



Ocean Breeze

Altrusa of San Luis Obispo County

December 2025

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.

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

President's Message:

It's difficult to believe that 2025 is coming to an end. Now is a great time to look back and reflect on what our club has been able to accomplish through service/literacy by our members and monetary grants that enriched our community throughout the year.

We are very proud of the success of our annual fundraiser, Celebration of Trees that was held on November 15 at the South County Regional Center. The funds raised at that event allows us to continue giving back to the community in 2026.

There is much need among the less fortunate every day, but even more so in December. December marks our time of Holiday giving, when we identify those organizations that will most effectively help the families in need, not only with the essentials, but also wishes. Part of our annual giving budget is allocated to Holiday giving.

Each monthly newsletter highlights all that Altrusa of San Luis Obispo County is involved in and is a great resource not only for what we've done, but also for upcoming events. As we wrap up this year, you'll see that we're going out strong!



CLARITY
ALTRUSANS IN ACTION

Cici & Robin

Co-Presidents





Dec. 7 Winter Wishes Workshop for 5CHC Youth and Teens(details on pg. 12) 11am - 2pm
1023 East Grand Ave. AG
AG Warming Center

Dec. 10 Oceano Library Holiday Craft
1511 19th St. in Oceano
3:30 - 4:30pm

Dec. 10 Human Rights Day



MEMBER MEETINGS

December 9 - 5:30pm (5:00 Social)

**Business Meeting
Blacklake Community Room**

December 17 - Time TBD

**Wrapping Party/Potluck
Debbie Volz's Home**

Foundation Meeting TBD



December Birthdays

Teena Colebrook Dec. 18



**October
Total Service
Hours by our
members**

510



***** FAMILY CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS *****

When my son was in elementary school he would buy me a Christmas bell each Christmas and as he grew up it became a tradition and the last one he gave me was a month before he died. As he got older the bells became more elaborate and expensive. I have over 30 bells, including glass, metal, ceramic, Lladro, Lenox and musical. I enjoy displaying them every Christmas and the memories give me so much joy.

April Smith



Beth Lorenzo

Our family's favorite holiday tradition was to visit several local light displays in our area of Sacramento. Our favorite ones were: The Fab 40s (East Sacramento), the most famous neighborhood for holiday lights, homes were decked out, glowing trees, and carriage rides; Dove Wood Court (Orangevale) legendary street where every house participated and featured synchronized displays, inflatables, music, kids selling hot chocolate, and we would donate canned food to charity; Pebble Beach Drive (Rocklin), famous for fully synchronized light shows set to music by tuning in to a local FM station from your car. It was a great family drive-through event. After an evening of light displays, we would head over to a local Marie Calendars, for hot chocolate and pie with the kids and grandparents.

Becky Lorenzo

Sweet Holiday Construction Crew

Every year, our family took on the biggest building project of the season: a gingerbread house! We tried to switch it up by building different "houses." We've had the traditional house (of course), dog houses, a train, a village, a stacked tree, a lighthouse, and more! My dad served as the official structural engineer, making sure the walls didn't collapse. Meanwhile, my mom and I focused on the important part — piling on as much frosting and candy as humanly possible. By the end, the house might have leaned a little, but it was always bursting with color and enough sugar to last until New Year's. It's a tradition that still sticks with us (even now) — kind of like frosting on your fingers!



Judy Sorensen

When I was growing up, Santa always brought a board game. We would play it all day on Christmas. Santa even continued to bring them once I had my own family."



Lisa Guy

My husband Keith and I met in the fall, 42 years ago, in San Diego - I was in my second year of college, and he was in his final year. We started dating almost immediately, and as Christmas approached I realized what an important holiday it was to him. His early years had been difficult with many family challenges, but the spirit of Christmas lived strongly within him, and brought him a great deal of comfort and joy.

Six years later, Keith and I were married, and a little over a year after that, our first daughter was born. Kathryn was due on Christmas Day, but came to us six days early. She was our Christmas miracle. Soon after, Keith's mother gave us a precious gift - an early copy of Twas the Night Before Christmas, signed in 1962 by a very young Keith and his older brother Chris. The pages were worn and tattered, making the book all the more special.

That first Christmas Eve with our newborn daughter, Keith and I snuggled up by the fire and he read the book aloud, bringing the magic of Christmas alive and bonding us closely with our new little one. We've continued this tradition for 35 years, our family growing with the birth of four more children, three new son-in-laws and now a darling seven month old granddaughter. Somehow we all manage to squeeze in around Keith, warm by the fire and surrounded by those we love. . . anticipating the excitement of another Christmas morning. The packages and gifts recede in the background, as our joy in being together takes center stage.

