

**Altrusa International of
Central CT, Inc.**

P.O. Box 2532

Middletown, CT 06457

Altrusa.CentralCT@gmail.com

President

Lynne Havlicek
860-306-5110

Vice-President

Elsie Mathews
860-841-9375

Secretary

**Cathy Boone/
Jamie Santaniello**
C- 860-754.6972
J- 860-986-4911

Treasurers

Linda Ring (General)
860-490-8211
Hilda Schmidt (Foundation)
203-592-4819

Directors

Bonnie LaPut
860-894-2122

Edna Liberty
860-614-3817

Kimberly Czaja
860-817-4898

Past President

Jamie Santaniello
860-986-4911

Newsletter Editor

Elsie Mathews
860-841-9375

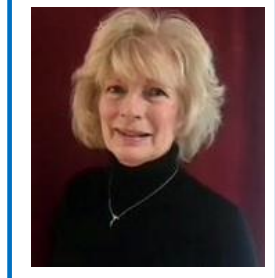
Meetings

2nd and 4th Wed.
Wadsworth Glen
starting at 6:30 pm.

Presidential Prose

She wore her yellow sun bonnet,
She wore her greenest gown,
She turned to the south wind
And curtsied up and down.
She turned to the sunlight,
And shook her yellow head,
And whispered to her neighbor
“Winter is dead”.

“Daffodowndilly”
A.A. Milne



April is “Add an Altrusan” month. Wear your membership pin every day and get a conversation started about Altrusa! April 11th is the Altrusa International Inc. 107th Anniversary. The District One Conference is April 26-28 at the Doubletree in Andover, MA.

On Saturday, April 20th at 2:00pm, we will host the 31st Gerard F. Melito Senior Citizens Poetry Contest and Reception. The reception has become our signature service project. I encourage all our members to attend and see how this event provides a venue for our senior poets to express their talents and gifts.

Our Business Meeting is on Wednesday, April 10th, 6:30pm at Wadsworth Glen. I hope that all members will attend this important meeting. As always, we will have a full agenda. On our recent Club Survey, many of you cited the length of these meetings. I have some ideas to streamline the agenda, so we can finish our business by 8:00pm. Part of your responsibility as an Altrusan is to attend our business meetings to keep abreast of club activity and the progress of committees and projects. It is also a time for you to express your ideas and opinions to the Club.

Please provide me with your Volunteer Service Hours from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, so I can complete the 2023-2024 Club Annual Report.

With Thanks,

Lynne

Upcoming EVENTS

- Apr 10: Business Meeting at 6:30pm
Wadsworth Glen
- Apr 20 Senior Poetry Contest at 2pm
Cromwell Belden Library
- Apr 23: 4th Tuesday Social at
Campagna Italian Restaurant
151 Marlborough Street
Portland, CT

** ** *

Mark Your Calendar

District One Conference
Andover, MA
April 26-28, 2024



MEMBER MEETING

Breakfast

None scheduled until June (TBA) at Sheraton
Hartford South Hotel 100 Capital Blvd in Rocky
Hill

Events

**Apr 20– Greater Middletown Military Museum
Anniversary** Dinner Celebration at Italian
Society Hall on 74 Court Street in Middletown,
CT from 6:00-7:30pm

Business After Work

May 15 –Wadsworth Mansion in Middletown
(details to follow)

Birthday Wishes

- April 2 Pat Jackowski
- April 3 Kathleen Didato
- April 10 Edna Liberty
- April 29 Cathy Boone
- April 29 Kathy Burns



REMINDER—

**April 20th is the annual Senior Poetry
Contest at the Cromwell Belden Library.
HELP will be appreciated around 1:00pm to
set up the room for the poets. Also, a
refreshments sign-up sheet will be
available at the April business meeting.**

Altrusa Accent at Upcoming Meetings

- Apr 10 Hilda Schmidt
- May 8 Bonnie Laput

NOTE: If the scheduled member is unable to
present, please create your accent and ask
someone else to read it at the meeting. 😊

Holiday Baskets Project

Altrusa has been an ongoing and avid supporter of the Cromwell Food Pantry. Several times a year, mainly Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter with gift cards and a check to assure that each needy family can fully enjoy a holiday feast.

