



The Gainesville Altrusan

Newsletter for Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL, Inc

Outstanding Alachua County Volunteer Civic Organization
2010 "Work of Heart" Award
Home Club of 2009-2011 International Altrusa President,
Donna Johnson

March 2024

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Please send information, articles, and pictures
for the newsletters by the 25th of each month to
harrellland@cox.net

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Nancy Hult, Barbara Scott, Ester Tibbs and proofreader, •
Marge Baker for contributions to this issue.
Editor: Carolyn Harrell

**"Find a group of people who challenge
and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them,
and it will change your life" Amy Poehler**

**Helpful Hint: If you find any font
size too small for your comfort,
please use the zoom function
on your computer or device
to enlarge text**

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

President's Message



Happy March, dear Altrusans,



With NCAA madness, St Pat's Parades, of course it's
Women's History Month and this year even Easter...

and Altrusa Music Bingo!

Why on earth would I post the above picture of food? Not just to add a splash of color (although it does) or represent the month; rather it echoes fond memories from International's January dinner "Glory for Ukraine." Lyuba had posted this photo of her ingredients for the borscht she made. What "thousand words" might this picture say to us?

- **Planning ahead and organizing well brings success.** Unless your ingredients are laid out and double checked, that special necessary ingredient might be missing and the store closed. So it is with our events and fundraisers. Our chefs, aka committee/event chairs, have been relentlessly successful this year getting prepared.
- **Each individual element matters for the whole to work well.** No beets, no borscht-- but do you see all those herbs and partly hidden other ingredients? The Altrusa committee chairs, directors, boards will surely say that without their sous chefs working hard on the details and adding them when and where needed the recipe would fail and not be ready for serving on time.
- **Many different elements work together to make something wonderful.** "Variety is the spice of life." There are so many things that need doing to make our club thrive, and thank goodness we have various skills and backgrounds. Speaking personally, I could never serve as treasurer or organize the garage sales for example, but I can do the newsletter and am so grateful I have that task and am so grateful for all of you who work at tasks with your varied skills to make our club a feast. I am going to somehow organize a way to thank and recognize you all...so I'm planning ahead! Keep cooking up those recipes for success. You matter!

Carolyn

Keep Up with our Calendar

March 12: Displaced Homemakers 40-Year Celebration at SFC, 5:30-7:00 pm, Building R-01

April 2024: AH Garden Tour 1-3 pm (4/7); District Convention (4/25-28) in Atlanta

May 2024: Place flags for veterans at Evergreen; Middle School Literacy Awards presented

Club business: Big 3 Committee Reports, committee sign-up, treasurer's report, elect board

June 2024: Installation of Officers for 2024-25; Board Retreats; Altrusan of the Year

Friday, 7:00 pm March 1 Music Trivia Bingo at 5701 Venue 5701 NW 34 Blvd

Saturday, March 2, 11:15 am Carolyn's team serves lunch at Women Build

Tuesday, March 5, 3:00 pm Book group at Vibeke's for Amy Tan's *The Valley of Amazement*

Tuesday, March 12, 5:30-7:00 pm Displaced Homemakers Celebration SFC Building R-01

Thursday, March 14, noon luncheon meeting at Woman's Club: Steve Kalishman on Sister Cities

Saturday, March 16, 11:15 am Nancy Kirkland's team serves lunch at Women Build

Wednesday, March 20, 2:00 pm Book group at Alison's for *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks

Thursday, March 21, 6:00 pm Altrusa House board meets at Altrusa House

Saturday, March 23, 11:15 am Cherise's team serves lunch at Women Build

Tuesday, March 26, 5:30 pm Altrusa board meeting via Zoom

Thursday, March 28, noon luncheon meeting at **Community Foundation**

Leah Galione from Peak Literacy



Ongoing Activities to Remember:

The **Moveable Feasts** are designed to be ongoing so it's time for another. Our last event was the English tea at Lisa's. Who would like to host another gathering? It can be one or several Altrusans working together and be at a home or restaurant (or wine bar) or craft place or museum...whatever you think would be a fun way to spend time together. Carolyn wants to see the Surrealism exhibition (and others) at the Harn...who's in? <https://harn.ufl.edu/exhibitions/>



Women Build Thank you Nancy K, Nancy B and new members Ginny and Bob for stepping up for May 16! Please contact Carolyn if you can serve on Saturday May 18 and you will be given details. It's fun and so needed. Cherise's and Benny's teams are handling other times needed.



Bread of the Mighty 10:00 am, second Saturday of month

Pack food boxes for seniors. Food and volunteers welcome.



North Florida Sewing Center, Wesley United Methodist Church 826 NW 23rd Ave Parking in the lot on the west side of the church. (Dee is contact)

Please see the letter from William and Lyuba regarding Ukraine on page 9.

Please see page 8 for a check list of ongoing items needed that can be brought to luncheon meetings to benefit the environment, Altrusa House, Days for Girls and companion sewing projects, county jail library and inmates' children. Displaced Homemakers wish list is on the right on this page.

SF SANTA FE COLLEGE
Displaced Homemaker Program



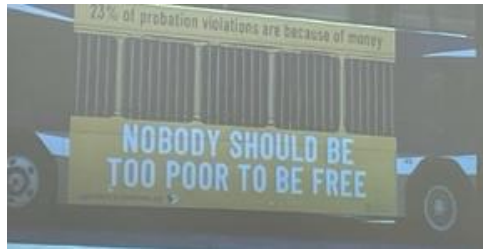
Thank you for past efforts for Ukraine

Gas cards, canned chicken, tuna, chili, Progresso soups with meat, jelly, fruit cups, spices, nuts, individual boxes of cereal, microwavable pasta

February 8 Luncheon Meeting

Ester introduces, Lindsay speaks, Altrusans listen, Lacorya handles slide show and also speaks to us.

