

Outstanding Alachua County  
Volunteer Civic Organization  
2010

"Work of Heart" Award

Home Club of 2009-2011  
International Altrusa President,  
Donna Johnson

2017-2018  
Distinguished Club Award

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## NOVEMBER 2018

Dear Altrusans,

I would like to begin with sincere thanks and grateful appreciation for everyone who organized and contributed to make our 60/20 Celebration such a success! The money raised through this fundraising campaign will greatly benefit Altrusa House and the clients served each day. The generosity of our members and the local community was heartwarming and a true testament to the positive impact Altrusa House has had on so many families over the last 20 years.



Thank You Amy Brown for taking on our annual Pen Pal project! This is such a fun endeavor for the project letter writers and school children, but involves a lot of work for the facilitator. When you see Amy, please let her know how much we appreciate her leadership and dedication to the children of our community. If **you are a Pen Pal, don't forget to pick up your letter at our next luncheon, November 8th.**

As we begin November, keep in mind we only have one Wyndham Garden luncheon meeting this month. The AEG meeting has been rescheduled to November 13<sup>th</sup> due to the Thanksgiving holiday. November 8<sup>th</sup> **is our "Wine and Cheese Membership Drive" at Altrusa House from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. Please RSVP Donna Johnson by November 5<sup>th</sup> at [johnsondc01@gmail.com](mailto:johnsondc01@gmail.com) or 352-231-0590.**

**It's never too early to begin thinking about the Literacy Committee "Party for a Good Cause" book party. The date is December 1<sup>st</sup>, and the event will be held at Wendy Bice's home, 9207 SW 21st Avenue, from 4:00pm to 6:00pm.**

Warm wishes for safe travels and joyous Thanksgiving celebrations with family and friends.

Karen

President, Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL, Inc.

President's Message	1
Upcoming Meetings & Events	2
Accent: Altrusa House	3
"60/20 Big Event"	4
"60/20" Pictures	5
Altrusa House History	6
Luncheon Meeting 10-25	7
Days For Girls	7
"Party For A Good Cause"	8
Yard Sale Pictures	9
Membership Invite	10
History of Altrusa	11
Birthdays	12
Sunshine	12
Altrusa Leadership	13



**PLEASE NOTE PO BOX NUMBER CHANGE**

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Altrusa-Club-of-Gainesville-FL/129189317201787>



## Upcoming Meetings and Events (Print the Page for Easy Reference)

### *Wyndham Garden Lunch Program, Noon*

*If you are not going to be able to attend, please let Karen or Laura know so the club does not pay for food not eaten. Thank you.*

November 8: Debra Segal, local author. She will have books available for sale and signing. Debra Segal is a 4th generation Floridian who spent much of her adolescence exploring south Gainesville by horseback. She graduated from Gainesville High School and attended UF where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Soil Science and a Master's Degree in Environmental Engineering Sciences. She is an environmental scientist and volunteers her time for the Alachua Audubon Society and the Florida Springs Institute. The Idylwild Cowgirls is her first novel. **(Pen Pal Letters from Terwilliger students will be available for pickup)**

December 13: Holiday Luncheon **(Pen Pal Letters for Terwilliger students due)**

### *Altrusa Evening Group (AEG), Altrusa House, 6 PM*

November 13: University of Florida ASTRA **(Please note AEG is the 2nd Tuesday and not the 3rd. Meeting date changed due to Thanksgiving holiday)**

**(Pen Pal Letters from Terwilliger students will be available for pickup)**

### *Upcoming Events*

November 8: Wine & Cheese Membership Social, Altrusa House, 5:30pm—7:00pm

November 15: Naturalization Ceremony Reception, Federal Court House, 11 am

November 13—16: Terwilliger Elementary Book Fair

**December 1: “Party For A Good Cause”, Home of Wendy Bice, 9207 SW 21st Avenue, 4pm—6pm**

February 16: International Dinner, Trinity Episcopal Church, 6pm—9pm

## Accent: Altrusa House Gardens Clean-up, November 10th

Are you Ready to get Dirty? Please join our garden crew to weed, plant, and general clean up of our Altrusa House Gardens. Date: Saturday, November 10th from 8am - Noon. Please bring your gloves and be ready to get dirty!



## 60/20 Celebrating Altrusa Anniversaries, October 19, 2018

**The big celebration of our club's 60th anniversary and the 20th year in service to the community of Altrusa House** took place on October 19th at the Straughn Center on the UF campus. After nearly two years of **planning and hard work, it was a festive event and a very successful fundraiser. Although we didn't reach** our goal of \$60,000, we are very pleased to have taken in over \$30,000. We should be able to announce the final total at the next luncheon meeting.

