

2020-2021

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**President's Message**



November is a month in which we begin to think about things for which we are thankful, and while 2020 has been a very difficult year, there are still many things for which we can be thankful. Even in a pandemic, Altrusa Richardson has done so much to give our community the things that make lives much easier. It's amazing how we have been able to think outside the box and

come up with so many innovative projects. Personally, I am thankful for our members and how they have stepped forward and continued to take on projects that we previously thought would be impossible.

Our service projects are paramount to our club and our committees have done a phenomenal job. We have continued to serve Ability House residents by giving the residents birthday and holiday celebrations. Thanks to the talents of Christine Hart and her committee, the residents were given a rousing and fun puppet show to celebrate Halloween. In fact, those who were able to participate had as much fun as the Ability House residents. Additionally, the Community Outreach committee members gathered and delivered children's coats for NETWORK. Our contributions allow low income residents to receive items that they would otherwise do without. Members are donated toys that will help NETWORK's clients and their children have a wonderful holiday. The Kindness Military Project committee has sent boxes of goodies and with written notes of encouragement to our troops. Holiday notes were sent in time for whatever holiday being celebrated, whether it be Hanukah, Christmas, Kwanza, or others. All in all, our projects continue to be undeterred by this pandemic.

The Club has also persevered, even though our major OWT fund raising event had to be cancelled. Instead, the OWT committee, coordinated by Laura Trainor Collins and Jane Tucker, changed course and organized the

Continued page 2

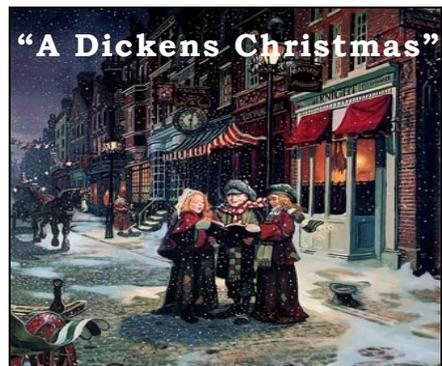
*"Achieving wonderful things through Unity, Teamwork, and Compassion"*

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** (continued)

club to be represented during North Texas Giving Day. We raised over \$8,000 that will be put into good use funding projects so necessary to our continuing service to the community. Also, while we haven't been able to meet in person, we have been able to continue to meet virtually. The Leadership Committee held their semi-annual Leadership seminar featuring the book, "Who Moved My Cheese" facilitated by our own Brenda Duckett on ZOOM. Thank you Leadership Committee, for a most inspiring and well received seminar. Through this virtual medium, we have explored so many different ways to keep in touch.

District Nine held the Fall Leadership Conference and the 2019-2020 award ceremony in the virtual world as well. The Fall Leadership Conference featured Wendy Sheriff, who was one of our past OWT honorees. At the awards ceremony, our club was honored with three awards. We received the following honors for the 2018-2019 club year: 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Communications award, 3<sup>rd</sup> place – International Relations Award for "Kindness Ninjas Go Global", and 2<sup>nd</sup> place Edith Debusk President's Award, honoring Sarah Nesbit for her vision and leadership. Congratulations Altrusa Richardson!

A special thank you to all our members for the wonderful work that you do. Our club is very special and we really do have so much to be thankful for.



*Please join us for our Holiday Celebration on zoom on December 17th. We know you will enjoy the Dickens Christmas program. This same program was performed for the Opera Guild and it was well received. It will be a wonderful celebration.*

*Samantha Slaight*

President 2020-2021

**ALTRUSA ACCENT**

**The Website's the Place to Stay Informed and Let Members Know What's Up**

**EVERYONE!** Please check the Events / Club Calendar before planning committee meetings. And be sure to notify **Jean Stuart or Linda Caron** when your committee makes its plans, so your meeting can be added to the calendar. Help us avoid conflicting events!

