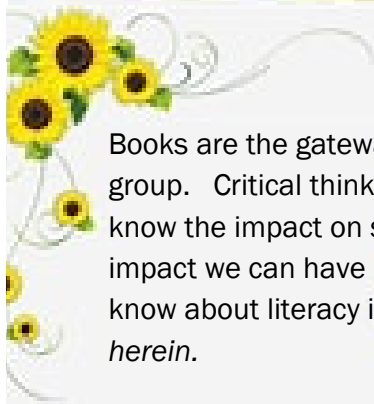


Governor's Corner



Books are the gateway to a new way of thinking and living. That proves to be true for every age group. Critical thinking skills develop by the third grade and our Altrusans who are teachers already know the impact on students if they fall behind at that grade level. But do we truly grasp what an impact we can have if we focus on improvement of literacy rates in our communities? What do we know about literacy in Texas? See *the statistics regarding literacy rates, Literacytexas.org, included herein.*

At first glance one might question if “one book at a time” could possibly make a dent in the needs portrayed by these numbers. Use these statistics as a road map to identify opportunities to raise the literacy rates of one target audience in your community. We must start somewhere. Our aggregate impact around the world when focused on “one book at a time” can be a force of change to uplift the lives of millions. Simply by increasing the number of parents that read to their children, coaching and mentoring students to graduate from high school, directing books and skills development into the jobs of the future and assisting those whose primary language at home is something other than English, Altrusans can raise literacy rates. A book and development of reading skills raises opportunity in a household from one generation to the next.

Making a difference is not always about eradicating a problem but sometimes you are the seed that spreads and develops an awareness of how your community is impacted by a problem. Awareness is often powerful enough to start a conversation about solutions. Solutions can be tiny steps that address the most basic issues of access to books or coaching.

Altrusans around the world are stepping forward with *one book at a time*. Every Altrusan in District Nine is asked to focus on some factor that affects literacy by serving, reading and leading others to read. Document the impact that you are having with your fellow Altrusans and let's make a difference in the lives of

by sharing your club's
ing with the district
books and service

Click here to record your contributions:

[Altrusa District Nine - One Book Log \(wildapricot.org\)](https://wildapricot.org/Altrusa-District-Nine-One-Book-Log)
[Altrusa District Nine - One Book Summary \(wildapricot.org\)](https://wildapricot.org/Altrusa-District-Nine-One-Book-Summary)

millions. Please participate
focus on literacy by connect-
on the google doc to count
hours by club and through

sharing your Lead to Read projects with the District. Email your pictures and project descriptions to marybp21@gmail.com for inclusion in the NOMN future issues.

Continued on Next Page

Record your book donations and literacy service hours and let's see what we can do as DISTRICT NINE ALTRUSANS.

STARTING WITH WHY, by Simon Sinek, will lead off the District Nine Book Club discussion series beginning the first Wednesday at noon in January of 2022. We will be reading to lead. I hope that you will join the group to hear what some Altrusans learned from each selection. The next book will be THE ART OF POSSIBILITY by Benjamin Zander and Rosamund Stone Zander with discussion planned via zoom for the first Wednesday in February. These are two of my favorite books to broaden one's perspective and grow to see "what can be."

One book at a time is really development of a READER and a LEADER for a lifetime.

Thank you for all you do, *Mary*



Literacy in the United States

- * More than 43 million adults in the United States cannot read, write, or do basic math above a third-grade level.
- * A rise of just 1% in literacy scores leads to a 2.5% rise in labor productivity and a 1.5% rise in GDP.
- * If all adults could reach the equivalent of a sixth-grade reading level, up to \$2.2 trillion additional income could be generated annually for the United States.
- * An estimated \$106 – \$238 billion in health care costs every year are linked to low adult literacy skills.
- * Around 75% of people currently in prison have low literacy skills.
- * When people who are in prison participate in education programs, they are 43% less likely to re-offend, compared to people who do not participate.
- * The reading skill of a child's main caregiver – usually their mother – is the greatest determinant of that child's future academic success, more significant than other factors like neighborhood or family income.

