



Altrusa
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Inc. of Ocala,
Florida

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ALTRUSA COMMUNICATOR

November/December 2009

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Altrusans,

Time is really flying. I can't believe it's time for the Holidays already, and the Club continues to be busy with projects!

We've had a great Fall:

- Dr. Judy Wilson was our speaker for October and enlightened us on the magnitude of domestic violence in Marion County. The figures are staggering and the shelter continues to grow. We sent Judy home with lots of supplies for the shelter.
- For our Make a Difference Day project, our Club decided to piggyback with Domestic Violence month. We purchased copies of "Orange Blossom Wishes", a book by Carol Hennecy describing her years of abuse, and presented those to the Domestic Violence Shelter for use by the women there. Carol was featured at Barnes & Noble and signed the books we purchased. Kudos to the Community Service Committee for a job well done!
- The "dress a bear" and "fill a stocking" programs for the Salvation Army are underway and should be nearly completed by the time you get this newsletter.
- The district board met in Ocala in late October to approved the conference plans. They met with the committee and were quite impressed with both the plans and location. Congratulations to the Conference Committee for their accomplishments!
- The fundraising committee has done a spectacular job on our new fundraiser. Stay tuned for more details. The committee currently consists of a small group of very hardworking members. There is still a lot of work ahead of us for the spring project. If you have not joined a committee for 2008-09, please consider joining the fundraising committee. There are plenty of jobs—big and small—to be done to make this project a success.



Remember that we have only one meeting in November and one meeting in December. As usual, the December meeting will start at 11:30 a.m. and run until 1 p.m. to allow us some extra time to socialize. The December meeting will also include information about our fundraiser and promises to be very enjoyable.

As we close our final "Communicator" for 2009, I wish all of you a very safe and happy Holiday season. I hope we all have a little time to move away from our busy work lives and enjoy our families during this season, and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone back in 2010.

Yours in Altrusa,

Connie





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ALTRUSAN OF THE YEAR!

At our October meeting, President Connie Larsen announced the selection for 2009 Altrusan of the Year, Mary Getsee. Mary has been a bright and fun addition to our membership, and is a truly courageous Altrusan as she agreed to chair our "Read-In for Literacy" not only once, but twice! Mary's Literacy committee is now busy working on the upcoming Spelling Bee to be held in January. Mary is a CPA at the firm of Berryhill, Hoffman & Getsee, PA. Thank you Mary, you make Altrusa SHINE!

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Karen Thigpen

The Fund Raising Committee has been busy laying the foundation for the Spring 2010 fund raiser! The school board has officially approved the staging a mock version of "Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader" using fifth graders from the public schools. This week, TJ Bright, Juanita Cunningham and Karen Thigpen will address the elementary school principals to promote the event and solicit interest.

Additionally, we are happy to announce that Kevin Christian, the PR Officer for the school board, has graciously agreed to be our "game show" host for the night. Moreover, we have had very positive feedback from the Ocala Star Banner on the event leading us to believe coverage will be provided before and after the event!

The Fund Raising committee will begin its search for key sponsors for the event this month. Please join us on Wednesday, November 18 at 12 noon at Jane Fontaine's office for our next meeting. Also, look for us at the December program meeting to give the club complete details on the event and who will be involved. It will be a blast!

CARE COMMITTEE

Nancy Jones

Angie Dansby is recovering from surgery, still moving slowly, but says she is doing fine. She was most appreciative of the meal she received. Thanks to the Altrusans that prepared the meal, Kathy English, Scott Tice, Val Forster, and Brenda Ford.

Stockings are still available at Jane and Sue's offices that need to be filled. The Dunnellon ASTRA club took all of the bears that we had and twenty stockings. Bring to the meeting on November 12th, or take them directly to the Salvation Army by the first of December.



"Let's choose today to quench our thirst for the 'good life' we think others lead by acknowledging the good that already exists in our lives. We can then offer the universe the gift of our grateful hearts."

*Sarah Ban Breathnach
Author of Simple Abundance*

We will not be asking for food donations in December but, as we did last year, we will be asking for gift cards from one of the grocery stores. The backpacks will not be filled in December, but gift cards will be given to the children to purchase food. Card's will be collected at our December 10th meeting.

DISTRICT THREE CONFERENCE

Scott Tice

Cindy and I met with the District Three Board on Saturday, October 24th to tour the Holiday Inn and submit our 2010 Conference Budget. The District Three leadership was very impressed with the facility and approved the budget we proposed with one minor adjustment. Special thanks to Cindy for all the work she put into the Conference Packet provided to each District Three Board Member.

Information regarding our Friday Fun Night event, Altrusa's Got Talent, has been sent to all District Three Club Presidents. The speakers, workshops and Conference Service Project have all been secured. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 17th at 5:30pm at Wyomina Park Baptist Church. It's BYOD (Bring Your Own Dinner) and we welcome anyone who would like to join us.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Scott Tice

With only one meeting each in November and December, our next Program Meeting will be in January. Please note our December meeting will begin 30 minutes earlier than our usual meetings – at 11:30am. Please join us as we spend a few extra moments spreading our Holiday Cheer and be prepared for a little fun too!

AN ANTARTIC BLOGGER!

Sharon Mai

Some of us like a little snow and ice to get into the holiday spirit. Below is a web address for a blog that will get you started! Scott is the adventuring spouse of a friend I have in Maryland. He applied to take a five month position as a Fire/EMS Dispatcher in Antarctica. He got the job...and arrived in Antarctica in mid-October. He is posting a blog about his experience there, so if you haven't been to Antarctica...you might enjoy checking out his blog. Be sure and leave a comment for him, as he looks forward to seeing who comes to take a peek! www.scottafar.com

June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010

OFFICERS

President	Connie Larsen
President Elect	Scott Tice
Second Vice President	Val Forster
Corresponding Secretary.....	Barbara Little
Recording Secretary	Angie Dansby
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Care	Nancy Jones
Cluster/Scholarships	Susan Keith
Community Service	Barbara Little
Literacy	Mary Getsee
Fundraising.....	Karen Thigpen
Membership	Valerie Forster
Newsletter	Sharon Mai
Program.....	Scott Tice
Public Relations	Joan Coke
Scrapbook	Carol Trow
Web Page	Julie Watson-Helms
2010 Conference	Scott Tice

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