

## ***The 1980's***

### **1980-1981**

The Dallas club, with *Mary Hardy* as president, started the year on May 10, 1980, when incoming leaders met in a planning session to decide how best its members could "*Reach for Service*" in 1980-81.

The year began with the International Theme of "*Rise to Human Needs*" and the District Theme of "*The Future is Now.*" The challenge was to make these themes provide a framework in which the club could develop the activities and functions of the year's work.

As always the retention of current members and growth in membership was uppermost in the minds of the administration. The club began the year with seventy-six members. The challenge of expanding the membership by 10% was met through the efforts of a dedicated and active membership classification committee. At the end of the year, membership stood at eighty-one.

The Training Center for the Adult Retarded continued to be the major service project of the club. Financial contributions in the amount of \$7,600 again were budgeted for assistance to the Center. The club was instrumental in obtaining a \$5,400 grant from Target stores and assisted the Center in receiving a \$1,000 grant from Republic National Bank. Members gave 650 service hours at sales benefiting the Center, and donated 100 cans of juice and 50 boxes of cookies at Christmas. The renewal of the special use permit and lease agreement of the residence was done through efforts of the club.

The Club Advisory Board to the Center assumed responsibility for carrying out the mandate from the club in forming a free-standing community-based committee of concerned citizens. These volunteers were to address the purpose of publicizing the Center and to aid in establishing eligibility guidelines for financial funding and management support. Members of the club board held eleven meetings during the year, resulting in the formation of this community committee. Members of the club shared committee appointments with other community leaders.

Service to the community was extended another year to the McKinney Job Corps graduates with the usual \$1,000 scholarship fund. These scholarships were limited to \$200 per applicant.

The Vocational Services Committee sponsored a nursing student in applying for and receiving a \$500 Founders Fund Vocational Aid award. The

committee led the club in raising \$1,405 through a "Mile of Pennies"; a dinner with proceeds going to the project; memorial gifts; and an auction. More than 200 service hours in various community projects were given by this committee.

The club, headed by the Community Service Committee, contributed more than 100 service hours to the Senior Citizens Craft Fair. Self satisfaction and motivation were expressed by Altrusans who participated in the project.

Christmas was a happy time for the members of the club, as service was extended to the elderly in the Convalescent Center and to children in Children's Medical Center. The members contributed and delivered sixty-five gifts to the residents of the Convalescent Center and sixty toys to the children at the medical center.

\$50 was contributed to the Young People's University, which was co-sponsored by organizations in the community and the Dallas Independent School District for gifted students.

To honor the memory of *Ruth Behrens*, former president of the club who was murdered in her own home, the club established the Ruth Behrens Fund for Crime Prevention in the amount of \$2,000 with \$500 awarded in that year. Funds were available to the Dallas Police Department for continuing education for police officers. Safety locks also were contributed to the Police Department for installation in the home of the elderly living in high crime areas.

To honor a very dear friend of Altrusa, a contribution of \$350 was made to the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation to be used in research in the area of muscular and nervous diseases for the Dallas area.

Expanding service to battered women and children was initiated as a project of the Community Service Committee. Club members donated linens, toiletries, paper goods, children's supplies, clothing, and cleaning equipment valued at approximately \$800 and a monetary gift of \$1,000 to the Family Place. A festive supper was prepared and served by Altrusans to the women and children of the Family Place. Individual members contributed more than 100 service hours to the project.

A donation of \$150 was made to Contact Dallas, a crisis intervention hotline, in the name of the Altrusa Club by an anonymous donor. Members contributed 120 service hours to this telephone counseling service.

The Person to Person project chairman continued to help a 73 year old diabetic woman with multiple physical problems, by providing assistance in the upkeep and maintenance of her automobile, purchasing clothes, shoes, medication, and food in the amount of \$250. The chairman had a hand in efforts

to reunite the woman with her family, who lived some seventy miles north of the area.

A Southern Methodist University sociology student from Venezuela received a \$500 Grants-In-Aid scholarship through the efforts of the International Relations Committee. The club was disappointed that a sick child prevented the recipient from attending a regular club meeting.

Involving the total membership in club activities is always an important issue, and certainly the Annual Antique Show was a source of great involvement of the club, with 95% participation by the membership. Through these efforts, \$6,674.24 was raised. *Sandra Blassingame* and *Ailsa Lewis* were co-chairmen for the show.

A financial seminar was presented in the spring and netted a profit of \$1,800. Additional fundraising with a large percentage of membership participation included: sale of Christmas cards; *Communiqué* greetings; fruitcake sales; salad suppers; and the "Miles of Pennies" totaled \$1,753.51, making a grand total of \$10,332 to support special projects.

The beginning of the development of leadership came on April 19, 1980, when fourteen members attended District Nine Leadership Training Seminar in Greenville, Texas. Sixteen members attended the District Conference in San Angelo in October.

A highlight at Conference was a wine and cheese party for our Governor-Elect, *Sue Powell*. Another was bidding for the 1984 Conference to be held at the Doubletree Inn in Dallas. The group presented the song "*Big D.*" Of course, everyone knows that was a contributing factor in Dallas being chosen to host the Conference.

The grading of programs continued to be done. Nineteen evaluations considered programs outstanding, seventeen excellent, fifteen good, and none poor. *Ailsa Lewis* was program coordinator.

The club was host for a dinner, social and business meeting of the Women's Service Club Forum at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, where member *Ailsa Lewis* was a choir director. Sixty members, representing five local service clubs, attended.

Contributions amounted to \$1,045 to FFVA and \$468 to GIA. An attractive world literacy exhibit was held September 8-16, 1980 by the International Relations Committee. A proclamation was obtained proclaiming September 8 as World Literacy Day in Dallas.

The club continued donations to the Foster Parents Plan to the child in Bolivia, but the Filipino child's parents were making a living from farming, so a child from Indonesia was assigned to the Dallas club.

The club received the Dallas Federation of Women's Clubs Outstanding Club Award for 1980-81. The president was a member of the Presidents Council of this organization.

To honor and partially repay *Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun* for the long years of outstanding leadership that she contributed to Altrusa in the Dallas club and throughout the International organization, the club established the Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun Scholarship Fund Trust with \$5,000 donated by the club. This corpus is never to be depleted. Scholarships at this time were to be \$200 and were to be awarded to junior and senior nursing students who had a need, ability, and potential.

The Extension Committee assisted one of the "baby clubs," the Altrusa Club of Richardson, in organizing their first club in Plano, and on behalf of the Dallas club, the president presented an Altrusa banner to the Plano club.

As one can see, the Altrusa Club of Dallas did "*Reach for Service*" and effectively found it.

*Compiler's note: Mary earned first runner-up in the Edith DeBusk President's Award.*

## 1981-1982

On May 30, 1981, the incoming Board of Directors and committee chairmen met with the outgoing Board in a planning session and workshop conducted by President *Louise Boucher*, and Program Coordinator *Ailsa Lewis*. The president added her theme of "*Set the Stage for Service*" to the International Theme of "*Seek New Heights*" and the District Governor's theme of "*Focus on Concerns Reflected in Service.*"

Meetings were at the R. L. Thornton Alumni Center except for three. One of the three was a luncheon called "*Presenting Ms. New Altrusans,*" July 11, 1981, at the Lakewood Country Club, that honored new members with *Nancy White* as chairman and *Luane Williams* as moderator. Each new member walked down a "white" carpet, as she was presented with a summary of her life.

