



January, 2018

## Happy New Year!

It seems almost impossible that 2017 is gone and we are entering into 2018!

Where has the time gone? As a club, we have certainly been busy helping our community and honing our leadership skills within the club. I am so proud to be your President and proud to represent Altrusa Richardson each chance I get.

At the December Business Meeting, those of you that attended, had a chance to hear the mid-year reports from our Administration Committees. The Retention Committee has been very busy and reported on several functions they had organized for the first half of the year and let us in on some details they are planning for the Spring. The Recruitment Committee reported on their efforts and their installations and a look at what's ahead for the rest of the year. The Leadership Committee also gave us a look back at the Fall Leadership Event and gave us a sneak peek at what they have planned just around the corner. Communications shared with us updates on how they are keeping us in the forefront in the community. All committees have been hard at work and will continue their efforts in the new year. Well done, Administration Committees.

Also, at the December Business Meeting, you elected a Nominating Committee to select a slate of officers for 2018-19. I do hope if you are called on by this Committee you will think about serving on the Executive Board. It is a great way to serve the club as well as use your leadership skills. All the job descriptions for each office are on the website. Take a look and see just where you might fit into a position. If you are not called, you may contact one of the Nominating Committee members and volunteer your

willingness to serve. The Nominating Committee members are: Gloria Sandoval, Gerry Caron, and Deb Bourland.

At the January Business Meeting, we will hear the mid-year reports from the Service Committees. This is always exciting to hear what service work we are involved in and how it has impacted Richardson. Also, we will discuss electing Delegates and Alternates to the District Nine Conference to be held right here in Richardson at the Hyatt Hotel. Please mark your calendars for April 20-22. I hope, since it is right in our back door, that many of you will make an effort to attend. The details will be given as I receive them, but just want you to be thinking about attending.

I am looking forward to the coming months of service, friendship and club building.

*Sue McElveen*, President, 2017-18  
[suemcelveen@yahoo.com](mailto:suemcelveen@yahoo.com)



### Upcoming Events:

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

Jan 4	Monthly Business Meeting (7p)
Jan 10	Seniors – Atria Bingo (6p)
Jan 18	Dinner/Program Meeting (Social -6:30)
Jan 22	AWCLS Book Club – (6p)
Feb 1	Business Meeting (7p)
Feb 4	Altrousers' Big Game Viewing Party (4:30p)

*January Dinner Meeting*

**Privilege Discussion with Dr. Amanda Giordano**

by Robin Smith

We look forward to having Dr. Giordano join us for a discussion of this very important topic. Dr. Giordano received her PhD in Counseling and Counselor Education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Her



clinical experience includes work with chemically dependent clients, collegiate populations, and adults with mental health issues. Giordano's research interests include substance abuse counseling, spirituality issues in counseling, and counseling supervision. Dr. Giordano's presentation will discuss how privilege can manifest in

society. Specifically, she will provide examples of white privilege as well as how it may be expressed in the media, employment, education and the criminal justice system. She will close by offering suggestions for effectively identifying and addressing these scenarios.



**Happy New Year Secret Ninjas**

Laura Trainor-Collins

Be sure to wish your Secret Ninja a Happy New Year. Remember, this is an opportunity to care, encourage and get to know another Altrusan. You can send notes, cards and even leave little gifts (less than \$5) in the Ninja box before the club meetings and Retention members will deliver for you. Please put the members name on each item.



Gift giving and receiving is fun and rewarding but it is the love behind the gift that matters most. Please do something once a month and try to get to know more about her but make sure and keep it a secret.

*Leadership Development Committee Program*

**Spring Leadership Event**

Please join the Richardson Altrusa Leadership Committee at a special event:

What: Altrusa Spring Leadership Brunch

When: Saturday, February. 17, 2018

Time: 10:30 am-12:30 pm

Where: Canyon Creek Country Club

Why: Fellowship and Leadership Inspiration from Kim Quirk, Executive Director of Leadership Richardson

Topic: Leading as We Embrace the World – Welcoming Diversity, Cultivating Kindness, and Practicing Tolerance

Cost: \$25.00

Be sure to register early! There are only 40 seats available, and the **RSVP deadline is February 3.**



Don your favorite NFL team attire and join your fellow Altrusans and their fellows on Sunday, February 4 to take in the Big Game excitement! It's our annual "Altrousers" event where spouses, significant others, partners, dates, or friends are invited to the party.



Join the fun at **Wing'd Nut Sports Bar and Grill** in Eastside Richardson, beginning at 4:30 pm. We'll need to get a head count so group seating can be arranged, so be sure to visit the Altrusa of Richardson website and sign up on the Events Page. Registration deadline is Friday, January 26. There will be no charge for this Membership Retention event; what you order in the way of food and beverages is your choice and their menu is inexpensive, the screens are humongous and the atmosphere is fun! Plus, since the bulk of their SuperBowl day sales come from takeout, the manager is delighted to have us!! So, come before the game so we don't miss one minute of the pre-game excitement and, of course, the commercials! Check out **The Wing'd Nut** at <https://www.thewingdnut.net/>

"Give freely to the world these gifts of love and compassion. Do not concern yourself with how much you receive in return, just know in your heart it will be returned."

