



The St. Augustine Altrusan

Newsletter for Altrusa International of St. Augustine, Inc.

Editor: Linda Herrera

President's Message:

Alright Ladies,

I just boned up on driving cross country, singing songs like *There's a Hole in the Bottom of the Sea*, and taking a scenic tour of a weigh station. Several of us attended a grand event (Altrusa International District Three Annual Conference) in Spartanburg, South Carolina. I didn't get to do a lot of sightseeing, but I did get to dance with 25 women and dip Dimple. I'm looking forward to attending next year in Gainesville, Florida.

I'm also looking forward to a fine year of meetings, dinners, teamwork, and service to the St. Augustine community. We'll be enhancing some little libraries, offering scholarships for folks preparing to join the workforce, partnering with St. Johns County Schools Early Learning Services, working with the Homeless Coalition, Port in the Storm, Harley Elementary School, and many other activities.

Please bring a friend and come join in making the world a little better place.

Yours in service,
Brian Bowman
President, Altrusa International of St. Augustine, FL

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Martine Smith July 4
Sherrie Rinehart July 7
Marciana Segui July 15

2

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Save the Date
April 23-24, 2027
Gainesville, FL

3

UPCOMING MEETINGS

6:30pm
3rd Thursday each month
Ponce Hotel, US1

4

NEWSLETTER

Please send information,
articles, & pictures to:
linda2herrera@yahoo.com
Call/text: (904) 540-6252

St. Francis Park Rededication, April 11th, 2026, By Mimi Cooper



Approximately fifty years ago the corner of St. Francis and St. George Streets in St. Augustine was basically a sand lot. Over the course of two years, Altrusa International of St. Augustine, Inc. transformed this sand lot into the peaceful St. Francis Park.

While the property was owned by the City of St. Augustine and was managed by the St. Augustine Historical Society, the creation of the park was entrusted to the Altrusa Club. Over the course of two years, the Altrusans worked to create the park. They held several fundraisers and received many donations from throughout the community.



The Altrusans obtained professional advice from the St. Johns County Agricultural Extension Department and many others throughout the community contributed to the creation of the park: The St. Augustine Historical Society, the City of St. Augustine, the Bicentennial Commission, Florida Power & Light, and the teachers and students at the St. Augustine Vocational Technical School. Individuals donated flowers, shrubs, and money. The contractors, knowing it was a community beautification project, submitted reasonable bids and often spent more time and work than was specified in the contract.



One of the Altrusans obtained a horse trough which became a fountain and focal point of the park. The statue of St. Francis of Assisi was found in Illinois.

The Dedication of the park was held during our county's Bicentennial on April 3, 1976. There was a welcome by St. Augustine Mayor Edward G. Mussallem, music by members of the St. Augustine Little Theater, and a dedicatory address by the Reverend Monsignor Terrell F. Solana, V.G. in which he praised the Altrusans for, "Providing an atmosphere of peace." He also said, "The garden is a gesture of friendship and an inspiration for the community and visitors."



The Watering Trough for Horses/The Fountain One of the focal points of St. Francis Park is the fountain that sits at its center. Altrusans understand that the fountain came from Jacksonville and was donated to them by the Altrusa Club of Jacksonville (no longer in existence). The fountain has a plaque that reads: *1909, Presented by The National Humane Alliance, Hermon Lee Ensign, Founder.* The fountain was originally part of a watering trough for horses and is made of granite quarried in Vinalhaven, Maine. 1909 indicates the year in which the granite was quarried. Herman Lee Ensign was a philanthropist and humanitarian who left a significant amount of money to the National Humane Society which he founded. The money was to be used to provide water for horses across America. Approximately 150 fountains (horse troughs) were distributed throughout the United States. We are very pleased to have one of them in St. Augustine.



The Statue of St. Francis The club searched from St. Louis to South America to find a statue of St. Francis. They finally found the life-sized statue of St. Francis that stands in the park today. It was designed and made by Rick Harney, who was a student of August Schmitz. The statue has a plaque with a section of St. Francis' *Prayer for Peace* and noting it is in memory of Hazel C. Marshall, a charter member of Altrusa St. Augustine and Martha V. Hieatt, a Board member. (Continued on page 3)

Pictured top: Dedication marker photographed by Steven Martin, August, 1986.

Pictured going down: Dedication marker, horse trough/fountain, St. Francis statue, & obelisk.

St. Francis Park Rededication (cont. from p. 2)



The Obelisk The obelisk that stands in St. Francis Park was part of *The Obelisk Art 450 Project* initiated by Compassionate St. Augustine as part of the celebration of the 450th anniversary of the nation's oldest city in 2015. The obelisks are replicas of the 30-foot Monumento de la Constitución which stands in La Plaza de la Constitución. The *History is in Your Hands* Obelisk was created by Leslie Robinson and featured photos of locals holding miniature obelisks. The obelisk, as it stands today, has lost those photographs, but it still represents those original values—freedom, democracy, human rights, and compassion.