On July 21, it was time to present "*The Script,*" and the marquee at the entrance of the dining room announced the performance for the evening. The programs presented that evening had interesting names -- Vocational Services Committee's "*Stage Door*" with *Ruth Decker* and *Ellen Pierce*; Altrusa Information Committee Orientation "*The Great Show*"; Contact Dallas "*All Those Lonely People*" with *Mary Hardy* as chairman; Conference "*The Actors*"; "*Cast Party*" (Christmas) with *Patricia Johnson* as chairman; club evaluation "*Critique*"; "*Ticket Please*" with *Marialyce Stephenson* and *Janice Bruner-Moore*; the Food Bank "*Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*" with *Lorraine Griffin-Kircher* as chairman; Orientation "*Lights*"; FFVA Recipients "*Past Performers*" with *Mary Brown* as chairman; Altrusa International Anniversary "*Altrusa in Review*"; an away meeting at the SMU Student Center with *Shirley Woodward* and *Erie Darnall* as chairmen; Orientation "*Back Stage*"; "*Tea House of the August Moon*" at the Asian American Heritage Center with *Peggy Cargile* as chairman; Hospice "*Dress Rehearsal*" with *Marguerite Ray* as chairman; and Installation of officers "*Center Stage*" with *Dora Williamson* and *Louise Timmerman* as chairmen.

October 20 turned the "*Spotlight on Us*" chaired by *Leita Marsh* and *Carolyn Odom*, celebrating the club birthday, when the Altrusa Information Committee presented reminders of world and club events in ten-year segments. Club members modeled fashions representative of each segment.

\$7,500 was budgeted for the Training Center for Adult Retarded, an ongoing project. The funds were used to help pay the rent on the Center and the salary of an assistant at the Center. The club was instrumental in securing a \$1,000 grant for the Center from Dresser Industries, Inc. Six members served as members of the community-based advisory board.

The Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun Scholarship Fund Trust was established by an agreement effective June 16, 1981, in honor of *Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun*, a charter

member, past club president, past District governor, and past International president. There were seven trustees, members of the club, who held eight meetings during the year. The initial funding was \$5,000 -- from the special projects fund of the club. Contributions, gifts, and interest brought the fund up to \$8,119.89 in one year. The fund provides scholarships to second, third, and fourth year nursing students in the Dallas area. Two scholarships were awarded in the spring and two in the fall.

The club continued to support two children through the Foster Parents Plan. At that time, the children were Maria Eugenia Calle from La Paz City, Bolivia and Tahir Tompo from Bontobiraeng, South Sulawesi. Monthly contributions and a special Christmas gift totaled \$502.

The International Relations Committee also presented \$50 to the Dallas Independent School District for the purchase of school supplies for foreign students. The committee delivered clothing and other items brought by club members to the International Rescue Mission.

The 1981 Texas Legislature passed the Good Faith Donor Act, which provides that contributions of food may be made to non-profit organizations for distribution to the needy without the usual strict liability connected with the sale or distribution of food products. The North Texas Food Bank, Inc. found a permanent home and on June 9, 1982, executed a lease on a 19,000 square foot warehouse. The chairman of the Community Service Committee, *Lorraine Griffin-Kircher*, took an active part in the establishment of the Food Bank. During the year, she arranged for contributions of food to be made to the Training Center for the Adult Retarded and to the Family Place. Through her recommendation, the club donated \$650 to the Food Bank, to be used for utility deposits and other start-up expenses. Other donations included \$100 to the Young People's University, day-long activity sponsored by the DISD; \$100 to Contact Dallas; \$50 to the City of Dallas for books to be placed in the Children's Clinic at the Martin Luther King Center; and \$100 to Myasthenia Gravis Foundation, Inc. in honor of a dear friend of Altrusa.

The Person to Person project granted Tambria King \$100 to continue her education; Mrs. Frazier, who was confined to her home, \$92.40 to replace a stolen television; and La Nita Robinson \$57.60 (the balance of the \$250 in the fund) to help replace her household belongings, all of which were destroyed by fire.

The Vocational Services Committee and the immediate past president, *Mary Hardy*, were instrumental in locating two worthy recipients from El Centro College for Founders Fund Vocational Aid awards: Jo Stone, a nursing student who received \$500, and Mary O. Lynd, a respiratory therapy student who received \$400.

To honor the memory of *Ruth Behrens*, former president of the club, the club established the Ruth Behrens Fund for Crime Prevention, administered through the Altrusa Club of Dallas Foundation, Inc. Four policemen and policewomen attended the Texas Crime Prevention Institute in San Marcos, Texas. The club reimbursed their expenses of \$262.73.

In January, 1982, twelve members visited the Sherman club to attend their 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration and to present the club with \$100 for their use in a special project of their choice. The speaker for the evening was *Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun*, in whose honor the club was established during her tenure as International president.

Many service hours were given by the members during this administration. In November, 1981, thirty-six members labored 136 hours at the Senior Citizens Craft Fair, sponsored by the Junior League. During the year, attorney *Edith DeBusk* spent many hours drafting the trust agreement establishing the Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun Scholarship Fund Trust and an amendment to the agreement. She was able to obtain a tax identification number and tax exempt status as a nonprofit organization under Section 501.C.3 of the United States Internal Revenue Code. Along with Dr. Calhoun and committee members, she formulated the Fund's rules, regulations, and by-laws. *Ailsa Lewis* wrote an article about *Dr. Nina Fay* called "*An Altrusan who Found the Heights*," which was published in the *International Altrusan*.

Immediate past president, *Mary Hardy*, acted as a counselor at Contact Dallas. (Contact was a recipient of President Reagan's 1982 President's Volunteer Action Award.) Mary also was a counselor at the Family Place, a shelter for battered women. World Literacy Day was celebrated by the distribution of brochures at several locations.

Delegates from the club and the president attended meetings of the Women's Council of Dallas County, Texas, Inc., the Dallas Federation of Women's Cubs, and the Organization Task Force (part of the network of task forces of the Dallas Independent School District).

Three programs were especially designed to acquaint the members with the detailed working of organizations the club felt warranted its support. Jenna Shultz, Executive Director of Contact Dallas; Gail Griswold McIntosh, Executive Director Domestic Violence Intervention Alliance of Dallas, Inc., operator of the Family Place; and Kathryn Walt Cain, Public Affairs manger with Safeway Stores and organizer of the North Texas Food Bank, Inc., presented graphic explanations of the important contributions of the organizations to the community.

The Ways and Means Committee was very busy and afforded the members an opportunity to choose a project of special interest to them. A Valentine Champagne Brunch at Sanger-Harris took much planning and was very enjoyable. There was a parade of exciting summer fashions by the store, five members received new coiffures styled by Alan Stone, and two members were instructed in makeup procedures by a representative of Clinique and modeled outfits from Sanger-Harris. The net profit from the brunch was \$1,028.31.

A unique innovation in fundraising was named "Benchwarmers." Some members could not, from time to time, participate in projects. So, members who contributed at least \$50 were given the right to wear a special benchwarmer clip and to decline to participate in any project. A total of \$580 was contributed by seven benchwarmers.

