

The Altrusa Announcer

The Newsletter of Altrusa International, Inc. of Branch County

"Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more."

H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

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From the President

Altrusa is a builder of women.

It is an expression of the search for the best in character, in business, and in citizenship. We do projects as Altrusans that express how much we care about people, and I know it includes feeling good about ourselves, feeling good about helping other people, and feeling good about helping our community.

All of us should feel valuable on many levels: at work, at home, and in our community. And we are not alone. There are other clubs in town doing the same thing.

Being a part of the Chamber's "celebration" of non-profit organizations this month pointed out how much we all do to serve our community.

I just want to say, "keep up the wonderful work you all do" to pitch in when you're asked to serve.....even when you're not asked!!

THANK YOU !!!

Best regards,

Jacqui



Days for Girls Update

Altrusa's International Service Project, Days for Girls, is off to a great start! And District Five is already becoming involved.

Jyll Smith, International Service Chair, hosted a conference call for all District chairs in June. Several of the districts are reporting good things. District Five has been very forward thinking; Karyn Evans allowed time at the Spring Conference for a full presentation to the membership. I am happy to report all the positive feedback I received about the roll out of this project. As mentioned, there are several ways we can become involved. But first and foremost, we must continue to get the word out and answer questions.

(Continued on page 6)

Thanks to all those who contributed articles and/or pictures to this issue: Sue Crabtree, Christine Delaney, Carol Hodson, Evelyn Grimes, Mary Guthrie, DeAnne Hawley, Alicia Johansen, Jacqui Lyon, Candace Newkirk, Jan Storrs, Janelle Warner, Susan White, Sally Whitten, and Connie Winbigler. If I've forgotten anyone, I apologize. We appreciate your contribution.

Altrusa International of Branch County Meetings

July 18

Business Meeting

Elks Club; 12 noon
Greeters: Janelle Warner & Ginger Kesler

August 1

Program Meeting:

Jail Millage
Elks Club; 12 noon
Greeters: Linda Lyshol & Connie Winbigler

August 8

Board Meeting

TBA; 12 noon

Social Hour

Elks Club; 5 pm

August 15

Business Meeting

Elks Club; 12 noon
Special Guests: Greater Birmingham Club
Greeters: Anita Hoyt & Diane Brenner

August 29

Social Meeting:

Pool Party at Winbigler's 5 p.m.
Greeters: Carrie Stout & Luba Fry

September 5

Program Meeting:

Empathy Experiment
Elks Club; 12 noon
Greeters: Jan Storrs & Sandy Sexton

September 12

Board Meeting

TBA; 12 noon

Social Hour

Elks Club; 5 pm

Minutes of the June 6 Program Meeting

CALL TO ORDER: 12:06 P.M. by President, Jacqui Lyon

GREETERS: Mary Jo Johnson and Sue Crabtree

GUESTS: DeAnne Hawley introduced Sue Simcock; Candace Newkirk introduced her husband, Wally

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Alicia Cole has Tibbits Golf Scramble raffle tickets available Cost - \$10.00 each. The event will be June 22.
- Alicia Johansen stated there will be three distributions today from the 50/50 drawing... (two will be Tibbits tickets (2ea./drawing) plus the 50/50 money.
- Mary Guthrie announced the Park Project committee will meet after today's meeting.
- Connie Winbigler said Happy Feet will meet on June 20th, and Teen Share will meet on July 8th.
- Rhonda Ives announced the committee for the Tibbits Wine and Cheese event, sponsored by Altrusa and purchased through the Tibbits Auction, will meet at her house on June 20th. Anyone wanting to be on the committee can meet at her house at 6:00 P.M.
- President, Jacqui Lyon, asked for committee chairs to update manuals.
- NO JULY 4th MEETING

HAPPY BUCKS: Seven attendees contributed to Happy Bucks. Highlight(s) pertaining to Altrusa: Connie Winbigler announced Happy Feet received \$1,000 from a generous, anonymous donor. She was thrilled, along with the attending members.

