



ALTRUSA WAVES

Issue No. 116

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Caring - Commitment - Community

May 2021
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Words from our President

As we start our last month of this fiscal year, my how the time has flown by! I know this has been a tough year, but we have so much to be grateful for. Through this time, we have worked on old projects and expanded our service to different needs. Even though we did not meet face

to face, we worked together on our services and had a couple of social events too.

Special thanks to everyone who assisted the service committee with everything the club did. Also, thanks for attending the Zoom meetings. It was great seeing everyone's faces and beautiful smiles.

We were honored by District Nine this year with 2 awards. We placed second in the Communications Award and third in the Letha H. Brown Literacy Award. Thanks to Tina Rhodes for submitting the Communications award and Barbara Powers for submitting the Letha H. Brown Literacy award. Great job from 2019-20 club year.

A few things coming up...the President's Banquet will be held May 13th at the Holiday Inn. Social time is from 6-6:30p with the meeting beginning after that. Remember that we need your RSVPs by Sunday, May 9th. I hope each of you will make a special effort to join us in our celebration. During this meeting we will install the new Board.

The Service Committee has one more thing to do. An email was sent by Mary Powlen requesting donations for Boxes to the Military. You can bring the donations to the banquet or have them shipped to Elizabeth Fuentes' house.

Congratulations to our grant writing duo of Stephanie Noland and Barbara Powers for putting together the grant request. We were given \$4000 to spend during the coming year. That will be a very fun project and all can lend a hand.

I want to formally thank the 2020-2021 Board for all of their support. It was an honor to work with you and I am looking forward to a "more normal" 2021-2022 year. It has been a pleasure being your president.

Always remember to keep our **Caring, Commitment, Community** spirit going! You are the very best.

See you soon! *Betty Sainz*

The Membership Committee is

responsible for leading the

Pledge/Collect/Benediction/Altrusa Accent

for the May 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



MAY EVENTS

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Apr 29 | 5th Thurs at Urban Vine at 5:30 |
| Apr 30 | 6p District Nine Board Installation at Helen's |
| May 13 | 6p President's Banquet - Installation of new Board at Holiday Inn on Bush Tollway |
| May 15 | International Day of Families |
| May 15 | Deadline for volunteer hours report to Betty |
| May 18 | 6p Altrusa Book Club - Of Women and Salt by Gabriela Garcia. |
| May 27 | 6p Combined Board Meeting - past and new |
| Jun 6 | World Environment Day |
| Jun 10 | 6p Membership/Business meeting |
| July 28-31 | Altrusa Int'l Convention in Charlotte NC |

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Our club dues are \$120/year and include the Altrusa Int'l, Altrusa District Nine and Garland club dues. You may pay the full amount of \$120 or pay in 2 installments: \$75 by June 1, and the remaining \$45 no later than Sept 1. Dues may be paid by cash, check, or using Altrusa-Garland Venmo account.

The President's Banquet (May 13) would be a good time to submit dues with the Membership Information form so our treasurer will have correct information to submit to Altrusa Int'l office with the dues collected. **(Please find that form attached with this newsletter.)**

WEAVER ELEMENTARY SPECIAL ED GRANT

All funds from the \$4000 Altrusa International grant and the \$500 donated from our club for Weaver Elementary School Early Childhood Special Education Program (formerly Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities) have been spent.

Garland Altrusa purchased 6 tricycles for Weaver and the students are enjoying them on the playground tricycle path developed in 2020 as a Boy Scout Eagle project in Troop 1989. Troop 1989 is chartered by the First Presbyterian Church of Garland.

With the remaining funds, the club purchased many other helpful items to use for the development of life skills such as physical coordination and balance, reading and numbers, colors, math skills, etc. encountered in daily tasks. These programs are designed to be fun for the children as they use them in their daily attendance at Weaver with the final result of enabling them to become more self-sufficient in their daily lives. There is still some work to be done, but we will have pictures to share when all is completed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Communication Committee – Work has begun on the club yearbook, and Christina Contreras has been collecting photos from our various activities during this strange year and it is quite amazing how much we have accomplished and contributed to our community. If you are interested in purchasing one of these when they are printed, you had best let Christina know. It is fun to have memories of all the projects and social activities and who participated.

Community Service – The club is currently filling 12 boxes for shipment to overseas military personnel (10 males and 2 females). Consider donating items this group has specifically requested: Maruchen noodles, cereal, oatmeal, chips, non-melting candy bars, soup, gum, tic tacs, deodorant, crossword puzzles, guitar songbook, scented hand soap, microwave popcorn, face wipes, baby wipes,



sunscreen, DVDs. Other food items to consider are dry drink mixes, dried fruit, crackers, nuts protein bars, granola bars, tuna kits, fruit cups, as well as personal hygiene items, books, etc.

