

May, 2026

Volume 16, Issue 5

Altrusa International of Troy, Ohio



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From the President...

As far as Altrusa newsletter articles go, this one is my *swan song*. This term actually comes from the legend that swans, who are mute during their entire lives, do in fact sing beautifully and mournfully just before they die. And the term has come to mean any final gesture or performance given before dying or retirement. The truth is that swans really do have a variety of vocal sounds, and they don't sing before they die. The other truth is that I have no plans to die anytime soon. I am, however, finishing my term as President of Altrusa International of Troy, Ohio.

While we're on the subject of swans, I am also reminded of Hans Christian Andersen's tale of *The Ugly Duckling*. Just to refresh your memory, it's the story of the odd egg that rolls into a mother duck's nest filled with duck eggs. When all the eggs hatch, the odd egg brings forth a duckling totally unlike the others. This ugly duckling is teased and bullied and eventually banished from the barnyard. But lo and behold, by the next spring, the ugly duckling has grown into a beautiful swan and is warmly welcomed into the company of a flock of swans.

I suggest to you that being the President of Altrusa has been a transforming experience for me, not only once, but twice. Although I was never teased or bullied and never considered myself ugly, I will admit that when I first became an Altrusan, I was a quiet observer of Altrusa activities and a most reluctant offeror of ideas and opinions. However, as I have served as president, I have realized how incredible all of you are and how important it is for all of us to be involved in the life of our club as we continue to move forward with our mission to encourage literacy in our local, state, national, and global communities. I thank you for the opportunities that I have had, and I encourage all of you to consider a leadership role in this amazing organization.

We are still the most dynamic collection of women in the City of Troy, and there are still more bright days and great achievements ahead for us. Thanks to all of you for accepting the call to become Altrusans.

Don't forget to send your March volunteer hours to Ann. And keep doing good stuff!!

~Ginny Beamish

Dates of Interest:

May 4: Board/Business Meeting

May 10: Mother's Day

May 18: Program Meeting

Member News:



Member's Birthdays:

- May 5: Judy Nickras
- May 8: Erin Thomas
- May 25: Janet Rhodes

May Board Meeting

The Board Meeting for this month will be held at 5:30PM on May 4, 2026 at the Troy Hayner Cultural Center.

May Business Meeting

The Business Meeting for this month will be held at 6:30PM on May 4, 2026 at the Troy Hayner Cultural Center.

FINAL REMINDER: Treasurer, Tracey Smith will collect the annual dues: \$125.

May Program Meeting

The Program Meeting for this month will be held:

- Date:** May 18, 2026
- Time:** 6:30PM
- Place:** Troy Hayner Cultural Center

The presenter will be our own Faye McNerney who will speak on "Miami Bucks".

Altrusa Grace:
For this food before us spread,
For our steps in safety led,
For thy favor on our way, Lord, accept our thanks today.



Friends of the Library Book Sale:

If you are able, please stop by and support the Friends of the Library Book Sale being held at the Troy Miami County Public Library:

May 13 and 14—4:00pm—7:00pm

May 15 and 16—9:30am—1:30pm

Service Committee Notes:

- Thank you to members for supporting our projects during the 2025-26 fiscal year.
- Please continue to collect books, knit for our International project and volunteer.
- There are several members who quietly volunteer in many areas that benefit the community, literacy and children.

THANK YOU:

- Thank you to the incoming officers, board members and committee chairs for the 2026-2027 year to be installed.
- Thank you to **Teresa Bowers** for another fun and successful Snooty Fox Bus Tour on April 19.
- Thank you to **Ginny Beamish** for her continued work on the Long-Range Planning for the club.
- Thank you to our members who represented us at District Conference in Lima.

BIG WELCOME:

- Welcome to our new members including **Taylor Adami** who was initiated on April 6.