Program: Lindsay Kallman, Lacorya Lynn: Community Spring



90% of guaranteed recipients of the foundation's help had \$50 or less in their pockets when they applied. Thus the message on this Regional Transit bus.

Some highlights from Lindsay's challenging, moving information about this grassroots organization dedicated to economic justice:

- Direct, no strings attached investment of \$1,000 has shown trust leads to success in many instances. Invest in people and they invest in themselves. "This is the first time someone said yes to me."
- Two pillars: income and power
- Fellowships to deal with structural issues contributing to poverty.
- Funding from individuals and foundations, even national.
- We don't know all the issues until people tell us.
- We want to change the focus people have about why poverty exists.
- Economic justice is possible when people have both income to meet their needs and power to reshape the systems that keep them down
- What to do about it?
Learn. Educate others. Support policy change. Donate.
Visit website <https://www.csgnv.org/> (Subscribe free for updates)

Lacorya's presentation helped inform our understanding about economic justice.

Some key points:

- The wealth gap between White and Black Americans is nearly as large today as it was in the 1950s. 61% of Black American History (246 years) is slavery. 24% segregation and only 15% (60 years) being "free." Racism has been entrenched in our society wreaking havoc in all kinds of ways.
- Today there are large racial disparities in almost every facet of life: wealth, the criminal justice system, employment, housing, health care, politics, and education.
- Despite making up only 13% of the population, Black Americans account for almost 40% experiencing homelessness. Only 8% are homeowners. They have the highest denial rates for purchase and refinance loans.
- Maps demonstrate that poverty lines are drawn right on top of historical Black neighborhoods that can lack access to quality schools and experience overpolicing.
- Almost 40% of people in prison are Black. They tend to have higher bail sets and lengthier more punitive sanctions.
- MLK has said in various speeches ...when white Americans tell the negro to lift himself by his own bootstraps he fails to take into account he has no boots. "We must recognize that we can't solve our problems until there is radical redistribution of economic and political power."

With all these challenges in mind, we also saw the amazing 8 centerpieces Ester arranged for Black History Month with flowers and books and objects to accentuate Black Americans' achievements. You probably were not able to read all the placards though so on pages 4-5 please see information Ester gathered and chose that we should all recall and/or learn and appreciate.
Thank you, Ester, for your idea and for your hard work...and for the speakers!

Please see page 6 for photos and information from Sharon Bauer's and Wafa Berbari's initiations



Ida B. Wells-Barnett

- Born in Mississippi in 1862
- African American journalist, publicist, abolitionist, teacher & feminist
- Led anti-lynching campaigns in the 1890's and published a newspaper
- Co-founder of the National Association of Colored Women (1896)
- Founding member of NAACP
- Created first kindergarten for Black children in her county

Whoopi Goldberg

- Born Caryn Elaine Johnson in 1955 in New York City
- Award Winning actress, comedienne, Human rights Advocate, and host of The View.
- Has earned numerous awards for writing, producing, and acting and is an EGOT winner
- Also loves to entertain as reflected in her book *Whoopi Goldberg, The Unqualified Hostess*.

Dovey Johnson Roundtree

- Born in 1914 in North Carolina
- African American Civil Rights Activist, ordained minister, and attorney
- 1955 legal victory resulted in the repudiation of "separate but equal" doctrine in interstate bus travel.
- Chosen by Mary McLeod Bethune as one of the first Black women trainers in the Women's Army Auxiliary
- Leader in movement to force AME church to ordain women ministers

Ester Tibbs is a Qualified Hostess for sure. The photo shows her still smiling while taking yet another load of centerpiece books, statues, flowers, etc back to her car.

Ester also contacted and introduced our wonderful guest speakers from Community Spring. This is in addition to so much else she does for Altrusa such as chairing the literacy committee. She has made us more literate today for sure. Thank you, Ester.



Misty Copeland is an American ballet dancer who became the first African American to be promoted to principal dancer in the American Ballet Theatre's 75 year history. She is also a public speaker, celebrity spokesperson, and stage performer. She was named one of the most influential people in the world by Time Magazine. Despite not starting ballet until age 13, she was quickly recognized as a prodigious talent. She has authored two autobiographical books and narrated a documentary "A Ballerina's Tale" about her career challenges.

Pattie Labelle is an American singer, actress, and soul food chef. She has been called the Godmother of Soul and is best known for hits like "If Only You Knew" and "New Attitude." She has received acclaim for numerous songs and her electrifying concerts. She began her career in 1959 as part of the Ordettes, who became the Blue Belles in 1961. Her success as a solo artist began in 1983. She has starred in numerous stage and screen productions including "Beverly Hills Cop" and the Broadway musical, "Your Arm's Too Short to Box with God." She has written several books including her autobiography, *Don't Block the Blessings*, and two cookbooks, one specifically for diabetics. She has launched several food products including her sweet potato pies sold at Walmart. She is a devoted advocate for health causes including diabetes, AIDS, cancer and Alzheimer's.

Warrick Dunn is a former NFL player who spent his 12 year career with Tampa Bay and the Atlanta Falcons after an outstanding college career at FSU. He was the NFL Rookie of the Year in 1997 and earned three Pro Bowl selections during his career. As a rookie with the Buccaneers he established his "Home for the Holidays" program to help single mothers with down payments and furnishings for a home of their own. This was a tribute to his single mother who struggled to provide for their family and who was murdered during her shift as a police officer. He has earned numerous awards including the Walter Payton Man of the Year award in 2004, the 2009 Bart Star Award, the 2011 Jefferson Humanitarian Award for Public Service and in 2021 he received the Atlanta Sports Council Lifetime Achievement Award. He holds a minority stake in the Atlanta Falcons.

