



May, 2018

Embrace the World...

Altrusa of Richardson has Embraced the World in many ways this past year.

As Altrusans, you have *welcomed diversity* by being open to new ideas through the programs we have enjoyed this year. Your *cultivation of kindness* has extended beyond Richardson's borders and touched the lives of many people. The willingness of the club to tackle such topics as children in Kenya that need shoes in order to go to school, then collecting over 200 pairs of shoes; your search for ways to help women in abusive situations to get the help they need; feeding people that are hungry; providing toys for children whose parents do not have the means to provide gifts, are just a few of the many ways you have celebrated kindness. You have endeavored to reach out to others in our community with different backgrounds, languages, and ideas, thus, have shown your willingness to *practice tolerance*. You have truly embraced my theme for this year and, for that, I am thankful and feel blessed to have been your President.

As the year comes to an end, I have begun working on my final report that I will be giving at the May dinner meeting. I am overwhelmed with your generosity of spirit, your willingness to help me muddle through this year and the love you show every day to our community by your gift of time and work to make Richardson a better place for everyone.

Several of us just attended District Nine Conference at the Hyatt Hotel here in Richardson. It was such a pleasure to represent Altrusa Richardson at this event. Our past president, Nancy Rohm, was there to receive the awards that were presented to our

club for the service achieved during her term. Those will be presented to the club at the May business meeting on Thursday, May 3. Please attend and see the presentation of those awards to the club. Nancy did an outstanding job as your president so please come celebrate these achievements. I will be giving out the awards for perfect attendance, so please do not miss this meeting.

As I am ending my term as your president, I would like to say thank you for your service and for all the help you have given me this year. I truly could not have done this without your encouragement. There are too many of you to thank in this short space so I will save my expressions of gratitude for my final report to the club. Each of you hold a special place in my heart as I have felt your love and support throughout the year.

With Altrusa Love,

Sue McElveen, President, 2017-18
suemcelveen@yahoo.com



Upcoming Events:

See online calendar for event details, location, and sign-up at <http://altrusarichardson.com>

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| May 3 | Secret Kindness Ninja Reveal (6p) |
| May 3 | Business Meeting (7p) |
| May 9 | Atria Bingo (6p) |
| May 11 | Choose Kind Library Ribbon Cutting (7a) |
| May 11 | Mother's Day Tea (11a) |
| May 17 | Dinner/Program Meeting (Social -6:30) |
| May 21 | AWCLS Book Club - (6p) |
| May 25 | Lunch Bunch - Crossroads Diner 11:30a |

April Dinner Meeting

Congratulations Scholarship Recipients!

by Jenn Rohm and Pat Hansen Co-Chairs

The Scholarship Committee had another great year receiving, reviewing, interviewing and awarding scholarships to aspiring students. Altrusa Richardson received 60 scholarship applications for consideration. After the committee members, which included Dena Davis, Gayle Ingle, Strejc, Jan Flesch, Janet Vance, Jo Leeper, Rose Garret-Daughety, and Sarah Nesbit, provided feedback on the applications, eleven students were selected for interviews. Wow! The stories of where these students have come from and where they are headed vary and were truly inspiring (definitely worth looking into being on this committee next year). The future is a bright place with this crew.

After the interviews, the committee again voted and decided on our three winners: **Natyah Smith** (Lake Highlands), **Maheen Polani** (Richardson High School), and **Katherine Burnett** (J.J. Pearce). All three ladies will have \$2,700.00 sent to their choice of school for tuition/books for their first semester.

Thank you to all the committee members for their part in this year's selections.



Scholarship Recipients: Natyah Smith from Lake Highland HS, Maheen Polani from Richardson HS & Katherine Burnett from J. J. Pierce HS.



“All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them.”

Walt Disney

American entrepreneur

Board Meeting

Altrusa Board Report

by Gayle Ingle, Vice-President

The Current and Incoming Board members met together on April 26, 2018 at Friends Place. There was a report about Conference and Richardson won several awards including 1st Place for the Letha H. Brown Award (literacy), Mamie L. Bass Award, 3rd place, and Edith DeBusk Award (President’s Award), 1st place. Altrusa Richardson also won the award for the most First Timers. It was announced that Leadership Conference will be in San Antonio and next year’s Conference is in Grapevine.

A report regarding KAN Weekend was given. Committees like to have things to do so suggestions were made as to what we might do moving forward. The Board heard a report from the Finance Committee approving a request for additional funds for the Retention Committee. It was also announced that we have had 11 new members join this year.

Outgoing Board members exchanged (or will exchange) information with the incoming board members. May 24, 2018 will be the first meeting of the 2018-19 Board. Altrusa members continue to be very busy, and, we, as a Club Board, continue to work for you!



