



President's Message

Always Choose Kindness

I have been to two events recently that reminded me of why I love Altrusa and my fellow members so much as I begin the wrap up of my year as president and transition over to new leadership.

The first event that resonated deeply with me was the annual Scholarship Dinner honoring our recipients and their families on April 18. These impressive young people were matched only by the dedication and spirit of the Scholarship Committee itself. Jane Merz, Janet Vance and the whole group did a heroic job collecting the applications, parsing through them and making the life-changing decisions to help fund the educations of five deserving RISD students. I applaud this committee and all the administrative and service committees that do such good and necessary work in our community.

The other event that spoke to me about Altrusa and its role in the community was the ribbon cutting on April 23 of the Ann Eisemann Inclusive Playground. I know that we are all so proud to know Ann and Chuck Eisemann, and to have her as a fellow Altrusan. Their generosity and impactful philanthropy has made Richardson a dynamic place to live and raise a family. I am also proud to know so many of the Richardson East Rotary Club members who made this wonderful space a reality like my boss, Bruce MacPherson, Karen Ellis and Rotary Incoming President (and Altrusan) Mary Bedosky. Altrusa Richardson was glad to be a valuable contributor to the playground, along with many other community supporters. The City rallied behind this important initiative and the ribbon cutting was a joyous celebration by a community that is committed to provide the best of everything for all of its citizens.

zens.

I think that Incoming President Bobbi's goal to make the KAN Weekend and its work a part of every committee is a natural direction to take this initiative and I hope to see it continue to grow every year as we continue to refine and add to the scope of our Kindness Action Ninjas. I am so impressed with the reorganization of the committee structure and updating the job descriptions for all board members. I have seen sweeping changes being undertaken during this past year and definitive plans to keep moving our club forward.

I congratulate Kimberly Kierce on her election to 2nd Vice Governor of District Nine. We are all well aware of what an asset Kim is to our club and proud to know that all of District Nine will get to benefit from her expertise and dedication as we do – you make us look good!



Sarah Nesbit, President 2018-2019

E-mail: Sarah.Nesbit@cor.gov

Upcoming Events

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

- May 2 6:00 pm Committee Palooza
- May 2 6:00 pm Pre Initiation Orientation
- May 2 7:00 pm Business meeting
- May 10 11:00 am Mother's Day Tea
- May 16 7:00 pm Program/Dinner Meeting
Installation of 2019-2020 Club Officers
and 2019-202 Foundation Trustees
- May 20 6:00 pm AWCLS (book club)
"The Dali Lama's Cat and the Art of Purring"
- May 23 9:30 am Terrace Manners Party Prep
- May 23 7:00 pm Club Board meeting
- May 24 9:30 am Terrace Manners Party

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board of Directors Meeting, April 25, 2019

by Bobbi Klein, President Elect

The April 25, 2019, Board meeting was a joint meeting of the current and incoming Board members. Nancy Crowe made the Treasurer's report on behalf of Marybeth Mclemore: a bank balance of \$5,954.22, we have 21 membership renewals so far and three members will not be renewing.

Unfinished Business: The Job Descriptions Ad Hoc Committee presented the proposed changes to the Board of Director's Job Descriptions. After discussion of changes to each position, the Committee brought a recommendation that the Job Descriptions be accepted with the changes discussed. The Recommendation was accepted. The Committee will present the updated Job Descriptions to the members of the club and make a recommendation for approval at the May 2 business meeting.

New Business: Discussion of the transfer of Board responsibilities. Discussed oversight of the club's 501c 4 status and compliance with the State requirements.



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

And the Scholarship Winners Are

By Jane Merz, Chair

The Scholarship committee received fifty-four applications this year. The applicants were truly amazing and it was a difficult task to narrow the list down to the nine students we interviewed. Our final five recipients were outstanding in every way.

The Scholarship Presentation Dinner was held on April 18, at the Richardson Woman's Club. Our students attended, with their parents, and were given a beautiful paperweight to commemorate the occasion. Recipients were Swamy Trejo, Joanna Patricio Bueno, and Elizabeth Chandler from Lake Highlands High School. J.J. Pearce High School recipients were Alejandro Gallegos and Katherine Mulry. Two students plan to be physicians, and one wants to be an astronaut!



