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### The President's Message



**By Kathy Carmack**

Dear Altrusa Members,

This has been a busy year for our club. We have enjoyed our first event of our 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration which was held on April 23, 2023. We are planning more events throughout this year celebrating all the accomplishments this club has experienced over the last 100 years. Our next event is planned for May 31<sup>st</sup> when we recognize our scholarship winners and invite past recipients to come and let us know about their existing and future accomplishments.

We started a brand new literacy project, our Rainbow Reading Centers, hopeful for a successful outcome. This literacy project has been a total success with all five of the Primary Health Solution clinics where we provided bookcases and free books for children, adolescents, and adults to take home and enjoy. To date, we have provided 4532 books for the clinics and have made the decision to have this project to be ongoing for our club.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Spring Auction was a great success surpassing our expectations! This was a large job where all our members participated in some way to contribute to its success. Thanks to all our members and especially our Co-Chairs Germaine Vonderhaar and Mary Jane Mayer.

We do plan to be involved in our 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade as we have in the past by members volunteering to be judges for this annual City of Hamilton event, which was originally started by our Altrusa Club of Hamilton many years ago.

A few of our members attended the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Altrusa District Five Conference in Lima, Ohio which was hosted by the Mansfield Club. It was a well attended Conference with the installation of our new Governor and District Board for the 2023-2025 biennium. We will have some members attending the International Convention in San Antonio, Texas July 19-22, 2023.

In Altrusa Service,

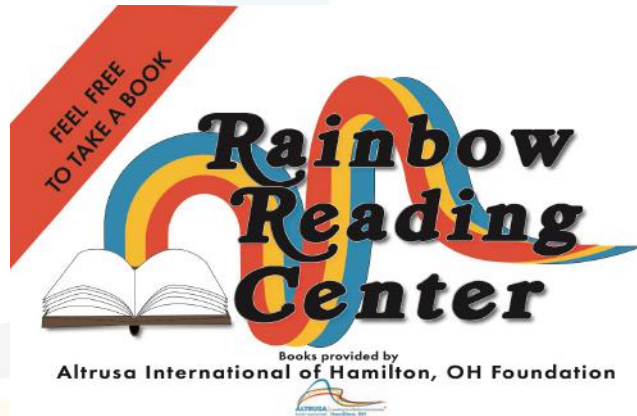
Kathy Carmack, President

We will be celebrating our club's 100 year birthday as well as honoring current and past ASTRA scholarship recipients at a special ceremony at 6pm on May 31 at the Hamilton High School Library.



# Reading Rainbow Program Update

As part of our club's response to the International "One Book at a Time" literacy challenge to distribute one million books and/or one million service hours during the 2021-2023 biennium, our club created the "Reading Rainbow" program, in which we distribute free books at five local Primary Health Solutions health care facilities in the Dayton, Middletown, Oxford, and Hamilton areas. The end goal of the "One Book at a Time" challenge is to enhance the lives of others. "The simple gift of a book to a child who has never had one can help eradicate illiteracy and give these children a chance to succeed in life."



We exceeded our club's goal of 500 donated books in our first month of our progra! **As of May 8, 2023, we have donated 4532 books!** Even though the "One Book at a Time" Biennium Challenge is ending this month, our club has chosen to continue our local program indefinitely. Thanks to Half Price Books of Fairfield, purchased books an international grant received last year, and other generous donations, we continue to have a steady flow of books to fill our bookcases at the clinics. The staff at the clinics consistently tell us the books are very popular with both the children and adults. The kids even take them to the examination room, and it helps them stay occupied while they wait for the doctor!



