

The Cranberry Scoop

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

November/December 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

Past President

Susan Porazzo

Communications Chairs

Pat Monteith

a Jenn Belcher

Newsletter Editor

Lucia Shannon

Dinner Meetings

1st Thursdays quarterly
6 P.M. open menu!

Business Meeting

3rd Sundays 2-4 pm

President's Message



Dear Altrusans,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. I can't believe how quickly 2025 went. My New Year's Resolutions are for our club more than for myself. I know I have plenty to work on with my new home and all, so I'll pick that.

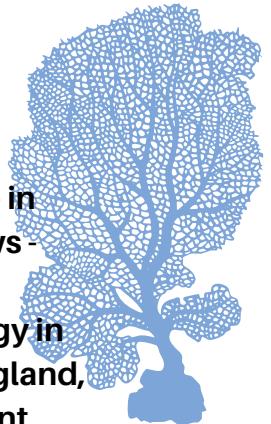
Going into 2026 my goal is to finish out my first two years as President with the focus on our new service project, Memory Kits for the Bridgewater Senior Center. At the time of writing this I did not hear from the Cultural Council about the grant we applied for to completely fund the project. I believe if we do not receive the grant, we should continue a smaller scale to get this in motion. My other goal is to set the groundwork for future fundraising and membership drives. We have discussed hosting another psychic fair and believe we need to get this started in late spring for this to happen. We'll be discussing this more at our business meetings. Ideas or suggestions on other fundraising and membership drives are always welcome for the club to discuss.

I'd like to thank Joan for getting the word out for the election of new board members for the upcoming fiscal year. As she mentioned, others and I have finished out our two years. Please let her know if you are interested in joining either board or asking any questions. I'm looking forward to getting started with my resolutions and if you have any that would go with them, please let me know.

In Service,
Jenn Belcher



Hot off the Press



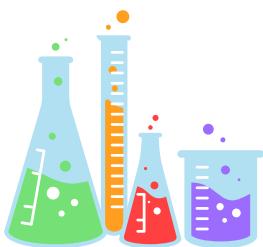
Kim Derosier shares "My daughter has been accepted into the Masters of Science in Marine Biology program for her 5th year at Northeastern University. Incredible news - incredible opportunity!!!! So proud!!

The MS in Marine Biology provides students the opportunity to study marine biology in three distinct environments at three world-renowned research facilities in New England, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Northwest. An internship in the field and independent research project provides the capstone to the fifteen-month graduate program."

She also reports having an "amazing time seeing The Nutcracker for the first time and it was made even more special watching Nia do what she loves. 2 solos tonight. Incredible! She and the other dancers were elegant, graceful, poised, fierce, strong and oh so agile."

A friend and former member of our Altrusa club, Kathy Churchill told Lucia that Lucia's family home was sold to Matthew and Brittany Jaynes, the son and his wife of their long-term friends. Matthew, a graduate of Eastern Nazarene College and a carpenter by trade, made Lucia ecstatic because her step grandfather, Sidney B. Wheldon, who built the house in 1924 was a carpenter. In 1950 he sold it to her parents and helped Lucia's dad in wainscoting the living room, create a built-in desk in the study, and renovate the kitchen. Now it is rightly back in the hands of a carpenter .

In her Christmas letter Kathy shared that she and Geoff celebrated their 75th birthdays by taking a rail pass through England, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, and then cruise through Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Romania, their final journey abroad.



Andrea Keyes's daughter, a senior at Harvard, has a keen interest in chemistry. She loves her job at the MGH lab and intends to pursue a graduate degree next in this field. Her son is at the University of Rochester and is following his passion for light, perhaps as an engineer.

Susannah's daughter reported that Susannah had broken her collarbone, fell, and reinjured it again. She has lost most muscle strength and relies on a wheelchair. She loves visitors and receiving mail. Lucia visited her after delivering the STARR teen holiday gifts in Plymouth and happily found her demonstrating how to knit to an eager staff member. Susannah was working on a sweater for her great granddaughter! Down, but not out!



Altrusa Chronicles

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

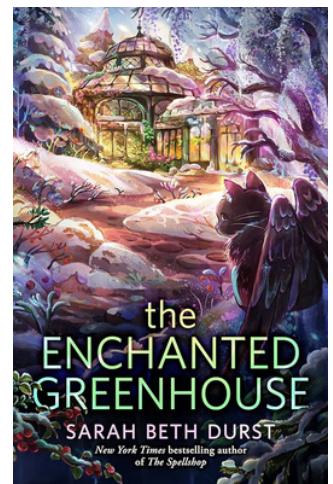


For Altrusans, Between Two Rivers : Ancient Mesopotamia and the Birth of History by Moudhy Al-Rashid may strike a chord as literacy leads our mission. This unique examination of the first written documents preserved from 3350 BCE through c 539 BCE opens a window into literacy, communication, and life across social strata, genders, right down to children learning cuneiform coupled with bite marks and doodles on the clay tablets!

The author, Moudhy Al-Rashid, brings the perspective of a young academic who is a woman, mother, wife, and Arab with degrees from Columbia and Oxford. The works she examines include business transactions made by women in trade, loans, land sales, rental property, medical tracts, law cases, and petitions to free her children. Among the women priests, one named Enheduanna, the first named author in history along with Ennigaldi-Nanna who apparently curated a museum of ancient artifacts thousands of years before 646 BCE reveal women played a serious role in the ancient world. You will not be surprised, however, to learn that working women paid in food got less than half accorded to the men.

