

Virtual Defiance ...

As Altrusans Forge Ahead in District Nine!

I must admit that ninety days ago I would not have believed that the phrase “Defying Gravity” would hold such significance. The ramifications of the spread of a virus put new constraints on service to our global community, strains on family relationships and disconnected many from support in all directions through usual channels of communication. All experienced a fear and stress associated with isolation that crept into the void now referred to as “social distancing.” And then courage, survival and love conquered the void with “zooming” conversations. Altrusans connected creatively throughout District Nine using technology coupled with determination to defy gravity with an eagerness to rise and shine and reaching new heights no matter the obstacles in their path (virtually or otherwise).

Altrusans learned new skills and adapted to a new environment. One of my favorite books will always be The Obstacle is the Way, by Ryan Holiday. The title of this book sums up the last ninety days succinctly. The isolation and “social distancing” altered our ability to communicate in our accustomed manner. So we forged ahead using technology that many of us had previously dismissed or resisted because of the perceived obstacle such options would present. Altrusans teamed up to overcome a cancelled conference with a virtual annual meeting to conduct elections, approve a budget and present an initiative for growth in membership for the District in the new decade. Clubs across the district installed officers and held meetings through zooming and altered events to fit guidelines for distancing. A new decade of service within the organization will begin without missing a beat because of the many who chose to overcome the obstacle and defy the gravity holding them in place emotionally or physically.

Altrusans served in a variety of ways in the wake of this pandemic. For many, sheltering in place was the best way to serve by curbing the spread of the virus, by working from home or simply staying home. Others served on the front lines in healthcare, law enforcement or retail services such as grocery stores and home improvement locations. Many served their clubs or district by assisting and creating communications that accomplished needed tasks to forge ahead and begin a new year of service in June. Together we defied gravity living and communicating in new ways.

Special thanks go out to the District Nine board members who provided leadership and support in this virtually challenged environment to find the solutions to conquer obstacles in our path. Further thanks go out to all Altrusans who over the last few weeks have called, emailed and zoomed to connect to their fellow Altrusans to maintain momentum. We welcome the new Altrusans who became part of our Altrusa family in the last few weeks in spite of the obstacles to get them initiated with a bit of distance. We shall Defy Gravity! —from your Governor, Mary Black Pearson

At certain moments in our brief existences we are faced with great trials. Often those trials are frustrating, unfortunate, or unfair. They seem to come exactly when we think we need them the least. The question is: Do we accept this as an exclusively negative event, or can we get past whatever negativity or adversity it represents and mount an offensive? Or more precisely, can we see that this “problem” presents an opportunity for a solution that we have long been waiting for?

Holiday, Ryan. *The Obstacle Is the Way: The Timeless Art of Turning Trials into Triumph* (p. 119-120). Penguin Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

**Mary Black Pearson**

Governor
Temple, Texas

Shirley Raymer

First Vice Governor
Garland, Texas

Kimberly Kierce

Second Vice Governor
Richardson, Texas

Linda J. Hurt

Director
DFW, Texas

Dr. Vickie Smith

Director
Southwest Dallas County, Texas

Laure Bruner

Treasurer
Anderson County, Texas

Linda Moore

Immediate Past Governor
Temple, Texas

Sharron Vance

Secretary
Dallas, Texas

Brenda Tucker

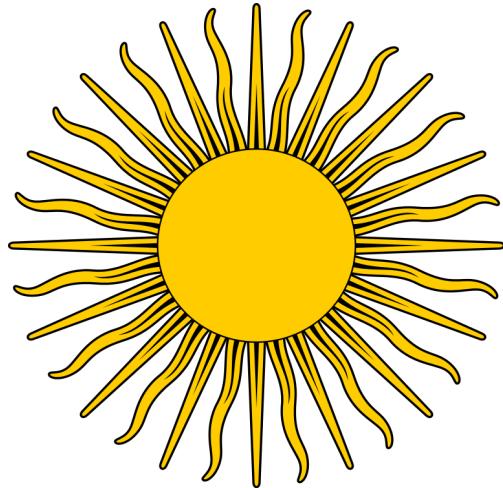
Parliamentarian
Pampa, Texas

Fall Event Hotel Information:

Note that the event is planned without a room block. The event will be held at the Holiday Inn in Garland which is not requiring a contract for a block. If you choose to spend a night, please coordinate your reservations with your fellow Altrusans at either the Holiday Inn, the Hyatt on Bush Frwy, Homewood Suites or Candlewood Suites for convenience to the venue.

