



March 2021 Altrusagram

Upcoming Dates



Wednesday, Apr 7
6:15 p.m.
Business meeting
via Zoom

Tuesday, Apr 13th
Ronald McDonald House
project

Wednesday, Apr 21st
6:15 p.m.
Birthday Party
via Zoom
see details on page 2

Friday, Apr 23rd
items due to newsletter
editor

District One Conference
April 23rd & 24th
see info on last page of this
newsletter

Wednesday, May 5th
6:15 p.m.
Business meeting
via Zoom

from the President:



In 1994, Altrusa Portland gave birth to it's much treasured and widely revered project, A B C. Now synonymous with the club, it has evolved and grown over the years. Many thanks and kudos to Susan F. King for submitting a very well-done Letha H. Brown Literacy award write-up. This write-up highlights the fact that during the pandemic, with perseverance, dedication, creative resourcefulness, and love in your hearts, you made a difference to **1,114 kindergarten students** in **64 kindergarten classrooms** in **19 schools** in **5 communities**. Just Wow!

Pam Leo of the Book Fairy Pantry Project visited us at this month's Program Meeting, sponsored by the Communications Committee. Just WOW! A Powerhouse of energy and a role model for activism. She shared with us the many service organizations that she partners with to make sure EVERY child has a book. Stay tuned. We will be hearing more about how we can assist her in reaching more children.

"Hope Springs Eternal".

The Spring Equinox happened this past weekend. Altrusa Portland club members will celebrate the 92nd Birthday of this club at the April 21 Program Meeting. First-ever Free and Online Conference is happening in 5 weeks. Altrusa Portland is planning for their 17th Annual Volunteer of the Year award selection and celebration.

Thank you for all of your continued dedication in service.

Debbie

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot
Nothing is going to get better. It's not." The Lorax, by Dr. Seuss

Altrusans Build Hope

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

Who We Are...What We're Doing

The 2020 - 2021 Board

President: : Debbie Lemieux
dalemieux33@gmail.com

Vice President: Wanda Pettersen
kettlecove_6@msn.com

Secretary: Karen Valley
book1babe@gmail.com

Treasurer: Nadeen Daniels
nadeen.daniels@gmail.com

Director: Fran Breton
frb3282@hotmail.com

Director: Patricia Maxim
campnaples@fairpoint.net

Immed. Past President: Anita Chandler
achandler@maine.rr.com

Parliamentarian: Judith Reidman
jreidman@maine.rr.com

Committee Chairpersons 2020 - 2021

Communications: Co-Chairs:
Christine Johnson cejinmaine@gmail.com
Karen Valley book1babe@gmail.com

Finance: Co-Chairs:
Wanda Pettersen kettlecove_6@msn.com
Fran Jensen franjenzen2911@gmail.com

Membership:
Fran Breton frb3282@hotmail.com
Patricia Maxim campnaples@fairpoint.net

Service: Co-Chairs:
Susan F. King kings@maine.rr.com
Martha Gross sfyps2005@yahoo.com

Social: Co-Chairs
Roberta Morrill rjutton36@aol.com
Pam Szalajeski pam.szal@maine.rr.com



Happy 92nd Birthday to
Altrusa of Portland!



Please join us for the Zoom Altrusa Birthday Party
on Wednesday, April 21st, 6:15pm.

Plan to relax and have fun!

Please feel free to wear fun hats or anything festive
and fun!

Bring: A real or battery operated candle
Several rocks (the size of your hand or larger)
Acrylic paint or felt tip pens
Beverage and food of your choice

Above all lets plan to relax and enjoy each other!

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www.districtone.altrusa.org

www.altrusaportlandgivesbooks.org

Our Service Projects



left to right: Ann S and Karen V

Tuesday, March 9th found Karen V, Ann S and Susan K at Ronald McDonald House preparing a yummy lasagna with Karen's home canned summer tomatoes!! With the addition of some beautiful summer squash, zucchini and roasted red pepper, we had a thick fragrant sauce! It was delicious!!

Please consider volunteering for April 13th. It is a wonderful time with friends!
-- Susan K



Christine J and Arlene H are working on a project for Books Behind Bars. Christine was offered graphic novels specifically for that purpose!!

Karen V, Christine J and Susan K met at the warehouse on The 9th of March to finalize the books for the Cricket Comfort Pillowcase project. They added some classics and duplicates to our boxes to total 100 books to donate to BBMC. Christine met Heidi Farrin at HER warehouse on March 12th to deliver the books. The Cricket Comfort ladies will match their pillowcases with our books and bag them up!!

-- Susan K



The requests for nominees for the Volunteer of the Year award were mailed to 120 local non-profit organizations. In addition, nominees are being solicited over various media venues. The deadline for submitting nominees is April 16th so it's not too late if you think of another nonprofit to send the request to. Just contact Marie P. The award will be presented May 19th.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK April 18-24, 2021

National Volunteer Week during the third week in April is an opportunity to thank all the thousands of volunteers across the country who keep many organizations running, communities safe, and provide the services that otherwise would not exist without volunteers.

