

June 2020 Altrusagram

Upcoming Dates



Many plans are still undetermined for now as it is likely we will continue to stay safe by cancelling some events.

by Monday, July 13th
all committees must have submitted their budget to treasurer Nadeen

Monday, July 20th
3:00 p.m.
Board Installation
and new member Initiation
see details on page 3

Friday, July 31st
Finance Committee
Meeting
10:00 am
at Judith Reidman's

from the President:



As May folded into June, the days have gotten longer, the Sun is higher in the sky, flowers have been blossoming and so too, has hope found it's way back into the hearts of many that have been sheltered for so long. Hope that we may again be able to

serve our communities, hope that we can share our time together in the physical presence of each other, and hope that our country and people can find healing.

Keeping ourselves quarantined, masked and physically distanced has helped to conserve the spread of the virus. But as we long to get back to the work of serving, we must be mindful and remain diligent in our efforts. As always, our resourcefulness and creativity will be the light shining the way for our helping hands and hearts.

We remain hopeful that Sue's Supper at Ronald McDonald House will return, and continue to provide monetary support each month for this effort. We plan for A B C programs in the fall, recognizing that there may be modifications required. Instead of "Books and Bubbles" this summer, our Service committee is planning for "Books without Bubbles" in accordance with safety precautions. To prepare for this, there will have been a "Sticker and Bagging" party outdoors, physically distanced at Payson Park. Plans are in motion for Installation and Orientation celebrations that are physically distanced, so that we can celebrate each other in person. Committees will meet in appropriate ways to establish goals and budgets for the upcoming year.

I look forward to serving as your President. I look forward to working with each and everyone of you and getting to know you better.

Yours Truly,

Debbie Lemieux

"Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul, and sings the tunes without the words and never stops at all." Emily Dickinson

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

Introducing the 2020 - 2021 Board

The 2020 - 2021 Board

President: : Debbie Lemieux
dalemieux33@gmail.com

Vice President: Wanda Pettersen
kettlecove_6@msn.com

Secretary: Nicki Griffin
gardenhandsme@gmail.com

Treasurer: Nadeen Daniels
nadeen.daniels@gmail.com

Director: Fran Breton
frb3282@hotmail.com

Director: Patricia Maxim
campnaples@fairpoint.net

Immed. Past President: Anita Chandler
achandler@maine.rr.com

Parliamentarian: Judith Reidman
jreidman@maine.rr.com

Committee Chairpersons 2020 - 2021

Communications: Co-Chairs:
Christine Johnson cejnmaine@gmail.com
Karen Valley book1babe@gmail.com

Finance: Co-Chairs:
Wanda Pettersen kettlecove_6@msn.com
Fran Jensen franjenzen2911@gmail.com

Membership:
Interim Fran Breton frb3282@hotmail.com

Service: Co-Chairs:
Susan F. King kings@maine.rr.com
Martha Gross sfspd2005@yahoo.com

Social: Co-Chairs
Roberta Morrill rjdutton36@aol.com
Pam Szalajeski pam.szal@maine.rr.com



I love diggin in the dirt, golfing with my Hubby, downhill skiing, jumping off the boat into the lake with my grandkids.
I am most definitely a carnivore, and the Covid pandemic reinforced that for me. I love to cook for my extended family. And I love to leave a smile and a lasting footprint where I have been. -- President Debbie



I grew up in South Portland. I am married and have a son and a stepdaughter. For 27 years, I worked for the State of Maine within different departments retiring with Department of Corrections. My career took me to Cumberland County where after 10 yrs I retired again. I now enjoy my retirement with Altrusa, volunteering and making friends with like minded people. -- Vice President



I am a lifelong Mainer, with an avid interest in gardening with perennials, bulbs and flowering shrubs. Other activities include volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House, reading, cooking and traveling overseas to visit my daughter and son-in-law. -- Secretary Nicki



