

STILL GOING STRONG

40 YEARS

1977-2017



THE COMMUNICATOR

SUMMER 2018

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Ocala

www.districtthree.altrusa.org/ocala

District Three

www.districtthree.altrusa.org

International

www.altrusa.org

Facebook

Altrusa International Ocala, Florida

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I would like to begin my first President's message by thanking Debbie and the membership committee for an awesome induction ceremony. It was truly special to me since it incorporated an activity that our family has enjoyed throughout the years.

Second, I would like to thank all the members that accepted board, director, and committee positions. With this team, and the support of our membership, we are destined to have a great year!

I attended my very first District Three conference this year and I learned so much about Altrusa. The weekend was full of workshops, ceremonies, meetings, awards, and even a flip flop contest. Just to let everyone know, we will be participating in the contest in August! But the best part of the weekend was spending time with fellow Altrusans. What a great organization!

I am truly blessed and I look forward to my 2018/2019 presidency.

"Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts." Winston S. Churchill

Maria Kusmierz

CALENDAR

2018

JUL

5 NOON—BOARD MEETING—CENTERSTATE BANK
12 NOON—BUSINESS/PROGRAM—MESA DE NOTTE
17 5:30—CLUSTER—DIANE'S HOME

AUG

2 NOON—BOARD MEETING—CENTERSTATE BANK
9 NOON—BUSINESS/PROGRAM—MESA DE NOTTE
21 5:30—CLUSTER—DIANE'S HOME

SEP

6 NOON—BOARD MEETING—CENTERSTATE BANK
13 NOON—BUSINESS/PROGRAM—MESA DE NOTTE
18 5:30—CLUSTER—DIANE'S HOME

SAVE THE DATES!

International Conference—July 17-20, 2019
District Three Conference—May 2-4, 2019

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SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations!

After much discussion, the committee made their selections from 35 scholarship applications (10 Thelma Parker and 25 Vocational). Six scholarships were awarded and each individual will receive \$1,000.00.

Thelma Parker Scholarship: Erin Rasnick

Juanita Cunningham Scholarship: Sidney Smith

Vocational Scholarships: Bryan Moats, Luz Mato, Briana Valle-Lopez, and Zachary Thomsson

ASTRA

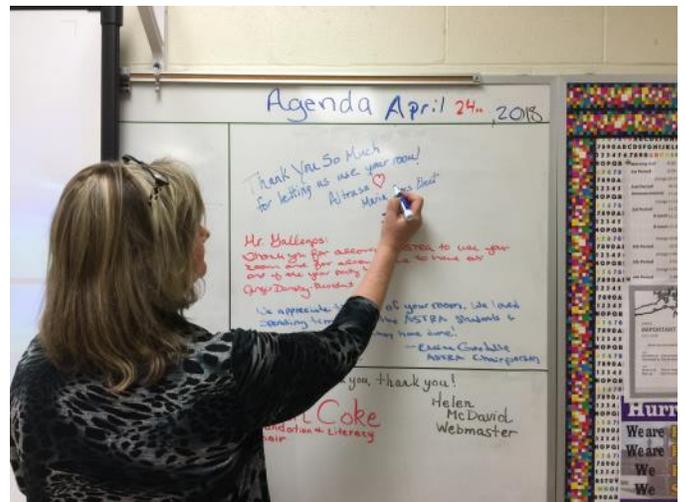
Elaine Goodelle

Lake Weir High School's ASTRA Club welcomed us for an end-of-the-year gathering. The students prepared and presented a PowerPoint on their many activities during the 17-18 school year and their plans for the following school year. It was impressive!



LWHS ASTRA CLUB YEAR IN A GLANCE

- Book Drive/Donations (year round)
- 10/6 Operation Shoe Box
- 10/31 Thank you notes for teachers
- 11/10 Harbour View Fall Festival
- 11/14 Who are you thankful for? Notes
- 11/16 Harbour View Science Fair Night
- Oakcrest Reading Night
- Stanton Weirsdale Science Night
- 12/5 Dress up bears for the Salvation Army
- Fundraisers: Cookie Sales and Car Washes
- 2/20 Letters for Parkland
- 2/25 Fun at the Park
- 3/3 Strawberry Festival with Habitat for Humanity
- 3/30 Greenway Purple Heart Ceremony and prep work
- 4/7 Superintendent's Literacy Festival



Community Service

Karen Elliot

Literacy Festival

MCSB Superintendent's 2nd Annual Literacy Festival on April 7 was successful with Altrusa giving away over 300 books to the children of Marion County. Six copies of *Locomotive* went to Harbour View, Shady Hill, Madison Street, Reddick Collier, Maplewood, and Greenway. A big thank you to everyone who helped make it a success, including the beautiful banner made by Gloria James' husband.