PROGRAM: Norma Wojack introduced Troy Thrash from the AIR ZOO in Kalamazoo. Mr. Thrash gave a brief background about himself and how he migrated to Michigan from Pennsylvania. His primary work had been in astrophysics, and he has worked for NASA with the Hubble Space Station, along with being an employee for Boeing/Lockheed. Troy brought several artifacts, including some which had been in space. His slide presentation showed the extensive programs for preK-12th grade students. He stated, "We praise failure, as kids learn when they fail." Some interesting facts about the museum, including, but not limited to:

- There are 50,000 objects at the zoo
- It's one of the nation's top 20 museums in the country
- It's a hands-on, indoor aerospace and science education center
- There are 90 interactive programs preK-12 grade and geared toward standardized tests
- There were 35,000 students last year who came on field trips
- Restoration of an airplane lost in Lake Michigan is now on the floor of the museum for all visitors to see. He invites anyone to help restore the WWII plane they have at this time.
- Of the 140 planes lost in Lake Michigan; 80 still remain there.
- He stressed the importance of volunteers. They have 300 volunteers to about 70 regular employees. There are applications for volunteers.

Minutes of the June 20 Business Meeting

CALL TO ORDER: 12:05 P.M. by President, Jacqui Lyon

GREETERS: Karmen Case and Rhonda Ives

GUESTS: Luba Fry introduced her niece, C.J., who is President of her Key Club in Florida

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Alicia Cole has June 22 Tibbits Golf Scramble raffle tickets available; cost is \$10.00 each.
- Connie Winbigler announced there will be a Happy Feet meeting after today's meeting.
- Chris Delaney said Tibbits' Summer Theater is going strong. First performance is this weekend.
- Carol Hodson stated the Program Committee will meet tomorrow at noon, at J.T.'s.
- Chris Delaney announced you can now access the newsletter from our website.
- Sally Whitten stated her address should be changed in the yearbook from Bronson to Coldwater.
- President, Jacqui Lyon, thanked the person(s) (unknown), who placed the nice arrangements of fresh flowers on the tables for today's meeting.
- Rhonda Ives encouraged members who may be interested in helping the Tibbits Auction Tapas and Wine event, to come to her house at 6:00 p.m. this evening. There will be one more meeting before the event scheduled in August.

← ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY BUCKS:

- Carol Hodson is celebrating her 43rd Wedding Anniversary today. Also, while on vacation, she was grateful for the opportunity to see her daughter-in-law perform in Madam Butterfly.
- Anita Hoyt had two Happy Bucks: Her sister is moving to Indianapolis, which will be closer to her, and she is on the Branch Area Lions Club Golf Scramble committee.
- Luba Fry is overjoyed to have her niece, C.J. visiting her for 3 weeks.
- Alicia Cole is thankful for all members who helped with the Altrusa Golf Scramble
- Tracy Richer shared her back and forth trips from her vacation at Houghton, as her son had an emergency appendectomy.
- Cyndy Keyes recently returned from the National Rural Mail Carriers annual event, but she is co-chair and hosting the Grand Rapids Rural Mail Carriers event, with 2,500 expected this year.
- Chris Delaney voiced her enthusiasm that her son, Shawn, is on radio WTVB every morning at 7:25 announcing the World Cup bracket information.

MINUTES: Chris Delaney made a motion to accept the minutes of May 2, May 16 and May 30th as written.
Carol Shiery seconded. Motion carried.

BOARD ACTION:

- Regretfully accepted the resignation of Linda Lyshol from the position of Board Director I
- With grateful appreciation, the Board approved the assignment of Janelle Warner to fulfill Linda's position on the Board (for the remainder of the term).
- Regretfully accepted resignation of Michelle Richens due to change in working hours.
- The board approved a four-meeting leave of absence for Raeanne Renner.
- Approved as amended proposed 2018-19 Operational Budget
- Evelyn Grimes and Mary Guthrie were approved as auditors for 2016-17 & 2017-18 fiscal years.

