

THE COMMUNICATOR

WINTER 2024

Post Office Box 4228
Ocala, Florida 34478



Helen McDavid
President
altrusamcdavid@gmail.com

Colleen Duris
Editor
cmdaltrusa@gmail.com

Ocala
districtthree.altrusa.org/ocala
District Three
districtthree.altrusa.org
International
altrusa.org
Facebook
Altrusa International Ocala, Florida

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

"The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written." Melody Beattie

Happy New Year! The first half of our calendar year was productive and rewarding as we made connections in our community. The generosity of our members was evident in the tremendous outpouring of love to our Emeritus members and holiday family. Participating in a Read-In and reinstating Cluster have been highlights of the year for me.

Thank you to all our dedicated Altrusans, but I want to give a special thanks to some members. Mary Cay, thank you for hosting our holiday gathering in your lovely home; Connie for chairing Cluster; Elaine for taking over the fundraising chair position; Colleen and Maclyn for submitting applications for awards at conference; and to the delivery rescuers Elaine and Becky!

We have much to look forward to in 2024! We are gearing up for our one and only fundraiser, Trivia Night. Our plans to create a Book Nook are shaping up. In the spring, we will refurbish another Born Learning Trail and, in June, we will install our 9th Little Free Library.

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The nominating committee is working on our slate of officers for 24-25. If they call you, please consider saying yes. Just know our members want you to succeed and will be there to help.

How will you help our club write the next chapter of service in Marion County?

Helen

Connect



REMAINING CLUB YEAR AT A GLANCE

2024

January 4, Board Meeting—ZOOM

January 11, Club Meeting—Braised Onion

Program— Membership

February 1, Board Meeting—ZOOM

Foundation Board Meeting— ZOOM

February 8, Club Meeting—Braised Onion

Program— Hospice of Marion County

Community Education Liaison D.J. Ryan

March 2—ALTRUSA TRIVIA NIGHT -

Country Club of Ocala

March 7, Board Meeting—ZOOM

March 14, Club Meeting—Braised Onion

Program—Jennifer Hunt Murty

The Ocala Gazette/Ocala Style

April 4, Board Meeting—ZOOM

April 11, Club Meeting—Braised Onion

Program—Beth McCall

Marion County Children's Alliance

Anniversary of Altrusa International 1917-2024

May 2, Board Meeting—ZOOM

Foundation Board Meeting—ZOOM

May 9, Club Meeting—Braised Onion

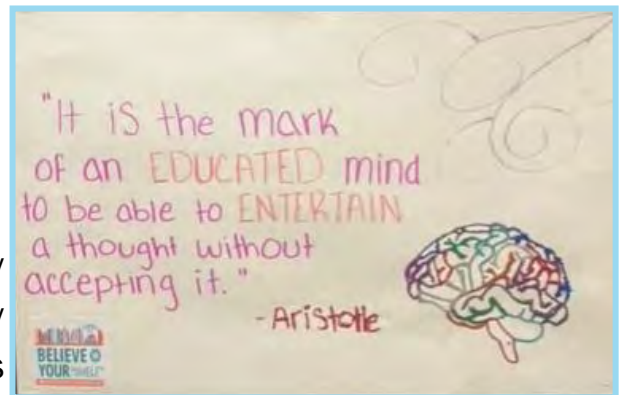
Program—Officer Installation

ASTRA

T. J. Bright



The West Port High School ASTRA club recently participated in a project for “Celebrate Literacy Week Florida”. Club members created posters for the theme “Reading as “shelf” care”.



The Lake Weir High School ASTRA club has been assisting sports teams and providing food, drink and working their concession stands. They also visited a local elementary school during their Fall Literacy Night and supplied coloring bookmarks for them to complete. They have also served the community at the Public Library and an Assisted Living Facility.



Happy New Year! Hope Everyone had a great holiday!

The Service Committee ended 2023 with a month of rewarding service. To begin with, we participated in College Park Elementary's Read In. What a joy it was to see all those eager, smiling faces!

Thank you to our members who helped make a special Christmas for a deserving family of five. We delivered a carload of wrapped gifts. After connecting with the Pay It Forward Outreach Corporation, three twin beds were delivered to the same family. A special thank you to Helen McDavid, Wendy Williams, Elaine Goodelle and Becky Long. (our own Santa helpers) for making that delivery happen.

For two of our Emeritus members residing in different assisted living facilities, we provided gifts of comfort and entertainment.

Finally, we supported Operation Christmas Dinner by providing hams, pies, and gravy for the 52 veterans housed at the Ritz Reserve. Thank you to Kate Fink (our future member) for making this special for the veterans.

But we are not done yet. The new year has many opportunities for service as well.

The Born Learning Trails at Brick City Adventure Park and Liberty Community Park will be refurbished with the assistance of our ASTRA students. (If the weather ever warms up.)

We will be painting and sprucing up a room at the Marion County Foundation. The Book Nook will be used by teachers when they shop at Tools4Teaching. They can relax, have a cup of coffee, and socialize with other teachers.

Our 9th Little Free Library will be installed at Kimberly's Center for Child Protection.



