



Altrusa Action

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL, INC. OF CENTRE COUNTY, PA
APRIL, 2007

Dinner Meeting: Wednesday, April 18, 6:00 p.m., Celebration Hall, \$14.00

Menu: The buffet will feature Vegetable Lasagna and Chicken Scampi

Program: “*Earth Day: You Can Make a Difference*”, led by Jennifer Shuey

Reservations: Please call to make a reservation or to cancel a standing reservation. Call Barb (238-8882) or email her (brk@psu.edu) by the evening of Sunday, April 15th.

And, finally, to Doris who spent hours coordinating and decorating. Of course, many others spent quite a bit of time making the event successful. So, to all of you from me, a hug, a congratulatory pat on the back, and a “you are awesome.”

Yours in Service,

Tammy.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Altrusa:

If the weather forecast is correct, you are, even as you read this, suffering through another spate of winter. But never fear!!! Spring will SOON be here (promise)!

I cannot begin to describe how proud and honored I am to work with such a magnificent group of women. “Why, what have we done?” you might ask. Well, I reply, you have exceeded my wildest hopes for Mystery Night. Last year, our net raised was \$4,779. This year? **\$7,225!!!!!!** I would like to send a special thank you and kudos to Becky and Jill, who co-chaired the event for the first time. To Ginny and Barb who spent many hours culling over mailing lists and supervising the distribution of our announcements. To Tillie who, once again, was a magician in pulling in donations. To June, whose living room became a warehouse for several (I imagine) uncomfortable weeks.

APRIL PROGRAM

Jennifer S., who is Executive Director of the ClearWater Conservancy and author of the newsletter’s Environment column, will help us to celebrate “Earth Day” and teach us how we can make a difference. With the recent (and long-delayed) worries about Global Warming, we’re all concerned about how we can do our part. Don’t miss Jen’s program.



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COMMITTEE WORK

Communications –Theresa, Ginny M., Co-chairs

Just a reminder that we are actively recruiting for participation in the Communications Committee. Any newer members who have completed their "one-year apprenticeship" with their sponsor are encouraged to join us at our next meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 29, 5:30 p.m., Meyer's Dairy. The Communications Committee is responsible for: publication and distribution of the monthly newsletter and annual yearbook; content and management of the web page; and advertising and outreach regarding Altrusa of Centre County club projects and events.

International Relations – Jill, Chair No report

Membership – Gini, Chair

Congratulations to the "new members" group for completing the PA "One Book: Every Young Child" marketing project. They made 24 advertisement posters for the program and put them up around Philipsburg and State College. In addition, they distributed 95 copies of the book, A Splendid Friend, Indeed, to agencies, day care centers, and doctors offices – anywhere a young child might be able to get access. The Schlow Centre Region Library is having activities throughout the month of April as part of this important state-wide initiative to encourage early literacy skill development. Thanks, folks, for a job well done!

The committee is excited that we have three new applicants for membership. The next initiation will be at the June meeting. Who will you be sponsoring?

Service – Jennifer, Chair No new projects to report.

RECOMMENDED FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following people have been recommended for membership. If you have any concerns about a candidate, please contact a Board member within a week of receipt of this newsletter.

Candidate: Linda Talaliba

Position: Director, Food Bank of State College

Classification: Social Services Agency

Sponsors: Nancy Desmond & Tammy Gentzel

Candidate: Amy Debach

Position: Floral Designer & Photographer

Classification: Retail trade--Flowers, artificial, retail

Sponsors: Nancy Desmond & June Krumrine

Candidate: Sally Rothwell

Position: Owner & Operator, Greenhills Village

Classification: Medical Services--Nursing Agency/Services

Sponsors: Cindy Thackston & Susan Hoover

LAST CHANCE FOR U.N. TRIP



We are taking a bus to the United Nations on Saturday, May 5th. We meet at the Fullington Bus Garage off Fox Hollow Road (on the way to the airport) at 5 a.m. and the bus leaves promptly at 5:15 a.m. We will spend the morning touring the U.N. and you have an afternoon free to do as you please. The bus will

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leave New York at 5 p.m. and we hope to be home by around 11:00 p.m. Cost is \$60 per person, or \$56 per person if you are over 65. This only pays for the bus transportation and the United Nations tour; all meals are additional. Lunch will be at the U.N. cafeteria. We will stop for dinner on the way home. All money and reservations for the U.N. bus trip must be turned in to Jill Lillie (hmmbird@comcast.net) no later than April 15th.

