

THE LINK

Meredith Altrusa Newsletter

A Year in Review 2023

Dear Altrusa Friends:

It is hard to believe that forty-four years have passed since the Altrusa Club of Meredith NH was chartered. In those forty-four years this Club has done so many things to improve Meredith and the surrounding community.

I could list all the projects (or at least most of them) and I could talk about the good projects and a few not so good projects, but one of the most important accomplishments of this organization is the membership.

Over the years we have had many women join the Meredith Club. Some have stayed with the Club, and some have left but ALL have given their time and attention to whatever committee or fundraiser or social event that we have had. That is why we are a successful Club and why we are recognized in the community for all that we have done.

I have heard members say that they could never take a position on the Board or Chair a committee because they are not leaders. Speaking from experience, it is not just you that is taking the Chair or Board position. Altrusa members work together on committee projects. In other words, you are never alone! There is always support, there is always someone to answer a question and we all know there is always a solution because that is what we do, we find a way!

This year we will be having a change in leadership. I would like each one of you to consider taking a Chair or Board position. If it is possible, I would ask that you consider attending conference and workshop, these events will give you insight as to how District One works, and you will meet many women who are devoting their time and talents to their communities.

You are an exceptional group of women and I have no doubt as to what you as individuals and as committee members can do to keep this Club growing and contributing to the Lakes Region community.

Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy 2024.

In Altrusa Friendship and Service

MaryAnne

Altrusa Club of Meredith Board

Presenting the Meredith Altrusa 2023-2024 Officers and Board of Directors !!

Seated L-R: Immediate Past President Sylvia Detscher, Director Judi LeCount, and President MaryAnne Skawinski: Back Row, L-R: Foundation President Nancy Law, Foundation Treasurer Kathy LaPoint, Vice-President Marie Stephens, Director Lynne Cayer, Secretary Connie Van Dam, Treasurer Cindy Day, and Director Linda French.



National Muffin Day 2023

During the month of February, the Altrusa Club of Meredith members baked, purchased and delivered 30 dozen muffins to local housing facilities, residents at homeless service agencies, Meredith first responders and Meredith public works employees. Pictured are Altrusans Nancy Law and Paula Trombi, along with Director Dave and a staff member at Isaiah 61 Cafe a homeless shelter located in Laconia.



Hannaford Supermarket of Meredith Supports Altrusa

For several months during the year of 2023 , Altrusa was the beneficiary of proceeds from both the Hannaford reusable bag program and "BLOOMIN 4 GOOD" bouquet program.



Teacher Appreciation Week 2023

The Community Service Committee provided healthy snacks to the Inter Lakes Elementary School for teachers and staff to enjoy.



May Dance at Forestview

On Sunday, May 21st, the Altrusa Club of Meredith sponsored a program hosted by Forestview Manor and presented by Lakes Region Dance. There were lots of happy residents keeping time with the dancers. Thanks to all involved who put smiles on the attendees faces.



Scholarship 2023

Congratulations to Paige Bruno and Kara Martinez, this year's winners of the Altrusa International Club of Meredith's Scholarship Awards. (L-R) in the photo are recipient Kara Martinez, presenter and club member Kathy LaPoint, and recipient Paige Bruno. These young women were honored at a dinner held at Hart's Turkey Farm on May 16th.

Both Paige and Kara received scholarships in memory of Jackie LaPoint and Marian Touhey. Kara was also awarded the Dr. Ritzenthaler Scholarship, which is named for the Founder of the Meredith Altrusa Club.



Belknap House

The Community Service Committee made a donation of essential items to Belknap House in Laconia.

Pictured L-R: Tom Sica, Shelter Program Manager; Nancy Law and Vivien Mitchell, Atrusa Club Members; and Paula Ferenc, Executive Director of Belknap House.



Literacy Luncheon

The Hospitality Committee hosted its first Literacy Luncheon at the Meredith Public Library.

Ernest Thompson, author of “On Golden Pond” was the keynote speaker.

L-R: Kerrin Thompson, Altrusa President MaryAnne Skawinski, and Ernest Thompson.



