

February 2021 Altrusagram

Upcoming Dates



Wednesday, Mar. 3

5:00 p.m. Board meeting
and 6:15 p.m.
Business meeting
via Zoom
Election of the 2021/2022
Board

Tuesday, Mar. 9th

Ronald McDonald House
chefs - we're back!

Wednesday, Mar. 17

6:15 p.m.
Communication Comm's
Program Meeting
via Zoom

Friday, Mar. 19

items due to newsletter
editor

Friday, Mar. 19

all committee budgets due
to the Finance Committee

Wednesday, Apr. 7

6:15 p.m.
Business meeting
via Zoom

District One Conference April 23rd & 24th

see info on last page of this
newsletter

from the President:



Wow! Daylight Savings Day is March 14, when we spring ahead one hour. It doesn't seem possible that is only a few days away.

So this means, we, in District One, all have more daylight to complete our Mamie, Letha and Nina, Gaby, ASTRA and Newsletter award submissions, and Foundation Grant applications, which are due the next day.

Conference will be Virtual this year, so yes, that means, to each member it is FREE! I hope you all set aside this time - April 23-24, on your calendar to Learn, mingle and network with other District One members, as well as to celebrate the incoming Board. None other than our very own, Pam Lemieux will be installed as Governor. We all want to be there for her.

As weather cooperates and more and more members are getting vaccinated, we can look forward to soon being able to meet together physically, outside. In the meantime, there is much activity.

Many put their heads together to come up with an alternate version of A B C, which was a pre-recorded Book Reading that was delivered and viewed online by the students. Their Forever Books were delivered and distributed. Students and Teachers alike were ever so appreciative.

A small, but very excited group of members were able to return to the Ronald McDonald House. There they prepared and served up individual portions to hand to guests.

Book Blizzard books were delivered to the schools. Teachers were ecstatic about the gift.

Thank you,
Debbie

"Listen to the mustn'ts, child. Listen to the don'ts. Listen to the shouldn'ts, the impossibles, the won'ts. Listen to the never haves, then listen close to me... Anything can happen, child. Anything can be."
— Shel Silverstein

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

This issue is dedicated to Martha Donahue



Martha was a devoted Aunt, Friend, Teacher and Volunteer. Martha passed away on February 12th and leaves behind a legacy of bringing Love of Reading and Literacy to everyone she met. A teaching career that spanned 53 years and an Altrusan since 1983, Martha's enthusiasm and energy was ever-present.



"Martha was such a wonderful and classy lady, and I shall miss her very much. May she rest in peace, she was well loved and appreciated by all her Altrusa Sisters."

"Martha was a hot ticket!! Never had to wonder what she thought. She was honest, direct and so dedicated...to her friends, to kids, to US."



"Martha left a footprint in our hearts and souls. She is testament to a giving life."



"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die. Martha, you touched so many lives and we are all so much better for it."

"Martha was indeed one of a kind, always ready to volunteer in whatever way she could to reach out to help others, especially to children, whom she loved and certainly encouraged and promoted the love ♥ of reading to them."

"...her generosity was boundless. She gave freely to her children, in a classroom or when tutoring, and also, to her friends. If she discovered you had a particular interest, before long she was gifting you books to share that interest."

"As a volunteer at Ocean Ave School she fell in love with the first graders there who were from such diverse backgrounds. Yes, she spoiled them and often was chastised because she gave them books, special pencils, and Heaven forbid, CA—!"

"So many beautiful memories of a very special lady. I loved her directness! I always admired the way she taught. It was so obvious how much she cared about her kids and how important they were."



"We remember your smile, your encouraging words, your laugh. We celebrate your life with Shared memories on your behalf. Til time heals our ♥"

Who We Are

The 2020 - 2021 Board

President: : Debbie Lemieux
dalemieux33@gmail.com

Vice President: Wanda Pettersen
kettlecove_6@msn.com

Secretary: Karen Valley
book1babe@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:
Fran Breton frb3282@hotmail.com
Patricia Maxim campnaples@fairpoint.net

Service: Co-Chairs:
Susan F. King kings@maine.rr.com
Martha Gross sfsps2005@yahoo.com

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



We were so pleased to have Violet Sims, District One Second Vice Governor, Zoom in with us at the February 3rd business meeting. Violet is a member of the Northeastern Connecticut club. She brought us greetings and information from the District board, answered our questions and listened to our concerns.