Conference Awards

Altrusa International of Ocala received multiple awards at the 2018 District Three Conference. A huge thank you to all those that participated in the submissions.

Second Place: Letha H. Brown International Literacy Award—Tools for Teaching: Juanita P. Cunningham Shelf Project

First Place: District Three Foundation Literacy Award—Tools for Teaching: Juanita P. Cunningham Shelf Project

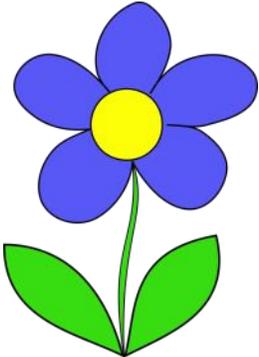
Second Place: District Three Foundation Vocational Service Award—Helping our Vets Project

First Timer's Award: Maria Kuzmierz

Received **\$500** District Three Foundation Grant to the Literacy Grants



Conference Moments



CARE

Nancy Jones

CARE 2017 - 18 It was our privilege to prepare 17 meals for fellow Altrusans. Many thanks to the following members who assisted: TJ, Debbie, Joan, Colleen, Val, Scott, Elaine, and Gloria.

At this time, our Michelle is recovering from shoulder surgery and should be back at HealthSouth for re-hab. Keep her and our Charlene's husband, Bucky, in your prayers. He is recovering from successful by-pass surgery.



Eyeglasses to See

We received our first application on 8/16/17 and our last two on 5/25/18. We had a total of fifty-two applications this year. Several of these were for Puerto Rican children that were displaced by the hurricane. We are still fortunate to have funds from the Thorobred Fillies for this project. We are also grateful to Dr. Clarke for his services. He retired this year, but Dr. Matthew Lentsch has assumed his practice and has agreed to continue to work with us. We allow 90 days for the certificate to be filled. We have 15 applications outstanding.



Juanita's Shelf

We budgeted \$600 for this project. We were able to purchase 1,815 books. We were very fortunate to have over 200 beautiful, slightly used but like new, books donated by Brenda. TJ, Janet, and Mary Cay also made smaller donations. The Marion County Public Education Fund credited us with donating 1,036 books to the "Juanita Shelf". TJ faithfully picked up the books and stocked the shelves, and Karen has agreed to assist TJ with keeping the shelves stocked. In addition to "Juanita's Shelf", we also donated \$800 worth of books to our annual fund raiser, 100 books to the Superintendent's Literacy project and 42 books in honor of Juanita to Ft. McCoy School for DeCasper's Den in memory of long-time educator, Mary DeCasper.

Thank you to everyone that assisted with this successful year. I think our funds were used wisely.

WELCOME



Maclyn Walker and Colleen Duris



Donna Carroll and Scott Tice

Altrusa International Calendar of Events

- ◆ World Day of Social Justice—February 20
- ◆ International Women's Day—March 8
- ◆ Add An Altrusan Month—April 1-30
- ◆ World Health Day—April 7
- ◆ International Day of Families—May 15
- ◆ International Youth Day—August 12
- ◆ International Literacy Day—September 8
- ◆ International Day of Peace—September 21
- ◆ World Food Day—October 16
- ◆ United Nations Day—October 24
- ◆ Make A Difference Day—4th Saturday in October
- ◆ International Day for the Elimintion of Violence Against Women- November 25
- ◆ Human Rights Day—December 10



Membership—Installation of Officers

Debbie Catabia



REFLECTIONS

Experience of a New Member

I moved to Ocala two years ago and started volunteering in the Wyomina Park Elementary School Library. It was a good fit for me after twenty-five years as a school librarian. While processing a book, I noticed a label: "Donated by Altrusa International Ocala". Never having heard of Altrusa, I asked the librarian who said, "They care about literacy. I think it would be a good group for you." I looked up their web page, called the number listed, and talked with a welcoming voice. Although normally a new member is introduced by a current member, I was heartily welcomed by everyone at the initial meeting and at every meeting since.

