

ALTRUSAGA

Altrusa International, Inc. of Chula Vista, California

Volume 63, Issue 11

April 2026

Vision: "Leaders in Service, building bridges that elevate, connect, and empower our communities."

Club Board	
Lina Cestero	President
Eva Salas	Vice President
Carmen Richardson	Secretary
Kristi Phillips	Treasurer
Elsie Aguirre Simpson	Director
Kathy Lightbody	Director
Patti Rahiser	Director
Glenda Hogg	Immediate Past President
Eva Salas	Altrusaga Editor
Vacant	Parliamentarian

President's Message:

Celebrating Health, Service, and Community

April is a meaningful month for Altrusa as we celebrate several important milestones. April 7 marks World Health Day, a global observance dedicated to raising awareness about key health issues and promoting healthier living worldwide. Just a few days later, on April 11, we recognize Altrusa Awareness Day, a time for Altrusan's everywhere to shine a light on our commitment to service, leadership, and making a positive difference in our communities.

This year is especially significant as we also celebrate the 109th birthday of Altrusa International, honoring more than a century of service, fellowship, and empowerment. Together, these occasions remind us of the enduring values of care, well-being, and community engagement that define Altrusa.

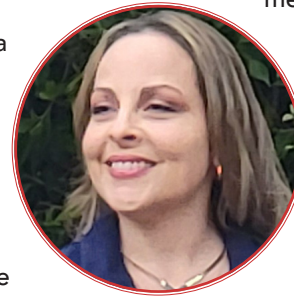
Happy Birthday,

Altrusa International of Chula Vista!

We are proud to celebrate the 68th birthday of Altrusa International of Chula Vista! Congratulations to all the members—past and present—who have shaped our club into what it is today and who continue to guide us toward an exciting future. We wish our organization many more years of service, growth, and meaningful community impact.



Altrusa International Chula Vista's 68th Birthday.



Club Connection & Meeting Reminder

It was wonderful to see everyone enjoying a meal together and sharing conversations at our recent meeting. Fellowship is at the heart of what we do, and we will continue working to find meeting locations that are comfortable and welcoming for all members.

Please remember that **this month's business meeting** will be held at:

Acqua e Farina Trattoria Romana
330 F Street, Chula Vista, CA 91910

5:30 pm – Social

6:00 pm – Meeting

Looking Ahead

We're excited to share that our **ParTea for Literacy** Fundraiser is moving to a larger venue! Mark your calendars for **October 17, 2026**, when we'll gather at **Chula Vista Golf Course** for this special event.

In addition, let's get the **Teachers Literacy Project** into full swing. Please be on the lookout for emails from the Service Committee with opportunities to earn service hours by assembling and delivering literacy bags in April.

Your Honored President
Lina Cestero

Foundation Board	
Lillian Leopold	President
Isis Perez	Vice President
Vacant	Secretary
Carmen Richardson	Treasurer
Helen Nosal	Director
Shauna Stokes	Director
Pat Upton	Director
	Immediate Past President



April 7, 2026



April 5, 2026



see page 4

Mission:

Altrusa International of Chula Vista, Inc. is dedicated to improving the South Bay community by providing services and financial support, developing leadership, fostering education, and encouraging fellowship through an international network of dedicated volunteers.

Club Updates

Club Chairs 2025-2026	
ASTRA	Lillian Leopold
Communications	Isis Perez
Hospitality	Helen Nosal
Membership	Glenda Hogg Helyn Sloan
Service	Elsie Aguirre-Simpson Eva Salas
Ways & Means	Patti Rahiser Helyn Sloan
Webmaster	Jessica Velasquez

April Birthday Month 	
11	Betty Waznis
18	Barbara Everett
19	Lisa Johnson

APRIL: ADD AN ALTRUSAN MONTH	
1	Board Meeting
3	First Friday Breakfast
7	World Health Day
8	ASTRA Meeting - Wednesday 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
11	Altrusa Awareness Day & Altrusa International 109th Birthday
15	Business Meeting Birthday Celebration; Encourage Club contribution to Altrusa International Foundation Endowment Fund
16	ASTRA Meeting - every Thursday 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
17	Submit articles to Altrusaga Editor
22	ASTRA Meeting - Wednesday 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

