

December 2022 Altrusagram

Upcoming Dates



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023!

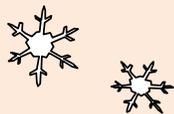
Wednesday, Jan 4th
Business Meeting
6:00 pm social
6:15 meeting starts
via Zoom

Tuesday, Jan 17th
Sue's Supper at RMcD
House volunteer
opportunity

Wednesday, Jan 18th
Finance Committee's
Program Meeting,
6:15 pm
at St Peter's

Friday, Jan 20th
All newsletter
articles due

Wednesday, Feb 1st
Business Meeting
6:00 pm social
6:15 meeting starts
via Zoom



save the dates
April 21st - 23rd
District One
Conference

from the President:



The holidays are in full swing. Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and with winter solstice approaching, all are a time for reflection on the things that went well during the past year and the preparation for positive opportunities allowing us to move forward into the New Year. For some members, this may be the realization, they are not able to participate in as many service or fundraiser projects as they have in the past, and this is fine; no one is expected to do everything. Everyone's contributions are valued.

Your Board of Directors met on November 30th to update the Club's Strategic Plan June 2023 - May 2026. The Board is focusing on the theme "Together in Service" adopting the action steps of embracing change and diversity. This is a work in process and will keep members updated.

Elves have been busy delivering many boxes of books from BAM's book drive to the warehouse. More elves have stickered, shelved and bagged books for upcoming ABC programs. The service committee will be sending out a schedule for additional stickering, shelving opportunities, as well as, reading times for local schools. Stay tuned for this heartwarming activity

Our annual Christmas party was attended by many members who brought "pot luck" dishes to share and a gift to auction off in support of our annual donation to Wayside Food Programs.

It was such a great night of sharing, laughter and camaraderie. A big thank you to the Social Committee for hosting this event.

Wishing you all a happy holiday season, and a peaceful, healthy New Year.

Wanda



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

Who We Are...

The Board 2022 - 2023

Club President: : Wanda Pettersen
kettlecove_6@msn.com

Foundation President: Anita Chandler
achandler@maine.rr.com

Vice President: Karen Valley
book1babe@gmail.com

Secretary: Patricia Maxim
campnaples@fairpoint.net

Treasurer: Fran Jensen
franjensen2911@gmail.com

Foundation Director: Susan King
kings@maine.rr.com

Club Director: Fran Breton
frb3282@hotmail.com

Immed. Past President: Debbie Lemieux
dalemieux33@gmail.com

Parliamentarian: Judith Reidman
judithreidman@gmail.com

Committee Chairpersons 2022 - 2023

Communications Co-Chairs:
Christine Johnson *cejnmaine@gmail.com*
Debbie Lemieux *dalemieux33@gmail.com*

Finance Chair:
Fran Jensen *franjensen2911@gmail.com*

Membership Co-Chairs:
Patricia Maxim *campnaples@fairpoint.net*
Karen Valley *book1babe@gmail.com*

Service Co-Chairs:
Anita Chandler *achandler@maine.rr.com*
Martha Gross *grossmartha01@gmail.com*

Social Chair:
Fran Breton *frb3282@hotmail.com*

We're the folks at that table in Books-A-Million during the holiday book drive!



We are so fortunate, and so grateful, to partner with Books-A-Million in South Portland at the book drive that supports our many literacy-related service projects.



Nicki G promoting the book drive and introducing shoppers to Altrusa.



BAM customer who bought a book she loved as a child.

Altrusa International Foundation of Portland, Maine, Inc.

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<https://districtone.altrusa.org>

www.altrusaportlandgivesbooks.org

Our ABC Projects

From: Kristin Beaulieu
Date: December 1, 2022 at 11:22:25 AM EST

Subject: Thank You!

Hi Ms. Wanda,

Thank you to you and your club for providing books for our students. We are so thankful!

Thanks again,
Kristin Beaulieu
Kindergarten Teacher Windham Primary School

Windham ABC

Both Wanda P & Fran J chose to read "Pete the Cat". The children love that story and this classroom has their own "Pete the Cat". Trish M was "runner of books" between the two classrooms



South Portland ABC

Martha G reads to the class and helps kids select a book each for their very own.



Service Projects...working with others

PPH Toy Fund Project

What if a gift can bring a lifetime of joy? That was the idea behind the Press Herald Toy Fund's decision to make sure each child it serves this year also receives a book. Not surprisingly, that idea struck a chord with many of their readers, and some Altrusans too!

According to the paper, a look back into the records later revealed that books were among the very first gifts provided by the Toy Fund when it launched in 1949. It's not clear how often books were included with toys over the years, although it had been at least a few decades since it was a common practice.

