

## ***The 1990's***

### **1990-1991**

*Maxie Rhodes* served as president during 1990-91, after having been installed by *Sue Powell* making deposits in the Bank of Altrusa. Leading up to the installation were the Leadership Training Seminar hosted by Altrusa International, Inc. of Downtown Dallas, at which fifteen members were in attendance, and the Exchange Workshop, where plans for the year pumped up morale and filled the air with excitement.

There was excitement in International with "*Catch the Vision of Our Future*," the District with "*Alice in Wonderland – Through the Looking Glass to Service*," and the president's theme of "*Interest in Service and Literacy is Contagious*." The District Theme changed in October to "*Soaring to New Heights*," when our own member, *Betty Lawson*, was installed as District Governor.

Maxie's motto was "*Pass It On*," taken from a song that begins "*It only takes a spark to get a fire going*." This related to how service in Altrusa should be started by one and passed throughout the club and on to the community. Meetings were held at R. L. Thornton Alumni Center.

For the first time, the club had to make a place for the new Literacy Committee. Since it was not well defined whether it should be a program committee, it was made part of the Community Service Committee, with *Jane Aten* as chairman.

A new depth was added to the Accents by the Altrusa Information Committee, chaired by *Ailsa Lewis*. A topic was assigned to each program. These topics covered most areas of club functions, resulting in an orientation for new and seasoned members at each meeting.

The Ways and Means Committee, chaired by *Valeta Gentzler*, planned a year of fun and accomplishment. While accumulating funds for the coming year, their aim was to keep members well fed, and at the same time, keep them well dressed. In November, a Lasagna Luncheon was held along with a silent auction. A Christmas Bazaar was set up to sell Sunbelt Clothing, hair ribbons, bows, and a mound of other paraphernalia donated by *Olivia Woods*. Also sold were chocolate covered pecans, cashews, and Christmas ornaments. The money began to roll in, and reached more than \$4,200 by year's end.

An annual membership dinner was held in October. Fourteen prospective members attended and seven invitations were extended for membership. An

invitation also was extended to Joann Roosevelt for honorary membership. *Janice Bruner-Moore* was the able chairman of the Membership Committee.

Monthly visits were continued to the Letot Center. Although the Center receives monies from other businesses and service organizations, the objective of the Dallas club was to be a role model for the teens and to give them time and attention. *Doris Eaton*, with the help of her husband, made a “*Wheel of Fortune*” board to be used by all the committees. The club provided Christmas gifts for the clients, as well as goodies and games. The cards and other expressions of appreciation the club received made it all worthwhile. The club approved funds for a ping-pong table for the Center, but *Linda McCalla* and her husband provided and delivered a table and equipment to the Center at no expense to the club.

At this time, Letot moved to a beautiful new building, a comfortable place. One of the Community Service Committee programs was a tour of the new facility. Approximately 400 service hours were accumulated at Letot. The club also provided a previous resident of Letot with money to purchase a pair of boots, that his family could not afford, so that he could go on a disciplinary retreat.

The Community Service Committee, chaired by *Sandra Blassingame*, worked with the Interfaith Housing Coalition to obtain furniture and household items for the apartments used to house the homeless. She received items from the members by inviting them to a housewarming, assigning items to bring, then delivering the items to the Coalition.

Literacy had been an ongoing dream, seemingly hard to make come true. Two programs were given on the topic – “*First Hand Look – Literacy in Action*” and LIFT. *Marguerite Ray* gave 212 service hours taking classes, preparing, training, and working in the LIFT office – her own LIFT program.

The International Relations and Community Service Committees each donated \$300 to purchase books for Letot. At Christmas, the club spent time that had been set aside for a party making teaching aids for the teachers at the Nancy B. Moseley Elementary School. The Altrusa Information Committee donated the money to buy the supplies. On May 7, the school had a Cinco de Mayo Celebration. Since the school was not financially able to decorate for it, the \$300 contributed by Altrusa allowed them to do decorations, plus having enough money for a bus to transport from another school the students providing the entertainment. Several club members attended the celebration.

Hopes were high in the beginning for work on extension, but the formation of a new club was not accomplished, so the club donated \$75 to the new club in

Copperas Cove, which was chartered on June 6. The club had won the money for the most members attending Leadership Training Seminar.

The Person to Person Committee is always looking for someone to help, so funds were given to a family identified by the school where *Bettye Pore* worked. \$273.06 was provided for shoes and clothing for the eleven members in the family with a father who was unemployed. \$200 was provided to a single mother who needed money to pay the deductible on her insurance after brain surgery for her fourteen year old daughter. The committee spent almost \$1,000 with all the expenditures during the year.

*Lillian Garrett* worked diligently on the Ruth Behrens Fund for Crime Prevention, making a survey in an area of handicapped and elderly, whose residents needed security devices on their homes. She requested \$1,200 so that doors and windows could be secured.

The year started off with a positive note of recognition throughout the community when Harriet Miers attended the officers' installation as representative from the City of Dallas. She presented the incoming president with a clock and brought greetings from the city. Recognition also could have been given to eleven drenched Altrusans standing in the middle of an intersection working for the American Lung Association on the Azalea Run in April, 1991, gaining forty service hours that day and to fourteen members giving sixty-three service hours to the Senior Citizens Craft Fair at Fair Park.

International Relations Committee contributed \$250 to the East Dallas Storefront and \$250 to the project for sending packages and cards to our service people in the Persian Gulf before and after the war. On May 19, the committee spent \$400 entertaining foreign students from UTD with lunch and an outing at the Arboretum. The committee also provided a panel discussion on multi-cultural literacy/communications in the Dallas Metroplex. The panel consisted of staff from SMU and included *Anita Krull*. *Virginia Carson* worked very hard making this a reality. The committee, under the chairmanship of *Nancy White*, did an outstanding job.

The Altrusa Information Committee presented two very informative orientations, both held in the home of *Frances Maloney*. *Ailsa Lewis* put together a slide presentation on the functions of the club. The committee provided brochures on Altrusa for solicitation of new members and contributed \$256.50 to the International Foundation from the proceeds of a salad supper. This committee also prepared for the celebration of the Anniversary of Altrusa International, at which our Governor, *Betty Lawson*, made her official visit, and planned the installation of officers for 1991-92 on May 21. At the Christmas meeting, the committee requested donations of food for the Food Bank. In excess of 300 pounds of food was collected and delivered to the Food Bank.

The Vocational Services Committee presented programs on several topics, such as public speaking, recycling, slow learners, and low birth weight babies. Sgt. Gurley from the East Dallas Storefront spoke about the needs of the multi-cultural people in the area. Two \$500 scholarships were awarded by this committee – one to a student at Skyline High School and one attending Eastfield College.

Although the Community Service Committee focused on literacy, it also presented a program on the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center. The committee contributed \$400 to Contract Dallas and \$500 to Interfaith Housing Coalition.

The special committees were busy this year. The Edith DeBusk Scholarship for Legal Studies awarded two \$350 scholarships: one to Joe Gonzales of El Centro College in October and another to Mildred Benson of SMU in March. Contributions of \$990 were added to the fund this year, and as of March, 1991, the account balance was \$9,267.38.

All were saddened by the death of *Edith DeBusk* in October. She will be remembered always for her wisdom and dedication to Altrusa.

The Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun Scholarship Fund Trust awarded four \$300 scholarships. The balance in this account was \$3,814.04.

The Friendship Fund Trust remains available to members in case of a hardship situation. The Trust had a balance of more than \$13,000.

In October, the club had a special international visitor, Margaret Inch, the International Second-Vice President. She was the International Representative at Conference in Lubbock and made a visit to the club while in the area. Nineteen Altrusans attended the District Conference and were most proud and excited because the club's own *Betty Lawson* was installed as Governor of District Nine. Member and past governor, *Sue Powell*, did the beautiful and meaningful installation. The Dallas club was hostess for the reception after the Governor's Banquet. *Marialyce Stephenson* was chairman of the elegant affair. We were not only proud of Betty, but of Sue for winning first place for the *Communiqué* at the Award's Luncheon.

Working together in "*Interest in Service and Literacy*" – contagious! The club had "*passed it on*" to the community – a worthwhile year for *Maxie Rhodes* and the club.

## 1991-1992

When *Marguerite Ray* installed *Helen Butler* on May 21, 1991 at the R. L. Thornton Alumni Center, the International Theme was “*Grow in Service Together*” and the District Nine Theme was “*Soaring to New Heights.*” *Betty Lawson* was now District Governor, and Helen chose as her theme “*Search & Develop*” – search for service and develop literacy.

The luncheon honoring new members, “*Lift off to the Future,*” under the chairmanship of *Christine Davis*, was held at the Dallas Athletic Club on June 8.

A number of Dallas members attended the charter banquet for the new club in Copperas Cove, in June.

