



# The Altrusagram

Altrusa International Foundation of Portland, Maine, Inc.

PO Box 8834

Portland, ME 04104 USA

[www.districtone.altrusa.org](http://www.districtone.altrusa.org)

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

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

January 2017

## Upcoming Dates



**Mon, 1/30**

Board Meeting 6:00pm  
Judith R's home

**Wed, 2/1**

Business Meeting 6:15pm  
Clarion Hotel

**Thu, 2/9**

Serving Supper  
4:30-7:00pm St Peter's

**Wed, 2/15**

Program Meeting 6:15  
Fireside Inn & Suites  
*Communication Committee's  
program*

**Mon, 2/27**

Board Meeting 6:00pm  
location to be announced

**Wed, 3/1**

Business Meeting 6:15pm  
Clarion Hotel

and

**Tue, 3/14**

Ronald Mconald meal

**some ABC Dates to  
keep in mind:**

Saccarappa - Thu, 3/9

Canal - Fri, 3/24

Ocean Avenue - Tue, 3/28

Reiche - Thu, 3/30

East End - Fri, 4/28

Hall School - Fri, 5/5

Bayside - Tue, 5/9

## from the President...

Have you noticed the days are getting longer? It always surprises me anew that the shortest days are all over before Christmas even, and the deepest part of winter is lightened (literally) by the fact that the days are already noticeably getting longer.

Of course, longer in the sense of daylight, not in the sense of giving us more time to do things. Which we all could use given how busy we are. But isn't Altrusa a great way to be busy, providing service to our communities with some of our best friends. This month we've been reading to children, providing meals to the food insecure and to the families distressed by health issues, and delivering thank-you cookies. With more to look forward to thanks to all of you.

This time of year also always starts me thinking of travel. Right now the hot springs in Iceland look awfully tempting. But that's just a dream for the moment. What is a reality is the upcoming District One Conference in Mystic, CT at the end of April.

I know a few of us keep talking up the District events. It's hard to explain how much fun they are. Sit in meetings, listen to speakers, eat in banquets; done that, been there? Well, there's just something extra special about these meetings, speakers, banquets... I think it's mostly the sense of community. You know how good it feels in our club when we're all working together? This is how conference is, only a larger community of like-minded people working towards the common goal, leadership in service. The increased ties with our own club members, deepening friendships with people from other clubs, and new places to explore just add to the satisfaction of attending these.

I am looking forward to many adventures with you all, whether to Conference in Mystic, CT, to Nashville for International Convention this summer, to Iceland for the hot springs (still dreaming), or just right here in our own area doing the service we love to do.

*Marie*

*"A journey is best measured in friends, rather than miles." – Tim Cahill*



### 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*

## Did You Know?

We were going to play a fun game of Jeopardy at our Program Meeting in January, before Mother Nature disrupted our plans. The game board was put together by a former Altrusan, Denise Martin, roughly 8+ years ago. It still was in good shape, but some of the questions and/or answers needed to be updated. They have been updated and we'll hold onto the game until we can fit it in. It dealt with historical information and fun Altrusa facts.

For example.....Did you know that Altrusa International was founded in Nashville, Tennessee in 1917, originally as the Altrusa Institute? During that time a record number of women were going to work during World War I, and there was need for a women's civic organization. Dr. Alfred Durham, a member of Kiwanis, began organizing clubs throughout Nashville, TN, Louisville, KY and Dayton, OH, before moving on to Indianapolis, IN, where he met Mamie L. Bass.

Mamie L. Bass had served as the Superintendent of the Women's Division of the United States Employment Services. She was also a partner in her brother's architecture firm. She assisted in organizing clubs in Indianapolis. While she admired Dr Durham, Mamie felt that Altrusa could serve a higher purpose. Her vision ultimately became a reality. Mamie L. Bass was elected the first president at the first Altrusa national convention in Indianapolis in June 1918.

One of the related 'Jeopardy Answers' was "Altrusa's final settlement \$\$ with Dr. Durham." Do you know the Question? This was the \$500 question under the category NUMBERS. What is \$\$\$\$?

This particular answer/question has been removed from the current game board. I felt it was just too difficult, and I couldn't independently verify the response. But if you read your Altrusagram thoroughly, you will find the correct Jeopardy Question.

Good Luck.

~ Pam L



**From the Membership Committee**

Thank you to each of our new members who have completed their "Getting-To-Know-You" talks. They are each extremely interesting; and a great incentive for the rest of us to never miss a Business meeting.

Another good way to get to know each other is our big, white, loose-leaf "Mug Book". It will be available at every meeting for you to thumb through and enjoy. There's a separate page (and a picture) available for each member of the Portland club; but not everybody has completed their page yet. Please do it. (It's actually a fun exercise.)

Thank you,

~ *Trish M*

Liz Adams giving her Getting to Know You talk at the January 4th business meeting.



**from the SERVICE COMMITTEE**

Wow - Mother Nature is not on the Service Committee! January has been a challenging time!

On the 12th, Anita Chandler, Gerry Dongo, Martha Donahue, Bev Knudsen and Sarah Weeks made up the team at St Peter's Wayside Community Meal.

The 24th, the worst day of the new year, found Anita, Nicki Griffin and Susan F King trekking to Ronald McDonald House for our first foray as Guest Chefs! We prepared and served a meal of Beef Stew, Tomato Basil Soup, warm bread, brownies and ice cream and clementines to the guests. Nicki, a long time volunteer here, gave us a tour of this amazing facility. Sue E was with us in spirit and we know that she would be absolutely delighted that this project is the recipient of her memorial fund. Our next date is March 14th.

