



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

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The 2013 - 2014 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

Congratulations to all, I was so proud to represent our Club at District Conference in Bangor, you are all winners, we received first place awards for our newsletter, yearbook, and publicity, and third place awards for membership, gain in membership and Letha Brown literacy. Our members have active roles on the district level and congratulations go to Marie Pike, new District One Treasurer.

What a busy month we have had! A record number of schools were visited this month through the ABC Program; we were out in force on Day of Caring at the Barron Center; and on the same day members were serving dinner at St Peter's Wayside Food Program.

All was not work, we presented our Volunteer of the Year award to Kim Lee, of the Morrison Center. (Our own Dr Alice Whittier was a founder of the Cerebral Palsy Center, now the Morrison Center).

My thanks go to Trish Maxim for her wonderful installation ceremony based on the Principles of Altrusa, a very meaningful way of bringing us all back to the reasons that we accepted membership in our club.

What can I say about the Dynamite Dancers, what a great troupe Tiffanie Panagakos has put together with the girls from the Riverton Boys and Girls Club. These talented youngsters were the active and creative children that we shared time with a few years ago in the after school program at the Club.

One more business meeting for this Club year, but our work and good times won't stop, we'll be doing the planning to continue building community in the coming year. My sincere thanks to each and every one of you for making the Altrusa Club of Portland the very special organization that it is.

Altrusa is a builder of women and of community,

Anita





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Notes from the May 1st Business Meeting

- Scott Marchildon Associate VP of UNE addressed the group.
- Conference reported on. The yearbook, publicity book and Altrusagram all won 1st place awards. Our Letha Brown submission received third place.
 - Club voted to rebate each organization at the Volunteer Fair \$10 of their fee based on lower costs than expected.
- Dues are due. Pam L asked that anyone who is not renewing please let her know.
 - ABC going very well, although more volunteers needed.
- Volunteer Fair went well, but need to publicize more. Will have an evaluation meeting soon.
 - ABC - needs volunteers, not enough members participating.
- World Book Night reported on. We passed out books at three sites. Went very well.

* * * * *

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.



Upcoming Dates

Sat, 5/25 BAM Book Store
we get a portion of the sales between
12:00 - 4:00

June 1st - All dues must be paid.

Mon, 6/3 Board Meeting
6:15pm Martha Donahue's

Thu, 6/13 Serving Supper
4:30-7:00 St Peter's

Sat, 6/22 BAM Book Store
we get a portion of the sales between
12:00 - 4:00

Wed, 6/26 Volunteer Opportunity
Family Picnic at the Barron Center
4:30 - 6:30

Sat, 6/29 ORIENTATION
at Joanne Doherty's camp,
10:00am to Noon

Please note - there will be no June program meeting.

Summer Break!!

Watch for summer fun dates coming up: Peaks Island dinner trip, Retreat, and more....



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World Book Night

This year we covered 3 locations with a range of participants by age and backgrounds:

The Scarborough Vet Home WBN night was wonderful! We were welcomed with open arms by the staff and the vets. Ryan, who is the activities coordinator, escorted us around the buildings introducing us to terrific people along the way. The Vets were so pleased to see us and so thankful to receive a book. The people who could not read due to poor eyesight took a book anyway because they have a volunteer or one of their buddies read to them. Reading to the vets who are unable to see could be a great volunteer project.

~ Pam Szalajeski and Denise Martin

I had arranged with one of the staff at Mission Possible to meet with a group of students at the library for a pizza party and to hand out the books. After pizza we started reading the book, *The Phantom Tollbooth*, out loud together. We will be meeting weekly for the next five weeks to read through the book as a group, and the grand finale will be a viewing of the movie version of the book, and a discussion of the similarities and differences. I am not sure we will keep everyone coming the whole time, but there seems to be a small, enthusiastic core group.

~ Jane Elwell (Other Altrusans have been bringing the snacks for later meetings.)

For the second year a group of us handed out books at the Portland Adult Education site on Dorset Street. The adult ed students, many for whom English is a second language, were thrilled to have the books. We enjoyed sharing the themes of the books with them to help in their choice.

~ Susan F King, Anita Chandler, and Marie Pike

Altrusans participated in the **Day of Caring** by working in the gardens at the Barron Center. Included in the work crew were Anita Chandler, Martha Donahue, Patricia Maxim, Karen Valley, Pam Szalajeski and her husband Ed.

Martha Donahue, Theresa Mancini, Lew and I represented Altrusa at the **Wayside's Meal Program thank you dinner** at the Irish Center. There were a lot of volunteers there from all the locations. We had a great meal and a lot of fun. All those who participated at St Peter's Church over the past year were invited to attend. Our chief cook Anita Chandler was unable to attend due to a prior commitment.

~ from Sue E King

From the Communications Committee

Our thanks to all of you who helped us win the awards at Conference for Newsletter, Yearbook and Publicity by submitting your information and clippings.

ABC was a great success again this year! The South Portland and Westbrook schools were thrilled to be part of the project. With the five new schools we read to around 700 children this season, all of whom went home with a stuffed animal and book of their own.



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From the Membership Committee

Please put these two dates on your calendar:

Wednesday, May 29th – 6p Committee Meeting
at Theresa's to wrap-up/critique the VOLUNTEER FAIR.
We invite anybody with input & suggestions, particularly our officers & the Communication Committee.