New York Times bestselling author Sarah Beth Durst invites you to her new standalone novel nestled on a far-away island brimming with singing flowers, honey cakes, and honeyed love. Terlu Perna broke the law because she was

lonely. She cast a spell and created a magically sentient spider plant. As punishment, she was turned into a wooden statue and tucked away into an alcove in the North Reading Room of the Great Library of Alyssium. This should have been the end of her story ... Yet one day, Terlu wakes in the cold of winter on a nearly-deserted island full of hundreds of magical greenhouses. She's starving and freezing, and the only other human on the island is a grumpy gardener. To her surprise, he offers Terlu a place to sleep, clean clothes, and freshly baked honey cakes--at least until she's ready to sail home. But Terlu can't return home and doesn't want to - the greenhouses are a dream come true, each more wondrous than the next. When she learns that the magic that sustains them is failing--causing the death of everything within them--Terlu knows she must help. Even if that means breaking the law again. This time, though, she isn't alone. Assisted by the gardener and a sentient rose, Terlu must unravel the secrets of a long-dead sorcerer if she wants to save the island--and have a fresh chance at happiness and love.



Altrusa Chronicles Continued

Highlights and recommendations from our members
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Cousin Kathy's Oreo Dessert

Ingredients

- 1 pint heavy cream
- 2 large packages of Classic Oreos
- Chop and smack in bag the Oreos until they are large chunks.
- Whip the heavy cream until it is thick ; do not overbeat to avoid making butter.
- Use any pan larger than 8X8 or 9x9, grease the pan.
- Next layer cookies then whip cream, keep repeating until you reach the top of the pan
- Save 3 cookies, crumble them until they are small crumbles and sprinkle those on top

Chill in the freezer or on your very cold outside porch, preferably screened to avoid feeding the critters.



Altrusans Getting It Done

"Let Service Light the Way"

Altrusa District One

2025 Fall Workshop

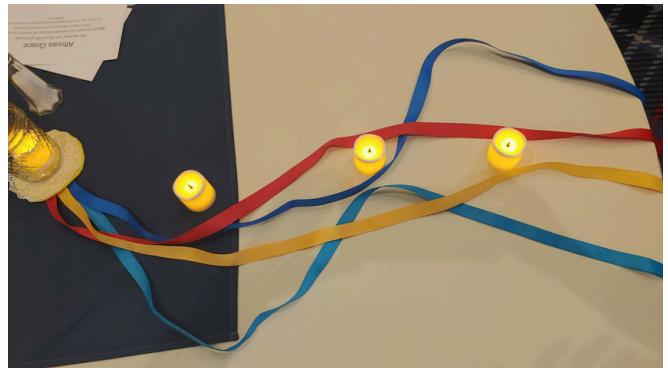
November 8, 2025

A full room of Altrusan friends , grouped into 3 or 4 members began with an exercise in combining 3 or more elements in creating a service project. Several discussed the process.



Mandy Ivory, a personal trainer, led us in chair yoga exercises which helped loosen our muscles.

Other presenters included Chris Beaudry whose talk about How Music Can Save the World demonstrated how musical events can reignite business in town centers. Kerri Durdan from United Services spoke eloquently about the transformation good social services can effect in individual's lives such as hers.



Altrusans Getting It Done Continued

Meat Raffle at Ben's PourHouse, Avon, MA November 16, 2025



Loreli with a cute hair cut and Cheri working together at our fundraiser

GIFT BASKETS RAFFLE



Dana Stone, buys lots of basket raffle tickets and wins big!



Cliff and Sue



Gizela and Cousins



Jen and Mike

50/50 RAFFLE



Mike and DJ

Altrusans Getting It Done Continued



STARR Holiday Wrap Party Wingate, Kingston, MA December 6, 2025



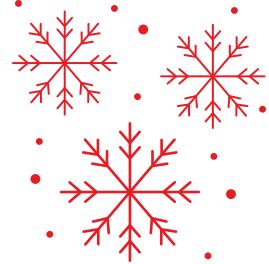
Susannah is central to the STARR service project.



Sue, Gizela, Jenn, Cheri, Jen, and Susannah survey the gifts



Susannah receives her Emeritus Status from International with Jenn Belcher and Sue Porazzo officiating. You know she cried.



Pat Monteith, Jenn Belcher, Gizela Cardoso, Cheri Mazzoli, Jan Story, Lucia Shannon, Jen Roffey, and Susannah Leslie with all the goodies bagged.

**MERRY
CHRiSTMAS**

Altrusans Getting It Done Continued

STARR Holiday Delivery

December 10, 2025



Kelsey greets me at the door!



The gifts are safely hidden.



Susannah is teaching a staff member how to knit while she learns of the joy our STARR delivery made.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, January 18: Business Meeting
2-4pm
Zoom

Sunday, February 15: Business Meeting
2:00-4:00
Bridgewater Access Cable
80 Spring St. Bridgewater

Thursday, March 5: Dinner Meeting
6:15-8:00
TBD

Sunday, March 15: Business Meeting
2:00-4:00
Bridgewater Access Cable
80 Spring St. Bridgewater