



President's Message

Happy Holidays to all. To say I am truly grateful for each of you is an understatement.

What a month it has been! Outstanding Women of Today 2023 is in the books now after months of preparation. We raised more than ever for our service projects for next year. Our Special Edition of Tidings covered all the highlights.

As is typical of our club, we wasted no time and quickly got to serving our community the very next morning. We began with the Alzheimer's walk, followed by packing supplies for the Hands-on Military Program, and in the early afternoon, we went to Ability House to celebrate Jane's birthday. It is a pleasure to lead a club that is so dedicated to serving others.

Ahead lies an enjoyable and satisfying December. We have a few exciting events planned. On Saturday the 2nd, we will be making this month a little brighter for some by participating in our Lone Star Book Rotation. They always appreciate new books to read. On the 4th, we will be selecting our literary choices for 2024 for our AWCLS.

December 14 will be our annual Holiday Celebration meeting and the menu looks great. The particulars can be found on page 2. Don't forget that reservations are due by December 11. You don't want to miss this as we take a chance to get together and celebrate ourselves!

On the 16th, we will celebrate with our friends from Ability House. If you haven't attended any of these monthly activities yet, we encourage you to try them out and see what each committee has organized to serve the community. Keep checking our calendar monthly because new things are coming! I know it is going to be a remarkable new year.

Christine Hart

President 2023-2024

For more information go to the Events page at

altrusarichardson.com

December Events



Dec. 01 *Volunteer Hours due!*

Dec. 02 Lone Star Book Rotation 9:00 am

Dec. 04 Altrusa Wine & Chocolate Society 6:00 pm
Holiday and 2024 Book Selection

Dec. 06 Community Outreach Meeting on Zoom 6:30 pm

Dec. 10 *Human Rights Day*

Dec. 14 Holiday Celebration Meeting 6:30 pm
Social, 7:00 pm Mtg

Dec. 16 Ability House & Wentworth House
Holiday Celebration 1:30 pm



(L-R) Lynn Solomon, Ginger Mayo, Jean Stuart, Mary Boyter, Janet McColloch, Carol Ruskowski, Nancy Crowe, Judy Blome

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE—Retention Team NOVEMBER LUNCH BUNCH EVENT

By Lynn Solomon and Judy Blome

Altrusa Lunch Bunch was held at Manny's Tex Mex on Wednesday, November 1st. We had eight hungry Altrusans attending to have a great time together and enjoy great food! The group decided on the next lunch location so "save the date" for our next Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at Besa's Italian Restaurant!

ALTRUSA HOLIDAY CELEBRATION MEETING

By Laura Trainor-Collins

It is the most wonderful time of the year. The Altrusa International of Richardson, TX Inc. **Holiday Celebration** will be held on **December 14, 2023, 6:30 pm** in Founders Hall at the Richardson Woman's Club. This is a popular dinner meeting event so please register online as soon as you can. This is a meeting where members are allowed to bring their own wine. spouses, friends, family and guests are always welcome. Brenda Boston is working with the caterers, Spice of Life., who will provide a delicious chicken dinner with all the trimmings for \$45 per person.

The entertainment this year will be a **Holiday Trivia Game**. The trivia questions will be from holiday traditions, holiday movies, and holiday songs. Each table will be a team and the **Grand Prize** will be a **Times Ten Cellars Wine Tasting Gift Certificate for 10**. The person who won the certificate at the OWT event donated it back to the club.

We will have an **Ornament Exchange** right before the benediction. There is a **\$5 limit** for ornaments. Each table will have a festive basket to place your unwrapped ornament in until the exchange. Our own very entertaining Cindy McIntyre will present the exchange story. Please bring an ornament for yourself and your guest if you wish to participate. It is going to be a fun celebration so make your reservations now.



SALAD

Field of Greens, Sugared Walnuts, Feta Cheese, Poached Pears,
Dried Cranberries, Blush Wine Dressing

NO ONIONS

ENTRÉE

Herb Seared Airline Chicken Breast
Root Vegetable Souffle Broccolini
Piquant Tomato

(Garlic breadcrumbs & Honey Drizzle with Parmesan Shavings)

BREAD

Warm Dinner Rolls with Butter

DESSERT

Chocolate Tulip Cup with Chocolate Mousse
(On Chocolate Vander Mint Sauce with Heart-Shaped Cookie)

BEVERAGES

Iced Tea Coffee Service

BAR: Wine BYOB



December Birthdays

December 4 Jane Merz

December 8 Ann Turner

December 20 Mary Boyter

December 30 Nancy Rohm

December 31 Anne Slagel

Happy Birthday

Outreach Committee Senior Project Update Auction at Appletree Court Assisted Living by Lynn Solomon and Judy Blome

On November 7, 2023, Altrusans facilitated the Fall Auction at Appletree Court Assisted Living in Richardson. There were approximately 25 residents and their families in attendance. It is such fun watching them bid against each other to spend their "Apple bucks"!