Above: Our Scholarship winners left to right are: Swamy Trejo, Joanna Patricio Bueno, Alejandro Galegos, Elizabeth Chandler and Kathrine Mulry.



Left: The scholarship winners are pictured with the Scholarship Committee members: Left—right are: Mimi Tanner, Jane Merz, Jo Leeper, Karen Tate, Swamy Trejo, Janet Vance, Joanna Beuno, Alejandro Gallegos, Elizabeth Chandler, Katherine Mury Marsha Peters, Gayle Ingle, Betty Bruce and Jan Flesch.

Proposed Changes to Board Job Descriptions

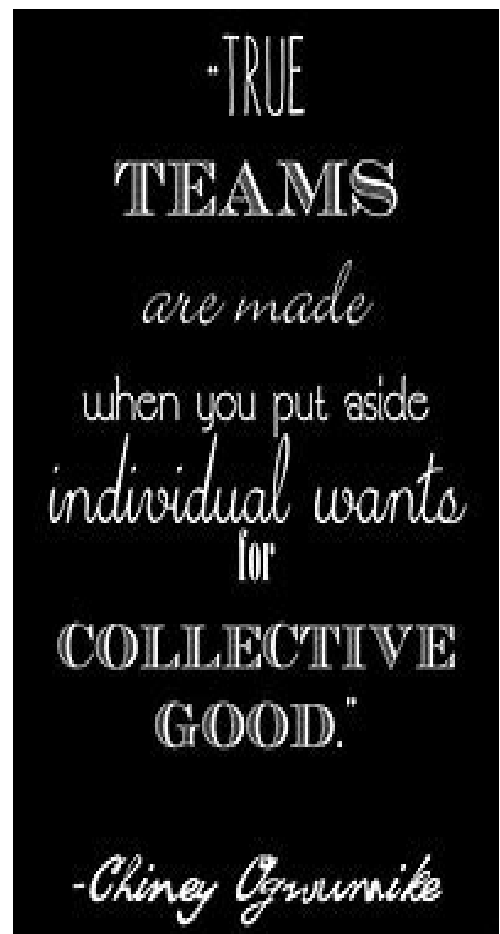
To Be Discussed May 2nd

By Sue McElveen, Job Descriptions Update Chair

After many weeks, and much labor, the Job Description Committee is ready to present the revised job descriptions for the Club Board of Directors. They have been approved by the current Board of Directors, so the next step is to present to the entire club for approval. As chair of this committee, I will be presenting the newly revised job descriptions to the club at the May 2, 2019, business meeting. An email was sent with a copy of each job description as an individual file. Also attached was a copy of the existing job descriptions in one file.

PLEASE read the proposed changes prior to the Business meeting and be prepared with any questions or concerns you may have on May 2. There are too many pages involved to prepare copies for everyone at the meeting. If you have questions, please print off the ones you would like to discuss and bring them with you to the meeting.

It is the committee's hope that we can approve (with or without corrections or additions) at this meeting. Our President-Elect, Bobbi, is anxious to start implementing the new job descriptions with the newly elected Board of Directors for 2019-2020.



MEMBER RECRUITMENT UPDATE

New Members Thanh Tran and Linda Calkin to be Initiated May 2nd

From Carol Ruzskowski and Kimberly Kierce, Co-Chairs

Meet the two new members who will be initiated at the May 2nd Business meeting. No photos of either woman are available at this time, so you'll just have to come to their initiation and meet them in person!

Lynda Calkin is one of five siblings raised in Kingsley Iowa. She attended Richland College and UTD, and earned her BA and CFA at SMU. Though she retired in 2003, she continues to be an active member of the Dallas CFA.

Lynda and her husband, Mark, have three children. She enjoys walking her dogs, playing with her granddaughter, reading, volunteering, artwork and travel

Lynda looks forward to becoming an Altrusan to be able to give back to the community as a volunteer, with an emphasis on education. She also wants to meet other women who are contributing to the community and who value volunteer efforts. Well, she found the right place!

Thanh Tran was born in Vietnam and grew up in Dallas, TX. She earned her bachelor's degree from UT Dallas and holds Master's degrees in Healthcare Administration and Business Administration from Texas Woman's University. Thanh has been working in healthcare management for over 20 years. Currently, she serves as CEO of North Central Surgical Center, a joint venture hospital between Baylor Scott & White and United Surgical Partners International. Thanh and her husband reside in Richardson with their three dogs. In her downtime, Thanh enjoys traveling, hiking, and spending time with family and friends.