Altrusa reached out to Kathleen Meade, Toy Fund Director, to see if or how we could help with books for older kids. We shared a list of some of the books we had available – Wimpy Kid, Lightning Thief, Nancy Drew, various Roald Dahl, and Tales of Magic, among others – and encouraged them to complete a request for books on our website.

As you may have read in a Press Herald story, this year, toys and books were purchased from local retailers and organizations. For example, some books were ordered from Scholastic through Stevens Brook Elementary School in Bridgton, in turn giving them credits to purchase books for their students. However, the focus of these purchases was on books for younger readers. Kathleen recognized the need to provide books for older readers as well. This need fit nicely with the titles Altrusa had to offer.

In addition, many of the younger books purchased from Scholastic were paperbacks. We were able to connect Kathleen to The Book Fairy (Pam Leo) who was able to offer 120 board books and 100 hardcover picture books courtesy of Islandport Press.

Thanks to the work of Martha Gross, Ann Smith, and Christine Johnson, 170 "big kid" books were delivered to the Toy Fund offices during the first week of December. These books have been making their way into the gift bundles for households across Maine.

Portland Press Herald Toy Fund provides gifts to children from families in York, Cumberland, Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Knox and Androscoggin counties.

-- Christine J



Books for You n' Me Nursery School at Westbrook Regional Vocational Center

For quite some time, the instructors in the Early Childhood Occupations program at WRVC had wanted to create a take-home book-bag program for the 3 and 4-year-old students in their nursery school. To do this, they needed enough books in their lending library so that each child could take a selection of books home for a week. Over time, grants were applied for, but funding was never made available to purchase the books. The instructors had a wish list of 43 titles that, if collected, would allow the book-bag program to begin. The instructors were directed to our Altrusagivesbooks.com website to make a book request. We are happy to report that Altrusa was able to offer 10 titles from that list. This was a huge jump start for the program.

The Book Fairy, Pam Leo, was able to donate additional titles and, with the help of Islandport Press, donated 22 copies of Calico Jungle for each child in the nursery school to take home as their forever book. Members and friends of Westbrook-Gorham Rotary have since donated the remaining titles.

Early Childhood Occupations (ECO) teachers, high school students and nursery school students visited the Rotary Holiday luncheon held at the WRVC on December 13. The children sang Jingle Bells and were all presented with their books. The teachers gratefully received the collected titles and are excited to start the lending program. A great result of collaboration among organizations interested in literacy!

Pictured: Instructor Robin Linscott (standing left) with ECO students and the six children from afternoon class holding their "forever" books and a basket with many of the books presented to the program.

-- Christine J



other Committees' News

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee will be meeting in January to go over our budget to see that we are on track, and what, or if, we have to make any adjustments during the second half of the budget year.

We are eagerly awaiting the results of the calendar raffle ticket sales, and urge everyone to put in an extra push until the end of the year.

A "Thank You" goes out to all our members for their hard work and selfless service.

Our First Program Meeting of the year will be "In Person" 🤝
on January 18th
and we will play "BINGO"!
So much fun!

Happy Holidays!

-- Fran J

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Prospective member Erin Deprez joined us at our December meeting and Holiday Party. She brought an amazing pot of chili and some lovely gifts for our silent auction. She also was an active bidder and went home with several treasures.

We will meet in January to review our half year accomplishments and plan for the rest of the year.

-- Karen V & Trish M



THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee was elected at the December 7th business meeting. The committee consists of Debbie Lemieux (chair), Judith Reidman, and Ann B. Smith. They are charged with finding nominees for the open board positions for the 23/24 slate. Positions open to nomination are: Foundation President (one year term), Treasurer (a two-year position), Secretary (one year term), and Foundation Director (a two-year term).

Nominees will be presented to the membership at the February 1st business meeting. Voting will be at the March 1st business meeting. Please contact the committee if you wish to volunteer for one of these positions.

We need YOU!

-- Wanda P



Altrusa International Foundation of Portland, Maine Inc. January 2023 Calendar Raffle

