

Outstanding Alachua County
Volunteer Civic Organization
2010

"Work of Heart" Award

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello to you all!

I sit here writing to you this morning looking out at a cold but beautiful February day! I hope everyone got out and enjoyed the gorgeous blue skies!



As always, we as Altrusans are busy busy! I spent last evening at the Trading Closets clothes collection site pricing and hanging clothes, but more importantly chatting with Myra and Debbie. Honestly this time of year is one of my favorites, **because it's a great time to really get to know fellow Altrusans. If you haven't spent a day there yet, you owe it to yourself to do so!**

Speaking of that site, WOW do we have a lot of great stuff. It amazes me every year the things that are donated. There is a gorgeous wedding dress, beautiful evening wear, very attractive dresses and suits for working women, and great casual wear, as well as **purses, jewelry and shoes galore. It's going to be another great year of sales.**

If you missed our luncheon meeting yesterday Feb 27, you missed hearing inspiring information from James Lawrence, Director of GNV4All. I would encourage you to visit their website to learn about this group, the directive they have set for themselves and what it will do for our community.

Also at that meeting I shared the board's decision regarding the Pen Pal Program. After some research by

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

President's Message (Continued from Page 1)

the current group, the decision was made to get back to the basics of the program. It was decided that we will not plan a Holiday luncheon and give gifts to the Pen Pal children, but will continue our end of year luncheon at the Wyndham and will then give each child a uniform gift of a book or possibly writing materials. If you would like more information on this, shoot me an email and I'll be happy to cover.

As a reminder, in addition to Trading Closets scheduled for April 3rd and 4th, the International Committee is planning their annual fundraising dinner and this year the theme is "Bistro in the Garden". The event is being held at the Gainesville Garden Club. Please be sure to purchase your tickets for both events and encourage your family and friends to join us as well!

Also in April is our District Three Conference this year being held in Charlotte NC., April 16th thru the 18th. I hope you will consider attending, it is a great time of fellowship with other club members, and learning about Altrusa.

Lastly, I want to thank the Nomination Committee for their work. They have met and put together what I am sure will be a great board for our upcoming year. Thank you Donna Johnson, Myra Morgan, Joan Suchorski, and Sara Freeborn. Have a great March everyone!

Laura Gunter

President, Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL, Inc.

New Member Initiation: Dal McDilda

Dal McDilda was initiated as a new Altrusan at the February 13 meeting. Dal shared that her mother, Joan Ginn, was president of our Altrusa club from 1970-71. Dal taught English and public speaking at Howard Bishop Middle School before leaving Gainesville, where she worked as a social worker and also obtained her Master's in Speech Pathology and Audiology. She worked in South Carolina before moving back to Gainesville. Altrusa warmly welcomes Dal to our club!



Carolyn Harrell, Dal McDilda, Vicki Crane and Freddie Dobson

Upcoming Meetings & Events *(Printable Page)*

Lunch Program—Wyndham Garden, Noon

Luncheon meetings generally take place on the second and fourth Thursdays.

- ◆ **March 12:** Sherry Kitchens, Child Advocacy Center
- ◆ **March 26:** **Barbara Oberlander, Women's History Month**
Marilyn Little Scholarship Presentations
- ◆ **April 9:** Susan Nugent, Climate Change
- ◆ **April 23:** Penpal Luncheon
- ◆ **May 14:** Ana Christiano, Women in Media
- ◆ **May 28:** New Officer Installation

Altrusa Evening Meeting—Altrusa House, 6 P.M.

If you plan to attend, please let Shea Huey know so the group has adequate food and beverages. Altrusa Evening Meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month.

- ◆ **March 17:** Meeting at Days for Girls Center (1001 NE 16th Avenue)
- ◆ **April 21:** Ambre Hobson, Assistant Director, Hitchcock Field & Fork Pantry at the University of Florida
- ◆ **May 19:** Kitty McElhaney, District Three Governor
- ◆ **June 16:** TBA

Altrusa Club Board Meetings, 5:00 P.M.

Board Meetings generally take place on the fourth Tuesday of the month at Altrusa House.

