



Upcoming Dates

May dates are all on hold for now as it is likely we will continue to stay safe by cancelling events. But emails will be going out so watch for them.

JUNE 3
Business Meeting
ZOOM link forthcoming
6:15

Stay Tuned for more information on a Summer outing to bring us together in a safe way and to celebrate initiation of new members and installation of the 2020 - 2021 board members.



April/May 2020 AltrusaGram

A Letter From Our President



President's Message

Who would have believed when we came together on March 4th to elect our new board that it would be the last in person gathering for a time! The pandemic may have changed the way we meet, but it certainly doesn't change our mission as we continue to build community.

We have sent our high school scholarships to the respective schools, selected a Volunteer of the Year, and delivered boxes of books to complete Windham's A B C program. Our members are sewing masks, marketing for at risk friends and neighbors, planting gardens, preparing meals for needy folks, helping with child care and teaching, in other words just being members of Altrusa!

We might have missed the chance to learn more from the communication committee's program meeting but how many of us now know how to set up and host a ZOOM meeting? We all had the opportunity to attend a virtual party thanks to the social committee. What a joy to learn more about each other as we answer the well thought questions posed by the social committee to help us keep in touch! Bags of Hope, Day of Community Action, and District Conference will be back! Service hours are still happening, so please remember to record them.

Our next big event will be the installation of officers for 2020 - 2021! When, Like everything around us, **TBD**, however, officially the change will happen and your new board will host their first meeting virtually on Wednesday June 3. Please plan to attend.

These last two years as your president have been a bonus in my life as a member of Altrusa and I want to thank all of you for your caring support, you all live by the line I first heard as a fledgling, "a member of Altrusa never says NO". I have been privileged to have had an incredible board of directors who were always available and ready to listen and advise, thanks to each of you. I am very proud of all of our members' commitment to our community and each other and look forward to supporting our incoming board with you as we continue to improve the lives of those around us. From my heart, thank you, to one and all.

Anita

Please remember, *"A woman is like a teabag. You never know how strong it is until it's in hot water."* Eleanor Roosevelt I think Eleanor would agree that we are in hot water!



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

Congratulations and Thank you to Altrusa Portland Class of 2019 - 2020

AND

Welcome, Altrusa Portland Class of 2020 - 2021

See Below for changes in assignments effective June 3

A huge thank you for your past and continued service and support of our membership!



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: Trish 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
cejinmaine@gmail.com
Karen Valley
book1babe@gmail.com

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

Membership: Interim Fran Breton
frb3282@hotmail.com

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

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

Membership: TBD Co-Chairs
Interim Chair - Fran Breton
Sharon Davis
Rae Clark McGrath
Trish Maxim



Communications: Christine Johnson &
Karen Valley, Co-Chairs
Ann Babbitt
Gerry Dongo
Nicki Griffin
Debbie Lemieux
Marie Pike



Finance: Wanda Pettersen & Fran
Jensen, Co-Chairs
Anita Chandler
Nadeen Daniels
Pam Lemieux
Marcia Marley
Judith Reidman



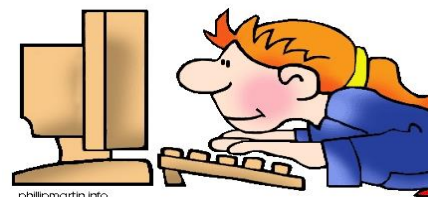
Service: Martha Gross & Susan F King,
Co-Chairs
Anita Chandler
Jane Coolidge
Martha Donahue
Fran Dyro
Arlene Hanson
Carolyn Holman
Sarah Labonte
Ann B Smith
Carol Spector



Social: Roberta Morrill & Pam Szalajeski
, Co-Chairs
Andrea Doherty
Joanne Doherty



**Hold the presses...
Altrusagram entry
submissions!**



Please send me your submissions **no later than 3rd Friday of the month.**
Forward to my email at pikerino2@aol.com. Editor - Marie Pike

Altrusa International Foundation of Portland, Maine, Inc.

altrusaportland@gmail.com

PO Box 8834

Portland, ME 04104 USA

www.districtone.altrusa.org

www.altrusaportlandgivesbooks.org

Upcoming Events

· Conference 2020 ·

Canceled by Covid-19

· VIRTUAL Workshop 2020 ·

Saturday, November 7, 2020

Hosted by District One

· Conference 2021 ·

Friday-Saturday, April 23-24, 2021

Hosted by Portland

The Hilton Garden Inn, Downtown Freeport, Me.