Save the date for Fall Event!

The Mighty Ninth will rise and shine on October 3, 2020, in Garland to celebrate the service of District Nine Altrusans. In the midst of the coronavirus (COVID 19) pandemic District Nine continues to serve our communities, friends and fellow Altrusans.

**DON'T MISS THE CELEBRATION:**

- Saturday October 3, 2020
- Meet at the Holiday Inn, 5110 N Bush Frwy, Garland, TX
- Social at 9:30 a.m.; meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. ending at 4:00 p.m.

We will enjoy light pastries, coffee and water plus lunch as we gather for speakers and workshops with a celebration of service and generosity exhibited by our Altrusans.

Featured presentations will include:

Kimberly Kierce, Mary Powlen and Kim Glodich will guide a workshop on effective techniques to more effectively interact with differing personalities. Beverly Luedke, International Foundation Liaison, will present highlights from International Foundation work and appeal to district Altrusans for donations to support International Foundation due to the decline in funding because of cancelled district conferences. Past Governor Sylvia Zamora and Genevieve Shafer will report on ASTRA, present ASTRA Awards and recognize District Nine's newest ASTRA club sponsored by Altrusa International of Southwest Dallas County. Award Coordinators will host the presentation of the District Nine Awards presented to clubs and individuals based on the 2018-2019 award applications and member participation. Membership 2.0 committee members and facilitators will share strategies and ideas for growth.

Don't miss this opportunity to rise and shine with District Nine. Encourage fellow Altrusans to join you in Garland. We look forward to seeing each of you. Join us for the day or stay over for a little shopping and enjoy the sights, attractions and restaurants of Dallas. —from Shirley Raymer, First Vice Governor and Program Chair

DISTRICT AWARD SUBMISSIONS

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS JUNE 30, 2020*

*Note that the Club Annual Report must be submitted online through Altrusa.org by JUNE 15, 2020, *see next page*

It's time to brag about your service projects as well as your club communications and yearbooks! June 30 is the deadline for submitting your entries for the following District Nine awards for the 2019-2020 club year:

- Mamie L. Bass Service Award
- Letha H. Brown Literacy Award
- Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award

Submit these awards listed above by email to Linda Hurt, District Nine Director, HURTLJ@aol.com

- Yearbook Award
- Club Communications Award

Mail the yearbooks and club communications notebooks (three copies of each) to Linda Hurt, 606 Fairway View Terrace, Southlake, TX 76092.

- Edith DeBusk President's Award should be submitted to Linda Moore, Immediate Past Governor, moorelindac@yahoo.com

Remember for all of the DISTRICT awards that the deadline is JUNE 30!

The entries will be judged by a committee of three independent judges (not affiliated with Altrusa) except that the Edith DeBusk President's Award judging committee is made up of past governors of District Nine. Each award has a separate committee of judges.

Criteria:

The Mamie L. Bass Service Award is given to the clubs with outstanding achievement in service to the community. The Letha H. Brown Literacy Award is given to the clubs with outstanding achievement in developing literacy projects to serve their community. The Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award is given to clubs with outstanding achievement in international relations.

Every club is eligible to enter one service project in each award category each year of the biennium. An Altrusa club **may not submit the same project** for both the Mamie L. Bass Service Award and the Letha H. Brown Literacy Award in the same biennium.

The Yearbook Award recognizes clubs for outstanding yearbooks which provide pertinent information about their club, district and international. The Communications Award recognizes clubs whose exemplary efforts in communications keep their Altrusans informed and excited about their club happenings and help raise awareness of Altrusa in their local communities.

The Edith DeBusk President's award recognizes the President whose report of the year's activities exemplifies a cohesive year of leadership which inspired the club to achieve overall.

For more information:

For more information about these awards including judging criteria and the entry forms, please see "News and Events" in the districtnine.altrusa.org website or contact Linda Hurt at HURTLJ@aol.com or Dr. Vickie Smith at vaslittledoll@gmail.com. For specific questions about the Edith DeBusk submission email Past Governor Linda Moore at moorelindac@yahoo.com.

Club Annual Report* due 6/15/2020

* from Altrusa.org under the Leadership tab

The Club Annual Report questions are on the International website. It contains 27 questions to capture valuable data. This data will be provided to District and International Boards to provide information about club activities that will help us better serve our clubs. Clubs can also use the report to get ideas for how they can become stronger. This is the basis for the Distinguished Club Award.

