

ALTRUSA INITIATION

HANDS CEREMONY

Props: Sheet of poster board. In center, place a membership certificate with ribbons extending in six directions. As each person gives her part, she will place a hand representing her topic at the end of a ribbon.

Hands are a wonderful gift from God! Today we place great emphasis on the hands. Hands are joined in marriage. Hands are clasped in bargains. Hands are placed on a Bible in oath taking.

Hands were also emphasized in the early days. To lift up the hand indicated power. To extend hands meant to swear friendship. To be at the right hand signified to protect or to support. The high hand denoted powerful strength.

Our hands tell a great deal about us. Look at your hands! What do they tell about you? Is it doubled into a fist, with an attitude of a hoarding hand, or is it opened halfway, wanting to receive but never give. I believe an Altrusan's hand is opened all the way, ready to give.

Altrusa has many hands and I have asked some of the members of the Altrusa Membership Committee to show us some of them.

FRIENDLY HANDS

An Altrusan's hand is a friendly hand. She seeks to be warm and kind, not only to fellow Altrusans but also in the workaday world, on the job, at home and wherever she might be. We extend to you a friendly hand to draw you into the circle of warmth and love that we have for each other.

DEDICATED HANDS

An Altrusan's hands are dedicated hands - dedicated to the high ideals of Altrusa, to be true to the purpose set forth for Altrusans. Dedicated hands are working hands and we challenge you to get really involved in Altrusa work and experience the joys of service.

REACHING HANDS

It can truly be said that an Altrusan's hands are reaching hands, for we reach out in many directions through learning, through service to the community and around the world. Reaching for new members so that other women may become a part of this organization. Our hands reach out to you, and encourage you in turn to reach out to others.

GENEROUS HANDS

Altrusan's hands are generous hands with time, talents and possessions. Through our ABC Grants Program, we give of our money to be of service to those who need our help. Time is given in committee activities as well as regular meetings. Talents are needed along the way in programs and other activities. We would urge that your hands be generous in all of these.

BUSY HANDS

An Altrusa's hands are busy hands. What an understatement! Busy on the job, busy in Altrusa work, busy at home, at church and keeping up with children's school functions. Someone has said, "If you want something done, get a busy person to do it." Surely they must have been talking about Altrusans. You, too, will have busy hands as you become a part of Altrusa.

GUIDING HANDS

Altrusa hands are certainly guiding hands. It is no secret that Altrusa Clubs are leaders in their communities wherever they are. We lead in service, commitment and in not only recognizing the needs of our community, but doing something about them. Although Altrusa is not a social club, we believe you will find our club to be a leader in togetherness, fun, cooperation and concern for each other. We also believe that your hands will be guiding hands as you become one of us.

All hands are beautiful! Some may be rough and not soft and beautifully shaped like others, some may not have the long graceful fingers others possess, some may no longer have the strength or quickness once known but all hands are beautiful if we use them to serve mankind.

(Name of new member) what is in your hands? In a few minutes, you will be given a package of materials. This package is not meant to be put away in a drawer and never used. It is meant to be a tool in your hands, and if you study these materials, they will help to make your hands beautiful in friendship, friendliness, dedication, reaching, generosity and leadership. These things encompass our motto: **Patriotism, Efficiency, Service.**

As Altrusans, you are asked to subscribe to the high ideals and standards of performance as expressed in this motto. If you so promise, you will signify by saying, "I do."

(Presentation of Kits and Pins)

Madam President, I am proud to introduce (Name of new member/members) as new members of Altrusa International of (Name of City & State).

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