

December 2021 Altrusagram

Upcoming Dates



Happy
Holidays!
&
Best Wishes for
2022!

Wednesday, Jan. 5th
Business Meeting
via Zoom
6:00 pm

Tuesday, Jan. 18th
Ronald McDonald
House meal

Wednesday, Jan. 19th
Program meeting
via Zoom
6:00 pm
Finance Committee
BINGO

Friday, Jan. 21st
All newsletter articles due

Wednesday, Feb. 2nd
Business Meeting
via Zoom
6:00 pm

from the President:



*'Twas the week before Christmas, and all through the church hall,
The Altrusans were gathering, preparing for a ball.
Pam and Ed set the tables and hung the lights with care,
In hopes that Joanne and Andrea soon would be there.*

*While Fran stirred her famous Sangria,
The crockpots were set to a simmer.
Joanne and Andrea arrived in a frenzy,
They began preparing the silent auction table and sandwiches a-plenty.*

*Members and guests were in arrival,
too long the absence resulted in deprival.
When what to our wondering ears do we hear,
But the sound of the descending elevator,
and Marcia Marley, appears.*

*There was merriment and cheer, Joanne lead the games,
Gerry D, Judith R and Christine J were the winners acclaimed.*

*Thank you to all who contributed to the evening,
So many donated money and bid on auction items, achieving
A wonderful Christmas for Wayside Communities.
Altrusans, you are thoughtful, resourceful and generous,
And the best examples of humanity.*

Merry Christmas to each of you. Thank you for your gift of HOPE to the community, which is your dedication to service. Please know that every little thing you do is like delivering a hug to those in need. HUGS to each and every one of you.

Debbie



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

Who We Are

The 2021 - 2022 Board

President: : Debbie Lemieux
dalemieux33@gmail.com

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Treasurer: Fran Jensen
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Director: Sharon Davis
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Director: Patricia Maxim
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Immed. Past President: Anita Chandler
achandler@maine.rr.com

Parliamentarian: Judith Reidman
judithreidman@gmail.com

Committee Chairpersons 2021 - 2022

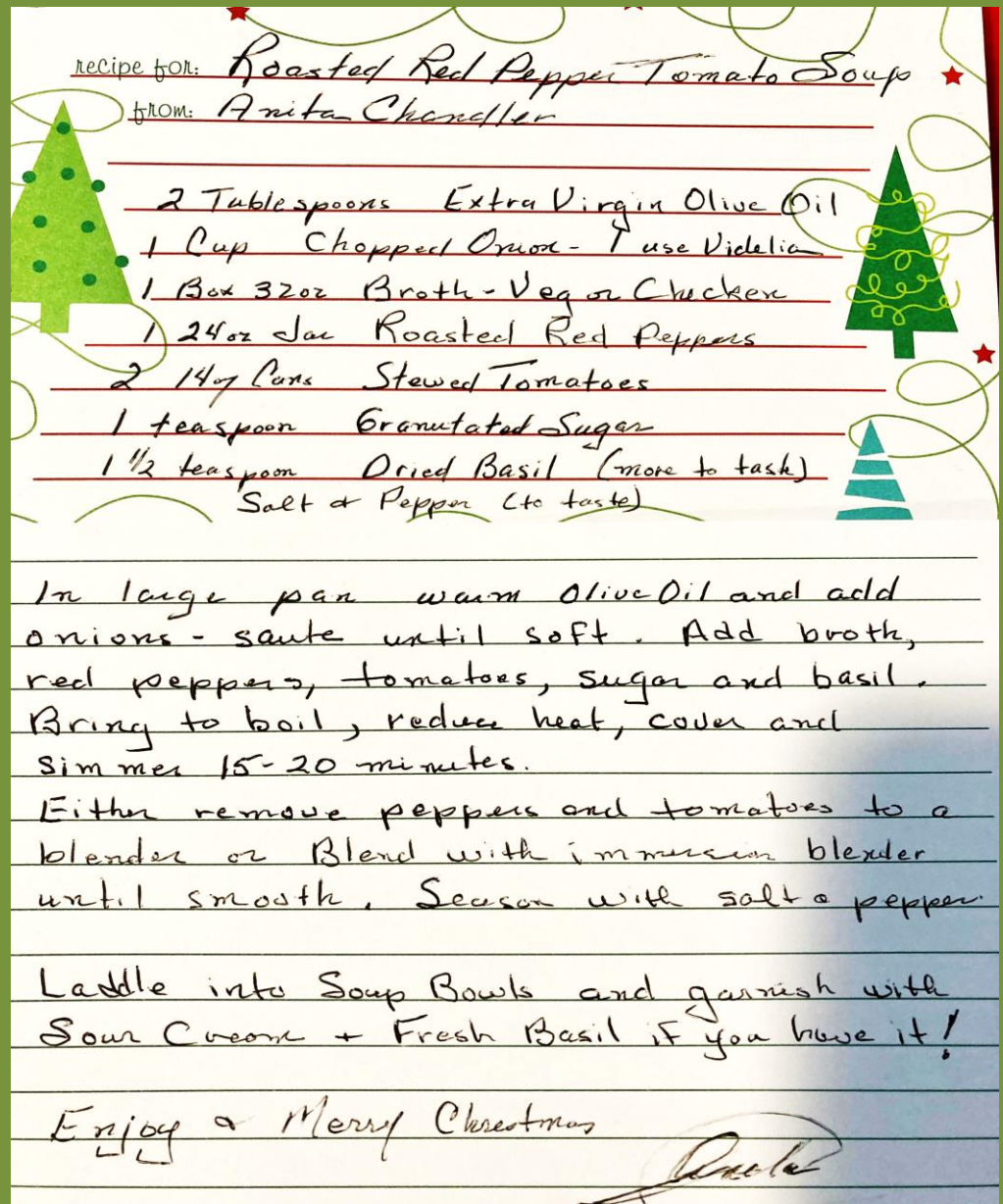
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Karen Valley book1babe@gmail.com
Debbie Lemieux dalemieux33@gmail.com