I am a 30+ year public servant. My official roles have included City Clerk of South Portland and Portland, Cumberland Town Clerk, and Portland Assistant City Manager. I was elected to the office of Cumberland County Register of Probate in 2016, and am currently running for a second term. I've been blessed with two loving grandchildren, Lily and Daniel. . . -- Treasurer Nadine



I retired from New England Telephone and the Sheriffs Office. I have been married to my husband Stephen for 39 years. We have 5 grown children, 16 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. We reside in Portland. -- Director Fran



Age 81; member of Altrusa since 1975 (45 years). My 3 daughters were 10-14-15 at the time; and we lived in Prides Corner (Westbrook). We moved to Long Lake in Naples in 1983. I worked for Ma Bell for 30 years and retired in 1989. I am the Altrusa liaison to ASTRA at Lake Region High School.
-- Director Trish



I am finally Immediate Past President - for the 3rd time! I am passionate about helping others and have been a volunteer since I was a child. Altrusa was part of my life even then. My family and friends are most important to me. I am an avid reader and love cooking for others. -- Immediate Past President Anita



I can say I prefer being active, love sports and especially like to travel. Not much of any of that right now. When I am not being Nurse Cratchit I like being more involved with my volunteer organizations. -- Parliamentarian Judith

You're Invited

What: Altrusa Portland 2020 – 2021 Board Installation
and new member Initiation

Who: all members (and guests welcome too!)

When: Monday, July 20, 3:00 P.M.

Where: Payson Park, Portland

Bring your own Chair.

Masks encouraged.

Safe Social Distancing will be observed.



Service Projects

Summer Books give-away at Lyman Moore

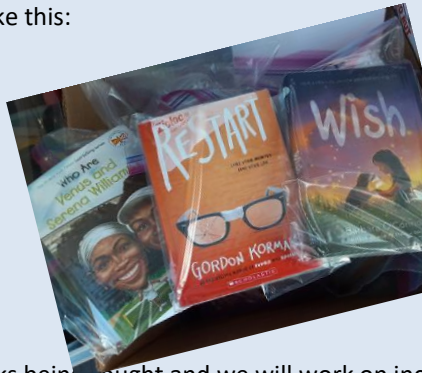
We were so warmly welcomed by our friend, Jay, from Portland Public Schools Central Kitchen! Having worked with Jay for the last few summers, we hit the ground running. Of course, with COVID, everything is a bit different but the idea remains to feed children. PPS feeds students breakfast and lunch each day, 6 days a week. We set up our book table next to Jay's food table and waited for families to arrive. As a car pulled up, Jay approached them and asked "how many lunches?" He then turned and said "this is my friend Susan (or Anita) and she has books for your family today". By then, one of us stepped up and asked "how many kids and what are their ages?" As Altrusans had presorted and labeled the books, we were able to quickly select appropriate titles to go for each family. Smooth as could be!

Our distribution numbers for Lyman Moore looked like this:

0-3 years 9 books were distributed.
3-6 yrs 19 books were distributed.
6-8 yrs 34 books were distributed.
7-10 yrs 8 books were distributed
8-12 yrs 9 books were distributed
12+ yrs 11 books were distributed

We were able to give away 102 books to families.
Jay distributed 111 lunches.

We were surprised by the number of "older kid" books being sought and we will work on increasing the number of selections we can offer.



On a brilliant, sunny morning, 8 Altrusans gathered for a familiar task. We stickered books!!!

The happy recipients of the Altrusa Foundation Grant sorted books by age, stickered them and bagged them in preparation for distribution with Portland's Summer Lunch program.

Anita, Ann, Debbie, Nicki, Christine, Fran J., Wanda and Susan gathered at Payson Park for an enjoyable hour. The books will be given at a variety of lunch sites.



more Service Projects



left to right: Carole Intoccia and Penny Eldridge
of the Seacoast club

Good Morning Susan,

It was wonderful to finally meet you and wonderful to be able to pick up such a generous amount of books. Today is the day we get to drop the books off to Dover Children's Home. I only wish that we could see the children when they receive them. Of course, due to the virus, meeting them will have to wait for another time. I'm sure they will be thrilled.