ALTRUSA ACCENT **Principle Eight**

There are only two Altrusa Principles that don't begin with "Altrusa is", "Altrusa develops" or "Altrusa commends". These relate to what you will receive from being an active Altrusan, that is, what Altrusa can and will do for you. Principles #3 and #8 are different.

Principle #3 tells you what others think of you and your standing in the community when you are asked to become an Altrusan, while Principle #8 spells out what is not required, and not promised, but what the rewards are of being an Altrusan. In many ways it is a summary of the other eleven principles. It states "Membership carries with it no obligation to transact business with members. It makes no promise of returns in any commercial specie. Its rewards are in proportion to the loyalty, unselfishness and character of the member herself."

Remember, Altrusa is the search for what is best in character, business and citizenship. But as Principle Eight says, the rewards are in proportion to one's loyalty, unselfishness and character. Principle Eight is blunt. It tells you what is not expected or promised, but where the rewards are when the other eleven principles are incorporated into your life.

Mildred

VOLUNTEER HOURS

NOTE: 2 hours added for each Altrusan's dinner reservation

January – March, 2007

The following volunteer hours have been reported for the First Quarter of 2007:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Altrusa Service: | 123.75 |
| Altrusa Business: | 366.50 |
| Non-Altrusa Service: | <u>255.75</u> |
| for a total of | 746.00 hours |

Our total hours for the 1st 6 months of the club year (June – December, 2006) were

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Altrusa Service: | 146.00 |
| Altrusa Business | 538.25 |
| Non-Altrusa Service: | <u>1,006.75</u> |
| for a total of | 1,697.00 hours |

**KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK – AND
KEEP REPORTING!!!**

THE ENVIRONMENT COLUMN **Rain Barrels**

A rain barrel collects and stores stormwater runoff from rooftops. By detaining (temporarily holding) the stormwater runoff during a rain event, you can help add capacity to the storm sewer system and reduce sanitary sewer overflows to our creeks. Also, the collected rain water can be reused for irrigation to water lawns, gardens, window boxes or street trees.



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Rain barrels can be purchased on-line or they can be built. Whether you buy or build a rain barrel, the most important thing to remember is that they are only effective at stormwater management when the stored water is emptied between storms, making room in the barrel for the next storm.

Reasons for Building a Rain Barrel

- Rain barrels help lower water costs when the stored water is recycled for lawn irrigation, for example.
- Rain barrels help reduce water pollution by reducing stormwater runoff, which oftentimes picks up pollutants in its path, such as oil, grease and animal waste, and transports these pollutants to the nearest creek or storm drain.
- Storing rainwater for garden and lawn use helps recharge groundwater naturally.

Materials Needed for Building a Rain Barrel

- o One 55 gallon drum
- o One 5-foot section vinyl garden hose
- o One 4-foot diameter atrium grate (basket used in garden ponds and pool skimmers)
- o One ½ inch PVC male adapter
- o One ¾ inch x ½ inch PVC male adapter
- o One 5 foot section of drain hose, drain line, or sump pump line (1 ¼ inch)
- o One 1 ¼ inch female barbed fitting
- o One 1 ¼ inch male threaded coupling
- o One vinyl gutter elbow
- o Drill (or a hole saw)
- o Router, jig saw, or coping saw
- o Measuring tape

Optional:

- o Waterproof sealant (silicone caulk, PVC glue)
- o Teflon tape
- o Fiberglass window screen material or mosquito netting
- o Cinderblocks or wooden crate

Instructions for Building a Rain Barrel

Step 1. Cut Holes in Rain Barrel

- *Cut lower drain hole:* Measure about 1 inch above the bottom of the barrel (55 gallon drum) where the barrel side begins to rise toward the top. Using a ¾ inch bit (or hole saw), drill a hole through the barrel.
- *Cut upper drain hole:* Mark the upper drain hole according to where you want the overflow to be in the upper region of the barrel and in relationship to the lower drain. Use a 1 5/8 inch hole saw to cut out the overflow hole.
- *Cut top hole for atrium grate (filter):* Using the atrium grate as a template for size, mark a circle at the center of the top of the drum (locating the rainwater inlet in the center of the barrel lets you pivot the barrel without moving the downspout). Drill a ½ inch hole inside of the marked circle. Use a router, jigsaw or coping saw to cut until the hole is large enough to accommodate the atrium grate, which filter out large debris. Don't make the hole too big – you want the rim of the atrium grate to fit securely on the top of the barrel without falling in.
- *Cut notch to hold hose:* Using a ½ inch bit or hole saw, cut out a notch at the top of the barrel rim (aligned so that it is above the lower drain hole). The notch should be large enough so that the end of the hose with the adapter will firmly snap into place.