Also, as committee plan events throughout the year, please notify Jean Stuart and Linda Caron ASAP to put it on the calendar and lock in your event to avoid conflicts. The following information is needed for event postings on the website:

**Website Calendar Event Posting Information** To avoid delays in posting, please send all this information directly to Jean Stuart at [Jeanstuart37@gmail.com](mailto:Jeanstuart37@gmail.com) and Linda Caron at [lindamcaron@gmail.com](mailto:lindamcaron@gmail.com)

**PLEASE SEE THE NEW FILLABLE EVENT POSTING FORM ON THE MEMBER INFORMATION PAGE**

**SAVE THE BLANK PAGE, FILL IT OUT AND EMAIL TO JEAN AND LINDA**

**Upcoming Events Dec. - Feb.**

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

- Dec. 03 6:30 pm Social Dinner at Besa's
- Dec. 07 6:00 pm Book Club Holiday party
- Dec. 08 6:30 pm Together Tuesdays on Zoom
- Dec. 10 6:30 pm Club Board Meeting on Zoom
- Dec. 12 1:30 pm Ability House Holiday party
- Dec. 17 7:00 pm Holiday Celebration on Zoom
- Jan. 12 6:30 pm Together Tuesdays on Zoom
- Jan. 21 7:00 pm Monthly Meeting via Zoom
- Jan. 25 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm AWCLS Book Club
- Jan. 28 6:30 pm Club board Meeting on Zoom
- Feb. 09 6:30 pm Together Tuesdays on Zoom
- Feb. 19 7:00 pm Monthly Meeting via zoom
- Feb. 22 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm AWCLS Book Club
- Feb. 25 6:30 pm Club Board meeting on Zoom
- Feb. 27 1:30 pm Ability House Kathleen's B-day

## **ENCOURAGEMENT VITAMIN “F” STYLE**

By Nancy Rohm, Past President

A friend of mine shared this inspirational message with another group. She gave me permission to share it with all of you. The thought behind it, reminds me of our Altrusa Sisters, each bringing various skills to the table. It is called vitamin “F” and it goes like this.

“We are all in need of our vitamin “F”, called friendship. We have a variety of friends, and they each bring out something different in us! Some make us laugh, some joke with us, some give us advice and some bring out our polite side. Friends are like pieces of puzzles, when completed, they form a treasure box.

We all pray together, and doctors say “friends” are good for our health. I am so glad we all have a stock of vitamin “F”!

*My thanks to all of you for being one of my vitamins.*



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### *ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL/DISTRICT NINE SERVICE PROJECT*

#### **Altrusa Richardson Grant for “Days for Girls” Follow-up Report** (Excerpt)

By Jane Tucker, District Nine Days for Girls Liaison

“This grant allowed for a unique endeavor by all of District Nine to promote our “Defying Gravity 2.0” theme and unite Texas with this Days for Girls Service Project, allowing our District an avenue to develop leadership skills and promote inclusion of all District Nine clubs. As host club for our 2020 District Nine Conference, the Richardson club was shouldered with providing the necessary supplies to complete this District project. Over 20 of the 35 clubs in district Nine participated in this project. Hours of purchasing supplies, cutting, sewing and assembly were done by Altrusa members all over District Nine. Days for Girls Teams were also involved in sewing kit components and helping with distribution. Our vision for this project was to have all the District Nine clubs become aware of how Days for Girls can reach out and help women and girls all over the world and what contribution, no matter how small, can lead to the monumental result of “turning periods into pathways”.

The project can be evaluated by viewing the effectiveness of having all of District Nine involved in the project. This project not only reached our goal of 400 kits but surpassed it with a final count of 700 kits. One hundred kits are going to a women’s correctional facility in Freetown, Sierra Leone. A total of eight cases containing 194 kits were shipped to Beirut, Lebanon to comply with an urgent request from Days for girls Lebanon Enterprises to help meet the tremendous needs due to the Port explosion disaster. 95 kits are going to Fundacion Familia Maya, in Guatemala. 198 kits will be distributed by high school counselors to students in lewisvill and Highland village, Texas, who are helping a large immigrant population from Burma, and 113 kits are still to be distributed. ... An estimated 200 kits can be assembled from extra kit components not needed to complete our project, that have been donated to the Uganda Days for Girls Enterprise in Kumpala, Uganda. The mission of this Enterprise is to develop a sustainable Days for Girls business model to allow women and girls the opportunity to make and sell the kits for themselves.