- ◆ **March 24, 5:15 p.m.**

Upcoming Events and Fundraisers

- ◆ **March 3, 11 a.m.:** Naturalization Ceremony, Federal Courthouse
- ◆ **April 3-4:** Trading Closets
- ◆ **April 16-18:** District Conference
- ◆ **April 22-23:** The Amazing Give
- ◆ **April 25:** International Committee Dinner Fundraiser

WHEN DUES ARE DUE

June 1 / 1st Quarter Dues: \$150
(includes the dues below)

Local Dues = \$75

Annual International Dues = \$55

Annual District Three Dues = \$20

September 1 / 2nd Quarter Dues: \$75

December 1 / 3rd Quarter Dues: \$75

March 1 / 4th Quarter Dues: \$75

Total Dues for the Year: \$375*

**Please note that new club members have a different pay schedule*

Altrusa Club Meeting: February 13

Desmon Duncan-Walker, Museum Coordinator for the A. Quinn Jones Museum and Cultural Center, spoke at the February 13 luncheon program on her work at the A. Quinn Jones Museum. She opened her talk with the poem “**Myself**” (below), that she said inspires her. Desmon shared with us the remarkable life and legacy of A. Quinn Jones including his lifetime of advocacy for access to education.

More information about the A. Quinn Jones Museum & Cultural Center can be found on the website:

<https://www.aqjmuseum.org/>



Dee Dugger presents Desmon Duncan-Walker with a book in her honor: *Who Was George Washington Carver?* by Jim Gigliotti

Myself by Edgar Guest

I have to live with myself and so
 I want to be fit for myself to know.
 I want to be able as days go by,
 always to look myself straight in the eye;
I don't want to stand with the setting sun
 and hate myself for the things I have done.
I don't want to keep on a closet shelf
 a lot of secrets about myself
 and fool myself as I come and go
 into thinking no one else will ever know
 the kind of person I really am,
I don't want to dress up myself in sham.

I want to go out with my head erect
I want to deserve all men's respect;
 but here in the struggle for fame and wealth
 I want to be able to like myself.
I don't want to look at myself and know
 I am bluster and bluff and empty show.
 I never can hide myself from me;
 I see what others may never see;
 I know what others may never know,
 I never can fool myself and so,
 whatever happens I want to be
 self respecting and conscience free.

Altrusa Club Meeting: February 18

Ming Yang, founder and CEO of Orchard, was our speaker for the evening. Ms. Yang graduated from the University of Florida in Computer Engineering, focused on getting a full time job so that she could take care of her mother and grandmother. After she ended up across the country at Microsoft and Apple, she realized that was not how she wanted to take care of them. So, she came back to Gainesville to pursue her passion for enabling others to experience technology in a better way. She knew through her mother and grandmother that there was a need for older adults to get help with their computers and smart phones, so she started Orchard.



Ming hires techies who can teach by using normal language, rather than highly technical terms. She also keeps a major focus on finding people who are friendly, personable and happy to meet and work with seniors.

The company's mission: Focus on people, build independence, close the gap between generations, empower new experiences, lifelong learning for both customers and techies

If you are in need of tech support, their website is orchardinfo.com. Our member, Jeanne Reed, is one of their customers.

Altrusa Club Meeting: February 27

James Lawrence, Director of GNV4ALL, joined Altrusans at their luncheon meeting to talk about his support for Early Learning. **In Rochester, Mr. Lawrence created "United Rochester", bringing the community together to talk about issues of race in Rochester.** When he moved to Gainesville, he committed himself to emulating his success in Rochester by creating GNV4ALL (Gainesville For All). He created the Gainesville Empowerment Zone and found ways to support Metcalfe and Rawlings Elementary Schools. His latest initiative is an Early Learning Program **that he hopes will transform public education in our community.** "This is the way we need to move forward in the 21st Century," Mr. Lawrence said. More information can be found on the website: GNV4ALL.com



2020 District Three Conference

Each year, each District of Altrusa International holds a conference for the members in that area. These events are an opportunity for fun, educational workshops, networking, sharing, skill building, electing leadership, and celebrating our accomplishments.