Arthur Ashe was an American professional tennis player who won three Grand Slam titles and two in doubles. He was the first Black player selected to the U.S. Davis Cup team, and only black man to win the singles title at Wimbledon, the U.S. Open, and the Australian Open. He was among the first celebrity athletes to disclose a diagnosis of AIDS. The infection was believed to be the result of a blood transfusion received during heart bypass surgery in 1983. He founded the Arthur Ashe Foundation and Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health. He was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton.

Isabel Wilkerson is an American journalist and author. Her books, *The Warmth of Other Suns* and *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent* have received widespread acclaim. She was the first African American woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for Journalism (1994) for a feature story. She has worked as a journalist for several newspapers including the "Detroit Free Press" and "New York Times." Her book *The Origins of our Discontent* has been produced as a movie.

Stacy Abrams is an American politician, lawyer, voting rights advocate and

A sample of just one of the centerpieces

author. She served in the Georgia House from 2007-2017. She founded Fair Fight, an organization that addresses voter suppression which has been credited with increasing minority voting in Georgia. She is a successful writer who until 2021 wrote novels under her pen name, Selena Montgomery and sold over 100,000 copies. Her legal thriller, *While Justice Sleeps* was published under her legal name and is being produced as a television series.

ReShonda Tate Billingsley is an American author, journalist, award winning poet and motivational speaker. She writes adult and teen fiction. Several of her books have been produced as movies including *Let the Church Say Amen* that was directed by Regina King and produced by Queen Latifah and Reverend T.D. Jakes. ReShonda cofounded Brown Girls Books, a publishing company, with author Victoria Christopher Murray to help build the next generation of authors.

Daniel Hale Williams was an African American surgeon born in 1856 in Pennsylvania. He founded Providence Hospital in 1891, the first non-segregated hospital in the country. Providence also had a nursing school for African American nurses and a Residency program for doctors. He is known for having completed the first successful heart surgery. He was a surgery professor at Meharry Medical School and an attending surgeon at Cook County Hospital. In 1895 he cofounded the National Medical Association for Black Doctors. In 1913 he became a charter member and the only African American doctor in the American College of Surgeons.

Frederick Douglass was an abolitionist, orator, newspaper publisher and author. He was born into slavery in 1817 or 1818 in Maryland. He wrote his autobiography, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* which became a best seller and was influential in promoting the abolitionist movement. He wrote two additional autobiographies, *My Bondage and My Freedom* and *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass* which earned him additional respect as a spokesperson for African Americans. He was a sought after speaker across Europe and in America. His supporters in Europe provided the funding that allowed him to buy his freedom. His home was part of the Underground Railroad. He is especially remembered for his dedication to challenge America to recognize the rights of all people.

Pork in the African American Diet

Pork is rooted in the history of slavery in the U.S. During their journey from Africa to America, African Americans were force fed salted pork. On plantations the enslaved were often given the task of preserving meat, and pork became a dominant protein in their diet due to its ability to be salted and smoked for preservation. The enslaved were usually given the less desirable cuts of the hog so a powerful mix of spices and seasonings for the meat was necessary. Many African Americans choose not to eat pork for health and/or religious reasons but it remains a staple of the African American diet. Collard greens, okra, rice, sweet potatoes, black eyed peas, sweet potato pie, oxtails, ribs, banana pudding, macaroni and cheese, and fried chicken remain staples of a soul food diet.

Note: We recently included collard greens, rice and black eyed peas in our luncheon menu and today to further honor African Americans we had sweet potatoes, banana pudding, macaroni and cheese, and fried chicken along with some other companion dishes. We also sampled Jollof, a rice dish from West Africa.

Sharon Bauer *Welcome!*



Sharon shared beautifully from her heart about becoming an Altrusan and here are a few more notes from her: Altrusa helped fund the rape hotline when we started the rape crisis center 50 years ago this April 1. Altrusa House cared for my mother-in-law for the last 5 years of her life. I've volunteered at the crisis center, the Matheson, library HQ and KACB. I've lost a lot of friends recently and was feeling a little isolated so I'm looking forward to volunteering at Altrusa House. Three things I'm particularly proud of are being the library district's Work of Heart nominee, receiving the Matheson's President's Award and getting the AFL CIO Central Labor Council's Activist of the Year award for leading our Fight the Night Shift campaign that kept UF from moving its lowest paid employees, mostly Black women, to a graveyard shift that would have cost them their second jobs and child care arrangements. Their jobs were saved and their salaries raised. Some of Sharon's interests are genealogy, local history, gardening, animal welfare and neighborhood preservation. In her first week as an Altrusan she has already helped at our recent Human Library event, contacted Nancy to help at Altrusa House, and has become Lorna's "chauffeur" and friend.

Welcome! Wafa Berbari



Fran and Cherise share with Wafa at her initiation, present her with her "reading material" and rose, name badge and pin. Then Wafa shares (without notes) with the club as we get to know her. Here are just a few of the facts. The warmth remains.

I was born in Lebanon, graduated from the American University of Beirut with a M.Sc. in Food Technology. I was accepted by UF in the Ph.D. program in the Food Science & Human Nutrition Dept. and graduated in 1992 with a Ph.D. in Food Microbiology. I worked in the food industry (ABC Research, Sara Lee Foods/Hillshire Brands, ARYZTA/Aspire Bakeries) focusing on food safety, testing, and supporting regulatory requirements. After 30 years as a food safety specialist, I retired in 2023. I was a member of several professional associations and groups relevant to my professional career (IFT, IAFP, AMI, AOAC, AACC, etc.).

