

NEWSLETTER

Altrusa International of the Central Coast, Inc
PO Box 5026, Santa Maria, CA 93456
www.districteleven.altrusa.org/central-coast



OCTOBER 2025

Hello members:

Oh my! It's nearly November and the temperatures outside are above 80! Where is the fall weather?? One thing for certain is that Sunday, Nov 2nd, is Daylight Savings so remember to "fall back" in time so set your clocks back one hour before going to bed. Take advantage of the extra hour.

Reminder: November business meeting will be at ***Festival of Trees*** site in the Town Center East Mall, Monday, 11/10. We will be in the store above Victoria Secrets and next to the Friends of the Library Bookstore. The meeting starts at 6pm so please be a little early.

Again, welcome to our seven new members:

Betty Wolf, Elizabeth Vasquez, Emily Lopes, Gail Brown, Jennifer Randolph, Mary Morton, and Stacey Bassett.

We're excited that you have joined us in our many Altrusa activities and adventures. You may have new activities to share with us also. Let's do them together....



FOT Scheduling:

The work schedule spreadsheet will be available at our Nov. 10th meeting. It is suggested (by me!!) to work three-or-four-hour shifts, because the time really flies by and before you know it, your shift is over! It is so fulfilling to see the happy families admiring the trees while they scrutinize over which box to put their ticket in.

You will also get to know the frequent flyers!! They come in daily so their ticket has a great chance of being on top even though we mix them up on "Drawing Day"! Please be generous with the time.

Your President,

Nancy Voss

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

November 3-Board meeting El Palenque

November 10-FOT site

November 28-13-FOT fundraiser

December 14-FOT RAFFLE DAY



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

10/11-Stephanie Stadtmiller

10/19-Mary Morton

10/00 Emily Lopez

10/25 Stacey Bassett

10/30-Lupe Maldonado

11/30-Betty Wolf

Altrusa Board Leads by Example

On October 6, Altrusa of the Central Coast board members gathered at IHOP for their monthly leadership/board meeting. The team focused on leading with purpose, learning together, and staying responsible to the club's mission and members. Their dedication ensures our projects and service efforts continue to run smoothly and make a positive impact in our community.



10/13-Guest Speaker-CHRISTINE MUEGNOIT-Volunteer Supervisor Dignity Hospice

Over 30 yrs experience as a Director and Supervisor with a demonstrated history of working in the hospital and health care industry. Skilled in Event Planning, Volunteer Management, Recruiting, and Volunteer Training. Strong professional with a Master's degree focused in Religion/Religious Studies from Mount Saint Mary's University. Director of Religious Education at St. Louis de Montfort Church; **Christine says:** *"What an honor it is to be invited into the home at one of the most vulnerable times of a person's life, to journey with them, to share stories, to support them and their loved ones."*



10/13-Business meeting: Altrusa Welcomes Seven New Members!

Altrusa of the Central Coast is growing! During our recent business meeting, we proudly initiated seven new members into our club. Please welcome, **Jennifer, Elizabeth, Stacy, Mary, Betty, Gail, and Emily**. Each one brings unique talents, passions, and gifts — and the common thread that binds them all is their dedication to community service. Membership Chair Leticia led a warm and meaningful initiation ceremony to officially welcome them into the Altrusa family. We are excited to see the positive impact they will bring to our projects and our community. A special thank-you goes to Norma and Maria for providing a delicious assortment of food and dessert for everyone to enjoy and to Noe for dropping off the dinner. It was the perfect way to celebrate this exciting milestone! We are thrilled to continue expanding our Altrusa family as we serve with joy, teamwork, and a shared love for making a difference.



10/1-Bea and Melinda lunching at the SM Country Club and sharing Altrusa every chance they get.



10/11: Walking to End Alzheimer's

On October 11, Altrusa members **Maria (Ronnie), Bea, Melinda,** and **new member Stacy** participated in the annual *Alzheimer's Walk*. Each walked for a personal reason—whether in memory of a loved one, as a caregiver, or as a family member impacted by Alzheimer's disease. The color **purple**, symbolizing hope and support for those affected, filled the event with unity and compassion. Participants were treated to food, giveaways, and plenty of purple swag. Bea walked in loving memory of her husband, **Paul**, who lost his battle with this terrible disease. Together, our members walked to raise awareness and show that every step brings us closer to a world without Alzheimer's.



