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## THE ALTRUIST



PRESIDENT'S  
April, 2026

MESSAGE



President's Message

Spring is finally here. Maybe the weather will catch up. We had a great meeting on Monday to plan the strategic plan for next year. It will be retyped and handed out at a further meeting to be voted on. Service projects are moving along. Sandy had said she was trying to have at least 1 a month. We have 3-5 a month. Thank you to all Altrusans who donate so generously of the time and talents.

What are the Principles of Altrusa by Mamie L Bass First National President Here are a few:

1. Builder of Women (and now men)
2. An expression of the search for the best in character, in business and in citizenship.
3. Develops true leadership concerned with accomplishments and not with recognition.
4. Is Democratic-no class, no favorites it is founded on merit alone
5. Is practical idealism, its service consists, not is saying great things but in daily earnest practice of its principles
6. It is not enough to be good; Altrusans must be good for something, Each member must be doing the piece of work that is hers in a way that puts her in the front ranks of accomplishments.

Mamie L Bass 1921

The remaining 6 principles will be shared next month.....Rita

## Volunteer Hours

March 2026

Altrusa – 156    Altrusa Literacy – 10    Non-Altrusa –84.5

Total hours for December 250.5

### Altrusa International of Greater Biddeford-Saco ME Business Meeting, Atlantic Heights, 03-09-2026

Initiation of: Deb Dyer

Handouts: Agenda, add to agenda T shirt and sweatshirt report, Altrusa board meeting notes, By law update handouts, Survey

**Correspondence:** Non reported

**Leaders in Service:**

It was mentioned that Pauline spent a couple of days in the hospital in Florida, in Miami. She's home now and following up with her cardiologist.

**Brady's T-shirts and Sweatshirts Update, Agnes**

The group discussed the status of the shirt caption and logo placement. The caption has been finalized, and the shirts are being done. The newsletter, which included information about the shirts, was sent to Linda Gray. It was clarified that the shirts will feature a smaller version of the main logo exactly as shown, without a circular border. Linda Gray reached out after receiving the newsletter because it had stated that the logo should not be placed inside a circle on the side of the shirts. She explained that this cannot be done. Although Portland previously used a circular design, it had only been completed before she noticed the issue. The misunderstanding stemmed from an earlier discussion about creating a patch, which would have required a circular design. The shirts themselves were never intended to include a circular around the logo. The final design without the circle was confirmed to look very good. The completed shirts are expected to arrive later this week.

**50th Anniversary Party**

The group discussed plans for celebrating the 50th anniversary of Altrusa of Greater Biddeford –Saco. It was noted that Judy and Denise have been members for the full 50 years, which the group acknowledged as an impressive milestone. A committee consisting of Sandy, Laura, Agnes, and Denise met on Saturday morning to begin planning. They discussed many ideas but made few firm decisions. The committee felt strongly that holding the celebration in April or May would be too rushed, especially since, three weekends in May are already booked with other commitments. For that reason, they recommended scheduling the anniversary event in September, likely avoiding Labor Day weekend. Additional availability concerns were raised, such as members who would be away at the end of September. The committee spent considerable time discussing the guest list. Options included inviting other clubs, former members, and district or board representatives. Denise reviewed a list of past members from the group's first 40 years—used previously for the 40th anniversary—and identified 107 names, not including additional members from the last decade. Many of these individuals may not attend, but inviting such a large list would still involve considerable expense. The committee has not yet determined whether to invite all past members, only some, or none. They also discussed inviting the district governor and possibly local media. Venue options were also reviewed. The current room can accommodate approximately 40 people, but concerns were raised about parking and accessibility. The event could take place here and be catered, or the group could choose a restaurant where individuals order their own meals. Sandy is seeking catering quotes for a Saturday luncheon, with preliminary estimates around \$20 per person. The group discussed overall cost, noting that the organization currently has \$1,900 in its operating account and will have additional funds next year after dues are paid. Members considered several cost sharing options, such as paying

part of the meal themselves, covering guests' meals, or choosing a lower cost format such as an afternoon reception with "small bites" or hors d'oeuvres. Other ideas included hosting a high tea style event similar to those at the Harraseeket Inn, or a potluck, though concerns were raised about the amount of work involved. Various possible venues were mentioned, including the Elks Club, Duffy's, Birdie's, Lucky Logger, and potential local caterers connected to members' families. The committee will continue researching venues, costs, and catering options and will bring updates each month. Once they have gathered enough information, they will prepare a formal recommendation for the club to vote on.

