

NEWSLETTER

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



APRIL 2026

Hello Members,

I “hop” you had a lovely Easter! April 30th through May 4th Melinda, Bea and myself will be in Avondale, Arizona for our District Eleven conference. I hope to bring back some new or creative ideas to share with the club. In the meantime, it would be nice if our members could find some community projects for the club to promote literacy and/or our club. Just fill out a project form and have the board review it at their board. The next board meeting will be the hour before our monthly meeting, May 11th, at IHOP. Here are some words of wisdom to live by...Life’s a journey not a race. Don’t count the days...Make the days count. If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way. Nothing is impossible...the word itself says “I’m possible.”

See you all at IHOP at 6pm on May 11th.

Nancy

President



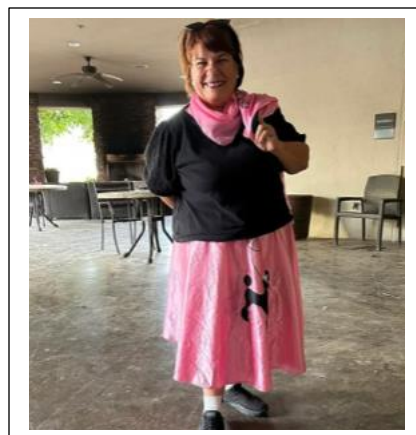
CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

May 11-Board meeting IHOP 5pm

May 11-Business Meeting-IHOP 6pm

June 1-Board Meeting-Chef Ricks 6pm

June 8- Business Meeting-IHOP 6pm



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Membership Dues Are DUE!

A friendly reminder that Altrusa membership dues are due by **May 31**. Your ongoing support helps us continue making a meaningful impact in our community. Thank you! Sunday will send out your bills by email and or snail mail. Please send payment of **\$110** to **Sunday Ballas at PO Box 5026 Santa Maria Ca 93456**.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: BETTY WOLFE

Betty's story begins in Elgin, Illinois, where she was born the youngest of seven-a role that shaped her warmth, resilience, and big hearted spirit from the very start. In 1968, her family planted roots in Santa Maria, Ca, the place she's proudly called home ever since. A proud graduate of Santa Maria High School, Betty filled her days with music, playing the flute in the band and singing in the choir. Her love of music only grew stronger at Allan Hancock College, where she continued singing and had the incredible opportunity to travel across the United States and abroad to Poland, Canada, and Austria-experiences that shaped her adventurous and joyful outlook on life. Betty built a remarkable career at Costco, working her way up to manager and playing a role in opening the original Santa Maria location-a testament to her dedication and leadership. In 1993, she married her husband Bill, beginning a lifelong partnership filled with love, laughter and family. After welcoming her fourth child, Betty opened her home as a daycare, nurturing and caring for countless children in her community until 2008. Since then, she's devoted herself to her family, supporting her parents and in-laws, and cheering on her children-three of whom serve in the United States air Force, while one inspires young minds as a middle school history teacher. Betty finds joy in the simple and magical things: trips to Disneyland, music and musicals, quality time with loved ones, her beloved dog Coco, classic episodes of *I Love Lucy*, a refreshing glass of iced tea, local fundraisers and service, leaving a lasting impact wherever she goes. Above all, Betty is a woman defined by love-of family, of music, of community and of life itself.

2026-2027 BOARD OF DIRECTORS: We are pleased to share that our Altrusa Club Board Members will continue to serve for another year. We are truly grateful for their dedication, leadership, and commitment to our mission. Their continued service provides stability and strength to our club, and we look forward to another successful year ahead. Let's show our appreciation by supporting them and working together to make a positive impact in our community. *(The last page of this newsletter has the list of current board of directors.)*

ALTRUSA OF SANTA MARIA JUNIOR HIGH AWARDS DINNER: Nancy and Maria attended the junior high awards dinner held at SM Elks this year. The dinner program is designed to recognize junior high students for altruism, including community service and leadership. Students from all of the local junior high's were celebrated with a dinner, certificates and gift cards. This event started 30 years ago and held annually and supported by schools, administrators, community members, parents and Altrusa members. It was very nice to be invited by our sister club.

