

# THE COMMUNICATOR

## SPRING 2024

### MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

*“Some endings are not bad; sometimes they are not even endings, just bridges to new beginnings.”* Thought Catalog

My year as your president has been so incredibly rewarding. We have accomplished many wonderful things.

We collected tissues, leggings, diapers, and jigsaw puzzles. We welcomed a returning member, and three new members. We repainted two Born Learning Trails and a relaxing room for teachers. We participated in a Read-In, repackaged diapers, purchased gifts for a deserving family and hams for veterans. Juanita’s Shelf was kept full of quality books and we supported the Teacher to Be scholarship program. Our biggest event, Trivia Night, was a huge success. Cluster Club was reinstated and ASTRA was very active.

As your president, I felt the support of the entire club and knew each of you wanted me/us to succeed. Our members are kind, helpful, supporting, and understanding. With a pat on the back, a phone call, a text, or an email, the members were my biggest cheerleaders. Without a doubt, I knew you had my back. When you are asked to serve as an officer or chairperson, please know that the club will do that for you, too!

The recent installation of officers had us all up, out of our seats, laughing, dancing, and blowing bubbles! It was fabulous!! This installation was the perfect bridge to a new beginning with your next president, Colleen Duris.

Thank each and everyone of you for helping me.

*Helen*

Post Office Box 4228  
Ocala, Florida 34478



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President

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District Three

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

International

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

Facebook

Altrusa International Ocala, Florida

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# FUTURE CLUB YEAR AT A GLANCE

**2024**

June 6, Board Meeting—ZOOM

June 13, Club Meeting—Braised Onion

*Program— Michelle Cino & Zayda*

*Hallam: Launching Literacy Initiatives  
for Marion County*

July, Board Meeting—ZOOM

July 11, Club Meeting—Braised Onion

*Program—Leona Hunt*

*Brick City Reading Clinic*

August 1, Board Meeting—ZOOM

Foundation Board Meeting-ZOOM

August 8, Club Meeting—Braised Onion

*Program—Jennifer Radder*

*Created Gainesville*

September 5, Board Meeting—ZOOM

September 12, Club Meeting—Braised Onion

*Program—TBD*

October 3, Board Meeting—ZOOM

October 10, Club Meeting—Braised Onion

November 7, Board Meeting—ZOOM

November 14, Club Meeting—Braised Onion

December 5, Board Meeting—ZOOM

December 12, Club Meeting—Braised Onion

**ASTRA**

**T. J. Bright**



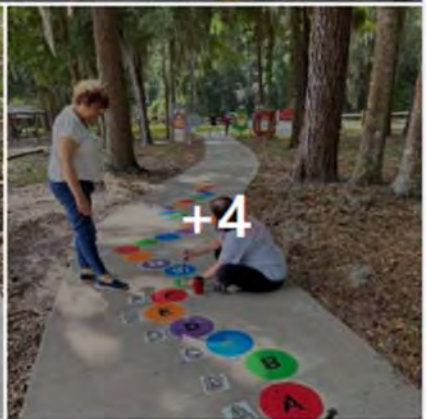
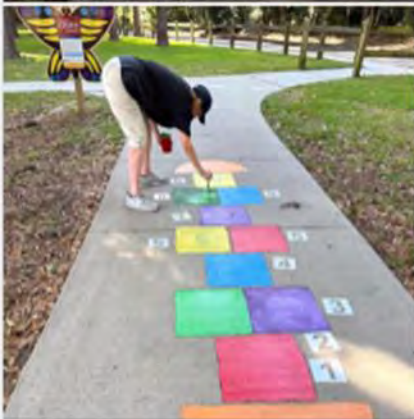
The West Port High School ASTRA club participated in numerous projects this past school year and shared pictures with us. We are grateful for all their efforts.



