

2013-2014

Board of Directors

President

Pam Kovacs

President-Elect

Gloria Sandoval

Vice-President

Sue McElveen

Recording Secretary

Marsha Peters

Corresponding Secretary

Gerry Carron

Administrative Treasurer

Jenn Rohm

Foundation Treasurer

Courtenay Tanner

Directors

Kay George

Jo Leeper

Linda Korn

Cindy McIntyre

Immediate Past President

Kimberly Kierce

Parliamentarian

Carolyn Swanson

What's Inside?

President's Message	1
Project Previews	3-4
Project Reports	4-7
Committee Reports	7-10
Board Actions	1
Meeting Preview	11
Meeting Highlights	11,17-22
Club Calendar	22-23
District Nine News	14-15
International News	16
Int'l Foundation	16
Altrusa Accent	14
Member Highlights	11-12
Slate of Officers	2
New Members	11-12
Day of Social Justice	13
In the Media	13
Distinguished Club	24

President's Message

TAKE THE CHALLENGE

At the beginning of each New Year, there's a lot of talk about "taking the challenge". Usually, it is all about setting personal goals and accepting challenges towards a better "you". Of course, many of the "take the challenge" commercials and articles relate to losing those few extra pounds we gained during this past year or enjoyed putting on during the holidays. I would like to propose something a little different -an Altrusa challenge for a better "us".

What if each of us accepted the challenge to tell ten people about Altrusa? It doesn't even have to be ten women. Simply find ten individuals that have never heard about Altrusa and tell them who we are and what we do. Begin with your story. Why did you join? What do you enjoy the most about being an Altrusan?

Some members might find it useful to use Mimi Tanner's elevator speech entitled "What is Altrusa?" (2007). It's published in our member directory. "Altrusa is a wonderful group of women, united by the desire to serve the community with love and compassion. In the process, great friendships are formed, leadership skills are increased and a considerable amount of fun is to be had!"

Remember the "Ask Me about Altrusa" buttons? From the beginning they were intended - just like this challenge- to increase awareness of Altrusa International. How many times have we been disheartened when we mention something about Altrusa and someone says, "Hmm, what is Altrusa" or simply remarks "Never heard of it". This is our opportunity to change that. With a

membership close to 90 we could conceivably reach 900 people should ever member earnestly accept this challenge. Maybe I should have challenged each of us to talk to eleven people. Then, almost a thousand people would know about Altrusa.

February 20th is when we will celebrate our club's birthday and "Toot our own Horns". Our special guest that evening will be District Nine Visitor, Antonia Buban. Between now and then, keep a list of each person you tell about Altrusa. Then, you could enter that number into a special drawing - with at least three winners! Even, if we fell short of our goal that would still be a lot of "Leading Loudly, Serving Proudly" conversations.

Pam Kovacs

President, 2013-2014

pamkovacs@friendsplaceads.com



BOARD ACTIONS:

- ◇ Reviewed contract with hotel for 2014 Outstanding Women of Today Awards Luncheon
- ◇ Received mid-year reports from Admin and Foundation Committees

"Leading Loudly, Serving Proudly!"

Nominating Committee Report

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2014-15 ANNOUNCED

By Mimi Tanner, Nominating Committee Chair

This slate is being proposed to the membership of Altrusa International of Richardson, TX by the Nominating Committee: **Mimi Tanner**, Chair; **Deb Bourland**, **Mary Beth McLemore**, **Mary Osentowski**, and **Carolyn Swanson**.

President-Elect: **Cindy McIntyre**

Vice President: **Laura Trainor-Collins**

Admin Treasurer: **Dena Davis**

Foundation Treasurer: **Kimberly Kierce**

Recording Secretary: **Nancy Crowe**

Corresponding Secretary: **Susan Fischer**

Directors **Brenda Duckett**, **Cindy Murray**

These board positions are not subject to election:

- ◇ President-Elect assumes Presidency (Gloria Sandoval)
- ◇ Past President, Pam Kovacs, assumes that spot on Board
- ◇ Directors serving the second year of a two year term: Kay George, Jo Leeper

According to the chair, Mimi Tanner, the committee is delighted that these folks are willing and able to serve.

In addition to the proposed slate, nominations from the floor for each office in the election will be accepted. Please be sure you have the permission of the person you are nominating.

Here are the procedures from the bylaws and policies concerning the election, which will be held at the business meeting on March 6, 2014:

Club Bylaws**Article XIII. Election of Officers and Directors****Section 1. Election**

(a) All Officers and Directors, except the Immediate Past President, shall be elected by ballot at a regular business meeting in March and shall be installed so as to take office on **June 1**, and shall serve for one (1) year or until their successors are elected and installed. In the event there is only one nominee for a position, the Secretary may be instructed to cast the ballot. Officers and Directors of a newly organized Club shall serve until the 31st day of May following such organization, except that Officers and Directors of Clubs organized after January 1 and before **June 1** may serve until one year from the next **June 1**.

(b) Any candidate who shall receive a majority of all valid votes cast shall be declared elected. In the event there shall be more than two (2) candidates for any one position, and no candidate shall receive the majority of all valid votes cast on the second ballot, the candidate receiving the least number of votes shall be eliminated from each succeeding ballot.

Club Policies

3. The Slate of proposed officers will be finalized and signed off by the entire committee participating in the decision and presented to the current Club President, President-Elect, Recording Secretary and Newsletter Editor as soon as known but no later than the January board meeting. (08/04,9/06,12/08)

(Continued on page 3)



(Continued from page 2)

SLATE OF OFFICERS...

4. Notification of absentee voting will appear in the February newsletter at least 28 days prior to the election. Members in good standing (dues and fees paid) wishing to vote absentee should then request an absentee ballot from the Chair of the Nominating Committee. Absentee ballots must be returned to the Nominating Committee Chair no later than the day before the election. All ballots must contain the member's printed name. Absentee ballots received the day of the election will not be counted. (1/99) A member may request an absentee ballot be sent via email, but it will be the responsibility of that member to verify that the Nominating Committee Chair received the member's vote by return email. The email must contain the member's name that is voting. (1/99, 08/04, 12/08)

Project Preview

SPRING ORIENTATION/RE-ORIENTATION

By Bobbi Klein, Membership Recruitment Co-Chair

Nancy Rohm will host the Spring "Leading Loudly, Serving Proudly" Orientation/Reorientation event on Saturday, February 22, 9:30-11:30 am. This will be an informative event for all Altrusans, Freshman through Alumni. But, just as important, you'll have a perfect opportunity to get to know other Altrusans. As usual, we will have a Brunch Buffet and then get down to business. We will discuss a planning list for sponsors similar to our new member planning guide, which we introduced at the Fall Orientation, along with other items. This is valuable information that you should know. We hope you can join us!



