



## February Meeting

**Details:** Wednesday, March 19, 6:00 p.m., Celebration Hall, **\$16.00**

**Menu:** Beef Sienna or Roasted chicken with walnut basil sauce.

**ALL Reservations:**  
**Contact Barb** (814-238-8882 or brk@psu.edu) no later than 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 15 if you want to come.

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

## A Message from the President

It's hard to believe that it's March already. Easter and Mystery Night are just around the corner, and hopefully so is spring. I'm ready for flowers, sunlight, and warmth. This month and next are very busy months for Altrusans with **Mystery Night, Spring Fling, District Two conference, and the April general meeting** that will be interactive and fun. I want to take this time to remind everyone that we are seeking items from members for conference and Mystery Night. If you have something unique to Central Pennsylvania and are willing to part with it, please bring it to the March meeting so we can start the basket for one of the door prizes at conference. And remember to bring chocolate of any sort (examples; candy, candy bars, chocolate coffee, hot chocolate) also to be used for a raffle at conference to benefit the Foundation. There will be a prize of a contribution to the Foundation for the winning basket. I think it's the one that will get the most bids. And with chocolate and champagne, how could we not win?



We are also looking for a writer to work with Amy Miller to highlight a member in the newsletter. There are so many interesting people in the club that if you would volunteer to write these bios, I bet you would find it one of the most interesting things you will ever do in your life. And what better way to learn more about the make-up of this wonderful club. If you are interested please e-mail me at beckschrope@hotmail.com or see me at the meeting to discuss.

If you were planning on bringing a guest to a meeting, could I suggest the April meeting as it will be related to the club's work of the future and may invigorate your guest to join?

See you in March, either at the meeting, or Mystery Night, or both.

Truly yours,  
*Becky Schrope*



## 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:

### International Relations Committee Report

Because of the lack of numbers we are **canceling current plans to take a bus trip to New York and the United Nations In May**. Perhaps next year we can generate more excitement in a trip. We only had 7-8 people indicate an interest. Even if a few others came on board that would not fill up 1/4 of a bus.

Ahmed will be telling us about his last trip to Sierra Leone at the March dinner meeting. Don't miss it! You will also have the opportunity to meet his new wife.

Submitted by Jill Lillie

### Mystery Night Update

Time is closing in on us. Don't forget to do the following:

- 1) **Make your reservation for Mystery Night**- encourage friends to attend by reserving a table. That is only 6 people per table.
- 2) **Bring your auction/raffle item(s) to the March dinner meeting** on March 19th. That is the drop dead date! Fill out the donation form to tack onto your donated item so we can track it.

If you can't make the March dinner meeting, contact Linda Leslie at 814-237-3568, to see when you can drop it off at her house BEFORE March 19th. If you are unable to pick up or deliver your auction item, call June Krumrine at 814-238-5139 to pick it up for you

- 3) **Attend the March dinner meeting** to gather in your committees for last minute organizational details.

Submitted by Jill Lillie

## Updates for Yearbook

**New Address:** Ahmed Banya', 1231 S. Allen St., Apt. 6, State College, PA 16801.

**New E-mail Address:** Judge Pam Ruest: paruest@co.centre.pa.us

### Watershed Cleanup Day 2008

ClearWater Conservancy, a Centre County-based nonprofit land trust and natural resource conservation organization, will host its 12<sup>th</sup> **annual Watershed Cleanup Day on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**, 2008 during Blue and White weekend at Penn State. Volunteers will be assigned to a site in Centre County where they and their site coordinators will remove debris from streams, waterways, illegal dumpsites and sink-holes. The cleanup is from **8 a.m. to noon** and will be followed by a picnic for volunteers at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center.

Over the last 11 years, Watershed Cleanup Day volunteers have removed almost 1,400 tons of trash, with more than 1,100 of those tons removed in the last three years. In 2007, the event attracted over 250 volunteers.

"We aim to surpass last year's numbers and clean up even more in 2008," said Geoff Smith, water resources coordinator at ClearWater. "The growth of the event proves that our residents care deeply about improving the quality of our local watersheds, which is vital to maintaining the health and beauty of our community."

Volunteers can sign up by calling (814) 237-0400 or by e-mailing Geoff at [geoff@clearwaterconservancy.org](mailto:geoff@clearwaterconservancy.org). Once they are registered, they will be assigned a specific site and coordinator and informed where to meet their group on Saturday morning.