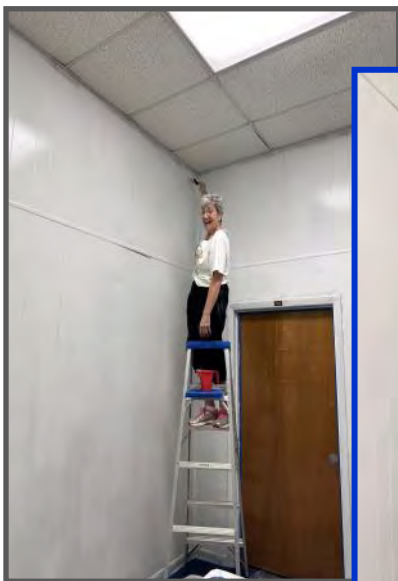
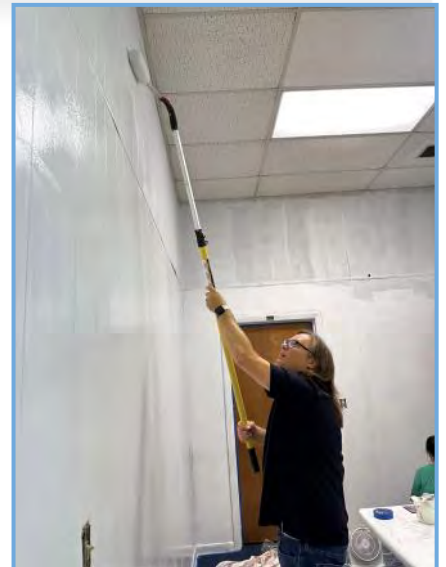


Altrusa International Ocala, Florida

We refurbished the Born Learning Trail at Brick City Adventure Park. It was a beautiful day to be outside! Thank you to all our painters: Debbie Catabia and her daughter Nicole and grands, [Connie Larsen](#), [TJ Bright](#), and [Susan](#) from the [Early Learning Coalition of Marion County Inc.](#)



# TOOLS 4 TEACHING BOOK NOOK



# Public Education Foundation—Teachers To Be



Public Education Foundation of Marion County

3 days ago · 🌐



Altrusa International Ocala, Florida continues to support our Foundation and the students and teachers we serve! Their generosity will help grow our own educators through our Teacher To Be Scholarship program. Thank you Altrusa members for leading to a better community!



## PROGRAMS



**Jennifer Hunt Murty, Publisher/Owner/ Journalist, spoke to us about the Ocala Gazette and the manner in which the newspaper obtains their information and the challenges to the news industry these days.**

**OCALA** **gazette**

<https://www.ocalagazette.com/>

**Carrie Theall, CEO of the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County spoke to us about their partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.**

<https://www.elc-marion.org/>



**Early Learning  
Coalition  
of Marion County, Inc.**



# PROGRAMS

Officer Installation by  
Maclyn Walker, Elaine  
Goodelle and T.J.  
Bright....

Made quite the splash!



TRIVIA NIGHT

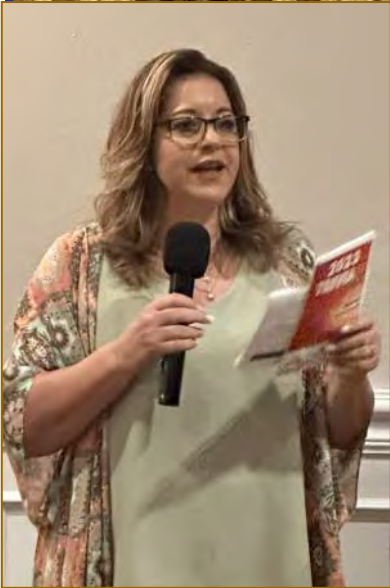
# TRIVIA night





TRIVIA NIGHT

# TRIVIA night



Thank you to Elaine and the Committee!!!



# TRIVIA NIGHT



Altrusa International Ocala, Florida



Helen Moore McDavid

Admin · March 26 · 🌐

Gloria Whaley James and I had the privilege of delivering the checks to the schools that were selected by the Trivia Night winners! First place (\$300) went to Redeemer Christian School, second place (\$200) went to Harbour View Elementary, and third place (\$100) went to East Marion Elementary. (Schools and school personnel are named under the photo.)



...[0]=AZW7MCIKA...

# IN MEMORIUM



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## Nancy Ferguson Jones July 5, 1938—May 18, 2024

Nancy Ferguson Jones was born July 5, 1938 in Ocala, Florida and passed away on May 18, 2024. Nancy is survived by her husband of 63 years, Harold B. Jones II. She is also survived by two sisters, Effie O'Day, Martha Jean Barber (Winston) and a brother, Vance Ferguson, Jr. (Gwen). She is also survived by four generations of cousins, nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, William Vance Ferguson, Sr. and Chloe Old Ferguson.

Nancy attended Anthony High School and graduated as Valedictorian in 1956. She attended Florida Christian College in Temple Terrace, Florida. Upon returning to Ocala, She began working at the Credit Bureau of Ocala where she later became the Executive Manager of the Marion and Citrus County Offices until their closing. She then worked for JB Fontaine and Associates until her health forced her to retire.

