



*Light Tomorrow with Altrusa
Today*

Ginger Tonne

President's Message

Our year is off to a running start! What a wonderful Altrusa Birthday meeting in February. Our very own District Nine Governor, Mary Pearson was our special guest. She gave great information about the upcoming District Nine conference in April. But more importantly she reminded us how special we all are and how special to be an Altrusan. Thank you to all the Altrusans who helped to make this a wonderful evening full of fun, appreciation and great food.

Conference is April 21-23 in Grapevine this year and I am excited to say many of us are attending. We get to cheer and celebrate our own Kimberly Kierce as she moves up her leadership path in Altrusa. We are so lucky. Remember to let our Director Carol Ruzkowski know your roommate or if you need one, transportation plans or needs, and contact information (cell phone) in case we need to locate you at Conference. Also, a special thank you to our Delegates (Deb Bourland, Ginger Mayo, Sue McElveen, Gloria Sandoval and President Ginger Tonne) and Alternates (Mary Beth McLemore, Marsha Peters, Nancy Rohm, Samantha Slaight and Jane Tucker) for stepping up. For further updates regarding Conference go out to the District website and check it out. Remember if you need me to pick up your Charm order, I will do so.

March will be exciting because we are initiating three new members to become Altrusans. Shari Barat, Anne Harris and Mary Ann Hernandez. They are ready to move forward and are a great addition to our club. Our Membership team is working hard to bring more new members into our Club. Thank you.

Got to give a shout out to Laura Trainor Collins. She always has the best recruitment parties! You really need to try to make one at your convenience.

In March, we will also vote on our proposed slate of Officers for 2023-2024. So please plan to attend. What a great slate – Vice President, Jean Stuart, Recording Secretary, Samantha Slaight, Corresponding Secretary, Susan Long and Treasurer, Ann Turner. Our First Year Directors are Ginger Mayo and Gloria Sandoval. Incoming President, Christine Hart has a power team coming in.

In addition, at the March meeting, we should also see an OWT rollout introducing Chairs and Team Leads. Don't forget to bring feminine Hygiene Products to the March meeting for the Network Drive. Any questions, give Mary Shiroma from the Community Outreach committee a call.

District Nine Awards' assignments have been given and I will be working with those leaders in March, if they need any assistance. Everyone has done such a good job on their committees this year!

Just a couple of updates for all – The Scholarship meeting/presentation in April has been moved from April 20th due to Conference meetings, etc. to APRIL 27th at the Richardson Woman's Club in Founders Hall. Brenda Boston and her committee are accepting applications now and are working diligently to do this good work.

I'm sure I forgot something but check your calendars and website for details. I am so proud to be an Altrusan and so in awe of our Club and it's members. All are definitely "lighting tomorrow with Altrusa today."

ATTENTION: Please know that the Scholarship Dinner has been moved from April 20th to the 27th.

Coming events

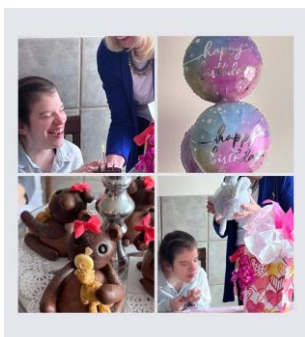
Mar	1		Volunteer Hours Due
Mar	1	1:30	Ability House, Kathleen's birthday
Mar	8		International Women's Day
Mar	9	6:30	Board of Directors Meeting Friends Place
Mar	16	6:30	March Business Meeting
Mar	20	6:30	Bridge - Jean Stuart's home
Mar	25	9:00	Lone Star Book Movers
Mar	25	9:30	Spring Leadership Event Friends Place
Mar	27	6:00	AWCLS (Book Club) at Marsha Peters' home. "Black Cake"
Mar	28	6:00	AWCLS Day After - via Zoom
Apr	1		KAN WEEKEND

Birthdays

Mar	1	Sharon Nash
Mar	2	Sarah Wagner
Mar	3	Ginger Mayo
Mar	14	Mary Shiroma
Mar	17	Barbara Berthold
Mar	20	Thanh Tran
Mar	27	Ann Payne

Ability House WHAT A PARTY!!!!!!

By Sherri White



Altrusans hosted a birthday party for Crystal at Ability House on Saturday, February 18! So much laughing, clapping, singing and FUN was had by all! The birthday girl, Crystal, was given gifts arranged by Donna Buhr. Crystal received new headphones, two new shirts and a stuffed animal that plays music. Crystal's laughing, clapping and smiling while holding her new stuffed animal was priceless.