While the fundraising went very well, the best part of the event was celebrating the accomplishments of our club and telling the story of Altrusa House and the pioneers who had the vision to make it happen. A special highlight was for some of us to meet for the first time and for others to reconnect with some Altrusans who no longer live in Gainesville, but who were instrumental in getting Altrusa House built. Susan Davis-McCarter, the architect who donated her time and talents to create a wonderful and functional design, came from St. Louis to be with us. Donna Sorenson, club member who served as AH Board of Trustees President from 1992-96, also famous for donning a chicken suit to advertise a chicken barbeque fundraiser, joined us from South Florida.

Representatives from Easter Seals who traveled from Orlando were also in attendance, along with some Altrusa House staff members, many Altrusans and other friends. Ilene Silverman emceed the evening and ran the live auction, which included wonderful travel packages to North Carolina and Orlando, plus a beautiful gold bracelet. Donna Johnson gave an overview of the history of our club and Justine Vaughn and Barbara Scott told the story of Altrusa House. Bonne Evans, AH Board of Trustees Vice President, gave a moving description of her experience as a caregiver for her husband and the enormous difference that Altrusa House has made in their lives.

Thanks to the work of AHBOT member, Reese Allison, his brother, and Nancy Hult, a beautiful commemorative booklet was printed for the occasion, serving not only as a memento of the event, but will also make a good recruiting tool in the future. Jeanne Reed, Carolyn Harrell, the folks at Easter Seals, and many others contributed to a very successful silent auction. Joan Suchorski did a fantastic job in obtaining sponsorships. Congratulations to everyone who put in countless hours of planning and preparation to make 60/20 a successful and enjoyable event. Thank you Sara Freeborn for this outstanding write-up.



# 60/20 Celebrating Altrusa Anniversaries, October 19, 2018



# Altrusa House History By Justine Vaughen & Barbara Scott

At the October 11th luncheon meeting and the Altrusa Evening Group on October 16th, Justine Vaughen and Barbara Scott provided Altrusa members and guests with wonderful stories, pictures and articles about the founding of Altrusa House.

Altrusa House of Gainesville, partnered with [Easter Seals Florida](#), is a place where people with health problems can come to make new friends and remain active. Families who are committed to keeping their loved ones at home can look to Altrusa House as an alternative to nursing home care. Altrusa House of **Gainesville offers a place where family member's health conditions can be monitored and cared for during** the workday. Altrusa House promotes an active lifestyle for those with limitations and is a support system for anyone in need of care.

Fundraising for the Altrusa House of Gainesville started with Altrusa International of Gainesville over an eight-year planning period. Thanks to Altrusa International, the City of Gainesville, and the Gainesville community; Altrusa House of Gainesville was able to raise more than \$400,000 and acquire the land required to build the facility. Altrusa House of Gainesville opened in October 1998, built upon the land donated by the City of Gainesville, alongside Greentree Park. Altrusa International of Gainesville and the Gainesville community continue to provide support for member sponsorship, volunteers, equipment, and specialized support.



## Luncheon Meeting October 25, 2018



Carole Fernandez, President of the Alachua County League of Women Voters on Thursday at noon, October 25, 2018 spoke to the Altrusa International of Gainesville members and guests. Carole is a retired Assistant U.S. Attorney who handled civil litigation in Miami. The League is nonpartisan. Its website [lwvalachua.org](http://lwvalachua.org) and members provide education for Florida voters.

She went over the proposed (13) thirteen amendments to the Florida Constitution, the two (2) Alachua County Referendums and the two (2) City of Gainesville Referendums.

Altrusa President, Karen, shows Carole the book that the club will be donating to Terwilliger Elementary on voting.

## Days For Girls Collection at all November Meetings



The International Committee will be collecting items for Days For Girls at all of the November Meetings. Dee Dugger will deliver the supplies to the Days For Girls Center.

With the sewing production growing and the monthly Saturday Sew Days, DFGI Gainesville is making 100-200 kits each month. That means 200-400 pairs of panties are needed each month

The greatest need is girls size 16 or women's sizes 5-12. PLAIN, Colorful cotton bikinis or briefs are preferred white ones can be tie-died. Please avoid boy shorts and thongs. If possible avoid panties with writing, animals, or other logos such as food on them (but these can be used for local distribution if they are mixed in with the plain panties).

Please bring any of the above items to the Luncheon and/or AEG meeting in November.

