

Altrusa International of Lake County

Patriotism, Efficiency, Service

September 27, 2007

Volume 2, Issue 2



Special points of interest:

- Welcome District Three Governor Linda L. Robinson.
- Altrusa Birthday's
- Meet Michele LeFever
- Did you know?

Altrusa lunches at Leesburg Public Library

The August 23rd Altrusa program luncheon was held at the new Leesburg Public Library. The Literacy Committee arranged the luncheon and tour as part of their continued commitment to literacy within the Altrusa organization.

"August was National Literacy month, so having the program meeting at the Library was perfect." said Sharon Wooten, Chairperson of the Altrusa Literacy Committee.

As members of Altrusa arrived they received a warm welcome from the Library staff.

A fantastic lunch provided by Debbie Davis from the Leesburg Community Building, was served in one of two meeting rooms

Literacy Committee

The Literacy Committee has been busy this year. They recently donated \$1500 to the Pregnancy Care center for educational books for new and expectant moms. They gave a \$250 text book scholarship to one of the Altrusa Scholarship recipients. Rimes Early Learning and Literacy Center received \$350 for children to use to purchase books at their book fair. Last but not least, Third grade teachers at Mascotte Elementary will submit a request for money with an explanation of how they will use it for a classroom Literacy project. The winning class will receive a \$500 grant.

that are available for use in the Library.

After lunch library staffers including Carol Anderson, Adult Services Librarian, treated the Altrusa group to a tour of the new facilities.

The 42,000 square foot library was recently completed and the Altrusa luncheon was the first opportunity that some of the ladies had to see what the library had to offer.

The tour included the first and second floors of the new Library as well as a brief "behind the scenes tour". The behind the scenes tour showed Altrusans how the Library receives and processes new books as well as books from other Libraries through out the Lake County Library System.



Carol Anderson, Adult Services Librarian for the Leesburg Public Library points out some interesting items to Carman Cullen and Betsy Barbieux during the Altrusa tour of the Library.

Altrusa Awards Scholarship

Lake-Sumter Community College nursing student, Stephanie Bryant is the recipient of an Altrusa Scholarship for the fall semester. Stephanie is a full time student who started the nursing program this past August.

Stephanie said "This semester is going to be



especially difficult for me financially. The nursing program requires that all of the books that we use through out the two year program be

purchased during our first semester. I can't tell you how relieved I am to receive assistance. I am so excited and thankful to be receiving a scholarship from Altrusa." Stephanie originally graduated from high school in 1990. She was a stay at home mom until a divorce forced her to return to work. After working in the insurance industry for a year, Stephanie decided she wanted a college education. Determined to get her degree in nursing, Stephanie quit her full time job and enrolled at Lake-Sumter Community College. Stephanie said it has not been easy to raise her 6 year old daughter on her own while attending school, but she knows struggle will be worth the effort.

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WELCOME DISTRICT THREE GOVERNOR LINDA L. ROBISON

Governor Linda L. Robison will be attending and presenting our September 27, 2007 program meeting. Governor Robison joins us from Columbus, North Carolina. She will be discussing the benefits that District and International provide to the local Clubs. This is a chance for Altrusa of Lake County to get some questions answered. We welcome Governor Robison!

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Membership Committee

The Membership Committee was given the opportunity to mentor with another Sister of Altrusa for the year. Michele LeFever, Chairperson of the Membership Committee said she hopes all of the ladies have been in contact with their selected sister and are already busy learning something new about them.

Read any good paper backs?

If so, bring them to the next Altrusa meeting and donate them to the troops serving in our armed forces. The Literacy committee has partnered with Operation Shoe Box. They will ship and distribute the books and magazines for Altrusa at no cost. This will be an ongoing project, so bring magazines to our meetings through out the year! What a great cause!

Information Committee

The Information Committee has been busy updating the flip chart that is used when meeting with a new member of Altrusa. The committee has reviewed the flip chart with the Board and are making the suggested changes. New Altrusa members are going to be more informed than ever!

Altrusa welcomes Tracy Hill

Tracy Hill was recently welcomed into our Altrusa family. Tracy was sponsored by Altrusa member Sharon Wooten. Tracy is currently employed by State Farm Insurance. Initiation for Tracy should be scheduled sometime in the near future.

Happy Birthday

September

Patti Wolf 25th

Donna Miller 25th

October

Vicki Hammack 2nd

Beth Work 2nd

November

Betty Richardson 8th

Jennifer Hill 12th

Kathleen Sowden 20th

Kat

We're on the Web!
AltrusaLakeCounty.org

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Save the Date for the Altrusa Symposium

The 2008 Altrusa Symposium will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2008 from 7:00 am until 2:00 pm at the Colony Cottages at the Colony Plaza of the Villages. The Colony Cottages are located just outside of Fruitland Park on County Road 466A.