Kathleen Didato



Top Left: Liz Brantley (Altrusa), Hope Fiona (Cromwell Pantry Intern), Awilda Rodriguez (Cromwell Pantry Human Services Assistant), Amy Saada (Cromwell Human Services Director and Edna Liberty (Altrusa).

Top Right: Amy Saada, Cromwell Human Services Director.

Bottom Left: Liz Brantley presenting Awilda Rodriguez, Cromwell Human Services Assistant, with Altrusa check as Kathleen Didato and Edna Liberty look on.



APRIL is ADD AN ALTRUSAN MONTH

Last month our *Altrusa Accent* was all about the future of Altrusa clubs and how if we hope to have Altrusa clubs for the next generation, we must focus on building a legacy. The best way to do that is to advertise the good things that Altrusa does and invite new people to join our cause. After all, that's why you joined, isn't it?

We understand that you've probably exhausted the list of your friends, family and co-workers by now... so I'm asking you to think of people who are of the next generation younger than ourselves... your children, their friends, associates, hairdressers, gym buddies, or other like-minded giving souls. They are the kind of people who can help us GROW our club. Like the District One challenge of "GROWING our GARDEN" we need to keep feeding our plants and expanding our landscape.

Who will YOU introduce to our wonderful club this month?

Linda Ring
Membership Committee

2024 Senior Award Update

This year, five complete application packages were received from three of the local high schools.

The Committee members will begin their review and scoring of the applications based upon the following criteria: community service, scholastic achievement, and financial need. The students with the highest scores will receive our award. They will be invited to a reception in May to receive their award and meet the club members.

Elsie Mathews

Note from Central CT Foundation Treasurer

Reminder:

Please submit any outstanding reimbursement form for expenses incurred from June 1, 2023 - through current. Soon enough we will be working on the budget for the following club year. Funds for any project may be reduced, depending on the need and current expenses.

Hilda Schmidt

*March Altrusa Accent:
The Future of Altrusa Clubs
depends on YOU!*

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

I'm speaking to you today in my role as an International Director. The future of Altrusa as an organization lies in the successful recruitment of younger members. Recruiting members is the job of each and every Altrusan. **YOU** are the best spokesperson that Altrusa could have! You know what the club has done for the community and for its members. Be willing to share it!

Where do we find new members? You know that answer. They are everywhere: churches, utility companies, newspapers, homeowner's associations, senior centers, schools, banks, doctor's offices, beauty salons, fitness centers, etc. Don't forget to think of former members. We realize that many of us have circulated through the ranks of leadership, and some don't want to do it again. But, if you don't, who will? Find us some younger members. Think of people who are your daughter's ages, their friends, associates, etc. They are the ones who have the time and the muscle to get the job done!

Your **ENTHUSIASM** is the most important element of persuasion. Share the reasons why YOU love Altrusa, and chances are the prospect will listen and be interested in what you have to say. Remember that Members are our most **PRECIOUS TREASURE!**

- ✓ Try to identify people who are *passionate about serving others*.
- ✓ Look for someone who has special qualities to benefit our organization.
- ✓ Some have **TALENT** (naturally gifted by birth) and some have **SKILLS** (learned by practice) Those talents and skills should be put to use to coordinate service activities and projects **AND** to help support and grow our clubs.

Remember the following **Responsibilities of Membership**:

- **COMMIT** to membership and recruitment
- **EDUCATE** yourself – know the bylaws and policies
- **BE** present and **WILLING** to serve
- **CHALLENGE** yourself to take on new responsibilities
- **BRING** solutions for problems identified
- **ATTEND** local, district and international workshops, conferences and conventions
- **BE** a team player but also retain your uniqueness
- **SAY YES** when asked to serve on a committee
- **MOTIVATE** – bring your enthusiasm and ideas – think outside of the box
- **DARE** to 'get it wrong'
- **LAUGH** – don't forget to laugh – often!
- **RECRUIT OTHERS** – be willing to talk about Altrusa wherever you go!