NEW BUSINESS:

Operational Budget: The 2018-19 Operational Budget was dispersed to members. Discussion about the Rainy Day Fund. Julie Stratos explained how we don't show in Operational Budget. The Rainy Day Fund is our reserve crisis

(Continued on page 4)

Minutes of the June 20 Business Meeting

fund (i.e. computer crashes) Explanation was given regarding monies received from the Diamond Raffle and Golf Scramble. This is part of the Community Service Disbursement committee's responsibility, which Mary Jo Johnson and Carrie Stout are co-chairs. You are to fill out a form and submit to the committee. As there was no further discussion, Chris Delaney made a motion to accept the 2018-19 Operational Budget. Candace Newkirk seconded. Motion carried.

DISTRICT FIVE CONFERENCE REPORT:

- Building a successful Club – Connie Winbigler reported
- Newsletter, DSB, website – Candace Newkirk reported
- Tips and tricks for motivating and engaging members – Jacqui Lyon and Raeanne Renner
- Foundation and Club 21 – Carol Hodson
- Parliamentary procedures – Susan Merkle and Jacqui Lyon
- Awards – Carol Hodson
- Statistics from Conference – Connie Winbigler
- Treasurer Workshop (Alicia Johansen was absent today....no report)
- Secretary Workshop – Susan Merkle
- DfG (Days for Girls) – Carol Hodson – said a program will follow at another meeting
- Illuminating Our Way to the Future with Strategic Planning – Jan Storrs reported
- 1st Timer perspective – Karmen Case and Janelle Warner
- Call to Conference – Carol Hodson (Lima 2019, Youngstown 2020, Battle Creek & International in Reno)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Fundraising: Alicia Cole handed out a report for the Altrusa Golf Scramble for the past 20 years. This year's net profit for Altrusa was \$16,927.46. We have raised \$214,351.53 in the 20 years of the Golf Scramble. A positive comment was having one envelop for purchasing all the tickets for raffles.
- Happy Feet: Connie Winbigler reported the committee will be featured in the local newspaper, as Roland Story, a reporter for the newspaper, will be at Hauska Home and Farm at 2:00 p.m. today.

50/50/RAFFLE: Total money collected today: \$46. Cyndy Keyes was our winner.

BIRTHDAYS: *(June 30th) Tracy Richer * (July 15th) Dola Gleeson * (July 22nd) Sally Whitten

GREETERS JULY 18, 2018 Janelle Warner and Ginger Kesler

ADJOURNMENT: 1:03 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY: Susan Merkle/Secretary

Did You Know - Leave of Absence

- If a member will be absence for three consecutive meetings or more, he/she must submit a written request to the board with the exact dates of the planned absence. This request can be an email to the club president.
- Board members must relinquish their board position for replacement before requesting leave.
- A member shall notify the Board of Directors in writing if he/she requests a return earlier than the original date of the leave.
- Up to one-year leaves of absence may be granted to any member who has been excused by the Board of Directors of the Club from attendance at Club meetings, but such member shall not be exempt from payment of regular dues during such leave of absence.

Altrusa 2018 Golf Outing

Our annual golf outing took place on Friday, May 25th at Coldwater Golf Course. We had a great turnout with 27 team (108 golfers) and also with the weather as it was a perfect day for golf.

This year we had six Gold Sponsors (\$500 donations) which were Kiss Jewelry, Sekisui Voltec, Work Heath, Southern Michigan Bank & Trust, Chemical Bank and Cole Ford Lincoln.

Other sponsors included: C & O Insurance & Infinity Mortgage Associates as the Scoreboard Sponsors, Tom Manning & Associates for the Beverage Cart Sponsorship, Mastronardi Produce: Pepper Co/Marua Farms for Banquet Sponsorship, Karmen Case, Realtor- Hauska Home & Farm Real Estate was the Breakfast Sponsor, Branch County Community Foundation donated the golf balls for goodie bags, Wal-Mart Distribution Center for Putting Green Sponsor and both Bobilya Chrysler Jeep Dodge and Sherry Haylett Homes and Rec. Properties were the Hole in One Sponsor.

In addition to these we had over 10 Hole Sponsors (\$200 donations) and around 50 Tee Sponsors (\$75 donations) and also numerous companies who donation items for the raffle.