**District Nine Altrusans assemble Days For Girls hygiene kits**



## DAYS FOR GIRLS

When the devastating explosions occurred in Beirut on August 4th, our global network rallied. We put the call out to Chapters and Teams to mobilize in support of DfG Lebanon's Emergency Response efforts...  
**And WOW did you STEP UP!**

*Since August 8th we have...*

- ✿ Fundraised **\$26,414.48 USD**
- ✿ Ordered **2000 DfG Kits** and **3500 masks** from the DfG Lebanon Enterprises run by Syrian Refugees for the emergency response
- ✿ Collected **27,755 DfG Kits** from 186 Chapters and Teams:
  - **12,565 Kits** have been shipped to Lebanon for emergency and humanitarian response led by DfG Lebanon
  - **5,880 Kits** have been shipped to Honduras for COVID-19 response
  - **9,310 Kits** have been shipped to Americares. They are assessing the needs of their in-country partners and will be selecting the locations most in need to receive these Kits.

**Together, we are bringing comfort and dignity to **29,755** women and girls during this challenging time.**

**Thank you for being adaptive, creative, and collaborative. It's truly incredible what we can achieve when we all work together!**

You can follow DfG Lebanon's [facebook page](#) for updates and photos!

*DISTRICT NINE*

**District Nine Awards 2018-2019**

The Awards for President Sarah Nesbit's year 2018-2019 were announced during the virtual conference Event held on Zoom, on Thursday, October 8.

Altrusa International of Richardson, TX, Inc. was recognized with the following honors:

- ✓ 3rd place - Communications Award
- ✓ 3rd place - International Relations Award for "Kindness Ninjas Go Global"
- ✓ 2nd place Edith DeBusk President's Award honoring Sarah Ross Nesbit for her vision and leadership.

*EDITOR'S NOTE*

**Please Note Tidings Schedule Change for the Rest of This Club Year**

Tidings will be published quarterly: **March 1 and June 1, 2021**. This changes the deadline for submitting articles for Tidings. The deadline is the **15th of the month prior** to the publication date: **February 15 and May 15**.

Please **send your information**, soon as possible, **so you don't forget** (especially since Tidings will not be published monthly). Don't forget to take pictures and send those, along with the names and order of the people in the pictures. Send articles and pictures to [raklein77@yahoo.com](mailto:raklein77@yahoo.com). *Please observe the submission guidelines as to font, font sizes and spacing. "TIDINGS SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS" are on the website Members Only/ Member Information page.*

\* Tidings is available to the public through our website, so please write your articles for public consumption.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

**Community Outreach Donation to Ark House**

By Gloria Sandoval and Carol Ruszkowski, Co-Chairs

On October 16, 2020, Community Outreach members Mary Boyter and Gloria Sandoval presented sixteen sets of twin bed sheets to Ark House representative Betsy Meggs; also, there to welcome Betsy were Altrusans Marsha Peterson and Courtenay Tanner. Betsy stated that the bed sheets are desperately needed because, unfortunately, sometimes items belonging to Ark House seem to disappear.

The Mission of Ark House is to provide low cost temporary housing for out of town patients and their families while undergoing extended medical treatment in the Dallas area.

Patients are referred from Baylor, Medical City, UT Southwestern, Children's Hospital, Parkland Burn Center and other hospitals in Dallas. They are referred through the hospital's social worker who has identified their need, to secure affordable, temporary housing in the Dallas area while receiving extensive medical treatment. Most Ark House patients are from small towns all over Texas, including Dallas County. However, some patients may come from as far away as South America. Having a safe, clean, comfortable and most importantly affordable place to stay for sometimes months of treatment is critical to the healing process.

