



December PARTY!

Details:

Wednesday, Dec. 19, 6:00 p.m.,
 Celebration Hall, \$25.00 per person,
 and you can bring a guest or two!

Menu:

Prime rib and roast turkey

ALL Reservations:

EVERYONE MUST contact Barb
 (814-238-8882 or brk@psu.edu)
 no later than 5:00 p.m. on Sunday,
 December 16th if you want to come.

NO STANDING RESERVATIONS



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A Message from the President



Truly Amazing. I'm talking about the November meeting. What a turnout and what wonderful positive energy! Our District Two governor, Silvia, was quite impressed by the entire meeting. Wasn't it wonderful to hear from the grant recipients about how they are using their funds? Even though these are not hands-on service projects, just look at the number of individuals, we as Altrusans, help. We can pat ourselves on the back and be proud that we are making a positive impact on the lives of children and youth, raising awareness, and helping the environment. I cannot thank you enough for the great support that was shown at that meeting. Again, I say, what an amazing group!

This month is super busy for many of us, but I hope to share laughter and fun with you at the holiday party.

Remember to do your random act of kindness (although I don't believe that I have to reiterate that with this group) and also remember that we will be collecting for the Ethel Beaver Fund at the party.

After last night's board meeting, I am very excited about the January meeting. Please remember to bring a guest or two as January is Add an Altrusan Month, and the plan is to excite possible new members and re-excite current members about *our* club.

Have a great holiday month. Eat, drink, & be merry. You deserve to because every one of you is a unique, caring, and splendid individual. I am truly blessed to know you.

Truly yours,

Becky Schroppe

The prez you elected



Calendar Reminders

- **December 19, 2007**—Altrusa Holiday Party
- **December Park Forest Day School item**—Play Dough (Bring to Dec. Party.)
- **Month of January**—Add an Altrusan Month (see membership report, pg. 2.)
- **January 16, 2008**—Business Meeting
- **February 9**—Centre County Library Clean up (Second Sat of each month!)
- **March 29**—Mystery Night (See committee sign up, page 2.)
- **April 24-27**—District Two Conference
- **May 17, 2008**—**NEW DATE** Bus trip to UN

Committee Reports

Committee work is the core of the Centre County Altrusa Club. Each member should actively participate on at least one of the following committees: Communications, Grants, Service, Membership, Finance, or International Relations. The committees below submitted a report this month:

Membership Committee Report

January is "Add an Altrusan Month". But, for Centre County we want to make it "Add Many Altrusans". Therefore, the membership committee and the board are asking each member to please make every effort to attend the January business meeting AND to bring a guest. The intent is to have guests experience a meeting and become interested in joining Altrusa. At the end of the business meeting, we will invite each guest to a reception (to be held later in January) to learn more about us.

For the program at the January business meeting, each table will spend time discussing needs that currently exist in our community and what Altrusa might do to address these needs. The purpose is to identify direction and potential service opportunities for 2008. By undergoing this process with guests present, we will be able to draw ideas from a broader population and, hopefully generate some increased enthusiasm in folks for joining.

Submitted by **Gini Tucker**

International Relations Committee Report

Ahmed is off to Sierra Leone for the holidays with a suitcase packed full of embroidery supplies and a check to buy a number of sewing machines. We are so excited to see this project finally becoming a reality. Thanks to all who have donated materials and supplies. Keep those threads, needles, and hoops coming! We will have Ahmed give us an update at a future dinner meeting.

IMPORTANT CHANGE: Please note that we have changed the date of the UN bus trip to Saturday May 17th because of so much going on in April. In addition, the weather will be that much nicer. Audrey Braver, our representative to the UN will hopefully be able to join us there.

Submitted by **Jill Lillie**

Mystery Night Committee Signup

The "mystery" of Mystery Night is how we manage to pull together every year and put on a wonderful evening of fun. Every club member is expected to help with Mystery Night. In addition, each member is expected to either donate a gift for the silent auction or solicit a donation. If you are feeling energetic, feel free to do both! Last year, we had some wonderful member donations including a time share and a week at the beach. Now is the time to begin the planning process.

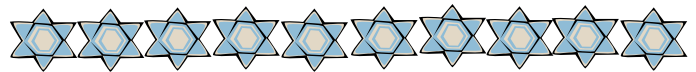
There will be a sign up sheet at the December holiday party to sign up for a committee for Mystery Night.

