

2013-2014

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President's Message

FROM ENTHUSIASM TO INVOLVEMENT

Last May, at my request, Sue McElveen read the following quote about enthusiasm at the installation of officers. It's a favorite of mine that I've carried in my wallet for more years than I can remember. It was a word that I wanted us to embody for the 2013-2014 club year.

"You can do anything if you have enthusiasm. Enthusiasm is the yeast that makes your hopes rise to the stars. Enthusiasm is the sparkle in your eyes, the swing in your gait, the grip of your hand, the irresistible surge of will and energy to execute your ideas. Enthusiasts are fighters. They have fortitude. They have staying qualities. Enthusiasm is at the bottom of all progress. With it, there is accomplishment. Without it, there are only alibis." By Henry Ford (1863-1947)

Now, here we are a year later. As I reflect back on the year's accomplishments to prepare for the annual President's reports, I realize that we really are "enthusiasm" personified. We can do anything. We always find the energy to execute our ideas. We have staying power and fortitude. In one year's time, we have, once again, successfully accomplished an astounding number of projects to make our community better.

When we are passionate about a specific project or an organization that we believe is deserving of our support, there is no question that we are

"fighters" for that needed funding or hands-on involvement.

Words like joy, devotion, zeal, exhilaration, gaiety, and passion easily describe our club. And, of course, all of those words are all

synonyms for enthusiasm. It's not just what we do, that makes members want to join and renew, it's how we do everything - with excitement, energy, and spirit.

Our enthusiasm has enabled us to welcome in 14 new members this year. It is exactly what will keep that sparkle that we have seen in each other's eyes this past year as we have been "Leading Loudly, Serving Proudly". I believe that enthusiasm does in fact lead to involvement. So, we should be all set as Gloria Sandoval, our incoming President, has stated that "Involvement" will be the word for our new club year. In 2014-2015, it will be with great enthusiasm that all of us will be "Dancing to the Altrusa Rhythm... Let's Keep Moving".



Pam Kovacs Johnson

President, 2013-2014

pamkovacs@friendsplaceads.com

"Leading Loudly, Serving Proudly!"

Member Highlights

ALTRUSAN NANCY ROHM HONORED AS RICHARDSON REAL HERO*Richardson Real Heroes Press Release*

The Richardson Real Heroes organization honored six people whose unheralded volunteerism contributes to making the city a better place to live. The six were feted April 3rd at the fifth annual Richardson Real Heroes awards ceremony at the Richardson Civic Center. The honorees and the organizations for which they volunteer:

- ◇ **Josh Gonzalez**, for his work with the Richardson Police Department Explorer Post #761
- ◇ **Artur Pira**, owner of Aboca's Italian Grill, for donations of meals in support of multiple non-profit organizations and the homeless
- ◇ **Reuben Pratt**, for more than a decade of volunteer work with Junior Achievement
- ◇ **Nancy Rohm**, for her work with Altrusa Richardson and other non-profit organizations
- ◇ **Gene Tomasello**, for 3,500 hours of volunteer work with the Richardson Adult Literacy Center

- ◇ **Bob Wallace**, for his work through The Counseling Place, the City of Richardson and its police department to facilitate the community service program for senior homeowners

This was the fifth class of Real Heroes. The organization was founded by The Richardson Coalition with the motto of "Honoring Silent Generosity." Nominees are sought from the public and then the Real Heroes board of directors chooses the finalists. Prior to this year, the board chose one Real Hero of The Year from among the finalists. For 2014, the board decided it was difficult to put a greater value on one volunteer effort over another, so it named all six finalists as Richardson Real Heroes and plans to continue that tradition.

"Selecting one of our honorees to be the Real Hero of the Year has been a struggle. All of our finalists are amazing," said **Chelsea Schmidt**, chairman of the 2014 program. "We finally realized that they are all Real Heroes and deserve to be appreciated equally."

Biographies of the award recipients can be found at www.RichardsonRealHeroes.com.

Right:

Nominator Mary Beth McLemore, and Real Hero Nancy Rohm.

Below: Nancy receiving the award from Chuck Eisemann with Chelsea Schmidt.



