

Altrusa Club of San Antonio

COMRADARIE—TRUST ★ FRIENDSHIP ★ LOYALTY

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President's Message

Welcome to fall and all the new and exciting activities our club is working on. The turnout has been fantastic for making and stuffing the busy bags, Service Saturdays, Jackie & Susan's birthday party, book donations at Medio Creek, the ASAP program, Days for Girls, and meetings. It is so wonderful to get together now that it is cooling down to complete our many service projects to improve our communities.

The second 5th Tuesday was held at Chicken N Pickle. We learned a lot of great safety tips from Diane Gardner and were introduced to some great products. Eleven members attended, getting credit towards the perfect attendance award. Our next makeup meeting is on November 30th. Places and activities TBD.

Service Saturdays are getting great reviews. Not every month interests everyone, but I hope everyone will participate in at least four (4) Service Saturdays this Altrusa year. Dee Ann Haverly, chair of our local Days for Girls chapter, hosted the September Service Saturday. We cut, pinned, serged, sewed, folded, and stacked items for the kits. We also had a great time talking and getting to know each other better while helping the girls in Zambia.

October Service Saturday we finished the 300 busy bags

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Vol 94. Number 3



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONT)

(Continued from page 1)

for our Make a Difference Day project and our \$4000 International Grant. A lot of work went into preparation for this day. For months, members have been cutting, serging, sewing, and running cords through the backpacks while others have been buying books, crayons, activity books, pencils, erasers, stuffed animals, and more! I hope everyone saw us on KSAT-12's Good Morning San Antonio and the 10 p.m. newscast. That was so exciting! Thank you, Sharon, for the great commentary. I'm so impressed. Maybe we can get them at another event soon.

On October 2nd, Sharon, Sylvia Z, and I headed to Garland, Texas, for the District Nine Fall Leadership Event ... Rise & Shine – Rise to Lead; Shine with a Plan. There were tons of great information at the event, and we will be sharing that with you over the next few months. We also heard great things about the upcoming District Nine Conference set in Georgetown, Texas. Let's plan to take at least 60% of our club members. So... mark your calendars now for April 28th to May 1st and start saving your pennies, dimes, and dollars.

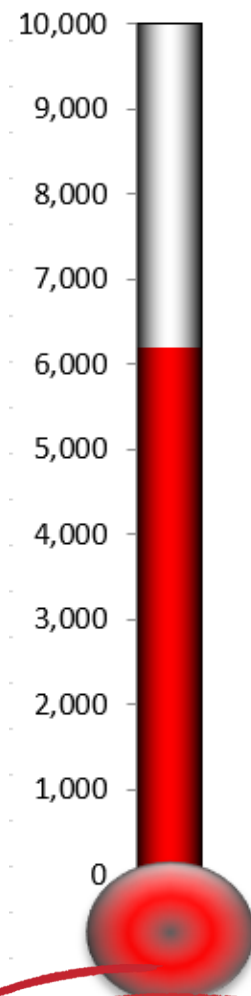
Also at the Fall Leadership Event, we learned more about International President Kathy Folley's "One Million Lives, One Book at a Time" literacy project. Her goal is to donate one million

(Continued on page 3)

2021–2022

Volunteer Hours

April 2021–October 2022



Turn in your volunteer hours to Carol EVERY month!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONT)

(Continued from page 2)

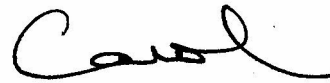
books or contribute one million hours of service in her biennium. Our club donated books at the event to kick start our contribution to the campaign. But, we haven't stopped there! So far, our club has donated 1,308 books this biennium! Go Altrusa San Antonio!

In October we had a three-way tie for Valuable Volunteer of the month. Great work Joel, Susan E., and Sharon. Congratulations. It's never too late to turn in your hours from past months! Turn in your hours by the 5th of each month to be entered for the Valuable Volunteer Award.

Happy Birthday to our November birthday members. Rose Strawn (Nov 20th) and Sylvie Garcia Chessman (Nov 28th).

Be sure to make plans to attend the November meeting where we will honor our veterans. I will be preparing turkey and ham as my Thanksgiving thank you to all our members. We have accomplished so much in the last 5 months! None of it would have turned out so wonderful without our club members. Thank you all.