Membership Retention Committee

Secret Kindness Ninja REVEAL Reception

by Laura Trainor-Collins

Secret Kindness Ninja Reveal and Member Appreciation Reception will be held May 3rd at 6 pm before the business meeting in the RWC dining room

and sunroom. All members are invited to a wine and cheese reception hosted by the Membership Retention Committee. If you are participating in the Secret Ninja project bring a final gift for your secret ninja. There will be prizes for guessing your secret ninja’s identity.





(pictured l-r) Rose Daughety, Christine Hart, Bobbi Klein, Barbara Cornelius and Janet Mc Culloch with the books of the new Forestridge Elementary Choose Kind Library.

The Choose Kind Library Project Update

TWO New RISD Libraries One New International Library and Choose Kind Library Project Becomes A Committee

The Choose Kind Library Project is pleased to announce the establishment of two new RISD Choose Kind Libraries in **Spring Valley Elementary** and in **Forestridge Elementary**. In the photo above, five volunteers put bookplates saying, “*The Choose Kind Library @Forestridge Elementary A Special Project of The Altrusa International of Richardson Foundation*”. A ribbon cutting is at Forestridge is planned to coincide with “Muffins with Mom” on May 11. The Spring Valley Elementary ribbon cutting date has not been set yet.

In addition to the RISD schools, an International Choose Kind Library is in the works for an Orphanage in Nyeri, Kenya, East Africa. When Brian Williams (founder of Think Kind) visited us in February, he brought with him Gracie, who talked to us about growing up in an orphanage in Kenya. That night, Brian was so impressed with our Choose Kind Library Project that he offered to donate the profits from sales of his book generated by our club to build a Choose Kind Library. We immediately decided to establish a library in Gracie’s orphanage in Kenya. Since we had designated funds from winning International Relations awards at District and

International levels in previous years, which were still available, it has been decided that we will use those funds for the Kenya library. Books are currently being ordered and we hope to have them delivered when Brian’s group goes back to Kenya in June. The donation from the sale of Brian’s book will build another Choose Kind Library.

The Choose Kind Library project focuses on establishing “libraries” in RISD elementary and international schools. Each library is a specific section of the school library designated as “The Choose Kind Library @ (School) Elementary, A Special Project of The Altrusa International Of Richardson Foundation”. The book collections focus on cultural awareness, diversity, anti-bullying and self-image. The bulk of the original funding came from an Altrusa International Foundation Grant that was applied for through the International Relations Committee, which was received in January, 2015. Our first RISD Choose Kind Library was established at **Terrace Elementary** in 2015, the second at **Northrich Elementary** in 2015, the third at **Northlake Elementary** in 2015 and the fourth opened in May of 2016 at **Audelia Creek Elementary**. (cont. next pg)

In 2015, The School of Hope (Port au Prince, Haiti) donation was granted by our International Relations Committee. In August 2016, the **St. Michel TeachHaiti**

School of Hope was funded and opened. (see photo



below)

In 2016, due to changes in the Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award requirements, the Choose Kind Project was no longer a part of that committee, but, in 2016 they still made a similar donation to the **William Botan School in Santa Avelina, Guatemala**, where Altrusa sponsors the education of a girl named Seneyada Louisa Medina. When the project no longer had a committee “home”, a second grant request was made to the International Foundation, which was received in January of 2017. In 2017 and 2018, two donations were also made by the Education Committee in support of the project.

In 2018, the two new RISD libraries and the Kenya library were established. Additionally, funds have been donated to the original four RISD schools to enhance their collections. A larger amount was donated to rebuild the TeachHaiti schools to restock their libraries due to the devastation of Hurricane Matthew that hit Haiti in November 2016 and Hurricane Irma, which followed in February 2017.

At the March Board meeting, a recommendation was approved to make the Choose Kind Library Project a standing committee. The Board brought the recommendation to the club members in April and it was approved by the members as well. So, beginning with the 2018-2019 club year, the

Choose Kind Library Project will become its own standing committee. Please consider joining this exciting new committee that is working to expand the libraries and further literacy the world over.



Membership Recruitment Update ELEVEN New Members in 2017-2018

To wrap up the year, one final New Member, Lyndsey Theobald, will be initiated at the business meeting. On May 3rd, Lyndsey Theobald, the librarian at Northlake Elementary, will be initiated.

Since June 2017, we have added ten additional new members. In September 2017, **Linda Griffith**, **Catherine (Cat) Zultner** and **Shirly Waller** became Altrusans. In October 2017, **Judy Blome** became one of us and in December 2017, **Kathy Yates** did the same. **Lishan Liu** and **Sebrena Bohnsack** became Altrusans in February 2018. Then, in April 2018, our newest members (pictured below l-r) **Shirley Wilson-Sigler**, **Robbin Murley**, and **Tracy Carron** (Gerry Carron’s daughter) were initiated.



