

February 2024
Number 25
Ketchup Edition*



The Volunteer

Altrusa International of Northeastern Connecticut

Club Officers-2023-2025

President:

Jodi Walencewicz

Jodiawally@icloud.com

1st Vice President:

Anne Rash

annerash@charter.net

2nd Vice President:

Bonnie Ryan

bonbill@charter.net

Treasurer:

Nancy Trawick-Smith

nksmith@gmail.com

Secretary:

Jane Schreiber

jane.schreiber@snet.net

Director:

Mary Weinland

mgweinland@gmail.com

Foundation President:

Ethel Mantzaris

emantzaris@earthlink.net

Past President:

Carlita Cotton

drcarlitarbcotton@gmail.com



The President's Message

2024 sure came blasting in!

I am excited for our club to grow and share our talents with causes we currently support, along with welcoming new opportunities for our group to reach out and lend a hand.

2024 will be a year of some personal change for me - some of which will allow me to be a bit more present as your Club President. My occupation consumes my time more than I would like it to. However, I am planning to change that mid-year. I am anxious to find out what is next- besides Altrusa of course!

Personally, I feel very fortunate to be a member of our Altrusa club. As I get to know many of you better, I become more aware of what a wonderful group of intelligent, caring, welcoming and warm humans you are!

Our year is off to a wonderful start and our committees have been busy!

Programming is going strong.

- We wrapped up 2023 with a wonderful luncheon, so well attended and enjoyed by all
- More events are underway for 2024 and beyond

Our Grants Committee has met and the list of recipients and amount of funding is impressive. That information will be shared and voted on at our February meeting.

(Continued on Page 4)

*Since the newsletter has taken two months off, we are "catching up" on what's been going on.

Literacy

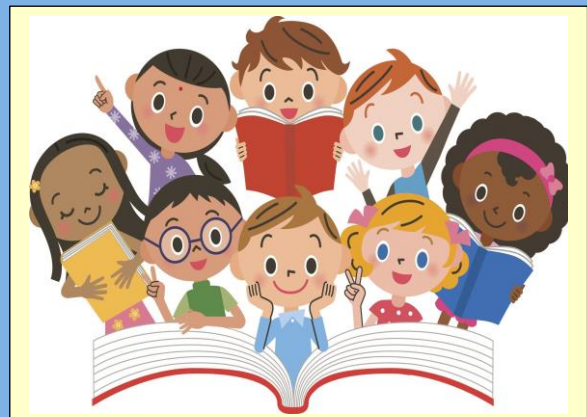
The literacy committee received (at least) 500 books from *Read to Grow*. When we opened the boxes, it was apparent that there were a lot more than 500 books.

On December 14th the literacy committee met to sort and distribute the books. The books are appropriate for all ages. There are board books for babies and toddlers, books for kids at different reading levels from 1st grade to high schoolers.

Our take away libraries at the various non-profit agencies that we support are filled with new colorful and interesting books for any interest; both fiction and non-fiction.



There is an Altrusa bookmark placed in each book. Jackie gets things started.



Outreach

Mary Weinland, chair of our Outreach Committee, brings supplies to Kaley Kammilleri of Perception House. Essentials such as tooth paste and brushes, feminine hygiene products, soap, shampoo and conditioner were donated by our club members. Holiday cards with candy canes were also distributed.



Supporting our Veterans

Wreaths Across America is a non-profit organization whose mission is to remember the fallen, honor those who have served and teach the next generation the value of freedom. Altrusa of Northeastern Connecticut is proud to participate in Wreaths Across America by donating and placing wreaths in local veterans' gravesites.

WAA receives no government funding. National Wreaths Across America Day is made possible by thousands of volunteers who organize local ceremonies, raise funds to sponsor wreaths and participate in the events. Individual wreath sponsors and corporate donors pay for most of the cost for the program and volunteer truck drivers and trucking companies make it possible for WAA to transport wreaths all over the country.



Fund Raising

We have started planning for our fundraising raffle for 2024. Ticket sales will commence on March 19 and the drawing will be held at our meeting on June 19. We would like to secure as many sponsors as possible to cover our raffle expenditures. The sponsor classifications are Gold for \$300, Silver for \$200 and Bronze for \$100. I will need the sponsor names (as they would like them listed on our sponsor sheet) by January 31. Also, we would appreciate receiving the sponsor checks by that date. Checks should be made payable to Altrusa International of NE CT and sent to Altrusa, P O Box 825, Storrs, CT 06268.

Please contact any sponsors you have solicited in the past to see if they are willing to sponsor again this year. And, of course, new sponsors are more than welcome. Lynne Warren has posted a sponsor solicitation letter on our Altrusa web page. It may be helpful to present this letter to potential sponsors.

(President's Message Continued from page 1)

Our new Altrusa of Northeastern Connecticut website looks fabulous and is so easy to navigate

<https://www.nectaltrusa.org/>

If you need the password, please email me directly.

Outreach is ever-present and support was provided to Perception House, our Veterans, Storrs Congregational Church Pantry and Perception House, just to name a few!

