

ALTRUSA



International, Inc. of Orlando~Winter Park
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www.altrusa-orlando.org www.districtthree.org www.altrusa.com

KEYNOTES

November 2007

“The Future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams” Eleanor Roosevelt”



President’s Corner:

Happy Holidays! Orlando-Winter Park Altrusans kicked off the season with our annual Stein Mart shopping event on Sunday, November 18. We all met for an evening of food, shopping and fun. A big thank you to all who volunteered to bring snacks and raffle items, and to those who manned the snack and gift tables, bagged merchandise and helped make the evening the big success it was. Thanks to Tammy Douglass for coordinating the event and for modeling an outfit in the fashion show. Although the exact figures aren’t in, it looks as though we earned over \$1,400 for our club! This money will go to several charities that we support. Thanks to you all!

Next, we are looking forward to our annual BETA/STEPS party to be held on Saturday, December 8 from 11:30 am until 2:00 pm. We will all get together with the ladies in the Birth, Education, Training and Acceptance (BETA) program along with the ladies in the Specialized Treatment and Prevention (STEPS) program for a pot luck lunch, gift giving, and a lot of fun and camaraderie. This year, we will have Betty Martinez Lowery, manager of Minority Business Development at Disney, come and speak to us. It should be a fun and enlightening time for all. I want to thank everyone in advance for their donations of toiletries and baby items that we give out as gifts for

this occasion. These items go a long way in helping out the ladies in the programs.

Keep in mind that we won’t be holding a general business meeting in December due to our planning and holding the BETA/STEPS party. With that said, I hope to see most of you at the party, and if you can’t make it, I look forward to seeing you at our next general meeting on January 2nd.

Have a safe and happy Holiday Season and a very happy New Year!!

Your President,

Allie Myers

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

Part of the mission of the **United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** is to promote “higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development.....” The United Nations Charter, Article 71, provides for non-governmental (NGO) status for organizations whose work is related to ECOSOC’s areas of responsibility.



Altrusa has been associated with the United Nations since 1946 when we became the first international classified service club for executive and professional

women to have an official observer appointed. The first observer was Frances K. Marquis, president of the New York club at the time.

In 1978, Altrusa received consultative status with ECOSOC, thanks to Hilda Moar, who succeeded Francis as our UN representative. There are three categories of status for NGOs—General Consultative status, Special Consultative status, and inclusion on the roster. We received the third status which allows us to make occasional and useful contributions to the work of the United Nations and be available for consultation upon request.

Another Altrusan with a strong connection to the United Nations was Eleanor Roosevelt. She was a member of the New York club, and at the UN, she served as Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights.

Our current UN representative is Audrey Braver of Long Island City, NY, and our alternate representatives are Carole Lancaster and Julie Harrison-Kleszczewski, both from New York, NY.

If you want to know more about our connection with the UN, go to the Altrusa International website at www.altrusa.com and click on the words “United Nations” located on the left-hand side of the home page.

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District Three News:

Did you know that District Three actively participates in a district-wide Sister Club Program (SCP)?



The mission statement of the SCP is to foster a wider measure of friendship and partnership by pairing clubs in the District Three which will cultivate relationships, and promote mutual support and solidarity between Sister Clubs.

Our sister club is the Tampa, FL club. Last year we partnered with them in obtaining books for Make a Difference Day. One of their members had access to hundreds of new children’s books. They contacted us and found out that we could use books to give to the Children at Great Oaks Village. After a few e-mails and phone calls, one of their members drove up to Orlando and delivered the books to us, helping us to ensure a successful project.

In the previous year, we invited the Tampa Club members to our annual Tea for Twenty. Three of their members showed up, and we all had a chance to meet and chat with them for awhile.

We are hoping to hold a 60th Anniversary party in the spring, and we plan to invite them to attend that.