Violet is the Assistant Clinical Professor, Curriculum and Instruction Associate Director, Teacher Education and Coordinator of School-University Partnerships at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT

Thank you, Violet, for visiting with us!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE'S SLATE FOR 2021/2022 BOARD

The nominating committee presented the following slate for the 2021/2022 board :

Vice-President - Wanda Pettersen
Secretary - Karen Valley
Director for two years - Sharon Davis

Voting will be at the March 3rd business meeting. There will be a call before the vote for any additional nominees for these positions.

Current President Debbie Lemieux, Treasurer Nadeen Daniels, and Director Patricia Maxim will stay on the board to serve the second year of their terms.

A big thanks to the nominating committee of Anita Chandler (chairperson), Pam Lemieux and Judith Reidman for their work in filling the slate.

Altrusa International Foundation of Portland, Maine, Inc.

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www.districtone.altrusa.org

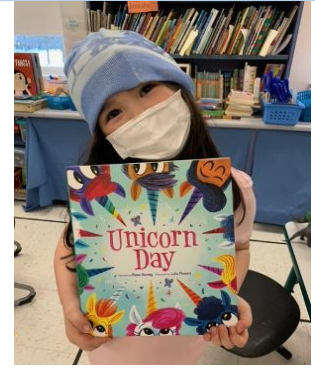
www.altrusaportlandgivesbooks.org

Our Service Projects

For our second year of pairing books and pillowcases, we've gathered 60 books for Heidi Farrin to match up!!!

Cricket Comforts brings matched sets of cases and books to the kids at Barbara Bush Medical Center. More details to come after Heidi's seamstresses are finished!!

-- Susan K



Happy kindergartener with her Forever Book

Vacation was closing in on our elementary school friends and Altrusans leaped into action! 11 Altrusans stickered, sorted and bagged books for 71 classrooms! Yes, 71 classrooms...over 1,200 books. Anita, Susan, Martha G., Ann S., Wanda, Fran J., Karen, Christine, Nicki and Pam were warehouse elves! Trish joined the team and helped deliver these books to 63 classrooms! Many were delivered to our Kindergarten friends before February vacation!!

-- Susan K



left to right:
Fran J,
Anita C,
and Pam L

COVID-19 stepped in again...this time to interrupt our BOOK BLIZZARD for our older readers. We DID receive lots of books for middle school readers so...again, Altrusans brainstormed a solution. We decided to take our BOOK BLIZZARD on the road. Once bags were packed with 25 books, Nicki and Anita collected 3 bags each for Lincoln, King and Lyman Moore Middle Schools. Susan took 2 bags each for Mahoney and Memorial in south Portland. Westbrook was delighted with the 3 bags that Fran J delivered!! Debbie delivered 4 bags to Windham and Lake Region received 3 bags from Trish!

Once we decide to get books into the hands of kids, we DO IT!

-- Susan K



left to right:
Cristine J,
Wanda P,
Debbie L and
Martha G



Our Service Projects

Sue's Supper

We're back!



left to right: Susan K
and a RMHC resident

Ann S



left to right: Susan K, Ann S and
Nicki G



A softly falling snow welcomed us back to the Ronald McDonald House on Tuesday, February 9th. It was a lovely, calm greeting. We were excited to be invited back as guest chefs and even more thrilled to learn that we were the FIRST group to cook since COVID interrupted the cooking for families. Ann Smith is the new chair of the SUE'S SUPPER committee and she did a fantastic job. She planned and executed a yummy dinner of pulled pork, mashed potatoes and green beans...with lots of butter. Nicki whipped up 2 batches of GF chocolate chip cookies that smelled like...HOME! COVID has necessitated making the meals as single serve....but that was easy to do. We met 3 families to talk to...they'd been there for 2 weeks; for 4 weeks and since January 7th. They were DELIGHTED by the smells of our meal...and the cookies. It was AWESOME!

Hello,

I just wanted to extend a huge thank you to your organization and Books A Million for bringing over 80 brand new, high-interest books to Westbrook Middle School this week!

