



Altrusa Action

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

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

Menu: The buffet will be Pasta
Primavera or Chicken Scampi

Program: Planning for Laga
Handbag sale

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, March 15th.

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

Directors (2007-2009):

Mildred: mlmeder@comcast.net

Doris: doris@ccunitedway.org

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: Doris:

doris@ccunitedway.org

Service: Gini, v2f@psu.edu

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is just around the corner. I know, because I just pushed the clock ahead by an hour. Losing a full hour of sleep will have an effect on me for about a week, so if I appear "dozey" around any of you, more than likely I'm trying to get my internal clock to reset.

We have so many wonderful and fun things coming up, such as Spring Fling and the District Two Conference, that I hope you will take the time to read more about them in this newsletter issue and be able to indulge in one or both of these exciting venues.

The conference is in Reading, which is so nearby that if you have never been to a conference, please try and attend. The friendship and camaraderie that the Altrusa clubs share make it very fulfilling.

With spring comes new growth, and "to grow" new friendships through Altrusa is something I look forward to every year. And that includes meeting people from other clubs, and also increasing membership in our own club and forming new friendships.

And I want to thank you all for your well wishes as I strive to be compliant with my medicines, listen to my doctor and remain healthy. As you know, my tenure as your club president is wearing down, and I could not have achieved, both personally and career-wise, all that I have without each and every one of you. And most of all, you gals, both seasoned members and new members, have really stood behind me and made this two years to remember. Now let's enjoy the beginning of spring and "grow the club".

Your Pres,
BECKY

BAG BUSINESS

At the March dinner meeting we will be organizing the upcoming Laga bag fundraiser. If you have a highlighter pen, bring it along. Also if you have any photos or items that would be useful on an Altrusa display board, bring them along too. We will be making signs and putting together a display board about Altrusa. If you have not yet signed up to help on the 21st, a signup sheet will be at the meeting.

Please talk this up with your friends. Send an e-mail reminder that week to everyone in your address book about the sale.

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www.altrusacentrecounty.homestead.com

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications – Tammy and Ginny, co-Chairs

The Communications Committee is assisting the Service Committee in organizing the Spring Fling volunteers this year. We are going to experiment with registering volunteers by both Email and at the business meeting. If you haven't already received an Email sign up message, you will be receiving one shortly! It will be sent by

TammyG@communityhelpcentre.com.

Finally, don't forget that we'd love to have you join us at our Communications Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 31, 5:30 p.m., Perkins Family Restaurant.

Finance – Phyllis, Chair

Starting this month, March 2009, if you wish to have a glass of wine with dinner, you are asked to pay \$4.00 per glass to the person collecting the money for the dinner. This will enable the Treasurer to better determine if the wine costs are being covered each month. The cost charged to us is \$15.00 per carafe, and lately that cost has been exceeding the amount collected.

Also, the Treasurer will be billing members who did not attend the dinner meetings but had a reservation. Members are reminded that if you do have a standing reservation and you cannot attend, you will be billed. When you receive the invoice, if you have any questions, please contact Phyllis. You may either send a check to her at 2189 Zion Rd., Bellefonte, PA 16823 or you may present it to her at the next dinner meeting.

International Relations – Sindy and Charlotte, Co-chairs

Repeat from the December 2008 newsletter:

The committee is coordinating a project to make School Kit Bags, each to contain:

- 1 pair blunt scissors
- 3 pads 8 ½ x 11" ruled paper
- 1 hand-held pencil sharpener
- 6 unsharpened pencils with erasers
- 1 eraser, 2 ½"
- 1 box of 24 crayons.

All items must be NEW – the committee will be collecting the items until February, so the next time you go to an office-supply store, pick up something!

Amanda has received the money for the 3 boys we are putting thru school in Nicaragua, and we will get an update on their progress.

Service – Gini, Chair

Banning Dirty Books – We will be cleaning Bellefonte library book shelves on the fourth Saturday of this month, March 28, 9AM until noon.

Park Forest Day Nursery – This month's collection will be sponges.

