

# The Cranberry Scoop

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

February- March 2025

## Motto:

**“Leading to a Better Community”**

## 2024- 25 Officers

### President

**Jenn Belcher**

### Vice President

**Jen Roffey**

### Secretary

**Lucia Shannon**

### Treasurer

**Jan Story**

### Directors

**Kim Derosier**

**Ann Jarvinen**

**Pat Monteith**

### Past President

**Susan Porazzo**

### Communications

#### Chairs

**Pat Monteith and Jenn Belcher**

### Newsletter Editor

**Lucia Shannon**

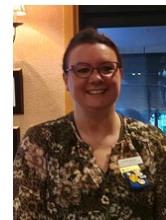
### Dinner Meetings

**1st Thursdays  
quarterly @ Adria's  
6 P.M. open menu!**

### Business Meeting

**3rd Sundays @ 2-4 pm**

## President's Message



Dear Altrusans,

With the changing of the clocks and the Spring Equinox behind us I look forward to more sunshine and nature waking from its slumber. And like nature I feel our club is blossoming with potential new members and ideas. This month we had our first quarterly dinner meeting of 2025. We were joined by one if not two potential members. We missed those of you who could not make it and hope with the warmer weather we'll see you at our next dinner and business meetings. Our business meeting at Sue's, we were joined by another potential member. I really hope we didn't scare her off with all the things we covered. Thank you Gizela for stepping in as secretary for the day. We discussed volunteering at the 3rd Annual Bridgewater First Responder Day on Saturday, April 26th. Jen R. is our contact person for this and will let us know what tasks we can help. We'll also have a table for membership drive purposes, and a raffle basket with all the proceeds to benefit the event.

Our April 27th business meeting will be held at Jen R's in Middleboro. My goal for that meeting will be to discuss volunteer opportunities with the National MS Society, Greater New England Chapter, especially their Walk MS: Plymouth Charity Event in May, and continue the discussion of the fundraising proposal Jen brought to the last meeting on a fundraising class let by her boyfriend Mike on projects around the house. If you have other ideas for service projects into May and June, please bring them with you.

April 5th will be our Craft Night at Lucia's to create ribbon bookmarks for our sales table at conference. We will have the lovely trivets Jan created along with a promotional basket donated by Tree House Brewing Company to raffle off, and the bookmarks. Two more friends have expressed interest in attending to help. I hope to see everyone that night and Lucia will have enough chairs. We'll have pizza!!

In service,  
Jenn

## Hot off the Press



### Lucia's three Cranes:

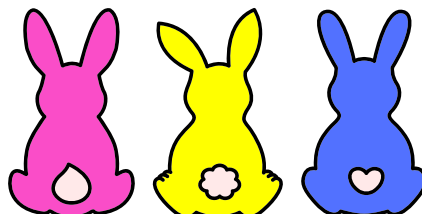
Hugh, Daniel, and Roxanne went into hospitals in 3 states, and came home very much better. Hugh recovered from a mild heart attack, Daniel is recovering from a fractured fibula incurred while riding a NYC city bike home from his job, while the vehicle that hit him fled the accident, and Roxanne has had a thyroidectomy.

### Lucia's Visit With Susannah

Friday, March 28, Susannah won a game of right, left, center with five other residents of Wingate at Silver Lake, 19 Chipman Way, Kingston, MA and one staff group leader. Ann Jameson, a friend who had worked with Susannah and Roger at Leslie Chips, also dropped by for a visit. Susannah led us back to her apartment on the ground floor with a view of Silver Lake. Handily using a walker, she took us down an elevator from the game room to her own floor, which was a healthy walk, in the quiet furthest corner of the residence. Her daughter Pam had decorated her door with pink, yellow, and blue bunnies. Inside, she has a spacious living room with a loveseat sofa, separate upholstered cozy chair, table, and windows facing west, a small kitchenette at the entrance, a spacious bathroom with everything, and a gorgeous bedroom with windows also facing Silver Lake.

We had a lively conversation catching up on the family news from all three of us. Each of Susannah's children calls and checks in on her; most nights Pam puts mom to bed. Sharon covers the other nights, and Chip visits too. They all called, and we heard Susannah reassure them with the understanding they would talk later. Susannah's recovery from her stroke is reassuring, she's her pretty self; she has had some therapy, speaks well, remembers plenty, and shared some stories of her dad which illustrate the family stamina. Heart monitor, medication, three very healthy gracious group meals a day (she says she's gained weight), and nursing care as needed which included a very pleasant young lady who checked in ahead of time to make sure Susannah was going to dinner.

