SPECIAL EDITION Altrusagram Summer 2026

ALTRUSA International | Leading to a Better Community® Portland, ME

Upcoming Events

TOYS FOR TOTS TOY DRIVE
Sunday, August 23rd
4:00 PM
Payson Park, Portland
Rain date Sunday, August 30th

BUSINESS MEETING
Wednesday, September 9th
6:00 PM, Oak Room
Westbrook Community Center
426 Bridge St., Westbrook, ME

PROGRAM MEETING
Wednesday, September 23rd
6:00 PM
North Deering Tavern
1349 Washington Ave.
Portland, ME

BRICKYARD HOLLOW BREWING CO. FUNDRAISER
Tuesday, September 29th
5 PM - 9 PM
9 Commercial St, Portland, ME

EMPTY BOWL FUNDRAISER
Saturday, October 24th
5 PM - 7 PM
First Lutheran Church
132 Auburn St, Portland, ME

DISTRICT ONE WORKSHOP
Saturday, November 14
Nonantum Resort
95 Ocean Ave.
Kennebunkport, ME

DISTRICT ONE CONFERENCE
April 23 - 25, 2027
Hilton Garden Inn
Freeport, ME

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
July 21 - 24, 2027
Columbus, OH

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN SEPTEMBER MEETING DATES!!
Business Meeting, **September 9th**
Program Meeting, **September 23rd**

District One Governor Susan Porazzo will be visiting with our Club at the Board and Business meetings on September 9, 2026.

REMEMBER!!
COMMITTEE REPORTS
due to Debbie by **September 6th**

YEARBOOK REMINDER
If you would like a print version of the yearbook ($5), please email Debbie

SERVICE HOURS REMINDER
Please don't forget to input your Service Hours at this link: Service Hours

Altrusa Portland Foundation 2025-2027

Foundation President:
Martha Gross
grossmartha01@gmail.com

Foundation Director:
Cathy Paglio
rpaglio1@gmail.com

Altrusa Portland Board 2026 - 2028

Club President:
Debbie Lemieux
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Vice President:
Christine Johnson
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Secretary:
Trish Maxim
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Treasurer:
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Club Director:
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Immed. Past President:
Karen Valley
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Parliamentarian:
Anita Chandler
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Committee Chairpersons 2026 - 2028

Communications Co-Chairs:
Gail Mazzone
Karen Valley
Finance Co-Chairs
Pam Lemieux
Fran Jensen
Membership Co-Chairs:
Trish Maxim
Lee-Ann VanAtta
Service Co-Chairs:
Martha Gross
Cathy Paglio
Program and Event Co-Chairs:
Marie Pike
Ann B. Smith

From the Service Committee:

Committee News

Toys for Tots

The summer is going by so fast and our **Fill The Trunk Toys for Tots** event is Sunday, August 23 at 4:00 pm at Payson Park in Portland. We will meet at the bottom of the sled hill. *The rain date is Sunday, August 30 at 4:00 pm.*

I offer a couple of ideas for purchasing toys:
› Purchase a toy or two on Amazon and have them shipped to Cathy Paglio, 30 Gertrude Avenue, Portland, Maine 04103. If you do this, please let me know so I can watch it.
› Purchase a new unwrapped toy, join us at the Fill The Trunk event, and bring it to add to the trunk of my husband's Corvette.

Please RSVP (rpaglio1@gmail.com) and let me know if you are planning to come to our Fill The Trunk Event. We had fun last year filling the trunk and checking out the Corvette. I am in the process of trying to get a few Southern Maine Corvette Members to come by with their Corvettes too. Last year we collected 79 toys!! Let's see if we can beat that!!!
Thank you, Cathy

BAM Book Drive

The Books-A-Million (BAM) summer book drive has been a huge success! WCSH6 even showed up to see what it was all about! Christine Johnson and Ann Smith did a fabulous job representing our Club! See the interview here!