The Altrusa Information Committee presented a unique slide show, “*A year in the Life*” as an orientation on February 15, 1992 at the home of *Frances Maloney*. The slide show, depicting the programs, service projects, District Conferences, and International Conventions, and giving new members an idea of the work involved in a year of club life, was written and narrated by *Ailsa Lewis*.

The club birthday, celebrated October 15, was an interesting description of Altrusa through the years. Shortly after that, the District Conference was held at Green Oaks Inn in Ft. Worth, where the club had a reception honoring *Betty Lawson* and showing off Blue Max, the Dallas Police Department Crime Robot, for which the club had had so much responsibility.

Service was found and played out in many ways, among them a linen shower and house warming held on July 16, 1991 for the Interfaith Housing Coalition; locks installed by the Ruth Behrens Fund for Crime Prevention; and members assisting at the Senior Citizens Craft Fair. Letot parties were again monthly with bowling and banana splits, T-shirt painting, George Washington’s birthday with cherry pie and ice cream, and many other ideas presented for the entertainment and amusement of the residents of Letot.

Letot showed appreciation many times with posters made by the participants thanking the club, as well as a letter from *Kathe Monning*, Volunteer Coordinator.

*Susan Linnstaedter* was honored by a certificate from the Jubilee Food Campaign held November 1, 1991.

Club members also were excited by the naming of *Jane Aten* as Principal of the Week (Nancy B. Moseley Elementary School) and the appearance of her picture, together with a news item, in the *Dallas Post Tribune*.

Clothing was donated to the Nancy B. Moseley Elementary School. A cash donation was made to Contact Dallas.

Ways and Means kept busy with a salad supper, Christmas Bazaar, plant sale at the home of *Mary Hardy*, TI Switchboard conversations, garage sale at the Urban Park United Methodist Church, and dinner and silent auction at the Highland Oaks Church of Christ.

Members' birthdays were celebrated with cards for those having birthdays during the month. A membership party for prospective members was held on October 1, 1991.

One very interesting program by the International Relations Committee, chaired by *Maxie Rhodes*, was the dance performed by girls from the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades, who were natives of Laos and Cambodia, showing their graceful movements and beautiful costumes.

Some members were able to attend the International celebration of Altrusa's 75 years in Nashville. For those who could not, a gala dinner was held on April 11, 1992 at the Doubletree Inn Park West. The regular club celebration of the anniversary was held on April 8, with Altrusa Information and International Relations Committees in charge of the program, chaired by *Anne Reed* and *Lucille M. Hughes*, with *Frances Welch* speaking about fifty years with Altrusa.

Person to Person Committee furnished glasses for a boy almost legally blind. The Ruth Behrens Fund for Crime Prevention donated funds to the Vickery Place Crime Watch.

Our Letot service was not forgotten. The club received a Certificate of Appreciation for service at the Letot Center from the Dallas County Juvenile Department.

The club also received second place for Outstanding Club Award from the Dallas Federation of Women's Clubs for 1991-92.

*Compiler's note: The president's annual report was not available, so this history had to be taken from the scrapbook. No doubt accomplishments which were made do not appear here.*

## 1992-1993

Connie Reid, president in 1992-93, said..."*The Heartbeat of the Future*" was an exciting year. A year full of the spirit passed down to us through 75 years. "*The Heartbeat of the Future*" started with a strong rhythm as it welcomed the new members at an elegant luncheon held at the Enclave. The new members held everyone's attention as they told three stories about themselves, one of which was an untruth. A prize went to the best storyteller who stumped the most members. A good start was made toward retaining the new members.

The "*Heartbeat*" then stopped for a quick jump start of its beat at the program presentation meeting. The programs were presented in a skit to all members and were met with much enthusiasm. All members present were willing to give 100% of themselves for the year.

The "*Heartbeat*" now fully revitalized started on its journey toward the future. What kept it soaring toward the future during the year?...Interesting and informative programs were a part, such as the Community Service Committee program about Habitat – houses built by volunteers and sold at reduced rates to qualified low income families. Members learned how to protect themselves through a Vocational Services Committee discussion on the subject.

A rally by the Ways and Means Committee pointed out how to ask for donations in a delightful skit. Another Ways and Means project took members on location of a film titled "*Leap of Faith*." Members, friends and family were paid as extras in the movie. "No-show" tickets were sold also for those who wanted to participate but couldn't on that particular day. A successful fundraiser.

Vocational Services Committee led a hands-on project redecorating the two teachers' lounges at the Nancy B. Moseley Elementary School in time for the first day of school – a surprise for the teachers. The lounges were changed from battleship gray to white and bright primary colors. New window shades and curtains of the same color scheme finished off the project. Many thank-you notes were received after this project.

Several of our members were present when our "grandchild" club, North Dallas, was chartered in August, 1992. This club was organized by our "child," Downtown Dallas.

Literacy Volunteers of America presented their work and a club donation was made to support their various activities on literacy. An interesting view of literacy was given by the North Texas Taping for the Blind. These two programs honored the Literacy Month of September.

Orientations included a slide show of the club history and a roundtable discussion with questions and answers about Altrusa.

The "*Heartbeat*" stopped to taste birthday cake at the club's birthday celebration. The party was hosted by the Vocational Services Committee, and many charter members of our "children" clubs attended. Members actively involved in the forming of each club were recognized. A roll call recognized clubs that started and disbanded. This program recharged the "*Heartbeat*," as it soared off toward Southwest Dallas. The first organizational meeting of the new club was held May 6, 1992, at the home of *Louise Boucher*.

Person to Person Committee was called upon to help a family, identified by the Nancy B. Moseley Elementary School, for assistance in paying a back fuel bill. Food was donated to Habitat volunteers for lunch on one of their work days. One club member volunteered for one week at Habitat along with family members.

The International Relations Committee recognized October 24 as United Nations Day. A rather large stuffed monkey was donated to the Ronald McDonald House by a couple from Yemen, when they were entertained by the committee. Also, Christmas was an international event as visits were made to Germany, France and England through a presentation of their customs compared to American customs. Gifts of art supplies for Letot and games for Nancy B. Moseley Elementary School were placed in a sleigh for distribution later that week. This committee took members behind the scenes of preparation and planning by the Office of International Affairs for the City of Dallas.

The Membership Committee had visions of heartbeats dancing in their heads, so they hosted a membership drive dinner. The result of this event was seven new members. Many members were sighted at the Senior Citizens Craft Fair selling the items made by senior citizens.

An exciting beginning for the year 1993 was the establishment of a Junior Achievement Program at Nancy B. Moseley Elementary School, the giving of scholarship money to teachers for continuing education, and the furnishing of supplies for a bird cage for the Audubon Society to replace one lost by fire and a rehabilitation cage for injured birds. A plaque with Altrusa Dallas was affixed to the cage and may be seen by all school children visiting Samuell Farm.

February brought the club a valentine – Governor Sandra Smith, who presented an informative program on building Altrusa and meeting the needs of today's women.

The spring months brought a program on community resuscitation by the Community Service Committee, tools purchased for Habitat volunteers, a



donation to Contact Dallas for their many services, and a mix up of seating at the election of officers meeting in March with a salad supper, the monies going toward the purchase of 75 live oak trees for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Altrusa International, Inc.

Literacy presented a program about Head Start in Dallas, a project the club was involved with in the past. Money was donated to the Moseley school for literacy projects. Stonewall Jackson School received books for its library.

April started out with membership "*Capturing the Beat*." Altrusa Information and Membership Committees hosted a special reunion meeting by inviting former Dallas Altrusans. It was fun to reunite with the former members and to enjoy the food brought by the members.

Also in April, "*The Heartbeat*" began to prepare for retirement, so the exchange workshop was held during a regular meeting. The workshop went well. Everyone looked forward to attending the Leadership Training Seminar for incoming officers and committee chairmen. Twelve members attended.

"*The Heartbeat*" caught a ride on a police bike in May. The East Dallas Storefront presented a program on bicycle police patrolmen. It was interesting to learn of the work in the police station that serves a community of largely Asian and Mexican cultures. A bike was purchased by the Ruth Behrens Fund for Crime Prevention and was on display at the meeting. The International Relations Committee purchased the tools to keep the bike in good condition.

Elvis was seen and heard at Blue Hawaii, a silent and live auction held by Ways and Means. The auction was held at the Cooper Aerobic Center in the Conference Center (a beautiful room) and it was a fine fundraiser. The committee beat its goal of \$5,000.

Each committee was responsible for two Letot parties. The clients were fed, entertained, and given attention through all sorts of projects from spaghetti and marshmallow building to decorating cupcakes and making gift boxes from greeting cards.

Money was dispensed to Habitat to be used for whatever they needed most. Scholarships were given from the Edith DeBusk Scholarship for Legal Studies for legal and paralegal education and from the Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun Scholarship Fund Trust for nursing education.