ALTRUSA BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

On April 13, members of Altrusa of the Central Coast gathered to celebrate **Altrusa's 109th** birthday with an evening full of fun, laughter, and fellowship. The celebration featured cake and ice cream, bringing a festive touch to the occasion. A highlight of the evening was a lively white elephant gift exchange, where everyone went home with a surprise. Most importantly, the event provided a wonderful opportunity for camaraderie and socializing, strengthening the bonds that make the club so special. It was a joyful celebration honoring over a century of service and friendship.



Welcome Our Newest Member!

The members of *Altrusa of the Central Coast* are delighted to extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome to our newest member, **Ana Jacobo Anaya**! Joining Altrusa means becoming part of a dedicated network of individuals committed to service, literacy, leadership, and community impact. We are excited to have a new voice, fresh ideas, and a shared passion for making a difference in our community. Our club continues to grow stronger with each new member, and we look forward to the contributions, friendships, and meaningful service that lie ahead. Whether participating in literacy outreach, supporting local projects, or building connections, every member plays an important role in fulfilling our mission. Please join us in welcoming our newest member—we are so glad you are here and look forward to serving alongside you! *(Dayna sponsored and Leticia, Membership Chair, initiated.)*



"Live life fully while you're here. Experience everything. Take care of yourself and your friends. Have fun, be crazy, be weird." Tony Robbins



Birthdays for May/June:

May 10 Noe Mahelona

May 14 Maria Castillo

June 20 Dayna Debernardi-Watson

June 23 Bea Goyette

June 25 Leticia Kossuth

HEARTFELT BIRTHDAY WISHES: At Altrusa International, Inc., we believe every member brings something special to our mission of service, leadership, and literacy—and what better time to celebrate that than on their birthday! This month, we send our heartfelt birthday wishes to all of our members celebrating another year of making a difference. Your dedication to our club and to the community continues to inspire and uplift those around you. Whether you're organizing projects, mentoring new members, or simply showing up with a willing heart, you are the reason our club thrives.

Birthdays are more than just milestones—they're a reminder of the joy, kindness, and commitment each of you brings to Altrusa International of the Central Coast. We are grateful for the time, energy, and passion you share so generously. May your birthday be filled with laughter, appreciation, and all the happiness you bring to others throughout the year. Here's to celebrating YOU!

INSPIRATION: A man was walking along a quiet beach at sunrise. The tide had gone out, leaving thousands of starfish scattered across the sand. As the sun rose higher, it became clear that without help, many of them would dry out and die. In the distance, he noticed a young girl. She was bending down, picking something up, and gently tossing it into the ocean. As he got closer, he saw what she was doing—one by one, she was throwing starfish back into the water. He approached her and said, "There are so many starfish here. You can't possibly make a difference." The girl paused, picked up another starfish, and tossed it into the waves. Then she looked up at him and said, "I made a difference to that one." The man stood quietly for a moment. Then he bent down, picked up a starfish, and threw it into the sea. And together, they continued—one small act at a time.



LITERACY:

LITERACY BOOK CHALLENGE FROM INT'L PRESIDENT CHRIS DEVLIGER:

Literacy has always been at the heart of Altrusa International, and through the International President's Literacy Challenge, that commitment continues to grow in meaningful and measurable ways. This global initiative—often known as “One Book at a Time”—invites Altrusans everywhere to make a lasting impact by sharing the gift of literacy within their communities. The challenge is simple, yet powerful: distribute books, give time to literacy-focused service, and track the difference we make together. With a collective goal of reaching **one million and one books** distributed and/or one million service hours, every contribution matters. Whether it's placing a book in the hands of a child, reading with a student, supporting a school library, or organizing a community book drive, each effort helps open doors to opportunity and lifelong learning. Let's give out those books! President Nancy is keeping track of how many books we are giving out.

OUR LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

Research compiled from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program shows there is “an upward spiral of causality” in which children who are more proficient in early literacy skills read more, and because of more print exposure, their reading skills improve more with each year of life. The same article notes that students who have access to a greater number of books at home read more during outside of school time—even after adjusting for reading motivation. *Our club's Little Free Library, located at Orcutt Community Park, will include a bench plaque dedicated in honor of Maria's son. This park held a special place in their hearts, as Maria and her son shared many meaningful moments hiking its trails together. This tribute celebrates his memory and the joy they found in nature.

