Carroll County Chatter

February 2026 Vol 19 - Issue 5

President's Message

We've made it through the cold of January, and spring is finally in sight. With it come the colors, energy, and fresh start we've all been waiting for. We also have the opportunity to attend the upcoming conference in Nashua from May 1–3, which will feature a full schedule of engaging sessions, special events, and even BINGO. I encourage everyone to consider attending. Many members choose to carpool or share rooms, which helps reduce costs and makes the trip more enjoyable.

I'd also like to remind everyone about the challenge I introduced at our February meeting: **"Be a friend, bring a friend."** Our club has done an outstanding job welcoming new members, and I'd love to see that momentum continue. Inviting a friend not only strengthens our community, but also expands our reach, brings in new ideas, and allows us to help even more people. This challenge runs from February 14 through March 14.

I'm genuinely looking forward to the months ahead. Beyond the longer days and warmer weather, we have several exciting events on the horizon—game night, our 20th birthday celebration, and the June potluck. The newest international project seems to have piqued our interest, and it sounds like additional opportunities may be coming soon. It's always refreshing to introduce something new. If anyone would like to head a new project incorporating veterans/soldiers, and our 250th birthday, please let the board know.

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President's message continued…

Thank you all for your continued dedication to our service projects, both current and upcoming. It has been a challenging season for many, yet we still had an excellent turnout at our last meeting. I'm excited to see how much we grow in the months ahead.

I wish I could end on a celebratory note, but for now I'll simply say: there's always next year, Pats.

Jess

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Board of Directors meetings last Monday of month 4:30 - Madison Library	**Business Meeting - 1st Tuesday of the month 5:30 - Note location changes**
Monday - February 23rd	Tuesday March 3rd - Madison Library - Way Station - Guest speaker
Monday - March 30th	Tuesday April 7th - Adult Day Center in Conway - Game Night
Monday - April 27th	Tuesday May 5th - *Indian Mound Golf - 20th Birthday party pg 19
Monday May 25th	Tuesday June 2nd - Gibson Center for Seniors - Pot Luck dinner
Monday June 29th - subject to change	No business meetings in July & August

January 2026 - Club meeting - summary

There is nothing better than starting a new year by welcoming new members to Altrusa. Four members were initiated at our January meeting. Shown below left to right:

Mary Desrosiers (sponsor Julie Van Dyne), Cheryl Riendeau (sponsor, Judy Keane), Mel Lazdowski (Jess Theberge, sponsor for both) and Diane Hutchinson. We welcome them and look forward to working together on our on going projects and developing new ones.

We also had a guest speaker, Lisa Dufault from Valley Promotions but also from the Miss MWV Teen scholarship competition. Altrusa club member, Pat McCoy has served as a judge for several years. This competition helps young women develop their presentation skills, their interview skills, their confidence as they compete for scholarship money for their education after high school. Carroll County Altrusa is very proud to have become one of the sponsors of this competition. The Final event will be held Sunday May 3rd at the Believe in Books Foundation Theater in the Woods.

Next on our busy agenda was the annual Brown Bag Auction. Julie Van Dyne stepped up and took the reins. Going once, Going twice, Sold! Each member brought an item, placed in a bag, with a small hint on the outside. Members and guests took a chance and bid on the bag.. sight unseen. Items from a bagel cutter to an Amaryllis, a scented candle to a tea pot, but probably the funniest was the Holiday hat with lights that played music. There was a lot of laughter in the room. Thanks Nancy for starting our Altrusa Year off with such fun and laughter.

February 2026 - club meeting - summary

February is often a low attendance meeting, between the darkness, the cold, the snow, members are often in hibernation mode. Not this year. February was fabulous:

•New Member initiation
•Guest speaker - from Starting Point
•Collection of cleaning supplies for Starting Point
•Community Cookies
All in under 2 hrs.

Photo on the left is Raetha from Starting Point. She gave an overview of Starting Points services. She gave us details on the renovations at Grace House and really appreciated our collection of cleaning supplies for Grace house as residents will be returning to the house in February. We also discussed the transition from our comfort bags to a comfort closet. Altrusa has committed to provide on a regular basis supplies for a closet where the residents will be able to select personal care items as well as supplies for their children, from the closet. We're hoping to establish a system to keep the closet full as residents transition in and out of the house. As an additional item we had created items for a birthday bag. Jess passed out the list to shoppers to assemble those.

