



The Altrusagram

Altrusa International Inc of Portland, Maine
PO Box 8834
Portland, ME 04104 USA

www.altrusadistrict1.com

& follow the links to the Portland club's site, or

www.altrusaportlandgivesbooks.org

September 2015

The 2015 - 2016 Board

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Message from President Pam:

Welcome back everyone!

I hope you all had a great summer and found ways to enjoy the beautiful weather we were blessed with this year.

It was so nice to see everyone at the September Business Meeting at our new location at the Keller Williams Training Center located on Congress St, Portland. Thank you Judith for making arrangements for us to use this great space.

The September Program Meeting at the Fireside Inn was also well attended. The meal was delicious (Fireside does such a good job on Haddock dinners!) and the Guest Speaker, James Tasse, Assistant Director of the Maine Bike Coalition, was very informative. Jim gave us a lot to consider when we are approaching bicyclists on the roadway. He explained the rules of the road and cautioned all of us to guard against being distracted drivers. The consequences of our actions can be life changing! We can thank Anita, and her Service Committee, for this program.

The guest speaker ties into a new community service project the committee is undertaking this year. Altrusa will be sponsoring an essay contest at 3 local high schools. The topic of the essay needs to be about bringing awareness to the problem of distracted driving. The best essayist at each school will receive a \$100 award. One of the judges will be our guest speaker, Jim Tasse. It is hoped this essay contest will raise awareness with new high school age drivers, and perhaps with a little publicity we can expand on that awareness.

Distracted driving is a growing problem. It hit too close to home for the Portland Altrusa Club. This past June, Joanne Doherty's daughter, Andrea (our long time Altrusa 'guest member'), was hit by a distracted driver while on her bicycle, and three months later she is still not fully recovered (but the prognosis is very good!). Also in August, we received word that Patrick, a team leader of a Bike and Build group. He had been killed by a distracted driver in Oklahoma. We were lucky to meet Patrick and his team, just a couple of months earlier at our June Program Meeting, just as they were starting their trek across the United States biking and building at various Habitat Projects along the way. Raising awareness of distracted driving is sure to be a key focus area for our Service Committee going forward.

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Upcoming Dates

Tues, 9/29 Board Meeting
6:15 Pam Lemieux's

Wed, 10/7 Business Meeting
6:15 Clarion Hotel

Thu, 10/8 Serving Supper
4:30-7:00 St Peter's

Sat, 10/10 Empty Bowl event
4:00-7:00 Woodford's
Congregational

Wed, 10/21 Program Meeting
6:15 Fireside Inn
Exit 48

Tues, 10/27 Board Meeting
6:15 Pam Lemieux's

Saturday, November 7th
District Workshop
Rockland, MA

Vision Statement

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

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.

In addition, we are kicking off two major projects this month. First, every Portland Altrusan is asked to get a prize for the Altrusa Calendar Raffle. We are under a deadline to get the calendar pulled together to be available to sell at the Empty Bowl Supper. If you can't physically, get your prize to me before September 30th, please send me an e-mail telling me what the prize is. Our next major project is the Empty Bowl Supper on October 10th from 5PM-7PM, at Woodfords Church Hall, Portland. Based on the signup sheet, we will have a great variety of yummy soups and desserts available for the attendees. However, we are still in need of soup bowls. If you have any to contribute, let Pam know. If you haven't signed up for a soup and/or dessert, contact Marie.

Another big date that is fast approaching is the District One Workshop being held at the Rockland, Mass, golf course on Saturday, November 7th. To see what will be covered at the workshop, check out the recent District Service Bulletin (DSB) that you received by e-mail. I'd love to see a large contingent of Portland Altrusans attend this event. Registration is only \$35.00 if you send it in by October 15th. It is a one day event, so if you get an early start, you can do it all in one day, with no need to pay for an overnight stay. Get a group of Portland Altrusans together for a car pool, and make a day of it. Road trip anyone?

Finally, it is with a sad heart we say good bye to two longtime Portland Altrusans, Martie Tompkins (37 years) and Marion McDonald (33 years). Martie was an emeritus member at the time of her death on July 2, 2015. However, it wasn't that long ago she was attending meetings and volunteering on projects both within Altrusa and outside Altrusa. She was a gifted craftsman, producing many fine ceramics that many of us are lucky to own today. We will all miss her upbeat spirit and smiling face.

Our other great loss was Marion, who was still an active member of Altrusa when she died on August 27th. Marion had a quiet way about her. However, she touched so many people with her constant words of encouragement and support. In fact, she supported Altrusa by being the gatekeeper on reminding members to wear their pins, or be fined! No one every begrudged paying the fine, which Marion collected as seed money for the operating account. Both Martie and Marion lived full productive lives and were well loved by many people. They will be missed by all who knew them. Thankfully we have many cherished memories of both of these outstanding women.

Pam

"The song is ended, but the melody lingers on..."

Irving Berlin

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Altrusans working in the Altrusa garden at the Barron Center on a recent September day.

from the SERVICE COMMITTEE

Thank you to all the Altrusans who brought gently-used books for our Literacy project. The 95 books were delivered by Arlene Hanson to the Cumberland County and Windham Correctional Facilities librarians.



also from the MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership committee has been given the task this year of collecting 'Pin Money' (25¢ for each missing Altrusa pin or name tag). The newest member of our committee, Katie Klein, has offered to assume that task. So wear your pins or pay up!

from the MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

There's nothing like good programs & interesting business meetings to help boost membership. Thank you, Anita, for an excellent program by Jim Tasse on "Distracted Driving".

