

Altrusa International of
Central CT, Inc.

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Middletown, CT 06457

Altrusa.CentralCT@gmail.com

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Vice-President

Vacant

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860-306-5110

Treasurers

Pat Jackowski (General)

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Director

Elsie Mathews

860-841-9375

Past President

Lynne Havlicek

860-306-5110

Newsletter Editor

Elsie Mathews

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Meetings

2nd and 4th Wed.

Wadsworth Glen

starting at 6:30 pm.

Presidential Prose

Well, Altrusa certainly knows how to kick off the fall!

Our **Pack the Pickup with Proteins and Products for the Pantry** event was a huge success, thanks to an amazing turnout (Altrusans, Civitans, ADK, Soroptimists and Xavier students) and lots of generous donations. The food, products and monies collected will benefit **three local food pantries**—proof that when Altrusans show up, good things happen!

I also received an encouraging response from the **American Legion Post 75** in my search for a more neutral meeting space. They recognize the good work Altrusa does in our community and will be taking our request to their Board in September. We'll keep our fingers crossed!

September 8 is World Literacy Day. Celebrate by sharing a book with a neighbor, friend, coworker—or anyone who could use a good read. 📖 International President Chris has put forth a book challenge for September through November. Keep track of any books you share or donate!

Our call for **Raffle donations** got a great response! Thank you for all your efforts to Now we just have to tackle the paperwork. Every fundraiser has its glamorous side!

We're also looking forward to welcoming **District One Director Debbie Lemieux** this fall. We'll be ready to show her what Central CT can do!

As we head into a busy fall, remember **service doesn't have to be complicated.** Sometimes it's a bag of groceries, a book, a helping hand—or simply showing up. **Together, those small acts become something much bigger.**

Thank you for being the people who show up, pitch in, and make things happen.

Let's keep making a difference—one act of service at a time!



Linda



Sept 09 Business Meeting - ZOOM only
at 6:30pm

Sept 23 Program meeting TBD

SAVE THESE DATES:

District One Fall Workshop
November 14, 2026
Kennebunkport, ME

District One Spring Conference
April 23 -25, 2027
Freeport, ME

Altrusa International Convention
July 21–24, 2027
Columbus, Ohio



MEMBER MEETING

Breakfast

September – None scheduled until October

Events

September 12 – Middlesex Tailgate & UConn
Football game at Rentschler Field on 615
Silver Lane in East Hartford, CT. Tailgate
begins at 11:30am and Football game begins
at 3:30pm

Business After Work

September – Details to be announced. It will
be from 5:00 – 7:00pm

Hello September

We are deeply saddened to learn of the passing
of Pat Jackowski's beloved Father, Ed Dypa.
Pat is a cherished part of our club family, and we
extend our heartfelt
sympathy, thoughts,
and prayers to her
and her loved ones.



Birthday Wishes

Barbara Arafah Septemer 09
Betsy Crosswell September 30



Altrusa Accent at Upcoming Meetings

Sep 09	Laurie Caraway
Oct 14	Kathleen Didato
Nov 11	Cathy Boone
Dec 09	None/ holiday party
Jan 13	Suzanne Morello
Feb 10	Pat Jackowski
Mar 10	Lynne Havlicek
Apr 14	Hilda Schmidt
May 12	Elsie Mathews

NOTE: If the scheduled member is unable to
present, please create your accent and ask
someone else to read it at the meeting or swap
dates. ☺

Our 13th Annual Proteins Plus Event Review

On Saturday, August 29th, Altrusans, ADK, Civitans and Soroptimists gathered together for the 13th Annual Pack the Pickup with Proteins Plus for the Pantry to benefit local food pantries. This year, we expanded our efforts to include the following food pantries in Middletown, the Amazing Grace Food Pantry, Hinka's Cupboard and Shiloh Baptist Food Pantry. This year we also had the assistance of 5 fine young men from Xavier High School assisting us with packing and unpacking the pick-up at Amazing Grace.

As we had previously decided, food would be donated to all 3 sites with the bulk going to Amazing Grace as it is open 3x/week. Money would be donated as follows, Amazing Grace receiving 50% and Shiloh Food Pantry and Hinka's Cupboard receiving 25% each.

