

Newsletter Date;
October 2011
Sue Clauson, Editor

Altruistically Speaking

Altrusa International Inc. of Laconia, New Hampshire, USA

President's Message

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Hello Ladies!

With our upcoming "Meet & Greet" recruitment night we will be focusing on maintaining and acquiring members to meet the goal of enhancing Altrusa not only on the international level, but district and locally as well.

*"Altrusans are moving forward in our efforts to implement Altrusa's plan to become **the** community organization focused on leading to better communities through our varied services. We want to reach out to each and every Altrusan, and potential Altrusan, in order to help us grow our organization by developing stronger leadership, and providing clarity, flexibility, and inclusion at every step along the way."*

Now is the time to please gather names and addresses of ladies you would like to attend the October 25th get-together. Forward to me at your earliest convenience. Let's grow Altrusa into the best it's ever been!

Diane

Club Motto:

Leaders in Service

**Altrusa International Inc. of Laconia,
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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cookbook Update

From Lisa Singh

Our Taste of the Lakes Cookbook is shaping up nicely and will soon be ready to submit for publishing. BUT there is still time to add more favorite recipe(s). If you haven't already, or if you think of another great recipe you'd like to include, please do so ASAP. All submissions should be received by October 4th, and each Altrusa member is asked to contribute at least 1 recipe. Anything from classics to unique, old family favorites to new favorites - and please pass the word to anyone you know who would like to participate in this community book. The more the yummiier!

You can either send your recipe to Lisa Singh directly or type in your own recipe online (it's easy!):

TO PROCEED:

1. Login at www.typensave.com
2. Enter your name as "Contributor"
3. Group Login: altrusataste
4. Contributor Password: msjqz

LITERACY UPDATE

From Barbara DeAngelis

The Literacy Committee has created over 200 packages for the new parents at LRGH which Maureen will deliver when needed throughout the rest of 2011. The TIPS FOR READING handouts from us have been printed in color and will go into the acrylic frames in the parenting wing of the hospital.

Used books for our next book sale in the spring are being stored at Debbie Cotton's home. Amanda and Sue agreed to investigate wood pallets or wooden planks to go under the books for secure winter storage.

Plans for the fall include scheduling some children's events to promote reading and the distribution of our book. A contact has been made with the teacher at Laconia Academy for a visit to her class which will emphasize the importance of creating a desire to read early in life. Our efforts with literacy will be explained and used as an example of how a community can support literacy.

An effort to connect with the incarcerated parents of young children is being explored. It is hoped that a way can be established of providing those parents with a means of recording their voices reading our book to their children. This recording would accompany a hard copy of the book for the young children.

Other literacy events promoting our book and the support of literacy are being explored, including a possible program meeting in the future to increase our awareness of the READY! for Kindergarten program being implemented by the Laconia School District and the Family Resource Center of Central New Hampshire.

Minutes of Business Meeting

Recorded by Maureen Sanborn, Recording Secretary

Altrusa International of Laconia, NH
Business Meeting
September 13, 2011
Taylor Home, Laconia, NH

Call to Order: 5:45 PM

Present: Diane, Sue, Amanda, Laura, Carla, Lisa, Maureen, Brenda, Gloria, Debbie, Jean, Shirley, Adrienne, Penny, Barbara, Tracie, Jane

Business Meeting Minutes for June 2011: Motion to approve by Penny, 2nd by Adrienne
Treasurer's Report: Accepted

Correspondence: Thank you notes were received from BCNH, Laconia Library, Belmont Library, Gilford Library, and also from a mother whose child attended summer camp with the monies donated from our club.

Agenda:

BCNH: Tracie and Barbara continue to bring birthday balloons each month to the residents. They will do this throughout the year.

Taste: The Citizen newspaper sent an invoice to the club for \$1200 for advertising. This has never happened in the past, and was a huge expense. Members discussed options for the future. The Publicity Committee will meet to compose a letter to the newspaper, and will possibly meet with appropriate personnel at the Citizen's office.

Literacy: The committee met recently to package 200 books and pamphlets for the LRGH Birthing Center. Printing costs were discussed, and Diane mentioned that she has priced monochromatic printers that might be a tool for the entire club's printing needs. Other printing options were discussed, with results to follow at a later date. Betty books were distributed at a Muskrats game during the summer, and complimentary copies were distributed to local libraries as well. Barbara is looking for a detailed number of books sold or distributed so she may keep an accurate account for the grant the committee received for printing 1000 books. The committee decided to postpone the used book sale until next Spring, and is looking for pallets or pieces of wood to place under the boxes for the winter. Amanda and Laura volunteered to donate pallets, and 4 have been requested. Debbie will email some dates and times for members to help place the pallets at her house. Thanks, Debbie! Jane informed the club that she has access to 300-400 children's books. Barbara asked the membership for help with ramping up Betty activities this year, as we are responsible for several commitments that were stipulated when requesting/receiving the grant.

MADD: Sue has contacted the Belknap jail to see if we may replicate a past project where cassettes and books were donated for prisoners to record stories for their children. We need to find out an appropriate method for this if allowed this year, as well as the decision to use/not use the Betty books for this.

Fundraising: The Cookbook project is proceeding on time; Lisa passed out a list of recipes for each member to check, as well as a second list of restaurants that members volunteered to call to see if they might donate a recipe. All members are asked to proofread their recipes, as the deadline is approaching. Tracie has been working on a map that will locate participating restaurants, and Jane offered a map she has that might work. There will be a page dedicated to Betty with at least one recipe donated in her name. The cookbook will be

published in November or December of this year. The committee has discussed the option of accepting advertising money for the book. A press release is being sent out at this time. Dress for Success consignment clothing: More to Luv has offered the club a 50/50 split on clothing placed there. We have earned \$76 at this point. The remaining clothing will continue to be for sale for the next 90 days.

