

2013-2014

Board of Directors

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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 Daugherty

Cindy Murray

Immediate Past President

Pam Johnson

Parliamentarian

Carolyn Swanson

President's Message

NEW YEAR...NEW BEGINNINGS

Each new year we are bombarded by the news media, television talk shows, and even our friends and family about setting personal goals, and how to accomplish those goals. We get advice from all segments about how to become a "better person, inside and out". We all know that most of the goal setting is about eating right, and exercising every day, and creating new challenges for ourselves to be that better person we all want to be.

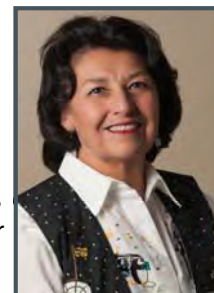
I would like to extend that challenge to you, my Altrusa sisters, to make our Club a "better Club, inside and out". By referring to "inside", I think some of our committees should take a good look at their events, and maybe, to create excitement with the membership, perhaps eliminate an event that has been happening for far too many years and getting member participation has become problematic. Now is a good time to research new events to create an atmosphere of "let's do it!"

As for the outside part of the challenge, to-date we have brought in two new members; our goal for this year is eight. I challenge each of you to talk to at least ten ladies about Altrusa and let them know what they are missing. When you see a friend who asks, "what have you been up to"... "Altrusa" should be your answer. The usual response will be, "What is Altrusa?" If you can't think of a good answer, use Mimi Tanner's elevator speech: "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!" You can find Mimi's elevator speech entitled "What is Altrusa" published in our member directory.

February will be a great month to bring guests to our dinner meeting. On February 19 we will celebrate our Club's birthday; the Membership Recruitment Committee has a great program planned. Governor Beth Blair will attend our birthday party as our official District Nine visitor. February is also her birthday month (the 15th). This is twice the reason to have all members attending and bringing guests. We need to show Beth what a great club we are and have fun doing it.

We have had challenges as a Club, in particular less than stellar attendance at our meetings. I am not quite sure why this is, but, if it is changes we need then it is time we work together and make those changes. It is said that challenges we meet head on make us stronger and better. We still have four months left to this Club year, we can in those months, accomplish quite a bit. Let's get out there together, start the challenge with a *can do attitude*, and get stronger and better.



Gloria Sandoval
2014-2015 President
gloria.altrusa@verizon.net

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Dancing to the Altrusa Rhythm... Let's Keep Moving!

Nominating Committee Report

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2015-16 ANNOUNCED*By Kay George, Nominating Committee Chair*

This slate is being proposed to the membership of Altrusa International of Richardson, Inc. by the Nominating Committee: **Kay George**, Chair; **Gerry Carron**, and **Jane Tucker**:

President-Elect: **Sue McElveen**

Vice President: **Dena Davis**

Admin Treasurer: **Bonnie Perry**

Recording Secretary: **Nancy Crowe**

Corresponding Secretary: **Courtenay Tanner**

Directors **Donna Buhr**, **Barbara Cornelius**

Four board positions are not subject to election:

- ◇ President-Elect **Cindy McIntyre** becomes President.
- ◇ President **Gloria Sandoval** becomes Immediate Past

President.

- ◇ Directors **Rose Daughety** and **Cindy Murray** will serve the second year of a two-year term.

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 nominate.

Here are the procedures from the bylaws and policies concerning the election, which will be held at the business meeting on March 5, 2015.

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)

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

(Continued on page 3)



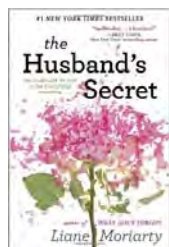
Project Preview

ALTRUSA WINE AND CHOCOLATE LITERARY SOCIETY READS ON AND ON!

By Christine Hart, Membership Retention Committee

Altrusa Wine and Chocolate Literary Society is ready to begin a new year of great books, fun, fellowship and great food. We met in December and came up with an interesting list for 2015. It's a wonderful book club that meets the fourth Monday of each month at Friend's Place and if you have not been, you owe it to yourself to visit.

February's read is **The Husband's Secret** by Liane Moriarty. Imagine that your husband wrote you a letter, to be opened after his death. Imagine, too, that the letter contains his deepest, darkest secret—something with the potential to destroy not just the life you built together, but the lives of others as well. Imagine, then, that you stumble across that letter while your husband is still very much alive. . . . Cecilia Fitzpatrick has achieved it all—she's an incredibly successful businesswoman, a pillar of her small community, and a devoted wife and mother. Her life is as orderly and spotless as her home. But that



letter is about to change everything, and not just for her: Rachel and Tess barely know Cecilia—or each other—but they too are about to feel the earth-shattering repercussions of her husband's secret.

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!

A community chorus with worldwide talent

Photograph by Kirian Photography

The Contemporary Chorale celebrates
their 59th season.

The
Contemporary
Chorale



Melanie Moore, Director

For more information visit www.thecontemporarychorale.org**SLATE OF OFFICERS...**(Continued from page 2)

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)



The Altrusa Wine and Chocolate Literary Society, shown at their January meeting, always enjoys a good book, good wine, good chocolate, and—more than anything else—each other's company.