Your choices are: silent auction and prize committee (no solicitation, simply organization); publicity committee; decorating committee; and cleanup.

Consider stepping into a committee chair position to really get involved. If you will not be attending the December holiday party, please e-mail either Jill Lillie or Gini Tucker with your committee choice.

Since Tammy Gentzel offered to put together the invitation and have interns do the mailing, that is one committee that we can forego this year. If you know of someone who might enjoy attending Mystery Night, please submit their name and mailing address to Tammy as soon as possible so they receive an invitation. Be sure to mark March 29th on your calendar now!

Submitted by **Jill Lillie**



We got a letter from Donald Asendorf, Treasurer of the Ethel Beaver Children's Fund. It gave a breakdown of funds distribution for last year:

- ◆ Christmas/Holiday gifts \$5,925.00 for 89 children
- ◆ Misc. School Expenses \$520.00 for 5 children
- ◆ Graduation Expenses \$1,328.00 for 13 children
- ◆ Total of \$7,773.00 for 107 children

Submitted by **Tillie Convery**

Business Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2007

Altrusa Accent:

Responsibilities of Membership

presented by Vicki Wedler Herrle:

Know the bylaws and policies necessary to meaningful participation and keep informed about the organization by reading all Altrusa publications.

Guests: Silvia Silverman, District Two Governor; Christina Roberts, PA Center Orchestra (Presenter); Kate Sager, Assistant Director, Stepping Stone (Presenter); Katie Om-bolski, Clear Water Conservancy (Presenter); Gretchen Roth; Helen Evans

Positive Notes:

- ◆ **Louise Hess**—survived TWO knee replacements and is very happy to see us all again.
- ◆ **Theresa McElwain**—just celebrated 25 years working for the Borough of State College. She attended the Marine Corps birthday celebration at Myrtle Beach as her daughter's date and had a great time. AND she got her hair permed (hot stuff)!
- ◆ **Karen Blair**—hasn't seen us for a while and it's nice to be back!
- ◆ **Sally Rothwell**—won Phyllis Corman's labor at the Silent Auction and highly recommends her—she did a great job even though it was pouring rain.
- ◆ **Ginny Eisenstein**—her organic farmer son is still raising and selling chickens: free range, \$2.85 a pound! Contact Ginny to order!
- ◆ **Karen Mrsa**—plugs LCCC. Looking for new members for class of 2008! Go to Web site and make your nomination!
- ◆ **Barb Kautz**—Hello, **Lynn Myers**, haven't seen you in a dog's age! Ahmed gave presentation in Norway that was very well received.
- ◆ **Amy Miller** - She and Meredith Weber run a CCUW campaign for Pattee Library. They raised \$2400 for campaign, and \$1,000 in one day with a craft sale. Also, in December she will make her last payment for massage school!

- ◆ **Marla Moon**—introduces herself because she's been absent for the last six months. Her life is set to get even busier—she has been appointed by Governor Rendell and confirmed by the State Senate to serve a three year term on the State Board of Examiners of Optometry. She will be sworn in on January 9! child!). She also announced that she is selling Nittany Valley Symphony raffle tickets—first prize a wonderful cruise to Alaska for two (air fair included). Limited number to be sold. Buy yours now!
- ◆ **Sandi Craig**—Altrusa UNA\USA: Centre County Club raised \$1,000! Blurb in UNA\USA NL from Audrey Braver. Also, visit the Free Rice Program www.freerice.com and help end world hunger. You can play an English vocabulary game to donate rice for each word you get right. Finally, she visited the Hackensack, NJ, Burgan County club who fed more than 85 people at the Crisis Club.

Minutes: approved as presented

Committee Reports:

Communications: The Holiday Party will be at Celebration Hall. We have arranged for dinner to be served buffet style. Prime Rib, Roast Turkey, multiple sides and dessert will be served. Cash bar will be available. Cost will be \$25 per person. Please bring friends, family, and loved ones. We will have a gift exchange. Bring an item that you already own and want to get rid of OR a craft or something that you have made. Rules for the exchange will be announced at the party.

Finance: Drawing for 50\50. Won by Sindy Butler.

Membership: Recruitment dinner at January meeting. Bring a guest!!! Program will be small group discussions to improve service—two goals for the discussions: generate ideas for the service committee and generate new ideas from potential new members for ways to attract new members. Those guests who express an interest in the club will be invited to a recruitment social.

Recommendation from the floor: change dinner to 4th Wed. given attendance tonight? Survey membership?

