

Associations Category

The Altrusa Club Collection
PC997.055

Processed by:
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Introduction

The Altrusa Club Collection was donated by the Springfield Altrusa Club in 1997. The collection contains a variety of material predominantly from the local club that includes bulletins, clippings, committee reports, programs, and publications. In addition there is material from the district and the international club. The papers date from 1921 to 1999. The collection fills 3 boxes with 116 files and 2 oversize boxes of scrapbooks and large format material. The collection is arranged into 14 series as follows:

Series 1	History and Rituals
Series 2	Constitution and By-laws
Series 3	Officer Reports
Series 4	Membership
Series 5	Committees
Series 6	Projects and Programs
Series 7	Publicity and Clippings
Series 8	Miscellaneous
Series 9	Periodicals
Series 10	Fourth District
Series 11	Fifth District
Series 12	International
Series 13	Scrapbooks
Series 14	Photographs and slides

There is no restriction on the use of this collection.

Historical Sketch

Dr. Alfred Duke Durham organized the first club in Nashville, TN, on April 11, 1917 with leading business and professional women who were to exchange ideas as did the men in their clubs.

The name "Altrusa" was coined from ALTR from altruism and USA for United States.

Mamie L. Bass was the Altrusa Institute's first national president. She infused Altrusa with its philosophy of service and personal achievement.

Altrusa has two major projects which are under the control and management of Altrusa International: Grants-in-Aid and Founders Fund Vocational Aid.

An Altrusan, by membership in the local club, is a member of a district and Altrusa International. They have annual conferences and biennial conventions. Altrusa is non-partisan in politics and non-sectarian in religion. The motto is: Patriotism, Efficiency, and Service."

Springfield Altrusa, the tenth in the United States, was organized in 1921 by a member of the Columbus Altrusa Club. There were 21 charter members. Margaret Baker was the first president from 1921-1925. The local club belonged to the Fourth District. Around 1957 the district changed to the Fifth and includes Ontario, Canada and West Virginia along with Ohio and Michigan.

The objectives of the districts are: to promote relations among clubs in the District and between the District and the International; to further the objectives of the International and assist in the organization of Altrusa Clubs within the District.

Membership is composed of active and retired members of Altrusa Clubs in good standing within individual districts.

Officers of International include a Governor, Governor Elect, Vice Governor, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past Governor, and Board of Directors.

Scope and Content

The Altrusa Club Collection spans the years 1921 to 1999. It contains local, Fourth and Fifth Districts, and International material. Information concerning the history, membership, committees, projects, conferences, and conventions of the local club are included. Material from some years is missing.

Series 1 contains articles concerning the history of the local and International Altrusa and a booklet about Margaret E. Baker. There is also information about the pioneers, traditions, songbook, emblem, initiation ceremony and memorial service.

Series 2 consists of the constitution and by-laws of both the local and International. The locals first were adopted January 23, 1922 and revised in 1927, 1933, and 1986. One file has the by-laws, policies, and job descriptions for 1986. There is another file of 1988 revisions. The last file has constitution and by-laws for 1939, 1950, 1963, and 1980. Last is a model constitution and by-laws for the Districts.

The 6 files in Series 3 contain the President and Treasurer's reports. Budget and audit reports are filed, but the years vary for each. There was a file card box of officers from 1935 to 1987 that is now filed in one of the oversize boxes. Six files contain agendas/minutes, Treasurer's reports from 1946 to 1992 with some gaps. The next 2 files are Treasurer's books from 1927-1970. The last file contains the Altrusa Local Club Handbook.

Series 4 contains membership forms from 1952, 1955-1958, letters of resignation, and semi-annual reports from 1953 to 1966 from which 1955 is missing. There are undated informational file cards for 49 members. The next file contains a Classification Guide for Membership from 1941-1943 and 1963 as well as other booklets. The final file is a member's kit for 1970. Additional membership information can be found in Series 5 under Information Committee.

Series 5 contains eleven files of information on committees. Each year the number and titles of committees seemed to change. Some committees do not have separate files because of lack of information. The list of committees and annual reports are in the first file. The Budget International Committee file contains very little information. (Additional budget information is available in Series 3.) The Community Service file has numerous letters from local organizations. Certificates of membership from the Community Welfare Council of Springfield for 1967-8 are in one file. The Information Committee has a variety of papers. A number of notices of candidates for membership are included. (See Series 4 for additional membership information.) There is a file of directions for the International Relations Committee and correspondence. The Priority Committee has information only for the years 1967-69.

The Program file has an evaluation form for meetings and projects and a list of programs from 1950-58. There are yearly program booklets from 1936-37 to 1988-92. The booklets for the years 1937-8 and 1938-9 are missing. The Program Issue for the 1953-55 issue of The International Altrusan has a section about Public Affairs Committees. "How To" Guides for the Program chairman are also included in this file.

The Vocational Information file contains guidelines for projects for the committee. The Ways and Means file contains one paper for 1976-1982.