Spring Fling – We will be running the woman's department again this year. The sale is Saturday, April 4. We will need people to cover the sale as well as to set-up on Thursday 4/2 and Friday 4/3. Tammy Gentzel will be sending out an e-mail with times to sign up for, and we will also have a sign-up form at the March meeting.

SPRING FLING VOLUNTEERS

The Service and Communications Committees of Altrusa of Centre County have teamed up to experiment with signing up for service projects by Email.

This form represents signing up for Spring Fling: sorting and helping to sell donated women's clothing during the Youth Service Bureau's Spring Fling. All proceeds will benefit the YSB Big Brother, Big Sister Program. If you have trouble viewing or submitting this form, you can fill it out online (just click on this link):

<http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=cGZ0eEdwd2QxTUJZUGhXMIJVendkV3c6MA..>

Please put a check mark in all times you are willing to help volunteer for Spring Fling. Don't forget, Thursday and Friday are sorting days. Saturday is sale day.



ALTRUSA ACTION

March 2009

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The 53rd Annual District Two Conference will be held April 30 to May 3 in Reading. It will be hosted by Altrusa International of Reading-Berks, assisted by Altrusa International of Harrisburg. A registration form is available from the District Two web site: www.AltrusaDistrictTwo.homestead.com. A number of these forms will also be available at our club's next dinner meeting. **Conference registration forms should be sent to: Altrusa International Inc. of Harrisburg, P.O. Box 602 Camp Hill, PA 17001-0602**

Conference Site: Reading Crowne Hotel
(Formerly Sheraton Reading Hotel)
1741 Paper Mill Road
Reading, PA 19610
(610) 376-3811
readingcrowne.com

The **Reading Crowne Hotel**, headquarters hotel for the 2009 District Two Conference, **will hold reservations for Altrusans until April 1, 2009** at the negotiated price of \$109 single or double occupancy, plus applicable state and local taxes in effect at time of check-in. Reservations are made on an individual basis by calling the hotel directly at (610) 376-3811 and asking for the Altrusa Conference rate. On April 2nd, rooms not secured by Altrusa will be released from our block and sold at available rates.

What's Happening:

The festivities begin Thursday, April 30th at the "Give Yourself a Hand" Welcome Party Celebration in the Hospitality Suite. If you attended last year's Conference in Richmond, Virginia, you may remember receiving a wicker "hand" in your Invitation to Conference bag. That was only the introduction to Thursday's fun evening. Will you see more of those crazy "hands"? You bet!

The Altrusa Club of Reading-Berks is very proud, (make that very, very proud) of our ASTRA club from Southern Middle School of the Reading School District. These energetic 12 to 14 year olds can't wait to meet you at Friday night's dinner.

Saturday's banquet will also be a special evening, and will feature the exquisite music of Tracy Dietrich and Cindy Wittenberg: **"Silver, Wood and Ivory"**. Experience the sparkling combination of the Silver and Wood flutes and recorders and the Ivory of the keyboard. Tracy's collection of woodwind instruments includes the standard silver and wood flutes, plus many

more, including the 6 ½ foot high contrabass flute! Amazing!

We are excited to offer several options for your Saturday afternoon free time:

- **The GoggleWorks Center for the Arts** – a whole city block in Reading where Art happens! Come experience and learn about the arts in working studio environments. On Saturday, many of the artists will be working in their studios or shops while interacting with visitors. A café, gift shop, theatre, galleries and more are available. Admission to the Center is free.
- **Reading Public Museum and Planetarium** – Journey from art to science, culture to culture, this is world-to-outer-space in one unique location.
- **The Reading Pagoda** – located on Skyline Drive and Duryea Drive 886 ft. atop the city of Reading. The pagoda is a seven-story oriental structure, originally built as a luxury hotel. Today, it houses the Berks20Arts Council and more.
- **Gring's Mill Recreation Area** – Bring your sneakers, and walk or run along the Tulpehocken Creek's many paths.
- **Shopping, Shopping, Shopping**
 - **Vanity Fair Outlet Center** – 85 stores featuring big brands, small prices, located within one mile of the Reading Crowne Hotel. Coupons provided by VF.
 - **Penn Avenue West Reading Shops** – 4 blocks of unusual shops, eateries, galleries, salons, etc. located one block from the Vanity Fair Outlet Center.
 - **Shoppes at Wyomissing** – "When you visit Reading you can leave in style!" It is located a few blocks from the Reading Crowne Hotel. Shuttle bus transportation to the VF outlets will be provided by the hotel; all other transportation courtesy of the Reading-Berks Altrusans.

