

February 2023 Altrusagram

Upcoming Dates

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

Wednesday, Mar 15th
 Program Meeting,
 6:15 pm
 at St Peter's.

Friday, Mar 17th
 All newsletter
 articles due

Tuesday, Mar 21st
 Sue's Supper at RMcD
 House volunteer
 opportunity

Wednesday, Apr 5th
 Business Meeting
 6:00 pm social
 6:15 meeting starts
 via Zoom

Wednesday, Apr 19th
 Our 94th Birthday Party!
 and Initiation of
 Erin Depez!
 6:16 pm at St Peter's

April 21st - 23rd
District One Conference
 See the recent DSB for
 details

Thursday, May 11th
Schooner Fare Concert
 fundraiser
 (see page 6)

from the President:



There's a lot going on this month. And in one way or another, much of it circles back around to love. Ground hog day (anticipation of spring), Super bowl (love of football), Valentine's Day (love of our partner), Random acts of Kindness Day (love of our neighbor), Love your Pet Day, and of course the whole month is awareness of Heart Health. As Altrusans, we express our love not only by taking care of our family, friends, and pets but also our community.

This is evident by how busy we have been this month. Our cookie walk provided the staff at Books a Million with treats as a thank you for their support with their book drives. Providing a meal to the Ronald McDonald House brings comfort to families staying there. Our love of reading and literacy has provided the Cities of Westbrook and Portland kindergarteners story time and their "forever" books to bring home.

Our program meeting guest speaker, Cheryl Gillespie, the author of *Gracie & Albert & From Beaver Creek to Hanoi*, provided a thoughtful discussion. The members attending participated freely in this discussion on mental health. An excerpt from her book *From Beaver Creek to Hanoi* is in the winter edition of Maine Women magazine.

We are excited to announce our new member Erin May Deprez. We are so pleased she will be joining us. Erin May will be on the membership committee.

It's not too late to register for the District One Conference at the Nonantum Resort in Kennebunkport, ME. April 21st to April 23rd. Come see what Conference is all about. It's a great way to meet others from the District.

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*

Once a month we're the chefs at the Ronald McDonald House.

It WAS Fat Tuesday, so Anita, Ann S, Nicki and Susan came to the Ronald McDonald house, ready to fatten them up with a baked potato bar with many toppings. We fixed a chicken, chili, sautéed onions and peppers, and all the regular fixings including shredded cheese, sour cream, salsa, raw peppers, and broccoli. It was greeted with enthusiasm! Anita's fresh fruit looked so appealing and Nicki's chocolate chip cookies filled the house with the MOST delicious smell! Nicki's Mardi Gras necklaces and hats got lots of smiles and a minute of laughter!

Cooking at the RMCD House is truly a joyful experience. You get to spend a couple of hours with friends and the guests are so appreciative of a home cooked meal. House volunteers pack up and put every thing away at the end of the night so it is really easy. Be thinking about asking someone to cook with YOU!! (Call Ann S to volunteer!!)

-- Susan K



left to right:
Ann S, Anita C,
Nicki G

THE NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2023/2024 BOARD

The nominating committee announced the following nominees for the open positions on the 2022/2023 board. The vote will be March 1st business meeting. Nominations from the floor will be requested before the vote.

Foundation President 2023/2025 – Pamela Lemieux
Foundation Director 2023/2025 – Vacant
Vice President - Karen Valley
Secretary - Patricia Maxim
Treasurer - Fran Jensen

Thank you to the Nominating Committee: Chair Debbie Lemieux, Judith Reidman and Ann Smith

-- Wanda P

Altrusa International Foundation of Portland, Maine, Inc.

altrusaportland@gmail.com

PO Box 8834, Portland, ME 04104 USA

<https://districtone.altrusa.org> www.altrusaportlandgivesbooks.org

OurABC Service Project

We have been performing lots lately!!!

ABC has happened at 4 Portland schools recently. On Feb. 2nd, Toni, Christine, Ann S and Wanda read to 4 groups at Lyseth Elementary. They also brought a bag of "older kid" books for the Lyseth library. Meanwhile Anita and Susan ventured over to Lyman Moore to read at the Breath program. 4 students and 4 staff happily explored the National Geographic Readers books we brought along.

The following day found Ann S, Martha, Wanda and Karen V with 4 classrooms at Reiche School. Parking is a JOB there.

Rowe School is Martha's haunt and she and her friend, Sandy Sherry headed up our group to read to 5 classes there on Feb. 9th. We had 5 teams of two...Martha and Sandy, Susan and Christine, Ann S. and Wanda and then Martha, Sandy, Susan and Christine took the stage again for another reading!

Feb. 10 was the date for our reading at Ocean Avenue School. Ann S. and Susan and Toni and Christine read to 3 classes that Friday!

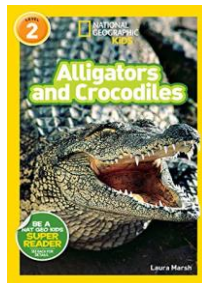
-- Susan K

"What are you doing this morning?" Michael King was asked early Monday. " what would you like me to do?"