KINDNESS ACTION NINJA WEEKEND

The Ninjas Went Global, April 6th, 2019

This is a taste of the fun and productive Saturday morning we had on April 6th, during our Kindness Action Ninja Weekend. Look for more photos and information in a Special Edition, coming soon!



Above: A group photo to celebrate our donation of 160 care packages that were sent to the military here and overseas. More than forty Altrusans and ten guests worked in a well organized assembly line and finished in two and a half hours!

Below: We stopped to take a photo to celebrate our hard work putting together 207 Days for Girls kits , and more than 150 bags and pieces for the kits. Two ladies from the Highland Village Days for Girls team instructed us in the correct procedures. Three Collin Creek and four Garland Altrusa members came to help. (more information on page 6)



The Ninjas Went Global, April 6th, 2019



Above: The Kindness Action Ninja Team presents seventy sheet sets and towels for clients, and an assortment of art supplies to restock the Art Carts that we donated last year, to Beth Leos, Executive director of Hope's Door/ New Beginning Center.



Left: Kathy Yates' niece, and best friend, Donna Knipp (center) visited the KAN Weekend service project In memory of Kathy. She was in town for Kathy's Memorial Service at Richland college. Kathy was very committed to service to the military, for their service for us. (Pictured l-r: Sue McElveen, Donna Knipp, and Jane Merz)

KAN Helps South Sudanese Refugees

Through Days for Girls Project

By Jane Tucker, District Nine Days for Girls Liaison



On April 6, 2019, over thirty volunteers, which included Pamela Moore and Cathie Ford from the Highland Village Days for Girls Team, as well as Altrusa members of Richardson, Collin County and the Garland Altrusa Clubs helped assemble 207 “refugee” feminine kits to send over to a South Sudanese refugee camp. In addition to assembling these kits, volunteers also were putting snaps on additional shields and threading and completing the sewing on many bags. It was very interesting to see how much work and attention goes into making every kit as perfect as it can be. Club members also donated over 150 wash clothes, over 350 Freezer Ziplock bags, over 75 soaps, and over 60 pairs of panties. The rest of the supplies needed for this project were purchased with a \$140 donation. According to the Highland Village Days for Girls Director, Pamela Moore, we accomplished quite a feat and she was extremely grateful for our help.

This Summer, on June 3, 2019, twelve members of the Highland Village Days for Girls Team will take the 207 Refugee Feminine Kits along with several other kits and supplies a 15-hour flight from DFW to Doha, Uganda. Then, after a brief rest, they will depart for Entebbe and from there drive to Kampala, Uganda’s capital. While in this area of Uganda, they will visit Pearls Children’s Home, Kiryeka School for Disabilities, and Batwa School for Girls. Then, on June 17, the group will travel to a South Sudanese Refugee camp in the northern region of Uganda. Currently, there are over one million South Sudanese refugees in refugee camps in Uganda needing assistance. Days for Girls volunteers have been preparing feminine hygiene kits all year to distribute to women and girls as they visit these difference locations. Altrusa Richardson was excited to be an integral part of helping create these refugee kits for this important Summer Trip. The refugee kits put together during our event on April 6th were “half-kits” or “refugee kits” and, as such, have fewer liners and, because of the need for greater quantities in these camps, the women and girls are resourceful and are able to manage with fewer liners.



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

Sixty-third District Nine Annual Conference!

Twenty-two Richardson Altrusans attended the District Nine Conference, April 26-28th. Here are some photos from Fun Night. See what you missed if you didn't go? Look for more information and photos in a Special Edition coming soon.



Ginger Tonne (left), Sue McElveen (top) and Rosemary Gouger (right)



Left -Right: Linda Caron, Ann Turner, Pam Johnson and Cindy McIntyre



The Kindness Monkeys and a Cowardly Lion

ABILITY HOUSE UPDATE

End of Year Wrap Up

By Rosemary Gouger, Chair

The second part of the service year was filled with birthdays. Vera's birthday on February 23rd was themed "Rainbows and Unicorns". Kathleen's party "Bring in the Clowns" was March 2nd and Henry's birthday party was superhero "Black Panther Feeds the Birds" on March 16th. Then, April 20th was Nina's birthday themed "Sunflowers, Bumble Bees & A Little Bit Country". Nina's party was held a week early because her birthday fell during District Nine Conference and we all wanted to be there to celebrate with her. At Nina's party, we also presented the house with a new DVD player for the entertainment of all.