Saturday, June 29th – 10a - noon ORIENTATION
at Joanne's camp on Sebago Lake
for new members (Mary Campbell, Brittany White, Jane Elwell)
& their sponsors and everybody else who likes to talk "Altrusa" & eat good food.
Have you got any 'potential' members?
This would be a great venue to introduce them to Altrusa.

DISTRICT ONE 2013 CONFERENCE IN BANGOR, ME

The District One Board for 2013 - 2015,
elected at the Bangor Conference:

Governor – Mary Faries – Bermuda
Governor Elect – Sue Hawes – Bangor
1st Vice Governor – Anne Rash – Northeastern CT
2nd Vice Governor – Gay Douglas – Northeastern CT
Director – Lois Bloomer – Bangor
Director - Georgette Rondeau – Quebec
Treasurer – Marie Pike - Portland

Appointed:

Parliamentarian - Joanne Doherty – Portland
Secretary (interim) – Marguerite Lovell - Bermuda

All three countries of District One have an officer
on the board!

Here is a great learning resource for computers that they worked on with us at the computer session at Conference.

Thought I would share it with you:

www.gcflearnfree.org

~ from Ann Babbitt

The Bangor club did a lovely job organizing the conference. Everything went very smoothly. The Altrusa Conversations sessions were great: small groups with free-ranging sharing of service, fundraising and membership ideas & issues. There was an impromptu trip to the casino for a few folks, some were luckier than others!

Dave Butler, founder of Camp Safe Heaven, was the luncheon speaker and gave a very moving account, with a slide presentation, of how he came to start Camp Safe Haven and the work being done there. Our donations to Club 21 go to support this project. As is typical of Altrusans, by the time Dave was done speaking we had passed the hat and collected over \$1,000 for the cause.



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THE NEW 2013-2014 BOARD IS INSTALLED ON MAY 15TH



Patricia Maxim installs the new board (left to right):

President Anita Chandler, Vice President Pam Lemieux, Secretary Karen Valley, Treasurer Joanne Doherty, Directors Katie Klein and Carolyn Holman.

The theme of the installation was the Principles of Altrusa.

Also, on May 15th...



We were entertained by the Dynamite Dancers, a group of girls from the Riverton Boys and Girls Club under the leadership of Tiffanie Panagakos, our friend from the service project we used to do there. After a wonderful performance the girls sat and enjoyed ice cream sundaes.



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Portland Altrusa's 9th annual Volunteer of the Year Award Presented on May 15th



Elaina (l) and Kim (r) requested a picture with the Altrusa banner.



Kim accepts the award from President Anita Chandler.

We were delighted to present the 9th annual Volunteer of the Year award to Kim Lee, who was nominated by Elaina McDaniel, the Adult Service Coordinator of the Morrison Center. Kevin Kearns attended with Elaina and Kim and spoke to us about the mission of the Morrison Center and the programs that Kim has been instrumental in. The Morrison Center's mission is to provide comprehensive, individualized support services for people of all ages with disabilities. Kim is an artist and has been a dedicated volunteer working with the clients with various art projects in various mediums. An amazing display of their self-portraits is on display at the center.



Portland Altrusa's Volunteer of the Year Awardees

- 2005 - Patricia Beville - Root Cellar
- 2006 - The Heggeman Family - Maine Senior Games
- 2007 - Rick Rosu-Myles - Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Southern Maine
- 2008 - Elizabeth Oatley - Tate House Museum
- 2009 - Patsy Thompson Leavitt - Leavitt's Mill Free Health Center
- 2010 - Connie & Denis Netto - Portland Adult Education
- 2011 - Fran Seeley - PROP Foster Grandparents Program
- 2012 - Sandra Grubb - Trauma Intervention Program
- 2013 - Kim Lee - Morrison Center



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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.

Judith R has informed us Anita has a story to tell about a lobster roll and a fire drill after an ABC project - Anita, we want more details!!

RAIN OR SHINE
THE ANNUAL
ALTRUSA CLUB OF
BIDDEFORD - SACO



"YARD" SALE
AT THE JOHN F.
KENNEDY SCHOOL
WEST ST., BIDDEFORD
SATURDAY, JUNE 1st
8 A.M TO 1 P.M.
proceeds benefit local charities

Next Year's Calendar Fundraiser Needs Your Help NOW
Don't forget, as mentioned in last month's newsletter, by the Program Meeting in September 2013, we need members to obtain gift certificates for the calendar raffle. Put on your thinking caps, and look for gift certificate opportunities. By the way, gift certificates are preferred, because prizes are mailed to the winners daily (and wrapping and mailing packages can be a pain and costly).
Don't wait until the last minute. Start acquiring gift certificates for the calendar raffle NOW.

Happy
Birthday
to

Judith Reidman - June 21
Marion McDonald - June 24th
Enjoy your day!



Next BOOK CLUB meeting is Tuesday, May 28th at Bev Knudsen's (meal is BYOS) and we're discussing Before I Go to Sleep by S J Watson.

The next meeting is Friday, June 28th at Joanne Doherty's camp and the book is The Poacher's Son by Paul Doiron. (It includes a sleepover for adventurous readers! And then you'll be right there for Orientation the next morning.)

All readers are welcome to join the fun.

Future District & International Events

- International Convention - July 26-29, 2013 - Rotorua, New Zealand
- District One Workshop - hosted by Carroll County club - Fall 2013
- District One Conference - April 23-27, 2014 - Bermuda