



November 2021 Altrusagram

Upcoming Dates



Happy Thanksgiving!

Wednesday, Dec 1st

via Zoom Social Time 6:00 - 6:15 pm Business Meeting 6:15 - 7:45 pm

Wednesday, Dec15th

6:00 pm Holiday Party!! St Peter's Church (see details on page 3)

Friday, Dec 17th
All newsletter articles due

Tuesday, Dec 21st Ronald McDonald House meal

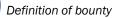
Volunteer Opportunities:

ABC Lyseth School, Tuesday Nov 30 9:15 to 10:30 Reiche School, Tuesday, Dec 7, 9:15 to 10:30.

Book stickering/shelving Waldron Way on Friday, December 10 and Tuesday, December 14

from the President:

November conjures up thoughts of gathering together, with family and friends, sharing **bounties** of food, being **thankful** for memories, conversation and warmth.



1: something that is given generously nature's bounty. 2: liberality in giving: generosity. 3: yield, especially of a crop; this summer's bounty of tomatoes.

Thank you, to all Altrusans, "Giving Generously" is year round for you.

November brings the Annual District One Workshop. *Thankfully*, we were able to safely, inperson celebrate Pam's "coronation" and to thank Linda for her inspiring leadership. The theme of "Open the Door to Membership" was appropriate, given last year's 10% drop in membership. There were many talks shared by clubs that presented a *bounty* of creative ways to boost membership.

Our Membership Drive program dinner meeting, following the Workshop, was an interactive one and well received by all who attended. Susan King, Trish Maxim and many others worked hard to make it informative and engaging. Attendees learned the *bountiful* ways Altrusans support our communities. *Thank you*, Marie Pike, for being MC extraordinaire. Everyone, *thank you* for all

vour efforts.

Our annual Calendar Raffle fundraising effort is now in full-swing. *Thank you* to all members for soliciting prizes to make this raffle the most successful ever.

Each year, our individual *Thanksgiving* traditions give us reason to reflect on the past year. For me, each of you have enriched my life. 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 and Happy Thanksgiving.





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

11/21/2021 1 of 10

Who We Are

The 2021 - 2022 Board

President: : Debbie Lemieux dalemieux33@gmail.com

Vice President: Wanda Pettersen kettlecove_6@msn.com

Secretary: Karen Valley book1babe@gmail.com

Treasurer: Fran Jensen franjensen2911@gmail.com

Director: Sharon Davis sbdavis548@gmail.com

Director: Patricia Maxim campnaples@fairpoint.net

Immed. Past President: Anita Chandler achandler@maine.rr.com

Parliamentarian: Judith Reidman judithreidman@gmail.com

Committee Chairpersons 2021 - 2022

Communications Co-Chairs:

Karen Valley book1babe@gmail.com

Debbie Lemieux dalemieux33@gmail.com

Finance Co-Chairs:

Fran Jensen franjensen2911@gmail.com Judith Reidman judithreidman@gmail.com

Membership Co-Chairs:

Patricia Maxim campnaples@fairpoint.net
Sharon Davis sbdavis548@gmail.com

Service Co-Chairs:

Susan F. King kings@maine.rr.com
Martha Gross sfsps2005@yahoo.com

Social Co-Chairs:

Fran Breton frb3282@hotmail.com Pam Szalajeski pam.szal@maine.rr.com



SuperGov Pam Lemieux with presenter Susan Ulino

District One Workshop

About 55 District One Altrusans met in Portland on November 6th for the Fall Workshop. The theme was "Open the Door to Membership" and included sharing ideas for membership recruiting, membership retention, succession planning and ways to keep the membership enthusiastic.

The group also played Fluxx, a game guaranteed to test your aptitude for dealing with change!

The evening before, Governor Pam was coronated. Since the April Conference was virtual this was an opportunity to celebrate Governor Pam and her 2021/2023 board and thank past Governor Linda Ring and her 2019/2021 board. Karaoke, dancing and festivities followed dinner.



Workshop attendees strike the superhero pose.

Altrusa International Foundation of Portland, Maine, Inc. altrusaportland@gmail.com

PO Box 8834, Portland, ME 04104 USA

www.districtone.altrusa.org www.altrusaportlandgivesbooks.org

11/21/2021 2 of 10



You will be greeted with a glass of sangria or your choice of red or white wine.

Christmas Trivia Game will be handed out.

Please bring an item for the pot luck table to share.

Please bring a nice gift item for the silent auction: gift card, plate of your favorite treat (fudge, cookies, etc) Christmas ornament, bottle of wine etc. Funds raised will be donated to Wayside Food Kitchen.