· International 57th Convention 2021 ·

Wednesday – Saturday, July 21-24, 2021 in Quebec,

CANADA This one is in OUR BACK YARD! We will be

helping with planning and hosting convention. It would be great if we had a large number attending!

The Sound of In-House Money

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!



Introducing the 2020 Volunteer of the Year:

Cathy Hendrix



Altrusa values volunteerism!

Every year since the spring of 2005, the Portland Altrusa club has honored an outstanding community volunteer with the Altrusa Volunteer of the Year award. We contact over 100 local nonprofit organizations and request that they nominate that special someone who exemplifies the principles of service to the community, someone who is simply an outstanding volunteer and really deserves this public recognition. A committee then reviews the nominations received and chooses an outstanding volunteer to honor. The choice is always difficult because we are so impressed by the level of dedication of all of the volunteers who are nominated. It is truly inspiring.

Cathy Hendrix was nominated by Kathleen Leddy, the Volunteer Services Manager for Hospice of Southern Maine. Cathy has dedicated over 17 years of her life as a volunteer at HSM providing an average of over 250 hours of service each year. Cathy has served as a direct care volunteer providing comfort, compassion and care to individuals through the end of life and has provided respite care to allow caregivers time away.

All volunteers at HSM receive 30 hours of training initially. Cathy has served as a mentor to new volunteers, has provided guidance through job shadowing, and sits on the volunteer training panel sharing her experiences and knowledge.

Cathy has provided all manner of assistance to the Thresholds conference which provides the terminally ill and their caregivers with the tools necessary to confront death. And she has been a volunteer leader for the Twilight in the Park event which is held each fall in memoriam of individuals who have died.

Cathy also volunteers her administrative expertise as the sole volunteer tasked with assisting the finance team with boxing, labeling and filing year-end documents.

Kathleen Leddy said that Cathy does all this "with amazing grace."

Altrusa will present a check of \$250 to Hospice of Southern Maine in honor of Cathy and Cathy's name will be added to our Volunteer of the Year plaque. Hopefully we will get to hear from Cathy at a meeting sometime soon.

The amazing volunteers honored in previous years:

2019 - Christine Arlander - Catherine Morrill Day Nursery
2018 - Dot Gonyea - Camp Sunshine
2017 - Sara Asch - Center for Grieving Children
2016 - Ann Smith - Portland Mentoring Alliance
2015 - Marilyn Goodreau - Maine State Society for the Protection of Animals
2014 - Celena Moreau - CASA, Inc.
2013 - Kim Lee - Morrison Center
2012 - Sandra Grubb - Trauma Intervention Program
2011 - Fran Seeley - PROP Foster Grandparents Program
2010 - Connie & Denis Netto - Portland Adult Education
2009 - Patsy Thompson Leavitt - Leavitt's Mill Free Health Center
2008 - Elizabeth Oatley - Tate House Museum
2007 - Rick Rosu-Myles - Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Southern Maine
2006 - The Heggeman Family - Maine Senior Games
2005 - Patricia Beville - Root Cellar

Service Committee News

A B C Reads at Windham April 2020

With the closure of the schools due to COVID-19, Altrusa Portland ABC program was unable to complete the Windham's Primary School program. We truly missed being able to go into the classroom, read a book, and to see an excited kindergartener receive their "forever" book. So how to get these books to the students? Windham Primary School began operating a weekly "Book Bus" distributing books, in conjunction with, the back pack food distribution program for student's families. Altrusa gave 156 books to this program. Even though we were not able to go into the classroom, we still were able to provide those students their "forever" books to enjoy.



Julie Young, instructional leader at Primary School, coordinates the book bus. Here she is picking up Altrusa's donation of books from Wanda's garage.

Hi Sewing Friends,

The doors of Catherine Morrill Day Nursery are about to open to many sweet and slippery toddlers. The staff at CMDN is in need of adult masks...to protect the little ones and themselves in this scary time.

Can you sew??? Could you provide a few masks? We are looking for 40 adult sized masks. I am trading "overnight dog sitting" for "5 masks". (Thanks to Nicki, we already have 20 masks!!!)

Thanks, everyone!!