HOLIDAY GIFTS and GOODIES



Games, Puzzles and Word Books for Seniors



Family gifts



Operation Christmas Dinner



PROGRAMS

Holiday Celebration Lunch

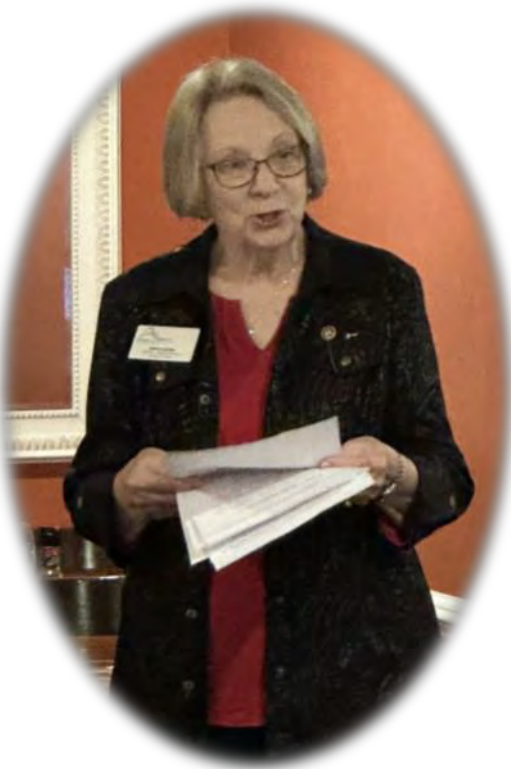


Dress as your favorite holiday character, movie, song, book???

The WINNER—Becky, Mother Parker in “A Christmas Story”



PROGRAMS



Conductor, Gloria James, took us on the Altrusa International Train and created a welcoming journey for all during our Add-an-Altrusan lunch.



PROGRAMS



Nancy Renyhart Center for Dementia Education



LIFEVAC


Offer extended! LifeVac will give \$5 off and donate \$10 of each purchase to the Nancy Renyhart Dementia Education Program.

Saving a life is as simple as
Place • Push • Pull

LifeVac can be used on adults and children in seconds to avert a choking emergency.

Visit: www.lifevac.net
Code: NRCDE

Thank you for ordering LifeVac and supporting the

 Nancy Renyhart Dementia Education Program
(352) 291-5138

DJ Ryan and Lanie Shirley from Hospice of Marion County spoke to us regarding the Nancy Renyhart Center for Dementia Education.

The Center's mission is to help erase the stigma and misunderstanding of dementia by encouraging conversation about the disease, while advancing education and training that leads to compassionate care for individuals struggling with dementia as well as support for caregivers and families.

They offer a Dementia Caregivers Workshop and numerous other resources for our community.

MEMBERSHIP

Cluster



Club

Ocala's "Cluster Club" was started many years ago, as a committee of Altrusa International of Ocala, to address the needs of individuals who wanted to participate in Altrusa, but who were unable to attend our, then, twice a month lunch meetings. The Cluster Club met once a month, in the evening, and consisted both of members who were unable to attend the daytime meetings and "regular" members who wanted to participate beyond our regular meetings.

The Cluster Club met at various venues over the years, including a local restaurant and a member's home, and meetings typically included sharing a meal or snack along with an Altrusa meeting. Cluster Club members would choose a project or projects where they felt they could offer the Club assistance. Projects over the years included reviewing scholarship applications and working on specific tasks for our spring fundraiser.

Cluster Club meetings continued until early 2020, and then were "paused" when COVID changed our world. Our regular meetings became Zoom meetings, and Cluster Club members were more easily able to participate in our regular meetings. When we resumed in-person meetings, we opted not to resume Cluster Club meetings, as most of the members who had been attending the evening meetings were able to join us at lunch time.

In mid-2023, we had several people who were interested in joining Altrusa, but unable to join us at our regular, now once a month, lunch meetings. This was a perfect time to reinstate our Cluster Club! We held our first meeting on November 16, 2023, chaired by member Connie Larsen, with several other members in attendance. Our meetings are held in a community room at a local nursing home, allowing one of our Emeritus members to join us from time to time, as her schedule permits. Our first meeting brought three prospective members, two of whom submitted membership applications on the spot. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2024. We are looking forward to getting into the swing of things, working with our new members through the membership process, and providing service to the Club and community!

WELCOME



New members Jennifer Rappa and Kate Fink, along with their sponsors, Connie Larson, Brenda Ford, Helen McDavid and Val Forster.

Jennifer and Kate are the first newly initiated members via our revived Cluster Club. Jen is an administrative assistant with Equine Medical Center of Ocala and Kate is busy raising her children and has interacted with Altrusa over the years. She is our first “legacy” member: her mother is member Val Forster and she also was a Vanguard ASTRA member.

We are excited to have them both with us!



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Cynthia (Cindy) Van Heyde • 1st

Vice President Trust and Business Development Officer at Southeast Trust...
2mo •