We also initiated 3 new members. In order; Susan Winters (Sponsors Cathy Baybutt and Diane Robinson), Gloria Hannon (sponsor Pat Hoffman) and Sarah Murphy (her sponsor Beth Wheatley-Dyson) . Their short bios are included in the newsletter.

The final activity was the packing of our community cookie boxes. When you leave a meeting on a cold dark night and you are filled with energy and enthusiasm you know it was successful.

Thank you to all who attended the meeting, It was great to be together.

February Governor's Message

Hello District One!

February, the shortest month of the year but one filled with many activities. This is the month that we celebrate Black History Month, Valentine's Day and our country's Presidents. I hope everyone will take some time to learn and celebrate these events.

As the year begins to fly by, our latest DSB edition is dedicated to 2026 Spring Conference. Your Board and former Governor's have been hard at work and continue to work on putting together an exciting conference schedule. We hope to see many of you there. Please encourage your members to attend with a special invitation to those new members or those who have never attended a spring conference.

Our Leadership committee has sent out a brief survey that I hope each of you will complete. The results and comments will allow them to focus their conference session on the areas each club highlights. Please share with them your thoughts and feedback.

I hope everyone is managing this bitter cold and snow that Mother Nature has provided us with. Luckily, our Bermuda members avoid the lovely winter wonderland that graces New England and Quebec.

Please share my warm welcome to all the new members in your clubs as we grow our District. We look forward to welcoming them to Altrusa and leveraging their enthusiasm.

In service,

Susan

District One Service Bulletin - February 2, 2026

The DSB (District One newsletter) was sent via email to all Altrusa club members in District One. The newsletter is sent from Altrusa International. It is important that International has your correct email address so that you can receive this newsletter. The January issue is the **Call to Conference.** Registration forms, hotel information, tentative conference schedule are all included in this issue. If you did not receive a copy, please let one of our board members know and they will forward you the link. District One Conference is May 1-2-3 in Nashua NH.

We often carpool, and share rooms at Conference, so make sure you chat with each other as you make plans. The club will also reimburse some of the registration fee for conference. It all depends on the number of people attending.

A lot of work goes into newsletters and communication as both the club, the district and International work hard to keep everyone informed. As a member your responsibility is to be curious and read the Altrusa news and to stay informed. Thank you for making the effort. Cathy B

Nominating Committee - Tina Craig, Diane Robinson, Cathy Baybutt

Foundation Board Vacancies

The Altrusa International of Carroll County NH Foundation has a board of directors that serves for 4 years: The current board is:

Lorraine Streeter, President,
Cindy Hyatt, secretary, who came on board last year
Cathy Baybutt, treasurer,
Barb Kennett, assistant treasurer,
Nancy Spaulding, director

This is the first time since the new Foundation By-Laws were adopted in 2022 that we need to come up with a new board of directors for the foundation.

Club Board Vacancies

The other position which will be vacant is one director on the club board. Currently that position is held by Pat McCoy. The Club Board of Directors serve 2 year terms and will be voted in next spring.

If anyone is interested in serving in any of these positions, please contact one of the Nominating committee members. If more than one person is interested in the position, we will have an election and the person with the most votes will serve in that position.

Altrusa International of Carroll County Committees

Board of Directors - elected
Community Service Committee
Literacy Committee
Membership/Hospitality Committee
Communications Committee
Community Grants Committee
Finance Committee

These are the subcommittees of the club. We ask that each member chose to serve on at least one of these committees. The committees usually meet 2 or 3 times during the year, so the time commitment isn't overwhelming. Details of who is on the committee, who the chair of the committee is and what they do, can be found throughout the newsletter. You are welcome to attend any and all of the committees to help you decide where you would like to serve. Reach out to the person who is listed as chair/ co-chair to let them know you are interested.

Board Meetings - Summary

Tuesday - January 6th - Prior to Business meeting - reviewed topics to discuss at the meeting - changed date due to inclement weather the week before.

Monday January 26th - 4:30 - ZOOM - again changed venue due to weather. - reviewed meeting schedule and topics for the February meeting. Topics were covered at the General business meeting.

Altrusa Accent

What does the Altrusa logo represent?

In July 2011.Altrusa updated its brand to reflect who we are today and we now have two symbols of Altrusa. The emblem, which was adopted in 1949, appears on our pins and symbolizes our proud history. It includes a polar view of the earth and includes our motto

"Patriotism, Efficiency, Service."