The Symposium Planning Committee met for a tour of the facilities on September 19, 2007. Committee Chair, Theresa Tucker, said "the facilities are perfect for a function that celebrates women." The Colony Cottages are very feminine and *shabby sheik*. The lobby is covered with light pink, blue and red floral patters. Tea cups, china and flowers accentuate the distressed white furniture. The décor sets the mood for the "all girl" symposium.

This is a new location that caters to women. The location will draw from the Villages community which will allow us to achieve our goal of a community event. It will also give us the opportunity to raise more funds for all the wonderful causes that Altrusa supports, said Teresa.

The Altrusa Symposium is open to all Altrusa members, friends, associates and community members. Breakfast and lunch will be served and is included in the price of admission. Tickets are \$45.00 each. The Symposium will consist of several breakout sessions on topics of interest to women. There will be multiple vendors who offer products and services that are of interest to women. The details of the event are yet to be finalized. If you would like to volunteer or if you have questions about the Symposium please email Theresa Tucker at compromac@earthlink.net.



What you may not know about Michele LaFever

Originally from Western NY, I was raised in a rural town called Ransomville. It consisted of about 1500 people. We had only one traffic light. My best friend's (from Kindergarten) family owned a chicken/egg farm called Rex Egg Farm. It was just down the street from me. As children, my friend and I would play in the old farm shacks, deteriorating barns and chicken houses that were no longer being used.

In one two story barn, three of us girls made a fort where 'no boys' were allowed. We cleaned up one of the rooms and turned that into our living room. We had a couch, two chairs and a wooden coffee table which we painted baby blue and etched with our 'fort name'; *Blood Sweat and Tears!*

By the age of 13, I was employed at the farm. My job was to walk one of the 2 story chicken buildings and gather eggs from the 10,000 chickens (there were 33,000 chickens in total). This building had a hand operated elevator. We would gather eggs from one level then pull ourselves up the elevator to the second

level to gather more eggs. We had to work as fast as we could to collect as many eggs as possible while they were still fresh. There were many challenges along the way. We had to use a shopping cart to collect the eggs. We had to push it down an aisle that was only as wide as the cart itself. We had to push the cart through chicken manure and feathers that had accumulated on the floor. An occasional rat would travel by so we always wanted to be aware of our surroundings. Eggs are delicate. We had to be very



careful because breaking eggs meant losing revenue. Breaking eggs also created a not so pleasant smell. You can imagine our frustration working in this building! It didn't have air-conditioning!

After a year, I graduated to the Machine Building where the eggs traveled to us on a belt. We packed the eggs into flats as fast as we could. We had to make sure the eggs would not bump into each other and break. Here we were no longer tortured by the sound of 10,000 chickens and the smell and the dust and manure and feathers. What did torment us was the smell coming from a bucket of broken eggs that accumulated from not moving fast or careful enough. The smell of rotten eggs was terrible in that building.

I left the farm after a couple of years. I returned several years later as a young adult. This time I worked directly in the Mill to process the eggs. This was where the eggs came in to be cleaned, candled and separated by size and again packed by hand to be put into cartons to be sent off to the stores. The finished product came in the form of a carton of eggs that could be purchased in a store under the name of Cackleberry.

Thanks to the Curtiss family, I learned some very valuable lessons at an early age. My experience taught me how to cope and work with people as a team. It taught me to fill in and make sacrifices in order to make the finished product come together.

Michele eventually left the farm and has been living in Florida for the past 13 years. After being in business since the late 1800's the Curtiss family finally retired and closed the farm.

Michele LaFever is a self employed Licensed Massage Therapist who specializes in Therapeutic Massage, Acupressure, and Geriatric Pain Management. She is also a fantastic Yoga instructor!

Did you know?

Between the 35 active members of Altrusa International of Lake County there are a combined total of 366 years of active membership.

Anna Cowin holds the honor of being the longest active member of Altrusa International of Lake County. She has 24 years of service. Martha Thomas holds the honor within the organization of being the longest active member of Altrusa International with 46 years of total service. Sherry Stewart, Rosemary Purdum and Susan Thomas all have 20 years of service with Altrusa International of Lake County. Other long term members include: Judge Donna Miller, Betty Richardson, and Anita Valdez. Each have 18 years of service. Pat Mueller has 17 years of service and Amelia Carlton has 15 years of service with Altrusa. Thanks to all our members, not just the long termers! We appreciate you making a difference in our community.

Domestic Violence Committee

The Domestic Violence Committee will begin meeting on a monthly basis on October 11, 2007. The meeting will be held at 11:15 am before each regularly scheduled business meeting at the Leesburg Community Building.

We need your updated information!

Have you checked the Altrusa web site directory lately? If not, check it out and make sure your contact information is correct. Is your photo missing? We need that too! It is very important that we have current information on all our members. We can't contact you if we don't have your information! Let us know about your changes or new information. Forward your changes and your photo to: PRMuellerLaw@aol.com. It is time to get updated!