



Altrusa Action

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

Dinner Meeting: Wednesday,
September 17th, 6:00 p.m.,
Celebration Hall, **\$16.00**

Menu: The buffet will be **Roast
Turkey or Top Round of
Beef**

Program: Carbon Footprint

Reservations: Please call to make a
reservation or to cancel a
standing reservation. **CALL
TAMMY AT WORK (272-
1542)** or email her by the
evening of Sunday, September
14th.

BOARD

President: Becky Schrope

beckyschrope@hotmail.com

1st Vice President: Jill

hmbird@comcast.net

2nd Vice President: Gini v2f@psu.edu

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Mildred: mlmeder@comcast.net

Doris: doris@ccunitedway.org

Directors (2008-2010):

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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications co-chairs: Tammy

tamgentzel2@cs.com and Ginny M.

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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

Isn't it amazing that summer has passed by so quickly? And it was one of the coolest Augusts weather-wise that I can remember. I didn't go swimming once in August (brrr).

Grange Fair is over, baseball season is ending, and now it's time for Penn State Football, and most students are heading back to school. It becomes a very busy time for those who have children in school, and the State College scene is bustling with activity. I guess it's time to get re-energized.

September is a busy month for Altrusans. We need to remember that it's International Literacy Day on September 8th, Patriot Day on September 11th, and The International day of Peace on September 21st. I hope you plan to honor one or more of these days in your own special way.

And are you proud to be American? The path this country is taking is just awesome. An African-American man running for president on the Democratic ticket and a woman Vice-Presidential candidate on the Republican ticket is utterly groundbreaking. Or as Hillary Clinton so eloquently put it, cracks are appearing in the glass ceiling.

It appeared to me that everyone who attended the picnic had a great time. The food was good, the camaraderie even better, and the horse races were so much fun. Tammy did a great job with the prizes. I won the first race but was so tentative in my betting that I got a second prize, but one I that I thoroughly enjoyed. If you're looking for guidance in betting, please see Micki Pharo's husband, Larry, as he picked the winning horse in almost every race. Look for additional articles in this newsletter about the picnic. And for those of you who have not ever been to Millbrook Marsh, please try to get there. It's peaceful & beautiful.

And speaking of Micki & Larry, they are such great supporters of Altrusa's summer picnic. They have been at every picnic I can remember. Always smiling and ever so pleasant.

I do want to remind you all to read the newsletter in its entirety to keep abreast of all that's happening in committees, and updates on what looks like a fabulous workshop in October. And I hope to see you at the September 17th meeting. **WEAR GREEN.**

Your President,
BECKY

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www.altrusacentrecounty.homestead.com

SPECIAL NOTE

Barb will be away at the time you'd normally notify her that you wanted to make a reservation or cancel one. Instead, **Tammy** has kindly agreed to help out (of course!). Please call her at work (272-1542) or email her

(tamgentzel2@cs.com) by Sunday evening.

DON'T EMAIL BARB OR LEAVE A MESSAGE ON HER ANSWERING MACHINE

– it won't be noted in time. Thanks.

**SEPTEMBER PROGRAM:
Reducing Your Carbon Footprint**

Do you know how to measure how "green" you are? Come to the September Altrusa meeting to learn about this hot topic and how to improve your carbon footprint.

Presenting the information will be Dr. Frank Ahern, Senior Research Scientist in Bio-Behavior Health Studies at Penn State. Dr. Ahern is also a member of the Board of UNA/USA and is spearheading this organization's efforts to address the United Nations Millennium Development Goal #7, which is "Ensure Environmental Sustainability."

We will be attempting to do some Carbon Footprint calculating during the meeting.

Members who have a laptop computer and the ability to access the Internet via wireless connection are asked to bring them to the meeting.

There is some information each of you will need to know in order to process your footprint. The items include: 1) average number of miles driven per year; 2) annual air flights taken each year and estimated travel miles; 3) annual consumption of electricity, natural gas, heating oil, coal, LPG, or propane; 4) and annual miles via public transportation. Knowing this information will enable you to get an idea of your current Carbon Footprint. It's important in order for you to aid in saving our world.

