



Altrusa Action

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL, INC. OF CENTRE COUNTY, PA
APRIL 2009

Dinner Meeting: Wednesday, April 15,
6:00 p.m., Celebration Hall, **\$16.00**
Menu: The buffet will be Top round of
beef or tortilla encrusted Tilapia
Program: The April program is "Big
Green Budget"
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 12th.

BOARD

President: Becky Schrope
beckyschrope@hotmail.com
1st Vice President: Jill
hmmbird@comcast.net
2nd Vice President: Gini v2f@psu.edu
Treasurer: Phyllis cormanpj@aol.com
Recording Secretary: Amy M.
amarama3@hotmail.com
Corresponding Secretary: Tammy
tamgentzel2@cs.com
Director (2007-2009):
Mildred: mlmeder@comcast.net
Directors (2008-2010):
Amy D.: amosd14@yahoo.com
Susan: sbhoover@uplink.net

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications co-chairs: Tammy
tamgentzel2@cs.com and Ginny M.
ginginm@aol.com
Finance: Phyllis, cormanpj@aol.com
International Relations co-chairs: Charlotte,
cmz12@scasd.org and Sindy:
sbutler@woodcraftindustries.com
Membership: open
Service: Gini, v2f@psu.edu

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is in the air. Finally! For those of you who missed the Laga bag sale, it was indeed a success. And I have to say that I am now the proud owner of a Laga bag and it sure was a difficult task to select which bag I liked best. There were so many gorgeous ones but I also had a budget to stick to, drat!. I would have liked one of each. And I am so glad that we are going to repeat the sale in the fall. I'm going to start saving now. It's a minimal amount of work and I think we'll do even better next time around. And of course, Spring Fling is another kick-off we have to spring. I cannot tell you how many times the Spring Fling committee members thanked us Altrusans for being there. We truly were appreciated. And a special thanks to Phyllis Corman & Amy Miller for their many hours spent at the Ag Arena.

At the board meeting we discussed next year's budget and we have some work to do. I challenge each person to bring one new member to the club this next year and that will solve a lot of our budgetary problems. As a board we are also sensitive to the issue of raising dues because we know that many members struggle, especially in these tough economic times, to pay the dues at the current rate. We are discussing different creative options to help keep costs down for membership dues, dinner meetings, etc. As we truly value our current members and do not want to lose them because of inability to pay dues, please see me if you are planning on not renewing because of the dues.

Also, please remember to keep Charlotte Zmyslo in your prayers as she lost her husband, Jim, to pancreatic cancer. They truly were "soul mates" and Jim will be missed by Charlotte along with many whose lives he touched. He was a remarkable man. And Gini Tucker received very good news following her mother's surgery. I'm sure she'll fill us in at the meeting.

I hope to see you at the April meeting because the program looks very interesting. And I need to put a plug in for the conference in Reading. It's still not too late to register. It will prove to be a great time. Of that, I have no doubt.

Your Prez,
BECKY

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PROGRAM

The program for April is entitled "Big Green Budget" in keeping with our initial incentive this year of being aware of the importance of making our lives more green in order to save our earth. The program will feature Rich Irvin and John Haddad of Irvin Haddad, Associates. They will be speaking to us about the importance of having an energy audit completed in our homes and places of business because of the changing regulations upcoming with our electrical power providers and costs thereof. Come join us for an informative meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications – Tammy and Ginny, co-Chairs

The communications committee met on Tuesday, March 31 at Perkins Restaurant (well, two of us did!). We focused on generating a public service announcement for radio broadcast and designed to recruit new members. Our rough draft reads like this: "Wanted: energetic women looking for the opportunity to give, to grow and to learn. Altrusa International, Inc. of Centre County is looking for new members who are willing to share leadership skills and ideas. Opportunity to provide local, national and international service is a part of our mission. Contact _____ (incoming membership chair) for more information, or visit our web site at www.altrusacentrecounty.homestead.com" We are looking for feedback about the PSA and welcome your comments and input.

As part of the Board's discussion on April 1, the committee, in an effort to reduce the cost of production, will be re-working the size and contents of the yearbook so that it can be produced in house.

Finance – Phyllis, Chair

The Finance Committee is busy preparing a budget for next year. With the loss of several members last year and rising costs, our funds are stretched as never before. A draft budget will be presented at the April meeting for your consideration.

An invoice for the dues will be included in next month's newsletter. The total annual dues for Altrusa is \$100. It is important that renewing members submit their dues in a timely manner.