Having been a member of Zonta International, I was aware of the basic organizational structure. What I was searching for was a group of active people willing to attempt new strategies in an effort to improve our community. Altrusa Ocala members are willing to volunteer, willing to be creative, and eager to listen. I am looking forward to continued membership in this group of dedicated and fun-loving people.

The moral of my story: sometimes a simple label can have unexpected consequences..

The other moral of my story: small pebbles can have unanticipated ripples.

Donna Carroll

THANKS from Angie

Thank you for your support this past year. It was an honor to serve as your local Altrusa president. I know there were some big changes over the past year and I appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we made these changes together to improve our club. While nothing is perfect and change is a constant, I am sure we will continue to change as we adapt to a world where service is talked about, still has a tremendous value, yet the numbers of those willing to sacrifice and make it happen (at least on a structured level) are on the decline. As a club, we are in a good place and positioned to go and find those individuals who would make great members. Our club did an amazing job of reaching our community, raising funds to meet those needs and finding some time to enjoy each other. Our 40th Anniversary party was a huge success. We have many, many things to be proud of as a club. I thank you for an experience that has pushed me and helped me find a little more of who I am and what I value. It was a great experience and I am grateful for the opportunity.

President Dansby's Rose Award Recipients

TJ Bright

Gloria James

Nancy Jones

Mary Cay Landt

Cindy Athey





Altrusa International of Ocala
1602 NE 37th Avenue
Ocala , FL 34470

Dear Altrusa Members,

Thank you for helping to make a difference in the lives of our local youth. Your 2/10/2018 donation of food to Arnette House directly supports our mission of providing safe and effective programs to strengthen youth and families.

Your willingness to help displaced children in our area weather the crisis in their lives makes all the difference. The Arnette House has been providing services to the youth in our community for 37 years and we are working hard to ensure that our services continue for many years to come. Thanks to you we have provided over 450 children just this year a place to live, learn and feel safe.

We would love to show you our programs where your donation is making such a difference. Cindy Moore, our Community Development Coordinator, is always available to set up a visit for you, or to answer any questions you may have. Don't hesitate to call her at 352-622-4432, ext. 231, or email her at cmoore@arnettehouse.org.

We want you to be an active member of our online community too...Visit our website www.arnettehouse.org to find out about all of our exciting upcoming events! Like us on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/arnettehouse> or follow us on twitter!

