

## President's Message

Happy February! Altrusa Richardson had a great start this year. I have been visiting many committee meetings, and they were well-run, enthusiastic, fun, and everyone is thinking big!

Welcome to our new members, Kelly Pagel and Cheryl Tolivar. Great job, Recruitment Team!

Our Nominating Committee is busy preparing us for next year's success. I know if you show Jean Stuart, our incoming president, as much support as you have shown me, we are on our way to another fantastic year. Being on one of our boards is rewarding so don't hesitate to step up.

Thank you to everyone who helped pack up the Ability House decorations and kept everything running smoothly there.

Our Leadership Event is on February 3rd, and you don't want to miss it. The Leadership Committee has put great planning and imagination into this event.

Also, a yummy meal and fun time is planned for our Birthday Party on the 15th. Our district representative, Frances Dalbey, will be our guest on that evening. She hails from the Greenville Club.

Please save the date for our 2024 District Nine Conference happening on April 20-21 at the Embassy Suites in San Marcos. You can find additional details and registration information on the District Nine website. If you have been hesitant to attend a conference in the past, this may be an ideal opportunity for you to try it out. The conference is only two days and one night, and we will arrange rides and roommates for those who would like to share a room. Conference is always edifying, fun, bonding, and so much more.

Please be thinking as you continue this year with your events and projects which would be a good fit for one of our District awards:

**Mamie L. Bass Award** for outstanding community projects.

**Letha H Brown Literacy Award** for outstanding literacy projects.

projects and programs featuring international relations.

**Innovation Award** for innovative ways to showcase the Altrusa Brand Drivers of flexibility, inclusion, clarity in projects, fundraising, and activities.

Our Communications team will submit for the **Communications Award**

I will submit the **Edith DeBusk President's Award Annual Report**

Please note that there are new forms for all these awards on the District Nine website this year.

*The secret to being the change is to focus your energy on building the new.*

*Christine Hart*

President 2023-2024

For more information go to the Events page at [altrusarichardson.com](http://altrusarichardson.com)

## February Events

Feb. 01 **Volunteer Hours due!**

Feb. 03 Leadership Event 9:30 pm

Feb. 05 Kindness Committee meeting on Zoom 7:00 pm

Feb. 07 Lunch Bunch at Besa's 11:30 pm

Feb. 08 Club Board of Directors meeting 6:30 pm

Feb. 10 Ability House - Crystal's Birthday 1:30 pm

Feb. 13 Conference Committee meeting 1:30 pm

Feb. 14 **VALENTINES DAY**

Feb. 15 **CLUB BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

6:30 pm Social time; 7:00 pm mtg.

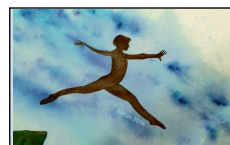
Feb. 19 Altrusa Bridge 6:30 pm

Feb. 20 **WORLD DAY FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**

Feb. 24 Ability House - Vera's Birthday 1:30 pm

Feb. 26 Retention Comm. Meeting

Feb. 29 **LEAP YEAR DAY**



*Take a **BIG** Leap  
this year!*

**RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE  
WELCOME TWO NEW ALTRUSA MEMBERS!**



(L-R) Janet McCulloch (seated); Sponsors Jackie Scrivner, Kimberly Kierce and Alisha Gimbel; New Member Cheryl Tolliver; Christine Hart (seated behind); New Member Kelly Pagel, Shari Barat; Beth Leos, who conducted the initiation



(L-R) Jackie Scrivner, Kimberly Kierce, Alisha Gimbel, Cheryl Tolliver, Kelly Pagel, Christine Hart, Shari Barat, Beth Leos



(L-R) Beth Leos, Shari Barat and Kelly Pagel



Altrusans look on as new members are initiated

## RETENTION AND KINDNESS COMMITTEE UPDATE

### MIQUETTE OF TEACHAITI WAS JANUARY SPEAKER VIA VIDEO

A Letter from Miquette McMahon, Founder and Executive Director of TeachHaiti

“As we reflect on the recent anniversary of the 2010 earthquake—a pivotal moment in our history—we are reminded of the profound realization that emerged from the rubble. It was a moment that underscored the critical need for education to play a transformative role in the destiny of our nation.

**In the face of adversity, the resilience of the Haitian spirit prevailed. God, in His infinite grace, showed up to guide us towards a new beginning. It is this spirit of renewal that has fueled our determination to rebuild, restore, and reimagine a brighter future for our nation.**

One of the most inspiring aspects of our journey towards regeneration is the relentless hope expressed by our students. These young minds, our future leaders, have become beacons of optimism. They recognize that education is not just a gift but the key to unlocking the doors to a better Haiti.

Our students speak passionately about the hope they find in the classrooms, where dreams are nurtured, and beliefs in a new Haiti are cultivated. Despite our challenges, the gift of education empowers them to envision a transformed nation—a Haiti that stands tall, resilient, and prosperous.

As long as our students continue to have the opportunity to learn and grow, their dreams for a new Haiti will persist. Education becomes the catalyst for change, the driving force that propels us forward toward a brighter tomorrow.