I hope to see everyone sometime in November – maybe the meeting, Service Saturday, Days for Girls, or 5th Tuesday.



Carol Fochler
President

San Antonio Valuable Volunteers



Susan Evan
April



Sharon Tramonte
May



Diane de la Fuente
June



Joyce Towsley
July



Kim Glodich
August



Susan Evan



Sharon Tramonte



Joel Rieger

Three Way Tie for September!

ALTRUSANS IN ACTION



**Comradery! Comradery! Comradery!
Fundraising!**

The Foundation Fundraiser is set for March, but it will be here before we know it, so please check on the things we need.

We are looking at another Club fundraiser (maybe in October). Rose Strawn is working on a Fun Comradery Project & we will present as soon as possible.

FOUNDATION Fundraiser Goals:

Try to come up with new ways of attracting Donors & partnering up with other Organizations & Businesses. Bob Towsley, Wilma Carmona & Kim Glodich have all found a way to donate with matching donations from their Companies!

PLUS!!!

FAMILY FUN DAY! @ Chicken n Pickle!!

CHICKEN n PICKLE (March 1-15th)

We are booked with Chicken n Pickle Restaurant for March 1st thru 15th. In a nut shell They offer 3 plans and we reserved all of them!

March 1st We can do our own fundraising All Day Long, so we will need to brainstorm on what we would like to do. For example: Raffle ticket selling GIFT CARD & Silent Auction

From 6p-8p

10% of all purchases of food, drink & bar goes to ALTRUSA!

March 6th Pickle Ball Tournament Between 8a-11p. We need to give a them a time for our tournament before Feb 6th. They supply us with 4 courts and we sell 48 spots to people to play for 3 hours. Normally they charge \$10 for an hour. They recommend charging \$40-\$50 per person to play. Each person will end up playing about 4-5 games. They provide uswith helpers to run the games & we can pick what type of tournament we want. **START CANVASSING your friends & family to participate in these**

games. We need 24 partners to play **PICKLE BALL** on March 6th.

March 1st -15th Chicken n Pickle provides plastic donation cups to sell with drinks or alone. They sell for \$1.50 and they donate \$1.00 to our organization. They offer them at the bar & at the food area!

F i n a n c e

What can you do to help?

Need items for Silent Auction items.

i.e.: Wine & Liquor, Bath SPA stuff, glasses, candles, candy, munchie, Manly stuff, Tea & Coffee, Baskets, Filler like shredded papers & easter grass, Wreaths, Signs, Anything that would attract your own eye!

Need 24 partners to play PICKLE BALL on March 6th.

Work together with Communications to put together a Donation Request mailout form.

Make sure our Foundation is on all the big Donation Lists (like Benevity & Blackbaud Giving Fund) Kim will be our contact on this.

FUN

CLUB Fundraisers:

Look at doing Camaraderie-type Fundraisers. List of past favorites & add new ones.

Rose is working on a Great Art project for us to all do & hopefully we will be ready in Sept to launch for Oct!!

Barnes & Nobles Giftwrapping (if avail)

Helotes Market Days

FUN

I'm looking for a casual place for us to meet
Coming soon!

If any of this interests you, We need you!

Contact Diane de la Fuente or Kim Glodich

ALTRUSANS IN ACTION

C o m m u n i c a t i o n s



Work continues on the 2021–2022 Club Yearbook and the new ClubRunner webpage. There is a steep learning curve for the webpage as this is a new platform. There were some issues with directing our new domain name to our webpage. We continue to work with the domain registrar to resolve these issues. Until this is resolved, the banner cannot be printed.

We are utilizing our social media platforms to increase our visibility and brand recognition. The television coverage we received for our Make A

Difference Day project has really helped with our publicity and brand recognition. We have increased our Facebook followers to 186! This is an increase of 42 followers or 29% increase. Instagram followers increased to 83 followers. This is a 5% increase.

The club received some fantastic television coverage for our Make A Difference Day project! Jonathan Cotto from KSAT came out with his cameraman and covered the event for two hours. We had three live shots on Good Morning San Antonio. There was then a snippet coverage on the 5 pm and 10 pm news.

