



December 2024 Altrusagram



Upcoming Dates

Business/Holiday Party Silent Auction

Wednesday, January 8
6:00 P.M.
Stockhouse Restaurant
506 Main St.
Westbrook, Me.

Ronald McDonald House

Sue's Supper
Tuesday, January 21

Program Meeting

Wednesday, January 22
6:00 P.M.
Stroudwater Lodge
116 Landing Rd.
Westbrook, Me.



Altrusa District One Spring Conference

May 2 - 5, 2025
Wellsworth Hotel
Southbridge, Ma.

59th International Convention

July 23-26, 2025
Downtown Hilton

From your President:

Holiday Greetings!

December has presented itself with challenges. We had planned on a joint business and holiday party at the Stockhouse Restaurant and Sports Pub on December 11th, but we cancelled because of predicted bad weather. While the storm didn't turn out so bad locally, I'm sure it presented challenges for some of our members. The Good News is we've rescheduled it for January 8, 2025! Guests are welcome! It will be a combined business meeting and New Year's Party to kick off the second half of our year. And, we can still do our Silent Auction to benefit Wayside Food Kitchen! Recycle some holiday gifts?



Realizing Opportunities, Creating Kindness

Our ABC Service Project: reading to kindergarteners and distributing books has been going well as we finished the Westbrook Schools. We finished the Book Drive at Books-A-Million (BAM). Selling tickets for our January Calendar Raffle is ongoing through this month. Be sure to get your ticket stubs and money to Pam Lemieux before January 1, 2025, as that's when we start pulling the winners!

The Nominating Committee led by our Past President, Wanda Pettersen will consist of a total of three members: Chair, Wanda Pettersen, Current President of Foundation, Pam Lemieux and Fran Jensen. 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 may serve on Service Committee. This is a wonderful opportunity for a member to step-up and lead (remember you don't have to be an extrovert to lead).

Back at the beginning of the year, we said after a few months, we'd evaluate the location and organizational changes we've made. Therefore, I'm providing an opportunity for organizational feedback. I'd like each committee to self-evaluate and all members to personally evaluate what's worked well and what may need some fine tuning or changes made regarding location, committees and in general. We will have an organized discussion at the February meeting. So, this gives you all some time to reflect and organize your thoughts and ideas ahead of time. Be kind, give praise about what worked well and be clear about what you'd like to be done differently. We practice Acts of Kindness each week. Each month we grow by saying thank you at every opportunity. I am so thankful for the support of my colleagues in Altrusa. One thank you isn't enough to express my gratitude. So, thank you, thank you, thank you!

See you in January!

"Growing Better Together with Gratitude"
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
franjensen2911@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

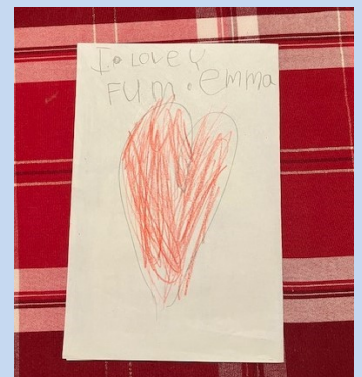
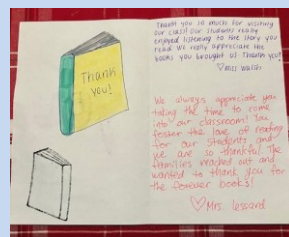
Club News



A combined Business and Holiday Party.
Rescheduled due to inclement weather
Now to be held on January 8, 2025
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,
January 8
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.

Here are some "Thank You's" from the Windham Elementary Kindergartners, to Fran Breton and Wanda Pettersen, following an ABC visit and gifts of FOREVER books to each of the students.



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Service Committee News

WOW!!! Very Busy Elves!



Thursday the 19th December saw busy Altrusans sticking and shelving books, from the recent BAM bookdrive, at the Warehouse. Special thanks to Toni Parise, Marie Pike, Ann Babbitt, Christine Johnson, and Martha Gross. We labeled **548 books** and emptied **10 boxes** and have **18 bags of twenty books** to go to Portland Schools in January of 2025.

Holiday Happiness to all and special Blessings to all.

A HUGE Thankyou

to Books-A-Million and their staff for supporting us once again with another very successful bookdrive.

Our warehouse is brimming with brand new "FOREVER" books destined for the homes of so many area students.



Debbie Lemieux as she and Fran Jensen man a welcome table at Books-A-Million, photo taken by Fran.



From Left: Christine Johnson, Toni Parise(seated) and Martha Gross.



From Left: Marie Pike, Martha Gross and Ann Babbitt.

ABC



Windham K students of Ms. Jandreau's class with their FOREVER books.

11 K- classes at Windham Elementary School were read to. Each student from these classes received a FOREVER book!



Debbie Lemieux reads to very good listeners in Ms. Pettus' classroom at Windham Elementary School.



Karen Valley reads to Windham K students.



Susan King reads to Congin School K students.



Martha Gross enjoys reading to K students at Congin school.

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

The Lake Region High School ASTRA club has grown to 35 members.

On the Wednesday before Christmas, **23 of them** were at the Stevens Brook Elementary School (SBES) in Bridgton to assist each child with their shopping for family gifts at the school sponsored "**Santa's Workshop**".

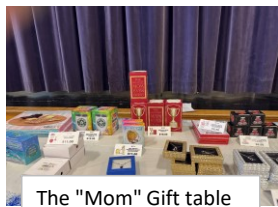
One-by-one each classroom of about 14 students (preK - 5th grade) entered the Workshop at half-hour intervals. The little ones were immediately paired with an ASTRA student, who assisted them with their gift choices, and helped them to make their way through the purchase and wrapping stations.

-Trish

**The ASTRA
Elves of Lake
Region High
School work
at Santa's
Workshop**



ASTRA students help each child to gather the gift items that are to be purchased and wrapped.



The "Mom" Gift table

The Elves at the wrapping station helping to wrap the gifts the children bought.



The "Dad" Gift table

The ASTRA students lined up waiting to assist the children from the next classroom.



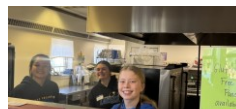
ASTRA students pose while waiting for another classroom of children.
L to R: Emily, Ella, Abbi, Araceli, Meadow.

Two other projects that ASTRA completed in December were "**Breakfast with Frosty**" at the Songo Locks School in Naples on a Saturday morning. ASTRA students had their choice of three tasks:

- Kitchen - serving trays of Pancakes & Sausage or Bacon to whole families of the preK - 2nd grade children;
- Craft room - assisting with the construction of Christmas themed projects;
- Gymnasium - assisting the children through the obstacle courses and various other physical activities.

It was a very well attended event.

After all families had been served breakfast, ASTRA was invited to sit down together and enjoy their breakfast with real Maple Syrup.



ASTRA students in the kitchen serving the breakfast.

The third project involved writing "Letters FROM Santa" to the many children who had written the 'Letters TO Santa' the previous Saturday night at a Naples' annual Christmas party. The function was well attended by families from many surrounding towns. There were lots of "Letters".

After the school break for Christmas & New Years day, ASTRA will resume meeting on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays each month.



ASTRA students posing with FROSTY.



Meadow and Marissa writing letters.

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