2018

“WALKING FOR A PURPOSE”

Altrusans Make a Difference!

For *Make a Difference Day*, Altrusa of the Central Coast joined forces with our sister clubs—Altrusa Club of Golden Valley and Santa Maria. Together, we sold Cool Hand Luke BBQ tickets for \$20 each, with every member pitching in to sell tickets for the drive-thru BBQ held on Saturday, October 18. Each club selected a nonprofit organization to support, and after much discussion, all three clubs chose Community Partners in Caring as this year's recipient. The \$3952 raised will help this valuable organization continue its mission of assisting seniors in our community. The three clubs met on October 29 at Community Partners in Caring office to present the check. What a great example of teamwork and service—three clubs **making a difference** together!



Some of our club members



The three Club Presidents



NEW MEMBER HIGHLIGHT, Stacy Bassett

Greetings Altrusa Members,

I'm excited about this new addition to my life and would like to introduce myself to you all. First all of all, I am very proud to be a 3 generation Santa Marian, and I guess you would call part of the pioneer family of the Santa Maria valley. I grew up of all over the place in the central coast...Nipomo, Arroyo Grande, Oceano, Tepusquet Canyon and finally Santa Maria. Other than elementary school in the Five Cities, I attended Judkins Middle School, Arroyo Grande High School and Allan Hancock College. Currently I work full time at Wasco Switches and Sensors (Customer Service) 6 years, Tasting Room Attendant (Costa De Oro) (20 +years in the wine hospitality industry and finally Bassett's Pet Service (which is my little side gig that I've been doing for about 20 years). Geez, like I don't have enough do. Because my grandpa was an Elk Member for over 40 years, I'm also Elk Member (10 + years). What do I like to do for Fun: I enjoy hanging out with my friends, either hitting a local winery or going out to yummy local restaurant. I'm a big fan of Santa Maria Style BBQ. So, a great steak house is always if. I also enjoy being with my family here in the area...For relaxation, I enjoy reading, long walking treks, cooking yummy food, listening to music, (Love Elvis, classic rock ,80s music and more) traveling, playing Bunco with my Bunco Ladies and watching tv (love my Bravo TV) ... Last thing, I'm very excited about being involved with Altrusa for a few reasons...One reason, helping the community and meeting new people and very last since I have fond memories of it...My Grandma and I use to visit the Christmas Tree events many years ago. My Grandma thought it was the greatest thing, and I know wherever she is at, she's definitely got a big smile and saying "well look at that" She would be proud!

Stacey 😊

What it means to be a **MEMBER:**

Motivated to serve • **E**ngaged in our mission • **M**aking connections that matter • **B**ringing unique gifts • **E**ager to grow and lead • **R**ooted in community



LITERACY

Altrusa of the Central Coast Proudly Presents Our Third Little Free Library!

We're excited to announce the installation of our **third Little Free Library**, located at **Los Alamos Park** — complete with a cozy **reading bench**! Our first Little Free Library found its home at the **Santa Maria Natural History Museum**, and the second at **Waller Park**. Each one helps put books into the hands of local children and families, inspiring a lifelong love of reading. **Reading matters!** Studies show that children who are read to regularly develop stronger language skills, curiosity, and imagination. Let's make sure every child gets the joy of holding a book in their hands — and taking one home to keep! Thank you, Club President, Nancy!



SERVICE

RECURRING SERVICE PROJECTS: The following list are recurring monthly projects. Our club is always collecting **RX bottles** and **aluminum tabs**. Please bring them to our business meetings. Thank You!

