



November 2024 Altrusagram



Upcoming Dates

BAM Bookdrive
October 20 - December 8

Business Meeting
Meeting will be combined at
Holiday Party
See you in January
Stroudwater Lodge
116 Landing Rd.
Westbrook, Me.



Business/Program Meeting Holiday Party and Silent Auction

Wednesday, December 11
6:00 P.M.
Stockhouse Restaurant
506 Main St.
Westbrook, Me.

Ronald McDonald House
Sue's Supper
Tuesday, December 17

From your President:

President's Message



Realize Opportunity

We're halfway through our fiscal year, June through November, and we've ❤️ ROCKED it!!! ❤️

We've accomplished so much! Here are some highlights of a busy half year: Summer Book Drive at BAM; Board meetings; Business Meetings and Program Meetings in a new location; Monthly cooking at RMD House in Portland for the families staying there; Empty Bowl Fundraiser; hosting our District One Visitor Governor Elect, Susan Porazzo at a business meeting; nine of us attending District One Workshop; and hosting a Membership Drive. Our ABC Service Project: reading to kindergarteners and distributing books has started as well as selling tickets for our January Calendar Raffle. Now we're getting ready to celebrate our Annual Holiday Party with food and fun at Stockhouse Restaurant & Sports Pub in Westbrook, including a Silent Auction to raise money for Wayside Food Kitchen.

I'm looking forward to appointing a Nominating Committee in December to be led by our Past President, Wanda Pettersen. The committee will consist of a total of three members. The committee will bring forth a slate to the February Business Meeting for the two open positions starting June 2025 which are: President of Foundation who also serves as one of our Service Co-Chairs and Foundation Director who also serves on Service Committee.

Create Kindness

Always, but especially now, show gratitude to your loved ones, friends, neighbors and to the strangers you meet in your community, or elsewhere if you are traveling this holiday season. Give when and where you can. A smile, a thank you, a simple nod of acknowledgement, a donation or in-kind service, goes a long way to showing appreciation. I'm sure you can think of wonderful meaningful ways to say thank you.

Thank you, Altrusans, for your dedication to our organization by fulfilling our goals, objectives and activities. I'm eagerly looking forward to working more with all of you as we start the second half of our year from December 2024 through May 2025.

"Growing Better Together with Gratitude"

Realize Opportunity, Create Kindness.
Karen Valley



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

Who We Are...

The Board 2024 - 2025

Club President: Karen Valley
book1babe@gmail.com

Foundation President: Pam Lemieux
plemieux4263@gmail.com

Vice President: Christine Johnson
cejinmaine@gmail.com

Secretary: Fran Jensen
franjenzen2911@gmail.com

Treasurer: Marie Pike
pikerino2@aol.com

Foundation Director: Ann Smith
vanillawoman2015@gmail.com

Club Director: Trish Maxim
campnaples@fairpoint.net

Immed. Past President: Wanda Pettersen
kettlecove_6@msn.com

Parliamentarian: Judith Reidman
reidmanjudith7@gmail.com

Committee Chairpersons 2024 - 2025

Communications Co-Chairs:
Christine Johnson cejinmaine@gmail.com
Erin May Deprez erinmaydeprez@gmail.com

Finance Co-Chairs:
Marie Pike pikerino2@aol.com
Danielle Petersen-Stone mommistone@gmail.com

Membership Co-Chairs:
Patricia Maxim campnaples@fairpoint.net
Debbie Lemieux dalemieux33@gmail.com

Service Co-Chairs:
Pam Lemieux plemieux4263@gmail.com
Wanda Pettersen kettlecove_6@msn.com

Program and Event Co-Chairs:
Anita Chandler achandler@maine.rr.com
Gail Mazzone mestormy70@gmail.com

You're invited



A combined Business and Program meeting in December.
This will be our Christmas party.

Each member pays for their dinner, with an added \$5.00 to Finance for room charge

To be held at Stockhouse Restaurant and Sports Pub
506 Main St. Westbrook ME,
December 11
6:00 P.M.

Bring items for the silent auction. Cash and checks will be accepted for items purchased. Proceeds to go to Wayside Food Programs.

Did you know?



Altrusa Portland Club held a Fashion Show in 1956, in which Bette Davis narrated.

Shown Below: Bette Davis(Left) and Gertrude Prinn(Right).

