



February 2024 Altrusagram

Upcoming Dates

ABC

Thursday, February 29
9:00 A.M.
Talbot School

Birthday Party Meeting

Friday, March 1
10:00 A.M.
St. Peter's Episcopal

Business Meeting

Wednesday, Mar. 6
6:00 PM
Riverside Golf Course

ABC

Thursday, March 7
9:00 A.M.
Longfellow School

Budgets Due

Friday, Mar. 8
Send to Fran Jensen

Service Award write-ups due

Friday, March 15
Refer to January DSB FMI

Program Meeting Communication Cmte.

Wednesday, Mar. 20
ASTRA Exchange student
6:00 P.M.
Riverside Golf Course

Early Bird Conference Registration

Tuesday, March 26
Refer to January DSB FMI

from the President:



February is the shortest month of the year yet a very busy one. As the "awareness" month, February has many observances and celebrations: Cancer awareness, heart health, National Donors Day, historical observances such as Presidents Day, Black History Month; and of course, there's Valentine's and Ground Hog Days, and Random Acts of Kindness Day.

So far this club year, the Portland Club has provided 896 hours to Altrusa International President, Linda K. Smith, **Intentional Acts of Kindness initiative** (Random Acts of Kindness). As Altrusans, we make a positive impact on our community.

Members will be "Spring Cleaning" for the next month bringing their "old costume jewelry to be melted down; blankets, linens, towels, kitchen gadgets for St. Elizabeth's; and books/magazines for Immigrant Welcome Center. Did you know that February 20th was Clean Out Your Bookcase Day?

WOW ! Did Our Garden Grow: We initiated three new Members at the February program meeting. Welcome Gail, Cathy, Toni. Thank you, membership committee, for hosting an awesome evening.

Thank you, to the members who returned District One's "How Does Our Garden Grow" Member Survey. Your Board has met and reviewed your responses and will report back to you in the coming month.

Together, we contribute to our club's success. Let's continue with open communication and share information across committees. When these individual responsibilities come together, they create a strong and thriving club.

It's not too late to register for the District One Spring Conference at the Hilton in Andover, Mass. April 26 – 28th. It's a great way to meet others from the District.

Together In Service
Wanda



"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success." - Henry Ford

Altrusa is an international non-profit organization, making our communities better through leadership, partnership, and service.

Who We Are...

The Board 2023 - 2024

Club President: : Wanda Pettersen
kettlecove_6@msn.com

Foundation President: Pam Lemieux
pamela.lemieux@myfairpoint.net

Vice President: Karen Valley
book1babe@gmail.com

Secretary: Patricia Maxim
campnaples@fairpoint.net

Treasurer: Fran Jensen
franjensen2911@gmail.com

Foundation Director: Ann Smith
vanillawoman2015@gmail.com

Club Director: Fran Breton
frb3282@hotmail.com

Immed. Past President: Debbie Lemieux
dalemieux33@gmail.com

Parliamentarian: Judith Reidman
reidmanjudith7@gmail.com

Committee Chairpersons 2023 - 2024

Communications Co-Chairs:
Christine Johnson cejinmaine@gmail.com
Erin May Deprez erinmaydeprez@gmail.com

Finance Co-Chairs:
Fran Jensen franjensen2911@gmail.com
Marie Pike pikerino2@aol.com

Membership Co-Chairs:
Patricia Maxim campnaples@fairpoint.net
Katie Lamb kwblamb@gmail.com

Service Co-Chairs:
Pam Lemieux pamela.lemieux@myfairpoint.net
Martha Gross grossmartha01@gmail.com

Social Co-Chairs:
Fran Breton frb3282@hotmail.com
Joanne Doherty jdoherty193@gmail.com

What's cooking, Good looking!

We will be Celebrating our 95th Birthday on April 17th!



Hoping all members can join in for this special event!

Wednesday, April 17th, 2024

at The Timbers at the Opportunity Alliance
50 Lydia Lane, South Portland, Maine

A social hour with light appetizers starting at 6pm will be followed by our Celebration of Volunteerism program. The 20th Volunteer of the Year award will be presented that evening. And it's our 95/95 project: we have invited 95 local nonprofits to attend; each one in attendance will receive a check for \$95!

This is a great event to introduce potential members to Altrusa. Please RSVP to Anita Chandler at achandler@maine.rr.com by March 31st with the names of any guests you intend to bring.

The Birthday Party Committee will have a list of volunteer duties for members to sign up for at the March and April business meetings.



