

## President's Message

We each get asked at some point or another, "What is Altrusa? What do they do?".

What do you say? What all do you include? In preparation for an upcoming event, I started thinking how do we share what Altrusa is and/or does. That got me thinking about elevator talks. An elevator ride is about 60 to 118 seconds. The silence can be deafening. So, what is an elevator speech, elevator pitch, lift speech, or elevator statement? This "speech" should last about 30 to 60 seconds. It is designed to explain a concept in such a way that the listener can understand who we are and what we do. A well-crafted "speech" should also include a short overview of our background and experience to make it more compelling.

Our members might need to be able to give an elevator talk about our Altrusa. We throw in interesting information like how many books we purchase, the grade levels we buy books for, and our fundraisers such as our book sales and of course our Quarter Raffle. Our volunteer hours and donated books are astounding! The information about our Little Free Libraries is a sure show stopper.

Well, it is time to dig into all of this great information to share!

*Sherri Hetterbrand*



## Highland Altrusa Highlights



The official newsletter of  
Altrusa International, Inc.  
Highland County, OH  
District Five



## IN THIS ISSUE



- Presidents Message
- Club News
- District/International News
- Committee Updates
- Member Spotlight
- Meeting Information
- Literacy Spotlights





## Club Officers

Club President: Sherri Helterbrand  
Vice President: Erin Mustard  
Assistant Treasurer: Jane Tissot  
Corresponding Secretary: Heather Cummings  
Immediate Past President: Gina Early  
Directors: Karyn Evans & Debbie Boester

President Elect: Ashley Trueblood  
Treasurer: Sally Chirico  
Secretary: Lynette Hamilton



## Upcoming Meeting Information

When: September 16, 2025  
Location: Leesburg Fire Dept.  
Board Meeting: 6:00 PM  
Business Meeting: 6:30 PM  
RSVP: Send regrets to Jane on  
the Monday prior, by noon.



## Menu:

- Wings
- Pasta Salad
- Slaw
- Buffalo Chicken Dip



## What to Wear?

- Grab your favorite sports team- We are tailgating.
- Roll Call will be favorite sports team memory (Own family or favorite team).



## Connect with Us:

Email:

altrusaofhighlandcboard@gmail.com

TeamReach:

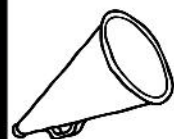
Altrusa of Highland County

Group Code- Read24

Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100083406217604)

id=100083406217604



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

LINDA PENN-9/4  
SHANNON YOCHUM-9/15



DONATED

**3,297.25**  
HOURS

**2,897**  
BOOKS



Don't forget to log your service hours and books donated! Hours can be submitted on TeamReach, digitally or by completing a paper copy in your folder!



## Altrusa Accent

District Visitors - Club visits are the direct link Districts maintain with their Clubs. A Board Member should visit each Club in the District at least once a year. Governors should visit each Club at least once during either the District biennium or their term as Governor-Elect.

Our District Visitor will be Linda Williams, Governor-Elect, from Mansfield, Ohio. She will be attending our September meeting.







## Craft Night

Join us for a fun and meaningful Crafting Night on Monday, September 30, 2025 at 6:30 PM at Hillsboro First

Presbyterian Church

(201 E Main Street, Hillsboro)!

We'll be creating special tags for children's books donated to the Highland House Museum and decorating festive stockings for our local Veterans.

Bring your creativity and helping hands—supplies will be provided. All are welcome!

