

## August 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.

#### **Wednesday, Sept 2**

6:00 p.m.

Business meeting  
via Zoom

#### **Wednesday, Sept 16**

6:00 p.m.

Program Meeting  
via Zoom? Stay tuned to  
learn more.

#### **Friday, Sept 18th**

items due to newsletter  
editor

#### **Thursday, Oct 15th**

calendar raffle items due  
(see page 6)

#### **Saturday, November 7th**

District One's  
virtual Workshop  
The DSB will be issued in  
September with details.

### from the President:

The mid-August sound of the crickets and the Cicadas, the cool night breezes and warm afternoons, bring with them thoughts of approaching fall, quiet beaches, teachers, parents and students preparing for their academic year.



Change is all around us and we are adapting. There have been changes made to the Academic landscape to allow for safe return of our students. So, too, we Altrusans are adapting. We completed our summer program partnering with Portland Schools Lunch program. There were no Bubbles this summer, but there were books. Altrusans were seen at Payson Park bagging and tagging by age, individual books and then handing them out at to kiddos at the schools.

We had arranged for our kick-off Board meeting to be outside at my house. Alas, the weather changed those plans and we quickly moved to a Zoom meeting format. Thanks to Christine Johnson, our in-house Zoom tech support.

September, we would be looking forward to the start of A B C, Barron Center Fall Clean-up, Sue's Supper, the start of the ASTRA year of service and preparing for the Empty Bowl. We continue to send in our donation to the Ronald McDonald House for Sue's Supper. We are in contact with Books-A-Million about the prospects of our next book drive, so that we can build up our inventory. We are unable to safely support the Project Feed and so cannot execute the Empty Bowl, this year. We are collecting gently used books for our Books-Behind-Bars program.

We, as members of Altrusa, represent hope as we continue to adapt to this new landscape. Thanks to all our talented and resourceful members, who continue to look for new ways we can serve our communities.

Debbie

**We gain strength, and courage, and confidence by each experience in which we really stop to look fear in the face... we must do that which we think we cannot.**

*Eleanor Roosevelt*

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



# Installation and Initiation

The installation of the new board and the Initiation of new member Roberta Morrill was held in the park on July 20th.

## The 2020 - 2021 Board

President: : Debbie Lemieux  
[dalemieux33@gmail.com](mailto:dalemieux33@gmail.com)

Vice President: Wanda Pettersen  
[kettlecove\\_6@msn.com](mailto:kettlecove_6@msn.com)

Secretary: Nicki Griffin  
[gardenhandsme@gmail.com](mailto:gardenhandsme@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Nadeen Daniels  
[nadeen.daniels@gmail.com](mailto:nadeen.daniels@gmail.com)

Director: Fran Breton  
[frb3282@hotmail.com](mailto:frb3282@hotmail.com)

Director: Patricia Maxim  
[campnaples@fairpoint.net](mailto:campnaples@fairpoint.net)

Immed. Past President: Anita Chandler  
[achandler@maine.rr.com](mailto:achandler@maine.rr.com)

Parliamentarian: Judith Reidman  
[jreidman@maine.rr.com](mailto:jreidman@maine.rr.com)

## Committee Chairpersons 2020 - 2021

Communications: Co-Chairs:  
Christine Johnson [cejnmaine@gmail.com](mailto:cejnmaine@gmail.com)  
Karen Valley [book1babe@gmail.com](mailto:book1babe@gmail.com)

Finance: Co-Chairs:  
Wanda Pettersen [kettlecove\\_6@msn.com](mailto:kettlecove_6@msn.com)  
Fran Jensen [franjenzen2911@gmail.com](mailto:franjenzen2911@gmail.com)

Membership:  
Interim Fran Breton [frb3282@hotmail.com](mailto:frb3282@hotmail.com)

Service: Co-Chairs:  
Susan F. King [kings@maine.rr.com](mailto:kings@maine.rr.com)  
Martha Gross [sfspd2005@yahoo.com](mailto:sfspd2005@yahoo.com)

Social: Co-Chairs  
Roberta Morrill [rjdutton36@aol.com](mailto:rjdutton36@aol.com)  
Pam Szalajeski [pam.szal@maine.rr.com](mailto:pam.szal@maine.rr.com)



left to right: Anita C, Wanda P, Deb L, Nadeen D, Trish M and Nicki G



Deb receives her president's pin from Pam L, her installation host and sister-in-law.

President Deb presents Immediate Past President Anita with a thank you gift.