805 Bunco Babes, a lively group of women who meet monthly, continue to prove that fun and service can go hand in hand. While their gatherings are filled with laughter and friendly competition, their shared commitment to giving back to the community is at the heart of everything they do. Each month, the group selects a project to support, turning their social time into meaningful impact. At their most recent Bunco game, the **Bunco Babes** chose to support Altrusa of the Central Coast's literacy efforts. In a generous act of kindness, they donated 65 books, including four in Spanish, to help expand access to reading materials for local families. These books will directly benefit Altrusa's literacy outreach programs, helping to promote a love of reading and support educational growth within the community. Altrusa of the Central Coast is truly grateful for the **Bunco Babes'** generosity and dedication to making a difference—one roll of the dice at a time. *PS: our member Noe is a Bunco Babe! Hubba, hubba!*

“Reading is essential for those who seek to rise above the ordinary.” - Jim Rohn

SERVICE

RECURRING SERVICE PROJECTS: The following list are recurring monthly projects. Our club is always collecting **RX bottles, aluminum tabs and bedding for Sleep in Heavenly Peace**. Please bring them to our business meetings. Aluminum tabs go to Stephanie- RX bottles go to Bea-and Melinda gets the bedding. Thank You!

Transitions Mental Health Assoc: Altrusa Members Melinda and Bea volunteered for the TMHA Bowl-A-Thon on 4/3 at Rancho Bowl. They checked in the teams and helped teams find their lane, pick up bowling shoes and food. TMHA raised lots of money which stays locally to support hot line, counseling sessions and various workshops and the growing grounds gardens.



**NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!**

Next bed build May 16 at Chumash

Lift Kids up-The Gift of Sleep Empowers Positivity: trying to do your homework on the floor after a long day at school, or drifting off to sleep on a couch because there's no bed to call your own. For thousands of children across the United States, this is reality every night. At Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP), we provide safe, comfortable beds so every child can rest, thrive, and wake up ready to face the day.



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 or text 805.448.6268

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 continues to update the yearbook

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:



Here are some CONFERENCE highlights:

- We have **three** Altrusa Members that have reached a club year milestone and were honored and given a certificate at 2026 conference this year: **Raul Aguirre, 5 years. Leticia Kossuth, 15 years** and **Bea Goyette, 20 years!** Thank you for your years of service.
- **NEW MEMBER PIN:** Nancy received the new and improved New Member heart shaped pin. Congratulations Nancy for all of the new members you brought in!
- **MARILYN ATWOOD AWARD:** The Marilyn Atwood Outstanding Altrusan Award was established in 1994 by the District Eleven Board of Directors in memory of Marilyn Atwood, a member of the Antelope Valley Club and a former District Eleven Chairman. The award is given on an annual basis to an Altrusan for extended and unsung service to Altrusa. It is designed to recognize an active member who has made a lasting contribution to the organization as a result of involvement and dedication to their local Altrusa club over a period of many years. Nominee must be an active member or been granted Emeritus status within the past year. *(Past Governors/Past District Board members and past recipients are not eligible for this award).*



Congratulations to Bea Goyette on being honored with the **Marilyn Atwood** Award at the 2026 conference! This well-deserved recognition celebrates Bea's quiet dedication, selfless service, and the meaningful impact she continues to make behind the scenes. Her commitment truly embodies the spirit of an "unsung hero," inspiring those around her and strengthening the mission we all share. We are proud to celebrate this incredible achievement—congratulations, Bea!

Conference 2026 Pictures!



ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL NEWS



ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION HISTORY:

The Altrusa International Foundation was established in 1962 as the philanthropic heart of Altrusa. Its purpose is to improve lives through service, literacy, and community impact, carrying forward the vision of our first national president, Mamie L. Bass, who believed we should not only be good, but be *good for something*. The Foundation supports scholarships, literacy initiatives, community grants, and disaster relief. Every contribution from members helps extend our impact—funding meaningful service projects and offering hope where it is needed most. Thank you to our members for your generosity. Your support makes a lasting difference, strengthening communities and changing lives. Together, we are living the Altrusa mission.