The final tallies are as follows

Food and Product 1420 pounds

Cash/Checks \$1725.00

Breakdown:

Amazing Grace \$862.50

Shiloh Food Pantry \$421.25

Hinka's Cupboard \$421.25

Many thanks to all who assisted in making this year a success. This year, we exceeded last year's totals by almost 200 pounds in food/product and more than \$400. Since the beginning in 2013, our efforts have donated 21,792 pounds of food/product and \$11,988.06.

Pat Jackowski



Many of the Altrusa, Civitan, ADK, and Xavier high school volunteers at the Proteins event.



Multi-group preparation & effort for the 2026 Proteins Event



Altrusa International:

President's Article - New Literacy Challenge

Time flies — we say it often, and it's true.

This realization came to me as the end of another season draws near. As I reflected on this, it provided time for me to recalibrate and renew for the second half of the biennium...and to dream. One of the things we are excited to share with you is a...**New Literacy Challenge**.

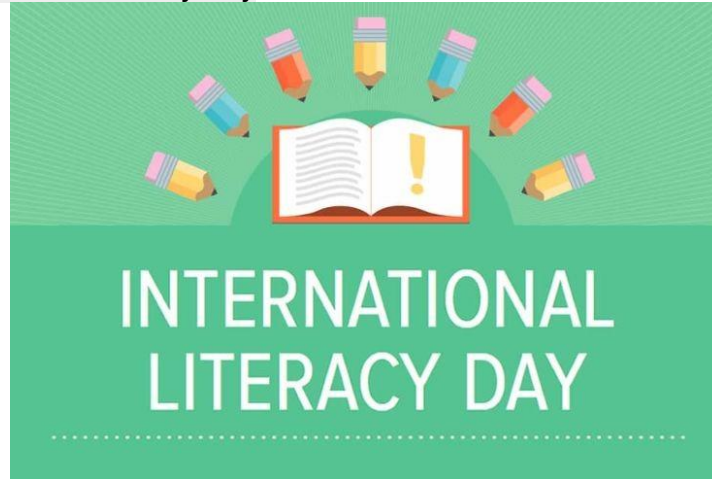


This challenge is as simple as 1, 2, 3:

1. **Donate.** Give at least one book per club member between September 1st through November 30th to earn a commemorative patch for your club banner.
2. **Capture & Share.** Take a picture – of the books, your club, the distribution, or the recipients* - and email it to altrusa@altrusa.org so our office staff can share your impact on one of our social media platforms.
3. **Log Your Impact.** Record your donated books on the Altrusa website under the Service tab. Click on the Entry Form link under the Altrusa International Literacy Challenge One Book at a Time III. The office will track books logged during the special 90-day period.

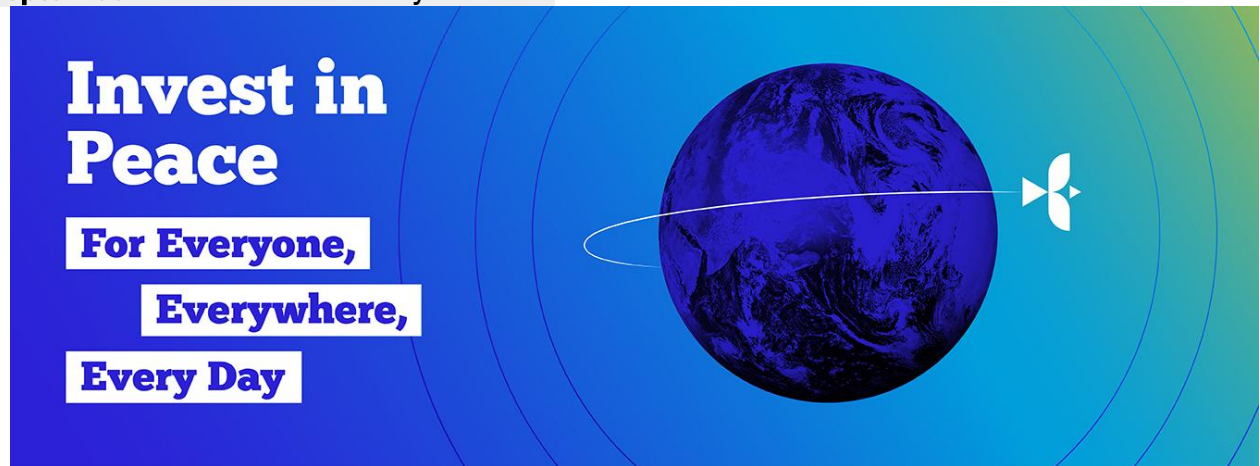
September United Nation Days of Observance