## Business Meeting Minutes

### *Altrusa Accent:*

Presented by Gini Tucker:  
Responsibilities of Membership:  
Number 5: Accept committee assignments and be willing to assume top leadership roles in the Club, District, and International when invited.

As a reminder, and in connection with this, **we still need chairs for the Publicity and Silent Auction Committees for Mystery Night.**

**Guests:** Joanne Dornich, PSU World Campus, guest of Nancy Desmond; Gloria Rosenberg, Executive Director, Forest Day Nursery, Program Presenter

**Minutes from last meeting:** Moved for approval by Phyllis Corman. Seconded by Tillie Convery

### **Committee Reports:**

**Treasurer's Report:** No report, but a concern that checks to the International Foundation have not cleared. She will call. Phyllis said that it normally takes a while for these checks to clear and it should not be a problem.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Communications:** No report. The committee would appreciate it if the committee in charge of that month's program would begin to submit a brief description of the program to the newsletter for publication. We would also appreciate it if that committee would let Barb know if she needs to make a dinner reservation for the program speaker.

**Finance:** Just a gentle reminder that if you have a standing dinner reservation you need to make sure to let Barb Kautz know if you will not be attending. If you have a standing reservation and do not cancel you still have to pay for dinner if you don't attend that month. If you cancel with Barb by the Sunday Deadline, you won't have to pay.

- ♦ The 50/50 was \$11. Barb Kautz won and donated it back to the club.

**Membership:** As a follow up to January's Program, in which we addressed community needs and ways

Altrusa can help, Habitat for Humanity - either sponsoring/ helping build a house or donating money or time to help ~ got the largest number of votes: 20. In response, Gini Tucker is going to do research and find out what we as Altrusans can do to help this cause. She will report back her findings to the club.

If any one has ideas to add to the list from January' Meeting let Gini Tucker know. In April, we will be looking at our lists again and decide what we as a club would like to do.

Because of the weather, the reception for new potential members, which was scheduled for February 13, was cancelled. There are still some interested people and they would like to reschedule if there are enough people who want to attend. If you know someone who you would like to invite, let Gini Tucker know.

**Service:** Once again they want to extend a big thank you to all members for the continued donation of supplies for the Park Forest Day Nursery.

March 8, is the Faith Centre Walk Registration is \$35 or you can collect pledges of \$35 + and not pay registration. Contact Phyllis Corman if you want to participate.

**Spring Fling** is also quickly approaching. Please sign up if you can. Thursday and Friday are set up days. Sign up sheets are going around and open slots will be put in the newsletter. Ideally we would like to see 2-4 people in each slot, but please add your name if the only slot you can work is full. We typically help with women's clothing, but if they have extra people we may be able to help in other ways. There is also a need for donations of toys and children's clothing. If you have something to give a way, donations can be brought to the Ag Arena during set up days. Also if you have furniture you would like to donate, the Youth Service Bureau will pick it up.

**International Relations:** Please check the newsletter for updates.

Ahmed took money to purchase 4 sewing machines to Sierra Leone. He forgot the suitcase of supplies, but will take it next time he goes. He should be at the March meeting with his new wife to give us an update on his trip.

## Business Meeting Minutes February 20, 2008

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**International Relations:** The UN Bus trip is scheduled for May 17th. Please let Jill Lillie know as soon as you can if you are interested. We need at least 47 people to make it worth getting the bus. Cost is \$65 per person which includes the price of the bus and getting into the UN. Meals are on your own. We will leave early and come back late. Money has to be turned in 3 weeks before the trip to reserve the bus. They do have small vans we could rent, but it is more expensive. If there is not enough interest, the trip may be cancelled. **(Editors Note: This trip has been cancelled.)**

**Nominating Committee:** Elections of officers is in March, the nominations are as follows but people can be nominated from the floor during the March Meeting as well.

- ◆ President: Becky Shrope
- ◆ 1st Vice President: Jill Lillie
- ◆ 2nd Vice President: Gini Tucker
- ◆ Recording Secretary: Amy Miller
- ◆ Corresponding Secretary: Tillie Convery
- ◆ Treasurer: Phyllis Corman
- ◆ Directors: Susan Hoover, Amy Debach

### Old Business:

**Conference Baskets:** We need 2 baskets to take to conference this year:

1. **Door Prize Basket:** we decided that we will fill this with Chocolate. Everyone should bring some type of chocolate/ their favorite candy bar to the March or April meeting.
2. **International Foundation Basket:** this will have a PSU/ Centre County Theme. Bring something unique to the area preferably non perishable.