Project Preview

EASY SERVICE WITH FIDEO AND FIXIN'S AND FUN FOR YOU!

By Bobbi Klein, Community Outreach Committee

Come for food, hands-on service and fun with your Altrusa sisters. On February 4, at 6:30 pm, we will again sample Bobbi's infamous Fideo and Fixin's dinner, have some time to visit, and put together Emergency Personal Care Item bags for NETWORK. NETWORK often has homeless folks (yes, in Richardson) who may not have access to these items. We will make bags for both women and men. The Community Outreach Committee has collected and purchased toiletries to fill the bags which will be taken to NETWORK in early February.

This is an easy project that leaves lots of time to visit. Please register online so we'll have an idea how much food we'll need.

If you wish to supplement what the committee has collected and purchased, you can bring contact Bobbi Klein to arrange for donation:

- ◇ travel size shampoo & conditioner;
- ◇ toothpaste & toothbrushes
- ◇ combs or small brushes
- ◇ Deodorant
- ◇ Soap
- ◇ skin moisturizer/hand lotion
- ◇ Socks
- ◇ gloves or mittens



Project Preview

QUARTERLY LUNCH BUNCH WILL BE FEBRUARY 28

By Ann Eisemann, Membership Retention Committee



Get ready for another fun quarterly Lunch Bunch get-together brought to you by the Membership Retention Committee. We will meet at Frankie's Mexican Cuisine at 2701 Custer Parkway for the February 28 lunch at 11:30 am.

Registration on our website is preferred, but you can also call or email Ann Eisemann.

Project Preview

ALTRUSA WINE & CHOCOLATE LITERARY SOCIETY READS ON & ON

By Jan Belcher, Membership Retention Committee

January 27 kicked off the new year for AWCLS. *The Bookman's Tale* by Charlie Lovett was the basis for a lively discussion. The book is not only historical fiction, but also a romance with some mystery thrown in. If you haven't had a chance to read it, we hope you remember to check it out at the Richardson Public Library. Pat Johnson did a great job as the discussion leader, and there were lots of great snacks plus chocolate and wine!

Our February selection is *Mrs. Poe* by Lynn Cullen. **Christine Hart** will be our Discussion Leader.

Inspired by literature's most haunting love triangle, award-winning author Lynn Cullen delivers a pitch-perfect rendering of Edgar Allan Poe, his mistress's tantalizing confession, and his wife's frightening obsession . . . in this "intelligent, sexy, and utterly addictive" (M. J. Rose) new masterpiece of historical fiction.

1845: New York City is a sprawling warren of gas lit streets and crowded avenues, bustling with new immigrants and old money, optimism and opportunity, poverty and crime. Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven" is all the rage—the success of which a struggling poet like Frances Osgood can only dream. As a mother trying to support two young children after her husband's cruel betrayal, Frances jumps at the chance to meet the illustrious Mr. Poe at a small literary gathering, if only to help her fledgling career. Although not a great fan of Poe's writing, she is



nonetheless overwhelmed by his magnetic presence— and the surprising revelation that he admires her work.

What follows is a flirtation, then a seduction, then an illicit

affair . . . and with

each clandestine encounter, Frances finds herself falling slowly and inexorably under the spell of her mysterious, complicated lover. But when Edgar's frail wife Virginia insists on befriending Frances as well, the relationship becomes as dark and twisted as one of Poe's tales. And like those gothic heroines whose fates are forever sealed, Frances begins to fear that deceiving Mrs. Poe may be as impossible as cheating death itself. . . .

If you're reading ahead:

March 24, 2014 – *Midnight in the Garden of Good & Evil* by John Berendt – Lois Ferrara, Discussion Leader

AWCLS meets on the 4th Monday of every month at Friends Place, 1960 Nantucket Drive in Richardson. As always, we begin at 6:00 PM and end by 7:30 PM. You do not need to have read the book to participate. We do ask that you register on the Altrusa web site so we know how many are coming. Please bring snacks, chocolate, or wine to share. We always have a great time!

HAPPY READING!!!!!!



Project Report

MEMBERS HELPED SANTA WITH TOYS, STOCKING STUFFERS

By Donna Buhr and Christine Hart, Community Outreach Committee

Thanks to the generous support of our Altrusa members, the Community Outreach Committee's Santa Toy Collection project was a great success. **Christine Hart** and **Donna Buhr** delivered over **150 toys and stocking stuffers** to the NETWORK of Community Ministries on December 13, 2013. It was a cold and rainy morning, but it felt heart-warming to know that many children would wake up on Christmas morning to find a toy and delightful items in their Christmas stockings. Christine and Donna, who continue to be impressed with this amazing organization, would like to thank everyone that donated to the Santa Toy program.

Thank you again for all your help and support with this project.



Project Report

GRAND OPENING OF ALTRUSA SISTERS ADOPTION PET PALACE IS FEB. 1

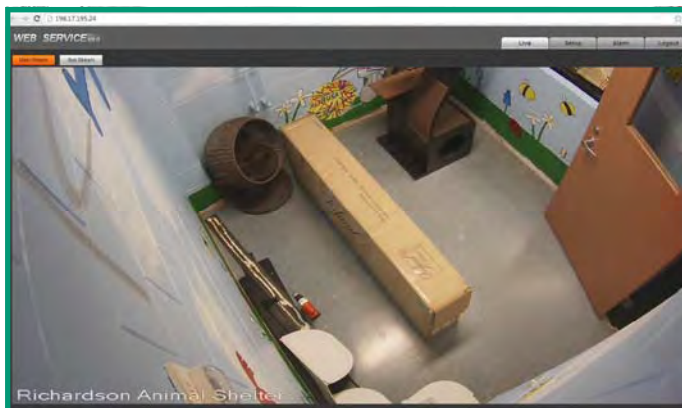
By Kimberly Kierce, Community Outreach Committee

The Community Outreach Committee is happy to announce the completion of the ASAPP (Altrusa Sisters Adoption Pet Palace) project at the Richardson Animal Shelter. The mural painting is completed, the furniture purchased / installed, the City's [24/7 Live Animal Cam](#) ([click here!](#)) is set up, and the cats are arriving. Now... it's time to celebrate! Our dream of creating a place for seniors and citizens to adopt animals and supporting our local animal shelter has become a reality.

Bill Alsup, Director of Health, City of Richardson, said: "Thank you for your gift and your patience. This will be a nice generator of public interest for our facility."