Feel free to bring your loose change to donate to Wayside.



11/21/2021 3 of 10

Our Service Projects, page 1

SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORT

It's certainly been a busy month for Service projects - a giant thank you to all members who participated or who have signed up for coming projects

<u>BAM books</u> - we are getting great donations and members are doing an amazing job keeping up with stickering and sorting as books come in. We could use some more help at Waldron Way on December 10 and December 14. Please let Susan K know if you are available.

ABC – After enlisting some of their neighbors to help sort and bag up ABC books, Susan and Michael visited South Portland's 5 elementary schools on November 19 to deliver over 260 books to their kindergartens. While they were only allowed into the lobbies, they received enthusiastic welcomes. The secretaries were thrilled to accept our donations and they were anxious to gift them to the kindergarten teachers. Included in this donation was a generous donation from Ann Smith of 15 copies of her book, Hippo and Hoopoe, This is a simple story for beginning readers about familiar animals from Africa. Ann also gave 5 copies of a book titled A Day In My Village by Atupele Machika. This is a story of one day in a rural African village. These books were given to the South Portland teachers as their teacher book to share with their students

Susan and Michael also delivered books to St. Bridget's school for a new kindergarten classroom that had NO books here's what the teacher had to say about our willingness to help her out:

"Dear Susan, I've never experienced a miracle of the kind that happened today. Thank you and the Altrusa Club so very much for your generosity. Nobody but a retired kindergarten teacher could have looked into the heart of another kindergarten teacher and her students in the way that you did and given the gift of books that are at the core of so many childhood experiences. I couldn't have imagined being a parent or a teacher without having read those books aloud to children. I can't imagine having taught children to love reading without having had those books that speak so strongly and clearly to children about the joy that still exists and will always exist in the world. Thank you, thank the Altrusa Club, and please thank Books -a-Million, and its thoughtful, generous customers, and, especially, your dear husband, who helped you bring this astounding gift to us today.

Best wishes always, Sandra Jacobs"

(continued on next page)











What a really fun morning! Susan and Michael visited South Portland's 5 elementary schools on Friday to deliver our ABC books to their kindergartens. While we were only allowed into the lobbies, we received enthusiastic welcomes. The secretaries were thrilled to accept our donations and they were anxious to gift them to the kindergarten teachers. We delivered over 260 books to South Portland. We're off to a great start.







Ann S with her books

11/21/2021 4 of 10

Our Service Projects, page 2

SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORT (continued)

We have four Portland kindergarten classrooms scheduled for IN PERSON visits with several slots filled but still need help at Lyseth on Tuesday Nov 30 9:15 to 10:30 and at Reiche on Tuesday, Dec 7, 9:15 to 10:30. Please let Susan K or Martha G know if you can help.

Fran J is busy getting ready for Westbrook' **ABC** program with 5 classrooms at Congdon, 3 at Canal and 6 at Sacarappa! That's a lot of books!

SOS - Support our Soldiers - to help with this, just stop by any Ocean State Job Lot store and pick out a winter coat or jacket for \$40 - when you pay for the jacket the store will keep the jacket to be given to a Veteran and will give you a \$40 Ocean State gift card that you can use starting the next day! We'd like to track how many donations our members make for this program so would you send an email to Nicki G if you choose to participate?

At the November 17 membership meeting, it was such fun to have the **workstations** set up to demonstrate how our service projects work - Christmas books were wrapped, ABC books were stickered and sorted, 20 bags with socks and handwarmers for Florence House were assembled (and delivered on Thursday), Bags of Hope for Millstone were demonstrated and cards were written out for residents of The Barron Center. This was an amazing "Hands-on" experience for prospective members!

On Tuesday November 16, **Sue's Supper** provided vegetarian chili and gluten free cornbread – great food for a cold night! Next month's supper will be on Tuesday December 21 - suggestions are always welcome but the possible menu will include some great comfort food for the families – pot roast with potatoes and carrots and fruit and dessert. We know that the families appreciate the variety of meals we serve. Most guest chefs don't bring fruit as part of the meal so that makes our guest chef slots even more important to the families!

Don't forget to save your **spare change** for the Wayside Food Program December donation! If you can donate an "interesting" item to the Silent Auction at the Christmas party on December 15, all the funds raised through the sales will also be donated to Wayside.

-- Nicki G



Anita and Susan spent Saturday morning at BAM inviting customers to support our book drive! Two Saturdays left!!

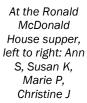


Ocean State Job Lots is at it again. They are generously offering their Buy One, Give One, "Get a Gift Card" promotion in honor of our Veterans, They are located in the Falmouth Shaw's Plaza.