Susannah wishes she could be present when Susan becomes our District One Governor. Maybe later our club can join Susannah for a celebratory gathering. Visitors are always welcome, as are calls, she assures us that her cell phone works, as demonstrated by the family chats.



# Altrusa Chronicles

Highlights and recommendations from our members  
on books, restaurants, travel, and more.



## ***Three Days in June*** by Anne Tyler

Queen of quirky tales, winner of a Pulitzer Prize (*Breathing Lessons*), and shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize (*A Spool of Blue Thread*), Tyler serves up another gem in her 25th novel. Gail Baines experiences the loss of a job, the sudden appearance of her former husband looking for a room to stay for their daughter's wedding (he comes with a rescue cat), the husband to be is deathly allergic to cats, she isn't invited to her daughter's bridal spa day, and something happens that their daughter considers canceling the wedding. In the midst of these domestic disasters, Tyler brings her tart sense of humor, Austen-like observation of human nature, and wisdom. Just like real life, the novel is not predictable, and happily it is not tragic.



Violist and friend, Mary Hecht, has taken to exploring vegan recipes to be inclusive with other people who choose or need to choose safer food sources.

## **Mary Hecht's Vegan Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Cookies**

- ¼ Cup pumpkin puree (canned plain pumpkin, not pumpkin pie)
- ½ Cup maple syrup
- ½ Cup + 2 tablespoons roasted creamy/drippy almond butter
- 1 ½ Teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 ¼ Cups superfine oat flour
- 4 Teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- 1/1 Teaspoons baking soda
- ¼ Teaspoon fine salt
- ½ Cup (120g) dairy-free chocolate chips

1. Preheat oven to 350F; cover a cookie sheet with parchment paper.
2. Mix dry ingredients oat flour, pumpkin spice, baking soda and salt in a bowl.
3. Add pumpkin, maple syrup, almond butter and vanilla. Stir well until completely smooth.
4. Stir in the chocolate chips thoroughly, making a sticky, moist consistent batter.
5. Scoop about 2 tablespoons of batter onto the sheet, about 2 inches apart. Wet your fingertips with water to press down each cookie to ¼ inch thickness, using a circular patting motion to flatten the evenly. With wet fingertips press along the edges of each to keep the cookies round.
6. Add a few extra chips on top. Bake for 10-12 minutes, until puffed up and the edges are golden brown. A dark pan will bake them a little faster and crispier.
7. Cool on the pan for 10 minutes. Then use a spatula and place on a cooking rack. They will firm and crisp up as they cool, but the next day they will be softer, and still tasty.



# Altrusans Getting It Done

## Meat Raffle at Ben's POURHouse Avon February 2, 2025



**Pat and some raffle baskets**



**Chris (DJ) & Gizela**



**Sue and Cliff**



**Lorelei & Cheri**



**Juvy & Jan**



**George, Jan, & Jenn**



**Jenn & a raffle basket winner**

## Altrusans Getting It Done Continued



**Mike & Sue**



**Sue & Jen R.**



**Jan, Jenn, & Kim**



**A lucky raffle basket winner**



**George & Jan**



# Altrusans Getting It Done Continued

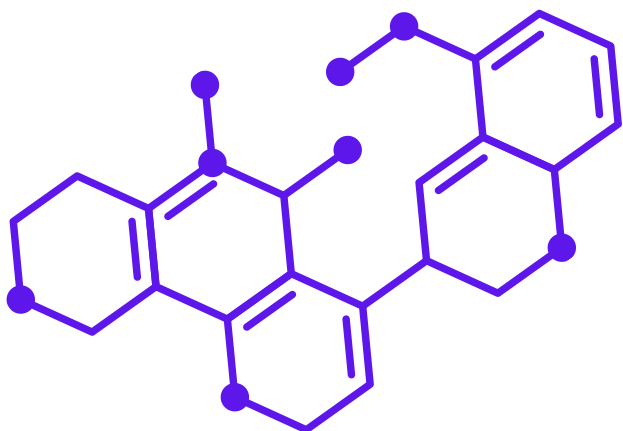
**Massachusetts Region V Science & Engineering Fair  
Bridgewater State University  
March 8, 2025**



**Jenn, Lucia, and Pat.**



**Pat has served as chair and/ or co-chair for the last 5 years. Before that she has volunteered in a variety of positions for 31 years.**



**Bridgewater State University auditorium filled with future scientists from Region 5 (from Weston to Martha's Vineyard)**

## **Secretary's Minutes Highlights**

### **March 16, 2025**

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

- The Pizzoti Fund CD matures on May 4, 2025.
- Plan to withdraw \$1,000 for scholarships and \$500 for the liquid fund.
- Jen Roffey suggested exploring higher interest rates for reinvestment.
- Jenn Belcher assigned the "Money People" group (Sue, Jen R., Kim, Joan, and Jan) to investigate options and decide.
- Jan Story will send an email to the group with the decision regarding rolling over the CD.

