

ALTRUSA



International, Inc. of Orlando~Winter Park
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KEYNOTES

August 2006

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



President’s Corner:

Dear Altrusans:

Greetings! After such a successful meeting this month (sponsored by our Literacy Committee) where our members donated money and materials to A Gift for Teaching, I began to look ahead to see what we Altrusans have coming up in September. Again, the theme of Literacy cropped up. September 8th is World Literacy Day. This day was designated by the United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) according to their website, as a day to stress the importance of literacy to individuals, communities, and societies.

If you want to think globally, there are over six billion people in the world. Many of them don’t get the chance to have accessible reading or writing materials. We helped out last March by sending school books to Nepal through Rosemary Watson, one of our Altrusans in New Zealand. We might want to consider doing something like this again next year.

If you want to act locally, one out of every five adults in Central Florida reads at or below the 5th grade level, according to the Adult Literacy League. Some of these people are parents. As a result they have difficulty reading to their children, and these children end up developing lower reading skills.

There is so much we can do to help. Take the time out in September to read to a child, or volunteer to help an adult learn to read. Help someone who is having trouble writing, or even help someone become computer literate. As a club, we can think of new ideas to help out—perhaps a small project that can be done in a few hours. Opportunities are everywhere.

Thanks to our Literacy Committee for helping us to do our part by giving pencils, pens, books, and paper to help teachers get supplies into the hands of students who need them.

Your President,

Allie Myers

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Altrusa Orlando-Winter Park News:

August's meeting was held at a wonderful Italian restaurant Louie and Maria's. President Allie Myers conducted business and those in attendance had a delicious meal and business meeting that was complete by 8pm. The literacy committee's special guest speaker, Jane Thompson, President of "A Gift for Teaching" began by thanking the club for their generous and continued support for the program. Leah Treppel delivered several boxes to their facility and a number of bags and boxes were also brought to the meeting.

Jane has just recently been promoted to president of this non-profit organization and Valerie Mardle has taken over as Director of Development. The program operates a Free Store where teachers are given a \$350 allowance to select from a variety of school supplies. Schools with the highest level of need (with 60% or more of the students on free or reduced lunch programs) can send all teachers to shop once a month. Other schools send one representative each week, and teachers can also volunteer at the Free Store to earn a shopping credit.

The growth in Orange County has been incredible so it's a continuing challenge to keep pace. Two new programs are going to be rolled out this year including "smARTS" which provides art supplies and curriculum to art teachers, and a Preschool Playkit that educates parents on how to teach their children basic concepts before they go to kindergarten. Jane explained how something as simple as having a pencil and paper can make a huge difference in how children perform in school. Teachers generally take money from their own pockets to help students in need, so the Free Store provides some welcome relief.



Gift for Teaching

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Calendar of Upcoming Events:

August 28, 2006 Board Meeting at Attorney's Dean, Ringers, Morgan & Lawton office, 201 East Pine Street, Suite 1200. 6pm.

September 6 2006- Altrusa General Meeting at Louie and Maria's Italian Restaurant, 9728 E Colonial Dr. Orlando, 6pm.

September 8, 2006- World Literacy Day.

September Birthdays



There are no members celebrating Birthdays this month

Altrusa Accent:

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT MARKETING ALTRUSA

Recruiting new members and retaining current members is the first issue addressed in Altrusa International's Long Range/Strategic Plan.

As we begin our club's exciting and challenging fund raising season let's not forget our commitment to build membership. Marketing is something we are all familiar with in our professional lives and at home. We need only look thru the mail each day or turn on the TV to see marketing in action.

We need to have a marketing plan for Altrusa.

International Membership chair and co-chair Melva Hill and Kelli Owens suggest we all start wearing our Altrusa membership pins every day to meetings and events. Make it a part of your daily attire. They refer to it as a little "Altrusa Billboard" People will find it interesting and ask about it. Don't be caught off guard, be prepared with a simple response.

"Altrusa is an international volunteer service organization of business and professional leaders

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dedicated to improving their communities by personal service" What and opportunity to tell someone about our commitment to literacy and the other important programs we support. Keep a supply of club brochures to give to interested people or get their business card and send one later.

Committee Reports:



Literacy Committee: Roberta Klusmeier thanked everyone for bringing donations for A Gift for Teaching. She had attended the "Push for Pencils" Kick-off event for the 2006-2007 school year and emphasized the importance of the program in making supplies available for students. Nancy Rapport also mentioned that A Gift for Teaching was featured in an article in the Orlando Business Journal (<http://orlando.bizjournals.com/orlando/stories/2006/07/31/story9.html>).



Community Services:

Tammy Douglas held a meeting prior to the General Meeting to discuss planning for the SteinMart event on November 12th (Sunday, 7:00-9:00 p.m.). She is looking for volunteers for models and is coordinating with SteinMart about catering and tickets flyers to reproduce for the event.

