

# ALTRUSA



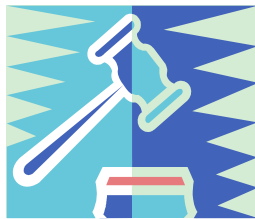
International, Inc. of Orlando~Winter Park  
Post Office Box 2972 ~ Winter Park, Florida 32790  
[www.altrusa-orlando.org](http://www.altrusa-orlando.org) [www.districtthree.org](http://www.districtthree.org) [www.altrusa.com](http://www.altrusa.com)

## KEYNOTES

## January 2008

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

### President’s Corner:



Hello Everyone,

February is coming up, and with it comes thoughts of candy, flowers, gifts and romantic greetings. It’s also a good time to show your fellow Altrusans that you care by giving them a call if they haven’t been to a meeting in awhile or by sending them a card or e-mail to let them know that you have been thinking about them.

When I first became president I passed out small “care bags” containing pens, note paper and cards. I hope you used some of them, and I hope you are continuing to send notes of thanks, birthday greetings, or get well sentiments to your fellow Altrusans. We need to take care of each other and show we care. When you hear about one of your fellow Altrusans who is celebrating a special occasion or going through some trying times, please let others know so we can check in on them or let them know that they are not alone. We are all Altrusans. We are here for each other.

Another thought for February is our **Tea for Twenty coming up on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Fairwinds Credit Union.** This event is sponsored by our Vocational Services Committee, and it always promises to be a good time for everyone. If you haven’t already signed up to sponsor a table, donate a gift basket, or help out with the food, please let Helen Mize know how you can contribute.

February 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to submit your early bird registration for the District Three Conference coming up April 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>. If your registration form is postmarked by Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>, you will be entered into a drawing for a gift valued at \$100 to be given away on fun night.

The month of February might be short on days, but it’s long on caring, fun and upcoming excitement!



*Happy February, and Happy Valentine’s Day!*

Your President,

*Allie Myers*

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

On the International website this month is an article talking about “**Add an Altrusan Day.**” Clubs are asked to set aside one day in January for a membership drive. This is an opportunity to “Embrace the World” through this membership drive. We need to increase membership and keep Altrusa growing. We all have been asked to remember the following when working on membership:

1. Be creative with your membership drive.
2. Invite, invite, and invite prospective members.
3. Have membership applications readily available.
4. Follow up with prospective member(s).
5. Partner with an under-charter strength club to help that club become charter strength.
6. Classifications are only applicable on the Club level to encourage diversity among members. Do **NOT** lose a potential member over classification.

Since we have already held our January meeting and didn’t designate a specific day, we can work on inviting prospective members to our February meeting. Bring a friend to the next meeting, invite them to our upcoming tea, or hand out a brochure to someone. Orlando-Winter Park covers a large area, and there are people out there who might be interested in what Altrusa is all about. Please take some time this month to talk to people and let them know that there is an Altrusa club in this area, and that we have a lot of fun doing what we do. Ask them to come and join us!



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### District Three News!

For those newer members of our club, or for those members who never knew much about the District Three Conference, here are some frequently asked questions about Conference that are posted on the District Three web site and some additional information on what you can do if you are interested in attending Conference this year.



#### How many delegates and alternates does my club have?

The number of delegates (and alternates) is based on the number of members as reported by the District Three Treasurer as of January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

There is one delegate per 20 members with a total limit of five delegates.

Each club has the same number of alternates.

Alternates serve at Conference only when the delegate is unable to fulfill the obligation. Once an alternate replaces a delegate, a change back to the original delegate cannot be made.

We usually have three delegates and two alternates. Anyone interested in becoming a delegate or an alternate, please let your president know, and we will get your name submitted.

#### Where do I get a copy of the Conference Registration Form?

The Conference Registration form will be available on the District Three website and will also be published in the Call-to-Conference issue of the DSB. This issue is published on or about February 1<sup>st</sup>.

This year, we will make it easy for you. A copy of the registration form is included with this issue of the newsletter. Please fill it out and submit it to your club treasurer along with your check. She sends them in all at once.

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#### Who votes at Conference?

Each club has a specified number of delegates they may send to the Conference. The number of delegates is based on the club membership as of January 31<sup>st</sup> as maintained by the District Three Treasurer. Only these delegates may vote if they have registered and are properly certified. These delegates plus the District Three Board of Directors and past Governors are allowed to vote on matters that come before the Assembly. They may also vote for the new Board of Directors to guide the District in each odd-numbered year.