All club members are encouraged to attend district conference taking place on April 16-18, 2020 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Based on the size of our club at the current moment, we are authorized to send 5 delegates and 5 alternates to conference. The club will pay the conference registration fee; hotel and transportation are the responsibility of the attendee. Further details will be passed along as they become available. Information about the 2020 District Three Conference is available on the District Three Website: <https://districtthree.altrusa.org/news-events/district-three-conference/>

2021 Altrusa International Convention



Every second year, Altrusa International holds a convention for the entire membership, with a similar purpose to District Conference but on a larger scale. The next Altrusa International Convention is **July 21-24, 2021 in Quebec, Canada.**

More information about the International Convention is available on the Altrusa International Website: <https://www.altrusa.org/events/>

Governor's Highlights



Highlights from District Three Governor Kitty McElhaney's February 2020 Newsletter (

- ◆ **Joey Robison Scholarship for Non-Traditional Students**
Altrusans are needed to contribute in any amount they can as we have received the most applications ever and so far there is a possibility that at least one may have to be turned down who is eligible. In addition, unless contributions start coming in, this scholarship will not exist next year. Contributions should be made payable to the District Three Foundation with **"Joey Robison Scholarship"** written on the check detail line. Your contributions are tax deductible since the Foundation is a 501(c)3 group. Mail to the Foundation % Scott Tice, Treasurer, 8590 SW 66 Terrace, Ocala, FL 34476.
- **Virtual Club** If a member is unable to continue membership in your club, due to other obligations, yet has a passion for Altrusa and service, please consider guiding the member to the Virtual Club. Information on the Virtual Club can be obtained from Past Governor Christy Bryant at christybryant@windstream.net.

Altrusa Historical Fact



Altrusa International was founded in Nashville, Tennessee in 1917, originally as Altrusa Institute. During that time, a record number of women were going to work during World War I, and there was a need **for women's civic organizations. Dr. Alfred Durham, a member of Kiwanis, began organizing clubs throughout Nashville, TN, Louisville, KY, and Dayton, OH, before he moved on to Indianapolis, IN, where he met Mamie L. Bass.**

Mamie L. Bass had served as the Superintendent of the Women's Division of the United States Employment Services, and was a partner in her brother's architecture firm. She also assisted him in organizing a Rotary chapter in Indianapolis. While she admired Dr. Durham's Institute, Bass felt that Altrusa could serve a higher purpose. In June 1918, when Altrusa held its first convention in Indianapolis, Mamie L. Bass's vision became reality. The Altrusa Institute became a classified service organization for women.

Trading Closets

The Trading Closets collection site collection site is located in Butler Plaza off Archer Road between Famous Footwear and Ross Dress for Less (in the same plaza as Best Buy, Trader Joe's and Michael's).

Collection times for the site are:

- ◆ Saturday 10 a.m.—2 p.m.
- ◆ Wednesday 12 p.m. -2 p.m.
- ◆ Thursday 5 p.m. -7 p.m.



Sign up to assist with sorting and pricing using the sign-up sheets available at our club meetings.

Tickets for the April 3 event are now available at \$50 each or become a Fashionista by purchasing four tickets for \$150. Contact Myra Morgan or Nancy Hult for ticket information.

Trading Closets will take place April 3-4 at the **Gainesville Woman's Club.**



Altrusa International of Gainesville Board Minutes

January 28, 2020 Board Meeting Altrusa House

Call to Order: Laura Gunter, 5:30 p.m.

Present: Laura Gunter, Dee Dugger, Kim Pace, Karen Wishart, Carolyn Harrell, Sara Freeborn, Freddie Dobson, Joan Suchorski, Becky Munden.

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Karen and seconded by Kim.

Approval of December Minutes: Moved by Dee and seconded by Karen.

President's Report, Laura:

Pen Pals: Discussion and a survey were emailed about the current activities and gifts with the pen pals. The board discussed the issues and decided that the Chair for the pen pals is responsible for getting the pen pals to meet, more feedback from the school on participation, possible overhead projector giving them a format on how to write a letter, (giving paper and envelopes in the beginning), getting with the teachers we only have 2 classes and would like all 4 classes. Discussion on the gift to the pen pals. Gifts would be given at the luncheon and gifts would all be the same. An idea would be to give paper, pencils, etc. for writing letters.

March 8th 2020 is International Women's Day. This is the 100th year celebration and we should celebrate one of our own Polly Doughty at our March 12th luncheon.

Fran Vandiver has volunteered to chair a task force for selecting a possible new location to have our luncheon meetings. The first social event will be held at the Indigo Hotel from 5:30 to 7:00 pm either March 3rd or the 10th 2020.

