

District One Service Bulletin

Volume 30 Issue 7 "Leaders in Service"
September 2025

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District One Altrusa International, inc.



Governor's Message

Hello everyone!

It was great to see so many District One members at International Convention. The Quebec club did an outstanding job with the decorations and Friday night entertainment. All the feedback I have personally received has been positive! The warmth and friendship were exciting to be a part of.

I have asked one of our members to share with you her thoughts and impressions from Convention. I hope it will spur you to mark your calendars for 2027 International Convention in Columbus, OH.

In this issue of the DSB, you will find the invitation to fall workshop including the agenda and how to book your room at Storrs on the UConn campus. It is a very nice hotel and location to be inspired by your fellow Altrusans.

The Board and I are looking forward to our club visits. The schedule is published in this DSB. It is always a fun time to get out and meet the members as well as to see how you are serving your communities.

I hope you will bring along your new members so we may meet them, and they can get a better sense of what Altrusa is all about. The chance to learn from other clubs I have always found to be invaluable.

In service,

Susan

Table of Contents

Governor's Message	1	Laconia NH	19
Board of Directors	1	Litchfield CT	20
Table of Contents	2	Northeastern CT	21
Editor's Note	2	Biddeford—Saco ME	22
Workshop Information	3-7	Carroll County NH	23
Making Plans for Service	8	Bermuda	24
Foundation	9	Meredith NH	25
Images from Montreal	10-16	DSB - reminders and updates	26
Seacoast Me	17		
Central CT	18		

Editor's Note:

Hello All,

I hope you all had a great summer, sweltering in that horrible (in my humble opinion) muggy weather. Maybe because I grew up in the northeast part of the country, but I'm a fall, winter, spring girl. Especially autumn. I lived in California for 5 years. I did a lot of hiking in the Sierra Nevada there. The landscape was genuinely awesome in the true sense of the word. I walked where the mountains majesty brilliantly showed off. However, there was no autumn. No change of color. The seasons were flood, fire, mud, and drought. There is a price for all that sunshine. When I came back east, I was truly blown away by the autumn colors as if it were my first viewing of the fall trees. Each year, they are still impressive.

Thank you for sending all of those wonderful images of Quebec. I know there was a lot of business that was discussed, but it also seemed like everyone was having so much fun. I wish I could have been there.

A reminder—the deadline for the next DSB will be November 17th. Each club will be allotted 1 page. Please make sure your entry will fit that size space. The deadline is a bit early, but because of the holidays, we have more time to put the December issue together, which will be appreciated. Also, the District One workshop will be in Storrs, CT (the Basketball Capital of the World) on November 8th. The information that you need is all here. I hope to see you all there.

The other *Susan*



Let Service Light the Way

Altrusa District One

Registration Form for Workshop

Saturday November 8, 2025, 9AM – 3PM

Graduate Storrs – 855 Bolton Road, Storrs, CT 06268 860-427-7888

Name

Preferred name on Name Tag

Email address

Club

First Timer to Workshop (if you've never attended a workshop) Please circle YES

Come and meet other Altrusans from across our District. Learn more about Altrusa and how to serve your community.

Early Bird Fee for those registering by 10/26/2025	\$75.00
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Regular Fee for those registering after 10/27/2025	\$80.00
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Day of Event registration fee	\$85.00
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First Timer registration fee	\$40.00
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Your registration fee includes the cost of the lunch buffet and beverage through the day.

Hotel rooms may be reserved at a rate of \$249.85 by using this link by October 8, 2025

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/?ctyhocn=BDLGSGU&arrivalDate=2025-11-07&departureDate=2025-11-08&groupCode=90I>

Send your registration form to: Diane O'Reilly, 432 Alison Drive, Torrington CT 06790

***Make Check Payable to Altrusa Intl, District One.**

The Northeastern Club is looking for donations of socks (not fancy socks) for the Holy Family Shelter in Willimantic, CT. Please bring donations to the workshop. Thank you.

