



March 2024

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF GREATER BIDDEFORD SACO, MAINE, USA

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Website: <https://districtone.altrusa.org/biddeford-saco>

Facebook: Altrusa International of Greater Biddeford Saco



Greetings! The days are getting longer, the sun feels warmer, and spring is right around the corner! Our club completed two new projects in February- the kindness bags and the comfort bags. It felt great working with you all on these projects as we find different ways to provide service to the community! It is also great to see newer member participating in projects. We have other service projects planned and also need to plan for conference coming up in April. As always, thanks for everything you do.

Sandy



Altrusa Volunteer Hours

1.> Hours spent on any project which has to do with Altrusa, except Literacy.

> Hours spent in other activities where you wear your Altrusa Pin, and mention/discuss Altrusa.

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> 2. Altrusa Literacy

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> 3. Other Volunteer Hours

> Hours spent on any volunteer projects which do not meet the preceding criteria.

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> 4. Random Acts of Kindness ALTRUSA SERVICE HOURS

Altrusa 303.5

Altrusa Literacy 41

Non-Altrusa 118

Random Acts of Kindness 135

MEETING MINUTES

2/10/24

President Sandy McKenney brought the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

Guests: Ann Lindner, Diane English, Elaine Simard, Jen Morrow, and Germaine

Leaders in Service: none

Correspondence: Ann Milliard read a letter of thanks for our NAP (Newborn Assistance Program) bags from Southern Maine Health Care.

Secretary's report: It was moved and seconded to accept the secretary's report as presented.

Member updates: Ann advised that Claudette Nadeau is doing well at home recovering from her stroke, she would like visitors but only for short periods of time. Claudie is up and walking, although her right hand and eyesight has been affected. Connie Crandall had hip replacement surgery

and her recuperation is coming along well.

Housekeeping: Members are advised that attendance at meetings counts for Altrusa hours.

Future meetings will be held on:

March: Brunch on Saturday morning 3/10, from 9:30am to 11:30am.

April: Monday evening meeting, from 6 pm to 8 pm, same location. (2nd Monday)

May: Monday evening meeting, from 6 pm to 8 pm, same location. (2nd Monday)

June: Monday evening meeting, from 6 pm to 8 pm, same location. (2nd Monday)

July: Summer meeting TBD (minimal business—lots of fun and socializing).

August: Summer meeting TBD (minimal business—lots of fun and socializing)

September: Monday evening meeting, from 6 pm to 8 pm, same location. (2nd Monday)

October: Monday evening meeting, from 6 pm to 8 pm, same location. (2nd Monday)

Saturday Brunch meetings will resume for the months of:

November, December, January, February, and March. (2nd Saturday)

President Sandy announced that our nominating committee has been appointed and consists of Phyllis Dunitz, Ruth Ann Mitchell, and Judy Cadorette. A slate of officers for the coming year will be presented to the membership at the next meeting.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Chair Marguerite Dow advised that if any member spent their personal funds on the purchase for anything involving Altrusa projects, it must be reported to her even if it is gifted. If not gifted, you may be reimbursed from club funds. Rita Cote quickly reviewed our budget and stated that our Operating budget is still the same as reported last month, fundraising from the Yard sale has been sorted and money raised from Altrusans will go to

Operating budget and money raised from the public will go to our Foundation budget, and back out to the community. We only had the expenses of Wendy's pin and badge. For the benefit of new members, by law, all funds raised from the community/public must be returned to the community/public.

Finance: Chair Rita Cote was happy to report that our Calendar fundraiser was now over \$3,000. Consideration was being given to a mini golf fundraiser at Rapture Falls sometime in May. We may also have a 'baby' shower that would benefit our NAP programs.

Membership: Chair Sandy McKenney stated that we would soon be having a new member orientation and will be working on setting up a membership drive in the near future.

Scholarship: Chair Sarah Moore said there was nothing more happening right now.

Service: Chair Laura Cortright

- Brought us up to date on the 'comfort bags' we will be putting together for children in the foster care of Maine kinship program and will send list of items needed in those bags as well as a date for when we will get together to do the bags.
- Advised that our Altrusa will be cooking and service at Bon Appetit on Thursday, March 7. The menu will be baked Ziti, the famous Marguerite biscuits, salad, and meatballs. Members can join in cooking by arriving at 2 pm. Bon appetit usually serves 80-100 meals per meal 5 days a week. She also asked if members would like to restart their serving efforts on the 1st Thursday of each month and membership agreed to do this. Participants should arrive no later than 4 pm.
- National Kindness day is coming up and we will be putting together snack bags for the homeless and distributing them in the community, perhaps hang them on fences, etc.
- Ann Milliard that our NAP program, like a baby shower in a bag, was in need of items for the bags. She will be sending an email to

everyone with a list of needed items and invited members to join her on Thursday to put some bags together.