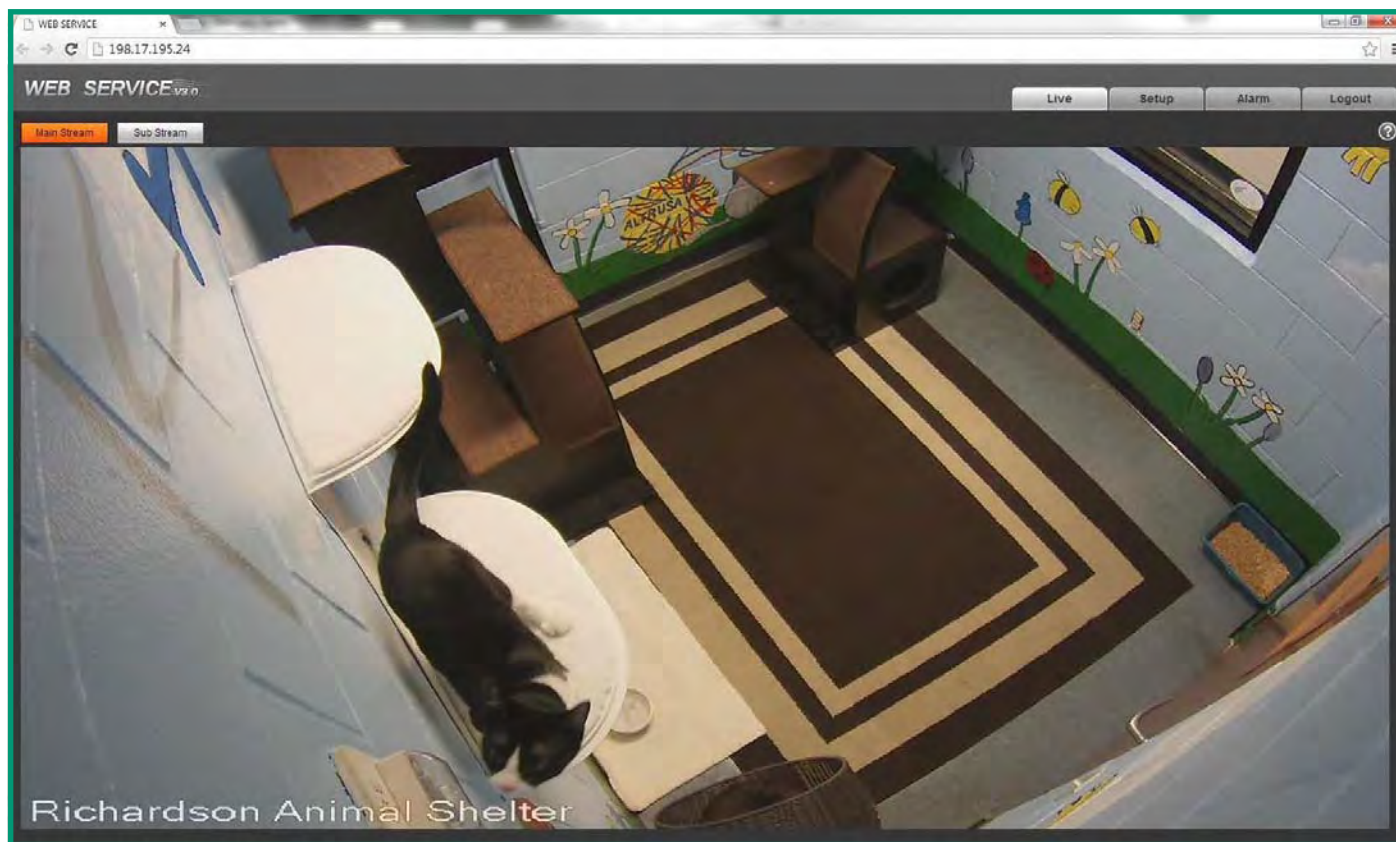
There will be a Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting photo op for Altrusa Richardson at the Shelter. We will get community recognition for supporting homeless pets, so please plan to drop by the Shelter at 1330 Columbia Drive., Saturday, Feb. 1, 11 a.m. All Altrusans are encouraged to attend; be sure to sign up on our website so we will know how many to anticipate for the photo. All you have to do is say "Cheese!" for the photographer! Then, if you have time, join us for lunch at Applebee's, outside Sears in the Richardson Square Mall area.

A curious kitten checks out the Webcam while another sleeps in the basket. Sometimes they play; mostly, they take catnaps!



Before: the empty room with equipment awaiting installation.

The mural on the back wall shows a kitty playing with a ball of yarn. The sign is a placeholder for a permanent plaque at the room's entrance.



Project Report

WE CONTINUE TO SPONSOR SENAYDA THROUGH HELPS INTERNATIONAL*By Jane Tucker, International Relations Co-chair*

For many years, Altrusa Richardson has been donating to HELPS International, which is a nonprofit organization founded in 1984 to help the people of Guatemala by providing a means for educating their children.

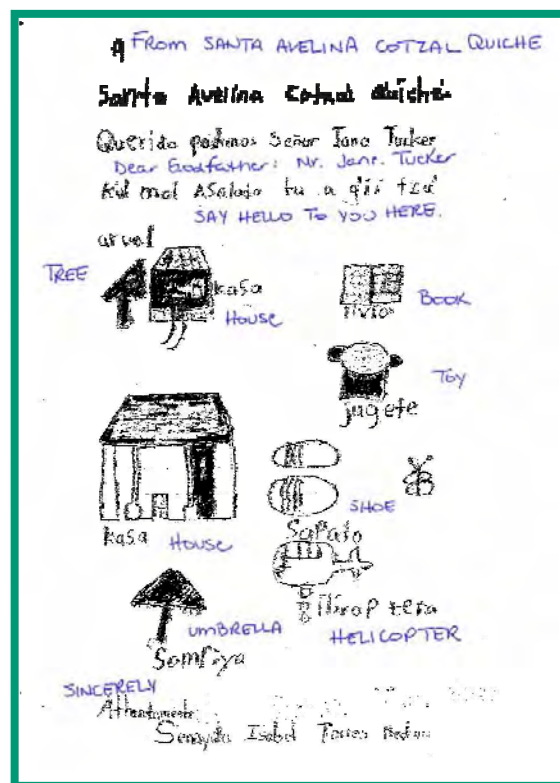
In 2011, as our first student graduated from high school and began college, we started sponsoring a second child, **Senayda Isabela Torres Medina**. She is a second-grader this year and recently sent us a picture to let us know she is attending school in the village of Santa Avelina, which is 96 miles north of Guatemala City, and to thank us for our sponsorship.