New member Roberta Morrill receives her member pin from sponsor Christine Johnson.



# The Summer Book Program...page one

Wednesday, July 1st found Susan and Anita at Reiche School with PPS lunch givers, Alice and Debbie. Alice and Debbie fed lunches to 21 kids while we fed the minds of 39 neighborhood friends. Our most popular age group today was 4-6 year olds with 15 books distributed! 11 books went to 6-8 yr olds; baby books are being chewed by 8 little ones and 5 more books went to the big kids.

\*

Thank you so much to our ADDITIONAL book stickerer/baggers!! Sarah, Roberta, Martha G, Pam L and Martha D. all stickered and bagged books at home for our Summer Lunches program!! With the original "Payson Park Gang", that makes 13 Altrusans working on this part of our Foundation Grant activity! We've distributed 200 books on 3 lunch visits!!

\*

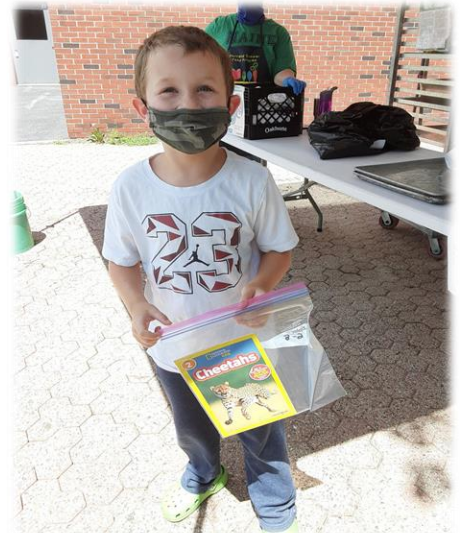
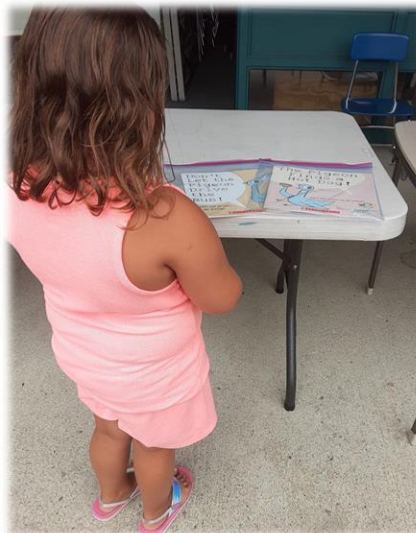
On a warm and sultry morning, Anita and Susan set up shop at Riverton School. We joined Kari and Susanne at their covered spot and waited for the hungry hordes to arrive..... it IS a steamy day.... maybe they went to the lake. We very much enjoyed the company of Susanne and Kari as we distributed books and lunches. Altrusa gave away 31 books....4 to babies; 7 to 3-6 yr. olds; 7 to the 6-8 age group; 4 to the 8-10 yr. olds; 5 to the 10-12 yr olds and 4 to the over 12 yr olds. We had a good time....despite scaring a toddler with our masks...and books. He thought he was at the DOCTOR'S office

\*

When you tell a 5 year old to say "underpants " when you're taking his photo, his eyes light right up!!! And he chortles and looks guiltily at his dad. Anita and Susan saw that happen at Deering 'a summer lunch program on July 15th. Brady was one of 6 kiddos to take a book from our 3-6 year old stash. We had 8 "babies" and 10 6-8 year olds. We distributed 7 books to the 8-10 year olds; 5 to the 10-12 year olds and another 5 to the "old folks"...over 12.

A recommendation for an excellent, relevant book for everyone (12+) is Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes. It's historical...current... A 12 yr.old boy of color is shot by a white police officer and Jerome's ghost returns to observe the devastation his community suffers. So good.

\*





# The Summer Book Program...page two

\*

Anita heard a mom say the most heartwarming thing today. An everyday visitor to the King Middle lunch site, mom gathered up her families' lunches....and a BIG green Locker Project bag of groceries and looked appreciatively at her childrens' books. When Anita invited her to look at our books for "those over 12", she beamed and chose 2 for herself and remarked, " this is just like Christmas today." Gina reported that Summer Lunch served 38 lunches today. Altrusa distributed 47 books. This was a good way to spend a summer morning!!!

\*

Esme and Sean greeted Anita and Susan when we (finally) found our way to Munjoy South playground. It's a delightful green space nestled in the heart of Munjoy Hill. July 29th found 31 kids eating lunch and 35 readers selecting books.