**April 1, 2026
Board Meeting
5:30 p.m.
Civic Library
Computer Room**

**April 15, 2026
Business Meeting
6:00 p.m.
Social 5:30 p.m.
Acqua e Farina
Trattoria Romana
330 F Street
Chula Vista, CA 91910**

calendar



**Ways & Means Committee Meeting
ZOOM
Tuesday, April 14, 2026
at 5:00 p.m.**

**Service Committee Meeting
Library Conference Room
Monday, April 27, 2026
at 5:30 p.m.**

Altrusaga is published monthly for Altrusa Club of Chula Vista

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Chula Vista, CA 91909

Foundation EIN #33-0463922
www.altrusacv.club

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Altrusans about



Altrusan Elsie Aguirre Simpson lunched at George's on the Cove for her belated birthday celebration with fellow member Eva Salas. The weather cooperated with the view.



Altrusans Kristi Phillips and Kathy Lightbody have been attending a monthly floral arrangement class at the Bonita-Sunnyside Library. They are learning about flowers, color, design, and get to take their arrangement home to enjoy.

About the meeting



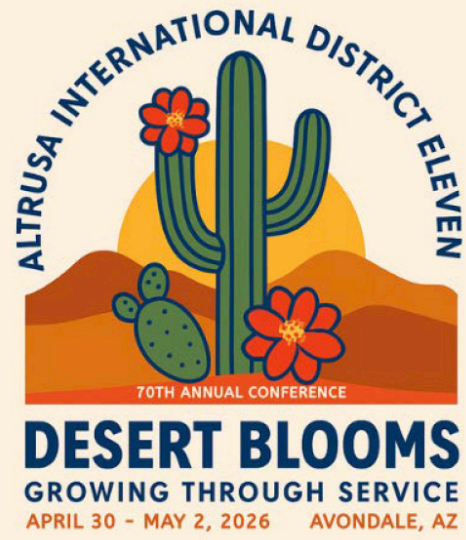
Our March Business Meeting took place at Jalisco's Cafe in Bonita. We were happy to gather for a meeting and a good time in a restaurant setting. We had a tasty menu to choose our dinner from chile rellenos to tacos. Much business took place including the approval of the incoming boards for 2026/2027 and some fundraiser votes. Look for the details in the meeting minutes. Helen Nosal handed out some prizes to the lucky winners and nobody went home empty handed as we took home leftovers.





DISTRICT SERVICE BULLETIN "Call to Conference" February 2026

DISTRICT ELEVEN
CALIFORNIA, ARIZONA, NEVADA, HAWAII
& BAJA CALIFORNIA MEXICO



CONFERENCE TIPS for First Timers

Registration & Dress Code

- Mark that you're a **First Timer**
- You can attend one (**Partial**) or both days (**Full**)
- You can **bring a guest** - just pay for their meals
- **Judy Sharp Scholarship** available
- Book your **hotel room** by **April 9**
- **Business casual** & Banquet **music costume**

Networking & Friendships

- **Thursday** night Meet & Greet
- **Friday:** First Timers meeting & Market Place
- **Saturday:** Fun & Fitness & Receptions before & after Banquet

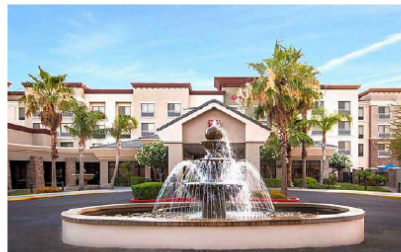
Learning Opportunities

- **Service & Literacy:** Starting & growing a young author contest for your club
- **Communications:** Making AI your club's ally
- **Leadership & Membership:** Growing club membership & cultivating leadership

Giving Opportunities

- **Altrusa International Foundation**
 - Silent auction
 - Fun & Fitness
 - Foundation Luncheon
- **Service project:** Donate toddler blankets & books for migrant Head Start students

HOTEL INFORMATION



Hilton Garden Inn Phoenix/Avondale
11460 West Hilton Way, Avondale, AZ, 85323, US

Altrusa District Eleven Conference

April 30 – May 2, 2026

\$149.00 Standard Guest Room Rate

Two queen beds or one king bed

(Plus, applicable taxes and Tourism Fees)

Check-in is 3:00 p.m.

