



Altrusa International of Plymouth County, Massachusetts, Inc.

The Cranberry Scoop

Altrusa is an international nonprofit organization, making our local communities better through leadership, partnership, and service.

November 2021

Motto:
"Leading to a Better
Community"

2021- 22 Officers

President

Susan Porazzo

Vice President

Jenn Belcher

Secretary

Marcia Mantell

Treasurer

Jan Story

Directors

Barbara Lancissi

Ann Jarvinen

Pat Monteith

Past President

Susan Setterland

Dinner Meetings

1st Thursdays @ Adria's

Business Meeting

3rd Wednesdays @ 6 P. M.

Via Zoom and Brockton Public
Library

Editors

Lucia Shannon & Jenn Belcher

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello!

The fall is a busy season. Lucia, Jenn and I have recently returned from Fall Workshop in Portland ME. It was so great to see old friends and make new ones (can those ladies from Seacoast sing or what?) while learning from our fellow clubs on what it takes to recruit and retain new members. Many of the clubs are struggling but others are going strong! Everyone agreed that Altrusa must go younger (in member age) if we expect to last. The afternoon we started off a fun game of Fluxx which was to teach us that everything changes, even the rules and how to win a simple card game. Governor Pam as well as Immediate Past Governor Linda did an outstanding job! Please note on your calendar April 22-24, 2022 for Spring Conference in North Conway NH. The ladies of the Lakes region clubs cannot wait to host us.

Onto the business of our club. We had a successful sweater drive on October 24th. Thanks go to Susan S for organizing, Barbara, Jan, Marcia and Sandy J for their support of this year's drive. Susan is attempting to get in touch with the STARR program for our December activity. We'll communicate more when contact is made.

While recognizing the burdens COVID has placed on everyone, we do need our members to stay strong and united to accomplish our goals of service to Plymouth County communities. Hoping to see you all soon!

Take care

In service,

Susan



Celebrations, News, and Prayers

Hold onto your hats! “Much of a which of a wind blew” Plymouth County awry October 27. Barbara Lancisi had two trees down in her front yard, quite a mess, but no one hurt. Joan Osborne’s home is on the main transmission line for Norwell, so they lost power right away, and did not get it back until the 28th. Her mother-in-law joined them, and they all kept warm. Rosemary, Sandra Jarvinen’s niece picked her up from her Pembroke condo to Norwell where Rosemary had a generator. Sandra was bundled in a hat, coat, and blanket reminding Rosemary of “the wretched refuse” noted on the Statue of Liberty. Sandra was darned tired of peanut butter sandwiches. Janet Story, also in Pembroke, lost power until the 28th, noting that most of Pembroke did not have power. In Hanson Susan Porazzo had a blocked off cul-de- sac which meant not getting out for gas for her generator until at least one tree barricading the road was removed. In Brockton we lost power for 34 hours, but had it restored early on the 28th. Susannah Leslie returned from her West Palm Beach stay with a broken foot, luckily on her last day and not the first. She is healing well with a boot. The night I called Roger was serving dinner!!! Susannah was sorely missed at the Fall Workshop, especially by Ann Marie and Lucia, her would-be roommate.

Kudos to Sandra Drea for her sound advice to Lucia Shannon who received an EZPass bill from New Hampshire for a car she does not own, hence not matching her registration. Laurie, a lovely woman who has returned to the workforce, loaded in good customer service skills identified the mistake and corrected it with her supervisor’s help. Thank you, Sandra and Laurie!



@altrusac



@altrusaplymouth



@altrusa.plymouth

'Tru Connections

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE AUGUST STATS

We have expanded our social media presence!

Altrusa Int'l of Plymouth County is now on *Instagram* and *Twitter*.



@altrusaplymouth



@Altrusa



Secretary's Report

October 20, 2021

Attendance: President, Susan Porazzo Past-President Susan Setterland, Vice-President Jenn Belcher; Treasurer, Janet Story; Secretary, Marcia Mantell; Lucia Shannon; Barbara Lancissi; Kathie Churchill

Special Guest: Linda Ring, Past President, District One

WELCOME & GENERAL BUSINESS

President Susan P welcomed the group and called the meeting to order.

1) Secretary's Report

For 9/15 – there were no official minutes, as Sec. Marcia could not attend. Jenn B gave a brief recap of the Sept meeting and discussions

2) Treasurer's Report

- Jan reviewed the updated report with the club members.
- \$1,000 scholarship to a Massasoit CC student, paid in Sept.