The project consists of sixteen apartments conveniently located to the major Dallas hospitals. These fully furnished, one-bedroom apartments that sleep four are leased by Ark House and made available to out of town patients at a charge of \$25 per day. This charge constitutes less than 1/2 of the cost to provide the housing, utilities, telephone and cable. Their homey atmosphere is conducive to the healing process.



**Pictured above: Betsy Meggs, Marsha Peterson, Courtenay Tanner, Mary Boyter and Gloria Sandoval**

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE

**Stepping up to Meet the Needs of Families in Distress**

By Carol Ruskowski and Gloria Sandoval (co-chairs)

The holidays are nipping at our heels, and typically they bring joy and excitement. This year, the COVID pandemic created situations of acute struggle and distress, the likes of which, most of us have seldom seen.

NETWORK of Community Ministries, in Richardson, prior to COVID, was serving just over 150 families per week in their Food Pantry and Clothing Closet. That number has grown to over 700 per week.

When the call for help from NETWORK came, Altrusa Richardson, a longtime supporter, stepped in to help meet their needs. Community Outreach Chairs, Carol Ruskowski and Gloria Sandoval immediately sent out an SOS to the Club membership. And you all got the message!!

Members, Jackie Scrivener and Christine Hart purchased eighty coats and jackets from the Community Outreach budget, and an additional fifty coats were purchased from donations provided by members. We received approximately thirty gently used coats, also donated from members. Sue McElveen, Kindness Committee Co-Chair, along with Carol Ruskowski jumped in to help shop. The Kindness Committee purchased an additional fifteen coats from its budget. That was a TOTAL of 175 coats! These coats were delivered to NETWORK on Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Christmas Spirit continued to invade our club. Donations of toys came from members, neighbors, and friends. A large monetary donation allowed Gloria Sandoval, Deb Bourland and Carol Ruskowski to fill up several carts with toys. They were delivered to Network on Monday, November 23, 2020.

The Community Outreach committee was overwhelmed and grateful from the response of our club members.

**“Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus” aka “Altrusa Richardson.”**

*\*\* God bless each of you for your generosity and prayers. Gloria and Carol*



L-R Carol Ruskowski, Gloria Sandoval, Deb Bourland and Sue McElveen



(L-R) Christine Hart, Gloria Sandoval, Deb Bourland, Gayle Ingle, Jackie Scrivener, Jane Merz, Alma Benoit, Sue McElveen and Carol Ruskowski

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE

**A Huge Donation of Toys for NETWORK's Santa Program**

By Gloria Sandoval and Carol Ruskowski

On Monday, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Altrusans gathered once again at NETWORK of Community Ministries. But this time it was to provide the families they service with toys for their kids for Christmas. From donated and budgeted monies from the Kindness and Community Outreach Committees, shoppers Sue McElveen, Gloria Sandoval, Deb Bourland and Carol Ruskowski scoured the stores and bought enough toys to fill an Odyssey van and a Subaru Outback.

While Sue and Carol were standing at the register at Ross Dress for Less with two over-flowing carts, a young man asked Sue what we were doing. Sue told him and he gave us a \$20 Ross gift certificate. Almost brought tears to both of our eyes. Members and friends also joined in the fun by bringing toys as well.

The year of the pandemic brought out the kindness and generosity of our club starting with the donations of socks, shoes, panties, and back packs. Then it went on to coats/jackets and toys. You are AMAZING!



Two Cars – a Subaru outback and an Odyssey Van are filled to over-flowing with toys for the Santa Program at NETWORK thanks to the generosity of Altrusa Richardson

ALTRUSA MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

**Altrusan Barbara Berthold is Recognized by the University of Texas at Arlington**

By Mimi Tanner

Altrusan Barbara Berthold is a Senior Lecturer on the faculty at the University of Texas at Arlington. Her department has nominated her for a teaching award that recognizes exemplary work ethic, a love of working with students, and a significant impact on enhancing the goals of the University.

