



The Altrusa Announcer

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

Volume 2, Issue 4

October 20, 2009

From the President



A huge thank you to the Community Service Committee. They perform a very important job – deciding on where all the dollars we have raised during the year will go. There are so many very worthwhile projects and programs in Branch County. The Committee did an outstanding job trying to touch as many as possible...a very big thanks.

On October 24th, the Literacy Committee is inviting one and all to help with the Make a Difference Day at the area libraries. A big thank you to all that have volunteered to help area children make books to take with them to

read...what a great project.

A reminder that the Tibbits Auction is November 7th....This is a very important event for the Tibbits as all funds raised help with their operating budget. See you there.

Remember, keep selling those diamond raffle tickets... This is our major fund raiser with all dollars generated going to the community service budget for the next year. Besides this year, the choice of earrings or a pendant are a winner.

Thanks.

Barb

Calendar:

NOVEMBER 4
PROGRAM MEETING
12:00 NOON—ELKS
MOON BEAR POTTERY

NOVEMBER 18
BUSINESS MEETING
12:00 NOON—ELKS

DECEMBER 2
PROGRAM MEETING
12:00 NOON—ELKS
DIAMOND RAFFLE

DECEMBER 16
BUSINESS MEETING
12:00 NOON—ELKS

DECEMBER 30
PROGRAM MEETING
12:00 NOON—ELKS
PROGRAM TO BE DETERMINED

Altrusa International Rebranding RFP

By Rhoda Struhs, 2009-2011 Communications Chair

In the upcoming issue of the *International Altrusan*, you will learn about the activities of the International Communications Committee. They have posted the new Interim Marketing Kit on the website and are now working on the rebranding process.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for Altrusa's rebranding project is finalized and will be on the International website soon. I encourage you and all of your club members to talk to marketing agencies in your area about sending in a proposal. We hope to have a diversity of interest from all communities where we have a presence. Here are the deadlines for notice of intent and proposals:

October 16, 2009: Altrusa's Request for Proposal (RFP) available on the website

October 30, 2009: Deadline of receipt of mandatory Notice of Intent, 5:00 pm, Central Time

November 20, 2009: Deadline for receipt of RFP, 5:00 pm Central Time

In December, proposals will be evaluated by the Communications Committee and the Executive Director and a recommendation will be submitted at the International Board meeting in January 2010 for approval.

Research and development of a new brand will begin in February, with the goal of unveiling the new brand at the 2011 International Convention.

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Altrusa International of Branch County

September 2, 2009, 12:00 p.m. at The Elks of Coldwater

Program Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Barb Rosene at 12:10 p.m.

Announcements/Happy Bucks:

- Connie Winbigler read a thank you received from Remus Rigg for the Tibbits Dinner.
- Kathy Cousino announced that September 8 is International Literacy Day and the Literacy Committee will be meeting today after the club meeting.
- Ginger Kessler announced that the Diamond Raffle tickets have been distributed to the members and that each member was given 15 tickets with a face value of \$10 each. She also shared that we will have a booth at Applefest on September 19 and will be selling tickets there.
- Julie Stratos announced that the Happy Heart Run will be on September 26.
- Mary Jo Kranz shared that we were thanked by Head Start for our Happy Feet program.
- Barb Rosene asked for volunteers to help sell books at the Literacy Council booth at Applefest.
- Chris Delaney announced that this year's Dancing with Celebrities event will be held on September 12 and that votes can be cast online this year. Each vote costs \$1.
- Carrie Welsh reminded everyone of our upcoming club special event – the trip to see Jersey Boys at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit on Saturday, January 16. The cost is \$100 per person. There are still spots available, please see Carrie if you are interested.
- Shirley Bailey was pleased to announce that her grandson Kyle Hutchison is home from Iraq.

PROGRAM: "Michigan Underground Railroad" by Dave Renshaw

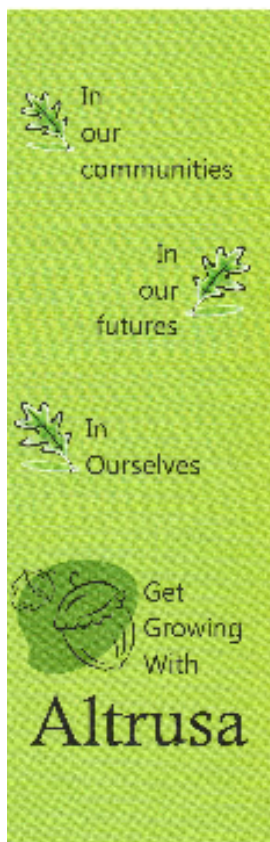
Dave is extremely knowledgeable on the Michigan Underground Railroad and shared as much of that information with us as time allowed.