On other fundraiser was a rummage sale that netted \$616.16 and the donation of many leftovers to the Training Center for the Adult Retarded. The sale of date books, Christmas cards, cakes baked by *Mary Hardy*, and fruitcakes from Collin Street Bakery; and Christmas greetings in the *Communiqué* raised almost \$1,000. Interest earned on investments totaled \$725.33.

More than \$2,000 was forwarded to the Altrusa International Foundation, Inc. through the efforts of the International Relations Committee and the Vocational Services Committee. In October, the International Relations Committee asked members to bring a foreign dish to the meeting, which allowed the usual dinner tab to be a contribution to Grants-In-Aid. The dinner fees and other contributions by members brought the total sent to the Foundation to \$699.50. An exciting carnival and auction (sparked by spirited bidding) was conducted by the Vocational Services Committee at a chili supper in January, with \$970 raised for Founders Fund Vocational Aid. Additional contributions by members raised the total for FFVA to \$1,314.81.

In July, ten members, including the president, attended the Altrusa International, Inc. Convention in Vancouver, B. C., where the club received first runner-up for its entry for the Mamie L. Bass Service Award.

In October, eleven members, including the president, attended the District Nine Conference in Houston, Texas. A skit, "*A Melodrama of Altruism*" authored by *Ailsa Lewis*, program coordinator, was given on Friday night. A bold (she said) attempt by the president to play the piano was part of a spoof of Altrusa meetings. The club was presented the Mamie L. Bass Service Award for its work with the Training Center for the Adult Retarded. This project showed the several years work by members of the club and illustrated how a project can be initiated, and with proper leadership, can be carried out for the benefit of the community.



That year, two program committee vice-chairmen and the chairman of Ways and Means had been Altrusans for less than a year when they accepted their appointments. Leadership shown by these members and others like them illustrated the continuity and depth of experience in Altrusa and the interest in world affairs, such as World Literacy Day when brochures were distributed. From inspiration received from Leadership Training Seminar in May to International leadership in Vancouver, the club was inspired to “*Seek New Heights.*”

One of President Boucher’s goals was to establish a new Altrusa club in downtown Dallas. At the end of her administration, this was in progress. A request for approval of an extension project was filed with Altrusa International, and *Marguerite Ray*, Extension Chairman, organized two luncheons, on May 19 and June 8 at the Belo Mansion, headquarters of the Dallas Bar Association in Downtown Dallas. Sixteen women expressed a desire to become Altrusans. Members of the Dallas club attended the luncheons, helped with locating prospects, and acquainted them with the history, organization, and aims of Altrusa.

The club regretted that because of circumstances with city administration and the prevalence of so many antique shows other than the club’s, the Antique Show was canceled. In addition, the community-based board for Training Center for the Adult Retarded Association, Inc. voted to disband.

There was a silver lining, however: the club provided more than \$26,000 over a period of three years in support of the Training Center for the Adult Retarded; in one year provided many hundreds of service hours; increased a scholarship fund 62.4%; budgeted \$12,051 for special projects; earned almost \$4,000 for special projects for the coming year; raised almost \$2,000 for Altrusa International Foundation, Inc.; presented thirty-nine well-planned, motivating regular, Board of Directors, and orientation meetings; located two recipients for FFVA awards; and made substantial progress toward the formation of an Altrusa club in downtown Dallas. This club showed that it was able to cope with any situation that arose.

The club surely “*Set the Stage for Service.*”

## 1982-1983

In referencing the book of *Ecclesiastes*, President *Marialyce Stephenson*, began her sowing by coordinating her theme “*Open My Eyes to Visions of Service*” with “*Seek New Heights*,” the International Theme, and the District Theme of “*Focus on Concerns Reflected in Service*.” At the president’s workshop, she urged members to expand their horizon to include new members, not just for “numbers” sake but for quality and interest in furthering the goals of Altrusa. Thus began the year 1982-83.

The membership was encouraged not only to “look” for new members, but also to become active, involved members themselves. The interaction between members was outstanding. Not only were eleven new members pinned under the leadership of *Maxie Rhodes*, Membership Committee Chairman, but efforts were made by phone calls, cards, and personal contacts to bring inactive members back into active participation.

A loving support system surrounded the president also when she was faced with the critical illness of her father. Each member, in her place, carried forward the work of the club – first vice-president, *Fran Jaschek*; second vice-president, *Ruth Decker*, and corresponding secretary, *Pat Johnson*, presided at meetings and board meetings, and under program coordinator *Marguerite Ray*, many challenging and interesting programs were presented.

The Altrusa Information Committee, chaired by *Jane MacWilliams*, made a significant contribution to overall club programs. Each Accent was a brief orientation for new members, as well as re-orientation for all members. A tea honoring new and prospective members was hosted jointly by this committee and the Membership Committee. The Emeritae were invited to two of the club meetings – once as guests of the club at the International Anniversary Dinner. The last orientation of the year was a brunch with full member participation at the home of *Edith DeBusk*. Items covered in detail were by-law changes and recommendations to be presented at the International Convention in July.

Chairman, *Ruth Decker*, and the Community Service Committee had open eyes to service. Presented to the club were Contact Dallas (a crisis intervention center); transportation problems in the city; a Dallas Wellness Clinic; and a meeting at the North Texas Food Bank. Several members worked at the Food Bank at least one Saturday each month. \$399 was contributed to the Food Bank. Also, a contribution of \$200 to the Wellness Clinic was made by this committee. The Community Service Committee joined with the Social Chairman, *Fran Lappin* and her committee, to host the first Red Stocking Tea at Christmas. Funds in the amount of \$768.32 were donated to the Contact Dallas.

Eyes open to service - yes!

Under the chairmanship of *Jerri Holland*, the Vocational Services Committee contributed \$600 to Founders Fund Vocational Aid through a club endeavor of purchasing a "Piece of Rope." As a contribution was made, the member was given a small piece of rope that was worn with the Altrusa pin to show they were supporting FFVA. A \$294.50 FFVA Scholarship was awarded to a dietary technician student at Tarrant County Junior College. A new project of this committee was giving two \$500 scholarships to students at Skyline High School. These scholarships were used for vocational education. The two recipients were guests of the club and spoke briefly to the membership at one of the meetings. The committee was responsible for members donating clothing for distribution to ex-offenders in the Outsiders Program of the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas, a jail ministry of the church.

Programs from the International Relations Committee, with *Pat Johnson* as chairman, included a young, newly married couple from Pakistan and a family from Poland, who gave interesting information regarding their countries. A special program was presented describing the international organization of Foster Parents, Inc. and an update on the two children aided by the club. Monthly contributions totaled \$471. This committee did "seek new heights" and expanded our vision beyond the borders of the country.

The president's goal and the club's dream of a Downtown Dallas club became a reality. On September 28, 1982, the Altrusa Club of Downtown Dallas had its charter banquet with thirty-two members initiated. Extension Chairmen, *Louise Boucher* and *Marguerite Ray*, were congratulated for their work and other members commended for attending pre-organizational meetings, as well as regular meetings in giving support to the new club.