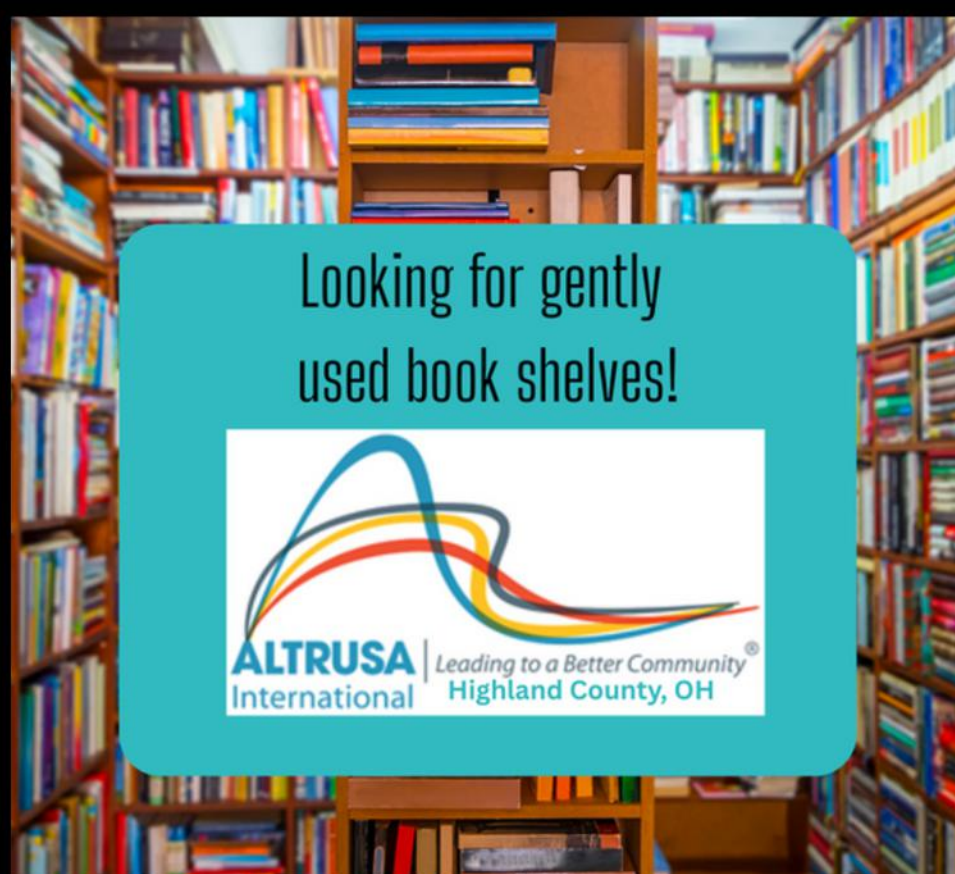
## Upcoming Club Events

- September 6- Book Sale
- September 8-International Literacy Day
- September 9- NCB Volunteer Fair
- September 29- Craft Gathering
- October 4-Book Sale
- October 5-World Teachers Day
- November 1- Book Sale
- November 6- Quarter Raffle
- November 20-World Children's Day



## Foundation Report

The Foundation Board met on September 9th. The board is excited to share that they have completed the application for 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher literacy support program and finalized the club brochure.





# WHAT COUNTS AS SERVICE HOURS?

## **Service Hours Ideas:**


(Hours do NOT have to be kept separate, but this list separates them to give everyone ideas.)

### **ALTRUSA SERVICE HOURS -**

- Committee meeting hours
- Working on Grant and Awards
- Writing grants/ Awards/ Brochures
- Working up reports
- Preparing for Altrusa meetings
- Attending Altrusa meetings, conferences, and conventions
- Time spent driving to and from Altrusa events
- Collecting books for LFL, bookstore, etc.
- LFL - cleaning, stocking, etc.