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Step 2. Set Up Barrel and Modify Downspout

- *Set up barrel:* Since water will only flow from the garden hose when the hose is below the barrel, place the barrel on high ground or up on cinder blocks or a sturdy wooden crate underneath your downspout, making sure the barrel is level.
- *Modify your downspout:* Cut your existing downspout using a saw so that the downspout's end can be placed over the top of your rain barrel. Use a vinyl downspout elbow that fits the size of your downspout (usually 3 inch or 4 inch) to aim the stormwater into the rain barrel or just simply place the barrel right under the downspout.

Step 3. Assemble Parts

- *Attach garden hose to lower drain hole:* Screw in the ½ inch PVC male adapter to the lower drain hole. The hard PVC threads cut matching grooves into the soft plastic of the barrel. Unscrew the ½ inch PVC male adapter from the hole. Wrap threads tightly with Teflon tape (optional). Coat the threads of the coupler with waterproof sealant (optional). Screw the coated adapter back into the hole and let it sit and dry for 24 hours (optional). Attach 5-foot garden hose to the PVC male adapter. Attach the ¾ inch x ½ inch PVC male adapter to the other end of the hose (this can be readily adapted to fit a standard garden hose).
- *Attach drain hose (overflow hose) to upper drain hole:* Put the 1 ¼ inch male threaded coupling inside the barrel with the threads through the hole. From the outside, screw the 1 ¼ inch female barbed fitting onto the threaded coupling. Use silicone on the threads (optional). Attach 5-foot section of drain hose to upper fitting and connect it to where the original downspout was connected (sewer riser) in order to transport the overflow into the sewer. The overflow must be conveyed

safely away from your property and your neighbor's property. If your downspout was not originally connected to the sewer, place a splash pad on the ground under the overflow hose to direct the flow away from the foundation of your home.

- *Place atrium grate and screen in top hole:* Using PVC glue, secure a piece of fine mesh winder screen inside or outside of the atrium grate to filter out debris and control mosquitoes. Place the atrium grate into the hole (basket down).
- *Position the downspout:* Position the end of your downspout so it drains onto the atrium grate on the rain barrel.

Excerpted from "A Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management", Office of Watersheds, Philadelphia Water Department, January, 2006.



CLUB MEETING MINUTES

March 21, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Tammy G, President.

Following the Altrusa Grace, guest Amy Debach was introduced by Nancy D. Maureen M, Director for District Two, was introduced as our official District visitor.

Altrusa Accent: Mildred M presented the Accent based on Principle 8.

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Positive Notes: Ginny M reported a good time during her beach vacation and she was going to pick up her new kitty after the meeting. Mildred M reported that she had her best checkup with the eye doctor this week. Charlotte Z reported a great vacation at Montera with old friends. Norma K reported success with her three year old grandson's potty expositions. Janice K reminded all about being prepared for your mammogram.

Approval of minutes: Minutes were approved as distributed.

Correspondence: Tammy reported that a grant application request has been received.

Communications Committee: No report.

Finance Committee: Doris C had the drawing for the 50/50, which was won by Mildred M.

International Relations Committee: Members were reminded of the bus trip to the United Nations on May 5, 2007. Payment for the trip is due by March 31.

Membership Committee: No report.

Service Committee: Tillie C reported on the Spring Fling participation and indicated that members will be reminded by email of the schedule.

Old Business:

Election of Officers – Tammy G reported the following slate of officers:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>President:</i> | Becky S |
| <i>First Vice President:</i> | Jill L |
| <i>Second Vice President:</i> | Gini T |
| <i>Recording Secretary:</i> | Tammy G |
| <i>Corresponding Secretary:</i> | Tillie C |
| <i>Treasurer:</i> | Doris C |
| <i>Directors:</i> | Dielisse D, Mildred M. |

The floor was opened for nominations. There were no nominations from the floor. By consensus a unanimous vote was cast for the election of the officers.

