



# The Altrusagram

Altrusa International Foundation of Portland, Maine, Inc.

PO Box 8834

Portland, ME 04104 USA

[www.altrusadistrict1.com](http://www.altrusadistrict1.com)

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

[www.altrusaportlandgivesbooks.org](http://www.altrusaportlandgivesbooks.org)

June 2016



## Upcoming Dates

**Mon, 6/27** Summer Success Program starts, going through August 17th on Monday & Wednesdays 12:00noon-1:30pm Front Street Housing

**Sun, 7/31** Committee Budgets are due to the Finance Committee

**Sun, 7/31 to Sat, 8/27** Books-A-Million Summer Book Drive  
BAM will be donating books to us again!

*Look for more summer dates shared by email including a summer social outing!*

**Tue, 8/30**  
Board Meeting 6:00  
Otis Atwell office

**Wed, 9/7**  
Business Meeting 6:15  
Clarion Hotel

## from the President

The June 15th potluck dinner was certainly a fantastic way to end the season with a bang! What a privilege to get to know the five young leaders from the Bike & Build organization. Their commitment to the Bike & Build mission and the country-wide community of Habitat for Humanity building is inspiring. I see future Altrusans there, don't you?

And speaking of future Altrusans, how satisfying it was to formally initiate Mary Jo and Carol into the club, to have them join us in our commitment to our communities. We've already seen them in action at events and meetings and now look forward to working with them more and getting to know them even better.

Even though we take a break for two months now from our business and program meetings, there's still plenty of opportunity to enjoy Altrusa. Committees will need to meet to plan their activities for the year ahead and put together their budgets for the Finance committee. Our service projects go on: see Anita's message in these pages for upcoming opportunities, plus she'll be sending emails to us all with additional ones as they evolve. And let's plan a summer outing for sometime in August. Email anyone on the Social committee if you have an idea for something fun.

But now's also the time for us to commit to ourselves: to relax, rejuvenate and refresh so that we come back in September ready to roll. Explore the wonderful area we live in with our family, friends, or even special time with just yourself.

Enjoy your summer,

*Marie*

*"Summer afternoon—summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language." Henry James*



**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.

**The 2016 - 2017 Board**

President: : Marie Pike  
*pikerino2@aol.com*

Vice President: Geraldine Dongo  
*gdongo1@maine.rr.com*

Secretary: Fran Breton  
*frb3282@hotmail.com*

Treasurer: Wanda Pettersen  
*kettlecove\_6@msn.com*

Director: Karen Valley  
*book1babe@gmail.com*

Director: Sarah Weeks  
*nightingaleflo@yahoo.com*

Immed. Past President: Pam Lemieux  
*pamela.lemieux@myfairpoint.net*

Parliamentarian: Judith Reidman  
*jreidman@maine.rr.com*

**Committee Chairpersons**

Communications: Gerry Dongo  
*gdongo1@maine.rr.com*  
 and Karen Valley  
*book1babe@gmail.com*

Finance: Pam Lemieux  
*pamela.lemieux@myfairpoint.net*

Membership: Patricia Maxim  
*campnaples@fairpoint.net*

Service: Anita Chandler  
*achandler@maine.rr.com*

Social: Marie Pike  
*pikerino2@aol.com*

**2016 -2017 COMMITTEES**



**SERVICE**

- Anita C \*
- Arlene H
- Bonnie C
- Carol S
- Martha G
- Martha D
- Mary Jo D
- Nicki G
- Pam S
- Rae C-M
- Sarah L
- Susan FK



**MEMBERSHIP**

- Bev K
- Fran B
- Fran D
- Katie K
- Pam L
- Patricia M \*
- Theresa M

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- Ann B
- Brittany W
- Gerry D \*
- Karen V \*
- Marie P



**FINANCE**

- Anita C
- Judith R
- Marcia M
- Pam L \*
- Wanda P



**SOCIAL**

- Carolyn H
- Joanne D
- Marie P \*
- Sarah W
- Sue EK



## June 15th Program Meeting

### From the Membership Committee

Our current Yearbook shows that our Portland Altrusa club began the 2015/2016 year with 29 members. Then -- thanks to the addition of:

Sue Ellen Crawford  
Carol Spector  
Wanda Pettersen  
Mary Jo DiBenedetto

we ended the year with 33 members. However the attrition that haunts us every year has caused us to start the 2016/2017 year with 30 members due to the loss of:

Marion McDonald  
Sue Ellen Spector  
Mary Campbell

as members. We are sorry to lose each of them.

But the good news is that we are already beginning to build again. Bonnie Chappell has submitted an 'Application for Membership'. Most of you first met Bonnie at our Membership Drive in November and then again this past Wednesday (6/15) at our Pot Luck supper for the "Bike & Build" leaders. (In between those dates Bonnie spent the winter in Hilton Head. She is back in Maine now and ready to 'go to work' for Altrusa.) Please keep her involved.

Bonnie lives at 53 Cole Street, South Portland.  
Cell: 603-504-4467;  
Email: [marybonniec@gmail.com](mailto:marybonniec@gmail.com) .

