

ALTRUSA WAVES

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF GARLAND NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S

Stephanie Noland

Pen



Just like that, it's 2026...with 365 days and 365 new chances. Since Kimberly became our District Nine governor, I've been working to #DiscoverAltrusa through her challenge to "travel by passport." I know many Garland Altrusans are, too. Take a moment to pull out your passport. Look at all the stamps we've collected, both individually and as a club since the biennium began. In the famous words of Betty Sainz, "We have done a lot!"

As you read through your passport, did you find some new ideas to try? I noted a few to work toward! There are so many ways to participate in Altrusa! Keep in mind, our strength as a club comes from individual members who take advantage of the 365 days in each new year and the 365 new chances that come with 2026.

What new chances will you take to bring Service, Kindness, and enduring Impact to our communities in the (approximately) 365 days ahead? Join me with the energy that comes with the new year to participate in everything Altrusa has to offer.

Together we will "FROG" it. We'll have Fun Reaching Our Goals!

Stephanie
snolandtx@yahoo.com



IMPORTANT DATES

- Jan 8 January Business Meeting at Strike and Reel
- Jan 21 New Member Orientation
- Jan 22 Board meeting via zoom
- Jan 25 Book Club at Wildwood Firewheel
- Jan 29 5th Thursday Social: Baby Shower!

JANUARY MEETING NOTES

The program for January will be presented by our own [Sheila McComas](#). She will be sharing about Morgan's Wonderland and how our support helps families with special needs students enjoy a theme park vacation that's accessible for all.

MEETING INFORMATION

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE

is responsible for leading the Altrusa pledge, grace and accent at the January 8, 2026 meeting.

WEBSITE

AltrusaGarland.org

DISTRICT NINE WEBSITE

AltrusaDistrictNine.org

EMAIL

AltrusaGarland@gmail.com

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL

Altrusa.org

garlandaltrusa on



COMMITTEE HAPPENINGS

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Baby Shower

Our first 5th Thursday event is January 29 and we will be celebrating and honoring Laura Contreras and the first Garland Altrusa baby! Watch for more details to come.

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE

Book Stamping

Book fairs with Garland ISD are on hold due to new legislation affecting book distribution. Our district contacts are providing updates, and we hope to resume soon.

ACT

The ACT library open house was a success, giving parents a chance to see the beautiful space created through the efforts of our club, a Foundation grant, Eagle Scout Ashlyn Forsythe, and Reese Bryant. With the remaining grant funds, we plan to support ACT with technology tools for the library.



Little Free Libraries

Thanks to Elizabeth Fuentes and her family, the LFL at Centerville has been removed and is anxiously awaiting its new home. The door on the LFL at the Cornerstone church campus is being considered for repair and will be restocked once the books can be protected from the weather.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Membership Matters

As the new year begins, we're launching a membership initiative to grow our club by sharing Altrusa with people in our FRANK lists, Friends, Relatives, Acquaintances, Neighbors, and Kids' Friends' Parents, one category each month.

For January, we begin with the first letter in **FRANK: F is for Friends.**

Think about the friends who inspire you, support you, and share your passion for service. This month, I challenge each of you to invite one friend to join us at any of our upcoming opportunities to connect:

Club Meeting – JAN 8, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m. Strike + Reel

Orientation – JAN 21, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m. Garland Public Library

Fifth Thursday Social – January 29

A personal invitation is a powerful way to introduce Altrusa—let's start the year by sharing our mission, fellowship, and impact, one friend at a time.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



HELEN
PARTAIN
JAN 15TH



RITA
JOHNSON
JAN 18TH



AMY
SAUSAMEDA
JAN 22ND



DEBRA
SUMMERVILLE
JAN 30TH

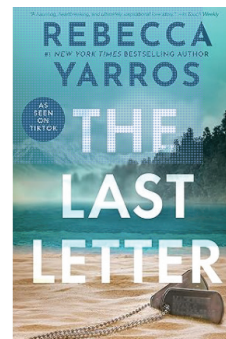


ROSALYN
BLACKSHEAR
FEB 2ND

Altrusa READS Book Club

The book club choice for this month

The Last Letter by Rebecca Yarros



Here's an excerpt that will tug at both your heartstrings and your desire to read the book! Beckett,

If you're reading this, well, you know the last-letter drill. You made it. I didn't. Get off the guilt train, because I know if there was any chance you could have saved me, you would have.

I need one thing from you: get out of the army and get to Telluride.... See you at book club on **January 25** at 4:00. We meet at Wildwood restaurant at Firewheel.

GENERAL CLUB NEWS

Club Governance

It is time to begin to think about where you want to serve for the upcoming Altrusa year. Nominating committee members will be elected at the February meeting and then begin the process of securing board member positions. Please consider how your gifts and talents can best serve our local communities through our club - and say "yes" when a nominating committee member asks you to serve. Remember that committee leadership will be next up on the Governance checklist. What committee are you interested in leading?



Traveling With a Passport?

If you signed the holiday cards for our Emeritus members, you can stamp **Member Engagement #8**.

If you sat with someone new at the meeting, stamp **#21**.

Bring a guest to a meeting? Stamp **Hospitality #4**.

And here are few that would be quick and easy to accomplish:

Marketing #2, Member Engagement #13,

Member Engagement #19, Member Engagement #20

What else are you doing that meet the passport description criteria? Share those ideas with the club.