We thank you over and over again!

Summer books give-away at Presumpscot

We arrive at Presumpscot feeling a bit nervous. We had a busy and successful week at Lyman Moore and we know that Presumpscot expects to see less youths for meals. We're ready for lots of kids and hope we see them! Grace Montgomery from Portland Central Kitchen put out a Facebook notice announcing our schedule.

We brought:

- 19 baby books...gave away 5
- 28 for 3-6 yr olds...distributed 11
- 41 for 6-8 yr olds gave away 10
- 27 for 8-12 yr olds and gave away 17
- 15 books for the 12+ crowd, and distributed 12 books.

We were thrilled to see the families of 55 kids!!



Altrusa Scholarships

Casco Bay High School divided the \$500 between two seniors:

Zanayah Moore-Simms, a young woman who had severe anxiety and struggled to be in school her first two years at Casco Bay fortunately turned things around for herself. Entering her junior year she resolved that her life would change. She has emerged as a quiet competent leader and is passionate about the media to tell stories. Zanayah pushed herself to do Honor Work. She was awarded at the end of her junior year Student of Class 2020.

As a senior she enrolled in the New Media program at Portland Arts and Technology High School (PATHS) where she proved to be a very capable and talented student.

Her future plans are to work with digital media in college.

Sarah Rickett is a kind, funny and creative artist. Her passion for the arts and design has grown over the past few years.

Casco Bay students have projects that often times give them a deeper understanding of their community and our world. Over the last two years Sarah has undertaken some serious public concerns like "reparations to descendants of slaves" and "deforestation and ways we can combat the crisis."

As a senior she enrolled in (PATHS) where she was able to work on her craft and studied video game art. Her spare time was working at the movie theatre.

Sarah hopes to continue her education in a small college pursuing her artistic talents.

Deering High School

Adelina Homewood is a quiet, pleasant, hardworking student who has taken challenging courses during her years at Deering. Science is difficult at times for her but she really pushes herself to understand the concepts. Team sports like Lacrosse and volleyball have helped her with her shyness and self confidence.

Her plans for the future may include working with young children as she did an internship at PATHS pre-school program and in Kindergarten classroom where she was a teacher's aid. Adelina also seems interested in the medical field working with children because of their openness and honesty.

In the past Adelina worked at the mall and presently she is working at Shaw's. She plans to attend Thomas College in the fall.

Portland High School awarded our scholarship to **Carly Hagelin** but has not provided any information about her.

We wish all our Seniors a happy and fulfilling future with much love.

Martha G

a little help from a friend...

Many of us remember Baby Brianna back from when she would attend meetings with Grandmother... well, Trish's Baby Brianna has changed!!!

This gorgeous and delightful young woman is now an RN working at Brighton Rehab on a stroke unit. I had the pleasure of seeing Brianna as she agreed to transport books from South Portland to Naples for the ASTRA ABC project! What a pleasure!!!

Susan





All three are members of the ASTRA club. Julia Murch is also Gerry Dongo's granddaughter.

Eleina Sturk, valedictorian, was quoted in another article, "I am proud of the amount of change the ASTRA club has brought to the community."

This is the list of ASTRA activities accomplished this partial school year:

- Naples Historical Society
- Yellow Tulip Garden
- American Legion #67 Clean-up
- Kansas Road Clean-up
- Clothing Closet
- Scooping Ice Cream
- Veteran's Day Cards
- Veteran's Ball
- 50/50 Raffle Fundraiser
- Breakfast w/ Frosty
- Buying Xmas Presents
- Naples Historical Society

They had 5 more major projects planned:

- 'Habitat for Humanity' Build Day
- 'Earth Day' Clean-up in Naples
- 'Kettle' Supper at Bridgton Community Center
- "ABC" at Songo Locks Elementary School in Naples
- "ABC" at Stevens Brook Elementary School in Bridgton.

