



President's Message

Happiest New Year!

We have so much to look forward to this coming year. But first, as I look back at 2023, I am amazed by the incredible things Altrusa Richardson has done! This year, our club shared

hope, food, clothing, toys, books, and so much more. We, working together, transformed lives in some truly extraordinary ways.

In the future, we have some new members who are getting ready to be initiated. Kelly Pagel, from Richardson Police Department, who was honored at during our OWT, is joining us. Additionally, Cheryl Toliver, a regular attendee of our book club and also a guest at Retention's Add-An-Altrusan event at Desparado's, will also become a member.

Speaking of AWCLS (aka book club), look for the list of books that have been chosen for 2024. Janet McColloch will be our leader this year.

Our Leadership Committee has planned a special event at Friend's Place on Feb. 3rd from 9:30 to 11:30. Please register if you have not already. It is always a worthwhile, fun event.

Look for news about our 2024 Conference in the January Issue of NOMN. Do you know that acronym? News of the Mighty Ninth! Our club will be featured in an issue soon.

It is never too early to think about submitting applications for District Awards. Both the District and International websites have straightforward, updated award packets.

Our club has the most amazing ideas for projects in our community and beyond. The Spring Grant Cycle deadline is March 15, 2024. Please let me know if you are applying for one. It is a great opportunity.

I often write about the "big" things our club does, but I am also very aware of the acts of kindness and quiet works that happen every time we are together. It makes me so proud to be an Altrusan.

Christine Hart



For more information go to the Events page at altrusarichardson.com

January Events

Jan. 01 *Volunteer Hours due!*

Jan. 09 Leadership Committee on zoom 6:00 pm

Jan. 11 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 pm

Jan. 15 Altrusa Bridge 6:30 pm

Jan. 18 Retention Team Meeting 6:00 pm

Jan. 18 Monthly Meeting 6:30 pm Social, 7:00 pm Mtg

Jan. 22 Altrusa Wine and Chocolate Society 6:00 pm

Jan. 26 *UN Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust*

Jan. 29 Foundation Trustee Meeting 6:30 pm

From City of Richardson Publication

Once Again Altrusans Assist with the Richardson Library Quarterly Loan Star Book Rotation

Gina Grissom, Exchange Club volunteer; Altrusans Alma Benoit, Kimberly Kierce and Gloria Sandoval, and Exchange Club members Doug Starnes and Stevie Grissom met at the temporary library on December 2nd for the quarterly Richardson Library Loan Star Book Rotation. Large print library books and audio books were rotated among six senior living facility libraries and the Senior Center to provide new selections of books for these onsite libraries. At each library, the books from the prior rotation are taken off the shelves and a new set of books shelved in their place. Then the books from that facility are rotated to the next facility and so on it goes. This project, initiated by Altrusans, has been an ongoing club project for many years and is greatly appreciated by the library staff and resident book lovers. As a matter of fact, one of the facility staff greeted us with a sincere and enthusiastic – *Thank You as this means so much to the residents. They love to have the new books to read.*

Membership Committee, Retention Team Update

ALTRUSA RICHARDSON'S HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

By Laura Trainor-Collins, Retention Team Leader

The Holiday Celebration was held on December 14th at RWC with 40 Altrusans and guests in attendance. The delicious food was prepared by Spice of Life Catering and arranged by Brenda Boston. After dinner, Laura led the entertainment, a Holiday Trivia game with Mary Boyter, Janie Jaquier and Tom Collins assisting. The winning team included Jangler, Kimberly Kierce, as well as trivia wiz, Anne Harris, who knew the most trivia answers followed by Mary Anne Fernandez. Congratulations ladies for your 23 correct trivia answers that won the top prize, The Times Ten Cellars Wine Tasting Gift Certificate. Others at the table were Erwin, Mary Anne's husband, Mouna Rouani and her delightful guest from Morocco, Oumnia El Maashi. Jane Merz's table came in second with 16 correct trivia answers.

Table décor included red checked mitten favors stuffed with a free margarita coupon from Desperados, some candy, and a candy cane. Table centerpieces were festive baskets which held the ornaments for the exchange held before the benediction. Cindy McIntyre read the *Altreasures* poem as members and guests passed ornaments to the right every time they heard the word AND. The *Altreasures* poem honoring all of our members contributions is published below. Everyone had a wonderful, festive time. Thank you to all of the Retention Team for organizing such a lovely event. Happy New Year to All.