Sincerely,

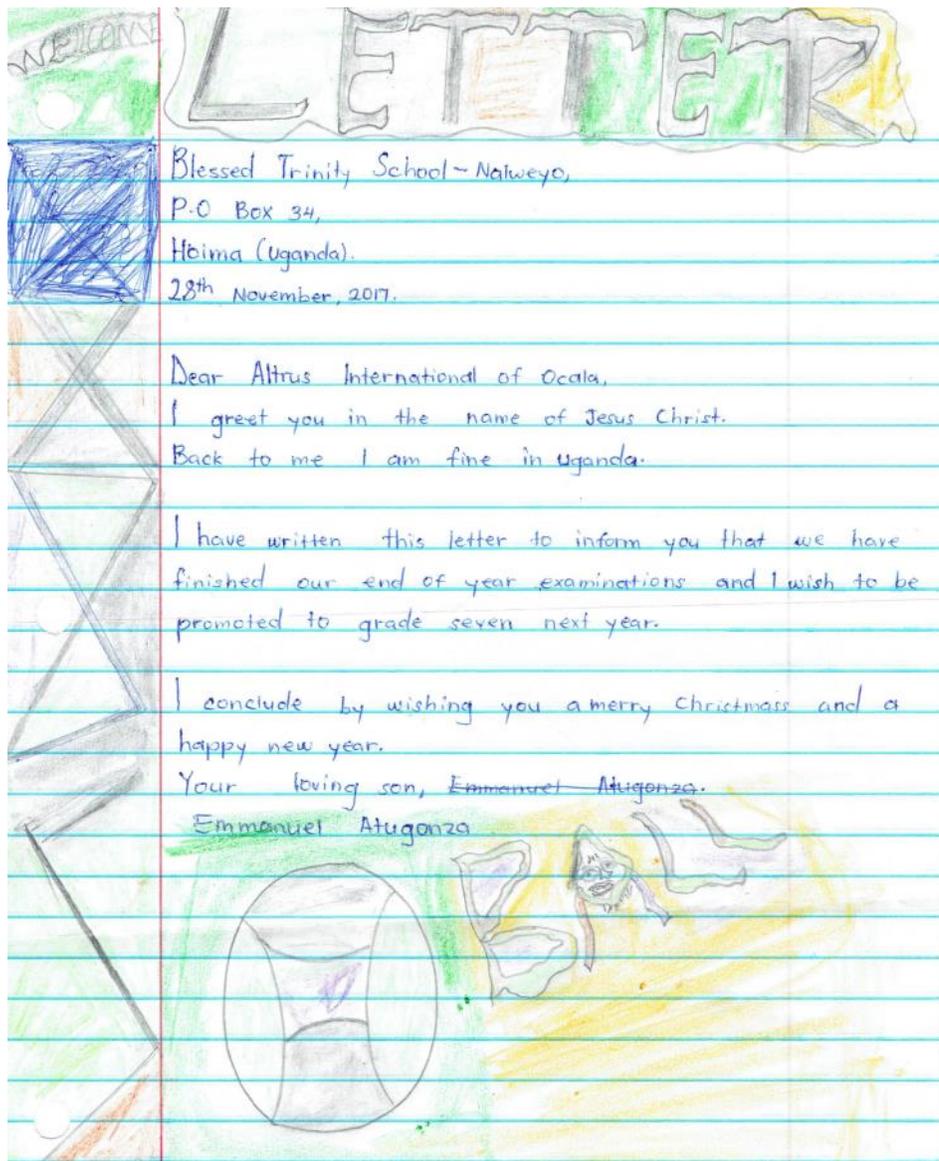
Cheri Pettitt
Chief Executive Officer

Thank you for your support. My journey from high school to the College of Central Florida lead me to obtaining my Associate in Science in Advanced Manufacturing Specialization. I will be completing the requirements for the degree this summer. Following my completion of my A.S., I will have earned five certifications. I plan on continuing my education at Daytona State or Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University for my Bachelor's degree.

I want to thank you for your support, your time and especially your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ethan Donovan



Reminders

- FOOD 4 KIDS food items
- Keep tracking your volunteer hours at www.trackitforward.com
- Needs for our Veterans
- Amazon Smile
- 1 Box = 1 Free Book
- Veteran Needs

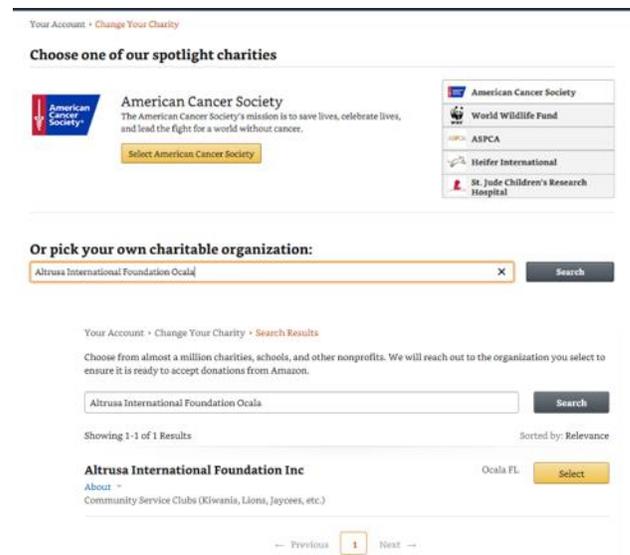
AMAZON SMILE



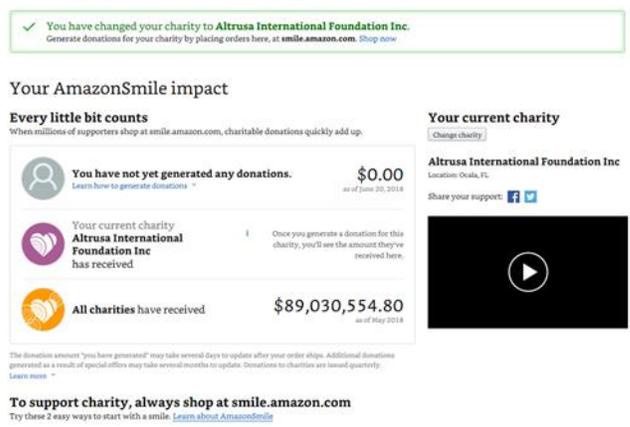
Are you an Amazon shopper? If so, please visit smile.amazon.com and sign up to support our club with your purchases! It doesn't cost you anything to sign up and our club will receive .05% percent of each purchase. This isn't just limited to club members, so please encourage your family, friends and co-workers to sign up and support our club, too!