I lived in Gainesville, Cincinnati, and the Chicago area and moved back to Gainesville a few years ago. After meeting some Altrusa members and hearing about it, I got interested in learning more and then in joining. It is important to me to stay mentally challenged through learning new things and meeting interesting people. Also, I am hoping to be able to give back to the community with the great work that Altrusa members accomplish. My hobbies include traveling, cooking, handcrafts and reading. Wafa gave a gracious and inspiring introduction to herself at her initiation. We can already tell she will add so much talent and sparkle to our club as well wonderful foods for our many events that require refreshments. Wafa cooked for the International Dinner even before she was an official Altrusan.

February 22 Luncheon Meeting

Program: Nancy Shumaker

Altrusa Vice Governor and District Three Representative

Sara gave Nancy a beautiful and warm introduction recounting their work together in District and how easy she is to love. As Nancy spoke to us, we understood and now we are all in love with Nancy. She is an engaging speaker, does her homework well and had much to say about our programs and events. Altrusa House and Human Library especially stood out to her as she reiterated all the good our anchor project and our newest project do helping all parts of the community.

Nancy also commended our smaller project of providing books to the inmates at the county jail and books for their children. (It's time to make a delivery there again so stay tuned and please bring any last-minute donations to our next meeting.) She spoke of the importance of reading and how literacy is paramount in Altrusa Clubs everywhere.

Nancy shared how she began as a new somewhat overwhelmed Altrusan who was given jobs to do and who responded even when she wasn't sure about all the inner workings of the club. She kept at it discovering what we know about both the job and joy of serving and the friendships that develop as we work together...it's what keeps us going! It's not surprising that she rose to Vice Governor and it's wonderful that she is our representative. Nancy is eager to help us and a delightful communicator.

She also spoke about membership, reiterating that we need to simplify, think outside the box, and cut costs as we look to attract younger members to keep our club ongoing. Times have changed from when Altrusa first began modeled on Rotary (and in Gainesville over 60 years ago) and we must adjust while adhering to our core principles. We will take her words to heart and action even as we attract both young and seasoned new members as we have been doing.

I must note along with this that our older new members are vibrant and inspiring and needed.

Happily, after the luncheon Nancy was able to visit Altrusa House along with Sara, Benny and Nancy Hult.



Announcements
& Upcoming
Events

Editor's note: Apologies for not taking more complete notes. I was mesmerized by Nancy and forgot.

Nancy was right; we are an active club. At our meeting Myra shared the success of Festival of Trees, Dee enthused and encouraged us in Music Bingo (and in attending District Convention), Fran let us know Bingo food planning is happening, and Nancy Hult reminded us of the Garden Tour and Sara of the silent auction, gift baskets, and gift cards for our Bingo fundraiser.



accent

Shea listens with her whole heart after introducing her friend JoAnn Wilkes from Santa Fe's Displaced Homemakers. JoAnn has long been instrumental in this project and in her accent today she encouraged us to attend the 40th Year Celebration (see calendar on page 2 for info). Altrusa has long supported this wonderful program and will continue to do so.

At every meeting Shea collects bags of donations for Displaced Homemakers from our generous club. See page 2 for a reminder of what to keep bringing. Thank you. Please join in the celebration.



NEWS & NOTABLES

So much has happened since Christmas, so here are just a few letters and pictures sent from those special, precious souls in Ukraine. Wish you could read them all.



Marilyn Mitchell 13 Tobi Doering 18

Gathering & Giving



Dear friends, we have just received your parcel with jackets, sweaters, socks, bed linen and peanut butter! We are praying that we will be able to spend the cold winter here in Kamianske. Many of us, teachers from Toretsk evacuated here, hoping that it would not be so long. Most of us lost our homes, the schools where we worked are ruined. Your support gives us hope, God is taking care of us through your hands. Thank you for helping us to survive. May you never experience war. Have a joyful Christmas time and warm winter.

Irina, teacher from school 10, Toretsk



WHAT TO BRING CHECK LIST ✓

BUY ONE
BOGO
GET ONE

- ✓ Magazines for Altrusa House clients and staff (Connie is contact)
- ✓ Non-recyclable tops and lids for AH art project (Sara is contact)
- ✓ Food for Displaced Homemakers (suggested items p. 2) (Shea is contact)
- ✓ Paperback books for jail library and books for inmates' children (Carolyn is contact)
- ✓ Suggested fabrics and supplies for Sewing Center (Dee is contact)

Note: Shea can take clothing you've collected for Ukraine to Grace until we can hopefully begin shipping again. Other ideas are welcome. Let the club know. See next page.

Our dear American friends from the Altrusa Club. Thank you very much for responding to our request to help young patients at Kharkiv Children's Hospice and Children Oncological Hospital. We were able to buy some sweets, tangerines, and a toy for every child, and even organized some Christmas time for 250 children of ages from a couple of months up to 18. These are very special kids...Some of them have cancer, some were born disabled, some were wounded during the war. Kharkiv has been under attack since the beginning of 2022, many people evacuated from the city but these children are staying. We are begging you, if possible, to help these children with warm pajamas, socks and underwear. These are the items that we cannot buy here in Kharkiv area. And please pray for a miracle to happen, so these children would survive the war and get better.

Galina Andrievska

"Sorrows come to stretch out places in the heart for joy" is the last line of a poem I love and this email just received February 23 is one of the reasons why.

Interestingly, I'd wanted to catch you up on all the warmth you've brought to this tragedy thus the photos and letters on page 8 (which will stay there). So as we read William's message we can remember and hope and pray for future joy, strength and peace on earth and especially Ukraine. After the International Dinner raised significant funding for Lyuba it's fortunate that help other than physical shipments might be the best way to go for a while. Fran and the International Committee will be in communication with the Whartons to work out the best path to follow. We will keep you posted.