Our school year ended abruptly on March 13th with the Coronavirus pandemic. The "ABC" books are safely stored until Fall, when ASTRA hopes they'll be able to deliver them to the new 1st graders (who didn't get them this Spring while they were in Kindergarten).

We had 14 Seniors graduate on June 14th; International supplied the 'graduation cords'.

There was no '8th Grade Step-up' event to entice new members into ASTRA.

District One announced that LRHS ASTRA won the "ASTRA Service Project" award for their "Support Our Soldiers" (SOS) project at the American Legion #67 in Bridgton and will receive the \$100 prize. Their entry will now go forward to the International competition.

Trish



7 of the 'Top 10 Scholars' at Lake Region High School are members of ASTRA, including:
 Valedictorian - Eleina Sturk
 Salutatorian - Julia Murch
 ASTRA President - Philip Ganem (recipient of our Altrusa scholarship).

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Carinne Fournier says, "Thank you, Altrusa, so much for the stipend! It was a chaotic year, but I'm proud of what we were able to accomplish." When asked if we could count on her to continue to be our ASTRA Advisor, she responded, "Of course!"

Other Business



*Last business meeting of the season, June 3rd, via Zoom
"If Plan A doesn't work, the alphabet has 25 other letters!" (Claire Cook)*

Don't forget our in-house ongoing Fundraiser

Please continue to fill up the green Altrusa CLYNK bags. Here's how to dispose:

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

Keep those cans and bottles coming!



It's not too late to participate in the International Foundation's Day of Giving

If you missed the JUNE 20th DAY OF GIVING do not despair. All contributions from April 1st through July 4th will be counted to determine which club wins one of the two awards. (did you get the recently published Impact?) The International Foundation board is giving two \$1,500 prizes: one to the club which gives the largest gift; and one to the club that gives the largest gift per capita. So we have a chance of winning \$1,500 if we all give!

We know the Foundation funds are put to very good use.

To contribute: go to the Foundation website and donate on line, mail a check to the International office, or NEW OPTION - simply pick up your phone and text IMPACT2020 to 919-99 and complete your gift to the Altrusa International Foundation, Inc. A number of us have done it this way and it was so easy!!



Please send all newsletter items to Marie at pikerino2@aol.com. Deadline is the Friday after the program meeting.



Don't forget to input your Service Hours. The Google Docs online Service form captures all that you input for your monthly service activity. This can be used to tally the hours that get submitted to International. It is a very important function.

Mark your calendar for these Future District & International Events



District One Virtual Workshop - Saturday, November 7th

District One Conference - April in Freeport - we host!

International Convention July 21 - 24 in Quebec City, Quebec

some Member News and Views

This month's question was, "What skills did you acquire, renew, or improve during this stay-at-home time?"

My skill is cooking that I have resurrected. Since I am alone now, I haven't been doing a lot of baking. Since my family have been grocery shopping 🛒 for me, I have been making breads, pies, whoopie pies, cookies and bars for them. I do enjoy cooking, so that has been fun for all of us. I keep a few samples for me, just to be sure that what I give to them is OK!!! **Roberta**

This has been a great opportunity to knit items for the two (or maybe three) Christmas craft fairs I will sign on for in November and December 2020. Let's hope Corona doesn't keep the multitudes of eager shoppers from attending! Over the years friends and family have poopooed my huge yarn stash, saying when are you ever going to need all that, but having my own yarn store in my basement has been vital to my survival since the pandemic! **Ann Smith**

I joined the hundreds of sewists in Maine who made masks during these past few months. I learned how to sew in my teens and have sewn home decor for years. I never ventured into fashion sewing until this year and have enjoyed making several dresses for work. It's been a fun challenge and very rewarding and surprising when it all comes together! **Nadeen**



With a little more time at home, I've focused on taking time to sort through all my "possessions" and discarding things that are still usable, just not by me! **Nicki**

Well, I am not the most skilled in the kitchen... so I have been trying a bit of baking...
Some attempts have been more successful than others, but they still tasted good! :)
Jane

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