An article surfaced in 2021, in the Maine Seniors magazine profiling Bette Davis' connection to Maine.

During this time, Miss Marian L. Tyler was the Governor of District One and lived in Portland, Me.

Altrusa International Foundation of Portland, Maine, Inc.

altrusaportland@gmail.com

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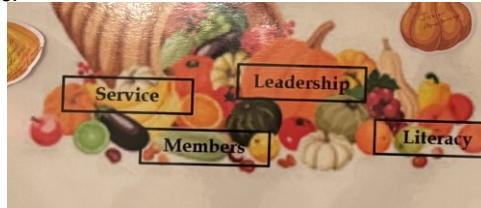
<https://districtone.altrusa.org>

<https://www.portlandaltrusa.org>

District One Workshop

Workshop 2024 was held at the beautiful Nonantum Resort in Kennebunkport. Hosted by the Biddeford-Saco club, under the leadership of District Governor Rita Cote.

It was packed with inspirational thoughts and motivational speakers and fun. As always, it is heart-warming meeting up with friends from other clubs and sharing experiences.



District One Board and committee chairs



It was great to see and meet all the First-Timers at Workshop this year. (Full disclosure - Far Right - our own Marilyn MacDowell had to be photoshopped in, as she was out of the room when the photo was taken).



Christine Johnson and Karen Valley on arrival.



Kirsten Cappy, founder of I'm Your Neighbor books was the keynote speaker.

She is a passionate activist bringing awareness and resources to multi-cultural communities, schools and libraries.



Portland club was well represented.
L-R: Wanda Pettersen, Trish Maxim, Christine Johnson, Karen Valley, Pam Lemieux, Debbie Lemieux, Marie Pike, Marilyn MacDowell and Fran Breton.



November Birthdays of the Month

Andrea Doherty
Arlene Hanson
Fran Jensen
Debbie Lemieux
Marilyn MacDowell
Ann B. Smith

Happy Birthday!

Service Committee News



Ronald McDonald House Charities®
Maine



On November 19, (L - R) Anita Chandler, Debbie Lemieux, Susan King and new Altrusa Friend, Janet Crawford cooked up American Chop Suey, Sweet Potato casserole, Baked apples served with Coleslaw and for dessert, served up Brownies and fruit. All that entered said the aromas coming from the kitchen were amazing.

Just 2 more weeks to go!
Spread the Word!

October 20 -
December 8

BAM!
BOOKS-A-MILLION

Books-A-Million bookdrive is underway with only 2 more weeks to go. Let all your friends and family know to **come down and donate a book for Altrusa Portland.**



This is a picture of our warehouse where books are stored, stickered and sorted. As the books are leaving the shelves to accommodate our ABC program, the boxes of new books are piling up from the Books-A-Million Bookdrive. ❤️ WE LOVE YOU, BAM! ❤️

ABC



Fran Jensen reads to some of the K-students at Saccarappa elementary school.



Ann B. Smith reads to the children at Kaler school.



Children at Dyer school with their brand new "FOREVER" books.

Buxton and Windham schools ABC will be happening over the next couple of weeks. Stay tuned for photos in our December AltrusaGram



Children at Kaler with their brand new "FOREVER" books.

Service Committee News

16th Annual Empty Bowl November 2, 2024

Portland Altrusans brought their many crock pots filled with special soups, they set up the tables and decorated the halls of the First Lutheran Church on Auburn St. and got ready to greet all those that came to support our 16th Annual Empty Bowl supper in support of Project FEED.

The tables were filled with smiling patrons. A huge thankyou to all that supported this effort.

And thank you to the First Lutheran Church for allowing us the use of their kitchen and dining space.



From Left to Right, some of the Altrusa Chefs with the members' soups:
Wanda Pettersen, Pam Lemieux, Anita Chandler, Nicki Griffin, and Ann B. Smith



Ann Babbitt(Left) and Martha Grossman the dessert and bread station.



Cathy Paglio - winner of the 50/50 raffle



Christine Johnson - attending to the "Bowl" table. Patrons are invited to select a bowl.



Patrons are invited to as many servings as they like and often choose from a variety of soups.

Committee News

From the Service Committee



From Left to Right:
Karen Valley, Club President of Altrusa Portland
Steve Gray, Project FEED
Pam Lemieux - Foundation President of Altrusa



Steve Gray of Project FEED attended our Membership Drive/Program meeting on November 20. We were very pleased to present Steve with a check for \$1400.00.