Check-out is 11:00 a.m.

FREE PARKING!

Breakfast Included in Room Rate (Gratuity Not Included)

Rooms include a mini fridge, coffee/tea maker, microwave located near the lobby, and complimentary wireless internet.

The Garden Grille & Bar is open for Breakfast and Dinner, with a bar and an outside patio

To make Reservations and receive the Altrusa group rate

Call: **(623) 882-3351**

Reference: Altrusa International District Eleven

Online Reservation Link:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctvhocn=PHXAVGI&groupCode=90F&arrivaldate=2026-04-30&departuredate=2026-05-03&cid=QM.WW.HILTON.LINK.EN.DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

The hotel will hold rooms at these rates until APRIL 9, 2026

CALL TO CONFERENCE



70th ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Altrusa International District Eleven

April 30 - May 2, 2026 – Hilton Garden Inn - Avondale, AZ

Full Name: _____ Preferred First Name on Badge: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Altrusa International of _____

**DEADLINE: April 1, 2026
Late Fee: \$25**

Current Status ending 5/31/2026 - Circle all that apply:

- District Board District Chair Past Governor International Rep First Timer
- Current/Past Club President/VP Current/Past Club Treasurer Lamplighter ASTRA

IMPORTANT: SUBMIT SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH ATTENDING MEMBER

FULL REGISTRATION FEE – ENTIRE CONFERENCE \$200.00 \$ _____

Includes Friday/Saturday Luncheons, all Sessions, Saturday Evening Banquet

DISTRICT BOARD/INT'L REP REGISTRATION FEE \$0.00 \$ _____

Includes Friday/Saturday Luncheons, all Sessions, Saturday Evening Banquet

PARTIAL REGISTRATION

Friday Only-All Sessions, Workshops & Luncheon \$100.00 \$ _____

Saturday Only-All Sessions, Workshops & Luncheon (NOT Banquet) \$100.00 \$ _____

Saturday Only-All Sessions, Workshops, Luncheon, AND Banquet \$175.00 \$ _____

- I plan to attend the President's Workshop on Friday, May 1, 2026, 10:15-11 am
- I plan to attend the First Timers Workshop on Friday, May 1, 2026, 10:15 am-11 am

SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET MEAL CHOICE – Indicate number of meals ordered:

Tuscan Chicken W/Penne _____ Beef Brisket _____ Tuscan Penne Pasta Primavera _____

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS, including vegetarian requests for meals:

GUEST MEALS

Friday – Luncheon Only (Guests) # _____ @ \$55.00 \$ _____

Saturday – Luncheon Only (Guests) # _____ @ \$55.00 \$ _____

Saturday – Banquet (Guests and Members) # _____ @ \$75.00 \$ _____

DISTRICT ELEVEN 70TH CONFERENCE COMMEMORATIVE PIN: # _____ @ \$10.00 \$ _____

PROGRAM HANDBOOK: no charge digital copy e-mailed to registrants prior to the Conference.

Printed program may be ordered here # _____ @ \$15.00 \$ _____

LATE FEE: REGISTRATIONS POSTMARKED AFTER APRIL 1, 2026 \$25.00 \$ _____

TOTAL CHECK (your check is your receipt) \$ _____

Mail check and registration to: Lina Cestero
333 Corte Nación
Chula Vista, CA, 91910

**Make check payable to:
Altrusa International
District Eleven**

**Refund requests handled by the District Board post-Conference

TO REGISTER ONLINE (you can choose to pay by check):

districteleven.altrusa.org

ASTRA

Higher Education Center at National City

ASTRA students re-stocking the National City Pantry as part of their service.

