



The Altrusagram

Altrusa International Foundation of Portland, Maine, Inc.

PO Box 8834

Portland, ME 04104 USA

www.altrusadistrict1.com

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

www.altrusaportlandgivesbooks.org

December 2015



Upcoming Dates

Tue, 12/29 Board Meeting
6:00 Pam Lemieux's

**Happy New
Year!!**

Wed, 1/6 Business Meeting
6:15 Clarion Hotel
(mid-year reports are due)

Thu, 1/14 Serving Supper
4:30-7:00 St Peter's

Wed, 1/20 Program Meeting
6:15 Fireside Inn

Tue, 1/26 Board Meeting
6:00 Pam Lemieux's

Wed, 2/3 Business Meeting
6:15 Clarion Hotel

Thu, 2/11 Serving Supper
4:30-7:00 St Peter's

Wed, 2/17 Program Meeting
6:15 Fireside Inn

&

Sun, 2/21/16

Chili Chowder
Challenge!

Message from President Pam:

What a wonderful Christmas Party we had at Judith's house. Judith was the Hostess with the Mostest! (Is that a word? Perhaps not, but you get my drift.) Susan F was a great entertainment director. We were entertained with games suitable for 'second graders' and 'Altrusans who are young at heart!' The Yankee Swap of Christmas Ornaments was such fun. I asked for you all to put away the desire 'to not hurt anyone's feelings' and for a change of pace 'go for the jugular' and 'take care of number one, i.e., YOU'. I realized it was a very difficult request for many of you, but I appreciate the gung-ho spirit you exhibited during the swap. It was truly a lot of fun and there were a lot of laughs! No one's feelings were hurt, in fact, I suspect just the opposite! And of course we can't talk about an Altrusa get together without mentioning the food. What is an Altrusa event without plenty of delicious food? Anita's Southwestern Soup was a hit (and it is healthy too!) and for dessert Marie made some brownies 'stuffed with peppermint patties'. How apropos and so nicely decadent! The evening was truly enjoyable and a perfect way to 'kick off the season'. Yes, I said 'kick off'. Some of us are a little slower getting into the Christmas Spirit.

This Holiday is known as a time of giving. We all are contacted by our favorite charities and encouraged to give a little more before the year ends. This year's Altrusa Christmas Party was a lot of fun, but we also used the occasion to give. At the end of the evening, bags and bags of nonperishable food items were loaded into Anita's car to be dropped off at the Wayside Food Pantry. This is the same project we did last year. Two years in row! It looks like we have a new Holiday Tradition.

I encourage you to continue giving all through this magical season. Give love and support to your family and friends, give donations to your favorite charities and of course give presents to people who are important in your life.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Pam

"It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air."
- W.T. Ellis

The Altrusagram

The 2015 - 2016 Board

President: Pam Lemieux
pamela.lemieux@myfairpoint.net

Vice President: Pamela Szalajeski
pam.szal@maine.rr.com

Secretary: Patricia Maxim
campnaples@fairpoint.net

Treasurer: Marie Pike
pikerino2@aol.com

Director: Karen Valley
book1babe@gmail.com

Director: Geraldine Dongo
gdongo1@maine.rr.com

Immed. Past Pres. Anita Chandler
achandler@maine.rr.com

Parliamentarian: Judith Reidman
jreidman@maine.rr.com

Committee Chairpersons

Communications: Marcia Marley
mmarley@maine.rr.com

Finance: Marie Pike
pikerino2@aol.com

Membership: Martha Gross
sfsp2005@yahoo.com

Service: Anita Chandler
achandler@maine.rr.com

Social: Sue E King
suelou1996@hotmail.com

The Portland Altrusans extend a huge thank you to everyone at Books-A-Million and their customers for once again partnering with us in our efforts to promote literacy and get books into the community.

As they have in past years, the management at BAM chose us to be the recipient of the holiday book drive. Thanks to the efforts of the staff at BAM and their generous customers we will be well-stocked for the coming year. Exact figures will be published later.

In addition to our own service projects, we partner with other organizations who request books at our www.AltrusaPortlandgivesbooks.org website. Be sure to share this site if you know of a nonprofit organization that needs books.



pictured at BAM above are Anita Chandler, Rae Clark-McGrath and Susan F King. Thank you to all the Altrusans who covered the table explaining Altrusa to the BAM customers and thanks to the members who faithfully picked up the books each week to take to our storage.

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

The Altrusagram

It's All About the Service!

What a great Christmas party, our very generous members collected 151 pounds of food for the Wayside Food Programs. The food was delivered Thursday morning before Martha Donahue and Anita Chandler stood just inside Whole Foods helping at the Wayside Food Drive.

Seen promoting our literacy programs and picking up books at Books A Million this past month were Ann Babbitt, Anita, Rae Clark-McGrath, Martha D, Gerry Dongo, Nicky Griffin, Martha Gross, Susan F King, Katie Klein, Pam Lemieux, Marie Pike, Judith Reidman, Pam Szalajeski, Karen Valley and Sarah Weeks. The store personnel, who are so great to all of us, added that our presence on site really helps add to the collection of books!

The 300 plus books that were wrapped by all of us in December were distributed to Wayside's children's supper programs at East End and Reiche Schools and at the Boys and Girls Club parties at Riverton and Sagamore Villages. There were many unsolicited promises made to read during school vacation!

Martha G and Anita visited Kaler School to present our last fall A B C Program to happy kindergarteners. These great listeners and their teachers were delighted with the terrific selection of books.