Although Nancy and Harold were never blessed with children of their own, she totally enjoyed helping raise everyone else's children. She was known as "Aunt Nancy" to this vast group of children and loved each one as her own.

As a forty-four year member of Altrusa International, Inc., one of Nancy's greatest joys was to provide books for children to read and to participate in reading the books to children in many schools throughout Marion County over the years.

Nancy accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior in her late teens and was baptized. She has been a life member of the Church of Christ and is currently a member of the Anthony Church of Christ.

In lieu of flowers, it was Nancy's wish that donations be made to Altrusa International, Inc, at PO Box 4228, Ocala, Florida 34478, Anthony Church of Christ, PO Box 637, Anthony, Florida 32617 or a charity of your choice.



## Reading Recommendation

A LAND REMEMBERED is a must read! On these pages, one will see the real beauty of Florida through the eyes of the MacIvey family. As a fourth-generation Floridian, I can hear my Grandmothers' voices as Patrick Smith brings to life the beauty of the rugged land, the weather, the people, the hardships of three generations of the MacIvey family. This novel is based on historical events and places – it could be the roots of every native Floridian!

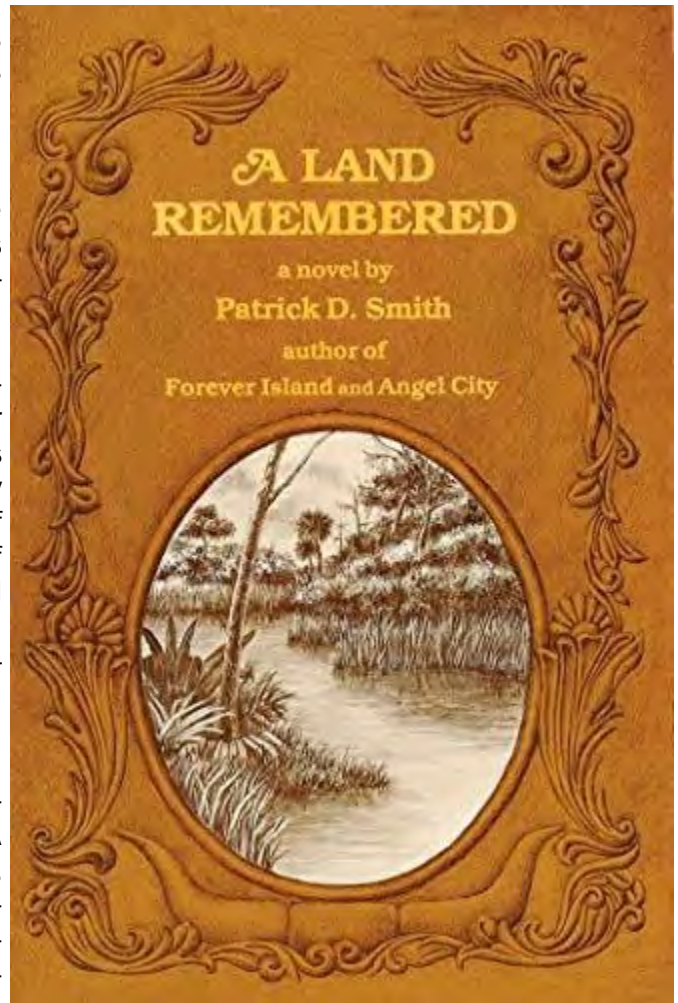
In 1968 wealthy, real estate tycoon Solomon “Sol” MacIvey returns to live his last days in the cabin his dirt-poor grandfather and grandmother built. Sol’s mind goes back to pre-Civil War, when Tobias and Emma MacIvey came from Georgia by horse-drawn wagon with a sack of corn and a sack of sweet potatoes, a few packets of seeds, a shotgun and a few shells, a frying pan, several pewter dishes and forks, and a cast-iron pot. Tobias and Emma and their son, Zechariah “Zech” – first and second generation – live off the land and become rich in cattle and citrus.

Page after page Patrick Smith brings to life the characters, as each so vividly depicts the period in which A LAND REMEMBERED is set. Early in the book Tobias, Emma, and Zech open their Cracker home to cow workers (the first “cowboys” in the country), Frog, Bonzo, Skillet, a former slave, and his wife Pearlie Mae. The Seminoles befriend the MacIveys; and through this association, which spans three generations, their lives become intertwined and dependent. Their offspring become part of the source of tension on the land. The author introduces others, and the MacIvey family heritage is embedded into the Florida soil. Zech and his wife, Glenda, have a son, Sol. These pioneers, expand their homestead to thousands of acres; thereby growing their wealth and transforming the land, all the while enduring disasters such as hurricanes, clouds of mosquitos, bushwhackers, and wild animals. Marriage softens the family dynamics, but deaths, misfortunes, and deceit harden the heart.