Communication: Chair Denise Doyon

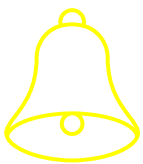
- asked members to check their data in the new yearbook that she distributed. We are working on updating our website and sending photos to Linda Ring.
- We need more info for our newsletter and encouraged members to send their items to Lucille.
- Our recycling for good program had a huge donation from former members Linda Boivin and Diana Huot of forty-six used ink cartridges. We also recycle used cell phones that can be used to call emergency 911 by Sr. citizens and battered women.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary,
Judy Cadorette



Happy spring
No Birthdays this month



We have a Baby Registry! Sandy and Judy have set up a baby registry through Amazon. This is specifically for our baby nap bags that we need now.

Go to: Amazon baby registry, search for baby registry – type Altrusa International of Greater Biddeford Saco. Everything you order will be sent directly to Sandy.

Board News

The board is busy working hard on conference to be held April 26 to 28th, 2024. It will be held at the Double tree in Andover, Ma. For those of you who are first timers(first time you have attended a conference) the club will pay your registration fee. This money is collected at the summer social event held at Marguerite and Rita's home in Waterboro. You can save \$10.00 if you register by the early bird deadline of 3-26

Greater Biddeford-Saco participated in "how to Grow your Garden which was an invitation by district. Every member of the club will receive a red rose pin for getting in excess of fifty points. Points were gathered primarily by % of members attending meetings and participating in service projects. We also received extra points for every guest who participated in our service projects or attended our meetings. Congratulations.

One of the special sessions at the conference is the memorial service for all the members of the district who passed on this year. This year we will be memorializing a member of our club. Beverly Stoops passed away in May 2023. Dr Beverly Stoops had been a member since ??????. She served as president of Greater Biddeford Club in 1996-1998. She was a gifted musician, and her goal was for us to do something useful for our community and have fun doing it. Bev is greatly missed.

The flag ceremony this year will involve the past governors and the first timers to conference. The past governors to thank them for being willing to lead district and the first timers to welcome them to District and the great organization of Altrusa.

One needs to book their hotel room by March 27th to be assured of getting the discounted rate. This is a perfect way to meet Atrusans from the entire district, learn new ideas and just have fun.

The money will be deposited in our foundation account to be spent in 6-23 to 5-2024 for community service . Great job everyone!

Rita

Getting to Know you

Biography

Ruth Mitchell

Ruth has been a member of Altrusa International of Greater Biddeford - Saco, Maine for a year. During that time she has enjoyed meeting the members, attending meetings, and volunteering on various projects.

She is very familiar with the Greater Biddeford - Saco area. She grew up in Saco, attended Saco Public Schools and graduated from Thornton Academy in 1969. After high school Ruth received an AA Degree from Lasell College, and a BA Degree from Boston University.

One of her dreams during the time of President Kennedy presidency, was to join VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America). Following college that's what she did! After training in Washington, D.C., she was sent to Roanoke, Virginia to work for the agency, Total Action Against Poverty. During her year as a VISTA she worked with Head start children as a One-on-One teacher and as a recreation aide with migrant children. After her year as a VISTA Ruth worked as a Head start teacher in Roanoke for six years.

It was during that time that she was introduced to the Montessori method of education. In 1979 she attended the Washington Montessori Institute. Upon receiving her Primary Montessori Diploma in 1980, another ambition came to fruition. Ruth was hired by the District of Columbia Public Schools to work as a Montessori teacher in a public school that had just opened. She remained teaching at Thurgood Marshall Community School until retirement in 2008.

During her years teaching Ruth earned an Elementary Montessori Diploma and a double master's degree in early childhood and Elementary Education. She also worked part time at the Washington Montessori Institute as a course assistant in the training of Montessori teachers.

In 2008 Ruth returned to live in Maine. Her retirement years have been busy helping relatives, hosting yearly cousin reunions, reconnecting with old friends, making new friends, spending a few years volunteering, and working at the Dyer Library, volunteering at Bon Appetite, building a house, practicing Yoga, and playing Mahjong and Rummycub.

Her two great passions are gardening and traveling. As soon as the weather is warm enough, you will probably find her working in the yard.

Ruth looks forward to many new adventures and participating in Altrusa volunteer projects.

FYI: from our president Sandy

We have secured a date for the fundraiser, book give away . The date will be the Saturday of Memorial day weekend. May 25th. Mark your calendars.

Thanks

Altus Biddeford-Saco Rocks February

Caring Bags



Bags for kindness day



Nap Bags



Initiation of Wenda Zarella



And to top it all off, a club visit from Ann Lindner, second vice president of District One.