Vera (front) shows her purple unicorn and the beautiful rainbow and unicorn cake to Jane Merz (right) Shirley SiWilson-Sigler and Gayle Ingle are in the background



Kathleen, in full clown regalia opens her presents assisted by Sara Deats, who is cropped partially out (right)



Henry (left) fills the birthday bird feeder we gave him with Cindy McIntyre (right) to help

The committee purposely held some of our budget to present a gift of something needed or wanted at Ability House at the end of our year. Carolyn Bailey and Kristopher McLauchlan have told us that the home would really like to have a charcoal grill so they can have cook outs. We are working with them to make this happen and to start the new club year, at our Summer Fun party, on June 22nd, we are planning a summer cook out with them.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE

Kindness Action Ninjas Spread the Word

By Bobbi Klein, President Elect

Beth Blair, the Dallas Altrusa club's program chair asked the Kindness Action Ninjas to share the story of the Ninjas at their April dinner meeting. Jane Tucker explained the evolution of our Kindness Ninjas theme. Bobbi Klein spoke about the development of the Choose Kind Libraries project, which was born at the same time. Both projects developed out of the International Relations Committee in 2015. Cindy McIntyre shared about the KAN Weekend, which was her idea and developed during her year as President. The incoming Dallas Altrusa President Pat Pirtle, would like to develop a Choose Kind Library with us in the new club year.



Left to Right: Dallas President, Guadalupe Carbajal; Cindy McIntyre, Jane Tucker and Bobbi Klein

DISTRICT NINE NEWS

New District Nine Board of Directors

The new District Nine Board of Directors was elected by the delegates at Conference, Serving you for the 2019-2021 Biennium are:

Governor—Beth Blair, Dallas

Governor Elect—Mary Black Pearson, Temple

First Vice Governor—Shirley Raymer, Garland

Second Vice Governor—Kimberly Kierce, Richardson

Treasurer—Laure Bruner, Anderson County

Directors—Linda Hurt, DFW, and Dr. Vickie A. Smith, Southwest Dallas County

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL NEWS

New Altrusa Website is Available

From President Leanne Milligan's Message on Altrusa.org Member Area

"Many of you may be aware that our old website collapsed and was unable to be restored so we all owe a huge thank you for the Website Task force and District webmasters for their work in past weeks to move the Membership log in area to our new platform. A special thank you to Katrina Clokie who has spent many hours designing and setting up the new site and to our team at the office who have been digging for files to be able to restore them to the new site."

At District Nine Conference, President Milligan announced we should be able to create individual log-ins very soon.

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION NEWS

Join in the Disaster Relief Fundraiser.

From LaVone Arthur, District Nine Foundation Liaison



Join us in fundraising to support the mission of the Disaster Relief Fund

The response from Altrusans to the unprecedented need of the Disaster Relief Fund last year inspired the foundation board to show the impact of Altrusans great work by *Reaching Out to Light the Way in 2019.*

Last year, the Altrusa International Foundation, Inc. distributed (300) Luci lights to areas in Puerto Rico without electricity. The Luci light is portable, lightweight, solar-powered, and holds a charge for 24 hours.

The Luci light serves countless needs - from students studying at night to healthcare volunteers working in remote villages without power.

The lights will be available to purchase at the 2019 District Conferences and donations will go towards giving Luci lights to the Ghana Health & Education Initiative, Medicine for Mali, and Altrusa International of District Fourteen.

Our GOAL is \$65,000! The Disaster Relief fundraiser results will be announced at the Foundation Luncheon in Reno. Thank you for your continued support.

Go to <https://foundation.altrusa.org> to see a short video about the Luci Lights and to donate to the Disaster Relief Fundraiser.

April 2019 U.N. Days and Other Observances

Excerpted from www.un.org and www.altrusa.org



TIME OF REMEMBRANCE AND RECONCILIATION FOR THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR; May 8-9, 2019: By [resolution 59/26](#) of November 22, 2004, the UN General Assembly declared May 8–9 as a time of remembrance and reconciliation and, while recognizing that Member States may have individual days of victory, liberation and commemoration, invited all Member States, organizations of the United Nations System, non-governmental organizations and individuals to observe annually either one or both of these days in an appropriate manner to pay tribute to all victims of the Second World War.