Graduate

BY HILTON™

STORRS

Susan Arons

Director of Sales

1 860.427.7888

Graduate by Hilton Storrs

855 Bolton Rd, Storrs, CT 06268

Below is information and a link to make reservations.

You can use either the link or call.

(Editor comment) If the link doesn't work then copy and paste it into the address bar. Or right click on it. You will see something that says "open hyperlink" click that and magic happens. It's easy.

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/?ctyhocn=BDLGSGU&arrivalDate=2025-11-07&departureDate=2025-11-08&groupCode=90I>

Hotel rooms may be reserved at a rate of \$249.85

Hunter Eminhizer

Regional Sales Coordinator

Schulte Hospitality Group

M: 814-933-9032

hunter.eminhizer@schultehospitality.com

schulthehotels.com



The deadline to reserve a hotel room is October 8th.



Directions to Graduate Hilton Storrs.

From the North:

From the Mass Pike (I 90) take exit 78 to I 84. Get off I 84 at Exit 70/RT 32. Go to the intersection of RT 195 (about 5.5 miles). There is a big MANS-FIELD sign. Take a left onto 195. **Stay on 195 until you get to campus. You will know it's campus because you will see many students obliviously crossing the street, staring at their phones.**

Just past the town square and the downtown area (on your left), you will see Bolton Road (on your right). Take a right onto Bolton Road. Turn right onto Whitney RD Extension. (The address is 855 Bolton Road.) Below is the link to a map of the campus. It may be helpful to print it.

From the West:

I 91—I 84 to Boston. Fork right only I 384. At the end of 384, stay left onto Rt 44. The road will split at the 44 / 6 intersection. Stay left on RT 44. Pass the intersection of RT 44 and RT 32. Follow RT 44 until you get to RT 195 (big intersection). Take a right onto RT 195. Go about 2 miles to campus. See directions above in Bold print.

Link to the Map to get to the Graduate Hilton Storrs,

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/8tJ7SJf57Lz2CJH68>

By the way, if you have time on your way out of town, and you love ice cream, please try the UConn dairy bar. It's worth the stop. Here is the link to their web-site:

<https://dining.uconn.edu/uconn-dairy-bar/>

The evening of November 8th there will be a performance of a Led Zeplin tribute band at the Jorgenson Center for the Performing Arts on the UConn campus. If you are interested here is the link to the Jorgenson web-site. Hit the link for Events and then the link to Season Schedule.

<https://jorgensen.uconn.edu/Online/default.asp?>

Map of UConn Campus to your destination.



Workshop Schedule

	Subject to Change
8:15 - 9	Registration
9 – 9:30	Welcome, Introduction of the District Board and Committee Chairs, Grace
9:30 - 10	Chair Yoga
10 – 10:15	Break
10:15 -11:15	Music Soothes the Savage Inner Beast
11:15- 12	Service Workshop: Linda Ring and Penny Eldrige
12:10 – 1:10	Lunch
1:10—1:20	Break
1:20 – 2:20	Guest Speaker: United Services
2:20 – 2:45	Call to Conference: Past Governors
2:45 – 3:00	Farewell, Thank You, Benediction



Making a Plan for Service Projects...

To an Altrusan, the date: April 14, 1917 reminds us of our beginning. The date of our first Convention, held in Indianapolis, IN was June 22, 1918. That's less than 15 months for 5 clubs and 40 members to organize and establish the Altrusa we know and love today! The goal was and is to help the community. Altrusa was born as a 'service organization'.



The first recorded service project occurred in Battle Creek, Michigan when members of this Altrusa Club chose to support a "day nursery". The date is February 1923 and to this day this service project continues. What an incredible legacy!

Service Project Database – your idea might encourage others to try it!

We are strongly encouraging you to think about District Awards for Community Service, Literacy Programs and International Relations as you finalize your club calendars. Service projects are the heart and soul of our clubs and our contributions to our communities. What project that you already do will fit into the criteria of each major award?