Please make an effort get to know these exceptional ladies. Oh, by the way, this should put us closer to 100 members strong!!

Lyndsey Theobald (in Blue) couldn't resist becoming an Altrusan after joining the fun at our birthday party. She joins (pictured l-r) Bobbi Klein, Rose



Daughety and Laura Trainor-Collins as they sing along with “Elvis”. Lyndsey turned in her recommendation for membership at the Spring Orientation a week later. She'll be a wonderful addition to our club.

Altrusa International Foundation News Club 21



Established in 1997, the name Club 21 was chosen to emphasize the Altrusa International Foundation's commitment to children affected by disease and international health concerns in the 21st century.

The Club 21 Program supports:

- Ghana Health & Education Initiative
- Youth Futures International
- Camp Sunshine of Aurora, OH
- Camp Dreamcatcher of Kennett Square, PA
- Cavett Kids of Oklahoma

Through an annual contribution of \$21.00 (US) or more, an individual can become a part of the International Foundation's effort to support this special fund. An annual contribution of \$210.00 or more allows an Altrusa Club to be a club-level member. The renewal date per fiscal year is March 15.



[http://foundation.altrusa.org/Club%2021/Club%2021%20Brochure 2017-18.pdf](http://foundation.altrusa.org/Club%2021/Club%2021%20Brochure%202017-18.pdf)



Community Outreach Update Another Successful KAN Weekend!



On April 6 and 7, Altrusa Richardson Ninjas set out to embark on another Kindness Action Ninja (KAN) Weekend. Altrusans participated in various community events and inspired other to perform Acts of Kindness. Members partnered with the City's local Trash Bash event, Network of Community Ministries food pantry, clothes closet, and birthday bags project, and Hope's Door New Beginning Center's pillows and personal hygiene bags, as well as. For all the details and photos, check out the [Altrusa Tidings Special Edition](#).

Altrusa International News International Service Project: Days for Girls



Altrusa International has launched its International Service Project with Days for Girls. Their mission is simple: We're turning periods into pathways.

Days for Girls increases access to menstrual care and education by developing global partnerships, cultivating social enterprises, mobilizing volunteers, and innovating sustainable solutions that shatter stigmas and limitations for women and girls. Around the world, girls and women resort to using rags, mattress stuffing, banana leaves, feathers, and even cow dung to manage their menstruation. Days for Girls provides a safe, beautiful, washable, and long-lasting alternative — along with vital health education.

Together, we're creating a world with dignity, health, and opportunity for all.

The Days for Girls movement has reached more than one million girls — and counting! With your help, we can reach **Every Girl. Everywhere. Period.**



<https://www.daysforgirls.org/dfg-our-approach>



District Nine News District Nine Conference Wrap-up

District Nine celebrated its 62nd Annual Conference, April 20-22, in Richardson. Altrusans across Texas joined in celebrating everything Altrusa: fabulous Friday Fun Night, glamorous Governor's Banquet, professional Annual Business Meeting, and informative workshops... and especially the Awards Luncheon! . For all the details and photos, check out the [Altrusa Tidings Special Edition](#).



Choose Kind Committee Update

Forestridge Elementary Promotes the Choose Kind Library Collection

When Forestridge students go to this link:

<http://libraries.risd.org:8080/?config=120#>

(See screen shot image below), they can choose the ALTRUSA Choose Kind Books tab and the books will be a “river” showing all the new books in the collection. When they click on the right or left arrows, the river will move. If they click on a book, a new page opens with more information on the book. This makes it very easy for them to find a book.

And you can click on the link above to do the same! Go to this link to find out about the kinds of books in the Choose Kind Libraries. Pretty nifty! What a great additional way for us to get the Altrusa name out there.

IN A WORLD WHERE
YOU CAN BE ANYTHING
CHOOSE KIND



Altrusa Supports....

NETWORK of Community Ministries

On April 5, 2018, Altrusa Richardson Foundation presented a \$1,000 donation to NETWORK of Community Ministries’ Rebecca Trejo and Kaylan VanPelt. This donation will help support Seniors Net by providing funding for personal hygiene bags, gift bags, and holiday meal boxes, just to name a few. The “Big Check” was presented by (pictured l-r) Donna Buhr, Kaylan VanPelt, Sue McElveen and Rebecca Trejo.



Forestridge Elementary School

Type here to search Search Advanced Search

New Releases **ALTRUSA Choose Kind Books** 2018 Bluebonnets If You Liked Wonder...

Don't Think About Purple Elephants

MOST PEOPLE

MY VERY OWN SPACE

PASS it ON