



The Altrusagram

Altrusa International of Portland, Maine

PO Box BOX 8834

Portland, ME 04104 USA

<http://www.altrusaportlandgivesbooks.org>

IMPORTANT DATES

Board meeting	5/5
Business meeting	5/7
Day of Caring	5/15
Program meeting	5/21
Installation	
Book Club	5/28
2014-2015	6/2
1st Board Meeting	
Business Meeting	6/4

Executive Board

2013-2014

President:

Anita Chandler

Vice President:

Pam Lemieux

Treasurer:

Joanne Doherty

Secretary:

Karen Valley

Director:

Carolyn Holman

Director:

Katie Klein

Parliamentarian

Judith Reidman

MAY 2014

Volume 13-14 No.8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Altrusans

What an incredible month we have just had, it started with our first ABC Program for this year and ended with World Book Night!

We were welcomed at Presumpscot and East End Schools with great excitement, the children are now so prepared for us and know why we are visiting, they are eager listeners and always ready with tidbits about the books we bring, this is truly a project that will never grow old.

Parties were the theme for the month and our 85th was an amazing celebration. The Timbers was the perfect location, So Po Catering served scrumptious food and our members outdid themselves welcoming at least 20 other community organizations, decorating the room and passing out our gift bags and checks. Grammy's House, a daycare center was the winner of \$850.00, their board representative, Joy Gallant, is also a long time volunteer at our Altrusa Chili Chowder Challenge! We were happy to meet Celena Moreau and her family, Celena is the Volunteer of the Year and represents CASA, Inc.

The next week, Sarah, Sue E, Carolyn and I went to Big Brothers Big Sisters Annual Volunteer Recognition Event at The Root Cellar, we were there to give books to the little brother and sisters and to say we had a BLAST isn't enough! The enthusiasm, respect and energy in the room was contagious.

April 23 is World Book Night and it continued for us until the 30th due to school vacation. On the 23rd members gave out books at the Maine Veterans Home, Cumberland County Jail and at My Place Teen Center, on the 30th we went to Portland Adult Education, we were able to distribute books to over 200 readers, thanks to this special program and in partnership with local book stores.

Marie, Pam and Marcia were off to Bermuda to represent us at District Conference and to extend our invitation to Fall Workshop in November.

I'm sure we are all looking forward to hearing from them at our business meeting.

May will bring us the completion of ABC for this year, United Way's Day of Caring, service at Wayside's Community Meal and the installation of our new Board of Directors.

If these events served as April showers in our community, May flowers will be abundant!

I cannot believe that this is my last presidents message, I thought that 30 years ago this month when I finished one that it was my last, this one truly is! Thank you, one and all for allowing me the honor to serve as your president and for your support for these past two years, with your help I know that we together have been able to build community.

Anita Chandler, President

IMPORTANT NEWS !!!

At the April Business Meeting the following slate for 2014-2015 was voted on and accepted:

President: Pam Lemieux

Vice President: Karen Valley

Treasurer: Marie Pike

Secretary: Patricia Maxim

Senior Director: Katie Klein

Junior Director: Gerry Dongo

Join us as at Fireside Inn at May 21st program meeting for the installation of the new officers for FY 2014-2015.

CONFERENCE NEWS!!!

The three Altrusans who were elected at the Conference to serve on the Nominating Committee are: Alexinia Baldwin (Northeastern CT), Kitty Cunningham (Merrimack County) and Gloria Gallant (Laconia) as chair.

For more conference news read pp. 6-7.

MEETINGS !!!!

**Next Business Meetings are
Wednesday May 7, 2014 and June
4, 2014**

6:15PM

**Our meeting place is the Westbrook
Community Center**

**426 Bridge St Westbrook, Maine
04092**

Altrusa Book Club Reads!!!

