

ALTRUSA



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

KEYNOTES

August 2007

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



President’s Corner:

It’s back-to-school time once again, and with that comes the thoughts of parents and children buying school supplies and clothing for the school days ahead. But what if the parents can’t afford the basics for their children?

According to the latest newsletter from A Gift for Teaching (AGFT), there are thousands of children in our area who go to school every day without even the most basic school supplies. They are unable to succeed in school merely because they don’t have the necessary tools.

This is why AGFT enlists the help of businesses and individuals to donate supplies, clothing or money to help school children obtain the basic supplies they need. Through operation of a free store, teachers can get materials they need to help children in their classrooms have the tools they need to be successful. Teachers no longer have to take money out of their own pockets to get supplies for their classrooms. The free store serves teachers from schools in Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties.

AGFT stocks traditional school supplies such as pencils, paper and crayons. However, some of their more popular items are very non-traditional items like wrapping paper, traffic cones and travel maps--all items that can be used creatively as part of a classroom learning environment.

Every September, our Altrusa club collects school supplies, clothing and/or money to contribute to AGFT. We also chose AGFT as the special project at Altrusa International Convention in July.

Through our help, AGFT can continue to provide an important and much needed service in our community. I urge you all to bring what supplies you can to the September meeting.

If you would like to read more about AGFT, go to their website at www.agiftforteaching.org.

In addition to AGFT, many of you saw an urgent need when we heard about the Heart of Francis charity’s need for school supplies for low income children who have a parent being treated for cancer. This charity was founded by Francis Wigfall, who is a cancer survivor herself. She told us that there are 15 children in the West Orlando section of town

Table of Contents:

President’s Corner:	1
International News.....	2
Convention Highlight	2
District Three News.....	3
Altrusa Orlando-Winter Park News.....	3
Membership Memo.....	3
September Birthdays.....	4
Calendar of Upcoming Events.....	4
Altrusa Accent	4
Committee Reports	5
Minutes for August General Meeting	6

who have parents undergoing treatment.

2

These children do not own books, so if you have anything to read that is geared to children ages 6 through 13, they would greatly appreciate it.

Throughout the month of August, Carol Halliburton has been collecting supplies that Altrusans have dropped off at her doorstep for these children. Carol has volunteered to take our donations to the facility run by Francis.

Thanks to all of you who took supplies to Carol, and thanks in advance to all of you who will bring in supplies to our September meeting for AGFT.

This is our Altrusa club in Action!

Your President,

Allie Myers



International News:

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) established an International Literacy Day in 1968 to highlight literacy issues that span the world. This day is celebrated on September 8th of every year.

According to a UNESCO report, literacy is the foundation for social, economic, and environmental progress in developing countries. Of the millions of illiterate people in the world, over two-thirds of them are women.

UNESCO has a Literacy Assessment and Monitoring Program to measure the progress of literacy and education throughout the world.

The United Nations has declared Decades and Days of Observance for various world issues. The years

KEYNOTES

2003—2012 are the Decade for Literacy. Their goals for this decade are:

1. To halve adult literacy by 2015.
2. To increase significantly educational opportunities for over 100 million children, and nearly 1 billion adults, two-thirds of them girls and women, who have limited access to basic education and literacy.

If you would like to read more information about world literacy issues and what is being done to help, here are some web sites:

UNITED NATIONS—<http://www.un.org>

UNESCO—<http://www.UNESCO.org>

UNICEF—<http://www.unicef.org>

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LITERACY—

<http://www.nifl.org>

READING IS FUNDAMENTAL—

<http://www.rif.org>

Convention Highlight:



Betsy Sushinsky, Commissioner Mildred Fernandez and Carol Denton

Orange County Commissioner Mildred Fernandez, District Three, welcomed Altrusans at the opening ceremony of the 50th International Convention at the Disney Contemporary Resort. Because Zaida Perez-Mendez from San Sebastian, Puerto Rico, was being installed as the 2007-2009 International President, there was a large number of Altrusans from her club

3

in attendance. Commissioner Fernandez was delighted when she was greeted by a group of Altrusans that remembered her aunt who was an Altrusan in Puerto Rico.



District Three News:

Listed below are some facts you should know about Districts and District Three.

Did you know that all Altrusa clubs throughout the world are divided into districts, and that there are 15 districts currently in existence? Our club is located in District Three (by the way, the district number is always spelled out—no Arabic numbers). District Three consists of clubs in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

District Three has its own logo (shown above) and it is trademarked.

District Three has its own non-profit organization—the District Three Foundation. Some of the money raised from the 50/50 drawings at our general meetings will be going to support the Foundation.

District Service Bulletins are issued regularly to a District's members. The Bulletin keeps Altrusans informed about their District officers and committee chairs and shares club activities.