Hope Village — people experiencing homelessness like living at Hope Village because it offers a safe, private room, wrap-around support, special attention to their health and unique needs, a bridge to permanent housing, and better living conditions than the alternatives (streets, shelters, encampments). Here are some other reasons why:

- It's designed as **interim supportive housing** → not a short "overnight only" shelter, but a place where people stay for several months (90-180 days typically) to stabilize.
- For those experiencing homelessness, especially chronically, having a stable roof and services is a big improvement over being on the streets or moving between encampments

***Our club is collecting stocking stuffer items, please bring to November 10 meeting;*



Vets Stand Down – October 25

Our member Sunday and new member Emily, chaired this year's **Vets Stand Down on October 25**. She has a budget to purchase items and bought drawstring backpacks to fill with useful supplies for veterans. This way, each veteran will receive everything conveniently packed in one bag. Items that were included were **white socks, small flashlights**, keychains and anything practical that could fit inside the backpacks. Thank you, lovely ladies!



NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!

About Our Local Chapter- Next bed build are as follows:

- **11/8**-Serve Santa Maria and SM Home Depot, 2120 S. Bradley; **GOAL:** 100 beds; 8am
Sign up at: <https://shpbeds.org/chapter/ca-santa-barbara-co-n/>

DONATIONS: The name **Sleep in Heavenly Peace** (SHP) might sound like it's purely about "sleep" or "peace," but the organization's mission is very practical: they build and donate beds for children who don't have them. The reason they "need bedding" is that a bed isn't just a frame and mattress — a child also needs sheets, blankets, and pillows to have a safe, comfortable, and healthy place to sleep. Without proper bedding, the bed alone doesn't fully solve the problem; a child might still be cold, uncomfortable, or unable to sleep properly. So, when SHP asks for bedding donations, it's to complete the bed package for the kids, ensuring they can truly sleep in "heavenly peace." **PLEASE bring your bedding donation to the 11/10 meeting.**



Day for Girls:

A New Chapter for Days for Girls:

Our local **Days for Girls** Santa Barbara Chapter will be disbanding in January 2026. October marked our final drop-off of underwear and washcloths—a heartfelt thank-you to everyone who has contributed over the years! Since **Days for Girls** is an **Altrusa International project**, our club is committed to continuing support for their mission of providing menstrual care materials and education to girls around the world. We'll be starting fresh in January with new ways to get involved and make a difference. If you have ideas on how our club can continue to support Days for Girls, please talk to Melinda. Together, we'll keep empowering girls, **PERIOD**.

A Visit to the Friends of the Library Bookstore

Altrusans Stacey and Melinda recently enjoyed a guided tour of the Friends of the Santa Maria Public Library Bookstore, located inside the Santa Maria Mall. They are thinking of volunteering. Their tour guide, Mary Lynn Stovall, was the perfect host — sharing the history of the bookstore and the incredible effort that goes into keeping it thriving. The bookstore is wonderfully organized, making it easy to see the dedication and hard work the Friends volunteers put into maintaining such a welcoming and well-run space. Their commitment truly shines through every shelf. We are grateful for our continued partnership in promoting literacy throughout the community!



ALTRUSA MOTTO: “LEADING TO A BETTER COMMUNITY”

COMMUNICATIONS

Sunshine Committee-The Sunshine Chair is responsible for communicating, on behalf of the Altrusa Club, any get well wishes, condolences, sympathy, etc. to members needing a little Sunshine in their life. Sunshine examples might include reaching out to members who are sick, have had surgery, are in the hospital, lost a loved one, etc. Thank you to Stephanie for chairing this committee. Stephanie can be reached at 805-310-2263 or by email at 60mermaidstevie@gmail.com.

Newsletter Committee-If you have articles/pictures, please email to Melinda by the 25th of each month at: melinda.aguirre84@yahoo.com

Website and Social-Media-You can visit our CLUB website at:

districteleven.altrusa.org/central-coast.

Check us out on face-book at our official page, Altrusa of the Central Coast.

District Service Bulletin-The DSB was emailed to all District Eleven members three times per year and contains DISTRICT ELEVEN updates. Make sure to read it and any other emails you receive from Altrusa International.

*You can find the district eleven website: districteleven.altrusa.org.

