

October 2020 Altrusagram

Upcoming Dates



Wednesday, Nov. 4
5:00 p.m.
Board meeting
via Zoom

Wednesday, Nov. 4
6:15 p.m.
Business meeting
via Zoom

Saturday, November 7th
District One's
virtual Workshop
via Zoom
9:00am - 12:00
(8:30 - 9:00 optional
socializing time)

Wednesday, Nov 18
6:00 p.m.
Program Meeting
via Zoom
Art LeDoux of the
Westbrook Veterans Center
is speaking.

Friday, Nov 20
items due to newsletter
editor

Wednesday, Dec. 2
5:00 p.m.
Board meeting
via Zoom

Wednesday, Dec. 2
6:15 p.m.
Business meeting
via Zoom

from the President:

The changing of seasons is upon us, and with it brings cooler temperatures and the beauty of the fall foliage. You can hear the crunch of the plentiful, fallen acorns beneath your feet and all around us people can be found stacking their wood, readying for their winter source of warmth, taking family trips to pumpkin patches and for apple picking, old family favorite soup recipes warming on the stove and in our bellies. All these are predictable activities as Fall sets in.



Also a predictable Fall event, is our District Annual Workshop. District One Board and Committee members have been busy preparing for this FREE and VIRTUAL event to be held on November 7. Also busy was the "Altrusa 7" who were sighted somewhere north of Portland performing their Call-to-Conference Jingle. This will be formally presented at Workshop. You will NOT want to miss this. Registration is still open. Reserve your spot by contacting Linda Ring at altrusa.districtone.board@gmail.com.

In honor of Make a Difference Day which is on the fourth Saturday of October, on October 10, Altrusa Portland members were found at the various Barron Center Gardens for the annual Fall Clean up effort. Led by our own in-house Master Gardener, Nicki Griffin, we helped to rake and trim perennials and bushes. And on Saturday, October 24 our annual Fall/Winter Book Drive began. Sponsored by Books-A-Million, Altrusan members share onsite shifts at the South Portland store in support of educating people about Altrusa and encouraging them to donate books to our club.

Our October Program meeting, sponsored by our Membership committee, was attended by ASTRA. It was a delight to meet and hear from the ASTRA President, Cierra Grover and Secretary, Sophia Leighton. We then heard many of our members share their 'Altrusa Journey' in a 3 minute talk. Why they joined, Who sponsored them, and Why they stayed. The common theme: Becoming part of a group made up of like-minded individuals, feeling valued for as little and as much as each of us can contribute, working and laughing together with people that have become long-time friends and nurturing each other with the warmth of a virtual hug in times of need.

The leaves falling from the trees mark the end of a season. They also mark the beginning of a new one. The barren trees enable a clearer view of the horizon ahead of us. Let us continue to look upon the horizon and keep our vision in plain sight.

Debbie

"October is the fallen leaf, but it is also a wider horizon more clearly seen. It is the distant hills once more in sight, and the enduring constellations above them once again." — Hal Borlan

Altrusans Build Hope

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

Do You Know?

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 *cejmaine@gmail.com*
Karen Valley *book1babe@gmail.com*

Finance: Co-Chairs:
Wanda Pettersen *kettlecove_6@msn.com*
Fran Jensen *franjensen2911@gmail.com*

Membership:
Interim Fran Breton *frb3282@hotmail.com*

Service: Co-Chairs:
Susan F. King *kings@maine.rr.com*
Martha Gross *sfps2005@yahoo.com*

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



Do you know which of these costumed people is Trish Maxim?
Turn to page 7 to see if you guessed right.



Do you know what these Altrusans are singing about and why they're doing it in front of the BIG boot at LL Beans? Turn to page 5 to see if you guessed right.

Service Projects

The Barron Center Gardens get a beautiful clean up each fall. Lead by our own Master Gardener, Nicki Griffin, the gardens were cut back, raked and cleaned up by Altrusans. Ann Babbitt, Ann Smith, Anita Chandler, Debbie Lemieux, Pam Lemieux, Martha Gross and Susan King looked to Nikki Griffin for direction. They all learned something about fall hosta care as well as hydrangea care in the fall. Nicki is a tremendous source of knowledge. The Barron Center Gardens looked trim and clean and many members went home to practice their new techniques on their own gardens.



left to right: Martha G, Deb L, Anita C, Ann S, Nicki G, Ann B, Pam L



Master Gardener Nicki G



left to right: Martha G and Pam L

Literacy Day Project

Arlene Hanson delivering about 35 books to Windham Corrections Librarian Renee Snow.

