



THE FOCUS

March 2018

EDITOR: Rebecca (Becky) Mercier

Officers and Board for 2017-2018

President:

Karen Crawford

Past President:

Ginny Smith

Vice-President:

Alison Slade

Secretary:

Pat Vaughan

Club Treasurer:

Kim Mosley

Foundation

Treasurer:

Cynthia Pettit

Directors:

Ellie Burnside
Bonnie Erdeman
Kelli Newman
Linda Johnson

Formed 9-19-1923
Chartered 12-1923

**“May your blessing outnumber the shamrocks that grow,
And may trouble avoid you wherever you go.” – Irish Blessing**

Greetings:

It is hard to believe that March is upon us. Spring is right around the corner – hopefully. In Kentucky we can never be sure. As the cold and dreary winter becomes a memory, activities in our club start to ramp up. Check out the Service section to see the schedule of projects coming up.

Our annual Membership Soiree will be held on Thursday March 15th. Think about who you can invite to learn more about Altrusa. I find that there are a lot of people out there that are interested in becoming involved in community service, but don't know where to start. Talk about Altrusa to friends and acquaintances. You will quickly find out who they are. Keep in mind that men can join too!

Please let me know if you are interested in attending the District Six Conference on April 20th-22nd in East Peoria, Illinois. You should have received the “Call to Conference” via email this week. The program looks great! Meeting members from other clubs, and learning about their service project is a lot of fun. The more that attend, the merrier it will be!

I look forward to seeing everyone somewhere soon.

Karen Crawford, President
859.338.4515 kdc616@gmail.com





2018 Dates to Remember

March 4 NOSW
March 5 and 19 Book Club 3:40
March 5 Dictionary Project Nicholasville Elementary 11:15
March 7 Board Meeting
March 8 International Women's Day
March 12 and 26 Book Club 4:15
March 14 Bingo 6-8 p.m.
March 15 Soiree 6:00
March 15 Service Committee Meeting 5:30 (before soiree)
March 27 Brains and Bellies 9:30

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



**2 Jennie Abner *7 Linda Yeary *8 Gaynelle Morris *20 Clotine Kissick *23 Jeri Thomas
27 Ellen Frost, Pat Waggener and Kim Mosley

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:

COMMUNICATIONS CO-CHAIRS: Brooke Thomas and Rebecca (Becky) Mercier

PROGRAM CHAIR: Vice-President: Alison Slade

FINANCE CO-CHAIRS: Cynthia Pettit and Kim Mosley

MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIRS: Lynn Motley and Pat Ingram

FUNDRAISING: Chair:

SERVICE SUB-COMMITTEES: Melody Kazee, Outreach and Ginny Smith Literacy Chair.

Individual members take the lead on each project.

Diane Drown chairs the monthly baskets.

**** Committee descriptions and details are listed in your yearbooks.**



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



All Board Members, Officers, and Committee Chairs please be readying your notebooks and annual summary reports for passing on at the transition meetings in May/June.

AWARDS

The Dictionary Project has been submitted to District Six for the Letha H. Brown Award and our Monthly Service Basket Project was submitted for the Mamie L. Bass Award consideration.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

**2018-2019 SLATE OF OFFICERS
ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF LEXINGTON, KY, INC.**

PRESIDENT – Karen Crawford
VICE PRESIDENT – Georgette Smith
SECRETARY – Linda Johnson
FOUNDATION TREASURER – Angie Cobb
CLUB TREASURER – Sarah Styer

BOARD DIRECTORS:
2 - YEAR
 1. Michelle Parke
 2. Kathy Jones
1 - YEAR
 1. (FILLING BONNIE ERDEMAN’S POSITION) – Kim Mosley
 2. (FILLING LINDA JOHNSON’S POSITION) - Pacita Luckey
 3. SUBMITTED BY 2018 NOMINATING COMMITTEE:
 Virginia K. Smith, Pat Vaughan and Patricia Wilson

PROGRAM COMMITTEE/Vice-President’s Report (Allson Slade)



Sarah Bryan an intern from the Well spoke to us at our February dinner meeting. The Well provides safe, supportive housing and comprehensive services free of charge for two years for adult women survivors of sexual exploitation, prostitution, and addiction in Fayette County, Kentucky and surrounding areas. The women live together, recover together and support each other. We partner with community agencies to provide the following case management services:

- Medical Evaluation & Care *Dental Care *Mental/Behavioral Healthcare
- Addiction Counseling *Education/Vocational Training *Employment Assistance



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Becky Mercier and Brooke Thomas

Communications Committee Co-chairs

The Communications Committee met on January 29, 2018. Here are the updates:

- The printing cost for the Year Book this year was covered by the sale of ads. \$60 of the money that was budgeted for printing will be used to purchase a case of binders for the new members joining this year.
- The T-shirt order came in and Dale has been distributing them. The committee will compile an order for Altrusa jackets at the March meeting. Several members brought their jackets to display and Dale will compile order forms. The committee also expressed an interest in Altrusa sweat shirts, so Dale will investigate the possibility. It is anticipated that a t-shirt order will be made again after the Soiree.
- A subcommittee will be working on the Conversation Boards for the Conference.
- Pat Vaughan will be assisting Dale Pickett with the online calendar, so both should be copied with any dates to be added to the calendar.
- Archiving boxes and folders have been purchased.



- **ARCHIVING: NEED YOUR HELP!** Becky Mercier and Pat Vaughan are working on the task of collecting and preparing all materials for archiving at UK. We are calling on **ALL** members—If you have any documents, artifacts, photos, newspaper clippings, or just Altrusa ‘stuff’ that needs to be archived, please contact Becky or Pat. We will come and pick up. Please contact Pat at lexpatv@gmail.com or Becky at rmercier@twc.com.

Thanks for your help!



Update: A separate email will be sent later this month with the information and order form so you may complete your order for an Altrusa jacket.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Save the date! **Altrusa's Annual Membership Soirée** on Thursday, March 15th 6-8. Please reach out and invite a friend, neighbor or co-worker to our gathering! We will have cocktail party atmosphere with complimentary heavy appetizers for guests and a ticket for wine.

Come and bring your Altrusa spirit! Questions? Contact Lynn Motely 1LMMotley@gmail.com

SERVICE PROJECTS

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



February 27th was the 7th Bake-a-thon for Sweet Blessings. Several Altrusa members participating in baking, crumb icing, covering cakes, stacking cakes, decorating and whatever else was needed to complete 133 awesome birthday cakes for area children who live in poverty, have life threatening illness or are special needs. Hard work but a great time was had by ALL!



A St. Patrick's Day  Bingo will be held at Sayre Christian Village (Baunta Building) on Wednesday, March 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. Approximately 50 residents will be attending and Altrusans will be assisting with the bingo, handing out prizes, and serving dessert (homemade St. Patrick's Day cupcakes) and beverages. Altrusa members are invited to sit at the tables with the residents and play bingo as well. Pat Vaughan and Kathy Jones are the co-chairs for this project.

NOSW-NEW OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL FOR WOMEN – NOSW's Winter Session began in late February, 2018, in Berea, and an Altrusa activity is planned for the afternoon of Sunday, March 4, 2018, from 3:00pm to 5:00pm at 204 Chestnut Street, Berea. As in prior NOSW activities, refreshments, roundtable discussion, crafting, and jewelry making activities are planned.



MIGHTY MOMS – Several members attended a meeting on Wednesday, January 31, 2018, at the Tates Creek Library Branch to consider possible options for upcoming Mighty Moms activities. Per the consensus of the group, Kelli Newman contacted Kobe, our liaison at Lexington Green Hilton Suites, to determine the extent of their support. Kobe has expressed a desire to try to hold both a reunion sometime in 2017 as well as a full Mighty Moms event possibly in February, 2019.

LITERACY



MENTORING HARRISON

Extended School Services (ESS) Book Club Program-- Once again Mother Nature intervened, and our February 5, meeting was cancelled by Central Office. On February 12, Jeri Thomas and Kamaya gave their group presentation on Oprah Winfrey. Ric McGee and Rylei shared their insights regarding Rachel Carson with us on February 26.