CLUB FOUNDATION NEWS

FOUNDATION BOARD: Met on 4/27/26 Community Bank of Santa Maria-

- 10% of FOT proceeds have been deposited in appropriate accounts
- Storage has been paid thru December 2026
- Current Foundation will serve another year term, 2026-2027
- \$500 donation was made to Altrusa Int'l Foundation for Lamplighter pin
- 40 scholarships received; 30 were awarded;
- Six Grant recipients are Teddy Bear Cancer, SM FFA, PV FFA, OASIS, SM Friends of the Library, Orcutt Friends of the Library; each will receive \$1500;
- ASTRA Clubs were awarded \$2000 each (\$6000)
- Club Service/Literacy projects will receive \$3000
- Altrusa 2026 FOT tree was granted \$2500
- Next meeting is in September 2026

FESTIVAL OF TREES:

- Noe and Sunday are meeting to prepare and schedule a FOT meeting with all of the members;
- FOT contract is posted on club website

International ASTRA Kindness Postcard Day – April 7

ASTRA AHC, ASTRA PV, and ASTRA RH proudly participated in **Kindness Postcard Day on April 7** by creating and sending postcards throughout the community to various local entities. Students shared messages of encouragement, kindness, and positivity to help brighten someone's day. It was a wonderful way to fill the world with color, encouragement, and connection while spreading kindness one postcard at a time. Through this meaningful project, ASTRA members demonstrated how even small acts of kindness can make a big impact in our community.



What is ASTRA? ASTRA is an international community service organization for young women and men **ages 11-25**, and exists in middle schools, high schools, community colleges, colleges/universities and as community clubs around the U.S. and abroad. ASTRA is always actively sponsored and supported by a local Altrusa Club.

History of ASTRA In an effort to increase opportunities for young people to positively impact their communities, Altrusa International, Inc. appointed a special Youth Group Committee in July 1965 to identify and develop a suggested structure and name for youth groups sponsored by Altrusa Clubs. Recognizing the community service potential in sponsoring these youth groups, they decided that these new “ASTRA Clubs” would be based on the following principles, as adopted by the Altrusa International Board of Directors: 1) Altrusa’s participation in the area of youth groups should not duplicate what is already being done by other organizations. 2) Altrusa’s participation should be unique in purpose. ASTRA has grown every decade and now has ASTRA Clubs located in communities all around the United States, Puerto Rico, New Zealand and India.

“GROWING IN SERVICE”-motto

ASTRA CLUBS- sponsored by Altrusa of the Central Coast

March-ASTRA Club of RHS by Dayna

Righetti ASTRA joined ASTRA Clubs worldwide with their new global ASTRA service project...ASTRA - **Kindness Postcards Day Tuesday, April 7th**. Righetti ASTRA members created 53 Dog and Cat cards with a message of kindness and encouragement that were delivered to patients and staff at Valley Oaks Care Center. This was a continuation of a kindness/wellness project done earlier this year for Righetti students and staff because KINDNESS MATTERS!



Righetti ASTRA members Isabella Ruiz, Daniela Espinoza, Judith Arevalo, Alyce Basurto, and Miah Arevalo Tovar spent Thursday, **April 2nd**, promoting their ASTRA Club at lunch during Righetti's Club Fest Day. A fun event that hopefully brings new members to join our club!



ASTRA seniors Lilibeth Lopez and Samantha Fernandez were recognized and presented certificates and pins for being selected as Golden Warriors for March at the **April 1st** ASTRA meeting. Both have been excellent representatives of ASTRA promoting literacy and volunteering many hours this school year!



March Golden Warrior award was presented to senior Natalia Serna for her outstanding representation of Righetti ASTRA and volunteering countless hours at many of our events this year!



Righetti High School is proud to have students participating and donating themed chairs to the Friends of the Santa Maria Library's 2026 **Painted Chair Event**! Some of our ASTRA members participated and worked with the Art Club in their chair submissions for the event. Awesome entries!!!



Righetti ASTRA hosted a Children's Spring Crafts Event at the Orcutt Library on Saturday, **April 18th**. ASTRA members Edgar Ruiz, Alma Barrera, Hugo Penuelas, and Jackie Gallardo had a fun time with the kids doing spring crafts and giving away books and prizes!



Righetti ASTRA members participated at Serve Santa Maria on Saturday, **April 25th**. Their project was painting the playground at Olga Reed School in Los Alamos as this project was near and dear to our Los Alamos ASTRA members who attended Olga Reed. Volunteers marked out new four square, hopscotch, and basketball courts along with painting a United States and World maps.



Righetti ASTRA is very proud to announce that our very own Alessandra Castelli was selected to represent Righetti High School as a Girls State California Delegate for the American Legion Auxiliary California Girls State Program 2026. Alessandra will participate in a leadership initiative designed to enhance civic knowledge and leadership skills of young women with a focus on responsible citizenship. She will participate in the program in June at the University of California Riverside. Alessandra has been a very involved ASTRA member and is currently serving as the Vice President of our Club.