As always to do service, one must have money, and the Ways and Means Committee with *Ailsa Lewis* and *Mary Hardy* at the helm, began a year with unusual and action-packed fundraising events. Rather than one large event, it was decided to have numerous activities through the year with members participating in the events that they were most comfortable with. As it turned out, each event turned into an all-out member participation. Whoever heard of a "Thing Sale"? Not many, but on the hottest day of the year, Altrusans turned out in force on Friday night to sort, label, and prepare for an all-day sale on a local church parking lot. The goal was \$600, and we netted \$800. Soon members were eagerly selling tickets for the Ways and Means sponsored Dallas premier of "*Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street*" at Theatre Three. The goal was \$500, and we made \$520.70. Next, all were busy selling Christmas cards, fruitcakes, and *Communiqué* greetings, which brought another \$964.17 into the service project fund for the next year. In January, a Tom Thumb Dinner was held at the Lakewood Methodist Church, netting a profit of \$814.95. In April, the members and guests attended a luncheon and style show that brought

in another \$789.75. Miscellaneous activities totaling \$273.99, along with a final raffle of a beautiful needlepoint wall hanging made and donated by one of the members brought \$168.44, making a total of \$4,268.44 raised by the committee. Not only was the club pleased by the funds raised, but members became close as they worked and played in order to reach their goal.

The Leadership Training Seminar was hosted by the Altrusa Club of Garland, with eleven members of the Dallas club in attendance. Workshops were well planned and members attending gained much information to utilize in planning activities for the coming year.

Members of the club opened their eyes to the needs of the elderly by giving more than 100 service hours to the Senior Citizens Craft Fair.

Continuing the support of the Training Center for the Adult Retarded, a contribution of \$2,200 was budgeted for use at the Center. This continued to be a project with much individual interest of members of the club.

At Christmas, members donated toys to the Salvation Army for distribution to needy children. They also enjoyed cutting, sewing, addressing and stuffing tiny red felt stockings as invitations to attend the Red Stocking Tea at the Stoneleigh Hotel. The stockings (stuffed with the donations) were used as decorations on a large tree at the hotel. Active member participation in a service to the community!

The Altrusa Club of Dallas Foundation, Inc. was established a number of years prior to this to manage the funds of the Ruth Behrens Fund for Crime Prevention. In 1982-83, \$750 was presented to the Dallas Police Department to send five officers to the Texas Crime Prevention Institute for training in the Crime Watch Program. An officer from the Police Department was the club's guest at a meeting and explained the program to the members.

The highlight of the year could well have been our pride in having our own *Sue Powell* installed as governor of District Nine at the Conference in Fort Worth, where twenty members attended. Members not only gained knowledge from an excellent conference, but excelled in hosting a beautiful reception for Governor Powell. Old and new friendships were cemented among all District Nine members, as all joined to honor "our Sue."

The club was honored to have Governor Powell as the guest speaker at the International Anniversary Dinner. Also, the Dallas club was especially honored during the year to have the International President, Marie Knuebel, as a guest at one of the regular meetings. Attending the same meeting was an Altrusan from New Zealand.

As President Stephenson closed her report, she reminded all that at the beginning of the year she had asked...*"Don't walk in front of me – I might not follow. Don't walk in back of me – I might not lead. Just walk beside me and be my friend."* And all did and all are.

## 1983-1984

*Frances Maloney* began her year in March, 1983 (when she was elected she said) with hopes, plans, and with a gleam in her eye that this would be the best year of all.

Naturally, the thing that really begins a year is the Leadership Training Seminar – which this year was held in Garland. They went home, armed with all that they had learned there, had workshops, planned the year and presented the plans to the club. She chose as her theme, “*Commitment, Challenge and Communication.*”

She said that she discovered that the best way to communicate was to listen. What the club came up with was a desire to conserve time, so it was decided to have one program and one business meeting each month, instead of two programs, because a business meeting could be held followed by a committee meeting, all could still get home early.

Another desire was to have one major service project, but try as they might, there were just too many things they wanted to do, and the projects became as diversified as Altrusans themselves.

The club continued to support the Training Center for the Adult Retarded, Foster Parents Plan, scholarships, and the Senior Citizens Craft Fair. They also were able to send three Dallas Police Officers to Crime Prevention School.

New projects were begun, too – the Vial of Life and Silver Leaves Nursing Home. Altrusans and the Retired Senior Citizens Volunteer Program worked together to distribute the first 150 vials at Friendship Towers. Each fourth Tuesday night, many members gathered at the Silver Leaves Nursing Home to play bingo, entertain, and serve refreshments to the residents.

The club gave:

- a lectern, loud speaker and projector, and “tin cans” to the North Texas Food Bank;
- \$682 to International for Literacy;
- \$555 to Grants-In-Aid;
- \$832 to Founders Fund Vocational Aid;
- a scholarship; and
- support to the Person to Person project.

The club also heeded the call to raise money on fewer occasions. The group was within pennies of the goal set – from the proceeds of a Red Stocking

Tea (complete with Polka Band), a Tom Thumb Dinner, and a two-day “thing” sale.

Members challenged themselves to spread the name of Altrusa throughout the community, and they did. They were involved in the Women’s Service Club Forum Mixer Dinner with Zonta and Soroptimist, served on Carolyn Stark’s committee on Teenage Pregnancy, Women’s Council of Dallas County, Dallas Federation of Women’s Clubs, and the planning of the Governor’s “Women in Texas” week.

The club also received awards:

- Second place from the Dallas Federation of Women’s Clubs for projects;
- First place for our club roster;
- Third runner-up for the *Communiqué*; and
- Second place for total contributions to FFVA.

The Altrusa Club of Dallas Foundation was the recipient of \$10,000 through the generosity of a former Altrusan.

With all this, they didn’t forget themselves. The year began with a look back through the eyes of the Emeritae, followed by a fashion show of antique clothes that showed not only the clothes of the era, but a correlating commentary gave an insight into Altrusa’s past. Club members treated themselves to the Convention in Atlanta, where they learned, laughed, and swelled with pride over “our” governor (*Sue Powell*) and District Nine, and to Conference in Midland, where they came away inspired to make Conference in 1984 even better. They learned about the community and foreign communities.

Birthdays were celebrated with parties and lives were celebrated with profiles. Members learned more about each other and grew closer to one another.

Frances believed that the joy found in one another and in the service spilled over, which was one reason that club added twelve new members who were honored on June 16 at the home of one of the members.

A brochure was printed explaining the club and club projects – what Altrusa is all about – to give to prospective members.

She closed with the statement that she was leaving just as she came, with hopes, plans, and a gleam in her eye that next year would be the best year of all. Just the same, she gave all members credit for the Patriotism, Efficiency, and Service for the year 1983-84.

## 1984-1985

When *Janice Bruner (Moore)* became president of the club in July, 1984, the International Theme was “*Network for Commitment*” and *Sue Powell’s* theme as District Governor was “*Pyramid of Service.*” Janice’s choice of “*Chains of Progress*” seemed very fitting. *Marialyce Stephenson* served a program coordinator.

Starting the year was “*Roundup,*” a luncheon for new members chaired by Membership Committee chairman *Pat Johnson.*

Janice wanted to involve all members in some manner, and it was decided to continue the Silver Leaves Nursing Home project. Many members attended the monthly meetings and bingo games, assisted residents to and from their rooms, assisted in the games, and served punch and cookies. It felt that this was most worthwhile project, and so it turned out to be. Some of those members who could not attend the bingo games assisted by bringing and wrapping gifts for special occasions, as well as magazines and books for the home. On one occasion, nine members met at the home of Community Service Committee chairman, *Valeta Gentzler,* to wrap 142 gifts for the residents. A letter from Polly McGuffey, Activity Director, expressed the thanks from the residents for the time spent by club members in service to the nursing home. She said, “I have been told by many residents here at Silver Leaves that the Altrusa Club is as faithful as a rock. It makes my job worthwhile when I can count on volunteers such as yourselves to help out.”

