

2021-2022

Club Board of Directors

**President**

Samanthia Slaight

**President-Elect.**

Ginger Tonne

**Vice President**

Christine Hart

**Recording Secretary.**

Gayle Engle

**Corresponding Secretary**

Ann Turner

**Administrative Treasurer**

Lynda Calkin

**2020-2022 Directors**

Mary Shiroma

Susan Fischer

**2021- 2023 Directors**

Carol Ruszkowski

Sylvia McCloskey

**Past President**

Nancy Rohm

2021-2022

Altrusa Richardson

Foundation Trustees

Sarah Wagner

Jean Stuart

Rosemary Gouger

Janie Jaquier

Donna Buhr

Marsha Peters

Brenda Boston



**President's Message**

What a year this has been. A little over a year ago, we met in person for the last time for many months. Suddenly we were thrust into a world that was hardly recognizable. Who knew that the COVID 19 pandemic would still be with us even today? However, thanks to those who worked arduously on life saving vaccines, we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. To start our new year, we were finally able to meet in-person again at the installation. The program and membership committees did a beautiful job decorating and facilitating the meeting. After a year of virtual meetings via ZOOM, seeing everyone was so refreshing. Thank you to those who worked so hard to make the event so special. The decorations depicting the theme, *"Making Music the Altrusa Way"*, were absolutely gorgeous.



2021-2022 Administration Board: (L-R) Nancy Rohm, Mary Shiroma, Sylvia McCloskey, Carol Ruszkowski, Ann Turner, Gayle Engle, Christine Hart, Ginger Tonne and Samanthia Slaight



2021-2022 Foundation Trustees: (L-R) Sarah Wagner, Brenda Boston, Jean Stuart, Rosemary Gouger, Donna Buhr and Janie Jaquier

Last year's theme, *"Achieving Wonderful Things Through Unity, Teamwork and Compassion"*, challenged us to develop new and unique ways of getting things done even in a quarantine. Kimberly Kierce, our techy wizard and guru, quickly got us set up to have meetings virtually on ZOOM. While we felt a bit like a Brady Bunch intro, we were able to see each other and

## Upcoming Events for June-August

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

*Committee Chairs will contact you in reference to individual committee meetings if not posted on the event calendar.*

- June 5 UN Day: World Environment Day
- June 10 Foundation Board of Director's meeting
- June 17 6:30 Social Time prior to  
7:00 pm Monthly Meeting  
at Richardson Woman's Club
- June 24 6:30 pm Club Board meeting
- June 28 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm AWCLS Book Club  
at Christine Hart's Home
- July 4th  Independence Day
- July 15 6:30 Social Time prior to  
7:00 pm Monthly Meeting  
at Richardson Woman's Club
- July 22 6:30 pm Club Board meeting
- July 26 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm AWCLS Book Club  
at Christine Hart's Home
- July 28–31 Altrusa International Convention  
(see Club Event calendar for info)
- July 30 UN Day: World Day Against Trafficking  
in Persons
- Aug 15 6:30 Social Time prior to  
7:00 pm Monthly Meeting  
at Richardson Woman's Club
- Aug 23 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm AWCLS Book Club  
at Christine Hart's Home
- Aug 26 6:30 pm Club Board meeting

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued)

even visit prior to the meetings. We then decided to come up with a way to socialize which became Tuesday's Social Sisters. Not only did we have a time to visit with each other, we also tossed around inventive ideas on how we could best serve the community

In order to continue our service to the community, our committees began to meet virtually and continued to serve the community in the most innovative ways. Despite the quarantine, we were able to accrue an outstanding 4,365.5 volunteer hours. Altrusans are resilient and are quickly able to adapt to the most challenging situations. We always rise to the occasion and accomplish the impossible.

Some of our accomplishments this year were highlighted at this year's virtual District Nine Conference. Altrusa Richardson received two distinguished awards for Bobbi Klein's year as president, the Dr. Nina Faye Calhoun International Relations Award and the Communications Award. And, our own Kim Kierce was installed as Second Vice Governor. Congratulations to all.

In addition, our committees did an outstanding job:

**Ability House**, chaired by Rosemary Gouger, celebrated resident's birthdays and holiday events in spite of Covid restrictions. Specialty cakes created by Rosemary were enjoyed by the residents. In addition, the committee gifted Ability house with a much needed dishwasher.



Dishwasher installation

The **Grants Committee**, chaired by Courtenay Tanner granted ten out of eleven recommended grants.

The **Scholarship Committee**, chaired by Barbara Berthold and Jane Merz gave three scholarships to very deserving area high school students. The committee also created a powerful PowerPoint slide show for the virtual Scholarship Presentation Program in April.