Literacy in Texas

- * Texas ranks 49 out of 50 among states in the percentage of the adult population with a high school education; 16% of adults over 25 in Texas don't have a high school diploma or equivalent. Tens of thousands of Texans are on waiting lists for basic education in any given year.
- * 4.8 million Texas adults are in need of adult education programs. Federal funds serve about 3% of that need.
- * Texas ranks 41 out of 50 among states in the percentage of 18- to 24-year-olds enrolled in colleges and universities: 39.6%.
- * Texas ranks 46 out of 50 among states for the number of libraries per person, with 3.2 libraries per 100,000 residents.
- * The pre-kindergarten system in Texas meets only 2 of 10 quality standards, ranking 28 out of 50 among states nationally in pre-kindergarten funding levels.
- * Texas spends \$8,350 per student on average and ranks 43 out of 50 among states in total "per pupil" expenditures, compared to a national average of \$11,762 per student.
- * 43% of adults with the lowest levels of literacy live in poverty, compared to only 4% of those with the highest literacy skills.
- * 1.7 million Texas children live in poverty. Poverty can be both a cause and a result of low literacy.
- * 6.5 million Texas residents – almost 40% – speak a language other than English at home. This is close to double the national average.



COMING SOON — ALTRUSA DISTRICT NINE LEADERSHIP BOOK CLUB

The first two books and discussion leaders have been selected for the NEW Altrusa District Nine Leadership Book Club. At noon on January 5, 2022, Past Governor LaVone Arthur will be leading the discussion on Start with Why – How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Take Action by Simon Sinek. On February 2 at noon, we will discuss The Art of Possibility by Rosamund Stone Zander and Benjamin Zander. Our discussion leader will be Patricia J. (Patsy) Sulak, MD. Both books are available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble and other sites. More information about how to participate in one or both Zoom discussions will be furnished to you in December.

ClubRunner needs a coordinator for each club. Soon this will be the pathway for all communications for District Nine Altrusans—We need your partnership for building the pathway between District Nine and our Altrusans. Here's how you update your info.

Editing your Personal Information on Altrusa ClubRunner Site

1. Go to Altrusa's new home page at <https://altrusadistrictnine.org/>
 - a. Click on Members Only
 - b. Click on Edit My Profile
2. Screen prompts for Username and Password; enter information received from District Nine.
3. Or you can use the option for forgotten password and will be sent an email with your username and a link to reset your password.
 - a. To reset enter your Club, Last Name, and Email Address then click on Submit.
4. Once logged in, click on **blue EDIT** button. Enter needed information. **Please be sure to supply your email address so you receive District Nine updates.** If you enter a phone number, please enter your ten digit number to include the area code.

FYI - Birthday and anniversary years can only be viewed by Club Executive level or higher.

Only Members can see phone and address information.



For comments or submissions regarding this issue or future issues of NOMN:

Contact *Mary Black Pearson*, Governor of District NINE

marybp21@gmail.com

A New Resource For Club Presidents:

The (PAST) PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL

Current Club Presidents, please watch your emails for information about how you can sign up for a mentor from the newly formed Presidents' Council. This group of past presidents will be a resource for presidents of clubs who don't have many past presidents within their club to call on for information, to ask for assistance in understanding a reporting requirement, etc. The members of the Presidents' Council – all past presidents of clubs within Altrusa District Nine – have a wealth of information at their fingertips, or know how to find the answer, and all of them want to help current presidents excel in your roles as leaders of your clubs. Whether you want to understand how to log on to the Altrusa International website, want to know how to formulate your club meeting agenda, have a question on parliamentary procedure, or want advice on how to help calm a conflict between two members, to name just a few questions you may have, your mentor can assist you. And because there are so many past presidents who want to assist, you may be assigned more than one mentor.

In addition to your mentor(s) from the Presidents' Council, remember that your District Nine Club Visitor, who is a member of the Altrusa District Nine Board of Directors, is also a resource for you as your liaison to the District Nine Board. Please reach out to your Club Visitor/Liaison for assistance related to District Nine business, i.e. to ask questions about the program team, to show desire to join a District Nine committee, to ask for assistance with service, membership, fundraising or leadership, to ask questions about any of the District Nine committees and their work, and other questions/concerns about District Nine. And if you are in doubt as to who to talk to, reach out to either your District Nine Club Visitor/Liaison or mentor from the Presidents' Council.