Each District holds an annual Conference in March, April or May. Officers and Directors are elected at Conference. The District Three Conference will be held next year in Charlotte, North Carolina from April 3rd through 5th.

For more information on District Three, visit their web site at www.districtthree.org.

Altrusa Orlando-Winter Park News:

KEYNOTES

What an exciting month August has been for our club! At the General Meeting on August 1, three new Altrusans were inducted, Michelle Jones, Candy Dawson and me, Maryanne Kravitz. I know each of us is thrilled to join such a group of forward-thinking women and to share in the "Altrusiasm" theme chosen by our new District Three Governor, Linda Robison, and demonstrated by each and every one of our current members. In whichever way each of us as new members chooses to channel our efforts, I know it will be for the betterment of our club, our community and our organization as a whole.



Barbara Brown, Michelle Jones, Allie Myers, Maryanne Kravitz, Pat Tobin and Candy Dawson

MEMBERSHIP MEMO

Membership growth is high on the Altrusa International priority list for the 2007 - 2009 biennium. To meet this challenge, each of us is being encouraged to recruit at least one new member. Our club has the same goal but for a more personal reason. In 2008 Altrusa International of Orlando- Winter Park will celebrate its 60th anniversary. How fabulous it would be to have 60 members for 60 years of community service.

The goal is for each member to recruit one new member between now and June 2008. It can be done! Here are a few suggestions to get you started.

1. Talk about Altrusa to coworkers, neighbors, businesses you frequent, family and friends.
2. Wear your Altrusa pin to non-Altrusa activities. It

4

will attract attention and offer an opportunity to talk about Altrusa.

3. Be an informed Altrusan; read your encyclopedia so you can answer questions when they arise.

4 Be enthusiastic about Altrusa. Blow your horn; make sure to emphasize the organization's commitment to literacy and improving the lives of the underprivileged, especially children.

5. Keep a supply of club brochures in your car so you can hand one out when the opportunity arises. Point out that the club website is printed on the brochure.

6. For those of you who are new members, you may consider having a seasoned Altrusan join you and your prospective member for lunch to discuss Altrusa.

7. Invite your prospective member to a regular meeting so they can get to know us. Follow up afterward to hear what they thought. Inquire if they know someone who may also be interested in membership.

7. Most importantly, be positive. Think: **I CAN AND I WILL.**

Local club brochures are available at all meetings, or contact Allie or Betsy to receive a supply.

September Birthdays:



Calendar of Upcoming Events:

KEYNOTES



August 28, 2007- Altrusa Board Meeting, at Attorney's Dean, Ringers, Morgan & Lawton office, 201 East Pine Street, Suite 1200 – 6:00 pm.

September 5, 2007- Altrusa General Meeting at Gentry's Restaurant, 4120 S. Orange Ave, just south of Michigan – 6:00 pm. Accessible by taking the Michigan exit off of I-4, go east to Orange Ave. and turn right. For more specific directions please call the restaurant at 407 856-5188.

September 8, 2007
International Literacy Day

September 24, 2007- Altrusa Board Meeting, at Attorney's Dean, Ringers, Morgan & Lawton office, 201 East Pine Street, Suite 1200 – 6:00 pm.

ALTRUSA ACCENT:

Aspirations of an Altrusan

“Let me always be open minded, that I may recognize good for Altrusa wherever it may be. Let me be ready always to put aside my personal opinions for the greater good of the greater number. Let me see principles and not personalities, and discerning them, let me serve them wholeheartedly through every cloud of doubt and discouragement. Let me have faith still that the voice of the majority is the voice of good, and let me lend myself sincerely to the working out of what the majority chooses. Knowing that the organization is but the individual multiplied by many and that the organization reflects not only the constructive good, but the mistaken ideas,

5

the short-sightedness, the failures of the individual, let me still adhere to the will of the majority, knowing that time will reveal the better way and lead our footsteps aright if we tread with purer motives and unselfish hearts.

Let me be conscious of the shortcomings, the mistakes, the failures of myself and my associates only that I may learn to correct them, and let me rather see with uplifted face and stalwart soul the unblemished beauty, the high ideal of Altrusa, which exists upon the earth to uplift women to higher things, to make real in business and in our daily lives the things of the spirit.

Let me be patient in defeat and humble in success. Let me seek not for rewards, for appreciation, or even for understanding, but let me seek rather to do the work that lies before me, and to find in the right doing of the work the joy and satisfaction that passes understanding, until I, too, may say, "I know what pleasure is, for I have done good work."

Mamie L. Bass

Committee Reports:



Literacy Committee:

A Gift for Teaching is currently underway with their yearly back-to-school "Push for Pencils" drive. The Literacy Committee is collecting pencils, pens, crayons, and other school supplies to donate to their program.