President Linda has given us an **Add an Altrusan Month Membership Incentive!** Add at least one new member in April 2024, and your club could win one of five \$100 cash prizes! Do you think we can do it? Let's give it a try!!!

Linda Ring, International Director

This was all found in materials on the International Website, Membership page – specifically the Membership Recruitment Bootcamp PowerPoint presentation.

4th TUESDAY Social – Will you join us?

Liz and I thought we might plan just a social night out. I stumbled upon a great meal deal at Campagna Italian Restaurant, 151 Marlborough St, Portland, CT 06480. They offer a 5-course meal for \$38 on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights. We even went on a double date to check it out, and it was a great dinner!

So we proposed changing our April 24th Wednesday meeting night to a 4th TUESDAY (4/23) social dinner, and those at the March 4th Wednesday agreed it was a good idea.

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for some fabulous food! Here is what they offer:

1. **Appetizers:** Stuffed Mushrooms, Zuppa D' Mussels or Fried Mozzarella
2. **Pasta Course:** Penne Agio Olio, Penne with Garlic and Oil, Penne Marinara, Penne alla Vodka
3. **Soup or Salad**
4. **Entrée Choices:** Chicken Parmigiana, Eggplant Rollatini, Chicken Marsala, Stuffed Pork Chop, Stuffed sole, Balkan Meatballs
5. **Dessert:** Chef's choice



Of course, this price does not include tax or gratuity, so that would come to \$35 without any beverage. We will need to make reservations on Monday, so please RSVP by Sunday noon to Linda 860-490-8211 or Liz 203-414-2901.

Looking forward to having a great social dinner out with you!

Linda Ring and Liz Brantley

Presidents Council Meeting Minutes for March 2024

- Governor Rita welcomed the Presidents in attendance and the agenda was approved with no additions.
- The minutes from the February 19th meeting were approved.
- Governor Rita reminded us to send Diane O'Reilly the names of delegates and alternates attending the Conference.
- We were also reminded that early bird registrations end with registrations postmarked by March 26th
- There is an incentive from International. Five drawings for \$100.00 from clubs bringing in a new member in April.
- Governor Rita announced that the 2024 Fall Workshop will be held in November at Nonantum House, Kennebunkport ME.
- Club Annual Reports will be from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024.
- Questions on the Conference were asked and answered.
- Wanda Peterson spoke on the topic of Succession Planning.

Lynne Havlicek

Reminder on navigating the web...

Where can you find more information about District One?

<https://districtone.altrusa.org/>

Where can you find more information about Altrusa International?

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

Altrusa International –Dues Update

International Dues for the 2024 - 2025 membership cycle are due **June 1st**.

New Members, Affiliate Members and Renewing Members: \$55.00.

Young Professionals: \$27.50.

All **New Members** pay a \$10.00 processing fee per member.

All **Reactivating Members** pay a \$10.00 reactivation fee per member.

International Dues can be paid via Group Tally with a bank account or credit card.

Dues paid **after June 15th** are assessed a **late fee** of \$5.00 per member.

All unpaid members will be deactivated on July 11th.

Volunteer Hours for Club Annual Report

I'm reaching out to all Members and asking you to tally your Volunteer Hours for the year April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024.

This includes,

- Administrative Hours – Meeting Night, Membership Events, Fundraising, Budget Planning, Orientation, District Workshop/Conference, Intl. Convention
- Project Hours – Baby Food Drive, ABC, Senior Awards, Poetry Contest, Diaper Drive, Pack the Pickup Food Drive, Veterans projects etc. Note – include your literacy time here too.
- All Other Volunteer Hours – Church groups, Civic programs, Blood Donation, Cans for a Cause, Hospice work etc.

Altrusa Literacy Hours – includes all hours spent on Literacy projects such as preparing books for distribution publicity for the event, time at the event, etc.

Intentional Acts of Kindness – President Linda Smith has asked us to perform at least ONE intentional act of kindness each week during her biennium.

Please send them to me by April 15th.

With Thanks, Lynne Havlicek

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