Photos from Primary Health Solutions waiting room locations



# Military Support

*In February, our club sent Valentines Day care packages to military personnel stationed overseas. Members purchased chocolates, snacks, candy, crossword puzzles and soldier requested items Gillette Razor refills and Forever Stamps for letters home. Members also lovingly made home-made baked cookies and signed Valentine's cards. A few weeks later, we got an email back from our military contact who wrote: "Thank you thank you thank you! The boxes were received and as always the team was extremely grateful. Your support for another deployment means a lot. I'm not sure I'll ever be able to accurately describe or show my level of appreciation."*

## To Our Soldiers



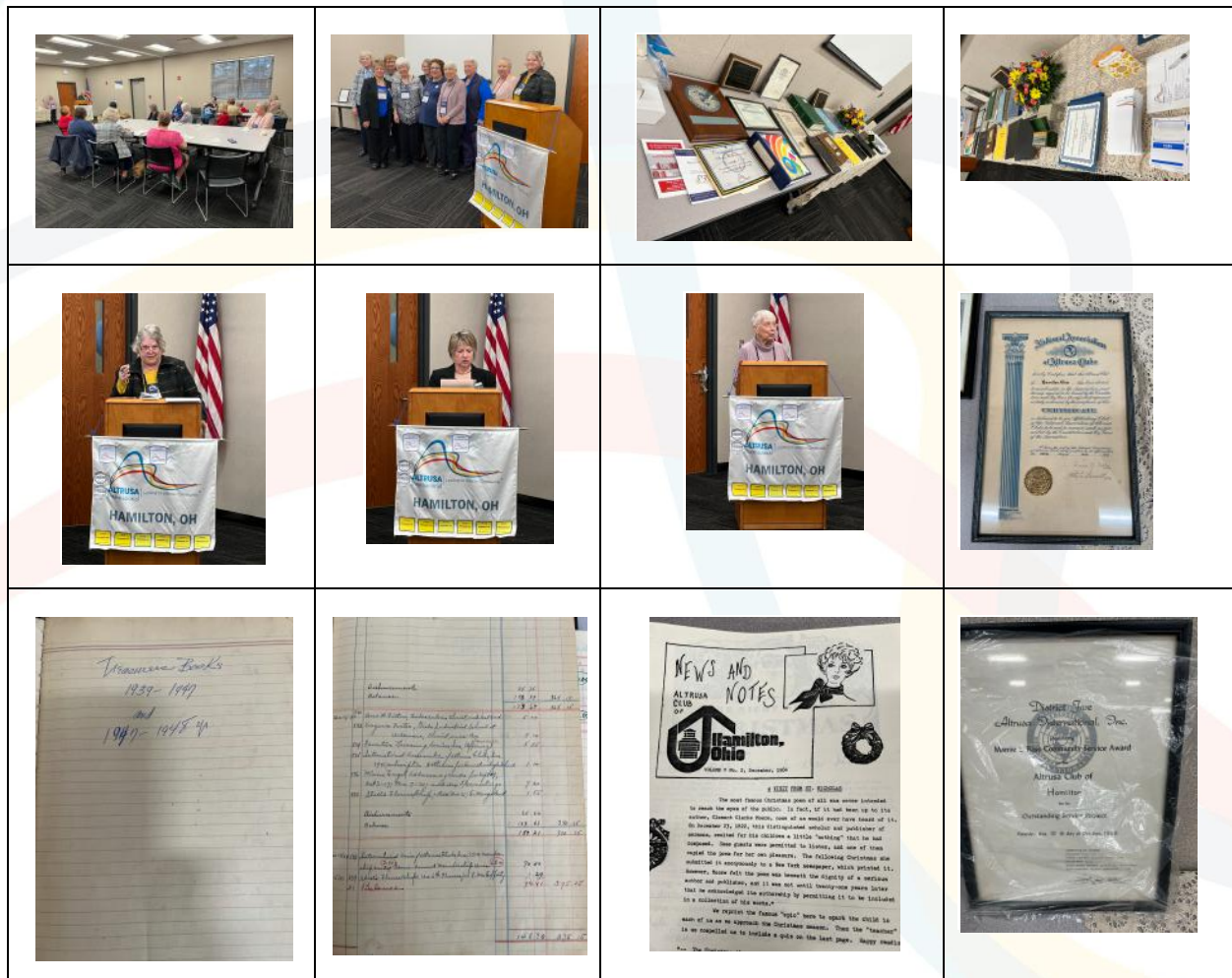
**With Love from, Altrusa Hamilton**



# CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION!

May 22, 1923 – May 22, 2023

On February 23, 2023, the Hamilton Altrusa Club celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary at the Lane Library in Fairfield, Ohio! Several guests joined us for the celebration, including members from the Dayton Altrusa Club & the Soroptomist Club of Middletown.