The Director of the Partners in Education Program, **Cheryl Weeks-Rosten**, just returned from a trip to the school. She reports that Senayda is doing well, is as cute as ever, and has an excellent second grade school teacher named **Juana Priscilia**, who is pictured below at a recent science in-service program for teachers. The \$350 we sent to HELPS International will allow Senayda an opportunity that most children in rural Guatemala do not receive, yet the reality is they need it for survival. Education is the key to greater opportunities in their life.

The people HELPS focuses on were the victims of a civil war that occurred in the early 1800's. Because of this war and the remoteness of the villages, many communities were left without food and safe drinking water, and many families were displaced. HELPS International began in 1984 by organizing outreach programs and, through the years, these programs have expanded to include education and literacy programs, installation of vented cooking stoves, and construction of schools, water systems, airstrips, and even homes for war widows. Today, there is an extensive medical system in place as well as economic development programs. HELPS International continues to be dedicated to assisting the people of Latin America.



Senayda, our little friend in Guatemala, above; the letter she wrote to Godfather Mr. Jane Tucker, below; her teacher, Juana Priscilia, holding pipette, left.



Project Report

LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON FEATURED GUEST SPEAKER LORI PALMER

By Liz Luthans, Leadership Development Committee Co-Chair

Lori Palmer, CEO of Girls, Inc., was the luncheon speaker at the Leadership Luncheon hosted by the Leadership Committee at Canyon Creek Country Club on Saturday, January 18, 2014. Twenty-Five women were in attendance, including members from the Dallas and Garland Altrusa clubs. Lori shared leadership lessons she has learned as a Vista volunteer in Austin, TX, Executive Director of the North Texas Food Bank, and as a Dallas City Council Member where she chaired the Health & Human Services Committee and the City of Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force, as well as CEO of Girls Inc.

She spoke to the necessity of nonprofit organizations to focus their goals in order to have a meaningful impact in their community. It is through meaningful impact to the

community that an organization remains relevant and vital with the ability to attract new members. Ms. Palmer used examples of changes made at Girls Inc. since 2007, that have made that organization more successful in its mission and how that process of review and change might apply to our

Altrusa club to effect a stronger organization. She concluded her talk encouraging us to continue our works of service and to promote women in leadership roles for the betterment of communities worldwide.



Press Release

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE SEEKS APPLICANTS

By Liz Luthans, Scholarship Committee Co-Chair

Altrusa International, Inc. of Richardson, Texas, a non-profit service organization, is pleased to offer scholarships for undergraduate study at two- or four-year colleges or universities. Scholarships range from \$500 to \$2000. Applicants must be graduating seniors of an RISD high school or live in the city of Richardson and attend a public high school. Requirements and application forms are

available on the Altrusa Richardson website, www.altrusarichardson.com. All applications must be submitted for consideration to the Scholarship Committee by February 14, 2014. Applicants selected for final consideration will be scheduled for interviews with the committee March 26 through March 29. For additional information, please contact Liz Luthans.

Committee Report

RICHARDSON ALTRUSANS JOIN GLOBAL MOVEMENT FOR GIRLS' EDUCATION

By Barbara Berthold, International Relations Committee Co-Chair

Educating women and growing female leaders is at the heart of every Altrusan. This is reflected in many projects Altrusans promote around the world. However, with two-thirds of the 774 million adult illiterates worldwide being women—the same proportion for the past 20 years and across most regions (*UN: The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics*)—we must not stop looking for ways to improve those women's lives. We must emphasize over and over again the impact that education has on the life of an individual and on the society as a whole.

A 2013 feature film, *Girl Rising*, tells the stories of nine girls from nine countries: (Sierra Leone, Haiti, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Peru, Egypt, Nepal, India, and Cambodia) and how their lives changed by gaining access to education and other support systems. A unique and authentic perspective is accomplished because each girl had her story written by a writer from her country and voiced by renowned actors.

The International Relations Committee organized a preview of *Girl Rising* (see photo), on December 12, 2013, and is planning to facilitate a program meeting to introduce

the Club to the struggles today's women are fighting in many parts of the world to overcome societal and cultural barriers.

You can find out more about the film and related campaigns on the website <http://www.girlrising.com/>.



Committee Report

EDUCATION COMMITTEE OFFERS REWARDING, FUN OPPORTUNITIES

By Andrea Rutledge, Education Committee Co-chair

All Altrusans are always welcome to join the Education Committee activities at Terrace. Altrusa's award-winning Teddy Bear Time is an opportunity for Altrusans who are not available during the workday to help Pre-K families in their quest for an enriched education for their children. Teddy Bear Time begins on Tuesday, January 14, 2014, and continues for eight weeks. Volunteers are critical to the continuation of this program; join now.

The goal of the Education Committee is to enrich the education of Terrace Elementary School students. Altrusa is a Partner in Education at Terrace; we have been volunteering at the school since 2000.

The Committee has arranged for the following enrichment programs to be held for Terrace students. Altrusa arranged the speakers and hosts them on the day of their presentation. Altrusans are invited to all the presentations. Altrusa volunteers are needed as hostesses.

- ◇ Tuesday, December 10. Hank the Cow Dog (Terrace Library) . This was a very well-received program, presented in the library to Pre-K through fifth grade classes.
- ◇ February 25 Banjo Man at Terrace
- ◇ April 17 Berkner Latin Dancers at Terrace
- ◇ May 13 Bubble Lady at Terrace. This is a great activity for your young grandchildren or children to join. Pre-K families are invited to join their children for this activity.
- ◇ To be scheduled: Manners Party for Pre-K.

Ms. Rasmussen, a new third grade teacher, needs tutoring help in reading. Janice Campbell has offered her help, and the teacher can use additional helpers.

The Lunch Buddies Program starts in January. Three second graders, selected as needing an adult to provide

special attention, still have no Altrusa buddies. Please contact Pat Hanson immediately if you can help. The time commitment is two lunch times a month for the remainder of the school year.

Thanks to Altrusan **Sarah Nesbit**, Pre-K children and their families at Terrace are introduced to live children's theater at the Eisemann Center. Each year, Sarah provides tickets and parking passes to children to see children's programs. Children from past years still talk about their experiences, and parents have expressed their thanks.

Liz Cocanougher Irons, kindergarten lead teacher said: "Thank you again for all your help and always thinking of us. It feels like Christmas. I am so excited about all the new games/centers we are getting for the kids!"

In a note to Andrea, Joanne Macalik, another teacher, wrote: "Thank you so much for all you do for us. We appreciate our Altrusa family more than we can say. Our students do too!"

For more information, or to join any activity, contact Andrea Rutledge or Brenda Moreland.