Many members were involved in preparing the Vials of Life for distribution. This program, designed to make life-saving information available to emergency workers, was sponsored by the Community Service Committee. The vial, a plastic bottle containing a form for doctors’ names, medications, and other important facts, could be used by emergency crews to identify individuals who were unable to communicate, because of injury or illness. This vial was placed in the refrigerator, an easily located fire resistant area. A decal on the front of the refrigerator door indicated participation in the program. Several members also attended CPR training and looked forward to the next level of training. The club was mentioned in the *News of Mighty Ninth* concerning how many Vials of Life the Dallas club had distributed.

Other community needs were met by the club, such as canned goods for the North Texas Food Bank and gifts for the East Dallas Health Coalition.

The Vocational Services Committee was engrossed in the awarding of five scholarships to well deserving nurse’s aides, so they could obtain additional



education. \$1,000 was collected and contributed to the Founders Fund Vocational Aid program and \$900 to Grants-In-Aid. Another project was assisting the Lakewood Library Friends with a pilot literacy program.

The Altrusa Information Committee instigated the idea that the history of the three club funds should be in the yearbook. The following members were appointed to develop the histories:

- Friendship Fund Trust *Dora Williamson*
- Ruth Behrens Fund  
for Crime Prevention *Dorothy Prinzhorn*
- Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun  
Scholarship Fund Trust *Ailsa Lewis*

An article appeared in the *Communiqué* in August, 1984 to this effect: "The Altrusa Information Committee has planned a unique orientation this year. The time – October 19-21. The place – Doubletree Inn. The purpose – 1984 District Nine Conference. First timers, old timers, new members and those of some years of membership length will all learn something new and interesting about Altrusa. *Janis Storie* will be in charge of coordinating the new members. Don't forget." And what a conference it was! *Mary Stephenson* and *Ailsa Lewis* were co-chairmen, and members served in every capacity necessary to make an outstanding conference. Our own member, *Sue Powell*, was governor, and we were justly proud of the Dallas Fashion Follies and the Dallas skit – Southfork. Many members spent hours decorating wig heads with jewelry, hats, etc. for the Awards Luncheon and making glittery ball trees for the Governor's Banquet. It was work and fun, and brought members closer to each other. Voting turned out to be quite interesting, and the club's write-in candidate (*Betty Lawson*) won a spot on the District Board as director. *Sue Powell* made a contribution to Altrusa International Foundation in honor of her board of directors, committee chairmen, committee members, Altrusans appointed to special assignments, and the Altrusa Club of Dallas in appreciation for their support during her regime.

A goal adopted by the International Relations Committee was "knowing more about our foreign clubs" and foreign ways. To that end, the committee sponsored a salad supper to collect money for Grants-In-Aid. Each member was to bring an oriental dish. In her *Communiqué* report from the committee, *Rosalind Giles* mentioned that in some parts of the country, these are called "pitch in" suppers. *Verba Blackmon* presented a report on the far east that she had packaged for Altrusa International several years before. Philip Kelly (*Joan Kelly's* husband) furnished homemade egg rolls for the supper. In November, it was announced that International had assigned the Dallas club a Sister Club in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

Our two foster children, sponsored during the year through Foster Parents Plan, were Tahir and Maria. Interesting letters from them were published in the *Communiqué* – another way to learn about the world.

A way to learn about our world was to watch Channels 9 and 7 on Cube Cable, when *Sue Powell* and *Ailsa Lewis* advertised the District Conference, reading some pertinent facts put together by *Marguerite Ray*, Conference Publicity Chairman. The members again worked the Senior Citizens Craft Fair in November. The club supported Contact Dallas, Downs Syndrome, and Training Center for the Adult Retarded through donations. Person to Person supported Debbie Teague in her need of funds to begin her career.

The Ways and Means Committee started early making money with a spaghetti dinner and mixer, a Red Stocking Tea on December 16 at the Stoneleigh Hotel (a lovely affair with delicious food and beautiful decorations), selling fruitcakes and lipsticks, an auction and a “thing” sale. Through these efforts \$3,600 was raised for next year’s projects.

Profiles of members were given at the program meetings each month. What fun to know a member’s background and some amusing facts about them. Those “links of the chain” and birthday celebrations made the chain stronger. At times, it seemed that the room where the club met at the R. L. Thornton Alumni Center would not hold all present.

Clubs were still participating in the Women’s Service Club Forum, and a mixer dinner was held on March 15 at the Melrose Hotel, where the Dallas, Oak Cliff, and Downtown Dallas clubs, Pilot, Soroptomist, Zonta I and Zonta II met and learned about each other.

Janice received the first runner-up award for the Edith DeBusk President’s Award for her report on the club’s work during the year.

## 1985-1986

Crude oil, the fuel that runs America, was the inspiration for *Fran Lappin's* theme for her presidency of 1985-86.

Said Fran in her first message of the year in July, 1985, "In taking the oil from the ground by a rig, the hoisting systems' primary function is to support the rotating systems by providing appropriate equipment and working area. So does Vocational Services provide support so that individuals are properly equipped with job skills.

"The Community Service Committee mimics the rotating system which rotates the drill stem pipe and makes the bit drill the well bore.

"The most extensive area is the circulating system, providing support to the rotating system and maintaining the lifeblood of the circulating system – the drilling fluid (popularly called 'mud'). So International Relations covers the broad area of service to the world at large.

"A 'blowout' is one of the major problems that may be encountered when drilling a well. You've seen pictures of spectacular blowouts where the fluids ignited and burned for weeks even months. Thus, Altrusa Information is likened to the blowout prevention system. It keeps us reminded of the reasons for the formation of our club and provides education of new members in the principles of Altrusa.

"The 'nucleus' of a modern rotary drilling rig is the power system. It generates the primary power required to operate all the other component systems, just as the Membership Committee and members constantly revitalize and power the club through the talents of new members."

She asked that the club be committed to Altrusa aims in order to provide, according to her theme, "*Fuel for Altrusa Energy*" ---the District Theme being "*Altrusa Energy*" and working in "*Unity Through Service*," the International Theme.

So she said, "Rig up – let's get started!"

And they did. Seven members attended the International Convention in Boston: *Lou Boucher, Janice Bruner, Fran Lappin, Betty Lawson, Frances Maloney, Sue Powell, and Ceil Shorr.*

The Ways and Means Committee, with *Ruth Brown* as chairman and *Sue Powell* as assistant, had a Sale Table at the July 2 meeting and planned to have one at each meeting with gifts and goodies to buy. On October 5, a fashion

show was held. Other fundraisers were Christmas cards, a "Birthday Apron," a Tom Thumb Dinner, and a garage sale. The total raised was \$7,594.65 for the projects for the coming year.

*Ruth Brown* was named to the Dallas Agency on Aging, a part of the Community Council of Greater Dallas. Her appointment was written up in the January, 1986 issue of *International Altrusan*.