Each year, the District Three Foundation will have an election to elect Trustees to the Foundation Board. All Altrusans who are registered for the Conference have one vote for the Foundation Board.

Remember, you don't have to be a delegate or alternate to attend Conference. You can go and experience a District Conference by attending valuable workshops, meeting other Altrusans within our district, and having a fun time. By doing this, you will also be showing support for our club. The more support, the better.

## Altrusa Orlando Winter Park News

### January

At our January meeting we were privileged to meet and hear from Mary Frances "Gert" Garman. Gert is the Event Manager for the City of Orlando, specializing in executing Mayor Buddy Dyer's signature events. Gert is a 1987 graduate of UCF with a B.A. in journalism: advertising/pr. She put the skills acquired at UCF to work as Assistant Director of Marketing and Promotions for UCF as well as being Director of Marketing for the UCF Alumni Association. She has also served as the Vice President of Marketing for Orlando Federal, Martin



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Federal and Central Florida Healthcare Federal Credit Unions.

In addition to running two small businesses, one where she does voice-overs for local businesses and the other a facilitating company where she speaks at area and national conferences, corporate meetings and retreats, Gert just finished her first book based on her five-years experience as a sorority House Mother. The book is entitled "MOMories." Gert shared some of her House Mother experiences with us and went on to link these experiences to opportunities presented to her and how she used them to move forward in her life. Gert emphasized how important it is for each of us to seize upon opportunities when they are presented to us. You never know where they will lead you and how they will impact your life. As Altrusans we need to stand ready to do the same for our organization, our community and our sister Altrusans. We're only limited by the outer reaches of our imagination. Think what we can accomplish!

If you would like to learn more about Gert and MOMories, visit her at [www.momeries.net](http://www.momeries.net).

## MEETING OUR MEMBERSHIP GOAL

Please remember our membership goal of "60 Members For 60 Years." Each of us needs to make an effort to recruit at least one new member this year. Possible candidates are sometimes in the least likely places and often they are \_\_\_\_\_ people



you know at work, financial institutions, the gym, church, or at neighborhood gatherings. Please let Betsy know if you need additional club brochures. They are a great way to spread the word about Altrusa, and many invitee's questions can be answered by reading through it. **We Can Do It!**

## In-Kind Donations

Our club has a long history of donating in-kind items to those in need. Sometimes there is some confusion



about what goods each charitable organization will accept. Listed below are some of the organizations in Central Florida that we help out each year and some of the items they need.

### Birth, Education, Training and Acceptance (BETA):

BETA is a residential program that provides assistance to children and families with a focus on teen moms and at-risk families. Pregnant and parenting teens are provided with comprehensive programs designed to meet their special needs. According to Kathleen Albert at the center, they accept baby clothing, wipes and toys, as well as baby furniture. They will not accept any stuffed animals that contain tiny beads. Each year our club sponsors a holiday party for the residents of BETA, and we give soaps, shampoos and other toiletries to them. This year we were also able to provide each resident with a necklace and some items for the children.

### Women's Residential and Counseling Center (WRCC):

The WRCC is a transitional residential center that provides shelter to homeless women and their children. These residents are working, have a savings account and are in the process of working their way out of being homeless. The center is operated by the Coalition for the Homeless. Some residents are victims of domestic violence and need emergency shelter. The center accepts gifts of lotions, makeup, soap, toothpaste, shampoo and other toiletries. They also accept small stuffed animals and toys for the children. They have a library and will accept used books for adults and children. When donating items to the center, please keep in mind that the residents have limited space to

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store their items, so larger toys, etc. would not be a good idea.

### A Gift for Teaching (AGFT):

AGFT's mission is to ensure that underprivileged children in Central Florida have the basic tools for learning by getting surplus supplies from the community at no cost into the hands of local teachers. They operate a free store off John Young Parkway for teachers to shop for classroom supplies. Product donations can consist of pens, pencils, paper and crayons. They will also accept non-traditional items such as wrapping paper, old travel maps, cardboard, old calendars, and old magazines and encyclopedias. Teachers are very creative people, and they can find a use for many unusual donations.