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**OFFICIAL CALL TO 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-Ninth Annual District Nine Conference, to be held April 17-19, 2015, at the Hilton San Antonio Airport hotel in San Antonio, Texas.

At that time, we will receive annual reports; consider district and international recommendations and any other items of business; elect the 2015-2017 District Board of Directors; recognize achievements of the District and its membership; and otherwise conduct the business of District Nine, Altrusa International Inc.

Beth Blair, Governor
District Nine

**Fifty-Ninth District Nine Conference**

When I think of San Antonio, I always think of unique celebrations and a good time, and this year's District Nine Conference will be nothing short of spectacular! The Conference Packet you're reading will give you all the information you need to know, whether you're a Club president or a first-time Conference attendee.

It is my distinct pleasure to invite you to our annual Conference in San Antonio. 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 me personally or Program Coordinator Linda Moore (moorelindac@yahoo.com)

April will come around faster than you think, so start planning to have a wonderful time ... find a roommate, a ride, and a reason to come to Conference in 2015. You won't be sorry!

With Altrusa love,

Beth Blair
Governor



Fifty-Ninth District Nine Conference, April 17-19 2015

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
☐ Charter Member of New Club
☐ New One Bring One Member
☐ Guest

REGISTRATION TYPE: CHOOSE ONE.

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

Postmarked
BEFORE
March 13

\$170 ☐

Postmarked
AFTER March 13,
RECEIVED by
March 31

\$185 ☐

Received after
March 31 or
PAY AT THE DOOR

\$200 ☐

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

\$130 ☐

\$150 ☐

\$175 ☐

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

\$100 ☐

\$120 ☐

\$125 ☐

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

Friday Fun
Night \$50

Awards
banquet \$35

Governor's
banquet \$55

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

☐ Tilapia or

☐ Vegetarian or

☐ Wheat/gluten-free

☐ Other*

* Other special dietary requirements must be ordered by April 1, 2015. Please describe your need:

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ No refunds will be given after April 1, 2015.

Make checks payable to
District Nine Conference Fund.

Send registration form
(even if paying by credit card) to:

Sarah Bullock, Registration Chair
P.O. Box 700955
San Antonio, TX 78270
Email: srhw26@gmail.com

TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD

(An additional 3.5% plus \$0.15 fee will apply to cover the expense.)

Name on Card: _____

Card Type: ☐ Visa ☐ MC

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Security Number (on back of card): _____

CONFERENCE HOTEL

HILTON SAN ANTONIO AIRPORT,
611 NW Loop 410,
San Antonio, TX 78216
Phone: 210-340-6060

Altrusa rate is \$129 (single or double). For reservations, call 888-728-3031. Deadline for hotel registrations is March 31; use the code "ADN" to get the guaranteed rate.

Project Report

ALTRUSANS, ABILITY HOUSE RESIDENTS CELEBRATE THE SEASON

On December 6, Altrusans gathered at Ability House to spread a little cheer and Christmas decorations all over the place. **Bill Knudsen**, retiring CEO/President of Ability Connection Texas was there to help and show off his funny hat. At right is a thank you letter from **Joyce Bauman**, Kathleen's mother.

Dear Altrusa Ladies:

Thank you so much for all you do for all the residents of Ability House. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated. Our daughter Kathleen was delighted with her present. Whoever at the party (and I'm sorry don't know names) said she is the Altrusa "Leopard Queen" now has competition. Of course, Kathleen wouldn't let any of us near her gift bag with the sweater and socks, even when we stopped by her sister's to show off. But as soon as we got home she insisted on dressing in them (even kept them with her at bedtime) and then wore them to the theater on Sunday. She looked so cute in her leopard sweater and leopard socks I just had to send you her picture. Thank you again for your kindness. Merry Christmas to you all.

Joyce Bauman



In background: Altrusans Barbara O'Dell, Genevieve Hamulak, Ann Payne, Janie Jaquier, Donna Buhr, Jan Skinner, Mimi Tanner, and Jane Merz.

Committee Report

BILL KNUDSEN, RETIRING CEO OF ACT, HONORED AT RECEPTION*By Ability House Committee Members*

Bill Knudsen and his wife, **Sue**, were our guests at a reception preceding our Business Meeting on December 4. Bill is retiring from his position as CEO and President of Ability Connection Texas.

Richardson Mayor and Altrusan **Laura Maczka** proclaimed December 4 to be "Bill Knudsen Day" in Richardson. She and Bill are shown at right, with the Proclamation.

Altrusan **Nancy Rohm** read the early history of our involvement with Ability House. It is reprinted below.

Bill thanked Altrusa for the many years we have supported the residents of Ability House. In the bottom photo, he is shown presenting a plaque to President **Gloria Sandoval**.