The Community Service Committee, with *Connie Reid* as chairman and *Valeta Gentzler* as vice-chairman, collected household items for the Family Place, had a Fiesta Dinner for New Beginnings, and continued at the Silver Leaves Nursing Home, where they took hair brushes, clothing and a new bingo set and had a Christmas party for the residents with clowns "Flower" and "Posy."

District Conference was in Amarillo in October at the Villa Inn Convention Center with the theme "Cowboys and Indians – Denim and Roses." Here a new booklet, *Altrusa Tradition*, was introduced – a fine compilation of facts about Altrusa and Altrusans. Awards received at Conference were third place in largest per capita contributions to GIA, "Plus 15" Award for the 1983-85 biennium, first runner-up for our newsletter (*Ailsa Lewis*, Editor) largest contribution to GIA, third place in the Mamie L. Bass Service Award, and Certificate of Merit in the Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award.

Not only was October a busy month, but so was November, with the Senior Citizens Craft Fair coming right after Conference, then Women in Texas Week – a project of Governor Mark White's Commission for Women. *Nicki Nicol* was celebration chairman for the Second Annual Women in Dallas Today celebration, and Altrusa was asked for the second time to be co-hostesses. The dinner was held on Monday, November 11 at the Hyatt Regency. Twelve of the Texas nominees were inducted into the 1985 Texas Women's Hall of Fame later in the year in Austin.

The club learned that the Training Center for the Adult Retarded had been given a new home at 906 South Gilpin.

Through a program by the International Relations Committee, members learned about the duties of the Office of International Affairs and the Dallas World Salute done in April, 1986 when Prince Charles would be in town.

\$1,000 was given to Parkland Burn Center to assist families of burn victims. A literacy project of the Altrusa Information Committee was purchasing books for pre-school children to be placed in waiting rooms of the Dallas County Health Department. Vocational Services purchased books for the Texas Commission for the Blind. International Relations gave \$200 to the East Dallas Health Coalition for medicine. The club bought a brick for the Promenade at Fair Park.

On January 23, 1986, a dinner honoring *Edith DeBusk* was sponsored by the Business and Professional Women at the Colony Parke Hotel, which many club members attended.

In 1984-85, the club voted to put aside \$5,000 from the Altrusa Club of Dallas Foundation, Inc. (the Ruth Behrens Fund) for a blood spatter analysis workshop for crime prevention. *Dr. Nancy White* reported that Dr. Charles Petty, Dallas County Medical Examiner, stated that a blood spatter analysis workshop was held June 10-14 at the Woodlawn Sheriff's Academy, Maple Avenue at Oak Lawn. Twenty law enforcement personnel plus staff of the County Medical Examiner's Office attended the five-day session. This was the 28<sup>th</sup> blood spatter seminar presented by Herbert L. MacBonnell, Ph.D. It's always nice to hear about how the money the club gives to the community is spent.

With *Marialyce Stephenson* as program coordinator, the programs for the year were intriguing, such as "*Analyzing the Core*," "*Maintaining the Pump*," "*Changing Drilling Directions*," "*Rudolph the Red Nose Pumper*" – a Christmas party at Lakewood Country Club, "*Evaluating Rig '85*," "*Hoisting Toward a New Life*," "*Exploring Future Reservoirs*," "*How to Avoid Hitting a Dry Well*," "*Stabilizing Environments*" – Foster Parents program, and "*Tapping the Reservoir*."

The program entitled "*Art of Survival*" was a particularly interesting program. Jean Lacy of the African-American Cultural Heritage Center told the members that much of black art was a form of survival. Jugs were made to go into the tomb of a dead person, and these jugs are still made in South Carolina – not for the same purpose, of course. Baskets play a large part in the life of Africa as a way to carry things, and these baskets also are still made in South Carolina. She showed a sweet grass basket made by the coil method, quilts, paintings, sculpture, and a unique "thumb" piano.

Sheila Brown, a student of *Mary Hardy* at El Centro college, was accepted by the International FFVA Committee for a Founders Fund Vocational Aid award of \$500. Sheila was the sole support of her children.

The club learned, through the *Communiqué*, that Dr. Lilliam Gilbreth -- charter member of the Altrusa Club of New York City, internationally known personnel management engineer, and first woman professor of Management Engineering at Purdue University – was the mother in the book (and play) "*Cheaper by the Dozen*." The club also had a nice compliment on the *Communiqué* from Charlotte McDerment, Second Vice-President, Altrusa International (since deceased). In writing to *Fran Lappin* after the District Nine Conference, Ms. McDerment said, "I am enjoying receiving your newsletter and read it with much interest. I feel such a part of District Nine now that I have had a chance to get to know so many of you. I know how much work goes into a club

communication tool. My congratulations to your Editor.” *Your compiler and editor at that time – Ailsa Lewis – appreciated the comment.*

Something else “big” was going on also – a cookbook with *Pat Johnson* as chairman, and an ode to her endeavors was in the *Communiqué*, “*Ode to a Cookbook*”: “*There was a young girl named Johnson, with a problem as big as Wisconsin. A cookbook she would make for Ways and Means sake...Five recipes from each is all she need reach. With tears on her face, she’s pleading her case. Help her, please, poor thing...For to ‘serve’ has a yum-yummy ring.*” The cookbook came out in the summer of 1986 and included recipes from members, former members, District officers and chairmen, and International officers and chairmen.

At Christmas, president Fran went home to Louisiana, where she again met her former husband. They decided to remarry. Thus, April 15, 1986 was Fran’s last meeting. Since *Pat Johnson* was first vice-president, she graciously stepped in to fill the rest of Fran’s year. Amid all the hoopla of Altrusa International’s Anniversary and handing over the scrapbook by *Ailsa Lewis*, President Fran and members of the club said their tearful goodbye’s. Much had happened during the year of which the club was justly proud. So ended a successful, if shortened, regime of *Frances Lappin*.

## 1986-1987

After completing *Fran Lappin's* term as president, *Pat Johnson* was installed for her own term as president. She chose for her theme "E=MC<sup>2</sup> or Energy Equals Membership times Cooperation Squared." In her first message in the newsletter, Pat said, "Altrusa energy can be compared to the ideal among power producers - clean, safe, long-lasting and inexpensive...Altrusans release energy through interaction among members...one good idea or act stimulates another. To keep Altrusa energy crackling this year, we need ... members who are involved in club activities and service projects. You can make the difference in the production of Altrusa power." Meetings were held at the R. L. Thornton Alumni Center.

Altrusa Information Committee, chaired by *Ailsa Lewis* and co-chaired by *Carolyn Rash*, continued to provide profiles of members at meetings and to recognize members' birthdays. The committee sponsored two orientations, the Christmas party, and Altrusa's anniversary.

Community Service Committee, chaired by *Doris Eaton* and co-chaired by *Ushma Ferguson*, elected to sponsor two residences for battered women and their families – The Family Place and New Beginnings. \$450 was given to New Beginnings. For Christmas, the club adopted a family from New Beginnings. Members were asked to donate clothing and toilet articles, which are always needed by both facilities. New Beginnings was adopted as club-wide service project in February. Vials of Life were continued. \$600 was presented to Dallas Down's Syndrome Guild.