**Community Outreach**, chaired by Carol Ruszkowski and Gloria Sandoval donated one-hundred twenty towels,

backpacks and school supplies to RISD. Network was given knit hats, beanie babies, pairs of shoes, toys and clothing for needy families. Also donated, were paper bags and plastic bags. The committee

Continued page 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued)

mask, etc. to Hopes Door. In addition, Apple tree Assisted Living received games and gifts. Teams were formed for Walk to End Alzheimer's. Finally, Valentine cookies were delivered to Friend's Place.

The **Sophomore Sisters**, mentored by Bobbi Klein, donated to Network to assist with Covid 19 needs.

The **Kindness Committee**, chaired by Sue McElveen and Linda Caron, collected goodies to send overseas to the military troupes. Donations were made to Teach Haiti, Mike's Kids, Help's International, an orphanage in Ghana. Valentine Cards were made for senior citizens in support of the Cotton Wood Art Festival's project. Also, a new addition to the Choose Kind Libraries has been started and developed. The new library will contain academic books for Connect with a Child Orphanage in Nairobi, Kenya.



Sue McElveen with toys and coat donation for Network



(L-R): Carol Ruskowski, Gayle Engl and Gloria Sandoval make a donation to Hope's Door

**Strategic Planning and Leadership**, chaired by Mary Osentowski and Sylvia McCloskey, created forms for Mid and End of Year reports. The forms will help committees report their service in a more efficient and detailed manner.

The **Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee**, chaired by Christine Hart and Mary Beth McLemore, created sub-committees to make personal contact with members. The AWCLS Book Club held on-line meetings facilitated by Pam Johnson. A virtual workshop was presented and facilitated by Brenda Duckett which focused on the book "Who Moved My Cheese". Also, the committee planned and held a Leadership Picnic in the park that was attended by club members.

The **Program Committee**, consisting of Gloria Sandoval, Jane Tucker and Gayle Ingle drew upon membership and offered the club a full year of fascinating and fun programs which featured some of our members who showed off their talents.

The **Communications Committee**, chaired by Linda Caron and Kimberly Kierce, kept us all informed through the means of the website and event postings, with Bobbi Klein as Tidings editor.

Other activities included fund raising events such as North Texas Giving Day and the St. Patrick's Day photo contest which were both big successes.

As you can see, our year was very busy and productive in spite of all the odds. And now, we look forward to a new year that bears some resemblance to the normality of past years. Once again, we will honor the first responders of our community in a very special OWT event. Other events include programs and workshops that will help to enable us to do the work that establishes us a service organization. In addition, we plan to create a leadership workshop which will be dedicated and named after Jo Leeper, our long time Altrusa sister who we lost this year. We also plan to get back into the community by serving in many of our established projects while creating new projects that will help and enable our community to return to the vibrant and beautiful community that existed prior to the pandemic. Altrusa is back in every way and we are, **"Making Music the Altrusa Way."**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Samantha Alaight".

President 2020-2022

**Look Ma... No More Masks! ...An In-Person Installation**



Finally, we were able to meet in person for our Installation Dinner Meeting on May 20th. It was so good to be in each other's company again. We have made masks optional. It is up to the individual whether or not to wear a mask.



2019-2020 President Bobbi Klein (right) is finally able to pass the legacy President's Pin to Samantha Slaight (left), who is serving for a second year as Club President



The Installation table decorations beautifully depicted the 2021-2022 club theme of "Making Music the Altrusa Way"

*MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE*

**Celebrating the Initiation of Four New Members**



Four lovely new members were initiated at the May 20th Installation Dinner meeting, all of whom work with the City of Richardson. Pictured above from left to right are: **Jennifer Davidson, Kevin Ann Mullen, Vrena Patrick and Alisha Gimble**. Welcome ladies! We can't wait to get to know you better.

*DISTRICT NINE CONFERENCE UPDATE*

**Celebrating the District Nine Conference Awards**

April 30, 2021 was a big night for District Nine Altrusans. Though it was a virtual conference, that didn't dampen the spirit of the Installation and Awards Presentation. Eight intrepid Altrusans joined others across the state of Texas to watch the festivities on ZOOM.

For us there were three highlights: our own Kimberly Kierce was installed as First Vice-Governor for the District (the whole state of Texas); and our club was awarded the First Place Nina Faye Calhoun International Service Award and First Place Communications Award for the 2019-2020 club year.



Around the table from left to right: **Gloria Sandoval, Sue McElveen, Mary Osentowski, Cindy McIntyre, Jean Stuart, Samantha Slaight, Mimi Tanner and Jane Merz**

COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE

**Appletree Court Senior Living In-House Donation Project**

By Lynn Solomon



On April 8, 2021, Gloria Sandoval and Lynn Solomon of the Community Outreach Seniors Committee presented several donated items to the Appletree Court Senior Living in-house auction. During Covid, Cindy Bostick, Appletree Court Activities Director, has been holding in house auctions every few months to replace the “live auctions” that Altrusa has been facilitating for many years each Fall and Spring. She hopes things return to normal in time for Altrusa to hold the Fall live auction this year.

