



# The Altrusa Announcer

Altrusa International of Branch County  
P.O. Box 631, Coldwater, MI 49036

Volume 1, Issue 12

May 20, 2009

## President Burkhardt's Message



Dear Branch County Altrusans,

In reviewing my year as your president, I am filled with good thoughts about all we have seen and accomplished. Our programs,

such as Laura Loveberry's Mrs. Michigan experience, Kathie Barone's discussion of the funeral and burial experience, the food pantries' needs overview, and the Teen S.H.A.R.E. review of conditions and goals have kept us filled with ideas and information about our community.

The inner workings of our club have been reviewed and discussed to give us policies that meet our current needs and a strategic plan that is more user friendly and in use as we moved through the year. Our Altrusa Board was outstanding in working through all of these tasks.

Our community service has been especially productive as we were able to help bridge a financial crisis at Teen S.H.A.R.E., offered scholarships to women and teens meeting life's challenges, brought about an important focus

on culture with the Cultural Connections program, began a worthy project to provide shoes to children with the Happy Feet program, maintained a Tibbits membership of support and beautified our city park with plantings.

To do all of that, we raised funds through our Diamond Raffle and Golf Scramble which demanded all of our attention at times as we sought an improvement on previous years' gains....and did it.

Meanwhile, we have added five new members ready to take part in all of these efforts. Our attempts at after work meetings have begun to show promise with a successful White Elephant Auction and a visit to the Happy Feet collection and storage site.

As a group of accomplished women, we enjoy each others ideas, energy and friendship. As we have worked together, I have been continually amazed at the abilities and contributions of all of you. To me, all of you remain the women of choice in Branch County.

In appreciation,  
Barb

### Calendar:

- MAY 20  
BUSINESS MEETING  
12:00 NOON—ELKS  
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
- JUNE 3  
PROGRAM MEETING  
12:00 NOON—ELKS  
STRATEGIC PLANNING
- JUNE 17  
BUSINESS MEETING  
12:00 NOON—ELKS
- JULY 1  
PROGRAM MEETING  
12:00 NOON—ELKS  
PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED
- JULY 15  
BUSINESS MEETING  
12:00 NOON—ELKS
- JULY 29  
5TH WEDNESDAY SOCIAL  
TO BE ANNOUNCED

### Inside this issue:

- COMMUNITY SERVICE DONATIONS 2
- MEMBER SPOTLIGHT 3
- GREETERS' SCHEDULE 3
- INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NEWS 3
- COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT 4
- INQUIRY FROM NEWSLETTER 4
- NEW MEMBER INFORMATION 4

## Branch County Wins Awards at District

Altrusa International of Branch County was represented by six members recently at the Altrusa District V Conference in Saginaw, Michigan. Those who attended are pictured from left to right: Barb Burkhardt, President, Shirley Bailey, Mary Jo Johnson, Connie Winbigler, Cindy Wakeman, and Barb Rosene.

There were 130 members present at the conference with 30 clubs registered from Michigan and Ohio. The highlight of the conference was the presentation of awards with Branch County winning first place for the Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun

(Continued on page 3)



# Altrusa Supports Our Community

## Breast Cancer Screening

Connie Winbigler (right) recently presented Dee Dailey, CHC Director of Radiology Services, with a check for \$2,720 towards the CHC Breast Cancer Screening Clinic. This clinic, held the first Saturday in October, offers free mammograms to women over 40 who have no insurance or are underinsured. Altrusa has been a generous sponsor of the clinic for several years. "I can't thank Altrusa enough for your ongoing support of the breast cancer screening clinic. The clinic offers a potentially life-saving service to the women of Branch County," stated Ms. Dailey. The Breast Cancer Screening Clinic is only one of many community services Altrusa International of Branch County supports annually.



"I can't thank Altrusa enough for your ongoing support ..."  
Dee Dailey, CHC  
Director of  
Radiology Services

Three non-traditional students in Branch County each received a \$1,335 vocational scholarship.



## Vocational Scholarships

Altrusa International of Branch County recently presented their "Vocational Scholarships" to three worthy recipients. Shown in the photo is: (Left to Right) Jessica Handy (Altrusa Club Member) Barbara Mosher, Carmon O'Brien and Rebecca Freeman.

The goal of the scholarship program is to provide financial assistance to non-traditional students in Branch County. Each was presented with a check in the amount of \$1,335.00.