Utilizing the talents of all members realized 95% of the members giving a total of 1,895 service hours. The 75 live oak trees to be given to a park in Dallas awaited a date for completion from the Parks Department.

*“The Heartbeat of the Future”* left behind a trail to follow toward the future, through the interest and support of both officers and members.

*Compiler’s note: Most of the material in the history of this year was in Connie Reid’s own words – a very interesting president’s report.*

## 1993-1994

*Nancy Cook's* theme, "Prescription is Service," fit in well with the District Theme of "Building Altrusa" and the International Theme of "Service is Love in Any Language." Meetings were held at the Cooper Aerobics Center, 12100 Preston Road. The year and the yearbook were dedicated to *Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun*.

Altrusa Information and Membership Committees started off the year with a gala recognition brunch for new members in June. Two orientations familiarized new members with financial reports, committee functions, and responsibilities of an Altrusan. A humorous skit about the "Tater Family" illustrated the responsibilities.

In February, a dinner was given for prospective members. Twenty-nine invitations were issued and twelve guests attended. From this, five new members were initiated. A picture display of the club's projects furnished interest.

The Community Service Committee called attention to the SPCA of Texas, with a program that demonstrated the use of animal companionship to elderly people who can no longer care for pets of their own. The club gave \$200 to this organization. Another program explained Level 6 Treatment and programs for children in the mental health system. The committee provided Christmas gifts and a contribution to their prize chest. Community Service supported the Habitat for Humanity program with service hours and \$1,000.

An interesting program was given by the Literacy Committee on volunteer opportunities at North Texas Taping and Radio for the Blind. The committee also brought OPEN, Inc., a program established to help people in the prison system make a successful transition to a productive life after incarceration. The latter celebrated September as Literacy Month. The committee donated \$200 to Stonewall Jackson School, which offers special services to deaf students, and \$250 to Nancy B. Moseley Elementary School to purchase *Weekly Readers* subscriptions as awards for student reading achievement, a project suggested by the students themselves. The committee donated \$100 for the purchase of library books for T. D. Marshall Elementary School, a school that was selected by the Dallas Independent School District as most in need of library books. The donation was made in recognition of Children's Book Week, November 15-21. Through the committee, 100 children's books were donated to Dallas County Health Department for distribution to pre-school children through immunization clinics. The cost was about \$68. Money also was donated to North Texas Taping and Radio for the Blind and to OPEN, Inc.

During this year, the focus of Vocational Services Committee was the Nancy B. Moseley Elementary School, a school in a very economically depressed area with high unemployment and a highly transient population. Because the enrollment is primarily Anglo, the school does not qualify for many enhancement programs. Through the committee, \$750 for student field trips, \$160 for staff development programs, \$200 for *Weekly Reader* subscriptions, and \$117 for a Badge-a-Minit machine were donated. The machine provided buttons to recognize students who achieved special goals during the year. The committee also donated money for snacks for Parent Conference Night and for a school sponsored GED Graduation Program.

In addition to money donated, the entire club was able to participate in two projects at the school by highlighting main points in school text books for special education students and by giving stuffed animals for "Reading Buddies" as incentives for students. This worked so well that more than 3,800 books were read by grades K-6. Most were in grades K-3. Vocational Services programs were the "*Mainstreaming of Special Education Students in Regular Schools*" and "*A Formula for Change*" by the vice-president of Promise.

The International Relations Committee had a very busy year. Through a program on the Refugee Services of North Texas, the club found that when clothing is donated to the Refugee Center, underwear is often forgotten. The committee sent out a challenge to other Altrusa clubs in the metroplex for a "TUGS of War" – TUGS being T-shirts, underwear, gloves and socks. More than 1,000 items were donated by five area clubs. Dallas furnished a \$25 check to the winning club. In October, the entire club contributed \$175 to a money tree for the Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun Scholarship Fund Trust in honor of *Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun's* birthday. World Peace Day was observed on November 1 with a moment of silent prayer. In observance of Human Rights Day, December 10, the committee planned a Christmas with food, presents, and gift certificates for eight Cambodians, who had never shopped in a store and did not know sizes.

In March, six members attended the Abilene Altrusa meeting that featured Altrusa's UN representative, Maxine Gilliland, and shared their experiences with the rest of the members. In April, for World Health Day (April 7) and Pan American Day (April 14), the committee furnished the East Dallas Storefront with cancer screening brochures written in Spanish.

Several requests for financial aid were met by the club, such as \$100 sent to the Tallahassee Altrusa club to help with living expenses for a Russian girl named Viola, referred by the Russian Altrusa club. She had lost a leg in an accident in 1993 and health care in Russia was not adequate to assist her. Another need was met when the club helped a needy woman to pay her spring tuition in college. Contact 214 (a crisis intervention hot line) was helped with money for utilities and transportation for the homeless on freezing nights.

Prescription is Service was carried out by the monthly visits to the Letot Center. Entertainment at the monthly parties included planting seeds, working in clay, playing bingo, decorating cupcakes, pumpkins, etc. and building with spaghetti and marshmallows. Other service included the usual participation in the Senior Citizens Craft Fair, sponsored by the Junior League, by not only members but also their husbands. Several members helped with the personal care of *Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun* at the Juliette Fowler Home.

The Ways and Means Committee came through, as usual, with flying colors by continuing the silent and live auction. This time, the theme was the "Big Easy" or New Orleans style and brought more than \$5,000 to club coffers.

At the District Conference in Waco, the club bid for and received sponsorship of the Leadership Training Seminar for spring 1995. The club also was granted emeritae status for long-time member, past president, and past governor *Aileen Aiken*. The club enjoyed the visit of Debbie Mabry, District Nine First Vice-Governor, in March.

The really big event of the club year was the chartering of the new Altrusa International, Inc. of Southwest Dallas County. Extension Chairman *Betty Lawson*, Vice-Chairman *Sue Powell*, *Louise Boucher*, and *Sandra Blassingame* spent long hours getting this project going. It was certainly a pleasure to attend the charter banquet in Oak Cliff and to meet these young women who will carry Altrusa aims and purposes to others. The committee composed of *Connie Reid* and *Carolyn Rash* started work on a second extension project in Northeast Dallas County. The club was also looking into forming an ASTRA club.

Through club members profiles, we learned to know our own, and through chartering new clubs, we learned to know others in our area. To know is to grow.

*Editor's Note: The club won the Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award for this year.*

## 1994-1995

In June, 1994, *Susie Stephenson* assumed the presidency hurriedly and a year early because the elected president was unable to serve. She had a good start with the Leadership Training Seminar in Greenville, however, where *Betty Lawson* was acclaimed as the most distinguished Altrusan.

With the International Theme of "*Service is Love in Any Language*" and the District Theme of "*Building Altrusa*," she felt that "*Altrusa Engineering Tomorrow*" would be her theme, since she was a structural engineer. Meetings were held at the Cooper Aerobics Center, where *Valeta Gentzler* installed the officers in May. *Betty Lawson* served as program coordinator and presented the programs as "*Drawings Presented*."

The president's goal was "*a balanced emphasis on the Altrusa Motto*." Patriotism was carried out by programs and service projects, such as a video of Eleanor Roosevelt discussing the United Nations, brought by the International Relations Committee, and OPEN, Inc. – an organization that helps offenders break the cycle that keeps them on the wrong side of the criminal justice system – by the Literacy Committee, with the committee presenting the organization with \$750.

A club meeting was held at the East Dallas Storefront, where \$500 was presented to the Storefront to buy a new bicycle for the officers on bicycle patrol. The Ruth Behrens Fund for Crime Prevention presented two programs on crime prevention.

The Edith DeBusk Scholarship for Legal Studies gave two scholarships to Southern Methodist University law students and two to paralegal students at El Centro College. Three club members, *Mary Hardy* (Committee Chairman), *Ailsa Lewis*, and Judge *Sue Lagarde*, attended the law school open house where they met the dean, professors, the recipients, and others. Pictures were taken and were to be included in the SMU history of the event.

The International Relations Committee sponsored celebrations of World Literacy Day, September 8; United Nations Day, October 24; World Peace Day, November 1; Human Rights Day, December 10; World Health Day, April 7; and Pan American Day, April 14.

Efficiency was carried out in many ways. On August 2, 1994, the Vocational Services Committee, with *Linda McCalla* in charge, presented Bruce Darden, Vice-President and General Manager of the Copper Fitness Center, speaking on "*Team Engineering*," illustrating his point by having members "team up" to build a design with Lego blocks and brought "*Lessons from Geese*" by Angeles Arrien. Members gained insight into the actions of geese flying in

formation and their cooperation with each other. These are important enough to repeat:

People who share a common direction and sense of common purpose can get there quicker.