If you are a current club president, please watch for an email from Governor Mary Black Pearson with instructions on how you can ask that a mentor(s) from the Presidents' Council be assigned to you.

Next Club Membership Chair Quarterly Meeting

Monday, January 24th at 6:00

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89600028844?pwd=V3BHZ0dMQ3haTXU0RWtqYlp5VEIDZz09>

Meeting ID: 896 0002 8844

Passcode: 059035

Important Dates



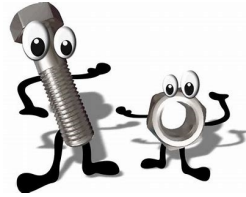
Grant Deadline 03/15/22

District Nine Conference 04/29/22-05/01/22

Altrusa International Convention 07/19-22/23

"Policy Corner

the Nuts and Bolts"

Altrusa Insurance

By Betty Lawson,
Past Governor and BRR Chair

Are you ever asked to provide evidence of insurance for your club? Well, the good news is that as part of our dues to international, there is Commercial General Liability coverage designed to cover Altrusa Clubs and their volunteers for acts to which they become LEGALLY OBLIGATED TO PAY. The policy does not provide coverage for moral obligations, just legally enforceable liabilities. As with any insurance, there are exclusions and limitations. ALWAYS contact the insurance agent regarding any questions. The contact information is on the Certificate of Insurance page.

Each club should review their exposures to see if they need additional coverage. For example, if a club owns a building, they would need to buy coverage covering the property. Other type of events that are not covered (and club would need to purchase insurance) included (but not limited to) items stolen, any club sponsored "float" or "rafting" trips, turkey shoots, club sponsored Tour of Homes and limited coverage for liquor, if sold.

Some clubs feel the need for Crime Cover (bonding) and Directors & Officers Coverage.

Should you need a certificate of insurance, you can make the request on line

Just go to International Website
 Log in as a member:
 User name: altrusan
 password: MamieLethaNina 1917
 Governance dropdown – Incorporation toolkit

There is a section under "Important Tools" for requesting certificate of insurance.

Just complete the form and send to agent shown. REQUEST 30 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF EVENT.

In the same area are FAQ of Club Liability. There are 30 most frequently asked questions that should be helpful to determine your club's needs.

Navigating the Web....

- Important websites to know!
www.altrusa.org (click Member Login in the upper right)
www.login.altrusa.org (go directly to the members area)
www.altrusastore.com (purchase Altrusa branded items including pins and banners)
www.altrusaservice.org (browser and share your club's service projects)

Login: Altrusans Password: MamieLethaNina1917

- Give International some feedback and share your thoughts on improving Altrusa with the Suggestion Box.



MEMBERSHIP ACCELERATION

Discovery, Power, Learning

The Growth, Vitality and Strength of our clubs

In September, the POWER and DISCOVERY teams met with District Nine Club Membership Chairs to give details of the POWER Survey and DISCOVERY Plan to help strengthen our clubs and increase our club's membership.

The POWER TEAM Survey was developed to help clubs assess their strengths and opportunities. The team explained in detail each question in the survey as well as how the clubs can benefit from the results. After the club completes the survey and the results are put into the matrix developed by the team, the POWER team is available to assist clubs in not only interpreting the results, if needed, but moving to the next step.

This survey is available to all clubs. For more information or to receive a link to take the survey for your club, contact Wendy Santiago at wendynewmansantiago@gmail.com, or Chris Scherer at mscherer2@hotmail.com.

The DISCOVERY TEAM reviewed the numerous untapped markets to make our clubs grow. Tools available to assist in Discovering these markets are the Inclusion video, the Untapped Markets power point presentation and handout. Each of these tools are currently available on the Membership tab of our website. For more information on how to use this information, contact Sharon Tramonte at smt4733@gmail.com.

