

The Communicator

Summer 2025

President's Message

“Each sunrise brings a new day filled with new hopes for a new beginning.” Debasish Mridha



New beginnings -that is what the summer months bring to our club. Electing new officers, generating a budget, and planning our service projects all contribute to a productive and enjoyable year. A Long-Range Planning committee has been created to research and brainstorm ideas for a signature project and a project to honor our beloved Nancy Jones. Thank you to all the committee volunteers and to Connie for being the chair.

Back-to-school has us renewing our partnerships with Tools 4 Teaching, The Nook, the Early Learning Coalition and the Community Partnership School. Juanita's Shelf was re-stocked with books for classrooms and books on resiliency for teachers. We proudly contributed to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, and hygiene products for students at the Community Partnership School.

On our Day of Giving, October 25, we will team up with West Port High School's ASTRA club to re-package diapers for the ELC.

Cluster Club has attracted many new members by offering an evening meeting. District Three Governor Mantha Young and 2 Lake County Altrusa club members plan to visit in August. They hope to learn more about our success and then duplicate it in their clubs.

A new partnership is formed with the Marion County Public Library. We are scheduled to assemble "Ready to Read: Zero to Three" bags. These bags suggest 3 activities to help ensure our youngest children develop a sound language foundation.

Trivia Night will look a bit different in March with us teaming with AMFund to offer trips for auction. A new logo, a new banner, blast emails with Trivia Night invitations, new trivia questions and two emcees may contribute to an increase in attendance. But, we all agree, the creamy parmesan risotto will be the same!

And this is just the beginning! Thank you to everyone for your participation in our club. We are better together.

Kindest regards,
Helen



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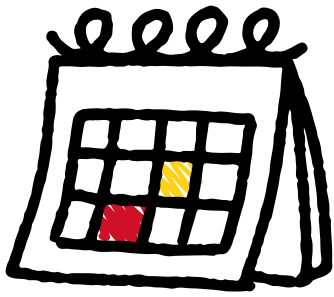
International

altrusa.org

Altrusa International of Ocala, Florida



If you know of a club member in
need of our support and CARE,
please contact Angie Dansby



UPCOMING CALENDAR

2025

September 4th Board meeting, noon - Zoom
September 11th - Club meeting, noon - Braised Onion **Program:** Kevin Christian, Marion County Public Schools
September 18th - Cluster Club, 6:00pm - Canterfield
October 2nd - Board meeting, noon - Zoom
October 9th - Club Meeting, noon - Braised Onion **Program:** Carali McLean, NAMI Florida
October 16th - Cluster Club, 6:00 pm - ELC
October 25th - Day of Giving
October 30th - Canterfield Thank you, 2:00 pm
November 6th Board meeting, noon - Zoom
November 13th - Club Meeting, noon - Braised Onion **Program:** Rebecca Cox, AdventHealth, NICU
November 20th Cluster Club, 6:00pm - ELC
December 4th Board meeting, noon - Zoom
December 11th - Club Meeting, noon, Braised Onion **Program:** Holiday Celebration

2026

January TBD Board meeting, noon - Zoom
January 8th Club meeting, noon - Braised Onion

2026

January 15th Cluster Club, 6:00 pm - ELC
February 5th Board meeting, noon - Zoom
February 10th - Altrusa of Ocala 48th Charter Anniversary
February 12th Club meeting, noon - Braised Onion
February 19th Cluster Club, 6:00 pm - ELC
March 5th - Board meeting, noon - Zoom
March 7th - Trivia Night - Country Club of Ocala
March 12th - Club Meeting, noon - Braised Onion
March 19th - Cluster Club, 6:00 pm - ELC
April 2nd - Board Meeting, noon - Zoom
April 9th - Club Meeting, noon - Braised Onion
April 11th - Anniversary Altrusa International 1917-1926
April 16th - Cluster Club, 6:00 pm - ELC
April 24-25 - District Conference -Spartanburg, SC
May 7th - Board meeting, noon - Zoom
May 14th - Club meeting, noon - Braised Onion
May 21st - Cluster Club, 6:00pm - ELC
May 26th - 49th Anniversary of Altrusa International of Ocala (organizational meeting 1977)
June 4th - Board Meeting, noon - Zoom
June 11th - Club Meeting, noon - Braised Onion
June 18th - Cluster Club, 6:00 pm - ELC

Upcoming Service

In October we will be collecting and packaging diapers and later this year we will again be working with Arnette House for Holiday Gifts and assisting Kate Fink with the holiday meal for Veterans.



NINJA of the MONTH

**Nurture Your Inner
Nancy Jones
Attributes**



June: *Brenda Ford* an active supporter of Cluster club; if she doesn't know an answer, she knows where to find it. She is a great listener and offers different perspectives.

July: *Colleen Duris* is knowledgeable and dedicated to our mission. Her unselfishness is always evident. She offers support to all our programs and members to ensure our club's success. She is an outstanding leader.