International Relations: Ahmed leaving December 6, to deliver sewing supplies to Sierra Leone.

(Minutes continued pg. 4.)

(Business Meeting mins. Continued.)

Service Committee Report:

—Our champion of Walnut Spring Park Clean Up, Ann McGlaughlin—partnership turned in a new contract for partnership, and we got a thank you certificate.

—On Make a Difference Day (Oct. 20) 8 members cleaned the Centre County Library. The key lesson from this project was that it takes a LONG time to clean a book shelf! They're anxious to see us back. We will schedule the 2nd Sat. of each month for the project, beginning Feb. 9 at 9:00 a.m.! We'd like to make this an ongoing project so please MARK THE 2ND SAT. OF EACH MONTH AS CLEANING DAY AT THE LIBRARY! Given the library's funding cuts, they really need us. Some members of the group stayed for lunch and got to take a tour of the Centre County Historical Museum. Gini Tucker got to stand next to a gown worn at Abraham Lincoln's inaugural ball.

—Thank you for the goodies for Park Forest Day Nursery. Phyllis dropped them off. The Executive Director was so happy that she accepted them with tears in her eyes! Next month, play dough! (Try Ollies for inexpensive goodies.)

—Collecting for Ethel Beaver fund at holiday party!

—Perform a random act of kindness in the name of Altrusa for the holiday!

—Books for Babies—thrilled with the books Louise dropped off. They look forward to them every year, and stockpile them for families in need.

Old Business: Becky Schrope—Area I Workshop was one of the best I attended. Sharing by other clubs provided unique perspectives on service. It was the first meeting outside of State College for Gini Tucker. She had a great time and found it very educational. June Krumrine's perspective: Phyllis is a great driver and June won a great door prize—a new necklace.

New Business: None

Announcements: Tree decorating Dec. 1, Bellefonte Historical Museum. Thank you Amy Debach for organizing!

District 2 Conf., Apr. 24-27, 2008. Be there or be square!

Congratulations new Centre County Judge and new State College Area School Board member both from our club!

Phyllis is singing in the Bellefonte Victorian Christmas choir with a harpist from Harrisburg. Contact Phyllis for details.

Benefit for Rowland Theater Dec. 9. Contact Karen Blair.

Nancy Desmond—bring membership ideas to next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Program: Grant Recipient Panel

—Centre LifeLink not able to attend.

Becky Schrope, AIDS Project: Pass Through Mosquito Net Project received \$1,000 from Altrusa. Matching grant to Bill and Melinda Gates foundation awarded so 100 nets have been doubled to 200!

Kate Sager, YSB, Stepping Stone: One of 3 transitional living programs. Provides shelter and positive independent living skills for 16-21 year olds. Goal to transition to self-sufficient living. Works on employment, school, social skills, positive communication skills, healthy decision making. Altrusa grant used for healthy decision making education and health services.

Katie Ombolski, Clearwater Conservancy: Grant money used to produce educational brochure about Scotia Barrens. "Barrens" refers to a particular habitat type. Ours, Scotia Barrens, is a unique-pitch pine, scrub oak growth barren. It stretches from Clinton County to Bedford County. Centre County section, protected by the PA Dept. of Forestry is the headwater to Spring Creek and Bellefonte's Big Springs. Clearwater is working to assure preservation of the area to protect both this headwater source and unique habitat.

Kristina Roberts, PA Centre Orchestra: Grant will be used to fund small ensembles visiting public schools. Players have a script, wear costumes, and introduce instruments and historical musical periods to the children. Encouraging children to pursue music and playing instruments. Working to get the presentation on their Web site as a MP3, so they can download onto their iPods and listen again. Unexpected benefit—rapport building among secondary players

Silvia Silverman, District Two Governor; Impressed by the intergenerational and global impact of Centre County club. Intergenerational and Global impact are what feed her passion for Altrusa. The District Two Conference focus in April will be membership recruitment and growth.

When you sponsor a new member, please refer to and follow the Sponsor's Guide pamphlet Altrusa International, Inc. produces.

District Governor initiatives for membership:

Networking among ourselves, a free exchange of information: Web posting of club and members so it's easy to find one another and ask for mentoring for various job responsibilities or transition to new job or home.

Reach out to employers and universities to offer mentorship and encourage membership through flex time and time off for leadership development.

Minutes submitted by **Tammy Gentzel**.



This column is an expansion of our Positive Notes so that we can learn a bit more about the good things going on in the lives of Altrusans.

