



The Altrusagram

Altrusa International Foundation of Portland, Maine, Inc.

PO Box 8834

Portland, ME 04104 USA

www.altrusadistrict1.com

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

www.altrusaportlandgivesbooks.org

March 2016



Upcoming Dates

Tue, 3/29 Board Meeting
6:00 Pam Lemieux's

Tue, 4/5 ABC Program
Bayside School

Wed, 4/6 Business Meeting
6:15 Clarion Hotel

Tue, 4/12 ABC Program
East End School

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

Wed, 4/20 Birthday Party!
at St Peter's 6:15
see details inside

Tue, 4/26 Board Meeting
6:00 Pam Lemieux's

Thu, 4/28 ABC Program
Reiche School

April 29 - May 1
District Conference

Mon, 5/2 Business Meeting
6:15 Clarion Hotel
>note change in usual date<

Wed, 5/4 Bob Marley
fundraiser show!!

Wed, 5/18 Program Meeting
Fireside Inn 6:15 pm
Volunteer of the Year Award,
Installation and Initiation
A special celebration of
volunteerism!

Message from President Pam:

YOU DID IT! How exciting. Through the herculean efforts of a lot of dedicated Portland Altrusans, we have submitted entrees in almost all of the major award categories that are part of the Award Ceremonies at the Annual Altrusa District One Spring Conference. The Nina Calhoun Award is the only one for which we were unable to find a worthy project. Projects with an 'international' tie in just were not in the cards for the Portland Altrusa Club.

Anita spear headed and wrote the submission for the Mamie L Bass Award. It is titled 'Garden Memories' and details all of the work that so many Portland Altrusans do to maintain three enclosed gardens at the Barron Center's residential center for adults living with Alzheimer's. This is a multi-seasonal community project that serves to brighten the lives of residents, staff and visitors at the Barron Center's Alzheimer Unit.

Marie wrote up our entry for the Letha H Brown Award. Where the Mamie can be about any community project that the club has sponsored, the Letha needs to be about a service project that focuses on Literacy. Marie wrote about our distribution of over 300 wrapped books at Christmas time. Altrusans wrapped the books and then were involved in distributing the books to children at 4 different Wayside meals and 2 Boys and Girls Club Holiday parties (at Riverton and Sagamore Village). The title of our Letha H Brown entry is 'Wrapping Up the Gift of Literacy'.

The Communication Committee headed up by Gerry and Karen and with assistance from its newest member, Wanda, again this year pulled together all of the materials to submit an entry for the Annual Publicity Award. They also made sure we had submitted three copies each of three different Altrusagrams, for consideration in the Newsletter Award. Finally, Ann made sure our yearbook was submitted for the Yearbook Award.

This year we even had an entry submitted for the Gabrielle Crepeau Leadership Award. This is an award that is only given out by District One (unlike the Mamie, the Letha and the Nina, which are internationally sponsored awards) and it looks to shine a light on Altrusans who exhibit strong community service leadership. This year our own Anita Chandler is being considered for this prestigious award.



The Altrusagram

The 2015 - 2016 Board

President: Pam Lemieux
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Vice President: Pamela Szalajeski
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Secretary: Patricia Maxim
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Director: Karen Valley
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Director: Geraldine Dongo
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Committee Chairpersons

Communications: Marcia Marley
rmarley@maine.rr.com

Finance: Marie Pike
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Membership: Martha Gross
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Service: Anita Chandler
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But we don't do what we do to submit entries for awards. We do it because it is the right thing to do and it helps the community. We submit the awards to help share our projects and ideas with other Altrusa Clubs. If we happen to win an award at the District One Conference, that is just a little icing on the cake.

Please consider attending Spring Conference this year. The awards will be given out after the dinner on Friday night.

On Saturday morning at the Business Session, there will be a memorial service to remember Altrusans who have left us over the past year. Both Martie Tompkins and Marian McDonald, of the Portland Club, will be memorialized this year. This is always a touching ceremony. On a brighter note, we have fun on Saturday night. This is not an election year so there will not be a Governor's installation. This year, Saturday evening will be dinner and entertainment. Come join the fun and meet New Hampshire storyteller, comedian, Becky Rule.

Since I'm currently serving as the District One Treasurer, I'm receiving all of the registration forms. It is so exciting. There are so many Altrusans that I've met from other clubs who will be at this year's conferenceand also many new names. Come witness the 'business of Altrusa', attend seminars to help you be a better Altrusan, and most importantly, meet old friends and make new ones!

