

The Nor'Easter



Spring, 2004-

LEADERS IN SERVICE

The Newsletter of Altrusa International of Northeastern Connecticut, Inc.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's Message:

As my two-year term as President comes to a close, I would like to thank you all for everything you have done to make our club successful and my term as your president enjoyable.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Executive Board for all their hard work. To Lilynne for the excellent job she has done as treasurer, navigating us through the perils of the IRS; Chris for the excellent minutes and keeping us all informed and up to date; Donna, who was Vice-President during the first year of my term and Deb, our present V.P., both have been supportive and made my life a little easier; Virginia, who has done an excellent job as President of the Foundation; Jo, who as director, carried out any task I requested of her, and did so willingly and without complaint; Malta, who as Chair of the Membership Committee attended all Board meetings and provided the Board with insight and new member information; and finally, last but by no means least, Gay, who made herself available and provided guidance in helping me maneuver through the sometimes murky waters of being President.

Thanks to all the committees who carry out the work of our club, the Auction Committee for another successful fundraiser, with Special thanks to Bernice for the great job she did as chair of the Auction the past two years; Membership for recruiting new members; the Literacy Committee for the Reach the World-Read Project, and the take away library; the Service Committee for reviewing all grant requests and recommending the most appropriate requests for funding.

The club has chosen its new officers for the upcoming year. Alexinia Baldwin will be our new president, Jennie Talbot, Vice-President, Virginia Fulton, Second V.P., Jo Fox, Treasurer, Marcia Machuga, Secretary and Connie Neal, Director. Let us all pledge to work with the new Board and continue the success of our club.

We as Altrusans have much to be proud of. We have supported a number of deserving social service groups in our community, not only with monetary grants but with hands on involvement in our communities. Of those members who responded to my request for hours, we have put in over 1000 hours of Community Service hours to the club; 1200 plus hours in member service hours and 5000 hours in non-Altrusa community service hours. Considering that many of our members are employed

and raising families, these numbers are quite impressive. Good work everyone. We should be proud of all that we contribute to our communities and our club.

It has been an honor to have served as your President the past two years.

Thank you,
Ethel Mantzaris

WE HELPED MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Our club sent a donation of \$240.00 to UNICEF to be used for the training of 10 teachers in Afghanistan. Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, an organization of women teachers joined the U. S. Fund for UNICEF to play a major role in the reconstruction of the education system in Afghanistan. During the Taliban regime, girls were barred from the classroom and a majority of teachers who are women, were prevented from working, 70,00 teachers require training.

Delta Kappa Gamma and UNICEF set a goal to raise funds for training 1,000 teachers in Afghanistan at a cost of \$ 24.00 per teacher by June 2004. As of late November the goal was surpassed; the amount contributed totaled \$ 24,661.05.

Our donation will make a difference in the lives of ten teachers and hundreds of children, especially girls who will be educated in public schools.

WELCOME NEW ALTRUSAN!

Jane White, our newest member, is a library assistant at E. O. Smith High School, Regional District 19 and lives in Willimantic. Jane sings alto with the Manchester Symphny and Chorale. She is also a member of the League of Women Voters, PFLAG, and the Unitarian Fellowship of Storrs. She likes to read and leads a book discussion group in her home. Chris Lamb and Ethel Mantzaris are her sponsors.

Welcome Jane!

Malta

MEET OUR NEW OFFICERS

President: Alexinia Baldwin

1st Vice President: Jennie Talbot

2nd Vice President: Virginia Fulton

Treasurer: Jo Fox

Secretary: Marcia Machuga

Director: Connie Neal

SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Service Committee has been quite busy this year. We have received more requests than in previous years, and as of now we have granted a total of \$19,434. The following groups have been the recipients of our dollars.