Outreach in our community is ongoing and my goal this year is to become a little "louder." Many people still ask who we are, where we are, and what we do. I believe we can find different ways to team up with other civic organizations in our area and show them what we do!

District One Spring Conference 2024 is April 24th to 26th in Andover Massachusetts. This year, we'll be hosted by the very fun Seacoast Club - It's sure to be a great weekend!

I hope you can make it.

The latest edition of the DSB has been published - Check it out when you have a moment.

Thank you for all you do!

Jodi

The Altrusa District One workshop was held on November 4th at the Sheraton Nashua, in Nashua, New Hampshire.

It is always wonderful to get together. There was much work to be done and, here's a first, it was all accomplished ahead of schedule! The District's Strategic Plan was updated: not an easy task. Also, Susan Porazzo, the district Governor Elect, presented "Growing Membership Through Service" a plan created by Alex Johnson.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cVCsSO3rEA>

The theme of the workshop was "How Our Gardens Grow." Members of the district board dressed as gardeners and marched through our conference room. It was a hoot. The guest speaker presented a book about her son with disabilities, Mom's term is "Other Abled."



President Jodi won the chocolate raffle. She came the closest to the exact number of chocolates in the jar!



Governor Rita is getting the job done.



Anne's sweat shirt says: "Fear the Chicken"



How does our garden grow?

Many thanks to the Merrimack Valley Club for hosting the Altrusa District One Workshop. You did a fabulous job.

Our rocks on display



Altrusa District One Calendar for February 2024

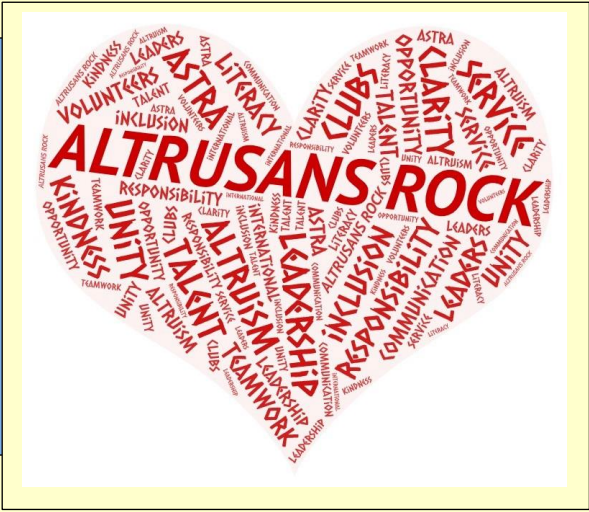
February 1st	Early Bird Conference Registration begins
February 1st	Governor's Newsletter
February 4th	World Cancer Day
February 15th	Notify each club of the number of delegates/alternatives for Conference
February 15th	Send Clubs Strategic Plan
February 15th	Slate of District Officers presented to the District Board
February 17th	Random Acts of Kindness Day
February 19th	Governor's zoom meeting for Club Presidents
February 20 th	World Day of Social Justice

Our Grace:

“We receive our meal with gratitude. May it nourish our intention to be of service to others.”
[This is then followed by having a moment of silence in which we can think about our individual concerns and petitions.]

Our Benediction:

“May we go forth with high ideals, be of service where we can, be true to all Altrusa aims, until we meet again.”



Save the Date:

February 7th: Northeastern CT Board Meeting

February 21st: Northeastern CT Business meeting

November 2nd Altrusa District One Fall Workshop

April 26th – 28th: Altrusa District One Conference

July 24-27, 2025: Altrusa International Convention; Quebec, Canada

Our Holiday Luncheon and Business Meeting



What would we do without
our Jackie?



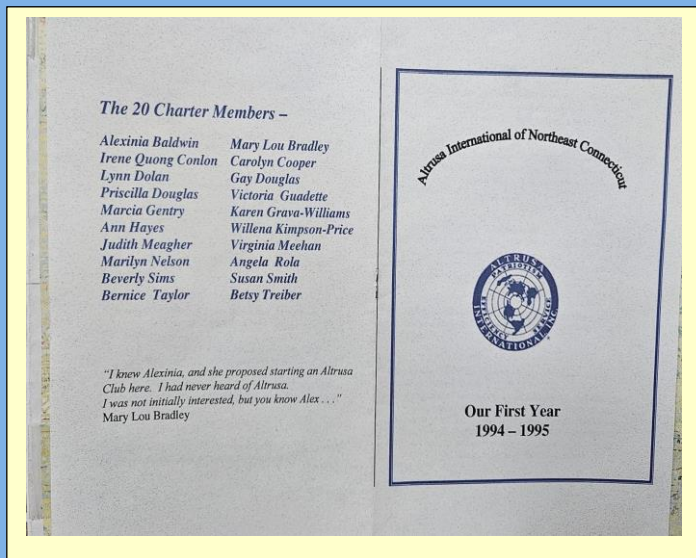
President Jodi's spice drawer:
Yes, they really are in
alphabetical order.