Membership Retention Holiday Celebration 12/14/2023

ALTREASURES

Written by Laura Trainor-Collins for Ornament Exchange

Editors: Cindy McIntyre and Kay George

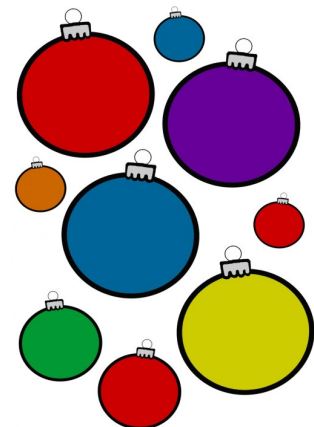
Twas the night before board meeting **AND** all through her house,
Christine made agendas ignoring her spouse. (Sorry Peter.)

Sam sent out minutes **AND** Jackie picked up mail,
Ann fixed all the money in careful detail.

Past Pres Ginger Tonne gives all her two cents,
AND VP Jean Stuart prepares her ascent.

Cindy **AND** Ginger M. work the admin board,
Sherri **AND** Gloria directing the hoard.

Mary Beth keeps us straight with parliamentation,
while Marsha **AND** Janie watch over foundation.



(Continued next page)

Member Retention Ornament Exchange continued

Gayle does the budget for OWT,
AND Donna is always so sunny you'll see.

Gayle does the budget for OWT,
AND Donna is always so sunny you'll see.

Sophomore sisters two Annes **AND** Christina Gill,
work with Kathy **AND** Trudi so projects filled.

Beth **AND** Alisha gather lady invites,
sharing Altrusa is a joyful delight.

Laura **AND** Kay are the queens of retention,
so many events, there's no time to mention.

Tidings is done by Bobbi with loving care,
AND Carol connects to make members aware.

Mary Ann keeps our Facebook **AND** tweets on our Twitter,
Rosemary makes Ability cakes shiny with glitter.

The meeting coordinator is Brenda Boston,
AND Days for Girls Jane Tucker keeps finding cotton.

Sponsorship chairs Mary B. **AND** Brenda Duckett,
did all they could saying, (pause) just fill up that bucket.

Sharon pulled together the fundraiser program,
AND Thanh worked the hotel, so the guests weren't so crammed.

Cindy McIntyre made the tables look great,
with lit candles, fall leaves **AND** gold charger plates.

Sue McElv **AND** Terri are Kindness Committee,
while Amanda **AND** Pam look chic oh so pretty.

Janet **AND** Nancy Crowe are welcomed back home,
lunch bunches cat herders Lynn **AND** Judy Blome.

Photographer Shari is clicking away,
AND Gov'nor Elect Kim, too busy to play.

Deb Bourland plans for Community Outreach,
while Alma **AND** the gang help out, side by each.

Mary O, Jennifer **AND** Mouna do the club plan,
Nancy Rohm invites prospectives because that's her jam.

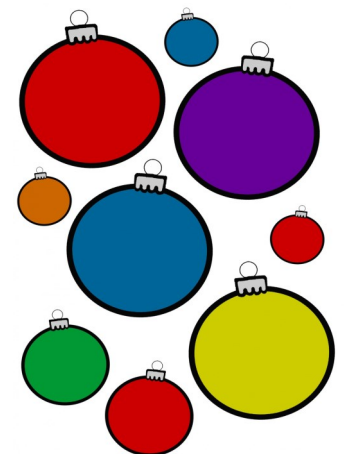
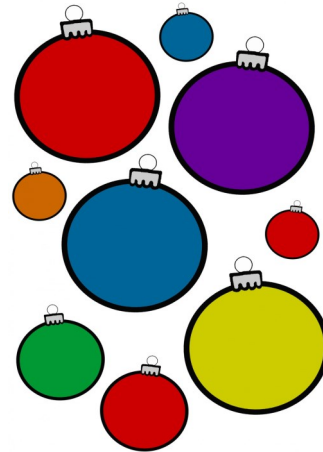
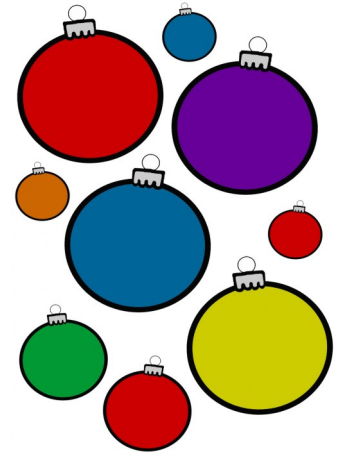
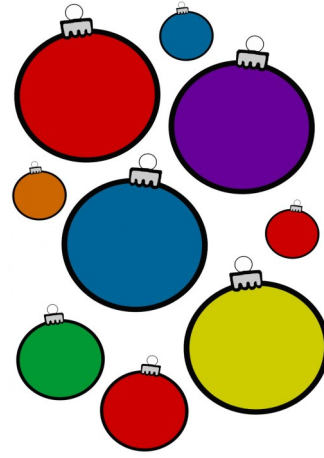
We welcome new member Joanie Scott with our best,
trustees Sarah **AND** Susan don't take time to rest.