Bonnie retired a year ago from Human Resources management at a home health services/hospice in New Hampshire. She becomes the 4th new member from the group of 5 guests that we had at our 11/18 Membership Drive.

My thanks to all of you who attended that meeting so our guests could see first hand the vitality of our club and hear of the good work that we do. Please keep introducing yourselves and getting to know them.

I hope each of you will attend our ORIENTATION this summer - date and location to be determined. (I'm thinking mid to late August.)

~Trish



left to right: Mary Jo D, Anita C, Carol S, Trish M, Martha G

### From the Service Committee

Our last meeting of the spring was a terrific pot luck dinner at St Peter's with the leadership team from Bike and Build; they were really delighted with the great food and conversation. This is such fun that it doesn't seem like a service project, but we provide them with one of their meals!

We also were able to hear that Bridget is, at last, recovering from her injuries (including nine surgeries) from the accident last summer that took the life of Patrick.



The winning essay from the Distracted Driving Contest, submitted by Bryant Peterson, a junior at Portland High was read. Bryant will receive the \$100 prize.

to follow "our" group as they ride, go to  
<http://bikeandbuild.org/route/maine-to-santa-barbara/>



### **the Books We Gave...**

WOW! President Marie asked me to tally the number of books that we distributed in the 2015-2016 Altrusa year.

**The total was an astounding 2540 new books in the hands and homes of young readers!**

The books were given at:

Summer Success programs

A B C

Books and Bears

Head Start programs

Christmas giving at the Boys and Girls Clubs

The Root Cellar

The Foster Grandparent Program

Wayside Meal Programs

and to various organizations through our website

*Altrusaportlandgivesbooks.org.*

### **and for the Books We Will Give...**

Thank you, Westbrook Library!

Shelving donated by Westbrook Library has been delivered and installed at Portland Public School's Waldron Way facility where we store our books until distribution.

Many thanks also go to Steve Breton (Fran's husband) and Barb and John Lemieux, (Pam's brother and sister-in-law) who joined Anita Chandler, Mary Jo DiBenedetto, Martha Donahue, and Pam L in picking the bookcases up. We left Gerry Dongo at the warehouse labeling books for the Summer Success program!

Anita, Martha and Pam returned to Waldron Way two days later to assemble and wipe down the shelves that are now waiting for books! Another big thanks for their ongoing assistance goes to everyone at Portland Schools Nutrition Program, they are always there for us!

### **And other Service Committee news...**

The Connie Morton Scholarship was awarded at Casco Bay High School and Pam Lemieux presented the Mary Stiles scholarship at Deering High School. The Alice Whittier was presented the previous month. All three college scholarships have also been sent (SMCC, UNE & USM) and we will be informed by the schools who the recipients are once they've been awarded.

Attending the Summer Reader Volunteer Training for Starting Strong, Portland ConnectED's summer program were Anita, Pam L, Sarah Labonte and Judy Howes (from St Peter's).

Our program runs from June 27 until August 17. We'll be at Front Street Housing on Mondays and Wednesdays between 12:00 and 1:30. This is a Low Barrier Reading Program; we will bring books to the meal sites to read to or with children and let them take the books home later. We will also provide "at home" reading engagement ideas.

This program is designed to provide a nutritious meal and to prevent "summer slide" a serious learning loss to children in the early grades that lack the opportunity to read and learn at home.

The service committee will be sending out requests to help shelve and sticker our boxed books during the next few weeks. This really is more fun than work, an opportunity to better know your Altrusa sisters in a non- stressful setting!

*~Anita*



**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.**

**INTERNATIONAL'S CHALLENGE FOR 2016/2017 for the 100th ANNIVERSARY OF ALTRUSA**

- Each member to complete
- 100 hours of community service
- between June 1, 2016 and
- May 31, 2017.
- The hours can be averaged
- among members.



If you need the link to get to the Google docs site where we're tracking hours just email Katie.

Don't forget -- Books-A-Million summer book drive to provide books for our service projects will run July 31st to August 27th. Be sure to stop in, buy books, and thank the people working at BAM!

If you shop on Amazon be sure to use Amazon Smile and designate Portland Altrusa as the recipient.

**Altrusa Foundation Club 21**



The name **Club 21** was chosen to emphasize the Foundation's commitment to international health concerns in the 21st century.

Through an annual contribution of \$21 (US) or more, an individual can become a part of the International Foundation's effort to support children affected by disease. As members of Club 21, we are able to extend a hand to these children and their families.

To join or renew, go to

[http://foundation.altrusa.org/Club%2021/Club\\_21\\_Renewal\\_Form%20\(1\).pdf](http://foundation.altrusa.org/Club%2021/Club_21_Renewal_Form%20(1).pdf)

**Happy Summer Everyone!**

**Enjoy the lovely Maine days with family and friends, and don't forget to turn in those summer party bottles and cans for Altrusa!**



**Future District & International Events**

District One Workshop - November 5, 2016 - to be hosted by Altrusa of Greater Hartford at Dave & Buster's in Manchester, CT

District Conference - April 28-30, 2017 - to be hosted by Northeastern CT club and held in Mystic CT

International Convention - July 21 - 24, 2017 - Nashville, TN - 100th year celebration!