### **OTHER SERVICE HOURS -** This is not all of the other service hours.

- Children's Church Helper
- Volunteering at church or serving on church related committees
- Church Youth Director
- Church Cleaning
- Church Activities Volunteer
- Teaching Sunday School
- Operation Christmas Child (Wrapping Shoe boxes, Purchasing shoebox items, Helping deliver shoeboxes to drop-off centers)
- Meals for people
- Sharing a dinner with neighbors
- Purchasing a meal when in a drive-thru home
- Weenie Wednesday lunches at Peace Lutheran
- Pick up trash
- Making pillowcases for the Homeless Shelter
- Volunteering for various organizations
- Serving on boards of various organizations
- HDH Volunteer
- HHP - Highland Health Partners Board
- Visiting nursing homes
- Nursing Home Greeter
- Making items for the Cancer Center (pillow ports, hats, etc.)
- CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocate Juvenile Court
- Sports Coach - T-ball, baseball, softball, soccer, etc.
- Running Southern Ohio Showdown
- Volunteer Advisor for Ohio Maine-Anjou & Chianina Association
- Volunteering in Kids' Programs
- Helping children with 4-H, school, work, etc.
- 4-H Key Leader
- 4-H volunteer
- Volunteer - Judge a Contest
- Volunteer at School
- Literacy projects from other area clubs



**If you are not sure,  
reach out to a board  
member, they are  
happy to help!**



### Service Committee

At our September meeting, the Service Committee will be collecting soup and canned goods in honor of Make A Difference Day coming up in October. Your donations will help support local food pantries and families in need. Let's work together to make a meaningful impact—every can counts! Reminder when selecting your cans try to look for easy to open, not everyone owns a can opener. They are also looking for canned beans and nuts, as they are a great protein alternative for families.



### SERVICE HOURS

Don't forget to track your service hours & donated books either digitally or in the paper log in your folders at the meeting next week!



### Literacy Committee

The Literacy Committee has been hard at work over the past month stamping, sorting, and preparing books to be delivered to all Kindergarten through sixth grade students in Highland County. We are excited to get these books out into the hands of the students. Don't forget to log your books you donate.

Thank you to Rocky Fork Library for making a donation of books to Altrusa that can be used in the little free libraries!







### Sunshine & Friendship

If you or someone on your committee has a celebration or a need, please let us know. We want to make sure we can send a little sunshine their way!



### Fundraising Committee

Be thinking about ideas for our quarter raffle basket! When making your basket we would love you to make it total \$50 or you can make 2 that are \$25 each. Baskets that seem to be popular are ones with gift cards or money. If you take a photo of your basket, it can be placed on social media for attendees to see. Please have baskets at October meeting. Thank you for your continued support and willingness to help make our fundraising efforts a success.

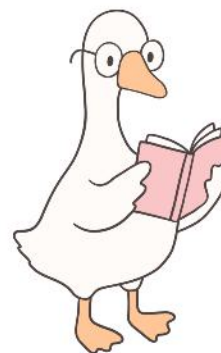
### Communications Committee

If you need help with TeamReach or receiving the newsletter, please reach out to us. We appreciate all of the committee reports and pictures that we have received. District website updates and Quarter Raffle Flyer coming soon.



### Membership Committee

If you know anyone interested in joining our organization, please reach out to one of our committee members to let us know. We love new faces at our meetings!





## CYCLE ONE GRANT APPLICATIONS

Now accepting applications for Project and Individual Grants, and Club 52 Program.

Deadline:  
September 15, 2025

### Long Range Strategic Plan

District 5 is in the progress of developing their plan for this biennium with the focus on *'Embrace Change'*.

The Altrusa Club of Dayton, OH



## Annual Luncheon & Auction Fundraiser

Saturday, October 25, 2025

Presidential Banquet Ctr., 4548 Presidential Way, Dayton  
Registration begins at 10:30 am, Lunch at 11:30

Live and Silent Auction - Baked Goods  
Jewelry Sale – And more!!!

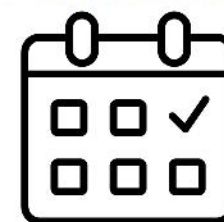
\$35.00/Ticket

Please contact Kathy Ballman-Parks, Altrusa of Dayton  
at (937) 623-9950 or [daytonaltrusa@gmail.com](mailto:daytonaltrusa@gmail.com) for tickets.