**Congratulations, Barbara!**



Barbara Berthold

*ABILITY HOUSE UPDATE*

**A Kindly, Ghostly Halloween Puppet Show for Ability House**

By Rosemary Gouger, Committee Chair

On October 17, 2020, our amazingly dramatic and talented Altrusans put on a puppet show for our dear friends at Ability House. Our friends at Ability House have not been able to get out since the beginning of the year due to the pandemic. We performed in the yard so that the residents could enjoy the entertainment safely through the open windows. There were lots of laughs and fun, silly ghostly sounds. The ghosts, named for our Ability friends, Robert, Vera, Shelly, Henry, Kathleen, and Nina, all decided that Halloween was another opportunity to spread kindness, not scariness.

And to top it off, we had a guest interested in Ability House and experiencing what Altrusa is all about!. Kudos to all involved!



(L-R) Rosemary Gouger, Mona Roumani, Gayle Ingle, Deb Bourland, Carol R., Christine Hart, and Jane Merz



(L-R) Mary Beth McLemore, Cindy McIntyre, Laura Trainor-Collins, Alma Benoit, Gerry Carron, Susan Fischer

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**Altrusa Rallies for Walk to End Alzheimer's**

By Jane Tucker, Altrusa Walk Co-Chair

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 due to the Covid-19 virus the annual Walk to End Alzheimer's was held "everywhere" including virtually to allow supporters of this event every opportunity to participant. Annually, the Walk is the largest fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Association and is held in over six-hundred communities nationwide and serves to raise awareness of Alzheimer's, as well as raise the money it needs for Alzheimer's support and research.

This year our Community Outreach Committee with Pam Johnson and Jane Tucker as Co-Chairs coordinated an Altrusa Richardson Team. Through the efforts of our members and their families we had thirty-three team members and raised \$2,572 for the Alzheimer's Association. Totally, the local Alzheimer's Association had four hundred twenty-four teams with 1,601 participants and raised \$385,516. The money that was raised will help fund programs to accomplish the mission of eliminating Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research, to provide and enhance care and support for all afflicted, and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health.

The Alzheimer's Association is grateful for our support. This project truly reflects how we can achieve "wonderful things through **Unity, Teamwork, and Compassion**".



On behalf of the Community Outreach Committee, Pam and I wish to thank our members, their families and friends for supporting **The Walk To End Alzheimer's 2020**. There really are no words to express how grateful we are to all of you for making our **Team Altrusa Richardson** so successful. We raised **\$2,572** for the Alzheimer's Association. This money will get channeled back into our community to help so many!

We really are achieving wonderful things through Unity, Teamwork, & Compassion.

Many Thanks.....

Pam Johnson & Jane Tucker



Kimberly Kierce and friend Robert walked in the park



Barbara Berthold walked at UTA



Jane Tucker and furry friend Gracie walked in their Dallas neighborhood



Pam and Mike Johnson and their furry friends walked in their Richardson neighborhood

## KINDNESS COMMITTEE UPDATE

### Toys for Network

By Linda Caron and Sue McElveen, Co-Chairs

The Kindness Committee has been sending boxes of desired items, such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, Slim Jim Jerky, deodorant, soap and lotion sets, peanut packets, sunflower seeds, baby wipes, razors, etc., to our military in the Middle East and Japan each month with funds from a \$1,900 donation that we received earlier in the year. Each box also contains a few personal notes or cards provided by members of Altrusa.



Robbin Murley with the boxes sent in August

In June, Robbin Murley mailed out five boxes to Kuwait with products that had been purchased at the end of last year. These items were purchased during the start of the pandemic here in the states. Because we were not able to meet at the end of the year, the committee decided to finish the project beginning with Altrusa's new year. The committee's plan was to mail out six boxes per month to various sites in order to observe the COVID-19 provisions. Sue and Linda, co-chairs of the committee, sent out six boxes in August to Kuwait.

In early September, Sue had Janie Jaquier and Cindy McIntyre at her home to fill the next six boxes, which were mailed to Kuwait. In early October, Linda, Sarah Saunders, and Ann Turner met at Linda's house to pack six boxes that were sent to a base in Japan where Marines and Sailors are in "Restriction of Movement" due to COVID-19. Nancy Rohm and Pam Johnson sent out another six boxes to the base in Japan. In November, Jane Tucker, and Robbin Murley sent out six boxes to Kuwait to Chaplain Spivey. Chaplain Spivey was the instigator of the donation we received to fund this project.