The LEARNING Teams have been working on a number of areas:

- The Brand Driver Team is putting together a Tool for clubs to use along with developing an all-District Presentation to be given at conference.
- The Transformer and Presentation Team is developing a list of topics clubs would like to hear about. If you have a topic you would like to have presented to your club, please let Debbie Mabry know at tdmabry@yahoo.com.
- The Historical Team is working on finding out where clubs are archiving their historical documents, updating our District History Book as well as producing historical articles to share with the District.





Tech Corner

zoom

BY SHARON TRAMONTE, DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP COCHAIR

Zoom is a web-based conferencing platform used for business and personal purposes internationally. Zoom is just one of the many of these types of programs, but it is the one most frequently used in Altrusa. Many of us are proficient in Zoom but others of us are not. If you have never been on Zoom or do not feel comfortable with it, this article is for you!

Do I need a Zoom account? Zoom is a free service, but you do need an account to access a meeting.

How do I make an account? You can sign up for a free account by going on-line to their site. Type “zoom.us” into your web browser. Then click “Sign up for Free” to create your account then follow the prompts. After you sign up, you will receive a confirmation email, click on the “Activate Account” in the email. This will take you back to the Zoom website to finish creating your account. Take a few moments to update your profile information.

How do I join a Zoom meeting? If someone has requested that you join their meeting, they will send you the Meeting Room information in the form of a link. If you have not already downloaded the Zoom application, you will be prompted to at this time.

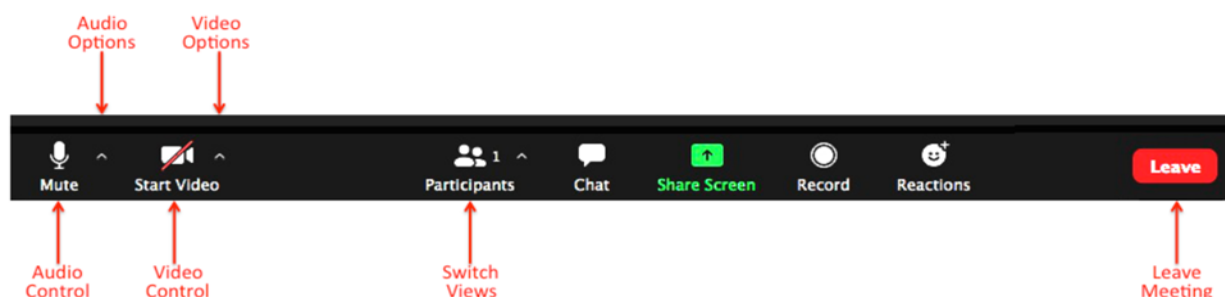
How do I connect my audio? Zoom allows multiple methods to connect to audio. Before logging in, you can test your audio to ensure it works by going to your account settings. Click on the cog-wheel icon (⚙️) to access your application home page.

You can test your audio by selecting the “Audio” option under the Settings menu and clicking “**Test Speaker**” and “**Test Mic**” to ensure you can hear and be heard. You can also access this menu by clicking “test speaker and microphone” **once you’ve already logged into the meeting**. This will be under the “Join with Computer Audio” option.

If the computer you’re using does not have a mic or speakers, or if you are getting feedback from your audio, you can join your audio via **phone**. You only have to pick **one** phone number to dial. Zoom will prompt you to enter your Meeting ID, which will be a series of numbers indicated in the same screen. Type in your participant ID so the audio will connect with your account.

How do I connect my video? Connecting your video is dependent on the host’s settings, You may be prompted to join with video and test your video prior to entering the meeting room. If this prompt isn’t available, press the “Start Video” button in the bottom left-hand corner of the screen to turn on your computer’s webcam.

