



December 2018



Sidney Scoop

Happy Holidays!!

Our Christmas Auction was, once again, a success. We made \$630 and had loads of fun, sometimes getting in a frolicking bidding war. From cookies to candles and wine to wood, there were some unique and mostly festive auction items. And, we got to spend some quality time with our favorite Mrs. Claus (Kay Barlow).

Germaine Vondeharr came early to see how we're doing with our responsibilities for next April's District Conference. We're still trying to round up more volunteers as Expeditors and looking for an inspirational speaker (for Sunday morning) and Friday and Saturday evening entertainment. I have contacts in Lima, however they have not made any commitments as yet.

Missy reported that there are 2400 children in Shelby County receiving books from the Imagination Library and the graduation in November went well.

Thanks to all those who rang the bell for the Salvation Army on December 1 and 8.

Happy December Birthdays to Deb Sanders and Dianne Wells and Happy Birthday to our international child, Aminata, who will turn 11 in January!

See ya'll after New Year's.

Christi
Sidney Scoop Editor

Financials:

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|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Club balance as of 11/30/18 | \$2,231.37 |
| Foundation balance as of 11/30/18 | \$2,034.41 |

Altrusa is an international non-profit organization, making our local communities better through leadership, partnership, and service.

Altrusa Club of Sidney, Ohio ~ PO Box 2 ~ Sidney OH 45365

Next Meeting:

January 2—Suzanne Accent

Amos Memorial Library

Please RSVP to Bev Mintchell no later than the Friday prior to the meeting: 937-498-9431 or at bmintchell@gmail.com

Upcoming Dates:

February—Judy Accent
6 Meeting

March—Angela Accent
6 Meeting
21 Adult Spelling Bee
(Ohio Living Dorothy Love)

April—Mary Lou Accent
3 Meeting
9 Quad City dinner
26-28 District Conference

May—Cynthia Accent
1 Meeting

June—Kay Accent
5 Meeting
(Scholarships & Birthday)

July
16 Blood Drive

August
7 Meeting

September
4 Meeting

October
2 Meeting

Meet Your Fellow Altrusans

Ann Weiskittel says...I was born in the Netherlands and my parents immigrated to Canada with three children. I grew up on a farm in London Ontario with my parents and six siblings, attended Nursing school and met my husband at Oktoberfest in Kitchener Ontario (he is from Sidney). We married in the early 80's and moved to Lexington, Kentucky where he was in Graduate School at the University of Kentucky. Moved to Ohio where my husband worked with Ohio/CAT and other equipment dealers; and then to Indianapolis for 20 years. He always wanted to return to his home town, so here we are. We have three children: oldest daughter, her husband, and 3 little boys live in Englewood; son is in Indianapolis; and youngest daughter lives in Montana.

Throughout my marriage I have worked either part- or full-time in nursing in a variety of settings, women's surgery, stepdown units, general ICU, Neurotrauma ICU, longterm care, and school settings. The last 10 years in Indianapolis I managed a 40-bed Neuroscience Unit. Currently working at Wilson Health as Nurse Liaison for Behavioral Health. I earned a MSN and two certifications while living in Indianapolis.

As for hobbies, I am a Lector at Holy Angels and enjoy most types of exercise, and really enjoy cycling. In my 20's I took a European cycling trip and more recently have taken short cycling trips with my sisters. I enjoy gardening, music, reading, and cooking (as long as I don't have to do it every day). I do enjoy trying new recipes and foods and the diversity of ethnic foods.

As a child, my favorite book was *Ann of Green Gables* but there are too many to choose my favorite book as an adult.

I like Altrusa because it gives me the opportunity to meet local professional women and I appreciate Altrusa's mission of service.

My favorite color is blue and also the favorite of my 3-year-old grandson.

Judy DeLong says...I was born in Dayton and then my family moved to a farm in Mercer County. After a move to St. Henry where I attended grade school for 3 years, we moved to Ft. Recovery where I attended Washington Township two-room School (with 4 grades in each room); and ultimately graduated from Coldwater High School.

I returned to Dayton where I met and married my husband Neil and then settled in Gordon, Ohio with our 7 kids.

I graduated from Sinclair Community College in 1980 as a registered nurse and began working at St. Elizabeth Medical Center/Franciscan Medical Center and retired in September 2000.

I enjoy Altrusa for the fellowship and activities. My favorite color is pink and am proud to have a pink kitchen with berry-colored tile over the sink and stove and a light pink counter top.

Watch your email inbox as I will be sending out more Questionnaires so I can write two more bios for the February issue.

2018-2019 Officers

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Bev Mintchell
bmintchell@gmail.com

Vice-President

Christi Thomas

Secretary

Angela Evans

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Cynthia McRill

Board of Directors

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Leanne Milligan
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President - Elect

Beverly Hardy

International Website

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What's your favorite Christmas cookie?

Holiday goodies bring out the inner child in all of us, serving up clues about what makes us tick on the deepest level. Just find the treat that tickles your taste buds to get a peek into the endearing traits others see in you.

If you prefer...

Gingerbread: You're a daring doer. From cloves to nutmeg, the warm and diverse notes that give this cookie its distinctive taste suggest that you have a sophisticated palate and adventurous spirit. Whether you're going ice-skating with pals or visiting a Christmas festival, you embrace new experiences and always have a smile on your face—one any self-respecting gingerbread man would admire!



Chocolate chip: You're a take-charge altruist. Like most classic of choices, you're a traditionalist in the best sense of the word, and your friends and family see you as a generous leader. From organizing secret Santa gift exchanges to spearheading annual charity events, you always step up when it matters most, creating rituals that bring people closer.