Leading to a better Community appears on our banner, shirts, and other items as a visual expression of our brand drivers of Clarity, Flexibility, Inclusion, this logo symbolizes movement into our fluid future.

Lean lines and open space represent **Clarity**
Flowing lines of different heights that rise and fall demonstrate **Flexibility**
Lines start and finish together symbolizing I**nclusion.**
The over all design represents the A for **Altrusa**
The tallest line is teal blue for oceans linking the lands and worldwide Altrusa
Dark blue is symbolic of Altrusan depth and foundation - Our Clubs and our Districts
Gold represents ASTRA - Our treasure and future
Red shows the Heart and Strength of Altrusans.

And now you know!

Altrusa International Inc of Carroll County NH &

Altrusa International of Carroll County NH Foundation

Altrusa International, Inc of Carroll County NH is officially our club name, although we generally go by Carroll County Altrusa for local recognition (much easier to wrap your tongue around). Our Club was formed in 2006 with 20 charter members. When we formed, we were required to register as a 501 (c) (4) with the State of NH and the IRS. This 501 (c) (4) status allows us to do charity work without any tax ramifications. We are not allowed to receive any tax-deductible donations. We are allowed to do "internal" fund-raisers (such as our brown bag auction that we held in January) and use those funds for Club activities.

In 2008 our Foundation was formed. Officially it was named Altrusa International of Carroll County NH Foundation, Inc. The Foundation is registered as a 501 (c) (3). This means that any monies we receive are tax-deductible for the donor and we can use that money only on charitable projects.

Both entities, Club and Foundation, have Articles of Agreement and By-laws which govern how we run our organizations. **Submitted by Diane Robinson**

The question for this newsletter is how many articles does the Club have in it's by-laws? Send a text or email to Cathy or Diane with your answer.. We'll have another drawing at our March meeting for those who answer. You should have a copy of the club by-laws.

If you don't have a copy, reach out to Cathy B or Diane R. or Barb for a digital copy.

Membership / Hospitality Committee

Co-Chair: Barb Kennett & TIna Craig
Members: Nancy Spaulding, Diane Robinson, Beth Wheatley Dyson, Julie Van Dyne, Pat McCoy, Marsha Brown, Janel Maxwell, Pat Hoffman

Membership Committee Meeting

The Membership committee would like to welcome all of our new members to Altrusa. Welcome to newly initiated members Mary, Gloria, Susan, Sarah, Mel, Cheryl, Diane H and to Becky and Julie who joined earlier in the year. We are thrilled that you have joined us. We also have two other guests who plan to become Altrusans in the near future. A special thank you to the members who have brought guests to our meetings, and who are talking about Altrusa. **Great job!!**

The Membership committee is planning a meeting on **Thursday February 19th, 10:00 AM** at Barb's house. We encourage all of the new members to consider coming to the meeting, meet the other members of the committee and consider serving on this committee. **You are Invited to attend to learn more of what Membership does.** If interested please contact Barb at 603-387-4354.

We ask that each member join one of the committees (Community Service, Literacy, Membership/ Hospitality, Communication, Finance). You are encouraged to attend any of the committee meetings and decide which you'd enjoy serving on. You can serve on more than one committee and you can change at any time. Committees meet a few times during the year, so it is not a huge time commitment.

Barb Kennett

New Member Introductions

Mel Lazdowski in her own words
Her Sponsor is Jess Theberge

I am a mom to 2 girls and 4 grandkids (3 girls and 1 boy). I've been married for 46 yrs. I am retired from Memorial Hospital but still working 2 to 3 days a week. I am a NH auctioneer and collect and sell antiques with my husband. I love my New England sports teams. The Pats the Bruins the Celtics and Red Sox in that order. My favorite times are when my entire family is together and we just enjoy being with each other.

Since retirement I have wanted to get more involved in the community and with the gentle urging of my daughter Jess I am now a member of Altrusa. I love what these women do and have done in the past. I look forward to being a part of everything they do.

Cheryl Riendeau

Her sponsor is Judy Keane

Cheryl grew up in MA, and worked in community banking for 27 years. She moved north in 2021 to be close to my two children and three grandchildren.

Currently she lives in Conway NH, and is semi retired. She works part time at small grocery store in Fryeburg.