International Relations Committee, chaired by *Susan Parkhurst* and co-chaired by *Betty Lawson*, supported the Foster Parents Plan and the East Dallas Health Coalition. Letters from Maria Eugenia Calle and Victorio Tagura, our foster children, were printed in the *Communiqué*. Previous recipients of GIA awards were invited to attend the salad supper held the first meeting in October to raise money for GIA. \$300 was given to the East Dallas Health Coalition to help purchase a much needed x-ray view box. In February, the club arranged to have 1,000 dental hygiene packages sent to the Coalition.

Vocational Services Committee, chaired by *Sue Lagarde* and co-chaired by *Jane Aten*, chose to support the Burn Center, New Beginnings, and to develop a literacy project.

Many of our members attended the November Charter Banquet for the Altrusa Club of Arlington P. M, sponsored by Altrusa International, Inc. of Arlington Noon.

In October, 1986, District Conference was hosted by the San Angelo club.

The main fundraiser for the Ways and Means Committee was the sale of our cookbook. A Xia Fashion show netted \$959.50. Christmas greetings were again printed in the *Communiqué*.

The Membership Committee had a most successful membership drive on April 21. Thirty-two prospective members were honored. As a result, twenty invitations to membership were sent, with the initiation set for June. At the June meeting, fifteen new members were pinned, making a total of nineteen new members for the year. *Marialyce Stephenson* chaired this committee.

In her final message as president, *Pat Johnson*, said, “ Throughout this club year, Altrusans have combined their individual energy and through their interaction produced the fuel for multiple service activities. Together we have provided funds and funds and services to agencies and individuals who needed help. We have added a treasury of new members and regained some former Altrusans. Thanks to your contributions – your energy – this year of the ‘formula’ can claim success. Energy does equal membership times cooperation squared.”

*Editor's note: President Pat Johnson's report was not available; therefore, the information for this year came from issues of the Communiqué.*



## **1987-1988**

*Valeta Gentzler* and her program coordinator, *Doris Eaton*, developed an interesting theme for the year 1987-88 – “*A Care Network*,” of which Station CBC (Communications, Broadcasting, Caring) was a part. The goal was to communicate to the members that each one cared for the other and to let the community know that Altrusans care for the individual member. Meetings were held at the R. L. Thornton Alumni Center. Through the programs, new needs were discovered and past needs not ignored.

The International Convention was held in Palm Desert, California this year.

Service projects produced 468 hours of service to the community. These service hours were given to the Senior Citizens Craft Fair, Scottish Rite Hospital, Letot Center, Buckner Children’s Home, New Beginnings, and the Convalescent Center. The Christmas gifts that were presented to Letot were the only gifts the children received. The picnic arranged for the children amazed them, as they could not believe someone would spend time with them. Many hours were spent conferring with New Beginnings, the Deaf Action Center, and Letot. Individual needs, as well as the time and effort spent of scholarships and establishing their funds, were not counted as service hours.

Money was made available to the Deaf Action Center, New Beginnings, Foster Parents Plan, and Contact Dallas. The East Dallas Storefront received MacGruff puppets and books for the children. Rent was paid for a client at New Beginnings and for a single mother with two children. A scholarship was given to a New Beginnings client and glasses were bought for a child. Food was brought and distributed at Christmas, as well as a generous donation of canned goods to the North Texas Food. Scholarships totaling \$3,000 were given. More than \$3,000 was used in various service projects meeting community needs.

The year was exciting as we saw the first fruits of one of our dreams. With legal work completed, we were able to establish the Edith DeBusk Scholarship for Legal Studies. The tea in Edith’s honor was a high point of the year. Because of the hard work and generous donations, a firm financial base was established and \$1,300 was awarded to legal students.

An unusual opportunity presented itself with the need of a film to be used by the Dallas District Attorney’s Office and the Dallas Police Department. This film was financed by the Ruth Behrens Fund for Crime Prevention and was used in the fight against pornography.

Revitalization was a challenge during the year, and twelve new members were added. It was rewarding to see new members accept responsibilities and perform well.

District Nine Conference, which was held in Richardson, provided another boost of encouragement. Twenty-five members attended, and several took an active part in programs and presentations.

Another highlight of the year was being able to host the Area I Leadership Training Seminar. Twenty-three members attended. Many members worked at planning, arranging, cooking, and doing the many things that worked together to make this a success.

The club enjoyed being affiliated with the Care Network and all its accomplishments.

## 1988-1989

*Jane Aten's "Symphony of Service"* began in July, 1988. However, she said, "Actually, a more apt term for the way Altrusa is organized might be a 'Chamber Music Festival of Service'. It has been said that a symphony is the last dictatorship in the western world – this is certainly not the model Altrusa follows."

During the year, a program was given at every meeting, which stimulated consistently good attendance. Program topics covered a wide range of interests. Speakers, including former member *Mamie McKnight*, helped members understand more about the three major ethnic groups in Dallas. The club heard about "*Black Dallas Remembered*," an exercise program for the elderly in the Hispanic community, and how the East Dallas Storefront serves our growing population of Asian immigrants.

Both Ways and Means and Membership Committees participated in outreach. Twelve new members were added, and the major fundraising effort of Ways and Means was ticket sales to the Rameses Exhibit, which not only raised money for projects, but also contributed to the success of a major event for the Dallas Museum of Natural History.

Altrusan Information provided opportunities for the club to know one another better and helped members learn more about the organization. The annual club birthday celebration reviewed the themes of past presidents. Two well-planned and presented orientations helped new member learn more about what they were becoming part of. The club was well represented at District Nine Conference and at Leadership Training Seminar.

The club was fortunate to begin the year with a budget that enabled generous giving to a number of causes: Contact Dallas, Dallas Association for Retarded Citizens, Dallas County Nutrition for the Elderly, International Cranio-facial Foundation, East Dallas Storefront, New Beginnings, and two \$750 Scholarships for DISD seniors at Skyline High School who wrote essays on "Scholarship - Efficiency - Service."

The club assisted several individuals from the Person To Person Fund. Through the Foundation, the Ruth Behrens Fund for Crime Prevention gave \$2,000 to assist the Greater Dallas Crime Commission and the Dallas Police Department purchase a robot to be used throughout the community for crime prevention education. The Edith DeBusk Scholarship for Legal Studies awarded two \$350 scholarships (one for paralegal studies at El Centro College and one for legal studies at SMU). Through the Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun Scholarship Fund Trust, the club awarded five \$350 nursing scholarships and one \$250 nursing scholarship.

Working as individuals and in groups, members gave over 1,600 hours of service. Recipients of this service have included the Senior Citizens Craft Fair, Contact Dallas, The Rameses Exhibit, Scottish Rite Hospital, Letot Center, and others.

A great musician offers his best performance every time he is on stage in the knowledge that, although he needs and is reinforced by applause, his song may be a gift to others in ways he will never know. He is able to do this because he knows the power of music to enrich human life.

In Altrusa, we offer our best efforts to the community in the same kind of spirit. While we receive some letters of thanks and recognition in other ways, one never knows how individual lives may have been touched by our efforts. This is especially true at Letot.

Webster defines altruism as “unselfish concern for the welfare of others.” Every month our members gave loving support to troubled young men and women whom they would encounter only once. Because of the belief in the power of unselfish service, more than 60% of the club participated. This is a beautiful enactment of the spirit of Altrusa. The president asked the members to consider how the club could have 100% involvement in the future.