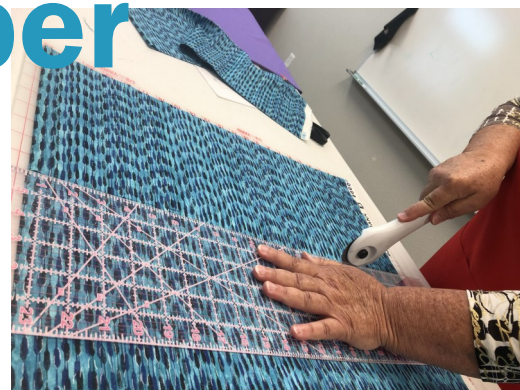
We also continue to make the meetings available to all by Zoom if you cannot make it in person. If you are interested in learning how to do this and help, please contact Sharon.



ALTRUSANS IN ACTION

Service Saturday

September



Altrusans partner with the local Days for Girls team for September Service Saturday. Members cut fabric for the different kit components, sewed, serged, folded, sorted and stacked items to prepare the kits. In a short time, Altrusans donated over 20 hours of service and help the DfG team prepare to assemble 100 kits to send to Zambia. Members also donated girls briefs and washcloths. In addition, the club made a monetary donation to the DfG team. Well done Altrusans!



DAYS FOR
GIRLS

ALTRUSANS IN ACTION

Service Saturday

September



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Every October, Altrusa San Antonio participates in Make A Difference Day, a national day of giving. This year, we assembled 300 activity bags for the children that will be going through Child Protective Services (CPS).

Studies have shown that constructive activities help children process and handle grief, stress and fear. All things that must be happening in their lives as they are processed through CPS.

Thanks to a \$4,000 grant from Altrusa International, our project was bolstered to make the activity bags even better than originally planned! Preparation work for the activity bags began as early as June with the purchase and cutting of material used to make the individual cloth backpacks that the items were placed into. All the cloth



bags had to be serged, sewn, and strung with cord before they could be stuffed with all the goodies. Members scoured every HEB, Dollar Store, Walmart, and thrift stores stocking up on pens, colors, coloring books, activity books, toys, age appropriate reading books and plush toys that went into each bag.

In October, Altrusans, community volunteers, and ASTRA members came together to stuff the bags. Channel 12, KSAT, came out and covered the event giving us live coverage on Good Morning San Antonio. Additional coverage was shown at the 5 pm and 10 pm newscasts. Thank you Jonathan Cotto for spending the morning with us and enabling us to share some of the great work Altrusa San Antonio does for San Antonio and Bexar County!



MAKE A DIFFERENCE



ALTRUSANS IN ACTION



Book Fair at Medio Creek Elementary Fall Fest

October 21, 2021

Altrusans set up and give away 500 books!



Book Meter

1,308



Color A Smile



In the last 25 years, Color A Smile has distributed over 1 million cheerful drawings to senior citizens, our troops over seas and anyone else in need of a smile! Altrusans color drawings and send to the nonprofit organization to help spread cheer!

ALTRUSANS IN ACTION



Susan, Sparky and Silver volunteered to help decorate for the San Antonio Threads Second Annual Turquoise Gala on Friday, August 13th at the San Antonio Shrine Auditorium. They assisted with decorating tables, stuffing over a hundred bags, moving boxes of silent auction items, etc. San Antonio Threads serves San Antonio Austin and Houston's Foster, Homeless and disadvantaged youth by providing new clothing and shoes. Altrusans volunteer their time and talent with other local non-profit organizations to make our community a better place.



ALTRUSANS IN ACTION



Candy Drive for Soldiers' Angels

TREATS
FOR TROOPS



Do you have left over candy from Halloween? Don't want your children to eat all that sugar?!?!? We have a solution for you! All of your surplus, leftover, or unwanted candy can be donated to Soldiers' Angels and they will ship it over to our troops overseas. Notify Carol or Sharon if you have candy you would like to donate.

