



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

March 2015

The 2014 - 2015 Board

President: Pam Lemieux
pamela.lemieux@myfairpoint.net

Vice President: Karen Valley
book1babe@gmail.com

Secretary: Patricia Maxim
campnaples@fairpoint.net

Treasurer: Marie Pike
pikerino2@aol.com

Director: Katie Klein
katie72925@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
rmarley@maine.rr.com

Finance: Marie Pike
pikerino2@aol.com

Membership: Martha Gross
sfeps2005@yahoo.com

Service: Anita Chandler
achandler@maine.rr.com

Social: Katie Klein
katie72925@gmail.com

March President's Message

Portland Altrusans,
Welcome Spring! It is here at last. I know it doesn't look like spring and it doesn't feel like spring, but the calendar doesn't lie. Does it? With spring comes the annual District One Altrusa Conference. This year it is April 24-26 in historic Quebec, Canada. It is not too late to sign up for Conference. There is still room on the bus leaving from Portland on Thurs. April 23rd.

Conference is an opportunity for Altrusans to rekindle old friendships made with Altrusans from other clubs at previous District events. It is also when the 'business' of Altrusa gets done and it celebrates Altrusa accomplishments over the past year with the presentation of the Mamie L Bass and the Letha H Brown and many other Awards. While Conference can be a busy 2-3 days, there is always time for recreation and/or sightseeing. I'm looking forward to exploring again the old city of Quebec. I know the Conference will be a great time because the host club is Quebec. The Quebec ladies are known for going out of their way to make every guest feel special and welcome. Please come and enjoy the hospitality of Quebec!

I do want to thank Joanne Doherty for arranging for a guest speaker for our March Program Meeting. She has a good 'connection' to the Portland Police Department and was able to get Officer Chris Hawley and his K-9 team member, Atros, to join us. Atros is a beautiful black German shepherd who has a talent for sniffing out explosives. Officer Chris spoke about a typical day with his K-9 detail and Atros gave a demonstration by finding gun powder that had been hidden in the room. I thought Atros had a pretty smug expression when he found the gunpowder and looked to Officer Chris for his reward....and rightfully so!

However, the special part of the Program was the initiation of 3 new members to the Portland Altrusa Club: Fran Breton, Sarah Weeks and Nicki Griffin. Martha Gross and Sue E King did a wonderful job on the initiation ceremony and helped the new members 'add their links' to the Portland Altrusa chain. These three ladies are a great addition to the Portland Club. They each bring a unique perspective and a willingness to serve the community. Welcome Fran, Sarah and Nicki.

Looking forward to April showers and spring flowers!

Pam

Who cares about the clouds when we're together? Just sing a song and bring the sunny weather. - Dale Evans



The Altrusagram



Upcoming Dates

Mon, 3/30 Board Meeting
6:15pm Pam Lemieux's house

Wed, 4/1 Business Meeting
6:15pm St Peter's

Mon, 4/6 ABC Program
9:30am Reiche

Tue, 4/7 ABC Program
9:15am Ocean Avenue

Thu, 4/9 Serving Supper
4:30-7:00 St Peter's

Wed, 4/15 Birthday Party !!
6:15pm Skillin's Greenhouse

Thu, 4/16 ABC Program
9:30am Hall School

April 24th - 25th
District One Conference
Quebec City, Quebec
(bus leaves Portland 4/23, returns 4/26)

...and other ABC's

Tue, 5/12 ABC Program
9:00am Riverton

Tue, 5/26 ABC Program
9:00am East End



invitation

Altrusa's birthday party painting class!

Date: April 15, 2015

Time 6:00 pm

Location: Skillins Greenhouse

89 Foreside Road, Falmouth

Cost: \$22

light appetizers and beverages to be served

RSVP please

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.



The Altrusagram

From the Membership Committee

It is with pleasure that we welcomed Francine Breton, Nicki Griffin, and Sarah Weeks to Altrusa Club of Portland. These three professional women have varied interests and background experiences. It will be exciting to get to know them better in the coming months. Special thank-you to Trish and Anita for sponsoring them. Future plans for the membership committee include a special orientation program this spring for all members. We will keep you posted.

Rita Hammond is home with services and for a few months of Meals on Wheels..

Martha G

left to right: Anita, Sarah, Nicki, Fran Trish



Officer Chris Hawley and his canine partner Atros attended the March program meeting. Officer Hawley discussed the service dogs used by the Portland Police Department and Atros demonstrated his explosives detection skills.

"Many thanks to Anita and Susan for such a wonderful event last night! You were both so lovely to come and spend time reading with the children from the Pearl street apartments... When I asked if they wanted to do another event again, they responded, "yes, tomorrow!" With that in mind we hope you will come again in a few months' time. We are so thankful to Altrusa and the good work you do!"
Best, Stefanie Fairchild"



A new reading program partnering with Avesta, managers of the Pearl Street apartments





The Altrusagram

From the Service Committee

Ice Cream and Books, Oh, My!

Tuesday afternoon, March 17th, seven members of Altrusa International of Portland were found at the Riverton Park Boys and Girls Club encouraging more than thirty of the club members to select a book of their choice and then have a super ice cream sundae with their own favorite of toppings! What a fun time was had by all. Altrusa members also were given an tour of the enlarged space which includes special rooms for crafts, games, music, homework help, a computer room and a library. We were happy to be able to leave the extra books that we had brought for inclusion in their library.

