



The Altrusagram

Altrusa International Inc of Portland, Maine
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& follow the links to the Portland club's site

Vol. 12/13 No.4 October 2012

The 2012 - 2013 Board

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The deadline for Altrusagram articles is by end of day on the Friday after the program meeting.

a message from the President

A golden carpet lays beneath our feet as we look forward to a really busy and rewarding time!

Many thanks to the Membership Committee for presenting two diverse speakers at our first dinner meeting at the Fireside Inn. Diane Atwood and Fran Seeley were informative and entertaining as they guided us through their individual journeys in both the private and public sectors. Their stories remind us that the path doesn't always lead us where we had planned to go but if we listen to our inner selves we will end up just where we belong and will have accomplished many things along the way!

Our journey this fall as members of Altrusa will find us doing a fall clean-up in the gardens of the Barron Center, experiencing our first "Books and Breakfast" event in Westbrook and traveling to Nashua N H for our District One Fall Workshop.

As we seek to build community through our service we are also building our membership and look forward to initiating two new members in the very near future. Brittany White attended the program meeting with her grandmother and sponsor Trish Maxim and Mary Campbell planned to serve the Community Meal at St Peter's with her sponsor Sue E King!

Remember that October 24th is United Nations Day and that Eleanor Roosevelt was our first Altrusa Ambassador! A golden memory.

Anita





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Upcoming Dates

Sat, 11/3 District One Workshop
Nashua, NH

Mon, 11/5 Board Meeting
6:00pm Anita Chandler's house

Wed, 11/7 Business Meeting
6:15pm UNE Blewett Hall
Governor Elect Mary Faries attending as District visitor

Thu, 11/8 Serving Supper
4:30-7:00 St Peter's

Mon, 11/12 "Computer Get Together"
7:00pm, location TBD

No November program meeting

Happy Thanksgiving!

Sat, 12/1 "Computer Get Together"
10:00am, location TBD

Mon, 12/3 Board Meeting
6:00pm Anita Chandler's house

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Christmas Party date is December 12th
(more details to follow)

Notes from the October 3rd Business Meeting

- The club will be sending \$100 to District One for its share in the website being designed
- The 2012-2013 Yearbooks were distributed
- Brochures are completed and available for events, mailings, etc.
- A sign-up sheet was passed around for social media sessions to be taught by Katie K.
- The 2012-2013 budgets were voted on and approved.
 - The October 13th BAM event plans were discussed and sign-up sheet passed around.
- The Membership Committee has 2 speakers lined up for the Oct. program meeting.
 - The Sudan library is open!
- The new website for giving books is up & running.
- The October 27th Make A Difference Day event plans were discussed and sign-up sheet passed around.
- An ad-hoc committee was formed to review and propose changes to the Strategic Plan: Joanne D (chair), Katie K, Denise M & Marie P.

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Cancellation policy for Program Meetings: members have a standing reservation. To cancel, call Joanne Doherty (730-1479) before noon of the Monday prior to the meeting. Members who miss but do not cancel will be charged for meals that were guaranteed.

Mission Statement

Altrusa International, Inc. of Portland, Maine is a club of diverse professionals dedicated to providing service to our communities, focusing on literacy, fellowship and leadership development.

Vision Statement

Altrusa: Leaders in service, expanding leadership opportunities and providing service to communities worldwide.



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From the Finance Committee

'CLYNK' Adding Up

Our 'fill the bag' fund raiser is starting to add up. Earlier this week the balance was over \$25. We know it will continue to rise as many Portland Altrusans are still working on filling their first bag. It is surprising how many bottles and cans it takes to fill the bag!

The convenience of this program is great. You don't need to bring your empty bottles to a redemption center and put them one by one into various machines. Just 'Fill the Bag' and drop it at any local Hannafords store. Use the scanner at the doorway on the bags 'CLYNK' bar code tag to open the door and simply drop the bag down the chute. The Finance Committee will also drop off the bags for you, if you bring them to an Altrusa meeting. It can't get easier than that.

Let's continue to build our operating account fund one nickel at a time.

From the Communications Committee

Our Yearbooks have been distributed. If you did not receive yours, or if you want an additional copy @ \$5.00, please contact a member of the Committee.

Well done!

From the Finance Committee

'BAM Book Fair a Success in More Ways than One

On Saturday, October 13th, the Portland Altrusa Club manned a table at the Books-A-Million (BAM) bookstore located at the Maine Mall.