In the words of our resilient youth, let us unite to pursue a new Haiti. Together, hand in hand, we can build a nation that honors its past, confronts its challenges, and embraces the promise of a better future.



Photos from TeachHaiti

Your support has been instrumental in enabling us to create this ripple effect of positive change. Through your generosity, you are not just contributing to an individual's education; you are investing in the future of Haiti. It is a ripple that extends far beyond the borders of a school, reaching into the heart of our nation's regeneration.”

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE

### DONATION FOR WARREN CENTER'S OPERATION SANTA

By Alma Beniot

Operation Santa, held on December 8, is a family-centered event for clients of The Warren Center and their immediate families. The Warren Center was created in 1968 and for decades has provided much-needed resources and care to children with disabilities and their families.

The event includes fun holiday activities, games, and pictures with Santa Claus.

In addition, every child gets to leave with a gift from Santa himself! Altrusa's Community Outreach Committee members selected toys for age groups infant to 6+ years. Wish List items are delivered directly to The Warren Center in Richardson for later distribution at Operation Santa.



## RETENTION COMMITTEE COMING EVENT

### LUNCH BUNCH MEETS AT BESA'S FEBRUARY 7TH

By Lynn Solomon

Do you think warm Italian food and fun company is a great way to beat the winter blahs? The Retention Team has just the thing for you. Join the Lunch Bunch for an informal gathering providing an opportunity to get better acquainted with Richardson Altrusans and enjoy good food. The Altrusans at the last quarter Lunch Bunch suggested Besa's Italian Restaurant for the February Lunch Bunch. We suspect most if not all of you are familiar with Besa's. So, please join us at **Besa's**

**Italian Restaurant, 7602 N. Jupiter Rd., Garland, TX 75044 on Wednesday, February 7th, at 11:30 am.** Please register on the website no later than February 5th so we can adjust the reservation, if needed. See you there!,



## Altrusa International of Richardson Foundation Inc.

### Reimbursement Instructions

- \* A check request form (available on the Altrusa Richardson website on the **member information page** under reimbursement) must be completed and sent to the Foundation treasure with invoice(s) and/or receipt(s) attached. The form can be emailed to treasurer or sent regular mail.
- \* Signature or electronic approval of the committee chair or co-chair, as applicable, will be required.
- \* Please also submit an In-Kind Donation form to treasurer when you donated items to ensure a accurate accounting of expenses.
- \* If requesting a donation to a non-profit, the Grant Cover Sheet/ Service Committee Donation Check Request form must be completed and attached.
- \* When making purchases on behalf of the Foundation, the Texas Sales Tax & Use Exemption Certificate Form 01-399 should be used whenever possible to avoid payment of sales tax. This form is available on the Altrusa Richardson website (on the **member information page** near the bottom under Tax).
- \* Reimbursement requests must be submitted to the Treasurer **within 60 days** of the date the expense was incurred.
- \* Checks issued by the Foundation must be cashed and/or deposited within 60 days or the check will be null and void.
- \* At the end of the fiscal year, all reimbursable expenses should be submitted to the Treasurer no later than May 31. All expense checks should be cashed no later than June 15.

## ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL ASTRA UPDATE

### ASTRA IN ACTION "GROWING IN SERVICE"

From Astra January Newsletter



### District Nine



**ASTRA Club of San Antonio, TX - Election of Officers**



**ASTRA Club of Salado High School - Collected stuffed animals for Blue Santa benefiting the local police department.**



**ASTRA Club of Belton High School - Making mats for the homeless out of plarn "plastic yarn".**

## **ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL UPDATE**

### **United Nations: International Years**

By Kathy Schrein, Altrusa Representative to the United Nation's Department of Global Communications, Civil Society Unit/NGO, Chair (excerpt from Altrusa Compass)

Did you know that 2024 is the United Nations Year of Camelids? Camelids-those are camels, llamas, alpacas, vicuñas, and guanacos. This important group of animals is known for food, milk, transportation, and wool throughout many parts of the UN's world. OK, maybe not large Altrusa cities! (See <http://undocs.org/A/RES/72/210> for the exact resolution and further explanation)

In the last Compass issue, the UN's Days of Observance were detailed. The UN designates not only specific days, but also weeks, years and decades. These occasions mark particular events or topics to promote, through awareness and action, the objectives of the UN. Usually, it is one or more Member States that propose these observances. Next, the UN's General Assembly establishes them with a resolution. On certain occasions, these celebrations are declared by the specialized agencies of the UN, such as UNESCO or UNICEF. These special organizations support the designated occasions when they concern issues that fall within the scope of their agencies' particular competencies. Some of them may later adopted by the General Assembly.

Future UN International Years:

2025-International Year of Glaciers Preservation

2026-International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

So, if an Altrusan happens to see a camel in 2024, be sure to give a hearty greeting and a big CONGRATS! Peace, dignity and equality on a healthy planet...United Nations



*Reminder: Altrusa International is a Non-Governmental Organization of the United Nations*

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## **ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL UPDATE**

### **FEBRUARY 20, 2024 IS WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE**