Please bring any donations to the September meeting, and we will make sure that teachers receive the much-needed supplies for the school-aged children in our area.

KEYNOTES

There are many unconventional materials that you can give too. They take old roadmaps, traffic cones, cardboard tubes, plastic containers, old calendars, greeting cards, or anything else that teachers can use in a creative way.



Community Services:

Claudia Casey, B.S., B.S.A., will address the October meeting. Ms. Casey is currently in the Marketing Department of Vitas Hospice and serves as the Community Liaison for the Central Florida program. Be sure to mark your calendars as this will be a most informative session.

Also, don't forget about the Stein Mart Shopping Event / Fundraiser on Sunday, November 18. The Committee hopes to distribute more information at the September meeting.



Vocational Services:

The Vocational Services Committee will be meeting after the September general meeting to finalize the speaker for November. They will also be identifying the recipient for the funds raised at the Tea for Twenty in February.

Minutes for August General Meeting:

**ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF ORLANDO-WINTER PARK
GENERAL MEETING**

August 01, 2007

Gentry's Restaurant, 4120 So. Orange Ave., Orlando, FL 32806

CALL TO ORDER: Allie Myers called the General Meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Barbara Brown, Lida Coffman, Candy Dawson, Toni Dedik, Carol Halliburton, Anita Hope, Martha Kirby, Roberta Klusmeier, Maryanne Kravitz, Cheryl Malloy, Allie Myers, Ann Prince, Betsy Sushinsky, Carol Thomas, Patricia Tobin, and Linda Wright.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Maureen Bergondy-Wilhelm, Debbie Berry, Linda Blake, Sharon Blake, Linda Bond, Jean Campbell, Mary Kay Chester, Carol Denton, Diane DeWolf, Tammy Douglass, Sandy Drake-Caldwell, Leslie Dubow, Liz Finley, Jennifer Franklin, Chris Gennaro, Diane Goigel, Michelle Jones, Helen Mize, Judy Nelson, Terry Pass, Carol Phifer, Margot Perez-Rios, Nancy Rapport, Arlene Shaw, Mary Trier, Connie Washam, Suzanne Weinstein, and Peggy Wolford.

ALTUSA ACCENT:

In lieu of a regular program, Allie Myers started the evening by describing the theme of our new District Three Governor, Linda Robison. For the 2007-2009 biennium Governor Linda has chosen "Hands Up with Altruism." This expression combines Altrusa and enthusiasm and the idea of providing helping hands to those who are earnestly trying to make it. Although she believes that most clubs are already good examples of this slogan, she asked that we try to bump things up and improve the services currently provided. Allie distributed a print-out that summarized the four tasks that Governor Linda would like the club to report on periodically. Progress for each club will be included in the District Three Service Bulletin.

1. Locate some women in need and determine how the club can help. Allie commented that Governor Linda would like a report about how and to whom we provided assistance. This could be an expansion of something we are currently doing like working with displaced homemakers or PACE, or it could be something new like mentoring opportunities.
2. Acts of Kindness. A volunteer from the club needs to collect this information from the members and provide a monthly report to Governor Linda.
3. Member Services. Identify member needs and take care of each other. The idea of setting up a networking group was a topic that had come up previously and fits with this
4. Global Warming. What can we do as a club and individually to help the environment?

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Betsy Sushinsky provided the following membership information based on reports from Altrusa International and statistics on our Orlando-Winter Park Club.

- As of June 1, 2007 there were a total of 10,044 active Altrusa members worldwide compared to 10,923 June 1, 2006.
- During the past year 12 new clubs are currently being formed. Fifteen disbanded in the two-year period from June 2005 - June 2007.

KEYNOTES

- Growth is obviously the #1 priority to sustain the organization.
- The Orlando-Winter Park Club has 33 active members, three emeritus members, and six new members this year.
 - There were 12 members who did not renew membership this year (2007-2008) for various reasons, but not because they were displeased with the club or its activities.
 - Since our club is 60 years old next year, we would like to aim for a goal of having 60 members for our 60th anniversary. That would require each of us to bring in one person as a new member. Betsy passed out brochures to each member to encourage recruiting efforts.

