



# CACTUS COMMENTS

JANUARY 2019 • ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF TUCSON, INC. • VOLUME 67 NO. 8

Editor Sheila Hugunin

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JANUARY

Hi, hope you have all had a chance to warm up, I caught a plane to NJ on the Saturday before Christmas and it was 78 degrees out, when I got off the plane it was 28 degrees, I didn't get warm until this past weekend!! I guess my blood has thinned out so much I can't go home in the winter any more. I had a great Christmas though, funny how grandchildren warm us at the holidays.

But we have much to do and an exciting year going forward. So Happy New Year to everyone it's 2019 and I need to go on a diet and get moving. This month we have Tyler Meier coming to our Program Meeting, he is from the Poetry Center and will talk about that and also the poetry competition for the Young Authors at the Festival of Books (for which he is arranging poetry part of the judging). We also have many books for the library for pre-schoolers at Tully School. Marcia shared her house so we could attach labels, sign-out pockets and card for the books. They have had a pre-school program for several years but no books. Can you believe that! Thanks to Pat and Elaine's hard work getting a grant from International and buying books that the teachers requested we are ready to supply books and check them out each Monday.

The Festival of Books is coming up and the judging that goes with it, so mark your calendars for judging at Barbara's place on the 12th of January and the Tucson Festival of Books Young Authors Competition on the morning of March 2nd. This is a great opportunity to get friends involved, they are one-off events and maybe some of them will like us enough to join.

Voting for next year is already upon us so get your forms filled out and turned in so the nominating committee can get to work again. We also have conference in San Diego from May 2nd thru the 5th. Watch for you winter DSB and get ready for fun. Also convention is in July (17th - 20th) Reno this year. Since it is so close (we'll, compared to New Zealand) everyone can go. It will also be a great time. Again, mark your calendars.

Glad to see you all again and get back on schedule. You will be asked later in the year about how this experiment with meeting times worked for you so pay attention!!

Beth

Beth  
520 429-2297

ALTRUSA  
INTERNATIONAL  
OF TUCSON, INC.

P.O. Box 42801  
Tucson, Az 85733-2801

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## CLUB ACTIVITIES

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### **Membership Committee: Bonnie McPherson/Barbara Arissa**

Thanks for connecting with your "APAL" (Altrusa Pal)! Keep up the good connections!

### **The time is now for Tucson Club members to begin asking people to be an Altrusan!**

Remember that the Tucson Club is offering new members a special rate to join again this year for \$100 (this covers International and District dues and the affiliation fee).

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### **Young Authors Competition TFOB: Bonnie McPherson**

The stories have arrived! It is exciting.

We will be judging the 3rd Grade through High School stories on Saturday, January 12th.

The judging will take at Barbara Arissa's Club house at 5000 East Grant Road. We will begin at 9:00 AM. Bring a snack and join us. The stories are fun to read!

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### **Fundraising Committee: Elsa Nelson**

Our fundraiser for last year has come to an end. We raised \$4,338. Unfortunately, there were no winning tickets that we're sold by Altrusa. Thank you to all who participated.

Tickets for the next Millions for Tucson will be available earlier than usual. Members requested that we start selling tickets as soon as they become available as other clubs sell them all year long.

I will let everyone know when they become available.

Thank you for your support!

### **Communications Committee: Sheila Hugunin**

Several Altrusans joined Martha Adair at her home for a sack lunch to celebrate her 90+ birthday. We also were treated to her spectacular Christmas decorations. Martha continues to keep up with our Altrusa activities but is taking it easy recovering from an earlier fall.



**Lunch with Martha Adair**

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### **Altrusa Foundation Report: Adrienne Kleiboemer**

The Trustees met on Dec. 12 following the Altrusa Lunch Meeting. The final list of RFF organizations was agreed to and individual trustees are providing updated contact information. It was decided that grants this year will be in the \$500 - \$1000 range. It was also decided that next year's UA scholarship should be awarded to a student in the Business/Accounting area to honor our current and recent Altrusa Presidents and Treasurers. We are likely to award approximately \$7000+ in grants, depending on the exact tally from all raffle and donation money.

The next meeting of the Foundation Trustees will be 1 pm Jan. 9 following the Altrusa Business Meeting.