A huge shout out to Rosemary Gouger who made the cutest Teddy Bear Cupcakes that you can imagine. Crystal, Shelly, Vera, Kathleen, Nina and Jane were all so excited about the cupcakes and every bite was eaten. Crystal's parents were also at

the party. A huge thanks to all the Altrusans that were there to join in Crystal's birthday party. Hope you can join us at Ability House on February 25th to celebrate Vera's birthday and on March 4th for Kathleen's party. You are guaranteed to leave with a full heart!

Altrusa Sponsors Author Visits for RISD Kindness Week

By Jane Tucker



During RISD "Kindness Week", our club was able to sponsor a special event made possible through an Altrusa International Foundation Grant. Third, fourth and fifth graders from 18 elementary schools who have our Altrusa Choose Kind Libraries were able to hear a book review by Meredith Davis, a Richardson native who graduated from Berkner High School. Starting on February 12, co-author of "Her Own Two Feet" Meredith Davis, visited Audelia Creek Elementary School and continued visiting schools through the week until she finished on Friday afternoon at Skyview Elementary School.

Over 1,600 children were thrilled to hear her presentation, listened intently, and asked so many interesting questions. The librarians, many of whom had never had an author visit, were so happy to have the opportunity to host her visit and had done so much advance preparation to enhance her presentation. Each school had butterflies the children had decorated hanging all over the halls and libraries as Meredith believes we can all "be strong like a butterfly".

The whole content of the book and her presentation illustrates how little acts of kindness can multiply into wonderful life events if you are only willing to take that one chance to change your life. This is what happened to Rebeka Uwitonze, a 9-year-old Rwandan girl born with club feet who gets the opportunity to come to America through the generosity of strangers and have her feet surgically

repaired. When she returned home, she was then able to go to school and walk normally. She and Meredith Davis co-authored this book and proceeds from the sales have allowed her parents to build and operate a general store in front of their home as well as pay for sisters to go to school. See photo collage on page 8 (Thanks Kimberly).

This project allowed so many students the opportunity to see how acts of kindness, no matter how small can change your life and well as others.

Introduction: Beth Leos



By Marsha Peters

Beth Leos is one of our newer members who was initiated at the November 2022 meeting. Her sponsors are Kimberly Kierce and Sue McElveen. Beth is on the Community Outreach Team at Hope's Door, managing in-kind donations as well as the resale store. Beth has worked in the non-profit arena for over thirteen years, working at Habitat for Humanity before joining Hope's Door 6 years ago. She was an OWT nominee in 2018.

On a personal note, Beth grew up in Nebraska and moved to Texas 25 years ago. She is married to Luis Leos, and they have a blended family of 5 adult children and 3 rescue pets. Their youngest children are 18 and 23 years old and currently living at home, with plans to move into an apartment together in the very near future. In her spare time, Beth enjoys spending time with family, crafting and yoga.

She has signed up to be on the Kindness Committee and the Leadership Committee and has participated in the Altrusa Book Club (The Wine and Chocolate Literary Society). Beth's skills and talents make her a great addition to our club. Welcome Beth Leos!

Community Outreach Committee

COMING IN MARCH – ALTRUSA SUPPORTS NETWORK'S DRIVE FOR FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS

Feminine hygiene products – including tampons and sanitary napkins – are a never-ending need at

Network, so Altrusa is stepping up with a drive for feminine hygiene products of all types and sizes. Community Outreach is using club funds to buy items in bulk but we really need everyone in the club to pitch in with additional products. So please, when you shop this week and next, please pick up some additional items we can add to the donation. Let's build a super-stockpile to load on the donation table at the March meeting!

Community Outreach Committee members will then load everything up and deliver to Network. This will mean so much to women in our community faced with severe financial challenges!

REMINDER: PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS TO THE MARCH MEETING!

Altrusa Richardson Members Help the Warren Center with a Sensory Books Project.

By Gloria Sandoval



The Warren Center provides programs for developmentally delayed children ages 6 months – 8 years. They asked Altrusans to put together 100 “sensory books” for their clients to take home. Their families can work with their children to help recognize, animals, shapes, colors, etc.

