



## May 2023 Altrusagram

### Upcoming Dates



#### Friday, June 9th

All committee annual reports are due to President Wanda

#### Wednesday, June 14th

Installation of 2023-2024 Officers  
6:00 pm social  
6:15 meeting starts at Karen Valley's home

#### Tuesday, June 20th

Sue's Supper at RMcD House - volunteer opportunity

#### Friday, June 23rd

All newsletter articles due

## Happy Summer!



#### International Convention

July 19th - 22nd  
San Antonio, Texas

#### post-summer

**Business Meeting**  
Wednesday, Sept 6th

#### District One Workshop

Saturday, Nov 4th

### from the President:

As I reviewed our service hours and books given to the community in preparation of completing the International's club annual report, the only thing I can say is **WOW What a year it has been !!!** Many members, not only belong to Altrusa, they also donate their time with other non-profit organizations. Our members perform thousands of hours of community service. Altrusa Portland has given over 4000 books through our ABC program, community non-profit organizations, and sharing with other Altrusa clubs to share with their communities. We could not have provided such a service without the support we receive from Books a Million. We are so grateful for their sponsorship and the trust they have in Altrusa Portland to serve the community with our literacy programs. A big thank you to our members for their time, energy and love each has for our communities.



The annual fundraiser this year was a benefit concert performed by Schooner Fare. Brothers Steve and Chuck Romanoff performed original and traditional and folk songs. The concert was in memory of their mother, Kay Romanoff, who was a member of Altrusa Portland. The audience was filled with laughter, singing along with songs, and clapping to the tunes. They certainly brought down the house.

Our last program meeting was held on May 17. Awards were given for the Volunteer of the Year and we got to meet our scholarship award winners from Deering and Portland High schools. It was a great evening of celebration. More detail from service committee within the newsletter.

As I reflect over my first year as your President, I am overwhelmed with the amount of support I have received. I am in awe of each member's abilities and amount of personal time given to improve children's literacy and quality of life within the community. I look forward to working with each of you in the coming year.

Have an enjoyable summer,

*Wanda*

The world is hugged  
by the faithful arms  
of volunteers.  
- Terri Guillemets



*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](mailto:kettlecove_6@msn.com)

Foundation President: Anita Chandler  
[achandler@maine.rr.com](mailto:achandler@maine.rr.com)

Vice President: Karen Valley  
[book1babe@gmail.com](mailto:book1babe@gmail.com)

Secretary: Patricia Maxim  
[campnaples@fairpoint.net](mailto:campnaples@fairpoint.net)

Treasurer: Fran Jensen  
[franjensen2911@gmail.com](mailto:franjensen2911@gmail.com)

Foundation Director: Susan King  
[kings@maine.rr.com](mailto:kings@maine.rr.com)

Club Director: Fran Breton  
[frb3282@hotmail.com](mailto:frb3282@hotmail.com)

Immed. Past President: Debbie Lemieux  
[dalemieux33@gmail.com](mailto:dalemieux33@gmail.com)

Parliamentarian: Judith Reidman  
[judithreidman@gmail.com](mailto:judithreidman@gmail.com)

## Committee Chairpersons 2022 - 2023

Communications Co-Chairs:  
Christine Johnson [cejnmaine@gmail.com](mailto:cejnmaine@gmail.com)  
Debbie Lemieux [dalemieux33@gmail.com](mailto:dalemieux33@gmail.com)

Finance Chair:  
Fran Jensen [franjensen2911@gmail.com](mailto:franjensen2911@gmail.com)

Membership Co-Chairs:  
Patricia Maxim [campnaples@fairpoint.net](mailto:campnaples@fairpoint.net)  
Karen Valley [book1babe@gmail.com](mailto:book1babe@gmail.com)

Service Co-Chairs:  
Anita Chandler [achandler@maine.rr.com](mailto:achandler@maine.rr.com)  
Martha Gross [grossmartha01@gmail.com](mailto:grossmartha01@gmail.com)

