



Ocean Breeze

Altrusa of San Luis Obispo County

March 2026

Altrusa International of San Luis Obispo County

Co-Presidents

Cici Wynn & Robin White

Vice President

Becky Lorenzo

Secretary

Margaret Walker

Treasurer

Raine Ross

Director

Edna Tinsley

Newsletter Editor

Beth Lorenzo

Meetings 2nd Tuesdays
of each month
Social at 5:00
Meeting at 5:30

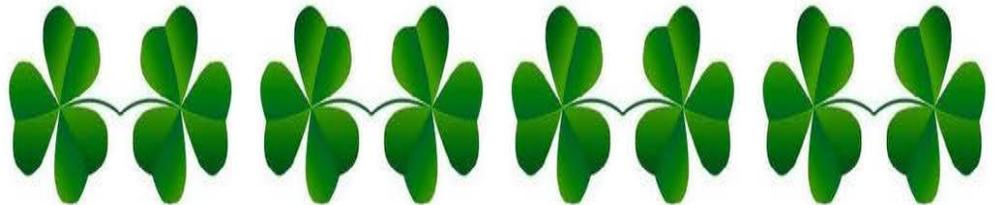
Altrusa International of
San Luis Obispo County,
Inc.

P.O. Box 1202
Pismo Beach, CA 93448

altrusa.sloco@gmail.com

altrusasloco.org

Like us on Facebook and
Instagram @ Altrusa of San
Luis Obispo County



President's Message:

March brings green hills, hints of spring and the luck of the Irish – and we're hoping for a lot of luck in adding some new members while having a lot of fun on our upcoming membership event/club fundraiser – March 10th! Please see the flyer in this newsletter.

And speaking of fundraisers, thank you again to all who participated in our Urbane Café Fundraiser in January. The Club earned \$280.41(not bad for enjoying a great meal!) which helps us with our club expenses.

Although our calendar shows that March is one of our "quieter" months, our service and literacy committees are as busy as ever. They're planning to help the Grover Beach Library with their book sale on March 7th. They've also been busy creating a budget for the next year. This, along with the food pick ups and deliveries each week keeps many Altrusans busy. Lots of activity form this enthusiastic group!

As we recognize St. Patrick's Day, there are a few Irish Proverbs that speak to the Altrusan volunteer spirit

- You'll never plow a field by turning it over in your mind
- Laziness is a heavy burden
- Many hands make light work
- Castles were built a stone at a time
- The work praises the man (woman)



*May the dreams you hold dearest be those which
come true*

And the kindness you spread keep returning to you

Cici & Robin
Co-Presidents



Upcoming EVENTS

- March 8 International Women's Day**
- March 10 St. Patrick's Day Bunco**
Blacklake Community Room, Nipomo
2:30pm
(More details on page 9)
- March 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day - May the 'Luck of the Irish' be with you**



MEMBER MEETINGS

March 10 - 5:30pm (5:00 Social)
Business Meeting
Blacklake Community Room

March 22 - 1:00pm

Book Stamping Party
Beth Lorenzo's Home

March 24 - 5:30pm
COT Meeting - Clubhouse at Rancho del Arroyo Mobile Home Park



March Birthdays

Alana Reynolds March 3
Jo-Anne Zubiri March 11



Hello March

May the early spring
Awaken your soul and
Remind you to
Celebrate the season with the
Hope and Joy it brings



OurMindfulLife.com



January
Total Service
Hours by our
members

448

COMMUNITY

*****Super Bowl Party Winners*****

Focus on Service:

We had an amazing time with 20 guests hosted by Joyce, one of the Shell Beach Babes. We had different food areas set up for all the terrific and bountiful food that was delivered by Altrusa. We ALL were amazed by the quantity and quality of the food this year. Naomi, a Shell Beach Babe stated how "Altrusa really stepped their game this year with the food". Appetizers were outside on two high tables. We had a hot table selection of terrific dishes outside. Inside the kitchen we had the shrimp, dips, veggies and fruit inside. We had the drinks in her She Shed with wine and a game drink of Aperol Spritz. Desserts were brought out in the 4th quarter to round out a perfect day. We used a selection of decorations from prior years in our Super Bowl tub and new additions this year from Altrusa. Joyce ordered a roll of football field plastic to put on all the tables, blue skirts for the She shed, and many other fun items to make the day a perfect festive event. Sarah kept the quarters interesting with a Super Bowl pool she put together for our guests. This made it fun and exciting and a little drama as to who would win. Everyone of the Shell Beach Babes, their guests, and neighbors that were invited could not say enough about how nice the event was and how perfect the food was. There was nothing left to need, except for a bag of Doritos for my daughter and her boyfriend, which they brought! A BIG THANK YOU to the Altrusa team for a "Touch Down" of a day for us!! Sue, Sarah, and ALL the Shell Beach Babes



Valentine's Day Craft



Focus on Service and Literacy:

Several club members met over at the Oceano Library to oversee a Valentine's Day craft for local children. The kids really had a great time!



Member, Carol Summerville, took one of the left over Valentines cards and her grandson made it for his other grandma. We took it over to her house in Nipomo, she had a bad fall a month back and has been house bound and this card touched her so much, it brought tears to her heart that it was home made. Happy Valentines Day ❤️

Altrusa Literacy News

- **Book Donations:**

We are always looking for new and used children's books. These books would then be distributed to locations within our community. Let us know if you can help.

- **Book Distributions:**

Continued distributing new children's books to Oceano CHC and used children's books, as well as, used adult books to New Life U-Pick Pantry.

- Continued distributing new and used adult books to community (5CHC, Prado shelter, Veterans Clinics, Senior Convalescent Homes, Grover Beach Library or Friends of the Library).

- **Recommendations/Issues to be considered:**

Meeting with local libraries and schools to discuss future projects (book readings/give-away, craft projects)

Book Drive



Reading is a gift that lasts forever. We have distributed approximately 2300 books to children in our community since July 1, 2025. With your help, we can reach our goal of 5000 books by June 2026.

Here is the link to our Amazon Wishlist. Let's share the joy of stories all year long.

<https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/3BQB768KHG5L7>



Focus on Service:

On Feb 11, members, Koni Shaff, Gayle Harbert, Edna Tinsley, Donna Cettolin, Carol Somerville, and Connie Wood got together and proposed a working budget to use towards our community service projects this year.

The Service Committee reviews and selects services, monetary gifts, and hands on projects during the year that we feel might enhance our communities needs. It allows Altrusa to have a huge impact on the many lives locally and even several world wide projects.

A few things we do every year include:

Camp AG, Empty Bowls, Oceano Library Craft projects, Food Pantries, Casa Solano, Captive Hearts, Christmas Bell Ringers, Welcome Home, and SO much more!

Our next hands on project will be the Camp AG Jubilee (see picture from last year). It's a day where the community gathers at Camp Arroyo Grande to learn about everything community related, eat some bbq'd hot dogs, and then plant flowers at the Altrusa garden table. The kids take home their creations and the smiles on each face, shows just how happy and proud they are that they have learned about gardening at Camp AG.

Did you know every member in Altrusa is considered a part of the Service committee? (Even if you've never been able to attend a meeting.) It doesn't matter, you are a part of the whole. Altrusa IS a service club., Consider coming out this year for a few hours to play in the dirt, to plant flowers, and smiles on all who pass by.

Save the date: May 17th 11 am - 4 pm. I promise you'll have a bloomin' good time.

-Connie Wood



Focus on Literacy:

Literacy Committee members, Connie Wood, Jo-Anne Zubiri, Sally Dunbar, Becky Lorenzo, Beth Lorenzo, Lisa Guy, and Koni Shaff, met on February 3.

Literacy is more than the ability to read and write — it is confidence, opportunity, connection, and hope. Being part of a committee that works intentionally to strengthen those foundations in our community fills my heart in ways that are hard to fully describe.

