



The Altrusagram

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

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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

It doesn't seem possible that half of our year has gone by and that we have accomplished so much in such a short time, the highlights were:

- Our Community Recognition Program that was attended by more than 60 members and guests
- Make a Difference Day with a "Books and Breakfast" give away in Westbrook
- An updated local Website and Facebook page
- Computer training sessions for members called "Computer Coffees"
- Meeting with our Governor-elect Mary Faries
- Books and Bears" at Riverton School
- Fall clean-up in our garden at the Barron Center
- Our "Down home " Christmas Party

We are very fortunate in our continuing relationship with Books-A-Million, which has grown from book drives to the addition of book fair days which add cash to our community service funds. In the new year Books-A-Million employees will join us as we present the ABC Program in the Title I schools.

Looking forward to this second half of our year we are:

- Very fortunate to be initiating three new members!
- Hosting The Great Altrusa Chili Chowder Challenge on 10 February
- Expanding the ABC Program into both South Portland and Westbrook
- Hosting our spring party for the residents of Seaside Residential Facility (hopefully with very special entertainment!)
- Planning our 84th birthday party
- Hosting a community Volunteer Fair in April
- Attending District One conference in Bangor
- Awarding the MDRT (Million Dollar Round Table) Foundation grant of \$3000 to the Portland Schools

We have already cataloged and shelved over 2000 books from the Christmas book drive, and continue to serve at the St Peter's Wayside Community Meal once a month, our committees are diligently planning their events as Altrusa Builds Community into the new year,

I am as always proud to be your president and a member of such a dedicated organization,

Anita



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Upcoming Dates

Mon, 2/4 Board Meeting
6:00pm Martha Donahue's house

Wed, 2/6 Business Meeting
6:15pm UNE Blewett Hall

Sun, 2/10 Chili Chowder Challenge!!
Holiday Inn By the Bay
(see details next page)

Thu, 2/14 Serving Supper
4:30-7:00 St Peter's

Wed, 2/20 Program Meeting
6:15pm Fireside Inn, Exit 48

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Plan ahead - **Saturday, April 6th**
Volunteer Fair

Notes from the January 2nd Business Meeting

- Mid-year reports given by committee chairs and the President
 - Website update is still pending.
- We need to sell tickets and get door prizes for the Chili Chowder Challenge.
- Flower fund idea discussed with no conclusion.
- No figures yet for the BAM book fair proceeds.
- Volunteer Fair to be April 6th at the Elks club.
 - Will be initiating new members soon.
- We have some of the spring dates for ABC, including So Portland & Westbrook.
 - Birthday party in the planning - April 17th.
 - We're considering buying a sound system.
- District awards submissions will be due soon.
- We received a \$3,000 award from the Million Dollar Round Table Foundation .
- Don Morrison of the Wayside told Anita that his organization saved around \$70,000 on renovations by collaborating with community leaders he met while serving as a Chili Chowder judge.

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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 Membership Committee

We have another new member to welcome into our club, Jane Elwell, a retired teacher from Westbrook. Jane was sponsored by Karen Valley. Please add her name to your yearbook: 66 Cottage Place, Westbrook 04092.
jmelwell@myfairpoint.net
 phone: 856-2805

From the Membership Committee

Please put April 6th on your calendar. We want each one of you to help hostess our VOLUNTEER FAIR at the Elks Club that Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm. More details to come.

From the Finance Committee

Chili Chowder Challenge – Get the Word Out
 Altrusa’s Great Chili Chowder Challenge is just weeks away. Sunday, February 10th. Please get the word out. We will have publicity in the local paper a week before the event, and it will be mentioned on the radio, WYNZ 100.9, and on Channel 8, however, we are looking for some grass roots sales.

Please post the Chili Chowder Challenge poster anywhere and everywhere you can. Please e-mail your family and friends. If you already e-mailed them, do it again as a reminder! This is our major fund raiser and we need it promoted by every Altrusan.

If you need more tickets to sell, see Pam Lemieux. If you don’t have tickets immediately available, direct them to Big Sky Bakery or Skillins Greenhouse. Also, they can call 797-4494 and order them over the phone with a credit card. The tickets will be mailed to them the same day. Everyone, get out there and beat the drums!

From the Finance Committee

Reminder about Program Meeting Cancelations

Program meeting cancelations must be called into Joanne Doherty by noon on the Monday before the meeting. Unfortunately many members did not do that for the January 16th Meeting. We guaranteed at least 24 meals, which was actually 2-3 less than the number expected. We understand why some members were unable to attend due to the snowy weather. Unfortunately all who failed to attend and didn’t cancel by noon on Monday need to cover the cost of the meal.

Our operating budget is very tight and we can’t afford the cost of these unpaid meals. By the way, you missed a great one. It was a garden salad, baked haddock, Yummy.

From the Communications Committee

When you come to the February program meeting, you are invited to bring your computer questions. Katie Klein will be conducting a Q&A session about those computer things you have been wondering about: twitter, Facebook, etc. Also, we again remind you to wear your pins - Altrusa pin and Name tag. It's especially important as we welcome new members.