Social Chair:  
Fran Breton [frb3282@hotmail.com](mailto:frb3282@hotmail.com)

## 2023 - 2024 Committees, to be working "Together In Service"

### Communications/Publicity

Christine Johnson (Co-chair)  
Erin May Deprez (Co-chair)  
Karen Arnold  
Ann Babbitt  
Debbie Lemieux



### Finance/Fundraising

Fran Jensen (Co-chair)  
Marie Pike (Co-chair)  
Nicki Griffin  
Wanda Pettersen  
Judith Reidman  
Karen Valley



### Membership Development

Katie Lamb (Co-chair)  
Trish Maxim (Co-chair)  
Rae Clark-McGrath  
Erin May Deprez  
Ann Smith  
Karen Valley



### Service

Martha Gross (Co-chair)  
Pam Lemieux (Co-chair)  
Anita Chandler  
Gerry Dongo  
Nicki Griffin  
Arlene Hanson  
Susan King  
Sarah LaBonte  
Katie Lamb  
Marie Pike  
Ann Smith  
Pam Szalajeski



### Social

Fran Breton (Co-chair)  
Joanne Doherty (Co-chair)  
Karen Arnold  
Andrea Doherty  
Susan King  
Debbie Lemieux



Altrusa International Foundation of Portland, Maine, Inc.  
[altrusaportland@gmail.com](mailto:altrusaportland@gmail.com)

PO Box 8834, Portland, ME 04104 USA

<https://districtone.altrusa.org>

<https://www.portlandaltrusa.org>

# Our Schooner Fair Fundraiser

The room was bright, cheery, and nicely arranged with 15 big round tables, with white tablecloths and matching white chairs.

The 2+ hour concert concluded with the whole Romanoff clan performing together: Chuck, Ellen Beal, Cathy Harriman, Steve, Ed.

-- Trish M

***Our deepest thanks to Schooner Fare for donating their time for our fundraiser. Their mother, Kay Romanoff, was a member of Altrusa for many years and served as President 1971-1972.***



Anita C introduces the band



Chuck Romanoff, Ellen Beal, Cathy Harriman, Steve Romanoff, Ed Romanoff



Nicki G and Pam L



Fran J and Wanda P



Schooner Fare: Chuck and Steve Romanoff

# Our 19th Volunteer of the Year!

Sharyn Shearer was chosen as Portland Altrusa's Volunteer of the Year for 2023. She was nominated for this award by Project Grace. Sharyn is both a front lines volunteer and a behind the scenes volunteer with Project Grace, a 'neighbors helping neighbors' nonprofit. Its mission is to help Scarborough residents through difficult times, inspire the community to come together for common cause, and do so with dignity, compassion, and grace.

Sharyn gives time to answer the organization's phone, make assessments of need, give a neighbor friendly encouragement, while stewarding the limited resources carefully. A retired nurse and woman of strong faith, Sharyn is compassionate and pragmatic, looks beyond the surface but with respect, and has a wealth of experience to help a neighbor navigate access to resources in a time of need. In addition, Sharyn is one of the first to volunteer to help at Project Grace's annual holiday giving program, back to school campaign, marquis fundraisers, and other key initiatives. Most recently, when Project GRACE was asked by the Town of Scarborough to do the intakes and assessments for the new Keeping Cumberland County Warm heating assistance program, Sharyn spent several hours at community events and 'pop up' consultations at the local public library. Throughout her more than twenty years with Project GRACE, Sharyn has been a steady source of wisdom, helping the organization keep true to its founders' vision of a neighbor helping neighbor group that lifts up, rather than enables, that is welcoming and friendly, and gives with generosity.