The year 1988 began with three goals. One was “to expand the repertoire by finding new ways to make a difference in the community.” A second was “to build ensemble by adding new members” and “by involving each member appropriately.” While we can always find room for improvement, these goals were met. The first goal set was “to build individual abilities through opportunities for personal growth, and through information on a variety of topics.” While there was no doubt we shared a rich variety of information through programs, each member would have to assess whether and how much each had grown personally.

The president then stated that for her, the year had been a very positive growth experience. She learned more about the Dallas community, came to appreciate the experience and expertise of each member, made new friends, and strengthened friendships with those she had known longer.

Commitment and support for all attempts were very much appreciated, and she closed her regime with pleasure that she had had the opportunity to work with all. And she added, “It’s been fun!”

So the “symphony” came to a close, but not the service – which goes on.

## 1989-1990

Adding to the International Theme, "*Catch the Vision of Our Future*" and the District Theme, "*Altrusa In Wonderland...Through the Looking Glass to Service*," President *Carolyn Rash* added her theme of "*Service And Literacy Equals Success*" or SALES. "We Will" was the club motto, and a service register, with its keys representing all the committees and funds that are needed to ring up SALES, was the year's symbol.

With the excellent cooperation of the members, all positions on the SALES force were filled, and fourteen members attended Leadership Training Seminar in April. On May 1, at the Exchange Workshop for incoming and outgoing officers and committee chairmen, they discussed goals and the manner in which they would be implemented.

Thus, during May, the "We Will" attitude was everywhere. Under the leadership of *Maxie Rhodes*, program coordinator, programs were planned that were as diverse as the membership. Meetings were held by the Finance Committee, chaired by *Pat Johnson*, and the Ways and Means Committee, headed by *Marialyce Stephenson*.

What a pleasure it was to have the governor-elect for District Eight, who by the way was Carolyn's mother, *Marilynn Bell*, install the officers. Mrs. Bell used the theme, "*Marketing Motivates Members*" – M&M's – a great way to get "We Will" started.

Members were motivated in planning parties for Letot – holiday parties, including a Halloween party to which club members went in costume, and even one that included the demonstration of "Blue Max," the Dallas Police Robot that the Ruth Behrens Fund for Crime Prevention sponsored. The club donated gifts for the clients at Christmas and provided extras, including a VCR and art supplies. The young people at Letot seemed overwhelmed by the caring of our members.

Other Christmas activities were sponsored by the Altrusa Information Committee, as they adopted a needy family and provided clothes, shoes, and toys for three children, presents for the parents and food for a holiday dinner.

Our Person to Person Committee, never idle, brought us Mrs. Smith, who at 73 found herself in need of dentures and no funds. She was suffering from malnutrition. Her daughter was in a full body cast and unable to help, and her granddaughter could not help. The committee furnished the dentures and later a hearing aid through their budgeted funds and the generous donations of individual members.

As always, obtaining new members and retaining current members were goals. *Julie Pinnell*, Membership Committee Chairman, held the recruitment dinner in December. The program was excellent, and as a result of the dinner, six prospects were extended membership invitations, with all six accepting. Five others were invited and three initiated, making the net nine.

The club's next goal was to find a project that would assist the literacy programs in the community or establish a Literacy Committee of our own. In the meantime, the Vocational Services Committee presented a program by the Literacy Volunteers of America and Dallas County Adult Literacy Council. The International Relations Committee dealt with the illiteracy problem in the Hispanic community by helping with the East Dallas Storefront's literacy program.

International now had a Literacy Committee, so the club created its own. *Ann Parrish* was appointed chairman. Even though work commitments forced Ann to request a leave of absence, she arranged for a speaker on the subject.

One of the major accomplishments in the area of literacy was the establishment of libraries at Letot and the East Dallas Storefront by the International Relations Committee. Books were donated by members and arrangements were made with Half-Price Books for even more books. One member also began LIFT training and helped at the East Dallas Storefront. *Valeta Gentzler*, chairman of International Relations, and *Janice Bruner-Moore*, chairman of Vocational Services, demonstrated the "We Will" attitude, which had an impact on their committees and other members.

Another goal was to make all members of the club "Altrusa Literate." The first opportunity to achieve that goal was the trip to "*Wonderland*" (with Fran McDonald, Governor) for seventeen members of the SALES force – the District Conference in Wichita Falls. The whole conference -- with its workshops, business meetings, and address by International President-Elect, Norma Hiner – focused on making attendees "Altrusa Literate." The April Leadership Training Seminar offered more Altrusa knowledge, as well as the District newsletter, *News of Mighty Ninth*.

The first International opportunity to develop our "Altrusa Literacy" was the International Convention held in Dublin, Ireland, with Stella Nyhan presiding. Eight club members attended, bringing back memories and photographs, and the Second Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award for our own *Edith DeBusk*. It was a particularly moving program that Edith attended to accept the award. The *International Altrusan*, the *Altrusa Accent*, and the letters to the president rounded out the International opportunities to be "Altrusa Literate."

In our own club, the Altrusa Information Committee, with *Louise Boucher* as chairman, added many other opportunities to improve our “Altrusa Literacy” with orientations, Accents, and the *Communiqué*, as well as programs presented by the committee.

Much work was done by the Ways and Means Committee with *Marialyce Stephenson* and *Betty Lawson* as chairmen. After starting the year with the traditional Christmas cards and greenery, they soon were planning the first Lasagna Dinner and Silent Auction. They sold Christmas bells, gift wrap, pecans, and miscellaneous items. They sponsored the Christmas greetings in the *Communiqué*. They held a salad supper. In May, they sponsored the SALES finale at Fair Oaks Park, which was enjoyed by all. The weather was fine, the food good, the games fun, and the fellowship enduring. The net result of their efforts was more than \$5,000.

Four \$300 scholarships were awarded to nursing students from the Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun Scholarship Fund Trust. Two \$350 scholarships were awarded from the Edith DeBusk Scholarship for Legal Studies – one to a third year law student at Southern Methodist University and one to a paralegal student at El Centro College.

The club had two special international visitors during the year. The first was Barbara Murphy from Hamilton, New Zealand. She was in Dallas to attend a medial seminar and had thought ahead to ask if there were any Altrusa clubs in the area. Her visit fell on the night that the programs for the year were presented. She was very impressed with the Letot project and the Brag Jar.

The second visitor was from Colchester, England. Pat Sharman was here visiting her daughter. She gave a history of Colchester, which had just celebrated its 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. She donated a book of poems, which her club sold to raise money to support their hospice project. The book was auctioned and added \$27 to the Ways and Means funds. The club presented her with a copy of our cookbook.

This was an exciting year, and as always, we were looking forward to a new slate of officers and new works to build Altrusa.

*Editor's note: The president was awarded third runner-up for the Edith DeBusk President's Award.*

Presidents during this decade were:

<i>Mary Hardy</i>	1980-81
<i>Louise Boucher</i>	1981-82
<i>Marialyce Stephenson</i>	1982-83
<i>Frances Maloney</i>	1983-84
<i>Janice Bruner-Moore</i>	1984-85
<i>Frances Lappin</i>	1985-86
<i>Patricia A. Johnson</i>	1986-87
<i>Valeta Gentzler</i>	1987-88
<i>Jane Linn Aten</i>	1988-89
<i>Carolyn Rash</i>	1989-90