The final mailing of eight boxes will be made by Sue McElveen and Norma Hammerlund in early December to Chaplain Spivey's unit. We would like to thank each of you that sent or are sending notes of encouragement to our soldiers along with our boxes. Linda, Sue, and Janie Jaquier procured toothbrushes, travel size toothpaste tubes and dental floss from their dentist's offices. Also, Jane Tucker donated several items to be included in the mailings.

In early 2021, we will purchase, package, and donate feminine hygiene items to New Friends New Life (NFNL) which is a faith-based 501 (c) (3) organization located in the Dallas-Fort Worth area dedicated to restoring and empowering formerly trafficked girls and sexually exploited women and their children.

In August, our committee was able to fulfill all of our International obligations to TeachHaiti and HELPs International for educational scholarships; Mike's Kids, through Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries who help the most indigent in the Rio Grande Valley; and an orphanage in Ghana to help them with sanitation needs due to COVID-19. We also donated \$200 to buy coats and toys for NETWORK to help the Outreach Committee with their efforts.



Kindness Committee joined together with the Community Outreach Committee and other members donations to purchase coats and toys for NETWORK families in need.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

### Socially Distanced September Picnic

By Christine Hart

On September 18, the Membership Committee hosted a “socially distant” picnic which was well attended and quite a success. We met at Huffhines Park and the weather was truly perfect for us. It was so wonderful to be with people, even if we had to stay “apart” outside. It was a good alternative to our usual inside restaurant Lunch Bunch.

**Pictured (L-R): Kimberly Kierce, Gloria Sandoval, Mary Beth McLemore, Sylvia McCloskey, Gayle Ingle, Cindy Murry, Deb Bourland, Christine Hart, Gerry Carron, Laura Trainor. Also attending but not pictured: Carol Ruskowski**



On October 18th, the Membership Committee partnered with the Ability House Committee to put on a Halloween themed puppet show. They residents loved it. Susan Fischer brought a guest, Tina Shedd, who has a son with Cerebral Palsy, and she was interested in learning about Ability House.

In true Altrusa fashion, most of us met (appropriately social distanced, of course) for lunch at Christine Hart’s house before going to Ability House.



**Pictured (L-R) around the table: Susan Fischer’s guest Tina Shedd, Christine Hart, Jane Merz, Cindy McIntyre, Carol Ruskowski, Gerry Carron, Alma Benoit, Mary Beth McLemore, Gayle Ingle, Deb Bourland and Susan Fischer.**



**Pictured starting in front around the circle: Julianne Lovelace, Janie Jaquier, Jane Merz, Mary Boyter, Courtenay Tanner, Marsha Peters, Christine Hart and Mary Beth McLemore.**

On November 17th, we held our monthly socially distanced “Picnic in the Park” and the weather was wonderful. We missed you!

The Dinner Divas will meet on Thursday, December 3, at 6:30 pm at what was our normal first Thursday dinner place, Besa’s at Jupiter/ Lookout. If your comfort level says yes and you need an Altrusa boost of fun sign up on the website for this dinner. Altrusans will bond and laugh after Thanksgiving at Besa’s. We will also be helping a local business and our friend Al.

The Membership Committee is offering a variety of activities, outdoor, indoor, stay home, and different times of the day for you to pick your comfort level and or availability. We want members to have activities that keep us in touch with each other and the fun of Altrusa.

## SENIOR COMMITTEE UPDATE

### Altrusa Makes Fair Day at Friends Place Sweeter

By Jane Tucker

This year the Friends Place Annual Fair Day for its clients was October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at Friend's Place. There were all types of mid-way activities to remind the clients of the fun things they traditionally do at the Fair. The Seniors Committee helped with Fair Day by providing cupcakes for the Cake Walk Rather than having store bought cupcakes, Rosemary Gouger made gourmet cupcakes that were almost too gorgeous to eat. The clients loved them and were so appreciative of having such a wonderful treat! Thank you Rosemary and Seniors Committee for helping make Fair Day a success!