Council Members pictured from left to right:
Steve Mitchell, Paul Voelker, Mayor Pro Tem Bob Townsend,
Mayor Laura Maczka, Mark Solomon, Scott Dunn and Kendal Hartley.

Meeting Highlights

SEVEN NEW MEMBERS INITIATED AT APRIL 3 BUSINESS MEETING!

By Bobbi Klein, Membership Recruitment Chair

In recognition of April as ADD AN ALTRUSAN MONTH, the Membership Recruitment Committee is pleased to announce the initiation of SEVEN—yes, SEVEN—new members to Altrusa Richardson at the April 3, Business Meeting. The Membership

Committee would like to thank all the members who have shared the joy of Altrusa all year long, and not just in April.



(L-R) New members Alma Benoit, Diane Davidson, Linda Craft, Carolyn Giuliani, Lianne LeBlanc, Robin Smith, and Nicole LeClair. Read about Alma, Diane, Linda, and Robin in this issue of Tidings; see the June issue for introductions to Carolyn, Lianne, and Nicole.

International News

LOCATION OF 2015 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ANNOUNCED

We're excited to invite you to join the International Board, Staff and District Eight Altrusans as we "Jazz it Up!" in Kansas City at Convention 2015!

As you start to plan, take a moment to enjoy this [brief video](#) showcasing Kansas City.



District Nine News

WHERE TO FIND FUTURE CONFERENCES

Viva Altrusa! Make plans to attend the 2015 District Nine Conference hosted by the San Antonio Club in festive San Antonio! It is time to Fiesta—Altrusa Style – April 17-19, 2015!

The District Board accepted nominations for the 2016 conference. Arlington presented a bid to host in 2016 and the District Board will take the bid under consideration—stay tuned!

Meeting Highlights

ALTRUSA RICHARDSON AWARDS \$7,500 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

By Liz Luthans, Scholarship Committee Co-Chair

The Scholarship Committee hosted its annual scholarship awards program Thursday, April 17th at the Richardson Women's Club. Altrusa Richardson recognized five area high school seniors and presented \$1,500 scholarship awards to each of the honored seniors. This year's scholarship recipients were **Meredith Herbst** and **Mia Ivos**, from Richardson High School, **Anastasia Kovanova** and **Suzie Ghidei**, from Lake Highlands High School, and **Karleigh Hartley**, from JJ Pearce High School. **Mia Ivos** was unable to attend the dinner program, but

came to our April 3rd business meeting to receive her award and give her thanks.

Recipients in attendance were joined by their families and were seated around the room in order that members would have the opportunity to visit with the students over the course of the evening. The Scholarship Committee was delighted to present the five scholarship recipients who are young women who embody the Altrusan spirit; they are each thoughtful, caring, determined, and driven; and lead with servant hearts.



Front row, L-R: Altrusan Gerry Carron; scholarship recipients Meredith Herbst, Anastasia Kovanova, Susie Ghidel, and Karleigh Hartley; Altrusan Janet Vance. Back row: Altrusans Jan Flesch, Mary Osentowski, Jo Leeper, Marsha Peters, Ginger Tonne, Liz Luthans, and Brenda Boston. Inset: scholarship recipient Mia Ivos

Meeting Preview

MAY 15 MEETING: LOOKING BACKWARD AND LOOKING FORWARD

By Kimberly Kierce

This will be a very special evening of celebration—one where we will celebrate the accomplishments of the year that is ending in May. President Pam Kovacs Johnson will present her report on *Leading Loudly, Serving Proudly*. President-Elect Gloria Sandoval and her Board of Directors will be installed and Gloria will share the goals for her Presidency. Mary Osentowski will conduct the installation ceremony.

Special guests will be the dozens of toy bears to be given to the Collin County Children's Advocacy Center.

The 2014-2015 Board Members are:

President: **Gloria Sandoval**

President-Elect: **Cindy McIntyre**

Vice President: **Laura Trainor-Collins**

Recording Secretary: **Nancy Crowe**

Corresponding Secretary: **Susan Fischer**

Administrative Treasurer: **Dena Davis**

Foundation Treasurer: **Kimberly Kierce**

Directors: **Kay George, Jo Leeper, Rose**

Daughety, Cindy Murray

Immediate Past President: **Pam Kovacs Johnson**

Altrusa Accent

DISTINGUISHED CLUB AWARD

The Distinguished Club Award recognizes a club's activity and productivity at every level of program involvement. Information from Club Activity Reports on Service, Programming, Membership, Leadership and Communication will be used to judge whether a club is a Distinguished Club. A club must be at charter strength and must submit a Club Activity Report to the International Office for consideration.