Individual Grant Awarded to Kelli Arguello



Thanks to Susan Evan, an individual grant was submitted to Altrusa International. The grant was submitted to allow Kelli to return to school to finish her degree. Kelli was awarded a \$4,000 International grant and the club will be contributing an additional \$400 toward her education expenses. Needless to say, Kelli is over the top with excitement and is so thankful! The grant will be presented to her at the November meeting. Make sure you don't miss this event!



**Altrusans Partner
with Child Welfare
Board & SAPD**

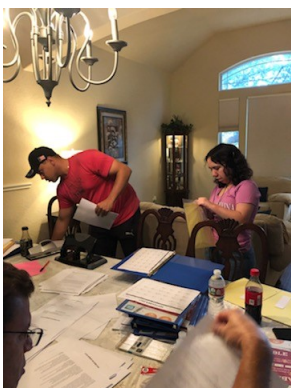
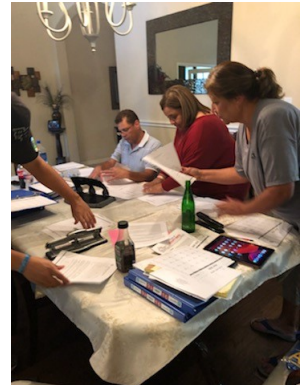
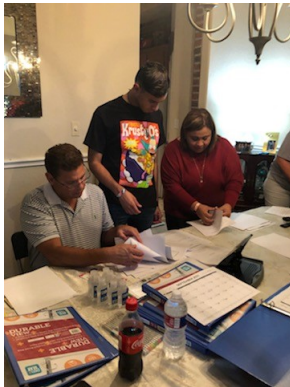


Altrusans partner with Child Welfare Board and San Antonio Police Department to fill A Serenity Activity Pack (ASAP) bags for patrol officers to keep in their cruisers. This initiative is part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The packs will enable them to better interact with children and help keep the children occupied while the officers interview individuals or work a scene.



ASTRA

ASTRA committee members with 3 student volunteers (prospective ASTRans) prepare ASTRA binders for September informational meeting. ASTRA Committee Chair Sylvia Mendez-Smith, Vice Chair Wilma Carmona, Angel Velez and Sylvia Zamora were in attendance along with future ASTRans Javier and Alejandro Velez and Isabella Zamora.



RED ROVER

Red Rover, formerly known as United Animal Nations, was founded in 1987 by Belton Mouras to save forgotten and abused animals. Out of this organization the Red Rover Readers were created.

After a community needs assessment of the area around Bob Hope Elementary, it was determined that the

community needed more assistance in providing education on the humane treatment of animals. With several animal lovers, who also enjoy working with children, in our Club, it was decided to use our Club's focus on literacy to teach children empathy, kindness, and responsibility for animals.

We received a Grant from the International Foundation and were able to incorporate the Red Rover Program, a literacy program, that helps children explore the human-animal bond through stories, discussions, and literacy-based enrichment activities. A few of our Members, former educators attended a six-hour workshop to become "Certified Readers."

In 2011, our Certified Readers began the Program with the fourth graders at Bob Hope Elementary. The Readers began going into their



classrooms once a month, reading an animal-themed book from a preselected list, followed by a class discussion and literacy-based activities.

The Program was introduced to the school's community at their "Meet the Teacher/PTA meeting at the beginning of the school year. Several of our Club members, wearing Altrusa shirts, attended this function. An overview of what Altrusa is and does was given. It was announced that the Red Rover Program would be implemented in the Fourth Grade classrooms. The Program was explained and the parents were encouraged to view all the selected books that would be used. A set of the preselected books was also donated to the school library for all the students to enjoy.

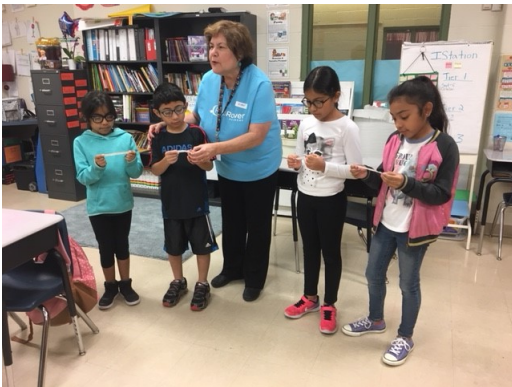
Later in the Program we invited the Director of Development from the Humane Society to be the



RED ROVER (CONT.)