By Amy Miller

This month we are pleased to feature Dr. Marla Moon. Dr. Moon has been a member of Altrusa since 1984, nearly 24 years. What she likes best about being a member of Altrusa is the friendship, sharing, and support that exists between the members. She is a doctor of optometry (or optometrist) specializing in family eye care, pediatric, geriatric, and vision rehabilitative services.

Dr. Moon is a principal and founding partner of Nittany Eye Associates in State College. She has been a practicing optometrist for 25 ½ years, and has spent all but one of them here in State College. She strives to provide the best care possible to her patients. She takes pride in her ability to detect and rehabilitate visual problems for patients when other doctors have been unsuccessful. She has many patients that travel from about 2 ½ to 3 hours away just to receive her specialty care services on a regular basis.

In November, Dr. Moon was appointed by Governor Rendell and confirmed by the State Senate to serve a three year term on the State Board of Examiners of Optometry. This board oversees the licensing of all doctors of optometry in Pennsylvania. It also reviews complaints brought before the state about a provider of eye care; reviews licensing issues; interprets the practice of optometry act; and discusses any issues that involve the eye health and eye safety of the citizens of the commonwealth. The board meets in Harrisburg 6 times each year.

While serving on this board, Dr. Moon will continue to provide care to all her patients through Nittany Eye Associates. She will be sworn in on January 9, 2008. Congratulations Dr. Moon!

Park Forest Day Nursery items for next month: Glue Sticks! Bring items to the party on Dec. 19!



Membership Recruitment

During her visit, District Two Governor Silvia Silverman outlined two initiatives to increase membership: support for each other through membership networking and enhancing recruitment through employer contact. Interestingly enough, our own Amy Miller was able to become a member only because her employer, Penn State Pattee Library, was able to get flex time approved so that she could attend business meetings, board meetings, and service projects. She received this okay because of our work in leadership development and philanthropy.

So, when you think through who you might want to invite to dinner in January, don't automatically discount a friend whose work schedule and commitments seem to conflict with our meeting schedules. It is quite possible that she (or he!) could arrange for paid time off or flex time to make things work. Many employers now allow for time off to do volunteer work (it's called corporate volunteering). It's easy to investigate —just make an inquiry to an immediate supervisor about company policies.



Amy Miller

Submitted by Tammy Gentzel

Plea for Volunteer Hours

Unfortunately, only two or three members have reported their volunteer hours recently, despite the fact that the handy recording form has been included in every issue of the newsletter. The numbers for the 2nd quarter of our club year are as follows, reported by only **three** Altrusans:

September: 153.25 hours; October: 164.25 hours;
November: 216.00 hours = **Total: 533.50 hours**

This actually includes 2 hours per club meeting, counting as Altrusa Business, for everyone with a reservation.

I'm absolutely certain that most of you do some volunteering: Altrusa projects, Altrusa business, and non-Altrusa activities. PLEASE keep track of your hours, or at least estimate them, and let me have the numbers for Becky so she can report our wonderful work to International. I'll be happy to accept hours from past 3 months if you have them.

If you want to fill out the form from the newsletter, you can mail it to me (see your yearbook), or e-mail the numbers to me at brk@psu.edu, or even telephone me at 814-238-8882.

Submitted by Barb Kautz

Birthdays

Holiday Party—Dec. 19th



DECEMBER

- 3 Jill Lillie
- 5 Joan Grant
- 8 Celeste Olmstead
- 11 Ginny Eisenstein
- 17 Doris Conner
- 21 Amy Debach

JANUARY

- 2 Sally Rothwell
- 15 Jo Gettig
- 21 Peg Dobrinska
- 27 Janice Keough

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL!

The menu and time are set for our Holiday Party on December 19 at Celebration Hall.

We will be served buffet style, but will partake of yummy holiday foods instead of our standard fair. As a result, the cost for dinner will be **\$25 per person**.

Don't forget to invite your spouse, significant other, friend or relative—anyone that you would like to share the holiday season with!

Holiday Party Gift Exchange

Please bring an item from you home that you no longer want (old and used acceptable - the crazier the better) or some item you have made and would like to gift to another. Rules for the exchange will be announced at the party!

Hope to see you there!



Please send your committee report or other news to Celeste at cmo118@psu.edu for inclusion the newsletter.

Altrusa Action is the monthly newsletter of Altrusa International, Inc. of Centre County
www.AltrusaCentreCounty.homestead.com

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