside down cake and I would like a Dolly Parton cake for my birthday! So.....that's what she got! A lemon Dolly Parton cake with a Dolly Parton collectable Barbie, a beautiful yellow T-shirt, with a flowered skirt and a gorgeous new watch that she wanted!

With that, we have some different news to share. According to Landon Cole, Ability House will be converting to an All-Women group home. Their newest addition is a woman who is blind. I

### Samanthia



**Do You think she's ready to turn over the reins?  
Thank you, Samanthia, for hanging in there for the  
last two years.**

**WATCH FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL  
ISSUE WITH CONFERENCE PHOTOS**

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Facebook: [@AltrusaRichardsonTexas](https://www.facebook.com/AltrusaRichardsonTexas)

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

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