How do I mute my audio? There will be several “buttons” or controls once you are logged into your meeting. They are generally located at the bottom of your screen



Altrusa History

by Sharon Tramonte

District Nine Membership CoChair



Mamie Bass was born on November 18, 1879, in Indianapolis, Indiana. She was raised and stayed in Indianapolis for much of her life. She also lived in Los Angeles California for a year, but Indianapolis was home. She hailed from a prominent family of educators; for more than 40 years her father George F. Bass, his brother William H. and his sisters, Mary Bass Knowlton and Florence Bass were pioneers and teachers in the Indianapolis public schools. She, however, deviated from the family business and entered the world of business. Following her education at Shortridge High School, Mamie furthered her studies with extension courses in English, Economics, and Art. She was quite the renaissance woman, holding positions as office manager, private secretary, treasurer, and building manager of the Davlan Corporation and the English Hotel, correspondent, employment manager, insurance agent, and partner in an architectural firm. During World War I, Mamie served as the Superintendent of the Women's Division of the United States Employment Services. While serving the government, Mamie developed the department, processed over 11,000 applicants within six months, handled publicity, addressed women's clubs, and visited factories employing women.

While Mamie is best known to us as one of the founders of Altrusa, her community service was not limited to this organization. She served on the committee that organized the National Association of Business and Professional Women in 1919. She served as president of the Mutual Service Association and was instrumental in improving conditions in homes for girls. An active member of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, Mamie served on the Education Committee and the Art Committee. She was instrumental in the organization of the Nature Study Club of Indiana and served as its first secretary. She was also an active member of the Advertisers Club, Propylaeum, Daughters of the American Revolution, Family Welfare Society, Indiana Society of Pioneers, and All Souls Unitarian Church.

In 1917, Dr. Durham approached Mamie Bass to extend Altrusa Clubs into Indianapolis. As Mamie was a well-recognized and revered businesswoman, his choice could not have been better. At that time, Mamie was helping her brother establish the Indianapolis Rotary Club and was well versed in the mission, goals, and policy of that organization. Mamie informed Dr. Durham that if the club he wanted to start in Indianapolis was not a selective, or classified, service organization, she wasn't interested. We all know how that turned out for Dr. Durham!

Mamie Bass' contribution to Altrusa is rich and storied. She helped extend Altrusa into Indianapolis serving as the club's first president. She also served as president of the Altrusa for Indiana and for the national organization. One story you may not know is that Mamie almost had to resign from Altrusa! In 1935,

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Mamie changed careers again and started as an agent for State Life Insurance Company. Unfortunately, Mary Dickson, Hazel Williams, and Minnie Barton were already classified under “Life Insurance”, although they all worked in different segments of the insurance industry. The situation was brought to the attention of the national Altrusa office for a determination by the classification chairman, Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun. Ultimately, Minnie resigned, and Mamie was allowed to stay in Altrusa.

If you ever get a chance to read some of Mamie’s letters, you will find that she had a quick wit and was quite humorous! When telling the story of getting pictures of all the presidents that the national office requested, Mamie stated that she wanted to have a new picture made that would satisfy the strict guidelines set forth by the national office. In a letter to Mary Margaret Kern, then the national Secretary-Treasurer, Mamie wrote that she told her photographer to make her “look benevolent and wise as the first president of a great organization ought to look whether she does or not!”

One of the many things Mamie is noted for is the “Principles of Altrusa”. In another letter, Mamie wrote that she got the idea for the “Principles” after reading a copy of the Rotarian. Mamie dropped down one floor to the office of Dr. Mary Westfall, a dear friend and then president of the Indianapolis club, and said “Doc, Rotary has twelve principles.” Dr. Westfall countered “Well, Altrusa should have them. You write them.” Mamie went back to her office and promptly wrote them out. After Dr. Westfall perused them, she said “Mamie, these shall never be published without your name.” Mamie went on to write in her letter “Strange to say, her promise has been made good and my name always accompanies their publication.

Mamie died peacefully in her home after a long battle with cancer on November 1, 1962, at the age of 82.



New members initiated in September and October

Club	New Member	Sponsors
Downtown Dallas, TX	Markie Houston	Michelle Kubitz
Montgomery County, TX	Heidi McIntosh	Cindy Hanerhoff
	Holly Wheeler	Cindy Hanerhoff
	Donna Crawford	Holly Wheeler
	Arlene English	Cindy Hanerhoff
North San Antonio	Corrine Gutierrez	Geraldine McCormack
San Antonio	Jean Quintanilla	Diane DeLaFuente Rita Corey



Our September through December Clubs

Abilene – October 1939

Pampa – October 1953

Wichita Falls—November 1928

Ft. Worth—November 1944

Southwest Dallas County—November 1993

Texarkana - December 1941

Denton—December 1960



CARE AND CONCERN

Please keep the following District Nine Altrusans in your thoughts:

Lois Durant (Altrusa International of Anderson County, Inc.) and her husband, **Joe**. Joe is at home under hospice care. He has good days and bad days.

