

**2021-2022**

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**President's Message**

It's December and Thanksgiving has come and gone. The rest of the holidays are upon us, but I'm still thinking about Thanksgiving. So, with your indulgence, I'd like to reflect on the holiday just passed.



Thanksgiving was my husband Tom's favorite holiday. There were lots of reasons for that: the day is about fall, family, friends, food, and maybe a little college football.

At our house, Thanksgiving also meant a visit from our favorite cousin and family patriarch, Don Croarkin.

Seventeen years Tom's senior, Don was a confirmed bachelor and retired high school teacher and librarian. Without fail, Don would drive himself to our house, arriving on Tuesday afternoon laden with coffee cakes, books to share, and lots of wine. Our routine was the same every year. Wednesday: As Tom worked, Don and I picked up the turkey and other T-day odds and ends. Thursday: Turkey, parade, and football. Friday: Christmas shopping, Upper Arlington library sale, and filets. Saturday: Donald would head home.

After Tom passed, Don continued to come as nephew Sam joined the table. In 2017, Don joined Tom, but Sam continues to come and will be with me on Thanksgiving, with partner Katherine and

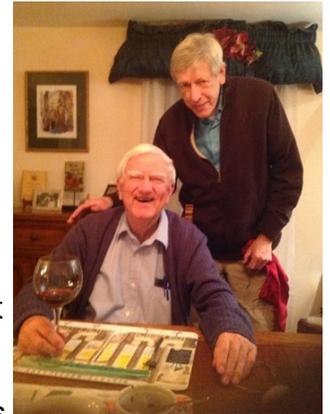
their two grey-hounds.

As time passes, the faces around the table may change, but the holiday has kept the qualities

Tom loved so much: fall, family, friends, food, and maybe a little college football.

So what does Altrusa have in common with Thanksgiving? Friends, of course, friends who make up the Altrusa family—and especially the Columbus Altrusa family. I am very thankful that my friend, Gail, led me to my Altrusa family. You really are an amazing group of women, energetic, positive, caring—and excellent nut salespeople! Thanks for all you do for each other and for others.

May the rest of the holidays bring you joy this December. Fall has



**December 2 Club Meeting & Holiday Party**

**6:30 meeting via Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81512380606?pwd=ZG5YQjVXblZZb0x4UHVBd256dVRYUT09>

Meeting ID: 815 1238 0606

Passcode: 725256

**Wear something festive & don't forget paper & pen!**

flown, but I hope you enjoy family, friends, food, and maybe a little college football.

*Marytherese Croarkin, President*  
[marytherese.croarkin@gmail.com](mailto:marytherese.croarkin@gmail.com)  
614.462.0442

### Membership Committee

The Membership Committee sends warm wishes to Altrusans and your families for a festive holiday season. Happy Hanukkah! Merry Christmas!

Special birthday wishes go out to:

#### Joanne Wissler - 12/19

**The Altrusa Minute:** From "The Altrusa Tradition": "The December 7, 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor catapulted the United States into World War II and caused an abrupt shift in Altrusa's service program to community wartime demands. Over the next five years, despite curtailed travel and gasoline restrictions, Altrusans made heroic contributions in time and talent to war work. The 1943 and 1945 Altrusa conventions had to be cancelled, "freezing" the international officers in their posts for four years, until successors were elected by mail ballot in 1945. But the international board met annually, the international program coordination committee kept communication lines humming between districts and clubs, and the total organization progressed. Altrusa unsinkable!"

*Membership Committee Co-Chairs*  
Jackie Nielson [roger.nielson@yahoo.com](mailto:roger.nielson@yahoo.com)  
Mary Mars [marycmars38@gmail.com](mailto:marycmars38@gmail.com)

### Service Committee

#### Altrusans Invited to Support Project Help Christmas Giveaway

Sandy Holley has redesigned the annual Project Help Christmas Giveaway to keep people safe and reduce the labor of physically setting up for the event. She is partnering with three agencies, two Headstart agencies and the OSU Access Program. The three agencies will set up their own giveaways for December 11.

Altrusa is invited to help with the Access Program by providing the \$5 gift certificates to fast food restaurants and the cookies as we did in the past. The Access Program will be serving 14 families and giving gift certificates to buy clothing and \$20 gift certificates for buying toys at Five Below.

