



# The Ambassador

The Newsletter of Altrusa International Muncie, IN, Inc.  
Leading to a Better Community®

2023-24 Issue 12

May 2024

Ladies, what a remarkable year it has been! As we come to the close of our journey celebrating the Centennial Anniversary of our club, I'm thrilled with all we've accomplished together. This past year has been action-packed, honoring our rich history and the visionary members who paved the way. We're blessed by their foresight in building a club that continues to be strong and lead in membership in our region. By infusing our cherished traditions with new ideas and the excitement of diverse ages and experiences, we're ensuring our club remains dynamic and vital for its second decade and beyond. Bring on the 2nd-century journey!

Congratulations, and thank you to the Tea in Wonderland team. So many people shared how much they enjoyed the event and plan to return next year. It's always fun when we see such a good mix of members and guests. The Indianapolis Altrusa club was blown away by how easy you made it look. I told them we're full of excited, talented ladies who should be hired as actresses because it was a lot more work than your smiles let on.

We are halfway through our International Grant book distributions. The schools and students are SO APPRECIATIVE. If you haven't gotten to participate, reach out to Susan Volbrecht - you still have time to join the fun. And finally, I want to give a massive thank you as I wrap up my time as President. Thank you for your support and grace. You have made this year wonderful with the encouragement you have shown me as I navigated serving the club - especially during the comedy routine that sometimes happens when I'm behind a microphone. Laughter is the best medicine, right? Leading this club has been an honor I'll cherish forever. Here's to many more years of laughter, friendship, and making a difference together. You all rock!



HRH Mo - consider the Ambassador torch passed. Enjoy your year. It will go faster than you imagine. You will be an amazing President ♥

Molly

## In this edition

1. President's Comments
2. Birthdays & Anniversaries
2. District Six Conference
3. Committee Updates
4. Foundation Report
5. Board News
6. Volunteer Opportunities

## May Meetings

Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Business Meeting  
Noon at Minnetrista

Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>  
Committee Meetings

Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Meeting/Installation  
Noon at Minnetrista

Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Board/Leadership Meeting  
Noon at Minnetrista  
All Altrusans are welcome



## Birthdays

6<sup>th</sup> – Tracey Danner-Odenwelder

18<sup>th</sup> – Catharine Stewart

22<sup>nd</sup> – June Kramer

22<sup>nd</sup> – Angie Rogers-Howell

28<sup>th</sup> – Jane Sharkey

30<sup>th</sup> – Trish Stanley

## Anniversaries

Jane White – 1980

Mary Buford – 1982

Nancy Norris – 1989 (rein 2005)

Jane Sharkey – 2002

Katherine Mitchell - 2022

# District Six Conference



Sixteen members of the Muncie club attended the District Six Conference. It was a strong showing in support of our home club District Governor, Angela Beck. The members celebrated with Susan Polcz Volbrecht as she was named District Rookie of the Year. Sherell and Jane escaped the group photo, but the photo is lovely proof that they were there too!





# Committee Updates

*“Teamwork divides the task and multiplies the success.” -Anonymous*

## Communications

We are looking at new ways to highlight members and make an impact on the committee’s future. Please continue to share your committee information to [Muncie Altrusa email!](#)

## Membership

The Membership Committee went to Daleville Elementary school on April 11, 2024 to distribute books to the children. In the picture L to R: Jacklyn Bolan, Della Gregory, Nancy Norris, Anne Condran, Donna Polcz, Kay Bales, Ann Wilkerson, and Marilyn Davis. Others attending and not in photo: Ashley Surpas, Tracey Danner Oldenwelder, and Susan Volbrecht.



## Service

Book Distributions:

We still have 3 book distributions in May if you have not yet signed up:

May 6th - Eaton Elementary - 8:30 - 11:30

May 13th - Wes Del Elementary - 8:00-11:00

May 14th - Royerton Elementary - 8:00-11:30

Please contact Susan Volbrecht for more details if you want to help. Feel free to be there for part of the shift if that's what you're able to do. There is nothing as fun as the smile when they realize the books are theirs to keep.

## Service (cont'd)

The Altrusa Club of Muncie is looking for **volunteers** to assist with the **Daycare Graduations at Huffer and Teddy Bear Daycares**. There are 3 separate dates. How exciting!

**Duties:** Assist with food / beverage setup and service; greet family members and friends; assist with caps & gowns, assist with Photo Booth, and help clean-up. Please select one or more dates to volunteer.

**May 15th (Wed) @ 2pm arrival- Huffer, 2000 N. Elgin, Muncie.** NOTE: This site needs an additional special Volunteer Form completed prior to the event. The form from Huffer will be emailed to you once registered through SignUp.

**May 28th (Tue) @ 2:20pm arrival - Longfellow Elementary, 1900 E. Centennial Ave, Muncie.** NOTE: This site needs an additional special Volunteer Form completed prior to the event. The form from Huffer will be emailed to you once registered through SignUp.