It's harder to do something alone than together.

Shared leadership and inter-dependence gives us a chance to lead as well as opportunities to rest.

We need to make sure our honking is encouraging and not discouraging. Stand by your colleagues in difficult times as well as good.

Bruce Darden added to the efficiency of the Ways and Means Committee and their auction by donating a certificate for three months membership and several guest passes. These helped to swell the almost \$6,000 cleared by the "*Spring Fling*" held at City Place on March 25, 1995.

Leadership Training Seminar, which the club bid to have, came about in April, at the JCPenney building in Park Central and was done with great efficiency, although the club was required to host Area II as well as Area I, and 135 Altrusans were welcomed and accommodated.

Two orientations were well attended and informative. The Membership Committee held a delightful tea at Sweet Temptations on November 1, 1994. The membership was increased during the year by nine members, a 16% increase.

Service, of course, was exemplified by the club project at the Letot Center. Some of the parties, usually held on the third Saturday of the month, were painting expressions, bridge builders, bite the apple/decorate the pumpkin, and decorate Mr. Potato Head.

Club members staffed sales tables at the District Conference in Arlington October 14-17, 1994; had many volunteers at the Senior Citizens Craft Fair; and many members donated TUGS for the Refugee Center of North Texas under the auspices of the International Relations Committee. The committee also adopted a Cambodian family from the East Dallas Storefront for Christmas.

The Vocation Services Committee, chaired by *Sandra Blassingame*, gave \$500 for books for El Centro College nursing students; \$200 for games for Chevens Place, a long-term residential treatment center for youngsters who have a severe emotional disturbance; and \$400 to the Dallas Life Foundation, a home and educational center for the homeless.

The DISD Essay Contest was sponsored by the Community Committee and one of the winners, Kelly Garcia, from Garland High School attended one of the club meetings.

Donations were continued for Reading Buddies for the Nancy B. Moseley Elementary School. Books were given to the Lancaster, Texas Library that was damaged by a tornado. Eyeglasses were given to doctors to take to the needy in Guyana. Pictures were given to the East Dallas Storefront by the Literacy Committee. The Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun Scholarship Fund Trust gave two scholarships in nursing. The Extension Committee continued to form a club in Garland. The club gave to people in need through the Person to Person Committee.

Club members joined in the pleasure gained at District Conference when the previous year's International Relations Committee won the Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award. This was particularly gratifying in retrospect, since Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun died in January, 1995. Many members attended her memorial service. In addition to being a charter member and past International president, Dr. Nina Fay will be remembered always for her generous spirit, unselfish devotion to Altrusa, and her example of finding something good to say in any situation.

Susie had looked forward to the club being more involved at the District level, so the club was pleased by the election of *Janice Bruner-Moore* as Treasurer and *Carolyn Rash's* appointment as District Extension Chairman, as well as the International involvement with *Betty Lawson's* name being on the ballot for International Second Vice-President. Five hours of service from each member was encouraged and accomplished.

From a difficult beginning for President Stephenson to the end of a very successful year – isn't that what Altrusa is about? -- accomplishment through Patriotism, Efficiency, and Service.



## **1995-1996**

*“Altrusa Systems Engineering: Moving to Improve our Service,” Linda McCalla’s theme for the year 1995-96 was a giant step into the future and carried on the theme of the previous year, and followed the International Theme of “Leaders in Service” and the District Theme of “It’s Altrusa Time! Be a Part of the Movement.” Her logo, a diagram of a system that could be viewed as a solar system, as an atom, or as Altrusa carried out the idea that the three orbiting bodies could be interpreted as International, District and the Dallas club, each having their own orbits around service, but clearly exerting influence on one another, as well as the community.*

The Dallas club hosted the Leadership Training Seminar at the offices of JCPenney. An exchange workshop was held at Texas Instruments Texins Activity Center.

So...with a good foundation, work proceeded for the year with assessments of the needs of the community, and a number of worthy organizations were highlighted, such as the East Dallas Storefront, Dallas Life Foundation, Nexus, and the continuing work with the Letot Center, a project started in the 1980’s.

One club meeting was held at the East Dallas Storefront which gave members an opportunity to visit an area of service and learn from the police officers the types of problems being faced in the multi-cultural community.

“Hands-on” service was participated in at several meetings that gave members a feeling of “belonging and being there.” At an August meeting, all in attendance made flash cards for the children at the Old City Park School, the school where children of residents of the Dallas Life Foundation attend. At the two December meetings, members constructed, decorated, and filled Christmas stockings that were distributed by the police officers at the East Dallas Storefront. At a spring meeting, members cut out paper sacks and decorated them to look like bunnies. These Easter bags were filled with two paperback books and distributed to children in East Dallas. The needs of the Dallas Life Foundation were shared with club members by a panel discussion of the facility, and a “*Dust Brigade*” project was introduced to club members that evening. For several months toiletries and career clothing were collected and given to Wanda Bailey for the Foundation at a later meeting.

Several meetings were devoted to information on ongoing projects. Susan Bird of the Letot Center discussed the organization and told members how much the club visits were appreciated by the clients, because Altrusa members are not paid for their time, showing runaway adolescents that there are people who care about them. Representatives came from Nexus, an

organization that houses women and their children during drug or alcohol rehabilitation. Nexus trains its residents to become productive members in the work force and encourages them to remain drug and alcohol free by providing additional training. Club members were delighted to hear from Parkland Hospital about the Parkland Area Health Clinics that were being established, since work on health clinics was an early project of the club.

Other happenings included were the club commemoration of Literacy Month with a program on the change process, just in time to prepare for club restructuring. The club also conducted an essay contest for students in the Carrollton School District on the topic "Should Students' Access to the Internet be Limited?" The first and second place winners of the contest were presented checks of \$500 and \$250 respectively, during a regular club meeting. The winners plan to attend the University of Texas at Austin and Mary Baldwin College in Virginia. *Betty Lawson*, Second Vice-President of Altrusa International, Inc., presented a profile to the club on "*Closing the Sale*" with prospective new members. D. Delores Carruth presented a report on the Peace Train and the Fourth Women's Conference as part of the club's observance of United Nations' Anniversary. Our members were asked to pray for peace at noon on World Peace Day. The club celebrated the Anniversary of Altrusa International, Inc. in April with District Representative Mary Osentowski as speaker. The room was decorated with Altrusa blue and white carnations and balloons. There was a special printed program, and the Altrusa Accent featured questions concerning Altrusa International, with prizes for the correct answers.

Two very special projects were our club restructuring and our club history. The Board of Directors commissioned a special Strategic Planning Committee chaired by president-elect, *Anne Reed*. The committee considered International's suggestions and the results of questionnaires given to the members to develop recommendations and resolutions to the club. The by-laws of the club and foundation were amended, giving the club a framework for beginning a new and different club year. President *Linda McCalla* requested that a club history be compiled, and *Ailsa Lewis*, past president, agreed to write a history of the club from October 1928 through May 1996. With the assistance of many other past presidents, such a history has been compiled, which includes photographs, awards and other memorabilia. It is planned to publish the history and update it each year, thus keeping a "living" history of the club.

Service being uppermost in the aims of Altrusa, the club participated in various ways. We helped the Literacy Council establish an English as a Second Language course for women at the East Dallas Storefront (classes were scheduled to begin May 1, 1996). Visits to the Letot Center included entertainment for the clients, such as pumpkin decorating for Halloween, designing T-shirts for Valentine's Day, image re-engineering (hair styling and make-overs) for Easter, and playing games with a "Wheel of Fortune" that had

been donated previously by one of our members. The Annual T-shirts, Underwear, Gloves, and Socks (TUGS) Challenge was issued in conjunction with Human Rights Day. As a result of this challenge, a total of 1,169 new items were donated to the North Texas Refugee Center. This challenge has been issued by the club each year to other Altrusa clubs in the DFW metroplex. Two winners were announced and received cash awards for projects of their choice. Nancy Millichamp, President of the Denton club, accepted the Per Capita Award (19.8 items per member) of \$50 at the February meeting. At the same meeting, the president of our club accepted the award of the Greatest Number Contributed. The \$50 prize for this award was used to buy blankets.

The club participated in three pledge drives for Channel 13 and Channel 2, Dallas PBS television stations. Each session of the pledge drives required us to arrive by 6:30 pm and work until midnight. The club's participation was recognized on the air by the "talent" soliciting pledges. For the third session, the club invited other clubs in the DFW metroplex to participate with us and enjoyed the resulting expanded Altrusa fellowship. The name of Altrusa International, Inc. and its focus on service was thus introduced to many thousands of people served by Channel 13 and Channel 2.

Several members worked at the annual auction held by the Quality of Life program at the Dallas Life Foundation.

