



Ocean Breeze

Altrusa of San Luis Obispo County

January 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.

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

President's Message:



CLARITY

As we close out 2025 and start a new year, we'd like to take a moment to reflect on what an incredible year this has been for our organization. We accomplished so much together, and we should all be proud. While the end of the year is always our busiest time, it's important to pause and appreciate the impact we've made.

This month, our members will continue their dedication to our community service and Literacy projects. At the same time, we'll be exploring new ways to expand our reach and support even more families. We're especially excited to be expanding into the north county by placing our book cart at Tolosa Dental for Children.

We continue to maintain strong relationships with other non-profit organizations throughout San Luis Obispo County. These partnerships allow us to respond quickly when needs arise, whether through volunteer time, financial support from our foundation, or collaborative efforts. Over the years, we've built a solid reputation for being responsive, reliable, and committed to making a difference.

We were also honored to receive media recognition for our work this year. Our organization was featured by KSBY through their Season of Hope campaign, highlighting our contribution to the community and their campaign.

In addition to our ongoing projects, we're excited to host a club fundraiser at Urbane Café in Arroyo Grande on January 21st. We hope you'll join us and help spread the word to your family, friends, and neighbors. Details can be found in the flyer included in this newsletter.

Thank you to all our fantastic members for your continued dedication, generosity, and passion for service. Your commitment is what makes our work possible. We look forward to another year of growth, connection, and community impact

Happy New Year!

Cici and Robin





Jan. 21 Club Fundraiser at Urbane Cafe in AG
4:00pm - 9:00pm
Details are on page 9 in the newsletter



MEMBER MEETINGS

January 11 - 1:00pm
Book Stamping and Literacy Comm. Mtg.
Beth Lorenzo's Home
January 13 - 5:30pm (5:00 Social)
Business Meeting
Blacklake Community Room
January 18 - 1:00pm
Foundation Meeting
Beth Lorenzo's Home



No January Birthdays



November
Total Service
Hours by our
members

933



*****Holiday Giving Project *****



We gave \$3000 to New Life Pismo Christmas Market. The market served Lucia Mar families that had been identified by staff within the schools. They had an opportunity to go through the pantry for food, but **BEFORE** that, the goal was to give a sweatshirt to each member of the family, laundry detergent, toiletries, and cleaning supplies. We were so happy to help with this project. (Co-President, Robin White, along with Richard White, presented our donation)

Our Club was able to support Welcome Home Military Heroes' **VETERAN HOLIDAY GIVING TREE PROGRAM**. This project provided Christmas gifts to low-income veterans and their families, many of whom have little to look forward to during the holiday season. Such a special gift to those who have sacrificed so much.



Members, Koni Shaff and Connie Wood, presented our donation to Cheryl Tolan, Secretary and Co-Founder of WHMH



Focus on Service:
Members, Donna Cettolin, Gayle Harbert, and Co-President Cici Wynn, helping Cheryl Tolan and her team, wrap gifts at the Welcome Home Military Heroes Veterans Holiday Giving wrap party.



Season of Hope

Our Club had the opportunity to support 'Season of Hope' sponsored by our local news Station, KSBY. We were able to present a generous monetary donation, along with new books and toys in their station lobby. Also, we were interviewed by one of their Director's about our organization and how we serve our community through service and literacy. Sending out a BIG THANK YOU to our donors for making this possible.



Members, Alana Reynolds, Foundation President Beth Lorenzo, Edna Tinsley, Lisa Guy, and Koni Shaff were able to attend and present our donations.

5 Cities Homeless Coalition



Member, Koni Shaff, presented \$500 in gift cards to Erin @ 5 Cities Homeless Coalition to help with their annual holiday toy drive.

Focus on Service:

Linda and John Osty helped move toys to the 5 Cities Homeless Coalition's warming center. Member, Koni Shaff, helped sort and count toys (almost 1000!). Volunteers helped parents select and wrap items for their children.

5 Cities Homeless Coalition Toy Drive



Our Holiday Giving Project continued...

Captive Hearts and Casa Solana



Our Holiday Giving Project continued with supporting women that have experienced trauma in their lives. We put together gift bags filled with personal items for each resident. Both Captive Hearts and Casa Solana provide a safe place and help restore lives and children.

Members, Gayle Harbert, Connie Wood, Donna Cettolin, and Edna Tinsley ready to deliver gifts to Captive Hearts.



Gift presentation to Cyd at Captive Hearts.



Presented gifts to Renee at Casa Solana.

Resilient Ones

Our Foundation approved a grant for Resilient Ones in Paso Robles, as part of our Holiday Giving Project. Resilient Ones mission is to compassionately care and flourish growth and healing for victims of trauma, abuse, and exploitation by empowering them with tools and educational programs to build their families and community into a safe haven. As part of our Literacy emphasis, we gave books as gifts to children that have been impacted by this crisis. (Members, Alana Reynolds and Beth Lorenzo made the presentation)



- **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 1700 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>



Oceano Library Holiday Crafts

Focus on Service/Literacy/Fun:
Members, Cici Wynn, Donna Cettolin, Judy Sorensen, and
Koni Shaff helped kids make Christmas ornaments.



Ribbon-wrapped cookie cutters, reindeer
and Christmas trees made with craft sticks,
along with some holiday treats.

Member, Judy Sorensen, helped
this young lady make her
ornament



Every child that participated, got to pick
a holiday activity book to take home
with them.



Tolosa Dental for Children

Focus on Literacy:

Members, Beth Lorenzo and Lisa Guy delivered a book cart along with several hundred gently used children's books to Tolosa Dental for Children. Tolosa Dental for Children's mission is to provide and improve children's oral health for low income families in SLO County. They were so excited for the book cart and now they will be able to provide books to their young patients.



They've designed an inviting atmosphere for the children, knowing that going to the dentist isn't always pleasant.



Believing in the power of books, can change lives.



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.
- 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:** More details coming 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 This 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

Salvation Army Bell Ringers



Focus on Service and Volunteerism:

Several club members volunteered to be a bell ringer for the Salvation Army this holiday season. Our club was assigned Vons grocery store in Grover Beach. Volunteers are the difference between an empty kettle and one that raises about \$30 per hour - enough to provide a family with two bags of groceries, or shelter an individual for a night.



Members, Gayle Harbert, Connie Wood, Koni Shaff, Margaret Walker, Alana Reynolds, Lisa Guy, Judy Sorensen, Robin White, and Carol Somerville were their ringing the bell with a smile.



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