Thank you, Carolyn

**Defeat may serve as well as victory
to shake the soul and let the glory out.
When the great oak is straining in the wind
the boughs drink in new beauty
and the trunk
sends down a deeper root on the windward side.
Only the soul that knows the mighty grief
can know the mighty rapture.
Sorrows come
to stretch out spaces in the heart for joy.**

—Edwin Markham (1852-1940)

REGRETS

Dear friends of Ukraine,

You have been very helpful during the war in Ukraine by donating clothes, especially warm clothes for winter months. We are grateful, as are the refugees and displaced people in war-torn Ukraine. We have numerous letters and phone calls expressing deep gratitude for your love and generosity.



Now we have a shift in circumstances that affect our work; thus a change in the way we minister to the people in Ukraine. Even though we have shipped lots of your donated good clothes to churches and wonderful non-profit organizations, we now have to stop that part of our shared ministry because of a block in the shipping process. You may have seen TV footage of big trucks lined up in Poland, waiting to carry goods from the West into Ukraine for distribution to the needy. Among those trucks are boxes we have sent. In order to expedite those shipments we have been paying for air express handling. That means that a 60 pound box of clothes costs us around \$250 just for the shipping. Unfortunately, many of those boxes are being held up by the Poles who seem to be less than enthusiastic about expediting delivery of the freight. Also, with the spread of the intense war into central and western Ukraine, shipping is becoming even more dangerous.

We hope we can resume shipping clothes, but it looks like the shipping issues are becoming normal. Bottom line: We are now stopping our collection of clothing for Ukraine. If circumstances permit this summer, we hope to resume collecting clothes for the winter in August or September, Lord willing and barring a worsening of circumstances in and around Ukraine. Certainly, we will pass the word when/if we get back in the "clothing business."

Bill and Lyuba Wharton

Ukraine Mission

9044 SW 79th Ave, Gainesville FL 32608-8722

Cell Phone 352-372-9202

Email: wlwmail@yahoo.com

More Altrusan news, noteables, needs...

THIS and That



Myra shared this great news: Festival of Trees earned \$4,800 for Altrusa House



Our inimitable Freddie is holding court in Oak Hammock. Keep working of that hip, Freddie! We love you.

While celebrating Nancy Hult's birthday at Pomodoro, look who showed up—Donna Pitts and friends. Seeing the way Donna's finding new members perhaps we'll be seeing these two friends at a different luncheon before long.

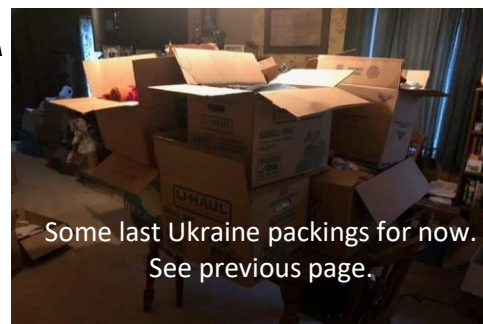


Cherise, Tobi and Carolyn recently had a business lunch at Local Provisions but it turned into a fun girls' gathering as well.



Hiding behind the scenes above was the birthday girl who was celebrated by Barbara, Lisa and Carolyn, the Altrusa House Garden Committee.

Not to be missed. Dee snapped this candid shot of Harriet finding out she was the Unsung Hero.



Some last Ukraine packings for now. See previous page.

Women Build

"Lunch ladies" for March 2 are Carolyn, Ester, Debbie H, Sharon B, and Cherise.

March 16 Nancy K, Ginny and Bill P, Nancy B

And for March 23 Cherise, Connie, and Wafa and there's room for one more.

Dee and Carolyn recently met for breakfast at Panera Bread to work on Altrusa business (and fun chatting) and left as the lunch crowd started coming in (and after putting up a Music Bingo flyer).

Editor's note: We've been so busy with fundraisers and events since the year began as well as initiating new members at every luncheon meeting that this newsletter has grown perhaps beyond Marge's desire to proof and your patience to read. Therefore, the April newsletter will contain special reports and photos of Human Library and Music Trivia Bingo. The Garden Tour will be covered in the May newsletter. Meanwhile click here for a nice Channel 20 Human Library report: <https://www.wcjb.com/2024/02/12/only-solution-is-dialogue-human-library-event-held-blount-hall/>



Altrusa House Garden of Memories

The award-winning Garden of Memories is constructed of engraved commemorative 4" x 8" brick pavers placed within the paths of our serenely landscaped grounds to honor or remember special person(s) including clients, families, friends, and supporters of Altrusa House.

Anyone may sponsor an engraving in a paver for a minimum of \$150. Additionally, anyone who wishes may make a donation in any amount and be listed as a donor in our continually updated Tribute Book which also lists all engraving recipients.

All donations received in excess of the brick engraving costs go directly to the general fund of Altrusa House to assist clients attending Altrusa House or to meet the responsibilities of the Altrusa House Board of Trustees in the maintenance and care of our house and grounds.

Altrusa House Celebrating 25 Years

October 2023, marked the 25th anniversary of the opening of Altrusa House, a beautiful and impressive building, built without a mortgage and funded by an eight-year effort which involved many fundraising activities and contributions from individuals and other community organizations. Chief among these activities were the years of our most renowned fundraising projects, our giant garage sales and the Shindigs (barbeque dinner) and gatherings the night before each sale where the attendees could purchase things for twice the price.