The winning teams were:

Men's Team – (L to R) Connor Covert, Jay Dogan, Curtis Covert, and Jeff Sheppard



Women's Team – (L to R) Becky Olds, Leslie Moore, Lisa Covert, and Kristin Smith



Mixed Team – Scott Rzepka, Gary Werkman, Connie Downs, and Glenn White

This year we even had a hole-in-one winner! Kevin Woodward made just the right swing, at just the right time, on just the right hole! His teammates were Eric Clancy, Dan Warner and Kurtis Woodward.

This event is one of our biggest fundraisers and the year it seems to be again as we made over \$16,000 to give back to our community!

2018 Altrusa Golf Committee

Days for Girls Update

(Continued from page 1)

District Five has two clubs who have already done marvelous work for DfG: Monroe and Mansfield. We salute you, and will look to them as our own 'in house resident experts.'

I am happy to communicate there is, ON THE FRONT PAGE OF ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL (before you sign in) A LINK TO DfG. Connecting with that link will give all of us lots of answers to many of our questions. DfG can also be accessed through www.daysforgirls.org. There is a wealth of information there.

We are also very lucky to have several DfG locations right here in our District. Many of the locations are open to whatever we can do. We have one location that has already volunteered to put all the "snaps" on the party liner, since they have already purchased this machine.

As we all know, communication is key. Again, I am hoping that District Five is leading the way here too. For example, I had the chance to visit the Greater Birmingham club while I was in the Detroit metro area visiting family, and have made a valuable connection. Their club will be visiting our club this August with the purpose of discussing DfG and sharing ideas about the project. Their president, Joanne Ruzza, has very generously offered to us a serger sewing machine, the exact one DfG uses! We are very thankful to Greater Birmingham.

Governor Karyn Evans is hopeful we will have a minimum club participation of 80%, hopefully 100%. I feel very confident about this, with all of the feedback I have received.



Altrusa Park Midsummer Update

The park is looking beautiful thanks to all the Altrusa members who generously donate their time to weed and deadhead. Also be sure to thank Kent Neitzert when you see him as he helps design what to plant, tills the beds for us, and delivers the flowers to the park. The sign up for care of the park is:

Week of July 9th – Carol Hodson
 Week of July 16th – Carol Shier
 Week of July 23rd – Megan Angel
 Week of July 30th – Anita Hoyt
 Week of August 6th – Sally Whitten
 Week of August 13th – Cindy Gardner
 Week of August 20th – Kristin Smith
 Week of August 27th – Julie Stratos
 Week of September 3rd – Jacqui Lyon
 Week of September 10th – Carrie Stout
 Week of September 17th – Sally Whitten
 Week of September 24th – Caroline Lowe
 Week of October 1st – Luba Fry



Again, thank you Altrusa members for taking care of the park!

Mary Guthrie

Minutes of the June 6 Program Meeting

(Continued from page 2)

- Museum honors veterans and has partnered with Talons Out Honor Heroes
- The museum does have summer camps for children.

50/50/RAFFLE:

- Total money collected today: \$79.00
 1. Mary Guthrie (Tibbits Tickets)
 2. Norma Wojack (Tibbits Tickets)
 3. Luba Fry (50/50-\$)

BIRTHDAYS:

* (4) Diane Brenner * (5) Carol Shiery * (13) Jacqui Lyon * (30) Tracy Richer

GREETERS FOR JUNE 20, 2018 - Rhonda Ives and Karmen Case

ADJOURNMENT: 12:55 P.M.

SUBMITTED BY: Susan Merkle/Secretary

Quincy ASTRA Assists Rotary



Members of our newly established Quincy Astra Club participated in their first project by helping out at the annual July 4th Quincy Rotary Pork Chop Barbeque and Friends of the Quincy Library pie sale. There were approximately 500 people who attended the annual event. Nine Astra members helped serve patrons both at the inside and outside tables, cleaned tables, sold pies, cleaned up after the event, and anything else they were asked to do. Our members were all smiles and 'stepped up to the plate' for their first event. The Quincy Rotary was very pleased with their help and asked if they would like to make this an annual event. There was a lot of interest regarding our Astra table in the dining room,

which displayed information about Astra with Astra applications for students/parents/guardians to fill out. A very special thank you to Tracy Richer and Cindy Gardner who helped direct the members during their first event.



