



# Altrusa Action

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL, INC. OF CENTRE COUNTY, PA  
JULY, 2008

**Dinner Meeting:** Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m., Celebration Hall, **\$16.00**

**Menu:** The buffet will be **Beef or chicken fajita**

**Program:** Planning programs for the coming year.

**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, July 13<sup>th</sup>.

## BOARD

President: Becky Schrope

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## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications co-chairs: Tammy

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

International Relations co-chairs:

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Membership: Doris:

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

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Altrusans,

On July 2<sup>nd</sup> we started our new year with our annual planning retreat. At this meeting members enthusiastically discussed new ideas, revisited current projects and gave valuable insight to board members to increase club membership and retain current membership. Leadership, mentoring, support, and fellowship were some of the “buzzwords” that were being thrown around. And it was especially stimulating to hear senior members and fairly recent members talk about the past, present and future. Amy Miller and I will be putting the goals, strategies and actions into a grid that will be placed into the yearbook for reference. There will also be some changes at the monthly membership meeting agenda that will be more interactive and fun. It feels like renewed electricity will be part of 2008-09 meetings.

I want to thank all members who participated. And I need to thank Tammy Gentzel for assisting me with the provision of food and beverages. I hope I made up for last year where I did not provide any “snacks” and there were many “grumbling” stomachs.

I also feel that I need to recognize each month a member of the club who quietly gives so much of their time. I hope not to upset anyone, because I know we all contribute, but this is for those whose contributions may not be as “out there” and apparent. This month I'd like to recognize and thank Ginny Mulhatten for all the behind the scenes work she does on the yearbook. This is a huge endeavor every year and she takes it on without complaint and does an excellent job. Kudos to you, Ginny.

The next couple of months look to be fun filled. I know membership is busy putting together an exciting summer picnic, so keep the date of August 20<sup>th</sup> open in your busy date book. Hope to see you at one or both of the upcoming meetings.

**BECKY**

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Communications** – Tammy and Ginny M., Co-chairs

We collected several new member pictures for the yearbook at the last business meeting, thanks to Amy Debach! We will continue to collect them as the summer proceeds. Amy does an excellent job of making EVERYONE look beautiful, so please don't be shy! The pictures are incredibly helpful to new members who are struggling to put faces with names and positions.

We have begun submitting information about Altrusa to the *Centre Daily Times* on a regular basis. Keep your fingers crossed and watch for us in the *Out and About* column and calendar.

### **Membership** – Gini, Outgoing Chair; Doris, Chair Get ready for a Night at the Races!!

The entertainment at our August picnic this year will be Horse Racing. Some have suggested the possibility of using Horse Racing as an additional Altrusa fundraiser. The membership committee decided the picnic would provide a good opportunity to test out the idea....as well as to provide some good fun. So, please bring your friends and relatives!

The fee for the evening, dinner and entertainment, will be \$20. The remaining details will be announced at the July business meeting and in the August newsletter.

### **Service** – Gini, Chair

As a final step in Mystery Night 2008 we would like to gain everyone's feedback regarding the event. Please answer the questionnaire at the end of this newsletter whether or not you attended the event. Your input is extremely important. The form is brief and will not take you long. Thank you!

## IT'S YOUR TURN

Mildred Meder

At our May meeting, club members broke into their interest groups. I became the chair of the "Helping Hand" committee. (Believe me I had nothing to do with the naming of this committee.) Its goal is to remember that we are sisters. (OK we have one brother.)

Our lives are busy and full, full, and full. To paraphrase a saying, "We are Altrusans and are here to help you". To reach our goal, a number of objectives have been developed. One is to become

more aware of what is happening in each other's lives. Therefore, each of you is asked to let me know when some one is ill, or there has been a death, promotion or another event of which other club members should be aware. Since I have very little to do and am looking for things to occupy my time, please e-mail me or call me: Phone 238-7779, [mlmeder@comcast.net](mailto:mlmeder@comcast.net).

## QUESTION

If you're getting this newsletter courtesy of the US Postal Service, is there a **red S** on the label? If so, you currently have a standing reservation for the regular dinner meetings (NOT the picnic or the Holiday Party). We expect you to attend unless we receive a cancellation. If you'd like to change your reservation type, please let Barb know ([brk@psu.edu](mailto:brk@psu.edu) or 238-8882).

If you received this via email, there'll be a **message in red** if you have a standing reservation, and the same comments apply.



### **THE BUSY BEE** By Amy R. Miller

This month's column features Mildred Meder and her husband Dave, who is a member of Altrusa International, Inc. of Blair County, PA. The Meders recently returned from a road trip that started at the Altrusa District Two Conference in Richmond, Virginia, took them to visit their daughter in North Carolina, then on to see Mildred's sister in Florida, and finally to visit the Altrusa club of Enterprise, Alabama before returning to Pennsylvania. During their travels, the Meders took along some very special cargo: **nearly 700 children's books.**

Every year the Blair County club collects children's books that they then distribute at the Hollidaysburg Halloween Parade to children 7 or younger. They often have books left over which are passed on to other local charities. However this year they decided to give the extra books to the Altrusa club of Enterprise. That club has a program called "No Child Without A Book". They use blue

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collection boxes to gather books, which are then delivered to children in the city's elementary schools. The Meders first learned of the program at last year's Altrusa International Convention. While attending, Dave met Judy Atkinson, past president of Altrusa International and member of the Enterprise club, who told him about their literacy program.