50/50 raffle: \$27.50 went to Nola Baker.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

Did you know . . .

- That in 1977 Altrusa became the first volunteer service group to adopt literacy as the focus of its ongoing community activities?
- That Altrusa International has held observer status at the United Nations since 1946 and regularly participates in UN briefings and conferences related to global economic and social concerns?
- That when Franklin Roosevelt was elected governor of New York, Eleanor Roosevelt helped form an Altrusa club in Albany, inviting prospective members to meetings at the governor's mansion?



Barb Rosene asked for volunteers to help sell books at the Literacy Council booth at Applefest.

Shirley Bailey announced her grandson, Kyle Hutchison, is home from Iraq.

Altrusa International of Branch County

September 16, 2009, 12:00 p.m. at The Elks of Coldwater

Business Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Megan Angell at 12:13 p.m.

Guests: Courtney Reneau from Monarch Community Bank was introduced by Jill Smoker.

Quincy Music Boosters: Kevin Simmers (President) and Karol Booher (Treasurer) of the Quincy Music Boosters shared the purpose of their organization, some of the ways they have been able to support the Quincy music programs and asked that we consider as a club and/or individuals providing financial support for their upcoming trip to a music workshop at Walt Disney World.

Announcements/Happy Bucks:

- Julie Stratos expressed her thanks for the positive comments she has received on the newsletter.
- Chris Delaney shared an overview of all of the upcoming events at Tibbits.
- Chris Delaney announced that there are still 13 tickets available for our club event in January – the trip to the Jersey Boys show.
- Chris Delaney announced that a sign up sheet is being passed around for a few more workers for our booth at AppleFest this Saturday.

Communications Report: Sue Crabtree reported that no communications were received.

Financial Report: Sara Roper was absent and there was no report.

Board Report: Megan Angell reported that the board accepted with regret the resignations of Amy Galliers, Vicki Kibiloski and Karen Pierce.

Committee Reports:

Service – Megan Angell

- Community Service – 26 members responded to the survey and the results will be analyzed by the committee. In light of Amy Gallier's resignation, Mary Feller has agreed to chair this committee. They hope to have this year's community service budget ready for the membership to vote on at the October business meeting.
- Happy Feet – a significant number of shoes have been donated by Wal-Mart and the funds carried over from last year's budget have been spent. Despite this, there are still needs that are not being met.
- International Relations – Cindy Wakeman met with the Cultural Connections committee at the end of August. A decision on our involvement has not made for this year.
- Literacy – The Literacy Committee is collecting new and gently used books and magazines for Make a Difference Day. They are also planning a book making project in the Coldwater

(Continued on page 4)



Growing
Together

Altrusans gain strength as individual and organizational leaders of their communities.

Altrusans stand firmly rooted in a solid club history that extends their influence into all corners of the world.

Altrusa, branching out in your community, now. Envisioning a positive future for all, from their neighbors to humankind.



www.altrusa.com

The Board accepted with regret the resignations of Amy Galliers, Vicki Kibiloski, and Karen Pierce.

The Literacy Committee is collecting new and gently used books and magazines for Make a Difference Day.

(Continued from page 3)

and Bronson libraries on October 24. They will be meeting today following the club meeting.

Hands On – Connie Winbigler announced a list of items that can be used by the residents of Teen Share. Some of the items included new/used twin bed sheets, towels and toiletry items. Please contact Connie for more information.

Membership – Chris Delaney

Attendance – Sue Crabtree reported that we have 43 members as of today and that we had 17 members with perfect attendance for the second quarter. Sue read the names of the 17.

Communications – MaryAnn Ford

Newsletter – The minutes of our program meeting will be added to the monthly newsletter and the newsletter committee would appreciate any articles or items of interest you can pass along to them for inclusion in the newsletter.