Happy Feet - Teen Share Update

Dola Gleeson presented Connie Winbigler with a check for \$2000 from Chemical Bank for Altrusa's Happy Feet Program. Chemical Bank's mission statement denotes "Our talented and passionate team members are driven to enhance the lives of the communities we serve by consistently exceeding expectations". The Altrusa Happy Feet Committee has enjoyed working with Dola and the Chemical Bank employees to receive this grant. The committee so appreciates their ongoing support. Dola is the local Banking Center Manager and serves on the Happy Feet Committee.



The Happy Feet Committee met on June 20, 2018. The following goals were adopted for 2018-2019:

- To continue to supply the needy children of Branch County with shoes, boots, and socks.
- To continue to share our story with the community we serve through media releases, attending service clubs, sharing our brochures with the schools and the public.
- To review our annual evaluation form and update if needed, including our contact list.
- To identify a mechanism to recognize our partners and supporters of Happy Feet.

For the 2017-2018 year we distributed 478 pairs of footwear at a cost of \$9,398.80. Overall, we have provided 3,720 pairs in the 10 years of the program at a cost of \$54,067.17. Costs for footwear has steadily risen, from \$10 to \$14 to \$20 per order. Boots are generally 34% to 44% of our orders. Because of the rising costs we will be exploring new sponsorships.

In the meantime, we were fortunate to recently receive \$500 from the Exchange Club and \$500 in gift cards from Meijer. A donation request has been sent to SMBT. It will be necessary for WalMart Distribution/Transportation to conduct another event to qualify us for another grant.

Committee members this year are: Pat Myers, Jan Storrs, Mary Feller, Carol Shiery, Dola Gleeson, Julie Zorn, and Chair, Connie Winbigler.



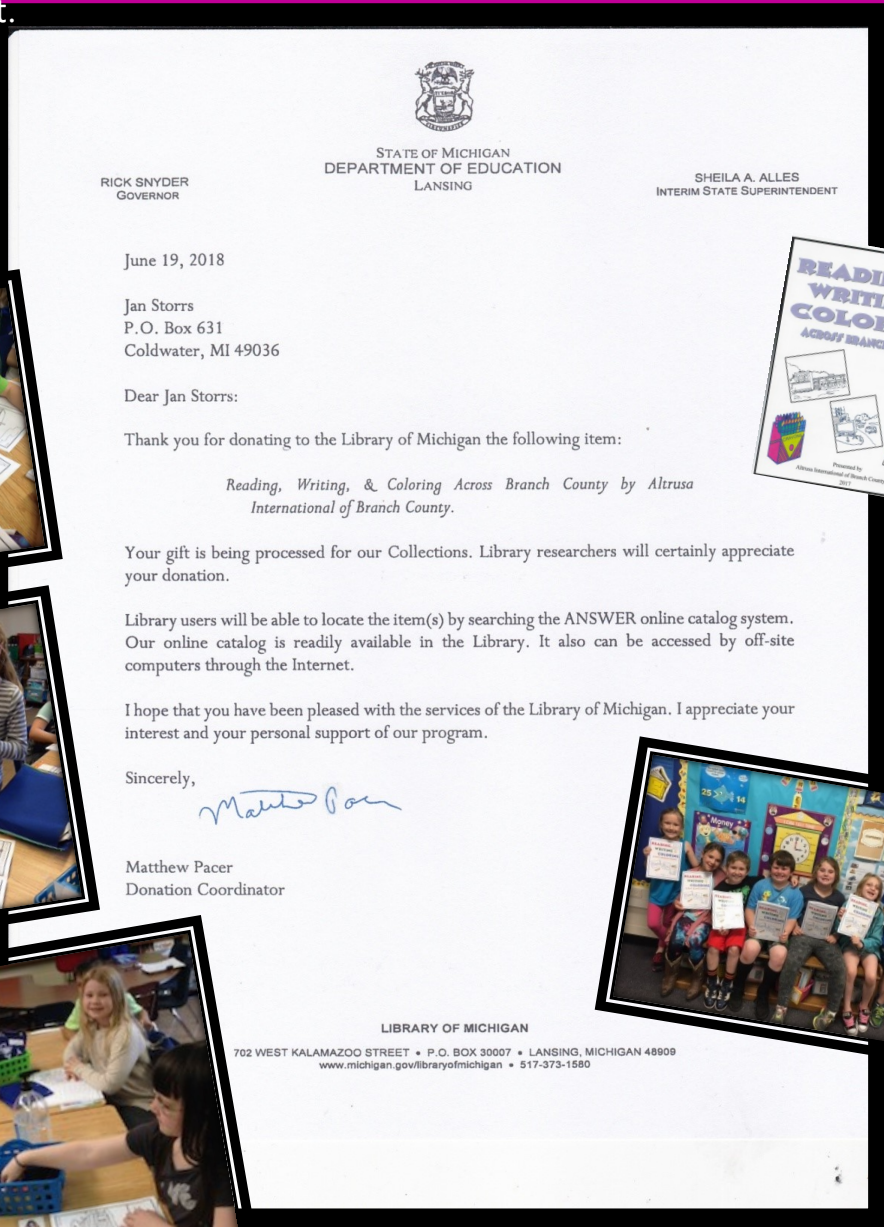
The Committee for Teen S.H.A.R.E. will be meeting in July. Connie has been in contact with Kim Hemker. Ideas for our supporting their needs are additional equipment for the monitoring system, bedbug mattress covers, and carrying out another hands on activity which is yet to be decided.