Once you log into your account on smile.amazon.com simply type in "Altrusa International Foundation Ocala, FL" in the search box and click on the search button.

After clicking on the search button the results of your search will appear on the screen:

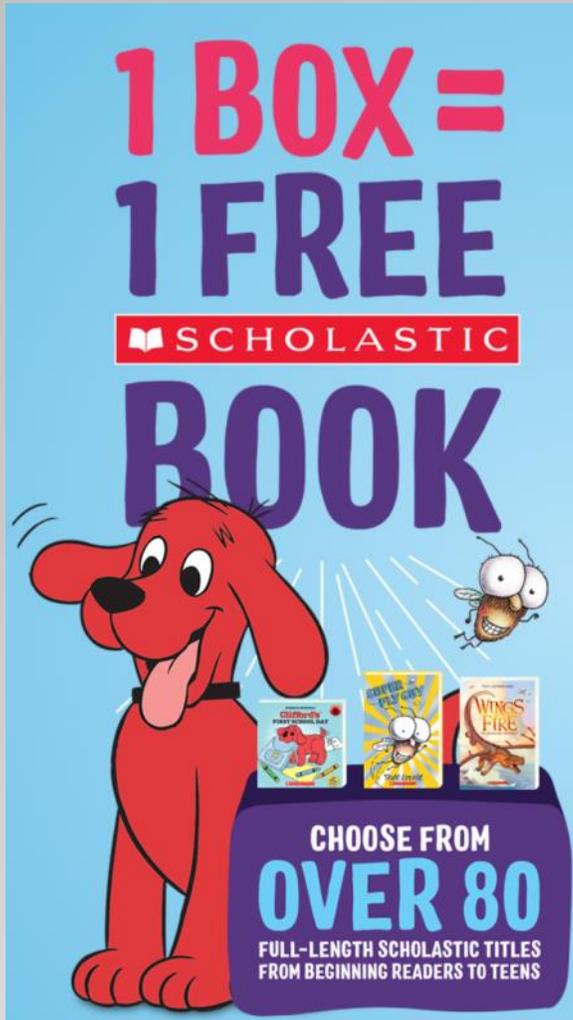


Click the select button and then you will get the screen showing you have successfully selected Altrusa International Foundation.



Then, just make sure you are always shopping through the Amazon Smile website and each purchase will help support our club!

Scott Tice



If you purchase certain Kelloggs, Keebler, Cheez-it or Pringles products between now and September 30th and upload your receipt, you will receive one credit for each qualifying item. Each credit can be redeemed for one Scholastic book. There are 80 Scholastic books to choose from. The site states the product has to have the "1 Box = 1 Free Book" designation on the packaging. Each person that registers can receive up to 10 free books. Go to feedingreading.com to register.

10 members x 10 books = 100 FREE books!

It's as easy as buy the product, take a picture of your receipt, and get credit to redeem for a book!



June 1, 2018 to May 31, 2019

Officers

Committee Chairs

President.....	Maria Kusmierz	ASTRA.....	Angie Dansby
President Elect.....	Colleen Duris	Budget.....	Cindy Athey
VicePresident.....	Miranda Barrineau	Care.....	Nancy Jones
Director.....	Debbie Catabia	Cluster.....	Susan Keith
Director.....	Sue Dean	Community Service.....	TJ Bright
Director.....	Mary Cay Landt	Foundation.....	Barbara Little
Secretary.....	Frances Ferguson	Fundraiser.....	Debbie Catabia
Treasurer.....	Scott Tice	Literacy.....	Joan Coke
		Newsletter/Web.....	Helen McDavid
		Program.....	Colleen Duris
		Scholarship.....	Susan Keith
		Membership.....	Miranda Barrineau