Special Report

ABILITY HOUSE, ALTRUSA: FRIENDS FOR 20 YEARS*Nancy Rohm*

I'm **Nancy Rohm** and I was the original club coordinator for our relationship with Ability House.

It all began on a Saturday morning in March, 1995. Several Altrusa leaders met at Ability House with UCP Executive Director, **Robert Vargas**, to see the house and discuss what Altrusa might do there.

The house was clean, but sterile. For instance, there were blinds on the windows, but no curtains or draperies: It was a house but not a home. I don't believe a group had ever adopted one of the UCP houses before. I know Richardson Altrusa had never done anything quite like this.

At our Business meeting, on April 6, the Club approved a Board Recommendation: that we accept the Ability House as a total club project for a minimum period of two years. The minutes further said I would act as facilitator to coordinate the project with the Club committees and individuals. My involvement was incoming President **Mimi Tanner's** doing; she asked me to lead the way, and it's almost impossible to say, "no" to Mimi.

At the April 17 Board meeting, **Mary Beth McLemore** suggested we

include one person from each program committee to work with me, to insure maximum involvement of everyone in Altrusa in our new project. \$2,400 was budgeted for our New Project. There was a sense of excitement in our club about it.

On June 17, we were invited to an open house by the residents of Ability House. Mimi later wrote, "Six people eagerly gather their wheelchairs around the door to greet Altrusans, spouses, children, city council persons, city and chamber of commerce staff attending their open house."

During that first year, no one knew for sure what would and would not work. We felt our way, as did UCP. Communication between Altrusa and UCP was a problem early on—there were a few growing pains. For instance, we would schedule something with one person at UCP headquarters only to arrive on the designated day to learn the staff at Ability House didn't know we were coming and the birthday person or perhaps all of the residents were gone for the day.

(Continued on page 8)

ABILITY HOUSE, ALTRUSA... *(Continued from page 7)*

A fairly rigid structure was used at first, to ensure Altrusans did something with someone at the house every month. Six of our committees were assigned to plan the birthday celebrations, each of which happened to fall in a different month. The remaining six months were assigned to the four other committees and two to the entire Club. They were asked to plan one "event" in a specific month.

The first year, we contributed 400 service hours to the residents. Before the first fiscal year was very far along, it was no longer a "project". In going through the early club minutes, I noticed, we first referred to the people who lived at Ability House as Patients, and later as Residents. However in no time **Ed, Wally, Charles, Vera Josie, and Nina** worked their way into our hearts and became our friends. It was their home and we were welcomed there every time we visited. They always offered us (and still do) much more than we could ever offer them.

In June, we submitted our Mamie L. Bass Award nomination based on our work at Ability house. Richardson Altrusa won 1st place for this award at the District level (the district is all of Texas) and went on to win 2nd place internationally. The award was presented to Mimi and me on behalf of our Club in Albuquerque at the International Convention in July, 1997.

Examples of things we have done at the house over the years are: brought cookies and stayed to visit, hosted Halloween parties, took residents to hear the Richardson Band; purchased an artificial tree and decorated the house for the holidays; and planted flowers. Once we took everyone to the mall and it was oh so hard to get Ed to move on once he discovered the window at the Victoria's Secret store. Another time, **Mary Osentowski** and **Marsha Peters** took Josie to the Opera, fulfilling a life-long wish of Josie's.

As time went on, one recurring issue that was a problem for our friends was the van used to transport them: it had no air conditioning and was always breaking down. In 2000, through the efforts of Altrusan Lois and Altrouser Richard Ferrara, the President of Toyota of Richardson, Steve Grogean, donated a new van to the residents. Altrusa surprised them with a celebration at the dealership.

Our relationship with the residents has endured. Even though some of the original residents have passed away and someone else has moved into the house, we continue to feel needed and loved there. Much of the longevity of the relationship is due to the efforts of **Bill Knudson**. Once Bill arrived on the scene, things improved for the residents and for the Altrusans. Bill is a CEO's CEO. He has put his heart and soul into his work and he has certainly made a difference in the lives of our friends and in our lives.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: After a distinguished career in the United States Air Force, Bill Knudson brought extraordinary cheer to the Richardson residents of Ability House and Wentworth House, Ability Connection group homes in Richardson; and

WHEREAS: Matching his passion for service with action, Bill renovated and redesigned the homes; upgraded the facilities; and fostered a friendly relationship with Altrusa International of Richardson, Inc., remembering each member by sending birthday cards; and

WHEREAS: Bill has served as a judge for the Richardson Altrusa's Outstanding Women of Today luncheon for the last four years and has worked with Richardson Altrusa to provide 127 events to residents during his 10 year tenure; and

WHEREAS: Arranging to bring technology to the residents to enable them to enjoy a better quality of life, Bill provided equipment giving them the ability to speak electronically, fostered independence with motorized wheelchairs, and enabled residents to download current music and electronic games for their enjoyment; and

WHEREAS: Bill Knudson has accomplished all this with great humor by wearing funny hats and blinking noses, but most of all by having a very big heart.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Laura Maczka, Mayor of the City of Richardson, do hereby proclaim December 4, 2014 as:

BILL KNUDSON DAY

in the City of Richardson, Texas, and express the appreciation of the City for his many years of outstanding service to our community and wish him a long and healthy retirement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City to be affixed on this 4th day of December 2014.