Tracking Your Hours

TRACK IT FORWARD

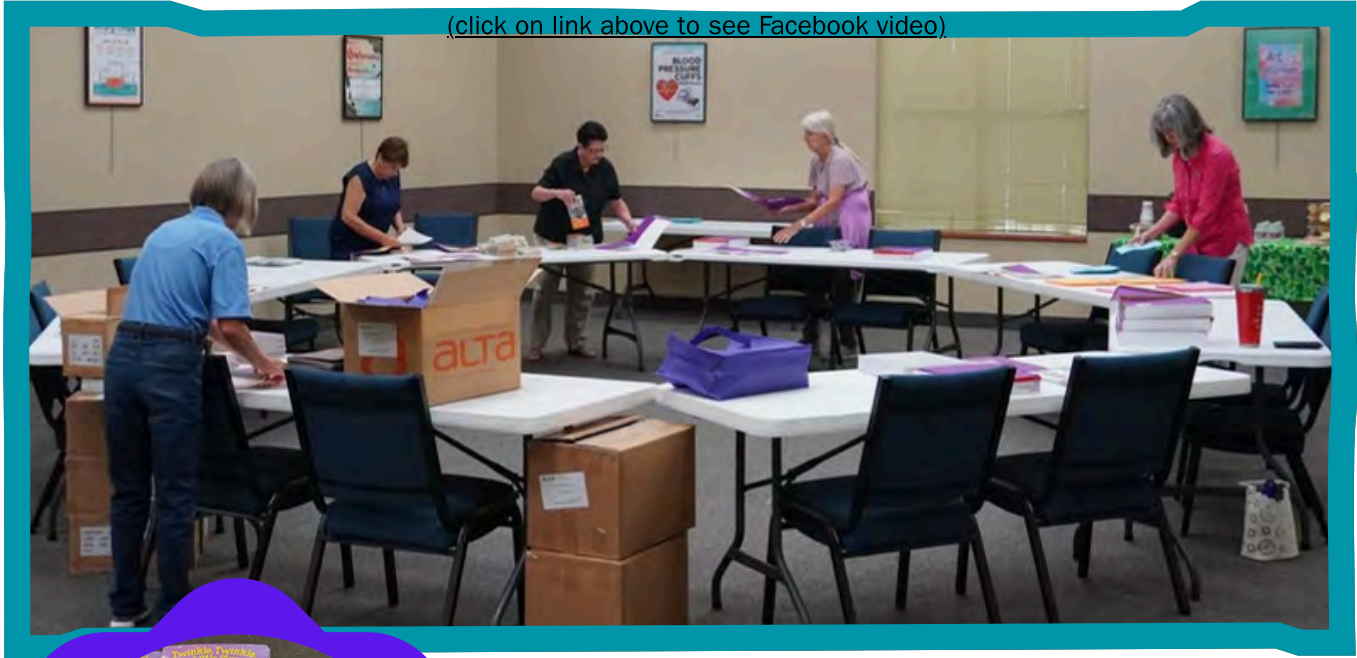
We want you to track all your service hours so that we can better report all to the District and International. We are using the Track it Forward App and the link to the program is above. Just click on the Track it Forward and it will take you to the Altrusa International of Ocala club page to create your account, sign in and start tracking your hours. If you have any problems or questions, contact Colleen at cmdaltrusa@gmail.com.



Service

Assembling Ready to Read Bags at the Marion County Public Library

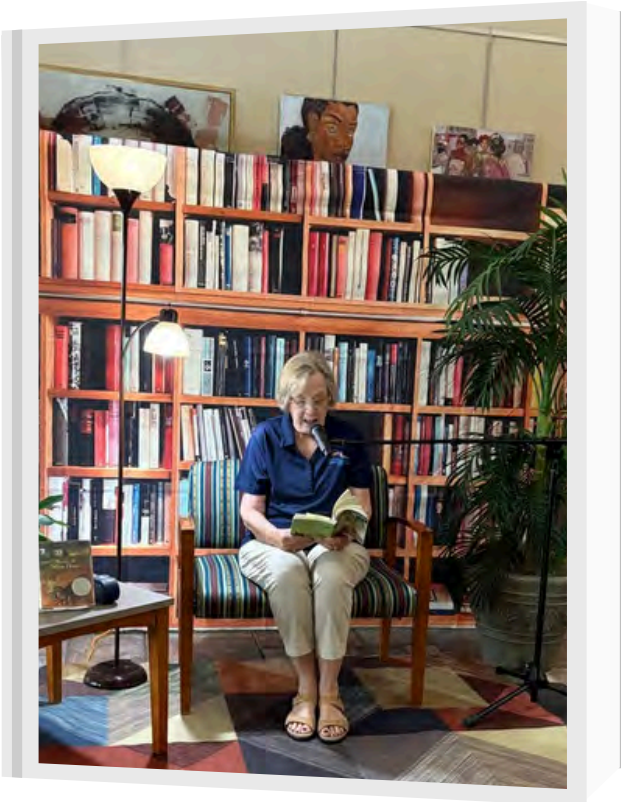
(click on link above to see Facebook video)



275 Book Bags Assembled!



Service



Friends of the Library Read-A-Thon

Members Gloria James and Ann McKenzie participated in the Read-A-Thon on August 2nd and Altrusa contributed \$200. They read "Because of Winn-Dixie", Newberry winning book by Kate Di Camillo.