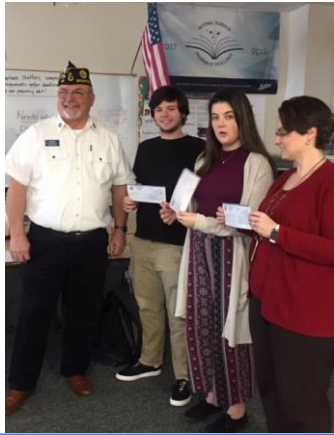
Love Susan



ASTRA stands for
Ability
Service
Training
Responsibility
Achievement



Congratulations, Philip Ganem. ASTRA 2020 scholarship recipient of \$500 from Altrusa Portland annual awards.



Philip Ganem, center- President, and Isabella Wears, left-Secretary, our 2 scholarship applicants.



Philip Ganem, scholarship recipient.

Monetary donations to American Legion #67, Pictured with the checks for the Legion are:

President of ASTRA, Philip Ganem
President of Interact, Grace Plummer
Assistant Principal of LRHS, Holly Wilson
Commander of American Legion Post #67, Donald Mulcahy.

The Commander had no idea that the students were making the \$\$\$ donation.

Chosen by our Service Committee, Philip Ganem will receive our \$500 scholarship this year. He is very deserving. He's been a quiet member for 3 years; but this year he ran for President and was elected. Philip guided the club for almost 3 months, while our ASTRA Advisor Carinne Fournier was on maternity leave. His first task was to negotiate a change of meeting day as the result of a school schedule change. He handled it very well. In addition to running the weekly meetings, he successfully kept the focus on several volunteer activities that had been in the planning stage.

ASTRA cooked & served the (free) "Kettle" supper at the Bridgton Community Center on Thursday, March 28th. {Different organizations do it each week for the senior citizens.} Picture not shown.



ASTRA Free Meals attended by 2019 ASTRA members showing Philip(2020 scholarship winner) on the Far right. This is Philip Ganem last year at our "Kettle" supper in Bridgton. He was a genius at the comm'l dishwasher for us.

Just before Christmas they completed a gift project for children; and then they made a cash donation (which was matched \$ for \$ by the school district) to the revitalized American Legion #67 in Bridgton. The Legion had planned a ceremony to honor the students who had participated in the Fall cleanup (inside & outdoors) of the Legion property. Philip made the donation to the Legion Commander at that ceremony. Philip also made sure LRHS had an entry into the ASTRA "Service Project" competition at the District level. By doing so, the club won the \$100 prize and will be entered into the International competition for more prize money.

This 4th year of our ASTRA club at Lake Region High School was a good one, with a large membership; generally good attendance at the weekly meetings; and many projects still being planned. Then it all came to an abrupt halt on March 16th when schools closed due to the Coronavirus / COVID-19 pandemic. Little did we know that school would not restart before the year was over. The seniors in particular are very sad to miss out on many traditional activities that would have led up to their year end graduation. However, we all had an enjoyable and productive 6+ months together.

Trish

Social Committee 2020 Annual Report

The social Committee organized the Christmas party which was held in the undercroft of St Peters and included various games, prizes, foods, and festivities. A very special thank you to the members who stepped up to help the committee with this event; it would not have happened without you!

For our mid-April birthday party the committee organized a virtual Birthday Party where “attendees” were invited to all raise a glass (or other treat) in toast to the club at our usual meeting time, and then post a picture, or description, in an email to the whole group. About half of the club participated in this event and were quite inventive in the ways they celebrated Altrusa’s birthday.

The committee had facilitated the club’s choice of the program meetings’ venue (the Clarion Hotel) at the end of the prior year and so continued to liaison with the hotel during this year to provide feedback to the hotel and iron out issues as they arose. (The Treasurer providing pre-meeting counts to the hotel.)

And, during this quarantine period, the committee has posted a check-in email with the whole club, every week to 10 days, to help members keep in touch by sharing memories or ideas, to encourage anyone who needs help to ask for it, and hopefully to help people feel less isolated. Each member who responded to a group email then received a personal reply from the committee chair.