In order to feel the passion and hear their voices, read the dialog aloud. For instance:  
“He said, ‘You ain’t got a little scrap of food, has you? I ain’t et since day befo’ yesterday.’”

Patrick Smith brings the reader into the world of the MacIvey family. With his vivid descriptions, one can smell the fragrances of wild flowers, hear the melodies of distant birds, feel the breath of lurking alligators, see the anguish of one disappearing into the deep and dark waters of the swamp. The reader’s mind travels to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with the railroad opening new frontiers for exploitation and influx of new money and development. Lives and hearts are changed, and some grievances require a lifetime to heal. The author brings one along to feel the emotions and physical pains of a rough and tough and tender family. When the book is completed, the reader will breath a sigh of relief that the tribulations are ended but will gasp that the anguishes of growth and exploitation continue. A LAND REMEMBERED is a must read!

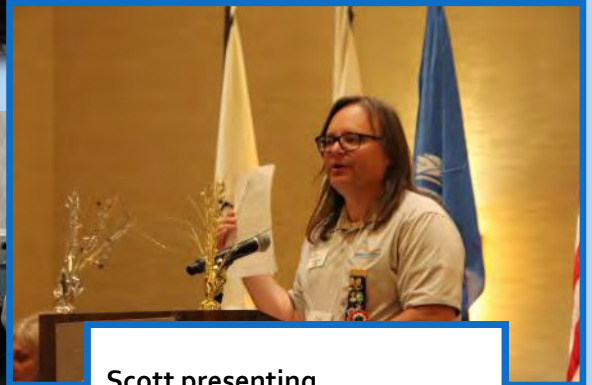
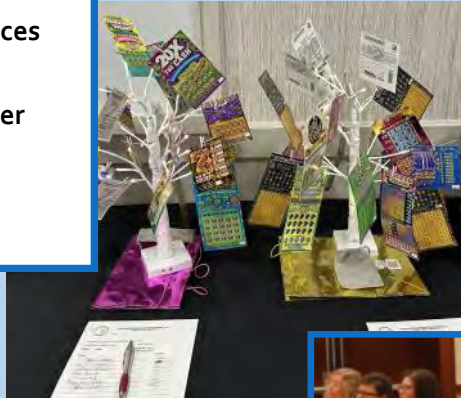
By Gloria James



# Altrusa District Three Conference



Frances  
flag  
bearer



Scott presenting



Our delegates at work

# Altrusa District Three Conference Awards



Todd Jordan Yearbook Recognition





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

What an exciting time to be an Altrusan! As you read this article, the District Conference season is rapidly drawing to a close with only three May conferences still happening. I know you all had wonderful Conferences and that our Altrusa International Board members enjoyed their time with you. I look forward to reading all of the highlights and photos in your District Service Bulletins.

Membership continues to look positive. At the end of February, we were NINE members ahead of where we ended the previous biennium. Let's continue to grow our membership. We are excited with all the new clubs chartered so far and look forward to chartering more clubs. We have clubs in formation in District Five, Six, Eight, Nine, and Ten. There is one in the exploratory stage in District Twelve, two additional in District Nine in the organizing stage and another possible one in District Eight.

I look forward to seeing the results of the April Add An Altrusan Month challenge and which clubs receive one of the five \$100 incentive awards.

When you are recruiting new members, please remember that Young Professionals (those 30 and under) qualify for half-priced International dues. Be sure to include their birthdate when adding to Group Tally as that will alert the system that they are a Young Professional. Check with your District Treasurer to see if your District also offers half-priced District dues.

Do not forget to report your Acts of Kindness as well as your book donations/ service hours on the Service page of the Altrusa International website. In March, over 50,000 Acts of Kindness had been reported and over 46,000 books. Remember, we do not need to know what your Acts of Kindness were, just how many your club did.

A "What's New" section has been added to the Service page with a tab to report your Days for Girls donations. In the past we have only been able to track monetary donations and this will allow us to track the kits, etc.

I am so proud of the amazing things all of our clubs are doing, some simple, some elaborate, but all making a difference in your communities. I am proud to represent all of you as your President!