Thank You,
Pam

Remember that the most valuable antiques are dear old friends. - H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

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





The Altrusagram

From the Membership Committee

We are very proud of our newer members for taking an active roll in the club:

- Bringing in other new members to our club.
- Proposing to organize an Astra Club at Lake Region High School.
- Obtaining Corporate donations in return for their personal volunteerism.
- Being 'speakers' at our program meetings.
- Introducing us to 'Eventbrite' for ticket sales to our fundraisers.
- Organizing Service projects at the Barron Center.
- Agreeing to be officers of the club for the 2016-2017 year.
- Planning to attend District Conference in North Conway, NH.

We try to instill in each new member our need for them to offer the Altrusa opportunity to their friends and their circle of contacts. We will pay for the 1st dinner meeting that each prospective guest attends.

At this point we are planning an INITIATION Ceremony for our four newest members at the May program meeting on May 18th. We hope that each one of them and their sponsors can be present that evening; and that each of you will be there to welcome them formally.



Communications Committee members Wanda Pettersen and Karen Valley preparing to ship off the awards submissions to District One.

It's All About the Service!

- Sign up sheets will be available for the ABC Program dates listed below:
- April 5th - Bayside School <> April 12th - East End School <> April 28th - Reiche School
 - May 10th - Ocean Avenue School <> May 16th or 17th - Hall School

District Project Request - Portland's Project: Last fall we agreed to put together fabric ditty bags for women in need here in Portland. Beautiful bags have been made and will be distributed at April's business meeting for us to fill. A suggested list of items will also be handed out. The list includes things that we all use, so if you want to "spring ahead" on filling your bag just pick up items that you would use on a daily basis. Please get small and not trial sizes of products. We will collect the bags at the birthday party on April 20th so that they can be distributed locally before the District Conference at the end of the month.



Plans are moving ahead for our essay contest on "Distracted Driving".
from the Service Committee

The Altrusagram

Teyonda Hall and Jessica Moninski of LearningWorks joined us for dinner at our March program meeting. Teyonda, Program Director Literacy Volunteers, and Jessica, Director of Program Development, shared their passion for the mission of LearningWorks and the wonderful programs it runs. Learning Works, which has locations in Portland, Biddeford and Sanford, provides educational opportunities for at-risk young people, low-income families, and our immigrant community. Their services definitely dove-tail with Altrusa's mission focusing strongly on literacy.

A big thank you to Altrusa friend Barbara Harvey for introducing us to Jessica and Teyonda. Barbara volunteers with LearningWorks and would have joined us for dinner if she had not been away.

To learn more about LearningWorks go to www.learningworks.me



Thank you so much for inviting us. Teyonda and I were thrilled to meet so many women who are devoted to the issue of literacy. You are a superb group, and I'm grateful to have spent time with you and learn about your work. I hope you can find ways to partner together in the future - I think Altrusa and LearningWorks would complement each other so nicely.

Warm regards,
Jessica

Jessica A. Moninski, Esq.
Director, Program Development



Birthday Party!!

Instead of receiving cards we will be making cards!

When: 6:15, Wednesday, April 20th

Where: St Peter's on Washington Avenue

Cost: \$5

What to bring: nothing except your service project items.

Light hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be available.

President Pam and her assistant Gail Diamon will bring all the card-making supplies.

Come prepared to let your creative skills shine!



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.

COMEDIAN BOB MARLEY LIVE!

A fundraiser for Altrusa of Portland
WEDNESDAY, MAY 4 at 7PM
 at **KEELEY'S on WARREN AVE, Portland**

tickets will be sold before the event by members or on Eventbrite for \$22, or at the door that evening for \$25.



Don't forget that our business meeting that month will be on Monday, May 2nd.



Pssst..... I heard that if you email the newsletter editor with "saw it!" in the

subject line you'll get a nice surprise at the April 6th business meeting!

A reminder of the cancellation policy for Program Meetings: members have a standing reservation and must cancel if not attending. 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.

It's still not too late to register for the District One Conference at the White Mountain Hotel in North Conway, NH on April 29th to May 1st. See the recent DSB for the registration form and the addendum email for the hotel information. If you need another copy just ask Pam.

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 the editor Marie Pike at pikerino2@aol.com

Future District & International Events

Sunday, April 3rd, 4-7 pm, the Seacoast club's Taste of the Seacoast Fundraiser \$30, at the Regata Center, Eliot, Maine. Who's interested in going??

District One Conference April 29 - May 1, 2016 - North Conway, NH
 District One Workshop - November 2016 - to be hosted by Altrusa of Greater Hartford
 International Convention - July 21 - 24, 2017 - Nashville, TN