She enjoys traveling, as you can see by photo in Greece from a few years ago.

She said that she is looking forward to meeting other women who are interested in helping others as she is.

Gloria Hannon - in her own words

Her sponsor is Pat Hoffman

I was born in MA. I started coming to MWV right after graduation from high school. Love at first sight! After graduating from Emmanuel College I joined the Wedeln SkiClub. The rest is history. Met my husband there and married in1969. I worked as a medical social worker for almost 40 years in the same rehab facility.

I retired in 2013 and moved to MWV full time and built a new, wonderful, fulfilling life. I have enjoyed skiing and playing golf. I also enjoy playing cards like canasta and bridge.

Susan Winters -

Her sponsors, Diane Robinson and Cathy Baybutt

Susan is married and has 2 children, 4 grandsons. She is a retired RN working mostly as a labor and delivery/newborn nursery nurse. She was Instrumental in starting the yearly candlelight service for bereaved parents, taught neonatal resuscitation from its inception and for a brief time was inpatient director at The Memorial Hospital, but missed bedside nursing. She finished her career in outpatient surgery. She enjoys cooking, baking, knitting and reading.

Susan has volunteered many times at Altrusa events, and we're happy to have her continue serving as an Altrusa club member.

Diane Hutchinson - in her own words

Her Sponsor is Jess Theberge

I moved to the valley when I was 12 (been here for a looong time, lol).

I have a daughter who I enjoy quilting, hiking and skiing with. She's given me 2 grand dogs and a grand cat!

Peter and I live in Glen and own/operate Kringle's Pizza Subs and Market. I really enjoy cooking for and talking with folks in our community! We are truly blessed!

I love where we live, the beauty of it, the four seasons… I garden, ski (downhill and cross country), hike, and enjoy the views!

I am a Christian and go to the Glen Community Baptist Church.

Sarah Murphy

Her sponsor is Beth Wheatley-Dyson

Sarah holds an MBA and brings more than 40 years of experience in financial services and elder care. She recently earned a Certificate in Grant Writing and hopes to help secure much-needed funding for the community. She values Altrusa's commitment to improving quality of life across the region, one program at a time.

Since moving to MWV five years ago, Sarah has embraced the outdoors, especially snowshoeing and cross-country skiing with her dog, River. She also enjoys spending time with her family in their new home in the valley.

Mary Desrosiers

Sponsor is Julie Van Dyne

New member Mary Desrosiers has been a full-time resident of West Ossipee for 5 years. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from University of Lowell (now UMass Lowell) and is an RN, BSN with 45 years experience. Mary has worked in a variety of medical settings – hospital, rehab, office, consulting, long term care and assisted living facilities with majority of those years being in management positions. She is currently a substitute nurse and teacher for SAU 13 and volunteers at the K.A. Brett School in Tamworth. She also has been a volunteer for the Lawrence Boys and Girls Club since 2009 working on their annual auction fundraiser.

Mary is married and is mother to 36 year old triplets, 2 boys and 1 girl. Three children in three minutes is an example of how efficient Mary is. LOL She also has 2 grown step-children and 6 grandchildren. Mary and her husband, Dave, enjoy visiting and spending time with their children and grandchildren. This means traveling to MA, CT and VA for birthdays, holidays, school functions and surprise visits for no reason. Mary had been looking for ways to meet people and become more involved in the community.

She heard about Altrusa from member Julie VanDyne. After attending 2 meetings Mary felt Altrusa was a good fit. Mary was initiated in January and is happy to be an official member.

Community Service

Chairman: Pat Kehoe & Cathy DiGiampietro

Members: Cindy Hyatt, Sue Battles, Theresa Jones, Pat McCoy, Donna West, Cathy Baybutt, Judy Keane, Shawn Flanagan Rogers, Kristi McNulty, Julie Van Dyne Lorraine Streeter, Tina Craig, Pat Hoffman

The Community Service Committee met at the Cook Memorial Library on January 20. This meeting was to review current projects and to discuss changes and updates. As you can see it was a full house.