Mary S. **AND** Julianne work on the club grants,
Susan Long heard Jane Merz is still killing her plants.

We miss Elizabeth, Norma, **AND** Rose sweet as candy,
can't forget emeritus Bonnie, Mimi, Barb, **AND** Sandy.

Dearest Courtenay **AND** Jo watch from above
smiling upon us, we still feel their love.

So, I'll wrap this all up so y'all can take flight,
Merry Christmas to all **AND** to all a good night.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE

ALTRUSA PROVIDES GIFT BAGS FOR HOPE'S DOOR NEW BEGINNINGS

By Cindy Murray

One of this year's projects for Community Outreach was to provide Christmas gift bags for 30 clients of Hope's Door New Beginnings. This is an agency that offers intervention and prevention services to individuals and families affected by partner and family violence. They have Outreach/Administration and Batterers Intervention & Prevention Program locations in Plano and Garland. They also have a resale store in Plano to help fund HDNB client services and to provide an opportunity for clients to shop using vouchers for essential items.

Our member Beth Leos is Volunteer Program Manager for Hope's Door New Beginnings. She was very helpful in providing a list of potential gift items that could be included in the gift bags. Our committee consisted of Carol Ruskowski, Mary Boyter and Cindy Murray. We planned carefully to get the most out of our \$500 budget.

Most of the gift items were purchased from Dollar Tree and Amazon but additional items were donated. With our budget, we purchased colorful gift bags, shampoos, lotions, body washes, emery boards, disposable razors, deodorants, lip balms, socks, gloves, scarves, tissues, writing journals and candy. Through the generosity of donations, we were also able to provide earrings/



Santas Helpers (L-R): Gayle Ingle, Alma Benoit, Mary Boyter, Cindy Murray, Kimberly Kierce, Pam Johnson, Carol Ruskowski, Beth Leos



bracelets bags (provided by Carol Ruskowski's daughter Christine Bright), crocheted beanie caps (made by Carol Ruskowski) and individually designed beautiful gift cards (from Mary Boyter's friend Mollye Kirk). We included a personal message in each gift card.

Carol, Mary and Cindy assembled the bags at Cindy's house on November 27. Gayle Ingle, Alma Benoit, Kim Kierce, Pam Johnson joined Carol, Mary and me when we met with Beth Leos at the HDNB Outreach/Administration location in Plano on December 4 for a formal handoff of the gift bags. We want to thank all who participated in this project. The Christmas Spirit prevailed to ensure thirty women would be remembered for Christmas. This was an example of President Christine Hart's theme "Altrusa Be the Change."

LEFT: Cindy Murray (left) and Mary Boyter (right) show off the beautiful gift bags headed for Hopes Door

KINDNESS COMMITTEE UPDATE

PACKING BOXES FOR THE MILITARY

By Cindy McIntyre

October 28th started out in a downpour. Still, ten Altrusans braved the weather and helped pack boxes for deployed military in Poland and the Southern Border. This was our first time meeting in the home of Colleen Canion, who has been doing this for many years in our area.



Above: Altrusa team leader Cindy McIntyre (left) and Project Coordinator Colleen Canion (right) prepare the shipping paperwork for the Post Office