A list of Distinguished Clubs will be distributed at the end of each fiscal year. If a club qualifies for the award during the first year of the biennium, it will receive a banner patch by mail at the end of the fiscal year (May 31). Clubs that qualify during the second year of the biennium will receive a banner patch at the upcoming International Convention. In addition, winners from both years of the biennium will be recognized at the next Convention.

LOIS BROWN



Lois Wetzel Brown, a suburban newspaper reporter, columnist and editor for more than 25 years, was also an active civic volunteer. She was a member of Altrusa of Richardson, and was involved with an array of organizations, from Santa's Village to the board of Richardson Regional Medical Center Foundation.

Brown, 78, died April 28 of complications from Alzheimer's disease at Baylor Medical Center at Plano.

Brown was passionate about journalism, and she considered public service her duty, said her husband, Charles Brown of Dallas. "As a newspaper person, I think she felt it an obligation to get involved," he said.

Brown was born in Johnstown, Pa., and started writing for her high school newspaper in Front Royal, Va. She attended the University of Maryland, where she was editor of the student newspaper. "She liked writing and reporting — digging into news stories," her husband said.

Brown began her journalism career writing features and a column, Lines by Lois, for the *Oxford (Ohio) Press*, a weekly. In 1980, she and her family moved to Richardson. In 1981, she became a reporter for *The Garland Daily News* and later joined *The Richardson News*, where she held many titles, including editor. She continued to cover Richardson for *The Dallas Morning News*, retiring in 2006.

Brown was active with groups including the Richardson Rotary Club, the Richardson Woman's Club, and the Network of Community Ministries. She received the YWCA Achievement Award for her years of service. "She got involved in things. That's what she loved to do," her husband said. "And she loved Richardson."

Brown was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Richardson.

In addition to her husband, Brown is survived by four daughters, one son, a brother, ten grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, P.O. Box 96011, Washington, D.C. 20090; or the Network of Community Ministries, 741 S. Sherman St., Richardson, Texas 75081.

Member Highlights

NEW MEMBER ALMA BENOIT

Alma Benoit was born and raised in New Orleans, LA. She met her husband, **Dennis Benoit**, in Lafayette, LA, where they both graduated from the University of Louisiana Lafayette. She moved to Dallas in 1973 after their marriage. Alma worked as an ASCP board certified Medical Technologist in a private medical laboratory and then at the Institute for Aerobics Research at the Cooper Aerobics Center. After the birth of their first son, Nicholas, she devoted herself full time to her family, which grew rapidly to include two more sons, Barrett and Jordan. In 1997 she joined her husband at their brand marketing communications and design firm, Benoit Design, where she is still involved today. Her family has grown to include daughter-in-law Julia—Barrett's wife—and most recently, their first grandchild, Brennan!

Alma has volunteered both professionally and personally for a variety of organizations, including the Dallas International Association of Business communicators, the Dallas National Investor Relations Institute, Meals on Wheels and Boy Scouts. She belongs to St. Joseph Catholic Church in Richardson where she has served on the Pastoral Council, Stewardship Committee and Diocese of Dallas Capital Campaign Fund Committee and volunteered in various other capacities. She currently serves as a Lector.

Alma enjoys reading, gardening, traveling with Dennis and spending time with her family. She and Dennis do some of their travels via motorcycle with a group of other like-minded enthusiasts. (She rides on the back, not the front!!)

Many years ago, Alma became aware of Altrusa Richardson through the late **Bertha Gauglitz**, a family friend, who spoke often of her Altrusa sisters and volunteerism. A few months ago, when speaking with Mary Osentowski, a longtime fellow church parishioner, and mentioning her desire to become more involved in community service, Mary invited Alma to an Altrusa meeting. Mary and **Gloria Sandoval** mentored Alma as she made the decision that becoming an Altrusan was an invitation she was honored to accept. Of all the Altrusa Richardson outreach venues, the one that tugs most at Alma's heartstrings is Seniors. But she plans to be involved in a variety of service projects and make lasting friendships along the way with her fellow Altrusans.