(Continued from page 14)

guest speaker at the school's PTA meeting. She reiterated the value of the Program and the importance of education on the proper care of animals. Altrusans, wearing their Club shirts, once again mingled with the community members present and answered questions about Altrusa. They also passed out "Puppy Chow" which was prepared by some of our members. A Fundraiser was held for the Humane Society. During that time, students read during the morning announcements interesting facts about animals to keep the children aware of the value of animals and their chance to give back. A Donation Drive was also held for Animal Care Services.



We were invited by the local PBS TV Station to present the Program at their annually sponsored



city-wide event, "Kids Day At The Park." Our Club members, wearing Altrusa shirts, partnered with our sponsored ASTRA Club to provide a fun-filled afternoon of animal-related story-telling with the use of puppets. Our ASTRA members served as Puppeteers and Readers while

our Altrusa members passed out literature on the proper care of animals.

We were also invited to read our stories and do our literacy-based enrichment activities at the Humane Society's "Camp Humane," a day camp for elementary age children that allows them to learn about pets and how to care for them.

For our culminating End of the School Year activities we have had speakers from the Humane Society with their puppies, members of The Therapy Dogs with their dogs, a Veterinarian with her three legged dog, and a representative from Animal Care Services.

We began the Program with the Fourth Graders. After a few years we began working with the Third Graders and our currently working with the Second Graders.

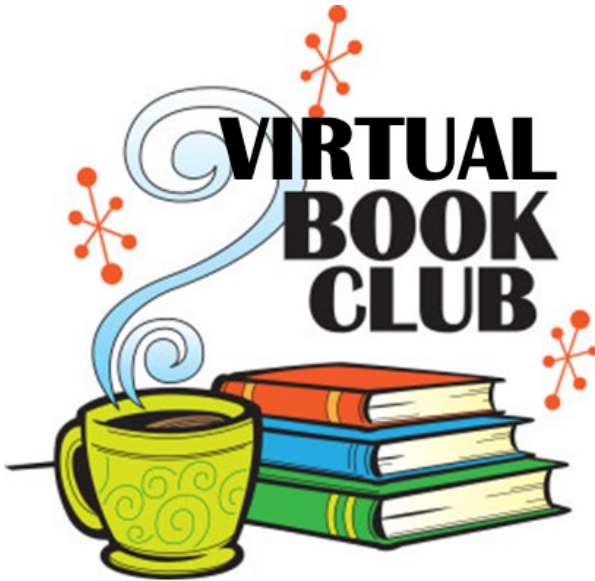
by Sylvia Chessman Garcia

DISTRICT NEWS

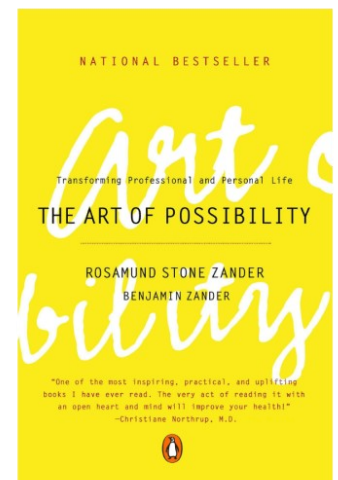
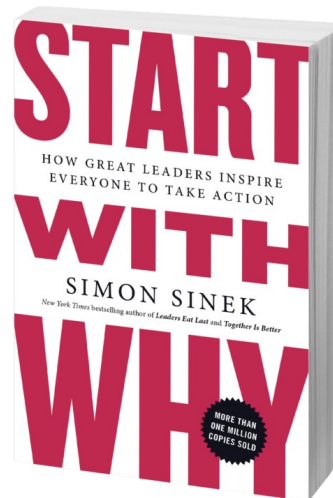
District Nine Book Club

The District will be hosting a book club to discuss a few great leadership books. The first two books that will be discussed is Simon Sinek's *Start With Why* and *The Art of Possibility* by Rosamund and Benjamin Zander.

So run to your library and pick up a copy, download a copy on Libby or your Kindle, or buy a copy on Amazon (be sure to use Amazon Smile!). Stay tuned for more information and dates and times!