Service



160 books to Juanita's Shelf at Tools 4 Teaching

30 Resiliency books for The Nook at Tools 4 Teaching



413 personal hygiene items provided to Community Partnership School





The Dolly Parton “stand in” receiving our check for \$2,000 towards the Dolly Parton Imagination Library for Marion County in partnership with the Early Learning Coalition





West Port High School ASTRA students participating in "Freshmen Preview", Club Recruitment Fair



Programs



Public Library System
READ. LEARN. CONNECT.

Thank you to Heather Webb, Joey Hall and Lee Schwartz who visited us in June and shared with us all the wonderful programs available through the Marion County Library system. Including, a “seed” library, Cooks and Books series, the ability to “check out” blood pressure cuffs and more. The library has more than just books!



In July, Julie Quaid, Children Services Division Manager for Marion County Public Library informed us about the Ready To Read program...resulting in the members assembling over 275 reading bags!



In August, Lavonda Goodson spoke to us about the Estella Byrd Whitman Community Health Center and its work in providing access to compassionate quality healthcare, wellness education and resources to live a healthier life,



Congratulations

Altrusan of the Year 2024-2025 WENDY WILLIAMS



We recognize Wendy for her many contributions to the Club, including her service as Co-Chair of the Service Committee, her assistance with the Fundraiser, willingness to step in as temp secretary and participation in all projects. She willingly steps forward when needed!



CLUSTER CLUB

Welcoming New Members



Amanda White with sponsor Scott Tice



Jennifer Ruppel with sponsor Helen McDavid



CLUSTER CLUB



The Cluster Club enjoyed a visit from fellow Altrusans from Lake County, Florida, Nanci Schwartz and Traci Gamble.

Sharing Ideas



Altrusa International Convention Quebec City, Quebec Canada July, 2025



Altrusa International Board
Quebec City 2025



Altrusa International Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs
Quebec City 2025





As we embark together on this new biennium, it is under the theme of “Love, Literacy & Legacy”. The word “love” was chosen because it embodies several things. First, let’s make sure we are doing some thing that we love. Many of us joined and remain in Altrusa because of the service we are privileged to be part of. Spreading kindness and enriching the lives of others fills our hearts and brings joy to others. Love is the outcome from serving others.

The second word “literacy” was easy for me. I love books, and I love to read. Reading has played a significant role throughout my life for a variety of reasons. Literacy was one of the primary reasons I joined Altrusa. I know I am not alone in this. Did you know that the literacy program “Action for Literacy” was voted upon by the Convention Body in 1977? Then during the 2001 International Convention, literacy was adopted as our international focus, to be promoted throughout our association. In other words, we serve our communities through our literacy projects. Therefore, our literacy challenge this biennium will be to get 1,000,001 books distributed throughout the world. We can do it! Of course, this is addition to another international project the Convention Body adopted back in 2019 – Days for Girls. We will continue to support Days for Girls as well this biennium.

The last word “legacy” simply stated means lasting impact. One may say that legacy encompasses the memories, teachings and experiences one leaves behind. But what is missing in that thought is that your legacy is actually built in the now. Your legacy is created in the way you show up in each minute of the day. It comes through in every interaction you have, and it is built with every action you take. The more focused you are on what matters and the kind of change you want to make in the world, the more likely you will be able to create a legacy that has a positive impact. That’s what our founding leaders did, and what we need to do now. Let’s focus on an exciting future for Altrusa!

I ask you to remember the words of our founder, Mamie Luella Bass, in the Principles of Altrusa in which she wrote “Altrusa believes it is not enough to be good; Altrusans must be good for some thing”. So, what is your some thing? Together, let’s make every moment of this biennium truly magical and do some thing meaningful by leading to a better community.

With Altrusa Love,
Christine “Chris” DeVlieger
President of Altrusa International, Inc.

International Convention 2027
Columbus, Ohio
July 21 - 24, 2027





Buzzin' with the Governor – August 2025

By Mantha Young, District Three Governor

What a joy it was to gather together at our 59th Altrusa International Convention in beautiful Québec City, Canada! The “Queen City” truly lived up to its name — full of charm, history, and unforgettable experiences. Reconnecting with longtime friends and meeting new ones made it even more special. Convention was, as always, an energizing and inspiring time. From dynamic workshops to impactful discussions, we shared stories of service, celebrated accomplishments, and walked away with fresh ideas and renewed motivation to make a difference in our communities. I’m excited to support and work alongside our new International President, Chris DeVlieger, and her Board of Directors. I know their leadership will continue to move Altrusa forward with purpose and passion. Thank you all for your exemplary service, your dedication to Altrusa, and the joy you bring to everything you do.

With gratitude and buzzin' enthusiasm,

Mantha Young

Governor, Altrusa District Three

District Conference 2026

Spartanburg, SC

April 24-25, 2026

In Remembrance - Juanita Cunningham

June 18, 1925-August 13, 2025



Juanita Perry Cunningham was a Christian, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, daughter, sister, aunt, soror, educator, and civic volunteer. She was born June 18, 1925, to Thelma Simmons and William O. Perry. Along with her biological parents, she was raised by loving stepparents, Amos Herring, Sr. and Iona Perry. She died August 13, 2025 in Ocala, Florida at 100 years old.