Member Highlights

NEW MEMBER LINDA CRAFT

I was born in Mount Sheer, B.C. Canada but have lived in the United States most of my life. My dad was a mining engineer so we moved around a lot. I have lived in Utah, Idaho, New Mexico, Wisconsin and now in Dallas since 1984. I have two sons. My oldest, Nick (35), is an x-ray technician and works for Texas Orthopedics at Presbyterian hospital. My younger son, Adam (30), works for Essilor. Adam is married to Taylor, who is a dental hygienist.

I have been married to my awesome husband, Howard, for 2 years now. We rent a large booth in Allen Antique Mall and love to buy and sell as our paying hobby. My mother lives in Silver City, New Mexico, and is in great health for 84—she still walks two miles a day. I have one brother who lives in Albuquerque; he is married and they have a hot air balloon. My dad passed in 2005.

Before going to work for Frito Lay in 2000, I worked in banking for about 20 years. I work out of the Frito Lay North Dallas Distribution Center in Carrollton and do

payroll, new hiring, and HR for all the route drivers, merchandisers, and detailers. I really enjoy my job and the team that I work with. Our Distribution Center in Carrollton is a sponsor for Memorial Elementary in Plano. We do volunteer work for the elementary school several times a year.

I found out about Altrusa from my good friend Diane and am really excited to join and become an Altrusan! I don't know a lot of people in my neighborhood so am looking forward to making new friends and helping out where needed. I am interested in International Altrusa and also our community.



Member Highlights

NEW MEMBER DIANE DAVIDSON

My family and I started out in west Texas, around Abilene. My parents brought us to Dallas, and we eventually put down roots in Garland, where I spent my adolescent and teen years. After high school, I became a flight attendant for the original Frontier Airlines, and enjoyed that career for ten years. When the airline went through financial ruin in the 80's, I decided to start my next career in the hospitality business. I earned a degree in Hotel Administration and worked for 30 years in beautiful resorts in Colorado and on the beaches of Florida. I loved my jobs and I continue to love to serve people.

I returned to Texas in order to look after my Mom and now live in Garland. I work as the office manager for Micro Forms, Inc. with my two brothers in the metal stamping business that our parents started in 1967. I work with 28 guys and they are the best! I have been divorced for 20 years and have one daughter (34) and one grandson (4). My life is focused on family, travel,

and fun. My daughter and her family live in New York City and I have at least one trip up north each year. At home, any type of performing arts I can work into my schedule is favored. I am a "regular" at concerts at the Arboretum, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, and dance performances downtown.

Last fall, I mentioned to my friend and neighbor, **Sarah Nesbit**, that I needed to meet more female friends. She suggested that I come to an Altrusa meeting with her. Good friends and an opportunity to serve are a great combination—and Altrusa offers both.



Member Highlights

NEW MEMBER ROBIN SMITH

Robin Smith was born in Gary, Indiana, and lived in the Midwest, graduating from Eastern Illinois University. She married her husband, Dale, and moved to Dallas in 1976. Robin has worked for JC Penney, MCI, and Nortel, where she was Director of Human Resources and then Director of Global Diversity and Inclusion, where she first became aware of Altrusa—by sponsoring a table at the OWT Luncheon.

Robin was very impressed with Altrusa and the work they do and decided that when her work responsibilities and extensive travel slowed down, she would reach out to learn more about the organization. Robin's last position at Blockbuster ended in February, and she is now working part-time through her own company, RLS Coaching and Consulting, a small business that focuses on career transition and effective job search strategies. She also works with companies to create and implement diversity initiatives that lead to a more inclusive and high performance environment for all employees. She decided now was the perfect time to look into Altrusa membership and enjoyed talking to **Bobbi Klein**, who became her sponsor.