Due to lack of funding for student transportation, Harrison's ESS programs will not extend beyond March. Altrusa Volunteers are invited to participate in any of the remaining weekly Monday afternoon meetings in March. Book Club will begin at 3:40pm on March 5th and 19th, and at 4:15pm on March 12th and 26th,



Dr. Seuss Night, sponsored by Altrusa from 5:30 to 7pm on Thursday, February 22, 100 participants, including Altrusa volunteers, Harrison Elementary Staff, the Cat in the Hat, and students of all ages accompanied by family members, enjoyed pizza and several Seuss themed activity booths manned by Altrusans. All students participating in six or more of the activities received a Dr. Seuss Swag bag with bookmarks, pencils, and erasers, and were entered into a drawing for several Dr. Seuss books.



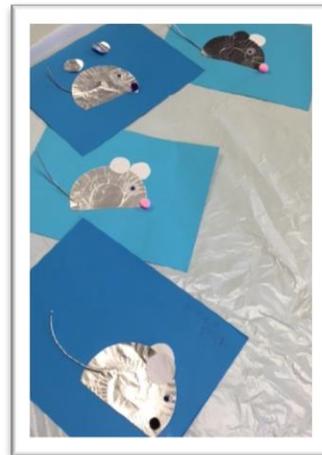


***Additional upcoming activities at Harrison will be posted on our calendar and in the Focus the month preceding the activity.



BRAINS AND BELLIES

- On Tuesday, February 27, our volunteers read Alison Murray's *Little Mouse* and Mary Morgan's *Sleep Tight, Little Mouse*, made cupcake holder mice as a craft, and gave each Preschool B student of One Parent Scholar House a copy of Calliope Glass' *Do You Want to Build a Snowman*.



Our next activity will be at 9:30am, Tuesday, March 27, at the Preschool's 1156 Horseman's Lane location.



DICTIONARY PROJECT:

After receiving a donation of 400 Dictionaries from the National Dictionary Project, plans have begun with the Jessamine County Board of Education and the Clark County Public School Central Office for one-time Dictionary Projects with 2 elementary schools in each county to determine whether they find the project beneficial and if so, to possibly identify on-going sponsors.

The first Jessamine County activity is scheduled for **11:15am on Monday, March 5**, with Nicholasville Elementary School, 414 West Maple Street, Nicholasville.

Conkwright Elementary, 360 Mt. Sterling Road, Winchester, has been named as a Clark County recipient, with a March presentation date to be announced.

Upcoming Activities with Harrison Elementary include:

- Teacher Appreciation tentatively scheduled for 3:30pm on Tuesday, May 1,
- Amazing Moms Breakfast at 7:30am on Monday, May 7, and
- Passport to Reading Summer Camp – As school will remain in session through May 31, Altrusa representatives will meet with Laura Van Epps and Tammie Franks, Principal, to determine how best to proceed with our annual summertime camp. Tammie Franks has asked us to consider participating in a possible once weekly, six week summer reading program rather than trying to schedule the five consecutive days' camp.

- The **SERVICE COMMITTEE** will meet at Spring Valley Country Club at 5:30pm prior to our March 15, 2018, members' dinner meeting.

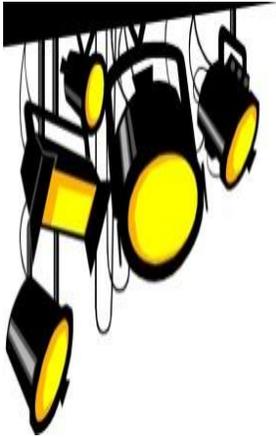
LITTLE LIBRARY:



Thanks to Del Mercier for rebuilding the library's door and doing some maintenance on the box.

We are stocked and back in operation.

All please remember to bring your books—to Becky Mercier, Ginny Smith and Jeri Thomas who are keeping the box stocked.



Spotlight on: [PAT INGRAM](#)

Although she was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, Pat Ingram has graced Lexington with her presence since she was two years old and moved here with her parents. She attended Mary Todd Elementary and Bryan Station Junior and Senior High and obtained an undergraduate degree in Political Science and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Kentucky.

At the urging of Pat Waggener, a friend from church, Pat joined our club in July of 1993. After years of service to Altrusa she found it necessary to take a hiatus, but was reinstated in June of 2009. Now co-chair of the Membership Committee, Pat also has served as Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary and Treasurer.

During her Junior and Senior years in college, Pat worked for John Breckinridge, who was then serving as Kentucky's 6th District Representative in the United States Congress. That experience, coupled with her desire to continue working in the legislative branch of government, led Pat to Frankfort after her graduation from UK. Unlike many, whose education does not prepare them for the career they ultimately embrace, Pat's focus in college served her well. She worked for twenty years for the Legislative Research Commission, the administrative and research arm of the Kentucky General Assembly, and eight years with the Kentucky Council on Higher Education.