Raffle Baskets Needed For Conference

Your hostess club is requesting that each club attending Conference bring a basket for The Foundation fundraiser. Items in the basket should represent specialties your area is known for. For example, Reading-Berks is known for beer and pretzels so we may do a basket on that theme! The baskets will be entered in a silent auction and awarded to the highest bidders on Saturday, May 2nd. Proceeds will benefit our International Foundation, Inc.

Sue Miller, Conference Co-Chair

ALTRUSA ACTION

March 2009

HAVE A PROJECT IDEA?

- Do you have an elderly neighbor who we can serve?
- How about a single mom who could use some help with her yard?
- Are you connected with a local human service agency that we can assist?
- With whom do you cross paths who would benefit from some neighborly help?

What: CityServe: A Community Service Weekend

When: April 18 & 19, 2009

Where: Centre Region & some projects in Bellefonte & Centre Hall

Who's Being Served: Individuals, Groups, Organizations

Who's Serving: Local Churches Helping Our Neighbors

Details: Projects in your family, neighborhood and agencies that can be accomplished over an April weekend. (In 2008, 670 workers completed 80+ projects; we hope to double that amount in 2009.)

How: Complete a project proposal form ASAP at: www.sc-cityserve.org

Questions? info@sc-cityserve.org or call 814.238.0822 (x.17) or Theresa McElwain: theresamcelwain@gmail.org

MINUTES

Altrusa Business Meeting 2/18/09

Guests: **Donna Campbell:** brought by Nancy Desmond; she is Nancy's neighbor and works in the Registrar's Office for PSU.

Accent: presented by Sandi Craig: **Think Globally – Act Locally.** She gave us a quiz to test our general knowledge of the impact on the world environment. On a local level, Sandi pointed out that Centre County can now recycle paperboard – it goes with mixed office paper. We can also recycle Nickel Cadmium batteries at Wal-Mart and Print Cartridges at McDonalds.

Positive Notes:

Phyllis Corman: she is leaving tomorrow to go to Florida and see Marian Homer

Gini Tucker: leaves for Costa Rica on Monday, she is spending 2 weeks there

Nancy Desmond: wanted us to know that there is a tour of the Chesapeake Bay/ Inner Harbor area. It will be held in October to benefit Clearwater Conservancy and the Historical Society.

Approval of Minutes from Last Business Meeting:

One correction: Sandi Craig's sister's daughter had a baby, not her sister. Mildred moved to approve as corrected, Sandi seconded.

Treasurer's Report: None

Correspondence: One on One Fitness Consultants is working to support CVIM and YSB. If you come to one of their classes for a month, they will contribute money to the group of your choice

We received a Thank you from Ethel Beaver Children's fund for our contribution in 2008. We believe that it is from money we collected in Dec 2007

We also got a bill from King Printing for the brochures

Communication: No report

Finance: no report. 50/50 – June won \$6 which she donated back to the club.

International Relations: They are going to continue on with the bag project. We have 9 so far but we need to make more to be able to ship them.

The committee has a new project that they would like to get the club's approval for. We have a chance to send 3 Nicaraguan children who are deaf to school. They live near the sports camps that our local churches are already supporting. We would also be able to help their mother get training to be an interpreter for them. We would send money to the National Education Organization in Oregon who will then send the money to Nicaragua. Doing it this way will make it tax deductible. Sindy Butler knows a woman who is going to be with a sports camp in Nicaragua and who could make sure that the funds go where we ask.

The International Relations Committee moves that we take the \$500 that had been set aside in their budget for sewing machines for Ahmed to take to Sierra Leone, and use it to send these children to school and to train their mother to be an interpreter for them. Motion was passed unanimously.