Committee members were: Andrea Doherty, Joanne Doherty, Roberta Morrill, Marie Pike and our departed member, Sarah Weeks.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Pike
Social Committee Chair

Membership Committee Year-end Report 2019-2020

Our number one goal is to maintain and increase membership. Unfortunately, we had a tough year and went from 36 in 2018 to a current membership of 33. We conducted our membership drive at our regular program meeting in October. We had three potential members attending. The membership drive resulted in one new member. The program started by introducing our committee members: Ann Smith, Rae Clark McGrath, Pam Szalajesky, Fran Breton (Chair)

This was followed by the sponsors introducing their guests and how they know them. The speakers include: Pam Lemieux, who spoke about the structure of Altrusa; Wanda Pettersen, who spoke about financing and fundraising; Anita Chandler, who spoke about volunteerism and the importance of committees and participation; Sue King, spoke about service; Trish Maxim, spoke about Astra; Nadine Daniels spoke from a new members' perspective; and Deb Lemieux spoke about communication.

FINANCE COMMITTEE Annual Report 2019 - 2020



Finance Committee member, Fran Jensen, practicing socially responsible behaviour with her mask.

The Finance committee met to review committee budget requests and developed the upcoming year's budget which was presented to membership and approved on October 2, 2019. Membership committee proposed an increase of ten new members for the upcoming year. One new member joined at the half year mark. Service committee requested and was approved to set aside a reserve of \$2,000.00 per year for the 95th birthday party. Program meals increased from \$22.00 to \$24.00. The increase of \$2.00 will assist in the room charge and meetings were held at Clarion Hotel. Members were charged \$4.00 for attending meeting without eating. Unconfirmed meals were charged \$4.00, not the whole meal, as in the past, since club will not be paying for those unconfirmed meals.

The Finance Committee met on November 11, 2019 to discuss fundraising activities for the upcoming year.

Empty Bowl fundraising was held October 25, 2019 at St.Pius. Last year donation to Project FEED was \$1,107.00 compared to this year's donation of \$870.00. Changing the hours to 5 – 7 on a Friday did not see an increase in number of people attending as we had anticipated. We would like to see the numbers as in the past. Pam Lemieux contacted Woodfords Church to host the Empty Bowl on October 24, 2020. Woodfords Church's schedule is unable to accommodate the Empty Bowl this coming year. Based on the low attendance at St. Pius and the COVID-19 virus, the empty bowl may not be held this year and will look again in

Fran Jensen did a fantastic job chairing the Uno fundraiser again this year during February vacation. Because of the COVID-19 virus, Uno is now closed and we have not received our fundraiser check. Fran has been **VERY** active in trying to locate store and corporate management to inquire as to when we will receive this check.

The "stay at home" order, due to the virus, did not allow for the Bob Marley fundraiser. This is disappointing since this is one of our better fundraising activities.

Calendar raffle drawings begin January 1, 2020. The amount of raffles sold \$2,130.00 plus \$350.00 prize donations.

We received \$1000.00 donation from Cheryl Jones from South Portland.

Although, the second half of this year has been difficult because of the COVID-19, Altusa Portland's overall budget is still in good shape.

I would like to thank the members of the finance committee: Fran Jensen, Pam Lemieux, Marcia Marley, Marie Pike, and Judith Reidman for all their dedicated work this year.

Submitted by:
Wanda Pettersen
Chair/Treasurer

Communications Annual Report 2019 – 2020

The Communications committee met in June to begin the year planning for projects. Press Releases were prepared and delivered for the **Volunteer of the Year** award winner. And to begin planning for budget, the **BAM! Book drive** and the **Summer Enrichment Program** marketing and Press Releases.

August and September the committee was responding to the **BAM! Book Drive** by posting on Social media. **Yearbook and Brochure** annual updates are completed by Ann Babbitt. Planning begins for **Empty Bowl** project with creation and distribution of marketing posters, distribution of email requests with posters attached, updates to the website including the attachment of the poster. And Press Releases for Awarded **Scholarships**.

October included the addition of a **Donate button** on the Altrusa portland gives books website. More updates added to the website. A Press Release for **ASTRA** was delivered to the Windham and Lakes Region publications. The **Calendar Raffle** push begins with creation of the calendar by Pam Lemieux and distribution through the various channels, social media, email and hard copy.

November, **A B C Reads** are in full swing and monthly newsletter communicates future and past events with pictures. Social Media pictures added.

December focus on **Calendar Raffle** continues. **Facebook costs down** significantly as marketing efforts were focused around email and personal sales. and January marketing focus on **UNO Doughrai\$er**, held in February. Note that Empty Bowl sales were down commensurate with reduction in Facebook boosts this year.

February, March and April see a decline in required marketing activities due to COVID-19 demands, **A B C reads** are canceled, **Bob Marley** concert is canceled and **Volunteer of the Year** award and **Installation** celebrations are postponed.