Nominating Committee members for next year's Board Members are Sara Freeborn, Joan Suchorski, Myra Morgan and possibly Donna Johnson.

1st Vice President's, Report, Dee: All of the spaces are filled for all our meetings. Discussion on possible speakers for next year. All the awards are finished and will be sent out to International tomorrow Jan 29, 2020.

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Club Board Minutes (Continued)

2nd Vice President's, Report Carolyn: We have two new members to install, Janice Hunziker and Dal McDilda during our February meeting.

June is when the Year Book is printed to provide a hardcopy for members without email; this list needs to be updated.

Marge Baker is reaching out to Amy Brown about her leave of absence status. There was discussion about a process to reach out to members who have missed 3 meetings.

We need to continue our focus on getting regular members to attend the evening meetings.

Treasurer's Repost, Karen: The balance sheet from December 31, 2019 is attached and balanced. Discussion on members not getting email, and the need to move them to regular mail.

District 3 Conference is asking for 3 backpacks for Veterans this year, April 16-18 2020.

Sara Freeborn, Dee Dugger, Karen Wishart, Laura Gunter, Freddie Dobson, Bea Sherouse and Joan Suchorski were approved as our delegates for District 3 Conference; motion moved by Joan and seconded by Sara.

Immediate Past President's Report, Karen: Looking for judges for the Alachua County Science Fair. Altrusa gave an award last year.

Director / Club Projects Report, Joan: We submitted an application for the District Three Joey Robison Scholarship for a student from Santa Fe College. If the application is successful, a \$500 award will be presented at the District Three Conference.

Discussion on Club wide projects vs. Literacy, Vocational and International Committee projects, possibly regrouping some of the projects.

Director / Communication / Website Report, Kim: Recommends the club produce an annual 1 page report for our members and other stakeholders ("Altrusa by the

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Club Board Minutes (Continued)

Numbers”) that would highlight what monies have been raised, what service projects completed, and how the monies raised have supported various causes.

Need to have the Committees’ year-end reports written down or emailed.

Working on centralizing our archived photos. Need new photos for Facebook to keep our good works and awareness going.

Director / Fundraisers Report, Sara: Our storage unit is up for renewal, if we pay for the entire year up front we receive a discount. The unit is 117 x 11 and the cost for the year is \$1,287.

Motion to approve by Joan seconded by Kim.

We have 8 silent auction baskets so far for Trading Closets. We are also having a “Live Auction for Purses”. We are looking for someone to set up the jewelry displays.

Nomination for an Unsung Hero was made by the Board.

AEM Liaison Report, Carolyn: Discussion on having District Three Governor Kitty McElhaney as a speaker for an evening meeting.

Motion to Adjourn: 7:10pm by Dee Dugger seconded by Sara Freeborn.

***Next Board Meeting: Tuesday January 28th at 5:15 p.m. at the Altrusa House.



GOVERNOR’S VISIT SAVE THE DATE:

District Three Governor Kitty McElhaney will be the guest speaker at the **May 19 Evening Meeting**. Mark your calendars for this opportunity to meet with Governor McElhaney in May.

Altrusa House: Garden of Memories

This month, we are beginning a series of articles on those that are important to Altrusa/Altrusa House and have a brick dedicated to them in our Garden.

NORMA HOFFMAN

Norma Hoffman is being honored for her service to Altrusa International, both on the local and District Three level and to Altrusa House. Norma served as president of the local Altrusa Club at the time that the Club was searching for a project that would serve an unmet community need and also raise the profile of the organization. The time and the woman, or maybe women, came together at the opportune time. Norma enlisted Donna Sorenson to form a committee to select an appropriate project and from that selection and committee came the birth of Altrusa House. After the committee considered many opportunities, three possible projects were brought to the Club and from that list, an adult day health care facility was selected, albeit envisioned on a far less grand scale than it finally became. Donna was then selected to serve as the president of the Steering Committee and through her **organizational abilities and “unique” position with the University of Florida, work and fundraising was underway!** Norma was certainly the fairy godmother of Altrusa House.



Norma also served as Secretary to District Three during Freddie Dobson’s Governorship and as Freddie’s traveling companion and served on the Steering Committee and on the first Board of Trustees for Altrusa House. She worked diligently behind the scenes to keep track of the donors to Altrusa House which are now memorialized on the tree sculpture at Altrusa House and she continues to this day to be an Altrusan.