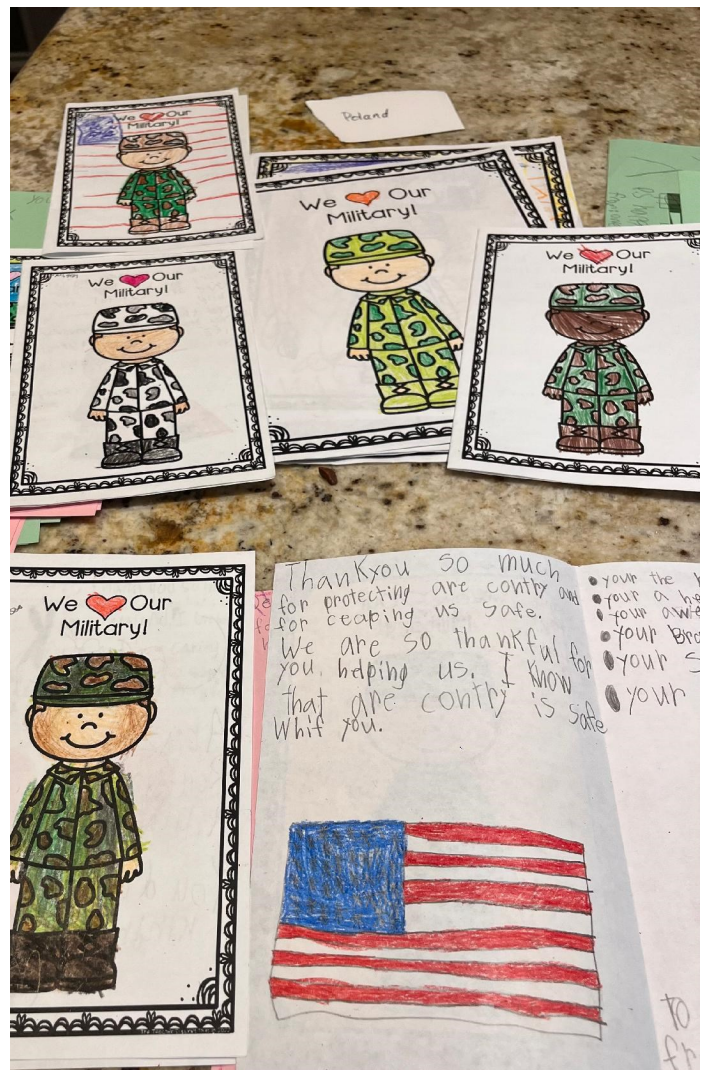
Colleen's methods were a bit chaotic, nevertheless, she filled out the custom forms (Poland boxes had to be specifically itemized), took two cars containing the seventeen big boxes we filled to the post office and paid the shipping! Many service men and women will have something to open and enjoy for the holidays – some who never receive mail of any kind.

What a joy to be part of an organization that respects and cares for those who protect our freedoms. Thank

Right: Just a sample of the many cards and notes created by RISD schoolchildren that were included

Our contributions were extensive. We supplied over \$500 in much needed items like razors, detergent, bug wipes, hand warmers, cheese crackers, nuts of several different kinds, and Christmas candy. The Blue Star Mothers chapter made up twenty of our cute holiday bags including a personal note, and many Altrusans did the same. Friends Place (where many veterans attend) attached small candy canes with the message "This is MINT to thank you for your service."

But that was not all. Five RISD Elementary schools and one preschool wrote, colored, and scribbled notes of thanks and wishes for good holidays. These special items went right on the very top of each box. (see below)



ABILITY HOUSE COMMITTEE NEWS

CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS WITH ABILITY HOUSE

December 16 saw us joining with our friends at Ability House for our annual holiday party. We shared yummy food, fun and merriment as the residents opened their gifts.

And we also showed our appreciation for the caretakers.

A few of us also brought treats to the men at Wentworth House.



Front row: residents; Nina, Shelly, Crystal, Robert Vera and Kathleen **Knealing:** Kimberly Kierce, Mouna Al Rashed **Back Row:** Two Caregivers, resident Jane, Sherri White, Janie Jaquier, Rosemary Gouger, John Sanders, Gayle Ingle and Donna Buhr



Front to back: Vera, Sherri White, Jody, (Nina's sister) Nina, Donna Buhr



Shelly won't let go of her gifts



Neither will Kathleen



Jane shows off her puzzle



Crystal was tickled by her horse that makes sounds



Robert shows off a Cowboys t-shirt with Mouna Al Rashed

MORE KINDNESS COMMITTEE NEWS

ANGEL TREE GIFTS FOR NEW FRIENDS NEW LIFE

By Terri Morgan, Bobbi Klein

In December the Kindness Committee picked twenty items requested by clients from the New Friends New Life Angel Tree. The sub-committee decided that we would be more impactful and personal to donate items we knew would be perfect for each individual client. The \$500 worth of items were purchased from Amazon and Walmart and shipped directly to New Friends New Life to be wrapped and distributed to the clients in time for Christmas .



The photo to the right shows the Angel Tree gifts being wrapped by volunteers at New Friends New Life



International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/7 that established the Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme, also designated 27 January as an annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust – observed with ceremonies and activities at United Nations Headquarters in New York and at United Nations offices around the world.