What I love most about serving on the Literacy Committee is seeing the direct and lasting impact of our efforts. Books are not just donated — they are placed into the hands of children who may not otherwise have access to them. We are helping parents build home libraries, encouraging early language development, and supporting a culture where reading is valued and celebrated. There is something incredibly powerful about knowing that a simple book can spark imagination, strengthen family bonds, and even change the trajectory of a child's future.

One of my favorite projects is our partnership supporting Learning Pods through the South County Youth Coalition. Providing books to families with children ages 0–5 has been especially meaningful to me. Early childhood is such a critical window for brain development, and giving families the tools to read together creates lifelong benefits. Watching parents light up as they choose books for their children, and seeing little hands clutch stories they are excited to take home, reminds me why this work matters.

I also cherish how our literacy efforts bring members together in service. Whether we are organizing book drives, distributing materials at community events, or supporting local libraries and reading programs, there is a shared sense of purpose. We are not just promoting literacy — we are strengthening our community.

Being on the Literacy Committee has deepened my understanding of how access to books builds equity. It has shown me that small acts, repeated consistently, create lasting change. Every story shared, every child encouraged, and every family supported is part of something bigger.

I love serving on this committee because it allows me to be part of that bigger story — one where literacy opens doors, builds confidence, and plants seeds of possibility for generations to come.

Beth Lorenzo





Club Committees



We have several service projects coming up, as well as, some new ones that we will be exploring in the next few months. We are always looking for volunteers to help us. If interested, email us at altrusa.sloco@gmail.com, message us on our Facebook page, or talk to one of our Altrusa members.



Our Committee is always looking for new service projects to partner with in our community.

Communication

- **Email Marketing:** Continue to subscribe friends/family to MailChimp.
- **Social Media:** Follow us for updates on Facebook @altrusa.sloco and Instagram @altrusaofslocounty.
- **Club Website:** Your source for updates on what we're doing in the community and how you can help.
- **Membership:** Our committee is hosting a St. Patrick's Bunco Party on March 10th.
- **ASTRA:** Follow-up with committee to discuss and plan to contact school staff at Lopez HS and possibly reaching out to other schools about promoting an ASTRA Club.

Literacy

Here are some ways to celebrate words, books, and reading this month -

March 2026

March Into Literacy Month	4 – National Grammar Day
National Reading Month	5 – World Book Day in the UK
Small Press Month	8 – National Proofreading Day
1 – International Hug a Librarian Day	14 – National Write Your Story Day
1-7 – National Ghostwriters Week	15-21 – World Folktales and Fables Week
1-7 – Read an E-book Week	16 – Freedom of Information Day
1-7 – Return Borrowed Books Week	19 – International Read to Me Day
1-9 – Jewish Book Week	20 – World Storytelling Day
2 – Read Across America Day	20 – Bibliomania Day
2 – Dr. Seuss Day	21 – World Poetry Day
2-6 – Newspapers in Education Week	30 – Pencil Day



St. Patrick's Day Bunco

🍀🎲 St. Patrick's Day BUNCO is Coming! 🎲🍀

Grab your green and get ready for an afternoon of laughter, lucky rolls, and great company! Altrusa of SLO County invites you to celebrate the "Luck O' the Irish" at our festive St. Patrick's Day Bunco gathering.

✦ FOOD • FUN • PRIZES ✦

Whether you're a Bunco pro or trying it for the first time, it's easy to learn and always a blast to play. Come enjoy delicious refreshments, festive décor, and plenty of chances to win fun prizes. Most of all, enjoy connecting with friends and meeting new ones!