The club that has the basket that goes for the most money will get some type of prize. When we have the items have been collected, Amy Debach and Becky Schrope will put them together. We hope Amy Debach's creative hand because will help us to win.

### Mystery Night:

**Please volunteer for committees if you have not, we need everyone's participation to make the event a success.**

Invitations have been mailed. We have extras if you think of someone else you want to invite.

Posters are being created for more outreach. As soon as they are complete, they will be e-mailed to members and members are asked to help post them in appropriate places around the county.

**Items for the silent auction or prizes need to be brought to the March meeting.** We request that each member give at least one item. A list of places we have solicited in the past was circulated and members were asked to sign up to solicit businesses where they do business or know people. We request that each member sign up to solicit at least one business.

It is really important for us to get quality items. The more money we can raise at this event, the more we can give back to the community. We need you. If you know anyone that has a time share, cabin, beach house, even a hut, please encourage them to donate it to us. These type of items raise lots of money in the silent auction.

Please list the name of the business donating item, business contact, value of items, your name etc. on forms that may be obtained from Becky Schrope. Include this form with your item when you turn it in.

Linda Leslie is taking donations at the dinner meetings and storing them until the event. June Crumrine is willing to go to businesses and pick up items on your behalf if you solicit them. Remember to send a thank you note after the event or when you go to pick up the items. Stationary has been emailed to people if they need it or can be obtained from Becky Schrope.

## Business Meeting Minutes February 20, 2008

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### New Business:

**Delegates for Conference:** The membership elected Jill Lillie, Sindi Butler, and Barb Kautz as Delegates with Ginny Eisenstein and Amy Debach as alternates.

Deadline for payment is April 1st. Registration is \$195 for all days. Hotel costs are not included. The club has a scholarship fund and money in the budget for Delegates. Also if you want to attend and it is a financial hardship email Becky with what you can afford and any subsidy that you might need to attend. She will take your request to the board.

**Conference Exhibit:** If we want to have an exhibit at conference, we have to put something together soon. Some clubs sell things. Becky does not have the time to put something together this year. We need someone to come up with ideas. Please help. If you have ideas and want to do this, let Becky know ASAP. There are requirements for what we exhibit. They are in the District Policies, but if you aren't sure what to do contact Mildred. She knows the requirements and when to find them. We don't want to be disqualified for not reading the rules.

### Positive Notes:

**Gini Tucker:** Wants to announce CHC's Ladies Bunco Night. It will be March 31st at 6pm at the Ramada Inn. Its lots of fun so please come if you can. Cost is \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. They are expecting 200 people this year.

**Theresa McElwain:** her son in law is back from the Navy. He got a marine Corp Commendation Medal for his service. He is going to be in Johnstown for 4 weeks before moving to California.

**Jennifer Shuey:** had her first Art Gallery Showing on Tuesday (19th). It was at the gallery in the Gamble Mill which will be officially opening in 2 weeks. Her show will run through April. She is donating one of her pictures to Mystery Night.

**Sandi Craig:** She is going to miss the next dinner meeting because she promised her 14 year old grandson that if she would take him to France. They are leaving on March 19th and spending 4 days in Paris.

**Amy Debach:** She recently attending "Farming for the Future". While there she one \$100 gift Certificate to Nature's Pantry in a silent auction. She wants to let us know that Silent Auctions are great.

**Nancy Desmond:** wanted to update us on Ahmed and Amanata ( his new wife). They have an apartment at the end of Allen Street from Fualk Reality that they like and are settling in to. Ahmed has arranged for Amanita to audit 4 classes through South Hills Business School. She is also taking ESL classes on Tues/ Thurs evenings and we should test her English when she comes with Ahmed to the March meeting.

**Announcements:** Nancy Desmond would like us to have signs at the entrance of the community to promote Altrusa. Mildred has one sign already. We will investigate the possibility of getting more and where to place them.

