



November 2023 Altrusagram



**December Meeting
Business/Program
Holiday Party**
Wednesday, Dec. 13
6:00 PM
Riverside Golf Course



**Sue's Supper
at RMcD House**
Tuesday, Dec. 19
volunteer opportunity

**Until Dec. 31
Calendar Raffle Sales
See Page 7 for
printable version**

Altrusa International Foundation of Portland, Maine Inc.	
Monthly Calendar Raffle - December 2023	
All Raffle Prizes are subject to availability. Prizes are cash unless otherwise noted.	
1	1000
2	500
3	250
4	100
5	50
6	25
7	10
8	5
9	2
10	1
11	1
12	1
13	1
14	1
15	1
16	1
17	1
18	1
19	1
20	1
21	1
22	1
23	1
24	1
25	1
26	1
27	1
28	1
29	1
30	1
31	1

from the President:



November is the time we start saying goodbye to Autumn. The colorful leaves falling to the ground provides us with the outdoor activity of raking. Thanks to Daylight Saving Time, we get one night of an extra hour of sleep, more sunlight in the morning, and it becomes darker in the late afternoon; and of course, cooler temperatures start to arrive. It is also the perfect time to gather with family, friends, and to reminisce and to express our gratitude for things we can and can not change.

Altrusa Portland is very thankful for our connection with Books a Million. Once again, we are the recipient of BAM's book drive. The special customers and staff of BAM allow us to gift kindergarteners in the Greater Portland area and beyond a "forever" book of their very own.

November is also when we hold our membership informational event. This year we were fortunate to learn more about ProjectFEED and how grateful they are for our "Empty Bowl" donation. "I'm Your Neighbor Books," a non-profit organization, "which serves the needs of schools, libraries, and the community centers with immigrant and new generation children's book collections", came to speak to us and explained how their group gifts refugee children with culturally specific books to build welcoming skills and a sense of belonging. Kirsten Cappy, Executive Director, provided such an inspirational conversation regarding their programs.

I am grateful for our small but mighty group of volunteers. Your dedication & generosity to our community is AMAZING. I wish you all a peaceful & healthy Thanksgiving season.

Together in Service

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
reidmanjudith7@gmail.com

Committee Chairpersons 2023 - 2024

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 jdoherthy193@gmail.com

What's cooking, Good looking!

Merry Little Holiday Party

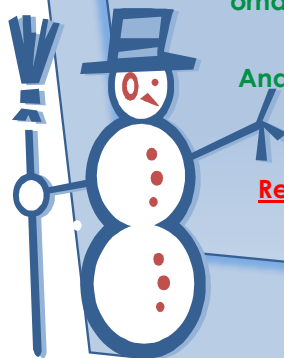
Silent Auction – To Benefit Wayside Food Programs

December 13th 6pm – 8pm
The Club at Riverside Golf Course

Please bring a nice gift item you would like to donate with a suggested price/value. Some ideas: gift card, plate of your favorite treats, ornament, anything you would like to re-gift.

And of course, there will be fun games with prizes.

[Regular Program Meal Guidelines apply](#)

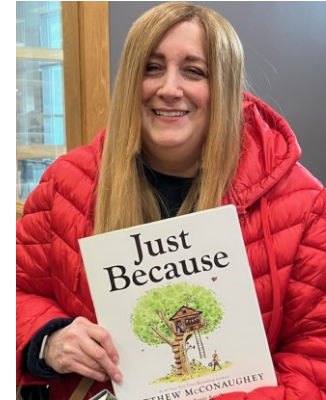


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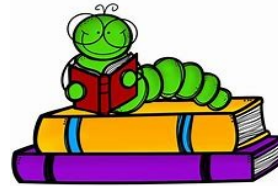
Our Service Projects

Books-A-Million Bookdrive in Full Swing

Susan and Ann S had a lovely time at BAM on Sunday, November 5th. We arrived to “Cash Only” signs posted as their card machines were down. We worried a bit, but our fears were unfounded as LOTS of people were generous and willing to support the Book Drive! Pam L. and Marie P. manned the table on Nov. 18th.



The Windham Kindergarten ABC sessions are getting scheduled. Please check your email and reach out to Susan King for available dates and times.



ABC in South Portland was very successful. Five Altrusans visited 14 classrooms between November 3rd and November 14th. Kaler, Dyer, Small, Brown and Skillin all welcomed us with open arms!

