THE FOCUS

July 2016

OFFICERS AND BOARD FOR 2016-2017

President: Ginny Smith
Past President: Janet Hart
Vice-President: Karen Crawford
Secretary: Pat Vaughan
Club Treasurer: Kim Mosely
Foundation Treasurer: Cynthia Pettit
Directors:
Melody Kazee
Denise Sergent
Kelli Newman
Alison Slade

WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW BOARD!
2016-2017
2016 Dates to Remember

13 July Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. Conference Rm. B at downtown Public Library
15 July -Craft Club 6 p.m.–Flourish Gym 3440 Richmond Rd. Suite #110
18 July –Fundraising Committee Mtg. 6 p.m. Panera Nicholasville Rd.
21 July Dinner/business meeting. No speaker. “Committee time”.

August 4 and 5th—Drop off items for Yard Sale
        August 6 “50 Fab Ladies Yard Sale”

Additional information on all project/activities may be found in this edition of the FOCUS.
Check the website and calendar for activity updates.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LADIES!!!!

17*Dale Pickett 24*Brenda Oldfield *26 Eula Spears and Linda Hardee

Those who did not bring a gift during their birthday month are encouraged to do so any month to make our raffle a fun event.

COMMITTEES:

Please Join Hands and Take a Turn!

**Committee chairs please send committee notes and information each month by the 26th to Becky Mercier for submission in the FOCUS.

** Committee descriptions and details are listed in your yearbooks.
*****If you have not already signed up to participate on a committee, please email Ginny Smith and let her know your choice for the upcoming year. Thanks!

The Board of Directors and Officers encourage your ideas and suggestions. Please feel free to contact your BOD with ideas.

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE/Vice-President’s Report:**

**Meeting RSVPs (Doodle)**

Please continue to RSVP to the monthly meetings using the Doodle tool on the Internet. You must respond whether or not you can come. If you are not able to respond using the Doodle, call, text or email Karen Crawford. 859-338-4515 or kdc61@gmail.com.

July’s dinner/business meeting will not have a speaker. Membership will give a short informational presentation and there will be “Committee Time”.

**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:**

***Fundraising Committee Meeting - Monday, July 18th. 6 PM- Panera Nicholasville Rd. If questions please email Denise Sergent deeleksky@yahoo.com

"Thursday Night Live "Altrusa Pours Beer" was Thursday, June 9th, at the Fifth Third Pavilion at Cheapside Park. Many thanks to all our Thursday Night Live Participants - a fun evening out with friends and music in downtown Lexington, and more than $600 was raised for our Foundation.

*Altrusa Craft Club—

Friday, July 15th 6:00 p.m., at Flourish Gym, 3440 Richmond Road, Suite #110

If you are interested in participating in a group activity or would like to learn more about Crafting for Fundraising for Altrusa, please contact Denise Sergent at deeleksky@yahoo.com to receive information regarding upcoming get-togethers.
50 FAB WOMEN GARAGE SALE!

When: Saturday August 6th,
     Time: 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.      Hosts: Kim and Robert Mosely.

Item drop off dates are August 4th and 5th.

VOLUNTEERS needed!

Please contact Ric McGee (608-5655 or ricmcgee440@gmail.com) if you can help on Friday or Saturday and/or if you have tables that you can loan for the day.

..... and lastly: Don’t forget to buy your raffle tickets for a chance to win the beautiful quilt handmade by one of our emeritus members—Ellen Frost. Only 300 tickets will be sold. Once all tickets are sold the drawing will be scheduled. Currently we have raised $590 and have only 114 tickets left!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Membership has been asked to discuss the importance of tracking your service hours and the categories of hours at our July dinner meeting. FYI: A service hours log may be found in the back of your Yearbook as well as descriptions of the service categories.

***We also have an additional two new members who will be initiated at our next business meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:

***The Committee has met and reviewed responsibilities and tasks, making assignments and re-assigning tasks. They will meet again next month, date TBA, to review the strategic plan and begin work on preparation for the Altrusa’s 100 anniversary.

Communication Committee’s contacts and news you may need to use:

The Altrusa member yearbook will be reprinted in mid-August. Any changes you would like to be made to your page should be sent to Pat Yacobi
AltrusaPatY@gmail.com by July 25th.
***Also throughout the year if you have any updates as to address or telephone numbers please send these to Pat. She maintains our members' information lists, and our website.