Thank you,
Chris Plant, for organizing this wonderful event.



Pictured top: Patti Wallace, Louise Bowman, Vicki Sellner, Dimple Overstreet, Chris Plant, Marci Segui, Verg White, Mantha Young, and Mimi Cooper.
Center left: Brian Bowman, Louise Bowman, and Marci Segui.
Center middle: Linda Halstead, Chris Plant, and Ramelle Petroglou. Ramelle was the first female mayor of St. Augustine and a charter member of the St. Augustine Altrusa Club. She and Linda are sisters and attended the original park dedication.
Center right: Dimple Overstreet, past Governor, and Mantha Young, current Governor of District Three Altrusa.
Bottom: Patti Wallace and her sister-in-law, Peggy Lane, who was visiting from Syracuse, NY.

Meet Sherrie Reinhart, New Altrusa Member



Sherrie Rinehart was inducted into the Altrusa Club International of St. Augustine, Florida, on February 19, 2026. Sherrie was raised on a farm in northern Illinois by service oriented parents. She has two grown sons and one daughter-in-love as well as two dogs she enjoys taking for beach walks. Sherrie moved to St. Augustine from Memphis, Tennessee, because she's always wanted a home near the Atlantic Ocean.

Sherrie has an extensive background working with non-profits and small businesses. She has served as an alderman and court advocate, and specializes in core development, fund raising, and building relationships. She has a strong desire to help those experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, etc.

As she moves closer to retirement, she's interested in finding a hobby or two, perhaps counted cross-stitch, reading, painting, or piano. It's our pleasure to welcome her as a sister Altrusan.

Sebastian Segui Backpack Project

Zachary Segui and Altrusan Marci Segui deliver birthday backpacks month to children who reside with their families in the Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County. Each backpack includes a new pair of pajamas, a book, a blanket, and a stuffed animal. A huge **THANK YOU** goes to all who contribute these items: Marshalls, Lisa's Libraries, Hindi's Libraries, Dan and Nancy Sansoucy, Marci Segui, Zachary Segui, David Ferriero, Zander Segui, Sherrie Rinehart, Brian Bowman, Chris Plant, Yasmine Ingram, Cheryl Jeffries, Linda Herrera, Emily Marshall, Patti High, Catherine S. McGinnis, and anonymous donors.

If you wish to donate to help support this project, we have set up an Amazon wish list at <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3N00U32N96PIW>



Pictured: Zachary Segui with Marion Blohm from the Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County.



Feb. (upper left), May (upper right), April (lower left), and March (lower right).

Altrusa International District Three, Inc.
presents

73rd Annual District Three Conference

Spartanburg, SC
April 24-25, 2026



Altrusa of St. Augustine sent four delegates to the 73 Annual District Three Conference in Spartanburg, SC, in April. Brian Bowman (Delegate for St. Augustine) was accompanied by Louise Bowman, Chris Plant, and Linda Herrera. The theme, *Altrusans in Harmony Always Sparkle*, came to life with members from Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina gathering to share ideas, learn new things, and have fun.

Altrusan Chris Plant presented Governor Mantha Young and Past Governor Dimple Overstreet beautiful, framed watercolors of St. Francis Park in appreciation for joining the Altrusa Club of St. Augustine's 75th anniversary rededication of the treasured park. The day also celebrated Altrusa International's 119th birthday and Altrusa International of St. Augustine's 64th birthday. It was truly a beautiful day in the park.

We learned to: **Stop**, take a breath, and answer nicely; **Lead** with kindness; **Reflect** (How did I perform? Was I kind?); **Value** others; **Listen** actively; **Recognize** the little things; and say, *Thank you!* We had interesting and informative workshops on bee keeping, genealogy, and book club.

Linda Herrera received a pin for recruiting a new member, and we were challenged to continue recruiting new members.

We participated in two district service projects for the Spartanburg area: *A Place to Call Home* to address homelessness and housing instability, and *Help for Our Elderly, Inc.* to provide supplies and support to seniors who are living at or below the poverty level.

Next year the conference will be in Gainesville, FL.



Pictured above: St. Augustine Altrusans Brian Bowman, Louise Bowman, Chris Plant, & Linda Herrera. Below: Chris Plant presents watercolor paintings to Governor Mantha Young & Past Governor Dimple Overstreet.



Come FLY with Altrusa

Altrusa International Grants Foundation, Inc. awarded a \$2,500 Cycle Two Grant to the St. Augustine Altrusa Club for continued support of the **Five Learning Years (FLY)** Project in cooperation with the St. Johns County School District. Congratulations on a great project to help our children reach their full potential.