September 8 International Literacy Day



International Literacy Day is a global observance dedicated to promoting reading and writing skills as essential tools for individual empowerment and societal progress. It underscores how literacy enables people to access knowledge, improve livelihoods, make informed decisions, and contribute to peace, equality, and sustainable development. First proclaimed by UNESCO in 1966 and endorsed by the UN in 1967, it emerged as a reminder of the urgent need to eradicate illiteracy worldwide.

September 21 International Day of Peace



On 21 September, the world marks the International Day of Peace.

The International Day of Peace, also known as World Peace Day, is a United Nations–sanctioned observance dedicated to promoting global peace and the absence of war and violence. It focuses attention on coexistence, compassion, and cooperation, often marked

United Nations (continued)

by symbolic gestures like the UN Peace Bell, cast from donated coins as a reminder of the human cost of conflict. Established in 1981 through a UN General Assembly resolution sponsored by the United Kingdom and Costa Rica, it was originally tied to the opening of the Assembly's session before being fixed in 2001 as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence.

Today, amidst staggering volatility, the search for peace feels overwhelming—but it has never been more urgent. Peace is more than the absence of war; it is the foundation necessary to collectively tackle humanity's challenges. It is the lived experience of safety, dignity, opportunities and cooperation in our daily lives.

Under the theme Invest in Peace: For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day, this year's International Day of Peace honors the 'everyday architects of peace'—people driving local action, laying the groundwork for stability, and building a lasting peace from the ground up. Remember, peace isn't just built in conference rooms—it is shaped by everyone, everywhere, every day.

Everyone, everywhere can do their part for peace. Take one small step for peace every day: Give your time to help someone else.

Lend your voice to drive positive change.

Host a Peace Circle - an intergeneration youth-led conversation on solutions.

Use your platform to promote a cause or tell a story of peace and hope

Altrusa International of Central CT honors both these days throughout the year.

We promote 'Literacy for all Ages'. Our Spencer Readers help to foster literacy through reading to students at Spencer School. Through ABC - Altrusa Books for the Community, Altrusans and friends collect new and gently used books for those in need. Books are distributed through our 'Little Free Libraries', doctor's offices, local schools and community events. We also have our scholarship and Senior Award. Literacy projects extend to our senior population with our Senior Poetry Contest.

We promote peace through our support women veterans with 'Female Soldiers: Forgotten Heroes', dignity of women through 'SAFFE - Sanitary Assistance for Females Everywhere'. We feed and care for those in need through our programs 'Hungry Babies are NOT an Illusion...the Didato Family Memorial Baby Food/Formula/Diaper Drive', "Pack the Pick-up with Proteins Plus for the Pantry" and other Food Pantry Donations.

As Central CT Altrusans, we should stand proud to acknowledge our service for promotion Literacy and Peace in our communities.

Pat Jackowski

8/12/26 Altrusa Accent

Reprinted from the Altrusa International Website and presented by Hilda Schmidt

ALTRUSA - LEADING TO A BETTER COMMUNITY

We believe that everyone is able to make a positive difference to the world around them. We can each volunteer our time, or donate our money, towards worthy causes. Our individual efforts are small, but they matter.

We can achieve even more when we bring people together. For over 100 years Altrusa clubs have collected members from varying occupations and lifestyles, all sharing an interest in community service.

We enjoy the friendship, fun and satisfaction that comes from working together for the benefit of others. Each club develops a program that is tailored to local needs, undertaking a variety of hands-on service and fundraising projects each year. One of our shared goals as an organization is to improve literacy, which we believe is the key to opportunity.