Plan ahead to complete the District Award Submission for a Mamie L. Bass Service, Letha H. Brown Literacy or Nina F. Calhoun International Project Award submissions throughout the club year. Most of the time, your project proposal contains all the information needed to prepare half the document. The other half is the evaluation of how it went, how many were served, and what to do differently in the future!

Links for Application files:

[Mamie L. Bass Service Award](#)

[Letha H. Brown Literacy Award](#)

[Nina F. Calhoun International Relations Award](#)
[Awards Checklist](#)

Planning ahead makes it easier to get those submissions done on time!

In Altrusa Service,

Penny Eldridge



Linda Ring



Join the Club – Club 52 that is!

At Convention in Quebec this summer the International Foundation rolled out its new Club 21 program – reimaged now as **Club 52**.

It has been over 25 years since Club 21 was established (in **1997**) to support children and families living with HIV and AIDS. The name “Club 21” signified the commitment to eradicating a 21st-century problem. Since then the program has expanded its scope to include funding for camps for children with disabilities or affected by disease and funding for international healthcare and educational initiatives throughout the world. During fiscal year ended May 31, 2025, the Foundation granted a total of \$25,732 to four domestic camps and three international organizations. Any club can submit an application to have a camp or organization considered for these grants.

The reimaged Club 52 will continue to fund those same initiatives. But in recognition of the increasing costs, members are now asked to contribute \$52 annually. And clubs can be part of Club 52 with a \$252 donation.

Many of us at Convention donated and received the new Club 52 pin. If you’d like to be part of the club, just go to the International Foundation website and make your donation for Club 52. The Foundation office will mail you a pin. Go to <https://foundation.altrusa.org/donate/>



2025 International Convention

July 23 - 27

Hilton Quebec

Quebec City, Quebec

From the Portland Club, Wanda Pettersen, Christine Johnson and Debbie Lemieux arrived in Quebec city by car. Marie Pike arrived by air.

The four Portland ladies enjoy the sites of the old Quebec City.
Left to Right:
Christine, Marie, Debbie, Wanda

Portland receives the 2nd place Mamie L. Bass award for their "Sue's Supper" project, held at Ronald MacDonald House every month.



District One IN THE HOUSE!!

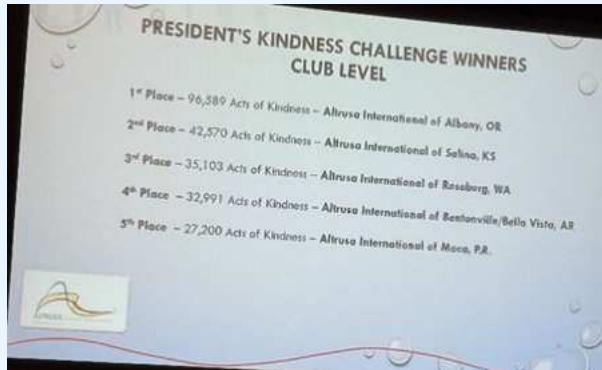
Wanda P. and Christine J. posing with Quebec art.







The announcement of the Club 52. Which replaces Club 21. Attendees were given the opportunity to join as charter members.



Debbie Lemieux, Club 52 Charter Member getting pinned by Marie Pike



Club 52 Charter Member Wanda Pettersen being pinned by International Foundation rep, Marie Pike, as District One Governor, Susan Porazzo looks on.



District One convention attendees

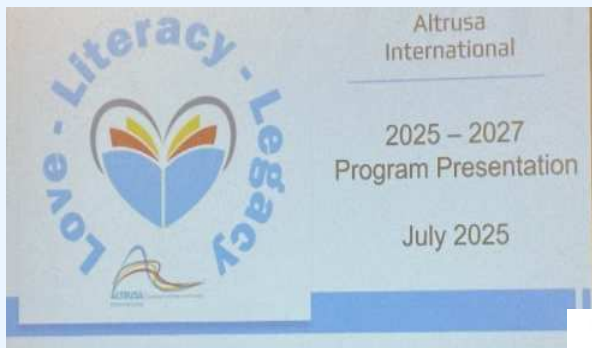


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(from the editor)

Above is a web address to a very short video of the Flag ceremony. However, I just learned how to embed videos into a document so I'm including it. If the link isn't active, right click on it and see "Open Hyperlink".