Debbie Llacuna (Altrusa International of Copperas Cove, Inc.). Debbie was out on a walk with her 9-month-old Weimaraner puppy when she (Debbie) fell, breaking her clavicle.

Be watching the [NOMN facebook page](#) (a private page for Altrusa District Nine members) for news of members who have been added to our Care and Concern list between editions of the NOMN newsletter.

Please email Linda Hurt at [hurtlj @aol.com](mailto:hurtlj@aol.com) if you would like to raise up a member through our district-wide Care and Concern list. To honor needs for privacy, please check with the person whose name you plan on submitting and, if possible, forward an email from that Altrusan indicating that she/he is willing to be placed on the list. If forwarding an email is not possible, please ensure that you have received approval from the Altrusan or his/her family first.

ASTRA-TO-ALTRUSAN SPOTLIGHT

-by Tucker Saxton, District Nine ASTRA Committee



Hello friends and fellow Altrusans!

The transition from ASTRA Alumni to Altrusan... this has been a hot topic lately, as it very well should be since it lays out the future and fate of Altrusa as a club! Today I would like to take you through a brief journey of my personal transition from ASTRA member to Altrusan and lay out some key points of note to keep in mind with an ASTRA-to-Altrusa transition.

I had never heard of ASTRA or Altrusa upon entering college, but in the 2nd semester of my freshman year I was introduced to and joined my university level ASTRA Club. I originally joined to make new friends and find a way to get involved in my new community, little did I know how much more ASTRA Club would make an impact on my life. I was involved in that club all 4 years of my college experience, and during that time held an officer position for two years, I grew in confidence, leadership and people skills, and made several friends, some of which have fostered into lifelong friendships! Throughout my ASTRA experience I noticed how much the parent Altrusa club was involved, they were always dependable but not overbearing. We could always count on them for guidance, but ultimately it was up to the students to run the meetings and service projects. I cannot emphasize enough how important it was to SEE that involvement from those Altrusans.

Fast forward to graduation from college... upon this time I knew I did not want my involvement in ASTRA Club to end, so I joined my local chapter of Altrusans! This was the same group that I had witnessed making an impact on many ASTRA members. Now, to say it has been a walk in the park in the transition, I would be lying to you. Life has commitments and many ways of pulling you in a dozen different directions... adjusting to life after college, working through a new career, preparing for a wedding, etc...

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I have not been nearly as involved in my club as I would like to be, but I've appreciated the flexibility of Altrusa and when I'm able to jump in on a project, I know my fellow Altrusans are thrilled to have me.

All of this to say, I truly believe to foster more ASTRA-to-Altrusa transitions, it has got to start with Altrusa involvement in their locally sponsored ASTRA clubs. Being involved, having conversations and getting to know the students, being a mentor, being a friend... it can be life changing to an ASTRA member, and they might not realize it until years later. Plant the seeds. Water them. And watch them grow.



"How to Start an ASTRA Club in Your Community" Virtual Workshop

The District Nine ASTRA committee hosted its first of three scheduled ASTRA workshops for the 2021-2022 Altrusan year on October 17th via ZOOM. Twenty participants from ten different Altrusa Clubs participated in the workshop entitled "How to Start an ASTRA Club in your Community." Information and resources shared included the ASTRA recruitment video, ASTRA New Club Start-up Guide, ASTRA Fast Facts, Altrusa District Nine ASTRA Information Sheet, and much, much more.