When our children were little, I think my husband and I took it for granted that we would always be together. As the kids grew up and moved across the world, our appreciation for Christmas and the strong desire our children continue to have for us to all be together, has made us exceedingly grateful. Imagine, this all started with one very special book. . .

Teena Colebrook

My childhood memories of Christmas:

We always had a stocking which had an orange, a few walnuts and cadburys chocolate selection. We were allowed to open them early before our parents got up. We had just a very few gifts to open and we played board games. We had Roast Goose or Duck for dinner with all the trimmings followed by Christmas pudding. Mum made mince pies and sausage rolls and it was my job to offer them to visitors. Six months before Christmas we made Christmas pudding and the cake, Mum wrapped six penny pieces in foil and put them in the pudding and brandy was added every month via holes made with knitting needles. If you got a six pence in your serving it was considered very lucky. Mum always got her 1,000 piece jigsaw puzzle out and we all helped put it together. Boxing day, (26th) we went to follow the hunt and hounds and visited relatives.

Current adult memories.

Today our International friends/family (Lebanon, France, Germany, England, Welsh, American) all get together at our house, after opening our stockings and having coffee and breakfast we put our Santa Hats on, make a mimosa and walk down the hill to our neighbors in our PJ's and robes, sing carols, then refresh our Mimosa's and walk back up the hill to open presents. We all help to make dinner Dinner is Goose, Pheasant, duck and Elk with roast and mashed potatoes, veggies and lashings of gravy.



Celebration of Trees Fundraiser

It was a night of holiday magic, community giving, and festive fun! Everyone explored the beautifully decorated trees, silent and live auction items, along with member, Teena Colebrook's, Wine Extravaganza Tree. We would like to thank everyone for their support.



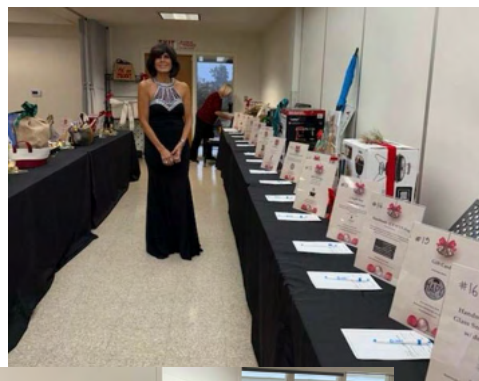
The Ladies of Altrusa of SLO County



Club members and their guests enjoying the evening.



Member, Linda Daly, checking out the Silent Auction items up for bid.



Celebration of Trees Continued



It was undoubtedly a memorable night, and we so appreciated the support of those that attended.



Wine Extravaganza Tree



Some of the beautiful trees that were raffled off.



- **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. With your help, we are that much closer to reaching our goal of 5000 donated books this year.

Here is the link to our Amazon Wishlist. Let's share the joy of stories this Holiday season.

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



San Benito Elementary



Focus on Literacy: Bilingual Library Enhancement

We provided San Benito Elementary in Atascadero with bilingual books for their school library.

On behalf of the San Benito Elementary School Library, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous donation of bilingual books. Your thoughtful contribution has already greatly enriched our library's collection and is helping us better serve our diverse community of readers. These new additions are allowing more patrons to see their languages and cultures represented on our shelves, fostering both inclusion and curiosity. Your support has not only enhanced our resources but also strengthened our mission to make learning accessible to everyone.

I wish you could see the excitement on the faces of our students as they have seen the now-full shelves of books in their native language. Their library visits have become a highlight of each week as they have so many more options to choose from. Even our non-Spanish speaking students have been drawn to the new titles now that they are more current and inline with students interests. Especially popular have been the graphic novels of well-known series such as Dog Man and Wings of Fire as well as well-loved picture books like The Good Egg and The Bad Seed. The books you have funded have already been circulated over twice as often as the Spanish books we have offered our students in previous years.

Your generosity is fostering learning and shaping young minds for future potential growth and learning. Thank you once again for your kindness and commitment to promoting diversity through literature. We are deeply appreciative of your partnership and look forward to sharing the joy and learning your donation will bring to countless readers.

With gratitude,
Mrs. Rigby

These two boys were super excited to be able to check out some really cool new books.



This little girl was all smiles

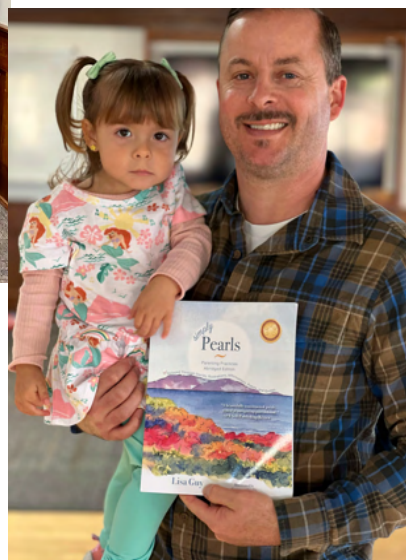


Learning Pods

Our Foundation supported South County Youth Coalition's Parent-Child Participation Fall Learning Pod Series. Topics included: Art, Movement, Sensory Play, Yoga, Music, Nutrition, & More.