Professionally, Norma obtained a Master of Education degree at the University of Florida and her last position before retirement was teaching at Gainesville High School and serving as CBS Coordinator. Personally, Norma is married to Altrouser Jerome Hoffman, devoted mother of two sons and one daughter, long-time Altrusan Linda Henderson, and she is an active grandmother to her grandchildren and great

grandchildren.

Altrusa House: Garden of Memories Opening Celebration

On Sunday, February 16th, the official dedication of the Garden of Memories at Altrusa House was held. Over 30 people were in attendance to view the new brick path and enjoy refreshments and fellowship. With a mix of sun and rain, there were plenty of opportunities to get outside to view the bricks dedicated to Altrusans and others who worked to get the house built, or have served on the board, Altrusa House clients and staff, and anyone else being honored for various reasons. There is also a book, put together by Barbara Scott, which explains who each brick is honoring and why.



A short welcome was given by Sara Freeborn, Vice President of the AH Board of Trustees. Sara told about the origin of the idea for the Garden coming from the memorial service for Bliz Feldherr. It was discussed that day that there should be something at Altrusa House to honor Bliz for the years she served on the board and for the many

hours of volunteer service she gave. From that point, Nancy Hult took the ball and ran with it. A committee, consisting of Nancy, Barbara Scott and Lisa Renner, was formed to come up with ideas. They presented the idea of a brick path at a board meeting soon after that, then continued with plans, estimates, and in less than a year, the Garden of Memories is complete. Many thanks go to this committee, which provided us not only with a way to honor Bliz, but to be able to add honorees for years to come.



Sara closed with the poem that follows:

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Altrusa House: Garden of Memories (continued)

Garden of Gold, by Lois E. Felder

*I walk through the garden
 On this warm summer's day,
 To smell the flowers
 That grandma raised.
 In the middle
 Of this garden of gold,
 Stood this one,
 Single red stem rose.
 The rose means so many things,
 From the ones you receive on your wedding day,
To the one you get on Valentine's Day.
 But this single rose standing here today
 Represents the love that grandma gave.
 From the love she gave
 When she planted it that day,
 To the love she gave us
 Each and every day.
 So when you pass this garden of gold,
 Remember the love that this rose holds.*

Our Garden of Memories is like that single red rose, reminding us of the love, caring and persistence of the people who brought about Altrusa House, those who have found a home here and those who continue to support it.

Nancy Hult then welcomed Bliz's husband, Carl, who was in attendance, and spoke further about the committee who made the garden possible. She thanked the people at West Farms, who did a beautiful job installing the bricks. Nancy also pointed out that OT Davis Monuments provided the granite Garden Stone at half the normal cost. They wholeheartedly support the work of Altrusa House and were happy to contribute in this way. Nancy talked about some of the bricks honoring clients, Altrusans, and others. She then invited everyone to enjoy some food and drink, provided by the board of trustees and to take a walk through the garden.

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Altrusa House: Garden of Memories (continued)

Bricks may be purchased at any time at a cost of \$150 and dedicated to anyone you wish. See Nancy Hult for further information.

*Many, many thanks to O.T. Davis Monuments!
 Their generous assistance in creating the beautiful
 garden stone at half price is much appreciated.*



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Penny C.	March 2	Marilyn M.	March 13
Marion F.	March 5	Marie D.	March 17



WEBSITES:

- ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF GAINESVILLE: GAINESVILLE.ALTRUSA.ORG
- ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT THREE, INC. : DISTRICTTHREE.ALTRUSA.ORG
- ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL, INC.: ALTRUSA.ORG

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR GAINESVILLE ALTRUSA FOUNDATION, INC. MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. The Registration Number for Gainesville Altrusa Foundation, Inc. is CH29134

ALTRUSA CLUB LEADERSHIP

2019-2020 ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF GAINESVILLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS:

Please send Altrusa Newsletter submissions to Newsletter Editor, Kim Pace by the 25th of the month at kimmiepace@yahoo.com.

Thank you Sara Freeborn, Laura Gunter, Carolyn Harrell, Shea Huey, Joan Suchorski, and Fran Vandiver.

ALTRUSA DISTRICT THREE LEADERSHIP

DISTRICT THREE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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