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Vocational Services: Liddy Coffman provided an update for Pat Tobin who was unable to attend the August general meeting. She announced that Judy Collins from HOSA will be the guest speaker for September. Linda Bond also said that she had paid a visit to WRCC and that the garden area needed a little weeding but that the plantings that had been installed in the spring were doing well.



- **Convention Committee:** Carol Denton said that she was looking for a chairperson and volunteers to help with planning for the Altrusa International Convention in July 2007.

Minutes for August General Meeting

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF ORLANDO-WINTER PARK GENERAL MEETING

August 02, 2006

Louie and Maria's, Orlando, FL

CALL TO ORDER: President Allie Myers called the General Meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Debbie Berry, Linda Blake, Sharon Blake, Linda Bond, Barbara Brown, Mary Kay Chester, Kathy Chonody, Liddy Coffman, Lisa Daniels-Wentz, Toni Dedik, Carol Denton, Jennifer Franklin, Suzanne Godfrey, Diane Goigel, Carol Halliburton, Martha Kirby, Roberta Klusmeier, Cheryl Malloy, Allie Myers, Nancy Rapport, Mary Trier, Betsy Sushinsky, BJ Watson, and Linda Wright.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Maureen Bergondy-Wilhelm, Jean Campbell, Diane DeWolf, Tammy Douglass, Sandy Drake-Caldwell, Leslie Dubow, Liz Finley, Chris Gennaro, Anita Hope, Danielle Merket, Judy Nelson, Terry Pass, Barbara Radosky, Margot Perez-Rios, Carol Phifer, Carol Thomas, Patricia Tobin, Connie Washam, Suzanne Weinstein, and Peggy Wolford.

GUESTS: Crickett Hill (2nd visit) and Chandra Metram (1st visit) sponsored by Linda Blake and Sally Center sponsored by

Nancy Rapport. Also, our guest speakers from A Gift for Teaching included Jane Thompson and Valerie Mardle.

MINUTES: There were no minutes from July since the club had its annual social instead of a general meeting. Allie Myers said that everyone enjoyed the social and thanked Sandy Caldwell for her hospitality.

TREASURER'S REPORT: There was no treasurer's report presented. Nancy Rapport added that she had completed the audit of the club and foundation accounts and found everything in order. She complimented Linda Wright and Kathy Chonody for their diligence in maintaining the books.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Brochure from the Adult Literacy League
- Letter from St. Jude's Ranch for Children. Allie Myers also thanked Linda Bond for her support of the ranch by collecting soup labels.
- Notice from Great Oaks Village about the Summer Olympics.
- Letter from District III about nominations for officers.
- Carol Denton mentioned that she had also gotten a thank you from District III for the butterfly shawl presented as a gift to the president at conference.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Allie Myers provided an updated calendar of club meeting dates/events and locations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Carol Denton said that she was looking for a chairperson and volunteers to help with planning for the Altrusa International Convention in July 2007.
- Allie Myers explained some changes were needed in the officers slated for 2006-2007.
 - Kathy Chonody who had been elected as Treasurer has found that her work schedule is too busy to continue. Linda Wright has agreed to resume this position, but needed to resign from her current positions as Treasurer and Director for the Foundation to conform to the requirements specified in the bylaws.
 - Anita Hope has agreed to assume duties as Treasurer for the Foundation.
 - Leah Treppel has recently moved from the area and is no longer able to continue as Literacy Committee Chair. A decision was made by the committee members to rotate responsibilities for planned literacy events rather than elect another chair.

Nancy Rapport moved that the changes in club officers described above be approved. Martha Kirby seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **BETA/STEPS Christmas Party.** Allie Myers announced that this year's BETA/STEPS Christmas party would be a club effort and committees needed to be formed. All members were urged to participate.

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- **Archives.** Allie Myers mentioned that we needed to assemble the club archives and make some decisions on where materials should be kept. Right now there are scrapbooks scattered around with various members that need to be consolidated so we don't lose our history. Allie would first like everyone to take stock of what they have and send her an email. Then we need to consolidate/clean up the info and decide what is needed for storage facilities.
- **Yard Sale.** After discussion, March was decided as probably a good month for holding the activity. Members were asked to start accumulating items to sell. Allie Myers asked everyone to think about where the yard sale could be hosted and who would like to volunteer to help.
- **Other.**
 - Allie Myers said that she had received a Sponsor's Charm from District for Pat Tobin who had sponsored a new member
 - Toni Dedik and Allie Myers will provide a recommendation about where the money left by Grace Sanford should be donated.
 - Mary Kay Chester said that she is looking for volunteers for the Habitat Home Store (2105 N. Orange Blossom Trail, 407-426-7192). Please contact Mary Kay for more information.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: Wednesday, 09/06/06, at 6:00 pm at Louie and Maria's, located at 9728 East Colonial Drive, Orlando

ADJOURN: There being no further business to conduct Allie Myers adjourned the General Meeting at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Malloy
Recording Secretary

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