Some ideas presented by District Three to support the program are:

1. Share club newsletters and meeting minutes with Sister Club.
2. Have communication between club committee chairs and club officers.
3. Offer mentoring and assistance where needed.
4. Seek support for projects from your Sister Club.
5. Jointly develop a new literacy or service project between both clubs.
6. Visit clubs whenever possible.
7. Share ideas and resources your club has available.
8. Share community projects hosted by other clubs as an avenue for new ideas.

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9. Promote Sister Club activities at club meetings and in club newsletters.

To view all of the District Three Sister Clubs, visit the District Three website at:

www.districtthree.org/sisterclubs.

Altrusa Orlando - Winter Park News:

November - Another exciting General

Meeting! Our speaker was Kim Bignon, who operates her own company, Organize U. The company assists with all facets of home and business organization in order to streamline management requirements. The New Start for Single Moms program is a natural result of her organizational talents. In



Kim Bignon

In addition, having been raised by a single mom, Kim has first-and experience with the challenges that arise. Kim has worked closely with the program founder, Diane Strack, to package the program concepts in a kit that includes 10 DVD lessons and supporting materials for the participant and her mentor. The program is used primarily by churches and organizations who offer this type of ministry. With the current divorce rate around 60%, the need is obvious. As the program slogan suggests, "It's not about divorce; it's about building healthy, secure families, one mom at a time." For more information about how you could get involved with New Start for Single Moms, please visit www.newstart4moms.org.

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Commissioner Fernandez and Carol Denton

We also welcomed a new sister into our Altrusa family. Mildred Fernandez is Orange County Commissioner for District 3 as well as Deputy to the Mayor of Orlando. Mildred was co-sponsored by Carol Denton and Linda Wright. Look for more about Mildred in an upcoming newsletter.

Remember the Environment!

We continue our efforts as a club to protect our environment. Several suggestions were made by members at this month's General Meeting.



- ✚ Tired of getting so many catalogs?? Go online to www.catalogchoice.org and opt out of some of those unwanted catalogs. Also, you can go to www.proquo.com and get help removing your name and personal information from thousands of marketing lists which will cut down on the junk mail that clogging your mailbox. Both services are free.
- ✚ Recycle printer cartridges as part of the Green School Project. Connie Washam has details at cwasham@mail.ucf.edu.
- ✚ Buy those recycle bags at your supermarket and use as gift bags rather than buying gift wrap. This might also encourage family and friends to use the recycle bags instead of plastic bags for grocery shopping.

ACCENT ON A NEW ALTRUSAN

Michelle Jones was born in Newport, Rhode Island, but she and her three brothers called many places home while growing up because their dad was in the military. She received her B.A. in elementary education from Florida Atlantic University and a Masters in early childhood education from Nova Southeastern University. Her teaching career began



Michelle Jones

in Monroe County in the Florida Keys and continued in Seminole County where she taught mostly kindergarten and first grade for 27 years. Making a difference in the students' lives and seeing their progress are the things she enjoys most about teaching.

Michelle met her husband, Jon, while both were attending a relationship recovery class at First Presbyterian Church of Orlando. They've been married 14 years and happily share their home with Daisy, a Silky poo, half-poodle, half-silky terrier.

Her older brother, Michael O'Rourke, now deceased, wrote true crime books, and they are her favorite read, along with biographies. She enjoys doing crafts and especially likes designing creative tablescapes.

Michelle says teachers are natural nurturers and givers; they see needs on a daily basis and try to fill them. Now as an Altrusan, she can continue to do what comes naturally. We are happy to have Michelle as our Sister Altrusan.

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CHRISTMAS FAMILY UPDATE

Linda Wright has been busy collecting gifts for the ten members of our Christmas family. Judging by the pile of bags behind her at this month's General Meeting, collections are going well.

Anyone wishing to make a cash donation in lieu of purchasing a gift can send it to Linda at 3034 Crystal Oak court, Orlando, FL 32806. It must arrive by December 8. Linda will use these funds to fill in any gaps on the list and also to purchase a Public gift card and perhaps a Target gift card.