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| • Mount Hope Montessori School | 100 |
| • The Discovery Center | 1000 |
| • Hockanum Industries | 1000 |
| • Windham Homeless Intervention Fund | 1000 |
| • Perception House of Perception Programs, Inc. | 609 |
| • Connecticut Community Care, Inc. | 1000 |
| • Quinebaug Senior Citizens Center | 500 |
| • McSweeney Regional Senior Center | 350 |
| • Steeple Chase Bike Tour | 300 |
| • Windham Invitational Swim Meet | 500 |
| • The Lighthouse Program of United Services | 225 |
| • Altrusa Scholarship Committee | 2000 |
| • Easter Seals Connecticut | 1000 |
| • Covenant Soup Kitchen | 700 |
| • Joy Program/Jorgensen | 800 |
| • Children's Law Center | 2000 |
| • Literacy Volunteers/Northeastern CT | 1000 |
| • Altrusa Literacy Committee | 3000 |
| • Delta Kappa Gamma Society International | 240 |
| • Thames Valley Council/Community Action | 500 |
| • The ACCESS Agency | 600 |
| • Safe Havens | 460 |
| • Next Step Program | 550 |

Programs within our communities are discovering us. Combine that with the cuts that many social service and community programs have endured this year, on top of the cuts to their groups last year, it is no wonder that we have received as many requests as we have.

As the Service Committee moves forward with our work I would like to once again, thank the committee members, Diane Wright, Virginia Fulton, Ethel Mantzaris, Jennie Talbot, Nancy Trawick-Smith, and Priscilla Douglas for their ongoing time and commitment. We have had hard decisions to make and it has been done in a spirit of respect and collegiality. They have been a wonderful group to work with. However, we are always looking for new members so don't hesitate to join us. Come and join us on the last Wednesday of every month at Husky Bean Café on Route 195 at 11:30 a.m. in Storrs. We usually have completed all our work by 1:00.

Eileen Griffin, Chair
Altrusa Service Committee

MEMBER RECEIVES HONOR!

On Saturday, May 1, 2004 at the Neag School of Education's annual alumni awards dinner, our own Alexinia Baldwin will receive the *Distinguished Alumna Award*.

Congratulations Alex!

*******AUCTION 2004*******

FROM THE SOLICITATION AND DONATIONS COMMITTEE

Hi, everyone! Betsy and Marylou are co-chairs of the newly created Solicitation and Donations Committee for the 2004 Auction. The purpose of this committee is to beef up the amount and quality of donations for the auction and to procure the donations much earlier in the auction process. This will help to ease the stress from "last minute" changes to the auction catalog and also allow us to use our new "web site" for attendees to preview auction items. This is important, especially for vacations, as it will give notice to bidders as to the dates of the vacations and they can come to the auction **prepared** to bid.

Our goal is to have as many auction items as possible by June. So please get out there and ask your donors for their items, vacations, services etc. We would like to be able to put our web address on the Save the Date postcards sent in the summer so that our guests can start looking at the items well in

advance. This should be a very exciting addition to our already excellent Auction Plan. If you are interested in helping on this committee, call or email Betsy or Marylou. Thanks to all!

CLUB MEETING SCHEDULE

April

Wed. 7 Board Meeting, 6 PM
To be determined

Wed. 21 Dinner Meeting, 5:30 PM
Down Town Partnership/Fine Arts
Dean Woods, Cynthia Van Zelm
Time and Location To Be Announced
Hostess: Janet Jones

May

Wed. 5 Board Meeting, 6 PM
To be determined

Wed. 19 Business Meeting, 5:30 PM
The Roma, Mansfield Center

June

Wed. 2 Board Meeting, 6 PM
To be determined

Wed. 16 Dinner Meeting, 5:30 PM
Installation of Officers/New Members
Rome Hall
Hostess: Bev Sims

NO MEETINGS IN JULY AND AUGUST

WE JUST HAD TO SHARE THIS

Malta's yummy salad from SOUTHERN LIVING 1993 ANNUAL RECIPIES.

Strawberry Spinach Salad

2 lbs fresh spinach
1 qt fresh strawberries, halved
2 oz. slivered almonds, toasted
2 oz. sliced almonds, toasted
Poppy Seed Dressing

Combine strawberries, spinach, and almonds in a salad bowl and chill.
Just before serving, pour dressing over salad.

Poppy Seed Dressing

¼ to ½ cup sugar
¼ cup apple cider vinegar
1 ½ teaspoons finely chopped onion
¼ teaspoon paprika
¼ teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
½ cup vegetable oil
1 tablespoon poppy seeds