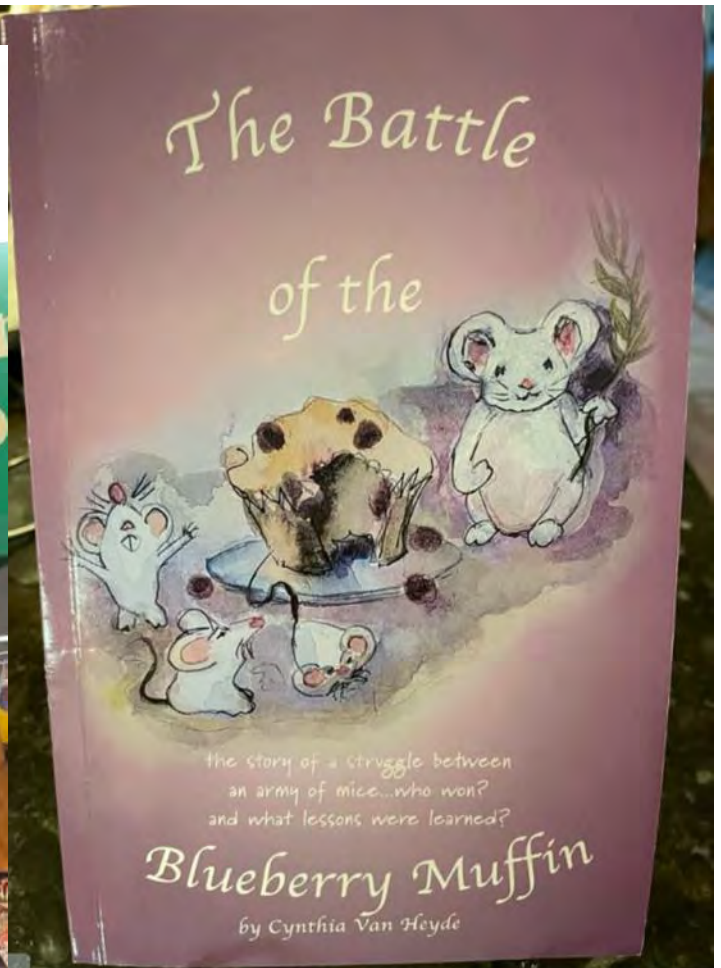
I am excited to share that my book , The Battle of the Blueberry Muffin, won first place in the Children's category of the Paris Book Festival recently! Thanks to my collaborator and friend, Lila Ivey for her wonderful illustrations. My book is available on Amazon for those interested. What fun this journey has become.



Cynthia (Cindy) Van Heyde • 1st

Vice President Trust and Business Development Officer at South...
2mo •

I am happy to share that my book The Battle of the Blueberry Muffin is available at the Ocala Barnes & Noble. So appreciative of B&N's support of local authors.



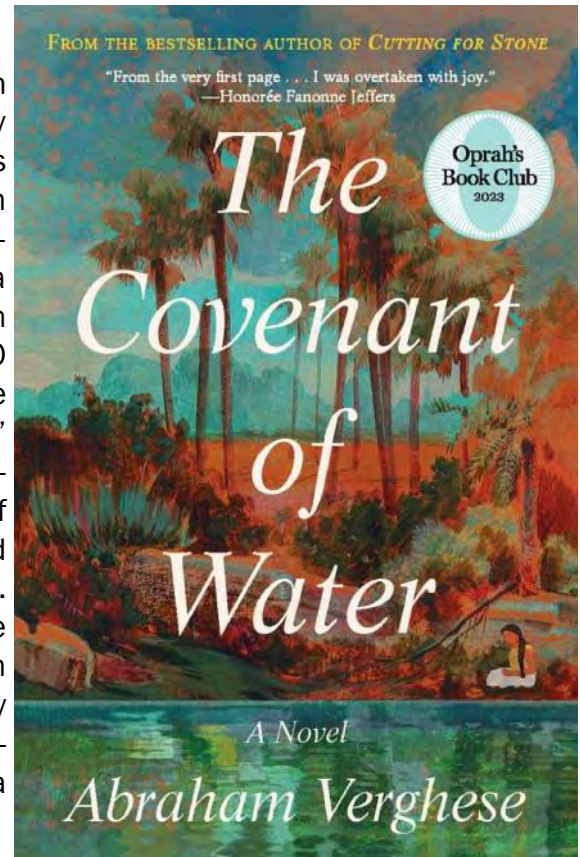
Cindy wrote this story when her son, Alex, was two years old. He loved blueberry muffins. Then in 2016 she had the story copyrighted and started looking for an illustrator, to no avail. As Alex was approaching his 40th birthday (2022) she started looking for an illustrator again and reconnected with Lila Ivey. The book was published on August 24, 2022, two days before her son's birthday! It was a birthday present to Alex.

Reading Highlights

Favorite Books: *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese

Much has been written about *The Covenant of Water* which was lauded by Oprah as “One of the best books I’ve read in my entire life.” As a rule, I’m skeptical of books described as “epic,” an overused adjective used to describe everything from a brilliant sunrise to purposefully mismatched socks as hyperbole runs rampant everywhere we turn. In this case, epic is a perfect description of a beautifully crafted story of a family in Kerala, located in southwestern India, that spans over 70 years and three generations. From the opening sentence, “She was twelve-years old, and she will be married in the morning,” until the end, I was spellbound. Abraham Verghese, a practicing physician and professor at the Stanford University School of Medicine, weaves a tale of love, the strength of motherhood and family, heartbreaking loss, a medical mystery, and faith. Some reviewers have quibbled that the main characters are unrealistically good people, many of the happy events seem contrived, and the societal issues glossed over. Perhaps they have a point but this is not a multi-generational formulaic Hallmark movie-in-print and I’m willing to suspend disbelief for a novel that, after over 700 pages, I didn’t want to end.

Maclyn Walker



Hello Altrusans!

