

June/July 2023 Altrusagram

Upcoming Dates



Thursday, July 13th

Board Meeting
1:30 pm, at
Fran Jensen's home

Tuesday, July 18th

Sue's Supper at RMCD
House - volunteer
opportunity

Tuesday, August 15th

Sue's Supper at RMCD
House - volunteer
opportunity

throughout August

B-A-M Book drive
work opportunities -
contact Susan King to sign
up for a shift



International Convention

July 19th - 22nd
San Antonio, Texas

post-summer

Business Meeting
Wednesday, Sept 6th

District One Workshop

Saturday, Nov 4th
Nashua, NH

from the President:



On June 14th, I had the pleasure to install our Altrusa Portland officers for the coming year and to thank those for their leadership for this past year. Service is the key to our work in Altrusa. Without you, the members, Altrusa could not exist. It is our job to actively participate and be involved. I charge each of us to keep the lines of communication open and the flow of information moving. As members, we bring our own unique characteristics to the club, we all add to the success of our club. Your elected leaders want to lead in the direction that you, the membership, wants this club to move forward. This can only be accomplished through your constant communication. Keep your club participation strong, and be proud, knowing that your service helps people, touching lives and making things better for our communities. You have made a difference with our service projects.

This past year was the first year which International required a separated "Board" for Foundation. When the Foundation Director position became vacant, Susan King stepped up to fill the vacancy. Her willingness to serve was greatly appreciated. Anita Chandler was elected as the 1st President of Foundation. The club is proud of the service projects which were accomplished under her leadership. Thank you for a job well done.

The service committee will be reaching out for scheduling for the BAM book drive and shelving. The "Board" will be meeting in July/August (TBD) to discuss the locations of Business and Program meetings for the New Year.

I would like to send a big thank you to our editor extraordinaire, Marie. This is Marie's final Altrusagram. She is passing the typewriter & red pen to Debbie Lemieux. Although Marie has been traveling the USA, she hasn't missed a beat putting our newsletter to bed. Thank you Marie and can't wait for your return to Maine.

Thank you for a successful year. We will continue with the theme:
Together in Service

We will meet again in the fall. Until then, I wish you all a very enjoyable summer.

Wanda



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

Who We Are...

The Board 2023 - 2024

Club President: Wanda Pettersen
kettlecove_6@msn.com

Foundation President: Pam Lemieux
pamela.lemieux@myfairpoint.net

Vice President: Karen Valley
book1babe@gmail.com

Secretary: Patricia Maxim
campnaples@fairpoint.net

Treasurer: Fran Jensen
franjenzen2911@gmail.com

Foundation Director: Ann Smith
vanillawoman2015@gmail.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 cejinmaine@gmail.com
Erin May Deprez erinmaydeprez@gmail.com

Finance Co-Chairs:
Fran Jensen franjenzen2911@gmail.com
Marie Pike pikerino2@aol.com

Membership Co-Chairs:
Patricia Maxim campnaples@fairpoint.net
Katie Lamb kwblamb@gmail.com

Service Co-Chairs:
Pam Lemieux pamela.lemieux@myfairpoint.net
Martha Gross grossmartha01@gmail.com

Social Co-Chairs:
Fran Breton frb3282@hotmail.com
Joanne Doherty jdoherty193@gmail.com

Installation of the 2023/2024 Board

On a mostly overcast evening, June 14th, following days and days of rain showers, a number of brave Altrusans (rather redundant description) gathered round a campfire at Karen Valley's house to celebrate each other and the 2023-2024 Board.

Newly installed, was Pam Lemieux filling the role of Foundation president. Also, Ann Smith, as Foundation Director.

Continuing their posts for this coming service year, are:

Wanda Pettersen, Club President
Karen Valley, Club and Foundation Vice President
Fran Jensen, Club and Foundation Treasurer
Trish Maxim, Club and Foundation Secretary
Fran Breton, Club Director
Debbie Lemieux, Immediate Past President

Members brought an array of foods and beverages, and shared stories, recipes, hugs and laughter around the campfire.

Under the most excellent direction and guidance from Madame President, Wanda, and this Board, we are sure to experience another year filled with accomplishments, bonding in service and sisterhood.

-- Debbie L



left to right: Pam L, Ann S, Fran J, Trish M, Wanda P, Karen V



Outgoing Foundation President Anita C and Foundation Director Susan K were thanked for their service to the club's Foundation.

