

ALTRUSA WAVES



ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF GARLAND NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S

Pen

Stephanie Noland

A few weeks ago, some friends and I ventured to Waxahachie for its inaugural Coffee Crawl around the town square. It was so fun, but as we shopped and chatted, I stepped off a high curb and landed terribly wrong. I bruised my ego and skinned my knees! Such a kid experience (the skinned knees, not the bruised ego of course!)

That experience brought back so many things I loved about being a kid....many around my love of books and reading. We had a neighborhood bookmobile (remember those?) that we'd visit we could not make it all the way to the library. Mother encouraged us to grab a book and enjoy an adventure inside during the heat of summer. We regularly visited the library, received books as gifts, and got to visit our school's book fairs.

Book fairs...the opportunity to select MY book ...what a memory! Now, it's become a gift that we give to students across Garland ISD. I LOVE our book fairs! From the sorting and stamping parties in my garage (one is coming as soon as the weather is reasonable) to getting to see littles and bigs linger over the book choices we bring to their school. Each one carefully chooses the just right book for them.

That childhood memory we're providing is WAY better than skinned knees!

I love you and love serving alongside you, my fellow Altrusans, all year, but especially in February.



Stephanie

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IMPORTANT DATES

- FEB 13 Business Meeting
- FEB 20 World Day of Social Justice
- FEB 21 Book Fair at Williams Elementary
- FEB 27 Board Meeting
- MAR 2 Book Club, 4:00 PM Wildwood Firewheel
- May 2-4 District Nine Conference - Doubletree Richardson

Call To Conference

District Nine Conference is coming! Conference registration and hotel reservations are now available. Please visit the District Nine website for conference program information and registration links.

FEBRUARY MEETING NOTES

Our speaker for the February meeting is Dr. Lakisha Culpepper from Garland ISD. Come get an update on what's happening in the district we support.

MEETING INFORMATION

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

is responsible for leading the Altrusa pledge, grace and accent at the February 13, 2025 meeting.

COMMITTEE HAPPENINGS

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE

Children at our newest school partner, Shugart Elementary, had fun choosing books at the January 27 book fair. In addition to giving away **421 Books** we also shared a TON of the school supplies from our August collection with this campus. Pictured here with Betty is the principal, Jenny Thomason.



Our last book fair for this school year is coming up on **February 21** at Williams Elementary. If you have not had the opportunity to participate in a book fair (or if you have worked all of them), please mark your calendar and make plans to attend. There is little in this world more rewarding than these opportunities.

THANKS to Deborah Henson for serving as our liaison with the district in scheduling these events.



Barbara Powers and BJ Hawkins represented Altrusa Garland volunteering at Garland ISD's Halftime Reset event with its Sheltered Approach for Improved Literacy (SAIL) program Saturday, February 1, at Lyles Middle School. Barbara and BJ welcomed people and worked the raffle tables.

The SAIL program provides engaging learning experiences, has high student expectations, and involves parents and community partnerships.

Libros, Libros, Libros

Exciting update to the December meeting report of a \$500 grant for books from First Book Marketplace! After Deborah H. wrote the first grant request, she shared the information with Stephanie, who also submitted a grant request....which was also awarded! That means \$1000 for purchasing new children's books in Spanish for next year's book fairs. Mil gras to Deb and Mignon for doing the book shopping.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Altrusa Garland welcomes our **34th** new member at our February meeting. Many of you will recognize Barb Baker, sponsored by Barbara Powers, as she has visited a few times in anticipation of joining. She is actively working on our current International grant project at the Achievement Center of Texas as the Eagle Scout candidate's supervisor. Barb has also helped our club by conducting audits of our financials. Welcome, Barb!!

New member orientation is in the works. Stay tuned for more information, dates, etc.

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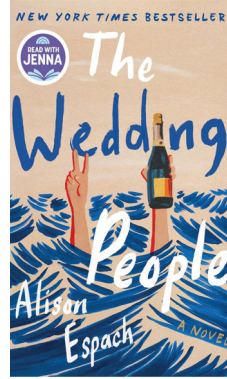
UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



SHEILA MCCOMAS
FEB 17TH



DEBORAH HENSON
MAR 10TH



Altrusa READS Book Club

The book club choice for this month

The Wedding People by Alison Espach

It's a beautiful day in Newport, Rhode Island, when Phoebe Stone arrives at the grand Cornwall Inn wearing a green dress and gold heels, not a bag in sight, alone. She's immediately mistaken by everyone in the lobby for one of the wedding people, but she's actually the only guest at the Cornwall who isn't here for the big event.

See you at book club on March 2 at 4:00. We meet at Wildwood restaurant at Firewheel.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We had a great time at Mary Powlen's home for the January 5th Thursday social. Eighteen Altrusans and friends enjoyed a friendly game of Keeno and lots of great food. Keep an eye out for information about an upcoming Stir Crazy event in the works!



In Memorial

We extend our love and sympathies to Maria, Laura, and Christina Contreras for the loss of their son and brother, Jose Orlando Contreras, Jr.

A SINCERE THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND WORDS, SUPPORT, AND CONDOLENCES DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME. YOUR COMPASSION HAS MEANT SO MUCH TO OUR FAMILY. WE TRULY APPRECIATE HAVING SUCH A CARING GROUP AROUND US.

The Contreras Family