Altrusa District Nine will be announcing a district-wide service project prior to Conference 2022. Help us select the best project. If you have an idea for a literacy project, let the District Nine service team know by emailing Frances Dalbey, District Nine Service Chair, at francesdalbey@gmail.com with a description of the proposed project, including who it will support, how the project will work, how we incorporate it into Conference 2022, whether there is a component that we can all work on together throughout the year, etc. No idea is too small or too large. Be creative! District Nine wants your ideas.



Resource Section: From Altrusa.org:

Principles of Altrusa: <https://login.altrusa.org/files/2018/07/Altrusa-Tradition-Revised-July-2017.pdf>

Job descriptions: <https://login.altrusa.org/files/2019/02/Club-Officer-Position-Descriptions-01-2019.pdf>

President's handbook: <https://login.altrusa.org/files/2020/01/Club-Presidents-Handbook-Rev-Jan-2020.pdf>

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT— ONE BOOK AT A TIME

Altrusa International is going big! International President Kathy Folley's literacy project is "One Book At A Time". Our challenge is to distribute ONE MILLION books and/or devote ONE MILLION hours of service to our communities in this biennium. Each club is challenged to donate at least 500 books and/or 500 hours of community service over the biennium to someone or some agency as part of this project. Whether it is a book drive, direct purchase, fundraiser where the entry cost is a book, or your own creative



Facebook Challenge

In order to keep clubs motivated, the Service Committee has created a Facebook challenge. Three times a year, in this biennium, the Service Committee will present a theme to the clubs. For example, Clubs will post to Facebook a project for Literacy. Altrusa members (who are Altrusa Service Facebook members) will vote on their favorite project. The members will vote by tapping on the heart or "liking" the post. The Service Committee will then recognize the winning club at an International level.

If you aren't a member of the Altrusa Service Group yet, sign up and vote for our club's submissions!

Important Dates

November 25: International Day of the Elimination of Violence Against Women
December 1: Half-year Dues Take Effect
December 3: International Day of Persons with Disabilities
December 10: Human Rights Day

Altrusa International Foundation

The Spring fundraiser, Convention donations and Silent Auction bids were a huge success. Thanks to the generosity of all Altrusans, the Foundation raised:

Spring Fundraiser	\$ 102,161.69
Convention Donations	\$ 44,119.00
Convention Silent Auction	\$ 6,261.00
Total	\$ 152,541.69

During the previous two biennia the Foundation awarded:

Programs	2017–2019 Biennium	2019–2021 Biennium
Club 21	\$ 51,865.00	\$ 71,622.00
Grants Program	\$345,769.00	\$ 536,615.00
Disaster Relief	\$ 41,847.00	\$ 42,431.00
Awards	\$ 16,200.00	\$ 21,100.00
Total	\$ 455,681.00	\$ 671,768.00

HISTORY



Helen Matusevich Oujesky

August 14, 1930 – February 1, 2010

Altrusa San Antonio has some impressive leaders! Back in 1980, our then club president was Dr. Helen Oujesky. Born

and raised in Fort Worth, Texas. After finishing primary school, she went on to study at Texas State College for Women (now Texas Woman's University – [TWU]) and finished with a bachelor's degree in 1951. Her first job was teaching chemistry and biology at Trimble Tech High School in Fort Worth. Even though she had married and had three sons, Helen went back to school and received a master's degree in 1965 from Texas Christian University. She finished her education back at her alma mater, Texas Women's University, in 1968. She taught at TWU until 1973 when she joined the faculty as a professor of microbiology at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

While at UT San Antonio, Helen had a distinguished career and was recognized locally, statewide, nationally, and internationally for her contributions to science, social justice, and education. Dr. Helen contributed valuable environmental microbiology research concerning pollution of soil and water, particularly of toxic wastes. She routinely presented her research findings at local, state, and national levels. She was an invited speaker on her research at the prestigious 5th International Biodeterioration Symposium in Aberdeen, Scotland.