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## UNITED NATIONS OBSERVANCES

### 2020 U.N. Days and Observances

Excerpted from [www.un.org](http://www.un.org)



**International Day for the Abolition of Slavery December 2, 2020:** According to the [ILO](http://ILO) more than 40 million people worldwide are victims of modern slavery. Although modern slavery is not defined in law, it is used as an umbrella term covering practices such as forced labor, debt bondage, forced marriage, and human trafficking. Essentially, it refers to situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception, and/or abuse of power.

**Human Rights Day, December 10, 2020:** This year's Human Rights Day theme relates to the COVID-19 pandemic and focuses on the need to build back better by ensuring Human Rights are central to recovery efforts. We will reach our common global goals only if we are able to create equal opportunities for all, address the failures exposed and exploited by COVID-19, and apply human rights standards to tackle entrenched, systematic, and intergenerational inequalities, exclusion and discrimination.

**International Day of Education, January 24, 2021:** The right to education is enshrined in article 26 of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](http://Universal Declaration of Human Rights). The declaration calls for free and compulsory elementary education. The [Convention on the Rights of the Child](http://Convention on the Rights of the Child), adopted in 1989, goes further to stipulate that countries shall make higher education accessible to all.

When it adopted the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](http://2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development) in September 2015, the international community recognized that education is essential for the success of all 17 of its goals. [Sustainable Development Goal 4](http://Sustainable Development Goal 4), in particular, aims to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” by 2030.

**World Day of Social Justice, February 20, 2021:** Social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. We uphold the principles of social justice when we promote gender equality, or the rights of indigenous peoples and migrants. We advance social justice when we remove barriers that people face because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability.

For the United Nations, the pursuit of social justice for all is at the core of our global mission to promote development and human dignity. The adoption by the [International Labour Organization](http://International Labour Organization) of the [Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization](http://Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization) is just one recent example of the UN System's commitment to social justice. The Declaration focuses on guaranteeing fair outcomes for all, through employment, social protection, social dialogue, and fundamental principles and rights at work.

*It is with great sadness that we  
note the passing in October  
of Altrouser Jerry Wallace  
husband of Gale Wallace*

*Cards can be sent to:*

*Gale Wallace*

*8415 Anglin Way*

*Dallas, TX 75243*

Join us for



These events are a purely social and a great way to “separately be together” and still share Altrusa sisterhood while sheltering in place. Held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm on Zoom, you should register on our website via the event calendar to confirm the Zoom link.

Upcoming dates:

December 8, January 12, February 9,  
March 9, April 13, May 11

## Altrusa at the United Nations

Since 1946, Altrusa International has held observer status at the United Nations (UN). At that time, Altrusa was the first international classified service club for then executive and professional women to have an official observer appointed to the United Nations, Frances K. Marquis, president of the New York City (NYC) Altrusa Club. Frances was a close friend to another active NYC Altrusan, Eleanor Roosevelt. Eleanor Roosevelt delivered an address at the 1945 San Francisco UN Conference on International Organization and later then President Harry S. Truman appointed Mrs. Roosevelt to Chair the famous UN Human Rights Committee.

In 1978, our UN membership was assigned to the level of a NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) in roster status within the ECOSOC (the Economic and Social Council). In this capacity, we join together with other NGOs, empowered to attend open General Assembly sessions and UN briefings/conferences related solely to global and social concerns, and receive UN Ground Passes.

In each biennium, the International Board appoint 5 representatives to attend and monitor UN meetings and briefings, as allowed. Altrusa's representatives may participate (either in person or via teleconference/

Facebook) in weekly briefings/”chats” conducted by the UN Department of Global Communication (DGC), Civil Society

(NGOs). In addition, they may serve on DGC Annual Conference committees and other projects, formed to further the improvement of the human condition worldwide.

*Kathleen Schrein*

*Representative for Altrusa International to United Nations Department of Global Communications*