Special Report

NINA'S STORY

From Bill Knudsen's thank-you letter to Ability Connection Texas donors

**Two Families**

In 1953, a beautiful young mother, Georgia, added twin daughters named Nina and Dina to her family. The same year, Ability Connection established our family as United Cerebral Palsy Association of Dallas County. Neither of us could have predicted how our lives would intertwine and form a relationship that has lasted over 40 years. We have two kinds of families, the one we are born to, and the one we let into our hearts...

**Give the Gift of Hope Today!**

Georgia, a single mother of four, two of which had special needs, was determined to give Nina and Dina the best care possible. She enrolled the girls in a new pre-school/daycare program at UCPA Dallas on Oak Lawn Avenue. Nina and Dina started receiving therapy during the day while at school. Dina continued to improve and was able to move out on her own, Nina lived with her mother because she developed scoliosis and required a greater level of care. Nina reunited with her Ability Connection family in the late 80's by attending our adult day habilitation program, IMPACT, and found the independence she has always craved. In 1992, she decided to move into Ability House, one of our group homes.



The Ability House residents have an extended family that includes relatives like Dina, volunteers from the Altrusa Club of Richardson, and their ACT caregivers. Nina sums it up beautifully when she says, "It is such a happy place."

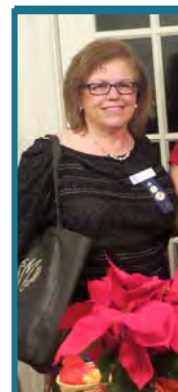
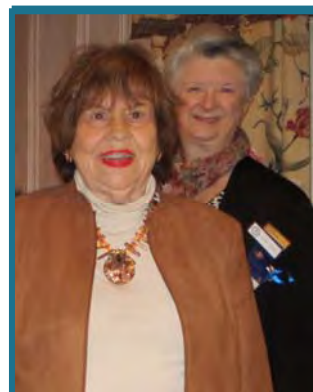
Nina has a blended family - the one she was born to and the Ability Connection family she let into her heart. Your gift allows us to have lifelong relationships with people; together we can give pre-school children the foundation to become amazing people like Nina, and allow those amazing people to live a life of independence.

On behalf of Nina and all of the children and adults in our Ability Connection family, thank you for your support and compassion.

Warmest Wishes for the Holidays,

Bill Knudsen
CEO

More photos from the reception for Bill Knudsen



Project Report

COMMUNITY OUTREACH ANSWERS THE CALL TO HELP OUR FURRY FRIENDS*By Donna Buhr, Community Outreach Committee Co-Chair*

The Community Outreach Committee didn't forget the pets during this season of giving. Often families in need have beloved pets that also need food, so the Community Outreach Pet Food project answered that need by donating pet food to NETWORK.

Sandy Martin began the pet food project by facilitating a \$250 contribution to NETWORK for the purchase of dog food from the All Breed Obedience Training Club (ABOTC). Sandy's husband is active in the club that offers basic dog obedience and problem behavior correction training classes. Thanks to ABOTC and Sandy, many dogs benefited from this generous donation.

The Outreach Committee followed up with another pet food donation when Project Co-chair Jean Stuart purchased fifty-two pounds of pet food from the committee budget. Committee members, **Gerry Carron** and **Donna Buhr**, along with help from some furry friends and a strong grandson, delivered the supplies to NETWORK. Gerry's grandson **Forrest** was kind enough to help carry all the cans of pet food, and Gerry's beautiful furry girl friends, **Lois**, **Midnight** and **Missy** provided moral support. Gerry's beautiful dogs acted liked professionally trained models and agreed to work for food in exchange for posing for a project picture.

As the pet food was dropped off at NETWORK, we were informed that they had just turned away a family that was

asking for food for their dog and sadly the agency did not have any to give before the Altrusa contribution. It is important to remember that our outreach work is significant and that we are meeting the needs of the community through these projects. Pet food project co-chairs are **Jean Stuart**, **Sandy Martin**, and **Sarah Nesbit**.



Gerry Carron with Lois, Midnight, and Missy; Gerry's grandson Forrest; and Donna Buhr, delivering pet food to NETWORK.

Project Report

COMMUNITY OUTREACH HAD FUN AT SANTA'S VILLAGE REINDEER SHED*By Donna Buhr, Community Outreach Committee Co-Chair*

Community Outreach Committee assisted the Exchange Club of Richardson with the operation of Santa's Village Reindeer Shed. Committee members, **Janet Baker**, **Amalia Palmer**, **Alma Benoit**, **Jan Flesch**, **Gloria Sandoval**, and **Donna Buhr** volunteered to paint little red noses on the many visitors and hand out "magic" reindeer food during three nights of the City of Richardson's beloved Santa's Village.

