



ALTRUSA WAVES

Issue No. 112

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Caring - Commitment - Community

January 2022

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Words from our President

Happy New Year Greetings! I hope all of you had an enjoyable holiday and are ready to start the New Year. I enjoyed the extended time with family. Also, I had time to do some needed reorganization and eventual purging around the house and business. I still have a long way to go but

it was a start.

I want to thank the Holiday Party committee for the great hybrid event last month. It was such fun! A special thanks to the members who assisted with the holiday bags which were given to the staff and residents at Winter's Park Retirement Center for their holiday party. I heard they were so appreciative of our small gesture. It is nice to let our community know we are thinking of them.

Our District Nine visitor, Governor Mary Black Pearson, will be joining us at our business meeting Thursday, Jan 13th. Please join us and welcome her to our meeting. Mary is excited about sharing the evening with us and will have some updates on what District Nine has in store for our clubs. I hope to see you there!

We have survived the first part of our year and need to focus on what is coming up. Reach out to our members who have been stuck at home. Give them a call, text or email and ask how they are doing and if they need anything. There is a light at the end of the tunnel if we can manage to get there. Meanwhile we need to focus on what we can do the next 5 months. Do you know of community service opportunities we can help with? If so, please contact me or a Board member with your ideas.

I want to thank everyone for their positive attitude shown through these unprecedented times. I appreciate all the support and look forward to seeing everyone again! Continue to keep our **Caring, Commitment, Community** spirit going throughout the rest of the year.

Betty Sainz



EVENTS

- Jan 11 National Human Trafficking Awareness Day
- Jan 13 Our Altrusa Board Meeting will be changed as Mary Black Pearson, District Nine Governor Joins us at our regular meeting time to share updates and plans for 2022
- Jan 13 6p General Membership Meeting program brings Emily Bruce, Half Price Books Public Relations Manager, as our speaker.
- Feb 10 6p February General Membership meeting brings Preservation Society for Spring Creek Forest and that preserved area in Garland and information on their annual Trout Lily Walk.

SERVICING GARLAND BOOK DESERTS WITH LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

The Garland Altrusa Club received a \$4000 grant from Altrusa International Foundation, Inc., which will reach 1530 students at 6 schools - Caldwell, Centerville, Montclair, Southgate, Weaver and Williams - and at Gale Fields Recreation Center in Embree Park. Club members will interface with schools' librarians, the recreation center director and local Boy Scout troops to build, paint, install and fill 7 Little Free Libraries. Club members will also host reading events to celebrate each library openings. The objectives include providing easily accessible books 24/7, developing a reading culture and improving reading proficiency scores.

Many schools in Garland lie in book deserts, a geographic area where reading materials are difficult to obtain. The librarian at Weaver Elementary, Laura Thomas, said, "Our families live in a book desert as they do not have a print-rich environment due to lack of access to books at home, in the classroom or limited access to school or public libraries." She adds that a fear of fines, transportation issues, limited hours and fear of government-issued cards prevent many families in her school's neighborhood from using the city libraries.

The location of each Little Free Library was strategically chosen based on demographics. At least 80% of each school is classified low-income with the same percentage receiving free lunches and breakfasts and score either C or D on the Texas standardized test with 29 to 38% of the students proficient in reading.

The Program Committee

is responsible for leading the Altrusa Accent

Pledge/Collect/Benediction at our January 13, 2022 Meeting

GARLAND ALTRUSA IMPORTANT ADDRESSES

Email: garlandaltrusa@gmail.com

Facebook: [garlandaltrusa](https://www.facebook.com/garlandaltrusa)

Website: districtnine.altrusa.org/garland/

District Nine Website: districtnine.altrusa.org

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Communication Committee – A reminder to share on your facebook the many community activities that Garland Altrusa is involved in. Talk to people you encounter about Altrusa and carry the “bar” cards to give to them so they have the information to contact Membership site information.

Community Service – Our Winter Wonderland project at Weaver Elementary was a hit. Thank you to all who participated.



We are asking for donations of individual powder drink mixes and instant coffee for the Boxes for Military personnel. Please bring these items to our Jan 13 Membership meeting.

Fundraising – Our committee had such great support for our fund raiser this past year that we collected enough for our projects and no other projects are needed until the new club year begins in June 2022.

Membership – If you are local and have not yet received your directory, please reach out to Stephanie Noland to coordinate a pick-up. Your directory is very helpful as it has a full calendar of Altrusa events as well as tons of other useful information.

Program - Our program for January will be brought to us by Emily Bruce, Public Relations Manager, for Half Price Books. We are so happy to be able to express our gratitude to the company which provides a big part of our literacy outreach project and to learn more about their goals and objectives in this community. Hope all can attend!

Social –March has a 5th Thursday and Janet Black would appreciate suggestions from members in January and February with ideas about celebrating on March 31st. Help find or create a fun event for this March event.

Monthly Dinner Reservations

Please remember to respond promptly to any communication regarding our monthly dinner meetings. Stephanie Noland and Barbara Powers must turn in a count to the Holiday Inn no later than the Friday BEFORE each month’s regular Thursday meeting. All members should receive both an Evite and an email reminder on Monday before the count is due. Help us out and let us know if you are coming or not within this time frame.



**Dec 30
Book Stamping
At
Helen’s Garage**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 10 Jan Barbara Boyden**
- 12 Jan Mary Henderson**
- 15 Jan Helen Partain**
- 18 Jan Rita Johnson**
- 01 Feb Roselyn Blackshear**

NO JANUARY BOOK CLUB

Altrusa Reads Book Club is on pause this month but all members are encouraged to check out the “Lead to Read, Read to Lead” book club that District Nine is hosting on Zoom. Each of 3 different titles will be discussed at the meetings offered on the first Wednesdays of January, February and March, 2022, at noon. Additional information is available on the District Nine website (districtnine.altrusa.org).

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The Member Spotlight shines on a new member and a long-standing member this month:

We welcomed **Kimberly Kierce** into dual membership in 2021. Kimberly is a native Texan who loves to travel and see the world. She’s traveled all over the US, most of Europe, Canada, China and even Australia. Her boyfriend, Robert, is also an avid traveler. In addition to being our District Nine First Vice Governor, Kimberly works for the City of Richardson and is a Dallas Stars fan. She’s the fur mom to 2 Maine Coon cats, Mandy Jane and Tyler Skye. You might not know that Kimberly was a belly dancer from 2012-2018, going by the name “Amirah”!

Long-standing member, **Barbara Powers**, is not only active in Altrusa but also Kiwanis, Boy Scouts of America, Keep Garland Beautiful and the Rust Powers Foundation. Whew! She and her husband, John, recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary and are the proud parents of Michael (married to Sarah) and Julia (married to Ian). She and John traveled to Chapel Hill, NC for Julia’s wedding this past June. You should ask to see pictures – just beautiful. If you check out the wedding pictures, you might be surprised to see that Julia and Ian’s fur baby, Bullet, was the guest of honor at their reception.

GOOD WISHES



Wedding bells are soon ringing for Carol Hansen and her fiancé, Scott Hube! Best wishes to the bride from all of us in Altrusa – we are so happy for you both!