“This would not have been possible without the support of our sponsor organization, Altrusa.” stated by advisor Jenny Sablas. She also noted that our Lillian Leopold is part of our amazing organization.



Membership

New Member Submitted by Glenda Hogg

Exciting news for April! We will be initiating a new member, Carmen Sandoval. This will make 5 new members for the 2025-26 club year. This is awesome and we will need your help with initiation by being able to read just a small amount of the initiation ceremony and learn a little more about Altrusa.

On another note there seemed to be a bit of confusion on how the election process ran at our last meeting. It does seem redundant to have to ask for nominations from the floor three times for each possible position however this is the rules from Robert’s Rules of Order which Altrusa follows.

Voted In

2026 – 2027 Slate

*Opportunity
to
Volunteer!*

Club Board

President	Lina Cestero
Vice President	Eva Salas
Treasurer	Kristi Phillips
Secretary	Open 1 year
Director	Patti Rahiser (1 year left)
Director	Lisa Johnson (2 years)
Director	Diane Trailer (2 years)
Parliamentarian	Open
Immediate	
Past President	Glenda Hogg

Foundation Board

President	Lillian Leopold
Vice President	Isis Perez
Treasurer	Barbara Everette (1 year)
Secretary	Betty Waznis (1 year)
Director	Helyn Sloan (1 year left)
Director	Shauna Stokes (1 year left)
Director	Irasema Quilantan (2 years)
Immediate	
Past President	Carmen Richardson



Be a Buddy!

Service



The Service Committee met before the meeting on Monday to label books and educational material that will be distributed to Chula Vista Elementary Schools later this month. Irasema Quilantan delivered the goods and we all went to work labeling and organizing.

Service Committee Update Submitted by Elsie Aguirre-Simpson

While the big part of our service work for 2025-26 is behind us, there are very important impactful projects and decisions that have our service committee/members finishing strong.

The first is the **Teacher Literacy Grants**. Altrusans assisted in the calibrating and scoring of the 30 applications received from Chula Vista Elementary School District teachers. Chula Vista Altrusans came together to label all the books and materials as all will be packaged and prepared for delivery.

Project Lead, Irasema Quilantan, stated this most eloquently:

Altrusa International of Chula Vista is delighted to announce the recipients of our Spring 2026 Teacher Literacy Grants. We received 30 outstanding applications, and after thoughtful review, we are thrilled to share that 13 teacher wishes have been granted, each one bringing meaningful literacy opportunities into classrooms across multiple grade levels. The applications were exceptional, and the number of awards was limited only by the funds available for this spring cycle. The great news is that additional funding has been identified to continue the program in the fall, and we encourage teachers to review their applications and apply again if they were not selected this round.

This spring's awards will place over 350 new books, hands-on materials, and joyful learning tools into CVESD classrooms—resources that spark curiosity, strengthen reading skills, and support teachers in creating vibrant, engaging learning environments for 349 students immediately, with an even greater ripple of impact in the years ahead.

These grants reflect Altrusa's ongoing commitment to literacy, community partnership, and supporting the incredible educators who make learning come alive every day.

Deliveries will take place after Spring Break during the weeks of April 6 and April 13, and we look forward to coordinating with teachers—and with you—to capture the excitement and celebrate these special moments

2026 Service Committee Meetings

- Monday, January 26, 5:30 pm
- Monday, February 23, 5:30 pm
- Monday, March 23, 5:30 pm
- Monday, April 27, 5:30 pm



with students and staff. The selected teachers will receive congratulatory emails followed by phone calls to schedule their deliveries.

A special thanks to IQ and Carmen, TLG project leads.

Phil Collum Reading Corner Project, Tijuana, Mexico

The work continues at our international orphanage project. Last year, Chula Vista Altrusa Club, created a dedicated space within the home for reading and studying. The area includes new window treatments, book shelves, table, area rug, four bean bag chairs, reading floor lamps and dozens of books.