A big thank you to the St. Augustine Altrusans who helped Investing in Kids (INK) stuff swag bags for golfers participating in their charity tournament. Pictured are Patti Wallace, Virg White, Cheryl Jeffries, Linda Herrera, Sally Cooper Bolesta (friend of Altrusa), and Mimi Cooper.

Playing the Lottery Pays Off



Congratulations to Patti Wallace (left), who won our St. Patrick's Day lottery basket which was presented by Marci Segui. All proceeds go to our many service projects in the St. Augustine area.

The next lottery basket is for the Fourth of July. Contact any Altrusa member if you'd like to take a chance.

Dr. Seuss's Birthday at Southwards Elementary School

Altrusans Chris Plant, Patti Wallace, and Linda Herrera (center picture) joined the Pre-K classes at Southwoods Elementary School to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday. Students from the Pre-K programs in St. Johns County are able to select a book each month to take home to read, enjoy, and add to their library. Altrusa provides the books twice a month at different locations. It's so encouraging to see these children making their choices. Chris Plant (right) helps one little fellow choose just the right book.



Save the date for UBS
July 30, July 31, August 1
4:00-7:00pm
Dinner will be served



"Shipwrecked-Rescued by Jesus"

St. Augustine Shores
United Methodist Church
724 Shores Boulevard
St. Augustine, FL 32086
(904) 797-4416

SHORES United Methodist Church
724 Shores Boulevard, St. Augustine, Florida 32086
VBS Children Youth Registration
Parental Consent & Medical Authorization Form

Child _____ Birthdate _____ Grade in for 2026-2027 School year _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

Parent/Guardian/Work/Cell (_____) _____ Parent/Guardian/Work/Cell (_____) _____

School _____

Emergency Contact Name (s) & Numbers _____

Special Needs: Allergies or Physical/Medical Needs: _____

Additional person(s) PERMITTED to pick up my child

_____ Relations _____ Phone # _____

_____ Relations _____ Phone # _____

Is there anyone who is PROHIBITED from picking up your child? _____

PARENTAL CONSENT AND MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION FOR TREATMENT OF A MINOR CHILD
Shores United Methodist Church

As the parent (or legal guardian) of: _____ (Child/Youth Name)

I understand that my child/youth will be participating in a number of activities for the year _____, which carry with them a certain degree of risk. Some of the activities are swimming, boating, hiking, camping, field trips, sports and other activities which the church may offer. I consent for my child to participate in these activities.

Please indicate any restrictions on your child's/youth/s activities:

_____ I represent that my child/youth is physically fit and has the necessary skills to safely participate in these activities.

_____ I represent that my child/youth has restrictions on the following particular activities: _____

_____ I also understand and give consent for my child to travel to and from these events in transportation provided by volunteer drivers.

MEDICAL TREATMENT AUTHORIZATION

It is my understanding that the Church will attempt to notify me in case of a medical emergency involving my child/youth. If the Church cannot reach me, then I authorize and I give my consent to the doctor or health-care professional, to provide the medical services he or she may deem necessary.

I will notify the church if I feel there are any health considerations that would prevent my child/youth's participation in any of the activities listed above.

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____ Date _____

Photo Permission FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH and ADULTS

() I give permission for still or video pictures of my child to be used for promotional purposes.

() I do not give permission for still or video pictures of my child to be used for promotional purposes.

Signature of **PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF CHILD/YOUTH (if under 18 years of age)**

() I give permission for still or video pictures of myself to be used for promotional purposes.

() I do not give permission for still or video pictures of myself to be used for promotional purposes.

Signature of **ADULT (if 18 years of age or older)**

Consent Form for Electronic Communications with Children/Youth

My child, _____ ("Participant"), has my permission to receive communications from Shores UMC's Director of Children/Youth Ministry/Director of Children's Choir or other designated leader of specific children's/youth activities or programs.

I understand that such electronic communications may be made via telephone, cell phone, text messaging, e-mail, the Church's social media accounts, or other electronic means.

Please note: By providing the email address and/or cell phone number of a minor Participant, the parent or guardian grants permission for electronic communication from the group leader to the Participant in regards to all group activities in which Participant participates.

Participant's/Youth/Child e-mail: _____

Participant's/Youth/Child cell phone: _____

I do/do not [**circle**] insist that I be copied on all emails.

I do/do not [**circle**] insist that I be copied on all texts or messaging.

I do/do not [**circle**] insist that those permitted to communicate with my child become my friend on Facebook before communicating with my child.

I further understand that Children and Youth Ministries may use the Internet as an aid in teaching lessons during Sunday School, Children's Church, and other instructional programs. Any computers accessible to Children and Youth have parental controls in place.

I understand it is my responsibility to update the information below if it changes.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Parent/Guardian Cell Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian E-Mail: _____

Parent/Guardian Facebook Name: _____

Date: _____