Last year this program ran until Christmas..... but don't let it get by you if you are interested!



Bags of socks and handwarmers for the residents of Florence House







We'll be collecting change for Wayside at our Dec 15th party!

11/21/2021 5 of 10

Committee News

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Thank you to our members for keeping their commitment to attend our November 17th Membership Drive at the Clarion Hotel in Portland. Our 19 members and 5 guests, seated on both sides of the long table in the center of that large room was pretty impressive. The 5 activity tables had plenty of space around the perimeter for participants to sticker, sort, wrap, etc. all the projects that Susan (& Michael) had lugged in and set up. It was fun!!

Of our 5 guests, only one brought a friend. That was ASTRA member Brooke Toole, who brought another ASTRA member Kathryn (Kate) Rose - both from Naples. Susan's guest was Dani Cogill, a lady whom she met at BAM who had expressed an interest in our Literacy activities. Christine's guest was Toni Irish, whom she knows from Westbrook Women's Club. My guest, Cliff Littlejohn of Portland, already knows a lot about Altrusa from his girlfriend Susan Porazzo, President of the Plymouth, Mass club and 2nd Vice Governor of District One. (She was our District Visitor at our Nov. 3rd Business meeting via ZOOM; and we met her again at Pam's 'coronation' and the District One Workshop the next day.)

We have email addresses for each of these guests. Marie will add them to her 'friends list' for the monthly "Altrusagram" distribution. Sponsors also need to stay in touch and follow through. Invite them to a service project or to participate in a fundraiser, and to a meeting.

There are several other guests who couldn't make it that evening, who have promised to come to a future meeting. We look forward to meeting them.

Thank you to all who participated in any way! You helped make a lovely evening.

--Trish M



recap of our service projects made by Susan K and passed out to everyone that night.



11/21/2021 6 of 10

Committee News

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee met on Nov.12th, with the following members present: Anita Chandler, Pamela Lemieux, Wanda Pettersen, Judith Reidman, Fran Jensen

Our most pressing subject of discussion was, whether or not to hold our Annual Calendar Raffle. It was decided, that, with the limited opportunities for fundraising during this continuing epidemic, we should go ahead and give it our "Best Shot", counting on the resourcefulness of our members to secure prizes, even with the limited time available.

After much consideration, the cost of the Calendar shall remain at \$ 10.00. We need prizes for each day of the month of January. The minimum value for each day should be \$ 30.00. If you can only secure prizes under that amount, Pamela will do her best, to even out the value for each day. So, don't get discouraged if you can only get a smaller donation, it will all work out. Pam is a Master at managing this project.

Prizes and "Promissory Notes" these are promised prizes, should be submitted to Pamela ideally by Nov. 24th, but definitely by the 26th. Even if you do not have the prizes physically in your hand, let Pam know what it is and a value attached, so she can prepare the calendars ready for sale by the beginning of December. "THEY MAKE EXCELLENT STOCKING STUFFERS", as well as for those friends who are hard to buy for. I give one to my mailman and my paper deliverer. Teachers will be happy to have them. They could draw a prize every day in their classroom.

Happy Thanksgiving to All

-- Fran J



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

For the calendar raffle, the communication committee will:

- 1) assist as needed in creating an email blast to our members and friends of the club
- 2) create an event post on Facebook and will ask all of our members on FB to share it.
- 3) create a page on our website with ability to download a copy of the calendar
- 4) create a PayPal Link to accept online payments with a link from the FB event and from the website
- 5) do a press release and place calendar info in other online event forums
- -- Karen V & Christine J

PLEASE SHARE THE POSTS, EMAILS, ETC WHEN THEY COME OUT!!!!



11/21/2021 7 of 10

ASTRA

Ability

Service

Training

Responsibility

Achievement

ASTRA completed 2 projects this month, as well as having representatives at Altrusa's Membership Drive - - (in ASTRA T-shirts so everybody knew who they were).

After school at 2:00PM on November 2nd the 5 officers and Advisor Kristina Theriault refurbished the "Yellow Tulip Garden" on the front lawn of Lake Region High School, by digging out the deeply embedded weeds and planting 36 new bulbs. It looks significantly better right now; but undoubtedly will need more weeding next season. (Pictures were taken by Jysele Watkins, Admin to the Guidance department.) It was a good 'hands -on' project, which they seem to love to do.