Some of the items from our club archives were displayed at the celebration

Special thanks goes to Kathy Jackson, Joan Witt, Kathy Carmack, and Bobbi Hasselgrave for organizing the celebration!

# Altrusa 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Auction

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual spring auction was held on April 22 at the Butler County Educational Center. It was great success, with over 60 guests who enjoyed a wonderful catered lunch and then got to bid on items in both a live and silent auction. We also had two gift card lottery trees and a donated jewelry sale. All proceeds from the auction fundraiser will go towards scholarship programs next year – for both high school seniors and non-traditional students. We would especially like to thank our Auctioneer Neil Webster and Altrusa Dayton Club members and District Five Officers Tammy Bader, Linda Williams, and Kathy Ballman-Parks for making the trip for our event. Special thanks also to our Hamilton H.S. ASTRA students who were so helpful at our event - working the baked goods table, serving lunch, and walking baskets & items around the room during the live auction. THANK YOU ALL!!





# HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL ASTRA CLUB

We are thrilled to learn that two students from our Hamilton High School ASTRA Club won ASTRA International scholarships to begin their collegiate studies: Vaishnavi Venagala (Past President 2022-23, President 2021-2022) earned a \$2000 Scholarship and Chloe Christen (Vice President 2022-2023, Membership Chair 2021-2022) earned a \$1000 scholarship. According to club advisor, Dr. Candi Pierce Garry, these students were instrumental in reviving ASTRA after the pandemic shutdown. Congratulations to these students and all the Hamilton High School ASTRA Club members for a great year!

The following summary from Candi, was shared at our recent District Five Conference:

*ASTRA was started at Hamilton High in 2008 under the advisor Zellene Miller. ASTRA was a very successful club and Zellene helped guide them until her retirement. For the next couple of years, ASTRA went through a few advisors, and went inactive during COVID.*

*In 2021, students Chloe Christen and Vaishnavi Vengala worked to revive the club, and Dr. Candi Pierce Garry, librarian at Hamilton High School and the parent of two former ASTRA students, agreed to be the advisor. Kathy Jackson, Hamilton Altrusan and long time HHS ASTRA liaison, continued to represent Altrusa and assist the ASTRA chapter as needed. Due to the changing nature of high school with many students taking college courses off campus, our demographics had changed considerably, and during our first year (2021-2022) we didn't have any senior members! In response, we decided to open the club to freshman for the first time (freshman attend a separate campus) and many freshmen joined ASTRA that year.*

*Our successes were many. During the first year we established relationships with our elementary schools as well as many organizations in the community, which gave our students ample and varied volunteering opportunities. In our elementary schools, our students assisted with classroom preparation, providing childcare at Parent Teacher Organization meetings, and helping with school dances, carnivals, and seasonal events. These were their favorite volunteering experiences. In the community we helped in a variety of capacities at Operation Pumpkins, helped run a Thanksgiving 5K, served food at the Christkindlmarkt, organized books at the local library, and planted trees and helped with cleanup at our local park district. In addition, many students sought out volunteering opportunities on their own, helping their cultural centers and religious organizations with their needs. During the second year, students volunteered in all those capacities and more. Dr. Candi Pierce Garry joined Altrusa over the summer and immediately wrote and won an Altrusa grant for the ASTRA club. The students are currently working on their first literacy based service project entitled My Own Book. Working with Reading is Fundamental (RIF) they earned another grant from RIF and doubled their money. In May, they will be giving a free book to each child in Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade in two of our elementary schools who have high numbers of English Language learners. The ASTRA members also wowed the Hamilton Altrusans when they volunteered at our recent fundraising auction: selling and boxing baked goods, serving lunch, and modeling the items for auction, ultimately delivering the items to the winning bidders.*