Marie Pike, Carolyn Holman, Karen Valley, Susan E King, Denise Martin, Fran Dyro and Arlene Hanson took shifts greeting people as they entered the store. They gave a quick synopsis of what Altrusa does and asked people for their help by cashing out with an Altrusa coupon. The coupon would not change the price of their purchase (unless they were planning on using their BAM membership card), and BAM would contribute a percentage to the Portland Altrusa Club.

There were other Altrusans (Ann Babbitt, Brittany White, Martha Donahue, Trish Maxim, Pam Lemieux and Anita Chandler) scheduled to participate, but due to a misunderstanding, the table had to be closed down at 5PM. This book fair was negotiated months earlier with a store manager who abruptly left BAM just the week prior to our event. We assume this was the cause of the mix up.

However, BAM is hiring a new store manager and Denise Martin plans to schedule a meeting with this person next week. Denise hopes that BAM corporate will have the amount of sales made with the coupons on October 13th tallied up, by the time she meets with the new manager.

Nevertheless, whatever the amount raised that day, I think we can still consider it a big success. Portland Altrusans were able to meet many people while they passed out the coupons and we had our Altrusa name, and posters of what we do, on display all day! That is great free publicity!

From the Social Committee

Have you marked your December calendar for the 12th? Hope so!

You are invited to celebrate an "Old Fashioned" Christmas party with us. Remember back to a time when an evening with friends, food and fun was simple and heartwarming!

There will be laughter, games and time to talk and visit!
Can't wait!!



Kids at the South Sudan library reading the books we sent to them!



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From the Communications Committee

At our last Communications Committee meeting we decided to focus on working on some computer skills with the Portland members this 2012-2013 year. Yikes! Sounds scary? (Well, it is October). But have no fear - we have members who know what they are doing and are willing to teach. Katie and Brittany are "in the know" and for starters, offerings for "computer get-togethers" will be Monday, November 12th at 7 pm and Saturday, December 1st at 10 am, to explore together: websites and Facebook and such. More info at meetings and through Katie.

From the Membership Committee

October's program meeting was hosted by the Membership committee. We were fortunate to have two very interesting speakers! Fran Seeley, a "Foster Grandparent" and one of Portland Altrusa's Volunteer of the Year recipients shared her story about coming from Ireland to America, teaching in California and then eventually landing in Maine, where she and her husband volunteered in the community. Fran spoke to us about a program called Senior Companions where volunteers assist those who cannot get out. A volunteer may shop for someone, take them to an appointment, write a letter, pay bills etc. Diane Atwood is an independent Health Communicator and blogger. Diane spoke about her careers. Her story demonstrates how women had to "push" to get into a man's world in the 70s and 80s. After graduation from X-ray school she found she wanted to work in radiology and pressed the department head to give her a job (a man's job). She moved on from that to being a health reporter on a local television station and then on to Mercy Hospital as a marketing executive. All of these positions helped form her own consulting company.

Stay tuned there are two new Altrusans in the Portland Club which means an initiation is coming. Welcome Mary Campbell and Brittany White!

Make A Difference Day, October 27th

We invited around 200 Westbrook first graders and home-schoolers with their parents to the Westbrook Community Center Saturday morning to hear a story, make a book mark, eat breakfast and choose a book to take home for their very own. While the attendance was a lot lighter than we had hoped everyone who did attend had fun! Thank you to the Westbrook/Gorham Rotary, Mr. Bagel & the Sacarappa PTO for their help with this project. Also thank you to all the Altrusans who participated!