Martha Gross also helped on this project.



left to right: Renee Snow and Arlene H

Committee News

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Altrusa Calendar Raffle Coming Soon.

As soon as it is ready to sell, all Portland Altrusans will receive a separate e-mail with the Calendar Raffle attached.

-- Pam L

**We're missing our
Empty Bowl this year!**



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

THANK YOU to our 20 members who shared their Altrusa experiences at the "Membership" ZOOM program meeting on Wednesday, October 21st. It was interesting to hear how you first learned about Altrusa; what combination of people convinced you to become a member; and what you love about our Portland club.

It appears that the one-on-one personal approach has worked well, over the years, to get a prospective member to a meeting. Then -- getting involved in the FUN of our volunteer Service or Fundraising activities (where FOOD and LAUGHTER are often involved) does the rest.

Now our task is to ask a respected friend to attend a meeting or event with you.

Please share the wealth of our 'Good Times & Good Work' with others.

-- Trish



ASTRA members Cierra G and Sophia L attended our Zoom meeting on October 21st.

Altrusa International Foundation of Portland, Maine, Inc.

altrusaportland@gmail.com

PO Box 8834

Portland, ME 04104 USA

www.districtone.altrusa.org

www.altrusaportlandgivesbooks.org

Other News - Conference 2021

Hosting a Conference (or a Workshop)

When a District Workshop or Conference happens, the club who is 'hosting' the event does a skit, or song, or poem inviting everyone to the event. This is usually done in person at the event immediately preceding the event you are hosting.

In our case, The Portland Altrusa Club is hosting the next District One Conference in April 2021. The Workshop on November 7th is when we will do our 'Invitation to Conference'. If we didn't have to deal with COVID19 we would normally do our Invitation to Conference in person during the Workshop, with all the Portland Altrusans who attend the Workshop. This year the Workshop is a Zoom Meeting and we needed to film our invitation and send it to Governor Linda Ring to be added as one of the Zoom presentations. I've heard that Governor Linda was able to grab our video and it will be shown at our Zoom Workshop.

In addition to the 'Invitation to Conference', the host club's duties also include: selecting and later assisting District One Governor on contract negotiations for a meeting location (we have already booked the Downtown Freeport Hilton Garden Inn), manning the registration table at the Conference, decorating the space (usually we just do centerpieces for all of the tables), preparing a Conference 'Goody' Bag with treats & supplies for all of the attendees (we are anticipating roughly 80 members attending) and finding some entertainment, if needed. District One does budget some money that we can use for these tasks.

As the date gets closer, Portland Altrusans can start pulling together items for the 'Goody' Bags. Where will we get the items? We should try to solicit donations from the public. For instance, do you know a dentist who might donate either toothbrushes or toothpastes, or both? Perhaps you know a banker who might donate pens or paper. It is okay to get items that are branded with the donor's name and/or company. Also, see me and I'll donate Poland Springs Water bottles to the cause,or snack candy bars,or both.

It has been awhile since the Portland Altrusa Club has hosted either a Workshop or Conference, so I wanted to remind everyone that we still have more to do as the host club for the 2021 Conference that is scheduled for Saturday & Sunday, April 24-25, 2021, at the Downtown Freeport Hilton Garden Inn. 'Hosting' is a big undertaking, but it can be so much fun.

-- Pam L



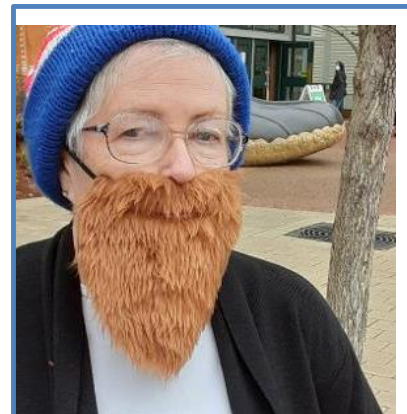
left to right: Ann B, Arlene H, Anita C, Pam L, Ann S, Karen V, Susan K

Monday, October 20th dawned drizzly. The singers bravely decided to go forth with their plan and meet at L.L.Bean to sing. The six singers, their video person and their lyrics man all arrived ready to go.