An adult health daycare facility was a recognized community need before it came to the attention of the local Altrusa Club. One of our Altrusa House founders, Dr. Justine Vaughn, a rehabilitation physician, had a 31 year-old patient who suffered a severe physical handicap. Justine realized that at his relatively young age he faced nursing home confinement, the only alternative for his needed care at that time. From this particular patient rose Justine's vision of an adult day care facility. A group of community activists, Justine included, known as D.A.R.E. began a campaign to organize such a facility and at this earliest stage involved Easter Seals of Florida. Alas, for lack of money these efforts came to naught and the project did not proceed.

Enter Altrusa International of Gainesville which was searching for a project to serve an unmet community need and give our club community recognition. A committee was established for the selection of an appropriate project with Donna Sorensen named as chairman. Justine brought her vision to the group, and from ten potential projects considered the concept of an adult day care facility was selected.

Even before the selection of adult day health care as THE PROJECT, the club had begun to raise money. From recycling aluminum cans \$1,247 was earned which was hastily transferred to the steering committee as seed money. Then, we were off to the races. The local Altrusa at that time was an all-woman organization of some 130 talented and dynamic individuals. In addition to the infamous garage sales, every committee in Altrusa raised money for the House. Many small and not so small events were held including the Southern Living Cooking School held in the O'Dome on campus, which was provided rent free by U.F. A pledge drive was conducted by the club with contributions from club members and members of the community now recorded on the Giving Tree in the foyer of Altrusa House. In addition to the supporting community members, donors such as the Rotary Club made Altrusa House the recipient of their Wild Game Feast one year, and the Li Family who gave us a house in Hawthorne which we sold for \$25,000, were instrumental in our fundraising success. Belk's department store sponsored a big fundraiser for Altrusa House to celebrate their own grand reopening event. Over the years they also contributed new but unsalable merchandise which contributed handsomely to the success of our signature garage sales.

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Altrusa House is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization. Please contact Nancy Hult at altrusa.calendar@gmail.com for information about planning and placing a commemorative brick for someone you would like to recognize in the Garden and Tribute Book. We will notify recipients so honored or the families of the remembered.



From Former Club Presidents

President Laura Gunter 2020-2021

During the 2020-2021 year the club continued to work with the unknowns of COVID, and we did a great job of adjusting as needed for meetings and events. We started the year still meeting on ZOOM, but by the end of this time frame we were able to move back to in person and started meeting at The Woman's Club.

The Woman's Club of Gainesville was in jeopardy of having to sell or close during this time, and it was decided by our board that meeting there was not only allowing us a place to spread out and social distance but was also providing a service to the community in efforts to save the facility. We continued to offer ZOOM at the meetings and many of our speakers chose to meet with us using that medium. By the end of the term, however, most of our membership was back to meeting in person.

Our Club fundraiser Trading Closets was postponed several times and did not take place during this term. Of the Big Three committees, the only one that held a fundraiser was the Vocational Committee. They held a very successful garage sale raising enough funds to continue supporting their many projects.

The club continued to hold food drives for Bread of the Mighty Food Bank and to support the efforts of Days for Girls. In December 2020, the club had our first in-person meeting at Westside Park as a holiday celebration. We had the event catered as well as desserts and other things provided by several members. Our club had lost a great number of members through the 2020 year and we took time to reflect and remember them. We also, through the efforts of club member Dee Dugger, performed a hands-on project and stuffed reading pillows, sewn by Dee, with a book, small flashlight, bookmark, child-size COVID masks and other useful items. These were donated to Lake Forest Elementary school.

During the term it also became clear that many of our members were struggling with the isolation. We started several things to allow more interactive events for everyone who wanted or needed to participate. We created a 2nd book club which meets through ZOOM, we started a Friday morning coffee chat ZOOM, and we initiated an Altrusa Sister program that encouraged smaller groups to call and chat/check up on each other.

Four Altrusans travelled to Greenville, SC to represent our club as voting delegates to the 68th District Three Conference. Ester Tibbs was recognized for 25 years of membership in Altrusa and our club won 1st place honors in the Ernestine Milner Program Excellence competition. President Dee Dugger and Past International President Donna Johnson were our Delegates to the International Convention in Charlotte, NC where numerous changes were made to the bylaws to accommodate virtual meetings and electronic voting.

Altrusan of the Year was Dee Dugger.

Altrusa House 25 Years continued from page 11

While this frenzy of fundraising was going on, the building of the House began. Architect/Altrusan Susan Davis McCarter both designed and supervised the construction pro bono on land carved out of Greentree Park and donated by the City of Gainesville. Justine and Donna Sorensen were joined early on by Barbara Scott, who was in the leadership of Altrusa at that time and acted as the go-to assistant to everyone. Additionally, Lucia Yu, a CPA and Financial Planner kept track of the finances and the legalities of setting us up as a non-profit organization. Many others contributed their talents and labor, and we were joined by dedicated spouses (nicknamed Altrousers) and other family members to bring our dream to reality. Some of the more dedicated individuals were Linda Henderson and her husband John, Mary Ann Green, Polly Doughty, Norma Hoffman and Emily King. Dick Fry, Scottie Scott, Dick Renner and Lee Johnson were some of our hardworking Altrousers. Lee also served as our Board secretary from the very beginning and for many long years. All of these named are now deceased. Many others too numerous to list were outstanding workers. Lisa Renner and Mitzi Austin served on the first Board and have continued to serve all these many years to the present. We have been fortunate to have many hardworking and talented individuals join us over the years without whom we would not have reached our 25th year anniversary.

We would be remiss if we failed to mention Easter Seals of Florida which has managed the program from the very beginning, and the various directors and staff members who have cared for the many clients for all these many years. Their service has touched and enriched our numerous clients and enabled them to enjoy their lives in a meaningful way. A salute to twenty-five years!

