



THE FLASH

Altrusa Club of Spokane, WA

Member of Altrusa International

June 2009

President: Karen Harwood

Editor: Mary Ann Ashlock

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I sat down to write my first President's Message, I mulled over what to discuss. After considering many topics, I decided to talk about the subject that is occupying most of my waking hours right now – home construction. As most of you know, my husband and I are in the process of building a house (which is almost completed – really! I mean it this time.). I know this has seemed to take an eternity, however, I have learned a few valuable lessons from the whole process.

First of all, everything takes longer than planned. Weather delays digging, people take vacations and cannot meet deadlines, road closures interfere with concrete work, and on and on and on. Additionally, everything costs more than anticipated. Delays lead to price increases, items are discontinued and (surprise, surprise) the replacement costs more, and contractors forget to include minor items (such as exterior bricks) in their bid. Further, people constantly tell you what they cannot do or that "you really don't want that," forcing you to either change your ideas or fight hard for what you want. Challenges you never anticipated when you began seem to be your constant companion.

But, it turns out, if you stay focused on the goal, insist on the quality that you want, make the occasional strategic compromise, stick to your guns when the really important matters are involved, and don't get worn down by the challenges, you will end up with a result that is, for the most part, just what you want.

It occurs to me that these lessons can also apply to Altrusa as we strive to meet our goals (you had to know this was where I was headed . . .). Where we start when we first set a goal may look very different from where we end up. Things may take longer, it may cost more (in dollars, club resources and individuals' energy), we may be told we cannot do things the way we want (perhaps, even by each other), and we'll hit roadblocks we never anticipated. But, if we keep focusing on the goal – whether it be increased membership, improved literacy rates, or a well-nourished bank account – the result will be more pleasing than we anticipated.

We have a lot of work ahead of us for the coming year. Our new literacy grant program has the potential to make Altrusa better known in the community and change the way we operate in many ways. We have the garage sale coming up in June and a year long membership drive to conduct. So, let's make this a great and productive year!

I am honored to have been elected President of this wonderful group. As the year goes forward and I struggle to figure out what I am supposed to do, I would appreciate it if you all would help me to keep my eye on the prize, my nose to the grindstone, and my shoulder to the wheel, and – when the clichés fail me – remind me to follow the Yellow Brick Road until we all reach the Emerald City.

Anyone ready to shop for drapes?

Karen

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF SPOKANE RETREAT MINUTES
4:30-8:00PM MAY 18, 2009

Incoming President Karen Harwood welcomed everyone and explained the mini-notebooks for members to use to record service hours. These hours include: 1. Participation in club activities, such as meetings, committee meetings, etc. 2. Altrusa service project participation. 3. Hours spent in service projects unrelated to Altrusa.

District Conference attendees, Jan Stripes, Kathy Osweiler, Helen Tobeck, and Mildred Scheel reported on highlights of the Conference.

Installation of 2009-2010 club officers was conducted by Jan Stripes.

Garage sale information was given by Mary Butler.

Sign-up sheet for committees was passed out.

Expense reports are due by May 31.

Anne Whitley was nominated for membership by Jan Stripes, approved by membership, and will be initiated in September.

Summer picnic will be at Mary Ann Ashlock's and the tentative date is July 17th.

Sandy presented a list of suggested social/fun activities and asked that any additional ideas be added and returned to her.

Consensus of membership was to continue to have dinners at the Red Lion Inn.

The Service Committee reported on the selection for the literacy grant and answered questions, after which we voted by ballot for our choice. Results of the ballot were: First choice – Franklin School Second choice- tie between Tiger Time and Our Place Third choice – Adams School.

Current projects were then prioritized by the dot system. Recognizing that we might not be able to fund the top choices, a motion was made by Mary Butler to take the results to the Service Committee to consider the budget and make decisions. Jan Stripes seconded the motion and it was approved.

It was pointed out that we can apply for a \$1000 grant from International Foundation, but must meet the required deadline for application.