After school at 2:00PM on November 9th, Mrs. Theriault and 4 ASTRA students delivered the 6 very heavy satchels of Altrusa's BAM books to teacher Sam Carignan and his 4th/5th grade students at the new Crooked River Elementary School (CRES) in Casco. Due to COVID restrictions that day, we were not allowed inside the school. So the presentation took place on the sidewalk in front of the school. ASTRA president Rebecca Caron spoke to the young students about ASTRA; and suggested they think ahead to their high school years and the possibility of joining a Community Service club like ASTRA. (We're hoping to get some pictures from Mr. Carignan of the excitement in the classroom when the students un-packed the satchels of books.)

At their regularly scheduled 1st & 3rd Thursday morning meetings in the school library from 7:30-8:05AM, ASTRA has grown from their original 5 members (all seniors) on Oct 7th to 14 members on Nov 18th (8 seniors, 5 juniors, & 1 sophomore). They are all working on an in-school toy & book drive (gently used) to be delivered to the Community Centers where 'after-school-daycare' happens in Casco, Naples, & Bridgton. Their target date is to deliver what they've collected just before the SAD 61 Christmas break.

-Trish





L-R: Advisor, Kristina Theriault, Pres. Rebecca Caron, Samantha Donahue, Annabelle Montgomery, & Rachel Lake.



left to right: the five ASTRA officers, ASTRA Advisor Kristina Theriault and Trish Maxim.

11/21/2021 8 of 10

Other Things

KEEP THE MONEY COMING!



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.

amazon

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.



The deadline for the Altrusagram articles each month is the end of day on the Friday after the program meeting. Sending things before then is fine too!

Editor Marie Pike pikerino2@aol.com

Opportunity to Support our Altrusa friends!

Shopping for a cause!! Come to Trillium on Sunday, December 5, from 10-2 and do some Christmas shopping at the best gift shop in Biddeford! Altrusa of Greater Biddeford Saco gets a percentage of sales too! It's a wonderful shop with great prices and supports our sister club - what a deal!

Trillium, 238 Main Street,
Biddeford

December Birthdays

Anita Chandler

Happy Birthday!



SERVICE HOURS

Don't forget to input your <u>Service</u>
<u>Hours</u>. 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.

Copy this link to your browser: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlp QLSc05lynjHKrEFy5iUIGzd0FKeHcBeT3w0 1ku8H6EjMca6Ny_w/viewform

Passing of an Altrusan

Theresa Mancini passed away on November 7th. Theresa became an Altrusan in 1996, sponsored by Fran Dyro. After being an active member for many years, Theresa had recently become an Emeritus member as her health declined. She will be much missed by us all.



4

Mark your calendar for these Future District & International Events

<u>District One Conference</u> April 22nd - 24th, 2022 North Conway Grand Hotel, North Conway, NH

<u>District One Workshop</u> November 2022 to be hosted by the Greater Hartford club details to come

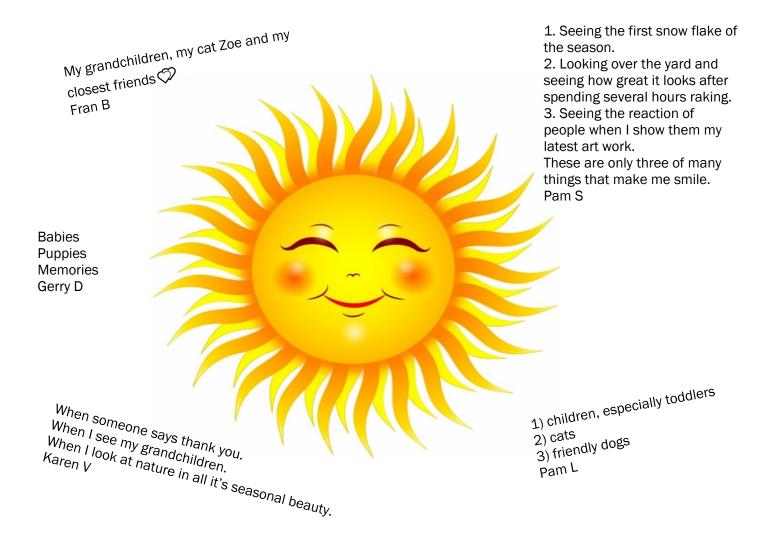
1/21/2021 9 of 10

some Member News and Views

What are three things that make you smile???

Always makes me smile - my brother! my BF's 4 wonderful grandchildren! morning sunshine! Anita C

The smell of Christmas trees; Otis...our 1/2 time dog....; Michael; my friends; good books Susan K



Going out to lunch with my dad, a sunny day, and when my cat Gracie rolls over and let's me rub her soft white belly, Christine J

A walk on the beach on a sunny day, the antics of my cat Gus, exploring a new place. Marie P