The families had been alerted of the committee's hope to have this proposal passed and want to express their gratitude to us. Muchas Gracias

Membership: no report, but Nancy Desmond is very concerned about our Membership. She is going to meet with others who are on the committee. She thinks that people who have been part of Leadership Centre County are great prospective members. Please try to bring names to the next meeting.

Service: Thank you for the wipes. We are collecting sponges for Park Forest for next month. Cleaning

ALTRUSA ACTION

March 2009

the library is scheduled for Saturday the 21 at 9am. If the weather is bad, the cleaning will be cancelled.

Spring Fling is April 4th this year. Tillie is going to be involved, but will not head up our involvement. Gini will figure out how we will be involved and let us know

Old Business

- The nominating committee proposed the following **Slate of Officers**

President: Jill Lillie

1st Vice President: Gini Tucker

2nd Vice President: Cindy Butler

Treasurer: Phyllis Corman

Recording Secretary: Amy Miller

Corresponding Secretary: Tammy Gentzel

Directors : Theresa McElwain and Ginny Mulhatten

Nancy Desmond moved that the nominations for President be closed. All were in favor

Tammy Gentzel moved that the nominations for 1st Vice President be closed. All were in favor

Sandi Craig moved that the nominations for 2nd Vice President be closed. All were in favor

Tammy Gentzel moved that the nominations for Treasurer be closed. All were in favor

Sandi Craig moved that the nominations for Recording Secretary be closed. All were in favor

Tammy Gentzel moved that nominations for Corresponding Secretary be closed. All in favor

Phyllis Corman moved that the nominations for Directors be closed. All were in favor

The Slate of Officers is as stands. The official election will be at the March dinner meeting.

- Delegates for Conference:**

Mildred Meder made a motion that Jill Lillie be a delegate to conference. Tammy Gentzel moved that we nominate Becky Schrope as the 2nd delegate to conference. Nancy Desmond seconded both motions, all in favor. Mildred Meder moved that Tammy Gentzel be first alternate and Phyllis Corman nominated Cindy Butler as second alternate. All were in favor.

- Handbag Sale:**

We want to say thank you to everyone who was at the meeting and helped stuff envelopes for the mailing. Tammy will use volunteers to finish up. Invitations will be in the mail by Monday of next week. We will also be sending an electronic version to everyone. Please forward them to all your friends, men included, as these bags make great gifts for everyone. Please let

people know that it is a win-win situation. We will be using the money we raise to fund the needs of non-profits in Centre County and it also helps the Tsunami survivors in Sumatra. There is a sign up sheet for people to help on the day of the event. Please sign up and come help us out. We also need everyone's help when we are distributing the things that people order.

New Business: none

Announcements: CitiServe is April 18, 19. This is a great event, please send them your projects. The Web site for more info is <http://www.sc-cityserve.org>

Program: Celeste Newcomb – Medical Mission to Nicaragua; Preparing for the Laga Handbag Sale
Adjourned at 8pm



TREASURER'S 3RD QUARTER REPORT

December 2008 to February 2009

Income:

Interest	1.14
Bear Team	700.00
Dinners	<u>1,307.85</u>
Total Income:	2,008.99

Expenses:

UNICEF	700.00
King Printing (brochures)	213.00
International Relations project	500.00
Moerschbacher	<u>1,187.52</u>
Total Expenses:	2,600.52

Checking Acct. Balance:	\$1,232.04
Savings Acct. 1/31/09:	<u>\$7,673.00</u>
Total Funds 2/28/09:	\$8,905.04

ALTRUSA ACTION:

March 2009

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March**
- | | | |
|----|------|---|
| 4 | 5:45 | Board Meeting |
| 8 | | Day for Women's Rights and International Peace (UN) |
| 18 | 6:00 | Dinner Meeting: Laga Handbag Sale Planning |
| 21 | | Laga Handbag Sale |
- 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 |

BIRTHDAYS

- March**
- | | |
|-----|---------------|
| 8: | Ann |
| 25: | Sara Krumrine |
- April**
- | | |
|-----|-----------------------|
| 10: | Mildred |
| 11: | ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL |
| 12: | Ahmed |
| 22: | Tammy |
| 25: | Pam |

OUR HELP IS NEEDED!