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



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



**District Governor**  
**Dimple Overstreet, Starke, Florida**



Some highlights about the District Three Conference. We had over eighty Altrusans that came from all four states. The time and hard work that the Leadership Committee did made the Conference fun and offered an opportunity to learn and make new friends, as well as to enjoy our friends that we only see at Conference.



Welcome Reception hosted by the North Georgia, Ga. Club was a big hit with all. Opening Ceremony started with a flag procession. In-Memorial honored our lost Altrusans. Members enjoyed speakers who motivated them and shared information. Business meetings and workshops were part of our learning more about Altrusa.

The Service Project had our members busy filling Adventure Bags for children in crisis and their caretakers during the initial 24-48 hours of displacement. Friday Fun Night started with a star-struck mixer and a stellar trivia game. The Governor's Banquet featured the Charlotte, NC Club celebrating 100 years of service and LaShone Surrency singing and entertaining the members.

Make plans to attend the 72nd Conference in Cherokee, NC, April 24 -26 2025. See you there. Life is beautiful! Enjoy every minute of the day.

Serving Up Service,  
Dimple



**2025 District Three Conference**  
**April 24-26, 2025**  
**Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort**  
**Cherokee, North Carolina**



# Altrusa Accent

## Instructions for Altrusa Spring Planting

First, plant four rows of **PEAS**:

- \*\* Perseverance.
- \*\* Presence.
- \*\* Preparation.
- \*\* Promptness.

Next, plant three rows of **SQUASH**:

- \*\* Squash gossip.
- \*\* Squash criticism.
- \*\* Squash indifference.

Then, add four rows of **LETTUCE**:

- \*\* Let us be faithful to duty.
- \*\* Let us be unselfish and loyal.
- \*\* Let us be true to our obligations.
- \*\* Let us love one another.



No garden is complete without **TURNIPS**:

- \*\* Turn up for meetings.
- \*\* Turn up with a smile.
- \*\* Turn up with new ideas.
- \*\* Turn up with determination to make everything count for something good and worthwhile.

Created by Altrusa International District Eleven



June 1, 2023 to May 31, 2024

Officers

President .....Helen McDavid  
 President-Elect.....Colleen Duris  
 Vice President.....Frances Ferguson  
 Treasurer.....Scott Tice  
 Director.....Miranda Barrineau  
 Director.....Joan Coke  
 Director.....Marie Kusmierz

Committee Chairs

ASTRA..... T. J. Bright  
 Care.....Angie Dansby  
 Fundraiser.....Miranda Barrineau  
 Elaine Goodelle  
 Membership.....Frances Ferguson  
 Newsletter.....Colleen Duris  
 Service.....Debbie Catabia  
 Wendy Williams  
 Webmaster.....Helen McDavid



**Jun. 1            Miranda Barrineau**  
**Jun. 2            Cindy VanHeyde**  
**Jun. 18          Juanita Cunningham**  
**Jun. 20          Diane Barrineau**  
**Jun. 29          Maria Kusmierz**  
**Jul. 17          Angie Dansby**  
**Jul. 28          Colleen Duris**  
**Aug. 10         Connie Larsen**



# Board Briefings and Club Meeting Minutes

- **Discussions regarding progress on the Book Nok and refurbishment of the Born Learning Trail at Brick City Park.**
- **Finalized details for Trivia Night and announced results of efforts; raised over \$13,500.**
- **Discussed lunch prices and raising monthly amount.**
- **Received nominating committee report.**

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF OCALA, INC.  
Minutes of the Business Meeting on February 8, 2024

At the Braised Onion

CALL TO ORDER: at 12:06 PM, by President Helen McDavid

ALTRUSA GRACE: Recited by members

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited by members

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Approved as presented

CORRESPONDENCE: Elaine Goodelle – Received an invoice from Dr. Lentsch

TREASURER'S REPORT: Scott Tice - Several members still owe quarterly lunches.

AL T. RUSA: Frances Ferguson - AI T has \$116.43

RAFFLE: Donated by Cathy Ackerman won by Angie Dansby

PROGRAM: Lanie Shirley and DJ Ryan from Hospice of Marion County-The Nancy Reinhart Center for Dementia Education focuses on helping caregivers understand dementia. They work with Marion County Responders who do home visits. Since January 2021 they have helped 8,381 people.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ASTRA: TJ Bright – No report

CARE: Angie Dansby – Cards as being passed around for Nancy, Juanita and Val.

CLUSTER: Connie Larsen – Eight people attended our second Cluster Club Meeting. We will meet again on February 15, 2024, at 6 pm at Brookdale. We will be initiating our two new members, Kate Fink and Jennifer Rappa.

