The President’s Message

By Mary Kuenzig

Dear Atrusans,

Very happy to see trees blooming now. I have grown quite tired of the winter weather. Let’s move on to warmer weather and Spring!

Welcome to the new club year that began on June 1. Your new officers will take office at that time. Please let me know which committees you would like to serve on for this next club year. Please mark your calendars for two extremely important dates: Thurs. Oct. 17 and Friday Oct. 18. The set-up day and actual event for our 10th Spelling Bee for Literacy. It will be held as a luncheon again this year, which was the result of patrons surveyed about the event. It would be great to have more teams and more audience members attend. Talk up the date now with your friends and contacts. Ask them to plan ahead to attend!

Altrusans everywhere celebrated 102 years of community service on April 11, 2019. We should be proud of our rich heritage and solid history of serving others around the world. Excited to announce that Hamilton received many accolades at the District Five Conference at the end of April. We received 1st place for the Letha Brown Literacy Project Award, thanks to Nancy who submitted the report titled “Literacy through the Lifetime.” We also received 1st place for our newsletter and 2nd place for the yearbook. Thanks to Nancy Schwab’s hard work on those issues. And, we received 2nd place for the Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award, for our international shoe collection project. In District Five this award is given by the Battle Creek, Michigan Club. Thanks to all of Dana Enrico and Anita Harper’s many hours of work sorting and bagging shoes, and the report that was written by Nancy Schwab and Joan Witt.

Thank you to everyone who ordered spring flowers from Altrusa. The delivery arrived on Sat. May 4, and all the plants were beautiful.

International President’s Message:

Conferences provide a wonderful opportunity to network with other Altrusans, share ideas and learn from each other. It is a chance for our club leadership to attend training so that Districts can provide greater support to our clubs. Strong leadership at the base of Altrusa is essential for our organization to grow into the future. Interesting and informative Key Note Speakers provide greater insight into our communities and what we as Altrusans can do to assist those in need. Altrusa International Board representatives are assigned to each Conference to share news from the International level and to listen to the ideas and concerns of members. There is always fun planned as well.

Leanne Milligan, International President 2017-2019
Excerpt from District Service Bulletin, Spring 2019
Altrusa International
Vision Statement
Altrusa is a leader among international organizations improving communities worldwide through a network of member clubs.

Mission Statement
To improve communities by providing service, developing leadership, fostering international understanding and ensuring fellowship through an international network of dedicated volunteers.

“What is Altrusa?”
Altrusa is an international non-profit organization, making our local communities better through leadership, partnership, and service. We are civic-minded people who strive to create better communities worldwide.

FOR THE LOVE OF LITERACY
ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION GRANT

On November 6, 2018, Altrusa International of Hamilton Ohio, Inc. received notice that the club had received an Altrusa International Foundation Grant in the amount of $4000 for For the Love of Literacy Program.

The first phase of the grant was the purchase of 96 books for the Hamilton City School District, 51 books for second graders and 45 books for third graders. In conjunction with Shared Harvest Foodbank BackPack Program and the Butler County Success Program, on February 21st, the books along with food purchased for each student were placed in bags to be distributed through Shared Harvest to children in the Hamilton City Schools. Aiding our mission to eradicate illiteracy: Feed the body, feed the mind.

Below are pictures of the book distribution at Shared Harvest.

What Does Altrusa Do?”
Giving over 1 million hours annually, across 12 countries, our focus is Literacy, with general service areas in HIV/AIDS and Disaster Relief. Additionally, individual clubs meet a wide variety of local needs. You may know us locally by our “Adult Spelling Bee”, Annual Scholarship Awards, and “Bells on Independence Day Parade”, Marionette Show, or through our past local Foundation Projects.

Altrusa of Hamilton
Share Altrusa with others!

Elevator Speech
Altrusa is a membership-based, non-profit volunteer service organization. We focus on ways to support literacy and our community in a variety of ways to make a positive impact.

Altrusa Beginnings
The first Altrusa Club was organized in Nashville, TN in 1917, and it became Altrusa International in 1935. Altrusa was the first organization of business and professional women. Our Hamilton Club was organized in 1923.
THANK YOU
ALTRUSA BOOK DONATION

As published in the Educational Service Center newsletter

Altrusa Hamilton collaborated with Shared Harvest and the Butler County Success Program to donate children’s books to second and third grade students enrolled in the Backpack Program in Hamilton Elementary Schools. On a Friday in March, second and third graders receiving their weekend Backpack Program food bag were treated to their own copy of Diary of a Wimpy Kid 13: The Meltdown or A Bad Case of Stripes. Altrusa volunteers packed the books into the food bags at Shared Harvest, and Success Liaisons distributed the bags with books to second and third graders in their Hamilton Elementary Schools. 94 books were donated to students in need in Hamilton!