### **Sibling Program**

The club reviewed information about the Altrusa International Sibling Program. International has received several requests from clubs interested in being paired with a "sibling" club—potentially connecting clubs from places such as Massachusetts, New Zealand, or Canada. If enough clubs participate, International will match the clubs and provide suggestions for joint activities. A shared service project could be selected and completed by both clubs, allowing collaboration across locations. Members were directed to the interest form in their packets. Instead of reviewing the entire form during the meeting, it was requested that members take a moment to check off the four interest questions. The forms will be collected, and the results will guide the club's decision on whether to participate.

### **District Conference and Workshop**

The club reviewed plans for the District Workshop, which will again be held at the Nonantum Resort in Kennebunkport in November. Because the venue waives fees for nonprofits, costs will be limited to decorations and small table items, estimated at just over \$100. The workshop fee for attendees will be approximately \$65–\$75 and includes lunch. District has asked our club to host again due to our strong performance last time, and members voted unanimously to do so. The workshop will take place on Saturday, November 14th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Members also reviewed details about the District Conference. Registration is free, Friday night is a social "fun night," and Saturday covers district business, workshops, awards, and elections. Sandy has submitted award entries for Mamie and is finalizing the Letha award. Despite not having a single major project this year, the club has been extremely active, completing 33 service activities, distributing over 2,450 books, and logging 1,475 literacy hours since June. The club must submit two delegates and two alternates by March 15th; Anne and Laura will serve as delegates, with volunteers available as alternates. Members received packets containing bylaw updates, policies, and the strategic plan. Since the club bylaws have not been updated since 2019, members were asked to review them before the next meeting. The strategic plan will also be discussed further at an upcoming program meeting.

The president also shared that the Board of Directors met last Monday. Due to length, the six page minutes will not appear in the newsletter, but members may contact the board with any questions or concerns. The club reviewed the three District award categories available each year: the Mamie L. Bass Service Award, the Letha H. Brown Literacy Award, and the Nina Fay Calhoun International Award. First, second, and third place are awarded at the district level, and first place advances to International, where the winner receives a \$100 prize. Sandy has submitted the Mamie entry and is nearly finished with the Letha submission, which required documentation from three newsletter issues. Although the club did not have one major signature project this year, Sandy noted that the activity reports showed an impressive amount of ongoing service, inspiring the theme "Doubling Down on Service." The synopsis highlights the club's increased involvement and commitment to the principle: "It is not good enough to be good; we must all be good at something." Work on the Nina Fay Calhoun (International) award will continue next month, and the club may consider partnering with the group that sews Little Sundresses for Girls for its international project. The regional ambassador, located in York, is willing to support a sewing day and provide additional materials. We have given away close to 3000 books in the community and 1475 literacy hours.

**Secretary Report.** The Secretary's report was presented. Everyone was asked whether they are receiving the newsletter, and we confirmed that we need to verify and update all email addresses. Judy will forward the newsletter to Sue as requested. The latest issue looked very good. There were no additions or corrections to the Secretary's report. A motion to accept the report as filed was made, Lucille and seconded, Deb. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report** No report.