FYI from Board Meetings

Altrusa House January 2024

Director's Report

November and December were good for admission but the VA census is low. The Health Inspector visited and no citations were made. The kitchen is inspected quarterly; the entire facility is inspected annually. Frank Irving was hired as the Activities Assistant and will begin work next week.

Altrusa Liaison Report

Fran recommended Scarborough (Tower Hill) for property insurance and McGriff for liability insurance. Scarborough's property was \$6884.23. McGriff liability insurance was \$1,128.70. The motions carried unanimously.

Facilities, Maintenance and Grounds Committee:

The kitchen preconstruction services cost from the Sterling Builders Group was \$12,425. The cost for the construction is estimated at \$70,000 - \$90,000. It is unknown if the \$12,425 is included in the estimate. Altrusa House has a contract to purchase cabinets, which will be incorporated into the plan.

Fundraising and Marketing:

The Festival of Trees was successful. All 150 tickets were sold, all trees and centerpieces were sold, and most of the wreaths were sold. The event raised \$4,941.23 for Altrusa House.

Garden of Memories:

the committee decided to update the website and use restricted funds to improve the entrance. The Garden Tour is scheduled for Sunday, April 7, 2024 between 1 pm – 3 pm.

President's Report

The board should establish an Archives Committee. Shea Huey volunteered to look at what is currently in the file cabinet. Myra will look for the document that itemizes what the board is legally required to archive.

Next Meeting: February 15, 2024 at 6:00 pm (5:30 for the video reviews)

Altrusa Club January 2024

Two visiting member reports began the meeting:

- Bennye Alligood reported SFC Women of Distinction luncheon will take place on March 26th at 11:30 am. It would be nice to start a tradition of an Altrusa table; 10 people per table; \$40 per person or \$500 per table that includes recognition. Dee Dugger made motion that we donate \$500 for a recognition table at the SFC Women of Distinction luncheon with funds from our savings account. Seconded and approved.
- Myra Morgan reported the Festival of Trees was very successful and our share will be several thousand dollars. Exact amount will be announced when final tabulation is made and check presented.
Note: see info in AH Board minutes above.
- Treasurer's Report (reported by Dee in Tobi's absence); We have \$10,081.19 in our checking account and \$12,504.75 in the savings account.
- 1st VP, Sara Freeborn has checked with Ester Tibbs for ideas for February meeting focused on Black History Month. Dee Dugger suggested historic Black residents who are buried in Evergreen Cemetery for a future program. Sister City program is scheduled for March 14th meeting.
- Information for District Awards is being compiled and will be sent before Jan 31.
- From Cherise (membership): Three potential members were approved: Wafa Berbari, Sharon Bauer and Vilma Fuentes and join our newest member Dr. Bea Awoniyi.
- In absence of Laura (LOA) the Vocational committee is working together on their projects and will find a chair as soon as possible. Need communications committee and director as Laura is on LOA. Dee will look into this and see if Laura can still handle Facebook updating.
- Shea Huey reports that the SFC Displaced Homemakers 40 Year Celebration will be held on March 14th, 5:30- 7:30 pm at SFC. We would like participation in this event.

Next Board Meeting February 27, 5:30 pm via zoom

Altrusa Club Leadership

2023-2024 Altrusa International of Gainesville Board of Directors

President	Carolyn Harrell harrellland@cox.net
1 st Vice President (Programs)	Sara Freeborn svfreeborn@gmail.com
2 nd Vice President (Membership)	Cherise Bartley cklmbart@aol.com
Treasurer	Tobi Doering tobi@rejuvenada.com
Recording Secretary	Debbie Handberg deborahallenhandberg@gmail.com
Immediate Past President	Dee Dugger ladydragonfly54@gmail.com
Director, Projects	Bea Sherouse besh92@cox.net
Director, Fundraisers	Harriet Buxbaum buxbahh@hotmail.com
Director, Communications	Dee Dugger ladydragonfly54@gmail.com
Parliamentarian/Historian	Donna Johnson johnsodc01@gmail.com

Service Committee Chairs

International	Fran Vandiver
Literacy	Ester Tibbs
Vocational	TBD

Contacts for sharing/updating club information:

Carolyn Harrell for Newsletter
 Linda Mealiea for Sunshine
 Donna Johnson for Yearbook/Phone Directory
 Tobi Doering for Group Tally
 Dee Dugger for Facebook and Website
 Bea Sherouse for ASTRA

Foundation Treasurer Marilyn Mitchell m313mitchell@yahoo.com

Altrusa House Board of Trustees

President
 Bennye Alligood
Vice-President
 Fran Vandiver
Treasurer
 Shea Huey
Secretary
 Margaret Fields

AH Board members in addition to officers:

C. Reese Allison, Ex-Officio
 Mitzi Austin
 Wendy Bice
 Dee Dugger
 Sulmarie Duncan
 Sara Freeborn
 Carolyn Harrell
 Ray Jones, Emeritus
 Myra Morgan
 Carrie Parker-Warren
 Lisa Renner
 Barbara Scott
 Marcia Staples
 Joan Suchorski
 Justine Vaughn

Altrusa House Director: Lee Johnson

<https://altrusahouse.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/altrusahouse/>



Click and Connect

Find some time to get comfy by your computer, iPad or phone and click through Altrusa websites and Facebook pages from around our district, across the US, and as far away as New Zealand and India! It's inspiring and fun to see photos and read reports of the many projects and fundraisers going on. It's great way to get ideas and to see Altrusan dedication.

International Facebook and Website and Compass

<https://www.facebook.com/altrusainternationalinc/>

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

The Altrusa



This is international news



Please take a look at all the District Three and International e-mailings you receive as well. They are full of information beyond our club newsletter that inspires our service in Gainesville's Altrusa Club.