Appletree Court Activities Director, Cindy Bostick, was one of our very deserving OWT Honorees this year! In addition to the items Altrusa purchased, the daughter of one of the residents made several very nice baskets plus there were other donated items. Several items caused bidding wars!

Many thanks to the following Altrusans who volunteered their time for this event: Alma Benoit, Gloria Sandoval, Judy Blome, Mary Anne Fernandez and Lynn Solomon



Front to Back: Lynn Solomon; Alma Benoit; Gloria Sandoval; Judy Blome; Cindy Bostick, Appletree Court Activities Director



Gloria Sandoval is a suburb auctioneer and look at all the goodies she had to auction!



Mary Anne Fernandez presents a blanket to the winning bidder.

Kindness Community—Choose Kind Libraries

OUR CHOOSE KIND LIBRARY IN MALAWI

By Jane Tucker

Below is an email from Liz Heinzl-Nelson which accompanied the photographs from the Malawi School, our newest international Choose Kind Library.

From: Liz Heinzl-Nelson <liz.hn@villagesinpartnership.org>
Date: November 15, 2023 at 9:19:49 PM CST
To: Jane Tucker <janetuck@swbell.net>

Hi Jane,

I hope these pictures are helpful and that you can spot some of your donated books in the hands of the students. As you can see from some of the shots, there is still a lot of empty space on the shelves! However, the kids love the library! **One teacher told me that is her students favorite place in the school.** Thanks for your voice and advocacy for some of the poorest people in the world.



Malawi students use the library books daily



Choosing a Library book



The Malawi Secondary School students in front of the school



Look what we have helped to make possible. This says it all.

SOPHOMORE SISTERS UPDATE SERVING DINNER AT NEW FRIENDS NEW LIFE

By Shari Barat



Above: L-R Ginger Tonne, Sophomore Sisters mentor; Shari Barat; Anne Harris; Kathy Stock



Above: L-R Vanesa Garnica, Volunteer Coordinator; Anne Harris; Shari Barat; Kathy Stock



LEFT: "Miss Annette" at the desk is talking with some of the clients at New Friends New Life

The Altrusa Richardson Sophomore Sisters (SS) found a way to volunteer within the community by providing a delicious home-cooked meal for the ladies receiving support at **New Friends New Life** in Dallas. NFNL restores and empowers trafficked and sexually exploited teen girls, women, and their children.

On Wednesday, October 18, members of this group delivered a complete meal of salad, chicken casserole, potatoes, green beans, and two different desserts and served the ladies in attendance. The tables looked lovely laden with food and colorful fall decor. Both the clients and the staff at New Friends New Life welcomed the Sophomore Sisters who came to serve, including Anne Harris, Shari Barat, Kathy Stock, and their mentor Ginger Tonne. Ginger Mayo, Mary Anne Fernandez, and Beth Leos cooked and provided decor for this event, although they were unable to attend. Ginger Mayo supplied lovely prizes for the rousing bingo games played after the ladies enjoyed Texas sheet cake and pineapple orange cake. Seeing the excitement as the ladies unwrapped their prizes was certainly heart-warming; one lady was especially touched by the uplifting message on her new bracelet that she showed to us saying, "It really is what I needed to hear."

The SS received a tour of the building given by Vanessa Garnica, Community Engagement Manager, after we were first greeted by "Miss Annette" Bailey, who is the Economic Empowerment Specialist at New Friends New Life. Chief Executive Officer Bianca Davis also gave us a warm welcome and invited us to return anytime.

This project could not have been possible without the support of many Altrusa Richardson sisters who provided food, drinks, and especially their willingness to meet us at Friends Place where cars were loaded and the caravan downtown began. Many thanks Gayle Ingle, Jean Stuart, Marsha Peters, Mary Shiroma, Deb Bourland, Cindy McIntyre, Brenda Boston, Nancy Rohm, Thanh Tran, Amanda Purdy, Sue McElveen, Mouna Alrashed, Cindy Murray, Janie Jaquier, and Samantha Slaight. Sincere apologies if anyone has been inadvertently left off this list; it really was a group effort!

Ladies who are either at risk or already victimized by exploitation is unfortunately a huge problem in our area. Texas ranks #2 in the nation for the number of victims affected by Human Trafficking, sometimes called "Modern Day Slavery". Altrusa Richardson and the Sophomore Sisters were so honored to be able to show support even in this small way.

