President Message

I am sure most of our members have been wondering when the next newsletter would be sent out . . . well here it is, finally! As we all know the last few months for our club and our members has been busy and challenging. Many of our members have been dealing with personal injuries, illnesses and much needed surgeries. I am happy to report that everyone seems to be doing well, recovering their health and bodies are healing. Hopefully those of you who have had to sit on the sidelines for these last months can start to get back into attending our clubs meetings and participating in our service projects and activities.

I want to thank all of our members who stepped up and showed up during the holiday season to buy and wrap gifts for our Holiday Families Project as well as picked up and delivered food donated by Trader Joe’s the night before Thanksgiving and Christmas eve. We didn’t have very many members healthy enough to participate but we got it all done. As always, Altrusans are well known for flexibility as well as being compassionate and dedicated!

We are very excited about our current project that we received a $4000 grant for from Altrusa International. Cathi Worrell and I have already met with the 5 Cities Community Services Foundation on the renovation of the outdoor horticulture garden area at Camp Arroyo Grande and the 5 Cities Men’s Club has begun work to prepare the area. We have also, met with and talked to the Director of the Camp Keep program, run by the Kern County School District and they will be preparing a list of books, materials and items they would like to include in the outdoor classroom’s library.

I want to welcome our two new members Terese Tewalt and Beth Lorenzo who we will be initiating at our March 10th meeting.

“May your day be touched by a bit of Irish Luck,
brightened by a song in your Heart,
and warmed by the smiles of the ones you Love.
~An Irish Saying

April Smith
IMPORTANT DATES

March 4  
10:45 a.m.  
ASTRA Club Meeting  
Lopez High School
March 8  
International Women’s Day
March 10  
5:30 pm  
Club Business Meeting  
The Victorian — Arroyo Grande
March 17  
Happy St. Patrick’s Day
March 20  
International Day of Happiness
March 21  
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
March 4  
ASTRA Club Meeting  
Lopez High School
March 8  
International Women’s Day
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Club Business Meeting  
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COMMUNICATION

Newsletter – April Smith  
Please submit your photos, articles, comments and suggestions to April if you want them included.

Facebook - April Smith  
Facebook page at Altrusa International of San Luis Obispo County. Send photos and information from our club activities to April and she will post on our club page.

LITERACY

Laundromat Library  
This project is off to a great start. See the article on the Grand Opening on page 3.

Oceano Library  
Debbie Volz volunteered to handle the Christmas Crafts project in December. The children enjoyed making the decorative holiday crafts.

SERVICE

Camp Arroyo Grande Out Door Classroom  
We are currently in progress on the Camp Arroyo Grande Outdoor Horticulture Classroom. The 5 Cities Men’s Club is working on the area and the Camp Keep Director is helping us to find the right books, and supplies for the library.

Five Cities Women Emergency Food Ministry  
We have a new partner in the Grover Beach community that our new member Terese Tewalt has brought to our attention. We are starting out with providing a grant from our Altrusa Foundation for them to buy certain foods. We will also be looking at other ways our members can get involved and help this organization.

MEMBERSHIP

We will be initiating two new members at our March 10th meeting, Terese Tewalt and Beth Lorenzo. Plan to attend and help us welcome them to the club. Bring a guest and share the experience the satisfaction of being a member, they may just want to become an Altrusan!

ASTRA

The club has been busy since the new semester began in January. They made over 100 Valentine’s Cards that were sent to deployed military and another 100 that they delivered personally to the residence of Arroyo Grande Senior Care Center. At the March meeting we will have a representative from 5Cities Homeless Coalition who will talk about their services and volunteer opportunities.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

January (Belated)  
Heather Mills ..................................................19  
Cathi Worrell  ......................................................22

February (Belated)  
Shelly Ruch .....................................................17  
Connie Wood ....................................................23  
Clint Weirick ...................................................28

March  
Susan Bass .......................................................4

April  
Margaret Walker ................................................8  
Viki Yonan .......................................................9  
Judy Sorensen .................................................20  
April Smith ......................................................29

SAVE THE DATE

November 14  
Celebration of Trees  
Monarch Club at Trilogy
SERVICE & PARTNERSHIP

HOLIDAY FAMILY PROJECTS

This past Holiday Season our club, once again, adopted families through 5Cities Homeless Coalition to provide gifts for everyone in the family as well as gift cards to help with living and holiday expenses.

This year we also adopted some families through CAPSLO – Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo and we provided a pizza and ice cream sundaes party for over 100 men, women and children at the 40 Prado Homeless Service Center in San Luis Obispo.

SERVICE & PARTNERSHIP

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB PROJECT

Every January our club likes to help out with the Mid Year Back to School Program held by the South County Boys & Girls Club in partnership with the Kiwanis Club who provide new back packs and school supplies. This year we provided the kids with hats, gloves, socks and books.

LAUNDERMAT LIBRARY “Libromat”

Rinse, spin, read... this project is off to a great start. Our club is proud to partner with the County of San Luis Obispo Libraries, First 5 and Raising a Reader. The book shelf has been set up and is full of children's books provided by the library. We have a few of our members who go by Cole’s Laundromat on 4th St. in Grover Beach once a week to check and see if more books are needed to stock the shelves.

Recently the library had a Grand Opening to promote this first laundromat library in the area. They provided every child with a book and book bag. Our club provided small lamb stuffed animals to go with the theme of the books.

The County of SLO Libraries is hoping to provide this opportunity for additional laundromats in south county.

SERVICE & PARTNERSHIP

5 CITIES CHRISTIAN WOMEN FOOD PANTRY

We have recently partnered with a food pantry in Grover Beach and provided them a check to help buy those food items that are not usually donated.

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MEET OUR MEMBERS

Shelly Ruch

Shelly joined the club one year ago in April. She moved here from Colorado with her husband David but is originally from Grand Prairie, Texas. She has lived in the area for the past 5 years.

Her background and experience are as a Realtor and a Mortgage Specialist. She currently works for Nationwide Home Loans, Inc.

She has 4 children and 6 grandchildren and loves to spend time with them when she can.

In her spare time she loves refurbishing furniture and has a talent for decorating and designing. Susan Bass is a good friend and they put together the most beautiful Christmas tree at our Celebration of Tree event this past November.

Susan joined our club about the same time that Shelly joined. They are good friends and liked our club’s service projects and our club’s involvement in the community.

She has lived in the area for 19 years with her husband Greg. She has also lived in Austin, Dallas and San Clemente. She graduated with a Bachelors from University of Texas and an MFA from Sierra Nevada University.

Susan is a Ceramic Artist and owns Pottery Coast in Grover Beach where she loves to experiment with her own art and pottery as well as teaching pottery to her students. Her studio and students donate beautiful bowls to the 5Cities Homeless Coalitions Empty Bowls Luncheon every year to help raise money for services to help the homeless.

Susan has 3 children but no grandkids yet. She has two pets, Cowgirl and T-Rex. She loves living in California and in her spare time she enjoys yoga, running, hiking and camping.

CELEBRATION OF TREES 2019
Was a Great Success

CELEBRATION OF TREES 2020
Saturday, November 14