

January 2021 Altrusagram

Upcoming Dates



Wednesday, Feb. 3

5:00 p.m. Board meeting
and 6:15 p.m.

Business meeting
via Zoom

Special guest Violet Sim,
District One 2nd Vice
Governor
and Election of the
Nominating Committee

Tuesday, Feb. 9th

Ronald McDonald House
chefs - we're back!

Wednesday, Feb. 17

6:15 p.m.

Service Comm's
Program Meeting
via Zoom

Friday, Feb. 19

items due to newsletter
editor

Wednesday, March 3

6:15 p.m.

Business meeting
via Zoom

Presentation of the
nominees for 2021-2022
board

Wednesday, March 17

6:15 p.m.

Communication Comm's
Program Meeting
via Zoom

from the President:



H

Healing and Hope are a state of mind. We have turned the page on this election cycle. COVID vaccines are becoming available. And so too, Ronald MacDonald House is now accepting Guest chefs once again. We are eager to be back there, supplying food, preparing and serving up dinners for their guests.

O

Opportunities and options for A B C are in the making. Videos are being compiled of Altrusans reading to the students. Books are being delivered to the classrooms. And Kindergarten students will get to view a pre-recorded "Reading". A little ingenuity and a lot of technology help to deliver this much appreciated service.

P

People's grand generosity and support from Books-A-Million for another very successful BAM Book drive has brought this team together again to sticker, shelve and bag up books. The final tally of books from this book drive was 2198 books. While masked and distanced, there was comradery afoot at the Warehouse. Next up, will be the Cookie Walk in appreciation for their support of our organization.

E

Everywhere there is need of sharing Hope, and Smiles. Altrusans leave a footprint and a smile wherever they go. Thank you for all you do, Everyday!

Debbie



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

Who We Are

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:
Fran Breton frb3282@hotmail.com
Patricia Maxim campnaples@fairpoint.net

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



Thank you to Marguerite Dow of the Biddeford-Saco club and Fran Jensen for sending this clipping to us.

Gertrude Prinn was still a member when Trish Maxim became an Altrusan in 1975.

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Our Service Projects

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

Our book elves have been busy stickering, bagging and shelving! We have tackled 51 cartons of books and made a huge dent!!

We decided to bag up books for individual schools as we went (vs. shelving them and THEN pulling them). We had a “spreadsheet” with all of our schools on it....and all of the school’s classroom numbers on it and then we went to town!!!

On Jan 11th and 12th, Susan and Anita sorted and stickered over 700 books at the warehouse. They bagged up books for 5 South Portland schools and 3 Westbrook schools. We also began to bag up middle school books. We are anticipating a “Drop Off Book Blizzard” this year. We’ve put 25 unique books into a bag...and labeled it “MIDDLE SCHOOL”.

On Jan 15th, Wanda flexed her muscles as she picked up books for Windham Primary. That is a big school! WPS has 11 kindergarten classrooms! Wanda is in touch with Lindsey who requested 15 books for each K class!

Ann S., Martha G. and Susan tackled the beginning of the Portland School requests on Jan. 15th. They sorted and stickered...and bagged and shelved 400 books. The massive tower of boxes is shrinking!

Martha G returned to the warehouse on Tuesday, Jan. 19th to work on some Portland schools and ALL of the books for Lake Region!! Very efficient, Martha stickered and shelved and bagged 170 books. She also coordinated with Trish to get the books up to Naples. Trish's personal courier, "our" baby Brianna, picked up 8 bags of books and delivered them to "Grandmother"!!

At the warehouse on the 21st, one can only imagine the hilarity as Wanda, Fran J., Christine and Karen V got together!! They finished the available bags for Ptl'd. Schools and shelved a lot!! Coffee afterwards must have been fun!!

Stickering and shelving continues Jan. 25th and 29th as Susan, Fran J., Nicki, Wanda, Christine and Pam L. gather! Stay tuned for an update of where we stand with shelving!!!

-- Susan K



Anita Chandler at the stickering table



left to right: Ann
Smith and
Martha Gross



Our Service Projects

EXCITING NEWS!!!

We have been invited back to Ronald McDonald House to prepare dinner!! It will be a slow and gentle start... only 3 chefs allowed at a time. We'll be preparing for only 10 guests each evening but it is WONDERFUL to be invited back. We will continue to "cover" the 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning in February!

Stay tuned for details!