Sincere Thanks to each of the committee members for their continued support and dedication.

Submitted May 2, 2020

Debbie Lemieux, Chair

Ann Babbitt

Nadeen Daniels

Gerry Dongo

Nicki Griffin

Christine Johnson

**Service Committee
Annual Report
May 2020**

****The Service Year began with the Books and Bubbles at Deering Oaks.** Ten Altrusans worked in tandem with Ptld. Public Schools and the USDA Summer Lunch program. We were the enrichment that drew kids over to receive a free lunch. We gave away nearly **300 books over 7 weeks**. Service Committee wrote an entry for the *Letha Brown Literacy Award* based on our Books and Bubbles project.

The Service Committee wrote a grant for Altrusa International Foundation asking for funds to support Books and Bubbles in the summer of 2020. In light of COVID-19, bubbles are most likely out. We plan to be at the park to hand out a book with each lunch taken.

****We participated in a "Food Fuels Learning" family event at Riverton on Sept 16th.** We gave away "science" books in celebration of **World Literacy Day** on Sept. 8th.

****In support of our Books Behind Bars project, 382 books** were delivered to these programs in mid-October.

****Nicki led the Barron Center Garden cleanup on Saturday, October 5th.** Also in early October, Nicki and Pam spent hours cleaning Sarah's yard of invasive growth. This kind act pleased Sarah and brought her peace. Thank you, Nicki and Pam!

****Sue's Supper** was served each month from June through March. We've started a new tradition...offering members the chance to be "head chef." April and May's meals have been cancelled due to COVID 19. Portland Altrusa donated \$150. to R Mc D H for April and May. The Service Committee wrote an entry for the *Mamie L. Bass Service Award* based on Sue's Supper.

****We completed 2 successful book drives with BAM!** Twelve Altrusans volunteered to man tables, pick up books and begin to sticker and shelf books. We have stickered all of our books as of Dec. 30th.

****ABC Program**

South Portland	5 schools 13 classrooms	260 books
Westbrook	3 schools 12 classrooms	210 books
Portland	4 schools	350 books
Windham		320 books

3 classrooms were cancelled due to COVID 19. Those **156 books** were given to Windham's **"Book Bus"** for the primary students.

****SOS Support our Soldiers** an International project. Nicki Griffin coordinated an effort with Ocean State Job Lots to provide winter coats for vets. The program ran from mid- October until Thanksgiving and Portland Altrusans donated 10+ coats.

****On December 4th, 5 Altrusans decorated a "Literacy Tree" for display at the Westbrook Warren Festival of Trees!** In addition 6 Altrusans tied ribbons on books, bells and balls for easy hanging! Cole Bergeron of Westbrook's 2 Men and a Truck, sponsored our entry. The Festival was a fundraiser for the Westbrook Food pantry and included a fun Lunch For Tips (attended by 8 Altrusans). Following the Festival, Portland Altrusa **donated our tree**, intact with books and all decorations, to the Riverton branch of the Boys and Girls Club.

****Wrapping Books** Dec. 9th found 6 Altrusans wrapping 200 books in Christmas paper to be distributed to 3 branches of the Boys and Girls Clubs in Portland.

**** Jan. 15th Book Blizzard** We invited 2 representatives from all area high schools and middle schools to come "shop" our shelves of upper grade books. We were able to delight 15 teachers from 9 schools and Sweetser. Each filled a bag full of needed books.

****Cookie Walk for BAM** Jan. 16th 11 Altrusans baked to say "thank you" to BAM employees for their enthusiastic support of "our" book drives.

****Cricket Comfort Book and Pillowcase Project** Partnering with Cricket Comforts, Ptld. Altrusa donated 150 books to Barbara Bush Children's Hospital. Heidi Farrin runs Cricket Comfort, a volunteer organization that provides BBCH with festive pillowcases for the patients. Heidi's group created 150 themed pillowcases to match the books we donated.

****COVID19 has wrecked havoc with....our plans....our lives. Bags of Hope** for the Milestone Foundation has been postponed until we can all be together again.

****Volunteer of the Year** has been selected....but a celebration must wait until summer.

**** 2020 Scholarships**

PHS... Carly Hagelin
DHS... to be announce
CBHS.... To be announced
ASTRA

Submitted by:

Susan, Martha G.,
Anita, Jane, Sharon, Martha D., Fran D., Carol, Arlene, Carolyn, Sarah