

November 2020 Altrusagram

Upcoming Dates



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

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

Wednesday, Dec. 16
6:00 p.m.
Holiday Party
via Zoom
See details on page 2

Friday, Dec. 18
items due to newsletter
editor



2021

Wednesday, Jan. 6
5:00 p.m.
Board meeting
via Zoom

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

from the President:

There is some contention over the actual date of our nation's very first Thanksgiving. Was it in the year 1565 in St. Augustine, Florida when the first Spanish settlers broke bread with the natives of the Timucua tribe? Or was it in Berkeley Plantation, Virginia in the year 1619? What we do know is that through the fierce determination and tireless efforts of Sarah Hale, in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared the last Thursday of November to be a national holiday, commemorating the harvest of the Plymouth Colony in the year 1621. When describing my Altrusan Sisters, the phrases, "Fierce determination" and "Tireless Efforts" are forefront. You make positive change. And when faced with roadblocks, you learn how to navigate around them. You are all top on my "Things to be Thankful For" list.



District One 2020 Workshop was a great success and evidence of adapting to change. It was great to see the impressive turnout of the 67 Zoom attendees. Congratulations to Fran Jensen and Portland Club for winning the Foundation Bingo Prize.

We had Art LeDoux meet us on our monthly Program Zoom meeting. Art singlehandedly, spearheads the Veteran Services Program in Westbrook. His energy and commitment is awe-inspiring. We look forward to developing services that we can provide for him.

Thanks to all for soliciting donations for the Calendar Raffle. Now, I encourage you all to put on your "Fierce" and "Tireless" hats to promote sales of our annual Calendar Raffle. This will be our ONLY fundraiser this year.

Our list of "Things to be Thankful For" may be somewhat different this year, than what it may have been last year or the year before. But each year, our individual Thanksgiving traditions give us reason to reflect on the past year. For me, you have each made this crazy, upside-down year, 2020, just a little bit brighter. Give yourselves a hug, because you are a shining star. You have made a difference in someone's life. Thank you.

And wishing each of you a very, special Happy Thanksgiving.

Debbie

— THINGS to be THANKFUL for —



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

Be in the 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 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

You are invited to a Christmas Party!

On Wednesday, Dec 16th

6:00 pm, via Zoom

The Social Committee will be sending out a Christmas Quiz for people to do before the zoom party. Answers will be given at the party. A prize will be given to the person who gets the most answers correct. A second prize will be given to the next person who was close.

Please wear a fun Christmas hat or sweater. Feel free to have a glass of your favorite beverage and treats.

At the party we will invite each person to share their favorite Christmas memory.

Altrusa International Foundation of Portland, Maine, Inc.

altrusaportland@gmail.com

PO Box 8834

Portland, ME 04104 USA

www.districtone.altrusa.org

Service Projects

The BAM book drive is well under way and 20 Altrusans have “manned” the table at the entrance. It’s a bit different than past drives. Where we once freely approached customers to explain Altrusa and the purpose of the book drive, we are more circumspect these days. We’re ready with an Altrusa brochure and a quick description of our purpose...but we keep our space. Our presence is effective. We’ve collected 17 boxes of books!!!



Susan K



left to right: Fran J, Christine J,
and Anita C



left to right: Martha G, Karen V and Anita C

ABC is starting.... under different circumstances! Wanda has been in touch with the Windham K teachers! They would LOVE for us to Zoom their classes OR record ourselves reading aloud to the group of K kids. The teachers would then distribute the books to the kiddos. Lindsey from Windham writes; “I think we should plan to do anything we decide on after the holidays. This would also be a great activity for those long winter days!” Thinking outside the box, Wanda!!!!

Altrusans Build Hope

other Committee News

FINANCE COMMITTEE



This holiday season, I would like to remind Altrusa supporters to do their shopping at smile.amazon.com

and Amazon will donate to Altrusa International Foundation Inc. Portland, Maine.

What is Amazon Smile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Portland's Altrusa International Foundation every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to our Foundation account.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile? It is as easy as:

Enter smile.amazon.com in your browser address bar
Click to support Altrusa International Foundation
Portland Maine

Shop & place your order

Amazon donates

So if you shop at Amazon, Please Go to smile.amazon.com instead and click to support Altrusa International Foundation Inc. Portland, Maine.

Thank you for your support

-- Wanda P

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

How exciting to have a GUEST attend our program meeting on November 18th. Good job Fran Jensen & Judith Reidman! Their friend Rebecca Albert grew up in Westbrook; and after 30 years away, she has returned. She is a Librarian and deeply interested in Literacy. Fran will follow up with an invitation to Becky to join our next ZOOM Business meeting. Please be sure that you attend on Wed, Dec. 2nd so you can meet her.

-- Trish M

ASTRA

ASTRA Advisor, Carinne Fournier, reports that it has been a little frustrating, to say the least, to try to get students to participate virtually in clubs, (as well as in class) this year. She doesn't meet many ASTRA members in the hallway now, because the school has limited the contact between teachers & students whom they don't have in class (to avoid needing to have everyone quarantine should there be a positive case). She is trying to encourage participation through email, but students seem overwhelmed with the number of emails they are receiving daily. It's also a struggle to get them to attend virtual meetings.

Carinne realizes that some of the biggest draws of ASTRA in the past were the opportunity to see their friends during the school day and to work with one another on various community service projects. The virtual meetings and socially distanced activities don't have the same pull. With the existing COVID-19 guidelines, it is difficult to offer them more.

-- Trish M

FINANCE COMMITTEE

HEADS UP - JANUARY PROGRAM MEETING

Since we will not be physically meeting, we will not be having our "after Christmas auction". Instead we will be playing zoom BINGO. This is a fun way to fundraise for our operation account.

