



# Altrusa Action

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

Dinner Meeting: Wednesday,  
February 18, 6:00 p.m.,  
Celebration Hall, **\$16.00**

Menu: The buffet choices will be  
Glazed pork roast or crab-  
stuffed flounder

Program: Celeste Newcomb, her  
medical mission to Nicaragua.

Reservations: Please call to make a  
reservation or to cancel a  
standing reservation. Call  
Barb (238-8882) or email her  
([brk@psu.edu](mailto:brk@psu.edu)) by the evening  
of Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **BOARD**

President: Becky Schrope

[beckyschrope@hotmail.com](mailto:beckyschrope@hotmail.com)

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Jill

[hmmbird@comcast.net](mailto:hmmbird@comcast.net)

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Gini [v2f@psu.edu](mailto:v2f@psu.edu)

Treasurer: Phyllis [cormanpj@aol.com](mailto:cormanpj@aol.com)

Recording Secretary: Amy M.

[amarama3@hotmail.com](mailto:amarama3@hotmail.com)

Corresponding Secretary: Tammy

[tamgentzel2@cs.com](mailto:tamgentzel2@cs.com)

Directors (2007-2009):

Mildred: [mlmeder@comcast.net](mailto:mlmeder@comcast.net)

Doris: [doris@ccunitedway.org](mailto:doris@ccunitedway.org)

Directors (2008-2010):

Amy D.: [amosd14@yahoo.com](mailto:amosd14@yahoo.com)

Susan: [sbhoover@uplink.net](mailto:sbhoover@uplink.net)

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Communications co-chairs: Tammy

[tamgentzel2@cs.com](mailto:tamgentzel2@cs.com) and Ginny M.  
[ginginm@aol.com](mailto:ginginm@aol.com)

Finance: Phyllis, [cormanpj@aol.com](mailto:cormanpj@aol.com)

International Relations co-chairs:

Charlotte, [cmz12@scasd.org](mailto:cmz12@scasd.org) and

Sindy:

[sbutler@woodcraftindustries.com](mailto:sbutler@woodcraftindustries.com)

Membership: Doris:

[doris@ccunitedway.org](mailto:doris@ccunitedway.org)

Service: Gini, [v2f@psu.edu](mailto:v2f@psu.edu)

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Oh gosh, it's difficult to write a positive and upbeat message in February. Cabin fever, and what seems like a never-ending very cold, snowy and icy winter with Punxsutawney Phil seeing his shadow had me in a negative mood. Add to that an alarmingly overwhelming workload and things were looking quite dreary for the remainder of the month.

But then, we had the Altrusa board meeting and shared some laughs and got some work done. And it occurred to me that I had March to look forward to, and there is such positive movement within the club. Such as, a new and exciting fundraising venture, a slate of wonderful women to run for leadership of the club, Barb Kautz regaining her health and strength, among other things. I recognize that our membership numbers have dropped, but I truly believe that we are a core group working together to provide service to the community, and in our endeavors the membership will grow again. Yet another positive note to look forward to.

And last but not least, Conference is coming up, and as the fun-loving hard working Reading Club is hosting the event, I'm sure it will be a Conference to remember. I know I'll shed some sweat and tears this month, but I have Altrusa to thank for times to look forward to. I hope every member shares the feeling that Altrusa, and our members, offer them the same.

Truly,

*BECKY*

## **FEBRUARY PROGRAM**

Celeste Newcomb, former director of CVIM, will be our speaker. She'll tell us about the medical mission trip she went on last year to Nicaragua. It should be fascinating, so put the date on your calendar NOW. See you there.

President: Becky Schrope  
[beckyschrope@hotmail.com](mailto:beckyschrope@hotmail.com)  
P.O. Box 583  
State College, PA 16801

[www.altrusacentrecounty.homestead.com](http://www.altrusacentrecounty.homestead.com)

Editor: Barb  
Production: Tammy  
Distribution: Barb

## COMMITTEE WORK

### **Communications** – Tammy and Ginny, co-Chairs

Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 31, 5:30 p.m., Perkins Family Restaurant. We're looking for new members who have fun with publicity and marketing. Please join us!