Current events:

- **End 68 hrs of Hunger** - a good number of volunteers have signed up for Jan, Feb, March
- **Community Cookies** - Cindy will organize and cookies will be packed at our February meeting and delivered to the community the next week
- **Gibson Center Lunch -** volunteers are all set for the next 2 months.
- **Habitat for Humanity - Women Build** - no date set yet
- **Habitat for Humanity - once a month lunch** - May to November - since we don't pack End 68 hrs of Hunger June, July, August, we will pick up 3 more days to provide lunch for Habitat.
- **Soldier Cards** - This seems to be winding down, but perhaps we can expand and make something happen that is more local. - to be explored
- **Starting Point - Birthday Bags** - yes to continuing with this. Jess has this organized
- **Starting Point - transition from Comfort Bags to Comfort Closet** - Cathy will work on organizing
- **International Project recommendation - Sister Flora Orphanage - Haiti** - Shawn recommended as she has volunteered there and has a way to verify that funds are used for the purpose intended. The committee will recommend to the membership that we send $500.
- **Mamie L Bass award submission** - the committee chose the habitat lunches and Cindy will write and submit this for the award at Spring Conference.
- Pill Bottle collection - This is a possible new project, but it's on pause until more details are collected

The committee was engaged and we covered a lot of topics and will bring the ideas to the general membership.

**** To all of our new members, please reach out to Pat K if you would like to attend the next community service meeting. This committee meets 2 to 3 times a year, but it organizes and steers the path of our community service and volunteer projects.**

Spotlight project

Once a Year

NATIONAL RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS WEEK

Community Cookies

At the February meeting each member brought in a batch of cookies which were then sorted and boxed into gifts for our community support teams. Cookies were delivered to the service providers in the Conways, Bartlett/ Intervale, Albany, Madison, Freedom, Tamworth/Chocorua and Ossipee. Cookies went to the Police Departments, Fire/Rescue, Transfer Station, Public works/ highway Department, and Libraries.

February 15th to the 20th is Random Acts of Kindness week. Let the cookie distribution be the beginning of a month long effort to BE KIND! And perform Random Acts of Kindness.

make kindness the norm

Once a month

Monthly Volunteer projects

Our monthly volunteer events continue, with members serving lunch in at the Gibson Senior center in both January and February. In March and April there are additional lunches for Spring and St. Patricks Day celebrations.

End 68 Hrs of Hunger packing takes place on the 4th Thursday of the month. It's always fun to have a lot of help, the chatter is great and it takes very little time to get the packing done when there are many hands,

Grace house renovations have been completed so residence will be moving back in February. Starting Point was happy to accept the Comfort Bags and the additional items that were donated to make cleaning easier. We will be transitioning to items for a comfort closet. More detail will be coming in future meetings.

On going / as needed

Once a Year

New Project

International Project

For several years we've been looking for an opportunity to contribute to a project that is International. One of our members, Shawn who is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner has worked with a Medical team who traveled to impoverished countries to provide health care services. She has served several times at the Sister Flora Orphanage. When choosing a project to support, we wanted to make sure that our financial support would get to those who it was intended. We feel that the Sense of Wonder Creations Foundation was the right choice. We have donated $500 to be used at the orphanage. This particular orphanage cares for those orphans with special needs, those who are often ignored. Since travel is not safe in Haiti, the medical team is not able to visit. The article below is from the Winter Newsletter of sense of wonder. You can copy and paste the web address below, to see more details of what is happening in Haiti. We would hope that Altrusa would be able to support this orphanage going forward and if the situation ever improves, we may be able to have a first hand report.

https://senseofwondercreations.org/global-philanthrophy/

Our Updated Haiti Newsletter For Winter 2025

Thanks to your wonderful generosity, the SoWC Haiti Fund continues to send supplies and financially supports the people of Ile a Vache, Haiti and the Mainland (when needed). We hope that you will find it in your hearts to help us maintain our ongoing projects. In addition to the Ile a Vache Community, we have also supplied **Sister Flora's Orphanage** with food relief, art and educational supplies, and funds to pay their staff. In recent years they have been blessed with being aided by a Catholic Diocese in Canada.

Over the years since 2011, we have made several trips to Haiti aboard our schooner Charlotte. On these passages we have brought many supplies for the Haitians, such as tools for the boatbuilders, sails for the fisherman, and educational, art, music and food supplies and solar power products for the Community Center (CC) and Sister Flora's Orphanage. With Charlotte anchored in the beautiful Port Morgan (Kay Kok) Bay, we were able to invite individuals to stay with us and participate in the projects that benefit the Kay Kok community. We look forward to returning in the near future.