### Specialized Treatment, Education, and Protective Services (STEPS):

STEPS is a residential substance abuse treatment facility for women. They accept toiletries of all kinds, women's clothing and shoes, and since some of the residents have small children, they will accept baby clothes and baby toys. They also accept office supplies such as paper, pens and notebooks. Each year, our club sponsors a holiday party for the residents of both BETA and STEPS where we give the residents toiletries, and this year we were able to give each resident a necklace. We also provided them with items for the children.



### Practical Academic Cultural Education (PACE) Center for Girls:

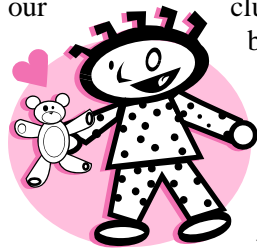
The PACE center targets the needs of females 12-18 who have been identified as truant, runaway, delinquent, or in need of academic skills. The girls are awarded points based on behavior, and they can exchange points for gifts at their "store". PACE accepts journals, gel pens, cosmetic bags, makeup, jewelry, or anything that young girls might like to purchase in the store. Some years when the center holds a prom, they accept handbags, prom dresses, jewelry and decorations for their prom. This year we sponsored a family whose daughter attends school at the center and provided all 10 children and their mother (and dog) with Christmas gifts.

### The Ronald McDonald House:

The Ronald McDonald House of Central Florida provides a “home-away-from-home” to families of children being treated at local hospitals. Our club has traditionally saved pop tabs from soda cans to donate. The pop tabs are recycled, and the money goes to operate the two Ronald McDonald houses in our area.

### The Children’s Advocacy Center:

The Children's Advocacy Center is a place where representatives from the Orange County Sheriff's Office, Orlando Police Department, State Attorney's Office, Department of Children & Families, Child Protection Team, Orange County Public Schools, and mental health agencies jointly investigate and protect victims of our community's worst child abuse cases. The program's main goals are to prevent the re-victimization of children, to ensure abused children can get mental health counseling to heal, and to effectively prosecute perpetrators of child abuse so they cannot hurt other children. Each year, our club decorates and donates cloth



bags for the children to carry their possessions in. We also sponsor a family room at the center. The center will accept children’s videotapes, children’s pajamas, diapers, wipes, children’s underwear

and socks, children’s clothes (new or like new), non-perishable food items and coupons for fast food or gift cards.

### Heart of Frances:

Dr. Frances Wigfall runs a day care center for children who have a family member undergoing treatment for cancer. She accepts books, school supplies and clothing for the children as well as scarves and wigs for the cancer patients. The children currently in her care range in age from 1 to 11. Dr. Wigfall welcomes all kinds of donations because she has many families stop by who need basic household items such as furniture, dishes and linens. Many of these families live in a very impoverished area, so any donations other than food are appreciated. She is not licensed to distribute food.

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### The Great Oaks Children’s Village:

Great Oaks is a campus of eight cottages and other facilities for children ages 6-18 who have been removed from their homes by the State of Florida due to abuse, neglect or abandonment. They are part of the Orange County Youth and Services Division. Each year our club celebrates “Make a Difference Day” by holding a party for the children, reading to them and donating books. They will accept donations of books, school supplies, and stuffed animals.

## ACCENT ON A NEW ALTRUSAN

Candy is definitely a native Floridian. She was born in Sebring, FL and grew up on Amelia Island. Her father was editor of the Fernandina Beach newspaper so journalism is in her blood, and she has always loved it. Her career choice, however, was teaching. She graduated from Florida Atlantic University with a B.A. in Elementary Education. She enjoyed teaching but became especially interested in helping children learn to read; after additional training, she became a reading specialist.



Time spent working at Hillcrest Elementary, an Orlando inner city school, is especially meaningful. Candy helped the principal develop the Foreign Language Academy, a magnet program that helped Hispanic and Vietnamese children learn English. She also edited the school newspaper; taught struggling readers; trained staff, parents and volunteers; and oversaw parental and community involvement. Another highlight was serving as district-wide Literacy Coach while living in Indianapolis a few years ago.

Candy met her husband, Greg, when she was living in Boca Raton doing freelance photography and he was a journalist for the Boca Raton News. Romance blossomed and they've been married since 1974. Their son, Chris, lives in Orlando and works at A Gift For Teaching; daughter Aimee, a newlywed, lives and works in Chicago.