Money donations included \$2,000 by the Literacy and International Relations Committees for the English as a Second Language project at the East Dallas Storefront. This money was to be used to provide library books and reading material for the project.

Two checks were given to the Dallas Life Foundation by the Vocational Services Committee, one to support the general work of the Foundation and the second for \$500 to provide education for their counselors. Since one of the aims of this committee is education, when the request for funds came from "*My Guardian Angel*," a program that needed education for their counselors in their work assisting children who have lost parents through death or divorce, \$500 went to this project.

A check for \$400 was presented to Nexus, \$221 to Letot, blankets in honor of World Health Day, paperback books to the February clients at Letot, and \$25 for medicine to someone in need from the Person to Person fund.

The annual fundraiser was "*The Altrusa Roundup at the Rocking A Ranch*." This exciting evening, March 29, was the primary source of funds for our service projects for the coming club year. The event was held at City Place with country and western music provided by Jerry Taylor, A-1 Entertainment. Bill Wade, professional auctioneer, donated his services for the live auction. This

fundraiser combined a silent auction, live auction, dinner, and entertainment to raise \$6,200.

One of our goals for the year was to focus our efforts and service to increase impact. To accomplish this, the club chose a smaller number of organizations where our funds could have impact and, as a result, were able to make larger donations.

Another goal was to give at least five hours of service per member. This goal was exceeded.

A third goal, to increase membership by 10% was met with a 47.45% increase (fourteen new members) in membership. Some of the member-centered activities that helped the club exceed this goal (and District's two year goal) included the following:

- New members of the 1994-95 club year were honored at the first meeting of the year. Each of these members gave a brief descriptive profile of herself and then was presented with a flower and an Altrusa mug.
- The annual membership recruitment event was a tea given at the Lakewood Country Club. Ten guests attended the event and seven became new members.
- Two orientation meetings were held during the year – the first a swimming party and brunch, the second featured a breakfast. Both were held in member's homes and included an orientation program with time devoted to questions and answers.

A fourth goal – to organize a new club has not come to fruition, but the Extension Committee has been very active. We believe that this goal will be reached in the coming year. We were privileged to attend the charter banquet for a new "grandchild" club, Altrusa International, Inc. of Collin County, in February. This club was organized by our "child" Altrusa International, Inc. of Richardson.

Finding a sister club was not accomplished, but we hope that the new year will bring this into realization.

The *Communiqué*, with *Susie Stephenson* as editor, was interesting and well handled, giving us news of the club, District, International, and club members. Of course, we could not do without our yearbooks. The yearbook has been expertly handled for a number of years by *Sue Powell*, past president and past District governor. The "Brag Jar" was never idle, as the club and members frequently felt that we had something to brag about. The money received was

used for our delegates. We felt that we could celebrate our club's successes and compliment those who contributed to them.

However, service, as always, goes on and on in Altrusa, and these same members and many new ones will always endeavor to be a part of "*Moving to Improve our Service*" with *Altrusa Systems Engineering* in many other ways.

## **1996-1997**

On June 3, 1996, *Anne Barclay Reed* was installed as president. The International Theme of "Leaders in Service" continued to be used, in keeping with the January 1995 resolution of the International Board of Directors that districts and clubs share one common theme. The new officers and committee chairmen attended the Leadership Training Seminar held in Denton on April 27. The goals for the year were:

1. Facilitate club transition to new structure by effective board and committee leadership.
2. Form an ASTRA Club in Dallas.
3. Obtain a sister club from another country.
4. Define and track club members' service hours.
5. Focus club service of each standing committee towards any Altrusa award for club accomplishments during the year, so as to give direction and offer goals for each.
6. Increase members' knowledge of club finances by zero based budgeting for each standing committee, embracing those past traditions that are in accordance with new goals with new corresponding activities.
7. Separate the deposit function from the reconciliation function in our financial operations, and follow or revise current financial policies per audit report.
8. Provide "member-focused" programs at every meeting, so as to interest new members, sustain regular attendance, rekindle the interest of inactive members to rejoin us in our activities, and guests to ask for membership consideration.
9. Increase non-member awareness of Altrusa and enhance the recognition of our members' achievements by local publicity in community newspapers.
10. Ensure that all members know what is happening, when, and why, so as to increase participation and satisfaction by members.
11. Obtain the biennium membership recruitment goal for our club by having sixty-six members.

Most of these goals were met. Notable exceptions were the forming of an ASTRA club (needed approval of the school administration); obtaining an international sister club (wrote to two South American clubs, but received no reply and asked International for additional possibilities); and obtaining sixty-six members in the club.

To ensure that the board was aware of all committee activities, each director served as liaison to one of the four standing committees. The directors provided quarterly reports to the board that were published in the *Communiqué* also.

Even though most of this year's programs were member-focused to ensure the smooth transition to the new committee structure, service continued to be a key part of the club's activities. Letot was again supported with 300 hours supplied by 75% of our members. Our fourth annual TUGS challenge was issued to area Altrusa clubs. The residents of Letot were involved in removing labels from 1000 counterfeit T-shirts (donated by Altrusa International, Inc. of Downtown Dallas, winner of both the largest per capita and largest total awards). Members participated in a number of pledge drives for the local public television stations. This was adopted as a district-wide project. Scholarships were awarded to local nursing students by the Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun Scholarship Fund Trust. The students and their sponsors were honored at one of our regular dinner meetings. A special camera used to evaluate locations for safety and crime prevention videos were donated by the Ruth Behrens Fund for Crime Prevention. The club approved the use of "Quick Start" service projects that require no funds and have at least six interested members. We collected Turkey Bucks from local super markets that were used to purchase turkeys for families identified by the East Dallas Storefront. Club members created Christmas stockings for Letot residents during one meeting and stuffed them with goodies at the next meeting. During the spring, members created Easter sacks for distribution through the East Dallas Storefront. We participated in "Make a Difference Day" with a full day of activities at Letot. Many members staffed the Seniors Citizen Craft Fair, a project that has been long supported. Person-to-Person was active with matching money for an Altrusa International, Inc. of Collin County request. Personal toiletries were donated to an East Dallas shelter. In total, members gave over 1200 hours of service.

Our dinner with silent and live auction was the main fundraiser. The theme for this event was "April in Paris" and was held on April 26 at the Dallas Parkway Hilton. Around \$7,000 was raised. Members spent over 700 hours arranging the event.

One of the highlights for this year was the chartering of Altrusa International, Inc. of Northeast Dallas County on March 7. It took two and a half years to get this club up to charter strength, but it was well worth the effort. Our thanks to members of the New Club Building committee for their dedication: *Connie Reid*, Chairman; *Carolyn Rash*, Co-Chairman; *Sue Powell*; *Sandra Blassingame*; and *Betty Lawson*. In an international outreach support effort, the president sent letters of congratulations with a \$10 donation to each new club.

While most of the meetings were held at Cooper's Aerobics Center, our first meeting in September was held at the East Dallas Storefront in honor of International Literacy Day. We donated dictionaries and encyclopedias to the English as a Second Language class held there.

In order to track all of our service hours, a form was added to the yearbook. In addition, each event chairman used a larger version of the form to track each event. This ensured that all hours were reported.

The Membership Tea was held at the Lakewood Country Club on November 9. This was a very lovely affair. Other membership programs included explanations of classification, how to recruit, and sponsors' responsibilities. Birthdays were acknowledged with flowers. A special celebration occurred in honor of *Marguerite Ray's* 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, with members recalling times with the honoree. In order to promote friendships within the club, a family picnic was held at a member's lake house and a New Year's Eve party was held at another member's home. Two new member orientations were held at *Frances Maloney's*.

A special donation was sent to the Altrusa International Foundation in honor of the service given to our club by two sisters – *Sue Powell*, past District Governor and *Leita Marsh*, charter member of our club – and Leita's daughter, *Frances Maloney*, who is District Parliamentarian.

For five years, the club had been researching a location for the trees to be planted in honor of Altrusa's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The park across from the East Dallas Storefront was selected. On Feb 22, an absolutely gorgeous Saturday, Altrusans, family, friends, Storefront personnel, Storefront scout troops, and Storefront neighbors (over sixty people in total) planted seventy-five live oak and Bradford pear trees. All the trees were planted within four hours. Lunch was served to all the helpers. A couple of months later, members who had driven by the park reported that the trees were blooming and doing well.

Twenty-two members attend District Conference in Richardson. Our own *Carolyn Rash* was elected Director. The club received the following awards:

First Place for the Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award  
*Linda McCalla*, First Runner-up for the Edith DeBusk President's Award

Since both awards were established in honor of our two members who served as International Presidents, winning them was even more special.

President Reed guided our transition to the new committee structure. Change is not always easy. Having her focus on the transition, the club was able to make the change quickly and gracefully.