International President, Chris deVlieger
Biennium theme.

Specially printed M&M's, a gift from our new International President, Chris DeViegler. Look closely, Stamped on the M&M's is the Biennium theme of Love Literacy and Legacy.

Ann Marie Snyder rockin her tartan



Accepting on behalf of the Merrimack Valley Club and Chairperson, Claire Behrle, President Jackie Maciejewski was honored to receive the Third Place Award for the Merrimack Valley Club's Nina Faye Calhoun International Award Submission at the 2025



A group from Texans wearing their matching Tartans.

President Jackie Maciejewski, from Merrimack Valley, pictured with Bagpiper at the Altrusa International Convention.



Hat Day

These books are the collection of French language books to put in the Library at the School for the Deaf. All members at Convention donated the books. It was part of the Convention Service Project.



WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING AWARDS PRESENTED TO DISTRICT ONE AT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION. THERE WAS AN AWARDS BREAKFAST HOSTED TODAY WHERE ALL AWARDS WERE ANNOUNCED.

2023 - 2025 Dr Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award

3rd Place awarded to Merrimack Valley, MA - Making a Difference, One Girl at a Time"

2023 - 2025 Mamie L Bass Service Award

2023 - 2025 Kindness Challenge Award

Central CT was recognized for performing over 10,000 Acts of Kindness during the biennium.

Congratulations!
Congratulations!
District One ROCKS!!!



Altrusa of Seacoast



Members of Altrusa of the Seacoast presenting tablets and headphones for the Domestic Violence Program at CAPSC. We also delivered 58 bags filled with a book, stuffed animal and blanket for the “Furry Tales” project.

Delivery of books, puzzles and blankets to the new location for Mainspring Collective of Kittery, ME



York Public Library welcomes Altrusa of the Seacoast's \$1,000 donation in support of their Yoto program. The Yoto is a screen free audio player designed for ages three through twelve.

Not only was Altrusa of the Seacoast's \$250 donation to Great Bay Services well received, but we also received a new member.

Welcome, Emily!





Virginia installed new “Cheery O’s” Officers for the new biennium. At the right, L to R: Elsie Mathews, Director; Lynne Havlicek, Immediate Past President and Secretary; Linda Ring, President; Liz Brantley, Vice President; Pat Jackowski, Treasurer.

Linda presented Lynne with a bag of “Cheers” and gift certificate to celebrate the end of her 4 year Presidency.



Central Connecticut



At Middletown’s Kids Health and Safety Fair, Altrusans had books for all ages! Everyone could choose a book to take home.

Special thanks to Altrusa Intl. of Portland, ME for donating books to our program!

Below: Kathleen Didato, Edna Liberty, Hilda Schmidt, Pat Jackowski, Linda Ring,



Merrimack Valley

Thank you Merrimack Valley Board members for agreeing to serve our Club for 2025-2026.

L-R New Member, John Dery, President Jackie Maciejewski, Past President Claire Behrle, Director Steve Behrle, Treasurer Ann Marie Snyder, Secretary



New Member, John Dery, being initiated into Altrusa. Welcome John!



On June 7, 2025, Altrusa Club of Merrimack Valley conducted a very successful Food Drive to benefit the Open Pantry of Greater Lowell at Market Basket in Lowell.

The patrons of the store were extremely generous. We estimated collecting more than 2,600 pounds of non-perishable food and assorted paper products, fresh carrots, potatoes, and onions as requested by the Pantry, and \$275.00 in cash donations, which purchased (28) \$10 Market Basket Gift cards. They are distributed to veterans serviced by the Open Pantry when they pick up their food orders.