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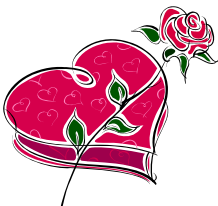
For the past six years Candy has been assisting Greg to research and write "Hiding in the Spotlight," the story of how his mother and aunt avoided death by the Nazis during World War Two. It is truly a Holocaust story with a happy ending. The couple traveled to the Ukraine and Israel while working on the book. It is now finished and they are looking for the right publisher. Candy has written a screen play of the story and it has been enthusiastically received. She is currently working on an elementary level children's book of Hiding in the Spotlight. She and Greg frequently speak to school children and other groups telling the phenomenal story.

The environment and environmental issues are very important to Candy. She frequently attends workshops and conferences and has lobbied in Washington for the Wilderness Society when they were trying to stop the drilling for oil in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge. She has received training from the National Wildlife Federation and the Florida Wildlife Federation in environmental leadership.

Candy genuinely enjoys the learning process and is currently studying Russian so she will be able to communicate with folks when they travel to the Ukraine again. It is not surprising that she lists her hobbies as the three R's--reading, writing and research. She enjoys photography and recently began producing videos using her Mac computer.

We are delighted to have Candy as our Altrusa sister. When asked why she wanted to become an Altrusan, she said, "I felt so comfortable with the group each time I attended a meeting. The club's projects and activities are based on true altruism. Altrusa is right for me".

## February Birthdays:

	
B. J. Watson	1
Pat Tobin	24
Toni Dedik	25
Kathy Chanody	28

# KEYNOTES

## Calendar of Upcoming Events



### February 6, 2008-

#### Altrusa General Meeting – **NEW LOCATION!**

Steak N Ale, 640 S. Orlando Ave, Maitland, 6:30 pm.

Located at intersection of Rt. 17-92 & S. Maitland Ave. For specific directions, please call the restaurant at (407) 645-3335.

### February 23, 2008

#### Tea for Twenty

Fairwinds Credit Union  
3075 North Alafaya Trail  
2:00 PM

### February 25, 2008-

Altrusa Board Meeting – Law Offices of Dean, Ringers, Morgan & Lawton, 201 E. Pine St., Suite 1200 – 6:00 pm.

## Committee Reports:



### LITERACY COMMITTEE

Chair: Martha Kirby

The Literacy Committee has no report this month.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

Chair: Tammy Douglass



Special thanks to Tammy Douglas for bringing Gert Garman to talk to us at the January meeting about opportunities and how to make the most of them. The Community Services Committee has no report this month.



## VOCATIONAL SERVICES

Co-Chairs: Ann Price & Helen Mize

## Reminder!

The **Tea for Twenty** is at the **Fairwinds Credit Union Community Room** on **February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 PM**. Tickets are \$20, and hats and gloves are optional.

Please be prepared to let us know how you plan to participate in the tea at the next meeting. We want to finalize table sponsors, silent auction items and what refreshments you plan to bring. We need to formulate a guest list, so please give us names of your guests at the February meeting. We hope you are selling tickets faster than you can print them off your computer! It's going to be a lovely event! Contact Ann Prince at [aprice531@cfl.rr.com](mailto:aprice531@cfl.rr.com) or Helen Mize at [Hhmize@aol.com](mailto:Hhmize@aol.com) if you have questions or need information.

## KEYNOTES

### Minutes for January General Meeting:

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF ORLANDO-WINTER PARK  
GENERAL MEETING  
January 02, 2008  
Gentry's Restaurant, 4120 So. Orange Ave., Orlando, FL 32806

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Allie Myers called the General Meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Sharon Blake, Linda Bond, Barbara Brown, Lida Coffman, Candy Dawson, Toni Dedik, Carol Denton, Tammy Douglass, Carol Halliburton, Michelle Jones, Martha Kirby, Roberta Klusmeier, Maryanne Kravitz, Cheryl Malloy, Helen Mize, Allie Myers, Ann Prince, Nancy Rapport, Betsy Sushinsky, Carol Thomas, Patricia Tobin, Mary Trier, Linda Wright, and Peggy Wolford.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Maureen Bergondy-Wilhelm, Debbie Berry, Jean Campbell, Sandy Drake-Caldwell, Mary Kay Chester, Leslie Dubow, Liz Finley, Chris Gennaro, Suzanne Godfrey, Anita Hope, Florence Lamborn Johnson, Dr. Etta McCulloch, Judy Nelson, Margot Perez-Rios, and Connie Washam.

