

President's Message

To begin, I want to give a big thanks to the Program committee for preparing a wonderful 56th birthday meeting which was a roaring success. With each year, I love that Altrusa Richardson continues to be a strong and vital club which is always deserving of this special celebration. The meal from Desperado's was exceptional and hearing from Linda Hurt, Second Vice President was very special. Linda attended our board meeting prior to the meeting offering her insight and expertise into the "going-ons" at District Nine. At the meeting, she shared even more information regarding the conference, and spoke enthusiastically about Altrusa Richardson's work and contributions.

Linda also touched on the importance of attending the conference, and encouraged all to start making preparations to attend what looks to be a very informative and fun conference in Georgetown. We also welcomed all of our visitors, and our Dallas Club visitors, who incidentally join us each year for our birthday celebration. All in all, the decorations, the food, and the wonderful company was enjoyed by everyone who attended.

Speaking of wonderful company, the Conference information is now on the District Nine website. The dates for the conference are April 29 - May 1. The Directors are already busily coordinating the club's responsibilities for the conference. In fact, Carol Ruskowski has already sent out an e-mail to help with finding roommates and travel to and from the conference. Please send your information to her as soon as possible, so that she can coordinate these needs. Again, this conference will be power packed with pertinent information and training, and this is a wonderful opportunity for our newest members to learn more about our organization, plus get to know and meet new friends not only from our club, but from other clubs as well. I encourage everyone to attend if at all possible.

It is always important to make certain that our club is well represented at conference, and at the February birthday meeting, we elected our Delegates and Alternates for the conference. Delegates are: Samantha Slaight, Ginger Tonne, Sue McElveen, Robin Murley, and Carol Ruskowski. Alternates are: Cindy McIntyre, Nancy Rohm, Mary Beth McLemore, and Pam Johnson. Thank you to those who accepted this important task. Also, of great importance, please make sure that you plan to attend the April Meeting as we will be electing the 2022-23 slate of officers. This is a very impressive group of leaders and I want to thank Brenda Duckett and all of the nominating committee for their dedication to this very important task. They did an exceptional job.

In addition, at that meeting we will be kicking off OWT for 2022. As you know this is our yearly fund raiser, and it enables us to provide our services to community

agencies such as Network, Hope's Door, Ability House, and so many others. We will be introduced to the new chairs of this committee, and we are anxious to hear what they are planning for this year's OWT.

It's so hard to believe that this year is almost at an end. We have accomplished so much even while battling a pandemic and so many other changes within the club. Going from two meetings to one meeting per month has really been a challenge, and we continue to adjust our thinking regarding how to get all that we need to into the one meeting. However, the Program Committee has done a marvelous job coordinating this huge change and offering us fun and informative speakers and programs. It only proves how resilient our club is.

We have even added new members who have brought fresh ideas, and have become such an integral part of our club. New members are such an important part of who we are. I would like to encourage and challenge all of us to invite potential members to our meetings so they, too, can see how our work does so much help within the community, and how their joining our club can not only enrich their own lives but the lives of so many others as well. I also encourage our members to take on leadership positions as this helps to bolster our strength as a club. So, in three months, we begin a new year with a new Board, and it is so good to know that Altrusa International of Richardson continues to be a vibrant club capable of taking on any and all challenges no matter how difficult they may be.

Your President,
Samanthia Slaight

CONFERENCE!!

If you've ever been to Conference, you know that you can gain useful information in the workshops, but you can also make new friends and HAVE FUN!

Conference will be held at the Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center, Georgetown, April 29 - May 1, 2022.

Conference registration is \$295 if paid by March 31 And the form is on the District Nine website at <https://altrusadistrictnine.org/page/conference-2022>.

The other thing about going to Conference is that you get to spend fun time with some of your dearest friends - friends that you rarely see these days. Come On!!

COMING EVENTS

Mar 1		February Volunteer hours due
Mar 5	1:30	Kathlen's birthday party, Ability House, 615 Woodhaven Pl.
Mar 7	6:30	Foundation Board, Besa's
Mar 10	6:30	Club Board Meeting, Friend's Place
Mar 17	6:30	Monthly Club Meeting, Richardson Woman's Club
Mar 19	1:30	Henry's Birthday, Ability House
Mar 26	9:00	Lone Star Book Movers, Richardson Public Library
Mar 28	6:00	Altrusa Wine and Cheese Literary Society, Christine Hart's home <i>The Lions of Fifth Avenue</i>

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 1, Sharon Nash
March 2, Sarah Wagner
March 14, Mary Shiroma
March 17, Barbara Berthold
March 20, Thanh Tran

CALLING ALL ALTRUSA SISTERS IN THE RICHARDSON CLUB!

Your Kindness Committee is hard at work preparing for the Kindness Event (AKA Kindness Weekend) on April 2, 2022, at Friends Place. We will be gathering from 9 - Noon to show our kindness to the Richardson Community. There will be plenty of projects for you to do some serious "hand's on" work for several of the agencies our club supports. Also, there will be food and drinks that have been donated by some of our Richardson businesses. We are planning a PARTY!

Each Committee Chair for the 2021 - 2022 year has been tasked with the work of coming up with projects that can be done at our Kindness Event. There will be a representative from each of the agencies we are helping are coming by and take a picture with our club. We will be making an announcement about what the clubwide projects will be at the March Business Meeting. As someone once said "It takes a Village." Let's make this the big event of the year for Altrusa Richardson. We, hopefully, will be out of COVID threat and able to meet and greet (hug) without masks. However, if you feel more comfortable wearing masks and doing an elbow bump, that is just fine. We just want you there.

Unfortunately, there will be those that, due to circumstances beyond their control, will not be able to attend. The Kindness Committee will be coming up with things you can do for our Kindness Event and still be recognized as having participated so we can achieve 100% club participation. As soon as we finalize plans for remote participation, we will let you know.

We have all been "locked up" so long and now that things seem to be getting better, let's get together (wearing our Kindness Ninja t-shirts), and celebrate by being together working for the good of our community. Surely, unless you are ill or out of town you can spare an hour or two to do some really good work.

I am counting on each of you to help the Kindness Committee shine a bright light on Altrusa. Let's DO THIS!!!!

Sue McElveen, Kindness Chair
Altrusa International of Richardson, Inc.

Altrusa Choose Kind Libraries Around the World and Here at Home

This past September another Choose Kind Library was created in Costa Rica through the joint efforts of Think Kindness and our Altrusa club. Our Altrusa club donated Choose Kind books which were personally delivered to Cepia, an after-school program, by Jimmy Gleich, the Global Projects Director for Think Kindness. Pictures will show that they have a new library under construction so these new Choose Kind Library books will be a nice addition to their new library. Cepia is a nationally accredited non-profit organization that promotes culture, education, mental and physical health to children and teenagers from poor backgrounds in the communities of Guanacaste, Costa Rica. Over 1,000 children benefit from the programs they offer. Cepia's mission is to improve the quality of life for children and teenagers and their families and hopefully our library donation will help achieve this mission.

Locally, we are pleased to announce our Altrusa Club has ordered books for three Richardson Independent Schools. RISD Academy, Yale, & Wallace are in the process of receiving their books for new Choose Kind Libraries. The schools are very excited about this new addition to their schools and also look forward to working with our club on Choose Kind projects in our community.

Jane Tucker



RICHARDSON ALTRUSA IMPORTANT ADDRESSES

Email: contact@altrusarichardson.com
Facebook: [@AltrusaRichardsonTexas](https://www.facebook.com/AltrusaRichardsonTexas)
Website: altrusarichardson.com
District Nine Website: www.altrusadistrictnine.org