You will complete the Club Annual Report using Survey Monkey which will make it easier to calculate your points and submit the report. Club Presidents will receive a PDF file for reviewing questions before completing the online survey. Print your PDF file for your records before submitting the answers.

NOTE THAT THIS REPORT COVERS: APRIL 1, 2019 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2020

2020-2021 Club officers?



Who are you? Your District Board Members want to know. Club Officer training will take place online this year through several zoom training sessions beginning in June. We need the club officers' names, email addresses and phone numbers sent to Sharron Vance, District Nine secretary asap! You don't want to miss out on Presidents' newsletters, officer training or membership 2.0 sessions. Zoom invitations must be sent by email. Please send a complete list of the officers to:

sharronvance@gmail.com

PASSPORT



United States
of America



Someday we will travel again and you will need this!

Save the date for Quebec.....

Save your \$\$'s and travel to see our own KATHY FOLLEY installed as International President.

More information will be provided for specific travel options but mark July 2021 as a celebratory trip to mark the beginning of a new biennium with Kathy as the International President. You have a year to save and plan. District Nine Altrusans should start planning now.



Club Visits from District Board Members

The clubs have been assigned for visits for this coming fiscal year. Please note that some of these visits will be done by zoom and coordinated with the Club President. The District Travel budget was planned with the intention of saving on some of the travel expenses for these visits. New club Presidents should contact the district board member assigned to that club to coordinate the date and format for the visit. For this fiscal year, this visitor is your assigned liaison with the District Board. Because there is not a Governor-Elect at this time, Past Governor Linda Moore will assist with some of the Central Texas club visits.

Before the club visit, a form is typically submitted which summarizes the activities, membership statistics and participation of the club's Altrusans. The board is in the process of reviewing the form to determine if changes or updates should be made. Until revised, the old form will be used to summarize information for your visitor. Please take the time to provide this requested information in advance of the visit by email.

What to expect with a club visitor: Your visitor is present to support your club's needs and to inform you of pending matters and events within District Nine and International. This visitor often has information shared by other clubs that may be helpful to you or inspire your club in a new direction. The club visitor is there to assist with questions you may have regarding specific matters. If you know that your club has an opportunity to improve in a specific area, please contact your visitor before the scheduled visit to discuss how that opportunity might be addressed during the visit. Prepare your board members and club members to discuss and brag about what makes your service and commitment unique within the Altrusa District Nine family. Every club is different and your visitor wants to brag on you upon returning to review the clubs overall at the next District Nine board meeting. Most visits will include a meeting with the board members for the club and then a general meeting with the district visitor making a short presentation. The club president or program director should coordinate the specifics of the schedule with the district visitor at least a week or two in advance.

Here are your assigned Visitors for fiscal year 2020-2021:

MARY BLACK PEARSON

DFW
Frisco
Garland
Greenville
Houston/Orange
Lubbock
Montgomery County
Richardson
Pampa/Borger
The Brazos
Lake Cities
Fort Worth
Anderson County

LINDA MOORE

Central Texas
Copperas Cove
San Antonio
The Chisholm Trail

BRENDA TUCKER

Facilitator for Borger/Pampa meetings
[MaryBP to make visit but hoping this can
be a joint club meeting or coordinated within 2 days]

SHIRLEY RAYMER

Austin
SETCER
North Dallas
Denton County
(Fall Leadership Evt)
(Conf. Coord. 2021)

KIMBERLY KIERCE

Abilene
North San Antonio
SWDC
Wichita Falls

LAURE BRUNER

Texarkana

Director 1: LINDA HURT

Arlington
Downtown Dallas
Collin County

Director 2: VICKIE SMITH

Dallas
Sherman
Temple

Brag to your visitor with an email!

Send photos so that your District Visitor can brag on your club by posting the brag on the Mighty Ninth Facebook page. Submit the same photos as a BRAG to International by sending to tanika@altrussa.org. Your brags may travel around the world with correspondence from Altrusa International.

LOOKING FOR A FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER



How about:

Jewelry with a Cause

By

Beverly Luedke,

District Nine Altrusa International Foundation Liaison

Most women love JEWELRY and Altrusans are no exception.....and more than likely those same women and Altrusans have jewelry that they no longer wear or even like. From real to costume or formal to chunky, it is a great way to find a new look and donate to a good cause.