May 28 - The Story of Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski
Jun 27 - The Swan Thieves by Elizabeth Kostova
Summer - The Cabinet of Curiosities by Preston and Child

FINANCE COMMITTEE

“CLYNK!” MONTHLY REMINDER

Don't forget to support the Portland Altrusa Club by participating in the “CLYNK” program at Hannaford's Supermarket. Last year the Operating Budget revenues were improved by over \$100 because of money raised through this program. As we all get more comfortable collecting empty returnable cans and bottles for Altrusa, we can help the Operating Budget even more this year. Anything we do to help the Operating Budget Revenues, keeps us from increasing the local dues! So you see, “CLYNK” bags are a ‘good thing’! Bags will be available at all Altrusa Meetings. See Pam Lemieux if you need additional “CLYNK” bags. Pam Lemieux

SERVICE COMMITTEE

4-23-14 Altrusans participate in Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) Event. BBBS is an organization that connects adults with children who may not have a same-sex adult figure in their life or are growing up in poverty. These adults serve as a mentor to the children or "littles." They hold four bonding events each year where bigs and littles can come together and spend time with one another. This event had a pizza making contest, ice cream eating contest, bookmark making and Altrusa books. A photo is taken of each pizza that is made by the big and little pair and projected on a big screen. Everyone votes on the most creative pizza, etc. The bigs and littles also participate in an ice cream eating contest where they share the same t-shirt and the big has to feed the little whose arms are stuck inside the t-shirt. There were 20 pairs of bigs/littles at the event and Channel 13 was there to film it! Altrusans joined the group for an evening of fun and gave out books to the kids.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

This is an abbreviated reminder from Ilona Kirby, our International President 2013-2015:

"I challenged each of you to experience the 'power of one'. This simply means each club member takes on the responsibility to help their club grow, each year of the biennium, by one net member. So far this year almost 500 members will receive the Membership Growth Award Pin. The (overall) rewards that come from making our local communities better through leadership, partnership and service grow as Altrusa grows in our communities. New members are added one at a time through Altrusans sharing the gift of membership with their colleagues, friends and families."

Trish Maxim



Left to Right: Sue E. King, Carolyn Holman, Sara Labonte, Brianna White and Anita Blake preparing to give out books at BBBS Volunteer Recognition Night.

ALTRUSA'S 85th Birthday Party Celebration

ALTRUSA PORTLAND TURNED 85!!! SEE WHO CELEBRATED WITH US!!!

On April 16th, 2014 representatives from 18 organizations joined us for an evening of fun at The Timbers, 50 Lydia Lane, South Portland, ME to celebrate our 85th birthday.

18 nonprofit organizations attended, ten checks of \$85 were given out by draw and Grammy's Place, a nonprofit daycare center won the \$850 check. Ten organizations received books (and puzzles, games, etc.) appropriate for the age group/project that they designated in their RSVP. The books covered ages 2 to adults and were going to be used in many ways, including a "take-one free" bookcase, reading to children, for English Language Learners to increase their reading skills, for a non-profit's life-skills discussions with clients, for a waiting room resource for kids, etc... The 10th annual Volunteer of the Year award was presented to Celena Moreau who volunteers for Casa Inc. Thank you to our members and very deserving guests for making this such a success! Special thanks to SoPo Catering for their delightful presentation of food and the cash bar and for the lovely cake and cupcakes.



Anita Chandler presenting check to a very pleased winner!



Ann Babbitt cuts the birthday cake as Trish Maxim looks on.

Altrusa of Portland's Volunteer of the Year

We were delighted to present the 10th annual Volunteer of the Year award at our 85th birthday party on April 16th. The award this year went to Celena Moreau, who was nominated by Anne Walp, from Casa, Inc. Casa operates specialized homes and facilities in Maine for clients of all ages through a continuum of care. Casa's mission states that "...everyone has the right to a loving home, a pleasant neighborhood, and a safe opportunity to develop to his or her full potential." Celena has furthered their mission by volunteering for over 27 years, providing roughly 350 hours of service each year, both as a major leader in the fundraising efforts, and working with the clients. Anne said of her, "Celena has been called upon at odd hours, in times of despair and occasionally just to talk. She has never failed once to answer the call." Thank you Celena and Casa Inc. for all you do in *Leading to a Better Community*.