Motion was made to file the treasurer's report, and seconded. All approved.

3) Committee Reports

Service Committee – Susan Setterland

- Sweater Drive – all set for Sat, 10/23
 - Hanover Town Hall all set for collection
 - New sweaters/sweatshirts
- Susan P and Jan will be there for 12 – 1:00; then Susan S and Barbara from 1:00 – 2:00 STARR Program
 - Susan S will reach out to the director to see if there is need for support

We want to rethink the support of this program

Finance

- Nothing to report this meeting
 -

Fundraising – Jenn Belcher

- Suzannah and Jenn B went to Starland to check out opportunities – for the fashion show next spring
- Field house is avail for 5/1, 1:00 – 4:00
- Rental fee: \$75/hr (a 50% discount rate)
 - Bathrooms, space to change, coffee shop available, catering available for box lunches, – no outside food allowed – could also do a cash bar Need to find out cost of box lunches
 - Need to know if we would need to have cover a bartender
- Last time the fashion show was live, tickets were \$20/each
- Parking on a weekend is very difficult, but this weekend might be relatively open
- Need a clothing vendor – Jenn B may look into Stitch Fix online; high-end consignment shop in Norwell (get some local vendors involved)
- No call back yet from the Axe-throwing places – Jen to follow up
- Meat raffle – Barbara and Joan to do more exploration

Literacy Grant

- Sandra J has sent out applications for literacy grant to Plymouth Co 5th grade teachers
- Due back by 11/30 – we'll see if we get any interest
- Award is a \$500 grant
- Separately, Susan P talked to Juo Nouveau – on Nov 18th – doing their annual virtual gala. Should we put together our literacy grant teachers with the teachers in Haiti? A possible collaboration

- Jenn B remains connected with the woman who supports libraries in Rwanda. Are there things our club could do to support this effort?

Communications

- Linda Ring is the new D1 webmaster. We can send photos and updates directly to her.
- Pat and Jenn B continue to support communications, especially doing Facebook
- Can connect directly to the DSB website

4) New Business

Dinner Meeting Updates and Social Hours

- At Adria – dinner meetings now \$30, including tip
- With the upcoming Workshop in Nov, let's cancel Nov dinner meeting
- What other social options are there? Happy Hours
 - Adria
 - The Players – off Rt.3 in Rockland

Confirm Dec dinner meeting – 12/2 – for next dinner meeting **Our Guest – Linda Ring**

- Official visit from the District
- Congratulations on the Conference award – 2nd place for bringing in new members awarded to Lucia Shannon – and Juo Nuovo's international grant
- Our club should submit newsletters for an award in the spring
- Altrusa DSB – Ply county has not gotten coverage. We need to send photo clips with captions 3^r

- 3rd Monday of month – President’s Council – Susan P or Jenn B are attending
- Group tally – individuals can change own email – Jan Story does it for us
- Workshop – coming up in early Nov
- Spring Conference – new format – all day Sat and Sun till noon. Planning optional workshops on Fri afternoon, networking dinner on Fri; Sat all-day events and awards
 - April 23 – 25, 2022
 - North Conway at the North Conway Grand Hotel
 - Rooms set up for sharing
- We didn’t submit any projects for awards last year – we need to submit at least Juo Nuovo and the Rwanda project!!
- The Altrusa Service Committee – Facebook group #AltrusaService #MakeADifferencePage
 - What is the project, one photo, results and impact
 - Submit the Sweater Drive to this FB contest
- Member re-engagement – after covid, recommendation is to do proactive, personal outreach
 - We are trying many new things and build new memberships, but let’s also try personal outreach
 - For the newsletter – send out a question to the members to answer and feature either 1 answer/member, or all of them
 - Increase communications to all members, including sending the minutes more timely (Susan P will send out to the larger group)

Altrusa of Plymouth Co: FOCUSED INITIATIVES & STATUS

OCTOBER FOCUSED INITIATIVE: Sweater Drive for Ply Co Coalition for the Homeless

- ✓ This is part of National Make a Difference Day – the 4th Saturday of each Oct
- ✓ Susan S spear-headed the operation this year. Our club members are having a rough time reengaging, but several will help collect sweaters in Hanover
- ✓ We’ll run the collection on Saturday, 10/23, and see how things go!

