

# Altrusa Tiffinette

## Upcoming events

**Tues.,**  
**January 5**

6:30 - Board mtg.  
at Autumnwood

7:15 - Meeting at  
Autumnwood

**Sun.,**  
**January 17**

Annual Bridal Fair  
fundraiser  
Meadowbrook  
Ballroom

**Tues.,**  
**January 19**  
7:00 -

Shellshuckers for  
District 5 2nd  
Vice- Governor  
Kathleen Howard  
visitation

**Thurs.,**  
**January 21**

6:30 - Seneca  
County Youth  
Center for games

## President's Message

I want to thank Joyce Lather and her committee for planning a beautiful Christmas Party. The food was great, the evening relaxing and then Karen Knaur shook it up a bit with some games that were too much fun.

For those of you who could not make it, we missed you, but hope you had a wonderful night at your other events. It is so hard at this time of year to pick a night when everyone can come, however the turnout was great.

I hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends. So many weeks of preparation and it is over in such a short time. We did not have the White Christmas as most of us hoped to but was much safer driving for our travelers.

This year since it fell on Friday I hope you all had some time for a little R & R, or after Christmas shopping for the bargains.

I spent Christmas Eve and Christmas Day with my daughter and her family. Addy was so much fun, however we had to watch her as she thought every wrapped package had her name on it. Needless to say we had to rewrap a few.

We now have to all work together to make sure that our Bridal Fair, which is fast approaching, is a success. We only have a couple of weeks with much to do. This next meeting will be the last one we have before the event, so I am sure there will be much to go over, so please try to attend.

Until then rest up and see you next year.

Happy New Year!

*Carol*



## Altrusa International, Inc. of Tiffin, Ohio 12.01.2009 Business Meeting Elmwood at the Shawan

President Hammer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge and Collect following.

**Roll Call** noted 15 present including Emeritus Kate Hunker in attendance. A quorum was met. **Minutes** of the last meeting was printed in the *Altrusa Tiffinette* and approved. **Volunteer Hours** for Nov. was 392.

### Community Service:

**Salvation Army Kettle** date is 12.19.09 with members to recheck with Vicki on times and names.

**Jobs & Family Services** are asking for gifts for families. No action was taken.

**First Step** is having financial problems and will possibly shut down in 1 year. Ideas for us to entertain residents with a Special Tea Party benefit, renovation of a room for Reading, and spending a Saturday/ Sunday with them. More on this at a later date.

**First Call for Help** appreciated the donations made to the Teen Christmas event and the Heating Fund.

### Fundraising:

September 2010 was approved for another Chicago Trip with only 2 buses and March 2010 was approved for a casino trip to Hollywood, IN. Dawn will look into the two events. March/April was approved to do a Bob Evans Altrusa Day with Teresa checking into this one.

**Special Events** Christmas Dinner at Am Vets on December 17, 2009. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Cash Bar. Contact Joyce if need to change menu or not have signed up to go yet.

**Altrusa Brochures (New)** the board made the motion, seconded by Frederick to print 300 newly designed brochures which will be placed in the Bridal Fair baggies along with others distributed to perspective members.

**Program.** Nancy Steinmetz and Vicki Ziegler met recently to review the two meetings and look into changing one of those meetings to a noon time. Discussions followed with the majority in attendance suggesting this be tabled until possibly January 2010.

**Foundation Board** was giving the approval of asking Randy Bendure to fill the vacancy of Judge Jay Meyer's who ask to be replaced.

**Sunshine** Opal sent (7) Thanksgiving cards to our Seneca County Veterans at the Sandusky Home. She will be doing the same for Christmas.

**Bridal Fair** Meeting will be 12.09.09 at Rock Run. Time- 6p.m. Date of Bridal Fair is January 17th.

**Seneca County Youth Center** Karen K. will be checking into volunteer requirements and times we are to be there.

Meeting was adjourned. Hammer had the raffle item won by Lather. Dawn had a raffle item from last month and was won by Nancy Steinmetz.

Submitted by Harriett White,

Secretary

## George Carlin's Views on Aging

Enjoy the ride. There is no return ticket

Do you realize that the only time in our lives when we like to get old is when we're kids? If you're less than 10 years old, you're so excited about aging that you think in fractions. 'How old are you?' 'I'm four and a half!' You're never thirty-six and a half. You're four and a half, going on five! That's the key.

You get into your teens, now they can't hold you back. You jump to the next number, or even a few ahead. 'How old are you?' 'I'm gonna be 16!' You could be 13, but hey, you're gonna be 16! And then the greatest day of your life ! You become 21. Even the words sound like a ceremony. YOU BECOME 21. YESSSS!!!

But then you turn 30. Oooohh, what happened there? Makes you sound like bad milk! He TURNED; we had to throw him out. There's no fun now, you're Just a sour-dumpling.. What's wrong? What's changed?

You BECOME 21, you TURN 30, then you're PUSHING 40. Whoa! Put on the brakes, it's all slipping away. Before you

know it, you REACH 50 and your dreams are gone...