Present and Past Volunteers of the Year

- 2014 - Celena Moreau - Casa, Inc.
- 2013 - Kim Lee - Morrison Center
- 2012 - Sandra Grubb - Trauma Intervention Program
- 2011 - Fran Seeley - PROP Foster Grandparents Program
- 2010 - Connie & Denis Netto - Portland Adult Education
- 2009 - Patsy Thompson Leavitt - Leavitt's Mill Free Health Center
- 2008 - Elizabeth Oatley - Tate House Museum
- 2007 - Rick Rosu-Myles - Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Southern Maine
- 2006 - The Heggeman Family - Maine Senior Games
- 2005 - Patricia Beville - Root Cellar



Anita Chandler, President presents Volunteer of the Year Award to Celena Moreau from Casa.



Guests waiting for festivities to begin are being served by So Po Catering.

District One 58th Annual Conference

District One's 58th Annual Conference was held April 25-26 at the Fairmont Hamilton Princess Hotel in sunny Bermuda. The theme of the conference was "Ride the Wave". District One Governor, Mary Faries, encouraged all who attended to share with each other their successes and challenges on membership, leadership, fund raising and service projects. From this sharing we can return to our respective clubs with new ideas, renewed energy and new friendships.

District One was honored to have Ilona Kirby, the current Altrusa International President as the International representative at our conference. Ilona has been a member of the Longview-Kelso, Washington Altrusa Club for the past 27 years. Her husband is also a member of the club. Ilona's job, when not doing the work of Altrusa, is to be the Executive Director of Lower Columbia Community Action Program. At dinner on Saturday night, we got to share a table with Ilona and her husband. He shared that Ilona gets up at 3:30AM 3 times a week to go 'work out' before going to work! (Go Girl!) During the Saturday Business Meeting Ilona gave an update from International office. She covered many details about the club, including our 501(c)4 / 501(c)3 status and what we need to do to maintain this status, why we need to follow Policy 27, concerning copyright infringement and the use of Doc Morgan as our authorized vendor, and even sharing that one printing of the International Altrusan periodical costs us \$11,000. She announced that Sandy Jablonski was hired as the new Association Manager for Altrusa International. Sandy is a 30 year Altrusan, so she clearly understands the requirements of her new job. Her message to the attendees at the conference was 'positive attracts positive', 'whether you think you can, or you think you can't, you're right' (quote by Henry Ford) 'assume a positive intent from people', 'take time to listen', 'treat everyone as number one' and embrace the concept of 'inclusion'. Ilona feels that this is Altrusa's competitive edge. We are open to all.

Finally, Ilona closed her remarks with an invitation to the Altrusa International Convention on July 17th – 20th, 2015 in Kansa City. The theme will be 'Altrusa Jazz It Up'. She also reminded us that Altrusa's 100th Anniversary will be celebrated in Nashville, TN in July 2017.

I and my "M&M's" (Marie and Marcia) invited everyone to attend the Workshop in Portland on Nov 1, 2014. Since we will be meeting at 'the Timbers' close to the Maine Mall, we encouraged people to come and learn a the workshop and then shop. We've discovered a favorite pastime for many Altrusans is shopping.

The ladies from Quebec then sang a song inviting us to the 59th Annual District One Conference to be held in Quebec in April 2015. They also passed out brochures on Quebec. I hope the Portland Club is able to send a large contingent to Quebec, next year. We can caravan! What fun!

As we all know we do what we do because we want to serve. It isn't for the accolades. However, conference is when the Mamie L Bass and Letha H. Brown District Awards are presented. This year Portland is proud to get 2nd place in both of these categories. Our 'Endless Empty Bowl' was 2nd for the Mamie and our 'World Book Night Across the Ages' was second for the Letha. We also took 2nd place in the Publicity Award. In addition we were acknowledged for celebrating our 85th birthday this year. Other clubs with anniversaries were Bermuda with 65 years and Northeast CT with 20 years.

After we finished up the 'work of Altrusa' we hit the roads of Bermuda, traveling on the pink buses (or taxis) the whole length of the island several times. The roads in Bermuda are very narrow, which made

these rides somewhat exciting. The weather complied and only rained when we were in meetings or sleeping. Marie, Marcia and I visited the Crystal Cave, the Aquarium & Zoo, St Georges (and the perfumery), the Dockyard, Gibb's Lighthouse (but we need to go back because it was closed for renovations) and we even found time for an outing on a glass bottom boat. As you are all aware, we had a little scare just before we left with Marcia ending up in the hospital. Thankfully, Marcia recovered in time for the trip and while we were in Bermuda we put her through her paces. Marcia climbed down the 83 steps into the Crystal Cave!....and she even climbed out!