It is not always easy to find volunteers during the busy holiday season who are willing to commit the time and endure the sometimes unpleasant weather to serve at Santa's Village; however, you can't help but have a good time when you experience the pleasure that the young, and not so young, have at Santa's Village. The Altrusa volunteers enjoyed seeing the happy and excited children. It was especially rewarding to see the delight on a cute little face with a freshly painted red nose. The volunteers even got in on the fun by sitting in the saddles and painting their own noses red. Project chair: **Dena Davis**.



Left to Right: Donna Buhr, Amalia Palmer, Alma Benoit (with red noses) at Santa's Village

Project Report

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS AT TEACHAITI SCHOOL*By International Relations Committee Co-Chair**Our committee donated \$25 to give Herwine a present at the Christmas party- which is really one of most celebrated days in Haiti.*

District Nine News

FIRST-TIMERS ALWAYS WELCOME AT CONFERENCE*From the 2015 Conference Packet*

Thinking about coming to Conference for the first time? Please do. We love our **First-Time Attendees!** From special sessions tailored just for you, to special touches that will make you feel right at home—whether you're a new Altrusan or a seasoned one, you can still get a lot of Altrusa knowledge at Conference! We treat our first-timers like royalty, showering them with gifts and lavishing our love on them ... OK, maybe not that much, but Governor Beth has a soft spot for first-timers, and we want to make your experience a great one.

REGISTERING You do have to fill out a registration form and send it in with your fee. Please be sure to mark that you are a first-timer on your form. If the form is confusing, ask someone—it's better to fill it out right than to have to change something on the fly the day of the event.

BEFORE CONFERENCE Be sure to comb through this packet of information. It will help you know what to pack, like something ritzy for the Governor's Banquet on Saturday night, and maybe something to donate to the Conference Service Project. You'll want to arrange a carpool with some of your club members, and maybe even wrangle a roommate to share hotel costs. That's all up to you.

CHECKING IN Conference starts on Friday, so please make plans to be there in plenty of time, or you'll miss out!

Consider coming in on Thursday (special hotel rates would not apply, though) to be well-rested and ready to go. When you arrive, there will be a table set up for Registration. Just tell them your name, and they'll give you a packet of goodies! Inside will be your name tag and ribbons; you'll need these throughout Conference, so don't misplace them.

FIRST-TIMERS EVENT Also in your registration packet will be a Conference program. Notice on Friday afternoon the First-Timers' Session. Please make every effort to make it to this session. You will learn what to expect at Conference, meet some District and International dignitaries, and have a LOT of fun! The First-Timers' session is where you will begin to meet Altrusans from across the state who might just end up being your lifelong BFFs.

SPECIAL SURPRISES FOR FIRST-TIMERS We will have some surprises for you throughout the weekend. Special gifts from our board members are drawn for a few lucky winners, and one first-timer who is registered as such by Saturday morning will receive the honor of participating in the processional at the Governor's Banquet (you'll understand when you get there). There might even be a few surprises out of the blue! On Sunday morning, special awards are given specifically for first-timers; you'll want to stay for that!

The complete Conference Information Packet is [here](#).

Special Day

CELEBRATING HUMAN RIGHTS DAY THROUGH OPERATION CARE INTERNATIONAL

By Jane Tucker, international Relations Committee Co-chair

To celebrate the United Nations Human Rights Day which was on December 10 the International Relations Committee wanted to help Operation Care International's Christmas Party for the Homeless held on December 20 at the Dallas Convention Center. This year's event served 16,000 underprivileged adults and children. The event distributed donated gifts, clothing and shoes. Plus, the children were treated to arts and crafts, Santa photos, and face painting to make the day a truly memorable day.

To help with this event our club was asked to donate socks. Our committee donated 84 pairs of socks valued at approximately \$100 and delivered them to **Susie Jennings**, Founder of Operation Care International and past OWT nominee. The 2014 UN Human Rights Day slogan "Human Rights 365" was meant to encompass the idea that every day should be a human rights day. All Individuals should be entitled to a full range of human rights and by respecting one another rights we become as one in a global community with the same ideals and values. The work that Operation Care International does with the homeless and disadvantaged both in Dallas and worldwide has made a difference in so many lives. By helping this organization, it is hoped our club has helped members of our community know they are respected and valued.



Member Highlights

BRENDA DUCKETT HONORED BY RICHARDSON EAST ROTARY CLUB

The Dallas Morning News neighborsgo January 9, 2015

14R January 9, 2015

RICHARDSON EAST ROTARY CLUB

Business

neighborsgo.com

Group gives community service awards

The Richardson East Rotary Club recently honored seven community volunteers with the Paul Harris Award, one of Rotary's highest honors, for their efforts to improve lives in Richardson.

The seven recipients are Brenda Duckett, Jerry Hailey, Jeff Hubbard, Kaitlyn Mullens, Rachel Savant and the husband-wife pair of Don and Valerie Tarrant.