*Candi Pierce Garry is beyond proud of our ASTRA members who work tirelessly in service of others. She consistently gets glowing reports and heartfelt gratitude from the groups our students serve, praising our students' character and work ethic. We are proud to have such dedicated high school members, and also pleased that we can provide a club where these students can learn and grow and make good friends while gaining valuable service and leadership experience. Having two winners of the ASTRA International Scholarship was the icing on the cake of an outstanding year for ASTRA, and a well-deserved honor for these two hard working students who are determined to leave their world better than they found it.*



ASTRA students at one of their service events this year



Graduating Seniors



Hamilton High School ASTRA Club Members



New Officers

ASTRA end of year ceremony with the induction of new members, installation of new officers, and recognition of graduating seniors at Hamilton High School on May 9, 2023

# District FIVE Conference April 2023

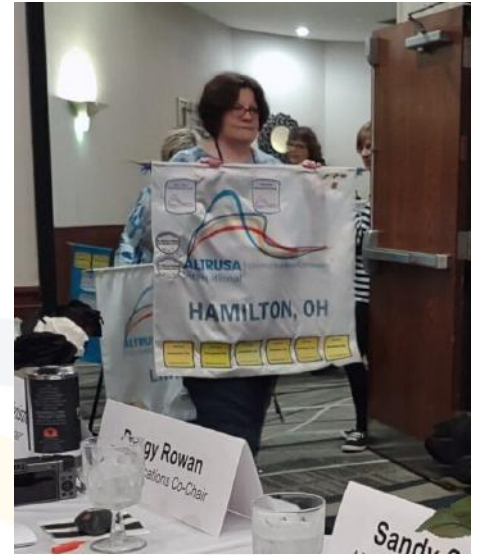
This year's District Five 68th Conference, was held in Lima, Ohio, hosted by the Mansfield Club on April 28-30, 2023. The theme was "Reform the Norm". Conference highlights: Dues Increase was voted on and approved for District Dues to be raised to \$20 from the current \$14. Slate of Officers were approved. Awards received by the Hamilton Club were: Mary B. Smith Yearbook Award - 3rd place, Troy Conference Registrations Award - 3rd Place, Lucille Pence Service Award (given to the 2nd winner in the Mamie L. Bass Service Award Competition) for our entry: "Serving Our Local Veterans and Active Duty Soldiers". There were 138 final Registrants, with 19 out of 21 clubs represented at Conference. Members from the Hamilton Club who attended were: Kathy Carmack, Germain Vonderhaar, and Terry Brotherton.



Guest Speaker, International Representative, Bettina Schempf, International Director from Corvallis, Oregon, District Twelve. Next to podium is District Five Governor, Julie Stratos.




Incoming District Five Governor, Tammy Bader (left) and current District Five Governor Julie Stratos (right).



Member Terry Brotherton holding the Hamilton Club banner.

<p>Akron Branch County Columbus Dayton Findlay Hamilton Highland County Lima Mansfield Marion Troy Youngstown</p>	<p><b>Distinguished Club Awards</b> <b>Sponsor: Altrusa International</b> Given to charter-strength clubs, based on information supplied on the previous year's Club Activity Report.</p>
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Congrats Hamilton!  
Recipient of Distinguished Club Award!



Hamilton Club's entry for the table centerpiece competition. Our theme of course was our 100 year anniversary and our various literacy projects (Backpack Program, SuperMan Reads, Reading Rainbow) and Scholarships.



## KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

Kroger Community Rewards Program proceeds go into our Operating Account – just by shopping at Kroger!

### **Box Tops for Education**

Carol Bondoc collects "Box Tops for Education" to help community schools.

### **Plastic Pill Bottles**

Joan Witt collects Plastic Bill Bottles for Matthew 25 Ministries

## Local, District, and Int'l Websites

District Five Altrusa International  
<http://www.districtfive.altrusa.org/>  
(see our club webpage under "clubs")  
Altrusa International, Inc.