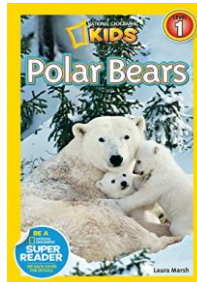
So it was off to the warehouse where he graciously unpacked, sorted, stickered and bagged up 300 books for our ASTRA club. He's a wonderful guy!

Michael (below on right) and I delivered books to the South Portland teen Center at Wainwright. That's the old Redbank school. Jordan O'Donald was delighted to see us. We then proceeded to the South Portland boys and girls club where Nick (below on left) was also thrilled. Both men were excited to add to their libraries, and to give books to their clients!

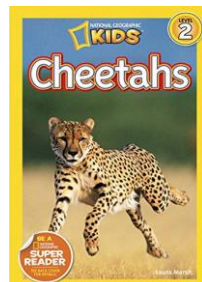
-- Susan K



Christine J reading to kids



Ann S reading to kids



Other Service Projects

Cookie Walk Thank You to the staff at Books-A-Million

The Cookie Walk was a resounding success. Following last year's fruit and wrapped candy, we were warmly welcomed!! On Saturday, January 28th, the booksellers' headsets crackled with "They're here. Altrusans are here with cookies!" Dean greeted us and led us to the back staff room where 5 posters from past years are STILL on display! "We look forward to this all year" an employee was overheard to say! Many thanks to Anita, Gerry, Nicki, Susan, Christine, Martha, Fran B., Toni, Ann B., Wanda, Trish, Ann S, Karen V. and Sarah. L. for your culinary delights!! Special recognition goes to Pam L. who produced cookies without an oven!! Pam's brother John loaned her oven space for these cookies!!

-- Susan K



left to right: Fran B, Pam L, Ann S, Nicki G, Wanda P, Anita C, Christine J, Trish M

Thank You, BAM!



Susan K with poster she made.



left to right: Ann B, Sarah L, Ann S



Our Collaboration with Cricket Comforts

Martha Gross and Heidi Farren met up to receive 100 books from Altrusa to match with pillowcases for patients at Barbara Bush Medical Center. This is our 5th year partnering with Cricket Comforts!! They get books from us, and their talented seamstresses create pillowcases from matching fabric to donate!

Cricket Comforts plans to deliver the first fifty pillowcase/book sets this year during the first week of March. They hope to finish the rest during March and deliver the remaining sets during the first week of April.



a photo from the archives. Left to right: Wanda P, Jane C, Susan K, Anita C, Pam L, Cricket Comforts volunteer Mary Franklin and Debbie L

One of the pillowcase and book pairings



other Committees' News

FINANCE COMMITTEE

"Happy Spring" from Florida where it is spring in full bloom already, with temperatures hovering around the mid eighties. It's fun to get away for a couple of weeks to see a different landscape.

The Finance Committee met on 1/16/23, mainly to discuss and finalize our May Fundraiser with "Schooner Fare". Most items were settled, and contracts were signed, both with the Band and the Banquet Center. Minor details are still be worked on. Our Ticket Sales website on "Eventbrite" is working and a wonderful advertisement was developed by our Communications Committee. This ad is also on our Altrusa Facebook page and several members have shared it on theirs.

Notices with timelines will be sent out to the Committee Chairs to prepare their 2023-24 Budgets. Yes, another fiscal year is winding down, and we are looking forward to an eventful year ahead.

The next Finance Committee Meeting is planned for the week of March 13th, taking place during EDST. Best,

-- Fran J



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

We've been busy this past month getting ready to promote the Schooner Fare Concert on May 11. Our website has been updated with a page under Current Events. This includes a link to the Eventbrite page where tickets can be purchased <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/522117897687>

We've also created an Event on Facebook. This event is pinned/featured at the top of our page. Be sure to share this event on your Facebook page and invite your friends.

Eventbrite is a great tool for selling online, but customers will pay a service fee on top of the ticket price. Be sure your friends know that they can buy tickets from you at the flat price of \$25, if purchased ahead.

We continue to work on other promotional avenues through local media outlets.

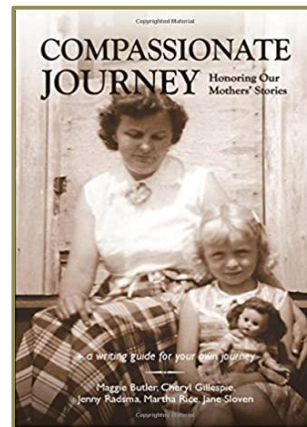
-- Christine J

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

On Wednesday, February 15th, at the Potluck supper program meeting our guest speaker was local author Cheryl Gillespie who read from her co-authored book: *Compassionate Journey: Honoring our Mother's Stories*. Other books by Cheryl Grant Gillespie are: *Gracie & Albert* and *From Beaver Creek to Hanoi: A Mother's Request to Rescue Her Son*. Also attending that meeting was "Nancy" who had inquired about Altrusa from Christine Johnson.

Exciting news! Erin Deprez paid her dues and is now member number 31 which qualifies us for 3 Delegates and 3 Alternates for District One Conference in April at the Nonantum Resort in Kennebunkport ME. We will initiate Erin at our April 19th Program Meeting.