INTERNATIONAL PROJECT: Juo Nuovo, Haiti

- The organization is having their virtual gala on 11/18

NOV/DEC FOCUSED INITIATIVE: STARR Teen holiday program

- Susan Setterland reached out to the director Laurie to see if there is support needed for 2021.
- Laurie enthusiastically acquiesced. This year, however, they have only 3 girls and 3 boys. Contact Susan to let her know which category you would like to provide.

Last year's Christmas Sign Up List for the STARR teens - 6 girls and 6 boys - 2020 sign up:

6 girls hooded sweatshirts, 1 Med, 3 large, 2 Ex-large	Ann Jarvinen / with gift bag, tissue
6 boys hooded sweatshirts – 2 Large, 3 Ex Large, 1 XX Large	Janet Story/ with gift bag, tissue
12 winter hats – 6 girls, 6 boys	Girls –Ann Jarvinen, Boys- Jan Story
12 pairs/ pkgs of socks – girls ankle, boys full	Girls-Ann Jarvinen, Boys-Jan Story
12 Christmas Stocking and fillers, candy	Susannah Leslie, Barbara Lancissi, & Sue Setterland
12 Playing cards, 12 card games like UNO and Skip-O above w/ stockings	
12 chap Stick packs & 12 silly putty above w/stockings	
6 make up bags and 6 face masks for girls above w/ stockings	
6 squishy balls and 6 Old Spice or AXE for boys above w/ stockings	
12 various fidgets, coloring books/pencils	Pat Monteith
Canvases and paints	Lucia Shannon
Board games - not this year	n/a
Books for teens	Jenn Belcher
1 basketball, 1 soccer ball, 1 football, 2 whiffle balls, 1/2 basketball nets	Susan Porazzo, Joan Osborn
Gingerbread house and decorations /Pop Tarts Christmas house kits	Jenn Belcher

Fall Workshop: Membership Ideas

- Gift bags for visitors and guests**
- Invite guests to help with a project**
- Make orientation fun**
- Explain projects on agenda for guests and new members**
- Email newsletters to guests**
- Send thank you notes to members**
- Include fun activities like beach days and summer plays**
- Send birthday cards to members**
- Follow your strategic plan for success in planning**
- Prepare for vacancy**
- Note skill sets wanted**
- Mentor, evaluate, assign to projects, note individual differences**
- Survey online for retention and to recruit new members:**
 - What keeps you?**
 - What gets on your nerves? What makes you want to leave?**
 - What are you doing to keep me interested**
 - What are you doing that I care about?**
- Annual appreciation picnic**
- Look for greater geographic distribution**
- Look for bilingual members**
- Look for members connected with the community**

Fall Workshop in Pictures



**Immediate Past President Linda Ring
welcomes new Governor Pam Lemieux**



**Cliff, President Susan Porazzo, and Governor
Linda Ring**



Grooving: Hilda, Debbie , Carlita, Ann Marie...



Governor Pam Lemieux, Governor-Elect Rita Cote, Committee Chair Patricia Jackowski, Immediate Past Governor Linda Ring, Director Hilda Schmidt, Director Cathy Baybutt, and 2nd Vice Governor Susan Porazzo



Call to Conference in Conway New Hampshire hosted by Carroll County, Laconia, and Meredith, New Hampshire. The Grand Hotel sits adjacent to Settler's Green Outlets. The antlers may well suggest Santa's workshop!

Carlita Cotton learned at workshop that she was one of this year's nine inductees to the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame! Dr. Cotton served in the United States Air Force where she received numerous military awards and citations. She is being honored for her continued service to her community after leaving military service. Ordained minister as well as elected member of the Mansfield Democratic Town Council and Zoning and Planning Commission, a Russian linguist, holds a Ph.D. in psychology, and is a Professor of Psychology at Goodwin College. Of course, her mother was Alexinia Baldwin! Of course, she was the only woman to get this award from Connecticut this year! And aren't we all proud? Our own Eleanor Roosevelt!

Jou Nouvo Update

Jou Nouvo. Nouveau Jour. New Day.

After such a challenging year for our beautiful Haiti, we are determined to continue the cycle of hope. Taking a step back and looking at all we have weathered; from political unrest, the loss of President Moise, the devastating earthquake, and so much more – it is difficult to see the positive of 2021. However, our students and staff in Bon Repos have not allowed the chaos around them to stop them from learning, growing, and building. They remind us to never lose hope and we invite you to see for yourself how they have persevered.