Yearbook – Alicia is now the only committee member and hopes to have the yearbook done soon.

Diamond Raffle – Connie Winbigler

Connie did a commercial to promote selling our diamond raffle tickets. She announced that there will be awards given at each of our meetings between now and the drawing and emphasized that selling the tickets is what gives us money to help our community. She suggested that we make sure we emphasize that the money is going straight back into the community when we are selling our tickets.

Programs – Rhonda Ives – no report

Select – Cynthia Bordner

ASTRA – MaryJo Johnson announced that she is hoping that both of the ASTRA advisors will be able to attend one of our October meetings.

By Laws, Resolutions and Recommendations – Barb Burkhardt reported that the committee has been working on a number of issues for which they plan to propose solutions in the near future.

Club Information – Barb Burkhardt reported that the Past Presidents will be taking turns presenting information on Altrusa (International and Local) over the course of the year and will do a “draw down” type of competition in March where they will see who has retained the most information and give away prizes.

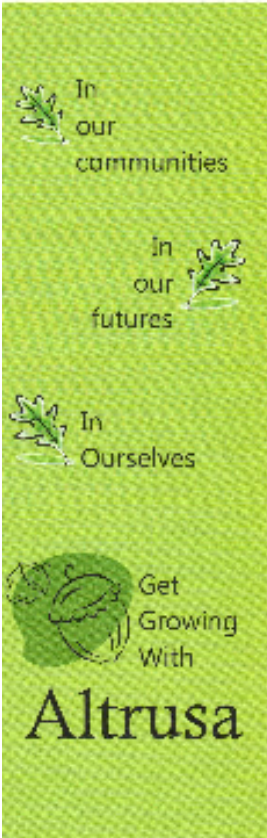
Club Information – Mary Jo Johnson and Shirley Bailey did the first in a series of presentations on Altrusa facts.

Special Event

Our next 5th Wednesday meeting will be replaced with a Fall Color Run on the train that goes from Coldwater to Quincy on Sunday, October 4th.

50/50 raffle: \$25 went to Jill Smoker.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.



Seventeen members had perfect attendance for the second quarter.

Our next 5th Wednesday meeting will be replaced with a Fall Color Run on the train that goes from Coldwater to Quincy on Sunday, October 4th.

Altrusa International of Branch County
September 9, 2009, 12:00 p.m. at The Elks

Board Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Barb Rosene at 12:10 p.m.

Board Members Present: Barb Rosene, Barb Burkhardt, Sue Crabtree, Sara Roper, Mary Ann Ford, Chris Delaney, Cynthia Bordner, Megan Angell and Jill Smoker.

Board Members Absent: Rhonda Ives.

Minutes:

Motion to approve the August 5 Program Meeting, August 12 Board Meeting and August 19 Business Meeting minutes was made by Mary Ann Ford, seconded by Megan Angell. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

- The August 31, 2009 financial statements were presented by Treasurer Sara Roper, reviewed and placed on file.

Our check request form requires two signatures from the committee plus the Treasurer. Sara asked that we consider reducing the requirements to one signature plus approval by the Treasurer because the current process is cumbersome and she feels that one signature from the committee plus the Treasurer provides enough control. Sara's suggestion was discussed. **Motion to revise our check request form to require the signature of one member plus the Treasurer's signature made by Chris Delaney, seconded by Cynthia Bordner. Motion passed.**

Communications: Sue Crabtree reported the following

- The board received letters of resignation from Amy Galliers, Vicki Kibiloski and Karen Pierce. It was noted that there had been an oversight by the board meeting in July and we had not formally acted on the resignation letter received from Chris Hilton. **Motion to accept with regret the resignations of Amy Galliers, Chris Hilton, Vicki Kibiloski and Karen Pierce made by Chris Delaney, seconded by Sara Roper. Motion passed.**

Mary Jo Johnson will contact each of the people who are resigning and do an exit interview with them. She will also be contacting Gail Doer who resigned previously. It was also noted that Tammy Brown has not paid her dues and will most likely not renew her membership for this year.

Service Committees: Megan Angell reported the following:

- The International Relations Committee attended a Cultural Connections meeting at the end of August – decisions have not made as to what they will be doing relative to this for this year.
- Happy Feet – Connie Winbigler reported that they have received and sorted many shoes and that they have applied for a grant through United Way for this program.
- Hands On – Connie Winbigler reported that they are working on a hands on project for Teen Share.

