

2023-2024

Officers

Interim President &
Vice President
Pat Hadler

Secretary
Jill DeVore

Treasurer
Sara Huffman

Past President
Courtney Kallergis

Directors

Mary Mars
Carol Smith
Nancy Metzger
Mary Smithson

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Interim President's Message

I love March. It's like we're almost done with winter and eventually we'll be seeing better weather, spring flowers, and the ability to enjoy ourselves outdoors.

In March we also celebrate St. Patrick's Day. I'm part Irish, and I have always thought that I've been lucky and blessed my entire life. I didn't know it at the time, but I was very lucky to have met Claudia Speakman on a ski trip in 2015. She brought me to Altrusa and inspired me with her dedication to the organization and our mission.



All of us are lucky to be part of Altrusa. Because of our collective efforts, we raise a lot of money that benefits an un-

told number of people here in Ohio and in Mali. We also enjoy the friendship and camaraderie that comes with being a part of a larger effort to improve the community. Never forget that we each make a difference.

As we look forward to our largest fundraising event in April, I wish you good luck as you work toward securing great auction items and sponsorships and bringing even more people to attend our event.

"Wherever you go and whatever you do, may the luck of the Irish be there with you."

In Altrusa service,

Pat Hadler

pathadler@mac.com

Membership Committee

The membership committee wishes **Mary Mars** a very happy birthday on March 8th.

We are also delighted to be initiating our two new members, Patty Callahan and Paula Sisson, at the March 7th club meeting.

Grantee Journal

At the club's February meeting, Lena Kuehnel, Director of Adult Education at the **Columbus Literacy Council**, and a current CLC

March 7 Club Meeting

6:00 pm Potluck Dinner

Business Meeting

*Initiation of new members
Patty Callahan & Paula Sisson*

Voting on Slate of Officers for 2024-25

Spring Fling Planning

Hands-on Service Project

Assembling toiletry kits for families staying at Ronald McDonald House

Our Lady of Victory Parish Life Center

1559 Roxbury Rd., Columbus 43212

Grantee Journal (cont'd.)

student spoke about the English to Empower Program, which is helping over 400 immigrant women learn to speak English. The student said the instructors have used different techniques to help the class learn, and she can now “think in English” rather than just translate words. She said the CLC class is a community, and she has formed friendships through the program.

Funding from Altrusa is used to purchase textbooks and workbooks. Volunteer opportunities at CLC include teaching in-person or by Zoom, and tutoring students individually in-person or virtually.

Altrusa member Jill DeVore presented a slide show about **Medicine for Mali** at the February meeting. MFM was established in the western African country in 2000 by Jill's husband, Dr. Steve DeVore. MFM operates public health and education programs.

Altrusa's grant was used for training teachers and village management committees in 17 schools. Several of the pictures Jill shared – of children writing on slates in classrooms, women carrying food in baskets on their heads, and mud huts with thatched roofs – are in the book “Twenty Years of Medicine for Mali,” which was edited by Jill. It includes a number of recollections by MFM volunteers and staff. MFM also has a grant from Altrusa International Club 21.

Grants Committee Chair

Jackie Nielson, roger.nielson@yahoo.com

Community Service Committee

We will hold three community service activities this month!

At our March 7 club meeting, we will donate items for and assemble 75 Toiletry Kits for families staying at **Ronald McDonald House**. Remember to bring your purchased travel size toothbrushes, toothpastes, shampoos, conditioners, deodorants, and soaps. If you have extra lotions, dental floss and/or lip balm bring those as well.

Also, please bring your **written cards** for clients

of **Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging** (Aging Solutions) to the March 7 meeting for our quarterly collection. Cards can relay birthday greetings, silly jokes, or positive sentiments.

On March 26 we will volunteer as Pantry Assistants at the **NSI Food Pantry**, part of the Mid-Ohio Food Collective, from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm (at the latest). The location is 1950 N. 4th St., Columbus 43201 and has plenty of parking. Let Pat Hadler know if you plan to volunteer and/or have questions. pathadler@mac.com

Community Service Committee Co-Chairs

Nancy Metzger, metzn424@yahoo.com

Mary Smithson, marysmithson47@gmail.com

Fundraising—Spring Fling!

Our annual Spring Fling event, with a luncheon and live and silent auctions, will be April 20th at Our Lady of Victory Parish Life Center. It is the



largest fundraiser we hold and allows us to do great work for the community.