District Service Bulletin (DSB) <https://districtthree.altrusa.org/news-events/district-service-bulletins/> (Summer, Fall, Winter, Spring)

District Three Newsletter comes the first of each month to your email inbox.

Be inspired by Altrusa House by visit the website and Facebook:

<https://altrusahouse.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/altrusahouse/>

And, of course there's our Gainesville club

<https://districtthree.altrusa.org/gainesville/>

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Altrusa-Club-of-Gainesville-FL>



Please send Dee your Altrusa related photos and information for weekly posting on our Facebook page.

Then share, comment on and love what you see on our Facebook page.

And please read your monthly newsletter noting dates of all activities, events, and fundraisers.

You will also find all the clickable connections you might need on the last two pages of each newsletter.

You'll be happy to know where some of your dues are going/have gone: <https://foundation.altrusa.org/>

The Altrusa International Foundation Board of Trustees has chosen to support the following non-profits:

UNICEF, World Central Kitchen, Doctors Without Borders, Ukrainian Red Cross.

The Foundation Board has voted to donate \$40,000.00 in Disaster Relief Aid to support Ukraine.

Each of the above non-profits will receive a disaster relief donation of \$10,000.00.

When dues are due

June 1 - 1st Quarter Dues: \$155 which includes:

Local Club = \$75

District Three = \$25 (annually)

International = \$55 (annually)

September 1 - 2nd Quarter \$75

December 1 - 3rd Quarter \$75

March 1 - 4th Quarter \$75

A yearly payment of \$380 on June 1 is appreciated but of course \$75 per quarter is fine if preferred.

Members joining in December through March will pay half (\$40) for District and International dues.

Mail checks to Tobi Doering at Altrusa International of Gainesville, P O Box 358510, Gainesville FL 32635-8510

FLORIDA, GEORGIA, NORTH CAROLINA AND SOUTH CAROLINA



District Three Board of Directors 2023-2024

Governor Dimple Overstreet Starke, FL

Governordimple@gmail.com

Governor-Elect Mantha Young Lake City, FL mantha@macmediaservices.com

*Vice Governor Nancy Shumaker Statesboro, GA nwshumaker@yahoo.com

Treasurer Scott Frieser Charlotte, NC scottfrieser@gmail.com

Director Roberta Klusmeier Orlando-Winter Park, FL gators1307@aol.com

Director Scott Tice Ocala, FL scottaltrusa@gmail.com

Director Anita Ashworth Monticello, FL Manda1944@gmail.com

Secretary Amanda Seyfang Starke, FL aseyfang@gmail.com

Parliamentarian Kitty McElhaney Lake City, FL kittyaltrusa@gmail.com

*Vice Governor, Nancy Shumaker is the director assigned to our club.

Read and enjoy the District Three newsletter, Serving Up Service, each month with Dimple's notes: Governor's Gossip/Spilling the Tea.

2023-2025 Biennium Goals

Submit club strategic plan to Gov Dimple.
Submit at least two (2) articles to the DSB.
Recruit four new members.

District Three Committee Chairs

ASTRA: Kitty McElhaney
Communications: Josie Frieser
District Service Bulletin (DSB): Pat Janke
Finance: Scott Frieser
Leadership: LaShone Surrency
Membership: Rosemary Leake
Service Program Development: Dee Dugger
Webmaster: Susy Meier
Club Revitalization: Gale Trotter
New Club Building: Lucy Montford
Program Coordinators: Susy Meier and Colleen Duris
Bylaws, Resolutions, Recommendations (BRR): Jane Gray

Here are the 23 District Three Altrusa Clubs.

The earliest, Charlotte NC chartered in 1928 and most recent in North GA in 2005, Gainesville was chartered in 1959.

Atlanta, GA; Caldwell County, NC; Charlotte, NC; Citrus County, FL; Gaffney, SC; Gainesville, FL; Gastonia, NC; Lake City, FL; Lake County, FL; Live Oak, FL; Marianna, FL; Monticello, FL; North Georgia, GA; Ocala, FL; Orlando-Winter Park, FL; Raleigh, NC; Salisbury, NC; Spartanburg, SC; St. Augustine, FL; Starke, FL; Statesboro, GA; Tampa Bay, FL; Waynesville, NC

Altrusa International Leadership 2023-2025

President	Linda K. Smith	District Eight, Salina, KS	President@altrusa.org
President Elect	Christine DeVieger	District Six, DeKalb-Sycamore, IL	presidentelect@altrusa.org
Vice President	Kitty McElhaney	District Three, Lake City, FL	vicepresident@altrusa.org
Treasurer	Bettina Schempf	District Twelve, Corvallis, OR	treasurer@altrusa.org
Immediate Past Pres.	Kathy Folley	District Nine, Temple, TX	immediatepastpresident@altrusa.org
Int'l Director	Melinda Aguirre	District Eleven, Anaheim, CA	director1@altrusa.org
Int'l Director	Penny Daughtery	District Eight, Salina, KS	director2@altrusa.org
Int'l Director	Ileana Pachecho Morales	District Fourteen, Cabo Rojo, PR	director3@altrusa.org
Int'l Director	Linda Ring	District One, Central CT	director4@altrusa.org
Foundation Rep	Karen Robinson	District Three, Tampa Bay, FL	kadcbr@gmail.com
Legal Advisor	Pat Woodward, JD	District Two, Fauquier County, VA	legal@altrusa.org
Parliamentarian	Colleen Duris	District Three, Ocala, FL	Parliamentarian@altrusa.org
Executive Director	David Mena	Des Plaines, IL	david@altrusa.org