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Over \$2,400 in Cash and Prizes Each Raffle Entry is ONLY \$10 All Raffle Entries are eligible for EVERY daily drawing. 31 Chances to win!!!</p> 						
<p>Three ways to enter: 1) cut off the stub on the side of this calendar, fill it out with your information and mail it to Altrusa, PO Box 8834, Portland, ME 04104, along with your check, payable to Altrusa of Portland Maine, or 3) you can give your entry directly to any Portland Altrusan https://www.altrusaportlandgivesbooks.org/calendar-raffle-2023</p>						
1  \$50 Gift Card	2  \$50 Gift Card	3  3 Months of Fudge You choose the type \$75 Value	4  \$100	5  \$50 Gift Card	6  \$50 Gift Card & Arowna Joe's \$20 Gift Card \$70 Value	7  \$50 Gift Card
8  \$50 Gift Card	9  \$100 Gift Card	10  STARBUCKS Gift Bag \$75 Value	11  \$75 Gift Certificate	12 2 Gallons Regal Select Paint  Gift Certificate \$146 Value	13  \$50 Gift Card	14  \$25 Gift Card African Jewelry Necklace & Earrings \$45 \$70 Value
15  \$50 Gift Card	16  \$50 Gift Card	17  Gift Bag \$125 Value	18  \$25 Gift Card \$25 Gift Card \$50 Value	19  \$50 Gift Card	20  \$75 Gift Card	21  \$75
22  \$25 Gift Card & \$25 Gift Card blazes \$25 Gift Card \$50 Value	23 CVS \$30 Gift Card & Homemade Baked Goods \$50 Gift Certificate \$80 Value	24 2 Gallons Regal Select Paint  Gift Certificate \$146 Value	25  \$50 Gift Card	26 SUBWAY \$20 Gift Card & Papparazzi Jewelry Mystery Bag papparazzi. \$50 Value \$70 Value	27 2 Hours Master Gardeners' Work like design, planting, pruning, Spring or Fall clean up \$70 Value	28 Applebee's \$25 Gift Card & \$25 Gift Card  \$50 Value
29  \$50 Gift Card	30  \$50 Gift Card	31  \$300	<p>All proceeds from this raffle will be used to fund the annual vocational and educational scholarships, our many literacy focused projects, and the several community programs sponsored by our club.</p> <p>The Portland Altrusa Club appreciates your support. Good Luck!</p>			

ALTRUSA OF
PORTLAND,
MAINE
Calendar Raffle
2023

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____
STATE: _____
ZIP CODE: _____
TEL #: _____
How did you find out about this raffle?
PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

ASTRA

Ability
Service
Training
Responsibility
Achievement



ASTRA has been meeting the 1st & 3rd Thursday mornings each month in the LRHS library, with an average of 12 members at each meeting - plus Advisor Kristina Theriault and me. In December we achieved our dream goal of being awarded the use of the large library classroom which is much more conducive to running a meeting; working on projects; and even having a snack. During our last meeting before the school's Christmas vacation, we had a quick party with fancy Dunkin Donuts, mandarin oranges, home-made molasses cookies, etc. while the students worked on a project for the Naples Rec director. He had requested ASTRA to write letters to the children in the After-School Day Care of our SAD61 district. They had a good time creating those letters while they partied.

Also enjoying the treats that day were Kristina's two toddlers, whose Day Care lost it's electrical power just as she was delivering them there on her way to LRHS. Her only option at that point was to bring them to the high school with her. I enjoyed their company, while the ASTRA students tended to business.

Our next meetings aren't until January 12th & 26th (2nd & 4th Thursdays), which is a deviation from our normal schedule due to activities on the school calendar.

- Trish Maxim



New meeting room space within the library at LRHS.



Advisor Kristina's two toddlers attending the ASTRA Xmas party because their Day Care was without electricity as they arrived there for the day.

Other Things



CLYNK MONEY

KEEP THE MONEY COMING!

Please continue to fill up the green Altrusa CLYNK bags.

Then:

1. drop them off at your local Hannaford's
2. drop the bags off at Pam Lemieux's house
3. or, bring to a meeting and give to Pam.

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. Invite your friends to do the same.

Newsletter

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!

Please write complete articles and identify people in photos if not club members.

Editor Marie Pike pikerino2@aol.com

SERVICE HOURS

Debbie Lemieux has updated the service hours input data form to allow for entry of hours related to non-profit general and Altrusa Book Delivery projects.

Don't forget to input your Service Hours.
Copy and paste this link into your browser:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfBA5kpTP2KnohBM77MIB7qwa_m953glU10L8wCWanf3Qbqtg/viewform

January Birthdays

Joanne D
Nicki G
Rae C-M



Happy Birthday!

PROGRAM MEALS RESPONSIBILITY

Any member who will not be attending the program meeting, or who will attend but not eat a meal, is responsible for notifying the Treasurer no later than by noon of the Monday

before the program meeting. A charge will be levied on anyone who does not cancel their meal. Be sure to call or email Fran Jensen to cancel your meal.
franjenzen2911@gmail.com

Altrusa Christmas Party



Mark your calendar for these Future District & International Events

District One Conference

April 21 - 23, 2023

Nonantum Resort in Kennebunkport, Me
hosted by the Greater Biddeford/Saco club

International Convention

July 19 - 22, 2023

San Antonio, Texas

Thank you to the Social Committee!