The Lake Altrusa Book Club is very excited to read [Cross Creek, by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings](#) this month. We're even going to hold our book discussion on **Sunday, March 10th at the Yearling Restaurant in Cross Creek.**

We'd like to invite the Ocala and Gainesville club members (and friends) to join us and hope you can share this opportunity with your members:

The Ocala and Gainesville members are responsible for getting their copy of the book

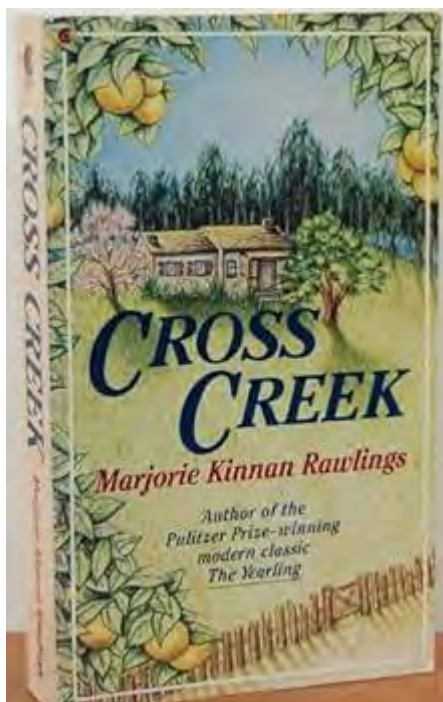
Those who want to come to our book discussion on 3/10 should contact me at napschwartz@gmail.com by **Feb. 10th** so I can make a reservation at the restaurant.

We'll firm up the timing as we get closer but we plan to have lunch and take the tour.

We appreciate your help in spreading the word.

In Altrusa Service,

Nanci Schwartz



Holiday Happenings



Holiday Happenings



**Thank You Mary
Cay!**

Holiday Happenings

Marbled Cheesecake Bars

2 cups finely crushed crème-filled chocolate sandwich cookies (about 20-25 cookies)
3 Tbsp margarine or butter, melted
3 8-oz packages cream cheese, softened
1 14-oz can Eagle Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk (not evaporated milk)
3 eggs
2 tsp vanilla extract
2 1-oz squares unsweetened chocolate, melted (I used 85% dark chocolate since that's what I had on hand)

Preheat oven to 300. Combine crumbs and butter; press firmly in bottom of 13" x 9" baking pan. In large mixer bowl, beat cheese until fluffy. Gradually beat in sweetened condensed milk until smooth. Add eggs and vanilla; mix well. Pour half the batter evenly over prepared crust. Stir melted chocolate into remaining batter; spoon over vanilla batter. With knife or metal spatula, swirl through batter to marble. Bake 45 to 50 minutes or until set. Cool. Chill. Cut into bars. Store covered in refrigerator.

The recipe is from Simply Sensational Desserts with Eagle Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk & California Walnuts (a booklet I probably picked up at a grocery store or received by mail order in the 90s)

Wendy Williams



Christmas Drink

Crushed candy canes or peppermints

Marshmallow Cream

Whipped Cream Vodka

Cranberry Juice

Place a dollop of marshmallow cream on a plate and roll the rim of your cup (I used clear punch cups) around in the cream

Next roll the cup rim in the crushed peppermints allowing the peppermints to stick to the marshmallow cream

Fill your cup with crushed ice, then a mixture of the vodka and cranberry juice. Enjoy!

Becky Long



**Altrusa International
President
Linda Smith,
Salina, Kansas**

What a great first half of this Altrusa year! I have enjoyed seeing all of the great projects our clubs are doing and sharing on social media. You all are truly making a major impact in your communities. I am very excited about how many of you have embraced the Kindness Challenge. I want to especially give a shout out to Altrusa International of The West Valley, AZ., who has chosen a theme for each week and encourages their members to do an intentional act of kindness that fits the theme. What a great idea!

It is gratifying to see our clubs continuing with our book challenge. Hardly a day goes by that I don't see a Facebook post about a club donating books. You all are amazing in the difference you are making in literacy in your communities. Membership continues to be prominent in our clubs. Many clubs have shared photos of the new members being initiated. Did you set a goal for the year for new members? Have you re-evaluated to see if you are meeting the goal. This is a great time to bring in new members since we are in the half price dues months.

Charter ceremonies were held recently for two clubs in District Eleven - Altrusa International of Coachella Valley and Altrusa International of Southern CA Virtual Club. During the virtual charter ceremony of the virtual club, we welcomed new members from Mexico in addition to California. Both clubs are off to very strong starts with great projects. On December 11, Altrusa International of North East Texas (District Nine) was chartered. Their official charter ceremony will be February 3. We still have several additional clubs in formation and we look forward to them reaching charter strength soon.



I am excited to see what our clubs will accomplish in 2024! Happy New Year!

Let's all Continue to R.O.C.K. – Realize Opportunities, Create Kindness! Did you know that Saturday, February 17, 2024 is Random Acts of Kindness Day and that February 13-19 is "Kindness Week." Let's see what our clubs can plan to make a difference in your communities during that week. Any kindness act no matter how large or small will make a difference for someone.

Let's R.O.C.K.!

**2025 International Convention
Quebec City, Quebec, Canada**



District Governor

Dimple Overstreet, Starke, Florida



One event we celebrate in February is Valentine's Day. February has been known for centuries as a month of Love and Laughter. Let's add kindness by celebrating affection, friendship and admiration for others. Altrusa International President Linda Smith is asking each Altrusan to commit one Intentional Act of Kindness each week of the biennium. One of the easiest ways to show kindness is by being present, physically and mentally. Put your phone, and give people your full attention when you're with them. Make eye contact and share the gift of a smile. An act of kindness is just as rewarding for the provider as it is for the recipient.

