Hello everyone,

I need to apologize for my lack of attention to Altrusa recently. I’ve been dealing with a case of Covid-Depression. I seem to be able to deal with my work-related activities, but not a lot more. I hired a professional-organizer to assist with my house (who has the added benefit of being divorced from a plumber and she was able to fix my toilet). I’ve started ordering meals with Nutrisystems have lost 14 pounds in the past 2 months (but it’s still a challenge to not overeat). Yesterday was the first time I’d sorted my personal email since mid-May, and I haven’t read all of the important ones yet. Please continue to text me when you have sent me an email which needs to be on my Priority list, or if you need to talk to me. For the most part, I do not have access to my cell phone while I’m at work, so I’ll follow up as soon as I can.

I’m proud of initial committee meetings of all the Tucson Altrusa Committees. Membership has been totally inspired by the Anaheim Altrusa’s Presentation at the Muzeo Museum recently, and those of you who haven’t seen it, it’s on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CfS0hDoMW8 (also you can find it if you search “altrusa youtube muzeo”, as I did. And the joint Fundraising and Service with their “Altrusa Train” to distribute Jim Click tickets and collect donations for Sister Jose’s was a great success.

If we continue to work together we can have a very worthwhile and successful year!

Cindy.
Service Committee: Bonnie McPherson/Mary Jo Schwartz

Tucson Club Receives Grant from Altrusa International Foundation

The Service Committee was pleased to hear that the Altrusa International Foundation has awarded the Tucson Club $1000 for disaster recovery. Due to the pandemic, the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona is experiencing a higher demand for food than usual. Therefore, we wanted to support them. We will be collecting food (peanut butter, rice, and beans) from our members. Then, we will deliver our food and the check for $1000 to the Food Bank. This will provide over 3500 meals to the members of our community in great need.

Altrusans are awesome!

In collaboration with the Membership and Fundraising Committees, the Service Committee participated in a ‘car parade’ to all available members on Thursday morning, July 16th. Members wore appropriate masks and greeted each other from a 6’ distance; Jim Click raffle tickets were delivered and donations collected for the Sister Jose Women’s Center. The parade drivers delivered 5 (!) carloads of donations to the women’s shelter on South Park Avenue. Shelter staff and clients very much appreciated the generosity of Altrusa!

The Service Committee met via Zoom on July 22nd to discuss plans for the coming year. Due to the likelihood it will not be safe to gather as a group for several months, the committee decided to participate in the Pima County “love notes” project for the foreseeable future. All members are asked to write two notes or cards a week to residents and staff of care centers where many seniors are totally shut in and isolated from friends and families. The first patch of cards and notes will be picked up on Wednesday, August 26th and delivered to either Santa Rosa Care Center or St. Luke’s Home. A detailed explanation of the project is being developed.

Other service possibilities for the upcoming year include supporting The Fisher House (a home-away-from-home for the family of veterans receiving care at the VA Hospital) when it reopens and partnering on this project with the Girl Scouts.

The Service Committee will meet monthly via Zoom on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The August meeting date is August 26, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

Members are reminded to submit their Club, District, and Community service hours monthly to Bonnie or/Mary Jo by the first Wednesday of the month; July service hours should have been submitted no later than August 5, 2020. Sheila Hugunin won the raffle for turning in her service hours for June.

We will be picking up the love notes and your food donations on Wednesday, August 26th. This will be coordinated through our A-Pal groups.

Altrusa International Foundation of Tucson, Inc Update: Ann Banwell

Our Foundation is now recognized by Amazon Smile and Fry’s for their charitable programs.

For Amazon Smile, sign into your account and change your charitable contributions to the Foundation using the above name.

For Fry’s, sign into your account and in their Community Rewards Program change the company code to ES011.

In case it is needed, the Foundation’s Federal EIN is 83-4255574.

If you have any questions or issues making these changes, please contact Ann Banwell at afbanwell@gmail.com or 520-490-7808.
Membership Committee: Elaine Wilder/ Pat Young

Katie Risner-Adler, teacher at Tully Elementary School in TUSD, is the guest speaker for our Program Meeting Wednesday, August 19, 2020. Katie will help us understand how educators are proceeding in the classrooms as school begins. She will discuss the challenges as teachers, children and parents go forth this year with in-classroom learning or Internet teaching and what outcomes could look like.

What is an A-Pal and what is the reason for A-Pals? A- Is for Altrusa and everyone needs a Pal, so Tucson Altrusa Membership committee long ago started A-Pals; pairing up our members to ensure we are all connected. More recently, Membership agreed we needed to have bigger groupings of A-Pals, and now we have set up A-Pals according to where members live. This may provide a better opportunity to connect with our fellow Altrusans, as the goal in membership is to retain our current membership and help gain membership for the 2020-2021 year. Here is the A-Pal list:

North: Mary Riordan, Mary Jo Schwartz, Beth Brouillette, Adrienne Kleiboemer, Sheila Hugunin and Jan Sturges, Nancy Cowden (7).
Central: Cindy Mansfield, Martha Adair, Ann Banwell, Sidney Bond, Barbara Arissa, Jeanne Jensen, Bonnie McPherson, Elda Lopez; (8)
East: Joyce Thornton, Marcia Lucas, Pat Young, Elaine Wilder, Frances Walker, Elsa Nelson, Gail Gurney and Tami Arthur (8).