We had a wonderful time at the District One Conference in Bermuda and we hope more of you join us at the Conference next year in Quebec!

-----Pam Lemieux, Delegate

District One 2014 Conference Award Winners:

Award	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Mamie L. Bass	Northeast CT	Portland ME	Carroll County NH
Letha H. Brown	Central CT	Portland ME	Carroll County NH
Nina Faye Calhoun	Merrimack Valley MA	-	-
Newsletter	Plymouth County MA	Carroll County NH	-
Catherine Y Woodbury	Plymouth County MA	-	-
Yearbook	Central CT	-	-
Publicity	Sanford-Springvale ME	Portland ME	Central CT
Membership (new)	Meredith NH (+7)	Plymouth County MA (+5)	Biddeford-Saco ME (+4) Bangor ME (+4)
Membership (net gain)	Seacoast NH	Plymouth County MA	
Membership (% incr)	Seacoast NH	Central CT	
Governor's Award	Denise Doyon		
Gabby Crepeau Award	--no submissions--		
First Timers	Carroll County NH (2)	Seacoast NH (1) Plymouth County MA (1)	
Attendance	Biddeford-Saco ME (9)		
% Attendance	Biddeford-Saco ME (37%)		

ABC is here!!

Two of our ABC schools have been visited recently. They were Presumpscot on April 7th and East End on April 9th. Thank you to those who participated in this year's start to our signature service project.

The ABC project was started in 1995 and has changed over the years, first serving cookies, which evolved to healthier snacks of carrots and celery, then to no snacks; the number of schools visited has grown to the present 11 Title I schools in Portland, Westbrook and South Portland. But through it all the focus has been reading to children and giving them a book to take home of their very own.

There are still opportunities to volunteer for this worthy and rewarding project. All members are needed, so please sign up to come read at one (or more) schools if you can. Most start at 9:30 (some at 9:00) and involve just a couple of hours.

May 2nd - Reiche

May 21st - Skillin

May 9th - Ocean Avenue

May 22nd - Congin

May 14th - Canal

May 23rd - West

May 19th - Saccarappa

and still to be scheduled - Kaler

May 20th - Riverton (no more readers needed)

WORLD BOOK NIGHT

Altrusa was well represented for World Book Night this year. On April 23rd, Altrusans gave away books at the Westbrook Community Center with librarians from the Walker Memorial Library. The leftover books went to the youth center in Westbrook and to Portland Adult Education. On April 30 Altrusans gave away more books at Portland Adult Ed. The few books left from that event were distributed to the Wayside Soup Kitchen at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Portland on May 1, 2014. We gave away every book generously provided by World Book Night.

—Katie Klein

Mary Campbell and Martha Gross met with the librarian Jen at the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department and presented her with 20 copies of *Pontoon* by Garrison Keillor for the residents there.

—Martha Gross

I went to the Veterans Home. My husband Ed joined me this year and got right into the speech about what WBN is all about. I think because Ed is a vet himself that the guys at the Veterans home warmed up to him. The admin who walked around with us told me that the guys really love it when people come in and pay attention to them. She said that it is really appreciated. Needless to say both Ed and I had a wonderful experience at the Veterans Home handing out books and having great conversations with the nicest people on earth our Vets.

—Pam Szalajeski

Altrusa Portland Club

**Altrusa International Club of Portland ME
PO BOX 8834
Portland ME 04104 USA**

Cancellation policy for Program Meetings:

Members have a standing reservation.

To cancel call Joanne Doherty (773-7410) before noon of the Monday prior to the meeting.

Members who miss but do not cancel will be charged \$22.00 for meals that were guaranteed.

The newsletter editor :

kvalley@westbrook.me.us

The deadline each month for Altrusagram articles is the end of day on the Friday after the program meeting.

<http://www.altrusaportlandgivesbooks.org>

Next Executive Board meeting is Monday June 2, 2014 at 6PM at Pam Lemieux's home.

VISION

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

MISSION

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

Communications Committee: Next deadline for articles in Altrusagram: May 23rd