FOUNDATION: Mary Cay Landt – no report. Connie Larsen will send out invoices for anyone who has not paid their sponsorship after the fundraiser.

FUNDRAISING: Elaine Goodelle – We will meet at 9am on Saturday morning to set up the auction and raffle items for Trivia Night. The event will begin at 6pm. Dinner will be served at 6:30pm. Trivia will start at 7 and end at 9. We will need a head count by February 19, 2024.

MEMBERSHIP: Our two new members will be initiated at the Cluster Meeting.

NEWSLETTER: Colleen Duris – Newsletter will go out within the next couple of weeks.

PROGRAM Colleen Duris – Jennifer Hunt Murty, Publisher from the Ocala Gazette will be our speaker at our March 14, 2024, meeting.

SERVICE COMMITTEE: Debbie Catabia/Wendy Williams –The Little Free Library at Kimberly's Center for Child Protection is on hold until June. We will be painting the first coat of primer at the Marion County Public Foundation Book Nook.

WEB/SOCIAL MEDIA: Helen McDavid no report.

NEW BUSINESS: Delegates and alternates for conference – Frances Ferguson and Becky Long.

HAPPY BUCKS: Cathy Ackerman – her son is engaged. Mary Cay Landt – looking for a para legal. Also, her son and daughter-in-law may be moving back to Ocala. Debbie Catabia – her granddaughter Chelsea is in the Honor program at UF and majoring in Engineering has a 4.0.

REMINDERS: Track volunteer hours [trackitforward.com/site/altrusa-international-ocala](https://trackitforward.com/site/altrusa-international-ocala)

Trivia Night – March 2, 2024

2024 Board Meeting on Zoom

District Three Conference – April 25-27, 2024, Atlanta Marriott Buckhead

Hotel & Conference Center

Cluster Meeting – February 15, 6pm, Brookdale Chambrel Pinecastle

Web Addresses – [international.altrusa.org](https://international.altrusa.org)

District Three – [districtthree.altrudsa.org](https://districtthree.altrudsa.org)

Ocala [districtthree.altrusa.org/Ocala/](https://ocala.districtthree.altrusa.org/Ocala/)

Benediction: recited by members

Adjourn: 1:15 pm

February Birthdays - Cathy Ackerman 20<sup>th</sup> Sue Dean 25<sup>th</sup>

Attendance: Cathy Ackerman, Diane Barrineau, Debbie Catabia, Angie Dansby, Colleen Duris, Frances Ferguson, Brenda Ford, Elaine Goodelle, Gloria James, Mary Cay Landt, Connie Larsen, Helen McDavid, Scott Tice, Maclyn Walker, Wendy Williams, Anne McKenzie

Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie Catabia

**Minutes of the Altrusa Business Meeting  
March 14, 2024 at Braised Onion**

**CALL TO ORDER:** at 12:11 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:

- An invitation to a Central Florida Foundation Annual Donors Luncheon for the College Central Florida. It is Wednesday April 3, 2024 12:15-1:30 pm. RSVP by Wednesday, Mar 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Interfaith Emergency Services Newsletter
- Uganda sponsorship renewal
- Our Post Office Box renewal of \$232.00/year

**TREASURER REPORT – SCOTT.** There are a few members who have not paid their quarter lunches. Next month, email statements will be sent out for quarterly lunches, local club due District dues and International dues.

**AL T. RUSA** - Frances \$116.43

**RAFFLE** - Donated by Gloria James and won by Scott Tice.

**PROGRAM:** Jennifer Hunt Murty from The Ocala Gazette informed us how they collect information and some of the challenges she faces as a local Journalist. With so much apathy today about current events, she asked us help share the news and to point her in the right direction if needed

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1

**WEB/SOCIAL MEDIA** - HELEN MCDAVID-

- Our last Newsletter has been posted on our Facebook page

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- District Conference Delegates and Alternates will be Frances Ferguson and Becky Long. Scott moved and Wendy seconded the motion and motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Debbie Catabia reported for the Nominating Committee the proposed slate of Officers for 2024-2025 year. They are as follows  
President - Colleen Duris  
President Elect - Helen McDavid  
Vice President – Becky Long  
Treasurer – Scott Tice  
Secretary – Frances Ferguson  
Director- Miranda Barrineau  
Director - Cindy VanHyde  
Director - Cathy Ackerman  
  
Foundation Board  
Director - Debbie Catabia (second term will end 2025)  
Director - Elaine Goodelle (second term will end 2025)  
Director - Connie Larsen (second term will end 2025)  
Director - Maclyn Walker  
Director - Angie Dansby
- District Three Foundation conference donation: Each Club is responsible for a Silent Auction item. Colleen will be making a Lottery Tree with tickets from Florida and Georgia. The Board approved to use \$50.00 from Al T Rusa for this and the membership concurred.
- Conference Service Project: Adventure Bags, (5–7-year-old age group) stuffed with toothbrushes, books and crayons. The Board also approved to use \$50.00 for this from Al T Rusa and the membership concurred.