Our **Donations Deadline is April 5th**, so there is still time for members to solicit donations and obtain sponsors. We need everyone's help to accomplish this!

All the forms you will need are now in one place. Contact Pat Fitzpatrick if you cannot access them. [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ubIKEkBmF-EnWpT9BcxE2t6asty76-yK?usp=drive link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ubIKEkBmF-EnWpT9BcxE2t6asty76-yK?usp=drive_link)

Solicit donations: We suggest you have a few copies of forms #1-4 with you when you go to restaurants, shopping, the dentist, etc. Leave a packet of information at a business, even if you can't meet with the owner/manager.

Create a basket: The **2024 Solicitation & Basket Spreadsheet link**

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1PW-OgmkrJrUlk9iLI4jOlj5fKBt2Ta_J6KeFzWkC_M/edit#gid=0 includes a tab to sign up. Try to find heavily discounted items for your basket, as bids rarely reach the fair-market value of items.

Fundraising—Spring Fling! (cont'd.)

Volunteer before and after the event: Link to the **2024 Spring Fling Volunteer sheet** <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HwIXN5jynwq6hPciOIJYdNnwGn2u5FF/edit#gid=494846067> and sign up by double-clicking on the spreadsheet cell, or let Pat Fitzpatrick know what duty interests you. patfitzpatrick78@gmail.com

Send the Save the Date Notification to your family and friends and watch for the ticket registration link to be emailed to you soon.

Thank you for everything you do and will do to make this event the best ever!

Treasures 'n Trinkets

Last year we introduced an additional raffle opportunity we will offer again this year: Treasures 'n Trinkets. These are gently used items donated by members which include decorative pieces, antiques, jewelry, scarves, cookware, gifts, etc.

The items will be displayed in an area separate from the silent auction and each item will be numbered with a bowl in front of it to hold raffle tickets. **A strip of 10 tickets will cost \$10.** Guests may buy as many strips of tickets as they wish, distributing them across different bowls or placing them in one bowl to increase their odds of winning a certain item.

To donate an item, simply go to the Jotform at: <https://form.jotform.com/AltrusaColsOH/2024SpringFling> by the **April 5th deadline**, and enter your **Contact Name**. Then drop down to “Donated Item(s) for Auction” and type **“treasures & trinkets”** in the **Description of item(s)** box and list your item(s). There is no need to enter an item's value or describe it in any detail. Bonnie and Nancy are happy to pick up your items and even list them on Jotforms if you prefer. Items will be accepted at the April 4 Club meeting as well.

Fundraising Committee Chair

Pat Fitzpatrick, patfitzpatrick78@gmail.com

Altrusa of Columbus Members Web Page

Altrusa of Columbus, Ohio website:

www.altrusacolumbusoh.com. Go to the

“For Our Members” link. The password is 1918.

Nominations for Club Officers, Club Board Members, and Foundation Board Members for 2024-2025

At the March 7 meeting, Altrusa Columbus members will vote for the slate previously approved at the February club meeting, as follows:

Altrusa Club Officers

President: **Pat Hadler**

Vice President: **Nancy Metzger**

Secretary: **Margie Tate**

Treasurer: **Barbara Simons**

Club Board Members

Bonnie Ackerman, Paula Sisson and **Mary Smithson** (first year of 2-year term)

Mary Mars (second year of 2-year term)

Foundation Board

Patty Callahan, Courtney Kallergis, and **Jackie Nielson** (first year of 2-year term)

Pam Jax and **Bridget McDaniel** (second year of 2-year term)

Note: Foundation officers are elected by the board.

For Your Calendars:

April 4 Club Meeting

6:00 pm Lifeline of Ohio Conference Room
770 Kinnear Rd., Columbus 43212
(brown bag) Spring Fling planning

May 2 Club Meeting

6:00 pm at El Vaquero Mexican Restaurant
3230 Olentangy River Rd., Columbus 43202
Board Member installation
District Five Conference recap

April 20, 2024—Annual Spring Fling Fundraiser

Our Lady of Victory Parish Life Center
1559 Roxbury Rd., Columbus 43212

April 26-28, 2024—District Five Conference

Sheraton Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI

DISTRICT NEWS

New year; New you! This resolution sounds like a great time to join a service organization, but an even better time to grow your Altrusa organization. The membership taskforce is working diligently to create suggested ways to aid in growing membership for your local club.