What a wonderful way to help a neighbor in need at this special time of year!

COOKBOOK REMINDER

Cookbooks come in a neat little envelope and only require two stamps to mail. They would make a nice greeting to friends and family at Christmas – especially those in the North with the wonderful tropical picture on the front. The books also contain some interesting facts about Altrusa.



Cookbooks are free with a \$5 donation to our Foundation. Donations to the Foundation are tax deductible. We've now covered the expense of printing and every donation received is profit for the Foundation.

Send an e-mail to Linda Wright at lwright@cfl.rr.com and she'll put some in the mail to you.

BETA / STEPS HOLIDAY PARTY:



Gift bags are being stuffed. Delectable goodies are being prepared. Plans are well under way for the annual BETA/STEPS party. The date is Saturday, December 8, from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm at the Birth, Education, Training,

and Acceptance (BETA) House. We anticipate nine mothers and eight babies from BETA. There will also be 20 ladies and four babies from the STEPS Program (a drug rehab program).

If you plan on attending or if you can contribute in any way by bringing food, napkins, tablecloths, decorations, etc., please let Sharon Blake or Allie Myers know. This is normally a pizza and pot luck lunch.

Come share this holiday event with your Altrusa sisters and some special ladies!

SPECIAL NOTE OF INTEREST:

At this month's meeting, Linda Bond shared two special drives with which she's involved. The first is St. Jude's Ranch for Abused Children. Linda collects Campbell Soup labels and sends them to St. Jude's in Boulder, CO. Check with her to see when her next shipment will be. The second is Box Tops for Education. The labels are located on certain General Mills food products. Check the official website www.boxtops4education.com for further details.



KEYNOTES

Calendar of Upcoming Events:



December, 2007-
Altrusa General Meeting –
No General Meeting in December

December 8, 2007 –
BETA / STEPS Holiday Party

December Birthdays:



Candy Dawson	3
Allie Myers	3
Betsy Sushinsky	9
Carol Thomas	11
Sharon Blake	14
Barbara Brown	31
Elizabeth Finley	31
Chris Gennaro	31

6 Committee Reports:



LITERACY COMMITTEE Chair: Martha Kirby

“Make a Difference Day” – A good time was had by all. The storyteller, Bill Cordell, was a big hit and the older children enjoyed decorating bags to be filled and given to the Children’s Advocacy Center.



Bill Cordell



COMMUNITY SERVICES Chair: Tammy Douglas

STEIN MART SHOPPING EVENT – The evening was a huge success. Many of our members worked hard the night of this event. If the checkout lines were any indication, a lot of wardrobes were enhanced and holiday gifts purchased. Of course, all of this helps to support the various charities with which our club is involved.



Toni Dedik and Carol Denton

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VOCATIONAL SERVICES Co-Chairs: Ann Price & Helen Mize

News Flash!

The location of the February Tea for Twenty has been changed from the Oviedo Women’s Club to the Fairwinds Credit Union. Planned date is Saturday, February 9. Members will be receiving an email soon from the Vocational Services Committee with a list of suggested food items and help needed for the Tea. We appreciate your help!

Minutes for October General Meeting:

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF ORLANDO-WINTER PARK
GENERAL MEETING
November 07, 2007
Gentry’s Restaurant, 4120 S. Orange Ave., Orlando, FL 32806

CALL TO ORDER: Carol Halliburton, who was filling in for President Allie Myers, called the General Meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Sharon Blake, Linda Bond, Barbara Brown, Mary Kay Chester, Lida Coffman, Candy Dawson, Toni Dedik, Carol Denton, Suzanne Godfrey, Carol Halliburton, Michelle Jones, Roberta Klusmeier, Maryanne Kravitz, Cheryl Malloy, Ann Prince, Nancy Rapport, Carol Thomas, Patricia Tobin, Connie Washam, and Linda Wright.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Maureen Bergondy-Wilhelm, Debbie Berry, Jean Campbell, Sandy Drake-Caldwell, Tammy Douglass, Leslie Dubow, Liz Finley, Chris Gennaro, Anita Hope, Florence Lamborn Johnson, Martha Kirby, Dr. Etta McCulloch, Helen Mize, Allie Myers, Judy Nelson, Margot Perez-Rios, Betsy Sushinsky, Mary Trier, and Peggy Wolford.