Conversations in the K classes ranged from “how old are you?” to “I have a salami sandwich for my lunch.”

Our read-alouds were well received and kids were delighted to choose a new book. Only two tug of wars happened...one over Creepy Carrots and another over I Want To Be a Yeti.

Those classroom teachers each got a new book for their library!

Many thanks Martha, Ann S., Pam, Nicki and Susan!



Pam Lemieux reads at Brown school.



Nicki Griffin reads at Brown school.

ABC



Martha Gross reads at Dyer school.



Ann Smith reads at Kaler school.



other Committees' News

Finance Committee

The finance committee met on November 13th to finalize the calendar raffle and discuss other potential fundraisers.

The calendar has been emailed to everyone (and a copy included in this newsletter). Thank you to everyone who provided prizes for the calendar.

In that email Christine Johnson also provided the following guidance for the payment options:

As you sell in person or via email to friends and family, the payment options to share with your contacts include:
Cash (suggest in person only)
Check made out to Altrusa of Portland Maine
Credit/debit at this link https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=KA4XYJU4CGCLG

This info is purposely not on the calendar itself to avoid any appearance of "internet sales" or remote sales where we have not confirmed the age of the buyer. We need to be sure we are selling only to people who are 18+.

These make great Christmas stocking stuffers and the proceeds support our service projects. So, please get those calendar raffles out to all your contacts and sell, sell, sell!

MEMBERSHIP Committee

Membersip Drive was held during the November 15 Program Meeting at Riverside Golf Course.



Our first speaker of the evening was Steven Gray, Chair of the Board for ProjectFEED. He explained their transformation over the years to keep up with the changing needs of the community.

He graciously accepted our donation of \$1565 from our "Empty Bowl" supper held in October.

Thank you to Anita Chandler for introducing Kirsten Cappy to us.

The "I'm Your Neighbor Books" organization that she founded here in Maine has now spread to the West Coast. It addresses the need for books by the Immigrant community and ties in nicely with our emphasis on Literacy.



Thanks to Martha Gross for inviting former member (2010-2012) Gail Mazzone to be our guest for the evening. Gail says she will be back for our Holiday party on December 13th. We hope she will be back for much more than that. We would welcome her with open arms!

other Committees' News

Communication Committee

The Communications Committee is committed to making the 2024 Calendar Raffle a big success. You will notice that the calendar is a bit different this year, with colors pulled from the Altrusa logo to provide some consistency in branding between the calendar and our new brochure.

A Facebook post about this fundraiser went up on November 15 on the Altrusa Portland page. Please like and share this post in your own Facebook Feed, and comment on the post. These actions will raise visibility with your friends as well as with those who have "liked" our page. If you use other social media, like Instagram, Tik Tok, X, etc, be sure to share it there as well. The point is to attract attention and drive folks to contact us to make their purchase - person-to-person selling. Information is also posted on our website under Current Events, where a copy of the calendar can be downloaded. If you have suggestions for other ways to promote the calendar, please let us know.

Because we cannot post a link to online payment, and even need to be cautious about posting our PO Box in social media to avoid the appearance of "internet sales", it is important that every Altrusan join our sales team in full force. Send an email to your family, friends and colleagues with a copy of the calendar (use BCC to make it seem more personal and to avoid issues with "reply all"). Include our mailing address, PO Box 8834 Portland, ME 04014, and this payment link for credit/debit payments: https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=KA4XYJU4CGCLG If you have a personal Venmo account, please consider sharing that too.

Carry copies of the calendar with you wherever you go - to a meeting, social event, luncheon, family gathering, etc. The calendar includes a nice mix of prizes, so we should all be proud to offer it to folks in our various social and business circles. Don't be afraid of a "no". It's just part of the process.

Finally, set a sales goal for yourself and then try to exceed it! With neary \$2300 in prizes, we should collectively be targeting at least \$3500 in sales to leverage those donations by at least 1.5 times the value. **We've got this!!**

Clearly, focus is on the calendar raffle and promoting it. Hopefully anything else can wait until next month.

Christine E. Johnson Co-Chair Communications Committee
Altrusa International of Portland Maine
207-653-0869

November Birthdays

Debbie Lemieux
Ann Smith
Andrea Doherty
Arlene Hanson
Fran Jensen

Happy Birthday!