The Membership Committee will engage potential and current Altrusans in a public invited Zoom Event. We are learning the mechanics of a public event and creating a list of speakers such as Jean Fedigan from Sister Jose Women’s Center, Steve Farley, Pima County Humane Society, and Tucson Mayor Regina Romero.

***A-Pals will be contacting you soon, as we want to pick up your Love Notes on August 26, 2020!

Fundraising Committee: Elsa Nelson

The Jim Click Millions for Tucson Raffle tickets are now available.

The Grand Prize this year is a new Ford-150 Platinum truck, 2nd prize is two round-trip, first-class airline tickets to anywhere in the world, 3rd prize is $5,000 in cash. The tickets are $25 each or 5 for $100. This is an ongoing effort to raise millions of dollars for non-profit organizations in Southern Arizona. Purchase of tickets is NOT limited to Arizona residents. Tickets will be mailed or arrangements can be made to pick them up. Please call Elsa at 619-994-5892 with any further questions.

“Together we can do so much” Jim Click, Jr

Raffle tickets were delivered to members during the car parade. The remaining tickets will be mailed to the rest. To date we have raised $100.00. Thank you for your support!

Communications Committee: Sheila Hugunin

We welcome your comments on the revision of our elevator speech. Altrusa International of Tucson, Inc. (Tucson club) - affiliated with Altrusa International, Inc. - a worldwide not-for-profit organization founded in 1917 - dedicated to improving communities around the world.

Through volunteer service and fundraising, members of the Tucson club participate in major community projects with a primary focus on literacy. Altrusa provides grant funding and scholarships to assist local community organizations that support underserved populations.

The Tucson club service projects enable members to build lasting friendships and develop leadership skills that benefit both club members and the Tucson community at large.

July-August Meeting Dates

No Business /Program Meeting in July
August 19-6:30 pm -Zoom-Speaker : Katie Riser-Adler, Tully Pre-School Program
JULY-AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Nancy Cowden.............................July 14
Tami Arthur.................................July 20
Elaine Wilder...............................August 1

Web site: www.altrusatucson.org

District Eleven Conference
April 29, 2021-May 2, 2021
Radisson Hotel, Santa Maria, CA

Altrusa International Convention
July 21-24, 2021
Quebec City, Quebec, Canada

Save The Date
August 5 Board Meeting-Zoom
August 19 Business/Program Meeting (Zoom)
September 2 Board Meeting (Zoom)
September 16 Business/Program Mtg.(Zoom)
October 7 Board Meeting (Zoom)
October 21 Business/Program Mtg. (Zoom)
Marcia Lucas is a role model for Altrusa and the communities we serve. She had a positive example of what it means to be an Altrusan because of her mom, June Lucas, who was a long-time member of Altrusa International through the years. “I grew up with Altrusa, and we kids helped to sticker, sort and generally help out as needed.” Marcia joined Altrusa in 2001 when she and her husband, Larry Callagy, moved to Tucson.

Marcia has held almost every position in our club that exist - except Treasurer, “I can’t count my way out of a paper bag.” (That’s ok, Marcia. You are a successful leader in many other roles!) She was also the District Eleven Service Co-chair with Ann Bauman after she joined Altrusa, and says she “enjoyed the pleasure of visiting other clubs and getting to know so many Altrusans through the years.”

Altrusa’s focus on literacy is so important to Marcia. “I can’t imagine not being able to read! It was a big part of growing up for me. My dad took us to Bookman’s every week for a book selection, and then we went to the ice cream store next door. Literacy projects are a good fit for me.”

Marcia has carried her mom’s (and dad’s) legacy forward with grace and enthusiasm. What does she enjoy the most? “…being of service in whatever projects are happening each year. This was a trait that was modeled by my parents when I was growing up: you get involved in something you’re interested in, and do your best to make a difference. This may seem like a cliché, however, service/volunteering is the rent you pay for being here on this Earth.”

Marcia, your generous nature through all the ‘acts of kindness’ you share with your family, Altrusa and the people we serve in the community are a blessing for us all!

Marcia Ready for the “Car Parade” to Sister Jose Women’s Center
Member News:

Pat Young had a wild ride to Portland under the careful attention (and driving) of her daughter Susan and husband John Freeman. We made it in 2 days, stopping overnight in Merced CA. Georgina and Jon have a beautiful home in a wooded area of SW Portland and an AirB&B space on the lower lever that Susan and John were able to use comfortably. They will continue on home to San Diego after the 4th, going through San Francisco to visit John’s sister on the way. Pat will return home by air, hopefully safely, around the 15th of July.

As I have mentioned, Georgina graduated from Portland State University with her Masters degree in Spanish Languages and has been accepted at U of Oregon to begin work on a doctors degree in Romance Languages in the fall. Her graduation ceremony from the Masters Program was by Zoom but was quite rewarding as family members were invited to attend. There were just a few parents present but we were introduced to the professors and of course to all the students, with the Masters Program graduates being presented first. Georgina was in cap and gown and stole as were most others, and I was acknowledged as her mom and took credit for her success in school. In a way it was more rewarding for me than a physical graduation because I could see Georgina and all the others very clearly, felt very included in all the activities and was even given an opportunity to speak. Georgina’s group of Masters students held a subsequent party at a local park where they could socially distance yet be together. For those who have been asking, Georgina is working on her next book, to be completed this summer.