Members' Projects:

Members' Projects have been historically utilized to support the Operating Funds of the Club. Some Members' Projects sponsored by individual members and not advertised as a Club Project have included: Pecan nut sales, Stainless Steel Knives sales, Wrapping paper sales, Jewelry sales including Premier Designs, Longaberger Basket sales, Tours including some of the Snooty Fox Bus Tours and the former Indy 500 Race Day Tours and the former Craft Bazaar.

In order to support the current and future Operating Funds of the Club, we would like to encourage members to consider sponsoring a members' project.

Current Members' Project:

- Watch for more Members' Projects to come to support our Operating Budget. If you have an idea for a Members' Project please let the membership know! In order to support the current and future Operating Funds of the Club, we would like to encourage members to consider sponsoring a members' project.

Attendance Reminder:

Please remember that regular attendance is recommended at one meeting a month. If you will not be able to attend a meeting, please contact Club Secretary **Glenna Rinehart** with an excused absence for the following reasons: Personal illness or serious family illness; employment responsibilities; other community services or extended travel. Notification to Glenna will assist in keeping accurate records for the club and ultimately the District.

Facebook:

Visit and Like our Club's Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/altrusaoftroy/?ref=page_internal



May Health Moment:

There are numerous health awareness issues for each month of the year. A few of those for this month include:

- * **Mental Health Awareness Month**
- * **National Women's Health Month**
- * **National Stroke Awareness Month**
- * **National Physical Fitness and Sports Month**
- * **Skin Cancer Awareness Month**

Please take a moment to review the information at the respective websites.

May Food for Thought:

"May more than any other month of the year, wants us to feel most alive."
— Fennel Hudson

"As full of spirit as the month of May, and as gorgeous as the sun in Midsummer." — William Shakespeare

"May is the month of expectation, the month of wishes, the month of hope."
— Unknown

Source: On-line

Little Library Monitoring Schedule:

For May the following are assigned to check/fill our little libraries.

Need books? Can't do the maintenance for your month? Call — Judy Nickras

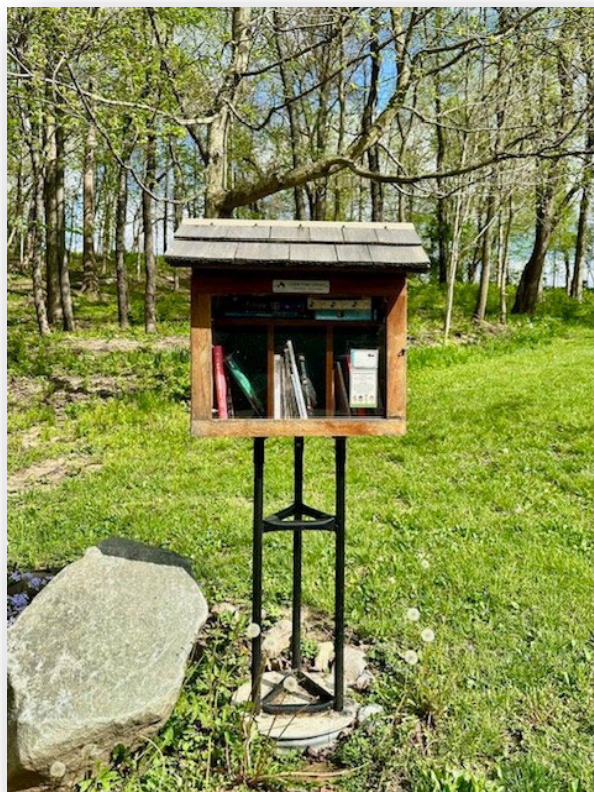
Laura	Janie Eberly
Dr Pope's Office	Shelby Chaney
Casstown	Susan Harbaugh
Lincoln Center	Melissa Wiesmann
Pleasant Hill	Roberta Jacobs
Stouder	Taylor Adami

NOTICE: Library Committee is looking at replacing the Pleasant Hill library after a handyman assessment.

Little Library Spotting:

This little library was spotted at Bear Mills in Greenville by **Babs Wesbecher**.

Please send your little library photos via email to **Mindy Phelps**:
melindaphelps@windstream.net.