Finance Co-Chairs:
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Judith Reidman judithreidman@gmail.com

Membership Co-Chairs:
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Sharon Davis sbdavis548@gmail.com

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Susan F. King kings@maine.rr.com
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Social Co-Chairs:
Fran Breton frb3282@hotmail.com
Pam Szalajeski pam.szal@maine.rr.com



By popular request, here is the recipe for the soup that Anita Chandler brought to the Christmas party. She also made it for our many Empty Bowl events.

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www.districtone.altrusa.org

www.altrusaportlandgivesbooks.org

Our Service Projects, page 1



B-A-M Book drive

Martha Gross and myself just had to talk to these lively and lovely ladies who were doing their Christmas Shopping at Books-A-Million. They were from VT, NH and Downeast.

We didn't catch the towns they were from, otherwise we could share with their local Altrusa Clubs. Still, the matching sweaters they bought at Ocean State Job Lot warranted a picture. We did tell them about our coat drive there and our book drive.

They did donate books! Christmas Spirit 🎄👤

-- Fran J

The Service Committee extends a HUGE thank you to everyone who made the BAM book drive a tremendous success in 2021. Our members certainly stepped up to make this all work. Many members stickered, shelved, organized, bagged the books at the warehouse (see next page and prior newsletters). Rae Clark-McGrath and Martha worked from home to sticker almost 500 books so options on how to help abound!

175 Christmas books were also beautifully wrapped and delivered for distribution through Wayside and Riverton and Sagamore Boys and Girls clubs.

We have read at Lyseth, Reiche and Ocean Ave Portland schools as well as delivering TONS of books to So Portland (thanks to Susan) and Westbrook (thanks to Fran) as well Fran's granddaughter's class in Buxton. Susan will be ready with sign up sheets soon for more schools and for sorting and stickering but feel free to let Susan know if you can help any time on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday between 9:30 am and 3 pm.

Another round of applause goes to the social committee for doing such an amazing job with the Silent Auction which raised a whopping \$430 for Altrusa's donation to Wayside, added to the \$380 in "spare change" you all contributed! With so much need this year, the money will be put to very good use at Wayside.

COVID is keeping the family numbers down at the Ronald McD House but we continue to provide wonderful meals to the families who are there. Our chefs, Ann, Susan, Marie and Martha will make the kitchen smell so delicious on Dec 21 with roasted turkey breast and root veggies as well as mashed potatoes and dessert! January 18 will be our next date at the house, COVID permitting.

The Coats for Veterans through Ocean State Job Lot is still on-going with 5 coats donated so far by Altrusans. Please let Nicki Griffin know if you participate in this program.

-- Nicki G



Our Service Projects, page 2



Ann B and Pam L



Trish M and Christine J

Pam delivered, Christine organized, Trish stickered, Ann bagged and Susan helped!!! On Thursday, December 16th, these 5 emptied 15 boxes of books and stickered over 700 books. The ABC books went directly into 17 bags...20 books plus a teacher book in each bag! When we're ready for a bag for Presumpscot, we can just pick it up. It's packed and ready. The older kids books are all stickered and re-boxed. Our shelves are groaning! Fortunate people we are! There will be more stickered mornings planned after the new year. Be thinking of worthy recipients for our "big kid" books! Christine and Trish had a beautiful system in place and Pam has her delivery routine down. That made it easy for Ann and Susan to follow along. Great morning friends!

-- Susan F



other Committees' News

FINANCE COMMITTEE

After a later than normal start in November, the solicitation of prizes for our Annual Calendar Raffle got into full swing, thanks to the dedication and efforts of our members. More than usual excellent prizes were secured. Thanks to everyone for their time, efforts and generosity.