Laconia, NH

Fundraising, Literacy, Community Service and promoting Altrusa, all in one day

Our *Happy Cow* event was held on Sunday, July 20th. Throughout the afternoon we collected non-perishable food items for St. Vincent de Paul and handed out books to the *Happy Cow* customers, along with Altrusa bookmarks. Some visitors make monetary donations, which will be donated to St. Vincent for further food purchases.

Happy Cow donated \$500.00 to our club, so it was a very productive day!



News from Litchfield County

While summer is often a time for slowing down, Altrusa International of Litchfield County has used the season to thoughtfully rest, recharge, and gear up for an energetic return to community engagement this fall. With one of our major fundraisers scheduled for September, our members have been quietly—but diligently—preparing behind the scenes.

Our annual Mum Sale is happening on September 17th, just in time for the fall planting season. This popular event brightens up homes and gardens across Litchfield County while raising important funds for our literacy and service initiatives. Our club has been coordinating with our local grower, marketing to the community, and preparing for what promises to be another vibrant and successful sale.



We happily welcomed our new Member, Joanne Matarese, to our club. Joanne brings with her a spirit of service and dedication to Altrusa's mission. She is a wife and mother of two who enjoys spending time fishing with her husband and son; as well as cooking and baking with her daughter. Joanne is an active member in both her church and community.

Pictured below are our new officers from left to right: Returning Secretary Pam Prevuznak, President Carol Anderson, Vice President Maurette Wall, and Treasurer Mel Harmon. Not pictured is Past President Emily Barbero.



Greetings from Northeastern Connecticut

Altrusa of NE CT has reached a remarkable milestone of 30 years!
We are celebrating our Charter Members and honor the foundation of our club - Gay Douglas, Bev Sims, Mary Lou Bradley, Lynne Dolan, Betsy Treiber, and Bernice Taylor.
Their dedication, leadership, and ongoing involvement truly exemplify the spirit of service and community that Altrusa embodies.
As we welcome in our new Officers and Directors, our Club continues to grow and work around our community!
One of our recent projects is the creation of a “community” garden at the Holy Family Home and Shelter. This garden will be available to the residents of the Shelter for tending, nurturing the crop, and harvesting! Garden has been built, compost bins constructed, and first plantings are in. Our club will help maintain and assist residents throughout the season for garden success!



ANNUAL PICNIC/BBQ

Altrusa International of Northeastern Connecticut hosts a picnic/BBQ every year. This social event culminates a year of activity within our club. All Altrusans are invited as well as representatives from all the social service agencies we funded following their request of a grant from our club. It is a wonderful evening listening to the representatives of these agencies telling us how much we have helped them.



We hope to see you at Workshop in November!

Respectfully,
Jodi Walencewicz

Biddeford—Saco



Debbie Gregoire, Laura Cortright, Sandy McKenney, and Lilah Cortright (Altrusan in training!!) at the Camp Ellis Harborfest on August 3. Look at that background!!

Here are Agnes Lett, Ruth Mitchell and Pappy fisheries and Ruth Mitchell at the annual M.S. ride on August 1st. They are handing out registration packets.



What we look forward to all year- our summer social gathering!!

A new member for Carroll County

Julie Van Dyne became aware of the good work that Altrusa members do. She joined so she could be a part of this wonderful organization.

We welcome Julie as an Altrusa member. We know that she will be a valuable asset to our club.



NH non-profits have a unique opportunity to partner with NH Charitable Gaming. We partnered with REVO Casino in Conway and received \$19,862.86 from their revenues.



Packing of End 68 HRS OF HUNGER - 4th Thursday of month during the school year.