Well, the Altrusa Foundation would love to help you clean out your jewelry box, give to a cause and at the same time have a lot of FUN doing it.

This is how it works:

Club Altrusans search their jewelry boxes for no longer wanted or needed jewelry, bagged it up and take the bag/s to a "Club 21 Jewelry" Party. (The party can also be focused on just a straight donation to the Altrusa Foundation as well.) The more bags the better!!! Every bag should be priced in \$21 increments (\$42, \$63 etc). If you buy/ donate a bag, you are given credit to Club 21. The Club 21 Chair should ask the buyer/ donor to complete a renewal or new member form and send it to the International Foundation office with the payment. Hopefully, enough money is gathered that all club members will become Club 21 members. A District club hosted this party recently and raised over \$1,000 for the cause and the club became a 100% Club 21 Club. The remaining jewelry could be taken to follow up meetings to sell and/or given to women in domestic violence shelters or to nonprofit resale shops. This is a **WIN** (Altrusan), **WIN** (Club), **WIN** (AI Foundation), **WIN** (Charity) **fundraiser!!!!**

If you would like to host a party similar to this one, do not hesitate to email me if you need help.

centexluedkes@aol.com

Invitation to Conference 2021

More to come but let's hope that by April of 2021, District Nine Altrusans can safely gather

in Georgetown, Texas, for the 65th Annual Conference live and in-person. Save the date beginning Friday at noon, April 16, 2021 and ending Sunday, April 18, 2021. The Leadership Recognition Luncheon will open the event to celebrate our ability to come together.

Everyone is a leader in some way in District Nine so every registered attendee is included in this opening event. Mark your calendar as we celebrate every way in which we as Altrusans have ***defied gravity*** in this biennium. District Nine Conference 2021 is hosted by Altrusans of Temple, Texas. While zooming is nice, there's no place like conference when you are all face-to-face.—*Mary Black Pearson*

*In honor of Martha Hardwick Hofmeister's longstanding service to the
Altrusa International Foundation we are delighted to announce*

The Hofmeister Lamplighter

This new award has been created to recognize Martha's many years of service to the Foundation and to highlight the generosity of the Foundation's extraordinary donors.

The Lamplighter Program recognizes Altrusans who contribute \$500 to the Foundation in one year.

Lamplighter members receive a gold pendant upon their first gift, then a diamond chip is awarded for each subsequent gift. The pendant can hold (25) diamonds.

Upon the 25th Lamplighter gift to the Altrusa Foundation a member will receive the *Hofmeister Lamplighter* pendant.

We look forward to sharing the jewelry design with you in the next issue of the Impact.

Giving our gifts of time, talent and treasure...

Altrusans are known for their generosity and devotion to service. Martha Hardwick Hofmeister, known throughout the International organization, has given countless hours to serving the Altrusa International Foundation as its legal advisor. To District Nine, she is known as a Past Governor and mentor. To recipients of grants from the foundation, she is known as a leader and generous advisor. But the untold number of beneficiaries of her devotion to making sure funds are available through proper stewardship may never know her name. Those are the 1000's that have received aide for recovery from flooding and hurricanes, books for school children, funding for camps and funds disbursed for many more circumstances. These families don't know of Martha or you.

So let me take this moment to say "thank you" to each of you who give of your time, talent and treasure for those who need assistance and to Martha for her continued service and devotion. Whether it's funds for a book or support for a camp for children with blood disorders or disaster relief for victims of flooding, your contribution no matter how large or how small means that together we are serving our Altrusa family's communities around the globe. Together we Defy Gravity in many ways. One way is through contributions and planned giving to the Altrusa Foundation. Visit <https://foundation.altrusa.org/giving-programs/> to learn more. Defy Gravity with every dollar you give, every hour you serve and every gift of your talents.

Defining Gravity is a way of giving and living for Altrusans.