Robin is an active community volunteer. She is passionate about volunteer work and has served on several United Way Allocation Committees. She was a member of the Board of Director for Rainbow Days, an organization that provides at risk children the support they need to make healthy choices, believe they have a purpose, and stay drug free, and has served in various capacities at her church, First Presbyterian Richardson, where she is an Elder. Robin

especially enjoyed visiting Africa where she worked alongside members of her church and the Masai people to build dormitories at two girls' schools.

Robin earned her Masters Degree in Business and Human Relations and holds the Senior Professional in Human Resources designation. She is a Certified Professional Trainer through the American Society of Training and Development and is also certified to deliver the Crucial Conversations program. She completed her Career and Retirement Coaching Program through CCI. She has been an invited presenter at Society for Human Resource Management meetings and at several Diversity and Women's Conferences in the U.S. and Canada. Robin loves coaching and training!

Robin has two daughters: Heather and her husband Jim, and Sarah. She also has a 4-year-old granddaughter Brianna who she absolutely loves to play and spend time with! Robin and her husband, Dale, enjoy traveling, especially road trips. They also love animals and have two dogs and one cat—all



Member Highlights

CONFERENCE FIRST-TIMER REPORT

By Janice Campbell

As a new member of Altrusa and a First-Timer, to conference I was very excited about attending. I wasn't exactly sure what to expect, but I was sure that it would be lots of fun! Oh boy, was I right!

The first day we got stuck in a huge traffic jam on the way down and, unfortunately, I missed the First-Timer meeting, so I am not able to report on that. However, things started rolling right away after check-in. We got great goodie bags that contained everything from candy, snacks, pens to a cell phone for my roommate, **Janie Jaquier**. (There's a long story surrounding that!) Shortly after that, we had our opening session and then dismissed to get ready for our Wild, Wacky and Weird Fun Night! It was certainly that. Dressed in our purple shirts, boas, and wacky pony tail head bands, we fit right in with the rest of our District Nine Altrusans! Each club had chosen a signature song and we dined and danced the night away to those songs. The Richardson club chose "We are Family" and we certainly felt that way as we had many sisters to celebrate with. It was really great to see all of the other clubs in their wacky get ups enjoying their sisters as well.

Afterward Friday Fun Night, many of us joined President Pam in her room for after party libations! That was one of my favorite things about conference because I got to know a lot of my Richardson Sister's much better during both of those late night sessions. They were like a grown up slumber parties!

Saturday's sessions were also fabulous! I was so proud of Richardson and all the awards we won! I was also deeply touched by the message given by our keynote speaker at the luncheon. It was Jan Hungate, Assistant Superintendent of the West Independent School District. She was so inspirational. I also thoroughly enjoyed the Governor's Banquet - Black and White Ball. Governor **Beth Blair** seems to be an amazing women with a terrific sense of humor. Our keynote speaker that night was **Leanne Milligan** from International. Her participation in the District Nine Conference really drove home that Altrusa is so much bigger than just Richardson or District Nine. We really are an international organization that does outstanding work around the world. It makes me feel very humble and very proud to a part of such an amazing group of women. I can't wait to go back next year!



Richardson Altrusans, dressed weirdly for Friday Fun Night at 2014 District Conference in Austin, Texas

Member Highlights

CONFERENCE FIRST-TIMER REPORT

By Nancy Crowe

I had heard a lot about Altrusa District Nine Annual Conference since I joined Altrusa and for one reason or another had not been able to attend. So, I was determined to attend this year and see what it was all about. I heard about Fun Night and dressing up and drinking wine with your Altrusa sisters, but I was more than impressed with what I actually experienced. It was a **Renewal** of sorts, a Renewal of the Spirit and a Renewal of Hope that women like this still actually exist!!

Fun Night was more than fun!! It was a time to be able to dress silly, act silly, dance like I hadn't danced in years and just have FUN with other women who felt the same way!! It is good for the soul to be able to let your hair down and just have some good old fashioned FUN!! (That's me with the crazy glasses) The other thing that really struck me about Conference was the **Affirmation to Women by Women**. I've been to a lot of awards ceremonies over the years but this Awards Ceremony was very different.