To every club that submitted award applications by January 31 st , Thank you!! Altrusan's continue to make a positive difference, day in and day out, in the lives of others. If you were unable to submit an award, now is the time to plan for the next year. The Governor's Outstanding Club Award is due February 28 th . Clubs will be electing; electing their Conference Delegates and Alternates, Nominating Committees will be presenting their new slate of officer candidates and club treasurers will be submitting Conference and Delegate Fees due on the 15 th to our District Treasurer Scott Frieser.

Believing in people before they have proved themselves is the key to motivating people to reach their potential.

Serving Up Service,
Dimple



2024 District Three Conference

April 25-27, 2024

**Atlanta Marriott Buckhead Hotel and Conference Center
Atlanta , Georgia**

Altrusa Accent



Plans are afoot for a stellar event to be held at The Atlanta Marriott Buckhead Hotel and Convention Center on April 25-27, 2024 – The 71st Annual Altrusa District Three Conference!

Once the home of the Cherokee and Creek Indians, farmers, hunters, traders, warriors, and Elton John, Buckhead is now the land of mansions and malls, high-rise skylines, museums and 15 streets that include the name "Peachtree." It is where you will find the Atlanta History Center and Swan House, Governor's Mansion, and Atlanta's largest park, Chastain Memorial Park. And it is the place Altrusan stars will be shining.... beginning with the Thursday evening Welcome Reception at the Bucket Shop Café, steps away from the hotel, and ending with an out-of-this-world Governor's Banquet on Saturday evening.

At this Conference we are especially pleased to be able to shine a light on two leaders in their fields, both of whom call Atlanta their home: Kantrice R. Rose, PhD, Executive Director of Altrusa International Foundation, and Kent Julian, speaker, writer, and consultant on what he calls "DREAM-to-DO" culture.

You spoke, we listened...One of the comments from the survey last year was that members wanted more time to socialize. Our Friday fun night will be geared around an evening of fun and fellowship. We have replaced our Intergalactic ball with an evening of fun and games. Stay tuned for more details.

This is a conference you will not want to miss, filled with informative meetings and workshops and the always-present opportunity to interact with our sisters and brothers from around our District.

If you are interested in helping at conference (expeditors, voting assistants, registration, etc.) please contact Colleen Duris at cmdaltrusa@gmail.com



Board Briefings and Club Meeting Minutes

- Discussions regarding Christmas family donations, holiday party.
- Finalized plans for Add-an-Altrusan day.
- Follow up regarding Cluster Club and new members.
- Approved new members Kate Fink and Jennifer Rappa.
- Discussions regarding nominating committee. Conference delegates and alternates.

Altrusa International of Ocala, Inc. Business Meeting Minutes November 9, 2023

The meeting was held at Braised Onion.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m. by President Helen McDavid.

The Altrusa Grace and Pledge of Allegiance were recited.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Helen introduced Meghan Magamoli, Executive Director of the Public Education Foundation, and Patricia Stanley, teacher at North Marion Middle School and Grants for Great Ideas recipient. Meghan reviewed three programs that Altrusa supports:

- **Tools 4 Teaching** – a free resource store where teachers can get classroom supplies monthly. The store includes the Juanita Cunningham Corner with books. A Teacher Nook will soon be added where teachers can take time for coffee, conversation, and collaboration.
- **Teacher to Be** – a scholarship program for current non-instructional Marion County Public School employees to become certified educators. Five scholarships have been awarded this semester for a total of twelve new recipients.
- **Grants for Great Ideas** – teachers submit proposals that support one or more of these categories:
 - Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) Education
 - Career and Technical Education
 - Literacy
 - Improving graduation rates
 - Assisting low-performing students
 - Supporting students in need

This year's proposals were due in October, and the Foundation received \$130,000 in proposals to review.

Patricia shared details about her Monsters on a Mission program that was supported by funding from Altrusa. Patricia teaches middle school language arts, reading, and math students with emotional and behavioral disorders. Her class partners with three classrooms at Anthony Elementary School with non-verbal autistic students. The elementary students draw a monster and the middle school students turn that drawing into a "monster reading buddy" pillow. The pillows are returned to the elementary students for them to adopt and teach to read. The middle school students gain empathy and compassion, sewing skills, and life-skills such as budgeting and finding sales (the students own all aspects of the project, including determining and shopping for needed supplies). The elementary school students learn to face monster challenges and gain confidence in their reading skills.

Altrusa presented a check to the Foundation, and Megan announced that Patricia's Monsters on a Mission program would continue to be funded!

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The October Business Meeting minutes were approved as presented.

CORRESPONDENCE – Elaine Goodelle: Received a bill from Dr. Lentsch, fundraising checks, and the Interfaith newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Scott Tice: Quarterly lunch invoices have been sent out.

AL T. BUSA – Frances Ferguson: An additional \$15 was added to the balance.

RAFFLE: This month's raffle prize was donated by Connie Larsen. Guest Roberta Kusmeier won.

PROGRAM: Roberta Kusmeier, District Three Director, joined us from the Orlando-Winter Park club. She praised Altrusa International of Ocala for being an awesome, model club. Roberta shared information from the district as well as ideas for recruiting members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ASTRA – TJ Bright: Westport High School club has submitted 14 of 15 applications needed for charter. Neither club responded to invitations to assist with diaper wrapping on November 11.

Care – Angie Dansby: Cards that were being passed at the meeting will be mailed. TJ's husband fell, but TJ did not have any care needs.