## Literacy Council

Altrusa International recently presented the Branch County Literacy Council a check in the amount of \$2,000.00 to assist the Council in purchasing tutor and student supplies. Ruth Vanderpool-Omlor, director of the Council, noted the funds will be put to good use since the Literacy Council has seen a constant increase in individuals requesting the Literacy Council's assistance in helping them learn to read.

Shown in the photo is, left, Altrusa Club Member Sue Crabtree and Vanderpool-Omlor, right.



The Literacy Council received \$2,000 to purchase tutor and student supplies.

Altrusa once again provided for Girls State scholarships.



## Girls State

Altrusa International of Branch County has supported Girls State scholarships for many years. Again in 2008/2009, Altrusa provided funding for these scholarships. Who can forget the letter from Jasmine Mustafa, one of the scholarship recipients, as she explained how much Girls State meant to her? "Girls State taught me to be more confident and more outgoing...Girls State has gone so far as to change my life and I will always be thankful that Altrusa gave me the opportunity to attend." At left is Norma Wojack accepting this year's donation on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary from Mary Jo Johnson.

**"Nothing is particularly hard if you divide it into small jobs."**

My thanks to Mary Ann Ford, Paulette Porter, and Carrie Welch, who made doing the newsletter this year "not particularly hard".

(Continued from page 1)

International Relations Award, first place for the Ruth B. Emmons Award for the best newsletter, second place for both the Mary Shanks Award for the best yearbook and the Hamilton Award for the highest average attendance at regular meetings, with 83%. First place went to Grand Rapids at 92%; Grand Rapids has 27 members Rapids and Branch County is the largest club in the District at 54 as of February 2008. There were 777 total members in the District as of that date with only Hamilton and Troy each at 50 members, the closest to us in size.

The International Relations award will now be forwarded to the International Club for competition at the international convention to be held in August in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The featured speaker for the event was Brian Pruitt, motivational business associate of Motivator International. Brian is a graduate of Central Michigan University, and as a gifted athlete, was named First Team All American in 1994. He subsequently has been inducted into the CMU sports Hall of Fame.

The Altrusans were also treated to the Mighty Marchin' Trojan Band of Saginaw who performed at the 2008 Sugar Bowl. The theme of the conference was "Connect for LEADERSHIP".



## Member Spotlight



### Cindy Wakeman

Cindy Wakeman joined Altrusa in the fall of 2006. New in town, she moved to Coldwater five years ago with her husband David Smoker. After retirement, they'd been looking to settle down in a small city and decided the milder winters of southern Michigan, being close to many opportunities and returning to live near family, made Coldwater just right.

Both Cindy and David are retired school administrators and teachers. Cindy spent most of her career in East Lansing as a Special Ed. teacher/consultant and elementary principal. When David retired, she took the elementary principal spot in Lakeview, moving north to be closer to their cottage in Traverse City. Who would have guessed that a helpful text book sales representative (Mary Jo Johnson) would re-enter as an Altrusa friend?

2008/2009 has been another busy year. Cindy chaired the Attendance and International Relations committee and served on the board as corresponding secretary. Her other volunteer activities include: Hospice, CHC Special Events, Foster Care Review Board, and Medicare/Medicaid counseling. Just for fun, Cindy belongs to a book club, a writing group and the community choir. She and David still spend time up north and travel when they can.

Out of all Cindy's growing connections, Altrusa is special. It brings together a group of women with diverse backgrounds and ages for a common purpose; she takes away a better understanding of community issues and the friendship of working together.

## Greeters' Schedule

May 20, 2009

Shirley Bailey  
&  
Sue Crabtree

June 3

Julie Stratos  
&  
Katherine Cousino

June 17

Donna Swift  
&  
Patty Rockey

Greeters for the new Altrusa year from July through June, 2010 will be listed in the June newsletter.



Don't forget to check these Altrusa websites for valuable information.

<http://www.altrusabranchnet.com/>

<http://www.altrusa.com/>

<http://www.altrusadistrictfive.org>

## IMAGE: Altrusa Needs a Makeover!

From the April 2009 *International Altrusan*, International Membership Development Committee, Pamela Nunnally, Chair, and Janis McNemar, Vice Chair

1937,1950,1962,1973,1985,1999,2008. What did the world look like? What did your Club look like? What did *you* look like? What do you want Altrusa International to look like? What do you want to look like? Is it time for a makeover?