Thank you for all you do for Altrusa and your community!



Committee News

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

A tribute to Martha Donahue was posted on Facebook and was included in the last Altrusagram. Altrusa's "Volunteer of the Year" (VOY) Award letters have been sent out and information about the nomination process and the award has been posted on our website, Facebook, and Next Door. Be sure to share or comment on our posts to spread the word.

Pam Leo, Founder of the Book Fairy Pantry Project (BFPP), was our guest speaker at the program meeting on March 17th. BFPP was founded 5 years ago and has been expanding its services ever since. Initially books were being distributed through food pantries. Now she has connections in Portland schools with teachers and social workers who complete request forms on behalf of children to gather a "library" of books to fit each child's interests that she calls Little Freedom Libraries; she provides books with a related toy or stuffed animal (and sometimes pajamas) through Head Start; she works to add Little Free Libraries (LFL) in underserved neighborhoods, including partnering on an Eagle Scout project to build and install two cabinets in Portland and keep them filled with books; she has provided books to Westbrook's summer meals books program; and is currently working with Westbrook Children's Project through Maine Needs to create activity kits for incoming Kindergarteners. She mentioned that she is promoting the Eagle Scout LFL project idea across the US and hopes other Scouts will create their own project. Another current project is with the Salvation Army – when women leave Crossroads, they take Hannaford Love bags with 13+ books in them for their children.

Her funding and books come through friends, neighbors and supporters connected to her on Facebook or through her many social, educational, and volunteer activities. She also receives donations on her website and has been able to obtain small grants. During the pandemic, she has continued to collect books, using a quarantine process before distributing them.

Pam mentioned that studies indicate there is only 1 book across the homes of 300 children in under resourced neighborhoods. She also stated that there is no shortage of gently used books to change that statistic. The shortage is in community activism to get the books into the hands of children.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee thanks Roberta Morrill for her very interesting "Getting To Know You" talk at the March business meeting. In addition to all that we learned about her that evening, did any of you know she was once a 'Telephone Girl'?

Next up will be our Treasurer, Nadeen Daniels. As Cumberland County's "Registrar of Probate", she must have a very interesting job! Be sure to tune in on April 7th.

At our March 17th Program meeting, it was a pleasure to meet Judith Reidman's Prospective Member, Jaye Gorham, who also told us a little about herself. We hope she will keep attending these ZOOM meetings and ultimately find the time to become a member of Portland Altrusa.

-- Trish M

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee meets on March 22, to go over the individual committees' budgets. After reviewing them we shall submit next fiscal year's budget to the Board on April 7. The Treasurer will review the budget and present it at the business meeting on May 5th. We plan to have the membership vote on it on June 2nd.

Everyone enjoy the temporary beautiful weather :-)

-- Fran J & Wanda P

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (continued)

To learn more about BFPP: <https://bookfairypantryproject.org/>

To donate gently used or new books to BFPP contact:

bookfairypantryproject@gmail.com

To learn more about kits needed by clients of Maine Needs, including the Kindergarten Kits: <https://www.maineneeds.org/kits>

-- Karen V & Christine J



ASTRA News



Ability
Service
Training
Responsibility
Achievement



ASTRA met their March 15th deadline to submit an entry for the "ASTRA Service Project". It was written by ASTRA president Cierra Grover, who also wrote last year's winning entry of their "S.O.S. - Save Our Soldiers" project about the revitalized American Legion Post #67 in Bridgton, Maine. Both entries will now be in Altrusa's International competition, with a winner announced at the International Convention in July in Charlotte, N.C.

Another March 15th deadline was the application for Altrusa International Scholarships for graduating ASTRA seniors. Four of our 12 seniors applied for the 4 scholarships (2 @ \$2,000; and 2 @ \$1,000). Each entry required three references. The winners will be announced April 15th.

Their next deadline is the end of March for applications to Portland Altrusa for our \$500 scholarship to a graduating ASTRA Senior.

On Friday, March 19th (a scheduled NO SCHOOL day), 8 members of ASTRA volunteered for a variety of tasks at the Naples MUSEUM to start getting it ready for the June reopening. They all wore masks, but at least they were together and doing something physical. The Town Manager dropped in to see the progress and thank ASTRA and Rotary's "Interact" members for volunteering. Liz & Sabrina were out buying supplies and missed the group picture.

-- Trish M

Other News



CLYNK MONEY

Please continue to fill up the green Altrusa CLYNK bags. Here's how to dispose:

1. drop them off at your local Hannaford's
2. drop the bags off at Pam Lemieux's house
3. bring to a meeting and give to Pam.

Keep those cans and bottles coming!



