



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

August 2015

The 2015 - 2016 Board

President : Pam Lemieux

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Vice President: Pamela Szalajeski

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Director: Geraldine Dongo

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Immed. Past Pres. Anita Chandler

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Committee Chairpersons

Communications: Marcia Marley

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Finance: Marie Pike

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Membership: Martha Gross

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Service: Anita Chandler

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Social: Sue E King

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Message from President Pam:

The Altrusa International Convention in Kansas City, MO was great fun. They picked a wonderful city to hold the convention, with so many sites to see and things to do. Yes, sightseeing is a major draw to attend the International convention, but not the only draw. In addition to sightseeing you get to see old friends and make new ones.

You also need to conduct the 'Business of Altrusa', which was not too grueling this year, since there were no contentious issues to vote on. We did need to vote on candidates for the upcoming biennium, and I think we voted in a great slate of officers. In fact our own Susannah Leslie. Former District One Governor and member of the Plymouth County Club, was voted on to the Nominating Committee.

During the convention we were lucky to hear three distinguished keynote speakers. Jody Urquhart, author of "All Work & No Say" (which was included in our 'goody bag'). Jody is an author, columnist, motivational speaker and comedian, the latter was very evident in her talks. Another keynote speaker was Patricia J Sulak, MD, who wrote "Should I Fire My Doctor?", and told us about her eleven essential elements to living WELL aware. Patricia is also an Altrusan in Texas. Finally, we were honored to have Brigadier General (Ret.) Julia Cleckley, give an inspirational talk. Julia was an African-American female officer in the Army National Guard. She wrote a book "A Promise Fulfilled" about her transformation from a frail, frightened girl to a powerful independent leader of men and women. Per Julia, "Being the first in anything is not worthwhile if you do not open doors for others".

At the first Portland Altrusa Business Meeting, Marie Pike and I will share more about the International Convention and the plans being put into place to help Altrusa grow and thrive! I hope you all are planning on attending the meeting, this Wednesday, September 2nd.

Pam

The Altrusagram



Upcoming Dates

Wed, 9/2 Business Meeting
6:15 Clarion Hotel
info re: new location on next page

Tues, 9/8 International
Literacy Day
see request for items on next page

Thu, 9/10 Serving Supper
4:30-7:00 St Peter's

Wed, 9/16 Program Meeting
6:15 Fireside Inn
Exit 48
*don't forget cancellation policy for all
program meetings*

Wed, 10/7 Business Meeting
6:15 Clarion Hotel

Thu, 10/8 Serving Supper
4:30-7:00 St Peter's

Sat, 10/10 Empty Bowl event
4:00-7:00 Woodford's
Congregational

Wed, 10/21 Program Meeting
6:15 Fireside Inn
Exit 48

Saturday, November 7th
District Workshop
Rockland, MA

Committee Assignments for 2015 – 2016

Communications – Publicity

Chair: Marcia Marley
Carolyn Holman
Ann Babbitt
Karen Valley
Gerry Dongo

Finance – Fundraising

Chair: Marie Pike
Joanne Doherty
Anita Chandler
Judith Reidman
Pam Lemieux

Membership Development

Chair: Martha Gross
Sue E. King
Fran Breton
Katie Klein
Mary Campbell
Theresa Mancini
Rae Clark-McGrath
Trish Maxim

Service

Chair: Anita Chandler
Sarah Labonte
Martha Donahue
Marie Pike
Arlene Hanson
Pam Szalajeski
Susan F. King
Brittany White
Bev Knudsen
Nicki Griffin

Social

Chair: Sue E. King
Pam Lemieux
Fran Dyro
Marion McDonald
Sarah Weeks

Mark your calendars! Be sure not to miss the September 16th program meeting. Jim Tasse of the Maine Bicycle Coalition will be our speaker. The Service Committee has an important project to propose to the membership regarding texting while driving and the MBC is excited about it.

Mission Statement

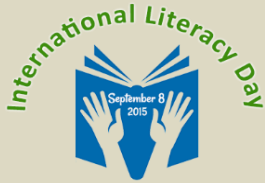
Altrusa International, Inc. of Portland, Maine is a club of diverse professionals dedicated to providing service to our communities, focusing on literacy, fellowship and leadership development.