Steve announced that Project FEED has found a new home. They will now be located at 640 Brighton Ave, "At The Back".

The recipient of the proceeds from our Empty Bowl, which was held on November 2, each year is Project FEED.



L to R: Trish Maxim, Co-Chair of the Membership cmte, Steve Gray of Project FEED, Pam Lemieux - Foundation President, Anita Chandler, Co-Chair of the Program and Event cmte.

From the Membership Committee



Karen Valley- Club President

Trish Maxim and Debbie Lemieux, Co-chairs, hosted the evenings Membership Drive/Program meeting. Held on November 20, at the Stroudwater Lodge, guests and members enjoyed fruit/cheese assortments with some homemade goodies brought by members. Meanwhile, members were asked to speak of some of our treasured projects.

First agenda item was to present Project FEED check to Steve Gray. (See above). Pam Lemieux has been managing the Empty Bowl and presented the check.

- Anita Chandler spoke of her Altrusa experience and the traditions and projects that have carried on to the present.
- Susan F. King shared her love of our A B C program, which puts brand new FOREVER books in the hands of thousands of area Kindergarteners, from South Portland to the Lakes Region schools.
- Martha Gross talked about the annual scholarships programs benefiting 4 area high schools and 2 colleges.
- Trish Maxim spoke of the ASTRA program at Lake Region High School and all the energy and excitement they have for their community service projects.
- Marie Pike provided an orientation to Altrusa International Foundation and club foundation and operating finance cmte roles.



Debbie Lemieux - Co-Chair of Membership cmte.

Martha Gross(Left) gives her talk of the Scholarships program. Susan F. King(Right) spoke of our treasured ABC program.



Committee News

From the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee has heard rumblings of a bit of friendly competition with selling the calendar raffles :) Even if you're not good at selling, these practically sell themselves. Emailing friends and family is a good way for a low-pressure sell. Or whatever works for you.

Good luck and may the best salesperson win! And regardless of who that may be, Altrusa of Portland wins with every calendar you sell. Thank you all for your efforts.

SELL, SELL, SELL!

And...

A reminder that dues are 1/2 price for new members for the period December 1st to March 31st. So initial dues would be \$60, which includes the one-time \$10 setup fee that goes to International with their share of the dues.

And...

A reminder to get Treasurer Marie Pike the details of any donations you solicited from businesses, friends, etc... so that she can send a Thank You / tax acknowledgment letter.

Tips for Selling Altrusa 2025 Calendar Raffle From the Communication Committee

Selling can sometimes seem hard, but there is good news! Thanks to generous members and business donors, we have a fabulous Calendar with nearly \$2500 in prizes. During the month of January, there will be 31 chances to win for each entry purchased. This thing practically sells itself!!!

Here are some hints and tips that may help you with your sales:

- 1) Always carry copies of the calendar with you wherever you go. In a folder or envelop you keep in your car or in your bag. Wherever it is convenient, and you can keep them looking nice. If you always have them handy, that is a good reminder to
- 2) Always ask. The worst anyone can say is "no". Just smile and say: "thanks for considering".
- 3) Ask your Friends and Family by whatever means works for you:
 - a. send a calendar by email
 - b. post on your Facebook page or share the Altrusa Portland Post – the Event is pinned to the top of our Facebook page – HINT: share this post weekly through December. More shares mean more opportunities for people to consider purchasing
 - c. in person
- 4) Promotion ideas:
 - a. Nearly \$2500 in prizes with 31 chances to win with each entry
 - b. It makes a great hostess gift
 - c. It makes a great "just because" gift
 - d. It makes a great stocking stuffer
 - e. It makes a great Hanukkah Gift (Dec 25-Jan 2)
 - f. Going to a Yankee Swap? The calendar works for that too!
- 5) If you have some tips that work for you, be sure to share them with all of us!
- 6) Set a sales goal and a stretch goal. Did you sell 6 last year? Why not set a goal of 12 this year? And maybe a stretch goal of 15. Setting a goal can remind you to **follow Step 2, Always Ask**.
- 7) Payment Options: Cash is always great. Checks should be made out to Altrusa of Portland. If they want to mail a check, send it to PO Box 8834, Portland, ME 04104. Personal choice only – if you have a Venmo or other cash app, and feel comfortable doing so, you can offer that as a quick and easy payment option.