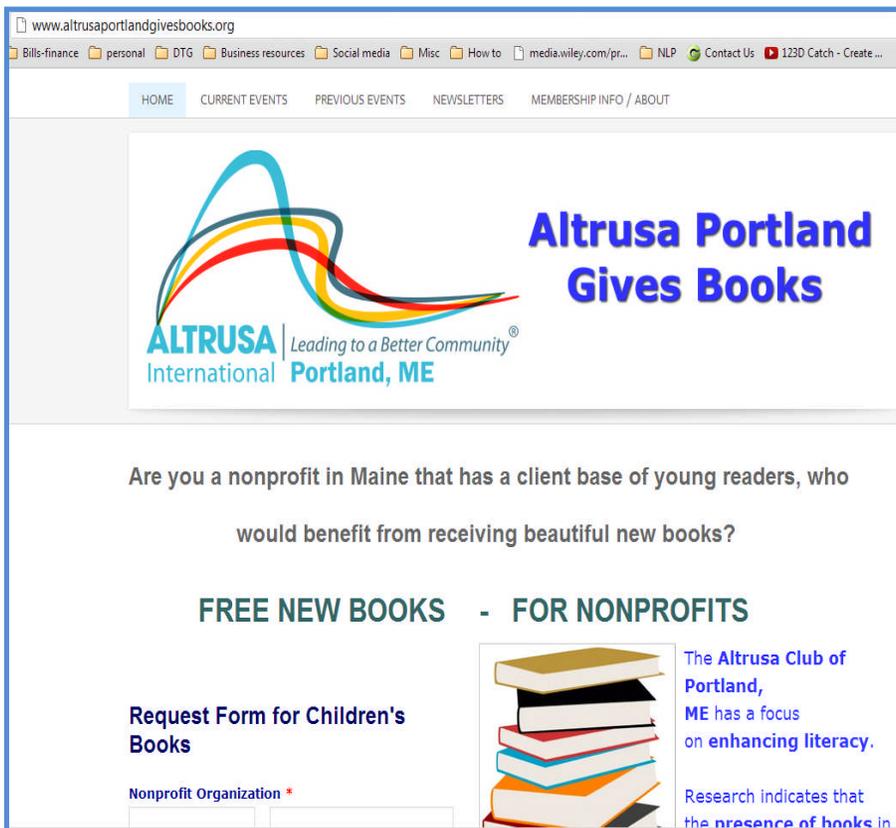
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Two wonderful speakers made the October 17th program meeting a not-to-be-missed night. Diane Atwood (left) regaled us with the varied and eventful path her life has taken and her "list of 65". Fran Seeley (right), another woman with an eventful life, shared with us her passion for the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion programs. A big thank-you to them both for entertaining and inspiring us. And thank you to the Membership Committee for planning such a great evening.



- Have you visited the new website yet?!! If so then you know that:
- a) the address is www.AltrusaPortlandGivesBooks.org, which you can send any interested outside parties to visit, for requesting books or for information on the club
 - b) the tabs across the top include info on Current Events, Previous Events, links to Newsletters, and membership info, and
 - c) you can have any info you want included on the website added at anytime, simply by contacting Denise with an easy email or phone call.



The Service committee asks that all requests for books be handled through this process. Please encourage nonprofits to use it and please use it yourselves. We are monitoring the site regularly and are trying to coordinate all requests with our existing inventory and known commitments.

We think this will be a much better method, but it needs everyone agreeing to use it. No books should be taken from our inventory that have not gone through this procedure. Thanks for your help making this process work for us!



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The Buzz

By Joanne Doherty

We heard the goslings honking, so much news so little space. (Editor?) **Pam Lemieux's** brother **Ron** honked the loudest when there was NO Buzz. Altrusans, as usual, had a busy Summer and Fall. **Arlene Hanson** won her age division in the Beach to Beacon Road Race. Babies were born. **Bev Knudsen** has a new great granddaughter, **Pam Lemieux** has a great grand- nephew and **Denise** and **Mike Martin** are first time grandparents with the birth of granddaughter **Maddox Martin**. **Karen Valley** also has a new granddaughter, a little Irish **Rose**.

Altrusans, **Marie Pike**, **Arlene Hanson**, **Carolyn Holman**, **Denise Martin**, **Anita Chandler**, **Martha Donahue**, **Trish Maxim** and **Susan F King** joined **Joanne Doherty** and **Pam Lemieux** at the club's annual retreat at Camp Altrusa on Sebago Lake. Camp Naples was open all season, although eight of the nine grandchildren have grown up and gone on to other activities. Director **Trish Maxim** entertained her sister, **Jane Anton**, who stayed **ten weeks** and brought her two sons & six grandchildren for most of July and another friend or two in August. **Ann Babbitt** was an assistant at **Deb Smith's** annual summer program, the *Not Too Late Basketball Camp*. **Martha Gross**, husband **Ray** and dog **Tag** spent the 4th of July week on Sebago lake where they entertained family and friends. **Martha** taught her grandson to paddle a canoe. **Rae Clark-McGrath** had shoulder surgery recently and is mending very well. In fact, she is off to the warm part of Texas for the next few months. **Pam Szalajeski** is also recovering nicely after a little repair surgery. **Judith** and **Ed Reidman** have been to Florida visiting family. **Marie Pike** and husband **John Manderino** spent time visiting his family in Chicago. They even fit in a side trip to a lake in Michigan. **Pam Lemieux** and **Joanne Doherty** spent a working vacation at **Pam's** Florida home. **Joanne** had lots of company over the summer. Her sisters-in-law, **Mary Usher** and **Liz Black** along with **Mary's** husband **Charlie** spent several weeks at the lake with the **Dohertys**. **Joanne's** brother **Mike McDonough** and his wife **Thea** flew in from Arizona for ten days.