Community Service – Megan shared the results of the C.S. survey that was given to the members and that the results will be analyzed by the committee. A new chairperson is being recruited for this committee due to the resignation of Amy Galliers.



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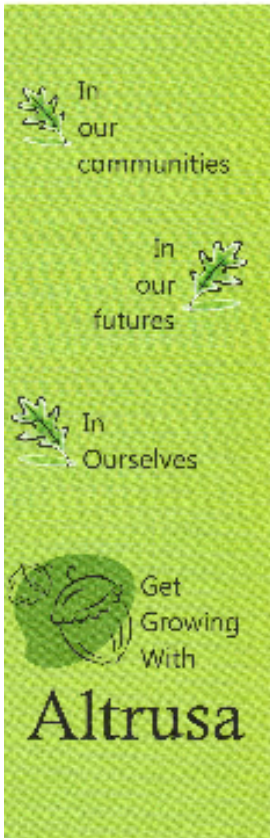
Altrusa, branching out in your community, now. Envisioning a positive future for all, from their neighbors to humankind.



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The International Relations Committee attended a Cultural Connections meeting at the end of August – decisions have not made as to what they will be doing relative to this for this year.

The Hands On Committee is working on a hands on project for Teen Share.



Barb Burkhardt shared the Altrusa International brochure for recruitment and retention .

The By Laws Committee is addressing approximately 12 issues in their review of the current by laws.

Membership Committees: Chris Delaney – no report

- Attendance Report – Sue Crabtree distributed attendance reports for the period of April 1 – June 30, 2009 and noted that we had 17 members with perfect attendance. The names of these members will be announced at our next club meeting. There was also discussion on how to encourage members who are not meeting our club’s attendance requirements to become more active in the club.

Barb Burkhardt shared the Altrusa International brochure for recruitment and retention with everyone and suggested that we review it and be prepared to discuss whether or not we want to use this at our next board meeting.

Communication Committees: Mary Ann Ford reported the following:

- Yearbook – We now have only one member on this committee – Alicia Cole. Alicia thinks she is far enough through the process that she can finish it on her own and will ask for help if/when needed.

Newsletter – The newsletter committee will begin including both the program and business meeting minutes in our monthly newsletter. They have asked that members submit any items that they think would be of interest to the membership so they can include them in the newsletter.

Finance Committees: Sara Roper reported the following:

Diamond Raffle – the tickets have been distributed to the members.

Program Committee:

- The October 7 program was cancelled due to the program that was being presented losing its funding. It has been replaced by a Health Care Legislative Update.

Our 5th Wednesday meeting in September will be on Sunday, October 4th at the Little River Railroad and this is also a club special event.

Select Committees: Cynthia Bordner reported the following:

- ASTRA – the first meeting with students will be held next week. ASTRA club officers will attend our October 7 meeting.
- Park Project – the park is all set for the year.
- By Laws – Barb Burkhardt reported that there are approximately 12 issues being addressed including handling motions via email, “missions, visions and values”, \$500 allotment for Teen Share, new member process, nomination committee composition and process, duties of the Past President, combining the position of corresponding secretary with membership attendance and service hours tracking, adding the website maintenance position, basic rules for the club laptop, basic rules for the club digital camera and committee responsibilities.

Club Information – Barb Burkhardt reported that the Past Presidents will be taking turns presenting information about Altrusa (International and Local) at each of our club meetings over the course of this year and holding a competition amongst our members to see who retained the most information at the end of the year with prizes to be given.

New Business:

Barb Rosene distributed copies of the proposed changes to our strategic plan and asked that we review the proposed changes and forward any comments we have to her prior to our next board meeting.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Altrusa's Happy Feet Program

The Altrusa Club of Branch County is continuing in its efforts to support children in Branch County who need shoes or boots to help them through their growing years and when inclement weather hits the area. Their "Hands On" project involves receiving gently used items and sorting them for redistribution as well as purchasing shoes or boots when needed. It also involves speaking to groups to enhance awareness and promoting donations for maintaining the program. Accolades have been received by the Club from teachers and social workers in the school systems for sponsoring a program of this magnitude.