It involved cutting, pasting, and laminating the sensory books. The Warren Center provided all the supplies, tools and workspace in their Richardson office. Twenty-one Altrusans: Brenda Duckett, Gloria Sandoval, Project Co-chairs, with Alma Benoit, Gayle Ingle, Mary Beth McLemore, Deb Bourland, Lynda Calkin, Marsha Peters, Nancy Rohm, Mary Osentowski, Jean Stuart, Ginger Mayo, Jackie Scrivener, Lynn Solomon, Cindy Murray, Ann Turner, Kimberly Kierce, Terri Morgan, Sue McElveen, and Sharon Nash provided the labor. It took two shifts: 9 am to noon and 1:00 – 4 pm to complete the books.

The hands-on project created a great way for Altrusa sisters to spend time together on a very worthwhile project.

Membership Recruitment Richardson Altrusa Celebrates 57th year with a Birthday Dinner

By Nancy Rohm



Governor Mary Pearson

On February 16, 1966, the Richardson Altrusa Club was organized. Exactly 57 years later (to the day), the Richardson Club participated in their annual birthday celebration.

The Membership Recruitment Committee was in charge of the event. Thanks to committee members: Brenda Duckett, for the beautiful floral centerpieces in blue and white; our Altrusa Colors, Thanh Tran for the historical Accent, and Susan Fischer for the Inspiration. We welcomed several visitors, a few of whom were former Richardson club members, and two Dallas club members. In addition to the delicious meal followed by birthday cake, (caterers and menu arranged by Sylvia McCloskey), members enjoyed the company and words of wisdom from our District Nine Governor, Mary Black Pearson. Mary spoke of leadership and also about our District Nine Conference in Grapevine this April 21-23. Reports were briefly given. There are so many good things happening, including several volunteer opportunities including our participation in our city's 150-year celebration and our upcoming April 1 Kindness Day. I hope everyone who attended left at the end of the meeting on a celebratory high like I did!

Scholarship Committee Report

By Brenda Boston

Scholarship Committee members are busily reading the 59 applications that were submitted. After reading all the applications, the committee will meet on March 6 to determine which students we will invite to come for an interview.

After the interviews on March 21st and 22nd, the committee will determine how many scholarships

to award and the amount of each one. The Jo Leeper Memorial Scholarship will be for \$3,000, and \$12,000 will be used for Altrusa scholarships. Please note: the date of the Scholarship Dinner has been changed to Thursday, April 27th. I hope you will plan on attending to meet these students and their guests.

Grants Committee Presentation to RPCAAA



Grants Committee Co-Chair Brenda Duckett, Altrusa President Ginger Tonne, RPCAAA President Lisa Kupfer and Grants Committee Co-Chair Mary Shiroma

By Mary Shiroma

At the February meeting, Grants Committee Co-Chairs Brenda Duckett and Mary Shiroma presented a ceremonial check for \$1,500 to Lisa Kupfer, President of the Richardson Police Citizens Academy Alumni Association (RPCAAA). The organization was one of 11 community entities awarded grants this year. Over the summer of 2022, grant proposals were received and reviewed by the Grants Committee which voted on how to allocate its \$12,000 budget. In the fall the Committee's recommendations were submitted to the Foundation, trustees voted to approve the recommendations and checks were sent to awardees.

Other organization receiving grants were:

Camp John Marc Special Camps	\$1,170
Camp Summit	\$1,000
Eisemann Center Foundation	\$500
Hope's Door/New Beginnings Ctr.	\$1,200
Network of Community Ministries	\$1,500
New Friends New Life	\$1,200
Richardson Adult Literacy Center	\$1,400
Richardson Reads One Book, Inc.	\$500
Richardson Symphony Orchestra	\$1,200
Unlocking Doors	\$930

Altrusa District Nine Election and A Good Reason for going to Conference

We know who to vote for!



Governor-Elect- Kimberly Kierce has been a member of Altrusa International of Richardson since 2001. She served in all Club Board positions including Club Treasurer and Foundation Treasurer. Kimberly has also served as Chair of many committees over the years.

Kimberly is a dual member with Altrusa Collin County and Altrusa Denton County, where she served as the Altrusa Denton County Club Treasurer and Secretary. For Altrusa District Nine, Kimberly served as the Service Committee chair (2009-2011, 2011-2013), member of the Revitalization Committee (2013-2015 and 2015-2017). She served as District Treasurer (2017-2019), Second Vice Governor (2019-2021) and currently serves as the first Vice Governor for District Nine (2021-2023) and as the communications liaison and Program chair.