Around About Town and Beyond:

Mark your calendars for the following events and activities:

Year Round: Virtual Farmer’s Market: www.miamicounty.locallygrown.net Support local producers year round.

NOW—June 7, 2026: Troy Hayner Cultural Center, *Color + Geometry = Magic: Contemporary Patchwork Quilts* by Kate Spencer.

May 7, 2026: Troy Main Street, *Taste of Troy* Downtown Troy. 5:00PM—8:00PM.



Mark Your Calendars + Club Yearbook:

- **May 4, 2026:** **FINAL REMINDER Dues (\$125) will be collected by Tracey**
- **June 1, 2026:** June Business Meeting will include pizza and planning.
- **August 3, 2026:** Bee Grant Reception.
- **October 11, 2026:** Snooty Fox Bus Tour. **(Contact Teresa Bowers for details/reservations).**
- Watch for information to come on **members’ project** sales for kitchen knives and more from **Judy N. and Janie E.**

—————2027—————

- **July, 2027:** International Convention, Columbus, OH (District Five is the host).

May Recipe:
**“STRAWBERRY-LEMONADE
JELLY MOLD”**

SOURCE: SOUTHERN LIVING: April 2026



Directions:

- Coat a 5– to 6-cup Bundt pan with cooking spray.
- Add 3 cups sliced strawberries to pan in an even layer: set aside.
- Whisk together 1 (3-oz) pkg each strawberry– and lemon-flavored gelatins in a large heatproof bowl.
- Gradually add 1-1/4 cups boiling water to gelatin mixture, whisking until dissolved, about 2 minutes.
- Stir in 1-1/4 cups lemon-lime soft drink; let stand until foam dissipates, about 10 minutes.
- Gradually pour gelatin mixture over strawberries in pan.
- Chill, uncovered, until set, at least 8 hours.
- To unmold, dip bottom of pan in a bowl of hot water for 10 seconds.
- Place a plate upside down over pan.
- Holding plate and pan together firmly, invert and slowly remove pan.
- Garnish with strawberries, mint leaves and lemon slices.

Serves 6.

Altrusans in Action — District Five Conference



Parade of flags



Troy Club Purse Sale



Troy club won the Ann Baird Governor's Award. This award was initiated by Ann in the 1980 and was renamed for Ann in recent years.



Troy club raffle basket

Troy Club was privileged to win the following awards at conference:

- **Third place** — Paul Reese newsletter award.
- **Winner**—Membership Award for highest percentage increase of members in the previous year (33.33% increase)
- **Winner**—Ann Baird Governor's Award for the club best exemplifying revitalization since the last District Conference
- **Second Place**—International awards for our international project.

Troy club presented the Dayton Club with the Conference Registration Award for the highest percentage of prepaid full registrations for the annual District Five Conference.

Thanks to Amy LeVan and everyone who participated in the DCA submission process.

Tracking Your Volunteer Hours:

Please use the following chart to record and submit your hours:

Troy Altrusa Club
Monthly Service Hour Report

Club Member _____ Month _____ 20__

Number of Hours Only:

Altrusa Meetings: _____

Altrusa (Other than Meetings): _____

Other Service Hours (outside of Altrusa): _____

Please submit your monthly report to Ann Baird by:
Mail—Ann Baird, 65 Colony Park Drive, Troy, OH 45373 or via email:
ms.ann.baird@gmail.com

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2025-2026 Board of Directors:

President: Ginny Beamish

913 Devon Circle—Troy

1st Vice President: Linda Roth

2nd Vice President: Amy Dawson

Secretary: Glenna Rinehart

Treasurer: Tracey Smith

Board of Directors 2024—2026

Janie Eberly, Tami Ganley

Board of Directors 2025—2027

Shelby Chaney, Erin Thomas

Past President: Sandy Ehrlich

Foundation Board

Judy Nickras (2023-2026)

Peggy Wolke(2024-2027)

Deanna Riley (2024—2027)

Roberta Jacobs (2024-2026)

Amy LeVan (2025-2028)