Committee Report

TEACHAITI STUDENT UPDATE*By Jane Tucker, International Relations Committee Co-Chair*

In 2011, Richardson Altrusa started working with a non-profit organization called TeachHaiti. This organization is the brain child of Miquette Denie, who herself was raised in a very poor family in St. Michel, Haiti. She was lucky enough to get the opportunity to come to the United States as a Rotary Exchange student to attend school. She received her high school diploma in May of 2002, and was the first person in her family to graduate from high school. She then attended Concordia College and graduated in 2006, with a BS in nursing.

Following graduation, Miquette Denie knew she wanted to do something for the children in Haiti- to give them the educational opportunities she had. She shared her vision with friends, Rotarians, churches and community organizations and with their encouragement she made TeachHaiti a reality. She organized a Board of

Directors, registered the name with the State of Minnesota, established a mission statement and began work on obtaining 501(c)(3) status. By the spring of 2007,

she had raised enough money to start the School of Hope in Port au Prince, Haiti and had funds to sponsor the education of 41 students.

Along with a student pen pal program between the 4th grade at Terrace Elementary and the 4th grade at the School of Hope, our Altrusa club began sponsoring a TeachHaiti student. This year, we are in our second year of sponsoring a little girl named **Schephatia Herwine Joseph**. She is in her second year of kindergarten, which is called Pre-K in the United States.

In Haiti, there are actually three years of Kindergarten before a student reaches first grade. This year, in addition to her annual tuition of \$350, our club sent Miquette an additional \$25 to purchase something just for Herwine from us for Christmas. Miquette reports that during a Christmas Party on December 18, Herwine was surprised with a Barbie doll, which seems to be every little girl's dream in Haiti. Besides the doll, she received food for her family. Her parents were grateful to have her receive not only the doll but also the extra food.

With the fact that of every ten children born in Haiti today, four will never go to school, three will live without clean water, two will die within a year, and the one left will hopefully be helped through education. It is the belief of TeachHaiti that education is the most effective way to end poverty, reduce infant mortality, stop the spread of HIV/AIDS, and improve the communities in Haiti.



Committee Report

ALTRUSA RICHARDSON RECOGNIZED AS 2013 OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATION*By Kimberly Kierce, Immediate Past President*

At the Ability Connection 2013 Annual Holiday Reception on December 3, 2013, Altrusa Richardson was recognized as an Outstanding Organization for its work with Ability House by helping make every day this past year a little brighter for the residents. President & CEO, Bill Knudsen, presented the Altrusa Richardson Award to Immediate Past President, Kimberly Kierce (see photo). Executive Vice President, Mark Denzin, thanked all organizations, companies and individual volunteers for the invaluable impact they have on the lives of the children and adults they serve. Becky Adams, Chief Operations Officer, was honored for her years of dedication to the organization and everyone wished her well in her retirement.



Bill Knudsen of Ability Connection Texas presents award to Kimberly Kierce.

Greetings Altrusa of Richardson!

On behalf of all of us at Ability Connection, we send our very best wishes for a wonderful 2014 filled with happiness!

...and we hope you enjoy the attached photo (see below) of the Altrusa 2013 holiday party at Ability House – Vera, Kathleen, Roberto, Robert, Nina and Shelly greatly appreciated their gifts, their gift cards and the holiday treats and goodies!

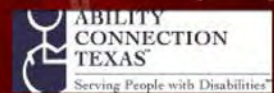
Bill

Bill Knudsen, President/CEO, Ability Connection Texas

Thank You Altrusa!



Ability House!
2013



Meeting Highlights

A PROBLEM WITH TOO MUCH STUFF? OUR SPEAKER HAD THE SOLUTION!

By Gay McAlister, Program Committee Co-chair

Approximately 70 Altrusans were entertained and informed by our January 16, 2014, speaker, Vicci McOlin Young of Simply Organized. Vicci is a mother of six—and newly remarried—who trained at a design school after her children were grown to master her talent for organization. She told the group how surprised she was to learn that one could be paid for organizing and she started her business! She emphasized the benefits of organization: time saved, no more searching, money NOT spent in purchasing duplicates, feeling less guilt and frustration, and eliminating the stress of having so much "stuff."

Vicci offered practical tips for beginning an organizing task such as starting small, taking on one project at a time, and breaking larger tasks into smaller tasks. She suggested asking key questions when organizing into three categories (purge, sort, and put away with the goal of remembering where it is located.). One can ask:

1. Does it perform a function?
2. Is it one of a kind?

3. How many do I need?

4. How long have I had it?

5. Is it beautiful or does it have value? (If the answer to #5 is yes, Vicci will forgive and allow!)

Vicci reminded Altrusans that we don't have to be perfect and she gave permission to throw away those extra buttons that come with a blouse or dress! She displayed her sense of humor and enjoyment of her work. Vicci and her friend Chris, who accompanied her for the evening, expressed delight in learning about Altrusa and were interested in learning more!



Meeting Preview

FEB. 20: OUR BIRTHDAY PARTY WITH SPECIAL GUEST FROM DISTRICT NINE

By Bobbi Klein, Membership Recruitment Chair

The February dinner meeting on the 21st will be one you won't want to miss! In keeping with Pam's theme of **Leading Loudly, Serving Proudly**, the Membership Recruitment Committee will bring you a birthday party straight out of "**The Music Man**". Just imagine what

surprises that might bring! What a good meeting to bring a potential Altrusan to, too... as we "toot our horns" about Altrusa!

Our District Nine Visitor will be Director Antonia Buban, member of the Downtown Dallas Altrusa Club.

Member Highlights

NEW MEMBER CHARLOTTE MASON

Charlotte Mason is a single parent with one child who graduated from college last year and one child who graduated from high school. Charlotte met Dena Davis when she worked in the Budget Department at The University of Texas at Dallas. She accepted Dena's invitation to an Altrusa meeting and wanted more information about the organization. Charlotte attended a few more meetings and, as she learned more about Altrusa and all of the great things we do—spending time with school kids, celebrating birthdays, book swaps, etc. etc.—she decided she wanted to be a part of it.

Charlotte says "I love to dance - almost any kind of dancing. Love to make people smile, even though I have a dry sense of humor. I love to learn dances of other countries. I knit and crochet and read when I have time. Jane Austen is my favorite author, but when I want something more light-hearted and funny, I love to read any book by Jen Lancaster."



Member Highlights

NEW MEMBER CRISTAL RETANA

Cristal Retana was born and raised in the Dallas area. Her parents migrated to Texas from Mexico and Cristal is one of six children and the only girl. She graduated from RL Turner High School in Carrollton with a full scholarship to Texas Women's University - the first in her family to go to college. While at TWU, Cristal studied Chemistry and Government and held various officer positions in many student organizations. During her last year at TWU, Cristal was selected to be a part of an internship program with the Texas Senate in the office of Senator Jeff Wentworth in Austin. After this opportunity, Cristal found her calling for public service and has been involved in state politics ever since. She graduated from TWU in 2009 with honors and was offered a permanent job to work with Senator Wentworth shortly thereafter. She has worked in several offices within the legislature and is now Chief of Staff in the office of State Representative Stefani Carter, who is also a member of Altrusa.