Saturday, January 30th at 11:00 am is our annual COOKIE WALK to thank BAM employees for their work asking for books for us. We could NOT complete our projects without their generous "asks"!!!! If you want to give cookies but can't attend Saturday, you can drop them off at either Anita C's or Susan K's home.

SOS: Support our Soldiers Project

Hi Fran & Roberta,

It was nice to see both of you today. I would like to sincerely thank the ladies from Altrusa for their generous donation. I know that fund raising can be time consuming and challenging and it means a lot to me personally that you will be helping local veterans and their families thru your donation. I have not yet gone Public with the fund because I currently have about \$2500.00 in it and I'd prefer to have more funding before advertising. In any event I will continue to try to raise more money to get the fund at a level I am comfortable with. Thanks again for your support, I sincerely appreciate it.

Kind regards,
Arty Ledoux

*left to right:
Fran Jensen,
Arty Ledoux and
Roberta Morrill*



Committee News

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

In cooperation with Service Committee Christine Johnson has been working on ABC video recording options for members to capture reading picture books for ABC service project. She has also been posting Raffle Calendar winners weekly on Facebook.

District One communications training was held at 6:00 PM on January 14th on ZOOM and was attended by some of our members. Debbie Lemieux provided the training along with support from other district one members. The translation into French that was provided visually on the screen was a great way to communicate with our French speaking Altrusans.

Keeping to our meeting schedule of alternate months, we will hold a committee meeting on Zoom in February.

-- Karen V

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee is attempting to have a "Getting To Know You Talk" at every Business meeting. It will generally be the first item of business after 'Introductions' and 'Member Updates' for 10-15 minutes. Andrea Doherty started us off nicely on January 13th.

It seems that everybody loves hearing how our members got to be the women they are today. Our hope is that you won't want to miss another Business meeting and somebody's presentation. Christine Johnson is scheduled for February 3rd. Our newer members will continue through March and April, if their schedules allow. And then we are open for repeats. If you would like to tell us about your current ventures, we would welcome it. There may be many members who never heard your original story; please volunteer to update us. (Give me a call.)

-- Trish M

Altrusans Build Hope

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The finance committee would like to thank everyone who played BINGO. A big thanks to Marie for creating the cards and for calling out the answers. It was great fun and it raised \$142.82 toward our operations account. The two big winners were Francine Breton & Wanda P. We couldn't believe it. Let the committee know if you would like to play again.

-- Wanda P and Fran J



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Looking for volunteers for the nominating committee. Two volunteers are needed to work with Anita Chandler who, as Immediate Past President, will chair the committee. The committee's mission will be to find nominees for the 2021-2022 board.

Please contact Anita or Debbie if you would like to serve on the committee. Two members will be elected to this committee at the February business meeting.

It's that Time....

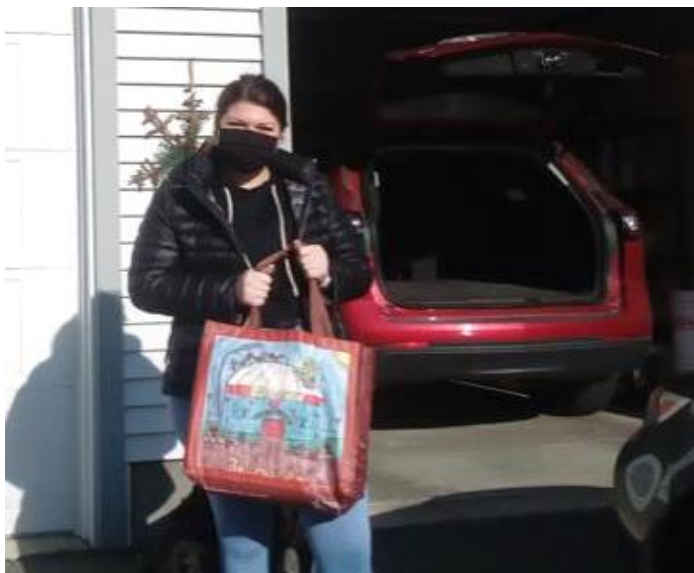
Time to think about **award submissions**: Mamie L Bass (Outstanding Service to Communities doing hands on); Nina Faye Calhoun (Outstanding Group Achievement in International Relations), and Letha (Outstanding Service to Communities thru Literacy). Gaby and Newsletter submissions (3 editions) needed. All must be postmarked by March 15th.