This next phase is to provide the lighting needed for the space and this includes proper electrical outlets for the area. Altrusa Club President Lina Cestero, and her husband, Alex, an electrician, graciously offered to assist with an on-site assessment and worked with our Los Angeles liaison to Los Angelitos. The Chula Vista Service Committee agreed to fund the materials for the electrical work and will further assess how to improve the space to make it safe, functional, and welcoming to all the students at Los Angelitos Orphanage.

Also, there are early discussions to expand our Reading Room concept to additional orphanages in Baja California.

GREAT NEWS! CECO Grant awarded for **Healing Connections through Reading** which will provide for installing 3 little libraries and shelters for foster and transitional youth and for women and children escaping domestic violence. Our Service Committee will move forward with project once we have the resources in place.

Bonita POP-UP Opportunity on May 30, 2026
Volunteers Needed!

The Rotary Bike Project and safety fair will be held on Saturday, May 30 at Children's Development Associates, 180 Otay Lakes Road in Bonita. We have been invited to have a 'booth space' where we can, once again, distribute books for children. This is an excellent and easy opportunity to continue to fulfill our mission of improving literacy in the community. Lisa Johnson, a Rotarian and Altrusan, will be part of the Rotary Bike Project, Carmen has volunteered to help with the CV Altrusa booth.

Please contact Carmen Richardson to volunteer!

2026-2027 Projects Slate

While eighteen projects were submitted for our 2026-27 club year, the Service Committee deliberated and came up with a slate of projects that met our mission of supporting literacy and also to improve the lives of members in the community. The slate will be reviewed by the Altrusa Club Board and will be voted on by our club members at the April Business Meeting. The recommendations will then be sent to the Chula Vista Altrusa Foundation for final approval.

Ways & Means

At our Club's business meeting this past Wednesday, March 23 membership voted on the following:

Name of Event: **Par-Tea For Literacy**
Date of Event: **October 17, 2026**
Venue for Event: **Chula Vista Golf Course**

An attachment to the Business Meeting information included an update from Ways & Means that explains the date change, and the move to a new venue. Our goal is to sell 128 tickets which will give us 16 tables, roughly 4 more tables than we had last year.

Sign-up Now!

Sell Tickets!

Let's get this Par-Tea For Literacy started!



WE NEED ALL OUR MEMBERS to let your friends, family, local businesses know about this event. It can only be successful with the help of ALL members in our club, whether you are on the Ways & Means Committee or not. Here is what you can to do help:

Ticket price will increase \$10 to \$85/ ticket. This increase will help offset the increase in costs that are happening everywhere right now and hopefully add more to the bottom line of our event. Tickets will go on sale via our website on August 1, 2026.

Our theme for the event will be Literacy, and the event will include a program that will highlight our Altrusa Club and the service projects that have focused on literacy in our community.

START TALKING ABOUT OUR EVENT! Tell your neighbors, friends, family, groups. Generate excitement, the more tickets we can sell, the more money we can raise, and the more service projects we can fulfill in the coming year.

Get us a business to be a Gold, Silver or Bronze sponsor. Or be a Member Sponsor for \$250. Contact: Carmen Richardson, Sponsorships.

Set a table. It does NOT mean you need to sell 8 tickets to fill that table. But it's OK to fill your table with family & friends who will buy a ticket! This year the Chula Vista Golf Course will provide the white tablecloths and flatware. However, if you want to add an overlay cloth or your own tablecloth and bring your own flatware, that is fine. You will need to provide the basic tea service dishes [plates, cup/saucer, cream/sugar dishes; tea pots (2) and a literacy themed and a literacy themed centerpiece. centerpiece. The club has the 3-tiered service trays. CVGC will provide a basic water glass and champagne glass. If you

Donate to the silent auction/raffle portion of our event. Bring us a business donation [stylist, masseuse, manicurist, accountant, florist, etc.] Contacts: Patti Rahiser or Lina Cestero, Donations.

Volunteer to help the day of the event. Details to come and we will let you know.

want to provide your own champagne glasses that is fine. CVGC can help you set your table the day of the event if you need help. Sign up to set a table. Contact: Lisa Johnson, Tables.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Chairs.