**HAPPY BUCKS:**

3

**ASTRA**- T J BRIGHT. She has sent emails to both Club Advisors asking them to share things the ASTRA Clubs are doing. West Port has their own Instagram page. She was reminded to inform both clubs of the Born Learning Trail refurbishment coming up at Brick City Park

**BUDGET** –SCOTT/CONNIE. Nothing to report

**CARE** - ANGIE DANSBY- Cards were passed around for to Juanita Cunningham, Val Forster and Nancy Jones for thinking of you/St. Patrick's Day. Other cards were passed around for Ann McKenzie who fractured a hip, Karen Elliott who fractured her back and Jennifer Rappa whose father passed away.

**CLUSTER CLUB:** CONNIE LARSON – Two new members were initiated at the last meeting. The next meeting will be March 21,2024 at 6:00 at Chambrel Brookdale Pinecastle. RSVP if you are coming to make sure there is enough food/snacks. Valerie will be celebrating her birthday at the next meeting

**FOUNDATION** - MARY CAY LANDT- No report but she was happy with the Trivia Night

**FUNDRAISER** – ELAINE GOODELLE- Our Trivia Night with Times of Your Life DJ at the Country Club of Ocala was a success and the money is still coming in. Connie will give the final total when available. Elaine thanked everyone who helped make our event a success. Thinking about next year, March 7, 2025 might be a good date to consider

**MEMBERSHIP** FRANCES FERGUSON. No report

**NEWSLETTER** – COLLEEN DURIS. The next issue will be in May. No deadline yet

**PROGRAM:** Aprils program will be given by Beth McCall from the Marion County Children's Alliance

**Service** - DEBBIE CATABIA /Wendy-

- Cluster Club members, Jennifer Rappa, Colleen Duris, Debbie Catabia and Connie Larsen painted the primer coat of the Book Nook located at the Marion County Public Education building. It will need another coat of primer and that is planned for April 18, 2024
- The Early Learning Coalition Diaper Drive- we donated diapers and money to purchase diapers and baby wipes. We wrapped 2900 diapers and donated 1125 baby wipes.
- The Renovation of the Born Learning Trail at Brick City Park is tentatively scheduled for April 27, 2024. Wendy is waiting for the confirmation from the City Parks and Recreation

- Mary Cay shared how she still needs a Paralegal and how happy she was that March Madness starts today for UF Basketball
- Wendy was happy to share our County will be the recipient of a Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.
- Maclyn was happy for everyone getting their lunch orders in on time
- Frances is happy to report she will celebrate her 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary next week

**Reminders:**

- Board Meetings via Zoom @ Noon First Thursday of the month
- Business Meeting April 11, 2024 at noon at the Braised Onion
- Cluster meets March 21, 2024, 6:00 pm, Brookdale Chambrel, 1801 SE 24<sup>th</sup> Road
- Helen will present the checks from Trivia Night to Redeemer, Harbor View and East Marion Elementary on March 22, 2024
- 2024 District Three Conference April 25-27, 2024, Atlanta Marriott Buckhead Hotel and Conference Center

**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** – 1:14 PM

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS** – 15<sup>th</sup> Valerie Forster, 30<sup>th</sup> Joan Coke, 30<sup>th</sup> Becky Long

**ATTENDANCE** – Diane Barrineau, Tj Bright , Debbie Catabia, Angie Dansby, Susan Dean, Colleen Duris, Frances Ferguson, Brenda Ford, Elaine Goodelle, Gloria James, Mary Cay Landt, Becky Long, Helen McDavid, Scott Tice, Maclyn Walker, and Wendy Williams for a total of 16 members

**Respectfully submitted,**

Becky Long, Club Secretary

4

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** at 12:10 PM by President Helen McDavid

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - recited by Club

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS** – Beverly Hardy, Past International President guest and Long. Shannon Pickering with Interfaith, guest of Colleen Duris.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – Approved as submitted

**CORRESPONDENCE-** ELAINE GOODELLE – Received the following:

- A thank you letter from Central Florida Foundation with a personal letter scholarship recipient attached.
- Interfaith Emergency Services Newsletter
- A bill for eyeglasses from Dr. Lentsch

**TREASURER REPORT** – SCOTT. He will email invoices soon for quarterly lunches dues, District dues and international dues.