[www.altrusa.org](http://www.altrusa.org)

Altrusa of Hamilton's Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Altrusa-International-Inc-of-Hamilton-Ohio/1472967966339504?fref=ts>.

### Feb23-May23 Review

- Military Care packages sent to soldiers overseas in Feb.
- Centennial Celebration held at the Lane Library in February.
- New Officers for 2023-24 elected at March business meeting.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Auction at Butler County Education Center held in April
- District Five Conference in Lima, OH in April.
- Two local Hamilton High School ASTRA students won International College Tuition Scholarships in April.
- Hamilton H.S. End of Year ceremony held in May.
- As of May '23, donated over 4500 books since the start of the Reading Rainbow program a year ago.

## International News

The next Altrusa  
International Convention  
will be July 19-22, 2023 in  
San Antonio, TX

## District Five News

District Five Conference was held April 28-30, 2023 in Lima, Ohio. Members who attended were: Kathy Carmack, Germaine Vonderhaar, and Terry Brotherton.

## CLUB ARCHIVES

Kathy Jackson is now storing our club archives. She brought some items to the February Centennial Celebration.

Thank you Kathy!



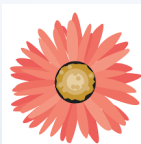
## NEWSLETTER CONTACT

Comments/ suggestions:  
Newsletter Editor ('22-'23): Anita Harper  
[AltrusaHamilton@gmail.com](mailto:AltrusaHamilton@gmail.com)

## Upcoming Birthdays!



June 2 – Candy Pierce Garry  
June 23 – Kathy Carmack  
July 27 – Carol Bondoc  
August 9 – Germaine Vonderhaar  
August 14 – Kathy Jackson





**2022 – 2023  
ALTRUSA OFFICERS  
(6/1/22 - 5/31-23)**

**President:** Kathy Carmack  
**Vice-President:** Joan Witt  
**Treasurer:** Germaine Vonderhaar  
**Recording Secretary:** Nancy Schwab  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Mary Jane Mayer  
**Immediate Past President:** Nancy Schwab  
**Director (2021 – 2023):** Meg Witt

**2022 – 2023  
ALTRUSA COMMITTEES  
(6/1/22-5/31-23)**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Chair:** Nancy Schwab  
**Members:** Joann Koch  
 Anita Harper  
 Terry Brotherton  
 Bobbi Hesselgrave

**Newsletter Editor:** Anita Harper  
**Club Photographer:** Anita Harper  
**Yearbook Editor:** Bobbi Hesselgrave & Nancy Schwab  
**Facebook Page/Email Contact:** Terry Brotherton  
**Hamilton Award/Archives:** Joann Koch

**SERVICE**

**Chair:** Terry Brotherton & Carol Bondoc  
**Members:** Joan Witt  
 Meg Witt  
 Anita Harper  
 Dana Enrico

**2022 – 2023  
ALTRUSA COMMITTEES  
Continued**

**EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE:**

Kathy Jackson  
 2015-2017 President  
 Mary Kuenzig  
 2017-2020 President  
 Nancy Schwab  
 2020-2022 President

**FINANCE**

**Chair:** Germaine Vonderhaar  
**Members:** Mary Jane Mayer  
 Bobbi Hesselgrave  
 Nancy Schwab  
 Mary Kuenzig

**MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

**Chair:** Mary Kuenzig  
**Members:** Anita Harper  
 Nancy Schwab  
 Candi Pierce Garry  
 Terry Brotherton  
**Cards & Cheer:** Terry Brotherton

**A.S.T.R.A.**

**Ability, Service, Training, Responsibility and Achievement**  
**Chair:** Kathy Jackson  
**Members:** Candi Pierce Garry

**FUN COMMITTEE**

**Members:** Dana Enrico  
 Terry Brotherton  
 Rotating Members



**2023 – 2024  
ALTRUSA OFFICERS  
(6/1/23 - 5/31-24)**

**President:** Kathy Carmack  
**Vice-President:** Joan Witt  
**Treasurer:** Nancy Schwab  
**Recording Secretary:** Mary Kuenzig  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Mary Jane Mayer  
**Immediate Past President:** Nancy Schwab  
**Director (2023 – 2025):** Germaine Vonderhaar