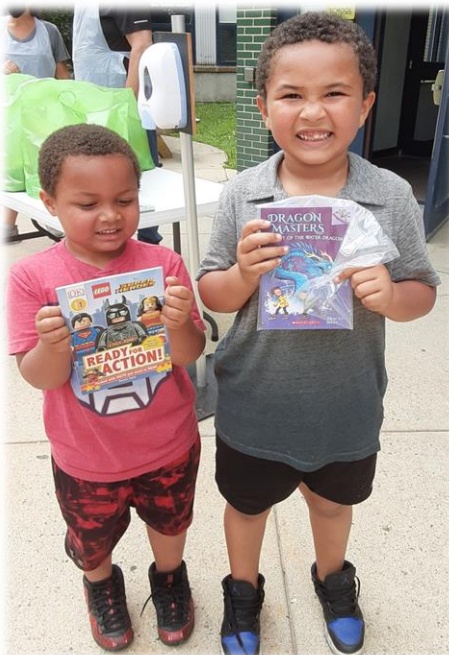
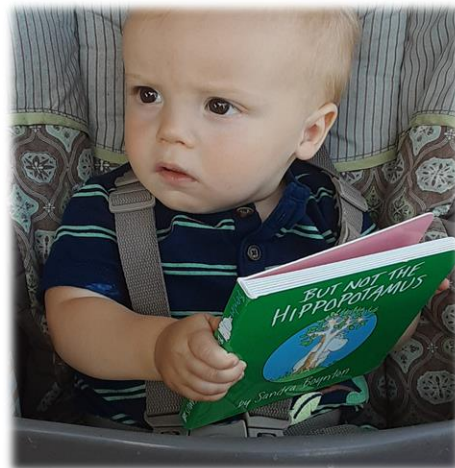
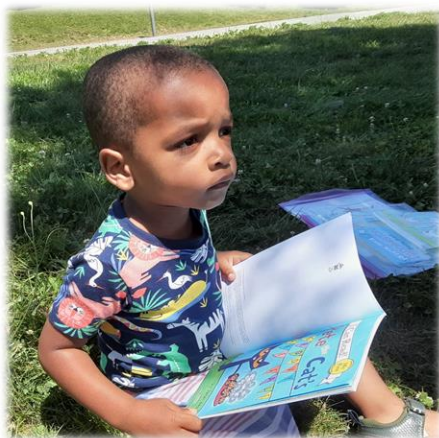
\*

Monday, August 3rd found Anita and Susan back with our old friend, Jay, at Lyman Moore. We finished up our 7 "assigned" sites on July 29th and decided to return to where we started on June 19th, with Jay. We finished up with 207 books going home with families on August 3rd!!! What a summer for readers!!

\*

Our summer has been delightful...  
...distributing books as PPS distributes lunches. We've met lots of children and lots of dedicated PPS employees determined to feed these kids. As we completed our final stop, we realized we still had nearly 200 books remaining. Lyman Moore was our "highpoint" in terms of books given... so back we went. We were able to offer kids TWO books each ..all stickered "Courtesy of Altrusa". Lots of families, including Moms and Dads, were recipients of our FOUNDATION grant money and Portland Altrusans' efforts.

**Thank you all!!!**





## From our Scholarship Recipients

THANK YOU. THANK  
YOU. THANK YOU.  
THANK YOU. THANK  
YOU. THANK YOU.  
THANK YOU. THANK  
YOU. THANK YOU.  
THANK YOU. THANK  
YOU. THANK YOU.  
THANK YOU. THANK  
YOU. THANK YOU.

Dear Altrusa Club,  
Thank you so much  
for awarding me a  
five hundred dollar  
Scholarship. I am  
very thankful and excited  
to use this opportunity  
to further my education.  
I will be attending  
Thomas College to study  
elementary education and  
will be able to use this  
Scholarship towards books  
or other materials I  
may need. Thank you  
again!

received from Adelina Homewood

Dear Altrusa

7/15/20

Thank you very much for your generous  
Scholarship. This Scholarship will help tremend  
this Fall when I attend SMCC. Thank you  
for considering me when choosing  
recipients. Receiving this Scholarship was  
especially meaningful to me because it  
in honor of my grandmother.

Sincerely,  
Sarah  
Rickett

Deborah Lemieux,

I am honored and beyond grateful to  
be presented with the Alice Whiter Altrusa  
Award. I look forward to pursuing a future  
in Nursing & I will use this Scholarship  
grant to help purchase my textbooks for class.  
Thank you so much!