There were three lobsters, a moose, a lumberjack, and a Mainah.

After only one practice, the group convened in front of the giant boot at Beans. The Invitation To Conference was recorded in one take!!! And hardly a raindrop fell. The singers included Anita Chandler, Ann Babbitt, Susan King, Pam Lemieux, Ann Smith and Arlene Hanson. The videographer was Karen Valley and the lyrics man was Michael King.

Thanks to all. Hope we'll see YOU in April of 2021!



Lumberjack Ann S

Other Business



All the reports say people are drinking more during this time of Covid - so get those bottles to the Clynk stations for Altrusa!

This is an 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. The deadline is the Friday after the program meeting.

SERVICE HOURS

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.

20/20 Vision: Improvise, Adapt... and Keep on Smiling!

Have you signed up for Workshop?
Have you gotten your Bingo cards yet?

It's still not too late. See the most recent DSB for the information or contact Deb Lemieux or Marie Pike. Join the fun on November 7th, 8:30am - 12:00 noon, via Zoom

November Birthdays



Debbie Lemieux
Ann Smith
Andrea Doherty
Carolyn Holman
Sharon Davis
Arlene Hanson
Fran Jensen



Mark your calendar for these Future District & International Events



District One Virtual Workshop - Saturday, November 7th

District One Conference - April in Freeport - we host!

New date & location: International Convention July 28-31 in Charlotte, NC

some Member News and Views

This month's question: what was your favorite costume you ever wore for Halloween - either as a child or as an adult?



DID YOU GUESS WHICH ONE WAS TRISH
(on page 2)?

I'm on the left. Is it a clown or a bum? 1989 - just before I retired from the Telephone company.

I had my head wrapped in a scarf underneath that hat. With gloves on, only my eyes were visible. I walked slowly, with a very bad limp to the building next door where all the executives worked and shook hands very strongly with our state president, but never said anything.

He never figured out who it was - - didn't know if I was male or female. They were still talking about it at the next department head meeting, which I attend. I never told.

Trish M

My favorite costume as a kid/ teen was the jolly green giant costume that my mother made me. As I towered over my friends I guess it suited me well. Karen V

My favorite costume was a Bumble Bee outfit. I was going to a costume party my senior year in High School. My brother's girlfriend sewed it together for me after we bought the materials. The material was black and yellow, we cut into strips and sewed them alternating colors, gathering it at the bottom and top with elastic, leaving holes for my arms to poke through. Both fabrics were extra thick and almost fluffy, so when I put it on there was no need to add stuffing. (Really! It was the material not me.). Add some wings, a bumble bee headband, dress all in black under the costume, and Voila! I was a Bumble Bee! Pam L

My favorite was when I dressed as a witch for our work. The employees decorated their stations for Halloween. Those of us in the HR department had to judge the best one. I always dressed up as a witch. Pam S

Being a witch reading the Widows Broom book to my grandson's second grade class two years ago in Leesburg, Virginia. Arlene H

I think it would be "a Skeleton". That goes with the territory, right? Ann B



Fran D

My favorite Halloween costume as a child was when I wore a very full dress over a hoop skirt. I felt so elegant. When I was teaching and my hair was still light brown, I dressed as a Native American wearing my Aunt's homemade Campfire dress. I pinned my light brown braids to my hair, and wore a head band with a feather stuck in the back, and moccasin slippers. When my hair turned gray, I wore a witch's outfit, wore a black wig and witch's hat and kept my broom handy. Roberta M



Arlene H

MY fave was an old lady costume...my best friend Mary and I went out together in similar costumes. My mom dyed mops and brought us clothes from the church thrift shop. including high heels. She also painted our faces with "wrinkles" Today we would have been called "bag ladies", but back then we were cool. I almost broke my ankle running away from some boys with pea shooters because running in high heels and a long skirt is tuff! 🙄 Ann S