Requests for dollar support for these two projects will be submitted to the Community Service Committee.

Pictured are Brenda Hackett, Retail Administrative Assistant at Meijer and Connie receiving the \$500 gift cards.

Altrusa Coloring Book in Library of Michigan

In a recent conversation with a staff member with the Library of Michigan , Jan Storrs told them about our award winning coloring book at which time they indicated they would love to have a copy. This is the letter they sent upon receipt.



Jennings Elementary School
Lynda Wheaton's Class.

Union City
Elementary School
Holly Bain's Class

Book Review: *The Honk and Holler Opening Soon* by Billie Letts

"A feel-good story, centered in America's heartland, where dreams can still come true and people still care enough about each other to give a leg up when it's needed...A wonderful inspirational book that causes chuckles and tears." "Story begins December 1985...Christmas only says away.

Caney Paxton wanted his cafe to have the biggest and brightest sign in Eastern Oklahoma-the "opening soon" part was supposed to be just a removable, painted notice. But a fateful misunderstanding gave Vietnam vet Caney the flashiest joke in the entire state. Twelve years later, the once-busy highway is dead and the sign is as worn as Caney, who hasn't ventured outside the diner since it opened. Then one blustery December day, a thirtyish Crow woman blows in with a three-legged dog in her arms and a long-buried secret on her mind. Hiring on as a carhop, Vena Takes Horse is soon shaking up business, the locals, and Caney's heart...as she teaches them all about generosity of spirit, love, and the possibility of promise-just like the sign says.

Cool Summer Recipes

Greek Orzo Salad

Ingredients

1 ½ cups uncooked orzo pasta
 2 (6 ounce) cans marinated artichoke hearts
 1 tomato, seeded and chopped
 1 cucumber, seeded and chopped
 1 red onion, chopped
 1 cup crumbled feta cheese
 1 (2 ounce) can black olives, drained
 ¼ cup chopped fresh parsley
 1 tablespoon lemon juice
 ½ teaspoon dried oregano
 ½ teaspoon lemon pepper
 **Optional – sautéed asparagus, cut in 1" pieces

Directions

- Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add pasta and cook for 8 to 10 minutes or until al dente; drain. Drain artichoke hearts, reserving liquid.
- In large bowl, combine all ingredients. Toss and chill for 1 hour in refrigerator.
- Just before serving, drizzle reserved artichoke marinade over salad.