Through Altrusa activities we develop our leadership skills in a supportive environment. We welcome new ideas and aim to provide enough flexibility so that our members can give their time in a way that works for them.

Guess who I saw at the nail salon?

Dorothy Stevens.
She's feeling better and just beginning to get out.

Pat Jackowski



Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce

130th Annual Awards Dinner & Celebration

Chairwoman Juliet Cavanaugh & the Board of Directors
invite you to join them in celebrating our:

2026 Distinguished Citizens Honorees
Rodney Bitgood
Scotty Brown
James Crawford

Nonprofit Leader Distinguished Citizen
Cynthia Clegg

Chief Michael L. Green Award Recipient
Retired Police Chief Lynn Baldoni
Middletown Police Department

2025-2026 Chairwoman
Pam Steele

Wednesday, September 23, 2026
The Riverhouse at Goodspeed Station, Haddam
Please RSVP by Friday, September 18, 2026
www.middlesexchamber.com

Altrusa Club News

Raffle Update

On behalf of the Raffle Committee, I would like to thank everyone who donated a prize or in some cases prizes for this year's raffle. We are grateful for your continued support with this project, our biggest fundraiser of the year. We have a very nice prize ticket this year with 41 chances to win! The raffle prizes are valued at \$2,211.00
Kudos to Hilda Schmidt who solicited a total of nine restaurant gift cards.

Lynne Havlicek, Pat Jackowski, Linda Ring and Jamie Santaniello
The 2026 Raffle Committee

2026 Raffle Prize List

1	600.	Newport Get Away	5 Washington St.	Newport RI		L. Ring
2	150.	Il Gusto	286 Maple Ave.	Cheshire CT	06410	H. Schmidt
3	100.	Ace Hardware	Any Location	Any Location		L. Havlicek
4	100.	Big Y	Any Location	Any Location		L. Havlicek
5	55.	Texas Roadhouse	Berlin Road	Cromwell CT	06416	H. Schmidt
6	50.	Carbone's Prime	838 Cromwell Ave.	Rocky Hill CT	06067	J. Santaniello
7	50.	Deb's Restaurant	40 Saybrook Rd.	Higganum CT	06441	S. Morello
8	50.	Great Taste Chinese	597 West Main St.	New Britain CT	06053	P. Jackowski
9	50.	Illiano's Pizza #1	Any Location	Middletown CT	06457	P. Jackowski
10	50.	Illiano's Pizza #2	Any Location	Middletown CT	06457	P. Jackowski
11	50.	Illiano's Pizza #3	Any Location	Middletown CT	06457	C. Boone
12	50.	Parisian Salon #1	9 Berlin Rd.	Cromwell CT	06416	L. Havlicek
13	50.	Parisian Salon #2	9 Berlin Rd.	Cromwell CT	06416	K. Didato
14	50.	Parisian Salon #3	9 Berlin Rd.	Cromwell CT	06416	K. Didato
15	50.	R.J. Julia Wesleyan	413 Main St.	Middletown CT	06457	L. Havlicek
16	50.	Sicily Coal Fire Pizza	412 Main St.	Middletown CT	06457	L. Havlicek
17	35.	Bella-Gio Restaurant	835 West Main St.	Cheshire CT	06410	H. Schmidt
18	35.	Chick-Fil-A	1098 N. Colony Rd.	Wallingford CT	06492	L. Caraway
19	30.	George's Pizza	9 School St.	Unionville CT	06085	E. Mathews
20	30.	Vespucci's Restaurant	150 Main St.	Cheshire CT	06410	H. Schmidt