Sincerely,  
Carly Hagelin

2020 graduate

# Other Business

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Thank you to Brittany White for signing Portland Altrusa onto [VolunteerMatch.com](https://www.volunteermatch.com).

We already have the names & contact information for 4 interested people sent to us:

Andrea Hovious - a nurse from Gorham with a 20 month old baby;

Bethany Elliott - an environmental scientist in Portland (just out of college 1 year);

Hallie Shrestha - a 16 year old in Portland who wants to be a teacher;

Jaimi Titherington - whose zip code is in Alfred, Maine and is the senior account strategy analyst for Groupon.

Debbie Lemieux and/or Trish Maxim have contacted all of them and are following up. Prior to meeting with them, we have directed them to the [www.altrusa.org](https://www.altrusa.org) site to learn about Altrusa and our Portland club.

We have met with the first two ladies to learn about them; and to tell them more about our Volunteer opportunities. We have let Jaimi know there are Altrusa clubs in Biddeford-Saco and Sanford-Springvale, as well as notifying the Biddeford-Saco club of Jaimi's interest in them.

Does anybody happen to know any of these women?  
Would any of our teachers like to mentor Hallie?

-- Trish

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

### Donations for Calendar Prizes are Needed

The Altrusa Calendar Raffle is the one and only fundraiser planned for the Portland Altrusa fiscal year 2020-2021. We need all Portland Altrusans to get donations for calendar prizes.

As in the past we are looking to have a prize valued a minimum of \$25, for each date of the month. Let's try to make some of these prizes be more substantial than \$25. A member told me she has seen a lot of monthly calendar raffles and the prizes listed daily are a lot more than we have on our calendar. 😞 Let's see if we can't have a calendar raffle with the total value of all the prizes between \$2000 - \$2500.

Prizes or promises of prizes should be emailed or sent to Pam Lemieux at 44 Longview Dr, Portland, ME 04103. E-mail: [pamela.lemieux@myfairpoint.net](mailto:pamela.lemieux@myfairpoint.net) by no later than October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

By October 20<sup>th</sup>, the calendar raffle should be ready to be sold. Then we all need to dig in and contact family, friends and acquaintances and tell them about the calendar raffle. With good prizes it will 'sell itself' ....  
I hope.

-- Pam L

## SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Service Committee met on July 9 in what has become a temporary office at Payson Park. A budget was submitted and discussed with the understanding that with the current pandemic forcing changes that the budget may be modified. The pandemic has caused alteration of many of our established services. We hope to have some resolution of this so that projects we love can be resumed. In the meantime there was a tremendously successful summer project that resulted in Over 200 books for children from "baby books" to books for older children in seven schools. We are hoping that some of the restrictions brought about by coronavirus will be eased soon.

-- Fran Dyro .

Altrusa International Foundation of Portland, Maine, Inc.

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[www.altrusaportlandgivesbooks.org](https://www.altrusaportlandgivesbooks.org)



## Other Business

### 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!



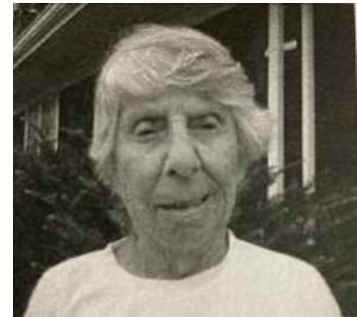
Please send all newsletter items to Marie at pikerino2@aol.com. Deadline is the Friday after the program meeting.

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.

## An Altrusan Lost

Eleanore M. Irish died on Sunday, March 22, 2020, at the great age of 102. She became an Altrusan in 1954 and served as the Portland club's president for the 1959/1960 year. After 57 years of dedication to Altrusa she became an Emeritus member in 2011.

Eleanore was a dedicated health professional, who spent her entire career in the public health sector, most of it with Maine Medical Center in Portland. She was a past-president and very active member of the Southern Maine Area Agency on Aging. Even after her retirement, Eleanore didn't let age define her. Eleanore had a passion for learning. She was involved with the Senior College at the University of Southern Maine since its inception and she continued to take classes there until she was 98.



After moving to the Bay Square at Yarmouth, she continued to grow her mind through small discussion classes and different travel presentations. Eleanore was a great traveler. She was always looking for new and interesting places to visit. Along with her good friend, Mickey Purkis, she traveled to six of the seven continents (only missing Antarctica). One of her favorite trips was across Russia on the Trans Siberian Railroad taking Russian lessons. Even at the age of 95, she took a cruise through the Baltic Sea.