Deadline for ticket purchase is Monday, October 20, 2025

Supports our Foundation to provide scholarships and grants to organizations

## SAVE THE DATE!



April 21-24, 2027  
International  
Convention:  
Columbus, Ohio



## Club Fundraisers: Show Your Support!

### **Youngstown: Shoppopalooza 2025**

Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm  
Avion on the Water, 2177 W Western Reserve Rd #A, Canfield  
Tickets \$40

### **Springfield: 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Altrusa "Literacy Sting"**

Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11:30 am  
Springfield Courtyard by Marriott, 100 South Fountain Ave, Springfield  
Tickets \$25; Bee Team of 3 - \$300

### **Findlay: Altrusa Purse Bingo**

Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2-6 pm  
Old Mill Stream Building/Hancock County Fairgrounds, 1017 E Sandusky St, Findlay  
Tickets: \$50

### **Bucyrus: Halloween Designer Purse Bingo**

Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 5 pm  
Crawford County Fairgrounds, 610 Whetstone St, Bucyrus  
Tickets \$40 or table of 8 for \$350

### **Dayton: Altrusa Fall Luncheon and Auction**

Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am  
Presidential Banquet Center, 4548 Presidential Way, Kettering  
Tickets \$35

### **Highland County: Quarter Raffle**

Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, door open 5:30 pm; raffle starts at 6:30 pm  
Hillsboro Orpheum, 135 North High Street, Hillsboro

### **Chillicothe: Altrusa Bazaar**

Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 9am – 2pm  
Unioto Elementary, 138 Sandusky Blvd, Chillicothe  
Admission \$1

### **Marion: Designer Purse Bingo**

Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm (doors open at 1 pm)  
Marion Country Club, 2415 Crissinger Rd, Marion  
Tickets \$40 (includes set of cards, dauber, snacks, water)

### **Mansfield: Poinsettia Sales in November.**

### **Branch County: Diamond Raffle**

Drawing Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at noon  
Tickets: 1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20

### **Grand Rapids: Various events**

Parade of Homes in October, Beer and Wine Festival in November, and Poinsettia sales in December

### **Tuscarawas County: Stay tuned for small fundraisers listed on FaceBook @ Altrusa International of Tuscarawas County**

### **Lima: Stay tuned for a Double Good Popcorn fundraiser. Date TBD.**

## **2026 Save the Dates**

**Mansfield:** Spring Bash, Saturday,  
February 28, 2026

**Troy:** Spelling Bee, March, 2026

**Lima:** Kentucky Derby, Saturday,  
May 2, 2026

**Branch County:** Golf Outing, Friday,  
May 22, 2026



This month, we are delighted to feature Linda Penn, a charter member of our Altrusa Club whose service, leadership, and humor brighten every gathering.

Linda grew up in Milledgeville, later moving to Greenfield her freshman year of high school, where she graduated from McClain. She enjoyed a fulfilling 35-year career at Adena Greenfield Medical Center (originally Greenfield Municipal Hospital). During her tenure, she witnessed four name and partnership changes, and when she retired, she was serving as Director of five departments. Retirement hasn't slowed her down—Linda now serves as Co-Chair of the Greenfield Community Council, an arm of the Adena Foundation, where she continues to dedicate countless volunteer hours to her community.

Family is at the heart of Linda's life. She and her loving husband of more than 50 years have two daughters, one son, six grandchildren, and two great-grandsons. She jokes about not sharing her age, but she's proud to share the joy of watching her family grow.

Within Altrusa, Linda has truly done it all—she has held every officer position, attended many District Conferences, and currently serves as Co-Sergeant at Arms. She originally joined Altrusa thanks to friends in Greenfield and Hillsboro, and because of her passion for helping children and schools—a passion that runs in the family, as both of her daughters are teachers.

Outside of service, Linda enjoys reading (she keeps a notebook of titles to remember them all), playing bridge with the same club for over 50 years, and the occasional round of golf—though she admits she's better at riding in the cart with an adult beverage than swinging the club. She's also a devoted Wizard of Oz and Elvis collector, complete with a Lego Elvis in her bedroom, ensuring she goes to sleep every night with the King of Rock 'n' Roll nearby.

Fun fact: despite having had a backyard pool for more than 20 years, Linda never learned to swim! Still, she enjoys sunny beach vacations with her family—again, preferably with a cold drink in hand while watching the kids splash in the waves.