Once again we will be selling business card size ad space for $20. This advertising is open to members and their immediate families only. Please contact Pat Yacobi with any questions. This is a wonderful way to advertise your business, job or hobby to other members.

Any items to be posted on our online calendar need to be sent to Dale Pickett at ydalepickett@yahoo.com.

All newsletter items go to Becky Mercier, ramercier@twc.com by the 26th of each month. Committee Chairs please send in your meeting dates and activities so all club members may be aware. THANKS!

Our club’s Branding Ambassador is Brooke Thomas. You can contact her with questions regarding fonts, use of logo, seal and other publication questions. She may be reached at: Thomaspartners@peoplepc.com.

Linda Johnson will be posting news about our club and activities on Facebook, both Lexington Altrusa and District Six pages. She can be reached at lindajohnson45@gmail.com. All members are invited to share Altrusa activities on the pages.

Pat Waggener is our club’s Outreach Coordinator. Please send her information concerning our members including: illness, family deaths, or special occasions that would call for a greeting card. She sends birthday cards to all members.

Aarin Beckerle maintains our email lists. She can be reached at: aarinb@hotmail.com.
SERVICE PROJECTS

Many service opportunities are available for your able hands. 
Please try to participate as your schedule allows.

A brainstorming session was held on Thursday June 30th in the small conference room at Tates Creek Branch Library. We have some great projects focused on literacy that are already established. The primary objective for this session will be to explore other opportunities for our club to serve.

Stay tuned for these new service projects!

The two checks are in the mail! A $1000 check has been sent to University of Kentucky-First Generation Scholars Program and also to Midway College. Once we hear back an acknowledgement from the schools and information on the chosen recipients we will make the announcement in the FOCUS, at a business meeting and sent to District Six Facebook.

BRAINS AND BELLIES:

Our 6/28/16 Brains and Bellies included reading Tish Rabe’s, "On the First Day of Kindergarten," making paper plate flowers, and gifting the students their personal Dora the Explorer World of Color activity book.

We will return to One Parent Scholar in September. In the interim, contact Ginny Smith if you want to learn more about Brains and Bellies service activity.
PASSPORT TO READING SUMMER CAMP was held May 31-June 3 at Harrison Elementary School.

NEW OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL FOR WOMEN - NOSW

Creativity was the theme of our June 21st evening mentoring reception for the New Opportunity School for Women in Berea. The 23 participants enjoyed jewelry making, crafting inspirational cards, and a roundtable discussion regarding significant influences (Person, Place, Song, Book or Movie) in our life led by Alison Slade and Lynn Motley.

THURSDAY’S CHILD GRADUATION PARTY/PICNIC

Thursday's Child Graduation Picnic was held Tuesday, June 28th at the Shady Brook Park Lexmark Shelter area. Twenty-two graduates were in attendance. As is tradition, Altrusa contributed the graduation cakes, took pictures of each graduate, provided “Graduation” frames for the photo, and assisted with the evening's entertainment.
Alison Slade convinced Donna Foster, her mother, that joining Altrusa would be a “good fit” and give both of them more time together—and Donna became a Lexington Altrusan in May of 2015.

Born in Detroit, Michigan, after her eighth grade graduation Donna and her family moved to Falls Creek, Pennsylvania, seven miles from Punxsutawney and its famous groundhog. After high
school Donna attended both Penn State College and Grove City College in Pennsylvania. At nineteen she married and lived in Madrid, Spain for three years and in Cambridge, England for a year. Her husband, a physician, was the first pediatrician to practice in eastern Kentucky. In 1971 Donna moved to Lexington to attend the University of Kentucky, where she received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Food and Nutrition Science. She first worked for a psychiatrist at the Veterans Administration Hospital where she concentrated on behavior modification for weight loss. Later she became the corporate dietitian for Tri Medical Professional Managers, and for fifteen years she was Head of Nutrition Services at Shriners Hospital. After retiring from Shriners she started her private practice.