Will someone please
drop something on the
floor, PLEASE!



Celebrating Our History: Serving Northeastern Connecticut for 28 years!!



Founding members pictured from left to right: Gay Douglas, Bev Sims, Marylou Bradley, Lynn Dolan, Bernice Taylor.



The Editor Chimes In

To make sourdough bread it is essential to use a self-standing mixer. My self-standing mixer was working so nicely and dependably. For years it did everything I asked it to do. We got along perfectly. Today, however, it started to act like a 2-year-old child who's having a temper tantrum. It was mixing the dough as I was making lasagna near by. Then the mixer crept over the edge of the counter and fell right on the floor and landed on my big left toe. It really hurt. It's not broken but I'm hoping I don't lose that nail.

Anyway, back to the mixer...It's very heavy and awkward alone and with the dough of the bread, it was worse. The dough was just a blob on the floor- a sticky, yucky blob. Sadly, that means that no-one is getting a loaf tomorrow (insert sad face emoji).

Now, I'm sitting in my chair with ice on the toe. (I think I need a toe truck.)

I'll get to the goopy mess when I feel like it.

As I'm writing this it's December 30, 2023. You will get this February 2024.

I hope everyone had a great holiday season. I hope that this year brings good health, joy, and no major or minor accidents.

Susan

P.S. The lazagna was awesome.

P.P.S. As of January 23, I haven't lost the toenail.



Atta Girl:

To Lynne Warren for creating our new web-site. That is a lot of work and she did a great job. Check it out: <https://www.nectaltrusa.org/>

Anne Rash for writing grants applications that people accept and grant because she does such an amazing job.

Jodi Walencewicz for offering her lovely home for our club's Christmas gathering

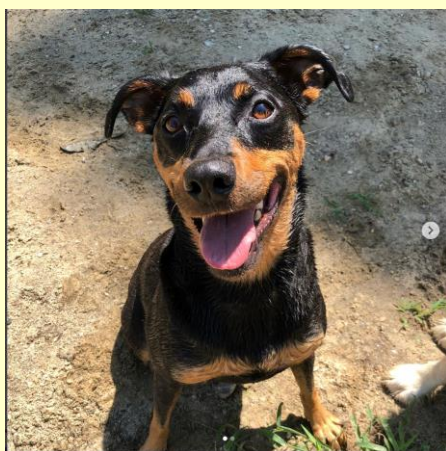
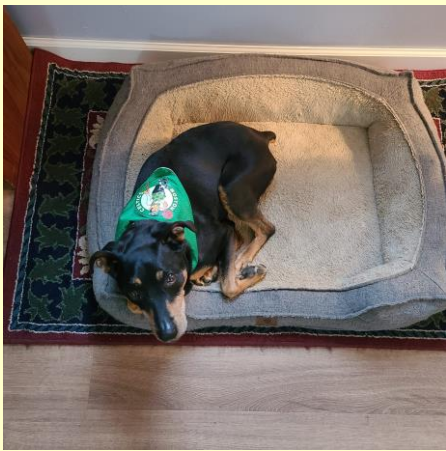
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthdays in February

Kristina Elias-Staron
Janet Jones
Jane Schreiber

Birthdays in March

Bernice Tayor



Pet of the Month:

Introducing Suka, the-stumpy-rump-wonder. Even at age 11, she is still a spirited half minpin/half rottie rescue dog. She loves to chase small animals, go on weekly pack walks with the "big dogs," and walking along Martha's Vineyard beaches. She tends to be a tad reserved with most dogs (I call her "Madame Bougie," but she would say that she is selective with sharing doggie love with other dogs). She particularly loves to shred squeaky toys--her fastest record is 3 minutes, and she willingly spends hours playing with our nieces and nephews and loves them dearly. According to her humans, She is their four-legged baby.

If you have a pet that you would like us to feature, please send me a pic and some information. Email: isadorad@charter.net

Editor's note:

Evidently, I'm supposed to include activities that are happening in town. However, we come from so many different towns that it would be difficult and outrageously time-consuming to get all that information. So, please check your local papers, newsletters, etc., to see what's going on near you.

District Officers

Governor:

Rita Cote
rita@jonescove.net

Governor Elect:

Susan Porazzo
smporazzo@hotmail.com

1st Vice Governor:

Wanda Pettersen
Kettlecove_6@msn.com

2nd Vice Governor:

Ann Lindner
annlindner120@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Diana O'Reilly
ddoreilly51@gmail.com

Secretary:

Denise Doyon
1ddpills@gmail.com

Director:

Penny Eldridge
onecent.peni@gmail.com

Director:

Susan Ulino
isadorad@charter.net

Immediate Past Governor:

Pam Lemieux
Pamela.lemieux@myfairpoint.net

International Office Contact information:

Altrusa International
1400 E. Touhy Avenue - Suite 410
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Check out our Facebook page: Altrusa of Northeastern Connecticut
And out our brand spanking new chapter web-site:
<https://nectaltrusa.org>



We Are
here to
—help—