Altrusa International-THE COMPASS comes out every other month to ALL Altrusa Members and is filled with any changes, events and inspirations and can be found at the International Website: altrusa.org. **username:** Altrusan, **password:** MamieBass1955

Yearbook-The communications committee is working on our **club yearbook; expected by October 2025**.

Navigating the ALTRUSA Web... • Important websites to know!

www.altrusa.org (click Member Login in the upper right) *See above*

login.altrusa.org (go directly to the members area)

www.altrusastore.com (purchase Altrusa branded items including pins and banners)



DISTRICT ELEVEN NEWS

DISTRICT ELEVEN INFORMATION:

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT ELEVEN CONFERENCE
April 30-May 3- Avondale, Arizona

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL NEWS



CLUB 52

The name Club 21 was chosen in anticipation of the 21st century, which began just three years after Club 21's launch. Now, we celebrate the **30th anniversary** of this powerful initiative.

Over the past 30 years, Club 21 has grown from a single camp for children with AIDS/HIV to supporting a wide range of programs for children facing physical, mental, and emotional disabilities, cancer and blood disorders, and other medical and socioeconomic challenges. Our reach now extends even further, encompassing international education and health initiatives.

With this growth, the need—and the cost—has naturally increased. What was once a meaningful \$21 donation in 1997 is equivalent to nearly \$50 in 2025.

At the 59th International Convention in Québec City, we officially transitioned from Club 21 to **Club 52**. Two Hundred Seventy-Four Altrusans attending the Convention became Charter Members of Club 52. This new chapter invites everyone to contribute \$1 per week for 52 weeks—or a one-time donation of \$52—to continue and expand the legacy we've built together. All who donate from July 2025 through May 31, 2026, including at Spring 2026 District Conferences or via our website—will be recognized as Charter Members of Club 52. Clubs and Districts contributing \$252 or more during this period will also be recognized as Charter Members and will receive a Club 52 patch for their banners as a symbol of their commitment and impact.

CLUB FOUNDATION NEWS

FESTIVAL OF TREES:

- We have the 2025 Raffle permit.
- 25 trees have been purchased from Michaels
- Sponsor night is 11/20 and we will have a dessert bar; New member Stacey will serve wine;
- Volunteer schedule will be presented at business meetings
- We have the space at the mall, upstairs next to Library Book Store
- As of 11/3 we have 22 sponsor contracts

Why We Volunteer for Festival of Trees-Festival of Trees is more than a fun and festive community tradition — it's a meaningful opportunity for Altrusans to make a difference. The money raised directly supports grants and scholarships that stay right here in our community, helping programs and students thrive. By volunteering, we aren't just decorating trees or staffing an event — we are uplifting futures. It's also a wonderful chance to build camaraderie and strengthen the friendships within our club. Working side-by-side, we get to know each other better, share laughter, and create memories while serving others.

FOUNDATION BOARD News:

Next meeting is January 2026, date TBD. We will disburse FOT money;

Altrusa Int'l Annual Report is due December 31 and Noe and Leticia will complete it.

FOT wrap-up dinner will be scheduled sometime in January 2026

Noe is working on updating the scholarship and grant applications so they can be uploaded on our website.

Annual Compliance Requirements for All **Local Club Foundations (LCF)**

Each year, LCFs under the International Foundation's Group Exemption umbrella must complete a number of items to remain in compliance. **If these items are not completed, the LCF will be in jeopardy of being dropped from the International Foundation's group exemption umbrella** (Being dropped from the International Foundations umbrella means contributions to the LCF are no longer tax deductible.) This should be avoided entirely.

These items must be completed each year:

Complete and Submit the Annual Report.

File the required IRS reporting forms; 990 forms;

File Your State's Annual Reporting Form (Annual Registration Report).

ASTRA CLUBS- sponsored by Altrusa of the Central Coast

October-ASTRA Club of RHS by Dayna

10/10/25- Astra Club of Righetti seniors Bobbi Carter, Suri Bettencourt, Skyler DeBernardi, Nadya Rosas, and Christian Curiel volunteered their time at lunch on Friday, October 10th, promoting the Righetti ASTRA Club at the Fall Club Day.



