President’s Message

There is no doubt that the Mansfield Altrusa Club is strong, energized and ALIVE!!! We formally welcomed 4 new members (Lisa Rafferty, Abbey Eichler-Clough, Janet Hall and Maggie Hoecker) at an Initiation Ceremony led by Membership Chair, Deb Robinson at the evening meeting in January. We hope that our new members feel the energy within the Club and step into action beside their sponsors to take part in community service and fundraising activities. We have 2 additional members (Deb Baker and Connie Ament) who will be Initiated at a future meeting. With our new members, Mansfield has reached a membership of 60! We should all be proud of this membership milestone and strive to grow more. Just look at the combined strength of skills and talents we bring together to help support, serve and meet the needs within our community.

We had a wonderful time at our annual Christmas Party held on December 2nd at the Westbrook County Club. It was an exciting time to celebrate the season while enjoying the fellowship with our members. Our annual gift exchange was done differently with many great treasures being unwrapped. Tools for Schools has filled 447 requests from teachers this school year totaling 118,872 school supplies with additional requests being received several times a month. We are on track to meet or exceed the amount of supplies distributed last year. Altrusans were in action at the Dewald Center Christmas Party in December. Members helped in leading fun games for the children and serving food for the families. Candy Brenner has done a wonderful job in coordinating events with the staff at the Dewald Center. Thank you Candy! A $300 check was provided to the Richland County Dolly Parton Imagination Library that will pay for a book a month for 12 children between the ages of birth to five. Both Linda Bender and Deborah Dubois are active members of the community group. Five volunteer slots have been reserved for Altrusans to help at The New Store “dressing days” during the months of February, March and April. Mansfield Altrusans are constantly in action!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 7th for Altrusa’s 10th Annual Spring Bash which will be “A Dazzling Affair” this year. (No vacations are allowed that weekend!) Members are actively selling tickets and coordinating ticket sales; seeking sponsors and donations; hanging posters around the community; creating silent auction baskets; gathering purses, wine and liquor for raffle tables; creating table decorations; collecting items for $10 mystery boxes; seeking advertisement opportunities with local media; planning social media blasts; gathering supplies; ordering food and lots more! The work of the Spring Bash requires all members, but what we gain in the process is an opportunity to share our talents, strengthen friendships, laugh together and have great fun! We will make this our most memorable and most profitable Spring Bash if we all work together to make it happen. Keep in mind that all profits support our community service projects.

As always “I am proud to call each one of you an Altrusa sister!”

Linda

Featured Quote:

Do Not Learn How To React. Learn How To Respond. - Buddha
**Member Profile**

**Deb Robinson**

As an Altrusa member since 2009 and co-chair of membership development, my special memories include the different initiatives we have done for new members. I enjoy looking at the different programs and adjusting them to our club. For the installation of the boards, I like personalizing them to the new President. So we will see what this year’s program will be!

As for little more about me, I started working at United Telephone of Ohio and it was a 6-month job. Those 6 months have been the longest 41 years. In all those years, I have held many different positions up to a management position. Then with all the mergers and downsizing, I left the manager position and am now a Sr Engineer Planner.

My husband retired from teaching after 35 years and now loves being a Lyft driver. If you know my husband he loves to talk and this is great for him. My 2 sons are my pride and joy. They are both now married to 2 wonderful girls. I have no grandkids yet, but have 1 grand dog. My oldest son Brad and Elaine lives in Middleburg, OH and Scott and Kait live in Wilkes-Barre PA. (We do a lot of traveling).

Prior to my boys graduating from high school, I was involved with what they were doing. So to prepare myself for them leaving for college (they were a year apart), I wanted to get involved with the community. I joined Altrusa and became a board member of Parent Aide. I was on Parent Aide board for over 10 years and held different positions including Board President. As I became more involved in Altrusa as a committee chair and with this board, I decided to resign from Parent Aide. I now devote all my community time to Altrusa.

I also love to scrapbook and go to the basketball games at the colleges my son coaches, along with the high school my daughter-in-law coachees. One of my long time accomplishments is recently completing an embroidered Christmas tree that my Mom said I would never finish and after 20 years I did (it was put away for years)!

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**In Memorium**

**Wanda Denman October 25, 1939 – November 1, 2019**

Wanda was best known to all that knew her for being bold and fearless, loving people and leading adventures. In her 80 years, Wanda shared her love for people in so many ways including joining Altrusa in May of 2017 to support our community efforts as she retired from her career.

Being a true adventurer, Wanda worked with Forte for 15 years, recruiting area families to host high schools students for foreign exchange opportunities which fit perfectly with her passion for traveling.

She was also the Secretary for the Mansfield Sister Cities Association traveling to both cities in England and Japan handing out new American pennies for good luck. Before her career turned global, Wanda was a Tupperware Distributor for many years with her husband Ron, who were a true team in life and business. They started their distributorship when children Ronda and Scott were young and built the business to where they eventually became one of the top managers in the U.S.A.