Thank you to Germaine Vonderhaar of Altrusa Hamilton, Tina Osso and Sarah Ormbrek of Shared Harvest and Cari Wynne of the Success Program for coordinating this effort to bring books to children in need! A special note of appreciation goes to all of the Altrusa volunteers that packed the bags with books and were a part of this amazing literacy project in the schools!

A Hamilton City School student proudly displays her new book.
MONEY MAKERS
Kroger Community Rewards Program
It is not too late to participate in the Kroger Rewards program. Just register your Kroger Plus cards. If you do not have a Kroger Plus card, they are available at the customer service desk at your favorite store. Please share the information with your friends and family members. This is such an easy way to raise money, and we encourage all members to help.

Elementary School Donations
Our program of donations for the Hamilton City Schools continues. Members will be advised of items to bring to the February meeting.

Box Tops for Education
Please continue to give your “Box Tops for Education” to Carol Bondoc at every meeting. They help community schools.

Egg Carton Collection
Please bring your clean, empty egg cartons to the business meetings. We continue to collect them.

“Books Can Make Dreams Come True”
9th Annual Literacy Buzz
The Altrusa Hamilton Club hosted its 9th annual “Literacy Buzz” Spelling Bee at the Butler County Educational Services Center (BCESC) in Hamilton on October 19, 2018. Five teams competed this year for the trophy. Kiwanis Club of Oxford won first place. Team members were Bill Jenkins, Sarah Michael, and Ginny Layton.

The Ziek Squad made up of Carol Heck, Jean Robbins, and Terry Brotherton came in second.

Local, District, and Int’l Websites
District Five Altrusa International
http://www.districtfive.altrusa.org/

Altrusa International, Inc.
www.altrusa.org or login.altrusa.org

Altrusa of Hamilton’s Facebook page:

District Five News
District Five Awards were announced at Conference
Hamilton received the following:
1st Place – Letha H. Brown Award “Literacy Through the Lifetime”
1st Place – Ruth B. Emmons Award by Sidney, Ohio Club Best Newsletter
2nd Place – Mary B. Smith Award by Youngstown, Ohio Club Best Yearbook
2nd Place Nina Faye Calhoun Battle Creek International Award “International Shoe Collection Project”
Germaine Vonderhaar named District Five ASTRa Chair 2019-2010

Certificate for Days For Girls Participation

February Birthdays
February 12 – Joan Witt

March Birthdays
March 6 – Joann Koch
March 29 - Janis Kowalski

April Birthdays
April 11 – Anita Harper

May Birthdays
May 11 – Meg Witt

2018 – 2019 ALTRUSA OFFICERS

President: Mary Kuenzig
President Elect: Joan Witt
Vice-President: Joan Witt
Recording Secretary: Joann Koch
Corresponding Secretary: Joan Witt
Treasurer: Mary Jane Mayer
Immediate Past President: Kathy Jackson
Directors:
2018 – 2019 Carol Bondoc
2017 – 2019 Nancy Schwab
Germaine Vonderhaar

Celebrating Hamilton
Altrusa’s 96th Birthday

Club Charter Date
2/22/1923

NEWSLETTER CONTACTS

President: Mary Kuenzig
mepk1009@cinci.rr.com

Newsletter Editor:
Nancy Schwab
mjs4214@aol.com

Altrusa International

Altrusa’s 2019 International Convention will be held at Grand Sierra Resort and Casino. The Convention will be held July 17 – 20, 2019. Please check out our recently updated schedule at a glance to see all the exciting things that are going on.

April - May in Review

- 2nd Shoe Drive is a Success.
- Several District Five Awards received.
- First phase of Shared Harvest Foundation Book Project was completed.
- New club officers announced.
- 2019 Spelling Bee date announced, October 18.
- District Five Conference report was made and new officers were announced.
- 48 scholarship applications were received. Two students were honored in May. A third will be honored in June.

Reaching Out to Light the Way in 2019

In support of the Disaster Relief Fund, Altrusa International Foundation is sponsoring two fundraisers. One is a Luci light and the other is a medallion.

Join us today in providing lights to Puerto Rico, Ghana, and Mali by sending a gift marked Reaching Out to Light the Way to the Altrusa International Foundation. Please contact Shawna Kaiser to order Luci lights or medallions. (312) 427-4410 | foundation@altrusa.org.

Sister Support
A reminder to call Margie Anderson (513-863-0138) if you know of an Altrusa sister who is ill, has lost a family member, or is going through a tough time and could use an encouraging word!
COMMITTEE REPORTS

Astra

Chair: Kathy Jackson

The Hamilton High School Astra
Program initiated eleven new members.
Pins were purchased for each Astra
graduate. Patty Gibbons, the new
advisor, presented the students with
their pins for graduation.