📅 Tuesday, March 10

🕒 2:30 PM

📍 Blacklake Community Room
498 Colonial Place
Nipomo, CA 93444

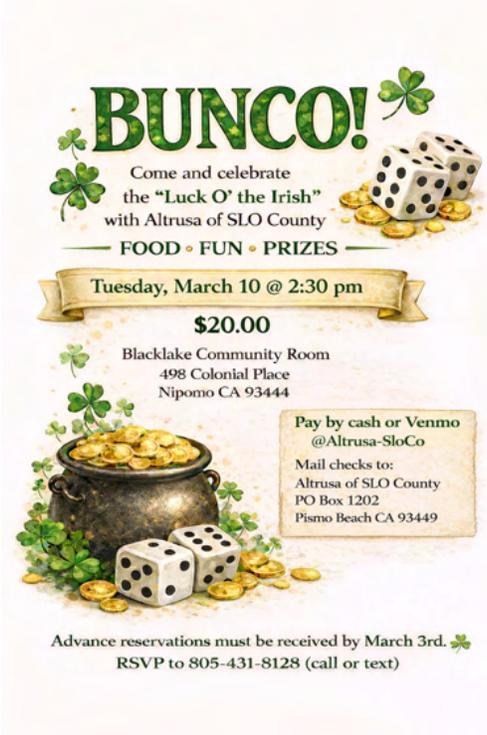
💰 \$20 per person

♥ Payment Options:

- Cash
- Venmo: @Altrusa-SloCo
- Mail checks to:
Altrusa of SLO County
PO Box 1202
Pismo Beach, CA 93449

🍀 Advance reservations must be received by March 3rd. 🍀

Bring a friend, wear something green, and come ready to roll the dice. We can't wait to celebrate with you!



BUNCO! 🍀
Come and celebrate
the "Luck O' the Irish"
with Altrusa of SLO County
— FOOD • FUN • PRIZES —
Tuesday, March 10 @ 2:30 pm
\$20.00
Blacklake Community Room
498 Colonial Place
Nipomo CA 93444
Pay by cash or Venmo
@Altrusa-SloCo
Mail checks to:
Altrusa of SLO County
PO Box 1202
Pismo Beach CA 93449
Advance reservations must be received by March 3rd. 🍀
RSVP to 805-431-8128 (call or text)

FOUNDATION BOARD FOR 2025-2026

President - Beth Lorenzo
Vice President - Jo-Anne Zubiri
Secretary - Koni Shaff
Treasurer - Sally Dunbar
Director - Becky Lorenzo
Past President - Judy Sorensen



Reminder on navigating the web...

Where can you find more information about District Eleven?
districteleven.altrusa.org

Where can you find more information about Altrusa International?
altrusa.org



Coming up this month...

Attn Book Lovers!

Grover Beach Community Library will be having their first Book Sale of the year on Saturday, March 7th from 9am - 3pm.




BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SOUTH SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

DREAM BIG

ANNUAL GALA FUNDRAISER

Honoring Jack & Jayne Smith
with our 4th annual
Betsey Kelton *Changemaker* Award

MARCH 28, 2026
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Pismo Beach Vet's Hall
780 Bello St, Pismo Beach, CA

Join us to give back and dream big!

Celebrate with us, an inspiring afternoon of fun, community, and impact. Your support helps create safe spaces and brighter futures for South SLO youth.

Tickets \$100 each
We also provide a range of sponsorship opportunities designed to accommodate various levels of giving.

21+ Only Event | Tax ID #77-0390117



bgcslo.org/DreamBig

Oceano Library PARENT SUPPORT CLASSES

Tuesdays | March 3 - March 24
10:30-11:30
Free!

For families with children ages 0-5. This five-week series will offer support and skills to improve bonding and healthy development.

The series will be offered in both English and Spanish.

Call the Oceano Library to register, or [register at SLOLibrary.org](https://SLOLibrary.org)



Oceano Library | 1511 19th St | 805-474-7478 | SLOLibrary.org

Biblioteca Oceano CLASES DE PARTICIPACIÓN DE PADRES

Martes | 3 de marzo - 24 de marzo
10:30-11:30
¡Gratis!

Para familias con niños de edades 0-5 años. Una serie de 5 semanas que ofrecerá apoyo y habilidades para mejorar la vinculación y el desarrollo saludable.

Cada semana, los padres y los niños aprenderán juntos participando en actividades.

¡Llame a la biblioteca para registrarse!



Biblioteca Oceano | 1511 19th St | 805-474-7478 | SLOLibrary.org