#### **Fundraising:**

- **GotSneakers Fundraiser**
  - The collection box at Planet Fitness (East Brockton) gathered two bags of sneakers.
  - Jen Roffey will ask the Elks Club about placing a collection box.
  - Sue Porazzo will check with State Street Bank in Quincy.
  - Lorelei will inquire about placing a box at Planet Fitness at Westgate Mall.
  - Plans for another meat raffle and a psychic fair in the fall will be discussed at the April business meeting.

#### **Service:**

- **Region 5 Science Fair (March 8, Bridgewater State University)**
  - Volunteers (Sue, Jenn B. Lucia) were impressed by students
  - Pat Monteith mentioned that more judges are needed, especially for Behavioral Sciences and Computer Sciences.
- **Bridgewater First Responders Day**
  - Date: April 26, Time: 2 pm - 5 pm, Location: The Launch, 80 Spring St. Bridgewater, MA. Honoring first responders including police, fire, nurses, doctors, military, and healthcare workers.
  - Jan Story motioned to put together a raffle basket; Sue Porazzo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
  - Jenn Belcher will assemble the basket.

#### **New Business:**

- **Revised Mission Statement was voted on via email.**
  - Jenn Belcher sent new mission statement to Jeff Fowler (Bridgewater Cable Network) for promotional purposes.

## **Secretary's Minutes Highlights Continued**

- **Spring Conference (May 2-4, 2025)**
  - We are responsible for swag bags and centerpieces.
  - **Swag Bags:** 60 -70 bags including seeds, soil pods, pens
    - Jan Story will find out if she can get 75 pens from Santander Bank
  - **Tree House Brewing Company** will donate tote bags
  - **Centerpieces:** Dandelions, wine glasses, votives, mirror, and cranberries
    - Centerpieces to be given away as prizes.
  - **Delegate:** Jenn Belcher, **Alternate:** Sue Porazzo nominated Gizela Cardoso, seconded by Jen Roffey; motion passed unanimously.
  - Jenn Belcher will present a workshop on Canva.
- **Craft Night - Creating items to sell at Conference, hosted at Lucia Shannon house on April 5 at 6 pm.**
  - Ribbon bookmarks to be made; supplies needed; ribbons, hair elastics, buttons, sewing kits, needle, and thread.
  - Jen Roffey will check Amazon for supplies.
  - Pizzas may be ordered from Tin Ray's
- **Volunteer Opportunity**
  - Alex Shores (National MS Society, Greater New England Chapter) contacted Jenn Belcher about the Walk MS: Plymouth Charity Event (May 18, 2025)
  - Seeking volunteers for setup, registration, etc. Jenn Belcher will follow up with Alex Shores for additional details as well as inquiries as to how he found out about our organization.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- **April Business Meeting: April 27 at 2 pm at Jen Roffey's home**
  - **Fundraising proposal:** Jen Roffey proposed a fundraising class led by Mike on patching holes and hanging pictures. Participants would donate, with the proceeds split 50/50 with Mike and the club.
- **May Business Meeting: May 15 at 7 pm via Zoom.**

Thank you, Gizela for providing us with this report.





**April 5, 2025, Craft Night at Lucia's , starts at 6 P.M.  
27 Morton St. Brockton, we shall make ribbon bookmarks**

**April 26, 2025 Honoring Bridgewater First Responders,: 2 pm -  
5 pm, Location: The Launch, 80 Spring St. Bridgewater, MA**

**Business meeting, April 27, 2025, 2-4 p.m. at  
Jen Roffey's in Middleboro, focus on volunteer opportunities**

**Spring Conference, May 2-4 , 2025  
Wellsworth Hotel  
Southbridge, MA**

**May Business Meeting: May 15 at 7 pm via Zoom.**

**National MS Society, Greater New England Chapter  
Walk MS: Plymouth Charity Event (May 18, 2025)**