-- Karen V & Trish M



author Cheryl Gillespie and one of her books

Request for policy revision: Effective June 1, 2023

A vote will be taken March 1, 2023.

XII. Local Club and Foundation Office

A. The Portland Altrusa Club has the following officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, 1 Director and the Immediate Past President.

B. The Portland Altrusa Foundation has the following officers: President, who also will serve as the Chair of the Service Committee, 1 Director, Treasurer, served by the Club Treasurer, and Secretary, served by the Club Secretary.

C. The term of office for officers will be one year, except for:
1. Club and Foundation Presidents will serve a two year term.
2. Treasurer will serve a two year term.
3. Club and Foundation Directors will serve a two year term on alternating years.

Upcoming Fundraiser

Thursday, May 11, 2023
Keeley's Banquet Center

**Schooner
fare**



Schooner Fare has won unanimous critical praise for captivating harmonies and winning stage presence.

178 Warren
Avenue
Portland, Maine
Doors open at 6:00
Show starts at
7:00
full cash bar
available

\$25 in advance

From your favorite
Altrusan

OR

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/522117897687>

OR

\$30 at the door

Thank you for your support of Altrusa International Foundation of Portland, Maine, Inc. Your contribution helps us provide literacy services to schools and other organizations, college and vocational scholarships, aid to people re-entering the workforce, and many other service programs to the Greater Portland community.

www.altrusaportlandgivesbooks.org



fundraiser for Altrusa International Foundation Inc of Portland, Maine

ASTRA

Ability
Service
Training
Responsibility
Achievement



The new ASTRA sweatshirts arrived just in time for this picture, which will go into their LRHS Yearbook. (Sadly, quite a few members were missing.) This is the group that finished bagging the contents of their personally decorated "Vacation Activity Bags" for the 120 1st graders throughout SAD 61 in Bridgton, Casco, & Naples, Maine.

ASTRA has been meeting every Thursday at 7:30AM this month to finish their "Vacation Activity Bags" for the 1st graders in Bridgton, Casco, & Naples in time for the schools' February break, which required delivery to the elementary schools at the end of the day on Thursday, February 16th.

The project started with decorating 120 white bakery bags with personal art designs, using magic markers. ASTRA gathered and created a variety of trinkets & activities to put into the bags. On delivery day, 11 ASTRA students & Advisor Kristina Theriault formed a production line in the hallway of the Guidance office to stuff each of the 120 bags with one of everything; and pack the white bags into brown shopping bags labeled with the teacher's name and # of students. (Just like Altrusa's "ABC" project.) The whole process was well organized and went off w/o a hitch.

The ASTRA president, Delaina Grover, has already started writing up this project for their entry into the "ASTRA Service Project" competition at District One -- due to Governor Pam Lemieux before midnight on March 1st.

Before that 35 minute "Laker Time" period was over, they had un-crated their brand new ASTRA sweatshirts, quickly donned them, and rushed to the lobby to have a group picture taken -- which will be published in their LRHS Yearbook.

Before they left for their first class of the day, Trish handed out Scholarship Applications to each of the Seniors. The deadline for the \$500 Portland scholarship is March 30, 2023. They are also urged to apply for the International Scholarships of two \$2,000 awards and two \$1,000 awards, available on-line and fillable on-line at www.altrusa.org. That deadline is March 15th. The International winners will be announced April 15th.

-- Trish Maxim



The makeshift production line in the Guidance Office where ASTRA filled the "Vacation Activity Bags" they had decorated for all 120 SAD61 First Grade students.



The finished, personally decorated, and filled "Vacation Activity Bags" ready to be delivered to Steven's Brook & Songo Locks 1st graders.



Other Things

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

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfBA5kpTP2KnohBM77MI B7qwAm953glU10L8wCWanf3Qbrtqg/viewform>

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

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

The International Service Committee wants to remind everyone to become a member of the Altrusa Service Facebook page. If you are having a difficult time accessing the Altrusa Service page remember to answer the question: What club are you with?

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/345182079259454/permalink/1650955308682118/?mibextid=W9rl1R>

March Birthdays

Christine Johnson

Happy Birthday!



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.



Altrusa International Foundation is celebrating its 60th anniversary 🎉

In honor of this milestone, we ask you to make a contribution in the amount of \$60, \$160, \$260, \$560, \$860 and \$1,060 for our 6 of 60th fundraising campaign.

All donations from June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023 will count and will be recognized with special commemorative ribbons at each level.

Click here to donate:

<https://foundation.altrusa.org/>
#6for60 #givingcampaign #altrusanniversary #givingback #nonprofit



District One Conference

It's not too late to register for the District One Conference at the Nonantum Resort in Kennebunkport, ME, April 21st to April 23rd.

See the recent DSB for the registration form and information regarding hotel information. Hotel reservations deadline for guaranteed special price is available until March 20th. Special early-bird conference registration must be postmarked by March 18th.

You will not want to miss the fun! For those who have never been to a Conference -- come see what it's all about. It's a great way to meet others from the District.

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