Sharyn is appreciated for her keen ability to see – really see – the problem or person. This discernment allows the Project Grace team to see beyond the presenting 'problem' or 'need' and look for opportunities to help the recipient take steps to address the underlying concern. But she also recognizes that fear and embarrassment, stress, and other hindrances can make it difficult for some in the community to access the services and resources they could get from other agencies or resources; nevertheless, Sharyn patiently listens and warmly responds, reassuring applicants that it is okay to ask for help, that they are deserving of compassion and help in a time of need.

In addition to volunteering for Project GRACE, Sharyn has helped with activities at her church, has volunteered weekly for the South Portland Food Cupboard (before the pandemic changed things), and over the years has quietly and steadily made our community a much more caring place.

CONGRATULATIONS, SHARYN!! The club donated \$250 to Project Grace in Sharyn's honor.

-- Marie P



left to right: Bert Fallonsby (Project Grace board president), Sharyn S, Anita C, Steffie Cox (Project Grace Executive Director)

The VOY is chosen each year from nominations we received from local nonprofits. Sharyn joins this list of previously honored VOYs.

- 2023 - Sharyn Shearer - Project Grace
- 2022 - Sam Kelley - Vet 2 Vet Maine
- 2021 - Ray Richard - Portland Wheelers
- 2020 - Cathy Hendrix - Hospice of Southern Maine
- 2019 - Christine Arlander - Catherine Morrill Day Nursery
- 2018 - Dot Gonyea - Camp Sunshine
- 2017 - Toni Parise - Center for Grieving Children
- 2016 - Ann Smith - Portland Mentoring Alliance
- 2015 - Marilyn Goodreau - Maine State Society for the Protection of Animals
- 2014 - Celena Moreau - CASA, Inc.
- 2013 - Kim Lee - Morrison Center
- 2012 - Sandra Grubb - Trauma Intervention Program
- 2011 - Fran Seeley - PROP Foster Grandparents Program
- 2010 - Connie & Denis Netto - Portland Adult Education
- 2009 - Patsy Thompson Leavitt - Leavitt's Mill Free Health Center
- 2008 - Elizabeth Oatley - Tate House Museum
- 2007 - Rick Rosu-Myles - Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Southern Maine
- 2006 - The Heggeman Family - Maine Senior Games
- 2005 - Patricia Beville - Root Cellar

# We Give Scholarships

Our former Altrusans, Mrs. Mary Stiles and Dr. Alice Whittier, would have been very pleased with the recipients who received scholarships in their names at our last program meeting.

Asfia Jawed from Deering High School received the Mary Stiles Scholarship. A lovely young woman who will be attending Smith College in the fall, starting with Liberal Arts classes and possibly going into education. She shared that she enjoyed mentoring and teaching others and it was so exciting because it was her 18th birthday!

Emily Seavey from Portland High School received the Alice Whittier MD scholarship. She will be pursuing a career in the STEM program concentrating on Biology at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Their very proud fathers accompanied them and we were pleased to meet them and wish them much success in their new chapter of learning!



left to right: Martha G, Asfia Jawed, Emily Seavey, Anita C



left to right: Mr. Jawed, Asfia, Emily, Mr. Seavey

This year Portland Altrusa was able to award two scholarships to the ASTRA Club at Lake Region High School. Congratulations to Adison Keefe and Annabelle Montgomery, both young women were Officers of their ASTRA club.

Adison Keefe was a student in the Honors classes which proved challenging - especially Quantitative Chemistry. She was very conscientious about her studies and producing quality work; and seeking extra help for clarification. She has a "never quit" attitude and her work ethic is outstanding! Her classmates and staff appreciate her leadership qualities, dependability, sense of humor, and inclusion of everyone in various school activities. She was Vice-president of her LRHS class of 2023 for all 4 years.

Adison loves soccer and it has always been an important part of her life; so she was delighted when she was accepted at Thomas College in Waterville, Maine, where she will be able to continue her soccer. She is enrolled in their "3 plus 1 program" where she can get her bachelor degree in 3 years and her Masters in the 4th year. She will major in psychology & mental health. Her goal is to become a substance abuse counselor.