Ms. Kierce earned a BA in Psychology from the University of North Texas; Certified Municipal Court Clerk (CMCC) from Texas State University; and Certified Court Manager Certification (CCMC) from the National Center of State Courts. She has 29 years of experience in municipal courts management and is the Court Administrator for the City of Richardson Municipal Court. Ms. Kierce served as the Treasurer (2017-2021) for her professional association, Texas Court Clerks Association (TCCA), in which she has also served on the TCCA Annual Conference Planning Committee (2010-2021). She also served as TCCA North Texas Chapter President (2007-2014) and has received several awards/recognitions from the Association over the years.

Although Ms. Kierce is a native Texan, she loves to travel and see the world. Her adventures have taken her all over the United States, Canada, China, Australia and most of Europe. She is an avid

Dallas Stars Hockey Fan and fur-mom to two adorable Maine Coon cats, Mandy Jane and Tyler Skye.

Altrusa International of Richardson

Saturday, March 25
9:30 am to 11:30 am

Spring Leadership Event

Join Altrusa International of Richardson for a Spring Leadership Event featuring a delicious brunch and panel discussion of "Embracing Equity" featuring three outstanding panelists from the government, medical and religious communities.

The event is free to all attendees. Be sure to register on the website: www.altrusarichardson.com.

Please consider bringing one or more Feminine Hygiene products to support the Outreach Committee's donation to Network of Community Ministries in Richardson.

Highlights

- Enjoy brunch with your Altrusa sisters
- Hear an engaging discussion on Embracing Equity and how Altrusans can contribute to equity in our community
- Support Outreach Committee's Feminine Hygiene collection for Network of Community Ministries

Friends Place
1960 Nantucket Dr
Richardson, TX 75080

ALTRUSA International | Leading to a Better Community
Richardson, TX

REMEMBER TO TURN IN YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS!

It is REALLY easy, just click on the link in the email.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day is a global holiday celebrated annually on March 8 to commemorate

the cultural, political, and socioeconomic achievements of women. It is also a focal point in the women's rights movement, bringing attention to issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights, and violence and abuse against women

Membership Retention Update Lunch Bunch Event

by Lynn Solomon and Judy Blome



Altrusa Lunch Bunch was held at Spring Creek BBQ in Richardson on Friday, February 10th. We had a great attendance with 10 ladies enjoying the always wonderful food!

Our next quarterly Lunch Bunch will be Wednesday, May 3rd, 2023 so mark your calendars accordingly and stay tuned for more details! If anyone has a restaurant suggestion, we would love to hear from you!!

Attendees were Sue McElveen, Brenda Boston, Mary Osentowski, Gloria Sandoval, Judy Blome (not pictured), Jean Stuart, Christine Hart, Mary Beth McLemore, Ginger Mayo, and Jackie Scrivener (not pictured).

Accent on Altrusa What is ASTRA

“Altrusa International, Inc. appointed a special Youth Group Committee in July 1965 to identify and develop a suggested structure and name for youth groups sponsored by Altrusa Clubs. The youth groups would be based on the following principles, as adopted by the International Board of Directors. One, Altrusa’s participation in the area of youth groups should not duplicate what is already being done by other organizations and two, Altrusa’s participation should be unique in purpose. “

Have You Thought About Convention?



The Altrusa International Inc. 58th International Convention 2023 will be held from

Wednesday 19th to Saturday 22nd of July, 2023 in San Antonio, Texas.

Save the Date!

July 19-22, 2023

San Antonio, Texas

Altrusa Party on the Riverwalk, San Antonio, Texas – Can You See Yourself?



A Great Day at the Warren Center Two Shifts, Morning and Afternoon



Altrusans Ginger Mayo, Nancy Rohm, Lynn Solomon, with our two lovely advisors for the day

Gayle Ingle
Altrusa Hands Make Things Happen!



Deb Bourland, Mary Beth McLemore

Mary Beth, Christine Hart, Jackie Scrivener,
Gloria Sandoval.



Brenda, Jean Stuart, Lynda Calkin, Terry Morgan,
Cindy Murray and Christine Hart



Busy Altrusans All!



The Afternoon lineup – Kimberly, Marsha Peters,
Alma Benoit, Deb, Sharon Nash, Ann, Brenda, and Sue
McElveen. Sitting, Gloria Sandoval and Mary O.



A Selfie!
Kimberly Kierce, Mary O., Deb,
Ann Turner, Brenda Duckett,
Sue McElveen



Deb, Ann, Sue and Kimberly





STRONG LIKE A BUTTERFLY



Meet Coauthor Meredith Davis during KINDNESS WEEK
DATE: Wed. February 15th 9:30am



RISD Kindness Week

February 13 17, 2023