*Editor's Note: The club was presented the following awards for this year at the Forty-Second District Conference in San Antonio:*

- *First Place for Total Club Contributions to the Altrusa International Foundation;*
- *Second Place for Average Contribution Per Member to the Altrusa International Foundation;*
- *Second Place for Club Newsletter (Susie Stephenson, Editor);*
- *Second Place for Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award;*
- *Third Place for Governor's Literacy Award;*
- *Third Place for Mamie L. Bass Service Award;*
- *Quality Club Award.*

*In addition to these club awards, Lana Ford-Carpenter was presented a 2 For 2000 Certificate for meeting International President Alexinia Baldwin's goal.*

*Plus, President Anne Reed won Third Place for the Edith DeBusk President Award.*

*Thank you, Anne for your focus and encouragement to submit entries for each District Award. We would not have been presented these awards without it.*

## 1997-1998

Altrusa International, Inc. continued to build on the International theme of "Leaders in Service". President *Susan Linnstaedter's* goals for the year were:

1. To incorporate the International and District goals into the club goals
2. To increase membership by at least five new members
3. To enhance our existing service projects and to establish at least one new project
4. To form an ASTRA club
5. To enhance and support our fundraising efforts
6. To improve internal communication channels
7. To promote Altrusa

As to membership, the goal was to increase membership by at least five new members. The International and District goals were to broaden and increase the membership base both in age and diversity and for each Altrusan in the District to sponsor one new member in the biennium. We doubled the club goal. The ten new members increased our membership base in age and diversity. The District also asked each club to develop one way to make the newer members feel a real part of the club. Our Membership Committee developed several. They introduced the Buddy System and Greeting Dollars to encourage all the members to talk to each other and get to know each other better. These things, along with our brief social time before the meetings worked well to make everyone feel at home with everyone else and should be continued.

The goal to improve our service projects was met in several ways. We focused our visits with the residents at Letot on an educational or service activity. We also brought an educational/service focus to our activities with the East Dallas Storefront by furnishing supplies for the ESL class and purchasing a computer. We participated in several activities that involved only service, such as the KERA public television pledge drives, Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, SPCA's Wiggle Waggle Walk-a-Thon, and the collection of Turkey Bucks to purchase Thanksgiving turkeys for needy families. Three nursing scholarships were awarded from the Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun Nursing Scholarship Fund. Five legal scholarships were awarded from the Edith DeBusk Fund for Legal Studies. The Ruth Behrens Fund for Crime Prevention provided funds to buy a special file cabinet for the Dallas Police Department Gang Unit. The Person-to-Person fund provided the funds for an apartment deposit for a working single mom struggling to get back on her feet after her workers compensation was depleted.

Our new project was the adoption of City Park Elementary School. The activities that we did for the school are listed below:

- Supplied school supplies and back packs to the sixth grade class
- Presented flash cards created by the residents of Letot to the fifth and sixth grade classes
- Presented a bird nest box built by Letot residents during Make a Difference Day activities
- Provided the sixth grade class with pumpkins, treats and decorations for a Halloween party
- Arranged for the Dallas County Audubon Society's rehabbers to present a demonstration with seven live birds to the fifth and sixth grade classes
- Provided a Christmas tree and decorations to the sixth grade class
- Made flash cards for math and reading in preparation for the TAAS test
- Delivered 22 boxes of recycled ring binders to the school
- Bought a bulletin to display exemplary student work
- Participated in a Career Day, including members, relatives, the Audubon rehabbers and the East Dallas Storefront Mobile Police Activity Center Unit

The members of the club supplied over 1800 hours of service to all our service projects, plus we incurred \$1,680 in unreimbursed expenses.

We were not able to form an ASTRA club this year due to the various extracurricular activities already available at the school that we had chosen.

Both the District and International goals included one related to leadership development. This year we were honored to have Mr. Carl Skooglund, Vice-President and Ethics Director at Texas Instruments, speak at one of our meetings. We all benefited from what he had to say and our personal development was certainly enhanced.

Our goal to enhance and support our fundraising efforts dovetailed with the District's goal to develop a single fundraising event. Our dinner/silent auction/live auction was our most successful to date. We were able to double attendance. In addition, we also had a wine tasting party that required a small amount of work by one member. It resulted in a lot of fun for everyone who attended and netted a nice bit of change. Many attendees used the opportunity to introduce prospective new members to the club.

International had goals related to developing technological links, club links, and strategic planning. We developed a web page and are waiting funding for its installation. Our long established links to other metroplex clubs were utilized again this year. We solicited other clubs to participate in the KERA pledge drive. Two of our youngest "children" clubs joined us in our Make a Difference Day project. Plus, several clubs participated in our TUGS project.

Our strategic planning continued this year. The club's coordinated goal of improving internal communication channels was met. The *Communiqué* was the main source of information. *Susie Stephenson*, editor, kept us up to date. The president's message included a thumbnail sketch of upcoming events, reasons to attend, and inspiration words. An additional source of information was the yearbook. It was revised to include the many changes made to bring the various funds under the umbrella of the Foundation. The telephone committee, headed by *Ruth Brown*, was called into action on many occasions as we struggled with personal losses.

The last goal was to promote Altrusa. To accomplish this and to honor one of our charter members, the Leita Marsh Leadership in Service Award was established. In soliciting nominations, Altrusa's name was placed in front of other area service organizations. The recipient, a leader in his business and community service activities, received a crystal sculpture, featuring the Altrusa logo and our club name. We also promoted Altrusa by participating as a team in events for other charities such as the Literacy Forum, Komen Foundation, SPCA, and KERA pledge drives.

As the president stated in her address to the club, "I can set goals all day long, International and District can do likewise, but without the team work of the individual club members, none of these goals would ever come close to being accomplished." This was certainly true during this year.

*Editor's note: The following awards for this club year were presented to President Linnstaedter at District Conference held in Denton April 30-May 2, 1999:*

*First Place for the Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Award  
Second Place for the Letha H. Brown Literacy Award  
Second Place for Club Newsletter*

## 1998-1999

When *Karen Wise* was installed as President, she announced the following goals for the club year:

1. Enhance at least one of our existing service projects and establish at least one new service project.
2. Increase active club membership by at least 8 new members.
3. Increase support for our fundraising efforts from both club members and non-club members.
4. Improve communication among club members.
5. Form an ASTRA club.
6. Find new ways to promote Altrusa throughout the community.

Early in the club year, the founder of Attitudes and Attire told our club about her group's efforts to provide clothing, jewelry, and other accessories for women trying to better themselves and to become employed. With our usual can-do attitude and spirit of giving, the club started an accessories drive and provided bags and bags of jewelry, makeup, purses, scarves, and other items to make a woman feel special during a job interview. Six of our members also served as Image Consultants for a day and spent several hours helping women choose new clothing and accessories. This project fulfilled the second part of the first goal by becoming a new service project.

The club exceeded the first part of the first goal through several projects. The most ambitious expanded project was City Park Elementary School. We tutored students for the TAAS test during Saturday school, provided teacher and student incentives to encourage the students and reward the teachers for voluntarily participating in Saturday school, provided money for Six Flags tickets to reward sixth grade students, and bought books (including twenty that won Texas Bluebonnet Awards) for the school library. As part of our service efforts at Letot, the teenagers made literacy posters, bookmarks, and flash cards for City Park students. Several members participated in Career Day at the school, sharing our experiences and encouraging students to stay in school. During Career Day, we presented t-shirts promoting literacy to all the students. Our most rewarding activity at the school was a Manners Class, which was held in May. Our members taught the students how to introduce themselves and others. The first recipient of the Leita Marsh Leadership in Service Award, who is a caterer, donated a three-course lunch for the occasion. The students were served at tables with linen tablecloths and napkins. Our members helped the participants with silverware selection and proper etiquette. At the event fifth and sixth graders received copies of a motivational book approved by the school's principal and good manners certificates. In addition, the club presented watches to the sixth graders as a graduation gift. The Manners Class was coordinated by one of our newest members, *Patti Dathe*.

The SPCA of Texas was another expanded service project. Members participated in the PeTelethon in August. While on the air, President Wise presented a check for \$1,200. The designated use of these funds was for purchasing a big cat cage, so that large cats, such as tigers who are abandoned or mistreated by their owners, can have a cage large enough to allow them some comfort. Many of our members' dogs graciously allowed us to accompany them on the Wiggle Waggle Walkathon at Bob Woodruff Park in Plano, an event where our members raised more than \$700 in donations for the SPCA. Several members enjoyed the Bow Meow Luncheon and helped raise even more money by participating in the luncheon and by purchasing items at the accompanying silent auction. Although the SPCA mainly provides care and protection for animals, our donations also help people by aiding in reduced vet bills for some pet owners and animal adoptions for people who desperately want or need a pet but cannot afford to pay all the costs associated with pet ownership.