Annabelle Montgomery, is a highly motivated student. She has taken advantage of Lake Region's Humanities and STEM courses; and challenged herself all four years through the offerings of honors and Dual Enrollment online college courses. Therefore, she has an extremely well rounded academic foundation; and is a proud member of the National Honor Society. Annabelle has won multiple awards for excellence in Math and Science during her years at Lake Region. Her work ethic is outstanding; she is articulate and detail-oriented.

Annabelle has numerous interests outside of the classroom. She has been a lifelong competitive dancer, dancing for the Maine Dance Center and showcasing her art form at the National level. Annabelle's future plans include studying at a four year college, concentrating on Political Science; and then attending Law School to become a Criminal Defense Lawyer.

Our congratulations to Adison Keefe and Annabelle Montgomery for their outstanding achievements at LRHS. "Hold fast to your dreams."

-- Martha G

standing in back, Governor Pam Lemieux; seated left to right: ASTRA president Delaina Grover, Annabelle Montgomery, Adison Keefe



# Other Service Projects

## Bags of Hope Delivery

We delivered 26 Bags of Hope to Milestone, an organization that provides compassionate care and services to empower individuals experiencing substance use disorders, mental illnesses and homelessness. The bags are given to women living at the shelter or on the streets and contain essential hygiene and comfort items.



Left to right: Pam L, Wanda P, Anita C, a Milestone outreach worker, Trish M, Susan K, Ann S



Left to right: Trish M, Susan K, Milestone representative Curtis Haynes, Pam L, Ann S, Wanda P

## Ronald McDonald House Meal

On May 16th Portland Altrusans prepared a meal of meatball subs and salad for the folks staying at the Ronald McDonald House.



Left to right: Karen A, Ann S, Karen's mother Elaine Sherwin, Nicki G



# other Committees' News

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Trish Maxim received a very kind and thoughtful parting letter from Toni Irish that Trish brought forward at our business meeting in May. It's been wonderful getting to know Toni this year and she will be missed. Joyfully, we gain some members and sadly we lose some.

Keeping in mind our theme "Together in Service", let's bring a friend or acquaintance to a Service Project Event this coming year. This idea came to us from our International guests at the Spring Conference. They increased their membership exponentially by inviting friends and acquaintances to participate/view in their project events bringing together their community and growing their organization. Plant the seeds of Friendship in Altrusa.

See you at my house in June for our last meeting around the fire pit and at BAM Book Drive in July. Have a wonderful Summer!

-- Karen V

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

It's already MAY, and has Spring really sprung? 🌸 Not according to the temperatures and the cold nights ☹️. But spring blew in a busy time for the Finance Committee.

With the budget completed and approved by the membership, we are finishing another budget year. It also brought us a new and very successful fundraising event on the 11th of May, "Schooner Fare" Concert. We are still in the process of finishing up and totaling the results, but it looks like it surpassed all of our previous fundraisers. We shall have the final figures available for the "End of the Year" report.

I would like to thank ALL the members who put forth such an effort to make this a successful event. Thanks again, Nicki, for getting us in touch with the Band. A big THANK YOU to all members of the Finance Committee for your dedicated work.

Hope to see you in June around Karen Valley's "Fire Pit" 🍷

-- Fran J

PS: Dues without late fees are still accepted until May 31st. 😊

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

It's been a busy month! Publicity for Schooner Fare went very well. Thanks to Debbie Lemieux for arranging for this fundraising event to be listed in the Maine Today Calendar. Using Eventbrite also worked out very well for us - about half of the tickets were sold online. A great result! A photo album of pictures shared with the Communications Committee is also now up on Facebook. If you have more photos to share, please send them to Christine Johnson and we'll add them to the album.