Jan Stripes made a plea for consideration of fund-raising activity to provide more assistance to Conference and Convention attendees.

Retreat ended at 8:00pm

Marian Thackray. Secretary

WELCOME TO ALTRUSA ANNE!! 

SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORT

At the Retreat, Altrusa members considered literacy grant applications from Adams Elementary School, Franklin Elementary School, Our Place Ministries, and Tiger Time After-school Program. The membership chose Franklin for the 2009-2010 Literacy Grant. Tiger Time and Our Place tied for second place and Adams came in third. There was great interest in funding more than one project if possible. In addition, the membership expressed interest in continuing with the monthly YWCA dinners.

Janet Brouger and Jan Stripes met and will be contacting the committee to find a date for a summer meeting.

They are meeting with the Principal and Librarian this week about what is expected of us and the ways we will be doing our volunteer service.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Thank You to all of you who worked on the Membership committee with me the last couple of years. I think we did a very good job. Jan

JUNE DINNER MEETING

The speaker for the June dinner meeting will be Kari Witsett of Project MOVE (part of Community-Minded Enterprises). Project MOVE is a mentoring program for 16 to 21 year olds with disabilities who are transitioning out of high school.

2009 -- 2010 ALTRUSA COMMITTEES

Following are the committees for the 2009 -- 2010 service year. I tried to give everyone the assignment she requested. If you would like to change your committee assignment please let me know. This year we will continue to combine committee meetings. Service and Finance will meet together, as will Membership, Communications and Social.

Karen H.

SERVICE COMMITTEE: Janet Brougher and Jan Stripes, co-chairs
Georganna Clifford, Mary Cordes, Carol Delehanty, Carol Dunne, Izzy
Hawkins, Marian Thackray

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mary Butler and Patty Roddy, co-chairs
Sandy Eberle, Wai Landry

COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBERSHIP: Co-chairs Mildred Scheel
(Comm.) & Kathy Stevens (Membership)

Mary Ann Ashlock, Charlotte Gray, Jodi Miley, Jayna Milne,
Kathy Osweiler, Carla Rosenberry, Helen Tobeck

SOCIAL: Sandy Eberle and Lib Welty, co-chairs
Edith Huey, Joann Snyder

MOORE-TURNER GARDENS TOUR



On Saturday, June 20, Sandy will lead a group of Altrusans, family and friends to see the Moore-Turner Gardens off 7th Avenue. The gardens open at 10. Meet in the parking lot next to Corbin House. Bring good walking shoes. After the tour we'll do either a light lunch or ice cream at Baskin Robbins on Grand Ave. Call Sandy to sign up for a chance to see a well-hidden Spokane garden.



EVERYONE'S INVITED

*The children of Richard and Janice Stripes invite you to a reception to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary
Saturday, June 20, 2009 at 2 PM Corbin Community Center 827 W Cleveland Ave. Please respond to Virgil at 327-6132.*

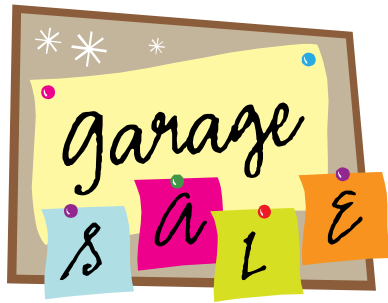


GET WELL SOON!

Carol Delehanty is recovering from a car accident! She has support from friends and family. We all wish you well Carol!!



PLEASE TURN IN YOUR ALTRUSA AND OTHER VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR THE MONTH TO KAREN HARWOOD. THANK YOU.



Are You Ready

For Some Spring Cleaning??

It's time for our Annual Garage Sale for Altrusa International! Please gather all of the extra goodies -- from your house and then don't forget your family, friends & neighbors!

Sale days will be:

Friday 6/12 & Saturday 6/13

from 8 a.m. til 3 p.m.

at Janet's house –

10713 E. 30th Ave.

To schedule a pick up of large items please call Mary at 362-3362.

**And don't forget to tell everyone
about our sale!**