Greetings from the International ASTRA committee were given by our District Nine International ASTRA liaison Traci Squarcetti (Temple). Committee members, Sylvia Mendez Smith (Altrusa San Antonio) shared her experience in setting her first ASTRA organizational meeting this year, and Kaitlyn Glover (SWDC) shared examples of how the SWDC ASTRA Club and the SWDC Altrusa Club have partnered together in the past to conduct service projects in their community. Committee member Laure Bruner (Anderson Co.) presented information on the District Nine website and club runner. Laure also pointed out the ASTRA link both on the International and District Nine websites. Committee member Cynthia Castleberry's (Anderson Co.) created a District Nine ASTRA Information Sheet that was presented by Laure Bruner. Governor Mary Black Pearson was on the call and addressed the workshop attendees in the closing comments. Special thanks to Debbie Mabry for monitoring the chat line.

The next district ASTRA workshop is scheduled for current ASTRA Club sponsors in January, and the third ASTRA workshop which will be designed for District Nine ASTRA members is still in the works. More details in the next issue of NoMN.

As stated by Governor Mary, "District Nine continues to grow. ASTRA clubs are expanding and developing programs to serve and build leadership skills at every level." If your Altrusa Club is interested in sponsoring an ASTRA Club, please check out the ASTRA link found on our District Nine website. Here you will find documents in the "New Club Tool Kit" necessary to begin your ASTRA journey. In addition, contact one of the District Nine ASTRA committee members for guidance and support. We are happy to help you! ASTRA is Altrusa's future!

Thanks to all our ASTRA workshop participants. We appreciate your interest. One of your District Nine ASTRA Committee members will be following up with you soon.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS: Altrusa District ASTRA Chairs' Conversation

By Sylvia Zamora, Chair

ASTRA Committee

I participated in the Altrusa District ASTRA Chairs' Conversation hosted by the Altrusa International ASTRA Committee on October 7th via ZOOM. The purpose of the Conversation was to introduce the International ASTRA Committee members, District Chairs and District Governors, and to share information with District ASTRA Chairs regarding current and up-to-date ASTRA resources, to answer questions, to support district's work with ASTRA, and to celebrate district ASTRA successes with each other.

Lorraine Brewer, International ASTRA Committee Chair facilitated the meeting. Lorraine encouraged District ASTRA Chairs to review and familiarize themselves with all the revised and new documents including the District ASTRA Chair Description located on the International website. She also asked that we encourage our ASTRA Clubs to submit photos and articles of ASTRA community service to her at lobrewer@uark.edu for the International ASTRA newsletter, ASTRAgram, and the Compass, the International newsletter. The ASTRA Alumni Survey information was also discussed. Tucker Saxton, District Nine ASTRA committee member, is working with International on our district's alumni survey to collect names and contact information on our District Nine ASTRA alumni.

I was very proud to report on the status of our District Nine ASTRA Clubs and ASTRA Clubs information. Many of our school-based ASTRA Clubs are now meeting in person with a few COVID restrictions and are planning some exciting activities and service projects in their communities. Other clubs are still meeting via ZOOM but this is not stopping them from conducting incredible and creative service projects. Our ASTRA community Clubs, SWDC and the Austin Club are also ready and prepared for a very successful new ASTRA year.

The next Conversation will be scheduled for early 2022. Items to be discussed will be, but not limited to, the ASTRA Service Award application, ASTRA Scholarships, and ways of inclusion of ASTRA members at District Conferences.

If you have any questions regarding an International ASTRA issue, please contact Traci Squarcetti, our International ASTRA Committee liaison to District Nine at tsquarcette@umhb.edu, or a district ASTRA question, contact me your District Nine ASTRA Committee Chair at szamora.altrusa@gmail.com.

ASTRA Rocks!



District Nine ASTRA committee members, (L-R) Kaitlyn Glover (SWDC), Cynthia Castleberry (Anderson Co.) and Sylvia Zamora (San Antonio) attended the Fall Leadership Event (FLE), "Rise & Shine-Rise to Lead; Shine with a Plan" on October 2, 2021. They listened to excellent speakers and received wonderful information useful in their work with our future leaders in ASTRA.

October 17th was the first of three ASTRA workshops this year for club members interested in starting a new ASTRA Club in their community. Invitations to participate in the two upcoming workshops will be sent out to all Altrusans via Clubrunner.

How Altrusans Make A Difference

At **SW Dallas County**, our focus this year is on schools and the impact we can make to help students get back into books, reading and education. Finding a project for Make a Difference Day wasn't difficult because we were already prepared. LITERACY was our primary focus.