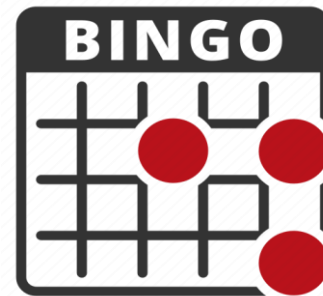
The calendar looks great this year, with all logos of the individual donors on it. I enclosed a sample calendar in the thank you letter to my businesses' donors.

Now we are in full swing of promoting and selling them. Stocking stuffers, inserts into Christmas Cards, and gifts to your service people are a great way to use them. Our internet venues have already brought good rewards. Keep up the good work, and let's make this year a record year.

We are planning for the Finance Committee's January Program Meeting, and we voted to repeat last year's popular Online/Virtual BINGO Game. Anita Chandler has volunteered to organize it. Please look for an e-mail in the near future on how to obtain your game cards.

We wish to thank everyone for their hard work and generosity this past year. Have a blessed Holiday and stay safe and healthy.

-- Fran J



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee is pleased with the spectacular turnout of 20 of our 28 members at the Christmas Party at St. Peter's church on Wednesday, December 15th, as well as 5 guests:

Pam's husband, Ed Szalajeski, was a huge help to her Social committee.

Marcia's daughter, Jennifer Marley, accompanied her mother for the evening.

and 'Prospective' members:

Karen Arnold, sponsored by Judith Reidman.

Toni Irish, sponsored by Christine Johnson.

Clifton Littlejohn, sponsored by Trish Maxim.

The Prospective members were very active participants; bringing food items to share, as well as donations to the silent auction table, bidding at the auction, and trying their skill at the Trivia game. And they loved the great variety of food we had to eat. We welcome them to come back anytime to our meetings; and also to join us in our service projects whenever they can.

--Trish M

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee has made a few changes to our website. Check out the new top menu that includes direct links for the options to Volunteer and Request Books. It also tucks all Club Information under one section. In addition, the book request form has been tweaked with an eye to making it as easy as possible for non-profits to request books.

Don't forget to share the Calendar Raffle Facebook Event. Even if you have shared it once before, share it again to help increase the number of people who see the post and Event. Share to your own News Feed. Share it to a group you belong to. Invite friends to the "Event". And, if you haven't already sent an email to family or friends, there is still time to do that.

-- Christine J

[go to www.altrusaportlandgivesbooks.org](http://www.altrusaportlandgivesbooks.org)



ASTRA

A
S
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A
bility
Service
Training
Responsibility
Achievement



Just prior to Thanksgiving ASTRA decorated and distributed to various locations in the school and around their towns cardboard cartons to be receptacles for their (gently used) "Toy & Book Drive".

At their most recent December 16th meeting, they sorted & divided the toys and books that they will deliver before Christmas to the Community Centers in Bridgton, Casco, and Naples where 'after-school-daycare' happens.

On that same afternoon of December 16th, some of the ASTRA members were joining the Rotary "Interact" club to prepare & serve a "Kettle" meal at the BCC (Bridgton Community Center) for 'drive through' take out, being offered free to the citizens of the surrounding communities. This was ASTRA's last meeting in 2021. They are headed out on Christmas break and will reconvene on January 6, 2022 at 7:30a in the school library.

-- Trish M



Dividing the collection of gently used toys & books.



Party, Party, Party...



The Altrusa Christmas party was so much fun!

The silent auction was a big success; we raised \$432! Combined with the "Daily Giving" collected, a total of \$813 will be donated to the Wayside Food Kitchen!

A great big thank you to the amazing Social Committee: Fran Breton, Joanne Doherty, Andrea Doherty and my Husband Ed Szalajeski for all the pre party prep and hard work to make this event so successful.

A great big thank you to all the Altrusa members who generously contributed to the silent Auction and to the pot luck table. Friendship, great food and the Christmas spirit were clearly present throughout the evening.

Your Social Committee
Fran Breton, Pam Szalajeski, Joanne Doherty, Andrea Doherty

Merry Christmas!



Party, Party, Party...



Party, Party, Party...



Other Things



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 THE MONEY COMING!



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

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.

Copy this link to your browser:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc05lynjHKrEFy5iUIGzd0FKcHcBeT3w01ku8H6EJMca6Ny_w/viewform

January Birthdays

Joanne Doherty
Roberta Morrill
Nicki Griffin
Rae Clark-McGrath

Happy Birthday!



A wish for you, for 2022, may you have.....

a year of success, to make all your dreams come true,
a year of joy, to have fun and have a good time,
a year of love, to share happiness with loved ones,
a year of Altrusa, to enjoy fellowship and service.

Happy New Year 2022!



Mark your calendar for these Future District & International Events

District One Conference

April 22nd - 24th, 2022

North Conway Grand Hotel, North Conway, NH

District One Workshop

November 2022

to be hosted by the Greater Hartford club
details to come