Extracurricular activities

10/11 Beach Clean Up at Pismo Beach. ASTRA partnered with the Beach Club cleaning up litter at Pismo Beach.

10/13 ASTRA members Devina Martinez and Natalie Valenzuela put up flyers around the Orcutt community promoting their November 1st Book Sale.

10/15 Pumpkin Decorating at the Orcutt Farmer's Market. Thank you to Miah Arevalo Tovar, Lilibeth Lopez, Natalia Serna, and John Snyder for helping the OASIS Center with their table

10/17 Dunlap School's Fall Festival. Lilibeth Lopez, Adriana Madrigal, Yaritza Perez, and Natalia Serna for helping with the festival.

10/24 Jimenez School's Harvest Festival. 19 ASTRA members helped with the Haunted House and Carnival Games at Jimenez school.



10/16/25 Meeting- Righetti ASTRA was proud to sponsor ASTRA members Samantha Fernandez and Nicholas Matautia as Homecoming Queen and King candidates for this year! They did an amazing little presentation at the October 16th ASTRA meeting!

Righetti ASTRA was pleased to have Saule Baipsys, Outreach Coordinator for the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center, do a presentation at our October 16th ASTRA meeting. Lots of great information presented with hopes of partnering in future Dunes Center events and volunteer opportunities!

Righetti ASTRA members Yaritza Perez and Santiago Jimenez were awarded the September Golden Warrior Award Certificate and Pin at the October 16th ASTRA Meeting. The Golden Warrior is Righetti's version of Student of the Month awards. Yaritza and Santiago certainly deserve to be recognized and appreciated for their dedication, attitude, and work ethic in making Righetti ASTRA and their community a better place!



10/18/25- Orcutt Library Craft Day: Righetti ASTRA hosted an Orcutt Library Halloween Crafts Event on Saturday. A great turnout enjoyed doing fun Halloween crafts and we had many wearing their Halloween costumes for a special prize! A special thank you to ASTRA volunteers Ariana Santos, Abigail Santos, Yaritza Perez, Abigail Rosales, Sebastian Alvarez, and Bella Moreno for doing an amazing job with the kids!



10/19- Sunday, October 19th, found Righetti ASTRA participating in The Buena Vista Park Beautifiers ***Dia de Los Muertos*** themed Family Activity Day. ASTRA Club Members Braeden Collins, Santiago Jimenez, Devina Martinez, Jhuleia Mercado, Yaritza Perez, and Natalie Valenzuela gave away free books from our book drive, did a themed craft activity, and gave away skull tattoos. A fun day for all involved!



ASTRA ROCKS

OCTOBER-ASTRA Club of AHC by Melinda

10/11/25: Alzheimer's Walk

Nathan and Vincent proudly represented ASTRA Club of Allan Hancock College by volunteering at the Alzheimer's Walk. They helped set up and lay out the symbolic Alzheimer's flowers, contributing to the success of this meaningful community event. As board members and leaders, **Nathan and Vincent** continue to inspire others to get involved and make a difference through service.

ASTRA AHC Lends a Hand at Student Summit

10/15-ASTRA Allan Hancock College members recently partnered with the Circle K Club to serve lunch at a student summit on campus. Our volunteers helped with food service, setup, and cleanup — ensuring the event ran smoothly for all attendees.

The invitation to assist came from ASTRA member (and Circle K officer) Adam, and of course we were happy to say yes! We're always proud to support fellow service clubs and strengthen our campus community through teamwork and service.

10/25-ASTRA Allan Hancock College Donates Socks for "Make a Difference Day"

The ASTRA Club of Allan Hancock College donated **20 pairs of socks** to the **Altrusa SoCal Virtual Club** for their "*Socktoberfest*" *sock fundraiser* project. They asked fellow students to donate socks for their donation. SoCal Virtual club will distribute to the homeless, residents of emergency shelters, and senior citizens in need.