Recently the local Wal-Mart store helped the program by donating over 20 cartons of shoes for evaluation and distribution. These shoes will be stored at Hauska Farm and Home which is the central site for ordering and obtaining the footwear. This gift from Wal-Mart was coordinated by Brenda G. from the local store. Shown above are Mary Feller, Connie Winbigler, and Sue Crabtree, members of the local Altrusa Club, unpacking the shoes and preparing them for storage and/or further distribution.

Children in need should contact their local schools, either their teacher, social worker or the school secretary.

Greeters' Schedule

November 4
Rebecca Murfin
&
Joanne Dean

November 18
Ginger Kesler
&
Pat Male

December 2
Cynthia Bordner
&
Mary Jo Johnson

December 16
Christine Delaney
&
Ginger Kesler



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

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

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

<http://www.altrusadistrictfive.org>



Proposed Community Service Budget 2009 - 2010

Vocational Scholarships	3,800.00
Literacy Council	1,700.00
Literacy Project	500.00
Breast Cancer Clinic	1,500.00
Tibbits Membership	500.00
Tibbits Dinner	400.00
Shelterhouse	2,391.00
Altrusa Teen Share	1,500.00
Branch County Thanksgiving Food Baskets	3,000.00
American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Scholarships (2)	620.00
Women's Health Fest	500.00
Hands on Project	2,400.00
Presbyterian Free Health Clinic	500.00
International Relations Project	200.00
	<hr/>
	19,511.00



Member Spotlight

Nola Baker

by Mary Ann Ford



My name is Nola (Lankford) Baker. I was born at Community Hospital in Battle Creek, Michigan on December 7, 1961 to Robert and Janice (Qualls) Lankford. While attending Lakeview High School, I

met my future husband Gary. We dated for two years and we were married on September 25, 1981. We lived in Battle Creek until 1990 when we moved to Coldwater due to Gary's employment.

We have three children. Gary, who will be 27 this month. He is the sports editor at the Daily Reporter and a substitute teacher. Ashley is 21 and works for the Gap Outlet in Fremont, Indiana. Our youngest is Victor who is 19. He served with the U.S. Navy and is now employed at the Federal Center in Battle Creek. Gary also is the father to our grandchildren six year old Madison, four year old Zachary, and the late Dylan. Oh...I cannot forget my "furry" children, Delilah our English Bulldog and Salem our Burmese cat.

I have been employed at the Branch District Library since 1997 working my way "up the ladder" from library clerk to my current positions as Local History Librarian and Adult Services and Reference Librarian. My goal is to wear only one of those "hats" in the very near future.

In my spare time I enjoy spending time with family and the grandchildren. I bought Gary a motorcycle this past summer and we have enjoyed riding all over Branch County. Scrapbooking, flower and herb gardening, and reading are some of my hobbies. Gary and I love to travel. We plan on taking a cruise in January 2010. Now that the kids are grown, Gary and I are looking at our future years together and we plan to have a vacation home near Chattanooga, Tennessee or Northern Alabama. We love the area as I have many relatives there. We have not ruled out the possibility of retiring there someday.

I have enjoyed getting to know others in Altrusa. I have met some great people and I hope that by serving on different committees that I can help to make a difference in my community.

Altrusa Information Series

By Shirley Bailey

This year the Board charged the Past Presidents with devising a plan to present Altrusa information to club members. Using the Altrusa Encyclopedia as a reference, the Past Presidents developed a list of questions which they hope will be of interest to the members.

The Past Presidents have been divided into pairs, each pair being assigned a number of questions to be presented at subsequent business meetings. Those members who attended the September 16 meeting saw the first in the series by Mary Jo Johnson and Shirley Bailey. While that presentation admittedly was more than a little "hokey", members will do well to remember that presentation and those to follow at upcoming business meetings as there will be a draw down contest at the series conclusion, Oh, yes, and there will be a nice prize for the winner! Bet you won't forget this writer's little game on what the letters of Altrusa stand for since I forgot the "U" in Altrusa.

Watch for the next in the series at the October business meeting when Past Presidents Barbara Faulkner and Alicia Cole take their turn.

Altrusa Diamond Raffle

What woman wouldn't want one of these two great prizes: diamond stud earrings (1 carat total weight) or a beautiful diamond pendant (3/4 carat)? These tickets will practically sell themselves!