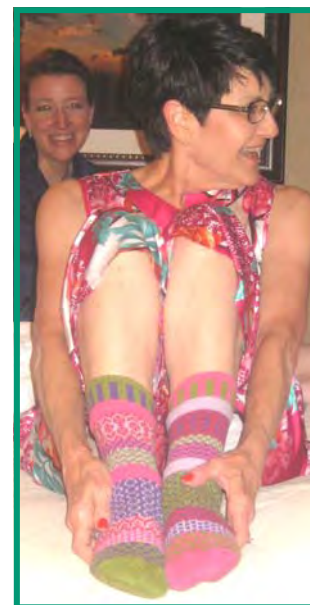
Receiving an award is always wonderful but this was about more than just the award!! It was about being affirmed for a job well done and receiving recognition for

going above and beyond by other women. And while most women in our culture today are competitive and self-centered, this was actually a breath of fresh air!!

The Governor's Banquet was another example of recognition. **Recognition** of those Presidents who have served – not just one year after they have served but forever more they are recognized and acknowledged for having served. The conference was not focused on the courses offered. I attended two and found them to be informative about Serving on a Board and Serving as a Committee Chair. The fact that they were taught by Altrusans who had actually served in those roles, made them informative and a great opportunity for **Exchange of Ideas**.

So, all in all, while I was impressed with conference, my feelings went deeper into the actual relationships formed, the renewal of spirit, the affirmation, the recognition, and the willingness to exchange ideas – all very counter culture to how we tend to live in this world. It has reinforced the meaning for me of what an **Altrusa Sister** truly is!!

The Conference theme was "Keep Altrusa Weird" and Richardson Altrusans did their weirdest to comply, with their purple shirts, boas, brightly-colored pony tail headbands...and then there were President Pam Kovacs Johnson's amazing socks!



Project Report

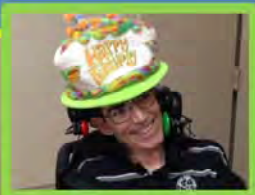
ABILITY HOUSE COMMITTEE HELPS RESIDENTS CELEBRATE

It is always a treat to receive **Bill Knudsen's** thank-you cards for the parties hosted by the Ability House Committee! The recent celebrations were for Nina's and Shawn's birthdays in April.

Ability Connection Texas (ACT) provides a caring, family-style living environment for adults with disabilities through its residential services program. Ability House is one of seven homes operated by ACT throughout the North Texas area. These homes, sometimes referred to as group homes, allow

individuals with disabilities to live with as much autonomy and independence as possible.

In addition to birthday celebrations with cake, ice cream, soft drinks, cards, and gifts provided by Altrusa, our Ability House Committee throws holiday parties for the residents throughout the year and everyone is encouraged to attend. **If you would like to chair the Ability House Committee for 2014-2015, contact Gloria Sandoval.**

Thank You Altrusa!

**2014 Shawn's
Birthday Party**

**Nina 2014 Altrusa
Birthday Party!**

Thank You!

**BOARD ACTIONS:**

- ◊ Developed plan for 2013-2014 District Nine award submissions
- ◊ Changed date of meeting from January 1, 2015 to Jan 8; will incorporate in RWC contract

Ability Connection Greetings!

On behalf of Shawn, and his Wentworth housemates, thank you very much for making Shawn's Birthday and his day extra special! He loved his gifts, the birthday goodies and his time with his Altrusa friends!

I have three Ability House updates for your consideration please:

First, Nina is very excited about her birthday party this Saturday. Her twin sister, Dina, is going to celebrate with Nina.

Second, Robert is already carrying around his birthday wish list for his August party!

Third, Roberto, Robert, Nina, Shelly, Vera and Kathleen all wanted you to know that they really enjoyed the Easter treats you-all delivered!

As always you have our great appreciation for your wonderful friendship with the Ability House residents and we send our best wishes!

Bill

Bill Knudsen
President/CEO
Ability Connection Texas

Ability Connection greetings!

On behalf of Nina, and her twin sister Dina, thank you very much for their wonderful birthday celebration!

Nina loved her card and gifts...and especially all the attention from her Altrusa friends.

All of us at Ability Connection...including Robert, Roberto, Nina, Shelly, Vera and Kathleen...greatly appreciate your continuing special friendship with the Ability House residents....and as always we send our best wishes!