Following the devastation from hurricane Matthew in 2016, SoWC received a generous outpouring of donations for the Haiti Fund. We have been able to partner with other philanthropic organizations to rebuild homes, clean wells, repair cisterns, provide food, replace animals, plant trees, supply seeds and plant gardens.

The Kay Kok town well that was damaged during hurricane Matthew is back in operation. Thanks to generous donations to the (SoWC) Haiti Fund, we were able to assist in funding a project to build a solar powered pumping station. Now the water is pumped to a header tank which feeds a number of water sources in the village.

Explanation of Service Hours and recording them

Altrusa is an International nonprofit organization focused on community service. We make our communities better, and stronger through leadership, partnership and service.

The members of Carrol County Altrusa are very lucky to belong to a club that focuses on so many different service projects. It is important to keep a tally of your personal hours. On the first of the month, I will send out a reminder that your hours for the previous month should be sent to me as I record them and keep an annual tally.

Examples of Altrusa service hours would be attending regular and committee meetings, making cookies for our communities, serving lunch at the Gibson Center, helping with Habitat for Humanity meals, packing End 68 Hours of Hunger bags, shopping for TCCP and Starting Point, sewing book bags, and the list goes on. There are many non Altrusa hours served by members that should also be recorded, such as being on the library board, service work for your church, volunteering at the food pantry etc. All hours are important.

At the end of May our club president has an annual report that needs to be completed and sent to Altrusa International. One of the items that we report is our combined service hours. Last year we reported a total of 6052 service / volunteer hours. Our combined hours show that we are definitely a club committed to service.

The volunteer hours and the completed annual report have led our Carroll County Altrusa club to be designated as a distinguished club for the past several years. That is not something that is awarded casually, it has meaning and reflects the success of our club and the dedication of our membership.

So, when you get the reminder about service hours, please take a few minutes to review the past month and send me your totals. Thank you. Lorraine

Current Projects	Leader
Gibson Center Lunch (2nd Tuesday each month)	Pat McCoy & Donna West
End 68 Hrs of Hunger - 4th Thursday - 10 AM - Middle School	Pat Kehoe
Habitat for Humanity - Lunch program - 1st Thursday May to Nov	Cindy Hyatt - club coordinator
Starting Point Comfort Bags transition to Comfort Closet	Cathy Baybutt
Starting Point Birthday Bags - as needed	Jess Theberge
Christmas cards & Thank you cards to soldiers - as needed	On pause - exploring options- pg 17
Halloween Town - Laura Foundation for Epilepsy & Autism - Oct	Pat Kehoe
Foster Family Christmas Party with NHDCYF - December 13th	Shawn Rogers - Tina Craig
Tamworth Community Christmas Project - shopping - December	Cathy Baybutt
Community Appreciation Cookies - Random Acts of Kindness Week	Cindy Hyatt - February 15-20

Once a month | On going / as needed | Once a Year

Literacy Committee

Co-Chair: Lorraine Streeter & Barb Kennett
Members: Marilyn Hughes, Judy Workman,
Sue Battles, Sue Jones, Cathy Baybutt
Beth Wheatley Dyson, Pat Hoffman

The Literacy Committee's main project is **Mail for Me**. We ask 14 elementary schools plus Children Unlimited and Starting Point to pick three children from each school to receive a one year subscription to various Children magazines. To date, from the fall until now we have had 12 schools participate.
We gave out 184 packets to preschools for **Our Make Way for Readers Project.** This project is designed to encourage parents to read to their children and connect with their local library.

Book Bags for Babies - Winter Project

The Committee met at Barbara's to cut and assemble kits for our Baby Book Project. These kits are given out to members to be sewn. We are very lucky to have a new member, Becky Mattison that can machine embroider pieces with our name, and the name of the library. These are to be sewn on the pocket of the bags. Brochures and children's books are included. The bags are given to the Cook Memorial Library in Tamworth and the Freedom Library. We are hoping to include the Madison Library soon. These bags are for parents with newborns.

The Tamworth Community Nurse association has recently had a handicap accessible trail built. They are hoping to collaborate with other organizations, such as Altrusa and the Cook Memorial Library to build a children's story walk. There are a lot of details to be worked out, but this sounds like a fun and interesting project.

We have not been given a date yet for our participation in the Hannaford Book Fundraiser, but it should be soon. Please get your books to Barbara, or take them directly to Hannaford's.in North Conway.