The club created its Community Service Awards program this year to recognize members of the community who are not Rotarians but live out the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self." Paul Harris was a Chicago attorney best known for founding Rotary in 1905. The service organization launched with Harris and five others but now has more than 1.2 million members in 34,000 clubs around the world.

The award represents a

\$1,000 contribution made on behalf of the individuals to the Rotary Foundation, the organization's charitable arm. The seven honored volunteers are:

■ Brenda Duckett retired from Richardson ISD in 2004 after more than 36 years in the district. She is involved with her church, First United Methodist. Over a five-year period, she managed campaigns for church construction and furnishings, raising almost \$10 million. She leads a cancer caregiver support network for the church that has helped hundreds of people.

■ Jeremy Hailey joined the ministry team at Richardson East Church of Christ as children's minister in August 2010. Before making the transition to full-time ministry, Hailey taught in public schools for seven years while also working as a youth minister. He is married to Betsy, a longtime member of the church. Jeff Hubbard — the other half of the church's youth ministry team — works beside his



Photo submitted by TOM BROOKS

Community volunteers recently honored by Richardson East Rotary include (from left) Rachel Savant, Kaitlyn Mullens, Jeremy Hailey, Brenda Duckett, Jeff Hubbard, Don Tarrant and Valerie Tarrant.

wife, Kera, as they minister to teens together. Hailey and Hubbard are being honored for their teamwork as volunteers supporting the staff, students and community of Forestridge Elementary.

■ Kaitlyn Mullens taught kindergarten at Forestridge Elementary in the RISD from 2006 to 2009. During those years, she had many refugee students in her classes. Recognizing a multitude of needs, she spent time volun-

teering with the refugee families of these students. In 2009, she decided to begin working with refugees full time so that she could help educate whole families. She is the director of operations, founder of and teacher for the organization "For the Nations, Refugee Outreach."

■ Rachel Savant's passion is helping underprivileged children. She was one the board of directors of JOVEN in San Antonio, which

provides outreach services, counseling and structured activities for high-risk youth and their families of Bexar County. She traveled to Llano Verde, Zacapa, Guatemala, and volunteered most of the two-and-a-half years she lived there, managing group work projects and creating micro businesses for older children.

■ Don and Valerie Tarrant work as a team to help local kids and adults. In Richardson, they work at Network of Community Ministries. Much of their effort is in the Network food pantry, where they distribute food to those in need. They also work with the Santa Program to organize toys, choose toys and distribute them to parents in financial need. Outside of Network, they have volunteered with Ark House, serving on the board of directors.

Information submitted by Tom Brooks on behalf of the Richardson East Rotary Club.

Member Highlights

BONNIE PERRY, COURTENAY TANNER PICTURED WITH ARTS ALLIANCE ARTICLE*The Dallas Morning News neighborsgo January 2, 2015*

RICHARDSON ARTS ALLIANCE



DMN file photo

In 2012, Courtenay Tanner (right) of the Richardson Arts Alliance placed a crown on the head of Bonnie Perry, who received the alliance's Heart for the Arts award. This year, the alliance will honor Thelma and Arzell Ball, Patricia and Tanju Tuzer, and Barbara and Richard Mussett for their dedication and contributions to the arts in Richardson.

'Heart for the Arts' gala to recognize 3 couples

For years, the arts in Richardson were kept alive by dedicated volunteers who used their guest rooms as the storage center for their groups. And thank heavens they did, because now in Richardson, we have much to enjoy and be grateful for.

The Richardson Arts Alliance, an umbrella organization of local arts groups, was founded in 1986 as a force to support arts in our community.

Today, plans are in full swing as we prepare for the annual Heart for the Arts gala on Jan. 31 which celebrates six of our residents who make the arts come alive throughout the year.

Three amazing couples have been chosen this year for their contributions to the arts. Thelma and Arzell Ball, Patricia and Tanju Tuzer and Barbara and Richard Mussett will be honored for their dedication and contributions to the arts in Richardson.

Throughout the year, the RAA works with arts groups such as the Richardson Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Music International, the Rich-Tone Chorus,



MYRON STENNETT
myron.stennett@rsd.org

Arts Incubator of Richardson, Contemporary Chorale, Richardson Civic Arts Society and many others to help promote concerts and special events.

The big event of the year is our annual Heart for the Arts gala, which is a major seated dinner on the main stage of the Eisemann Center. Other fundraising events including style shows, an Auction Brunch, and promoting the Heart of the Arts program advertising. The money raised is used to further the mission and programs of the Richardson Arts Alliance.

Please visit us on our website at richardsonartsalliance.org.

Myron Stennett is president of the Richardson Arts Alliance.

Meeting Report

CHOOSE KIND FOUNDER WAS GUEST SPEAKER JANUARY 15*By Jane Tucker, International Relations Committee Co-Chair*

Through efforts such as The Choose Kind Library and Teddy Bear Time programs at Terrace Elementary School provided for by our Altrusa club and the Richardson school district's R-time program, the Richardson community has come together to host the Think Kindness school assembly program into at least eight of its schools during January. This has all come about through the efforts of volunteer parents, school leaders, and our Altrusa club.