Bill

Bill Knudsen
President/CEO
Ability Connection Texas

District Nine News

DISTRICT AWARDS PRESENTED AT 2014 CONFERENCE IN AUSTIN**LINDA NICHOLS FOUNDATION AWARDS****Total Club Contributions**

1. Temple (\$1,350)
2. Downtown Dallas (\$1,320)
3. San Antonio (\$1,096)
- 4. Richardson (\$614)**

Average Contributions Per Member

1. DFW (\$34.60)
2. Temple (\$33.68)
- 3. Richardson (\$26.80)**
4. Downtown Dallas (\$26.27)

YEARBOOK AWARD

1. Greenville
2. Anderson County
3. Pampa

DR. NINA FAY CALHOUN INT'L RELATIONS AWARD

- 1. Richardson**
2. Garland
3. Collin County

CLUB COMMUNICATION AWARD

- 1. Richardson**
2. Collin County
3. Anderson County

LETHA H. BROWN/GOVERNOR'S LITERACY AWARD

1. Garland
2. Abilene
3. Downtown Dallas

MAMIE L. BASS SERVICE AWARD

1. Lubbock
2. Nacogdoches
3. Garland

EDITH DEBUSK PRESIDENT'S AWARD

1. DFW
- 2. Richardson**
3. Temple

CLUB DISPLAY AWARD

1. Temple
2. The Brazos
- 3. Richardson**

JOELLA TERRILL BUTLER MEMBERSHIP AWARD

1. Austin
2. Central Texas
3. Borger

International Foundation News

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION AWARDS PRESENTED AT 2014 CONFERENCE**2012-2013 CLUB LEVEL 21 CLUBS**

Dallas
San Antonio
Temple
Downtown Dallas

HIGHEST NUMBER OF NEW CLUB 21 MEMBERS

Temple—8
Downtown Dallas—5
DFW—4
Arlington, Dallas, San Antonio—3

2012-2013 CLUB LAMPLIGHTERS

Copperas Cove, Dallas,
San Antonio, Temple, The Brazos

Special Days

MAY 15 IS UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES

By Jane Tucker, International Relations Committee Co-Chair

The United Nations will be celebrating International Day of Families on May 15th. The theme for this year's celebration is "Families Matter for the Achievement of Development Goals; International Year of the Family +20." This day celebrates the importance of family among people in modern times. Families are the microcosm of the global community and, because sustainable peace is considered to be grounded in the family, the impact the family plays in achieving sustainable peace is of crucial importance in world peace. This day is devoted to the work which originally started in 1994 to focus on the significance of the families and all the different family cultures represented worldwide.

In celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the International Day of Families, the United Nations hopes

to focus on the role of family, understand recent trends in family policy development, research good practices in family policy making, and review challenges faced by today's families worldwide.

The family continues to struggle to overcome poverty and adequately provide for younger and older family members. It is also hard to manage family responsibility and maintain family bonds. As this year's celebration explores family oriented policies and strategies aimed at confronting challenges facing the family, the hope of this effort is to ensure work-family balance, continued social integration, and intergenerational solidarity – all necessary components to enhance efforts for global peace through family bonds.

Special Days

SENDING A GIRL TO SCHOOL TO OBSERVE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES

By Jane Tucker, International Relations Committee Co-Chair

In honor of the UN International Day of Families on May 15th, Altrusa Richardson is again sending a girl to school through Heifer International.

Heifer International has long been supported by our Altrusa club. This non-profit organization was founded nearly 70 years ago by Dan West, who was a farmer from the American Midwest and went to the front lines of the Spanish Civil War as an aid worker. He soon discovered that a meager cup of milk to the refugees wasn't enough to meet their needs. He thought to himself... what these people need is not a cup of milk, but a cow. Based on this philosophy, he returned to the United States and founded Heifer International whose core model is "passing on the gift."

This organization empowers families to turn hunger and poverty into prosperity by providing animals to them for both food and a reliable income. Agricultural products such as milk, eggs and honey from these donated animals can be traded or sold at market. When families gain a sustainable income, it brings new opportunities for building schools, creating agricultural cooperatives, forming community savings, and funding small businesses.