A third expanded service project this year was our TUGS Challenge. This year, we issued the challenge not only to the other Altrusa clubs in the area, but also to other service-minded clubs in the area. With the participation of our own members, four other Altrusa clubs, the Mesquite Exchange Club, the Blue Dragons (a law enforcement Explorer Post at the East Dallas Storefront), and the Letot residents who counted the items, we were able to deliver about 1,400 items to Refugee Services of North Texas. This project won the Plano Star Courier's local Make a Difference Day honor.

Other service projects for the year were:

- East Dallas Police Storefront – we stuffed stockings with Christmas goodies at a meeting and took those to the Storefront for distribution. Members personally delivered gifts/food/clothing and helped decorate a Christmas tree for a poor family with two small children. We gave the ESL (English as a Second Language) class \$300 for supplies. Through the Ruth Behrens Fund for Crime Prevention, we provided money for the purchase of five crime prevention videotapes. Also, the Blue Dragons, the law enforcement Explorer post based at the Storefront, participated in our TUGS challenge.
- KERA pledge drives – members of our club participated in two pledge drives to raise money for the Public Television Station. We also spearheaded the effort to get several other local Altrusa clubs involved in the pledge drive.
- Susan G. Komen Foundation – we participated in two Walks for the Cure this year, one in Plano and one in Dallas, in an effort to help raise awareness and money for breast cancer research. We also made a \$500 donation to the Komen Foundation.
- Letot Center – we had six events for the residents at Letot and tried to encourage them to do service by having them participate in a small service project at each visit. The teens made literacy posters,

bookmarks, and flashcards for City Park Elementary School. They decorated and filled food boxes, which we delivered to the North Texas Food Bank. They helped us count and sort the t-shirts, underwear, gloves, and socks accumulated during the TUGS Challenge. We donated money for picnic tables and a videotape series. We arranged for Marshawn Evans, Miss Oak Cliff 1999, to speak to the residents about self-esteem.

- North Texas Food Bank – we made two donations as part of other service projects. The Letot teens filled over 30 decorated shoeboxes with food, which was donated to the Food Bank. We also made a cash donation. In addition, we collected Community Bucks during the fall and donated them to the Food Bank.
- Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun Scholarship for Nursing Studies – four \$500 scholarships were awarded to deserving nursing students from this fund.
- Visiting Nurses Association – during the fall, several members helped the VNA during their flu shot clinics by being an extra pair of hands to collect money and assist people in completing the necessary forms. We presented a \$1,200 check for the VNA's Meals on Wheels program, which provides hot meals to homebound and elderly people. Members participated in the VNA Walkabout at the Quadrangle.

The President commended *Susan Linnstaedter*, Service Committee Chairman and the members of her committee for their hard work and dedication, as well as all club members in seeing that the service goal was exceeded.

Our second goal was exceeded also. Nine members were initiated, with three more approved for membership. These new members hit the ground running by taking charge of some service projects, arranging donations of items for service projects, making or arranging contributions to our auction, going to Conference, and accepting positions of responsibility. Their enthusiasm and energy was contagious and helped fuel the entire club. *Betty Lawson*, Membership Development Chairman, and her committee were recognized for their work in exceeding the membership goal of eight new members.

The participation of both members and non-members at the auction and wine tasting allowed the club to reach the third goal. The wine tasting raised \$960, with thirty-seven people in attendance. The auction raised more than \$10,000. Around 200 items, more than any other year, were donated for the event. The Casino Night theme was well received. Kudos were given to *Lou Boucher* and members of the Ways and Means Committee for their outstanding job of coordinating the fundraising efforts.

This year marked a special event in the life of our club. The club celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> birthday in October. District dignitaries who attended the party included Governor Debbie Mabry, Governor-Elect Peggy Sturrock, First Vice-

Governor Mary Osentowski, Second Vice-Governor Martha Hardwick, and several members of our “daughter” and “granddaughter” clubs. The past presidents for each decade were honored. In April, we celebrated Altrusa’s 82<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary in conjunction with a club visit from District Nine Director Leslie Thompson. These special events were hosted by the Communications Committee, chaired by *Helen Butler*.

Communications were improved this year. The calendar for upcoming events was included on the Foundation agenda for each meeting. The member in charge of the event made announcements concerning each service project, program, or fundraiser. The *Communiqué* and yearbook continued to be a source of information for all members.

Although the fifth goal of forming an ASTRA club wasn’t met, the groundwork for the formation of a club was laid at Marsh Middle School in north Dallas. ASTRA Chairman, *Anne Reed*, and Vice-Chairman, *Sheri Long*, were commended by the President for these initial efforts.

The final goal was to promote Altrusa throughout the community, which was accomplished. Letot recognized the club in October with a Volunteer Award, “Knights in Shining Armor”. TUGS was chosen by Plano Star Courier as the Outstanding Local Project for 1999’s Make A Difference Day. Our project was listed as a local winner in the *USA Weekend* magazine, which is the sponsor of the event. Altrusa International presented the club with the Certificate of Achievement for this project. We were mentioned in SPCA’s newsletter several times for our monetary donation and for our presence at many of their functions. The SPCA presented the club with a plaque at their PeTelehon thanking us for our support. During all the telethons, either our club banner or our members wearing Altrusa t-shirts were featured on camera.

To paraphrase the President’s message at the end of this club year, the club had a stellar year and did some great things!

*Editor’s note: The following awards for this club year were presented to President Wise at District Conference held in Waco April 7- 9, 2000:*

*First Place for the Mamie L. Bass Service Award*

*Second Place for the Edith DeBusk President’s Award*

*Second Place for the Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award*

*Third Place Governors Literacy Award*

*Third Place for the Club Newsletter*



## 1999-2000

*Lana Ford-Carpenter* established the following six goals for the club year:

1. Increase active Club membership by at least eight new members.
2. Establish at least one new service project and enhance an existing service project with increased member participation.
3. Provide clear communication between Club members.
4. Promote Altrusa and our club throughout the community with creative publicity.
5. Continue our efforts to form an ASTRA club.
6. Increase support for our fundraising efforts from both Club members and non-members.

The first goal was exceeded by initiating ten new members. The Membership Development Committee Chair, *Maxie Rhodes*, Vice-Chair, *Frances Maloney*, and members stayed busy with creative initiations and the two orientations. Special recognition goes to *Jeanne Fischelli*. As a new member herself this year, she brought in two new members.

The service goal was exceeded, also. We established two new service projects. The first was Love For Kids, which served a two-fold purpose of service and publicity. 897.9 personalities visited our club to ask for our assistance with this project. Coordinator *Karen Wise* and ten other Altrusans answered phones and arranged for donations and drop off of toys for children during the week of December 6-10. Our efforts netted approximately 500 toys and over \$5,000 in donations and resulted in much needed creative publicity for the Altrusa name.

Our Friends' Place was our second new project. We presented a generous gift of cash to the director of Our Friends Place and baskets filled with household items of towels, picture frames, candles, and lots of other goodies for setting up a household. The baskets were a hands-on service project coordinated by *Phyllis Meyerson* and prepared at our February 1 meeting. Our Friends' Place prepares young women to live on their own.

We enhanced two service projects. The first was Our Make a Difference Day project – TUGS (t-shirts, underwear, gloves and socks) and BUGS (Books Unite Good Students). Under the direction of *Michelle Smith* and *Karen Wise*, the club, among with North Dallas and Northeast Dallas County Altrusa clubs, collected 1,220 TUGS for the Refugee Services of North Texas and 846 BUGS for City Park Elementary School, Letot Center, and Dallas VA Hospital. The Letot residents helped count all of the donations.

The second enhanced service project was City Park Elementary School. This was our third year of involvement with the school. *Sandra Blassingame* and *Patti Dathe*, Service Committee Chair and Vice-Chair, were instrumental in creating the Altrusa Store operating at least once each month during the school

year. The teachers in the school rewarded the students with tickets when they exemplified good behavior or excelled in assignments. The students then spent their tickets in the Altrusa Store, purchasing tablets, pencils, crayons, etc. Other incentives we provided to our City Park kids were a field trip to the World Aquarium for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> graders, donations of computer equipment and furniture for their computer lab, cassette players for students to help with reading and comprehension, math games, flash cards, books, and our second annual Social Skills Saturday with motivational speakers and a fancy meal on fine china, glass and silverware to teach 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders the proper use of silverware and table manners. At the Social Skills event, we presented gifts of watches to the 6<sup>th</sup> graders and hand-held calculators to the 5<sup>th</sup> graders. We also sent three City Park teachers to a workshop they had requested, but did not have the funds to pursue. Our Person-to-Person Committee Chair *Joy Crouch* chose a City Park cafeteria worker to receive a donation of cash to purchase clothing for her three City Park Elementary School children. All of this was in addition to our tutoring students for the TAAS test and our getting the Social Security Administration's Black Affairs and Hispanic Affairs members involved with donations of school supplies for our store, cash for some of our incentives, participation in Social Skills Saturday and tutoring our Spanish speaking students. Our Ruth Behrens for Crime Prevention Committee, also chaired by *Joy Crouch*, donated \$500 to City Park Elementary School for the purchase of crime prevention videos requested by the faculty.