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

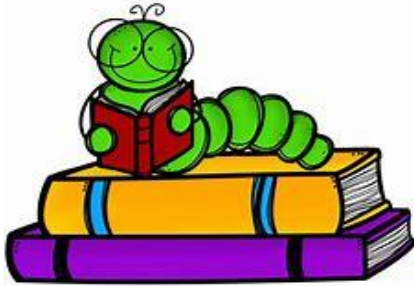
PO Box 8834, Portland, ME 04104 USA

<https://districtone.altrusa.org>

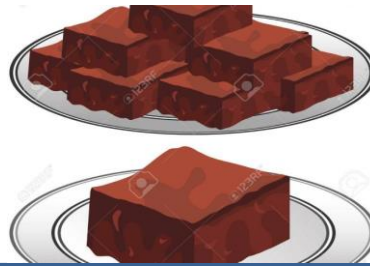
<https://www.portlandaltrusa.org>

Our Service Projects

In June, Martha Gross delivered 150 middle school age books to The Seacoast Altrusa Club.



On Tuesday, June 20th, Anita Chandler, Pam Lemieux and Ann Smith put on the Ronald McDonald Supper. The menu was homemade Italian Sandwiches, Potato Salad, and Brownies (which were donated by Karen Valley).



**ONE PERSON
CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE,
AND
EVERYONE
SHOULD TRY.**
-JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

other Committees' News

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We began our 2022-2023 Altrusa club year with 30 members. (Marcia Marley had paid her dues for the year before she passed away on August 15, 2022.) But that meant the attendance headcount at each meeting was 29, until Erin Deprez paid half-year dues in February and became our newest member. That brought our official headcount to 31 for the rest of the club year. Having 31 members allowed Portland Altrusa to have 3 Delegates and 3 Alternates at our District Conference in April and again at the International Convention in San Antonio this July.

However, as of May 31, 2023 we have 5 members not renewing their membership; bringing our head count down to 26 at the start of our 2023-2024 club year. We are sad to lose: Marcia Marley, Jane Coolidge, Toni Irish, Sharon Davis, and Carol Spector. They will be tough to replace.

We need everybody's support in prospecting for new members. When was the last time you told a friend, co-worker, business acquaintance, etc. about Altrusa? As I learned many years ago, don't assume they don't have the time or are not interested. Just tell them why you became a member; and why you enjoy being part of a Community Service organization that has enough members so that you can choose which projects appeal to your talents, interests, and time availability.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

-- Trish M

other Committees' News

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

We all enjoyed the Installation and gathering at Karen Valley's this month. For those who missed it, some photos of the event have been shared on Facebook. The website has been updated to reflect the new board with a photo of the group from this event.

Speaking of the website, work continues on updating and adding content. For example, a complete list of our 19 Volunteers of the Year can be found under Past Events. Some of the past winners are linked to their own page which includes info about them, along with photo(s) from their award night. We plan to create a page for each of the past winners, pulling info and pictures from past Altrusagrams. However, if you happen to have any saved photos from older VOY events (2005-2017), please send them to me at cejinmaine@gmail.com. We'd love for these pages to truly celebrate these wonderful people.

Regarding Altrusagrams, we've been collecting past digital copies and placing them into annual folders on our shared Altrusa Google Drive. We hope to gather copies of Altrusagrams as far back as possible in digital format. Once that avenue is exhausted, we'll be out looking for hard copies members may have saved that can be scanned. All members are welcome to access and view this drive which contains pictures and other content that may be of interest.

Keep sharing photos of service work you do this summer. We'd like to be able to refresh our Facebook page content on a regular basis. Don't forget to take pictures during our upcoming BAM Book Drive in July/August. Photos can be sent to me. Or post on your own page and "tag" Altrusa International - Portland, Maine Club.

Finally, looking ahead to fall and updates to the brochure and yearbook, be sure to send any personal contact or information updates to Ann Babbitt at ababbitt@gmail.com. Also, we'll be asking folks if they'd like new photos for the next edition of the yearbook. Pictures should be taken against a neutral background and close-up (similar to passport photos). If you don't have a recent picture you like, we'll plan some time at meetings in the fall to help you with that.

Enjoy your summer!!

-- Christine J

FINANCE COMMITTEE

As I sit here and write this brief overview of our last month's activities, I can't believe it's "Summer Solstice" already and we start our "Summer Break". I want to report on the success of our May Fundraiser, the "Schooner Fare" concert.

We sold \$ 3,420.00 worth of tickets 📄 🎟 We held a 50/50 Raffle Sale, which netted \$ 386.00. Our expenses were \$ 707.50. This left us with a net profit of \$ 3,098.50. 🙌

A big Thank You 😊 to everyone who helped and contributed in some way.

I also want to thank all the contributors to the CLYNCK program!

Let's not forget about this ongoing effort during the summer months. "Drink lots of liquids"! ☑️ 🥤

Last but not least I want to thank the Finance Committee Members for their hard work during this last year. It's been a pleasure working with you.