The Think Kindness organization began when founder **Brian Williams** asked the question, "I know I can inspire thousands of people but I just don't know how. What would be the reason? How can I be one of these people who can say I did something that truly matters?"

His friend **Tom Callos** responded to his comment by saying, "What if you could document one million acts of kindness? What would be the impact of that?"

Then through watching the acts of others, Brian began to realize that kindness is truly the simplest and most basic fundamental of life. A simple act of kindness can actually change someone's life. With that idea, Brian set off to establish a program to encourage random acts of kindness. He moved from Los Angeles back to his parent's home in Reno, Nevada, where he bounced off ideas for the program

with eight members of his family who were school teachers. Within months, he held his first assembly which was aimed at challenging elementary school children to document 5,000 acts of kindness in just two weeks. The goal was to create a lasting program to generate quantifiable results. To "create" kind habits.

The results of this first assembly far exceeded even Brian's expectations. From the students' overwhelming response to the program Brian created "15 Days of Kindness" challenge and the program has now expanded in a national competition seeking "The Kindest School in the Country". Not only has this program carried out over 250,000 documented acts of kindness, but as an extra bonus the program has raised thousands of dollars for charities around the country, collected over 200,000 pairs of shoes for children around the world, and has carried out four global acts of kindness in Nyeri, Kenya. The program has also documented a 32% drop in bullying-related incidents in the schools where they have had assemblies. This massive impact without even mentioning the word "bully"!



International Foundation News**DISASTER RELIEF DONATIONS SOUGHT FOR GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

The Greater Grays Harbor County, Washington area is desperately trying to recover from heavy rains early this week that led to extreme flooding and landslides. Hundreds of homes are condemned. The families affected are displaced and trying to piece their lives back together.

The Altrusa International Foundation immediately disbursed \$1,000 to the Altrusa Club of Central Grays Harbor, WA.

We are asking for your help now. Please send contributions (or click below to donate online) made payable to the Altrusa International Foundation to the Chicago office and note in the memo line: *Grays Harbor WA Disaster Relief*. We're working with a local organization there dedicated to families recovering from the devastating disaster.

Thank you for your generosity and support.

Altrusa International Foundation, Inc.
1 N. LaSalle St. Suite 1955
Chicago, IL 60602

**Meeting Preview****PLEASE HELP CREATE THE TOP 49 HITS OF ALTRUSA!**

By Bobbi Klein, Membership Recruitment Co-chair

It's Our 49th!!! "Altrusa Bandstand... Dancing to the Altrusa Rhythm for 49 Years"...and We're Doin' the Soda Shop Bop, Too

Put on your dancin' shoes and 60's inspired attire (if you want to) and come enjoy our 49th birthday celebration. We've got a special game planned and there might even have a dance contest!! We're also gonna have our own Dick Clark. Yes, a live DJ will be "spinnin' the platters that matter".

So We Need Your Help! Send the title & artist of ONE of your favorite songs from the 60's to **Bobbi Klein**. We're creating "TOP 49 Hits of Altrusa" playlist (one for each year of our reign, in case you hadn't figured that out) for the DJ to pick from. He won't be able to play them all but we'd like to play what you'd like to hear.

Come on Y'all, we'll have a ball!

ALTRUSA BANDSTAND



We're Goin' Boppin'...We're finger poppin' today.

The Place is hoppin'...the Altrusa Way...

Yes Ladies. It's the Altrusa Birthday Party comin' your way on Feb 19th

"Altrusa Bandstand..."

Dancing to the Rhythm of Altrusa for 49 Years!"

Dress in your favorite 60's attire for a step back in time to 1966-1967

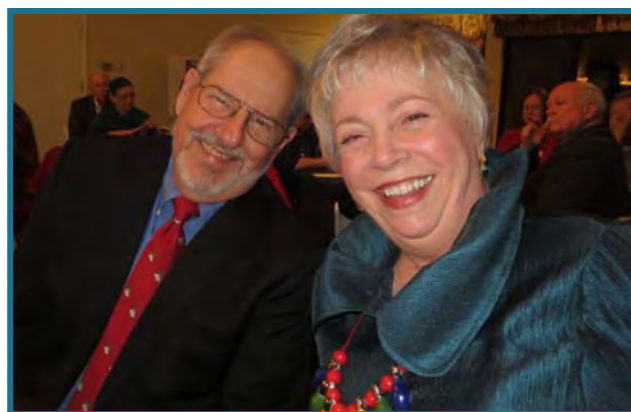
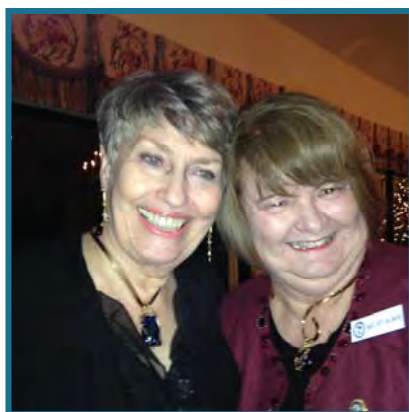
Were you a Mod? A Rocker? Collegiate? Beachie? Hippie?

