



## November Meeting

### Details:

Wednesday, Nov. 28, 6:00 p.m.,  
 Celebration Hall, \$14.00

### Menu:

Chicken Divan, baked haddock

### Reservations:

Contact Barb (814-238-8882 or  
 brk@psu.edu) by Sunday  
 evening, Nov. 25 to make a  
 reservation, or cancel a standing  
 reservation.

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## A Message from the President

Geez. I am not a winter person but driving through the snowflakes this morning, I decided it's time to stop denying that it is here and I need to pull out the winter coat & gloves. I am praying that the snow does not fall too hard or stay around for Sat. (Nov. 10), as a group of us are heading off to the Area Workshop in Harrisburg (if the weather cooperates, in Phyllis Corman's motor home.) This will make the trip so much more fun, and I suggested it could be a working ride to the Burg, but I got booed down on that one. I guess we'll sing and play games and laugh a lot. I cannot wait to see our comrades from Reading & Harrisburg, and hopefully Rochester, as we get to spend some time together sharing ideas, etc. For those of you who cannot attend, we'll bring back good information, and hope you can make next year's workshop.

And for those of you who missed our Make A Difference Day service project at the Centre County Library in Bellefonte, boy did you miss a good time. We did make a small dent in cleaning books & shelves but it did make a difference to the library staff. They were so appreciative. And we definitely were "different" to the library patrons who came in on that Saturday.

Lunch was great and the tour of the museum astonished one of our members. (If you want to know why, you'll need to attend the next one!)

I attended the District Two Mid-year Board meeting last weekend, and I hope you all make an effort to attend the District Two conference April 24-26 in Richmond. The area is rich in history & the hotel is beautiful. The staff is very accommodating & the food was excellent. The committee is continuing work on the program, but it appears it will be a conference rich in Altrusa tradition. For new members & old alike, I think it will be a rewarding experience.

Isn't it great news that one of our fellow Altrusans, Pam Ruest, made history in being elected the first female judge in Centre County? Way to go Pam!

**And finally, please remember that our November meeting is the 28<sup>th</sup>. I believe the District Two Governor will be attending. Please make every effort to be there so we can show what a great working club we have here in Centre County.**

Stay Warm and Until the 28<sup>th</sup>

*Becky Schroppe*  
 President

## 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

We had the kickoff for the Day of Caring at the PFMS Bear Team. Thanks to all who offered a job site. Now we are waiting to see how much the students have collected for UNICEF. Stay tuned!

Our committee voted to not only send a suitcase full of embroidery materials to Sierra Leone with Ahmed when he travels back for the holidays, but to also send along enough money to purchase one or two sewing machines while there. Keep those supplies coming!

**There will be more information in the next newsletter about our trip to the U.N. on April the 12th. Make sure you mark down that date now to save it.**

Submitted by: **Jill Lillie**—International Relations Committee Chairs

### Communications Committee Report

The committee met by e-mail to discuss details for the holiday party. We will be served buffet style and cost of the meal will be \$25. Details of the food to be served are being negotiated with Hoag's catering, but we are shooting for prime rib and turkey with a good, healthy set of sides for vegetarians.

We will have a gift exchange for entertainment and are working the details out for publication in the December newsletter. Please see related article in this issue of the newsletter. Tammy is working to complete changes to the brochure in time for use at the "Add an Altrusan" dinner in January.

Submitted by: **Tammy Gentzel, Ginny Mulhatten**—Communications Committee Co-Chairs

## Holiday Party on the Way

**Well, 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!

Our entertainment will include a gift exchange—rules of the exchange will follow in the December newsletter. We hope, however, to make it a fun and ridiculously hilarious time. The one rule we can share now—the exchange should involve something you already own and no longer want OR something that you have crafted and would like to give away! See you on the 19<sup>th</sup>!



Please send your committee report or other news to Celeste at [cmo118@psu.edu](mailto:cmo118@psu.edu) for inclusion the newsletter.



Save the Date for the Holiday Party!  
December 19 at Celebration Hall!

## Business Meeting Minutes

### October 17, 2007

#### *Altrusa Accent:*

#### Responsibilities of Membership

*presented by Mildred Meder:*

Reminder of membership responsibilities: make every effort to know and practice the Ideals, Principles, and Objectives of Altrusa.