BOOK FAIRS at BAM

BAM has generously given us dates all year to have book fairs, a 4-hr window when they ask all customers to support Altrusa, without additional cost to the customer - 10% of their purchase is earmarked for us in cash. Those upcoming dates, all Saturdays from 12-4:00pm, are:

Jan 26th	Feb 23rd	Mar 23rd
Apr 27th	May 25th	Jun 22nd
July 27th	Aug 24th	Sept 28th
Oct 26th	Nov 16th	

Send everyone you know who buys books shopping at BAM on these dates!



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Portland Police Chief Meets the Portland Altrusa Club

Portland's newest Police Chief, Michael Sauschuck, was the guest speaker at our Altrusa Program Meeting on January 16th. He was officially appointed to this position in February 2012. After a 5 month search, looking at over 80 candidates for this job, the city manager chose Sauschuck, who had served as acting chief since James Craig left for Cincinnati in August 2011. After meeting him first hand on Wednesday evening, the consensus among Portland Altrusans was that Michael Sauschuck was an excellent choice.

Mike is a native of Madrid, Maine (which he pronounced as 'mad-rid', putting the accent on the first syllable), a small unincorporated territory in Franklin County. Chief Sauschuck served a stint in the marines, followed by 15 years working on the Portland Police Force. Both people, inside and outside the department, list his strengths as an ability for building relationships, communicating openly and honestly, working hard and paying attention to details.

The 13 Altrusans and 2 guests at the program meeting were definitely impressed by Chief Sauschuck. He appeared very comfortable and chose a 'question and answer format' for his presentation to be sure he addressed the concerns of those present. Some of the topics included school safety, gun control, marijuana laws, pan handlers and safety awareness education. His responses were candid and engaging. When we apologized to Chief Sauschuck that the audience was less than we anticipated, due to the weather, he quickly responded he'd be happy to return another time!

However, all Portland Altrusans will have an opportunity to meet him in February at the Chili Chowder Challenge, where Chief Sauschuck is serving as a judge.



Portland Chief of Police Michael Sauschuck

BOOK INVENTORY TOTALS

Over the BAM Holiday Book Drive collected from 12/1-12/24 we received 2,116 new books! (Valued at \$13,664) This added to our existing inventory to give us a grand total of 3,769 books on hand! Due to our request, we received a nice full selection of middle school and early reader books, to add to our picture books, so we have a broad assortment of reading material for all children's reading levels.

The general public is always so generous and continued that generosity last Dec - we are very lucky! Now we need to move the books out, since they shouldn't sit in storage, but must get into low income homes and libraries of non-profits! Send people to the website

www.altrusaportlandgivesbooks.org

to help distribute this inventory.

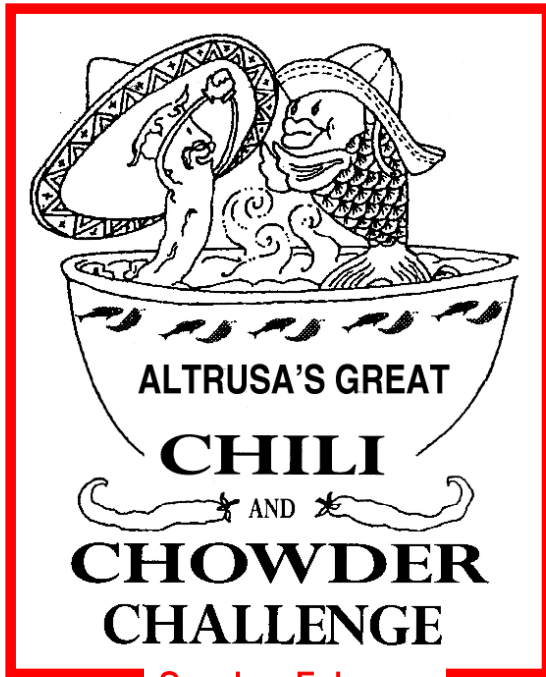
Denise Martin has contacted our sister clubs in Maine (Bangor, who did not receive one book from Bangor BAM, Saco-Biddeford, and Sanford-Springvale) to request books for their literacy projects. The Service Committee will also be holding a community forum with selected literary leaders in the community to better determine where we can help plug the literacy gap with our inventory, which is service based. Stay tuned for more on that.

Meanwhile, if you have any additional ideas, please let your Service Committee know!



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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.



Sunday, February 10th!

Congratulations to us!

Arlene Hanson informed the club that as a result of a grant proposal we submitted last fall we have been awarded \$3,000 by the MDRT Foundation .

The MDRT Foundation is the charitable arm of the Million Dollar Round Table, The Premier Association of Financial Professionals.

The funds will be used to help the Portland Public Schools expand their multilingual, multicultural resources as outlined in our grant proposal.



Joanne Doherty - 1/6
Rae Clark-McGrath - 1/25
Ann Babbitt - 2/19

Enjoy your day!



Next BOOK CLUB meeting is Tuesday, Feb 26th Marsha Marley's home. We're discussing Vinegar Hill by A. Manette Ansay.

Everyone is welcome.

Future District & International Events

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