Please send all newsletter items to Marie P at pikerino2@aol.com. The deadline is the Friday after the program meeting.



AMAZON SMILE MONEY

If you are shopping on-line consider using Amazon Smile, with Altrusa International Foundation of Portland, Maine as your choice of nonprofit. For instructions see the November 2020 Altrusagram or contact the Finance Committee. The 0.5% of sales adds up if we all participate!

Invite your friends to do the same.

District One Training Opportunities

all are via Zoom

(a link will be sent closer to the date)

April 18th, Information on a Scavenger Hunt, presented by Ann Marie Snyer

May 13th, Finding Fund\$\$ (via grant writing, coin boxes, etc.), presented by Anne Rash

April Birthdays

Patricia Maxim

Jane Coolidge

&

Altrusa!



Club 21

Established in 1997, the Club 21 Program is committed to supporting programs for children affected by disease and disabilities.

For \$21 per year you can be part of Club 21. Go to the Altrusa International Foundation website to donate; you can even set it up for automatic renewals so you won't forget!

-- Marie P

Entering Your Service Hours

Revision of the Service Hours Google Form is now ready for Club members. International has changed it's requirement and Service Hours no longer need to be broken out into categories. Enter One sum of total volunteer hours for the month. Please include Meetings, administrative, service for any non-profit organization and any fundraising activities.

Thank you for entering your time. I hope this makes this task a little easier for you. -- Debbie L

https://docs.google.com/forms/u/0/d/e/1FAIpQLSc05lynjHKrEFy5iUIGzd0FKeHcBeT3wO1ku8H6EjMca6Ny_w/formResponse



Mark your calendar for these Future District & International Events

District One Conference - via Zoom

Friday, April 23rd, 6:30pm - 9:00pm

Saturday, April 24th, 9:00am to noon and 4:00pm - 6:00pm

No cost to attendees. Be there for part, or be there for it all, but you probably won't want to miss any of it!

See the "Call to Conference" emailed 1/26/2021

International Convention, Racing to Success, July 28-31 in Charlotte, NC

See the "Call to International Convention" emailed on 2/17/21

District One Workshop - Saturday, November 6 - location TBD - Portland club is hosting

some Member News and Views

This month's question: When you were a child what did you want to grow up to be?

An attorney. Instead, I've spent a lifetime as a public official directed by and responsible to state and constitutional law.

Nadeen D

A teacher!
Susan K



A teacher!
Trish M

Aside from my early (age 6) 'ambition' to relax in a hammock on a tropical island, I later (~age 15) aspired to become an architect, because I love physics, mathematics and solving puzzles. But by the time I was in college, I realized I was no I.M. Pei, and decided civil engineering might be a better fit. 😊

Pam L



I wanted to be a ballerina. Dad told me it was not for me so medicine was second next.

Fran D

At one point, I recall wanting to be an archeologist. All things Egyptian fascinated me. I wanted to dig in places like the Valley of the Kings and discover untouched tombs with mummies, gold jewelry, canopic jars, and other funeral items. I also remember a phase where I was interested in being a geologist. I was always on the look-out to add to my rock collection and loved looking at and analyzing the folded rocks formations exposed where roads had been cut through ledgy areas, like along sections of the turnpike.

Christine J

I can't remember a time when I never wanted to be anything but a nurse. I had great admiration for my Aunt Laura who began her career as a Cadet Nurse during WWII. Of course along the way growing up I had fantasies of being a dancer, a stage actress or a clothing designer.

Gerry D

I wanted to be a teacher then an artist, then an engineer when I was a kid. Long story!

Karen V

When I was a child, my mom took my brother and me to the Boston Ice Follies on the train during February vacation, and I thought to skate to music 🎵 and to wear such beautiful outfits was just what I wanted to do when I grew up!

Roberta M



When I was a child I wanted to go to Paris and study art. I also worked in the guidance office both in Junior and high school. My actual career was in Human Resources for over forty years.

Looking back I guess my path was to always be in Human Resources.

Pam S



I remember wanting to be a history teacher in high school. I studied to be a history teacher and was for several years but changed careers because of an opportunity in the financial world. I always thought if things did not work out I would go back to teaching. When I was little ...a nurse or teacher seemed to be topics of conversation.

Arlene H

A cowgirl. I had a ranch set I played with all the time. And I used to try to lasso my (very patient!) dog.

Marie P



From early on, and through my middle school and high school years, I only wanted to get married, settle down and have a family. Loved watching Debby Reynolds and Sandra Dee movies. Mom and I had many discussions, some more heated than others, about continuing education. Finally settled on a compromise. I agreed to go to a local 2 year technical college. Based on my aptitude for math, I received an associates degree in Computer Science. And by staying local, I was able to meet my soulmate. So, I got the best of both worlds. The family I dreamed of and a career. Count my blessings everyday.

Debbie L