Series 6 is quite large. Much of the file contents overlap that in other categories. The first file contains a Projects Source Book and program/workshop information. The second file concerns an Ohio State University foreign student, Sunanda Ghosh. Policies and Operating Procedures for making Grants-in-Aid Awards are included. The next file is about the Founders Fund Vocational Aid, a project of Altrusa International. Only two forms are in the Jailed Patients Program file. The fourth file contains job clinic information and thank you notes. The next four files deal with the Kidney Fund Project. There are a number of pamphlets on kidney disease and transplantation. A report tells of the association with the Kidney Foundation of Central Ohio. An advertisement for the film "Thailand Anna's Siam" presented by Margaret Baker with proceeds going to the Kidney Foundation of Central Ohio is included. There are a number of articles about local transplant recipient, Valerie Markoch, and other transplants. The tenth file contains many articles about Literacy programs. The next five files are about Altrusa's concerns with mental health. Included are membership lists of the Clark County Mental Health Association from the 1950s. Their annual report for fiscal year 1987 gives a history of the local Mental Health Services. One file has information about the Ohio Mental Health Association for 1956-9. There are copies of three speeches given at the national level in 1958 and 1959. The last file has a list of studies from 1957 of the Research Division of the Columbus Receiving Hospital and the State Institute of Psychiatry.

The first file of Series 7 contains publicity pointers. The remaining files have news articles.

Series 8 has six files of miscellaneous material such as awards, dinners, letters, notes, plays, and volunteers. A 1972-3 yearbook of the Cincinnati Altrusa Club is included.

The periodicals contained in Series 9 date from 1956 to 1995. Not all years are represented. The first file has the City Federation Yearbook from 1973-4. The Altrusa Encyclopedia-Compendiums of Altrusa for all members and clubs from 1985-7 follows. The next file has information for assembling and judging yearbooks. The rest of the files contain the following periodicals:

Altrusa Altimeter (Springfield) 1984-7

The Altrusa Beacon (Springfield) 1958-67, 1994-5

Altrusa Angles (District Five) 1957, 1959, 1961, 1963, 1965-6, 1968, 1985-9

Service Bulletin (District Five) 1965-7, 1969, 1971-2, 1980, 1988-9, 1991, 1993

Altrusa Accent (Altrusa International) 1985-8, 1991-5

The International Altrusan 1949, 1952-3, 1956, 1961, 1963-4, 1971-2, 1980-1,
1983-9, 1992
International Service Bulletin 1964-9, 1971-2

The first three files of Series 10 contain the Secretary's Report of the 1949, 1950 and 1953 Fourth District Conferences. A number of files have notes, agendas, etc. for the 1953 District Conference held in Springfield. One file has newspaper clippings and a 1946 bulletin. The last file has the Ethics Resolution of the Fourth District.

Series 11 begins with the District Five Conferences from 1966, 1968, 1971, and 1983. The next file has information from the District Five Workshops from 1963, 1967-71. Correspondence from 1946-1988 is next. Many years are missing. The last file is the *District Five Digest* dated 1971. It lists awards, clubs, conferences, history, officers, and honor roll.

The first file in Series 12 is *This is Altrusa International* booklet. Following is the *Directory of Clubs International 1955-6*. The next four files have the 1967, 1969, 1971, and 1989 International Conventions material. The message from the International President, 1987m follows. The next two files are Altrusa International Foundation Annual Reports for 1986-7 and 1987-8. The last file contains various reports.

The contents of the first file of Series 13 was removed from its original hard cover during processing. It contains some photographs, but mostly clippings for 1984-5. Topics include group activities, projects, awards, community affairs, and obituaries. File two are pages removed from a scrapbook in poor condition. It contained clippings from 1931-3. The remainder of Series 13 is contained in two oversize boxes. One oversize box holds a large red scrapbook. It begins with the District Conference in October of 1951, followed by clippings and pictures from 1953-9. At the end of the scrapbook are articles from earlier years that are not in chronological order. There are 2 brown scrapbooks the smaller of which contains clippings from 1940-1. The larger scrapbook has material and reports from the International Convention held at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, Michigan, June 15-19, 1947. Included is the *Spirit of '76* Citation from the City of Springfield and Clark County American Bicentennial Celebration April 1976 and a proclamation from the city for 1979 for World Literacy Day. There is a chart with memorabilia from the International Convention in Palm Desert, California, July 1987.

Series 14 is housed in the Photographic Category and contains slides, negatives, and photographs some of which are unidentified and undated. There are six photographs of the 37th International Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in July 1981, 13 photographs of the log Blacksmith's Shop in the New Boston Historical Area dated 1982 and 12 photographs taken at the Women's Town Club in 1986-7. There are 13 photographs from 1963-76 that are unidentified but dated.

Two award plaques from 1962 and 1980 are housed with the object collections of the Clark County Historical Society.

Box and Folder Listing

Series	File	Description
1	1	