## Committee Reports

**Finance-** Lucille - The club reviewed potential fundraising options, including a Dine to Donate event at Applebee's, which has been scheduled to the 26th. Ann noted she has been unable to follow up on other leads recently due to personal circumstances. Sandy mentioned that the Biddeford Amvets Club hosts a monthly Sunday breakfast and suggested asking whether they would be willing to partner with us for a fundraising breakfast. Members discussed the location on Alfred Street, the facility, and parking. The breakfast is open to the public, 8-11 typically held the first Sunday of each month, and would require strong promotion to be successful. Several members expressed interest in participating. For Applebee's, members noted the importance of customers identifying Altrusa on receipts to ensure funds are credited properly. committee will gather more information on Amvets fundraising possibilities so the club can decide whether to move forward.

**Membership-**Laura - reported on the upcoming Meet & Greet scheduled for the 19th at 5:30 p.m. at Saco Falls. Members met with the organizers and agreed to provide snacks, fruit, and drinks, with Saco Falls covering the remaining refreshments. Both groups will contribute a gift card to create two door prizes. This event is open to all residents in the building and surrounding community; it is intended as an introduction to Altrusa rather than a formal recruitment event. Members were reminded that no alcohol will be served. Because parking is limited, carpooling is encouraged. The committee will arrive at 5:00 p.m. to set up. The committee also noted that an installation will take place tonight and that the club must complete a "Get to Know Your Club" program before the end of the year to meet strategic plan requirements. They requested that Finance allow Membership to use the April program meeting for this activity. Additionally, an orientation for newer members must be scheduled soon, and assistance may be needed to conduct it. Several members confirmed they have not yet participated in an orientation and will be included. No further updates were reported.

**Scholarship-**Judy and Phyllis reported that the scholarship committee is ready to request payment for this year's awards. Three checks of \$500 each will be issued. The first will go to the Biddeford Regional Center of Technology, where Paula is waiting for the funds. The second will be awarded to the Ecology School in Saco, now located on Buxton Road. The third will go to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute. Judy requested that the details be put in writing and emailed so they can be processed properly; a check request form will be sent for completion. The committee noted these organizations are strong community contributors and may remain recipients for the next year as well. No additional updates were reported.

**Service** – Sandy - The club confirmed the Bon Appétit cleanup day for Thursday, March 26th at 9:00 a.m. Volunteers will assist with tasks such as cleaning, organizing cupboards, and other needs identified by staff. Additional opportunities may arise depending on future developments with the Bon Appétit building, which the church deacons have voted to donate to the Bon Appetit Program, legal and organizational steps are still in progress. The club will continue monitoring this potential long-term project. The upcoming Meet & Greet at Saco Falls, coordinated by Membership, is also underway, with members helping provide materials and books to share with attendees. The club will participate in the Old Orchard Beach Easter Egg Extravaganza on Saturday, March 21st, providing children's books and joining the Easter Bunny.

### Additional upcoming service dates include:

- April 2 – Bon Appétit Service Day
- May 7 – Bon Appétit
- May 16 – Pollinator Festival in Biddeford (rain or shine with new large tent)
- May 30 – Adoptive & Foster Family Festival at Fort Williams Park

Information regarding the Wardwell and St. André's Home Ice cream social at the Alumni Band performances has been circulated. Members discussed last year's setup and resident engagement. The back patio at St Andre's was very nice but they're reconstructing the back patio so this year we will be in the front yard at St Andre's The club also collected Easter candy for Saco Grange, Will be delivered to the Grange. No further items were raised. The meeting ended with the initiation of Deb Dyer.

*This is the table we set up for the Saco Museum April Exhibit on Volunteer Opportunities in Saco.*



*Spring has sprung! Time to fill the libraries again!*



*March 26th was Spring Appetit. Altrusa volunteers of old and unwanted drawers.*



*cleaning and organizing morning at Bon cleaned and lined drawers, sorted and got rid cooking utensils, and labeled all the*

Will close our newsletter with a reminder to read your recent District Service Bulletin and register for our upcoming Spring Conference.:

**Altrusa District One Spring Conference May 1 – 3, 2026**

**Sheraton Nashua Nashua, New Hampshire**

**Lighting the Way to Leadership**