Please send items to Elizabeth Fuentes, or bring to the banquet as items are needed no later than May 23 when the preparation to ship will be done and packages will be mailed the end of May.

Fundraising —Exciting News! Our grant proposal, “Welcome to Chillville” was accepted and our club was awarded \$4000 to create therapeutic and sensory spaces at Founders Plaza Nursing and Rehabilitation Center! There will be many ways to participate and serve on the project in the coming months. One of the newest trends in memory care is Sensory Stimulation Therapy which includes activities designed to either calm or stimulate residents to improve their social and community interactions and opportunities.

Membership – We have begun the article series “Getting to Know You”, and will be spotlighting one or two members each month, depending on space. So . . . please take a moment to reply just to me (NOT reply all) with the following information. (1) Three things about you that you think others would love to know. This can include any and all brags – family/hobbies/work/whatever. (2) One thing you bet that we don’t know about you (be as serious or crazy as you want on this one). If you would rather that I give you a call to chat about this, just let me know that is your preference. I think this will be fun for all of us, so please participate! Altrusa hugs, Stephanie

Program– The President’s Banquet and installation of new Board Officers will be the program for our meeting on May 13th. This will be an in-person meeting at the Holiday Inn on Bush Tollway, with the social time beginning at 6pm and the meeting and installation begins at 6:30pm. Cost of dinner is \$25 and one MUST make reservations no later than Sunday, May 9th. There will be only 4 members per table to promote social distancing for a higher comfort level for members attending.

Social – Sure looks like Sue and Helen are enjoying our 5th Thursday event at Urban Vines last month. There was a very good turnout and with good weather and good friends, what else could one ask for. Our next 5th Thursday comes up in July so we can hope for something planned that will be equally as great as this event turned out to be.

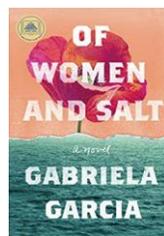


 I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to every one of our members for the incredibly awesome job the club has done during this pandemic to keep activities going and members participating. Many have worked at keeping in touch with those who did not feel comfortable personally attending events and we are so thankful for your care and enthusiasm. Betty is to be commended for leading us through these strange circumstances. In all the years I have worked in volunteer organizations, there has never been anything like this. My thanks to all of you. –Ed



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO . . .
18 May Janet Black

MAY BOOK CLUB



We are reading Gabriela Garcia’s *Of Women and Salt*, for our May Book Club meeting. Grab a copy of this NY Times best seller (and also Good Morning America book pick) and plan to join with us via Zoom on May 18th, 6pm. Great discussions, great people and wine . . . is there a better combination?

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

This month our member spotlight shines on 2 Garland Altrusans. **Shirley Raymer** and her husband, Glynn have known each other since first grade and were in the same class from then all the way to high school graduation! Talk about childhood sweethearts! Shirley loves being near the water (especially their beachfront “home away from home”), but she does not like being IN the water. Being on the beach and listening to the waves is her happy place. Shirley completed college in 3 years in order to start working (we knew she was one smart cookie). Believe it or not, before joining Altrusa, she was very shy!!!

New “Nana,” **Mary Powlen**, along with her husband of 35 years, Jerry, have a lot to brag on with their 2 daughters and granddaughter, Hailey. Traveling has always been an interest of hers, beginning at an early age with marathon car trips across the US with her parents. She fondly recalls their pop-up camper and lunches at roadside rest areas. On an international level, Mary has visited all 7 continents and even spent Christmas Eve one year camping outside in Antarctica. She says, “Yes, it was really cold, but amazing!”

DISTRICT NINE 2021 CONFERENCE

On April 30th, members met at Helen Partain’s house for the final sessions of the Zoom version of District Nine 2021 Conference. The District awards were announced, installation of new Board Officers and our club made a presentation for holding the 2023 Conference since that is when our own Shirley Raymer is scheduled to be installed as Governor. While the decision has not yet been made, we must first submit a venue and budget and will be setting up a committee to work with Kimberly Kierce, First Vice Governor. Betty is asking now for volunteers willing to serve on this planning group. Give her a call if you can and want to participate.



Shirley Raymer was a part of the Board installation as she is now Governor Elect and Mary Powlen was installed as Treasurer. We are so proud of both these special members.

The picture included here is the Bellini Brunch basket put together by Marlee Nickerson and Stephanie Noland which was Garland’s donation to District Nine Auction. Looks quite wonderful and was sold for \$155. Our thanks to these ladies for a very creative collection of goodies!

See column to your left above in “Fundraising” regarding our grant award of \$4000 for our “Welcome to Chillville” project.

