

Altrusa Club of Findlay

President's Message

Hello Altrusans,

I hope you have all survived the latest blast from Mother Nature. I seriously expected to see the Wicked Witch on her broom and Dorothy's house blow by this weekend! I am seriously thinking Spring!

A big thank you to our Communication Committee for the outstanding Program meeting Feb. 20. We had nice attendance with most of our membership and three guests. We enjoyed the many ideas shared by Deb Harvitt, Clutter Consultant. As I am trying my hardest to de-clutter my home, I have been asking myself the three questions she suggested: Do I NEED it? Do I LOVE it? Where will I put it? She does a free consultation in your home, so give her a call at 419-306-6399. What's to lose but a lot of stuff that stresses us out?

Also, a huge shout out to Fran Williams and Deb Foster for helping me with the Awards submissions for the District Five Conference. I couldn't have done them without your guidance.

Our March 20 Program meeting will be held at Red Cross Community room with Finance Committee in charge of

our annual Chinese Auction. So bring your new or nearly new item for the auction and prepare for all the fun.

A big thank you to Mary Klein for all her work on our grant application to the International Foundation for funds for our support of the Underground Railroad Books for our local schools and additional traveling books to accompany the Mazza project as it begins traveling Ohio.

Lastly, District Five Conference is coming the last weekend of April, and will be held in Lima, Ohio. Two rooms have been reserved for Findlay members and registration forms will be included in this newsletter. It's a great opportunity to meet Altrusans from Ohio and Michigan and share ideas. I encourage all to attend at least the Saturday session.

Think Spring!
Gwen Pahl



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Altrusa International of Findlay Board & Business

February 4, 2019

Altrusa International of Findlay met on Mon., Feb. 4, 2019, at St Paul's UMC. Meeting called to order by Pres. Gwen Pahl at 6:15pm followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary Deb Foster called roll with responses about their favorite flower. 14 members were present and 1 guest, Linda Schurch. Linda is the Dir. of Ed. Services at Blanchard Valley. She was searching for a service club to join and thought Altrusa may be a good match. Minutes from last meeting were read and approved.

The Jan. 31, 2019 treasurer's report given by Denise Heilman. Club checking and savings total balance is \$2,860.02; Foundation checking balance is \$7,750.01.

Correspondences were shared from family of Dorothy Bell Mac Laren, past president of Altrusa, thanking us for lovely white rose memorial for her passing. A thank you was also shared from Kathy Young, principal of Washington Preschool, for books and puzzle we had donated.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communication – Article deadline for March publication is Feb. 24. Please have a report from each committee to Karen Knaur. Thanks to Karen for her great work!

Next program meeting will be Feb. 20 at 6pm in Library at St. Andrew's UMC. Program will be on "Decluttering" and dessert at the cost of \$3.

Awards Com. of Fran Williams, Gwen Pahl and Deb Foster met twice. Submissions were completed by Gwen for Letha H. Brown Literacy Award with **Storybook Walk** project in the park, Mamie L. Bass Service Award with **Cards and Caroling** project and Clara Weisenborn Patriotism Award with **Holidays for Heroes** participation.

Membership – Membership Committee will be reviewing our New Member Policies and planning Orientation. It has been suggested we create a new letter for prospective members including the costs for membership.

Finance –Spring Vendor/Craft Fair will be held April 6. Marie shared that Nov. participants have already been contacted and then we will open it up for new vendors. Members again stressed desire to plan earlier for this event, especially signs and publicity to increase attendance at event. Kendra James will request gift card donations. Lacey Marquette shared that she still had not received product from Nov. Fair; members shared their concern and support in this matter.

March meeting will be Chinese Auction and Dinner at cost of \$6. We will meet at Journey at Christ Church

(*location changed to the Red Cross after meeting) at 6 PM. Members will bring items for the Auction as a fundraiser for our Operating/Club Account.

Service –Mazza Funday Sunday event, **LEGO and Trenton McBeth**, had 4 members volunteering. They appreciate and encourage our help.