**GUESTS:** Lisa Derryberry (1<sup>st</sup> visit) guest of Carol Denton; and Gert Garman, speaker, and friend of Tammy Douglass.

**ALTRUSA ACCENT:** Allie Myers provided a New Year's inspirational message for the Altrusa Accent.

#### PROGRAM:

Gert Garman with the City of Orlando addressed the meeting.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

- Allie Myers handed out pins from International for Pat Tobin, Barbara Brown, and Carol Denton who have sponsored new members.
- Greeting card received from Great Oaks Village.
- Thank you from the Heart of Frances for our club's generosity during the Christmas season.
- Email from International congratulating our club for the number of club service projects supporting the community.
- Email from Donna Johnson complimenting our newsletter and club on the continued high level of community involvement.
- Email received by Linda Wright from Florida BookPALS about interest in partnering with The Screen Actors Guild Foundation's Literacy Initiatives. The PencilPALS program may be of interest but for more information see [flbookpals@bellsouth.net](mailto:flbookpals@bellsouth.net)
- Advertisement from 10,000 Villages Shopping night.
- Email from Zaida Perez-Mendez, International President, congratulating our club on initiating Mildred Fernandez as a new member.

**MINUTES:** Minutes from the November 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 \$3,011.66, and the Operating Account balance at \$12,083.61. The 50-50 Drawing Account contained \$228.00. The Treasurer's report was approved as read.

#### FOUNDATION REPORT:

- Betsy Sushinsky provided an update on the Foundation activities. She also announced that a financial report from the Foundation is available upon request.
- Betsy indicated that the Foundation Board voted to move the interest currently accrued into the scholarship fund. After some discussion, Peggy Wolford made a formal motion to move the interest to the scholarship fund, which was seconded by Carol Denton, and subsequently approved by the members.
- The scholarship fund was originally earmarked for the Valencia displaced homemakers program. However, since that program has disbanded the Board suggested that we should no longer tie the scholarship to a specific organization. After discussion, a motion was made by Lida Coffman that we should no longer earmark the scholarship funds, but we should ensure that the recipient(s) is earnestly trying to better themselves through education. Barbara Brown provided a second to the motion and the membership signified approval. During discussion, there was general agreement that specific criteria for disbursement of the scholarship fund needed to be defined.
- Betsy also said that new Board members will be added this next year and encouraged those present to consider serving. The next meeting for the Foundation Board will be in the spring.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Since most of our fund raising activities have been completed, there were no reports from the Literacy and Community Services Committees.
- Vocational Services Committee provided handouts about the Tea for Twenty that will be held on February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2:00-4:30 pm at the Fairwinds Credit Union. Sign-up sheets were circulated for food, tables, and baskets for auction.
- Nominating Committee announced that they were making some progress toward identifying new officers and requested that anyone interested should contact Betsy Sushinsky or Roberta Klusmeier.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Networking:** Allie Myers said that since every one's schedule was so full at the end of the year, Networking meetings had been postponed. Allie asked if there was interest in resuming these meetings. Sharon Blake volunteered to host the first Networking meeting of the New Year and will be sending out an email with specifics.

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- **Environmental Project:** Allie Myers provided an update of our media recycling efforts (e.g., magazines, books, CDs, videos, etc.). Members are encouraged to continue to bring these to the General Meetings for recycling to hospitals, nursing homes, schools, etc. After some discussion, Allie also offered to develop a list of on-going collections that we do as a club so that new members will have a better idea of what should be saved and who was responsible for collection.
- **60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration:** Allie Myers announced that she wanted to form a committee to start planning for a special celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of our club. We want to do something special in April; maybe rent a hall and invite spouses and other clubs. Betsy Sushinsky, Carol Denton, Peggy Wolford, and Roberta Klusmeier volunteered to assist Allie in developing a plan. Betsy Sushinsky also handed out Altrusa brochures because one of our goals for this event is to have 60 members by our 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- **Awards:** Allie Myers said that she needed to submit documentation for awards by the 15<sup>th</sup>. She encouraged anyone who had write ups to complete them ASAP.

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** The next formal meeting will be held on Wednesday, 02/06/08, at 6:00 pm at Gentry's Restaurant, 4120 So. Orange Ave., Orlando, FL 32806.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to conduct Allie Myers adjourned the General Meeting at 7:50 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](mailto:mkravitz42@hotmail.com) or call at 407-852-7727.

**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