Linda's positivity, dedication, and genuine love for people shine through in everything she does. She says, "I definitely enjoy being an Altrusan, and love my interactions with everyone. We have done great things, and will continue to do many more great things!"

Thank you, Linda, for your decades of service, your sense of humor, and your steadfast commitment to Altrusa and the community. We are so grateful for you!





Janet Butler is one of our treasured charter members of the Highland County Altrusa Club. Born at Highland District Hospital, Janet grew up in Belfast, Ohio. Her career path began with part-time work at the ASCS government office and Union Stockyards, eventually leading her to a full-time position in 1964 at Union Stockyards, where she served as Office Manager as well as Secretary and Treasurer of the corporation.

Janet's leadership and dedication have been central to Altrusa from the very beginning. Along with Sue Vanzant, she worked with Washington Court House to form Highland County's Altrusa Chapter, gathering the original 27 charter members—six of whom are still serving today. Over the years, Janet has taken on many roles within the organization, including serving twice as President, as Secretary, Newsletter Editor, and Board Director.

Her passion for Altrusa stems from a deep belief in the power of literacy. Janet has always felt it is vital to support literacy growth in our community and to help children learn to read as early as possible, recognizing reading as a cornerstone to lifelong success. Outside of Altrusa, Janet enjoys farm life and cherishes time with her family. She and her husband, Bill, are blessed with ten grandchildren and five great-great grandsons who bring joy to their lives.

Janet's favorite quote, which she strives to live by, is: "In a world where you can be anything...be kind."

We are so grateful for Janet's vision, leadership, and kindness that continue to inspire our chapter today.





**Did You Know, that Highland Co. Library offer's this program for free to adult learners!**

*Northstar Digital Literacy*

With Northstar Digital Literacy, you can access self-guided assessments, interactive lessons, and practice tasks to help you develop the basic skills need to use a computer and the internet in daily life, in employment, and to further your education. To access this great resource, <https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org/locations/highland-county-district-library-oh0101/register-as-learner?next=/locations/highland-county-district-library-oh0101>



New Americans Magazine & New American Community Information Center  
IN CONJUNCTION Karl Road Branch of Columbus Metropolitan Library

**SATURDAY**  
SEPTEMBER  
20TH, 2025

# New Americans 2025 BOOK FESTIVAL

## Highlights

- Authors
- Poets
- Writers
- Artists
- Printer
- Bookshops
- Marketers
- Publishers
- Agents & Scouts
- Film Practioners
- Collective Exhibitors



**VENUE: COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN LIBRARY**  
5590 KARL RD., COLUMBUS, OH 43229,



**TIME: 10AM - 5PM**

**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
CONTACT**

[WWW.NEWAMERICANSBOOKFAIR.COM](http://WWW.NEWAMERICANSBOOKFAIR.COM)  
[NEWAMERICANSBOOKFAIR@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NEWAMERICANSBOOKFAIR@GMAIL.COM)



+1 6147260917



The book fair will showcase the works of authors, poets, artists, agents, writers, film producers, printers and publishers, drawn majorly from the new Americans, immigrants, refugees community, new authors and other related individuals and organizations.

**Free to the Public!**

[www.newamericansbookfair.com](http://www.newamericansbookfair.com)