The amazing team at Jou Nouvo have been working hard on preparing our virtual gala **“A Cycle of Hope: What does it mean to you?”** This event will highlight the progress of Jou Nouvo in 2021 and give you access to see how your donations have and will continue to fuel hope. We know how important it is to each of you that a difference is being made in Bon Repos and now is your chance to see it. With so much planned the evening is sure to be full of excitement and joy.

There will be live speakers talking of their roles and experiences with Jou Nouvo, stellar raffle items being announced and awarded throughout the event, and we will be going live to Bon Repos to talk with staff and students!

Without you, we could not be making such a difference. Our amazing students and staff are working hard and continue to succeed thanks to your support and donations. Below we have highlighted some of the amazing things to look forward to during our event.

Join us November 18th at 6p (EST) to share with us what the cycle of hope means to you.

We will be checking in LIVE with Bon Repos

How exciting is it to hear from the wonderful people who are apart of our Jou Nouvo community in Haiti? It is so important to remember that all these brilliant minds need is an opportunity to shine. We will get to speak to one of our **University Students**, our Director of the **Girl’s Scholar Program** (GSP) Lynn Balmir, and a GSP student, and our Program Director Nikenson Romage. **100% of Jou Nouvo donations go directly to benefit this community.**



Jan Story and Sandra Jarvinen

Make a Difference Day, October 23, 2021

The Sweater/Sweatshirt drive was Saturday, October 23 from noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Hanover Town Hall, 550 Center Street, Hanover. Several people held the signs with a chair at the ready. Jan Story and Sue Porazzo collected the donations from noon to 1 p.m. Barbara Lancissi and Susan Setterland were there from 1 to 2 p.m. They collected 47 new items in 2 hours! Members also collected donations (only NEW) or purchased sweaters and sweatshirts, dropping them off at Susan Setterland's home from Friday through Sunday. Barbara and Susan brought all donations to the coalition on Monday morning.

STARR Christmas Holiday Giving

Susan Setterland contacted Laura Fornier at STARR and found her very enthusiastic about our continuing our annual service project to bring Christmas/Holiday cheer to the teens while they stay at the STARR home. This year they have 3 girls and 3 boys for us to purchase presents.

Please call Susan to let her know which category you chose from the list on page 7.

Social Justice Book Group for Youth

Patricia Monteith and Jennifer Belcher wrote an application to the Mass Cultural Council for a social justice book group serving children from grades 3 to 7 in an after school, or out-of-school setting at Brockton Public Library and /or on zoom depending on covid restrictions in the spring of 2022. The sum requested for funding was \$1535 to use towards the purchase of books for the children, publicity costs, and honorariums for four discussion leaders.

Leading the team will be Dr. Pilgrim Aminah N. Pilgrim, and Mr. Willie Wilson, Dr. Pilgrim has an 18-year career as Associate/Assistant Professor at various colleges such as Berklee College of Music, UMASS Boston and Massasoit Community College. Sample subjects taught include Africana Studies, Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies, and Critical Ethnic & Community Studies. Author, community activist, and Founder and Board President of Sabura Youth Programs, Inc.

Mr. Wilson has over 30 years of experience teaching in public schools, private schools and academia. His focus is on African American/United States history. Recent focus as Creator and Adjunct Professor for "Topics in Interdisciplinary Studies: African American History and Literature" Stonehill College.

Social justice is the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political and social rights and opportunities. This project will use young children's understanding of differences to teach social justice through age-appropriate literature. It is shown that when books contain experiences and characters to which children can relate, they encourage a child's positive self-concept and respect for diversity.

Altrusa will partner with Brockton Public Library, Brockton Area NAACP Branch, Brockton Public Schools, Brockton Interfaith Community (BIC) with Co-instructors for the 3rd session from BIC: Will Dickerson, the Executive Director and Michaela Katzki Lauture, member. They co-taught a social justice course for a local summer program last year.



COMING ATTRACTIONS

**Coming Attractions, You Do Not Want to Miss
Dinner Meeting**

December 2, 2021, 6:00 p.m., \$30 with tip, confirmed
Adria's, East Bridgewater

Dinner Meeting

January 6, 2022
Adria's, East Bridgewater