Time and weather permitting, a literacy committee meeting will be planned for some time in March. We Invite all new members to attend the meeting to see if this Is the committee you would like to serve on. Let Lorraine know if you are interested and she'll send you an invite when a date for the meeting is chosen.

Submitted by Lorraine Streeter

For your consideration

Soldier Card - Veterans - Celebrate USA - 250th Anniversary

We have been writing soldier thank you cards for many years. The past couple of years the interest has declined. At the Community service meeting it was suggested that perhaps we change our focus and create a way to acknowledge, assist and celebrate our local veterans an soldiers. It is the 250th anniversary of the United States, it gives us an opportunity to celebrate our history as well as celebrate our present.

I was hoping that a couple of our members might be interested in getting together and discussing ideas that allow Altrusa to come up with some ideas.
Ones that I thought of:

- Cleaning Graves of Soldiers and placing flags on their graves (Memorial Day)
- Contributing materials to Pease Greeters - who welcome soldiers deploying and returning from duty at Pease
- Purchasing and placing wreaths with Wreaths Across America (December)
- Writing letters to soldiers and engaging our young people in the activity (veterans day) or memorial day
- Buying jackets for veterans (Ocean State Job Lots)
- Providing items to the veterans home in Tilton - blankets, books, socks,
- ??? All ideas would be welcome

I envision this as a growing project.. 1 or 2 items in one year and then expand if there is interest

Contact Cathy Baybutt, if you have any interest. If no one is interested then we will table this idea for now.

Awards submissions:

At each District One spring conference awards are presented for:

Service Projects, (**Mamie L. Bass Award)**,
Literacy Projects, (**Letha Brown Award**)
International Project (**Nina Fay Calhoun Award)**
Two District One exclusive awards:
The Gabrielle Crepeau Award (for outstanding leadership)
Newsletter Award (for clubs that create newsletters)

Each club is allowed one submission in each category. If the club wins first place the award is then forwarded to International and is submitted to compete at the International Convention against all the winners from the other 13 districts.

These award submissions are due by March 15th. All of the details regarding submission are in the District Service Bulletin (DSB) that came out on February 2nd. The registration forms for spring conference are also in the DSB. Make your hotel reservations and send your registration form early and take advantage of the early bird pricing.

It would be wonderful to have a good representation from Carroll County Altrusa at the Spring Conference. It is being held in Nashua and it's a pretty easy drive down 93 to get there. Let's go have some fun together and learn more about Altrusa.

Communication Committee

Communications Committee involves:
Newsletter - Cathy Baybutt
Creating & Publishing the yearbook, the brochures and business cards
Facebook updates, - Beth Wheatley Dyson & Cathy Baybutt
Website - updates - Jess & Rich Theberge
Calendar of activities to community and Storyboard - Cathy DiGampietro

Communication / Membership information

To all Seven of our new members, thank you so much for sending in a short biography. I have included a biography along with a photo in this newsletter. This will help all of our current members put a name to a face. You will also be receiving a copy of our new member yearbook which has a photo and contact information for all of our members.

If you have an interest in writing and creating content we would love you to join the communications team. Working on the newsletter, posting to social media, and thinking of other opportunities to promote Altrusa are always welcome.

Next newsletter - April/May
Submission Deadline - May 15, 2026

Finance Committee

Chairman: Cathy Baybutt, Foundation Treasurer
Members: Diane Robinson, Deb Doucet,
Barb Kennett, Cindy Hyatt,

Finance Committee involves:
Creating budgets (both club and foundation)
Supporting treasurers with their responsibilities
Having an annual internal audit done of the accounts
Assembling information for the accountant
Helping with Grant applications if applicable
Filing annual report to Altrusa International Foundation

Most of the budgeted Foundation funds have been disbursed for the year. There is one fundraiser still to come, the book bin at Hannaford in North Conway. It is usually during the winter months. Barb will let us know the exact date. You are welcome to bring books to Barb or you can just leave them at the book shelf in Hannaford. If you do that, take a moment to straighten out the books and make the display look neat.

No plans have been made with the Friends of Cook Library. I believe they will not be having a raffle this year. Jam and Jelly sales will continue at the Farmers market. So we need some BIG ideas for Fundraising. REVO Casino does not have us on the list for charities. I reached out and will be sending in a report to them regarding how we used our funds to see if we can get a scheduled date. Cathy Baybutt

Tri -Club Party

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF CARROLL COUNTY INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE OUR 20TH BIRTHDAY!