Pictures or images can be like pieces of a puzzle, often fragmented, distorted, confusing, and fuzzy...depending on the viewer. In order to put the pieces together or focus the lens, you have to gather information and collect data. Often the information can best be compiled by...*just asking!* Now is the time for you to ask yourself the following questions. Through your investment we will have a successful *makeover* to insure the future of Altrusa for generations to come.

1) When did you become an Altrusan?, 2) Why did you become an Altrusan?, 3) What connects you to Altrusa?, 4) What would you do to build the image of Altrusa?, and 5) What will you do to invest in Altrusa's future?

# Altrusa International of Branch County



Patriotism. Efficiency. Service.

President: Barbara Burkhardt

Editor: Julie Stratos

P.O. Box 631, Coldwater, MI 49036

## Our Newsletter Is Read by More Than Our Members!

**From:** AndreaMHooper@aol.com  
[mailto:AndreaMHooper@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 05, 2009 2:29 PM  
**To:** Julie Stratos  
**Subject:** Re: Altrusa International Guest Question  
Ms. Stratos,

I noticed in your 7 Nov 08 meeting notes that Laura Shemel introduced an AF Col, Linda Fronczak; it appears she and her husband are working on opening a Christian Center in your area. I worked for Col Fronczak as a young Lieutenant in the AF during Operation Iraqi Freedom back in 2003. I have since been trying to reconnect with her. Is there a chance that you or Ms. Shemel could forward this email on to her? I would be so grateful!!

Regards,

Andrea Hooper

[andreamhooper@aol.com](mailto:andreamhooper@aol.com)

Capt, USAFR

610-688-3840

*I forwarded this email to Laura Shemel and copied Capt. Hooper.*

*Her reply -*

Julie,

Thank you for your help. I have not been in touch with Col Fronczak since I left the military in 2004. She has been such a role model in my life and I look forward to getting back in touch with her.

Thank you,

Andrea

## Committee Spotlight



### International Relations

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: (Chair) Cindy Wakeman (Members) Shirley Bailey, Sandi Mancino, Sheryl Moore, Patty Rockey, Barb Rosene (Active Participant) Chris Delaney

CURRENT COMMITTEE PROJECTS AND GOALS:

- Recognition of United Nations International Days
- Give-A-Quarter-If-You-Care
- Cultural Connections Committee, a community collaboration
- Celebrating Cultural Connections: Ballet Folklorico April 20<sup>th</sup> Performance, sponsor
- Teaching Kits and Mini-Grants to Area Schools

COMMITTEE HISTORY AND PAST ACHIEVEMENTS:

Altrusa International, with a representative in the United Nations, asks us to think globally as we recognize the U.N. International Days. Our community action project is a collaborative effort with the Cultural Connections Committee. Between our members' generosity, through Give-A-Quarter-If-You-Care, and a \$1000 from the Altrusa Foundation in 2007, we expanded our efforts into this second year. We hope you celebrated with us April 20<sup>th</sup> and saw the fantastic performance by the Ballet Folklorico.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD?

What's next? Past, present and future International Relations Committee members are invited to a planning session in May.

## New Member Info

### Nola Baker

Birthday: 12/07  
Classification: Libraries, Reference Librarian  
Position: Local history librarian, reference librarian  
Business: Public Library  
Business address: 10 E. Chicago St.  
Business telephone: 517/278/2341 ext. 18 or 28  
Business e-mail: [reference@branchdistrictlibrary.org](mailto:reference@branchdistrictlibrary.org)  
Home address: 805 N. Union City Rd., Coldwater 49036  
Home telephone: 269/251/0436  
Home e-mail: [librarylady61@hotmail.com](mailto:librarylady61@hotmail.com)  
Spouse: Gary L. Baker

### Rebecca Murfin

Birthday: 10/21  
Classification: Consultant/Life Coach  
Position: Certified Life Coach  
Business: Life Coaching  
Business address: 757 River Rd., Coldwater 49036  
Business telephone: 517/278/6865  
Business e-mail: [rmurfin@charter.net](mailto:rmurfin@charter.net)  
Home address: 757 River Rd. Coldwater, Mi 49036  
Home telephone: 517/278/6865  
Home e-mail: [rmurfin@charter.net](mailto:rmurfin@charter.net)  
Partner: Craig Kilgore