**Adjournment:** 7:40 pm

**Program:** Park Forest Day Nursery, Gloria Rosenberg, Executive Director.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Miller, Recording Secretary, Pro-Tempe



*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*

Since we have been focusing on the type of service projects that we as a club would like to do, I thought I would take the opportunity this month to focus on a very cool service project that has recently been brought to my attention.

My mother is a very active member of the United Methodist Women for her church in Beach Lake, Pennsylvania. Every Friday in October, November, January, February, and March, a group of 12 ladies, most of them retired, gets together and makes sleeping bags for the homeless. The sleeping bags are made from old blankets, bed spreads, drapes and other fabric that has been donated to the church. My mother's role is "seam ripper extraordinaire." She prepares the fabric for the other ladies to sew into the sleeping bags. Along with the sleeping bags, they include a shirt, pants, hat, gloves and scarf when available. Completed sleeping bags are then given to My Brother's Keeper Quilt Group for distribution to area homeless.

My mother has been making sleeping bags for years with the other women from her church. I always thought it was a great thing and would ask her about it, but on March 2nd we found out that what their small group was doing was part of a much larger effort. During church that day, this group of women known as "the Sleeping Bag Ministry" was recognized by My Brother's Keeper Quilt Group. The group at my mother's church has been making sleeping bags for nearly 20 years and has made 2,600 for the homeless. The ladies were given certificates recognizing their efforts and also taken to lunch at a local café as a Thank You.

As part of the ceremony, the founder of My Brother's Keeper Quilt Group, Flo Wheatley told the congregation about the organization and what they do. 27 years ago, Flo was in New York City with her son Leonard. Leonard was recovering from a chemotherapy treatment and not feeling well. They were trying to get to the subway so they could stay the night with a relative in Flushing, Queens.

Flo was carrying suitcases and had to wait by the entrance while Leonard was throwing up in a plastic bag. Many people passed them by without a second glance. Not knowing what else to do, Flo prayed for some help. A homeless man approached and offered to help. He not only helped them get to the subway but he hailed a cab and loaded their suitcases into it. A grateful Flo gave him \$5 for helping them. As the man shut the door, he looked into her eyes and said, "Don't abandon me."

Flo never saw him again, but his words stayed with her. She wanted to help and always prayed for homeless people she encountered during her frequent trips to the city. She was not sure what one person could do to make a difference. About 2 years later she got her answer. She regularly passed the same homeless man on her travels. On this day she noticed that he was covered by a pink crocheted blanket and since she enjoyed sewing, thought that this was the way she could help. She went home that night and rummaged through her family's closets and began sewing. The result was a 7 x 7 quilt made from old jeans. That winter the Wheatley's made 8 "Ugly Quilts" which became sleeping bags for the homeless. Jim and Flo took them to the city and handed them out to homeless people who needed them. Word of their deeds spread and neighbors and local church groups learned to make the quilts as well.

Based in the Wheatley' home of Hop Bottom, Pa the project which they named "My Brother's Keeper" distributes Ugly Quilts to homeless people in need throughout the country and the world. Shelters, church groups and other helping agencies contact "My Brother's Keeper" not only to get some of the quilts, but also if they make them like the women at my mother's church. The Wheatleys then make sure that quilts/ sleeping bags get to those in need.

Today there are groups in 13 states that make "Ugly Quilts" for the homeless. There are many groups in PA including one here in State College. An Ugly Quilt is made from used or inexpensive fabric with no market value to make sure that it will be given to homeless people and not sold on the street. They are very simple and can be made by 1 person in a day or in 1 hour by a group. Instructions on how to make these quilts and information about "My Brother's Keeper" can be found at their web site: [www.thesleepingbagproject.org](http://www.thesleepingbagproject.org).

This could be a great service project for our Altrusa club. If anyone is interested in organizing a group to make Ugly Quilts for the homeless, please contact Tammy Gentzel. This could be our new craft night project,

## Birthdays

## Calendar Reminders



- **March 15**—Centre County Library Cleanup
- **March 29**—Mystery Night
- **April 10-12**—YSB Spring Fling
- **April 24-27**—District Two Conference

### MARCH

8 Ann McGlaughlin  
25 Sara Krumrine  
26 Kathy Mowery

### APRIL

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

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**Altrusa Action is the monthly newsletter of Altrusa International, Inc. of Centre County**  
**[www.AltrusaCentreCounty.homestead.com](http://www.AltrusaCentreCounty.homestead.com)**

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***April 2008***

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