***Upcoming United Nations  
International Days***

*May 15 – International Day of Families  
 June 5 – World Environment Day*

**LOCAL CLUB  
CALENDAR**



(6pm unless otherwise indicated)  
 All business meetings held at Neighborhood Housing Services Bldg.  
 All Board Meetings held by Zoom.  
**May 9, 2023** – Business Mtg  
**May 31, 2023** – Altrusa Centennial Celebration @ Hamilton H.S.  
**May 23, 2023** – Board Mtg  
**June 13, 2023** – Business Mtg  
**June 27, 2023** – Board Mtg  
**July 4, 2023** – Bells on Independence Day Parade  
**July 11, 2023** – Business Meeting  
**July 19-22, 2023** – International Convention in San Antonio, TX  
**July 25, 2023** – Board Mtg  
**August 8, 2023** – Business Mtg  
**August 22, 2023** – Board Mtg

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## EDUCATION



**Kathy Jackson, Mary Kuenzig,  
Nancy Schwab**

Applications for high school seniors were reviewed in April. Scholarship awardee presentations will be at the May 31 event at Hamilton High School. Applications for non-traditional students will be due this fall.

## A.S.T.R.A.



**Chair: Kathy Jackson  
Members: Candi Pierce Garry**

From Candi Pierce Garry, Hamilton HS  
ASTRA Club Advisor:

- Two Hamilton ASTRA students were awarded International Scholarships.
- 1800 books for Pre-K -6<sup>th</sup> grade will be given away using funds from the \$3500 Altrusa ASTRA International Grant & a matching grant from Reading is Fundamental. They will be distributed on May 12 at Crawford Woods and May 18 at Riverview Elementary Schools.
- There are ten graduating seniors – they will be presented chords and pins at a special end of year ceremony on May 9.
- ASTRA Scholarship awardees will be recognized at the May 31 Hamilton Altrusa Centennial Celebration Event.

## FUN!!



**Members: Dana Enrico, Terry  
Brotherton, Rotating Members**

What will be our next fun activity? If you have an idea, please share it!

## FINANCE



**Chair: Germaine Vonderhaar  
Members: Mary Jane Mayer  
Bobbie Hasselgrave, Nancy  
Schwab, Mary Kuenzig**

*All members helped out to make our club's  
2<sup>nd</sup> annual Spring Auction held on April 22,  
2023 at Butler County Education Center a  
big success! Thank you to all!*



*The West Chester Antique Center booth  
continues to generate funds for our  
Foundation Account every month. If you  
have any donations, so please contact Dana  
Enrico, Terry Brotherton, or Kathy Jackson.*



*Photo from January 2023*

## COMMUNICATIONS



**Chair: Nancy Schwab  
Members: Joann Koch, Anita  
Harper, Terry Brotherton,  
Bobbi Hesselgrave**

Next big event will be the May 31 at Hamilton H.S. to celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and recognize ASTRA Scholarship recipients.

## FINANCE continued

### LITERACY BUZZ Spelling Bee

**Co-chairs: Germaine  
Vonderhaar & Mary Jane Mayer**  
The Spelling Bee has been postponed until a date to be determined.

## SERVICE



**Chair: Terry Brotherton & Carol  
Bondoc**  
**Members: Joan Witt, Meg Witt,  
Anita Harper, Dana Enrico**

In February we sent out Valentine's Day care packages to Military personnel who were stationed overseas. The boxes contained requested items such as razors and stamps as well as home-made baked items, puzzle books, candy, chocolate and signed Valentines cards from our members .

As of May, our club has distributed over 4500 books as part of the "Reading Rainbow" program.

## MEMBERSHIP



**Chair: Mary Kuenzig  
Members: Anita Harper, Nancy  
Schwab, Candi Pierce Garry,  
Terry Brotherton**

We currently have 15 members.. we are small but mighty! ... and we would welcome new people. 😊