Cristal is currently a resident of Farmers Branch and active in many organizations. She is part of the Finance Committee for Bea's Kids, Dallas Arboretum Tour de

Fleurs Committee, National Director of Alumnae Relations for Sigma Lambda Alpha Sorority, Inc., and member of several other committees within the Richardson and Metrocrest Chambers of Commerce.

Cristal is a member of Mary Immaculate Catholic Church where she is a Sunday school teacher and volunteer. She is an avid runner and participates in several races throughout the year. She also enjoys playing volleyball and soccer as well as reading, movies, and the outdoors.



Member Highlights

BARBARA CORNELIUS SHARES HER HAPPY NEWS

*We are overjoyed to share the news...
that we have come full circle!*

*Because you've shared in our lives
by your friendship and love, we are
very proud to share this happy news.*

*On Wednesday, November 27, 2013,
The day before Thanksgiving when we count
all our blessings, we add a new blessing,
Barbara and Trish reclaimed their lives together as
Mother and Daughter.*

*We were very happy to have much of our
family there to witness this reconnection.*

*Please know that you were all in our thoughts
as we reclaimed our family ties.*

*With love and happiness
Barbara Lynn Moore Cornelius
Patrishia "Trish" Lynne Edson-Johnson Deutsch*



"The day before Thanksgiving when we count all our blessings, we add a new blessing. My daughter who so long ago was lost from me to adoption, found by me over 20 years ago, we legally became mother and daughter again! My heart overflows!"

In the Media

JANUARY ISSUE OF RICHARDSON LIVING MENTIONS ALTRUSA RICHARDSON

Richardson Living is a bimonthly magazine sent free to 20,000 Richardson households. Elizabeth Gonzales included this photo (by Rick McGarry) and listed our 2013 Outstanding Women of Today honorees: from left, Katie Patterson, Dr. Mary Quicena, Jane Kovacs, Robyn Morton and Dr. Jean Conway



Special Days

WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE IS FEBRUARY 20

By Jane Tucker, International Relations Committee Co-Chair

The United Nations has annually recognized World Day of Social Justice on February 20th since 2007. It's origin was in 1995 in Copenhagen, Denmark during The World Summit for Social Development. The Copenhagen Declaration and Program of Action was drafted at this summit and consisted of more than 100 political leaders pledging to focus on social justice and to encourage social impartiality at both national and international levels. These leaders realized that social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence among nations. It is this indispensable principle necessary for the achievement and maintenance of peace.

Nearly ten years after this summit, UN member states were reviewing this summit at the Commission for Social Development in New York in 2005, and decided to continue this commitment by annually recognizing the day. On November 26, 2007, the UN General Assembly named February 20 as the annual World Day of Social Justice.

Activities are planned every year to focus on the importance and significance of this day. Many observances focus on efforts being made in the international community to eradicate poverty, promote employment opportunities and decent work environments, gender equality and access to social well-being and justice for all. Many schools and universities plan activities with themes such as eradicating poverty, social and economic exclusion or unemployment.

Focusing on the significance of this day, members of our International Relations Committee have decided to assist in and bring awareness of the anti-bullying programs implemented in the Richardson Independent School District. RISD was actually the first school district in the nation to realize the importance of common courtesy and teaching social behavior and skills to students through an anti-bullying program to reinforce mutual respect among cultures. **Bobbi Klein** will present more information about this at our February business meeting. It truly is an important topic and one we will all look forward to learning more about.

Altrusa Accent

READ THESE DELEGATE RESPONSIBILITIES BEFORE VOLUNTEERING!*Excerpted from the Altrusa Encyclopedia 2011-2013*

Every Altrusa Club in good standing that has a total active membership for whom dues have been paid of twenty or fewer is entitled to one delegate and one alternate to District Conference and International Convention. For each additional twenty members or portion thereof, the Club is entitled to one additional delegate and one additional alternate, up to a maximum of five of each. At least 60 days before the scheduled District Conference, the paid membership of each local Club is counted to determine the number of delegates and alternates allowed. The number of delegates and alternates to International Convention is similarly counted on March 15 of Convention years.

DELEGATE REPORTS ON CONFERENCE OR CONVENTION

Members of the Club's delegation to a District Conference or International Convention are expected to make oral and written reports to the membership on all important and fun aspects of the Conference or Convention.

SUGGESTED REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- ◇ Elections/Appointments. List the names and Clubs of each new officer and incoming Committee Chair.
- ◇ New Objectives/Programs. In an election year, the incoming District Governor presents the District

objectives at Conference; at the International Convention, the International President states the new biennium goals. Record these objectives and goals for the Club.

- ◇ Budget Adoption. Share copies of the District's upcoming annual budget/International's biennial budget.
- ◇ Bylaws Revisions. List the changes made to bylaws and policies voted on by the delegates.
- ◇ Workshops/Seminars. Report on any new insights or techniques for improving the Club's operation.
- ◇ Speakers. Record pertinent quotes from speeches to incorporate into the report.
- ◇ Awards. Record who won all of the awards given at the Conference or Convention.
- ◇ Resource Materials. Turn over materials that were distributed to the designated Officer or Committee Chair.
- ◇ Foundation Progress. Share the latest figures on awards and grants; report on Foundation goals and objectives.
- ◇ Social Events. Share the fellowship side of Convention and Conference.

District Nine News**HERE IS THE OFFICIAL CALL TO DISTRICT NINE CONFERENCE***Beth Blair, Governor, District Nine, Altrusa International, Inc.*

As Governor of District Nine, Altrusa International Inc., I hereby call all members, officers, committee chairs, past Governors, delegates and alternates to the Fifty-Eighth Annual District Nine Conference, to be held **April 25-27, 2014, at the Omni Southpark Hotel in Austin, Texas.**

At that time, we will receive annual reports; consider district and International recommendations and any other items of business; elect the District Nominating Committee; recognize achievements of the District and its membership; and otherwise conduct the business of District Nine, Altrusa International, Inc.

Beth Blair
Governor
District Nine



April 25-27, 2014 • Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark • Austin, Texas

KEEP ALTRUSA WEIRD

Fifty-Eighth District Nine Conference

INVITATION TO CONFERENCE



My dear District Nine Altrusans,

It is my distinct pleasure to invite you to our annual Conference in Austin. If you're a Conference regular, you'll love the changes we've made—both obvious and subtle, all in the interest of making Conference relevant to all attendees year after year.