Chickpea Panzanella

Ingredients

1 (8-oz.) ciabatta loaf
 2 cups cherry tomatoes, halved
 1 (15-oz.) can unsalted chickpeas, drained and rinsed
 1 (8.5-oz.) can quartered artichoke hearts, drained
 3 ounces feta cheese, crumbled (about ¾ cup)
 1/2 cup thinly sliced red onion
 1/4 cup chopped fresh basil, plus more for garnish
 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
 1 1/2 tablespoons red wine vinegar 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
 1/8 teaspoon kosher salt

Directions

Step 1

Preheat oven to 350°F. Remove and discard crust from ciabatta; cut bread into 1/2-inch cubes. Spread bread cubes in an even layer on a baking sheet. Bake at 350°F for 12 minutes or until toasted and golden.

Step 2

Combine toasted bread, tomatoes, chickpeas, artichoke hearts, feta, onion, and basil in a large bowl.

Step 3

In a separate smaller bowl, combine oil, vinegar, oregano, pepper, and salt. Stir with a whisk. Pour over salad; toss to combine. Garnish with chopped fresh basil.

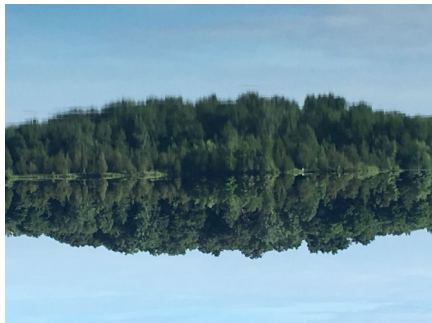
News from Altrusans



This is Susan White's new grandson. Cameron James! He joins his brother Connor who is 8 1/2. Cameron weighed 7 lbs, 19 inches. All is well!



Candace Newkirk and friends enjoyed Charlotte's Web at Tibbits Popcorn Theater. At right, granddaughter Charlie graduated from kindergarten this year!



Evelyn Grimes enjoyed this beautiful, quiet, and calm Fourth of July morning view from her cottage on Pleasant Lake.



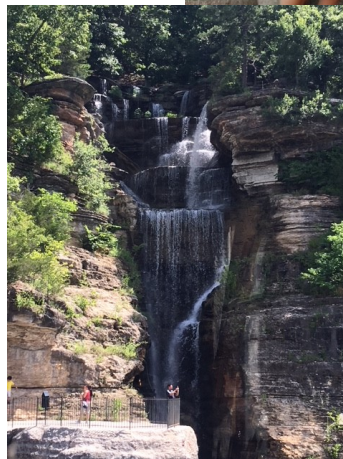
At left, Julie Stratos' granddaughter, Zoey, celebrated her sixth birthday with lunch at El Cerritos with her mom and seven siblings.



At left, DeAnne Hawley, her husband Bill, and best friends, Bob and Jamie Cline visited the Ozark mountains over the 4th of July week. Below is the home of Laura Ingalls Wilder's modest home in Manfield, MO, where she wrote her books.



Alicia Johansen was in Maine recently and went a nature boat tour. She got a demonstration of lobster fishing and saw puffins and seals. She had a blast seeing her brother Josh and sister-in-law Hillary.



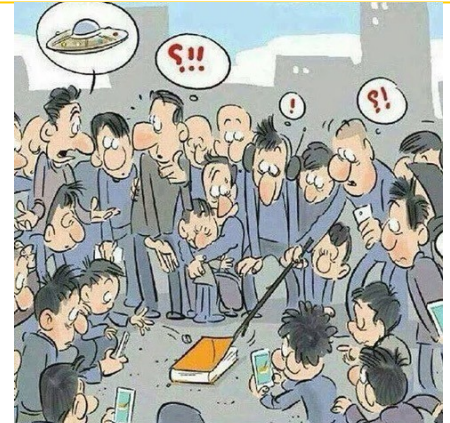
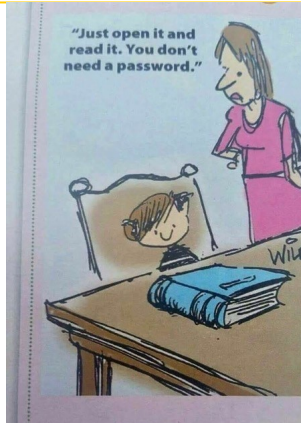
Did You Know in Our Community