— Steve Maraboli

*Membership Retention*

**Richardson Altrusans attend the Dallas Women's Forum European Tea**

by Laura Trainor- Collins

Twenty-Three Richardson Altrusans and Sixteen Guests attended the Dallas Women's Forum European Tea Room on December 9<sup>th</sup>. The Alexander Mansion was beautifully decorated, and the Chocolate Angel catered the Tea. The food and tea were delicious, and everyone toasted the holidays with the champagne. Each room was decorated in a different design. My favorite was a toss-up for between the Swan Lake Room and the Tiffany Room. Both were just stunning. We shopped at the vendors upstairs and toured the mansion after tea. Everyone had a wonderful time and we were able to support the Dallas Women's Forum local projects at the same time.



Richardson Altrusans and their guests.



Laura Trainor-Collins and guest Arlene Beasley in front of a tree in the Tiffany Room

*Membership Retention Update*

**Altrusa Wine and Chocolate Literary Society**

You are invited to a year of literary fun! Join the Altrusa Wine and Chocolate Literary Society (aka Book Club) for a discussion of the following books in 2018. Book Club meets at Friends Place, 1903 Nantucket, Richardson.

**2018 Book List**

- January 22 *Nine Women One Dress*  
by Jane L. Rosen
- Feb 26 (6:30)\**Target on My Back*  
by Earleigh Wiley  
\*Author will be coming to Book Club: needs to start at 6:30 this one time.
- March 26 *Lilac Girls*  
by Martha Hall Kelly
- April 23 *Loving Eleanore*  
by Susan Wittig Albert
- May 21 *Little Paris Bookshop*  
by Nina George
- June 25 *The Pecan Man*  
by Cassie Dandridge Selleck
- July 23 *Jane Steele*  
by Lindsay Faye
- August 27 RROB TBA
- Sept 24 *Everything I Never Told You*  
by Celeste Ng
- Oct 22 *Before We Were Yours*  
by Lisa Wingate
- Nov 26 *The Rosie Project*  
by Graeme Simsion



*Program Overview*

**A Texas-Style Christmas Celebration**

On December 21, 2018, Altrusa Richardson celebrated Christmas in Texas-style with entertainment provide by Debbie Perrone (pictured center below with white scarf) signing tribute to Patsy Cline and leading the party goers in singing traditional Christmas Carols.



Ability House Committee Update

**Holiday Party!**

by Jane Merz

It is always a pleasure to share the Ability House Christmas party with the families of the residents and interact with them each year. We decorated the tree, led everyone in some Christmas carols, and then played Santa! We try to keep the personalities and requests for particular gifts in mind when we shop. Rosemary Gouger brought huge, delicious, homemade iced cinnamon rolls. All of us enjoyed this special treat. She even decorated the table with evergreens, candy and battery lit candles. Gayle Ingle, Helen Bate, Jo Leeper, Rosemary Gouger, and her husband, John Sanders, attended. Janie Jaquier and Jane Merz purchased Christmas gifts this year and they spent \$348.86 for gifts. Once more, we provided a fun party for our friends: Robert, Henry, Vera, Nina, Shelley, and Kathleen.



(l-r) Shelley and Hellen Bates



(l-r) Henry and Merz



The Gang poses for a holiday pic



Rosemary Gouger decorates for the festivities



(l-r) Jane Merz and Nina



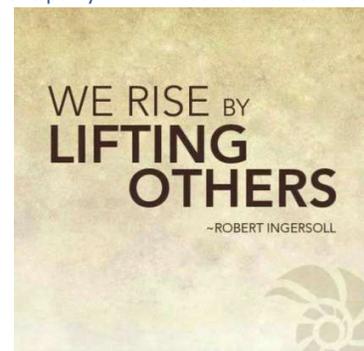
Vera enjoys the party



Kathleen takes in the excitement



(l-r) Jo Leeper, Henry, Rosemary and Helen





**Ann Payne and Robin Smith**  
Interviewed each other for  
the January 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting

**Ann Payne's** favorite words to live by are "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." She said she preached that to her children and now does the same with her grandchildren. Ann has a wonderful husband Jim, three children and five grandchildren who she loves to spend time with. Ann is retired from UTD where Jean Stuart was her first boss! She and Jean actually retired from UTD on the same day. If Ann could have guests at a fantasy dinner party she would invite her parents, Jesus, a dear childhood mentor and friend Miss Latney and Mother Theresa. Ann loves to help at Ability House and also enjoys helping on the Education Committee. She wants to set an example of caring for others and giving back to the community. Ann loves to read and is usually reading a John Grisham or Ruth Reid book.