If you do not need an invoice to process your dues from your business, you may submit your dues any time before the end of May. The Treasurer would be very grateful for your timely payment.

Grant Committee – Jill, Chair

Laga Bags

Laga means beautiful in Achenese and I think our very first Laga handbag sale WAS beautiful! We may not have made a huge profit, but for a first time event I think we can all be happy and proud ... and it was fun ... AND it supported a great cause!! While we don't have final figures, we made somewhere in the \$500-\$700 range after subtracting all our costs. Best of all we learned a few things and plan to make changes for the next event. We can do better! We hope to do another sale, perhaps in early Fall, so check out your fellow members' arm-candy. It may give you ideas for birthdays, Christmas, Mother's Day, Valentine's Day or just as a treat for yourself.

Please make sure you come to the April dinner meeting to pick up the bag(s) you ordered. If you are unable to make that meeting, then make arrangements for another member to pick it up on your behalf, or call Jill to set up a pickup time. There may be a few handbags available for sale at the dinner meeting, so you could still support the cause if you were unable to attend the Saturday event. All profits go toward our grant fund benefiting local non-profits. The balance goes to help Sumatran women who survived the 2004 tsunami.

Thanks to all the members who helped out.

"Laga" Lillie

International Relations – Sindy and Charlotte, Co-chairs. No report

Membership – Chair undecided

Service – Gini, Chair

Banning Dirty Books – Library shelf cleaning this month will be on Saturday morning, April 18. Hope to see you there.

Spring Fling – Thanks to everyone who participated in Spring Fling! I know our assistance is always appreciated.



THE BUSY BEE

By Amy R. Miller

On March 21st 2009, Altrusa International of Centre County tried out a new fund raiser: selling Laga Handbags. These bags were brought to the club's attention by Jill Lillie, who discovered one in a shop downtown and fell in love with them. After purchasing one for her own use, Jill discovered that these bags were made by women in Indonesia and were being sold to benefit survivors of the Tsunamis, and thought it would be a perfect project for our club. Not only could we raise money for the women who made them, but we could also raise some funds to give back to agencies in Centre County.



Throughout the afternoon, women stopped by Celebration Hall to look over the bags, which are all hand crafted. An average size handbag can take a day or more to complete. The bags come in all shapes, sizes and colors. You can get a small wallet or change purse or even a back pack, luggage or belt. Some of the purses have shoulder straps and even beads. It was a great opportunity for us to tell people about Altrusa and the work we do in Centre County. Volunteers handed out brochures, took orders, socialized and pointed our "shoppers" to the hourly prize drawing and to the wonderful slide show about the bags. There was also coffee, punch and cookies for people to enjoy.



Several members decided to purchase some of these lovely bags, not only for themselves, but also as gifts for friends and family. One of the most difficult things was deciding which bags to get and in which color. Many of us spent the whole afternoon agonizing over exactly which ones we wanted, and if we should really get that many or if we should wait for the next sale. Since I don't carry a purse, after several rounds of looking and debating I finally decided on a small pink purse for my 5-year-old niece, and a pair of burgundy ones for my twin nieces, with a larger matching black one for their mother. They will probably end up being birthday or Christmas presents – if I can wait that long to surprise them.



At the end of the day, we sold over \$2500 worth of the bags, and though we did not raise as much as we hoped to, we still have over \$500 to put in our grant fund. And if you missed this sale, don't fret. We hope to have another bag sale in the fall when more people are looking for unique gifts or a new bag to spice up their fall wardrobe. And just remember: as the folks at Laga say:

"If you're going to carry a handbag anyway, why not carry one that helps rebuild lives?"



**(See back page for Calendar
and Birthdays)**

ALTRUSA ACTION:

April 2009

Altrusa International, Inc. of Centre County
P.O. Box 583
State College, PA 16804

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

Foundation Endowment Month

1	5:45	Board Meeting
11		ALTRUSA'S 92 ND BIRTHDAY
15	6:00	Dinner Meeting: Big Green Budget
24-26		DISTRICT TWO CONFERENCE, Reading, PA

May

6	5:45	Board Meeting
20	6:00	Dinner Meeting: Installation of Officers

BIRTHDAYS

April

10:	Mildred
11:	ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL
12:	Ahmed
22:	Tammy
25:	Pam

May

6	5:45	Board Meeting
20	6:00	Dinner Meeting: Installation of Officers

OUR HELP IS NEEDED!