Friday was Cookie Walk Day at Books A Million, lots of cookies found their way to BAM's Break Room! The staff was really happy to see us and thankful for the treats. We thanked them for their ongoing commitment to area children through the Book Drive. Just a note, our friend, Heidi who is in the children's department, was on her way home so she got her cookie on the sidewalk before the walk!



Watch for shelving dates at the upcoming meeting.

A B C - it's that time of year again! A B C dates on the calendar now are: March 28 - Ocean Ave School; March 30 - Reiche School; April 28 - East End; May 5 - Hall School; May 9 - Bayside School. We are still waiting to confirm all other schools, remember dates may be changed due to time restraints.

~ *Anita C*

**From the Communications Committee**

The communications committee met on January 10th to brainstorm means to get more publicity.

Brittany is going to tackle getting a Twitter account and also she and Debbie Lemieux want to tackle our Facebook site. We'll try to get an article in one of the free publications.

~ *Gerry D*

Our new ASTRA club has picked it's first service project!



Who: **ASTRA**  
What: Freezing for a Reason Polar Dip for Harvest Hills Animal Shelter  
Where: Highland Lake Beach, Bridgton  
When: Feb 18 at 1pm  
Why: Because we want to help animals

Please consider joining us for dip or cheer us on! The registration form is at

<http://harvesthills.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/ffar-2016.pdf>

Afterwards we can enjoy the Bridgton Winter Carnival.

I fixed the Google sign-up to join us for meetings 2pm Thursdays. I'll bring a paper sign up to the February business meeting.

~ Katie K

**The Nominating Committee** will present a slate for the 2017 - 2018 board at the February business meeting and additional nominations will be solicited from the floor.

**What is \$1,800?**

**The January 2017 Raffle winners** will be published in the February Altrusagram.

## Other Volunteer Opportunities

from Katie Klein:

The Maine Flower Show and Boatbuilder's Show are looking for volunteers. The Flower Show will be March 30 - April 2. The Boatbuilder's Show will be March 24 - March 26.

Both will be held in new venues (still in Portland). A 4-hour volunteer shift earns a free admission to the show. To find out more contact Kerry Ratigan, the Volunteer Coordinator, at 207-615-6271 or [ratigankerry@gmail.com](mailto:ratigankerry@gmail.com).

from Altrusa friend Barbara Harvey:

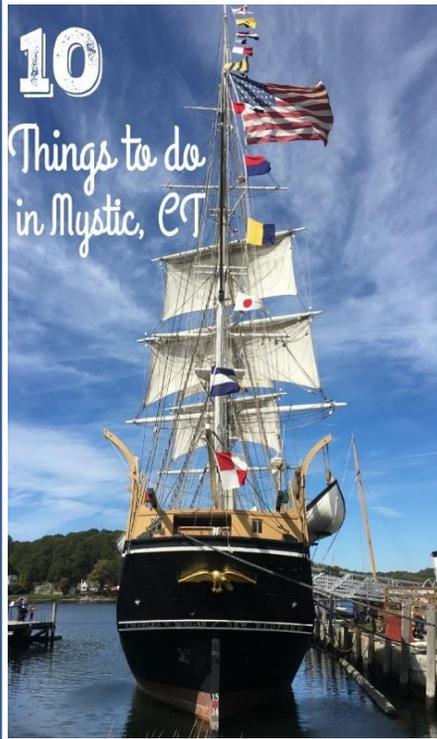
The *Read to ME Challenge* is a month-long public awareness campaign to promote childhood literacy in Maine. For detailed information, the Maine Department of Education's website for the *Read to ME Challenge* is <http://www.maine.gov/doe/readtome>.

Once again, the LearningWorks Afterschool (LWAS) Program has graciously offered to: situate you with a group of LWAS students to whom you'll read; provide you with age-appropriate reading material (or, you may bring a book of your choice); take photos of your challenge completion; send a media advisory to local news outlets to inform them of your participation in the *Challenge*; and post your *Challenge* photo to our Facebook and Twitter page.

Please let Amy Pichette know if you're interested in being challenged by LearningWorks and if you'd also like to read to a group of our students.

Amy Pichette  
Director of Afterschool  
LearningWorks  
181 Brackett Street, Portland, ME 04102  
Work Phone: [207-775-0105](tel:207-775-0105) x164  
Email: [apichette@learningworks.me](mailto:apichette@learningworks.me)

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.



- Altrusa District One Conference
  - Mystic Village & Seaport
    - Mystic Aquarium
  - Florence Griswold Museum
- Altrusa District One Conference
  - Mystic River/Harbor cruises
  - The Spice & Tea Exchange
    - Olde Mistick Village
- Altrusa District One Conference
  - Foxwoods & Mohegan Sun

**District One Conference  
 April 28-29  
 Mystic, CT**

See the January DSB for the registration form and more information



**Your News Could Be Here**

Please send the Altrusagram editor any news, pictures or other information you want to share: about past or upcoming events, about personal news, business events, or other organization's volunteer opportunities.

This newsletter is a good chance to learn about each other, not just our Altrusa lives!

**A reminder of the cancellation policy for Program Meetings**

Members have a standing reservation for the meal and must cancel if not attending. To cancel, call or text Joanne Doherty (730-1479) before noon of the Monday prior to the meeting. Members who miss but do not cancel will be charged for their meal.

**The deadline for Altrusagram articles**

is by end of day on the Friday after the program meeting . (Earlier submissions are, of course, welcome!) Please send articles, pictures, dates of upcoming events, etc... to the editor Marie Pike at [pikerino2@aol.com](mailto:pikerino2@aol.com)

**Service Hours Form**

Don't forget to log in your service hours. To input hours just click on the link that was sent with this newsletter.

**Future District & International Events**

District Conference - April 28-29, 2017 - to be hosted by Northeastern CT club and held in Mystic, CT

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

District Workshop - November 4, 2017 - to be hosted by Merrimack Valley club