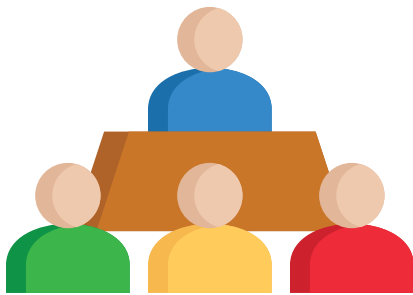
At the time of her death, Mrs. Cunningham was a member of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church where she had been a member of the Board of Trustees. Prior church memberships were Hope Methodist Church in Hawthorne, Florida, and Zion Methodist Church and Covenant Missionary Baptist Church, both in Ocala.

She was educated at Phillis Wheatley Elementary School in Miami, Florida and Shell School in Hawthorne, Florida, from which she graduated. After high school, she studied cosmetology at Sunshine Beauty School in Miami, Florida; she returned to Hawthorne and opened a hair salon. She later enrolled in Bethune-Cookman College and graduated in 1958 with a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education, conferred with honors. While in college she pledged Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and was a member of the Concert Chorale. In 1977, she was conferred a Master's Degree by Nova Southeastern University.

In 1962, Mrs. Cunningham was one of fourteen founding members of the Ocala Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., of which she served several terms as president, and went on to obtain Golden Life Membership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She was also a founding member of the Ocala Chapter of Altrusa International, Inc. Mrs. Cunningham was appointed by Governor Bob Graham to the Judicial Nominating Commission for the Florida Fifth District Court of Appeal. She was also a chartering member of United Way's Women of Worth; a member of the Board of Directors of Marion Regional Development Foundation; Central Florida Community College Senior Institute; Marion County Chapter of the American Cancer Society; Marion County Senior Services; Utopians, Inc.; and a life member of the Marion County Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

It was through her work as an educator that Mrs. Cunningham had a great impact on residents of Ocala. She taught at Stanton Elementary School, Weirsdale, and Howard Elementary and Howard Middle School, Ocala. She left the classroom to become an assistant principal at Ocala Vanguard High School. Her last position with the Marion County School District was as founding Program Administrator at Howard Academy Community Center. She retired in 1991.





CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Helen McDavid
Vice President - Becky Long
Treasurer - Scott Tice
Secretary - Wendy Williams
Director - Debbie Catabia
Director - Frances Ferguson
Immediate Past President - Colleen Duris

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Maclyn Walker
Treasurer - Connie Larsen
Director - Brenda Ford
Director - Angie Dansby
Director - Mary Cay Landt

CLUB COMMITTEE CHAIRS

ASTRA -
CARE - Angie Dansby
Cluster Club - Judi Zanetti
Fundraising - Kate Fink
Membership - Becky Long
Program - Gloria James/
Ann McKenzie
Service- Debbie Catabia/
Wendy Williams

July 17 Angie Dansby
July 28 Colleen Duris
August 10 Connie Larsen
September 7 Kate Fink
September 21 Cindy Athey
September 25 Amanda White
September 30 Janet Behnke
October 30 Karen Elliott
November 11 Frances Ferguson
November 5 Jane Fontaine
November 20 Maclyn Walker
November 25 Brenda Ford