Fundraising – Elaine Goodelle:

- Received sponsorship forms and checks.
- Our Trivia Night banner will be displayed February 19-26 on the west side. Elaine is following up with the application and printer. The event date needs to be changed and the phone number replaced with email address.
- Needs basket ideas for Trivia Night – TJ and Karen will be providing an Eats & Treats basket with gift cards.

Membership – Frances Ferguson:

- Holiday Party is Friday, December 8 at 5:30 p.m. at Mary Cay's. Spouses/significant others are invited. Passed sign-up sheet for food. List will also be emailed.
- For our December regular business meeting, dress as your favorite Christmas song, character, or movie for a possible prize. Colleen, Helen, and Angie will provide the raffle gifts, so bring money for tickets.
- Frances is making plans for the club to visit Nancy after the holidays.
- Val's daughter Kate is applying to join Cluster Club.

Newsletter – Colleen Duris: Newsletter deadline for submissions has been changed to November 11.

Program – Colleen Duris: December's program will be the holiday party.

Service – Debbie Catabia and Wendy Williams:

- College Park Elementary School Read-in on Wednesday, December 6. Sign-ups are still welcome.
- Make a Difference Day activity is Saturday, November 11 at 9 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County (ELCMC) to package diapers.
- Over 1,782 diapers have been collected.
- We are providing the hams for Kate Fink's holiday dinner with the veterans at the Ritz Veterans Village.
- Wendy has reached out to Kimberly's Center for our next Little Free Library location.
- We will look at reworking how the Christmas family wish list forms are sent out to alleviate multiple emails. Maria will provide information about a sign-up program that may work.

- We will also collect donations for nursing home baskets. Items for both the nursing home baskets and Christmas family will be due at the December meeting.
- After the New Year, we will schedule a date to refresh the Born Learning Trail at Brick City Park and to paint the Book Nook at the Public Education Foundation.

Web/Social Media – Helen McDavid: Everything is beautiful.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Reinstating Cluster – Connie Larsen: First meeting will be Thursday, November 16 at 6 p.m. Connie will provide snacks. There will possibly be two new members.
- Holiday Party – see notes above in Membership Committee Report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- District Three Awards – Helen McDavid: Maclyn, Colleen, Debbie, and Helen will work on Mamie Bass Award. Foundation will work on the Letha Brown Award. Colleen and Helen will work on the Program Award.

HAPPY BUCKS:

- Connie's daughter got engaged, and they like him!
- Mary Cay's new paralegal gave her notice, but a new hire is starting November 27. She is happy to be hosting the Holiday Party – it will be the first of four. Her son's girlfriend broke up with him. And Mary Cay was happy to be wearing a turkey pin for the underrepresented jewelry holiday, Thanksgiving.
- Cindy's book, "The Battle of the Blueberry Muffin," is on trial at Barnes & Noble for 30 days.
- Angie's son passed his paramedic certification and got engaged. They now have two weddings to plan, fortunately, they are scheduled a year apart.

REMINDERS:

- Track your volunteer hours
- Trivia Night is March 2, 2024; sponsorship deadline is January 31, 2024
- Newsletter deadline is November 11
- Diaper Wrapping is November 11 at 9 a.m. at ELCMC
- College Park Read-in is December 6; arrive between 7-7:45 a.m. and bring drivers license
- Cluster meets November 16 at 6 p.m. at Brookdale Chamber, 1801 SE 24th Rd. in the Shade Tree Private Dining Room
- Web addresses for Altrusa International, District Three, and Ocala

BIRTHDAYS: Jane Fontaine – November 5, Frances Ferguson – November 11, Maclyn Walker – November 20, and Brenda Ford – November 25

The Benediction was recited, and the meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Cathy Ackerman, Diane Barreneau, TJ Bright, Debbie Catabia, Angie Dansby, Colleen Duris, Karen Elliott, Frances Ferguson, Elaine Goodelle, Gloria James, Maria Kusmierz, Mary Cay Landt, Connie Larsen, Helen McDavid, Ann McKenzie, Scott Tice, Cindy Van Heyde, Maclyn Walker, and Wendy Williams

Minutes of the Altrusa Business Meeting
December 14, 2023, at Braised Onion

CALL TO ORDER: at 12:07 PM by President Helen McDavid

ALTRUSA GRACE - recited by the Club. For this food before us spread, for our steps in safety led, for thy favor on our way, Lord accept our thanks today

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - recited by Club

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS – none

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – Approved as submitted

CORRESPONDENCE- ELAINE GOODELLE – Received the following:

- A thank you note from Roberta Kusmeier District Three Director for the book donated in her name to our Library
- A thank you note from Carrie Theall the CEO of the Early Learning Coalition for all we did and do with the Born Learning Trails, the help with the diaper drive and providing gifts for Families in need at Christmas
- A letter from College of Central Florida Foundation concerning Scholarships. A thank you and the annual report update. The Thelma Parker Endowed Memorial Scholarship. Private gifts of \$12,500. Ending balance as of August 31, 2023 is \$15,379. Altrusa Endowed Scholarship Fund. The total funds balance received as of 1/1/2006 was \$30,174. Ending Fund balance as of August 31, 2023 is \$42,507.
- The Interfaith Emergency Services Newsletter
- A thank you note from Martha Cromwell, Secretary of the Friends of the Ocala Public Library for the \$200.00 donation.
- Dues which were passed on to Scott

TREASURER REPORT – SCOTT. Three member haven't paid their dues, email statements were sent out