### **Finance** – Phyllis, Chair

No report

### **Grant Committee** – Jill, Chair

No report

### **International Relations** – Sindy and Charlotte, Co-chairs

No report

### **Membership** – Doris, Chair

No report

### **Service** – Gini, Chair

Banning Dirty Books—Cleaning library in shelves in Bellefonte will be February 21, 9:00AM-noon.

Park Forest Day Nursery—This month's collection item is Wipes—for hands, for tables, and for bottoms (diaper wipes)

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The following slate of officers is being presented to the membership for election at the February meeting:

President	Jill Lillie
1st Vice President	Gini Tucker
2nd Vice President	Sindy Butler
Recording Secretary	Amy Miller
Corresp. Secretary	Tammy Gentzel
Treasurer	Phyllis Corman
Director (2009-2011)	Ginny Mulhatten
Director (2009-2011)	Theresa McElwain

## WORDS FROM INTERNATIONAL

**REMINDER: PROPOSED BYLAWS,  
RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
DUE FEBRUARY 15, 2009**

Districts or Clubs discussing proposed changes to International, District or Club bylaws must submit

their request to the Bylaws, Resolutions and Recommendations (BRR) Committee by February 15, 2009. This early deadline is necessary for bylaw changes to be published in the pre-Convention International Altrusan and to meet the requirement for 60 days advance publication.

Obviously, this is before most Districts hold their annual District Conference where bylaw proposals are discussed! and voted upon. You should submit those changes that you plan to have on the agenda for your District Conference. Should the request not be approved by the membership, the BRR Committee will withdraw it from consideration at the 2009 Altrusa International Convention.

If you have any questions about the process for submitting BRR materials, you can refer to International Policy 7, Bylaws, Resolutions and Recommendations. If you have questions about a submission or need help preparing one, please e-mail BRR Chair, Jackie Stenger, at [jtstenger@aol.com](mailto:jtstenger@aol.com) or call her during the day at (253) 627-3064.

### **Racing Into the Future – Join Us for the 2009 Altrusa International Convention**

Convention Dates: August 6-9, 2009

Site: Indianapolis Marriott Downtown Hotel, 350 West Maryland Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46225

Registration Fee: \$360 (includes four days and four meals)

Daily Rate: \$50 (meals not included)

Hotel Room Rate: \$130 plus 16% interest (\$161.24) per night

Look for more detailed Convention information coming to Altrusa International's Website, [www.altrusa.com](http://www.altrusa.com), next week.

### **Press Release**

We were forwarded an Altrusa Press Release for a coordinated distribution from all Clubs to their local news sources, promoting the long service history of Altrusa and how Altrusa is responding to President Obama's call to service. International also worked with a professional newswire service for a national press release distribution to hard copy and on-line

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sources like USA Today, Google, Yahoo and New York Times.

The good news is that the press release is showing up on **MSNBC!!!!** We want to receive lots of Internet hits on this.

We are again asking for your assistance. Please use your District e-mail distribution lists to send the following link to each of your members:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28889011/>

Ask every member in your District and/or Club to check out the press release on MSNBC's website and then to use the link toward the bottom of the page to e-mail the article to several people they believe would find it interesting. Also, if they are so inclined and we urge them to do so, to click on "Discuss Story" and in the "Comment" section, to talk about how their Club is going to be responding to President Obama's call for more service. The idea is to make sure the story gets a lot of "hits" which will elevate its Internet prominence. And there's a special place on the MSNBC site where they feature the most e-mailed stories, and our goal is to make that list.

If you're interested, you can check periodically over the next couple of days to see where else of interest the press release, or anything related to our press release, shows up. For example, you can use these terms in Google search: Altrusa and service; Altrusa and Obama.