Dress for Cinco de Mayo

Prize for the most festive!

Date: May 5th | Time: 5:00pm-8:00pm
Indian Mound Golf Course
16B Ctr. Ossipee, NH

Menu

GF and Vegetarian Options

Taco & Taco Salad Bar (Chicken, beef, fish, or veggie) with all the fixings including Mexican street corn, black beans, refried beans, rice, sauteed peppers and onions, lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, guacamole, sour cream & salsa, Coffee, Tea & Dessert

Drinks: Cash Bar

$35.00 per person

RSVP by March 22

Please mail check to Carroll County Altrusa
PO Box 202 Tamworth, NH 03886

Questions email: dlrobinson603@gmail.com

		Calendar of Activities	
February			
	Thursday - 19th	10:00 - Membership meeting	Barbara Kennetts House
	Monday - 23rd	4:30 - Board meeting	Madison Library
	Thursday - 26th	10:00 - End 68hrs Hunger	Kennett Middle school
March			
	Tuesday - 3rd	5:30 - Business meeting	Madison Library
	Tuesday - 10th	10:30 - Gibson Lunch	Gibson Center for Seniors
	Wednesday - 18th	All day - MWV STEM	Sign up on line - Bartlett -
	Sunday - 22nd	Final day for RSVP - Birthday party	$35 check RSVP - page 19
	Thursday - 26th	10:00 - End 68hrs Hunger	Kennett Middle school
	Monday - 30th	4:30 - Board meeting	Madison Library
April			
	Tuesday - 7th	5:30 - Business meeting	Adult Day Center - GAME NIGHT
	Tuesday - 14th	10:30 - Gibson Lunch	Gibson Center for Seniors
	Thursday - 23th	10:00 - End 68hrs Hunger	Kennett Middle school
	Monday - 27th	4:30 - Board meeting	Madison Library
May			
	Friday - 1st-3rd	District One Spring Conference	Nashua NH
	Sunday - 3rd	All day - Miss MWV Teen	Believe in Books- Theater in the Woods
	Tuesday - 5th	5:00 - Tri-Club Party - 20th	Rivers Edge Bar and Grille - pg 19
	Tuesday - 12th	10:30 - Gibson Lunch	Gibson Center for Seniors
	Monday - 25th	4:30 - Board meeting	Madison Library
	Thursday - 28th	10:00 - End 68hrs Hunger	Kennett Middle School
June			
	Tuesday - 2rd	5:30 - Annual Pot Luck meeting	Gibson Center for Seniors

Meeting Reminders:

- Wear your name tag
- Bring a Friend
- Share your ideas
- Bring blank note cards and birthday cards (for Gibson Center)
- Save your aluminum can tabs - these go to the Shriners
- Bring books to swap
- Read your newsletters - this will help keep you informed and also have a reminder of important dates.

Altrusa International
1400 E. Touhy Ave, Suite 410
Des Plaines, IL 60018
1-312-427-4410

Website: www.altrusa.org
Email: altrusa@altrusa.org
Facebook: Altrusa International

Altrusa International Foundation
Same address & phone # as above

Website: foundation.altrusa.org
Email: foundation@altrusa.org
Facebook: Altrusa International Foundation Inc

District One

Susan Porazzo, Governor
Plymouth County
smporazzo@hotmail.com

Diane O'Reilly, Treasurer
860-266-3838
ddoreilly51@gmail.com
432 Allison Dr.,
Torrington, CT 06790

Website www.districtone.altrusa.org
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Altrusa International of Carroll County, NH
PO Box 202, Tamworth, NH 03886
Email
altrusacarrollcounty@gmail.com
https://altrusacarrollcountynh.org/
Facebook Altrusa International of Carroll County

SPRING CONFERENCE - NASHUA, NH
May 1-3, 2026
Hosted by past District One Governors
Call to Conference in the January DSB
Emailed on 2/2 2026
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
Columbus, Ohio - July, 21-24, 2027

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

February 17	Diane Robinson
March 2	Jess Theberge
March 2	Julie VanDyne
March 3	Kathy DiGiampietro
March 5	Sue Jones
March 10	Becky Mattison
March 10	Donna West
March 17	Susan Winters
April 11	Theresa Jones
April 16	Pat McCoy
April 16	Marsha Brown
April 21	Judy Workman
April 29	Sue Battles