Altrusa Accent

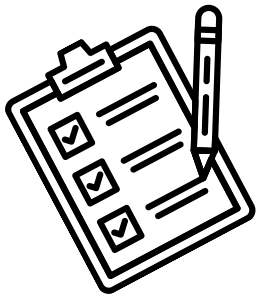
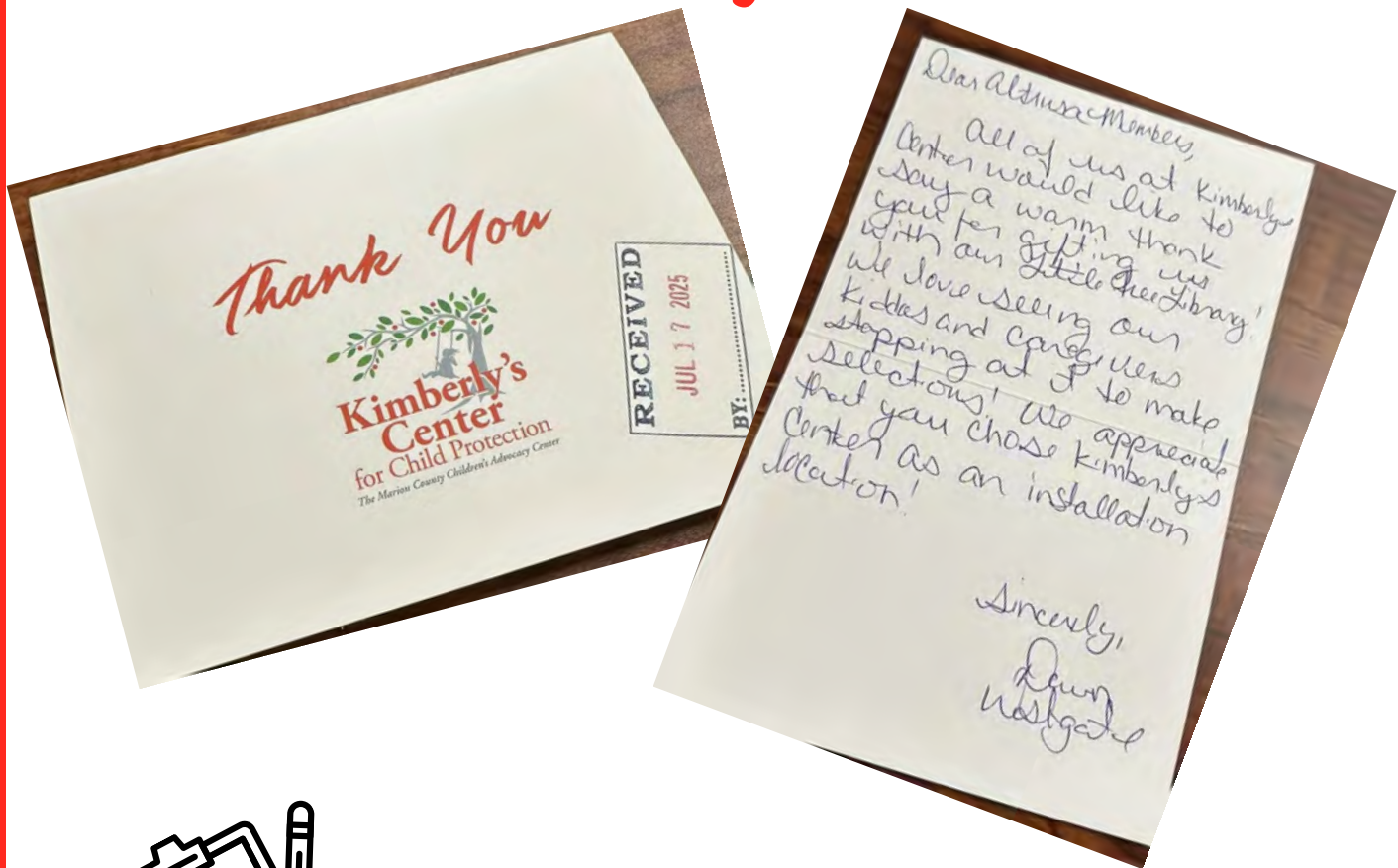
All I Need to Know About Altrusa I Learned From Noah's Ark

1. Don't miss the boat! Attend all meetings and support events.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat. Avoid pettiness; leave your ego at the door.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark. Promote new membership or face the inevitable.
4. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone might ask you to do something really big!
5. Don't listen to critics, just get the job done right. It is easier to receive forgiveness than permission.
6. Build your future on high ground. Promote and maintain a high profile in the community by being a class act.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs. Support other community events and organizations while displaying your affiliation with Altrusa—wear your pin and name badge.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs! Look at the pros and cons of a project before making a commitment.
9. When you're stressed, float a while. Don't volunteer for more than you can handle.
10. Remember: The ark was built by amateurs, the Titanic by professionals. This Altrusa club will stay afloat if we amateurs keep our focus on what needs to be done.



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Thank you's



Board Action

At the May meeting the Board discussed the possibility of using AMFUND for a vacation package for the annual fundraiser; that annual dues were coming in and that the latest Little Free Library would be installed after the general meeting at Kimberly's Center.

In June, the Board approved new member, Amanda White and accepted, with regret, Cindy Van Heyde's resignation.

In July, the budget was approved by the Board and notice of the Foundation budget approval was provided. Service projects were discussed along with the development of a Long Range Planning Committee for Foundation funds. TJ Bright's leave of absence was approved.

MINUTES

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF OCALA, INC Minutes of Business/Regular Meeting, May 8, 2025

Call to Order at 12:02 by President Colleen Duris

Altrusa Grace was recited by all present

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present

Minutes of previous meeting approved as presented.

Treasurer – Scott Tice reported most member dues have been paid. A reminder will be sent to those still owing.

ALT has a balance of \$11.43

Prize drawing was a 50/50 and won by Maclyn Walker. She donated her half back to club.

Program – Installation of officers for 2025-2026 was done by Colleen Duris.

ASTRA – TJ Bright reported Westport High School ASTRA Club is up and running. They made and presented goodie bags to teachers for Teacher Appreciation Month.

Cluster/Fundraising – Cluster Club will meet May 15th at ELC conference room. Kate Fink has a date for Trivia Night 2026 as March 7th.

Service – Debbie Catabia reported the Little Free Library at Kimberly Center will be installed immediately after our meeting today. The Nancy Jones Eyeglasses to See has given four pairs of glasses so far.

Colleen gave a Conference report. Pins for bringing in new members were presented to Brenda Ford and Helen McDavid. Awards presented to our club at Conference was as follows: Yearbook recognition, Outstanding Community Award, Membership net gain award for three new members and a check for \$25, Third place for our newsletter, and second place for the Literacy Award. The Governor donated \$200 to our club.

Scott Tice was elected Treasurer of District and Connie Larsen was elected to Foundation. The next Conference is in Spartanburg, SC

The International Convention is July 23-26 in Quebec City, Quebec and members Colleen Duris, Scott Tice, and Becky Long will attend.

Newsletter – Helen Mc David reported the deadline for the next newsletter will be May 16th.