SOPHOMORE SISTERS UPDATE

BOOK COLLECTIONS DELIVERIES

By Shari Barat

Our committed and ambitious Sophomore Sisters decided to do three projects as they begin their journey as Altrusans. The biggest project was cooking and serving dinner for the clients of New Friends New Life in October for Make A Difference Day. (more about this project is on the previous page).

The second project was collecting new and gently used adult books for Genesis Women's Center .The third project was collecting new children's books for PediPlace. Below are photos from the delivery of the books in November.



Above: L-R Shari Markley, Chief Engagement Officer for PediPlace; Anne Harris; Shari Barat; Ginger Mayo



Right: L-R Dois Morgan (front), In Kind Coordinator at Genesis; Anne Harris; Mary Anne Fernandez; Kathy Stock; Shari Barat

COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE

COATS FOR KIDS PROJECT

By Jean Stuart

The Coats for Kids subcommittee, Shari Barat, Carol Ruskowski and Jean Stuart, scoured Salvation Army stores in Plano, Dallas and Denton; Good Will in McKinney and Once Upon a Child in Plano to find coats to keep kids warm this winter. We were able to buy two-hundred-and-four coats in good condition for an average cost of \$3.92 each! Thanks to all the hard work of the 2022 Outstanding Women of Today Luncheon Committee, for raising funds to fund this important donation to the NETWORK of Community Ministries in Richardson.

Before our delivery, they had NO coats to give!



Left: L-R Gloria Sandoval, Jean Stuart, Kimberly Kierce and Carol Ruskowski deliver the coats to NETWORK



Right: Just some of the donation of 204 children's warm winter coats

KINDNESS COMMITTEE UPDATE

HOLIDAY DONATION TO TEACHAITI

By Jane Tucker

Please see the letter (below right) from Miquette McMahon, Founder of TeachHaiti, that describes the Christmas baskets the are distributed to TeachHaiti families.

Willnise Pierre Louis, our sponsored student (below left) and her family will receive one of the Christmas baskets thanks to the annual Kindness Committee donation \$75 .



Friend of Teach Haiti,

The holiday season is fast approaching. What should be a time of joy and togetherness is, for many families in Haiti, a season tainted by the harsh reality of food insecurity. The grim presence of hunger overshadows the spirit of joy and merriment. That’s why we are once again gearing up for our annual Christmas Food Basket initiative and asking for your help.

Christmas Food Baskets are filled with essentials like rice, beans, spaghetti, and other nutritious staples. These products, which many might consider simple “pantry basics,” hold immeasurable value to those in need.

Your generosity and support will not only deliver sustenance but hope, kindness, and the true essence of the holiday spirit. Your donation will go directly toward making a tangible difference in the lives of these families. The impact is profound; children’s smiles and the palpable gratitude from their families are a gift far greater than anything you might find under the tree.

As a cherished supporter of our mission, your generous \$75 donation can sponsor a food basket, enabling us to bring the spirit of the holidays to these children and families. Your contribution will ensure they can embrace the joy and solace that the season is meant to offer.*

Please give as generously as you can today.

Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to making a difference.

Warm regards,
Miquette McMahon
Founder and Executive Director



**When making your donation, kindly note "Christmas Food Basket" in the memo line.*





2023 Theme: Freedom Equality and Justice For All

10 December 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of one of the world's most groundbreaking global pledges: the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) (UDHR). This landmark document enshrines the inalienable rights that everyone is entitled to as a human being - regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

The Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 and sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected.

A year-long initiative focusing on universality, progress and engagement, will culminate in a high-level event in December 2023, which will announce global pledges and ideas for a vision for the future of human rights.

FROM OUR SISTER CLUB

QUEENSTOWN REMARKABLES RAMBLER

Excerpts from districtfifteen.altrusa.org/files/2023/10/Altrusa-Queenstown-Newsletter-October-2023

From our Altrusa 'Mother Ship'
What's our Sister club been up to?

At the Richardson Clubs' August meeting, the members got to have a look at the books Altrusa Queenstown had gifted to the Richardson Club. The books were donated by our Qtown representatives (Margaret & Kay) when they attended the San Antonio Convention in July. The children's book is called *The Legend of the Breathing Lake* (published in 2006) retelling a Māori legend about how Lake Wakatipu was formed. The book was written by our very own Anita Lewis! - is there anything this woman cannot do!



Delivering membership food donation to Happiness House



Mary Beth McLemore, Christine Hart, Cindy Murray, Jean Stuart, Sue McElveen and Kimberly Kierce with copies of a donated children's book from fellow New Zealand Altrusan --*The Legend of the Breathing Lake*

UN International Week of Science & Peace 06 - 12 Nov

First observed in 1986, the objectives of this week are the promotion of international peace and human rights, the protection of the environment and the awareness of the role of science and technology in maintaining world peace and social development.