Cookies and \$5 gift certificates donations can be made to Bonnie Ackerman, Linda Nusbaum or Pat Fitzpatrick prior to **Monday, December 6.**

*Service Committee Co-Chairs*  
Pat Fitzpatrick [patfitzpatrick78@gmail.com](mailto:patfitzpatrick78@gmail.com)  
Linda Nusbaum [lcnusbaum@columbus.rr.com](mailto:lcnusbaum@columbus.rr.com)

### Fundraising Committee

**Nut Sale: Some nuts are still available for preorder!** Visit the Jotform link below for the most up to date information on remaining quantities and to place an order:

<https://form.jotform.com/AltrusaColsOH/2021NutFundraiser>

**Nuts!! The nuts are coming at last!** Delivery to Judy Montjoy's house on Tuesday, November 30. Sorting will begin Wednesday, December 1, 2:00-4:00 at Judy's garage: 2531 Brookwood Rd., Columbus 43209. Let Pam know if you can help, and contact her if you have questions or to arrange to pick up your nuts. Pam Jax, 614-286-3725, [pamjax53@gmail.com](mailto:pamjax53@gmail.com)

**Spring Fling 2022: Mark your calendars!**  
April 30, 2022—Clintonville Woman's Club

Courtney Kallergis, Fundraising Chair  
937-974-3918, [kallergis.6@osu.edu](mailto:kallergis.6@osu.edu)

### Social Activity

#### Wildlights at the Columbus Zoo

Come together as a small group to visit the holiday lights at the Zoo on Wednesday, December 15th, 6pm

Contact Courtney by phone or email if you plan to attend. We can organize a carpool for those interested in saving on parking fees!

### Altrusa International Grant

Columbus was selected to receive a grant from the Altrusa International Foundation for our: 'Benefitting the Aged to Remain in Their Homes' project partnering with Aging Solutions.

Aging Solutions, Inc. is a non-profit foundation, benefitting older adults and people with disabilities, most of whom have limited income and are Medicaid eligible. The foundation uses its very limited funds to meet emergency needs with one-time financial assistance administered by the staff of COAAA. Aging Solutions monies are used for rent, utility assistance, household goods (such as a microwave when the stove is broken or refrigerator to store insulin), or maintenance needs. Funds also help with necessary personal items such as a bathing suit for someone who needs warm water physical therapy or special socks for diabetic men and women.

Aging Solutions promotes choice, independence and dignity for older adults and people with disabilities and helps keep them safe and healthy at home. Approximately 150 individuals are assisted annually, and the average amount of assistance is estimated at \$250 per person. Altrusa's additional grant of \$4,000 will add to the reach of this great organization!

Altrusans are asked to continue to write cards containing sincere sentiments, birthday wishes, and uplifting jokes throughout the year. We are committed to 20 Columbus Altrusans writing at least three cards/notes through next November. Bonnie has sent a few great reminders on how to write these: remember to write legibly, stay positive, and avoid any personally identifiable information. **Please bring your cards for seniors when you sort or pick up nuts!**

### News from Our Grantees

**Medicine for Mali** has received a grant of \$7,000 from Altrusa International Foundation Club 21 for Saving the Lives of Women and Children in Mali, West Africa. This grant pays for monthly midwife prenatal visits, immunizations for infants and training for village health volunteers (2 women and 1 man from each village) to

give monthly educational talks on the importance of prenatal visits, immunizations, ways to prevent malaria and COVID 19. These public health volunteers are also trained to keep village health notebooks and read and write in their native language as most, especially the women, have not been in school long enough to read and write in French, the official language.



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### 20 Questions for ?????

This month we're introducing a new feature, "20 Questions For..." which will replace the member spotlight. This Q&A interview will be a fun, easy way to get to know a fellow Altrusan a little better. For future articles, members may use these questions as a starting point, and substitute others that reflect their interests, i.e., if you're a music buff, you might want to add "Favorite concert," "Favorite album," etc. and drop the movie questions. If you'd like to answer 20 questions for an upcoming issue, please let Bonnie know. Thank you!

#### Altrusan Jackie Nielson:

*Favorite movies?* "Rear Window" and "Tootsie"

*Favorite book?* "Sophie's Choice" by William Styron

*Favorite juvenile/young adult book?* "Anne of Green Gables" series by Lucy M. Montgomery

*Favorite vacation spot?* Williamsburg, Virginia

*Dream vacation spot?* Scandinavia

*If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, it would be?* Macaroni and cheese

*TV shows you've been recommending?* "Only Murders in the Building" on Hulu and "Flour Power" on PBS

*First job?* Waitressing at a family-owned (not my family) Italian restaurant in high school

*Most recent job?* Before retiring, I was a Legislative Liaison for the IRS

*Favorite volunteer activity?* Helping Jill D. with a CLC English class

*Pets?* My husband and I don't have any pets now; when our kids were young, we had a beagle, "Gator"



*Hobbies?* Reading mysteries, taking walks around the neighborhood, going to my granddaughters' soccer games

*Super power you'd like to have?* Being kind, no matter the situation

*Person (living or not) you'd like to have dinner with?* As an Illinoisan with an interest in politics, I'd have to say Abraham Lincoln

*Favorite sports team?* Cleveland Cavaliers

*Favorite season?* I love the four seasons we have in Ohio, but autumn is my favorite. I like pumpkin spice everything.