The Assembly stressed that this historic event established the conditions for the creation of the United Nations, designed to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, and called upon the Member States of the United Nations to unite their efforts in dealing with new challenges and threats, with the United Nations playing a central role, and to make every effort to settle all disputes by peaceful means in conformity with the [Charter of the United Nations](#) and in such a manner that international peace and security are not endangered.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES; May 15, 2019: Although families all over the world have transformed greatly over the past decades in terms of their structure and as a result of global trends and demographic changes, the United Nations still recognizes the family as the basic unit of society. The International Day of Families provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting them. It has inspired a series of awareness-raising events, including national family days. In many countries, this day is an opportunity to highlight different areas of interest and importance to families.

The International Day of Families is observed on the 15th of May every year. Activities include workshops and conferences, radio and television programs, newspaper articles and cultural programs highlighting relevant themes.

2019 Theme: "Families and Climate Action: Focus on SDG13"

The 2019 observance focuses on families, family policies and major [SDG13](#) targets:

SDG 13 target 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

SDG 13 target 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UN PEACEKEEPERS, May 29, 2019: The day offers a chance to pay tribute to the contributions of uniformed and civilian personnel to the work of the Organization and to honor more than 3,700 peacekeepers who have lost their lives serving under the UN flag since 1948.

Over seven decades, more than one million men and women have served under the United Nations flag in 71 peacekeeping operations, directly impacting the lives of hundreds of millions of people, protecting the world's most vulnerable and saving countless lives. Our peacekeepers make immense sacrifices, often serving at great personal risk and under challenging conditions. The families of peacekeepers and their governments share this sacrifice.

Sunday Morning Remembrance and Devotional –
Remembering Kathy Yates

By Sue McElveen, Past President

Kathy Yates' longtime friend (due to teaching together at Richland College), Mary Osentowski, Kim Kierce and Sue McElveen (Kathy's Altrusa sponsors), came to the front of the conference during the memorial service and lit a candle in her honor. At that time the following was read:

"Kathy Yates was born in 1944, in Wichita Falls, TX. She Attended Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls for both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in History and Political Science. She taught at the Dallas Community College district for her entire fifty-two year career. She will always be remembered for her devotion to her beliefs and an aggressive defender of the rights of all people to enjoy the full protection of the law."

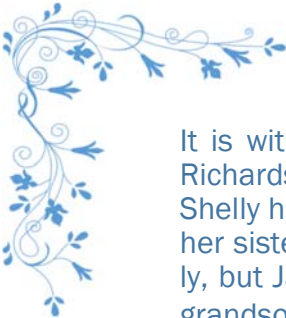
Kathy became an Altrusan in the spring of 2018. Even though she was with us a short time, she made a big impact on our club. As part of our Sophomore sisters Committee, she suggested their Make a Difference Day Project be one to benefit members of the military. The project, which concluded after Kathy's untimely death, was a collection of over two thousand books. Some of the books were mailed to soldiers in foreign countries, some were delivered to the VA hospital, and others were given to various veteran's groups. Kathy died at her home in Dallas, on Thursday, October 18, 2018. She is missed by all who knew her.

It was a moving service and everyone should attend the Remembrance and Devotional when they go to conference. It is a way to honor all the Altrusans that have died during the previous year, while serving this wonderful organization. We will miss Kathy and what she could have contributed to an organization of which she dearly loved being a part.



Kathy Yates

In Memorium



It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Brenda Boston's sister, Shelly Richardson. Shelly was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer which caused her passing. Shelly had been staying with Brenda for nearly all of the past year. In addition to losing her sister, Brenda and Jacob were in a car accident in April. Brenda was not hurt badly, but Jacob had to have surgery and is doing well now. Please keep Brenda and her grandson in your prayers.

If you wish to send cards or emails, please refer to your Membership Directory for Brenda's contact information, or contact the newsletter editor.

We make note of another sad passing. On April 15th, Karen Tate's brother passed way. He had been in failing health and passed at home with hospice care. He was Karen's only sibling. Please keep Karen in your thoughts and prayers at this sad time.

If you wish to send cards or emails, please refer to your Membership Directory for Karen's contact information, or contact the newsletter editor.