#### Positive Notes:

- ◆ **Gini Tucker** reports that the centerpieces at Golden Wok are recycled, so don't eat them (as she tried to!) Gini also reported that her mother's tests regarding ovarian cancer markers came back as 22.5 and 20 is normal, so her radiation treatment seems to be working.
- ◆ **Amy Debach** met with an International student thru Global Connection's conversation partner program. Her partner wants to learn to make spaghetti and cookies as they are the best food we Americans have!
- ◆ **Phyllis Corman**, at noon today, at the annual meeting of the Bellefonte Area Chamber of Commerce, passed on the gavel as president.
- ◆ **Becky Schrope** had needle biopsy two weeks ago. She has no recurrence of melanoma, but the test came back as a surface melanoma only and she is happy and relieved!
- ◆ **Nancy Desmond** reported on land conservation efforts at her 515 acre farm in Clearfield County. The farm has 15 acres that are growing a new crop of trees! Also helping three "tube testing" companies to test their products which are designed to repel deer and other animals. In her test tubes, there is almost 100% growth!
- ◆ **Ellie Beaver** shared that the annual Jeans for Teens event coming up. Please donate if you are so interested (have a group at the office sponsor a 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!

**Minutes:** approved as presented

**Treasurer's Report:** Entertained questions regarding the report that was published in the newsletter. None noted.

**Correspondence:** Bill from King Printing for UNA\USA; Notice of dues for UNA\USA; Women's Resource Center Christmas sponsorship request.

#### Committee Reports:

**Communications:** No report.

**Finance:** Drawing for 50\50. Won by "Goldie."

**Membership:** No referrals received for new members, so tea next week cancelled.

**Service:** Saturday (Oct 20): Make A Difference Day, Centre County Library. Bring your buckets and rags! 9:15 a.m. Service followed by lunch and a tour of the museum.

#### Park Forest Day Nursery items for next month: Glue Sticks!

Planning for Spring Fling starts next week!

**International Relations:** Sticking with support for Sierra Leone (a few other ideas had been advanced). Looking into sending money with Ahmed to buy sewing machine there since shipping costs are so high.

**Old Business:** Please pick up your yearbook.

**Amy D.** Victorian Tree in Bellefonte. It's a go! We will attempt to schedule and use a craft night to get it organized.

**New Business:** None.

#### Announcements:

- Craft Night: will be rescheduled.
- Area I Workshop is scheduled for **November 10**.
- Next dinner meeting rescheduled to Wednesday, **November 28**.
- District Two Conference **April 24 thru the 27th**.
- Blair County Club taking children's books to Alabama to help with recovery from hurricane Katrina.
- Blair County Club handing out books at Halloween parade in Hollidaysburg. Contact **Mildred** if you're interested in assisting.
- **Phyllis** handed out the new Centre County Women's Journal.

## Claws for a Cause a GREAT Success!



The Park Forest Middle School Bear Team

On Thursday, October 25, several organizations throughout the Centre Region were blessed with the mid-sized happy feet, hearts, and minds of members of the Park Forest Middle School Bear Team.

Did you miss out on the event? Start thinking NOW about ways to get involved next year!! You DO NOT have to work for a non-profit organization to help place these students! Are you a member of an environmental, woman's, educational, arts or other organization? Do you have a loved one living in a long-term care facility? Do you have children enrolled in a pre-school or day care? If so, as a member of Altrusa *you* could help pave the way to service for 8 to 12 middle school (13 year-old) students who are eager to learn about service to their community.

This year students accomplished, among other things, the following:

- ◆ Posted flyers to recruit conversation partners for Global Connections;
- ◆ Made holiday angels for Altrusa's Scholarship fund;
- ◆ Painted beautiful and creative vines on a dull, uninspiring retaining wall for Community Help Centre;
- ◆ Sorted recyclables at the Recycling Center;
- ◆ Raked leaves at a group home for the ARC;
- ◆ Moved and spread mulch for Stepping Stone and the Youth Service Bureau;
- ◆ Sorted clothing for St. Vincent de Paul Society's thrift shop;
- ◆ Cared for animals at the new PAWS site;
- ◆ Sorted food for the Food Bank of State College.