And if you have never attended a District Nine Conference, all I can say is ... What are you waiting for? It's so much fun, and a great opportunity to let your hair down with new friends from across the state.

This Conference packet should give you a taste of what we're planning, but if you have any questions, feel free to contact any of our Conference team:

Conference Co-Chair Kathy Folley (efolley@hotmail.com)
Conference Co-Chair Sylvia Zamora (szamora.altrusa@gmail.com)
Program Coordinator Linda Moore (moorelindac@yahoo.com)

April will come around faster than you think, so start planning to have a weird time ... find a roommate, a ride, and a reason to come to Conference in 2014. You won't be sorry!

With Altrusa love,



Beth Blair
Governor



April 25 - 27, 2014 • Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark • Austin, Texas

KEEP ALTRUSA WEIRD

Fifty-Eighth District Nine Conference REGISTRATION FORM

Please print legibly. Your registration will be confirmed via email.

Name _____ Altrusa International Inc. of _____

Address, City, Zip _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

CREDENTIALS/ RIBBONS

Check all that apply.

- ☐ International Representative
☐ District Officer
☐ Club President
☐ First-Timer
☐ Past International President

- ☐ Past District Governor
☐ District Committee Chair
☐ District Committee Member
☐ Conference Delegate
☐ Conference Alternate

- ☐ Member
☐ Affiliate Member
☐ Guest

REGISTRATION TYPE. CHOOSE ONE.

FULL Registration: Includes all three meals, workshops, business sessions, and conference materials.

Postmarked
BEFORE
March 21

\$150

☐

Postmarked
AFTER March 21,
RECEIVED by
March 31

\$160

☐

Received after
March 31 or
PAY AT THE DOOR

\$170

☐

PARTIAL Registration (two meals): Includes two meals, workshops, business sessions and conference materials.

\$130

☐

\$140

☐

\$150

☐

PARTIAL Registration (one meal): Includes one meal, workshops, business sessions, and conference materials.

\$90

☐

\$100

☐

\$110

☐

One Meal, No Conference Registration (Guest): Includes one meal only. No workshops, business sessions, or conference materials.

Awards
banquet \$35

Governor's
banquet \$50

Which meal? _____ Number of tickets _____

MEAL SELECTIONS

Friday Night Fun Night

☐ Regular meal or

☐ Vegetarian or

☐ Wheat/gluten-free

☐ Other*

Saturday Awards Luncheon

☐ Regular meal or

☐ Vegetarian or

☐ Wheat/gluten-free

☐ Other*

Saturday Night Governor's Banquet

☐ Steak or

☐ Salmon or

☐ Vegetarian or

☐ Wheat/gluten-free

☐ Other*

* Other special dietary requirements must be ordered by March 31, 2014. Please describe your need: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ No refunds will be given after April 12, 2014.

Make checks payable to **District Nine Conference Fund.**

Mail Registration Form and check to:

Linda Hurt, Registration Chair
 606 Fairway View Terrace
 Southlake, TX 76092

Email: hurtlj@aol.com

CONFERENCE HOTEL

OMNI AUSTIN HOTEL AT SOUTHPARK, 4140 Governor's Row, Austin, TX 78744
 Phone: 512-448-2222

Altrusa rate is \$124 (single); \$144 (double). For reservations, call 800-843-6664.
 Deadline for hotel registrations is April 3; you must state that you are with Altrusa District Nine to get the guaranteed rate.

Registration for conference also serves as a photography release. Photographs taken by our official Conference Photographer and others may be used in print or electronic format for marketing purposes. To completely opt out, please contact bethelene@tx.rr.com.

International News

2014 CLUB PRESIDENT'S HANDBOOK IS ON ALTRUSA.ORG WEBSITE

By Sandy L. Jablonski, Association Manager, Altrusa International

The 2014 Club President's Handbook has been posted to the website [http://members.altrusa.org/PDF/ClubPresidentsHandbook/Club President's Handbook 2014.pdf](http://members.altrusa.org/PDF/ClubPresidentsHandbook/Club%20President's%20Handbook%202014.pdf).

Kathy Schrein, International Leadership Development & Training Committee Chair, would like special thanks extended to Robin Hall and Sue Creighton for their leadership on this project.

It was truly a team effort with sincere appreciation also extended to: International President Ilona Kerby; International ASTRA Committee Chair/Vice Chair Sylvia Zamora and Scott Tice; International Communications Committee Chair/Vice Chair Sharon Mai and Kathleen Howard; International Membership Committee Chair Nancy Kuezig; International Program Committee Chair/Vice Chair Linda Peterson and Danae McConnel; International Treasurer Donna Johnson; International Parliamentarian Colleen Duris; International Foundation

Chair/Vice Chair Connie McIntire and Cynthia McRill; Governors' Council Chair/Vice Chair Sue Hart and Judy Stubbs; Immediate Past President Dona Garretson; Editor Beth Blair; and Maxine Durst and her team who created the original handbook.

That there are so many people to thank is a testament to the amount of work that went into this project.

Congratulations on a job well done!




Altrusa International, Inc.

**2014
CLUB
PRESIDENT'S
HANDBOOK**

Altrusa: Leading to a Better Community®

International Foundation News

CLUB 21 MEMBERSHIP: IS IT TIME FOR YOU TO RENEW?

Are you a member of Club 21? Do you want to be a member or need to renew your membership? February is a great time to become a member and/or renew your membership!

What is Club 21? The name **Club 21** was chosen to emphasize the Altrusa International Foundation's commitment to being involved in a major international health concern into the 21st century. **Club 21** is unique in that contributors are a part of a "club," with a membership and their own pin. Through an annual contribution of \$21 (US) or more, you can become a part of the foundation's effort to support children infected with HIV and AIDS.

HIV and AIDS are global epidemics affecting people in all countries and from all walks of life, but it is the innocent children who bear the brunt of this disease. **Club 21** is the opportunity to extend your hand to these children and their families.

As a member of **Club 21** you will receive the special gold and white **Club 21 Pin**, signifying your participation in a program that every Altrusan is proud of. **Club 21** – a way for you to make a difference. Go to the Altrusa International website, Altrusa.com for membership information.

Camp Safe Haven, a camp created for children with HIV and AIDS was founded by Tony Lombardi and Dave Butler. Often these children are subject to horrible stigmatization and prejudice. There are children who have had their houses burned, cars destroyed and lives threatened. Children have been kicked out of school, banished from neighborhood playgrounds and entire sports teams refusing to play against a team with an HIV-positive athlete, forcing the child to quit his dearly loved sport for the sake of his teammates.