Altrusa International Foundation of Portland, Maine, Inc.

altrusaportland@gmail.com

PO Box 8834, Portland, ME 04104 USA

<https://districtone.altrusa.org>

<https://www.portlandaltrusa.org>

more News

The Nominating Committee announced the following slate at the February 7th business meeting:

Club President -- Karen Valley
Vice President -- Christine Johnson
Treasurer -- Marie Pike
Secretary -- Fran Jensen
Club Director – Trish Maxim



After nominations from the floor, Members will vote at the March 6th meeting. Thank you to the nominating committee: Debbie Lemieux Chair, Karen Arnold, Francine Breton, Anita Chandler, Ann Smith for their work.

Also, at the March 6 meeting, a revision to our club policy regarding office terms and quorum.



Reason for Requested Revision:

Club and Foundation Vice President and Secretary positions currently serve a one-year term. The Board recommends these 2 positions serve a two-year term which coincides with all other officers' terms.

Board also recommends inserting language, regarding article from District & International, clarifying nominating committee member's ability to be slated and definition of quorum & term years.

XII. Local Club and Foundation Office Revision Requested

- A. The Portland Altrusa Club has the following officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, 1 Director and the Immediate Past President.
- B. The Portland Altrusa Foundation has the following officers: President, who also will serve as the Chair of the Service Committee, 1 Director, Treasurer, served by the Club Treasurer, and Secretary, served by the Club Secretary.
- C. The term of office for all Club and Foundations positions will be two (2) years.
 - A. The term of Foundation President and Foundation Director will begin on odd years.
 - B. The term of Club Officers will begin on even years.
- D. The membership will elect a Nominating Committee to formulate a slate for the upcoming year, which shall include the Immediate Past President who will chair this Committee. No member of the Nominating Committee is eligible to be slated for office while serving as a member of the Nominating Committee. However, nominating committee members are not excluded from being nominated from the floor.
- E. The Nominating Committee will announce the proposed slate for both Club and Foundation at the February Business Meeting and elections are held at the March Business Meeting. Attendance by One-third (1/3) of the membership shall constitute a quorum at regular meetings.

Our Service Projects

HOW TO REQUEST BOOKS

From your Club President, Wanda:

If you know of a nonprofit organization or should someone ask you how to request books, the form below and the Request Books form found on our website(<https://www.altrusaportland.org/request-books.html>) come in handy.

Just print off a few, carry them with you and hand them to the person. **Simple.** The form below directs people to the website where they can request books online.

These forms are easier than giving them a trifold or trying to explain. The trifold is for people who may be contemplating becoming members or wanting to learn more about Altrusa.

Print off and let the nonprofits know we're here to share our books. (see Wanda's email dated Feb. 24 Altrusa - How to



Did you know? Altrusa Portland Gives Books to Non-Profits and Schools!!

Altrusa International of Portland, ME, Inc. is focused on **enhancing literacy**. Many of our service projects deliver brand new "Forever" books into the community.

Research indicates that the presence of books in the childhood home has a strong impact on future achievement.

If you are a non-profit or school with clients or students that would appreciate and enjoy the benefits that books provide, we want to hear from you!! We invite you to **request literature** for your clients' or students' needs and interests.

It's EASY to request books from us!!

Simply complete the book request form on online at:

<https://www.altrusaportland.org/request-books.html>

You will be asked to provide the following information:

- Name of your Non-Profit Organization with Contact
- Email address of your Contact
- Reading Age/Level of your students/clients
- Quantity and types of books requested which can include titles/authors of interest. Let us know what you want: fiction, non-fiction, biography, history, dinosaurs, sharks, space, science, animals, graphic novels, adventure, science fiction, classics, etc.
- Basic information about your organization, how the books will be used, and the timeframe in which the requested books are needed.

Books are generally available for readers in Grades 4-12. A limited number of books may be available for younger readers.



We hope to hear from you soon! **Submit your Request TODAY!!**



Our Service Projects



Pillowcase fabric matched to books

February 10 - Altrusans with Cricket Comforts members matching books to pillowcases.

Pictured below are:

From Left to Right: Altrusans, Martha Gross and Christine Johnson
And from Cricket Comforts, Cindy Blanchard, Heidi Farrin and Karen Meucci.

The next gathering is Saturday March 9 at the Old Robie School on Rt 202 in Gorham.



Spring Cleaning for a good purpose

Are you ready to gather some unneeded items and re-purpose them for three great causes? Please look through your home for anything that might fit these requests.