**AL T. RUSA** - Frances \$116.43

**RAFFLE** - We had 4 raffles of various gift cards left over from our Trivia night.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**ASTRA**- T J BRIGHT. She has sent emails to both Club Advisors informing of the B Trail refurbishment coming up at Brick City Park on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am

**CARE** - ANGIE DANSBY- Thinking of you cards were passed around for to Cunningham, Val Forster and Nancy Jones.

**CLUSTER CLUB:** CONNIE LARSON – The next meeting will be April 18, 2024. They will meet at 5:30 at the Public Education Foundation to paint the second coat of primer for the Book Nook.

**FOUNDATION** - MARY CAY LANDT- No report

**FUNDRAISER** – ELAINE GOODELLE- Thank you notes are going out to the sponsors. No date for next years Trivia Night has been set. The Marks Prime \$100 gift card left from Trivia Night will be the Raffle for the May meeting. Tickets are \$5.00 each for the raffle

**MEMBERSHIP** FRANCES FERGUSON. We will have installation of our new officers at the May meeting

**NEWSLETTER** – COLLEEN DURIS. The next issue will be in May. No deadline yet. Colleen also had the lighted Lottery trees with her for the District Three Conference Silent Auction item. She will have one tree with Florida lottery tickets and the other tree with Georgia Tickets

**PROGRAM**- Carrie Theall the CEO of the Early Learning Coalition gave a thorough explanation about the Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, her experience with it when she worked in North Carolina and how it can impact our county. She was assisted by Wendy Williams. Three different handouts were provided. This program provides any child regardless of race, or socioeconomic status a free book every month from birth until they age out at age 5 years old.

- The program in May will be Installation.

**Service** - DEBBIE CATABIA /Wendy-

- The Renovation of the Born Learning Trail at Brick City Park is scheduled for April 27, 2024 at 9:00 am.
- Helen and Gloria presented the checks to the 3 schools chosen for the Trivia Night winners. Redeemer Christian, Harbour View Elementary and East Marion Elementary
- Helen will be presenting the Public Education Foundation with Scholarships

**WEB/SOCIAL MEDIA** - HELEN MCDAVID-

- Pictures will be posted of the 2 upcoming service projects

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Lunch cost- Mary Cay explained food costs are raising and therefore our cost per lunch needs to be raised. This will begin at our next quarterly invoice.

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- Maclyn will be meeting with the restaurant personnel after today's meeting to discuss this matter and other options for us

**HAPPY BUCKS:**

- Mary Cay shared she and Bob celebrated their 36<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary
- Angie shared her daughter's wedding on March 30<sup>th</sup> was a beautiful day and everything went well. She will have another wedding for her other daughter next year
- TJ shared her grandson has finished his training in the Navy and will be on the nuclear submarine, the USS Alaska.
- Helen shared her son; Dalton has been picked for a Federal Grand Jury
- Becky shared she is happy to be spending time with her sister, Beverly since the passing of her husband, Dudley last November. They will be traveling on some short trips and attending District Three Conference together.

**Reminders:**

- Board Meetings via Zoom @ Noon First Thursday of the month
- Business Meeting May 9, 2024 at noon at the Braised Onion
- Cluster meets 5:30 April 18, 2024 at the Public Education Foundation to paint the second coat of primer in the Book Nook
- April 27, 2024 9:00 am to refurbish the Brick City Adventure Park Born Learning Trail, 1211 SE 22<sup>nd</sup> Road
- 2024 District Three Conference April 25-27, 2024, Atlanta Marriott Buckhead Hotel and Conference Center

**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** – 1:00 PM

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS** – 22<sup>nd</sup> Debbie Catabia, 26<sup>th</sup> Elaine Goodelle, 27<sup>th</sup> Scott Tice

**ATTENDANCE** – Janet Behnke, TJ Bright, Angie Dansby, Colleen Duris, Karen Elliott, Frances Ferguson, Elaine Goodelle, Gloria James, Maria Kusmierz, Mary Cay Landt, Connie Larsen, Becky Long, Helen McDavid, Anne McKenzie, Scott Tice, Cindy Van Heyde, Maclyn Walker, and Wendy Williams for a total of 18 members and 2 guests

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