GUESTS: Lola Youngblood (1st visit) guest of Mary Kay Chester; Annette Rhabin guest of Candy Dawson; and Kim Bignon, speaker.

MINUTES: Minutes from the October General Meeting appeared in the Newsletter. There were no additions or corrections voiced and the minutes were approved as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Linda Wright reported that the Project Account balance was \$2,953.19, and the Operating Account balance at \$11,635.34. The 50-50 Drawing Account contained \$216.00. The treasurer's report was approved as read.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Maryanne Kravitz received an email from District complimenting our newsletter and club on the continued high level of community involvement. Maryanne also indicated that she now had mailing addresses for all those at the International level who should be included in the newsletter monthly mailings.
- Thank you notes from Seminole Community College Foundation and Sharon Moultrie, Program Coordinator for New Directions, for the generous check sent from our club.
- An advertisement from the Florida Bar Association offering services of speakers on a variety of legal topics.
- A notice from the Charlotte club who will host next year's District Conference on April 3-6. For more info go to www.altrusaofcharlotte.org
- A Happy Thanksgiving card from Geraldine Gallagher of the Valencia Foundation.
- Several children's thank you letters from a "Gift for Teaching" for our recent donations.
- An announcement of the Arnold Mesches Art Show at UCF.
- A thank you note from Candy Dawson on her recent acceptance as a new member.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Carol Halliburton said that she had been contacted by Jody Goostree from "Keep Orlando Beautiful" about a new project. More details will follow. Carol also mentioned that Friday, November 16th, has been selected as the day to decorate the Train Station for Christmas. The plan is to do this during the day. If you are interested in helping out, please call Betsy Sushinsky.
- Connie Washam announced that she was collecting used printer cartridges for recycling as part of the Green School Project. For every cartridge recycled using the labels that Connie has, our club will receive a cash donation. She urged members to check at their work place to see if this could be instituted since it is a quick and easy way to raise funds.
- Mary Kay Chester distributed brochures for See's Candy and said that she will be placing an order by November 10th. For more info contact MaryKayChester@juno.com.
- Roberta Klusmeier also announced that she had some orders for Innisbrook gift wrap with her. She is still accepting additional orders that will be delivered at the BETA/STEPS Christmas party. Orders can be placed by emailing Roberta (Gators1307@aol.com). Please put "Innisbrook" or "gift wrap order" in the subject line. Linda Wright explained that monies from See's Candy and Innisbrook sales provide us with funds for supporting some of our events (like buying pizza for the Christmas party) that would not be able to be paid for through the Foundation.

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- Candy Dawson said that as part of a recent conference she attended on protecting the environment, a couple of internet sites were provided that may be of interest to members who want to reduce the amount of unwanted mailings received. To remove your name as a recipient of various catalogs use www.catalogchoice.org. To remove your name from junk mailing lists, go to www.proquo.com and explore the different categories. In conjunction with this discussion, Nancy Rapport mentioned that she has started using recycle bags, available at a number of stores, as gift bags. This way you may be initiating more people into the green movement and cutting down on what winds up in the landfill.

PROGRAM:

Ann Prince introduced the guest speaker for the evening: Kim Bignon with a "New Start for Single Moms".