On Make a Difference Day and the week that followed, the SW Dallas County club members held several book-donation events, including random, book giveaways to citizens they came in contact with while out and about running errands and during their daily tasks.

On October 23, MADD, the club held two book donation events and set up booths in front of Kroger stores in DeSoto and Duncanville to hand out books to children as they shopped. The event was successful, as the group was able to place books directly in the hands of children. A brief chat with the parents on the importance of reading to children and being engaged to help their child develop consistent reading habits was met with appreciation and excitement.

On October 30 members handed out books to children attending the Dallas Executive Airport Air Show...especially "Obie D the Book Ninja." In all, over 100 books were donated.



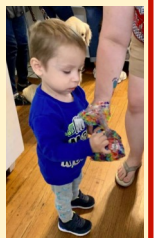
Altrusa Makes a Difference in Garland, Texas

Once again, **Altrusa of Garland** celebrated Make a Difference Day (October 23) by partnering with Good Samaritan of Garland again this year for Make A Difference Day. Our Make a Difference Day plan included collecting and delivering items for a variety of projects that would be appreciated and enjoyed by our unhoused neighbors in the Garland area.

Pictured below are examples of the 500 grocery bags decorated by our membership to add hope and cheer to Good Sam's grocery distribution. Before delivering these bags to be filled with groceries, Altrusans added approximately 500 gifts of literacy to the bags through free books (children's and/or adults).

In addition to the books and bag donations, Altrusans assembled and delivered 40 hygiene bags to Good Samaritans to distribute during the next regular visit by Streetside Showers. The hygiene bags were stuffed with items like shampoo, razors, hand sanitizer wipes, first aid kits, foot powder, manicure set, deodorant, dental floss and other items you'd typically find in *your* bathroom.

And of course, the end of October is not complete without a little Halloween candy, so we stuffed and delivered loot bags for the children who visited Good Sam because around Halloween, you can't ever get enough candy!



How Altrusans Make A Difference

New Friends New Life Trunk or Treat Event – Richardson club

On Thursday the 28th of October, Altrusans decorated the back end of Robbin Murley's truck to participate in the New Friends New Life (NFNL) Trunk or Treat event. The theme of the event was a "Haunted Pumpkin Patch." Robbin provided an inflatable, scary, pumpkin-headed scarecrow that glowed in the dark, and hay to cover the back end of the pick-up. There were 7 Altrusans dressed in their Kindness Ninja shirts with headbands. To the delight of the children and the clients, we gave away 36 small pumpkins stuffed with candy. These pumpkins were placed in the hay in the pumpkin patch to complete the theme. We proudly placed our Altrusa pop-up banner by the truck. There was a total of eleven decorated vehicles where the children picked up their treats. The kids voted on their favorite trunk but, alas, ours did not win. The staff of NFNL supported the event with games, pizza and popcorn. It was a fun time for all involved!



Altrusa International of Richardson's 2021 SOPHOMORE SISTERS PROJECT

Our organization of focus was Hope's Door whose mission is to offer intervention and prevention services to individuals and families affected by intimate partner and family violence:

Phase 1: Donated clothing- First, Altrusans were asked to clean their closets for gently used clothing. Sophomore Sisters collected donated clothing and delivered to the Hope's Door Resale Store on 10/23 while we volunteered.

Phase 2: Purchased towels, washcloths, pillowcases, and pillows (24 of each) using our \$500 budget for Hope's Door shelter locations- each care kit was delivered to the Hope's Door outreach office and will be used at two shelter locations. Due to COVID concerns, all hygiene items were purchased and in new condition. Each set was given with Altrusa spirit, wrapped with 2 crocheted hearts and a quote from Desmond Tutu:

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness

Phase 3: Make a Difference Day Volunteers- 7 volunteers for Hope's Door Resale Store on 10/23/2021. Due to COVID, a small number of volunteers are allowed to inventory, sort clothing, tag items, and clean the store. We delivered donated clothing on this day and rolled up our sleeves to get to work at the Resale Store benefiting Hope's Door New Beginnings.