As you know, we are trying to broaden name recognition for Altrusa. We cannot do this alone. We need your help and that of our Clubs and members. We are depending on you.

Thanks so much for your active participation in this most important endeavor and in all that you do.

### ***DINNER LEFTOVERS***

It's come to our attention that any food left over from our buffet dinner at Celebration Hall must, because of Department of Health rules and regulations, be thrown out. Although the owners cannot supply each of us with "to go" containers, they are quite willing to have us bring our own, and take the leftovers with us. So, why not do so? Have tomorrow's lunch or dinner taken care of, and reduce what goes into the landfill!

### ***BAG LADIES WANTED***

Our fundraiser on March 21st at Celebration Hall will be a Laga handbag sale. The sale/open house will be from 2-6 pm, and refreshments will be served. We will also offer hourly door prize drawings.

The handbags are embroidered with intricate designs, an art form that has been passed down from generation to generation in the town of Banda Aceh in Sumatra. Each bag is unique, and made on a treadle sewing machine. We will also offer luggage, wallets and checkbook covers – something in every price range!

This is a purchase that you can feel really good about. Half the proceeds will go to Laga Designs International, a business that was formed to provide a livelihood for the survivors of the tsunami that hit Sumatra in 2004. What started out as mission relief by Louise and Ray van Broekhuizen of Irvine, California turned into a full-fledged business. The van Broekhuizens did not want to offer charity, but rather to provide a livelihood to help people rebuild their lives. They currently employ over 100 women, but want to grow the business to employ over 1200 people.

The other half of the proceeds will go to Altrusa's grant money fund. Women helping women!!

We will need a few members to help out in two-hour increments on the day of the sale. There will be a signup sheet at the February meeting. In addition we will need everyone to help sort and distribute when the bags arrive. Please check out sample bags at February's meeting and please, **please** do your part as a member and spread the word. Get your friends excited about this wonderful cause!

For more information check out

[www.lagahandbags.com](http://www.lagahandbags.com)

"If you are going to carry a handbag anyway, why not carry one that rebuilds lives?"

### ***MINUTES***

#### **Club Meeting January, 2009**

**GUEST:** Deepthi, brought by Amy Debach. She is a grad student who Amy met through Global Connections

**ACCENT:** Poems written by Maya Angelou, read by Sandi Craig

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### POSITIVE NOTES:

**Jill Lillie:** Director of marketing at the Village at Penn State, she often also wears the PR hat. She recently got a call from Ed, who is doing a story about Universities and retirement communities. They are going to do a piece on the Village. Jill found out that Ed is from a National PBS station and that Paula Zahn is actually doing the piece.

**Sandi Craig:** Sandi's sister called from North Carolina. She has a new baby girl, Kaitlin, who was born this afternoon. Sandi also wanted to remind us that Habitat Houses are on the tables again. Please donate; we have raised 77.51 so far.

She is also offering a challenge: We have been dusting the shelves in the Bellefonte library for a year. Sandi will contribute \$2 for each new person that comes to help this weekend.

**Mildred Meder:** on behalf of Barb Kautz, who comes home tomorrow. Barb thanks everyone for their thoughts and assistance while she has been ill.

**Theresa McElwain:** On April 18 & 19 her church is doing City Serve again. They will have enough people this year to help in Bellefonte. Last year they did over 600 projects, and hope to do even more this year.

**Phyllis Corman:** wanted to let us know that Susan Hoover fell and broke her wrist in 4 places. She said to tell everyone hello. Susan is doing 1-handed email if you want to contact her.

**Micki Pharo:** has made 5 of the bags that we are making for International. She got the material from Norwalk furniture – it's upholstery samples. They gave her a car full, and it is just the right size to make the bags we need.

**Amy Debach:** has been reading a book *Gorgeously Green*. It talks about organic cleaning supplies and makeup, and has 8 simple steps to becoming more green. It is a fantastic book, and Amy will try to write up a book review for the newsletter.