Volunteer of the Year photos were added to our Facebook page with a tag for Project G.R.A.C.E. The post has received several nice comments and a couple of shares. A website page was created for the VOY 2023 recipient, Sharyn Shearer. A press release will be going out shortly. In addition, a new page was created listing all past VOY recipients. This page can be reached through the Past Events menu of the website, or you can use this address: <https://www.altrusaportland.org/annual-volunteer-of-the-year-award>

On the new VOY page, you will see that a few of the more recent recipient names link to a page with their photo and information. Over time, we hope to create a page for each past winner. Content for these pages is being culled from past Altrusagrams, but we could use your help. If you have any photos taken during any past VOY event, please forward them to Christine Johnson. The quality of your original photos will be better than any we can copy out of Altrusagrams.

As always, a huge thank you to Marie for her excellent work on the Altrusagram this month.

Picture format note: Since 2017, iPhones often take photos in .HEIC format. While this is a "space-saving" format that produces high quality images, pictures in this format cannot be directly uploaded to Facebook or to our website. They must be converted to .JPG format first. This requires opening and resaving each photo we use. Please consider converting the files before sending them. Thank you.

-- Christine J

# ASTRA

Ability  
Service  
Training  
Responsibility  
Achievement



It was a great pleasure to have ASTRA President Delaina Grover attend a portion of our annual District One Conference. Since she's a Sophomore at Lake Region High School and doesn't drive yet, her mother Jessica Sloan accompanied her. They arrived at the Nonantum Resort in Kennebunkport Saturday morning in time to hear our incoming Altrusa International President, Linda Smith, give her remarks. Linda will be installed as President of Altrusa International this summer at the Convention in San Antonio, Texas. What a lovely lady!!

Following that presentation we were seated in the dining room for lunch when the very impressive 'Parade of club Presidents' -- with their club banners -- took place. At lunch, Delaina, Jessica, and I had the distinct pleasure of having Linda Smith, the International President-Elect join our round table of eight for her lunch. She was extremely appreciative of our ASTRA club and Delaina's presence at Conference. We enjoyed her company immensely.

Back in the Business session, following lunch, Governor Pam Lemieux announced the District One WINNER of the "ASTRA Service Project" was the Lake Region H.S. ASTRA Club, sponsored by the Portland Altrusa club. International President-elect Linda Smith provided the \$100 award from Altrusa International to Delaina Grover.

-- Trish Maxim



A historic moment for District One's only ASTRA Club: ASTRA President Delaina Grover is standing between Governor Pam Lemieux and incoming International President Linda Smith to receive the 1st place award and \$100 check for their "ASTRA Service Project" this year.



# Other Things

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. [franjensen2911@gmail.com](mailto:franjensen2911@gmail.com)

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.



## 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!

Editor Marie Pike [pikerino2@aol.com](mailto:pikerino2@aol.com)

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

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfBA5kpTP2KnohBM77MIB7qwAm953gIU10L8wCWanf3Qbrtqg/viewform>

The International Association President wants us to enter literacy hours as a separate category.

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>

### June Birthdays

Judith Reidman

Happy Birthday!



### Altrusa International Foundation's Spring Fundraiser "60 for 60"



To celebrate its 60th anniversary the Foundation is asking donors to make contributions in the amount of \$60, \$160, \$260, \$560, \$860 or \$1,060.

All amounts raised June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023 will count towards the club awards for most raised/most raised per capita, and for the individual commemorative ribbons for each level of giving.

to give, go to <https://foundation.altrusa.org>

### Mark your calendar for these Future District & International Events

#### International Convention

July 19 - 22, 2023

San Antonio, Texas

#### District One Workshop

November 4, 2023

Nashua, NH Sheraton Hotel  
hosted by the Merrimack Valley club

### The International Office has moved!

The new address is: 1400 E. Touhy Ave, Suite 410  
Des Plaines, IL 60018

All mailed correspondence to the Association or the Foundation should be going to this new address now.