## **“Party For a Good Cause” December 1, 2018**



# “Party For A Good Cause”

**December 1, 2018**

**4pm to 6pm**

***Wine, soft drinks and Lots of “Finger Foods”***

**(This is the holiday get-together for Altrusa International of Gainesville)**



**At the home of Wendy Bice, 9207 SW 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue**

**Please bring an appetizer or bottle of wine and a cash donation**



**for books \_\_\_\_\_ for Terwilliger Elementary**

**Please RSVP to Wendy, [wrbice @yahoo.com](mailto:wrbice@yahoo.com), 352-359-4028,  
or Sarah Stone, [sakestone @gmail.com](mailto:sakestone@gmail.com), 352-359-0987, by**

**November 27, 2018**

# Vocational Committee Yard Sale October 13, 2018

The Vocational Committee held another successful yard sale on October 13, 2018. Over \$1,400 was raised for the various organizations that the vocational committee supports. Pictures courtesy of Vocational Committee.



## Accent: Membership

**The Membership Committee has come up with the theme of “Membership Begins with ME”** for our current year. **The Altrusa Resource Guide states: “Membership in Altrusa is an honor. Each member has been singled out as a recognized leader in the community. As Altrusans, members channel their talents to the organization’s community service focus and experience opportunities for professional growth, leadership development and that special camaraderie that comes when peers share common goals and rewards.”** This is what we value as Altrusans, and surely we can share our enthusiasm with others that we know in the community and invite them to learn more about our organization. Recruiting prospective members is a responsibility of ALL of us, to keep our club strong and growing.

On Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., we are planning a wine & cheese information social at **the Altrusa House to introduce prospective members to our organization. We’re titling it “The Many Faces of Altrusa,” and the faces we will describe include Service, Activity, Fun, Learning, Leadership Development, and Friendship.** This is based on an Accent that Donna Johnson delivered last year. I love a quote that she shared from a Past International President, **“I joined Altrusa for the service and I stayed for the friendship.”**

**Remember, “Membership Begins with ME,” and that means with YOU!**

**You Are Invited!**

**Come enjoy Wine and Cheese while learning about the Many Faces of Altrusa Serving our Community!**

**Enjoy Wine and Cheese**

**Thursday, November 8, 2018 5:30 PM-7:30 PM**

**Altrusa House 2002 NW 36th Avenue**

**RSVP by 11/5/2018 Donna Johnson johnsondc 01@gmail.com 352-231-0590**



## Our Altrusa Heritage — 1917, by Donna Johnson

### (Part XV Honoring Altrusa International's 100th Year)

In 1983 Altrusa International Foundation, Inc. was restructured.

In July 1985 at the 39th International Convention that was held in Boston, Massachusetts, the following was accomplished:

Emeritus Membership was established.

Affiliate Membership was established.

*The Altrusa Tradition*, a brief history of Altrusa International, Inc., was first distributed.

The Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award was established. It is the only award given to an individual member by Altrusa International. It is designed to recognize an Altrusan beyond Altrusa International, Inc., as a volunteer directly responsible for improving the quality of life within the community. Hazel Williams, former Executive Director, was the first recipient.

In April 1986 the first issue of *Altrusa Accent*, an eight-page tabloid newspaper replaced the *International Service Bulletin*. The *Accent* had a focus of member retention—to interpret the biennium theme into workable projects that would also include “**how-to**” information from International Committee Chairmen, from clubs and districts with success stories to share, and a “**Highpoints**” column.

In 1987 the Foundation made literacy its major focus and established the ABC Literacy Grants Program to:

Provide financial assistance to Altrusa Clubs introducing literacy projects into their communities.

Enhance existing local literacy programs.

Provide money to replicate literacy projects undertaken by other clubs, and

Help individuals complete their education in literacy fields.

A significant change in Altrusa came at the July 1987 International Convention in Palm Desert, California, when the delegate body amended the bylaws to admit men into membership. In the mid-1980s the major “**men’s**” organizations were changing their bylaws inviting women to join their ranks, and by the close of the decade, the service club movement had eliminated membership requirements based upon gender. It was at the 1987 Convention that the Foundation presented its first “**Lamplighter**” awards, a program designed to recognize Altrusans who contribute \$500 or more annually.

Dublin, Ireland was the site of **the organization’s 41st Convention held on** July 18, 1989. There, delegates adopted a resolution calling upon all clubs and members to take an active part in environmental issues.

#### ALTRUSA HERITAGE 1990–1999

In 1990, the “**Recycling Achievement Award**” was instituted through which International recognized businesses, agencies, and individuals for achievement in this area. Chile was organized in 1990. An Annual Anniversary Gift Campaign was created by Foundation to honor the founding of Altrusa.

Growth, both in membership and in new clubs, is a constant challenge to Altrusa and all service organizations. To assist clubs in their recruitment efforts, a color video program, “**This is Altrusa International,**” was produced in 1990.