Camp Safe Haven engages children from all over the United States and other countries in activities which promote a sense of community and well being in spite of their infection with HIV/AIDS.

There is no cost for a child to attend Camp Safe Haven. Housing, meals, activities, medical supplies, and transportation amount to approximately \$1,000 per child per week. The entire staff, which includes doctors, nurses, social workers, counselors, and other volunteers donate their time.



Meeting Highlights

MEMBERSHIP RETENTION COMMITTEE HOSTS FABULOUS HOLIDAY PARTY

By Mary Beth McLemore, Membership Retention Chair

A beautiful Christmas wreath made by **Ginna Coffer** hung on the Richardson Woman's Club door to greet over 90 Altrusans and their special friends. **Gerry Carron** and **Mary Beth McLemore** greeted everyone telling them to enjoy the variety of six wines Bill Knudsen delivered from the Ability House residents and to sign the Christmas/Holiday cards. The cards, supplied by **Sandi Martin** and Mary Beth, were later delivered to Appletree Court for seniors who might not feel the holiday cheer.

Beautiful table centerpieces of glass tubes filled with gold balls centered on gold plate chargers with ivy and poinsettias wrapped around the glass bottom were on each table courtesy of **Julie Horan**, **Ann Payne** and **Ginna Coffer**. Many committee members arrived early to help decorate and later to put out agendas and announcements. **Bobbi Klein** made beautiful Christmas card agendas with information about the Richtones lavishly-costumed *Madrigal* singers (pictured below) that **Genevieve Hamulak** worked her magic to bring to the party.

A wonderful, traditional beef with mashed potatoes dinner was followed by red velvet cake or German chocolate cake for dessert. Throughout the night, table decorations were awarded to Altrusans as door prizes. The meeting's Accent stressed two points: (1) special people in Altrusans' lives help make us better

Altrusans, and (2) make up meetings, of which our Holiday Party is one, are important. Three door prizes of candy kisses and hugs were given to guests – the three winners were **Lynn Solomon's** husband Mark, **Gerry Carron's** sister Jackie Blume, and **Pam Kovacs'** sister-in-law Jane Kovacs.

A great time was had by all and many commented as they departed the evening's festivities, by email, or to committee members that this was a wonderful, fun, and entertaining meeting.

Members of the Membership Retention Committee are pictured below at left. A special thanks goes to the event's photographers: **Kimberly Kierce**, **Jane Merz**, **Mary Beth McLemore**, and **Jan Skinner**.



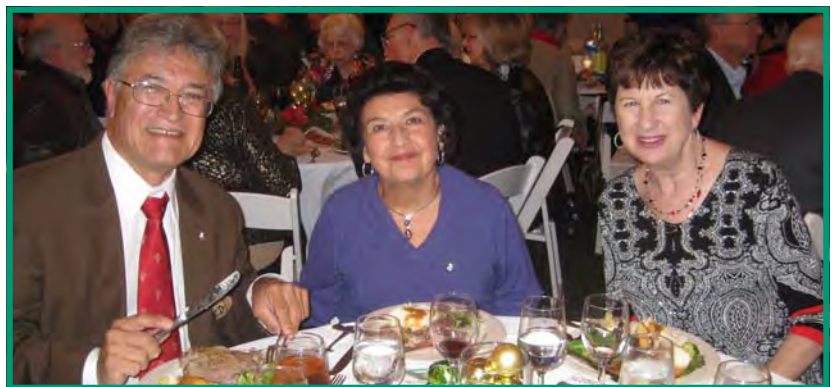
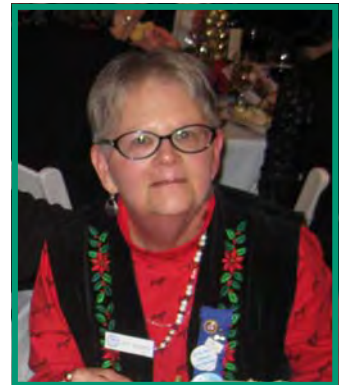
HOLIDAY PARTY 2014

Photos by Kimberly Kierce, Mary Beth McLemore, Jane Merz, and Jan Skinner



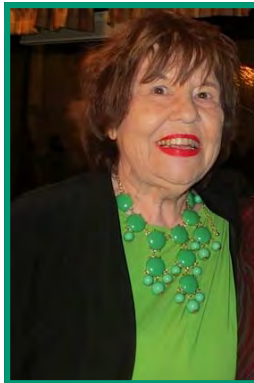
HOLIDAY PARTY 2014

Photos by Kimberly Kierce, Mary Beth McLemore, Jane Merz, and Jan Skinner



HOLIDAY PARTY 2014

Photos by Kimberly Kierce, Mary Beth McLemore, Jane Merz, and Jan Skinner



HOLIDAY PARTY 2014

Photos by Kimberly Kierce, Mary Beth McLemore, Jane Merz, and Jan Skinner



HOLIDAY PARTY 2014

Photos by Kimberly Kierce, Mary Beth McLemore, Jane Merz, and Jan Skinner



Club Calendar January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Business Meeting Education Cmte. Charlotte Mason bday	3	4
5 Mary Beth McLemore bday	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Dean Burroughs bday	13	14	15	16 Dinner Meeting Jan Belcher, Janice Swallow bcay	17	18 Leadership Luncheon Jenn Rohm bday
19	20	21 Teddy Bear Time	22	23 Board Meeting Mimi Tanner bday	24	25 Book Movers
26	27 AWCLS Meeting	28 Teddy Bear Time	29	30	31 Toni Garrett bday	

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

Club Calendar February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 ASAPP Project Celebration
2	3 Cristal Retana bday	4 Teddy Bear Time Community Outreach NETWORK project	5	6 Business Meeting	7	8
9	10	11 Teddy Bear Time	12	13	14	15 Altrusa Night Out at the Symphony Marsha Peters, Stefani Carter bday
16	17 Jane Tucker bday	18 Teddy Bear Time	19	20 Dinner Meeting	21 Jill VanOs bday	22 Spring Orientation/Re- Orientation
23	24 Deb Bourland bday	25 Teddy Bear Time	26	27 Board Meeting Cindy McIntyre bday	28 Lunch Bunch	

Special Report

WE WERE A DISTINGUISHED CLUB IN 2012-13

President Pam Kovacs presented Immediate Past President Kimberly Kierce with the banner patch showing the Club's recognition as a Distinguished Club.

The Distinguished Club Award recognizes a Club's activity and productivity at every level of program involvement. The Club's annual report is judged, and points are scored in each of six areas: Service, Membership, Programming, Leadership, Communication and International Foundation. Clubs qualifying for the award receive a banner patch in acknowledgement of the Award. They will also be recognized at the next Altrusa International Convention.