-- Debbie L

ASTRA NEWS



Ability
Service
Training
Responsibility
Achievement



Brianna White picked up the BAM books that Martha Gross stickered and bagged for ASTRA.

Brianna will deliver them to Trish in Naples. ASTRA will deliver them to the new Kindergarten children in SAD 61 at Stevens Brook Elementary School (SBES) in Bridgeton and the Songo Locks School (SLS).

Thank you Altrusa for sharing your treasures from BAM with ASTRA.

-- Trish M

ASTA President Cierra Grover and the Altrusa/BAM books she delivered January 7th to Songo Locks School in Naples for the now 1st graders who were the Kindergarteners last spring who missed out on ASTRA's ABC due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (It's simply a drop-off. The teachers will distribute.)

In addition, ASTRA member Emma Cole (no picture) delivered the "last spring's ABC books" for the now 1st graders at Stevens Brook Elementary School in Bridgeton on January 11th.

-- Trish M



Other Business

CLYNK 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!



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. *Do it now before you forget all the good work you've done!*
Copy this link to your browser:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc05lynjHKrEFy5iUIGzd0FKeHcBeT3wO1ku8H6EjMca6Ny_w/viewform



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



AMAZON SMILE MONEY

If you are shopping on-line consider using Amazon Smile, with Altrusa International Foundation of Portland, Maine as your choice of nonprofit. For instructions see the November 2020 Altrusagram or contact the Finance Committee. The 0.5% of sales adds up if we all participate!
Invite your friends to do the same.

Did you get the District's Call to Conference?

If you did not get the Call to Conference just sent out the last week of January please let Marie P know. You don't want to miss all the information in that publication.

Conference will be held via Zoom on
April 23-24, 2021, in 3 sessions;
Friday 6:30 pm – 9 pm, Saturday 9 am – noon,
Saturday 4 pm – 6 pm).

February Birthdays



Ann Babbitt

‘Let’s join
together today
to create a
Fabulous
tomorrow’

Mark your calendar for these Future District & International Events

District One Conference - via Zoom, April 23-24

International Convention July 28-August 1 in Charlotte, NC

District One Workshop - Saturday, November 6 - location TBD - Portland club is hosting

some Member News and Views

This month's question: what book are you reading right now, or just finished? Do/did you like it & why?

Fatal Grace

Book I am reading right now: Louise Penny - *Fatal Grace*. I've discovered that I like her style. Her books chronicle cases of the Surete Detective Gamache. And her characters carry forward through her books. Also reading Stephen King's *If it Bleeds*, a Christmas gift from my son, Matt. Book Club this month is *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. I recommend this book, a great story covering several decades.
Debbie L

The Memory Keeper's Daughter

I recently reread "The Memory Keeper's Daughter" by Kim Edwards.... an older book but SO good! "The Guest List" by Lucy Foley a mystery set on an Irish island, Alice Hoffman's "Magic Lessons" and reread "Practical Magic" and sigh, "Gone" by Portland's own Phuc Tran. Phuc (pronounced Fook rhymes with Luke) came to our book club on Wed. Delightful!!
Susan K

Maine Bicentennial Community Cookbook

I'm reading *Maine Bicentennial Community Cookbook: 200 Recipes Celebrating Maine's Culinary Past, Present & Future*. published June 2020 with a forward by Governor Janet Mills. A good friend gave me this book for Christmas. It's 200 hundred years of Maine people, their history and their amazing recipes. A portion of the proceeds from each book sold will go to fight hunger in the state of Maine. It includes a wide range of interesting tidbits of information including "A Recipe for Public Policy" by Governor Mills, "A Proclamation of Whoopie Pie Day" by Governor Baldacci and so many recipes, stories and photos!
Try it! You'll like it! 🍪
Karen V

An Imperfect God, George Washington, His

Since I enjoy reading biographies and historical fiction, I am nearing the end of "An Imperfect God, George Washington, His Slaves and the Creation of America" by Henry Wiencek. It has been a very interesting and enlightening book to read, and I've read facts that I was never aware of. I love to read and learn as well.
Roberta M

American Dirt

I just finished "American Dirt" by Jeanine Cummins. It's about a mother and young son fleeing the Mexican cartels and their perilous journey to cross into the US. Gripping!
Marie P

Where the Crawdads Sing

I am currently on page 55 of *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. I enjoy reading books with mystery and romance and this book seems to be checking both boxes thus far!
Sarah L