We have added Hall School to the ABC Project, they now meet our criteria for the project and are looking forward to having us at their school.

April and May ABC Dates for Portland:

- April 7 - Ocean Avenue School - 9:15 - 4 Classes
- May 12 - Riverton School - 9:00 - 4 Classes

April 6 - Reiche School - 9:30 - 4 Classes

April 16 - Hall School - 9:30 - 4 Classes

May 26 - East End School - 9:00 - 4 Classes

Anita





This is the recent submission for the Letha H Brown award sent to District . A big thank-you to Anita Chandler for writing this up for the club. Excellent job! Next month we'll publish the submission for the Mamie L Bass award written by Pam Lemieux.

Letha H Brown Award Submission

Project Title: Fighting Hunger Building Community

Project Description:

In November 2011 Altrusa International of Portland, ME was invited to help the members of St Peter's Episcopal Church serve an evening community meal sponsored by the not for profit local organization, Wayside Food Programs. From that one night invitation this has evolved into a wonderful partnership that has become an ongoing project with our members doing more than serving meals.

In researching the need in our community we were devastated to learn that Maine, "Vacation Land" is the New England state that has the highest number of citizens with food insecurity. A person is consider food insecure if they lack access to enough food to ensure adequate nutrition. The USDA finds 15.1% of Maine households are food insecure and the most vulnerable are our children, 1 in every 4, and our seniors, 41%. The working poor, 36% of Mainers, who are food insecure make too much money to qualify for food stamps and must rely on the charitable food assistance network. Wayside Food Programs are an important part of this network.

We invited the operations manager of Wayside to attend one of our meetings and explain their programs and learned that they are way beyond serving meals. The membership voted to include the community meals as one of our service projects with members signing up to serve one evening a month, we have even had Altrousans (our term for husband helpers) join us at what has become "Altrusa night" at St Peter's Episcopal Church. At the community meals program our members are privileged to serve nutritious meals in a safe community environment. The meals are open to all who wish to attend from the youngest to the oldest, there are no restrictions. Wonderful relationships are formed and we remember where a child goes to school and are thrilled when they bring in a report card or favorite book to show us. One

special surprise happened recently when a youngster remembered us from our signature project (the A B C Program) and said, "Hey, I remember you, you read to me in school and gave us all a book!" A family from subsidized housing may unknowingly be sharing a table with a wealthy widow who really needs companionship or with a developmentally disabled guest from a nearby group home.

This year working once a month we served 449 meals.

The Portland Altrusa service committee is responsible for coordinating our activities with Wayside and during the Christmas season we distributed age appropriate books to children at three of the Community Meal Centers. Prior to our annual Christmas party we distributed to all of our Portland Altrusa members grocery shopping bags with an attached list of food suggestions and invited them to fill the bags. An amazing 235 pounds of food was collected by the 25 attendees! The food was to be distributed through Wayside's mobile food pantry and the Kids Healthy Snack Program.

In addition a few committed Portland Altrusans are seen out in the community taking part in Wayside's quarterly public food drives. They were spotted standing just inside the entrance at Whole Foods encouraging folks to donate to help fill the needs of the mobile food pantry and the Kids Healthy Snack Program.

The members of Altrusa Portland served 144 volunteer hours on this important project during the club year. Based on \$17.03 per hour, established by Independent Sector, our service to the community is valued at \$2,892.32.

We learned the true value of our service when we read the following on one of the evaluations: "You are not just filling our stomachs, you are feeding our hearts and souls as well. It is more than our bellies that are full when we leave." A Community Meal Guest.

We are proud of the fact that the Portland Altrusa Club has whole heartedly embraced the Wayside Food Program with 83% of our members taking part in serving meals, collecting food, providing and distributing books for children at the meals, and assisting at community food drives.

We look forward to continuing this project as long as we have friends and neighbors that are hungry.

Award Synopsis for "Fighting Hunger Building Community":

The Portland Maine Altrusa Clubs partnership with Wayside Community Food Programs, while relatively new (3 years), has grown from simply assisting at a single meal to year round involvement in a number of important services to our community, thus Altrusa helps to assist in the continuance of Waysides many services helping to build food security here in "Vacation Land".



The Altrusagram

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.



Celebrate

Dr. Ann Babbitt's Retirement

Saturday, May 30, 2015 2:00 - 5:00 pm
Woodford's Church Portland, Maine

After 38 year of Orthopedics and specializing in Osteoporosis, Dr. Babbitt is retiring on April 30, 2015. Friends, family, patients and colleagues are invited to join us to celebrate and congratulate Dr. Babbitt, on May 30, 2015 between 2:00 & 5:00 pm at Woodford's Church in Portland. Dessert buffet, coffee, tea and cold drinks will be available. Please no gifts. Your presence and well wishes will be cherished!

IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP FOR CONFERENCE IN QUEBEC APRIL 24TH & 25TH

Come enjoy the fellowship of Altrusa and all that Quebec City has to offer !!



Altrusans deliver cookies to Books-A-Million to thank the staff for all their work and support during the last book drive.

A reminder - The 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.

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 pikerino2@aol.com

Future District & International Events

- District One Conference - April 24-25, 2015 - Quebec City, Quebec
- International Convention - July 17-20, 2015 - Kansas City, MO
- District One Workshop - Nov. 7, 2015 - Plymouth, MA