Jill Lillie talks about Trick or Treating for UNICEF.

They also received instructions from Jill Lillie about Trick or Treating for UNICEF. Soon, we'll know how they did. Don't forget, last year, they were among the top earners in the country!

If you have ideas AND CONNECTIONS for placement next year, contact Tammy Gentzel at [TamGentzel2@cs.com](mailto:TamGentzel2@cs.com) or 814-272-1542!



*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

On October 20, as part of **Make A Difference Day**, several brave, ambitious, and perhaps a little bit crazy Altrusans ventured to the Centre County Library in Bellefonte. Our task: to dust books and straighten the shelves in the library. We started at 9:15 am, which for some of us (especially me) was just so darn early that we needed a caffeine stop before we could do any work. The brave souls who participated: Phyllis Corman, Sindy Butler, Tammy Gentzel, Amy Miller, Becky Schrope, Ann McGlaughlin, Doris Conner and her daughter, and Ginni Tucker. Our tools: rags, buckets, feather dusters, and of course step stools for those among us who are vertically challenged. Our goal: to have fun and to finish all the shelves in one day.

The competition was fierce as two distinct groups worked to finish their row of shelves. Phyllis, Sindy, and Doris were on the right while Tammy, Ann, and Amy were on the left. Gini and Becky joined us later. For each shelf, we had to remove and dust all the books, wipe the shelves with a damp cloth being sure to disperse any dust bunnies or spiders that were lurking there, dry the shelves, and finally place the books back in the correct order making sure they were lined up neatly along the front edge of the shelf, not pushed toward the back (as any good library patron knows).

### **Busy Bee (cont.)**

Having both a tall person (Tammy) and someone who works in a library (me) on the team allowed Tammy, Amy, and Ann to jump quickly ahead leaving Phyllis, Sindy, and Doris in our dust. Our system: Tammy cleaned the high shelves while Ann and I cleaned the low ones. We worked from the outside of the isle and met in the middle. Try as they might, Phyllis, Sindy, and Doris simply could not match our speed and efficiency and were affectionately known to all as “the slow ones”. We had started our second isle before they were  $\frac{3}{4}$  done with the first. They blamed the disparity in speed on their use of feather dusters and in the fact that there were many interesting books to be read. Threats of a white glove test were made, to keep everyone from skimming their shelves, but were decided against in the end. When Ginny and Becky joined us we had them help “the slow ones” to catch up.

After 3 hours of dusting and inhaling fumes from the Mr. Clean in our buckets, we decided to call it quits. To our surprise, we found that the isle that Phyllis, Sindy, and Doris worked in had 8 sets of shelves, while ours only had 6. Our team still claimed victory for the day but conceded that we may have had a slight advantage. When all was said and done we finished 2 rows of shelves in the non-fiction section. This breaks down to 196 shelves each containing 20 or more books, making a grand total of about 4,000 books in one day.

Fun was had by all, though we quickly realized that this needs to be an ongoing service project and we need your help because the library has lots and lots of books that need dusting. We hope to make it at least a quarterly project and go back again in January or February. Keep watching the newsletter for details and further outings.



Park Forest Day Nursery items for next month: Glue Sticks! Bring items to the meeting on Nov. 28!



If you want to help decorate our Victorian Christmas tree, please bring ornaments or donations to the November 28 meeting.

## Birthdays



### NOVEMBER

2 Roberta Strebel  
 8 Pam Francis  
 9 Karen Blair  
 17 **\*\*OUR CLUB\*\***  
 23 Amy Miller  
 30 Gini Tucker

### DECEMBER

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

## Calendar Reminders

- **Nov. 10**—Area 1 Workshop (Co-hosted by the Harrisburg & Reading clubs. More details to come.)
- **Nov. 28**—Business meeting at Celebration Hall (If you can, bring glue sticks and an ornament.)
- **December 19**—Holiday Party at Celebration Hall. Guests are welcome (\$25.00 per person.)
- **April 12, 2008**—Bus trip to UN.
- **April 24-27**—District Two Conference, Richmond, VA

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

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# ***ALTRUSA ACTION:***

***November, 2007***

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P.O. Box 1232  
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