10/26-Astra Allan Hancock College Supports Literacy at Santa Maria Parks and Recreation Día de Los Muertos Celebration

Astra Club members from Allan Hancock College proudly volunteered at the Santa Maria Parks and Recreation Día de Los Muertos celebration on October 26. The event brought families together to honor cultural traditions, celebrate loved ones, and enjoy meaningful community activities. Astra AHC volunteers promoted literacy by giving out free books to children and families throughout the day, 9-4pm. Volunteers also handed out an engaging activity packet that included crafts, candy, and information on the Astra Club of Allan Hancock College. Their participation reflects the club's mission to serve others, support education, and inspire young people to stay involved in their community. Three ASTRA AHC members participated.

ASTRA MOTTO: "GROWING IN SERVICE"

OCTOBER-ASTRA CLUB OF PVHS by Melinda and Tyler

What ASTRA Clubs Are All About

ASTRA Clubs are student service clubs affiliated with Altrusa International, focused on community service, leadership, and personal growth. High school and college members participate in projects that benefit their communities, from literacy programs to food drives, while developing teamwork and leadership skills.

ASTRA also offers opportunities for friendship, mentorship, and learning, empowering students to make a difference while building confidence and lasting connections. Simply put, ASTRA is about serving others, growing as a leader, and having fun doing it.

10/10/25-OCTOBER MEETING:

Welcomed a group of 75 ASTRA members! the board did a wonderful job of running the meeting; utilized the ASTRA Volunteer Community Hours form found on the ASTRA website. As an incentive to filling out the form, everytime the student completes a project, the forms will be collected in May 2026 and tossed into a container for a chance to win a prize. This is a great way to collect ASTRA hours. Let's see if this works!

10/11/25-Astra Club of Pioneer Valley High School Volunteers at Alzheimer's Walk

The Astra Club of Pioneer Valley High School signed up to volunteer at the Alzheimer's Walk on October 11. Members helped at the registration table, making sure all walkers were checked in and ready to participate. It's wonderful to see young people getting involved in community events—it helps them feel connected and shows the true spirit of service that Astra promotes!



Richard and Sam

10/14/25-MALL EVENT-Astra Pioneer Valley High School Volunteers Share Literacy and Creativity at the Mall

Astra Club members from Pioneer Valley High School dedicated their time to promoting literacy and community engagement during a recent outreach event at the Santa Maria Mall. Eleven enthusiastic volunteers contributed a total of 22 service hours, demonstrating their continued commitment to serving the local community. Throughout the event, Astra PV distributed 100 free books to families and children, helping to place stories into the hands of new and eager readers. To further spark imagination, the volunteers hosted three fun craft activities that encouraged creativity and hands-on learning. Guests also enjoyed a free raffle, which added an element of excitement to the day. The Astra Club is proud to support literacy and community involvement. Their efforts at the mall created positive connections and lasting memories for local families.



10/26/25-ASTRA PV Volunteers Bring Fun to Día de los Muertos Celebration

Eight enthusiastic ASTRA Pioneer Valley volunteers recently joined the Día de los Muertos festivities, helping children create crafts, decorate masks, and play the ping pong ball-in-a-bucket game. With candy and activities for all, the event drew 90 kids, each enjoying a day full of fun and creativity. Our ASTRA PV members worked alongside ASTRA Allan Hancock College, soaking in the music, dancing, and the delicious free pan de muerto. It was a joyful day of community, service, and celebration!



CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nancy Voss	President
Maria Castillo	Vice President
Stephanie Stadtmiller	Secretary
Sunday Ballas	Treasurer
Leticia Kossuth	Director
Noe Mahelona	Director
Patty Elswick	Immediate Past President

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leticia Kossuth	President
Raye Zelaya	Vice President
Kim Tito	Treasurer
Melinda Aguirre	Secretary
Bea Goyette	Director
Noe Mahelona	Director

COMMITTEES

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Chair: Leticia; Committee: Maria, Melinda

LITERACY/SERVICE COMMITTEE: Chair: Nancy; committee: Norma, Sunday

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Chair: Stephanie, Melinda

ASTRA OF RHS ADVISORS: Dayna DeBernardi Watson

ASTRA OF PVHS ADVISORS: Melinda Aguirre and Tyler Dickinson

ASTRA of AHC ADVISOR: Melinda Aguirre