AL T. RUSA - Frances \$155.43

1

Service - DEBBIE CATABIA/Wendy

- We had around 10 members at the College Park read-in on December 6, 2023. Helen suggested we join Read-in's already organized, which would allow more opportunities for us to participate in reading events.
- Our Christmas family in need; delivery of gifts will be this afternoon at 4:00. Helen and Wendy have the gifts. We are going to pick up the beds and furniture from Pay It Forward next week due to the possibility of rain today. There is a \$40.00 fee to get donations from Pay It Forward. We will use money from AL T. We will need trucks for 3 twin beds and 2 queens and box springs. Elaine will try to get her son and husband's trucks, Becky has a smaller truck.
- Hams will be delivered on December 23rd to Kate at the Veteran's transition housing at the Ritz

WEB/SOCIAL MEDIA - HELEN MCDAVID-

- Colleen posted a picture from our Christmas party

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Helen thanked Mary Cay for hosting our Christmas party and also thanked Frances for all that she and Mary Cay did for a great party.

NEW BUSINESS:

- President Helen asked our opinion on the Giftster app she used this year for the Christmas family gift list. The app allows everyone to see the list of gifts needed and when items are purchased. This cuts down on multiple emails every time something is purchased. It's a lot easier to see everything in one place and it is updated as purchases are made. The general opinion was positive and everyone was happy with continuing to use this moving forward.

HAPPY BUCKS:

- Mary Cay shared
- REMINDERS:
 - Track Volunteer hours- www.trackitforward.com/site/altrusa International-ocala-fl
 - Board Meetings via Zoom @ Noon First Thursday of the month
 - Business Meeting January 11, 2024, @ Braised Onion
 - Trivia Night- March 2, 2024, Ocala Country Club

3

RAFFLE - Donated by Frances and Colleen. Won by Ann McKenzie, Elaine Goodelle, Karen Elliott.

PROGRAM: Our Holiday party with members dressing up as their favorite Christmas song, movie or character etc. Becky Long won the prize for her portrayal of the mother from the movie A Christmas Story. She accessorized with a leg lamp and a tumbler labeled with "It's a Major Award". Others were Colleen as White Christmas dressed in all white. She referenced the movie and song both. Wendy wore a red striped apron for her love of Holiday baking and eating. Frances wore a Christmas sweater of a wrapped Christmas present. Scott wore a very festive holiday Santa shirt.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ASTRA - T J BRIGHT. Nothing new to report

BUDGET - SCOTT/CONNIE. Nothing to report

CARE - ANGIE DANSBY- Cards were sent to Juanita Cunningham, Val Forster and Nancy Jones for thinking of you. Debbie Catabia's son in law is not doing well. He had surgery last week and it wasn't as bad as they expected. They replaced all the metal that is contributing to his infection. Amputation is no longer a concern. Debbie is helping to care for her grandchildren

CLUSTER CLUB: The first meeting was on November 16, 2023 at Chambrel Brookdale Pinecastle. There were 8 attendees with 3 potential new members. Two have already filled out applications. Members will rotate bring snacks each meeting and everyone will bring their own drinks. No meeting in December due to the holidays. January meeting will be January 18, 2024 at 6:00pm

FOUNDATION - MARY CAY LANDT- No report

FUNDRAISER - MIRANDA BARRINEAU. Elaine reminded us March 2, 2024 is our Trivia Night with Times of Your Life at the Country Club of Ocala. Deadline for Sponsorship forms is January 31, 2024.

MEMBERSHIP FRANCES FERGUSON. We are always looking for new members. Names and addresses should be sent to Frances. Also Cluster meetings are available if evenings are needed

NEWSLETTER - COLLEEN DURIS. The next issue will be in January

PROGRAM: For January, will be membership related and February will be given by Hospice

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- Trivia Night Sponsorship deadline- January 31, 2024
- Cluster meets January 18, 2024, 6:00 pm, Brookdale Chambrel, 1801 SE 24th Road

WEB ADDRESSES:

International: altrusa.org
District Three: districtthree.altrusa.org Ocala:
districtthree.altrusa.org/Ocala/

BENEDICTION: Recited by the club. May we go forth with high ideals to greet our fellow man, be true to all Altrusa aims until we meet again.

ADJOURN – 12:45 PM

May BIRTHDAYS – July 5th -Nancy Jones
July 17th - Angie Dansby
July 28th - Colleen Duris

ATTENDANCE – Cathy Ackerman, Diane Barrineau, Colleen Duris, Karen Elliott, Frances Ferguson, Elaine Goodelle, Gloria James, Mary Cay Landt, Connie Larsen, Becky Long, Helen McDavid, Ann McKenzie, Scott Tice, Wendy Williams for a total of 15 members.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Long, Club Secretary

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**Minutes of the Altrusa Business Meeting
January 11, 2024 at Braised Onion**

CALL TO ORDER: at 12:09 PM by President Helen McDavid

ALTRUSA GRACE - recited by the Club. For this food before us spread, for our steps in safety led, for thy favor on our way, Lord accept our thanks today

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - recited by Club

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS – Carol Alvey by Colleen and Jan Raym by Helen

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – Approved as submitted

CORRESPONDENCE- ELAINE GOODELLE – Received the following:

- A thank you note from Kate and Lynn from the Veteran's transition housing at the Ritz, thanking us for supporting the Christmas dinner provided for 50 Veterans. We donated several hams for the dinner.
- Volunteers of America Newsletter
- Invoice from Dr. Matthew Lentsch, Optometrist for eye glasses