Altrusa Club News

2026 Raffle Prize List (continued)

21	25.	Amato's Toy & Hobby	395 Main St.	Middletown CT	06457	L. Havlicek
22	25.	Bella Notte Restaurant	2100 South Main St.	Middletown CT	06457	K. Didato
23	25.	Blackbird Tavern	6 Way Rd.	Middlefield CT	06455	J. Santaniello
24	25.	Brewbakers	169 Main St.	Middletown CT	06457	V. Townes
25	25.	Butcher Brothers	1410 Highland Ave.	Cheshire CT	06410	H. Schmidt
26	25.	Cava Restaurant	1615 West St.	Southington CT	06489	H. Schmidt
27	25.	Jersey Mike's	808 Washington St.	Middletown CT	06457	P. Jackowski
28	25.	Market 32	855 Washington St.	Middletown CT	06457	P. Jackowski
29	25.	Mondo Pizza	10 Main St.	Middletown CT	06457	L. Havlicek
30	25.	Neil's Donuts	211 South Main St.	Middletown CT	06457	P. Jackowski
31	25.	New Mill Restaurant #1	493 South End Rd.	Plantsville CT	06479	H. Schmidt
32	25.	New Mill Restaurant #2	493 South End Rd.	Plantsville CT	06479	H. Schmidt
33	25.	Newfield Pizza	558 Newfield St.	Middletown CT	06457	K. Didato
34	25.	Pastaio Restaurant #1	825 Saybrook Rd.	Middletown CT	06457	K. Didato
35	25.	Pastaio Restaurant #2	825 Saybrook Rd.	Middletown CT	06457	J. Santaniello
36	25.	Pocket full of Posies	386 Main St.	Middletown CT	06457	V. Townes
37	25.	Seven Moons Thai	1128 Farmington Ave.	Berlin CT	06037	J. Santaniello
38	25.	Starbucks	Any Location	Any Location		E. Paris
39	25.	Viron Rondo Osteria #1	1721 Highland Ave.	Cheshire CT	06410	H. Schmidt
40	25.	Viron Rondo Osteria #2	1721 Highland Ave.	Cheshire CT	06410	H. Schmidt
41	25.	Wild Orchid	84 Court St.	Middletown CT	06450	J. Santaniello

Did you know?

September is the only month with the exact same number of letters in its name as its numerical position on the calendar

S-E-P-T-E-M-B-E-R counts out to nine letters.

September sits as the ninth month.

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN



You've Led Your Club. Ready to Lead at the Next Level?

Your District One Nominating Committee is looking for Altrusans who are ready to step up, speak up, and make an even bigger difference!

Nominations are now being sought for **District Officers** for the upcoming biennium.

Think you need years of District experience? **Think again!**

The primary requirement for District Officer positions is simple: **you must have served as a Club President**. The exception is **Treasurer—you just need to have served as a Club Treasurer**.
Why should you consider it?

Because serving at the District level gives you the chance to:

- ★ **Expand your leadership skills** beyond your own club
- 🤝 **Build friendships and connections** with Altrusans throughout the District
- 💡 **Bring fresh ideas home** to strengthen your club
- 🔔 **Have a voice in shaping our future**
- ❤️ **Support and encourage other clubs** as they grow and serve
- 🚀 **Challenge yourself and discover what you're capable of**

And here's the secret: **You don't have to have all the answers**. You simply need a willingness to learn, collaborate, and lead.

Your experience as a Club President (or Treasurer) has already given you a foundation. **Now you have an opportunity to build on it.**

Maybe the question isn't "Am I ready?"

Maybe it's "What could I accomplish if I tried?"

Consider putting your name forward—or nominate an Altrusan you know would be a great District leader. Our District needs your ideas, your energy, and your leadership!

Message from Governor Susan...

Hello,

Would all of you please share this brief blurb with your members?

SCAM. SPAM. Whatever you want to call it. I will not ask you for money, cards, or special favors via email. I would call you if there was something or wrong. Don't open any email if it at all looks suspicious. Call me first.

Thank you.

In Service,
Susan



Altrusa International...

Why Did You Come? Why Did You Stay? 💙💛💖



The Altrusa International Leadership Committee wants to hear from YOU!

Every Altrusan has a story. Maybe you came because someone invited you. Maybe you were looking for a way to serve your community. Maybe you were simply curious about what Altrusa was all about.

But **why did you stay?** What made you feel connected? What surprised you? What friendships, experiences, or opportunities have kept you coming back?

The Leadership Committee is looking for **short testimonials—written or video—to share on Altrusa social media.**



Tell us your story!



A quick video is great—or send us a few sentences.



Be genuine. Be personal. Be YOU.

Your story might be exactly what someone needs to hear before saying, “**Maybe Altrusa is for me.**”

Why did you come? Why did you stay?