"ASTRA CLUB OF RHS EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES"

- ✓ April 18th: OASIS Clean Up Day. ASTRA members Carolina Herrera, Lilibeth Lopez, Azalea Pereyra, Evelyn Romero, and Natalia Serna helped spruce up the OASIS Center.
- ✓ April 25th: Orcutt Softball Toy Drive: ASTRA members Ruby Gomez, Audra Smith, and Bella Smith assisted with the toy drive.
- ✓ Friends of the Orcutt Library Book Sale: Devina Martinez and Natalie Valenzuela put up flyers around Orcutt to advertise the May 2nd Book Sale.

March-ASTRA Club of AHC by Melinda

4/16- Good Samaritan After School Program Celebrates Earth Day

On April 16, the Good Samaritan After School Program celebrated Earth Day with a fun and educational afternoon filled with hands-on activities. Three dedicated ASTRA AHC members volunteered their time to help lead the festivities and engage the students.

Participants enjoyed an interactive recycling game that taught the importance of sorting and reducing waste. Creativity was on full display as students crafted bird feeders using recycled plastic bottles—an activity that highlighted simple ways to repurpose everyday items while caring for the environment. To top off the celebration, everyone created and enjoyed a favorite treat—“Earth Day dirt with worms”—a fun and tasty snack that added a sweet ending to the day.



4/17- ASTRA AHC Gives Back with Busy Bags for Young Learners

At their project meeting on April 17, ASTRA AHC members came together to support the youngest students in the community by assembling 50 “Busy Bags” for transitional kindergarten (T-K) students at Rice School. Each thoughtfully prepared kit was designed to engage and comfort young learners, especially during times when they may need quiet, independent activities. The bags included a coloring book, a box of crayons, a children’s book, sensory gadgets, Play-Doh, and even a whistle—bringing both fun and creativity into each package.



ASTRA AHC Brings Books—and Opportunity—to Juvenile Hall

ASTRA AHC members are making a meaningful impact by collecting books for youth ages 11–18 at Santa Barbara County Juvenile Hall. Focused on chapter books and graphic novels, this initiative is helping create access to reading materials that are both engaging and age-appropriate. Thanks to the generosity of the club and community partners, an impressive **150 books** have already been collected. A special contribution from ASTRA Righetti High School helped grow the collection even further—demonstrating the power of collaboration among ASTRA clubs. The books are delivered by Melinda, ensuring they reach the youth who need them most. With each three-tier cart holding approximately **50–60 books**, ASTRA AHC has already filled one cart completely—and the Juvenile Hall has recognized the value of this effort by purchasing an additional cart to expand the collection. These books are more than just stories—they provide an escape, inspire imagination, and support literacy for youth who greatly benefit from positive resources. This project highlights ASTRA AHC’s continued commitment to service, education, and making a lasting difference in the community.



4/20- ASTRA AHC Supports Juvenile Hall Residents with Encouragement and Care

ASTRA AHC continues to make a meaningful impact by providing ongoing snack donations to residents at Juvenile Hall. These snacks serve as positive incentives, encouraging youth to engage in journaling, reading, completing homework assignments, and demonstrating good behavior. Teachers and counselors thoughtfully use these snacks as rewards, reinforcing positive choices and personal growth. Each donation includes approximately 200 snacks, and every item is paired with an encouraging, uplifting sticker—reminding each resident that someone is thinking of them and believes in their potential. This simple yet powerful gesture not only meets a basic need but also delivers a message of hope, support, and connection. ASTRA AHC is proud to continue this effort, showing that small acts of kindness can make a lasting difference. *The snacks are assembled during our project meeting days.*

4/25-DIA DE LOS NINOS-ASTRA AHC Celebrates Día de Los Niños

ASTRA AHC volunteers brought fun, creativity, and literacy to life at the Día de Los Niños celebration on April 25! With a colorful and engaging booth, members Angela and Colton warmly welcomed families and helped create a memorable experience for the community. Visitors enjoyed spinning the Wheel of Fortune for prizes, testing their skills with a literacy tile game, and getting hands-on by crafting paper airplanes. The activities were designed to spark both imagination and a love of learning—key goals of ASTRA’s mission. The event was a great success, with approximately 125 patrons stopping by the ASTRA AHC table throughout the day. It was wonderful to see so many children and families engaged, laughing, and learning together. ASTRA AHC is proud to support events like Día de Los Niños that celebrate children, literacy, and community connection. Thank you to our dedicated volunteers for making a positive impact!