TREASURER REPORT – SCOTT. All members have paid their dues, email statements were sent out for the next quarterly lunches

AL T. RUSA - Frances \$116.00

RAFFLE - Donated by Becky Long. Won by TJ Bright

PROGRAM: Add an Altrusan-Gloria James gave an entertaining program of the Altrusa history by way of a train.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ASTRA- T J BRIGHT. She has been in touch with West Port informing them of the upcoming projects including our redo of the Born Learning Trail at Brick City Park

BUDGET –SCOTT/CONNIE. Nothing to report

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- If you have any pictures, send them to Helen

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- District Awards are due January 31, 2024 and everyone should be working on them

NEW BUSINESS:

- For meals at our meetings, we are paying \$22.00 per meal with the exception of Fish and Chips and Meatloaf are \$23.00. This does not include drinks, which are \$3.25. There are items on the menu that are between \$16-18.00. The majority felt we could eliminate the Fish and Chips and Meatloaf and all drink water.
- Nominating Committee is Mary Cay, Scott, Debbie and Maclyn

HAPPY BUCKS:

- Mary Cay shared how happy she was to host the Christmas party and also reported she again needs another Paralegal
- TJ shared a thank you for everyone who stepped in and helped while she was unable to leave her husband
- Cindy shared her son and daughter in law is moving to Winter Park and she has been invited to help. She is very happy to be invited to help
- Ann has finished all of her dental procedures at the University of Florida Dental School. And she was able to spend time with one of her 1st graders who now has children of her own
- Wendy reported the screening of the documentary of "No Small Matter." The free screening is Jan. 30 at the Library Headquarters. It's "The first feature documentary to explore the most overlooked, underestimated, and powerful force for change in America today: Early Childhood Education." Also, Wendy's in-laws are divorced and living an hour apart but both have been hospitalized. Her Mother-in-law is in Hospice Palliative care and her father-in-law fell and broke his neck.
- Maria shared her daughter made the Deans List at the University of Kentucky despite having some health problems
- Janet shared her daughter is going back to where they were married with their 2-year-old twins and their dog

REMINDERS:

- Track Volunteer hours- www.trackitforward.com/site/altrusa International-Ocala-FL
- Board Meetings via Zoom @ Noon First Thursday of the month
- Business Meeting February 8, 2024 at noon at the Braised Onion
- Trivia Night- March 2, 2024, Ocala Country Club

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CARE - ANGIE DANSBY- Cards were sent to Juanita Cunningham, Val Forster and Nancy Jones for thinking of you. Another card was sent to Miranda as her father passed away. She is not in need of anything currently. Debbie Catabia's son in law continues to be treated for the leg infection and Debbie continues helping with her grandchildren.

CLUSTER CLUB: CONNIE LARSON - The second meeting will be January 18, 2024 at 6:00 at Chambrel Brookdale Pinestate. No meeting was held in December due to the holidays.

FOUNDATION - MARY CAY LANDT- No report but we do have money

FUNDRAISER – ELAINE GOODELLE- Elaine reminded us March 2, 2024 is our Trivia Night with Times of Your Life DJ at the Country Club of Ocala. Deadline for Sponsorship forms is January 31, 2024.

MEMBERSHIP FRANCES FERGUSON. Frances thanked Gloria for her program.

NEWSLETTER – COLLEEN DURIS. The next issue will be in February. The deadline is February 2, 2024. She needs information from Committee Chairs.

PROGRAM- February's program will be given by Hospice

Service - DEBBIE CATABIA /Wendy- Debbie explained to our Guests some of our Service Projects

- We purchase books for the Juanita Shelf at Tools for Teachers
- We provide Scholarships for the Public Education Foundation of Marion County for the Teacher To Be and also for graduating seniors in Marion County
- We provide Born Learning Trails around our county. We will be refurbishing one in the Spring
- We provide eyeglasses through Nancy Jones Eyeglasses to See for students who can't afford them
- We purchase hams for Christmas dinner for Veteran's at transition housing at the Ritz
- We provide Little Free Libraries around our county
- For Make a Difference Day we donated 2000 diapers for the Early Learning Coalition and repackaged 6000 diapers in bundles of 25
- We adopt a family in need for Christmas
- We participated in the Read-In at College Park Elementary School
- We sponsor a child's education in Uganda

WEB/SOCIAL MEDIA - HELEN MCDAVID-

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- Trivia Night Sponsorship deadline- January 31, 2024
- Cluster meets January 18, 2024, 6:00 pm, Brookdale Chambrel, 1801 SE 24th Road
- District Awards due January 31, 2024
- 2024 District Three Conference April 25-27, 2024, Atlanta Marriott Buckhead Hotel and Conference Center

WEB ADDRESSES:

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BENEDICTION: Recited by the club. May we go forth with high ideals to greet our fellow man, be true to all Altrusa aims until we meet again.

ADJOURN – 1:16 PM

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS – 19th Wendy Williams

ATTENDANCE – Janet Behnke, TJ Bright, Debbie Catabia, Angie Dansby, Colleen Duris, Frances Ferguson, Brenda Ford, Elaine Goodelle, Gloria James, Maria Kusmierz, Mary Cay Landt, Connie Larsen, Becky Long, Helen McDavid, Ann McKenzie, Scott Tice, Cindy VanHeyde, Maclyn Walker, and Wendy Williams for a total of 18 members and 2 Guests, Carol Alvey and Jan Raym

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Long, Club Secretary

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