



April 2025 Altrusagram



Upcoming Dates

Altrusa District One Spring Conference
May 2 - 4, 2025
Wellsworth Hotel
Southbridge, Ma.

Business Meeting
Wednesday, May 7
6:00 P.M.

Westbrook Community Center
426 Bridge St.
Westbrook, Me.

Ronald McDonald House
Sue's Supper
Tuesday, May 20

Program Meeting
Wednesday, May 21
6:00 P.M.

Westbrook Community Center
426 Bridge St.
Westbrook, Me.

59th International Convention
July 23-26, 2025
Downtown Hilton
Quebec City, Canada



A Message From your President:

Happy 96th Birthday Portland Altrusa Club! Of course we celebrated, on Wednesday night, April 16th with a birthday bash at Casa Novello in Westbrook Maine. Appetizers, drinks, food and games and conversations made for a fun night for all who attended! Prior to the dinner nine of us conference goers (an enthusiastic group!) met to discuss and plan for our attendance at conference May 2-4, 2025 just around the corner! We also played a bingo game at our birthday party that was based on our knowledge of each other and provided us with the opportunity to ask questions about each other.



Realizing Opportunity, Creating Kindness

Don Morrison from Wayside Food Programs was presented with a check from our Club Silent Auction held at our holiday party in January.

Gratitude for Growth

D in GRATITUDE Discover who you are. What are your strengths? Who are your fellow members? What are their strengths? Utilize these strengths to determine your path forward within our Club, in our Community and beyond.

Recently, we've been pursuing the D in Gratitude by discovering who we are as we try new meeting locations and meeting more members within our community. Two members have stepped up and been elected to Foundation President and Director for the next two years starting in June paving the way forward with new leadership. We haven't added a new member this month yet, but there's still time to invite and grow!

What's next?

As we wrap up our business year in May, voting on next year's budget, installing new Foundation Officers, honoring our chosen recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award, and more, we will continue to discover ourselves as the E in GRATITUDE is Excellence. Continue to Excel in your endeavors! Gratitude ends in personal growth. Become the best version of yourself!

Reminders: you can discover more about Altrusa and yourself. There is still time to sign up for District One Conference May 2-4, 2025 and for the Convention in Quebec July 23-26, 2025. Have you visited our websites recently? Local, District and International? (You can find the URLs in this newsletter).

"Growing Better Together with Gratitude"
Karen Valley



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

Service Committee News

**Next Sue's Supper to be held
May 20
Contact Ann Smith FMI**



Altrusans celebrate our clubs 96th Birthday .

Held at Casa Novello's in Westbrook, we dedicated our time to celebrating our commitment to serve together and to getting to better know each other. Program and Event Co-chair, Gail Mazzone, conducted the games part of the evening with BINGO.



We learned that Erin May Deprez holds the title with most siblings. She has 5. We also learned that one among us can perform a magic trick. None other than Ann Smith. And who among us has lived outside the U.S? Well, that would be Fran Jensen.



Committee News

From the Finance Committee



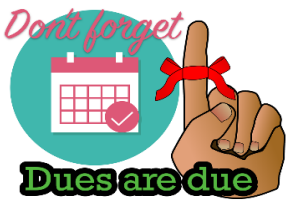
The 2025/2026 budget was presented at the April business meeting and will be discussed and voted on at the May 7th business meeting. If you would like another copy or have any questions you'd like answered before that meeting, please call or email treasurer Marie P.

One big issue on the budget are the proposed dues increases: an additional \$10 for District dues and additional \$15 for club dues. Neither District nor our club has increased the dues in over 20 years so members will hopefully understand the necessity for doing so. These increases, if both approved, will bring annual dues up to \$125.

Because these two increases, if approved, will be so close to when they need to be paid, the board is offering a one-time installment plan. The full \$100 is still due absolutely no later than May 31st, but any increase over that amount can be deferred and paid before September 1st if any member wishes.

Although due on May 31st, the treasurer would greatly appreciate receiving dues before then. Please bring at least the \$100 to the May business or program meeting if you can. If you are mailing your dues instead, be sure they are mailed in time to arrive before May 31st and please mail to the club's post office box, not to the treasurer's home address.

(Dues received after June 1st incur a \$5 or \$10 late fee, depending on how late. This late fee is imposed by International, not the club.)



**Please renew your membership
Altrusa appreciates
you and all you do!**

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Finance Committee

Marie Pike,
Danielle Petersen-Stone, co-chairs
Pam Lemieux
Christine Johnson
Fran Jensen
Judith Reidman
Nicki Griffin



There's still time to buy a \$2.50 reusable *Hannaford Community Bag* from the 295 Forest Avenue Hannaford store and earn \$1/bag for our foundation. Buy before the end of April and be sure to ask for the correct bag (not the cheaper \$1 red reusable bag). Thank you!

Membership Committee

Trish Maxim & Debbie Lemieux,
co-chairs
Fran Breton
Katie Lamb
Marilyn MacDowell
Rae Clark-McGrath
Sarah Labonte

Communications Committee

Christine Johnson & Erin Deprez,
co-chairs
Debbie Lemieux
Ann Babbitt

Service Committee

**Pam Lemieux & Wanda
Pettersen, co-chairs**
Martha Gross
Arlene Hanson
Susan King
Katy Lamb
Cathy Paglio
Toni Parise
Marie Pike
Ann Smith

**ALL Portland Altrusan Members
are members of the Service
Committee.**

Program and Event Committee

Anita Chandler & Gail Mazzone,
co-chairs
Ann Smith
Fran Jensen
Andrea Doherty
Joanne Doherty
Danielle Petersen-Stone
Pam Szalajeski





ASTRA of Lake Region High School

Ability
Service
Training
Responsibility
Achievement



The books are sorted and bagged for ASTRA's "ABC" days at Songo Locks School in Naples (5 Kindergartens on Tuesday, May 6th) and Steven's Brook School in Bridgton (4 classes on Thursday, May 8th).



At meeting held with ASTRA, Kristina announced the "ABC" dates and discussed other important year ending dates.

ABC

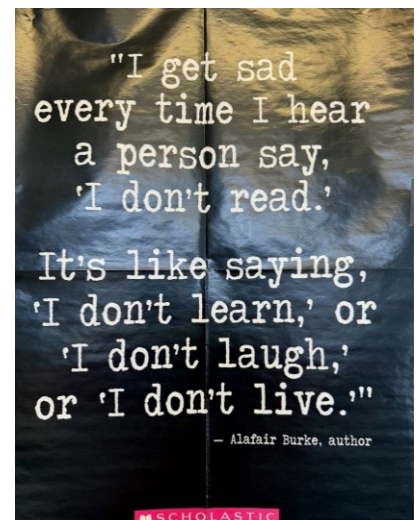
Tuesday, May 6th @ 9:30 at the Songo Locks School in Naples. 5 Kindergarten classes to be read to.

Thursday, May 8th @ 11:45 at the Stevens Brook school in Bridgton.

The current plan is to have 2 ASTRA students for each classroom.

Altrusa has selected it's scholarship recipient. They will be announced at the May 13th Final meeting for the seniors (and Party day for all of ASTRA).

May 27th meeting will be the election of officers for the upcoming school year.



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