Vision Statement

Altrusa: Leaders in service, expanding leadership opportunities and providing service to communities worldwide.



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INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY is SEPTEMBER 8TH

We do a project every year for International Literacy Day but have you ever wondered what the day actually is about? September 8 was proclaimed International Literacy Day by UNESCO on November 17, 1965. It was first celebrated in 1966. Its aim is to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and societies. On International Literacy Day each year, UNESCO reminds the international community of the status of literacy and adult learning globally. Celebrations take place around the world.

Once again this year we will be providing gently used books to the incarcerated population. Last year we donated just over 200 books to the Windham Correctional Center, Cumberland County Jail and the Long Creek Youth Center Facilities. Let's see if we can top that number this year!

What we are asking the membership to do is bring to the September 2nd Business Meeting any gently used adult or young adult books that you are willing to give away. If you have books but can't make it to the meeting, just let someone on the Service committee know and we'll arrange to pick them up.

New Business Meeting Location for 2015-2016 year

Business meetings will be held at the Keller Williams Education Center at the Clarion Hotel at 1230 Congress Street, Portland. The hotel is just off 295 and very easy to access.

Drive in the site as if you are going to either the Bank, the Clarion Hotel or Keller Williams/Dermatology at the back. You will see the sign for the Center on the left side of the building. Walk through the doors and it is first room on right.

Our thanks to Judith Reidman for arranging the space and to Keller Williams for allowing us to use it at no cost.

Program meetings will continue to be held at the Fireside Inn (off turnpike exit 48) unless otherwise announced.

From the Membership Committee

Repeating their service on the Membership Committee this year will be;
Martha Gross - chair
Mary Campbell
Rae Clark-McGrath
Sue E. King
Theresa Mancini
Trish Maxim

With the addition of two of our newer club members:
Fran Breton and Katie Klein

We welcome Fran and Katie and appreciate their enthusiasm and ideas.

The committee will meet prior to Altrusa's first business meeting on
September 2, 2015 at 5:30 pm at Keller/Williams off Congress Street.

Special prayers to Marion and Sue E. King for a speedy recovery.



The Altrusagram

At Convention in Kansas City, July 2015



Parade of banners, left to right: Linda Hennebury (Biddeford-Saco club), District One Governor Sue Hawes (Bangor club), Governor Elect Anne Rash (Northeastern CT club), Denise Doyon (Biddeford-Saco club) and Ann Marie Snyder (Merrimack County club)

Hotel lobby, left to right: Marie P, Ann Marie Snyder (Merrimack County club), Pam L and Susannah Leslie (Plymouth club).



Pam and Marie will give the delegate report on the International Convention at the September 2nd business meeting.

From the Service Committee

It is with sadness that I must let all of you know about another tragedy that has hit Altrusa because someone was texting behind the wheel!

Patrick Wanninkhof was struck and killed instantly and Bridget Anderson was severely injured Thursday morning in Oklahoma by a woman texting while driving. We met Patrick and Bridget in June when they had supper with us at St Peter's before they started their cross country building trip for Bike and Build. Patrick was the team leader for this group, a teacher and musician who choose to spend his summer building and advocating for the plight of the homeless on this cross country trip. Our hearts go out to Patrick's team, the entire Bike and Build community and his family.

We were made acutely aware of the horrors of drivers texting or using their phones while driving earlier this summer when our own Andrea was struck and badly injured. Recovery is not swift or easy.

It's time for us to become the leaders in eradicating this curse by actively pledging to not use our phones while driving and to become vocal about the horrible consequences.

With great sadness,

Anita



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.

**"Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.
Life is beauty, admire it.
Life is a dream, realize it.
Life is a challenge, meet it.
Life is a duty, complete it.
Life is a game, play it.
Life is a promise, fulfill it.
Life is sorrow, overcome it.
Life is a song, sing it.
Life is a struggle, accept it.
Life is a tragedy, confront it.
Life is an adventure, dare it.
Life is luck, make it.
Life is life, fight for it."**

~ Mother Teresa

Sue, Marion and Theresa,



**and sending healing thoughts
and prayers your way.**

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

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.

Future District & International Events

District One Workshop - Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015 - Rockland, MA

District One Conference Spring 2016 - North Conway, NH