Colleen Duris presented her Ninja – Becky Long.

Happy Bucks were given by: Ann McKenzie, Mary Kay Landt, Gloria James, Angie Dansby, Elaine Goodelle, Maclyn Walker, and Colleen Duris.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm with members present reciting the Benediction.

Members present: Colleen Duris, Frances Ferguson, Debbie Catabia, Diane Barrineau, TJ Bright, Elaine Goodelle, Gloria James, Mary Kay Landt, Ann McKenzie, Scott Tice, Maclyn Walker, Angie Dansby, Wendy Williams, Anita Winter, Cindy VanHeyde, Brenda Ford, Connie Larsen, and Connie's guest Katie Larsen

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Ferguson, Secretary

Altrusa International of Ocala, FL Inc.
Cluster Club Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2025
Early Learning Coalition
2300 SW 17th Road, 34471

The meeting was called to order by Connie Larsen at 6:00pm and everyone in attendance recited the Altrusa Grace followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests in attendance: Amanda White (2nd meeting), guest of Scott Tice. Pam (Helen's sister) and Jenn Ruppel, both guests of Helen.

The minutes of the April 17, 2025 meeting were approved as distributed.

Business Meeting recap:

Care: Juanita Cunningham's 100th birthday on 06/18/25. Family is having celebration on 6/21/25 at Ocala Health and Rehab.

Newsletter: Deadline to submit articles/pictures/info is 5/16/25.

Program: Officer Installation with sports theme

Service: donated water bottles and installed Little Free Library at Kimberly's Center

Web/Social Media: Updated website with new officers and added the winter newsletter

Unfinished Business:

A chair for Cluster Club for 2025/2026 is needed and volunteers were solicited.

New Business:

Snacks for June meeting: Jenn Rappa volunteered to donate

2026 Trivia Night Planning: details of call with AMFund travel fundraising was discussed. Our event is too small for a company representative to be on site at event but it was suggested we have 4 or 5 vacations packages to bid on. They will provide marketing materials for trips and Wendy agreed to be contact point during the event. Several questions were raised and Wendy will follow up with Chris at AMFund.

\$7.00 in Happy Bucks were collected.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04pm with all members reciting the Altrusa Benediction.

Attendance:

Connie Larsen, Helen McDavid, Jenn Rappa, Scott Tice, Wendy Williams



MINUTES

Altrusa International of Ocala, Inc. Business Meeting Minutes June 12, 2025

The meeting was held at Braised Onion.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m. by President Helen McDavid.

The Altrusa Grace and Pledge of Allegiance were recited.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Diane Barrineau introduced her guest, Kelly.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The May Business Meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

CORRESPONDENCE – Elaine Goodelle: The Interfaith Newsletter and College of Central Florida scholarship update were received.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Scott Tice reported that all dues were paid. He will send out the quarterly lunch invoices next month.

AL T. RUSA – Becky Long: \$12.43 balance.

RAFFLE: This month's raffle prize was donated by Angie Dansby. Ann McKenzie won.

PROGRAM: Heather Webb, Joey Hall, and Lee Schwartz from the Marion County Public Library System provided an overview of library services for *Reading, Learning, Connecting*:

- E-books and audio books – free for phone, tablet, computer
- Databases include – learn a language, hobby, auto repair
- Library of Things – computers and hotspots, seed library, blood pressure cuffs
- BiblioBoard for authors – PressBook to publish, Indie Author to share, Historic Marion County collection
- Right Service at Right Time – connecting people to resources
- Friends of the Library – five throughout County. They publish the Words magazine, host book sales, and provide staff professional development. The annual Read-A-Thon fundraiser is August 2, 2025.
- Programs: storytelling; Summer Break Spot (food for kids – Bellevue fed 130 kids yesterday); Ready to Read bags for newborns; Cooks & Books – partner with chef, author, and musician; Meals We Share – stories and recipes – plan to create community cookbook at end of year (June 17 Summer Salads, July 15 30-minute meals)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ASTRA – T. J. Bright: no report this month

Budget – Scott Tice: report held for New Business.

Care – Angie Dansby: Cards were passed for Val, Betty and Juanita. Juanita's 100th birthday party is on June 21; let Colleen know if planning to attend.

Cluster/Fundraising – Helen McDavid: reported that Kate is finalizing details with the Country Club.

Membership – Becky Long: Amanda White will be initiated at June 19 Cluster Club meeting. Needs someone to conduct the initiation.

Newsletter – Colleen Duris: No report.

Program – Gloria James/Ann McKenzie: July program in process.

Service – Debbie Catabia/Wendy Williams: Meeting following business meeting to review budget requests. Helen McDavid suggested we consider supporting the Berkeley Point Apartments new library.

Web/Social Media – Helen McDavid: Website is up to date.

Foundation Report – No report. Meet following business meeting to elect officers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Wendy provided updates on the AmFund Vacation Package option for Trivia Night silent auction. Members agreed we should try it.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Budget** – Scott Tice reported that a budget planning meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the Early Learning Coalition office. All are welcome to attend; each committee should plan to have at least one member attend. Budget requests are due by June 20; send Club requests to Scott and Foundation requests to Connie.
- **Resignation** – the Board accepted the resignation of Cindy Van Heyde, with regrets.
- **Altrusan of the Year** – Colleen Duris announced Wendy Williams as Altrusan of the Year for club participation, co-chairing a committee, and assisting with fundraising. Wendy was presented with a miniature rose plant; a plaque will follow.