Have a great and safe Summer 🌻 🌻 🌻

-- Fran J

from the Altrusagram editor



This is my final issue as the club's newsletter editor and I am very happy to be passing the job on to Debbie Lemieux. We already know that she does a fantastic job with newsletters - so YAY!

Debbie will be announcing her deadline for submissions and any other requests for how info comes in. Please be sure to continue to support her work with all the write-ups, photos and news in a timely fashion.

I've much enjoyed this stint (my third time actually) as Altrusagram editor. I couldn't have done it this past year, as John and I (and Gus) traveled around the country, without the support of all of you who contributed items. And Trish Maxim's proofing!! Thank you!

-- Marie P

ASTRA

Ability
Service
Training
Responsibility
Achievement



ASTRA's last meeting for this school year was a breakfast party at 7:30am with 15 members in attendance. The seniors signed their "Alumni Survey" forms for Altrusa International and received their graduation cords from International.

I presented \$500 checks to both Scholarship applicants, and the THANK YOU from Portland Altrusa to Advisor Kristina Theriault with her \$350 stipend check.

-- Trish Maxim



Scholarship winners Adison Keefe and Annabelle Montgomery with Trish M.



Advisor Kristina Theriault speaking to group.



15 ASTRA members attended the last meeting.



Graduating seniors with their cords from International.

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/1FAIpQLSfBA5kpTP2KnohBM77MB7qwAm953glU10L8wCWanf3Qbrtqg/viewform>

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



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.



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

July and August Birthdays

Marie Pike
Susan King
Wanda Pettersen

Happy Birthday!



Getting to Know You....name a book or movie that you'd recommend others to read/watch over the summer days.

I like all the books in the series about Mike Bowditch, a Maine game warden, written by Paul Doiron. I'm fond of the murder/mystery genre and it's nice to read about places in Maine I know.
Nicki G



A few recent favorites were:

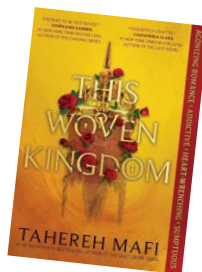
- All That is Mine I Carry With Me* by William Landay
- Out of Love* by Hazel Hayes
- The Madness of Crowds* by Louise Penny

A fun one I just read was a mystery called *Termination of Benefits* by Jane Sloven who happened to be a co-author of *Compassionate Journey* by Cheryl Gillespie, who was our February speaker! It was a fun fast read!

Katie L

One of my favorite movies I just recently watched again is "Defiance". It's from 2008 with Daniel Craig. An appropriate film to watch again in these turbulent times in that region of the world. It's far away when I watch it here back in Maine USA, but when I was back in Germany it is happening right "in front of your doorstep". I am also getting ready to read: *The President's Daughter* by James Patterson and Bill Clinton. Pam will actually try to figure out to whom it belongs to while I read it. Thanks for lending it to me Pam L. For a good "beach read" I came across the little book *Ghosts of Maine* by T.M.Gray. Very interesting, and it might give you some day trip ideas.

Enjoy,
Fran J

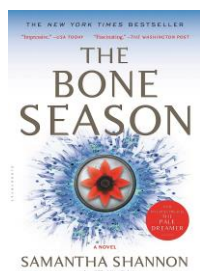


When I think back on a favorite summer read, I first think of the All Souls Trilogy by Deborah Harkness (first book *A Discovery of Witches*) I'm looking at the books on the shelf right now and considering a re-read! A more recent book is also a series - *This Woven Kingdom* by Tahereh Mafi. But beware, the story is a cliff hanger and if you're hooked like I was, you'll need the sequel, *These Infinite Threads*. I'm in the middle of that one, and the third isn't due out until 2024! I'm thankful to my local independent bookstore, Letterpress Books, for introducing me to this series.
Christine J

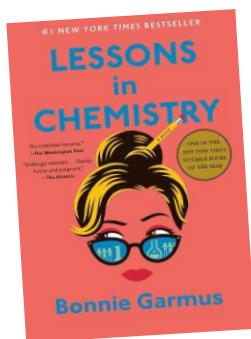
If you like fantasy with something for everyone but not for everyone/explicit. Samantha Shannon's books:
Priory of the Orange Tree (2019)
A Day if Fallen Night (2023) prequel

She has another series which I'm currently reading and like so far...below are the first two:

- The Bone Season* (2013)
 - The Mime Order* (2015)
 - Plus more....
- Karen V



If you have Netflix, I recommend "Mo". A different perspective on immigration and bigotry.
Gerry D



If you can get your hands on it..... *Lessons in Chemistry*. A great read about a woman's struggle in the 50's to be recognized for her abilities.
Debbie L