

**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

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

Recipe for Success

All the ingredients for a successful club

Combine:

- 2 cups determination to build a strong club
- 1 cup committed members
- 1 cup hands-on projects
- 1 cup communication
- 1 cup support
- 2 cups desire to serve our community

Blend with:

- 1 pint strong leadership
- 1 gallon of FUN

Fold in:

- 3 tablespoons retention-based activities
- 2-3 theme parties to taste
- ½ cup Altrusa Accents
- ½ cup member highlights
- 2 cups vision

Pour into a well-oiled pan, pop into a community that's just waiting to be served and...

WATCH THOSE ALTRUSANS COOK!!

shared from District One Conference 2014

March is a month for transitions. We start with snow and ice and end with crocus on our lawns.

January and February have been rather bleak months for our Club this year. We have struggled with leadership issues, but now we have some plans to get our Altrusa house back in order.

At our March 12 Business Meeting we have the important business of voting for Club Officers to lead our 2025-2027 biennium. We will choose Delegates to the District One Conference to be held in early May. We have a Mamie L. Bass Award Submission that transitions our CLOSE project to a partnership with Fostering Family Hope. Our Central Breeze Editor, Elsie Mathews will pick three editions for the District One Newsletter Award. We will be hearing updates for the Poetry Contest and Reception, High School Senior Awards, and Joint Service Clubs luncheon.

Altrusa Intl. of Central CT has all the ingredients for a successful Club.

Let's get cooking ladies!!

With Thanks,

Lynne





- Mar 12: Business Meeting
Wadsworth Glen at 6:30pm
- Mar 26: Program Meeting (TBD)
Wadsworth Glen at 6:30pm
- Mar 29 Joint Service Luncheon
Casa Mia at The Hawthorne
2421 Berlin Tpke
Berlin, CT at 11am - 3pm
- Apr 05 Senior Poetry Contest/reception
Cromwell Belden Library
39 West Street
Cromwell, CT at 2pm

** ** *

Mark Your Calendar

District One Conference
Southbridge Hotel & Conference Center
Southbridge, MA
May 2-5, 2025

International Convention
Quebec City July 2025

Altrusa Accent at Upcoming Meetings

March 12	Hilda Schmidt
April 9	Liz Brantley
May 14	Elsie Mathews

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



MEMBER MEETING

Breakfast

March 17 -Geno Auriemma UConn Men's Head Basketball Coach at Sheraton Hartford South Hotel on 100 Capital Blvd in Rocky Hill from 7:00 -9:00am

Events

Sundays throughout March – Board Game Night at Back Again Board Games Cafe on 484 Main Street Unit 11 in Middletown, CT starting at 6:00pm

Business After Work

March--None scheduled at this time.

Birthday Wishes

March 15	Lynne Havlicek
March 16	Patti Deegan
March 22	Hilda Schmidt
March 23	Liz Brantley



Orientation Session for New Members



Do you remember your first meeting as a new Altrusan? Did you understand what everyone was talking about? Chances are, it took a few months to understand all our references, acronyms, titles and projects!

On Wednesday, Feb 19th, Hilda, Pat, Liz and I met with our newest Altrusan, Suzanne Morello, to go over the finer details of Altrusa Membership. The slide deck covers lots of material!

- We talked about the 3 levels of Altrusa activity (International, District, and Local) and the different pins and emblems that represent each one.
- We reviewed our meeting logistics, and traditional calendar set-up.
- We discussed the 4 standing committees of Altrusa (Communication, Membership, Finance, Service) and their basic functions.
- Then we got into describing the Service Projects we enjoy – what they entailed, when they occurred, who was the chairperson, etc.
- We talked about how we submit reports on our wonderful service activities to submit for awards at District, specifying that we don't submit just to win an award, but to share our project ideas and receive recognition for a job well done!
- We reviewed our club leadership, and how one is nominated to serve on the board.
- We described the difference between club funds and foundation funds, and why we have 2 treasurers. What determines where monies donated go? Whether it comes from an internal fundraiser (can go to General Fund) or external source (goes to our 501-C3 foundation).
- We reviewed the many publications that come from Altrusa – our local newsletter, The Central Breeze (our local newsletter), the District Service Bulletin (from our District leadership), The Compass (from International), and The Impact (from Altrusa International Foundation).
- What and when is Workshop (Fall, one day)? Conference (Spring, 2-3 days)? Convention (July of odd years, generally 3-5 days)?
- We presented a list of resources from the International Website.
- And lastly, reminded Suzanne of How to Wear the Altrusa Pin (*The Altrusa pin is always worn proudly over the heart, affixed directly onto a blouse, sweater, suit lapel or dress. Out of respect, the pin must never be worn, elsewhere on person or as a garment decoration. Altrusa International Resource Guide. 2014.*)

Please be sure to update your yearbook, page 23, with Suzanne's contact information!