And thank you, Fran Breton, for having a guest there. Fran introduced Sue Ellen Crawford, a resident of Falmouth who spends many hours volunteering -- at Cathedral's soup kitchen and other activities. We hope she is a prospective member for us.

Having such a great turnout of our members at our meetings is also helpful in boosting membership. Thank you, all 24 of you, for your attendance. It is especially great to see Theresa Mancini back amongst us. She is a member of our Membership committee, as is Sue E. King, who is home recuperating from surgery and loving all the cards & messages you've sent her. Our special love & prayers to them both.

Altrusans are strong, caring women!

from the FINANCE COMMITTEE

Please be sure to get all prizes for the Calendar raffle to Pam Lemieux by the end of the month. She will be putting it together so that we can start selling it at the Empty Bowl event on October 10th. Sales will go through December and prizes will be drawn in January.



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Start your Soups!!

On October 10th Altrusa of Portland will once again be serving soups and desserts at our Empty Bowl project. All funds raised will go to Project FEED to help those in our communities who face empty bowls on their tables.

Invite your families and friends to come enjoy the meal for just \$10 per person.



A sign-up sheet was passed around at the last two meetings. If you did not have a chance to sign up please let Marie Pike know. We have enough soups (since we're limited by space as to how many we can have) but could still use desserts and other supplies. Plus there's still plenty of things for people to do at the event.

Invite potential members to participate with us.

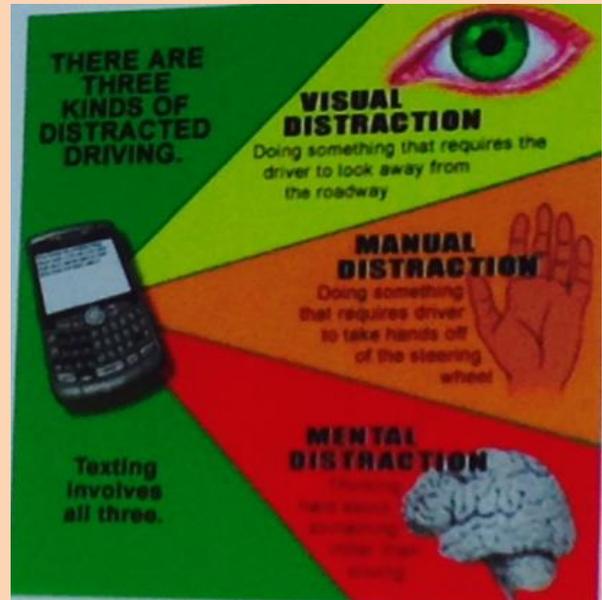
Jim Tasse, Assistant Director of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine, spoke at our September 16th program meeting at the Fireside Inn. The Bicycle Coalition's mission is to make Maine better for bicycling and walking. Towards that end they work on infrastructure, advocacy, and education.

Jim shared many sobering statistics regarding the hazards of bicycling and walking on Maine streets. He also shared the many things that can be done to improve the situation.



Jim will serve as one of the three judges in our Distracted Driving project. We will be holding an essay contest among high school students regarding distracted driving. We decided to adopt this project as a response to the recent accident involving our "perennial guest" Andrea Doherty, who was hit by a distracted driver, and the death of Build & Bike team leader Patrick Wanninkhof (see the August Altrusagram).

Let's all vow to drive responsibly, always paying attention.



To learn more about the Bicycle Coalition of Maine go to www.bikemaine.org



The Altrusagram

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.

Marion McDonald, RIP

We have lost another treasure. Marion could always be counted on to be the voice of wisdom and kindness, with a warm and sincere word and always a great sense of humor!

Marion was an active Altrusan from 1982 until her death. She served as club President in 1989-1990. She traveled to many workshops and conferences with her Altrusa buddy Caroline Cobb. In addition to Altrusa, Marion was active in many community organizations and loved being a bellringer in her church group. Marion will be truly missed.



A reminder - The 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.

DISTRICT ONE ALTRUSA WORKSHOP 2015

“Back to the Future with Altrusa”

November 7, 2015
9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Sponsored by Altrusa International of Plymouth County
Rockland Golf Club
276 Plain Street, Rockland, MA 02370

Early Bird Registration - \$35.00 (postmarked by October 15, 2015)
Regular Registration - \$40.00 (postmarked after October 15, 2015)

Hotel Suggestions – Comfort Inn

850 Hingham Street, Rockland, MA 02370 tele: 781-982-1000

Cut-off date for Comfort Inn reservations is Tuesday, October 6th. Within a few hundred yards of the Comfort Inn, is a Holiday Inn and a Best Western, but we have no “deal” with them.

See the recent DSB for more information and a schedule of the sessions planned. Looks to be a wonderful Workshop. Let's do a road trip!! Sign up soon!!

The deadline for Altrusagram articles is by end of day on the Friday after the program meeting - please be helpful by keeping to the deadline. (Earlier submissions are, of course, welcome!)

Please send articles, pictures, dates of upcoming events, etc... to the editor Marie Pike at pikerino2@aol.com

Future District & International Events

District One Workshop - Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015 - Rockland, MA

District One Conference April 2016 - North Conway, NH

District One Workshop - November 2016 - to be hosted by Altrusa of Greater Hartford

International Convention - July 21 - 24, 2017 - Nashville, TN