Pictured left are: (L-R) Gloria Sandoval, Cindy Bostick, Appletree Activity Director and Lynn Solomon

KINDNESS COMMUNITY UPDATE

**Kindness Action Ninja Weekend**

The annual Altrusa Kindness Action Ninja Weekend resumed the first weekend of April, 2021, after having to cancel the 2020 weekend due to the Covid 19 quarantine. This years special project partnered Altrusa with Pajamas For Seniors, a 501c (3) non-profit organization with a mission to provide a new pair of pajamas to low income seniors living in a nursing home or assisted living. Over half of our seniors living in these facilities have no close relatives and rarely have visitors. Many of these people have less than \$60 a month to spend on personal items. Giving them a pair of pajamas helps them feel less isolated and lets them know there are people in the community that care.



Pictured above from left to right: (standing) Jean Stuart, Pam Johnson, Brenda Duckett, Mary Osentowski, Nancy Rohm, Linda Caron, Cindy McIntyre, Jane Merz, Christine Hart, Jackie Scrivener, Carol Ruskowski, Deb Bourland, Janie Jaquier, Gayle Ingle, former Altrusan Janice Swallow, Laura Trainor, Robin Murley, Sue McElveen (seated) Thanh Tran and her mom, Samantha Slaughter, Mary Beth McLemore and our unofficial “Mascot” Stevie Ray.

## ALTRUSA WINE AND CHOCOLATE SOCIETY UPDATE

### Come Join the Fun – In Person!

By Pam Johnson

Now that we are able to join together in person, the location of the Altrusa Book Club has changed from ZOOM to Christine Hart's Home. We meet at 6:30 pm on the fourth Monday of the month (see calendar below). Please register in the events calendar on the website. Everyone is invited to participate so tell your friends, they just may be looking for a new activity (and new friends) after so many stay-at-home days. You don't even have to have read the book!

The June 28 selection is: *Big Lies in a Small Town* by Diane Chamberlain.

The July 26 selection is: *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd



## SENIOR'S COMMITTEE UPDATE

### Mother's Day Tea at Friend's

Despite continued Covid restrictions at Friends Place, Altrusa participated in the Mother's Day Tea at Friend's Place, as we have for many years. The Senior's Committee donated Buntini's from the Richardson *Nothing But Bunt* store.

Pictured right are the pretty table decorations. Pictured far right are the donated-Buntini's waiting for the clients to enjoy.



## PROGRAM COMMITTEE UPDATE

### March Zoom Meeting Fashion Alert



The March Zoom meeting program was "2021 Fashion- What is In & What is Not". The fun and interesting program included a pre-recorded fashion show from "The Store in Lake Highlands".

"The Store" is a little clothes boutique nestled in the heart of Lake Highlands. The manager Cheryl Calvin hosted and described spring fashion trends with Altrusa members modeling the clothes.

Pictured left: (L-R) are Altrusans Sue McElveen, Telva Gale Wallace and Gloria Sandoval with "The Store" manager, Cheryl Calvin



# And the Winner Is...



## PETS



“I’m so confused - Is it Green Beer or Margaritas?”

By Laura  
Trainor-Collins

## PEOPLE



“Sue’s Leprechaun with his Irish Pole”

by Sue McElveen

Thank you to all who supported our Social Media Fundraiser #AltrusaRichardson’s Shamrockin’ Photo Contest which raised \$4,700 for the Scholarship Fund.

### *In Memorium*

*It is with great sadness that we note the passing of beloved Altrusan Jo Leeper on April 1, 2021 at Twin Rivers Assisted Living.*



*A dedicated Altrusan since 1975*

*Jo served as our President in the 1980's.*

*During her career as an Altrusan, Jo served*

*our club in numerous capacities and also served at*

*both the District and International level.*

*A true leader and mentor, Jo continued*

*to attend meetings and served on*

*committees until early 2021.*

### WAYS AND MEANS UPDATE

### Outstanding Women

### of Today 2021:

### Unsung Heroes



The Outstanding Women of Today 2021 will be a transition year. We will be hosting a reception honoring women who exemplified determination and leadership during the pandemic; the “Unsung Heros” who served in frontline positions making a difference in our community.

Honorees and their organizations will be recognized at a reception scheduled for Friday, October 22, 2021 at the Richardson Women’s Club in Founder’s Hall.

Honorees will be selected from:

- Methodist Richardson, Baylor Scott & White
- Richardson Police Department
- Richardson Fire Department
- Richardson ISD (school nurses)