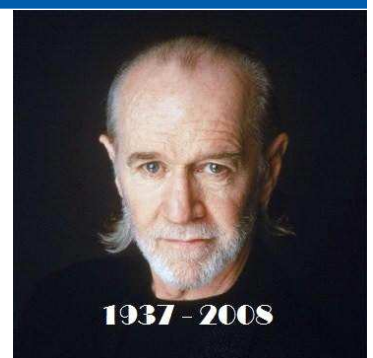
But! wait!!! You MAKE it to 60. You didn't think you would!

So you BECOME 21, TURN 30, PUSH 40, REACH 50 and make it to 60.

You've built up so much speed that you HIT 70! After that it's a day-by-day thing; you HIT Wednesday!

You get into your 80's and every day is a complete cycle; you HIT lunch; you TURN 4:30; you REACH bedtime. And it doesn't end there. Into the 90s, you start going backwards; 'I Was JUST 92.'

Then a strange thing happens. If you make it over 100, you become a little kid again. 'I'm 100 and a half!' May you all make it to a healthy 100 and a half!!



# Spotlight on

## Mary Lou Harrison



My early childhood was spent on a farm outside Melmore, Ohio where my mom and I lived with my grandparents. We moved to the big city (Tiffin) and I attended College Hill, West Jr. High and Columbian (the old one). I loved school and was involved in many extra-curricular activities. I was the Homecoming Queen that dated and married the football co-captain, married, had 2 children and was divorced.

In 1965, I became an insurance agent,

remarried, eventually had two more children and joined Altrusa as a charter member after a visit from Marge Felter and Rose Moore who were forming a club of business women in Tiffin. I had to drop out to be an agent and a mom, got divorced—again.

At the age of 42 I decided to start my own agency in Melmore. I purchased a mobile home and built a business with Sandy Mesnard who had left the agency we worked for to have children.

Two fish out of water

forced to learn a lot about business to survive. In 1986 I purchased a house, cleaned it, painted it, remodeled it and we had a real office, with running water and a furnace that worked!!

Daughter Julie made me a grandmother at 40. Son, Don, made me gray. Daughters Kathy and Mary Anne went to college. I came back to Altrusa in 1988 and teamed up with Jan Anspaugh to convince the club we could make money at the Heritage Festival selling cider and donuts. Who can forget those early days with the tripod and campfire? Heritage became very profitable for Altrusa but we have since found bus trips are also very profitable and much less work. I love to fundraise.

In 1995, my daughter, Kathy, decided that since Tiffin Public Schools did not need a math teacher, she would become an insurance agent and we found work for her, no problem. She becomes the 3rd generation of insurance agents dating

back to 1936 in our family.

Altrusa sponsored me to attend Leadership Seneca County and that led to my serving on the Tiffin/Seneca County United Way Board and I have been a board member for First Call for Help for years. I co-chair the Reunion committee for the Class of 1958 and we just celebrated our 50th. At church, I sing with the Praise Team and teach a Sunday school class and am Director of the Nehemiah Project which supplies assistance in many forms to individuals who request help. I am still an “unspoiled” only child but the mother of 4, grandmother to 7 and great grandmother to 4 and a great mother-in-law!!

Altrusa has become an important part of my life where I have made great friends, experienced much and learned to be a part of a team that does a lot of good in our community.

## Contact info...

Tiffin Altrusa President **Carol Hammer**,  
(419) 443-1311 or  
[mscshammer@hotmail.com](mailto:mscshammer@hotmail.com)

*Altrusa Tiffinette* Newsletter Editor Karen Knaur, (419) 435-419-3131 or  
[LoisLa0303@aol.com](mailto:LoisLa0303@aol.com)

Special thanks to contributors: Mary Lou Harrison, Harriett White and Carol Hammer

The *Altrusa Tiffinette* is published at the beginning of each month. Articles, minutes, inspirational pieces, story ideas, recipes and even jokes are welcome. These are due by the second meeting of each month. Please send them in 12 pt. Arial. Do not use all caps or funky type, please!

Checkout our website at

<http://www.tiffinaltrusa.com>

# Christmas 2009 party



## HOW TO STAY YOUNG

1. Throw out nonessential numbers. This includes age, weight and height. Let the doctors worry about them. That is why you pay them.

2. Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down.

3. Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever, even ham radio. Never let the brain idle. 'An idle mind is the devil's workshop.' And the devil's family name is Alzheimer's.

4. Enjoy the simple things.

5. Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath.

6. The tears happen. Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person, who is with us our entire life, is ourselves. Be ALIVE while you are alive.

7. Surround yourself with what you love, whether it's family,

pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever. Your home is your refuge.

8. Cherish your health: If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.

9. Don't take guilt trips. Take a trip to the mall, even to the next county; to a foreign country but NOT to where the guilt is.

10. Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity.

## AND ALWAYS REMEMBER:

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

Life's journey is not to arrive at the grave safely in a well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, totally worn out, shouting '...holy sh\*t ...what a ride!'

offered by Marl Lou Harrison