In addition to Altrusa, Dr. Helen was involved in numerous local, state, and national organizations, including the Alamo Regional Academy of Sciences & Engineering, Texas Academy of Sciences, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Association of University Women, Society for Industrial Microbiology, and Sigma Xi. In many of these organizations, she lent her considerable leadership skills by serving as an officer. Helen was dedicated to helping pre-college students develop an interest in scientific research and presented her work at school science fairs and junior science academies around the state. Helen assisted and mentored young women, particularly high-risk minorities, in their endeavors to become involved in science, math, and engineering. She gave numerous presentations throughout the country for educational equity for girls and women. She received numerous awards from the National Science Foundation, the Student Science Training Programs for High School Students, the Minority Research Programs for Minority High School Students, and for an Intervention Model Program for Girls Using Laboratory Activities in Science, Math, and Engineering. Helen was inducted into The San Antonio Women's Celebration and Hall of Fame (now known as the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame) in 1987. Helen dedicated 45 years in education to help students further their knowledge of science and math and, more importantly, help students develop a belief in themselves!

These are some really big shoes to fill!



Editing Personal Information in Altrusa ClubRunner Site

Have you signed up for ClubRunner yet? Have you ensured your information is correct? If not, this article is for you!

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.*

Guide for Password Reset: (instructions from clubrunner)

<https://www.clubrunnersupport.com/kb/articles/how-do-i-edit-my-profile-district>

If you cannot login to ClubRunner or you forgot your password this guide will help you.

1. To start, go to the Club or District website you want to login to. At the top right of the screen, Click on Member Login.
2. Click the Forgot login name? or Forgot password? link.
3. You it will ask you for your Club, Last Name and Email Address. Click Submit when done.
4. If your name and email are found, an email will be sent to you containing instructions on resetting your login name and password. A message will display with this information.
5. Open the email that was sent and click on the Reset Password link or copy and paste the URL into the address bar of your internet browser. Please note this link will only remain valid for 24 hours!
6. You should now be taken to the Reset Password Page. Section 1: contains your Login Name; please make note of your login name. Section 2: contains the reset password fields.
7. Enter and confirm your new password and click the Submit button. Note: the bar is to help you get an idea of how secure your password is. Using a combination of letters and numbers, six characters long or more is recommended.
8. If your password reset is successful, you will receive a confirmation message. Click the Return to go back to the login page.
9. Enter your Login Name (the name provided in Step 6) and your new Password. Once done, click Login.

November 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Board Meeting	8	9	10	11 Meeting	12 Busy Bag Delivery	13
14	15	16	17	18 Days for Girls	19	20 Srv Sat Rose S 3D
21	22	23	24	25 International Day of the Elimination of Violence Against Women	26	27
28 Sylvia C G BD	29	30 5th Tuesday				

Altrusa International of San Antonio Texas, INC.

6812 Bandera Road, #200A

San Antonio, Texas 78238



<https://districtnine.altrusa.org/San-Antonio/>



altrusasatx@gmail.com



<https://www.facebook.com/altrusasatx/>



https://www.instagram.com/altrusa_san_antonio/

2021–2022 Officers & Directors

President.....Carol Fochler
Vice PresidentSharon M. Tramonte
Treasurer.....Diane de la Fuente
Secretary.....Joyce Towsley
Past President.....Silvia Mendez-Smith
Parliamentarian.....Kim Glodich
Directors 2020–2022Jackie Fremming
Susan Even
Directors 2021–2023Rita Corey
Bob Towsley

Committee Chairs

FinanceDiane de la Fuente
Kim Glodich
MembershipSylvie Chessman Garcia
Sylvia Zamora
CommunicationsSharon M. Tramonte
Corresponding
Secretary.....Rachel Armendariz
Service.....Joyce Towsley

Program Leads

ASTRA.....Sylvia Mendez-Smith
Dual Language.....Susan Even
Days for GirlsRita Corey
Little Free LibrariesRose Strawn
Red RoverSylvia Chessman Garcia
Soldiers' AngelsBob Towsley
Service Saturdays.....Carol Fochler



Altrusa San Antonio Foundation

President.....Kim Glodich
Vice PresidentBob Towsley
Treasurer.....Susan Even
Secretary.....Sharon M. Tramonte
Directors.....Wilma Carmona
Rose Strawn
Joyce Towsley