On March 1, 2007, tornados hit Enterprise, Alabama, destroying Enterprise High School, severely damaging the Hillcrest Elementary School, and taking the lives of 8 children. When the Meders learned of this tragedy they wanted to help, and committed to add their extra children's books to the program. The books the Meders delivered were given to the children of Hillcrest Elementary. According to Mary Clark, literacy coordinator of the Enterprise Altrusa club, there were enough books for every child to have their own.

An article about the Meder's journey and donation appeared in a June 16<sup>th</sup> issue of *The Enterprise Ledger*. Mildred also recently received a thank you card from the Enterprise club, which had the following message:

*Dear Mildred (Centre County)*

*Please extend a heartfelt thank you from Altrusa of Enterprise for all the support you gave us recently with collecting books.*

*We understand the amount of work behind any event and we are truly grateful for your help.*

*Sincerely,*

**ALTRUSA OF ENTERPRISE**

Way to go, Mildred and Dave! Thank you for your kindness and your dedication, and for reminding us what it can really mean to be an Altrusan.

## **MINUTES**

Club Meeting, June 18th

**Guests:** Julie Brink (brought by Nancy): writes for CDT; she also works for Public Information at PSU and does the faculty/ staff newsletter.

**Accent:** Presented by Tammy to remind us of all the great members we have and that Altrusa is not just about service: **Principles of Altrusa #11** and **Responsibilities of Membership #12** (see your yearbook, pages A3 & A4).

## **Positive Notes:**

- **Louise:** reported on social meetings between Aminata and Ahmed with Louise's granddaughter and her fiancé.
- **Jennifer:** finished a 6-year term on PA land trust board of directors. She also won honorable mention for one of her pieces of art work on display at Hub Art Alliance, and currently has 2 pieces on display at the Gamble Mill.
- **Mildred:** is very proud of her granddaughter, who graduated from business school last week and received an award.
- **Becky:** her husband's cousin's daughter got a \$1,000 scholarship for leadership. She wants to be the 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Governor of Delaware, and says she got her skills from Becky and her mom.
- **Phyllis:** her great nephew graduated from high school, got a perfect score on SATs, and is going to study prosthetics and biology.

**May Business Meeting Minutes:** approved as circulated

**Treasurer's Report:** The budget was in the newsletter for members to review. Dues are still being collected from some members, and those who have not paid are reminded to pay them soon or they will be charged late fees.

**Correspondence:** We received membership renewal checks from several members, a newsletter from Mid Penn Legal Services, and a magazine for youth focusing on carbon footprints, which was given to the chair of the service committee for review.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Communications:** The year book is being updated. If you want a new picture or your information has changed, please notify Tammy or Ginny M. as soon as possible. Thanks to Amy D. for becoming our official photographer; she will take a new yearbook picture for any member who wants one. Celeste Olmstead, who recently resigned because she is having a baby, will be updating the brochure for us.

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**Grants:** There were 10 applications; Sindi, Ellie, Ginny M., and Jill are on the committee. They made the following recommendations, which were presented to and approved by the board at the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting

- Youth Service Bureau: \$ 1665 for martial arts program for 15 youth to pay for equipment and tournament fees.
- Women's Resource Center: \$800 toward Centre County Child Access Centre
- State College Community Theater: \$700 to sponsor 2 interns and 2 apprentices
- Clearwater Conservancy: \$500 for adopting 2 classrooms to go to Millbrook Marsh
- Helping Hands: \$300 for supplies & community outreach
- Tides (grief counseling): \$350 for pizza party once a month for kids
- Hope for Kids: \$600 for playground equipment for Kidz Rainbow Centre.

Ginny M. moved that the proposal to award the grant funds as presented be accepted, and the motion carried. Thanks to Grants Committee for doing a great job.

**Finance:** The proposed budget had been presented in the June newsletter, and was unanimously approved. The 50/50 drawing (\$8) was won by Tammy, who donated it to scholarship fund.

**Membership:** Doris is the new chair of this committee. She presented the proposal for a **Night at Races fund raiser**. Our hope is to rent the barn and picnic area at the Millbrook Marsh and charge \$15 per person. The membership committee will provide picnic-style food, and the event will be held on Wednesday August 20<sup>th</sup>, our traditional meeting night for a picnic. This will be a trial run for having an event like this as a fund raiser, so please invite your friends. The Blair County club has been invited to join us.

**Service:** Gini is the new chair of this committee. She is excited about service we have done so far, and is looking forward to the service projects that we want to be doing in the future. Just a reminder that Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> is Library Clean Up day.