**May 31 (Fri) @ 2:45 arrival - Teddy Bear, 1600 W Cowing Dr., Muncie.**

We're using SignUp to register volunteers for the Daycare Graduation events.

Here's how it works:

- 1) Click this link on SignUp: <https://signup.com/go/MgAXFYX>
- 2) Find the three opportunity dates listed to volunteer and choose the spot(s) you like.
- 3) Sign up! The form will ask you to provide your name and emergency contact information. It's that easy!

If you need assistance, contact Stacy Wheeler by email at [stacy.e.wheeler@icloud.com](mailto:stacy.e.wheeler@icloud.com) or by phone at 765-215-4828.

## Muncie Altrusa Foundation



**The Foundation accepts charitable gifts to further our mission!**

Gifts are typically exempt from income, estate, and gift taxes. Gifts can be sent to Muncie Altrusa Foundation, P. O. Box 923, Muncie, Indiana 47308.



# Board News



The Board was busy last month. The delegate/alternate slate for the District Six Conference was approved for presentation to the club. Continuation of ASTRA was discussed. Interest among community and club members, as evidenced by the lack of people choosing Astra for committee assignment, was discussed. As a result of the discussion, the Board voted to suspend having an Astra committee for the club year 2024-25. Annual award nominations were selected and sent to the BRRR Committee for approval. Jane White's request for emeritus status was approved and will be sent to District Six for Board approval.

The Board approved updates to the goals section of the Strategic Plan during the April Board meeting. During 2024-25, the Board and committee leadership will work to establish strategies and action steps.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Altrusa Club of Muncie is committed to improving our community through service and support, with an emphasis on literacy and education.

## GOALS

1. Each active member will participate in several club service or literacy projects during the club year.
2. The club will set a goal of providing members with at least one monthly service or literacy opportunity.
3. Each member will support club fundraisers through participation and/or financial support.
4. The club will strive to realize a net gain in membership yearly.

# Volunteer Opportunities

## Heart of Indiana United Way – Summer Book Giveaway

This event is aimed at providing elementary school students with the opportunity to select eight books of their choice to take home and enjoy over the summer. This year, the event will take place at three local elementary schools in Muncie: Grissom Elementary, Longfellow Elementary, and Southview Elementary. Volunteers will help check in families, assist students choosing books, or restock book selections.

For volunteer registration and more information on each of the participating schools at <https://heartofindianaunitedway.org/sbga/>.

All volunteers will need to fill out a Muncie Community Schools volunteer application form that allows for a limited background check. That link is <https://www.muncie.k12.in.us/departments/communications/volunteer-information>

### **Grissom Elementary School**

May 8<sup>th</sup> – Set Up 12:30-3:30 pm, Family Night 3:30 – 5:30 pm

May 9<sup>th</sup> – In School Selection: 8:30-11:30 am, 11-2 pm

### **Longfellow Elementary School**

May 14<sup>th</sup> - Set Up 12:30-3:30 pm, Family Night 3:30-5:30 pm

May 15<sup>th</sup> - In School Selection: 8:30-11:30 am, 11-2 pm

### **Southview Elementary School**

May 16<sup>th</sup> - Set Up 1:00-4:00 pm, Family Night 4:00-5:00 pm

May 17<sup>th</sup> - In School Selection: 8:30-11:30 am, 11-2 pm

To cancel or add guests to your standing meeting reservation, contact Mary Louise Buck by noon the Tuesday prior to meeting.

[marylouisebuck@comcast.net](mailto:marylouisebuck@comcast.net)

The June Ambassador deadline is May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Please send information & pictures to [MuncieAltrusa@gmail.com](mailto:MuncieAltrusa@gmail.com)



**Altrusa International of Muncie, IN, Inc**

President: Molly Harty  
Vice President Megan 'Mo' Orbin  
Secretary: Michelle Badders  
Treasurer: Sherrell Bryant  
Director (2023-25):  
WaTasha Barnes Griffin  
Director (2022-24):  
Brenda Williamson  
Past President: Kathy Benz

**Contact Information**

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Email: [munciealtrusa@gmail.com](mailto:munciealtrusa@gmail.com)

**Committee Chairs for 2023-24**

ASTRA:	Chair – Lorraine Tomlin Co-Chair – Jennifer Johnson
BRRR:	Chair – Angie Rogers-Howell Co-Chair – Sandra Hoover
Literacy:	Chair – Susan Polcz-Volbrecht Co-Chair – Katherine Mitchell
Communications:	Chair – Colleen Cooper Co-Chair – Amber Burress
Membership:	Chair – Della Gregory Co-Chair – Nancy Norris
Reservations:	Chair – Linda Barb Co-Chair – Mary Louise Buck
Service:	Chair – Barb Baker Co-Chair – Stacy Wheeler
Fundraising:	Chair – Ashlee Anderson Co-Chair – Cathy Dowd