We were able to give out 50 book bags. Our efforts have helped create moments of connection, growth, and confidence for the families.



Believing in the power of books, can change lives.

Fun
Times!



Club Committees



Service

SLO Food Bank - Daily pickups from Costco, Trader Joe's, and Whole Foods. Deliveries to Prada CAPSLO, Oceano Food Bank and 5 Cities Food Bank.

5 Cities Food Bank Team - Food recovery Thurs-Sat from California Fresh Market and Grocery Outlet with deliveries to NLCC Pantry, 5 Cities Women's Pantry, Captive Hearts, and Casa Solana. When there is excess food, deliveries are also made at St. Pat's, Salvation Army Pantry, and a small church in Oceano.



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
- Our Instagram is now up and running. Consider following us @ altrusaofslocounty R
- Club Website has gone LIVE
- **Membership:** More details coming in the next few months about plans for our next event.
- **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.

Mark Your Calendar -
Coming Next Month...



Urbane Cafe

**WE ARE RAISING
DOUGH FOR**

*Altrusa International of
San Luis Obispo County*

**Wednesday, January 21st, 2026
4:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

**Urbane Cafe Arroyo Grande
924 Rancho Parkway,
Arroyo Grande CA 93420**



Bring this flyer to Urbane Cafe and we will toss 30% to the cause. Want to participate virtually? Order online and use promo code "fundraisers" at checkout*

*Only one promo code or reward can be used per order

Altrusa Club News

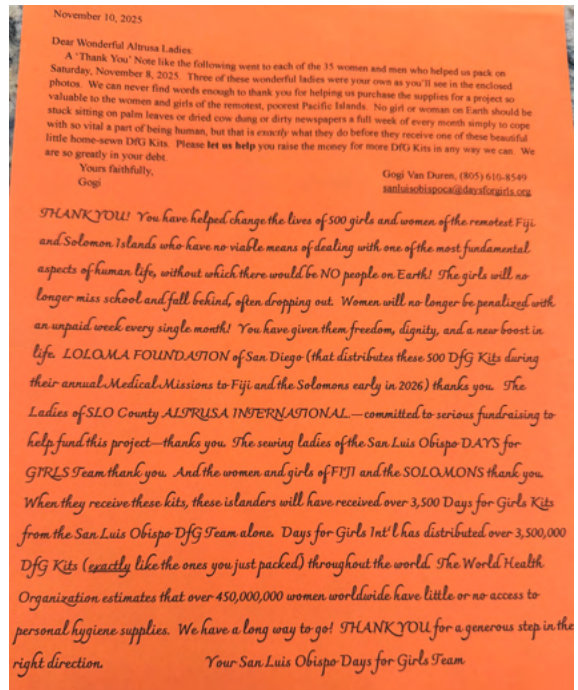
DaysforGirls Packing Day



Members, Margaret Walker, Gayle Harbert, and Robin White helped assemble the kits.



The San Luis Obispo Days for Girls team packed 500 new kits bound for the outer Fiji and Solomon Islands. Each kit consisted of two snapped waterproof shields, 8 double thick flannel liners, a waterproof carry pouch, and a drawstring carryall bag (all hand sewn)! Plus, 2 pairs of briefs, a wash rag, bar of soap, and a Cycle-Tracking calendar. Our Foundation had granted funds for this project.



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



Community News

Coming up this month...



BE A BLESSING THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON!

We want to bless the socks (or stockings) off our community this Christmas season! For that reason, we've been working with the Lucia Mar School District and other local organizations to learn what families in our area could really use... now, and beyond the Christmas season. We would love for you to be a part of this incredible opportunity to show families that they are seen, loved, and cared for by the One who created them!



There are a few ways you can get involved! You can shop on your own and drop off items at the lobby display on Sundays or at the office during the week. You can also use our registry lists on Amazon, Walmart, and Target and have items delivered straight to the Pantry. As always, if you'd like to donate financially, you can give via cash or check, or online. Based on what we learned last year, we are emphasizing the need for sweatshirts and praying God will use our efforts to bless our community.



ITEMS TO DONATE

All items must be new and unopened.

CLEANING SUPPLIES

Dish Soap
Laundry Soap
Paper towels
Cleaning Wipes
Cleaners (comet, windex, 409, etc.)