Get to know Martha...Martha Hardwick Hofmeister Altrusa International of Downtown Dallas, Texas Naturalized Texan Martha Hardwick Hofmeister has been an Altrusan in the Downtown Dallas club since 1986. She's served as club president twice; Governor of District Nine 2003-05; District Nine Parliamentarian for 13 years; International Director 2005-07; legal advisor to the Association 1989-91; and Foundation legal advisor from 2000 to the present. Martha credits Altrusa with giving her leadership training, novel opportunities to deliver service, and many of her very best friends. "When I arrived in Dallas in 1984, I knew no one. That I am surrounded today by accomplished, dedicated, loving friends is largely due to Altrusa." Her long service to the International Foundation board has bonded her to Altrusans from all over the world as they support the Foundation's important work and utilize the Foundation's group exemption to create local club foundations in their own communities. (See more about Martha at https://foundation.altrusa.org/files/2020/02/The-Impact_Altrusa-Foundation_February-2020_rev.pdf)

Special thanks ...

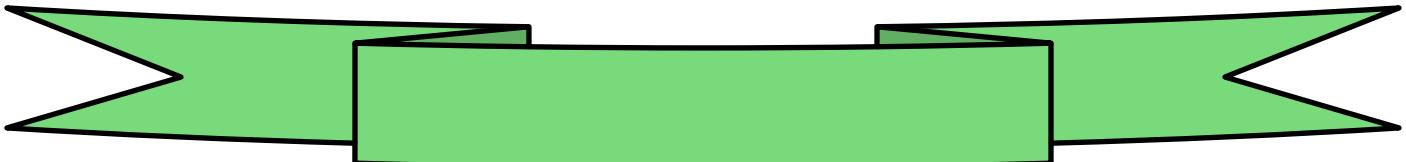
to all who assisted with the annual meeting by Zoom in lieu of our conference. From voting to budget proposals to technologically supporting the event we accomplished a lot in two hours by zooming. *THANK YOU!*

We cannot express the feeling of pride and accomplishment experienced when we connected, voted and got a budget approved with 91% of the eligible voters participating. We are so proud of the teamwork that made that meeting possible and appreciate everyone who zoomed in. The link for the zoom meeting is posted on the Facebook page for the Mighty Ninth. You can zoom through the recorded version if you missed it.

From your Board of Directors

with gratitude and appreciation for your time and patience

ELECTION RESULTS



The following Altrusans will serve on the nominations committee to recommend a slate of officers for the 2021-2023 District Nine Board of Directors:

SARAH THARNSTROM ---CENTRAL TEXAS
ROXIE VINCENT—COPPERAS COVE
PATTY LUCAS—GARLAND
CAROLYN (KITTY) HALL—PAMPA
CHRIS TOLBERT—TEMPLE

Chris Tolbert will serve as chair as she received the highest number of votes. Thank you all for being willing to serve District Nine on this committee.

Special thanks to the District Nine Finance Committee and District Nine Treasurer. We have a budget approved by our delegates, past governors and board members.

Coming your way soon,,,MEMBERSHIP 2.0 with training and action plans!

(Next Issue of NOMN will be all about growth in leaders and Altrusans—Sharing the gifts of service and community)

Last Fall, eight District Nine Altrusans were charged with drilling down on the four membership goals of the District Nine Strategic Plan and explore ways to strengthen our membership and grow District Nine. The Membership 2.0 committee met weekly for three months and the result is a system of three growth models:

- **DISCOVERY Model** designed to help clubs seek new prospective members in new places. This model aims to strengthen Altrusa through a diversified membership built with new members found in previously undiscovered environments through a two-step process. The model looks at WHERE these prospective Altrusans may be found as well as HOW to engage them.
- **POWER Model** is designed to fast-track clubs needing to rebound from a membership setback through an intense effort toward an immediate comeback. Organizations often suffer setbacks in various ways from various causes. By honestly assessing the source(s) of a setback in membership, and designing a strategy for moving forward in a new direction, clubs can rebound from a setback with strong, sustainable growth.
- **LEARNING Model** can be used by all clubs as a tool for increasing member buy-in through understanding Altrusa better. The Learning Model captures Altrusa's rich history of traditions and provides a variety of updated delivery options.

My sincere thanks to each of these Altrusans for their many hours of hard work:

Laura Roach, Facilitator, DFW
Jack Arthur, Downtown Dallas
Michelle DiGaetano, Temple
Stacy Earles, Greenville
Shawna Elliott, Pampa
Tina Hampton, Southeast Tarrant County Early Risers
Sharon Tramonte, San Antonio

Respectfully submitted:

Debbie Mabry

Membership 2.0 Committee Chair
Altrusa International of Temple

Defying Gravity

For comments or submissions regarding this issue or future issues of NOMN:

Contact Mary Black Pearson, Governor of District Nine

marybp21@gmail.com