To increase student interest in independent reading, I am going to award a book to students who my ELA teachers tell me are either strong readers already who love books or growing readers who are making gains, devoting time to that important activity. As you can imagine, the virus and the hybrid model of schooling this year has dramatically impacted our ability to provide a robust reading curriculum that places great books into students' hands. New books are always welcomed!

Thanks again,

Patty

Westbrook Middle School

Good Afternoon Ms. King and Altrusa,

My name is Celina Marden and I am one of the kindergarten teachers at Saccarappa School. I just wanted to extend a huge thank you to you and your whole organization for your incredible generosity! My kindergartners are absolutely delighted and thrilled to have received a beautiful book from you. In fact, we worked together as a class this week to create a thank you letter to you all. :) In the past I would have used interactive writing to create it (so that the students were writing on the easel pad along with me) but due to not being able to share the paper pad because of Covid, I physically wrote the letter and they came up with the content of it. Also, they practiced writing some kindergarten sight words during the lessons and I underlined the words so that you all could see which ones. :)

With your help, now all of my students have a beautiful new book to read and reread over February vacation while they are at home and I am sure they will be turning them into an "Old Favorite" to treasure forever. How wonderful! :)

Thank you so much for reading and for your time this afternoon Ms. King. I hope you have a wonderful night and thank you for all of your hard work and community service with Altrusa!

Most Appreciatively,
Celina

Sacarappa School

Our Thanks!

Altrusa 2021 Calendar Raffle Winners

| January Date | Winner Prize | Won |
|--------------|---|---|
| 1 | Kathy Gross of Scarborough..... | \$50 L.L.Bean GC |
| 2 | Carolyn Picton of Laurel, MD..... | \$100 Cash |
| 3 | Judith Reidman of Westbrook..... | \$50 Elbow Room Bistro GC |
| 4 | Barbara Harvey of Portland..... | 2 Gal. Paint w/Maine Paint GC (\$120) |
| 5 | Libby Gurnee of South Portland..... | 3 Months of Fudge GC (\$60) |
| 6 | Jim Born of Westbrook..... | \$50 Cash |
| 7 | Mary Ann Violette of Gorham..... | \$25 BAM GC and \$25 IHOP GC |
| 8 | Katharine Stewart of Long Island, ME..... | \$25 Broadway Gardens GC & \$10 Amazon GC |
| 9 | Siobhan Baker of South Portland..... | \$50 O'Donal's Nursery GC |
| 10 | Jason Gauthier of Biddeford..... | \$50 Bruno's Restaurant GC |
| 11 | Wayne & Mary Franklin of Gorham..... | \$25 Hannaford's GC & \$25 BAM GC |
| 12 | Sandra Monfietto of Portland..... | \$30 Sebago Brewing Company Restaurant GC |
| 13 | Fran Breton or Portland..... | \$30 Nonesuch Book Store GC & \$20 Pineland Farm GC |
| 14 | Carl Hanson of Portland..... | \$100 Cash |
| 15 | Peggy Ellis of Hudson, ME..... | \$50 Skillins Greenhouses GC |
| 16 | Judith Reidman of Westbrook..... | 3 Children's books and African jewelry |
| 17 | Anthony Potenzo of South Portland..... | \$50 DiMillo's Floating Restaurant GC |
| 18 | John Pike & Marian Chamberlain of Standish, ME..... | \$30 Nonesuch Book Store GC & \$10 Amazon GC |
| 19 | Deanna Hanson of Rochester, NH..... | \$80 Ocean State Job Lot GC |
| 20 | Lydia Raymond of Kennebunkport, ME..... | \$30 Hannaford's Supermarket GC |
| 21 | Mary Biskup of South Portland, ME..... | \$20 Pineland Farms GC & \$10 Amazon GC |
| 22 | Dan King of Bethel, ME..... | \$50 LL Bean GC |
| 23 | Roberta Morrill of Windham, ME..... | \$75 Cash |
| 24 | Bob Simmons of Windham, ME..... | \$50 Sebago Brewing Company Restaurant GC |
| 25 | Debbie Lemieux of Raymond, ME..... | 1 Month Membership to 'basic fitness' (\$52.50) |
| 26 | Jennifer V. Schurman of Kansas City, MO..... | 2 Gal. Paint w/Maine Paint GC (\$120) |
| 27 | Patricia Plummer of Winter Haven, FL..... | \$50 Willow's Pizza & Restaurant GC |
| 28 | Jim Dongo of Portland, ME..... | \$50 Prepaid VISA GC |
| 29 | Marydee Stinson of Portland, ME..... | 4 hours of Master Gardeners Work valued at \$160 |
| 30 | Bob Simmons of Windham, ME..... | \$50 Skillins Greenhouses GC |
| 31 | Susan King of South Portland, ME..... | \$300 Cash |