When not traveling, Eleanore would watch her favorite sports teams, especially the Boston Bruins and Red Sox. Eleanore loved to play golf, only to give it up in her 90s.

Eleanore was predeceased by her parents, Burton and Thelma Irish, her brother, Walden Irish and her two sisters, Natalie Garrity and Marjorie Culman. She leaves behind several nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, grand-nephews, and cousins, many who considered her as part of their immediate family. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Southern Maine Agency on Aging, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute or St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church in Yarmouth.

### 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: When was the last time you went to a movie theater, what movie did you see, and why did you like/not like it?

I think the last movie I saw was "The last station" a film about the last days of Russian author Tolstoy. Helen Mirren was in it and it was 2010. It wasn't even a theater; it was a cruise ship carrying us on the journey from Germany to New York by way of Scotland, and the Orkney and Faroe Islands to Iceland, Greenland (soon after the volcano). We got as far as the Maritimes before sheltering in the Gulf of Maine for days to avoid a hurricane. Was it Elvis? After about two weeks of this restful journey I came home to a case of shingles on my face. I haven't been to a movie since.

*Debbie Downer alias Fran Dyro*

I went to see Bohemian Rhapsody  
2018 The music was so amazing!!! Rami Malek did a fantastic job portraying Freddie Mercury (Queen). So much talent, such a tragic life!!!  
Loved it! *Karen V*

I went with my daughter to see "Little Women" a year or so ago. I liked it as it was so well done. *Roberta M*

I SO miss the movies!!! We last went in January and February. Once to see Knives Out....a mystery with lots of pretentious characters all looking to inherit Thromby's money. Of course, he's turned up dead. And everyone (except his nurse, Marta...who vomits every time she lies) is a suspect. Says something about privilege and how immigrants are viewed....in a humorous, nonthreatening way. Liked it a lot! Silly...Daniel Craig is the detective. LOVE him!!

Just Mercy is heartbreaking. The movie version of the Bryan Stevenson book of the same title. It is about the wrongful imprisonment and death sentence of Walter McMillan (Jamie Foxx). So, so sad and current....loved it!! Michael B Johnson plays the lawyer with such heart and passion. *Susan K*

I can't recall which movie was the 'last one'. Was it 'Knives' a murder mystery, which is one of my favorite genres? Or was it 'Downton Abbey, The Movie'? Of course I liked it, it was Downton Abbey! ...Or was it 'Little Women'? I miss going to the movies and eating popcorn dripping with 'butter flavoring' and sprinkled with salt. I know it is not healthy, but it tastes so good. *Pam L*

The last movie I recall going to in Maine was with Wanda, last fall(I think). We saw Downtown Abbey. And having watched almost all of the seasons of the series, really loved it. And surprised to meet up with Trish and her Sister-in-law, so we sat together. *Deb L*



The last time I went to a movie was on January 23rd, my birthday. I saw Little Women with my sister Judy and we were both sadly disappointed in how it was presented. Way too many flashbacks! *Nicki G*

The last time I went to a movie was in March. I saw the movie Emma with friends. The version with Gwyneth Paltro was better, but this new version had breathtaking scenery and costumes. I do miss going out to the movies and theater. *Gerry D*

I love to go to the movies. I have great memories of growing up in Portland and going to the 4 movie theaters on/near Congress Street: State - Strand - Empire - Civic.

This year my last movie was on February 25th at Smitty's: "Call of the Wild" with Harrison Ford. For some reason it wasn't exactly what I had expected; but it was good and I enjoyed it. *Trish M*

### AND:

While my ankle heals, I've been asked to illustrate for a child's book about a little eighteenth century girl. These illustrations need to be large enough for the kids to color. It's a diary of her experience growing up in the eighteen hundreds. The person writing this book is a second grade teacher, retired, and this book is written and illustrated for a second grade student. The person writing this book is taking most of the narrative from this little girl's diary. The person who asked me to do this is involved with the Falmouth historical society and a dear friend of mine.

To put more pressure on me, lol, they have shared the idea with the state education board. If it all goes well they are talking about publishing it so that all second grade teachers state wide can use it in their classrooms. Who knows if that will happen. This is important especially now during the states anniversary.

You asked, what did you do this summer? I don't know how I get myself into these things. Lol. *Pam S*