We'll be trippin' down memory lane... with our own Altrusa DJ!!

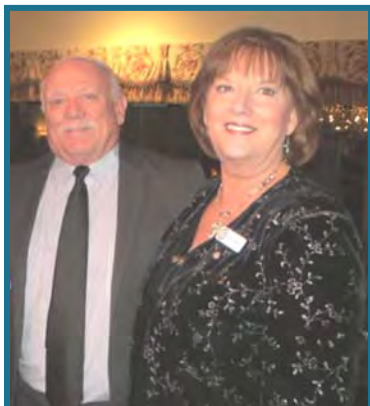
As we celebrate the "birth of our club" — February 16th, 1966

Make your reservation now!!

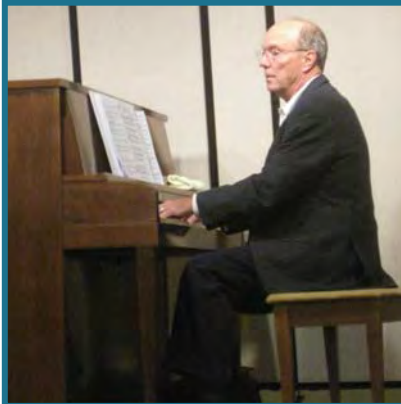
HOLIDAY PARTY: DECEMBER 18, 2014



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Club Calendar January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Charlotte Mason bday	3
4	5 Mary Beth McLemore bday	6	7	8 Business Meeting	9	10
11	12 Dean Burroughs bday	13 Education: Teddy Bear Time	14	15	16 Jan Belcher, Janice Swallow bday	17
18 Jenn Rohm bday	19	20 Education: Teddy Bear Time	21	22 Dinner Meeting	23 Linda Craft, Mimi Tanner bday	24 Leadership Luncheon
25	26 <u>Tidings Deadline</u> Retention: AWCLS (book club)	27 Education: Teddy Bear Time	28 Outreach: Planning Meeting	29 Board Meeting	30 Education: Planning Meeting	31 Toni Garrett bday

Business Meetings, 7 PM, 1st Thursday, Clubhouse at the Richardson Woman's Club; optional dinner afterwards at Besa's in Garland

Dinner/Program meetings, 7PM, 3rd Thursday, Founders Hall at the Richardson Woman's Club (social time at 6:30)

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 of Richardson, Inc.
P.O. Box 832101
Richardson, TX 75083
Carolyn Swanson, Newsletter Editor
contact@altrusarichardson.com
www.altrusarichardson.com

LOG IN to www.altrusarichardson.com, and the website will recognize you as a member. It will show you "member only" information such as Committee Announcements and Member Only Events, and will let you easily register for all events.
(As you log in, put a check mark in the Remember Me box to make subsequent visits easier!)

Club Calendar February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Education: Teddy Bear Time	4	5 Business Meeting	6	7 Ability House: Ability Walk 2015
8	9	10 Education: Teddy Bear Time	11	12 Alma Benoit bday	13	14
15 Marsha Peters bday	16	17 Education: Teddy Bear Time Jane Tucker bday	18	19 Dinner Meeting	20	21 Jill VanOs bday
22	23	24 Education: Teddy Bear Time Deb Bourland bday	25 Diane Davidson bday	26 Board Meeting	27 Lunch Bunch at Rockfish Grill Cindy McIntyre bday	28

International News

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL GETS NEW MARKETING VIDEO

From Altrusa Compass, December 2014

We have been given permission to use this video at any level of Altrusa, International through local, so share and share again! The pictures featured in the video (in order of appearance): Altrusans at the Delta, Colorado food bank; a District Ten Altrusan with her daughter; a Past Governor of District Ten with her nephew that was an ASTRA member; and a young boy in the Haiti disaster relief program. Thanks go out to several people for the newly rebranded Altrusa video. As with so many Altrusa things, Margaret Goodhue of District Ten was the driving force behind the project. She personally took the pictures that were used, with the exception of the little boy in Haiti, which was taken by a nurse sponsored by Altrusa International of Grand Junction. John Carls, himself a very talented photographer, did the video work and adapted it for us so that it would include the new Altrusa International logo. The background music is by Mark Pettit from his CD "Between Worlds" - a fabulous artist and very talented musician. And the excellent voiceover work was

done by Jordan Carls, John's son. We extend our deepest thanks to everyone involved for sharing their talent and ideas with Altrusa International. This video can be linked to any of your websites, or used as a PSA at your local television stations to spread the word of Altrusa!

To see the new 30-second video, click [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yF4zHYS08Q0). Copy and paste this link for easy sharing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yF4zHYS08Q0>

BOARD ACTIONS

- ◇ Received mid-year reports from admin and foundation committees
- ◇ Made plans for board to host reception for Governor Beth Blair in lieu of conducting Board meeting prior to February dinner meeting