Sue's Supper

Next Meal at Ronald MCDonald House is **Tuesday, September 15th.** Consider being a Chef of the Month! Contact Ann Smith to sign up.

NOTE: Ronald McDonald House collects POP TOPS FROM CANS and saves them to sell to a recycling center where they are melted down and the metal is reused! They would love any we can donate. An interesting fact: there are two different kinds of pop tops, steel and aluminum which are indistinguishable by sight so before RMD brings in their tops to be weighed for cash, they use a magnet to separate out the steel!
Tell your friends and family to help us with their fundraiser! BRING YOUR POP TOPS TO THE NEXT MEETING FOR ANN TO COLLECT!

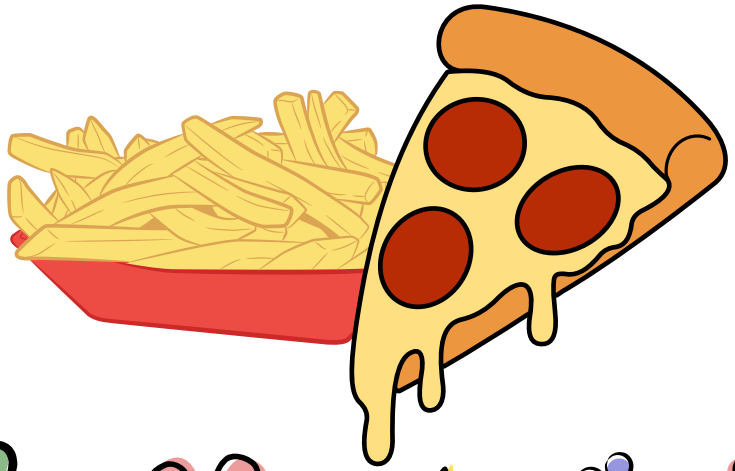
Program & Events Committee:

Committee News

Brickyard Hollow Fundraiser

Altrusa will be hosting a fundraiser through **Brickyard Hollow's Community Nights** on September 29th from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm, at their restaurant at 9 Commercial Street, Portland, ME, (207) 808-8247. Brickyard Hollow donates 5% of their sales to our organization. Proceeds will benefit our many scholarships and other community programs. We will have an informational table set up in the lobby with our resources to be shared with guests. This will include 50/50 Raffle tickets.

Please alert your friends, relatives and neighbors in plenty of time for this event, so they can include it in their weekly "dining out" schedule!



Speed Dating

We're pleased to announce that the September 23rd program meeting from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at North Deering Tavern, Portland, will be a **Getting to Know You 'speed dating' night.** What might you learn about people you don't know well yet, and about people you think you already know well? And what will someone learn about you? It's sure to be a fun kick-off to the new Altrusa season.

CLYNK

Thank you for continuing to fill up the green Altrusa CLYNK bags.
Pam Lemieux can give you as many bags as you need. Fill them with your returnables and drop them off at your local Hannaford!

Communications Committee:

Committee News

Communications Corner

In lieu of our first meeting in September, below is an article that the Altrusa International Communications Committee posted on Facebook. We thought it was a great reminder as we move forward into a new year!!

Managing Difficult Conversations in a Meeting

Let's be honest — now and then a meeting goes off-road. Someone brings up a touchy topic, someone else sighs loudly, and suddenly we're all wishing the coffee pot was closer. But here's the secret: difficult conversations don't have to be that difficult.

A few tricks that always help:

• Stay curious. Instead of jumping in, try: "Tell me more about what you're thinking." It works better than a referee whistle.
• Name the moment. A simple "Okay, this feels a little tense — let's slow down" can reset the whole room.
• Take your time. We're volunteers, not contestants on a game show. No need to rush.
• Find the common goal. Nine times out of ten, we're all trying to help the same people anyway.

A tough conversation handled with kindness can turn into one of the best moments of the meeting — and sometimes even a good story for later.