HYGEINE

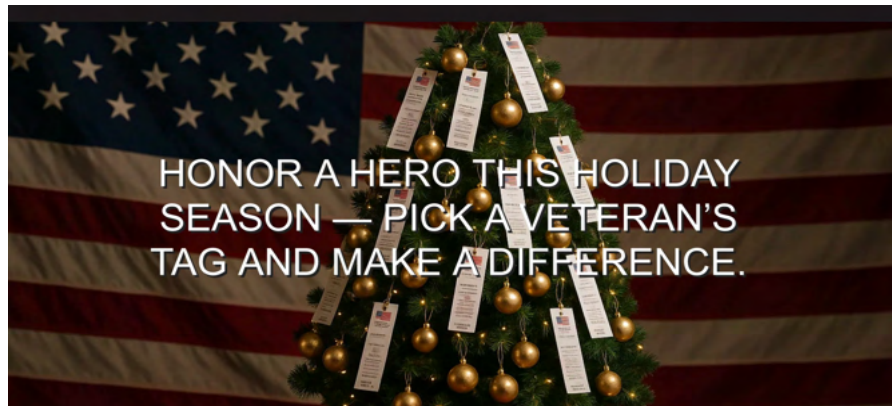
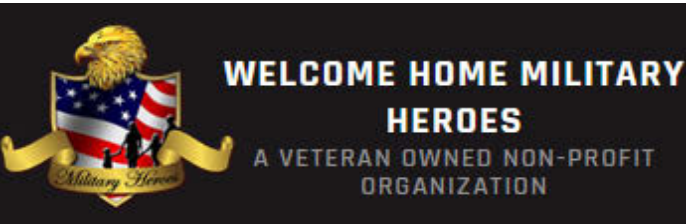
Toilet Paper
Deodorant
Pads/Tampons
Shampoo/Conditioner
Body soap
Lotion

FOOD ITEMS

During the holiday season, we serve record numbers of families and our shelves become bare frequently. Any and all food donations are helpful!

SWEATSHIRTS

Help make it a warm Christmas this year by helping us provide a sweatshirt for everyone who comes through our doors. We are looking to have a good supply of all sizes, infant through 3XL and as a reminder, all sweatshirts must be new, thank you!



2025 VETERAN HOLIDAY GIVING TREE LOCATIONS

Visit any of these locations to support our veterans this holiday season

Rental Salon

124 Traffic Way
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Peacock Cellars

1543 Los Berros Rd
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

A La Carte Furniture

230 Betteravia Rd #H
Santa Maria, CA 93454

Coastal Peaks Coffee

3566 S. Higuera St #100
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Oak Knolls Hardware

1155 E. Clark Ave
Santa Maria, CA 93455

American Legion Post 534

145 W. Clark Ave
Orcutt, CA 93455

VFW Post 2814

9555 Morro Rd
Atascadero, CA 93422

SLO Veteran Services

801 Grand Ave
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

American Legion #50

240 Scott St
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Quail Run Veterans

10 Dove St
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Coldwell Banker Select

129 W Central Ave
Lompac, CA 93436



The City of Arroyo Grande Holiday Parade and Jingle Bell Dash will be held on December 7, 2025

The community of Arroyo Grande ushers in the holiday season with the annual Holiday Parade on Sunday, December 7, 2025. The festivities begin with the free Jingle Bell Dash for preschoolers through 6th graders, with on-site registration at 3:00 p.m. and the race starting at 4:00 p.m. in the Village. Young runners receive a jingle bell for their shoe and chase the Grinch through the Village before the parade begins. The Holiday Parade starts at 5:00 p.m. at East Branch Street next to City Hall and continues along Traffic Way and Branch Street. Don't miss this festive kick-off to the season!



Winter Wishes Workshop Event for Five Cities Homeless Coalition for Youth and Teens

Event Details

Winter Wishes Workshop

Date: 12/7/2025

Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: 1023 East Grand Avenue, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420 (AG Warming Center)

What to Bring: A new, unwrapped toy or teen/tween gift

What You'll Do: Write Winter Wishes letters for our clients

Extras: Live music, games, treats, and photos with Santa

5Cities Homeless Coalition is delighted to announce the **Winter Wishes Workshop**, a family-friendly, community-centered event inviting residents to help spread hope and encouragement to local children, teens, adults, and families experiencing homelessness or housing instability this season.

Winter Wishes Workshop is all about connecting with our neighbors. **Community members of all ages are invited to write heartfelt letters, warm wishes, and encouraging notes to the clients we serve. These personal messages will be delivered throughout the holiday season, offering comfort, dignity, and a reminder that our neighbors are not alone.**

The event will include live holiday music, seasonal games, and treats generously provided by local businesses. And in true festive spirit, Santa will be joining us for photos and visits.

In addition to writing Winter Wishes letters, **guests are encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy or a gift for a teen or tween — an age group often overlooked in holiday giving. These donations help ensure local youth have something meaningful to open this season.**