# CLUB ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

## Service Committee: Elaine Wilder/Pat Young

The time since we all met at our June Planning Meeting has gone by so quickly and now it is 2019! At the September 12, 2018 meeting, Altrusans voted to start a lending library to benefit low income children and families in the Title One Tully TUSD preschool program. A \$4,000 Altrusa International Grant was requested and received to help purchase books and accessories to start a preschool lending library.

Katie Risner- Adler, one of the Tully pre-k teachers spoke at our September Program Meeting. She explained how important early exposure to quality books can be, not just for the children, but for the parents as well. She said, "Many parents are apprehensive to check out books from the library for their children, thinking that the books will just be destroyed or that their children 'can't read'. The hope is to erase the fear and anxiety that many parents have toward reading with their children and to help foster a love and appreciation for books; reading with their children, and the responsibility that comes along with checking out a book each week." The teachers made a list of books for the children's library. Altrusa grant funding was used in November in the amount of \$1,046.11 for Library Starter Sets, blending traditional and newer titles for a variety of themes, illustrative techniques, and writing styles. Most of the books are hardback, some of the books are written in Spanish and the entire list is available to all Altrusans to review. Another list of books, also reviewable to members, was created by the pre school teachers and ordered through our local Barnes and Noble Bookstore with a 25% TUSD discount. The cost of those 145 hard cover books was \$1,414.23, making the cost of each book about \$9.00. Some of the books are classic children's books, there are board books and hardcover books, giving these children opportunities to explore, problem-solve and use creative thinking skills with these books. The total spent on books is \$2,460.34. A library cart, to make the books more mobile and assessable was purchased for \$122.77 and card catalog material cost \$76.95. That makes

a total spending amount of \$2,660.06 for the lending library. We still need to purchase book bags for the children's books.

The starting date for the Lending Library is Monday, January 14, 2019. Altrusans are volunteering to help the children as they come into the portable classroom with their parents; choose two books; have them signed out by an Altrusan and then put the books in their book bag to keep until the following Monday, when the children will return their borrowed books, to gather two different books. Altrusa time to volunteer each Monday is 10:45 am to 12:30 pm, because the first class ends at 11:00 am and the second class begins at 12:15 pm. So Altrusans will meet both classrooms - one that is ending and one that will begin right after the children choose their books from the lending library. We will all be flexible with this process, because this is the first time the preschoolers (or the Altrusans) have started a lending library!]

The other great end of year news is Barbara Arissa investigated and has located another Tucson Days for Girls that is excited about having Altrusa participation! Barbara spoke to La Vonne Riggs who has invited Altrusans to meet for a "How To" Days for Girls meeting on Monday, January 14 from 9-11 am at the location 1655 Melpomene Way! Write the date on calendars or call Barbara to confirm your interest in attending. It is exciting news, because we want to be part of the Days for Girls International Service Project.

## Member News:

**Ruth Ganeles** is home from a brief visit to the hospital and enjoys your cards and greetings. She keeps up with all our news and activities by our newsletter and emails.

Don't forget to check your new Yearbook for contact info on **Jean Larson** and **Carole Rich**. Both members enjoy hearing from members.

## January Meeting Dates

Business Meeting: January 9, 12:00 PM -Radisson Suites Hotel ,6555 E.Speedway

Program Meeting: January 23, 5:30 PM-Radisson Suites Hotel, 6555 E. Speedway

Speaker: Tyler Meier from the UofA Poetry Center



P.O. Box 42801  
Tucson, AZ 85733-2801

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Sidney Bond.....January 4  
Bonnie McPherson.....January 7  
Mary Jo Schwartz.....January 21  
Jean Larson.....January 27  
Elsa Nelson.....January 27  
Mary Riordan.....January 29

### Save The Date

January 12 Young Authors Story Judging  
January 23 Altrusa Program Meeting  
February 6 Altrusa Board Meeting  
February 13 Altrusa Business Meeting  
February 27 Altrusa Program Meeting

**Web site: [www.altrusatumson.org](http://www.altrusatumson.org)**

**Tucson Festival of Books  
March 2-3, 2019**

**District Eleven Conference  
May 2-5, 2019  
San Diego, CA**

**Altrusa International Convention  
July 16-20, 2019  
Grand Sierra Resort, Reno, NV**

## Holiday Party With Tully Preschool Children & Families



**Families at Party**



**Altrusans and Teachers**



**Tree with Wrapped Books and Knit Caps For All Children**



**Children Picking Up Their Gifts**