Thank you to all who supported our fundraiser by providing raffle items, buying tickets, displaying our promotion of the raffle, selling tickets, etc...



We are so thankful to have received a \$2,000 donation from a former recipient of an Altrusa of Portland scholarship!

A huge thank-you to her for helping us to continue the support of our communities.

Committee News

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

We held a very productive Zoom meeting on 2-9-21. Four members present, one excused and two absent. You will be glad to know that we are actively planning to publicize Requests for Nominations in March to encourage increased exposure of nominations for Altrusa's Annual Volunteer of the Year Award.

Other items addressed were the need for an Altrusan owned Zoom account, a donate button on Facebook, budget submissions for 2021-22, maintenance of the email address list of Friends of Altrusa, access and maintenance of our Google Drive Documents, our club's Website, March Program Meeting for which we are responsible, Altrusa Business Cards and our group email account.

-- Karen V

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Thank you to Christine Johnson for an excellent "Getting To Know You" / Power Point presentation at our February 3rd business meeting. We're not surprised that our District visitor, Violet Sims, 2nd Vice Governor of District One, was impressed.

Our newest member, Roberta Morrill, will be giving her "Getting To Know You" talk at our next business meeting on March 3rd. Please be sure to attend via ZOOM, so you don't miss it.

-- Trish M

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Each Committee's budget is due to the Finance Committee by March 19th. This will enable us to review them and get them to the Treasurer in time for our new budget year.

We also encourage everyone to think again how you feel about playing BINGO once a month! Let's discuss this at the next meeting!

Our next Finance Committee meeting will be held during DST 😊
Thank you all

-- Fran J & Wanda P

ASTRA NEWS



ASTRA completed their first hands-on service project on Wednesday, February 10th by delivering the 100+ 'Activity Bags' they created for 3rd graders to Stevens Brook Elementary School in Bridgton and Songo Locks School in Naples. (This was the same day they dropped off this years 'ABC' books for the Kindergartners at those same schools.) Each colorful 'Activity Bag' contained age appropriate word searches, math puzzles, coloring pages, & seasonal crafts for the children to do at home on vacation the next week. Now ASTRA is preparing their entry to the "ASTRA Service Project" competition for District One and International.

NOTE: On page 26 of your current Altrusa Yearbook (the ASTRA page), the President of ASTRA for the 2020-2021 school year had not been determined at the time our yearbook went to press. You can now replace TBA with Cierra Grover.

-- 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

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 International's Call to Convention?

If you did not get the Call to International Convention emailed on 2/17/21, please let Marie P know. You don't want to miss all the information in that publication.

At Convention we are **Racing to Success**

In person in Charlotte, NC, July 28th to 31st.
Wonderful things are planned!!

District One Training Opportunities

all are via Zoom

If interested email Linda Ring so that you get an invitation to the Zoom room.

March 11th, Making Orientation Fun presented by Penny Eldridge

March 15th, Power Point, presented by Debbie Lemieux

and don't forget Spring Conference!

via Zoom on April 23-24, in 3 sessions;
Friday 6:30 pm – 9 pm, Saturday 9 am – noon,
Saturday 4 pm – 6 pm). No charge to attend! But be sure to register in advance to get the Zoom link.
Details are in the Call to Conference emailed 1/26/2021. Let Marie P know if you need a copy.

March Birthdays



Beverly Knudsen
Christine Johnson

Mark your calendar for these Future District & International Events

District One Conference - via Zoom, April 23-24

International Convention July 28-31 in Charlotte, NC

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