Suzanne Morello
49 Reno Drive
Middletown, CT 06457

Joined: December 2024
860-655-7521
Suzanne.Morello@sbcglobal.net

Linda Ring

Poetry Contest Reception

The 2025 Gerard F Melito Poetry Contest reception will be held on Saturday April 5 at 2 pm at the Cromwell Belden Library. And anyone who can come to help will be appreciated. We will circulate a request for finger foods at our March 12 business meeting. These could be either desserts, fruit or little savory nibbles. If you will not be at the meeting but can volunteer with set up or with a food item, please let me know.

Cathy Boone



Poetry Contest Update!

Poems have been coming in steadily all month. I sent a reminder email out to all poets who submitted last year but hadn't submitted yet. It worked!! Got lots more at the end of the month.

In total, there are 31 submissions so far. The deadline was March 1st, and a few poets indicated that they had dropped them in the mail! So once I have the last bunch, I'll finalize the booklet. and send it off to the judges.

We are fortunate to have both judges from last year returning! Christine Ruggiero and Terry McNulty from CT State Community College - Middlesex have agreed to review our poetry submissions.

Linda Ring

Luncheon - Joint Service Celebration – RSVP by March 21st

At our Joint Service Project, Pack the Pick-up with Proteins for the Pantry, the Presidents of Altrusa, ADK, Civitan and Soroptimist decided to try a luncheon to celebrate our joint service. By having a luncheon, we hope that more will choose to attend as driving in the daylight is much easier for members. Our luncheon will be held, Saturday, March 29th at Casa Mia at the Hawthorne from 11 AM – 3 PM. Lunch will be served family style so there will be no buffet lines. The lunch will include appetizers, salad, pasta, entrée, vegetable, potato, ice cream with cake provided by the Civitan Club, coffee and tea. The price is \$40/pp. There is ample parking and it is handicapped accessible. Please see the attached flyer and I hope we will see you there.

Pat Jackowski



Joint Service Luncheon

We will enjoy a family style luncheon as we celebrate the services we provide to the community

Saturday, March 29, 2025

11AM – 3 PM

*Casa Mia at the Hawthorne
2421 Berlin Tpke, Berlin CT 06037*

\$40/pp – Cash Bar

*RSVP to your Club President or Secretary
by March 21, 2025*

*For additional information contact:
Pat Jackowski 860-638-8018 or pjicjj@sbcglobal.net*

Altrusa Central CT Slate of Officers – 2025-2027

At the February Business Meeting we discussed our leadership needs. We came up with a pared down slate of officers.

Club Officers

President – Linda Ring
Vice-President – Liz Brantley
Treasurer – Pat Jackowski
Secretary – Lynne Havlicek

Foundation Board of Trustees

Chair – Lynne Havlicek
Vice-Chair – Liz Brantley
Treasurer (continuing) – Hilda Schmidt

As the slate stands, we have vacant positions for Director in the Club and Foundation. I am hoping to fill one Director position for the Club and one for the Foundation. If any member would consider stepping up to either of these Director positions, please contact me. Thank you,

Lynne Havlicek

Altrusa is....

“Inspiring! Fun! A way to shine
light in this world!”

“Connecting with other members
with a common goal and passion
that will leave more than we take
from this life.”

“Serving my community
with friends
who share the same
heart for others.”

“What keeps me
in touch with
friends and
community.”



Business Meeting Minutes February 12, 2025

Business-New/Unfinished

- There were no club members with February birthdays to acknowledge.
- Nominating Committee – There was discussion on the difficulty of getting members to ‘step up’ to the leadership roles of the club. The current Slate of Officers for the Biennium 2025 – 2027 is as follows:

President:	Linda Ring
Vice President:	Liz Brantley
Secretary:	Lynne Havlicek
Treasurer:	Pat Jackowski
Director:	Currently the 2 Director positions are open

Linda Ring spoke about a re-alignment and retention process that was used in the Laconia Club when they thought they would fold. We need to address the problems with attendance including members who pay dues but do not participate limits the ability to do club business. Changes need to occur.