**Becky Schroppe:** Yesterday, the day of the Presidential Inauguration, was one of the best

days she has had in a long time. She had a strong feeling of hope, and was very proud to be an American. She also wanted us to know that a sister Altrusan – Cheryl Bohn – was at the inauguration.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** was in the newsletter. Things are where they should be. The UNICEF group collected \$700, which we sent in.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Correspondence:** 2 invoices, given to the treasurer. Newsletter received from CVIM.

**Communications:** The brochure is done.

Thanks to Tammy for the bulk of the work, and to Amy M., Barb, and Theresa for input. We still have some yearbooks that need to be delivered – these were given to some attending members to deliver.

**Finance:** 50/50 – Jill won, and donated the \$5 back to scholarship

**Membership:** no report

**Service:** Library cleaning is 9-12 this Saturday (the 24<sup>th</sup>). Please come if you can. Feb 21<sup>st</sup> should be the next one.

**International Relations:** Thank you to Micki and June for making bags. Phyllis has also volunteered to help sew. We still need supplies. A list will be in the newsletter so we can bring things next month.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Nominating Committee:** We elected a committee in November, but due to a conflict, we need 3 different members to do it. The new members are Mildred Meder, Marla Moon and Sandi Craig. They will take over so there are no conflicts of interest.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**Night at the Races:** The board has recommended that we postpone this event until Summer. We really don't have enough time to put it all together for March, and don't know how well we would do with the current state of the economy. We feel that it would

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be easier to do and will draw more people if we hold it in the summer.

Phyllis moved that we postpone night at the races to summer when we can make it an outdoor event. Pam Seconded. All present were in favor of the motion.

**New idea for Fund Raiser in March:** We would like to have a party and sell LAGA Bags; the bags are handmade and very beautifully designed. They are providing livelihood to survivors of the Tsunami in Indonesia/Sumatra. Jill is going to be a home consultant, and will have exclusive rights in the State College Area for selling the bags. Half of the proceeds would go to Altrusa, half of the money goes to the victims. We will send out invitations and have people come. We will take orders on the day of the event, and have door prizes, etc. When the orders come in we will need help to sort and distribute. The event will be on March 21<sup>st</sup> from 2-6 p.m. at Celebration Hall. Jill has put together a Power Point presentation that will be running during the day, to talk about the benefit of the bags. She will show us the Power Point during an upcoming meeting.

Phyllis moved to authorize Jill to move forward with the fund raising event for this club on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Louise seconded. All present were in favor of the motion.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- We have yet to collect for the Ethel Beaver fund. This is a fund that helps children out all year. We would like to collect at the February Dinner Meeting as a Valentines Gesture – from the heart. Please bring an extra dollar or two to the meeting. It will be in the February Newsletter.
- Blow someone's horn:
  - For the article about Pam Ruest in the CDT
  - For Marla Moon, who has served for 6 years on the board of optometrists in Philadelphia. She also does a day of pediatric eye care each month.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

**PROGRAM:** What's your commitment to Altrusa?

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**



**February**

4	5:45	Board Meeting
18	6:00	Dinner Meeting (International Relations)

**March**

4	5:45	Board Meeting
8		Day for Women's Rights and International Peace (UN)
18	6:00	Dinner Meeting (Communications); Event Planning
21	2:00-6:00	LAGA Bag Sale - Fundraiser

**BIRTHDAYS**

**February**

- 1: Elizabeth G.
- 8: Sandi C.

**March**

- 8: Ann McG.
- 25: Sara K.



# *ALTRUSA ACTION:*

*February 2009*

Altrusa International, Inc. of Centre County  
P.O. Box 583  
State College, PA 16801

**SPRING IS COMING –  
THINK GREEN**



[www.AltrusaCentreCounty.homestead.com](http://www.AltrusaCentreCounty.homestead.com)