ASTRA AHC Awards Scholarships to Outstanding Members

ASTRA AHC is proud to celebrate the achievements of two dedicated members who applied for and were awarded scholarships this year provided by Altrusa Club of the Central Coast. Their commitment to service, leadership, and personal growth truly reflects the values of ASTRA. These scholarships recognize not only academic effort, but also the time and heart our members invest in making a difference in the community. From volunteering at local events to supporting literacy initiatives, these students exemplify what it means to serve with purpose. We are incredibly proud of both recipients and excited to see all they will accomplish in their future endeavors. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor! ASTRA AHC continues to encourage all members to pursue scholarship opportunities and invest in their educational journeys.

March-ASTRA CLUB OF PVHS by Melinda and Tyler

4/8-ASTRA PVHS Brings Fun and Literacy to the Mall-On April 8, ASTRA PVHS members participated in the community's monthly free mall event, creating a fun and engaging experience for local families. The students gave away **90 books**, helping promote literacy and a love of reading among children of all ages. In addition to the book giveaway, the group organized several hands-on activities. Children enjoyed making spring flower foam cutouts decorated with colorful foam stickers, building at the LEGO table, and creating imaginative sticker scenes, which were especially popular with younger participants. The event drew a large crowd, as many families look forward to these free monthly gatherings at the mall. To add even more excitement, ASTRA students handed out free raffle tickets, giving attendees a chance to win one of four prizes.



4/17-ASTRA PV Spreads Kindness to Seniors Year-Round-Throughout the year, ASTRA PV members have been dedicated to brightening the lives of seniors in local skilled nursing facilities. Each month, students thoughtfully create and fill out approximately **30 heartfelt cards**, sharing messages of encouragement, kindness, and connection. These cards are delivered to residents at facilities such as Valley Oaks Care Center and Vandenberg Senior Living, where they are warmly received and greatly appreciated. For many seniors, these simple yet meaningful gestures bring joy, comfort, and a reminder that they are remembered by their community. This ongoing project reflects ASTRA PV's commitment to service and compassion, demonstrating how small acts of kindness can make a lasting impact.



4/25-ASTRA PVHS Celebrates Día de Los Niños-ASTRA members from Pioneer Valley High School brought energy, creativity, and a love for literacy to this year's Día de Los Niños celebration. With 12 dedicated volunteers, the club created a welcoming and fun-filled space for local children and families to enjoy. One of the highlights was the LEGO table, where kids eagerly built and shared their imaginative creations. ASTRA members also distributed 100 children's books, helping promote a love of reading and ensuring more families have access to books at home. In addition to literacy efforts, the booth offered painted nails and a variety of make-and-take crafts, giving children the chance to express their creativity and leave with something special they made themselves. Through their enthusiastic participation, ASTRA PVHS volunteers made a meaningful impact, combining fun activities with literacy outreach and community connection—truly capturing the spirit of Día de Los Niños.



BINGO!

4/29-GOOD SAMARITAN: ASTRA PVHS members recently brought energy and encouragement to the Good Samaritan After School Program through a fun and engaging afternoon with local children. Six dedicated volunteers spent time reading stories and create a hands-on sticker foam craft activity. The highlight of the day, however, was an exciting game of bingo with prizes—clearly making bingo a crowd favorite. ASTRA volunteers demonstrated their commitment to service by helping clean up the space, sweeping floors and wiping down tables.

SCHOLARSHIPS: This year, ASTRA PVHS did not have any senior members; therefore, no applications were submitted for the ASTRA scholarship.

CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026-2027

Nancy Voss	President
Maria Castillo	Vice President
Stephanie Stadtmiller	Secretary
Sunday Ballas	Treasurer
Leticia Kossuth	Director
Noe Mahelona	Director-(26-28)
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, Nancy, Melinda

ASTRA OF RHS ADVISORS: Dayna DeBernardi Watson

ASTRA OF PVHS ADVISORS: Melinda Aguirre and Tyler Dickinson

ASTRA of AHC ADVISOR: Melinda Aguirre