**And, some holiday edition questions:**

*Favorite Christmas movies?* "The Bishop's Wife" and almost any version of "A Christmas Carol"

*Favorite Christmas songs?* "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" and "Mary, Did You Know?"

*Best Christmas present?* A Betsy Wetsy doll, probably in 1958 or 1959

*Best Christmas memories?* Putting tinsel/icicles on the Christmas tree with my brother and sister, and taking my children to see Santa

Jackie Nielson  
[roger.nielson@yahoo.com](mailto:roger.nielson@yahoo.com)

### **Altrusa of Columbus Members Web Page**

For all your important Altrusa information - minutes, newsletters, yearbook - go to the Altrusa of Columbus, Ohio website:

[www.altrusacolumbusoh.com](http://www.altrusacolumbusoh.com). Then go to the "For Our Members" link. The password is 1918.

### **Upcoming Dates to Remember**

#### **January 6 Club Meeting**

**6:30 meeting via Zoom**

Program: Grantee presentation

Theme: Jewelry Night (wear a favorite piece of jewelry)

#### **February 3 Club Meeting**

**6:30 meeting via Zoom**

Program: Grantee presentation

Theme: Wear Red or Pink for Valentine's Day

#### **March 3 Club Meeting**

**6:30 meeting—venue TBD**

Theme: Wear Green for St. Patrick's Day

\*\*\*\*\***Spring Fling — Save the date**\*\*\*\*\*  
**April 30, Clintonville Woman's Club**

### **HAPPINESS CORNER!**

*A place for Altrusans of Columbus to share simple things that make them smile.*



**Pat Hadler's grand-children make her smile:**

Becca with her son Knoa on his first birthday in early November.



Elizabeth playing scientist. Her other grandmother was a science teacher in Massachusetts for many years and sent her this play kit.

HAPPINESS CORNER (continued)

**Peggy Rowan:** The Van Gogh Immersive Experience is like none I have had before. You can sit on a circle in the floor or the provided benches with plenty of social distancing. Masks are required so it's a safe event to attend.

The artwork is on all the walls and runs on a continuous loop. As you sit there, the walls explode with color that morphs into Van Gogh's greatest works as background music plays. The experience runs through February 6th near Polaris.



**Nancy Metzger:** I'm all about food, and free food is even more appealing. So when Bonnie told me about the complimentary Bourbon Fried Apples with Walnuts and Raisins dessert kit from The Forum at Knightsbridge, I had to sign up. Just looking at the contents of this dessert kit makes me happy and I plan to prepare it,



along with other dishes, for a Friendsgiving dinner.

Here is the apples kit as a finished product. I would say it will be good served either hot or cold.



**Jackie Nielson:** For a couple of weeks recently, staff at the Hilliard branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library displayed "statues" of Gerald the Elephant and Piggie, characters in a popular series of children's books by Mo Willems. As you can see, they used every-

day materials, including a trash can, a painted plastic jack-o-lantern, and buckets of different sizes. Jill has used these books to teach English to Columbus Literacy Council students, and we read them with K-3 students in Reading Buddies at the library (CLC and CML are both Altrusa grantees!).



**Mary Mars:** The first photo is "Happy Thanksgiving from my home to yours."

The second is a photo my friend Susan and I sent to my son Charles

to celebrate his birthday.



**Nancy:** After Thanksgiving I dropped off two pumpkins that will be transported to a farm in Morrow County. The owner's cows and chickens (!) apparently like pumpkin. A way to recycle food that makes me happy!

**HAPPINESS CORNER (continued)**

**Marytherese:** Recently, I went to Immersive VanGogh with friends—fabulous experience to be surrounded by his art brought to life with superb music.



The second pic is my Christmas cactus in bloom—it loves my new upstairs room.

**Bonnie Ackerman:** My new membership at the Franklin Park Conservatory makes me smile. I'm determined not to sit inside at home this coming winter, like I did in 2021.



**Joanne Wissler:** Hiking with my daughter to a hillside peak in California to visit young redwood trees.

**Johanna Ryan:** I am happiest when I am creating something, and my current passion is clay sculpture. Here is a piece I am working on.



I also love making dollhouses for kids. The blue one is one I made for my maintenance guy's daughter (Mary S helped me deliver it at her birthday party).



This green/pink house is one I am working on for his other daughter's birthday. I love being covered in clay and paint!