Sugar: You're a creative giver. Your craving for the sweet simplicity of this seasonal staple underscores your genuine nature and points to your creative temperament. That's because each cookie is a customizable canvas ready to be festooned with mood-boosting color. A caring, visual thinker, you love crafting homemade gifts and DIY decorations.

Snickerdoodle: You're a charismatic people person. The whimsical name of this childhood favorite reflects your light-hearted, free-spirited zest for life. Exuding wit and humor—telltale signs of an agile mind—you make friends easily and are the sociable star of every holiday party.

Peppermint: You're an energetic multitasker. Candy cane-encrusted cookies are to holiday treats what Santa is to Christmas: the perfect match! This pep-inducing flavor not only mirrors your enthusiasm for the season, it hints at how dynamically you

juggle just about everything—even holiday to-do's.

—Woman's World, 12/10/18

Holiday Special—Fruitcake

Fruitcake doesn't get much respect. Despite its pedigree of being served at British royal weddings, the dense cakes packed with fruit and nuts are now more of a seasonal joke than a beloved treat on this side of the Atlantic.

Fruitcake was a popular choice for royal weddings because the alcohol with which it was made worked as a preservative and the expensive ingredients were a symbol of wealth.

Fruitcake Facts: Ohio has a few famous connections to the misunderstood holiday treat.

- The Apollo 11 astronauts, including Wapak native Neil Armstrong, had their chance to consume a fruitcake in space during their 1969 mission, but declined to take such a step for mankind. Instead, they brought it back, and it's now part of the National Air and Space Museum collection.

- In 2011, Cincinnati's Elite Estate Group auctioned a fruitcake made by The Kroger Co. in 1941. The unopened fruitcake was returned to a Kroger grocery store in 1971, and the store manager had kept it at his home for years. An anonymous bidder paid \$525 for the fruitcake, with proceeds from the auction going to charity.



- In the early 20th century, Cincinnati resident Grace Rush made elaborate fruitcakes for her family and friends with a recipe borrowed from a neighbor. In 1917, Rush's sister convinced a New York City bakery to sell the fruitcakes, launching Martha Ann Fruitcakes. The company, which eventually sold fruitcakes across the U.S., was named after Rush's daughter.

—Ohio Magazine, December 2018

Make holiday greens last longer!

'Tis the season to deck your home in mood-brightening, holiday-perfect plants—and it's easier than you think to keep your festive flora flourishing all season long!

Boost Christmas cactus blooms with a p.m. cool-off. This festive succulent blooms around Christmas—as long as it gets enough dark, chilly nights. In the daytime, it prefers temperatures no warmer than 70°F, and at night anywhere from 55°F to 65°F is best. Just move your cactus outside at night, or if it's too cold, stash it in your garage or a cool basement.

Make wreaths last longer with a hairspray spritz. The key to keeping your pine wreath looking and smelling fresh is as close as your bathroom cabinet. Turns out, a spritz of hairspray seals in moisture and keeps pine needles from drying out. Reapply every few days if your wreath is outdoors. As for indoor wreaths, a quick spray once a season is all you need to keep them looking gorgeous.

Freshen up festive centerpieces with a sip of filtered water. The thing that makes flowers in centerpieces wilt faster once they're cut is the bacteria in water, which is no longer being filtered by the flowers' roots. To help blooms last longer, just give bouquets a drink from your water-filter pitcher or pour in the leftover water from boiling veggies (which have extra nutrients) after it cools.

Keep poinsettias vibrant with ice cubes.

Poinsettias are actually desert plants. They don't love being wet, so just give them a few ice cubes to ensure the plants get a nice, slow trickle of water. Place the ice cubes directly on the soil—aim for four per day for a 6"-sized pot, eight for an 8" pot, and 12 cubes for a 10" pot.

Show your tree TLC with a hot "soak." Water your tree with hot (not boiling) water. Sap clogs the trunk of a cut tree, but hot water loosens the sap, so the tree soaks up more quenching H2O. Just be sure the base holds at least a gallon: Your tree needs one quart of water daily for every inch in the trunk's diameter.

—Woman's World, 12/10/18

Quick fixes for holiday stains

No need to let a few spills put a damper on your celebration: Just use our pro shortcuts to erase any "oops" in seconds!

Rid fabric of grease with dish soap: Unlike laundry detergent, which is formulated to lift dust and dirt, dish soap is designed to attract grease and flush it away. Just blot the stain on your clothing or tablecloth with a paper towel and apply dishwashing liquid. Let it saturate a few minutes, then throw it in the washing machine on cold.

Lift candle wax with an ice cube: Spilled candle wax on tablecloths is an all-too-common occurrence this time of year. To lift it off without harming your fabric, use an ice cube to freeze drips before they harden completely—it'll make the wax extra brittle and easier to remove. Then scrape off the mess with a dull knife and get back to your festivities.

Remove red wine with a salt circle: Table salt has a sponge-like effect on wine, absorbing spills before they become set-in stains—and how you sprinkle the salt is key. Blot the wine, then sprinkle on some salt from the outside edges to the center, which will prevent the wine from spreading. Simply rinse with cold water and the vino should come right out.

Outsmart tree sap with rubbing alcohol: Christmas tree sap can do a number on your carpet and other fabrics it comes into contact with. The fix: pour enough rubbing alcohol over the sap to saturate it—the alcohol will break the bonds of the syrupy structure without damaging the fabric. Let it dissolve the stain, then blot with cold water.

—Woman's World, 12/17/18