COMMITTEE WORK

Communications – Tammy and Ginny, co-Chairs

Barring a catastrophe at the printer, the 2008-2009 Altrusa International, Inc. of Centre County yearbook will be available at the September business meeting. If you will not be able to attend, please contact Ginny Mulhatten, (ginginm@aol.com) to arrange to pick up or have yours delivered (Ginny would rather not schlep them back and forth for the next few months).

The Communications Committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, September 30, 5:30 p.m., Perkins Family Restaurant. We would love to have you join us!

Finance – Phyllis, Chair

Quarterly financial reports will be presented at the September meeting and abbreviated versions of the reports will be printed in next month's newsletter.

Membership – Doris, Chair; Gini reporting

Unfortunately, due to family reasons, Dawn Rodgers will not be joining our club at this time.

Service – Gini, Chair

We have a number of volunteer opportunities occurring. Please feel VERY free to jump in on anything!

1. Every third Saturday of the month, join a faithful crew in cleaning the shelves of the Bellefonte Library. We really do have fun! (See Phyllis' note below)
2. We will be collecting for Park Forest Day Pre-school again this year. I'm getting a list of needs and will let you know "the item of the month" as we go along. Our first collection month will be October.
3. Jennifer Shuey and ClearWater Conservancy have asked for assistance with Spring Creek Family Day on September 28th. I have sent an e-mail to those who indicated on their Volunteer Interest Form the desire to provide one of

the necessary tasks. Even if you have not received an e-mail, please let Gini know (v2f@psu.edu; 466-3167) if you would like to participate.

4. Jill is looking for assistance with projects for Claws for a Cause on October 22nd. Please contact her if you have ideas.

Remember, if you have a position of responsibility in a non-profit and would like assistance with ANYTHING, please let Gini know!

Library Cleaning Continues (Phyllis)

We have cleaned half of the bookshelves in the Centre County Library in Bellefonte. Now we have the other half to do, and guess what – those shelves that we started on back in October of last year are dusty again!! This is a great on-going project, but your help is needed to make this appreciated project work!!

Our scheduled Saturdays for the next three months are: **September 13, October 25, and November 8**. The Saturdays need to change, of course, because of PSU home football. Please mark your calendars accordingly.

Some members have indicated that they cannot participate in this project on Saturdays, so we will be discussing the possibility of meeting on a weeknight. The Library has evening hours, Monday thru Thursday until 8:00 p.m. Bring your calendars and let's see if we can decide on a night that many members can be there. Wouldn't it be great if we had a great response and could get much of the library done at one time!!!!



THE BUSY BEE By Amy R. Miller

And they're off. At least they were during the Altrusa Annual Picnic on August 20, 2008.

Several members and friends got together at the Millbrook Marsh on that beautiful summer day to share food and fun. After feasting on hamburgers, hotdogs, potato and macaroni salad, grapes, brownies and cookies in the outdoor pavilion, we headed up to the barn for "A night at the races."

Inside the barn was a big screen, and plenty of seats for those present to take part in six different taped horse races. Tickets were purchased and bets were placed on each person's favorite horse in each contest. Those who bet the most tickets on the winning horse won the grand prize for that race, with consolation prizes going to anyone else who had picked the winning horse.

As the bugle sounded and the gates opened, shouts of "go, Tootsie Roll, go", "run, Apple Pie," "come on, Wishing Well," and "yeah Train Station" echoed through the barn. Excited and anxious bettors consulted their programs to see if they had chosen a winner. Blood pressure rose and nails were bitten as a lucky horse came from behind to steal the glory and one race ended in a photo finish. As the results of each race were announced, winners celebrated and losers groaned, but did not give up. Laughter, cheers of encouragement, and disappointed sighs continued throughout the evening.

After the last race was run, and the screen was silent, the prizes were awarded. A grand prize of Freezer Pops was given to the winner of each race. Microwave popcorn was given to all those lucky enough to have simply chosen the winning horse. And though not all of us, including myself, were victorious at the event, a very enjoyable evening was had by all.

Special thanks go to Tammy Gentzel, for providing food, prizes, and for arranging and organizing the festivities. Since this evening was easy to arrange and fun for everyone, you can expect to see "A Night at the Races" as a future Altrusa Fundraiser, with possible cash prizes for the winners.