Have fun with it. Smile. Be excited. This is a great fundraiser with great prizes for a great cause!!



ASTRA of Lake Region High School

Ability Service Training Responsibility Achievement

On November 12th, Co-chair of Altrusa's Membership /ASTRA committee, Debbie Lemieux presented an Altrusa Yearbook (2024-2025 edition) to ASTRA Advisor Kristina Theriault. Pages 24 & 25 are dedicated to ASTRA pictures and information. Kristina passed the book around to the members so they could see how important ASTRA is to Altrusa.

Also passed around was the article published in the local "Bridgton News" (a weekly newspaper) with a picture of the new ASTRA Officers and an explanation of what the acronym ASTRA stands for. PUBLICITY Officer, Katherine O'Connor submitted the picture and article. **Congratulations and many THANKS to her!!**

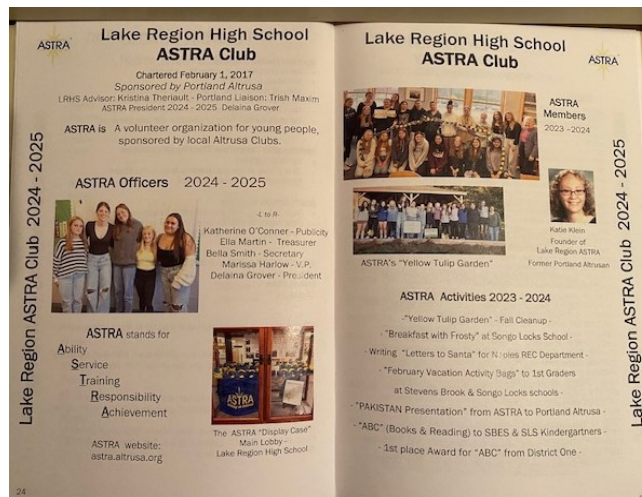
At the second meeting in November (11/26), the day before their break for Thanksgiving, members will be writing **THANK YOU** letters to Military personnel, which will be distributed through an organization called "A MILLION THANKS".

Plans for the December 10th meeting are to write letters from SANTA, which will be distributed to the 'before & after' daycare by the Naples Rec Director.

On Saturday December 14th, ASTRA will again volunteer at the "Breakfast with Frosty" event at the Songo Locks School in Naples (Pre-K to 2nd grade).



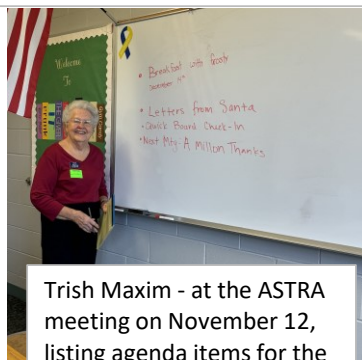
L-R:
Katherine O'Connor - Publicity
Ella Martin - Treasurer
Bella Smith - Secretary
Marissa Harlow - V.P.
Delaina Grover - President



Delaina, ASTRA president, opens the meeting with the ASTRA students.



Sweatshirt designed and for sale by the ASTRA group to raise funds.



Trish Maxim - at the ASTRA meeting on November 12, listing agenda items for the students.



As displayed at our recent Altrusa Membership drive mtg, the Chain of Service for ASTRA are the links of Blue and Gold lining the table, (one link for every ASTRA member) which are also the Lake Region High School colors and symbolic of Wisdom and Enlightenment.

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.

Please email myself, Debbie, at dalemieux33@gmail.com with anything you consider newsworthy. My deadline for submissions is the Friday following the Program meeting.

-- Debbie L.

Club Meeting Norms:

- ✓ Start and end on time
- ✓ Respect each other
- ✓ Accept differences
- ✓ No side Conversations, Cell phones silenced
- ✓ Provide a safe space to speak ones mind
- ✓ Abide by the democratic process
- ✓ Be engaged while present
- ✓ Assume others' good intentions
- ✓ Be open to the ideas of others
- ✓ No interruptions of speaker, speak one at a time



Thank you for continuing to fill up the green Altrusa **CLYNK** bags.

Pam Lemieux can give you as many bags with stickers as you ask for. Fill them with your returnables and 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