Last Fall, the First Presbyterian Church on Marshall Street opened a diaper pantry. It is open on Thursdays from 4 PM to 6 PM in Calvin Hall next to the sanctuary. Diapers from birth sizes through size 6 are available as well as some adult diapers. Offered at the same time as the diapers are lotion and wipes. Recipients should be Branch County residents but proof of residency is not required. Those who want diapers are asked ONLY their name, where they live, and the age of the child or children needing diapers and the diaper size(s) needed and how they learned about the diaper pantry. There is no limit on how often a family may come.



All of the items given out come mostly from donations made by members of the church's congregation but anyone may donate any of the items described or may make a cash donation or give coupons. Two volunteers are on hand to record the information noted above and to give out the needed items. More volunteers are needed and welcomed. If you are interested in making a donation of any kind, I will be glad to take the items to the church or you can drop them at the church M-F 8AM to 2 PM. If you are interested in volunteering, call the church office at 278-6068. If you know a family that would benefit from coming to the diaper pantry, do not hesitate to refer them at the time and place noted above. The number of families coming for diapers is gradually increasing each week.

Sally Whitten

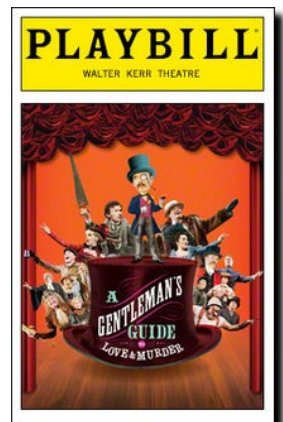


A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder

Book and lyrics by Robert L. Freedman
Music and lyrics by Steven Lutvak

Tibbits is excited to be among the first regional theatres to produce this hilarious musical farce.

A distant heir to a family fortune sets out to speed up the line of succession by using a great deal of charm and a dash of murder. The 2014 Best Musical (Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, and Drama League) takes a murderous romp filled with unforgettable music, non-stop laughs, and one actor who plays all eight of the heirs from the flamboyant country squire to the terrible actress to the aging war hero, all of whom meet their ends in the most creative and side-splitting ways. The show opens Thursday, July 19 and runs through Saturday July 28 in Coldwater, MI.



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We're on the Web!
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www.altrusadistrictfive.org
www.altrusa.com

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Honoring Our Veterans

At the June 6, 2018 meeting of Altrusa, Mr. Troy Thrash, President and CEO of the Kalamazoo Air Zoo, spoke to Altrusans about the programs they offer, one of which is the restoration of WWII aircraft retrieved from the bottom of Lake Michigan. Wartime pilots were trained on a renovated air craft carrier, where they practiced take offs and landings .

Sue Crabtree was especially interested in hearing about this, as her father, Mort Main, was one of those pilots. Lieutenant Main received his wings May 31, 1944. He completed his dive bomber training in Florida, and he then became carrier-qualified in the SBD-5 Dauntless aircraft on Lake Michigan. Rather than being sent to the Pacific, as he expected, he was assigned to Pensacola, Fla and served as a flight instructor for the duration of the war. Sue shares this picture of her dad.



Asdiqa Visits Dearborn

Jan Storrs, chairperson of the International Relations Committee, traveled to Dearborn recently to visit the Arab American Museum. Thirteen others from Coldwater also attended. The trip was organized by Asdiqa (Friends) of Branch County.

Besides their guided tour, which was let by museum staff member and CHS graduate, Petra Al, they also learned two Arabic line dances, received their name written in Arabic by a professional calligrapher, and did an individual mosaic craft project.

The group also recently sponsored an informational table at Strawberry Fest.