Stay tune for more information



FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee met on Thursday, November 12th at Judith Reidman's house and talked about budget, fundraisers and new programs for next year. Our report was sent to the President. Most likely we will meet in late January again.

-- Fran J

other Committee News

It's Time to Sell, Sell, Sell!

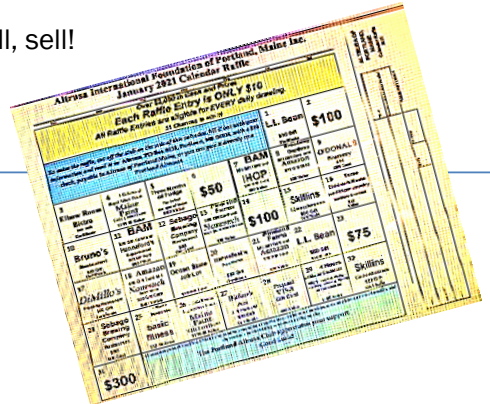
The Altrusa Calendar Raffle is ready for sale. Remember, this might be our only fundraiser this year. We need ALL Portland Altrusans to get the word out and sell raffle tickets. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, not too many Altrusans are getting out to meet with friends and family. This can put a damper on sales, so we all need to do our best through social media and personal emails to people you don't get to see as often because of COVID-19. When everyone received the Calendar Raffle, I sent along a sample email to solicit your circle of friends and family. You don't need to use that sample. Putting the request in your own words is definitely better. Be sure to attach the calendar to your email. Let them know they can drop off their raffle ticket(s) with you or they can mail it to the Altrusa P.O. Box which is shown on the calendar. Encourage them to get their tickets in before January 1st, so that they can participate in every daily raffle in January 2021. Finally, encourage them to pass the calendar raffle on to their friends.

Christine Johnson has put the Raffle on our website and Facebook page with the option to purchase the raffle ticket(s) on-line. There is an administrative fee of \$.50 for each ticket, but they don't need to buy stamps, or get the stamped envelope to a mailbox.

Here is the URL to get to our website: <https://www.altrusaportlandgivesbooks.org/calendar-raffle-2021.html>

If anyone has misplaced their email with the attached Altrusa 2021 Calendar Raffle, please contact me immediately and I'll email the "official" pdf version for you to attach to emails or print out and distribute. You can call me (home: 797-4494) or email me (pamela.lemieux@myfairpoint.net) or you can text me (cell: 653-9224).

You have less than 37 days to promote the raffle tickets. It's time to sell, sell, sell!
-- Pam L



The speaker at our November 18th program meeting was Arthur LeDoux. Art joined us over Zoom and shared with us his work at the Veteran Services Program in Westbrook. Its mission is to serve Westbrook veterans and their families with dignity, respect, and compassion and to be their principal advocate in ensuring that they receive the support, benefits, and recognition they earned in service to our country.

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.

an observation about the District One Workshop

I thought it was very good considering this was a first time try. The Comedian could have been a little shorter, although I understand they wanted to fill the schedule. I particularly like the BINGO, since it went to our Club. Hope we can do this internally as well. *Fran J*

December Birthdays



Anita
Chandler



Mark your calendar for these Future District & International Events

District One Conference - April 24 - 25 in Freeport - we host!

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



some Member News and Views

This month's question: If you could choose ONLY ONE holiday decoration to put out during the Nov-Dec holiday season what would it be and why?



MY favorite Christmas decoration is 30 years old. Our daughter, Liz, crafted a nativity set from Fimo clay when she was 7. It goes up every year in a place of honor...with stories about "how the lamb lost his front legs". Never really got the story on that!!!

Susan K

That's really a hard one for me, I have so many favorites or special memorable decorations for many holidays. I say this year's favorite will be my stocking hangers. They spell the word PEACE and peace is very special to me particularly at Christmas time.

Joanne D

Since I am unable to narrow it to one, it will be my Christmas collection of lighted houses.

Judith R

A tree with white lights. Filled with ornaments that are part of our family's history and hope for the future.

Karen V

A Christmas wreath on the door.

Ann B

My Christmas tree. I have so many memories of our tree as a child and through the years. Then I learned the significance and religious meaning of the tree which is the tree can be thought of as a triangle which includes the trinity. The top of the tree was always decorated with an angel, which is so appropriate. As our children made their ornaments for the tree, they then were put on our tree. When I was getting ready to move, I gave them their special ornaments for their own trees.

Roberta M



About 22 years ago, when Brianna was 2-3 years old, she would stand right in front of this Santa and mimic the way he swings & sways & moves his arms while singing "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town". A year or two later, when she was 3-4 years old, one of Santa's arms had ceased to move anymore and he just held it at an angle in front of his belly. That year, and ever after, that is exactly how Brianna mimicked Santa -- dancing with one useless arm crooked across her tummy. So FUNNY!!

Trish M

For many years it was a large snow globe with a little snow-covered village inside but sad to say, I stopped using it when it became cloudy inside. But thanks to Kennito, I now I have a new (but old) traditional Christmas decoration...a set of brass bells. all different which I picked up over the years at different yard sales. Last year I put them out and they became his favorite because he could ring them. They will come out again this year!

Ann S

My favorite decoration is a ceramic tabletop Christmas tree. I made it in my youth and gave it to my parents. I have it now, and it brings back so many precious memories of them at Christmas time.

Pam L



My Santa candles. When I lived in Arizona my mother sent me one each year, which I always saved. One day during John's and my first Christmas together I came home to find he'd lit all the Santa candles, thinking it'd be festive. I was not happy about it. Our decorating tradition each year since then is that I put them out on the bookcase, think of my mom for a minute, and then say "I can't believe you lit them!" I can laugh about it now.

Marie P