On a very busy December 10th, Fran Breton, Anita, Martha D, Gerry, Theresa Mancini and Lew Smith helped to serve the community meal at St Peter's and Anita and Marie went on to present the Empty Bowl check to the Board of Directors at Project FEED. It was wonderful to be able to share the background of Empty Bowl with them and to hear how very much Project FEED values our event.

Brittany White announced that Verizon Wireless has once again provided Altrusa with a gift based on her community service. A great reminder that many corporations honor their employees for service to their communities, does yours?

With so much happening, we hope that no ones name has been left off our list!

Community Service Committee



Reading to children at an ABC visit recently: Mary Jo DiBenedetto and Martha Gross.

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that Wanda Pettersen has applied to become a member.

Wanda lives in Windham and is retired from the Cumberland County Government, where she was the Director of Human Resources. Wanda was at our November program meeting and the Christmas party. If you haven't had a chance to speak with her yet be sure to introduce yourself at the next meeting.

We have been very fortunate recently adding new members and others interested in our group. If you are sending out a group email please be sure your email list is up to date and includes everyone. If you're not sure, you can always keep the email this newsletter came with and just reply to all and change the subject.

If you know of someone who would like to get our newsletters please give that name and email address to Marie Pike and she'll add it to our "Friends of Altrusa" mailing list.

Members stayed after the December 2nd business meeting to finish wrapping over 300 books in holiday paper. A label was placed in each book and a colored dot on the back of the package indicated the reading level. The books were given to children at Wayside's children's supper programs at East End and Reiche Schools and at the Boys and Girls Club parties at Riverton and Sagamore Villages.

Wrapping it Up!



The Chili Chowder Challenge is coming soon!! This is our biggest fundraiser and we need everyone to be promoting the event to friends, work colleagues, on social media... Let's break our attendance



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

A reminder of the cancellation policy for Program Meetings: members have a standing reservation and must cancel if not attending. 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.

Altrusa International Inc. of Portland, Maine Calendar Raffle

January 2016

last few days to sell,
sell, sell those raffle
calendars!!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Each Raffle Entry is ONLY \$10 All Raffle Entries are eligible for EVERY daily drawing. 31 chances to win CASH and PRIZES!! <i>All proceeds from this raffle will be used to fund the annual vocational and educational scholarships, our many literacy focused projects, and the several community programs sponsored by our club.</i> The Portland Altrusa Club appreciates your support.</p>					<p>1 Willow's <i>Pizza & Restaurant</i> \$25 Gift Certificate</p>	<p>2 \$100</p>
<p>3 Zachery's Restaurant <i>at Fireside Inn & Suites</i> \$25 Gift Certificate</p>	<p>4 Skillin's Greenhouses \$25 Gift Certificate</p>	<p>5 Nonesuch book store \$25 Gift Certificate</p>	<p>6 Amazon \$25 Gift Card</p>	<p>7 L.L. Bean \$25 Gift Card</p>	<p>8 Shaw's Supermarket \$25 Gift Certificate</p>	<p>9 \$50</p>
<p>10 Ticketmaster \$25 Gift Card</p>	<p>11 Broadway Gardens Greenhouse \$25 Gift Certificate</p>	<p>12 Nicki Griffin Master Gardener 3 hour session planning, planting, and/or weeding \$90 Value</p>	<p>13 \$100</p>	<p>14 BAM \$25 Gift Certificate</p>	<p>15 Haven's Candies \$25 Gift Certificate</p>	<p>16 <i>2 preview tickets</i> Chili Chowder Challenge \$70 Value</p>
<p>17 \$50</p>	<p>18 Amazon \$25 Gift Card</p>	<p>19 Willow's Pizza & Restaurant \$25 Gift Certificate</p>	<p>20 Nonesuch book store \$25 Gift Certificate</p>	<p>21 \$50</p>	<p>22 Skillin's Greenhouses \$25 Gift Certificate</p>	<p>23 DiMillo's Floating Restaurant \$25 Gift Certificate</p>
<p>24 <i>2 preview tickets</i> Chili Chowder Challenge \$70 Value</p>	<p>25 \$100</p>	<p>26 Amatos \$25 Gift Certificate</p>	<p>27 Hannaford's Supermarket \$25 Gift Certificate</p>	<p>28 Olive Garden \$50 Gift Certificate</p>	<p>29 <i>Scratch Bakery</i> \$20 Gift Card & Nonesuch book store \$25 Gift Certificate</p>	<p>30 \$50</p>
<p>31 <i>Night at</i> Holiday Inn <i>By The Bay</i> Museum or Symphony Tickets & Breakfast for 2 \$480 Value</p>	<p>To enter the raffle, cut off the stub on the side of this calendar, fill it out with your information and mail it to Altrusa, P.O. Box 8834, Portland, Maine 04104, with a \$10 check, payable to Altrusa of Portland Maine, or you can save the cost of a stamp and give it directly to a Portland Altrusan.</p>					

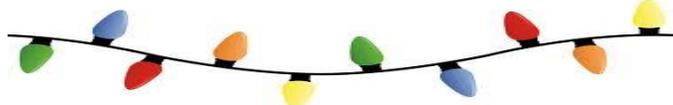
ALTRUSA OF
PORTLAND,
MAINE
Calendar Raffle
2016

TEL #:		
		PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY
		ZIP CODE:
		STATE:
NAME:	ADDRESS:	CITY:

Merry Christmas!



Best Wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Special thanks to the Social Committee (and its helpers) for a lively Christmas party and to Judith Reidman for hosting us at her lovely home.



Future District & International Events

District One Conference April 29 - May 1, 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