**International Relations:** Charlotte and Sindi are the new co-chairs. Nothing to report.

**OLD BUSINESS:** no report

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Carbon Footprint:** Norma, Mildred, and Phyllis attended a meeting sponsored by UNA/USA where they talked about carbon footprints and what we could do to reduce them. It is hoped that this will be the focus of the program at the September business meeting. As members of Altrusa, we are asked to pledge to improve our footprints over the coming year, and to possibly challenge another organization in the local UNA-USA to improve theirs as well. Currently there is no group in Center County that is taking this on as a project. It takes an individual about 10 minutes to determine their own footprint; you need to have an idea of annual expenses for home heating and your car. The service committee, who will be guiding this project, asks that we consider the possibilities of what we can do if we got passionate about our Carbon Footprint. Taking an active role in improving our carbon footprint could get us good publicity, since no one else is doing this locally. We might even be able to extend our efforts through all of District Two, since Becky is the District Service Committee chair.

**Announcements:**

- The July 2 Board meeting will be followed by our strategic planning meeting starting at 6:30 pm. All members are encouraged to come.
- We are still in discussion with Brian from the Spikes about having an Altrusa night. He wanted us to sell 200 tickets, but we can't do that and are looking at other options. Tammy Gentzel, Norma Keller, Jennifer Shuey and Becky Schrope also have tickets to sell for their organizations.
- Alice Fuller resigned because she has trouble driving at night and is busy. We hope that she may miss us enough that she comes back.

**Adjourned:** 7:50

**Program:** Committee Planning

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**ALTRUSA MYSTERY NIGHT 2008 QUESTIONNAIRE**

As a last step in the Mystery Night 2008 process, the Board would like to gather some information from everyone in the club. Please answer the following questions, even if you did not attend Mystery Night.

Please e-mail your response to Gini Tucker at [v2f@psu.edu](mailto:v2f@psu.edu); mail it to: 1145 Karen St, Boalsburg 16827; or bring it to the next meeting. We really do want your input, and appreciate your taking the time to answer the questions.

You can circle, underline, or highlight the appropriate answer. Feel free to either include or not include your name at the end.

1. Please indicate all of the answers that apply regarding your participation in the preparation for Mystery Night.

- a. I participated on a committee.
- b. I contributed at least one item for the silent auction.
- c. I did not participate in the preparation efforts.

2. If you did not participate in the preparations, why not?

- a. I did not have the time.
- b. I thought it might cost me too much.
- c. I was not at any of the meetings when people were signing up for committees.
- d. I did not want to participate because \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. Please indicate the answer that applies regarding your attendance at Mystery Night.

- a. I attended Mystery Night.
- b. I did not attend Mystery Night.
- c. I did not attend Mystery Night but I did send a donation.

4. If you did not attend Mystery Night, why not?

- a. I had a conflict that night.
- b. There were too many activities/fund raisers going on around the same time.
- c. I did not want to attend a movie mystery event.
- d. I felt it was too expensive.
- e. I did not like the idea of contributing to the event when I did not know how the money would be used.
- f. Other \_\_\_\_\_

5. Did you bring any guests to Mystery Night?      Yes      No

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6. Did you invite any guests to Mystery Night who did not attend? If so, why did they not attend?
- a. They had a conflict that night.
  - b. There were too many activities/fund raisers going on around the same time.
  - c. They did not want to attend a movie mystery event.
  - d. They felt it was too expensive.
  - e. They did not like the idea of contributing to the event when they did not know how the money would be used.
  - f. Other \_\_\_\_\_
7. If you did not invite any guests, why not?
- a. The event was too expensive.
  - b. I did not want to be responsible for someone else's enjoying the night or not.
  - c. I don't enjoy the event enough to invite anyone else.
  - d. I did not want to invite anyone when I could not tell them how the money would be used.
  - e. I was not going to attend myself.
  - f. Other \_\_\_\_\_
8. Do you like the mystery movie event?    Yes    No
- a. If not, what part do you not like?    \_\_\_\_\_movie    \_\_\_\_\_food    \_\_\_\_\_silent auction
  - b. Why not? \_\_\_\_\_
9. This coming year we will know ahead of time which agencies and initiatives we will be supporting with the raised funds. You will be able to tell guests the projects to which they are donating. And, the grant recipients will bring additional guests. Given this new format,
- a. Do you think we should continue to do Mystery Night for our fundraiser?    YES    NO
  - b. If not, what would you rather we do? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What other comments would you like the club to consider? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

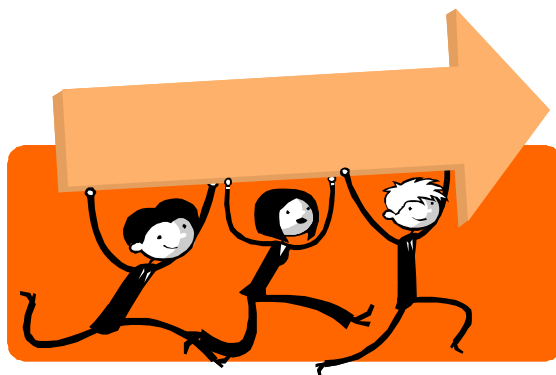


# *ALTRUSA ACTION:*

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***LET'S PLAN PROGRAMS  
FOR THE FUTURE!***



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