HAPPY BUCKS:

- Helen McDavid announced that her sister Pam's tests revealed that she had 100% of Helen's stem cells.
- Colleen Duris provided an extra Happy Buck for Helen's sister.
- Diane Barrineau thanked the Library for their presentation.

REMINDERS:

- Board Meetings are the first Thursday of each month at noon via Zoom
- Business Meetings are the second Thursday of each month at noon at Braised Onion
- Cluster meetings are the third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. June's meeting is at Canterfield Senior Living, 9589 SW SR 200, Ocala
- Track your volunteer hours at www.trackitforward.com/site/altrusa-international-ocala-fl
- Charter member Juanita Cunningham's 100th birthday celebration is June 21, 2-3:30 p.m. at Ocala Health and Rehabilitation. Let Colleen know if you plan to attend.
- Budget requests are due June 20 – project requests to Connie and Club requests to Scott.
- Budget meeting is Thursday, June 26, 5:30 p.m. at Early Learning Coalition. Let Scott know if you plan to attend.
- Web addresses for Altrusa International (Altrusa.org), District Three (DistrictThree.Altrusa.org), and Ocala (DistrictThree.Altrusa.org/Ocala)

The Benediction was recited, and the meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

BIRTHDAYS:

- June 2 – Cindy Van Heyde
- June 18 – Juanita Cunningham
- June 20 – Diane Barrineau
- June 29 – Maria Kusmierz

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Diane Barrineau, Janet Behnke, Debbie Catabia, Angie Dansby, Colleen Duris, Karen Elliot, Frances Ferguson, Brenda Ford, Elaine Goodelle, Gloria James, Mary Cay Landt, Becky Long, Helen McDavid, Ann McKenzie, Scott Tice, Maclyn Walker, Wendy Williams, Anita Winter

Submitted by Wendy Williams



MINUTES

Altrusa International of Ocala, FL Inc.
Cluster Club Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2025
Canterfield Senior Living
9589 SW SR 200 Ocala, FL

The meeting was called to order by Judi Zanetti at 6:10pm and everyone in attendance recited the Altrusa Grace followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests in attendance: Jenn Ruppel (2nd meeting) guest of Helen.

The minutes of the May 15, 2025 meeting were approved as distributed.

Business Meeting recap:

Care: Juanita Cunningham's 100th birthday on 06/18/25. Family is having celebration on 6/21/25 at Ocala Health and Rehab.

Membership – Initiation of Amanda White tonight with a fruit theme. Jenn Ruppel turned in membership application.

Program: Marion County Public Library went over services offered; including a seed library, ability to check out laptops, hotspots and blood pressure cuffs.

Service: we will be collecting hygiene products for the Community Partnership School at our July Cluster Meeting and August Noon meeting. Products include full size bar soap, toothpaste and deodorant.

Web/Social Media: Website is up to date.

Unfinished Business:

The membership approved the partnership with AMFund to provide vacation packages to bid on at Trivia Night. We will forward contract on to Maclyn Walker, Foundation Chair, for signature and return to AMFund.

New Business:

Altrusan of the Year – Wendy Williams was awarded the Altrusan of the Year award for 2024/2025

Snacks for July meeting: Connie volunteered to provide

Thank you letters for the 2025 Trivia Night still need to be completed.

\$21.00 in Happy Bucks were collected.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm with all members reciting the Altrusa Benediction.

Attendance:

Colleen Duris, Kate Fink, Brenda Ford, Val Forster, Gloria James, Connie Larsen, Helen McDavid, Jenn Rappa, Scott Tice, Amanda White, Wendy Williams, Judi Zanetti



MINUTES

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF OCALA, INC

Minutes of the Business Meeting on July 10, 2025

At the Braised Onion

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

ALTRUSA GRACE: Recited by members

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited by members

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Megan Kusmierz

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Approved as presented

CORRESPONDENCE: Helen McDavid – We received a congratulation letter and patch for 2024-2025 outstanding club award from Altrusa International President.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Scott Tice – Quarterly invoices have been sent out
AL T. RUSA: Rebecca Long - \$12.43

RAFFLE: Donated by Helen McDavid won by Mary Cay Landt

PROGRAM: Julie Quaid, Manager Children Services for the Marion County Public Library System – Spoke to us about the Ready to Read program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ASTRA: - No report

BUDGET: Report will be under new business

CARE: Angie Dansby- Cards going around for Valarie Foster, Juanita Cunningham

CLUSTER/FUNDRAISING: Helen McDavid – contract has been signed with the Country Club for Trivia Night

FOUNDATION: Maclyn Walker – No report

MEMBERSHIP: Becky Long – Jennifer Ruppel has submitted her application for membership with the Cluster Club

PROGRAM: Maclyn Walker – Heather James, from the Estella Byrd Whitman Community Health Center

SERVICE: Debbie Catabia/Wendy Williams:

August 14, 2025 Business Meeting will be collecting full-size tooth paste, soap and deodorant for the Community Partnership School located on the campus of College Park Elementary.