U.N. SPECIAL DAYS

International Literacy Day – 8 September 2008

On International Literacy Day each year, UNESCO reminds the international community of the status of literacy and adult learning globally.

Despite many and varied efforts, literacy remains an elusive target: some 774 million adults lack minimum literacy skills; one in five adults is still not literate and two-thirds of them are women; 75 million children are out-of-school and many more attend irregularly or drop out.

"Literacy is the best remedy"

International Literacy Day (ILD) 2008 is placing a special focus on the important relationship between literacy and health. This is the theme for the 2007-2008 biennium of the United Nations Literacy Decade.

UNESCO and its partners are underlining the significance of literacy for healthy societies, with a strong emphasis on epidemics and communicable diseases such as HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. These are some of the world's most important public health concerns. This year's slogan is "Literacy is the best remedy". For more information contact literacy-day@unesco.org

International Day of Peace 21 September 2008

The International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. It was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981 to coincide with the opening of the General Assembly. The first Peace Day was celebrated in September 1982.

In 2002 the General Assembly officially declared September 21 as the permanent date for the International Day of Peace.

By creating the International Day of Peace, the UN devoted itself to worldwide peace and encouraged all of mankind to work in cooperation

for this goal. During the discussion of the U.N. Resolution that established the International Day of Peace, it was suggested that:

"Peace Day should be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples... This day will serve as a reminder to all peoples that our organization, with all its limitations, is a living instrument in the service of peace and should serve all of us here within the organization as a constantly pealing bell reminding us that our permanent commitment, above all interests or differences of any kind, is to peace."

Since its inception, Peace Day has marked our personal and planetary progress toward peace. It has grown to include millions of people in all parts of the world, and each year events are organized to commemorate and celebrate this day. Events range in scale from private gatherings to public concerts and forums where hundreds of thousands of people participate.

Anyone, anywhere can celebrate Peace Day. It can be as simple as lighting a candle at noon, or just sitting in silent meditation. Or it can involve getting your co-workers, organization, community or government engaged in a large event. The impact if millions of people in all parts of the world, coming together for one day of peace, is immense.

International Day of Peace is also a Day of Ceasefire – personal or political. Take this opportunity to make peace in your own relationships as well as impact the larger conflicts of our time. Imagine what a whole Day of Ceasefire would mean to humankind.



ALTRUSA AREA 123 FALL WORKSHOP

The Centre County Altrusa Club will be hosting the Fall Workshop for Area I, and clubs from Area II and Area III have been invited to participate. That means we could have Altrusans from New York, Parkersburg, Pittsburgh, McKeesport, Bergen County NJ, Reading-Berks, Harrisburg, Blair County, and Rochester joining us on October 11, 2008, for the **Red, White or Green Workshop**.

The Workshop will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a reception and continental breakfast in the great room of Woodcraft Industries, located in the Penn Eagle Industrial Park near Bellefonte. The schedule will include a speaker from Penn State regarding "Green," which will actually be a follow-up to our September meeting. We will spend most of the morning discussing this important issue.

We will then hear about wine tasting from Dr. Candy Covey, a local wine enthusiast. Our own Sandi Craig, District Two Governor-Elect, will bring us news of the District and Altrusa. FYI, our District Two Governor, Nancy Minter, will be joining us for the Workshop!! We will be going to the Mount Nittany Winery in the afternoon for a tour and wine tasting. Lunch is being prepared under the direction of Jill Lillie and Sindy Butler.

Members of our Centre County Club are urged to attend this gathering and participate along with our sister and brother Altrusans.

Please contact Phyllis Corman at 355-5477 or cormanpj@aol.com to register for the Workshop. There is a nominal fee of \$20 to cover costs of the workshop. **Please contact Phyllis no later than September 30 to register.**

BIRTHDAYS

September

4: Vicki
6: Jan
9: Sally
15: Cathy
19: Marge
23: Louise

October

7: Charlotte
8: Barb
12: Karen
14: Cheryl
20: June
21: Sindy



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IT'S TIME TO BE GREEN



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