Ability Service Training Responsibility Achievement



ASTRA's 3rd place International award is proudly displayed in the front lobby of LRHS.



By ASTRA's 4th meeting of this school year (2023-2024) their attendance roster has grown to 33 members. (23 of them are new to ASTRA this year.) Like Altrusa, not every member is able to attend every meeting, but we average 17.

At their recent Nov. 16th meeting, the students got started on two of their projects:

-SERVICE - Decorating the white bakery bags that later will be filled with the "February Vacation Activities" for the Elementary school children.

-FUNDRAISING - Making Bracelets to sell to the high school students.

Songo Locks Elementary School (grades Pre-K - 3) has requested ASTRA to volunteer at their "Breakfast with Frosty" on Saturday morning, December 2nd. Seventeen (17) students have signed up for a very fun event. This is a volunteer opportunity we used to do prior to COVID. It's terrific to have it back.

At their next meeting on Dec. 7th, ASTRA will pull their Blue & Gold "Chain of Service" out of the display cabinet and take it to the Library conference room where each new member will add their link. (This is a tradition that they love to do.)

-Trish



One group of ASTRA students decorates the "Activity Bags" for February school vacation while another group makes Bracelets to sell for a fundraising project.



Altrusa International Foundation of Portland, Maine Inc.

www.altrusaportland.org

January 2024 Calendar Raffle

@AltrusaPortland

ALTRUSA
OF
PORTLAND
MAINE
Calendar Raffle
2024

Raffle Entries are \$10 each
All Raffle Entries are eligible for EVERY daily drawing. 31 Chances to win!!
Nearly \$2,300 in Cash and Prizes

Purchase entries from any Portland Altrusan. We'll offer you payment options to fit your needs.
 Or contact us at altrusaportland@gmail.com for more information.
 You must be at least 18 years old to enter
 Download a copy of this calendar at
<https://www.altrusaportland.org/calendar-raffle-2024>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 \$50 Gift Card	2 3 Months of Fudge or Candy You choose the type \$75 Value	3 	4 \$50 Gift Card	5 \$25 Gift Card \$50 Gift Card \$75 Value	6 \$50 Gift Card
7 \$50 Gift Card	8 \$50 Gift Card	9 Glacier Blue Silk Scarf By Mark Kelley \$50 Value	10 \$75 Gift Certificate	11 \$50 Gift Card \$100 Value	12 \$50 Gift Card	13 \$30 Gift Card African Jewelry Necklace \$50 Value \$80 Value
14 \$50 Gift Card	15 \$50 Gift Card	16 \$100 Gift Card	17 \$30 Gift Card \$20 Gift Card \$50 Value	18 \$50 Gift Card	19 \$50 Gift Card	20
21 \$30 Gift Card \$30 Gift Card \$60 Value	22 Luke's Lobster \$100 Gift Card	23 NONESUCH BOOKS \$60 Gift Card	24 \$50 Gift Card	25 \$25 Gift Card Jewelry Mystery Bag \$50 Value \$75 Value	26 2 Hours Master Gardener's Work like design, planting, pruning, Spring or Fall clean up \$70 Value	27 LeRoux Kitchen \$100 Gift Card
28 \$50 Gift Card	29 \$50 Gift Card	30 3 Children's Books \$30 Value \$50 Gift Card \$80 Value	31 	All proceeds from this raffle will be used to fund annual vocational and educational scholarships, our many literacy focused projects, and several community programs sponsored by our club. Altrusa Portland is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit organization. Portland Altrusa appreciates your support. Good Luck!		

Telephone #: _____

How did you hear about us? _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____

ZIP CODE: _____

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/1FAIpQLSfBA5kpTP2KnohBM77MIB7qwAm953glU10L8wCWanf3Qbrtqg/viewform>

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

from the
Altrusagram
editor



Many thanks in advance for all your efforts and your support in providing your input to Altrusa articles and photos. And also, Thanks to Trish Maxim's proofing!!

Please email myself, Debbie, at dalemieux33@gmail.com with anything you consider newsworthy. My deadline for submissions is the 3rd Friday of the month.

-- Debbie L.



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

District One Conference

April 26-28, 2024

Double Tree by Hilton

Andover, Mass

59th International Convention

July 23-26, 2025

Location TBD

Quebec City, Canada