ITSOA,
Patti Rahiser & Helyn Sloan, Co-Chairs Ways & Means

Club Announcements

<p>April</p>	<p>Add an Altrusan Month</p>
<p>26-27 Service Slate</p>	<p>The Projects Slate will be announced and voted at the April Business Meeting.</p>
<p>Literacy Grants</p>	<p>The Literacy Grant applications have been selected. Some of the items purchased were labled with our Altursa Chula Vista labels at the March Service meeting. Irasema and Carmen have done a great job bringing this project up to this point with the help of the reviewers: Glenda, Kristi, Barbara and Diane. Delivery of the requested items will take place on the week of April 6 and April 13. Stay tuned for sign-ups. Let's help finish it.</p>
<p>Desert Blooms Growing Through Service</p>	<p>District Eleven 70th Annual Conference in Avondale, Arizona April 30 - May 2, 2026. Registration now open through March 31, late fee after April 1. Details on pages 4-5.</p>
<p>Board and Business Meeting</p>	<p>The April Board meeting on 4/1 will take place at Civic Library, Computer Room, Chula Vista, CA 91910. The April Business meeting will take place at Acqua e Farina Trattoria Romana, 330 F Street, Chula Vista, CA 91910 5:30 pm – Social 6:00 pm – Meeting See you there.</p>
<p>Committee Meetings</p>	<p>Service: April 27, 2026 Ways & Means: April 14, 2026</p>

Committee Roster

ASTRA Chair: Lillian Leopold

COMMUNICATIONS Chair: Isis Perez

- Lina Cestero
- Carmen Richardson
- Eva Salas
- Hillary Sloan
- Jessica Velasquez

HOSPITALITY Chair: Helen Nosal

- Lina Cestero
- Kathy Lightbody
- Sharon Vega

MEMBER-SHIP Co-Chair: Glenda Hogg
Co-Chair: Helyn Sloan

SERVICE Co-Chair: Elsie Aguirre-Simpson
Co-Chair: Eva Salas

- Lina Cestero
- Elizabeth Cox
- Barbara Everett
- Jeri Gustafsson
- Glenda Hogg
- Lisa Johnson
- Lillian Leopold
- Kathy Lightbody
- Helen Nosal
- Kristi Phillips
- Diego Quilantan
- Irasema Quilantan
- Patti Rahiser
- Carmen Richardson
- Maureen Roeber
- Helyn Sloan
- Hillary Sloan
- Shauna Stokes
- Jessica Velasquez
- Betty Waznis

WAYS & MEANS Co-Chair: Patti Rahiser
Co-Chair: Helyn Sloan

- Lina Cestero
- Jeri Gustafsson
- Glenda Hogg
- Lisa Johnson
- Kristi Phillips
- Lily Ramirez
- Maureen Roeber
- Eva Salas
- Sharon Vega
- Alana Wilson

ALTRUSA BUDDY TEAMS

TEAM 1

- Lead: Alana Wilson
- Helen Nosal
- Lily Ramirez
- Maureen Roeber
- Hillary Sloan
- Shauna Stokes
- Diane Trailer
- Jessica Velasquez

TEAM 2

- Lead: Carmen Richardson
- Barbara Everett
- Jeri Gustafsson
- Lisa Johnson
- Isis Perez
- Eva Salas
- Helyn Sloan
- Pat Upton

TEAM 3

- Lead: Patti Rahiser
- Mary Burroughs
- Lina Cestero
- Glenda Hogg
- Diego Quilantan
- Betty Waznis
- Joy Whatley

TEAM 4

- Lead: Elizabeth Cox & Kristi Phillips
- Elsie Aguirre-Simpson
- Amy Bosler
- Deepti Kurup
- Lillian Leopold
- Kathy Lightbody
- Irasema Quilantan
- Sharon Vega

Thank you



The Eastlake Self Storage has been supporting Altrusa International of Chula Vista for over five years. Thank you for being our partner, saving us over **\$10,000** and allowing us to focus our funds on the needs of our community.