Service Committee

The Service Committee has a
variety of projects planned for
summer and beyond.

Volunteer opportunities for Shared
Harvest were sent out via email by
Joan Witt. Volunteers are needed:
Monday afternoons and Wednesday
and Friday mornings.

Opportunities to help with Days For
Girls Project will be announced.

Cards for service men project will
begin at the end of the summer.
Astra students will be invited to
participate.

Memory Books for Alzheimer’s
facilities will also begin at the end of
summer.

Hamilton’s Character Committee
will sponsor a festival at the YWCA,
Saturday, September 14 from 10:00
- 2:00 P.M. Altrusa will sponsor a
booth and provide volunteers for an
activity, possibly a trivia game.

Clothing donations are needed for
Master’s Closet at the Trinity
Episcopal Church. Both men’s and
women’s clothing are needed,
especially larger sizes. Donations can
be dropped off Monday through
Thursday from 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Finance Committee

Co-chairs: Bobbi Hesslar
& Mary Jane Mayer

We are thrilled to report our Shoe
Drive is complete! We collected 116
bags!!! That’s 2900 pairs of shoes!!
The container filled with shoes will
be sent (via train) to the Funds2Orgs
warehouse in Florida.

The shoes are then combined with
those collected by other
organizations and shipped to micro-
enterprise partners in impoverished
countries like Haiti, Colombia, India,
and Tanzania. Micro-enterprises are
small businesses that add value to
the economy and lives by creating
small business opportunities,
improving income, and promoting
commerce. This segment of the
world’s population resides in
developing nations that allow their
impoverished citizens to become
micro-entrepreneurs. Micro-
entrepreneurs set up small
businesses. Because of systemic
poverty in many developing
countries around the world,
working-age adults have to create
their own economic opportunities.
The shoes collected serve as a
philanthropic bridge to give people a
hand-up and work opportunity,
rather than just a hand-out.

Education

Co-chairs: Kathy Jackson
Nancy Schwab
Germaine Vonderhaar

2018 LITERACY BUZZ
GRANT RECIPIENTS

Ruth Pettit (right) accepts the award
for The Annual Sandy Hormell
Community Book Celebration, a
community reading event for middle
school students named for a beloved
teacher and lover of books who lost
her battle with ALS.

Terry Perdue (center) accepts the
award for Shared Harvest Foodbank
BackPack Program, their signature
program for addressing childhood
hunger by providing at-risk students
with a bag of food which provides six
meals and snacks over the weekend.

Tawna Eubanks (center) accepted
the award for the Hamilton Aspire
HSE Test Assistance. Aspire plans to
use the grant funding to support
students who are seeking to take the
HSE (High School Equivalency)
examination and cannot afford to pay for the
test or transportation.

MEMBERSHIP

This month’s
FOCUS

Membership is the focus of Altrusa International and Hamilton. Excerpt from “99 Opportunities To Find New Altrusans”. The next nine are listed below:

37. Ask your friends for help. Tell them the type of person we’re looking for and ask for introductions. They may feel less pressure than if you invite them but may want to come with that person.

38. Add a great Altrusan as a footer to your personal email.

39. Volunteer for one-time non-Altrusa service opportunities and tell people about our outlet for service.

40. Get a yard sign that says “An Altrusan Lives Here”.

41. Get an Altrusa event in the church bulletin.

42. Invite Altrusa speakers to come back again as a guest.

43. Ask every member to invite all their Facebook friends to like the club fan page.

44. Write a meaningful post every day on the club Facebook fan page.

45. Ask a local radio host if you can come talk about Altrusa.

46. Ask every member to change their Facebook cover picture to something Altrusa and update it regularly.

COMMUNICATIONS

Chair: Nancy Schwab

Visit our Facebook page: Altrusa International of Hamilton Ohio, Inc. From your Facebook page, or use the link https://www.facebook.com/pages/Altrusa-International-Inc-of-Hamilton-Ohio/1472967966339504?fref=ts from your browser. “Like” the Altrusa page and invite your Friends to “Like” the page. It’s a way for people to see Altrusa of Hamilton’s activities and events.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

FINANCE

Several fundraising projects are currently in process:
The first is the Altrusa of Hamilton cookbook which has been very popular. Help is still needed to sell those cookbooks that are left.

The second is our booth at the Antique Mall in West Chester. Items are still needed for the booth. Just let Dana or Anita know if you have items or bring them to meetings.

Our Annual Spring Flower Sale was a great success.

Discussions are being held to decide which fundraisers are most beneficial to the club. There will be more to come on those.

9th Annual Literacy Buzz
Title for an article across two columns

Article text goes here

Article text goes here

Title for article

Article text goes here