



Altrusa
International,
Inc. of Ocala,
Florida

Post Office Box 4228
Ocala, Florida 34478
www.altrusaofocala.com

Michelle Smith
President

Sharon Mai
Editor
2715 NE 36th Ave.
Ocala, FL 34470
Tel: 732-0001
Fax: 369-0200
E-mail:
sharon@printsolutions.com

ALTRUSA COMMUNICATOR

March 2009

*Service Organization of Executives and Professionals Dedicated To
Personal Growth, Community Service and Literacy Projects*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Altrusans,

Can you believe our weather this year? We had to cancel three road clean ups in a row due to unseasonably freezing temperatures. I will be so happy to return to consistently mild days, at least for a little while before the heat wave arrives.

We had a particularly lovely Add-An-Altrusan Day, with 8 new guests and some old friends attending too. Hope they all decide to join us!

Cluster Club is hosting their Add-An-Altrusan Night on Wednesday, March 25th at 6pm at Honey Ham. All are welcome! They have been busy with the scholarship applications too.

Mark your calendars for the Joint Meeting of the Altrusa Day Club, Cluster Club and Astra clubs. It is replacing our March lunch program meeting and will be on Thursday, March 19th at the Elk's Club. Please bring in door prizes for this wonderful event. It was just terrific last year.

The District Conference is April 23-26th. I hope many of you can come to Tampa, even if it is only for a day. Being at conference really showcases all the magnificent projects and services Altrusa does, locally and internationally.

Thank you for all the good work and sacrifices you make for us. Blessings to all.

Sincerely,

Michelle



CALENDAR

MARCH

- 5 Board Meeting ~ 12:00 noon @ Brenda's office
- 7 Community Service Committee ~ 5:00 pm @ Barbara's office
- 12 Business Meeting ~ 12:00 noon @ the Elk's Club
- 19 ASTRA, Cluster & Day Club Dinner ~ 5:30 pm @ Elk's Club
- 25 Cluster Club ~ 6:00 pm @ Honey Baked Ham "Add-An-Altrusan"



Dallas and I would like to say a very special Thank You to Ocala Altrusans for all of your love, concern, and prayers during our time of loss.

Julie Watson-Helms



Don't forget the joint club meeting on Thursday, March 19th at 5:30pm at the Elks Club. This meeting replaces our March program meeting. ASTRA is the program for the meeting and we will be awarding our ASTRA Scholarships and the traveling trophy to Marion County's Outstanding ASTRA Club.

We would like to give out raffle prizes to the ASTRA club members that evening. Please bring your donations to the business meeting on March 12th. If you don't have time to shop, bring cash and someone from the committee will do the shopping for you.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Our February program speaker was Steve Purves, President and CEO of Munroe Regional Medical Center. Mr. Purves joined MRMC in September 2006. He presented a very interesting slide presentation with the history of the hospital to present day. We are extremely fortunate to have a hospital of this caliber in Ocala. To thank him for a wonderful program, Steve was presented with an Altrusa mug and a book in his honor at the library.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Barbara Little

We will be meeting at Morgan Stanley at 5PM on Monday, March 16th. We will depart (promptly) at 5 and make the trip to visit Shepherd's Lighthouse in Belleview. There we will meet with the house manager, Theresa, to evaluate what we can do to assist them in enriching and enhancing their educational center. We are in the process of trying to adopt a Ugandan student as our International project. Our donation will cover the student's school books and supplies, hot lunch program, and three full terms of tuition. Additionally, we will be making another attempt to do our quarterly road clean-up on Saturday, April 4th at 8 AM. We could really use some more participation and I encourage all of you to come and join us that morning.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Colleen Duris

Membership committee will meet Thursday, March 19th, noon at Sue Dean's office. We will be interviewing new members, working on our birthday celebration, and discussing officer installation.

*"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant;
if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would
not be so welcome."*



*Ann Bradstreet
1612-1672, Poet*



Ask Mamie



Mamie L. Bass question: What is District Conference and International Convention and why should I go?

Each year a conference is held in one of the four states of the District (Florida, Georgia, North or South Carolina) for the following purposes: in order for the business of the District to be handled; to consider matters submitted by International; to renew understanding and appreciation of Altrusa principals, ideals, programs and purposes; review club programs and award club achievements; provide leadership training; educate the membership and expand circles of friendships within Altrusa. The conferences last from Thursday evening until Saturday evening, typically ending with the Governor's banquet on Saturday. In the odd numbered years there is the election and installation of officers, who serve for a two year term. During these days business meetings are conducted, workshops covering Altrusa topics and other areas for personal enrichment are presented, opportunities to meet other Altrusans and enjoy the area are encouraged. It is a time to expand knowledge about Altrusa, re-energize your spirit and get to know many other extraordinary individuals in our District. Everyone should experience a conference.

International Conventions are held every two years in odd-numbered years at a location determined by the International Board of Directors. The activities are similar to those held at District Conference, but at the International level. It is an opportunity to go far beyond our local club or the District and meet and interact with Altrusans from all over the world.

“My cat does not talk as respectfully to me as I do to her.”



Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette
French Novelist 1873-1954



June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009

OFFICERS

President	Michelle Smith
President Elect	Connie Larsen
Second Vice President	Debbie Catabia
Corresponding Secretary	Rhonda Spotts
Recording Secretary	Angela Dansby
Treasurer.....	Brenda Ford
Past-President	Julie Watson-Helms
Director.....	Jessica Rodriguez
Director	Mary Cay Landt
Director.....	Jane Fontaine
Parliamentarian	Colleen Duris

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Astra	Scott Tice
Budget	Jamie Hampy
Care	Nancy Jones
Cluster/Scholarships	Susan Keith
Community Service	Barbara Little
Literacy	Mary Getsee
Fundraising	Gisela Salas
Membership.....	Colleen Duris
Newsletter.....	Sharon Mai
Program.....	Connie Larsen
Public Relations	Joan Coke
Scrapbook.....	Carol Trow
Web Page	Julie Watson-Helms
Special Project	Jane Fontaine
2010 Conference	Co-Chairs: Scott Tice & Jessica Rodriguez

Please visit our
District Three website:
<http://www.districtthree.org>