

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL NAMES LOCAL LEADER

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—Montrose Altrusa President-Elect Diane Winger



Dona Garretson of Grand Junction will become the first Altrusa President from Western Colorado.

MONTROSE—Altrusa International has long made an impact on the communities of the Western Slope—now, the Western Slope will have a big impact on Altrusa worldwide. In July, Dona Garretson of Grand Junction’s Altrusa Club will be sworn in as President of Altrusa International—the first time a local resident has been chosen to serve in this capacity. And this month, Altrusa’s District 10 will hold its conference at the Holiday Inn Express (1391 S. Townsend Ave.) in Montrose May 5-7.

“This is a huge year for Altrusa clubs on the Western Slope,” Montrose Altrusa President-Elect Diane Winger said. “Dona Garretson will be in attendance at the District 10 Conference, and our own Donna

Herman will be installed as governor of our district at the closing banquet.”

Both Garretson and Herman will serve two-year terms. Altrusa’s District 10 includes all clubs in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, Winger said.

For Garretson, a member of Altrusa for nearly 24 years, Altrusa’s Vision Statement expresses her own reasons for becoming involved—“Leading in Service - Giving the gifts of leadership and service to communities worldwide.”

“We are truly international in flavor,” she said. “My objective is to really encourage leadership development within our own organizations-- the main thing we all want to do is better our community through the services we can offer as volunteers, and by being connected and sharing our experiences with individuals around the world.

“No matter where an Altrusan is from, when you get a group together we basically have a lot of same goals in mind as far as bettering our community,” she said. “Last week I was a District Four conference in Alabama, and people in that part of the country are looking at the same types of community needs that we are here.”

A Peace Corps alumni and retired CPA, Garretson has served in a number of leader-

ship roles in her own club over the years, and has seen one of her own daughters follow in her footsteps by joining Altrusa.

“We have to make Altrusa meaningful to younger members,” she said. “Whether you have an hour, five hours or 20 hours to give, we value your contribution. We want to keep our clubs user-friendly, welcoming people for any amount of time they are able to give.

“We are citizens,” Garretson said. “If we don’t make it happen, who is going to?”

There are 14 districts within Altrusa, including clubs throughout the United States, in New Zealand, India, Puerto Rico and other regions.

And while literacy is Altrusa’s main focus, the club can have a broad impact through the community involvement of its members, she said.

“We can help with schools, food banks, art fairs for students--so many programs,” she said.

“My goal for the organization is to develop and help young leaders grow and better understand the importance of giving back.

“We need to make our presence better known, and continue to reach more individuals—to be more things to more people.

“That’s the beauty of Altrusa,” she said. “We can individualize our community needs.”

Montrose Farmers Market to Open May 14

MONTROSE—The Market is moving back Downtown, to South 1st and Uncompahgre at Centennial Plaza. The Market is accepting vendor applications for all Market days: Saturdays, May – Oct., Wednesdays, June – Sept., and Thursday evenings at Main-in-Motion June 2 – Aug. 18. Vendors selling meats, eggs, baked items, and value added food products should first check with Vera Stouffer, the Montrose County food service inspector, at 970-240-5000 to ensure all health requirements and permits are in order. For vendor rules and regulations, and applications visit www.montrosefarmersmarket.com or call 970-209-8463.