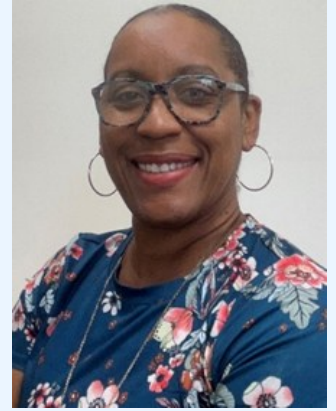
Working with Habitat for Humanity

BERMUDA – NEW MEMBERS

DIONNE POWELL

I am the Community Mission Program Supervisor at The Salvation Army (days) and a cashier at A1 Paget (evenings and weekends).

My interests are: reading & walking.



AELA NISBETT

I am 16 years old. I Attend Berkeley Institute and Bermuda College with upcoming graduation dates of May 2026 and June 2026 respectively.

Studying insurance and aspiring to be an actuary.

Hobbies: reading and gaming.



BERMUDA CLUB – BOOK DONATIONS

On Thursday, June 12th the Bermuda Club made the following donations to “The Perform to Learn Pre-school”. Mr. Hart received 140 children’s books, 1 teacher’s reading book, 3 puzzles and 40 bookmarks.



The next day, June 13th we visited the “The Teachers Pet Nursery School” and presented them with 48 books, 1 teacher’s reading book, 4 puzzles and 24 bookmarks.



From Meredith Altrusa

We hosted the Laconia and Carroll County clubs at our traditional Try-County Birthday Party of May 20th at the Bob House Restaurant in Moultonborough. Linda French, our MC in the yellow hat, led everyone in the Guess Who, What, and Why New Hampshire and Altrusa-themed Trivia Contest. "The Create A Hat" contest was a big hit! We were thrilled to have our District One Governor, Susan for the fun evening.



Members of the Meredith Altrusa Foundation Scholarship Awards Committee and guests honored recipients, Sofia Joyal (left with flowers) and Makayla Simard (right with flowers) on June 17th 2025. Sofia received the Steven R. Bennett First Responder Scholarship and Jaclyn E. La Point Scholarship. She is pursuing her master of science in nurse midwifery. Makayla received the Marian Touey Scholarship, the Dr. Jeanett Ritzenthaler Scholarship and the Jaclyn E La Point Scholarship. She is pursuing her bachelor's degree in psychology.



Meredith Altrusa members (L –R) Kerry Raymond, Vickie Carty, Connie Van Dam, and Judy Hodges load boxes of surplus vegetable generously donated by Moulton Farm for distribution to area food pantries and homeless shelters. The Farm to Table Program was initiated 15 years ago and is in full swing from July through September.

Altrusa was well represented in the "Got Lunch" program this summer! Several members including a former member, volunteered to pack, insert age-appropriate magazines in food bags, drive, and deliver the groceries to families in the community. Thank you to the literacy committee for providing these materials.



Contact information

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1-312-427-4410

altrusa@altrusa.org

Treasurer, District One Diane O'Reilly 422 Allison
Drive
Torrington, CT 06790

My apologies to the Carroll County and Bermuda clubs for omitting them from the "Years of Service" chart.

Carroll County was formed in January 2006 and chartered in May 2006.

Bermuda was formed in January 1948 and chartered in January 1951.



Save the Date

Altrusa International Convention
July 21—24 2027
Columbus, Ohio

District One Fall Workshop
November 8, 2025
Graduate by Hilton at Storrs,
Storrs, CT Host - Northeastern CT

District One Conference
April 24-26, 2026

Next issue of DSB - December 2025

Deadline for submissions is November 17th distribution around December 15th. Please send entries in Word Format. Each club will be allotted 1 page.

Earlier entries would be appreciated. Please don't wait until the last minute.

Membership - Please send to DSB a photo and short bio of all new members

Using the altrusa.districtone.dsb@gmail.com really helps. The emails just don't get mixed in with personal emails.

Club Newsletters Don't forget to send a copy of your club newsletter to Linda Ring. She will upload it to the District One webpage. It's fun to read all the news from our district.