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**Robin Smith** would love to have a fantasy dinner party! She would invite her paternal grandmother who escaped from Russia when her father was young, Marie Curie, Leonardo da Vinci, her maternal great grandmother and Abraham Lincoln. Robin and her husband Dale have 2 daughters and one eight year old granddaughter. Robin retired from her corporate Human Resources job a few years ago, and now owns her own business, Create Your Dream Travel. She loves helping people plan their dream vacations! Robin believes in the importance of giving back and setting that example for her granddaughter. She enjoys co-leading her granddaughter's second grade Brownie troop. She is an Elder at her church and loves working on committees and working with children there. Robin absolutely loves to travel and learn about new places and cultures. One of her favorite sayings is "Be the change you wish to see in the world" by Ghandi.



*Fundraising Committee*  
**Wrap-up Meeting**

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, Mary Osentowski and Sylvia McCloskey, OWT Co- Chairs, hosted a Wrap-Up and Celebration Meeting for OWT Team Leaders at Friends Place. Committee members were treated to a fabulous cake to celebrate another successful OWT event.

*International Foundation News*  
**Another Lamplighter Shines Bright**  
by Kimberly Kierce

Lamplighters are Altrusans or Altrusa Clubs who've contributed \$500 or more to the International Foundation in a twelve-month period. Contributions can be made in one's own name or on behalf of someone else. Lamplighter members are recognized with a special gold Lamplighter pin. And Diamonds can be added to the Lamplighter pin upon each succeeding \$500 contribution.

Lamplighter contributions can be designated to any of the following programs: Grants, Endowment, Disaster Relief, or Where Needed Most. These contributions serve these programs alongside the Endowment Fund - making the Lamplighter Program a leading source of growth for the International Foundation, which can be the much needed LIGHT of hope for those in need.

Altrusa Richardson has a few Lamplighters that have been recognized over the years. At the Christmas Party, we made a special presentation for a special Altrusan - An Altrusan who has been a guiding LIGHT to many and well deserving of the honor of Lamplighter.

This Altrusan has been a valued mentor for many years. Her friendship has been a blessing to many Altrusans locally, district-wide, and even internationally. This Altrusans has been a beacon of comfort to those in need seeking guidance and friendship - or even a warm smile.

When we pitched the idea to the membership that we wanted to recognize this special Altrusan with the honor of a Lamplighter, the response was overwhelming. The outpouring of support for this Altrusan exceeded our expectations and further reiterated that this Altrusan is more than deserving of this Lamplighter honor.

On behalf of the entire Altrusa Richardson club, we are pleasure to recognize, this special Altrusan - our Lamplighter **Jo Leeper** (pictured left with presenter, Kimberly Kierce).



District News

**Revitalization of Altrusa Denton**

by Kimberly Kierce



On December 2, 2017, District Nine Revitalization Committee was hard at work in Denton rebuilding the Altrusa Denton club. Members manned the Denton High School Craft Fair all day recruiting members for Altrusa. District Nine Revitalization Committee Members Dee Parmer (Altrusa Dallas), Amanda Fitch (Altrusa Montgomery County) and Kimberly Kierce (Altrusa Richardson) were joined by Richardson Altrusans Jane Tucker and Carol Ruskowski to work the fair.



(pictured l-r) Dee Parmer, Jane Tucker, and Kimberly Kierce at the Altrusa display table at the Denton High School Craft Fair (and not pictured is photographer Carol Ruskowski) .

International News

**Making the Most of your Membership**

by Kathy Folley, International Vice President  
vicepresident@altrusa.org



Membership in Altrusa is a gift to be treasured. To make the most of your membership you have to commit to certain things such as

attending club meetings. We all understand it's not possible to attend every meeting but making a conscious effort to attend as often as you can makes all the difference. The same goes for participating in service projects and fundraising activities. For most of us, service is why we became members in the first place. Through our participation in our club service projects we can truly see the impact Altrusa has in our communities. Are you utilizing the resources available to you through the International website and the International office? The information is there for your use. It is also important to let your leaders know if other resources are needed. Your suggestions are welcome and appreciated. Also, it is important to attend our District Conferences and International Conventions when possible. This is your opportunity to learn about the things other clubs are doing, to network with other members, to have a voice in the direction the organization is headed, and to support your District and International leadership. Making the most of your membership is not difficult.

It just takes commitment.



In November 2017, Altrusa Richardson presented twenty-five hand-tied blankets, hand made with love by Altrusans. The special day was recognized with purple cupcakes, purple favors, and the presentation of blankets and purple knitted caps for all NICU preemies at Methodist Richardson Hospital.