Mystery Night – Doris C reported that she now has 127 reservations. Thor Michaels will be our M.C. Becky S thanked members who have donated prizes. Micki P donated one week of her time share that can be used anywhere as a prize. It was determined that this will be the top prize. We have 40 auction items with the top prize being one week at a beach house in Avalon donated by Nancy D.

Service committee proposal – Tammy G explained the Park Forest Middle School proposed the project. It was defined that the club would be responsible for finding projects for the students to do, and perhaps help pay for a party for the students costing approximately \$200. **Motion was generated from the Service Committee to proceed with this project if the school is interested in Altrusa's assistance. Motion approved.**

New Business:

Grants Committee – Tammy G requested volunteers to serve on the grants committee for this year. Appointed to serve were: Ginny M, June K, Sandi C, and Sindy B.

Budgets – Committee Chairs are requested to have budget requests to Doris C by June 7, 2007.

International Bylaws Changes – Proposal for changes to International Bylaws were available for members to review. These revisions are being proposed by District Eight and will be presented during the

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District Two Conference for discussion and at the International Convention this year. Phyllis C will speak at the next meeting regarding these proposals and will answer any questions at that time.

Announcements:

Norma K thanked members in advance for their support of the Spring Fling and how important this fundraiser is to the Big Brother/Big Sister program. As a thank you for the club's support to the Youth Service Bureau, she has fourteen YSB people coming to Mystery Night.

Tammy G introduced Maureen M, who brought greetings from District Two and Governor Silvia Silverman, and congratulated the Centre County Altrusans on the success of the club and the leadership that this club enjoys.

Meeting Adjourned

Program: Tammy G presented the program, which utilized a survey of members regarding our fundraising activity Mystery Night. Suggestions as a result of the survey indicated that we need more advertising, cheaper tickets, prizes to those who sell the most tickets, making the presentation a live event. Another fundraiser suggestion was to sponsor a horse racing night.

Sindy B, Acting Secretary

[Editor's Note: A copy of the survey is given below on pages 8 – 9, for those who were unable to attend the March club meeting and would like to help decide our future fundraising directions.]

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

Altrusa Foundation Endowment Month

- 3 Board Meeting
- 11 ALTRUSA'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY**
- 18 Dinner Meeting (Board)
Program: "Earth Day: You Can Make a Difference"
- 27-29 DISTRICT TWO CONFERENCE,
Parkersburg, WV**

May

- 1 Board Meeting
- 16 Dinner Meeting (Membership)
Program: *Installation of New Officers*

BIRTHDAYS

April

- 7: Pam Stellabotte
- 10: Mildred Meder
- 11 Altrusa International**
- 12: Ahmed Banya
- 22: Tammy Gentzel
- 23: Pat Hawbaker
- 25: Pam Ruest
- 30: Tillie Convery

May

- 2: Jana King
- 4: Susan Hoover
- 15: Ann Walker
- 19: Judy Moyer
- 19: Jennifer Shuey
- 24: Cynthia Thackston



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FUNDRAISING SURVEY

For those of you who missed the business meeting, we've attached a survey regarding Mystery Night to assess members' support for the event. Please fill it out and return it to Tammy either by mail or at the business meeting in April. Thank you!

**Altrusa
Fundraising for a Cause
Survey**

Please check all that apply (this is a two-page document):

1. I participated in Mystery Night this year by:

- a. Supplying a prize _____
- b. Selling tickets _____
- c. Attending the event _____
- d. Serving on a planning committee _____
- e. Other _____

What other? _____

2. I did not participate in Mystery Night because:

- a. I was too overwhelmed with other responsibilities _____
- b. I don't like the event _____
- c. I was out of town or would be during the event _____
- d. The cost of participation is too high _____
- e. The date conflicted with other events _____
- f. The evening is too long _____
- g. Other _____

What other? _____

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3. I had difficulty selling Mystery Night tickets because:

- a. I don't know a lot of people _____
- b. I don't know many people who could afford them _____
- c. It conflicted with another community event _____
- d. The evening is too long _____
- e. Very few people thought it sounded interesting _____
- f. People wanted to know specifics about who would benefit _____
- g. Other _____

What other? _____

4. I think we should continue Mystery Night as a fundraiser, with the following changes:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

5. I think we should cancel Mystery Night and focus on one of the following:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

ALTRUSA ACTION:

April, 2007

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THINK SPRING!!



www.AltrusaCentreCounty.homestead.com