Membership: The committee has joined with the Program Committee to host a Meet & Greet event to be held at Jean's house on October 25. Thanks, Jean! The club decided to keep the event simple, with several new prospects already expressing an interest in joining.

Program: We will have organized meetings in October, December and June this year. October's meeting will be the Meet & Greet at Jean's house, December will be a Holiday Party, and the year end's event will be determined. Amanda will inform the club if she hears of relevant events that may interest members, with some emphasis on community events. The club continues to remain committed to contributing to the community.

New Altrusa Branding: Brenda and Laura attended the International Convention this summer where the new Branding was introduced. They found the convention to be very informative, and reviewed details for the club. The new Branding is very different from the past, and was researched in depth. This will be a work in progress, and the club is encouraged to let International know of individual opinions. Brenda explained that certain colors may be changed, and International is taking a second look at the design. Some by-laws are also being changed, to make the language less discriminatory.

Yearbooks: They are at the printers, and will be available in approximately two weeks. Copies will be sent to District officers and the International office (plus one for the archives.)

New Business:

Publicity: The club needs a volunteer to help with providing Sue Noyes with updates. Shirley has volunteered to look into this, and see if she is available to do this.

Holiday Parade: Volunteers are needed to help with the committee. Sue Bullerwell is in charge of the parade and would appreciate as much assistance as possible.

Conference in April: The conference will be held in Montpelier, VT. We will be decorating and filling our "bucket" with memorabilia from the Lakes Region as well as samples of local goods. Please let Amanda know if you are able to donate for this project.

Many Happy Dollars were collected at the meeting, as many members had exciting news to share.

Adjourn: 7:15 PM

Please remember that the deadline for Newsletter Information is the 25th of each month!

Committee Chairs should be submitting a brief update on what their committee is doing.



BIRTHDAY GIRLS

October 25th
October 28th

Eva Hurst
Sharon Shetler

District One Information

Fall Workshop

November 5, 2011

Hosted by Altrusa of Biddeford-Saco

More info and a registration form can be found in the District Service Bulletin.

For more information about District One, visit the website at www.district1.com.

International Information

Convention 2013

July 26-29, 2013

Rotorua, New Zealand

Hosted by District Fifteen

For more information check out the Altrusa International website at www.altrusa.com

Foundation Information

For information visit www.altrusa.com/foundation

Dates To Remember	
October 6, 2011	Board Meeting, 7:00 am at The Soda Shoppe
October 11, 2011	Business Meeting, 5:45 pm at The Taylor Home
October 25, 2011	Program Meeting: Meet and Greet" Membership Recruitment at Jean Vaillancourt's House
November 5, 2011	Fall Workshop, Biddeford-Saco Club will host
October 22, 2011	Make a Difference Day
April 2012	Spring Conference in Montpelier, VT (Hosted by the Barre, Vt. Club)

CAMP SAFE HAVEN

(from our District Service Bulletin)

In April of 1994, Dave Butler opened "The Vineyard Project", a summer camp dedicated to youth living with HIV & AIDS. Sixteen years later, Camp Safe Haven Martha's Vineyard continues to provide children and teens to week-long experience full of fun, creativity, and community.

The key mission of the Vineyard camp, as with all Safe Haven Project locations, is to provide a stigma-free environment that encourages openness and compassion. To achieve this goal, Vineyard campers are immersed in the community of the island, spending many days off-site participating in field trips and on-Island activities, which are often led by local artists and businesses.

Camp Safe Haven Martha's Vineyard's success is the result of an outpouring of support from a generous community, as well as work from a team of dedicated volunteers.

We received many “Thank You” notes from individuals and organizations after our year end contributions were sent throughout the community.

The following have been received:

The Belknap County Nursing Home

Our donation will be used to improve the resident’s lives and make every day special.

Belmont Public Library

Our donation will help in covering the cost of running a Summer Reading Program by paying the cost of having Steve Blunt, who presented stories and music with a lot of audience participation, and was enjoyed by many families

Gilford Public Library

They will be using our donation to purchase more Literacy Kits for the Children’s Room.

Laconia Adult Education

They will use our donation to help adult learners return to school at night in order to earn their High School Diploma or GED Certificate.

Laconia Public Library

They used our donation towards the “Booktalks for Kids” literacy program. They also thanked us for the copy of “Betty the Bookworm Visits the Library”.

Lakes Region Vineyard Church

The need for their assistance has increased significantly this year and our donations will help to ease the burden of families affected by unemployment and homelessness.

Brenna Cass

She thanked us for the Stevens-Normandin Scholarship. She will be attending Boston College and promises to keep us updated on her freshman year.

Following is the thank you message we received from the foster mother of the little girl that we helped send to summer camp. This note is what it’s all about, and makes all our efforts so worthwhile!

Dear Altrusa International of Laconia,

I want to send y sincere thanks and gratitude for helping support my foster daughter’s participation in Camp Spaulding this summer. The experience was life changing for her. At Camp Spaulding she made new friends, pushed herself in overcoming fears and she shined on the day she tot to go horseback riding. Most importantly, she spent two weeks away from home and while it was hard at times, she made it through, it was quite an achievement! She felt like a “normal” kid, going to summer camp like all her friends.

She sends along a hearty thank you as well. She was delighted to learn she had been selected to be sponsored. It was quite an honor!

Thanks you for all the work you do supporting the community.

Most Sincerely,

Sarah