Here are 7 suggestions to seek new members:

- Make boosting membership a club priority.
- Identify "Members who are missing." Are you looking for someone with connections with the local library? Maybe there is a new business coming to town? How about someone from a major fundraiser sponsorship?
- Create a targeted membership growth event plan with dates, locations, etc. (Host an event, sign in to the event with contact information, invite district representatives or members from other clubs to share more on the organization, follow up with potential members after the event.)
- Be sure to assign a mentor to a new member, as well as their sponsor. This gives them someone else to lean on for advice and guidance.
- Celebrate new members with a special ceremony and offer a formalized orientation program.
- Encourage members to talk about Altrusa wherever they go. Always have the 90 second elevator speech ready. Potential new members are everywhere!
- Create a plan to invite non-members to volunteer with service projects.

Just remember.... It is just as important to keep current members engaged and enthusiastic. This is where the idea of sister clubs comes into play. A sister club would be an existing Altrusa club within a rather close proximity that you could get together with for a social event to "re-energize" current members. This is a new idea to the district, but club presidents will have more information on these events in the near future.

If you have any questions involving membership within your group, please feel free to contact me any time at ctetersaltrusa@gmail.com.

~ Connor Teters, District Five
Membership Chair

*Excerpt from District Five February 2024 DSB
(District Service Bulletin)*



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

International Service Committee Literacy Challenge

If there is one thing Altrusa may be known for, it's literacy. The One Million Book Challenge continues this biennium, and it will take every District, every Club, and every member to meet - or ideally, surpass this number. What have you done and what do you have planned to help ensure our success?

During the last biennium, Altrusans recorded the donation of 644,437 books – an amazing number, but not meeting our goal of one million. I can't help but wonder how much closer we would have been to meeting this goal if all the books had been reported? Did your club distribute any books? Did you report them - all of them? Some clubs were diligent in reporting the books distributed through their main literacy projects but didn't report smaller projects. For example, some clubs maintain one or more Little Free Libraries. Even with a few books each month, the numbers add up. Perhaps, your club handed out a few books at a small community event. Twenty-five or thirty books may not sound like much when looking

at a million-book goal, but if 100 clubs fail to report 25 books, that is 2,500 toward our goal.

Reporting is an easy option on the Altrusa International website. Just log in and go to the Service Page. At the bottom of the article on the Altrusa International Literacy Challenge, click on "Entry Form" and respond.

Altrusans are more than capable of surpassing this goal. Let's get going!

~Karyn Evans, International
Service Committee, Chair

Excerpt from *The Altrusa Compass*

International March Dates:

- 1—Zero Discrimination Day
- 8—International Women's Day
- 20—World Happiness Day
- 22—World Water Day
- 25—International Day for Remembrance of
Slavery Victims & Transatlantic Slave Trade

Did you know that 2024 is the United Nations Year of Camelids? Camelids—those are camels, llamas, alpacas, vicuñas, and guanacos. This important group of animals is known for food, milk, transportation, and wool throughout many parts of the UN's world.

Future UN International Years:

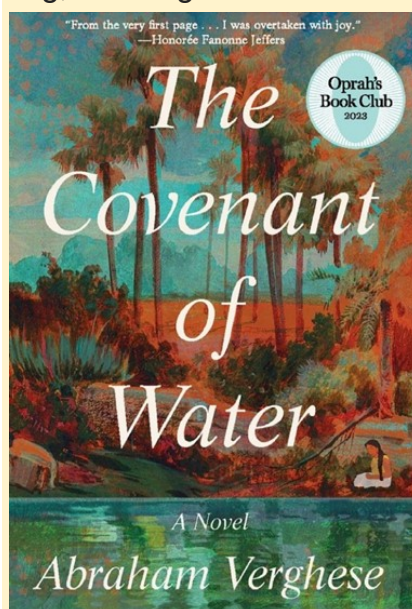
- 2025—International Year of Glaciers Preservation
- 2026—International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists



BOOK BUZZ:

What Altrusans Are Reading

Jill DeVore: I am reading "The Covenant of Water" by Abraham Verghese. It is very compelling, weaving a well-crafted story in India under



British rule about a time in history I knew little about. The main characters are very human and likeable.