We'd love to hear your Altrusa story!

Reminder on navigating the web...

Where can you find more information about District One? <https://districtone.altrusa.org/>

Where can you find more information about Altrusa International? <https://www.altrusa.org/>

www.altrusastore.com (purchase Altrusa branded items including pins and banners)

Give International some feedback and share your thoughts on improving Altrusa with the [Suggestion Box](#). If you have forgotten your password to the site please send an e-mail to Altrusa@altrusa.org or call the International Office for assistance.

Highlights from Aug 12, 2026 Business meeting minutes (submitted by Lynne Havlicek)

General Business – Linda Ring

- Dorothy Stevens has been approved for emeritus status by the District One Board.
- Jennifer Kensel keeping up to date with our Club.
- District Nine Zoom on Saturday, August 15th. Club Financial Stewardship.

Raffle Updates – Lynne Havlicek

- Lynne is available to help anyone with their raffle donations. All gift cards are due at the
- August 29th Proteins for the Pantry event. If you are not planning to attend, please
- contact Lynne to make arrangements for pickup.

Proteins for the Pantry – Pat Jackowski

- Date: August 29, 2026, 8AM - 12 noon (set up 7:30/Delivery and clean up until 12:30)
- Location: St. Pius X Lower Lot
- Linda will send out updated flyer for increased publicity.
- Expanding this year to include Hinka's Closet and Shiloh Church.
- Xavier boys may help load trucks.
- Shift assignments – Pat will send them out.

Fundraising Reports

- Dine to Donate at Texas Roadhouse, Cromwell – Hilda Schmidt
- Dine to Donate, October 22nd, Cromwell 4:00 to 8:00pm. We can sell raffle tickets and give away books. Linda will advertise on Facebook and investigate publicizing with Chamber.
- Lights in Motion – Linda Ring
Linda's inquiry was acknowledged and will be contacted when scheduling is organized.

Grant Application for ABC program or Story Walk?

- Laurie, Hilda, Jamie and Linda – Committee. Advice and direction given by Northeast CT member Anne Rash regarding story walk. A literacy project with movement. Along a path allowing pages to be read. Usually outdoors in a park or somewhere where young children are present. Engages young readers.
- Resources – teachers, librarians.
- When – April through October, months with more foot traffic, weather is a factor.
- Desired book will have minimal printed words, illustrations that pop.
 - Motion – submit Grant request to International Foundation
 - Health and Safety Day or Story Walk
 - Linda requests that ABC committee and Story Walk committee form a plan of action together.

Membership Drive Update

Locations (Cathy Boone, Kathleen Didato, Virginia Townes, Hilda Schmidt, Linda Ring)

Cathy – There is a cost to use Hubbard Room and library closes at 8:00pm.

Linda – Wesleyan no ready to talk, may still be an option in future.

Linda – Contacted MXCC, has not yet heard back.

Linda – American Legion, has not yet heard back.

Hilda – Liberty Bank, Citizens Bank, no meeting rooms for outside use.

Hilda – YMCA, 75.00/hour fee.

Virginia -Westfield Fire District, no handicap access.

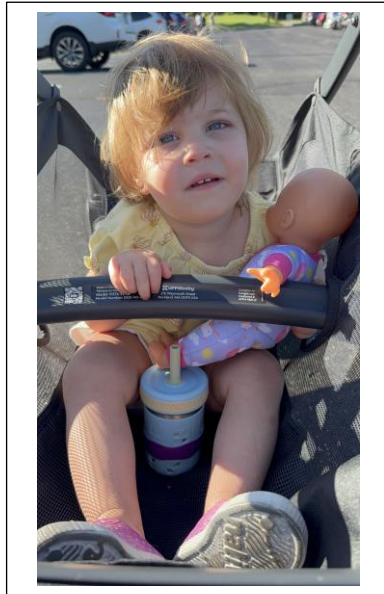
Kathleen- South Fire District, have new meeting room but we could be bumped at last minute.

Pat – Park & Rec. – no meeting place, no storage place.

Project Documentation

Please remember to review (or create) a project road map for our archives. Send updated documents to Linda.

KENNEDY'S C O R N E R



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