MINUTES: Minutes from the June 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 \$2,940.29, and the Operating Account balance at \$11,481.07. The 50-50 Drawing Account contained \$111.00.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A note from Maureen Bergondy-Wilhelm regretting that she could not attend due to previous engagements.
- A note from Linda Bond regretting that she could not attend the meeting since she is working to a deadline for completion of her book.
- A note from the Lake City Club who are developing a brochure and wanted some ideas. Allie Myers has sent them a sample for our club.
- A flyer from Tammy Douglas about the "Bag Ladies Luncheon" on September 28 from 11:00-2:00 at Luma on Park to benefit the Make A Wish Foundation.
- An announcement of a Golf Tournament sponsored by the Valencia Foundation.
- A flyer from A Gift for Teaching looking for school supplies for their annual drive.
- A newsletter from the Coalition for the Homeless.
- A newsletter from PACE. They are interested in locating someone who could conduct a workshop about EBAY.
- A note from Beverly Hardee, Vice Governor, who is interested in visiting our club. Allie Myers responded and will coordinate.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: No formal reports were available from the committees since they are still organizing activities for the coming year. Martha Kirby distributed draft calendars which require updating with speakers and events once the committees have finalized their decisions. A few important dates that have been arranged thus far include:

- Make A Difference Day will be on October 27. Martha Kirby requested that committee members attend a brief meeting following the General Meeting.
- The Stein Mart event will be on November 18.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Allie Myers initiated a round of applause for Carol Denton

and Betsy Sushinsky who did a wonderful job organizing for the Convention. Allie also recognized all those members who contributed time and effort to make the event a success. She said that numerous compliments had been received from delegates who attended the function.

- Allie Myers also mentioned that A Gift for Teaching received an enormous number of contributions and cash from those attending the Convention. The car used to transport items was packed to the roof which must have made for an interesting drive back to the free store.
- Anita Hope encouraged members to participate in future Conventions and Conferences because it is an inspiring experience that underscores the world-wide reach of Altrusa.
- Carol Thomas had a copy of Michael Shoulders book "V for Volunteer" that is a children's book about the State of Tennessee. Michael Shoulders was the author who conducted seminars at the Convention on how to write children's books. Carol said he is in the process of writing a book for each of the 50 states and that these are available at Books-A-Million and Borders.
- Linda Wright announced that 35 cookbooks were sold at the Convention thanks to Pat Tobin and Helen Mize. Linda had additional copies with her that could be purchased with a \$5.00 donation to the Foundation. They come with an envelope for mailing and make great gifts.
- Carol Thomas said that she had spoken with Peggy Wolford about using the Elks Club parking lot as a site for the Garage Sale. Peggy will coordinate with the Elks for a date sometime in October or November. Carol asked that members start setting aside items. Allie Myers mentioned that Linda Bond had given her a number of beauty products from a friend who closed up a beauty shop. Allie had taken some items out for PACE but there were others that we could use for WRCC, BETA/STEPS, or include in the Garage Sale.
- Roberta Klusmeier announced that she had Innisbrook paper for sale again. She circulated a copy of the catalog for everyone to look at and will have copies available at the next meeting.
- Pat Tobin reported that \$3,000.00 had been raised at the Tea for HOSA but she was having difficulty coordinating schedules with Judy Conlin for presenting the check. As a result, Pat will get together with Anita Hope and make arrangements to send the contribution.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Allie Myers said that Tammy Douglas was interested in starting a networking group that would meet outside the hours of the regular General Meeting time. It was agreed that this would be a good way to retain and potentially expand membership. Allie distributed an information form for Tammy.
- Anita Hope announced that she had done some research on another potential meeting place that would maybe attract members who lived more toward the north end of town. She circulated a menu from Buttermilk's on 17/92 not far from the intersection of the Maitland Exchange and I-4. There was some general discussion about rotating the meeting place, but no decisions were made. The club is

KEYNOTES

committed to meet at Gentry's through to the end of this year.

- Linda Wright said that a Yahoo group for Altrusa had been set up as an idea exchange, like a forum. She passed out directions on how to access the group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/altrusa>).
- Allie Myers mentioned that Helen Mize's daughter had a beanie baby collection that she would donate. Allie suggested that this might be something we could include in the Children's Advocacy Center bags. Betsy Sushinsky held up a bag for new members to see. Allie said that we needed to distribute bags at the next meeting or arrange a bag decorating party.

INITIATION: Betsy Sushinsky led the ceremony to induct new members: Michelle Jones sponsored by Barbara Brown, Maryanne Kravitz sponsored by Carol Denton and Candy Dawson sponsored by Pat Tobin.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: Wednesday, September 5, at 6:00 pm at Gentry's Restaurant, 4120 S. Orange Ave., Orlando, FL 32806.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to conduct, Allie Myers adjourned the General Meeting at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Malloy
Recording Secretary

KEYNOTES is a monthly publication of Altrusa International, Inc. of Orlando-Winter Park. President Allie Myers. Editor: Maryanne Kravitz. Please send information for upcoming editions by the 15th of the month to: Maryanne Kravitz, 11922 Kipper Dr., Orlando, FL 32827, mkravitz42@hotmail.com or 407-852-7727.

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