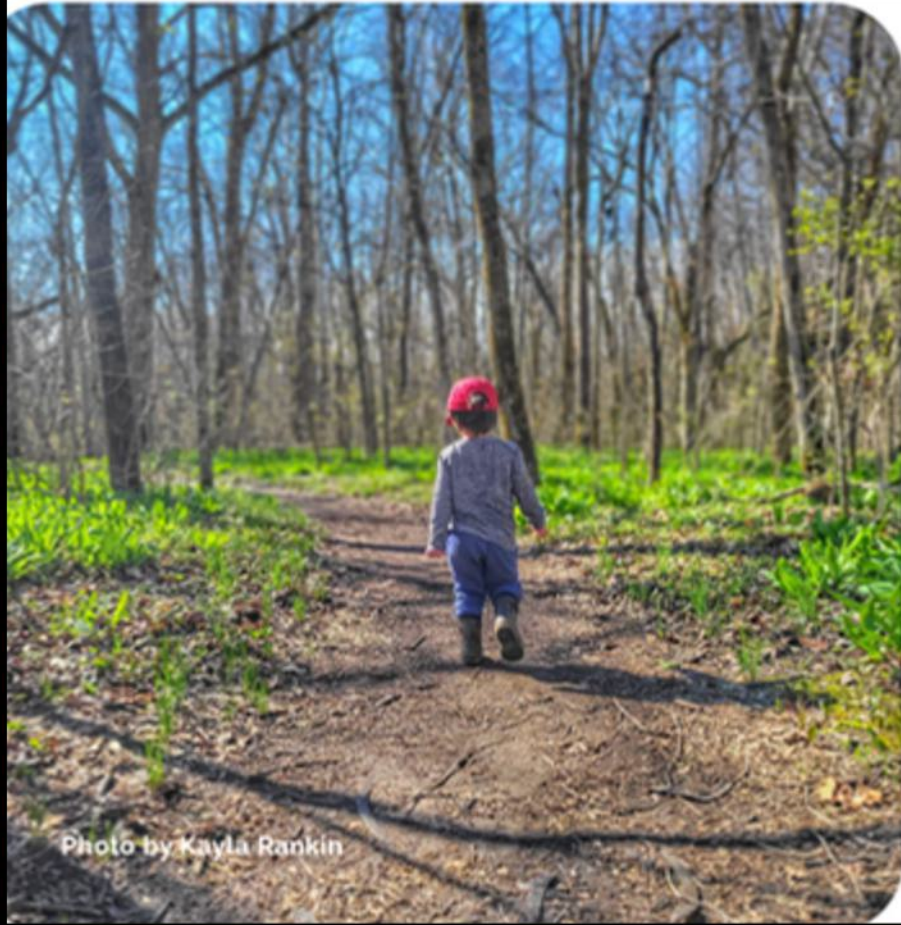


Photo by Kayla Rankin

## Nature is Neat!

Children's programs are offered from May through October

Stop by anytime between 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

See details below

Location: Appalachian Forest Museum Cost: FREE

Our Nature is Neat! at the Highlands Nature Sanctuary program promotes exploration, learning, and a deeper appreciation of our natural world, with an emphasis on learning, through hands-on immersive nature experiences. The Appalachian Forest Museum is committed to providing our community with science-focused programming, hikes, and fun for the entire family. The Museum will host special themed days that will be free of charge. These exciting programs will include access to our Forest Museum, theme-based activities, and the ability to put your newfound knowledge to use while you meander the nearby trails. **Registration is not required.** Please note the time change for our special event in July. See dates and descriptions below.

**STORY TIME**  **LEGO CLUB** 

**\* Return next week! \***

Monday, Sept. 8: Storytime @ 10:30 & 11:00  
 Tuesday, Sept. 9: Lego Club @ 5:30-6:30  
 Wednesday, Sept. 10: Storytime @ 11 & 11:30

**BANNED BOOK BINGO**

**FUNDRAISER FOR ADULT EDUCATION & LITERACY**

**OCTOBER 4 • 1-4PM**

**WESTERN RESERVE MASONIC COMMUNITY ROOM**

**PROJECT: LEARN** 

**BINGO**

F	3	3	5	6
4	13	33	55	9
1	13	★	58	6
F	23	47	46	8
2	15	31	57	7

## Show What You Know:

Answer the following question correctly and email them to [altrusaofhighlandcboard@gmail.com](mailto:altrusaofhighlandcboard@gmail.com) by Monday September 15, 2025 for a chance to win a \$5.00 Gift Card. All questions come from the news letter!



## Questions:

- 1.) What is your Altrusa elevator speech?
- 2.) What adult learning program you use through the library to improve your computer skills?