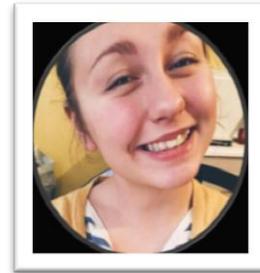
Since her retirement in 2008, Pat continues to pursue her personal goal of "staying healthy and busy". She likes to travel and has been to Europe several times. Now the devoted caretaker for her mother, who lives alone in Lexington, in recent years they have enjoyed vacationing together in St. Pete Beach, Florida.

Pat also enjoys scrapbooking, hand-making greeting cards, reading, walking and gardening. An aficionada of UK sports, especially basketball, she is a loyal listener to Kentucky Sports Radio (KSR) and not infrequently attends live remote broadcasts. An example of Altrusa in action, she serves the community as a volunteer in the Children's Garden at the Arboretum, works with her church group at God's Pantry Food Bank, is heavily involved with Altrusa's literacy focus (the dictionary project is a favorite endeavor), and for eight years has volunteered every week for half a day at the Lexington Visitor's Center. She is also active with her church, serving for many years as chair of the Facilities Management Committee and as coordinator for the monthly activities of the Central Baptist Church Baby Boomers group.



Jacqueline (Jackie) Noonan our newest
EMERITUS MEMBER

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
Haley Starkey, \$500



Haley Starkey is from Sturgis, Kentucky. She is a junior and the first in her family to go to college. Excelling at school, Ms. Starkey landed her a spot on the Dean's List with a Cumulative 3.7 GPA. She majors in Social Work with a minor in Gender and Women's Studies. When she isn't studying, Haley spends her time fighting for just causes such as equality for all, in hopes of ending oppression. Ms. Starkey, an extremely vibrant, love-filled, big-hearted, and smart young lady is thankful to be the spring recipient of the Janice Newman Memorial Scholarship. Haley Starkey is honored to be selected and is grateful to be furthering her education at the University of Kentucky with the help of the Lexington Altrusa Foundation.

MONTHLY BASKETS:

MARCH SERVICE BASKET –



Donations to **Altrusa Foundation Scholarship Fund** are sought.



FEBRUARY BASKET:

Members donated cash and \$5 gift cards from Walmart to benefit

New Opportunities School for Women and Mighty Moms activities.

THANK-YOU!



MATTHEW G. BEVIN
GOVERNOR

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF KENTUCKY VETERAN CENTERS
THOMSON-HOOD VETERANS CENTER**

100 VETERANS DRIVE
WILMORE, KENTUCKY 40390
(859) 858-2814
www.thvc.ky.gov



BG (RET) NORMAN E. ARFLACK
COMMISSIONER
BENJAMIN R. SWEGER
ADMINISTRATOR

February 2, 2018

What a whirlwind of a Holiday Season we had at THVC. The staff and the Veterans would like to thank you for all the time and energy you have donated to our Veterans. It is so heartwarming when your group comes to visit our Veterans of the Thomson-Hood Veterans Center. When your group comes to donate items, everyone around can see the love and adoration you have for our Veterans. Thank you all again for making it a mission to take care of our Kentucky Veterans.

Our Veterans had a wonderful Holiday Seasons and loved spending time with you during the ladies luncheon, but we could not have done it without you. I would like to personally thank you for your dedication and commitment you give to the Thomson-Hood Veteran Center every Holiday Season and I look forward to working with you in the upcoming New Year.

Sincerely,

Michelle Q. Ewing, CTRS-AP

Michelle Q. Ewing, CTRS-AP
Activities Director
100 Veterans Drive
859-858-3853 ext. 265
Michelle.ewing@ky.gov



Let's have a big turnout from Lexington at the "Color our World"
62nd Altrusa District Six Conference!

Mark your calendars for *April 20th thru 22nd, 2018.*



The conference will be held at the Embassy Suites by
Hilton, East Peoria Hotel/conference Center, in East Peoria, IL

Spacious suites are \$129 for a king and \$139 for double.
Breakfast and happy hour are included!

Registration is \$160 for all three days.