Tell A Tale judging will be Tuesday, February 5th, 9:30-12:30 in the Lindamood Room at the Library. Altrusa volunteers were Gwen, Fran, Mary, Karen and Lacey.

Undecorating at Historical Museum had 8 members, an Altrouser and one guest during their January shutdown.

Feed a Child foodbag packing had 8 members; one Altrouser (Thanks again Al!) participating that snowy day.

Members sorted and delivered book donations at Red Cross for delivery to 50 North, City Mission, Family Center and Public Library.

Unfinished Business – **Mazza Museum Underground Railroad Project**- Mary shared results of votes for best books for elementary: **Unspoken** and **I Want to Be Free**, and middle school: **Unspoken**, **Frederic Douglas**, and **January Sparrow**. Kendra, Judy, Mary and Gwen will meet with Kerry Teeple, Mazza Museum Deputy Dir. and Coordinator of Underground Railroad Traveling Exhibit, to get input for our Altrusa Grant Application and to pursue being an official sponsor of selected books to accompany this traveling art exhibit. Mary will also meet with FCS Literacy Co-ordinator, Stephanie Roth, to make sure books we donate to schools match their needs.

Scholarship Committee will meet Tues., Feb. 5, 5:15pm at Fern Café to discuss possible changes to its description, guidelines and forms.

New Business – District Five Conference will be held April 26-28 in Lima. Registrations will need to be in by our next meeting. There will again be a centerpiece competition with the theme: An Altrusa Blue Ribbon. Our tri-board displays are to feature: Fund Raisers.

New Member Initiation led by Gwen Pahl for Diane Cramner.

Ardith Green won 50/50 \$7.50. Happy Dollars earned \$15. Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm with Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Foster, Secretary, Altrusa International of Findlay, Ohio

Committee info

Club members serve community in a variety of projects

Denise, Dianne, Kendra, and Laurie volunteered at the Mazza Museum's Funday Sunday event on February 3. They assisted with games, technology, and T.L. McBeth's book signing. The theme was "Let's Go Legos" and after staying inside 3 days due to below zero temperature, attendance approached 1000! Funday Sunday at the Mazza Museum typically has storytelling, art stations, music or activities, refreshments, and special guests. It is held in the first Sunday of the month from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The activities are based on monthly themes. Remaining chances to help at Funday Sunday are March 3 ("Goofy Goblins") and April 7 ("Fairy Tales and Fables"). If you'd like to help in April, please email Heather Sensel, volunteer coordinator (senselh@findlay.ed), as soon as possible.

On February 5, Lacey and Mary joined Gwen at the Hancock County/ Findlay Library to judge entries in the Literacy Coalition's "Tell a Tale" competition. They enjoyed reading imaginative- and, sometimes, illustrated- stories submitted by kindergarten students. They were also relieved to have considerably fewer entries to judge than the folks charged with judging 90 4th grade entries!

Reminder: The last **Feed a Child** packing event for this school year will be on Saturday, **March 9**, at Ohio Logistics (Industrial Drive, off Bright Road).



More Committee info



Scholarship Committee

Starts search for applicants

The Scholarship committee met in February to discuss the 2019 Altrusa Literacy/ Service Scholarship. It was eventually decided to continue the scholarship as is for this fiscal year. We are offer-

ing up to \$1000 to current college juniors who are pursuing careers which promote literacy or service. Information has been distributed to local colleges, the *Courier*, and the library.

Original discussions to consider including an award to local schools for the purchase of books for 1st grade classrooms through Scholastic books, have been tabled for this fiscal year. However, the committee will meet again to finalize proposals for our 2019-2020 year. Any proposed changes will be presented to the board and club for approval.

Grant application work

Gwen, Judy, and Mary met with Kerry Teeple, Deputy Director of the Mazza Museum, on Feb. 11. They began work on an Altrusa grant application for books to accompany and complement the Museum's Underground Railroad Traveling Exhibit.

February De-Cluttering with Deb dessert program meeting