Donna married Jim Foster in 1977, who has been an instrumental part of her two daughters’ lives. Jennifer, her oldest, is an internist and has two children: Hallie, nineteen and a student at Emory, and Ben, who is in high school. Alison, her younger daughter has one daughter, Emma, who is now twenty-two and attends the University of Kentucky.

A traveler at her core, Donna has especially enjoyed time in Barbados and cruising with her husband and an entourage of friends. This summer she and her family will spend time on Martha’s Vineyard. One of the trips she remembers most vividly was a two-week stint through Turkey some years ago with a friend (though she admits she wouldn’t do it now).

Donna considers her major accomplishment the establishment of The Kentucky Center for Eating and Weight Disorders—a clinic with interdisciplinary treatments—that she ran for ten years. Four years ago, at seventy-two, she began to slow down and now works two to three days a week as a private practice dietitian, seeing about thirteen patients each week.

This remarkable septuagenarian loves tai chi, line dancing and reading. She hopes to continue traveling and to maintain constant contact with her beloved family—and vows that she will always stay active.

A little-known fact from her formative years is that at twenty-one she was a bartender—and loved it!

Submitted by Ric McGee, Communications Committee Spotlight author.

**INFORMATION*UPDATES*REMINDERS**

**SERVICE BASKETS**

**JULY:** We will be collecting prize items for Bingo at Sayre in August. More information to follow.
Our annual picnic was held at Jacobson Park this year. Food was plentiful and celebration of Karen’s 50th birthday added a “calorie” free cake.

Preparations are underway for Altrusa’s 100th Anniversary and District Six will kick off the celebration at our annual Conference April 2017 in Merrillville. A Centenary Committee has been appointed at the International level and Dana Vierck, District Six Governor-Elect and Muncie’s Anne Condran are our representatives along with Governor Chris.

Altrusa was incorporated at National Association for Altrusa Clubs on August 21, 1917. Members held their first Altrusa Institute Convention in Indianapolis in June 1918. The International Headquarters was established in Chicago in 1931. It is still in Chicago. The organization became International in 1935. In 1962 the Altrusa Foundation, Inc., was formed and ASTR was established in 1966 for young people ages 13-21.

Mamie L. Bass, Altrusa Club of Indianapolis, was the first International President.

Miss Jessie O. Yancey was Lexington’s first President. Our Club began in 1923!
“No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks.” (James Allen, 1864-1912)

Thank you so much for your support of our school this year. Your generosity and support are essential to the success of our students and the encouragement of our staff. As I reflect on the best moments of the year from family night to our new book club and teacher appreciation, I realize that Altrusa was represented every step of the way. We are so blessed to have you as our partners, and I look forward to continuing our mission together next year. Have a wonderful summer! Sincerely, Mrs. Franks

Thank you so much for your hard work in planning and hosting Passport to Reading Camp. It means so much to me that you always invest your time and energy into our students, even when there are barriers to getting the job done. You are incredible, and we love you! Thanks! Kate Hildabrand

Thank you so much for taking such good care of us! The work you do is so important and you are so appreciated! :) It’s also so nice to have the treat of cakes and gift cards. Thanks so much for all you do. Lacye Holbrook, Harrison Elementary

Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. The cake was lovely and delicious. The gift cards come in handy! Thanks again for your kindness to the teachers. As I think of your gifts to our students, a quote comes to mind. “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” (Nelson Mandela) Your donations help change our students’ worlds. Sincerely, Cecelia DeSimone

In regards to 5th grade teachers at Harrison Elementary, we would like to express our deep gratitude for the generous refreshments and gift cards that were given for teacher appreciation week. Without your support our school would have the success that has occurred over the past several years. Your generosity, compassion, and valuable volunteer efforts are greatly appreciated. It is rewarding to know so many people appreciate all the hard work and dedication that we put into our jobs in order for our students to be successful and become good citizens. Without your support, our school would be lost, and we just want you to know how appreciative that we are for your services. Sincerely, 5th Grade Team – Ms. Botts, Ms. Laird, Ms. Prater, and Ms. Thayer

CACUS COMMENTS

A copy of the Cactus Comments may be found at the service project sign-up table. This Altrusa Club of Tucson Arizona is our “Sister” Club. Anne Stiene-Martin, one of our Communication Committee members is also a member of this club. Feel free to purview the newsletter or their website as we share ideas and friendship.