INITIATION: Pat Tobin performed the initiation ceremony beginning with a timeless quote from Mamie L. Bass about dedication to service. Our new member, Mildred Fernandez, embodies this philosophy serving as Orange County, District 3, Commissioner and Deputy to the Mayor of Orlando. Mildred, who was co-sponsored by Carol Denton and Linda Wright, said that she was pleased to become a member and noted that her aunt had been a president of an Altrusa club in Puerto Rico.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Literacy: Carol Halliburton thanked all those who participated in "Make a Difference Day". Linda Wright reported that everyone enjoyed the storyteller, activities, and refreshments. The children decorated about 15 bags which we will fill and provide to the Children's Advocacy Center.

Community Services: Carol Halliburton announced that the Stein Mart event would be 11/18/07. Toni Dedik said that she had additional tickets available. She also asked that everyone respond to Tammy Douglass about ticket sales. If tickets and money are returned the night of the event, Toni requested that these be placed in an envelope and marked on the outside to help with bookkeeping.

Vocational Services: A reminder that the Tea this year will be held on February 23rd at the Oviedo Women's Club.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Garage Sale:** Carol Thomas thanked everyone who contributed (including members, family, and friends) by donating items, helping set up, assisting with sales, and then helping to distribute what was left over. A special thank you goes to Peggy Wolford and her husband, Michael, who arranged for us to use the Elks Lodge location and tables. We raised about \$500.00 and donated a substantial number of items to various local charities.
- **PACE Holiday Sponsors:** Linda Wright said that she has sent out an email about the Christmas gifts for the family our club is sponsoring for the holidays. There are 10 children for which Linda has provided clothing sizes and toy requests. Many members have already signed up to purchase items, but Linda said she would also accept cash

donations to be used to fill in any missing items from the list. Linda will send out weekly updates. Her deadline is December 8th to allow a week for her to wrap and deliver items to PACE by December 17th. Toni Dedik has also volunteered to pick-up items from members.

- **Networking:** Carol Halliburton announced that Networking meetings have been postponed until after the first of the year since our schedule is so full for the next few months.
- **BETA/STEPS Christmas Party:** Sharon Blake said that the BETA/STEPS Christmas Party will be held on December 8th from 11:30-2:00 at the BETA Center. Sharon will send out an email with the number of people expected and how many children, as well as a sign up sheet for food. She asked if anyone could recommend a motivational speaker for the event to please contact her. Maryanne Kravitz who volunteered to coordinate the collection of toiletry items and the assembly of the gift bags will deliver these to Sharon in advance of the party.
- **Environmental Project:** Carol Halliburton asked everyone to look at the handout provided by Allie Myers for our magazine and book recycling thus far. Members are encouraged to continue to bring these to the General Meetings for recycling to hospitals, nursing homes, schools, etc.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Cluster Clubs:** Carol Halliburton asked Roberta Klusmeier to comment on the concept of cluster clubs. Roberta explained that our membership is spread out around the Orlando area. Although we've tried to find a more central location at a reasonable price, we haven't been successful. Another alternative is to divide into smaller regional groups for our meetings. Roberta said that this needs more discussion, but that would be better done outside of the General Meeting.
- **Heart of Francis Christmas Gifts:** Carol Halliburton said that Francis is looking for assistance with Christmas gifts. Anyone interested should contact Carol for more details.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: Our annual BETA/STEPS Christmas party will be held in lieu of a General Meeting in December. The next formal meeting will be held on Wednesday, 01/02/07, at 6:00 pm at Gentry's Restaurant, 4120 So. Orange Ave., Orlando, FL 32806.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to conduct Carol Halliburton adjourned the General Meeting at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Malloy
Recording Secretary

KEYNOTES is a monthly publication of Altrusa International of Orlando-Winter Park. Please send information for upcoming editions by the 15th of the month to: Maryanne Kravitz, Editor, mkravitz42@hotmail.com or call at 407-852-7727.

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President:	Allie Myers
Vice President:	Martha Kirby
Treasurer:	Linda Wright
Recording Secretary:	Cheryl Malloy
Board Director:	Toni Dedik
Board Director:	Pat Tobin
Foundation President:	Betsy Sushinsky
Foundation Treasurer:	Anita Hope