Costume jewelry that you no longer want would be donated at Maine Gold and Silver. Broken chains, single earrings, watches you no longer wear are just some ideas. MG&S sends it all away to a processor where anything of value is extracted. The \$'s they get back are donated once a quarter to a local charity, voted on by their employees. They are very interested in considering Altrusa of Portland as a qualifying charity! You can even ask your family and friends if they have anything!

Nonfiction books and magazines are greatly desired by our new immigrants, many of them living in shelters and working hard to learn English. Ann Smith works with this group of people and knows they would be so grateful to have us help them out.

Anita volunteers at St Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry. Do you have any bedroom linens (think sheets, blankets or comforters or NEW pillows) bathroom or kitchen linens (towels that maybe don't match your decor any longer - maybe some hot mitts?). Also dishes, cups, glasses and cooking utensils are always needed.

Just bring anything you have to the March program meeting. It will feel good to know your "stuff" is being put to good use!

Nicki Griffin + Anita Chandler + Ann Smith

New Member Initiation Ceremony



From left to Right:
Fran Breton, Director
Wanda Pettersen,
President.



Photo Bomb by Fran
Jensen.



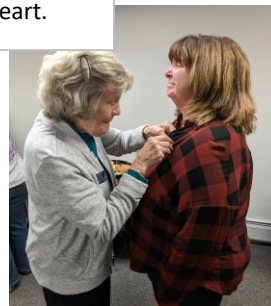
From Left to Right:
Ann Smith, Foundation Director and Ceremony speaker
Sponsor Pam Szalejeski and initiate, Toni Parise
Initiate Cathy Paglio and her Sponsor, Katie Lamb
Sponsor Martha Gross with her initiate, Gail Mazzone
Trish Maxim, Membership Co-chair, and Karen Valley,
Vice President and ceremony speaker.



Wanda P. presents Yellow
roses to Toni, Cathy and
Gail. Yellow roses
represent Friendship.



The sponsors pin the Altrusa pin to the left, over the heart.



Cathy, Gail and
Toni each add their
link to the Chain of
Service.



Our Chain of Service was increased by 3 links,
this night. This chain was started in 1929. And
now it's length spans 2 1/2 large folding tables.

more News

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

On Wednesday evening two of our themes were involved in the INITIATION of Cathy Paglio, Gail Mazzone, & Toni Parise.

**"How Does Our Garden Grow?" for District One;
&
"Chain of Service" for our Portland club.**

We have 3 new flowers in our garden; and 3 new links on our chain.

Many thanks to their Sponsors for introducing them to us; and telling us how they know them. You can learn a little more about each new member by reading their brief Bio's (next page) - - written by Cathy Paglio, Gail Mazzone, & Toni Parise. They were prepared, at the request of Governor Rita Cote for the District Service Bulletin (DSB).

Each newer member will tell you more at our "Getting To Know You Talks", scheduled for our Business meetings. Katie Lamb was very interesting on Feb. 7th. Erin Deprez is scheduled for March 6th; and Karen Arnold for April 3rd. Then we'll schedule the 3 newest members, one-by-one after that.

Be sure to attend the Business meetings!

-Trish



"Getting to Know You" talk given by Katie Lamb at our February Business meeting.

She joined our club in 2022, sponsored by Anita Chandler.

Katie is a very busy Mom of 2 high school students, is a Civil Engineer who works full time in a highly technical, demanding job. She is a lifetime Girl scout, and is involved in the PTO. In a prior life, she worked as an Elf at Macy's.

We are fortunate to have her in our Club.

February
Birthday
of the Month

Ann Babbitt
Happy Birthday!



more Membership News

New Member Biographies



My name is Cathy Paglio, I live in Portland with my husband. This year we will be married 33 Years!
Our son and his wife live a few streets away and they have a 3 year old girl and 4 month old boy...
time with all of them is our favorite thing to do.

My Husband and I also love beach walks (any season), rides in my husbands corvette and time with family and friends.

We also have a golden doodle Granddog named Harper. I work full time for the State of Maine as a Child Care Licensing Specialist. A wonderful job that brings all my past work experiences to good use.

Until recently I was a volunteer at The Center for Grieving Children. I volunteered there for 16 years as a cofacilitator in a TLC (Tender Living Care) support group for ill adults. I loved my time at The Center, I learned so much and met so many wonderful people.

I look forward to making new friends at Altrusa and participating in a variety of activities!!



My name is Gail Mazzone. I joined Altrusa International of Portland Maine in January 2024, but was a previous member from 2010-2012. I'm a retired Quality Manager from MaineHealth where I worked for 15 years supporting physician offices.