In total, our members spent almost 2,300 hours in service to the Dallas Community during this year. Other service projects for the year were:

- **SPCA** – included participation in their PeTelethon, where we took pledges and presented a \$1,500 check to help sponsor the LINK seminar which explores the link between the abuse of animals and domestic violence; attendance at the BowMeow Luncheon, where our club donated \$400 worth of computer software for their silent auction; and attendance at the LINK seminar in April.
- **Komen Walk** – ten members plus several prospective members participated in the Dallas Walk for the Cure.
- **KERA** pledge drives – participated in the drives in August and March, along with members of four other Altrusa clubs.
- **Letot** - *Phyllis Meyerson* coordinated all the Letot visits, with Membership Development, Communications and Service Committees in charge of the events. In September, Letot Director Sam Quattrochi and Assistant Director Marty White presented the club with a Letot Outstanding Volunteers for 1999 plaque. In October, several members attended the Recognition Awards Dinner. Letot nominated our Third Annual Leita Marsh Leadership in Service recipient, Mr. Steve Crane, a prominent Dallas business and community leader.
- **East Dallas Police Storefront** – donated 47 fans to recipients recommended by the police officers; donated Thanksgiving food baskets which included a gift certificate from a neighborhood grocery store,

another hands-on service projects completed at the November 16 meeting; adopted a family at Christmas and delivered a small tree, Christmas presents, and \$100 in food certificates; and donated \$300 through the Ruth Behrens Fund for Crime Prevention for the printing of crime prevention brochures.

- **Visiting Nurse Association** – participated in the Flu Shot Clinic.
- **Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun Scholarship Fund** – provided four \$500 scholarships to nursing students.
- **Edith DeBusk Scholarship Fund** – provided six \$500 scholarships for legal studies.
- Miscellaneous – collected turkey bucks to provide Thanksgiving for families at the Wilkinson Center; donated eyeglasses and toiletries for Guatemala; Membership Development performed a hands-on service project in January, coordinated by *Patti Ivey-Petersen*, by wrapping long-stemmed silk flowers in tissue paper tied with a red bow with gift cards that were presented to residents of two nursing homes/extended living facilities, which were delivered by several members and their furry children; and Communications Committee Vice-Chair *Ailsa Lewis* spearheaded the mailing of sheet music to an Altrusa club in the Ukraine, which we learned of at the International Convention in Seattle.

Clear communication between Club members was achieved in several ways. The *Communiqué* and our yearbook caught the eye of the International President who wrote a letter of thanks to our club for these two outstanding products. *Susie Stephenson* and *Beth McPherson* worked in tandem to prepare and edit the informative and functional newsletter. *Carolyn Swanson* produced a yearbook with a professional appearance. Computers provided the means for faster communication with 85% of our active members having email. Our Communications Chair, *Beth McPherson*, sent a summary of the club meetings to those who missed. She also released press releases for the Leita Marsh Leadership in Service award and ASTRA club charter. She prepared informative brochures for new ASTRA members and prospective members and a leaflet explaining our service projects for our annual fundraising event. She built a reusable exhibit board and with the help of *Paula Strive*, one of our newest members, created our club web site. Paula and Beth helped *Carolyn Rash*, District Web Coordinator, create and maintain the District web site. *Carolyn Rash* further facilitated our good communications by providing a listening workshop and maintaining our club history.

The promotion of Altrusa and our club occurred through the ways already mentioned – development of a web site, brochures, exhibit board, press releases. In addition, *Karen Wise* got us radio publicity on B97.9. *Carolyn Swanson* got us lots of publicity through our service projects for the SPCA. *Joy Crouch* and *Marge Worley* got us publicity through the KERA pledge drives. *Beth McPherson* chaired the successful Women's Museum Memorial Wall inscription fund. All of these definitely showed creativity.

Our fifth goal of forming an ASTRA club was reached. Thanks to the dedication of ASTRA chairs *Sheri Long* and *Anne Reed*, with the help of *Phyllis Meyerson*, the ASTRA Club of Marsh Middle School was chartered in May.

The final goal was to increase support of our fundraiser. Our “Set Sail on the S. S. Altrusa” event was one of our best fundraising events. Our goal was to raise \$15,000, and our gross far exceeded that amount. Club members and non-members donated a record number of items – almost 300. A fabulous diamond bracelet was the top chance ticket item, which resulted in the highest chance ticket sales ever. The new chip store and raffle items made this an even more creative event. Ways and Means chairs, *Sheri Long* and *Michelle Smith*, and all the committee members worked tirelessly to make this a truly memorable event.

President Lana thanked the Finance Committee, headed by Treasurer *Anne Reed* and Assistant Treasurer *Susie Stephenson* for keeping the club on the right monetary track; Friendship Fund Trust Custodian *Valeta Gentzler* for getting our Friendship Fund tax woes straightened out; and the Board of Directors and Parliamentarian *Jan Hemphill Howell* for their support and hard work.

The following details how the club also met the majority of the District Nine goals for the biennium:

1. Each club evaluate all projects and seek ways to “grow” an existing project or select ONE new project – we grew two projects (City Park Elementary School and TUGS/BUGS) and added two new projects (Love for Kids and Our Friends’ Place) – so this goal was clearly exceeded.
2. Each District Nine Altrusan make a dedicated effort to sponsor ONE new member each year of the biennium – while we did not meet this goal yet, we made a significant effort.
3. Each member in District Nine actively support the agenda of the New Club Building Coordinator in the effort to charter at least ONE new club in District Nine during the biennium – we focused on ASTRA this year.
4. Each club foster leadership development by having at least ONE program, event, or skills presentation each year – our listening program fulfilled this goal.
5. Each club submit entries for judging in ONE or more of the following categories: Newsletter and Yearbook – we submitted both.
6. Each club in District Nine bring the club history/archives up-to-date in ONE document by the year 2001 – our history was already created prior to this goal and is updated each year.
7. Each club work towards developing ONE fundraising event each year rather than smaller events – we concentrated all of our efforts into one major undertaking with outstanding results.
8. Each club implement ONE or more objective(s) to aid club revitalization that will result in increased retention of current members – we answered this call and are doing what we can to bring Austin up to charter strength and we lent support to Southwest Dallas County in their rebuilding efforts.

Members of our club made significant contributions to District Nine in other ways. *Carolyn Rash* served as Second Vice-Governor/Membership Development Chair/Web Coordinator, *Lou Boucher* served as Parliamentarian, and *Frances Maloney* served as Chair of Bylaws, Rules and Recommendations Committee. *Betty Lawson* served as Convention Chair for the 2001 International Convention to be held in Dallas in July 2001.

The last paragraph of the President Lana's report read: *"We have had a fabulous year and we have accomplished a lot! I am proud to have been your President. I thank each of you for your friendship, your support and encouragement which means so much to me – and which made my job as President so much easier. Finally, I want to personally thank Betty Lawson for sharing the Altrusa experience with me by sponsoring me into this club. I want to thank Sue Powell and Karen Wise for mentoring me, and I want to again thank Karen and Sheri Long for ably handling things when I had emergency surgery – which included my second dose of anesthesia last year – the very night of Governor Peggy's official visit to our club. Finally, I want to thank my friend Helen Butler, who has been a member of this club for 29 years, and was President in 1991-1992, for pinning her beloved President's pin on me last year! I believe your pin gave me courage and strength this past year. I will continue to wear your pin proudly and I never forget you! Thank you all!"*

Emeritus status was granted to *Ruth Brown, Helen Butler, Lorraine Griffin-Kirchner, and Marguerite Ray* at the end of this year. The club salutes these members for their combined 120+ years of service to this club and our community. We couldn't have done it without them.

*Editor's note: The club received the Distinguished Club Award and the following awards, presented District Conference in Abilene March 30 – April 1, 2001:*

*First Place for the Edith DeBusk President's Award*

*Second Place for the Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award*

Presidents during this decade were:

<i>Maxie Rhodes</i>	1990-1991
<i>Helen Butler</i>	1991-1992
<i>Connie Reid</i>	1992-1993
<i>Nancy Cook</i>	1993-1994
<i>Susie Stephenson</i>	1994-1995
<i>Linda McCalla</i>	1995-1996
<i>Anne Reed</i>	1996-1997
<i>Susan Linnstaedter</i>	1997-1998
<i>Karen Wise</i>	1998-1999
<i>Lana Ford-Carpenter</i>	1999-2000