

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN

SUMMER 2026 NEWSLETTER

July, August, September



PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings,

As we continue our year of service, I want to thank each of you for your dedication, generosity, and enthusiasm. Every project we complete reflects our commitment to improving lives through literacy, education, and community service. Together, we continue to make a meaningful difference.

Make sure you read this newsletter in its entirety to stay up to date on all the exciting things our Club is involved in - everything from meeting highlights to important dates you need to be aware of for upcoming service projects!

In case you weren't aware, we have a VERY special event coming to Battle Creek soon! The Wall That Heals: Vietnam War Wall is coming to Harper Creek High School August 20-23 and will be open for viewing 24 hours every day. If you haven't had the opportunity to see it, you definitely should. We might have an opportunity to help volunteer as well.

A special thank you to all members who continue to demonstrate the Altrusa spirit through service, leadership, and fellowship. Your commitment inspires us all. Joy Webster and Linda Phelps for the Purse Bingo committee sign ups, Diane Ramirez for the Little Libraries grant effort, Cindy Cheyne for collecting large donation baskets, and of course Barb Ramsey for the donations for door prizes. I would be remiss if I didn't thank Judy Montych for all her wonderful raffle prizes we draw for at our Socials to earn money for our Operational Fund. We enjoy the gifts she provides each month!

Thank you for being part of Altrusa and for your continued commitment to "Leading to a Better Community." Together we are building stronger communities through service, literacy, and fellowship.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

In Service,

Pat Slmjkm

Let's Welcome our New Member!

We are excited to welcome Cindy Cheyne to Altrusa International of Battle Creek...or perhaps we should say "welcome BACK"!

Cindy was a long-time member of nine different non-profit organizations - including our Altrusa club for 17 years - and served as president of several of them before pulling back on her

community commitments to care for her ailing husband.

Once she was able to dedicate some of her time to volunteering again she decided to re-join Altrusa because she enjoys the camaraderie that the Club offers and what Altrusa stands for.

Cindy was born and raised in Battle Creek, graduating from Battle Creek Central High School in 1970. Apart from a few months living down south, she's resided here her whole life. She worked at Robinson's Department Store, Alexander's Pharmacy and several other companies. At 14 years old, she worked at Leo's Drive-In which was the first car hop that utilized roller skates in Battle Creek! Cindy said, "I saw it on television and thought, 'I can do that!' and I only had one wipeout."

Cindy has two children, a son and a daughter, and two step-daughters as well as nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Cindy has resided at NorthPointe Woods for the past four years. She enjoys helping other residents when she can and is slowly getting back out into the community.

MERING RECAP:

At our May 2026 Business Meeting we took a moment to induct and welcome our new leadership team! We also received updates on the Little Libraries literacy initiative.

We're planning for upcoming community service projects such as Back to School

alongside the Charitable Union and Purse BINGO (see more details below).

Our June Social was a special treat! It was held at WK Kellogg Auditorium where we were able to enjoy Shari Rarick's School of Dance recital!



Shari Rarick School of Dance students pose for a group photo.



Shari congratulates a teacher who is retiring at the recital.

UPCOMING PROJECTS & EVENTS:

Mark your calendars!!

Back to School season is already upon us and we will once again be assisting the Charitable Union on the following dates:

- August 11th@ Homer
- August 12th @ Harper Creek
- August 13th@ Albion
- August 18, 19, 20 @ Salvation Army

Our Club will once again help **serve lunch to the homeless population at Full Blast on Friday, October 16 from 10am-1pm.**

Make a Difference. Not Dinner - Spaghetti Dinner! October 22 from 4-6:30pm at Barista Blues downtown Battle Creek. Altrusa International of Battle Creek will collaborate with The Post Foundation to host this wonderful event with all proceeds being used to purchase books for the children attending Battle Creek Public Schools. Each dinner is only \$16.00! Sally, Mary, and Linda will keep us updated on the Post Foundation's event.



Altrusa of Battle Creek is also hosting our **Annual Purse Bingo on September 24 at St. Philip's Parish Center.** Tickets and flyers are available NOW! If you would like them prior to our August 12 meeting please call Peggy Quinlan at 269-967-2489 or

269-963-1669. There will be a Purse Bingo meeting at Pat's office (Homecare Transitions) on August 5 at 11am.

REMEMBER! There are many opportunities to participate!

- Volunteer at upcoming service projects
- Join a committee
- Invite a prospective member to a meeting
- Support our fundraising efforts
- Share ideas for future community initiatives

Every contribution, large or small, helps strengthen our impact.

INTERNATIONAL AUDISTRICT NEWS: 2027 International Convention

Save the date - the International Convention dates have been announced! It will be held in Columbus, Ohio July 21-24, 2027. It would be wonderful if Altrusa Battle Creek was represented!

BIRTHDAYS:

July:

- 20 - Lynne Taylor
- 21 - Donna Jean Hazel

August:

- 6 - Leslie Hewill
- 14 - Nina Oliver
- 15 - Easter Kennedy-Riddle
- 26 - Shari Rarick Gysel

September:

- 17 - Terry Ensign



OFFICERS:

**Pay Slayton, President,
Victoria Unger, (1st) Vice President
Diane Ramirez, (2nd) Vice President
Sharon Mileski, Treasurer
Judy Beam, Secretary
Judy Montych, Director (One Year);
Beverlen Coy, Director (Two Year)
Christi Losinski, Newsletter Editor,
Communications**



Picture from left to right at our May 2026 Business Meeting when we inducted our new officers: Bev Coy, Judy Montych, Judy Beam, Sharon Mileski, Victoria Unger, Pat Slayton and (pictured: Diane Ramirez)

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

****Reminder - our socials will be held at NorthPointe woods at 5:30pm and will be \$15.00****

July 2026

July 8 - 5:00pm, Willard Library

July 22 - 11:30am, Business Meeting at NorthPointe Woods

August 2026

August 12 - 5:30pm, Social, Jeromy Myers, Chiropractor

August 26 - 11:30am, Business Meeting at NorthPointe Woods, **District Five's Governor, Shelley Kendrick, will be joining us!!**

September 2026

September 9 - 5:30pm, Social, Speaker TBD

September 23 - 11:30am, Business Meeting at NorthPointe Woods

<https://districtfive.altrusa.org/battle-creek/>

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<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61590573383968>

If you haven't already, please "Like/Follow" our Facebook page and share any posts!

Please remember to make calls, send cards or visit those who are sick or are unable to attend our meetings. God Bless!