Barbershop Jamboree After-Glo Dinner

The Club held a special Fundraising Dinner and After-Glo Party at the Meredith Community Center for Barbershop Quartet Members attending their annual Jamboree



Farm to Table

Farm to Table “Gleaning Program” started in 2010 as a collaboration between John Moulton of Moulton Farms and Altrusa Member Lisa Davis.

During the summer months, Altrusa delivers fresh donated produce from Moulton Farm to 3 local non-profits: The Calvary Bible Church, The Meredith Food Pantry, and The Moultonborough Lions Club.



L-R: Lisa Davis, Judy Hodges, John Moulton, Pat McFarlin, Vivien Mitchell and Connie VanDam.

Community Dinners Celebrates 10 Years



Congratulations to this hard working committee for preparing and serving approximately 3000 meals to the community over the past 10 years.

ALTRUSA FOOD DRIVES



During 2023, Community Service held two very successful food drives where over 40 boxes of food items, toiletries and generous cash donations were collected to benefit the food pantries in Meredith and Moultonborough.



Ocean State Job Lot Gives Back To The Community

The 2023 donation of a gift card made by Ocean State Job Lot to our club helped support the many local Community Service Projects.



Socktober

In 2023 our club participated in Socktober, an event organized by the Interlakes Interact Club, sponsored by the Meredith Rotary. A total of 168 pairs of socks were donated by Altrusa members.



Heart and Hands Thrift Store Luncheon

In recognition of their service to the community our club held a luncheon at the Meredith Public Library to honor the Heart and Hands Thrift Store. Altrusa presented them with a Certificate of Appreciation for their dedication.

Pictured left to right: Heart and Hands Store Manager Sharon Engels, and Board Member Tom Witham.



Toys for Tots

Our club joined RE/MAX Innovative Bayside at their annual Christmas Open House at which Toys for Tots were collected to help brighten the Holidays for children in need throughout the community.

Pictured from left to right: Nancy Law, Judi LeCount, Vivien Mitchell, Kathy LaPoint, Linda French and Realtor Chris Kelly.



December Annual Holiday Party

To kick off the Holiday Season the club enjoyed a great meal and each other's company at Giuseppe's "The Grotto". A Yankee Swap provided the entertainment.



Altrusa Club On The Move In 2024

This newsletter is just a glimpse of the types of activities our club is involved with to serve the community. We also acknowledge each other as proud Altrusans, whether it be installing a new Director, welcoming a guest from District or celebrating our history, our club is so important to us!



Meet Two Of Our Newest Members



Alyssa Yolda, Altrusa Club of Meredith, NH

As a resident of Meredith, NH for nearly 15 years, Alyssa has seen and experienced the impact of Altrusa's programs and activities first hand and is thrilled to now be a member of such a meaningful organization. Alyssa first learned about Altrusa when her two children, now 12 and 8 years old, were in the local daycare program where the "Altrusa ladies" (as her girls fondly referred to them), would come and read to the children. Alyssa has enjoyed offering her time and talents to the club, volunteering for activities like the Barbershop Quartet Weekend, and being part of the Community Dinner program. Alyssa enjoys a career in the group travel industry and loves skiing with her family in the winter and spending time at the lake during the summer months.



Patty Sumner, Altrusa Club of Meredith, NH

Patty was born and raised in Wisconsin and lived there until her husband was commissioned in the U.S. Navy (submarines). Hence began the many moves (26 to be exact). They were blessed with a son and a daughter. Her daughter, Melissa, died by suicide on November 3, 2014 at the age of 34. Since then, Patty has authored several books, in hopes of being Melissa's voice as well as sharing her journey of grieving and healing in order to help others. Patty loves to bake, take walks out in nature and volunteer her time where it's needed. She is totally smitten with her three grandchildren, who are 20, 16 and 15 years old respectively. Patty and her husband built a home in Meredith just over 18 months ago. They are enjoying the Meredith community as well as the beautiful state of New Hampshire. She is thrilled to be a part of Altrusa, and delighted with all the new friends she has found among so many lovely members.