The goal of Heifer International is to help families achieve self-reliance. This year our International Relations Committee has selected the Heifer International project called "Send a Girl to School". Our

donation of \$275 will allow a girl to attend school for an entire year. It is no secret that in poor economic countries, girls often suffer from gender discrimination. They are denied the opportunities to go to school because of the limited resources of their families.



SEND A GIRL TO SCHOOL

This gift provides a family with training and livestock so they can earn the income needed to pay for their daughter's school fees and supplies. The project will not only empower a girl through education, it will also equip her with the books, paper, and learning materials she will need during the school year.

With this year being the 20th anniversary of the **UN International Year of the Family**, the United Nations hopes we can explore ways of developing and implementing policies in areas of reducing family poverty and social exclusion to ensure family balance, social integration, and intergeneration solidarity. It is the hope of our Altrusa members that this project will help focus awareness on the importance of the family and how providing for the education of children can help change the world- one child, one family, one community, at a time.

Special Days

MAY 2014 IS MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH*By Jane Tucker, International Relations Committee Co-Chair*

National Military Appreciation Month is aimed at encouraging citizens of the United States an opportunity to use this month as a symbol of unity, to honor the current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom. The month of May actually has six national observances:

- ◇ Loyalty Day – May 1
- ◇ Public Service Recognitions Week – May 5- 11
- ◇ Victory in Europe Day – May 8
- ◇ Military Spouse Appreciation Day – May 11
- ◇ Armed Forces Day – May 18
- ◇ Memorial Day – May 27

It is because of all these opportunities to recognize the armed forces in May that Senator John McCain introduced legislation in 1999 to designate the month of May as National Military Appreciation Month. This year, it is felt that many Americans have already forgotten about our service members. When they heard 2014 was to be the end of the war in Afghanistan, they just assumed that that meant January, not

realizing we are still serving and deploying there on an ongoing basis all year. There is an effort under way to use this month to generate extra support for our nation's heroes.

One means of support is to participate in signing cards for **Operation Write Home**. Just write an "Any Hero" note of encouragement to a deployed service member. Our club members are encouraging members of their families, co-workers, and friends to write letters and then send them to:

Operation Write Home
35205 13th PI SW
Federal Way, WA 98023

We will have a group letter writing opportunity at the "Pillows and Pastries" Party on May 9 from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm at Friends Place for members to write said letters.

It is the vision of this project to give National Military Month special significance by creating a "tidal wave" of encouragement for our service members.



Member Highlights

PHOTOS FROM 2014 DISTRICT NINE CONFERENCE

Club Calendar May 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Business meeting	2	3
4 Lynn Solomon bday	5	6	7 EDUCATION: Tea at Chocolate Angel	8 RETENTION: Lunch Bunch	9 SENIORS: Mother's Day Tea OUTREACH: Pillows, Pinot, Patriotism	10
11	12	13	14	15 Dinner meeting and Installation of Officers	16 Mary Osentowski, Gloria Sandoval bday	17 OUTREACH: WildRide!
18	19 RETENTION: Altrusa Wine & Chocolate Literary Society	20	21	22 Altrusa Board Meeting	23	24 Bonnie Perry bday RETENTION: Music on the Patio
25	26 Jan Skinner bday	27	28	29	30	31

Business Meetings, 7 PM, 1st Thursday, Clubhouse at the Richardson Woman's Club

Dinner/Program meetings, 7PM, 3rd Thursday, Founders' Hall, at the Richardson Woman's Club

Board meetings, 7 PM, 4th Thursday, Friends Place Adult Day Services

Events on this page are copied from our website. See event listings at www.altrusarichardson.com for details of time and place.

If you choose, you may bring a gift (worth about \$5) to the dinner meeting in the month of your birthday. There will be an opportunity to put our names in a drawing (only \$1 per chance!) to win a birthday gift. Proceeds are used for our administration budget.

Altrusa International, Inc. of Richardson, Texas
P.O. Box 832101
Richardson, TX 75083
Kimberly Kierce, Newsletter Co-Editor
Carolyn Swanson, Newsletter Co-Editor
contact@altrusarichardson.com
www.altrusarichardson.com