- Award Submissions – Linda Ring reported that on January 29, 2025, Altrusans Hilda Schmidt, Liz Brantley, Pat Jackowski and Linda Ring met to discuss this year’s Award submissions for the Mamie L. Bass (Community Service), Letha H. Brown (Literacy) and Wilma Hogan (new international longevity project). As we have not really done an innovation with our literacy projects, we decided to forgo the Letha H. Brown submission. The Mamie L. Bass project we will submit will be Fostering Family HOPE. We developed some bullet points on the program and Linda will meet with Lynne to complete the submission for the deadline of March 1, 2025. The Wilma Hogan submission, Our Senior Poetry Contest, is not due until May 1, 2025, So we have time to work on it.
- Pat Jackowski announced that the Joint Service Dinner will be a Joint Service Luncheon after the 4 Presidents of Altrusa, ADK, Civitan and Soroptimists discussed attendance at our summer Proteins for the Pantry event. The event will be Saturday, March 29th. Save the date and watch for more details.
- We are waiting for Elsie Mathews to remake the final review on the Senior Award Submissions. Lynne Havlicek sent an article to the Cromwell Chronicle for publication.
- Linda Ring reported that poems for this year’s Senior Poetry Contest have been coming in. She will send a reminder around February 15th to the poets.

Respectfully Submitted.

Pat Jackowski

District One Presidents' Council meetings - January & February 2025

January 9, 2025

The Agenda was approved without any additions. The November 14, 2024, Minutes were approved. Governor Elect, Susan Porazzo spoke and is looking forward to the Conference. The DSB Call to Conference, May 2-4, 2025, Southbridge MA. All information regarding the Conference including registration, accommodations and food, and Conference Schedule and Agenda are in the DSB. District One dues increase will be voted on at Conference.

There was a discussion for topics for the February, March, and April meeting.

February 17, 2025

The Agenda was approved without any additions. The January 9, 2025, Minutes were approved. There was discussion of a Canva-graphic software district account and topics for March and April meetings. New service award Wilma B. Hogan Enduring Community Project Award and the Anna H. Settle Community Leadership Award were discussed. One workshop at Conference has not been determined yet. Presidents were asked to submit ideas for this workshop.

The fall workshop will be on November 8, 2025, at the Graduate on Yukon campus.

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 –

Service Committee
Newsletter

January 2025



Altrusans,

[Click here for the International Service Committee Newsletter.](#)

Diapers are a basic necessity many Connecticut families cannot afford

By Janet Stolfi Alfano

For over 20 years, we at the Diaper Bank of Connecticut have been working to provide diapers to Connecticut families and expand our impact across the state.

The need is clear: one in two Connecticut families struggles to afford diapers, which cost about 22% more than they did in 2018. For working families, that means making impossible decisions between groceries, heat, and diapers.

Safety net programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, and its Women, Infants and Children program don't cover the costs of diapers; besides, families need those resources for food and other nutritional support.

Families have been working their way back after Covid 19 wreaked havoc on their household finances. Those that previously were able (or barely able) to make ends meet now find themselves in dire need of more financial assistance for diapers as prices rise and household budgets shrivel.

As a state, Connecticut has been a leader in this effort and answered the call again and again:

- First state with a line item for a diaper bank in its budget in 2007 (while it was

short lived and zeroed out in 2009, it was a significant milestone);

- Eliminated the state sales tax on diapers (and menstrual supplies) in 2016, a tax change that took effect in 2018;

- UConn's Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis produced the country's first ever economic analysis of a diaper bank showing the return on investment to the state:

- For every \$1 invested, an \$11 return

- Families were missing about 4 days of work per month because they did not have enough diapers to bring their child to child-care, equating to about \$6,000 in lost wages if using the Connecticut minimum wage as the baseline.

- We've worked with our Massachusetts neighbors and our Connecticut community action agencies on the first ever federally funded Diaper Distribution Demonstration and Research Pilot.

- We partnered with the Connecticut Hospital Association and Connecticut's hospitals on Diaper Connections: the first of its kind collaboration between a diaper bank and hospitals designed to better meet the needs of families with infants and toddlers in the most critical developmental period in the life of a child. This

program, funded with covid emergency funding administered by the Connecticut Department of Housing has ended. We are continuing to look for additional public and private dollars to support this innovative approach to meeting the needs of families.

Over the past few years, the Diaper Bank of Connecticut has been working with families, community leaders and legislators to advocate for diaper coverage under Medicaid to ensure that every Connecticut family has these basic necessities-diapers. Medicaid would cover the broadest number of children in the greatest need in every community throughout our state. State Representative Jillian Gilchrist, co-chair of the Legislature's Human Services committee, will introduce a bill this session to provide coverage for diapers under Medicaid.

This is a solvable problem that will require Connecticut to invest in its most critical asset: its children.

To support the Diaper Bank of Connecticut, visit www.thediaperbank.org, or contact us at info@thediaperbank.org.

Janet Stolfi Alfano is the chief executive officer of the Diaper Bank of Connecticut, which is headquartered in North Haven.

OP-ED

Altrusa International of Central CT, Inc.
P.O. Box 2532
Middletown, CT 06457