I grew up in southern New York in a small idyllic town about an hour from New York City. I was so fortunate to have a childhood that encompassed a tightknit community and large neighborhood! I learned to volunteer in high school where I was a member of the Girl's Leadership Group that mentored junior high students.

I've held jobs in many different professions including life and health insurances, law, retail, and healthcare. My husband, Joe, and I met in Scotia, NY where I was a manager at K-Mart and he was hired as a manager trainer. Long story short, after we married (45 years this August!), we could no longer work together (called fraternization!!) and we moved to Maine and have lived in Westbrook for 25 years. We have one son and one grandson who live in Connecticut.

After I retired and was relieved of my personal obligations, I longed to re-join Altrusa and be part of this special organization that does so much to serve our communities.



I'm Toni Parise (a.k.a. Louise to family). I have lived in Maine all of my life so far. I love the ocean and I love the snow! I don't do any winter sports, but everyone thinks I'm crazy because I love to shovel.

I attended the University of Maine at Farmington and got a degree in Special Education and Elementary Ed. My first job took me to Sweetser Children's Home in Saco. After 9 years there, I worked at USM as an adjunct while I was continuing my education. Upon achieving my Master's degree in Professional Education, I secured a job at what was then Southern Maine Vocational Technical Institute.

I did quite a bit of travelling when I was young. I decided that I needed to become physically active, so I trained for a marathon. Another accomplishment was a 16-day trek in the Alps. The next year I raised money for the American Lung Association and trekked across the country on my bicycle with 304 others.

My family is a high priority. I am close to my siblings, and my nieces and nephews. I have a special bond with one of my great-nieces. I travel out of town to watch her dance.

Another priority is my volunteer work with the Center for Grieving Children. I have been involved with them for 21 years now. And I'm the proud recipient of the Altrusa Volunteer of the Year Award for 2017.



other Committees' News

Finance Committee

To all committee chairs:

It's that time of year! Please don't forget to submit your committee's 2024-2025 budget to Fran Jensen, preferably by March 8th, but definitely no later that March 11th.



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The finance committee will meet on March 16th at Fran's house in order to put together a draft of the budget which will be presented to the board. It will then be presented to the club at the April 3rd business meeting. Approval of the budget requires a vote by the club.

Thank you,
Marie

Communication Committee

Erin Deprez has used her talents to create new business cards for us. Printing is complete and many were handed out to the members at the February Program meeting. If you would like more cards and/or the new tri-fold brochures, email or call me, Debbie Lemieux. I can arrange to get them to you.

Christine Johnson attended the recent District One Presidents meeting and presented on Social Media. One tip: any pictures taken at service events that are newsletter worthy should be sent to both the editor of the newsletter as well as to the Social Media person. Photos help us share the good work of our club and raise our profile in the community.

When posting on Facebook, always include @AltrusaService. This is the International Service Facebook page for Altrusa. It is also a good idea to "tag" any organizations that may have partnered with us on a project. This can cause our posts to be seen by a wider audience to increase the public's awareness of the broad range of our organization's activities, and may encourage others to comment on and/or share our posts.





ASTRA of Lake Region High School

Ability
Service
Training
Responsibility
Achievement

It was a small group the morning of Feb 15th when ASTRA formed a production line to fill the bags of "Vacation Activities" for 1st graders; but they completed 150 bags in 35 minutes for Songo Locks & Stevens Brook elementary schools.

The next ASTRA meeting on February 29th will feature exchange student Ushana Kumari (on the left in this picture) telling us about her life in Pakistan.



Other Things

Don't forget to input your Service Hours.
Copy and paste this link into your browser:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfBA5kpTP2KnohBM77MIB7qwAm953glU10L8wCWanf3Qbrtqg/viewform>

The International Association President wants us to enter literacy hours as a separate category.

from the
Altrusagram
editor



Many thanks in advance for all your efforts and your support in providing your input to Altrusa articles and photos.

Please email myself, Debbie, at dalemieux33@gmail.com with anything you consider newsworthy. My deadline for submissions is the 3rd Friday of the month.

-- Debbie L.



Please continue to fill up the green Altrusa **CLYNK** bags.

Then:

1. drop them off at your local Hannaford's
2. drop the bags off at Pam Lemieux's house
3. or, bring to a meeting and give to Pam.

Mark your calendar for these Future District & International Events

District One Conference

April 26-28, 2024

Double Tree by Hilton

Andover, Mass

59th International Convention

July 23-26, 2025

Location TBD

Quebec City, Canada