Spanning the years 1900 to 1977, the story is set in Kerala, on India's Malabar Coast, and follows three generations of a family that suffers a peculiar affliction: In every generation at least

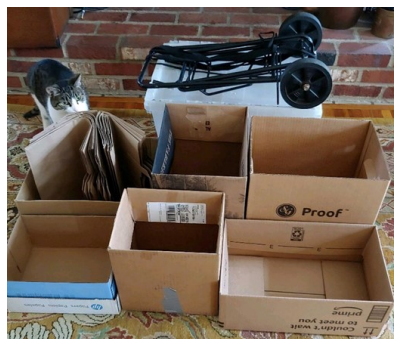
one person dies by drowning—and in Kerala, water is everywhere.

Verghese is an American physician, author and professor. The book is 736 pp. with a Goodreads rating of 4.5/5.

To share your reading recommendations, send a book title or author name to Nancy Metzger metzn424@yahoo.com

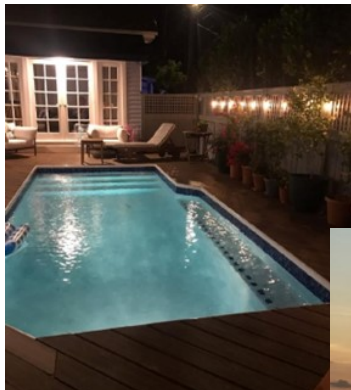
HAPPINESS CORNER!

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



Bonnie: Photos of Nancy's cat Paddie supervising her logistics for the March 7th hands-on service project make me smile. I have to live vicariously through other people's cats because my rescue dog hates cats.

HAPPINESS CORNER (continued)



Mary S is enjoying the bliss of a vacation in Key West—from time by the private pool to watching sailboats at sunset.



She toured the Ernest Hemingway House on her second day.

Mary M: I've finally started rehabbing the kitchen cabinets at Charles' house. He couldn't resist taking a photo of his mother at work! I am VERY careful on the ladder. Charles is also home when I am using it.



Nancy: We enjoyed Mozart's 29th annual celebration hon-



oring the life and work of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and thanking the community for its continued support. We remember when the owners, the Sahas, opened their first establishment in south Clintonville and lived across the street from it!



Bonnie: My sister sent this photo to me for a Valentine's Day smile. One of her friends took a turn in the doggie kissing booth at the local Top Dog store.

HAPPINESS CORNER (continued)

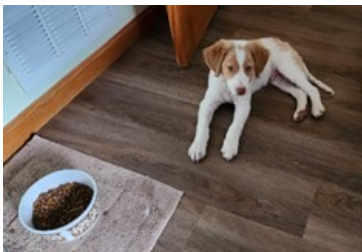
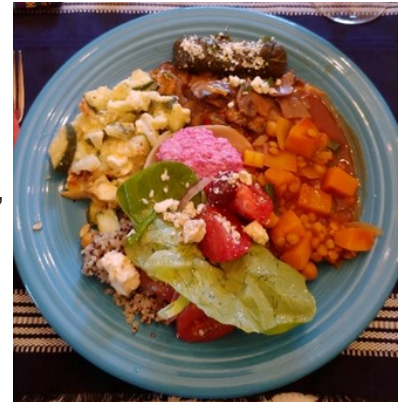


Bonnie: Three Celtic Sisters - Patty Callahan and I had a lovely get together at Fado's Pub with our friend Karen (in the middle). Karen will be retiring from COAAA in May.



Nancy: Mary S and I attended a staged reading and fundraiser for The Tipping Point Theatre which included TTN member and friend Leslie Robinson. (photos of Leslie and the cast members by former Altrusan Roberta Kayne)

Nancy: I enjoy cooking for and gathering with members of Together Women Rise in Columbus which supports women and girls in impoverished countries across the world. At this gathering we cooked foods of our choice from different countries, including Morocco, Bhutan, Guatemala and Greece, resulting in colorful plates!



Patty's pup Rooney just keeps growing and growing and growing. Oh, my!



Patty: He is a joyful boy—if a bit of an opportunist. See the chair that became his chew toy.



The hostess gave each of us a bag of Guatemalan Worry Dolls: Tell each doll a problem or worry that you have and place the dolls under your pillow at night. The next day you may have a different outlook!