Theresa Mancini and husband **Lew Smith** flew off to Las Vegas for a few days with friends. **Marcia Marley** spent a few days in Bangor recently. **Anita Chandler**, **Martha Donahue** and **Trish Maxim** did the fall cleanup in the Altrusa garden at the Barron Center in Portland. **Katie Klein** has been giving computer lessons to the non techie Altrusans. **Katie** also did a wonderful job developing the Portland club's new website. The season's first two book clubs were held at **Denise Martin's** and **Marie Pike's** homes. As usual the conversations were lively and the food delicious. **Bev Knudsen**, **Anita Chandler**, **Martha Donahue**, our friends **Mary Baumer** and **Rhonda Gioia** joined **Joanne Doherty**, **Marcia Marley**, **Marie Pike**, **Trish Maxim** (**Denise's** sous chef), **Pam Lemieux** and former Altrusan **Jeannine Wilson** in the discussion. The **Steve Jobs** biography was hosted at **Marie Pike's** where her chef was **Rhonda Gioia**. (Join the book club – maybe someone will come to your house and COOK.) **Mary Baumer**, **Martha Donahue**, **Anita Chandler**, **Joanne Doherty**, **Pam Lemieux**, **Denise Martin** and **Trish Maxim** shared their opinions of **Jobs** and his life. Some of the book clubbers didn't really care for the book and others said, If not for the book club, I would not have read this book and I really liked it.

We are beginning to think we must resurrect the Milk Carton missing persons campaign. **Fran Dyro**, we heard you made it to the BAM Book Bash but you need to show up more often; and **Heather Poole**, you are the top candidate!! Look for your faces in the dairy case of the area grocery stores.

Stay well, Love, Mother Goose

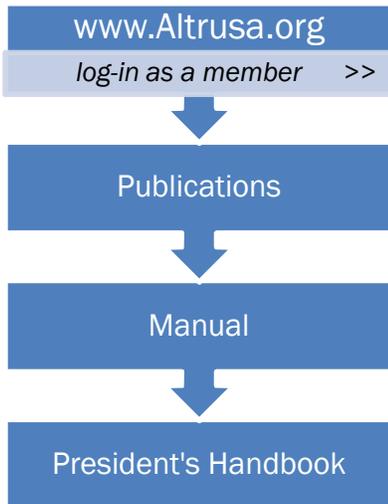


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Altrusa is an international non-profit organization, making our local communities better through leadership, partnership, and service. We are civic-minded people who strive to create better communities worldwide.

A wonderful resource at a click of the keys!

The Presidents Handbook - which is not just for Presidents - is available on line and is full of valuable information covering every gamut of Altrusa. Everyone should take a look. It's a HUGE document, so scan the index for areas of interest to you:



if you don't know your password go to the member login screen, enter your email on file with international and, and they will send you your password.

It's not too late to join friends in the fun at the DISTRICT ONE WORKSHOP 2012

at the COURTYARD AT MARRIOTT
in Nashua, NH on Saturday, Nov. 3rd.
(Details are in the most recent DSB or last month's Altrusagram.)

Note: registrations starts at 8:30, not 8:00 as previously published. So another 1/2 hour to sleep n before hitting the road! Car pooling is available. Ask Pam Lemieux or Sue E King.

Don't forget to "like" Portland Altrusa on Facebook. Look for other Altrusa clubs and "like" them too!



Carolyn H - 11/17
Arlene H - 11/23
Enjoy your day!

Next BOOK CLUB meeting is Tuesday, Nov 27th at Joanne Doherty's home.
We're discussing The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel by Deborah Moggach.
Everyone is welcome.

Future District & International Events

- >>>>> District One Workshop - November 3, 2012 - Nashua, NH <<<<<<<
- District One Conference - April 25-28, 2013 - Bangor, ME
- International Convention - July 26-29, 2013 - Rotorua, New Zealand
- District One Conference - April 23-27, 2014 - Bermuda