Even as a busy career woman, Wanda made time for her family. She was always the children’s and six grandchildren’s biggest (and loudest) cheerleader at their sporting events. She recently became a great grandmother to start the traditions all over again. Wanda was also active in the community, as well. She was a member of First United Methodist Church and the Stephen Ministry program, the American Business Women’s Association, and most recently in our Altrusa chapter.

Wanda truly lived her life to the fullest and will be remembered as becoming a unique kind of ambassador, spreading joy to all the people she met at home and in her travels.

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**Book Review**

**Lee Child**

*Blue Moon*

Reacher is on a Greyhound bus, minding his own business, with no particular place to go, and all the time in the world to get there.

Then he steps off the bus to help an old man who is obviously just a victim waiting to happen. But you know what they say about good deeds. Now Reacher wants to make it right. An elderly couple have made a few well-meaning mistakes, and now they owe big money to some very bad people.

One brazen move leads to another, and suddenly Reacher finds himself a wanted man in the middle of a brutal turf war between rival Ukrainian and Albanian gangs. Reacher has to stay one step ahead of the loan sharks, the thugs, and the assassins.

He teams up with a fed-up waitress who knows a little more than she’s letting on, and sets out to take down the powerful and make the greedy pay.

It’s a long shot. The odds are against him. But Reacher believes in a certain kind of justice... the kind that comes along once in a blue moon.
**Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award**

Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award The Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award is named in honor of the legendary Eleanor Roosevelt who included active membership in the Altrusa Club of New York City in her service-oriented life. It is Altrusa International’s only award given to an individual member. Designed to recognize a current Altrusian or Life Member of Altrusa International, Inc. who makes a lasting contribution to community service as a result of involvement with Altrusa.

Recipients must have a distinguished service record at the Local, District and International levels. This award is given during the luncheon at each biennial International Convention. Hazel P. Williams received the first award in 1985. The nomination form is found on our International site and the form must be postmarked no later than May 15th.

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**In Memorium**

**Sophie Crittenden  April 14, 1926 to December 10, 2019**

The dates that bracket our lives reveal nothing of the person. Take Sophie Crittenden. She lived a long and fruitful life, loved her family and friends, and explored her passions. I was asked to share some memories of Sophie, and my first thought was how to describe her. Her giving, supportive nature is the first thing that comes to mind. She joined Altrusa International of Mansfield, Inc., to give back to her community. She did that, of course, but she also gave a lot to her local club by serving as president (1979-80) and mentoring numerous new members (including me). She was honored with the Ann Deley Award in 1993-94 for her participation in the club and for exemplifying the principles of Altrusa.

Sophie also was creative. She loved fiber arts and, among other things, was a weaver, basket maker, knitter, quilter, and paper maker. She made many beautiful quilts and eagerly shared her vast knowledge of the quilt-making process. She loved a new challenge and enjoyed making baby quilts for her great grandchildren. She and a neighbor made and sold greeting cards from handmade paper.

She was also a cancer survivor, and outlived two husbands, Bob Crittenden and Joe Polhemus. She lived in her own home until her passing, also at home.

Her obituary features a lot of information about her work life, but Sophie was never defined by her career. She was focused on her close-knit family, who loved her dearly. Her boys took care of her to the end and checked with her daily, as did her granddaughter, Heather.

Sons Robert, Mark, and Christopher were very close to her and gave the respect of following her wishes as she eased through her final days. Also surviving are three daughters in law, Yolanda, Laura, and Sherry; stepdaughter Ellen Stiffler, a brother Joseph and a sister, Stephanie.

---- submitted by Jeanne Bishop
Spring Bash Update

Spring Bash 2020
We are in the final stretch of planning our annual fund raiser. This is the 10th year and we have a special diamond theme called “A Dazzling Affair”, which will be the best event yet! There is still time to help finalize the contents for the following activities and bring in another sell-out crowd. Please consider helping with the following:

- Raffle table items for women’s purses, wine and liquor
- Golf Prizes for the putting game
- $10 Mystery Gifts
- Sponsorships
- Selling event tickets for $25 or full tables that include dinner by Port A Cook
- Reserving the evening yourself to come join us and enjoy the returning, ever popular entertainment - Wally and the Beavs!

We will set up the venue on Friday March, 6th and everyone is welcome to join us! For questions on how you can participate or for more information, please contact Kathy Shambre or Marilyn McFarland

2020 New Members

Our new members were welcomed by the membership on January 15, 2020. Shown here with co-presidents Linda Williams and Kathy Shambre.

Abbey Eichler-Clough - Teacher. Her birthday is August 3rd.
Constance “Connie” Ament - Realtor. Her birthday is July 5th. (Not pictured here)
Janet Hall - Retired RN. Her birthday is April 27th.
Lisa Rafferty - Insurance Consultant. Her birthday is June 21st.
Maggie Hoecker - Hospice Care Consultant. Her birthday is May 15th

The Rest of the Story

Richland Gives Update
We received $1,062.00 from the Richland Gives program on International Giving Day.

Poinsettia Sale Update
We sold 200 poinsettias in our annual holiday fundraiser. Deanne Morrell sold the most plants, but Randy Moritz was right behind her selling only one less. Great job to everyone that participated.