August 20, 2025 Marion County Public Library – stuffing 250 bags for the Ready to Read program. Sign-up sheet going around for 10-11 am and 5:30-6:30 pm.

October 9, 2025 Business Meeting collecting diapers for the Early Learning Coalition.

October 25, 2025 Day of Giving 10-12. We will wrap diapers at the Early Learning Coalition.

Christmas Family – We will partner with the Arnette House for helping a family

WEB: Helen McDavid – Everything is up to date

Newsletter: Helen McDavid – please send articles to Colleen Duris by August 15, 2025

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Long-Range Planning Committee: A sign-up sheet going around for a Long-Range Planning Committee. We will be doing research, brainstorming and gathering information for a signature project that makes an impact in the community, promotes Altrusa and can be initiated in the near future.

Operating Budget: Scott Tice presented the 2025-2026 Operating Budget. Scott Tice made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Operating Budget. Connie Larsen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Foundation Budget: Connie Larsen presented the 2025-2026 Operating Budget. Connie Larsen made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Operating Budget. Mary Cay Landt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Leave of absence: TJ Bright has requested a 6-month leave of absence. Her husband is not doing well.

New ASTRA Chair: Looking for a new ASTRA Chair

Theme: Helen McDavid will continue with the NINJA theme this year. The first award goes to Brenda Ford.

Announcements/Happy Bucks: Mary Cay Landt, Connie Larsen, Anne McKenzie, Marie Kusmierz, Diane Barrineau

REMINDERS: Board Meeting: June 2025 – May 2026 1st Thursday, Noon via Zoom
Business Meetings: 2nd Thursday, noon at Braised Onion, 754 NE 25th Ave, Ocala
Cluster Meetings: 3rd Thursday, 6 pm. Next meeting is July 17 at Early Learning Coalition, 2300 SW 17th Rd., Ocala

Track volunteer hours – www.trackitforward.com/site/altrusa-international-ocala-fl

Newsletter deadline: August 15

2025 International Convention – July 23-26, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada
Trivia Night, March 7, 2026, Country Club of Ocala, 6823 SE 12th Cir., Ocala

Web Addresses – International - altrusa.org

District Three – districtthree.altrudsa.org

Ocala - districtthree.altrusa.org/Ocala/

Benediction: recited by members

Adjourn: 1:11 pm

July Birthdays: July 17 Angie Dansby, July 28 Colleen Duris

Attendance: Diane Barrineau, Debbie Catabia, Angie Dansby, Karen Elliott, Brenda Ford, Gloria James, Maria Kusmierz, Mary Cay Landt, Connie Larsen, Becky Long, Helen McDavid, Ann McKenzie, Scott Tice, Maclyn Walker, Anita Winter

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Catabia

MINUTES

Altrusa International of Ocala, FL Inc.

Cluster Club Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2025

Early Learning Coalition

2300 SW 17th Road, Ocala, FL

The meeting was called to order by Judi Zanetti at 6:00pm and everyone in attendance recited the Altrusa Grace followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests in attendance: None.

The minutes of the June 19, 2025 meeting were approved as distributed.

Business Meeting recap:

Care: Juanita Cunningham will be celebrating her birthday. TJ Bright will be taking a six-month leave of absence to care for her husband.

Membership –Jennifer Ruppel to be initiated in August.

ASTRA: No Chair as no school/summer.

Program: Ready to Read sponsored by the Marion County Public Library

Service: Collecting diapers for ELC at our September & October Cluster Meetings for sorting/distribution on October 25th. (all sizes, but especially sizes 3T-7T & pull ups).

Bring blank cards to the September Cluster meeting to be filled out for beginning teachers.

August 20th Ready to Read bags to be done @ Main Library from 10-11 & 5:30-6:30.

Newsletter deadline is August 15th.

Check has been sent & contract signed for Trivia Night.

Collected full size bar soap, toothpaste and deodorant.

Web/social media: Website is up to date.

Long Range Planning Committee: Connie volunteered as Chair. Committee to brainstorm for a long-term signature project (Nancy Jones Fund.) Meetings TBD.

AMFund has been approved.

Banner: Elaine will submit entry for lottery & will discuss old/new banner if selected.

Canva has been approved and we hope to create a new Trivia logo: Wendy to be added to account.

July Ninja: Brenda Ford

Unfinished Business:

Wendy Willaims was presented the Altrusan of the Year plaque 2024/2025

New Business:

August Guests: Nanci Schwartz, Traci Gamble & Governor Mantha Young of District Three.

Snacks for August meeting: Helen volunteered to share with Amanda, as we will have guests.

Thank you letters for the 2025 Trivia Night are in the process of being completed with a new spreadsheet.

Bring diapers to September & October Cluster Meetings.

November meeting: bring Christmas items for Arnette House.

Next meeting: August 21st @ ELC.

\$3.00 in Happy Bucks were collected.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm with all members reciting the Altrusa Benediction.

Attendance:

Judi Zanetti, Brenda Ford, Connie Larsen, Helen McDavid, Jenn Rappa, Wendy Williams, Becky Long and Elaine Goodelle.