# Happy Birthday



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<i>Pushpa K</i>	<i>November 2</i>
<i>Cynthia H</i>	<i>November 6</i>
<i>Ann B-E</i>	<i>November 6</i>
<i>Amy B</i>	<i>November 7</i>

## Sunshine Report, by Linda Meliea

*Linda Mealiea is the Sunshine Committee Chair. Please send all Sunshine news and updates to Linda at:*

[linkmeal@cox.net](mailto:linkmeal@cox.net)

**If you have any unused "Sunshine-type" greeting cards please bring them to the meeting.**

A Thank You Note from Marge Baker:

I have truly learned the importance of friends and the meaning of Altrusa during the past two months. From the moment that John was diagnosed with the aggressive brain tumor in late August, through his rapidly progressing illness and death a month later, and ever since, you have provided me with such amazing concern, love, and support. Karen has shown up at my door twice, bearing gifts from the club ranging from a beautiful peace lily in a lovely Le Creuset glazed pot, to multiple restaurant gift cards, to encouraging books for times of loss, to endless snacks and drinks for the hospitality room at the hotel where 31 out-of-town family members and friends were staying during the **weekend of John's Memorial Service. I have been flooded with cards with loving messages, and at John's service my family members said that practically every other person they met introduced themselves as "one of Marge's Altrusa friends."** They now understand why Altrusa has been such an important part of my life **and how fortunate I am to be a member of such a wonderful organization. It's going to take me awhile to resume my active life, and I'll never be the same person because a large piece of me is now missing** forever. However, I know that you will help to fill that hole and I will draw upon your love and friendship as I move ahead. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

**Hoping Linda Melia's husband's heart problems are a-okay.**

Best wishes go out to Elizabeth Bate as she continues in with neurological testing.



## ALTRUSA LEADERSHIP

**WEBSITE LINKS: ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT THREE, INC. :**  
[HTTP://DISTRICTTHREE.ALTRUSA.ORG/](http://DISTRICTTHREE.ALTRUSA.ORG/)

**ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL, INC.:** [HTTP://ALTRUSA.ORG/](http://ALTRUSA.ORG/)

### 2018-19 ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF GAINESVILLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL Inc. PO Box 358510 Gainesville, FL 32635-8510

President: Karen Wishart ([karenataltrusa@gmail.com](mailto:karenataltrusa@gmail.com))  
 1st Vice President: Laura Gunter ([laura.gunter@td.com](mailto:laura.gunter@td.com))  
 2nd Vice President: Marge Baker ([mwbgrandma@bellsouth.net](mailto:mwbgrandma@bellsouth.net))  
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 Director: Dee Dugger ([ladydragonfly54@gmail.com](mailto:ladydragonfly54@gmail.com))  
 Director: Jeanne Reed ([reed703843@bellsouth.net](mailto:reed703843@bellsouth.net))  
 Historian/Parliamentarian: Freddie Dobson ([wdobson4@cox.net](mailto:wdobson4@cox.net))  
 AEG Board Liaison: Nancy Kirkland ([nancyckirkland@gmail.com](mailto:nancyckirkland@gmail.com)), Carolyn Harrell ([harrellland@cox.net](mailto:harrellland@cox.net))

### 2018-19 ALTRUSA STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

AGENDA: LAURA GUNTER	NEWSLETTER: AMY BROWN
ARCHIVES: NANCY KIRKLAND	PRESENTATIONS: TBD
ASTRA: KIM PACE, DONNA JOHNSON	PROGRAMS: LAURA GUNTER
AWARDS: LAURA GUNTER	SUNSHINE: LINDA MEALIEA
FINANCE: CYNTHIA HOLT	STRATEGIC PLAN: JOAN SUCHORSKI
MEMBERSHIP: MARGE BAKER	YEARBOOK: DONNA JOHNSON
WEBSITE: DEE DUGGER	

### LEADERSHIP TEAM—ALTRUSA EVENING GROUP (AEG)

CHAIRS: NANCY KIRKLAND AND JOY FLOWERS  
 CO-CHAIR: SHEA HUEY  
 PROGRAMS: JOY FLOWERS AND LAURA GUNTER

### Altrusa House Board of Trustees

PRESIDENT: NANCY HULT  
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### NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Please send Altrusa Newsletter submissions to Newsletter Editor, Amy Brown by the 25th of the month at [agbrown4852@gmail.com](mailto:agbrown4852@gmail.com)  
*Thank you Becky Munden, Dee Dugger, Joan Suchorski for your contributions.*

**We're on the Web!**

[gainesville.altrusa.org](http://gainesville.altrusa.org)