

THE LINK

Meredith Altrusa
Winter 2020



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To my Altrusa Sisters,

Once again, new challenges, new opportunities, New Year, and NOW A NEW DECADE. Hard to believe how quickly time moves forward.

2019 had some challenges but as a sisterhood we faced them willingly. Our three "Wienie Weekends" went well and Festival of Trees seemed to go flawlessly and from what I saw everyone enjoyed it. Even though it wasn't as well attended as we had hoped our Volunteer Forum was definitely deemed a success with all of the networking and positivity among the participants.

The Volunteer Forum also gave Temple B'nai Israel a chance to see our club in action and as a result we were asked to partner with them for their We Care October 24, 2020 concert.

As all of our committees successfully continue their projects I thank everyone for their enthusiasm as we continue to help our community. I ask that we all continue to look for ways our help is needed and to continue bringing fundraising opportunities to the club. I ask that we share our strengths and talents that are so important for our club to continue being a force needed and respected in our community.

2020 will be a busy year for us as we continue with all of our committee projects, the TBI We Care Concert in October and GOOD NEWS: We are working on our 25th Annual Festival of Trees for December.

May we all have a blessed, happy and healthy new decade.

ITSOA, (In The Spirit of Altrusa)
Kathy LaPoint

OUR SISTER HELEN ROBINSON

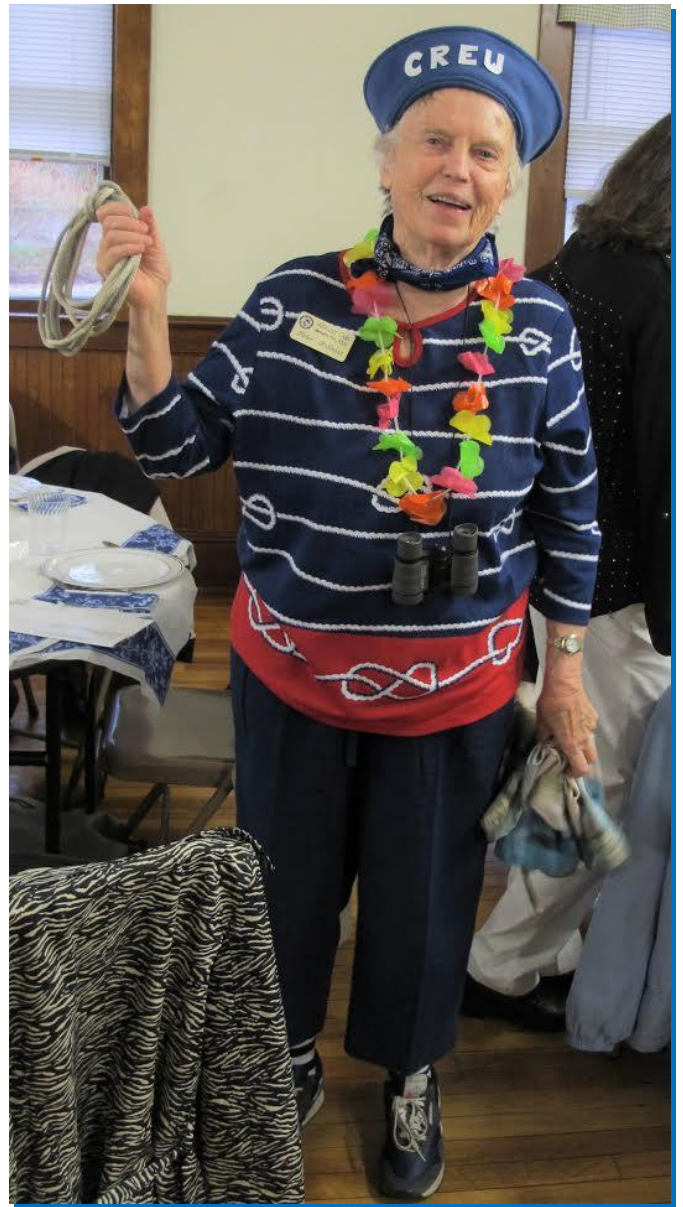
November 6, 1930 – January 13, 2020
Helen joined Meredith Altrusa in October 1989. She was a friend, a mentor, and an inspiration to anyone who met her. Helen was involved with many causes throughout her life and gave her time and talent to all of them.

Her intelligence, grace, leadership, compassion, sense of humor, and her never ending curiosity are just a few of the reasons it was a joy to be around her.

Helen had a strong belief that because of all the technology in our world today, we are losing the art of communicating with one another... eye to eye.

She was a joy to all who knew her, and that is why so many have remarked:

“I want to be Helen when I grow up.”



Altrusa in Action

Spring through Fall 2019



Thanks, Rusty!



2019 Scholarship Recipients

And Wienie Weekend



Spelling Bee and Community Dinner



Pemi-Baker
Literacy Task
Force
Spelling Bee



A Recent
Community
Dinner-
Yummy!



This past summer, the Literacy Committee provided the funds to purchase age appropriate magazines such as *Humpty Dumpty*, *Jack and Jill* and *Junior Scholastic* for younger students and paperback books for students 16 and older. Thanks to the cooperation of **Got Lunch! Inter-Lakes**, whose mission is to provide a nutritious lunch for the students of the Inter-Lakes school system that find themselves in need during the summer vacation, weekly lunch grocery deliveries periodically included these magazines and paperbacks packaged for each family by the Altrusa Literacy Committee – to feed and nurture student summer reading growth and enjoyment.



Supporting the Move the Mercury Fund for the renovation of the Meredith Public Library



An International Project from Years Back Comes to Fruition

More than five year ago, Meredith Altrusa's International Fund donated \$1500 of start up funds to the Po River Clinic in Liberia to enable the medical clinic to invest in a sustainable clean water project.

The project has been completed and expanded to include clean drinking rainwater to both the Clinic and Oceanview Christian School.

A big thank you to all involved and the Abundant Rain Team for their hard work!



Festival of Trees 2019



Altrusa International of Meredith presents the 23rd Annual

Festival of Trees

A Forest of Beautifully Decorated Trees

Admission: \$5.00 12 and under - Free

Spectacular Raffles! Live Musical Interludes

Cider & Cookies

New! Silent Auction Trees

Waukewan Golf Course
166 Waukewan Rd, Center Harbor

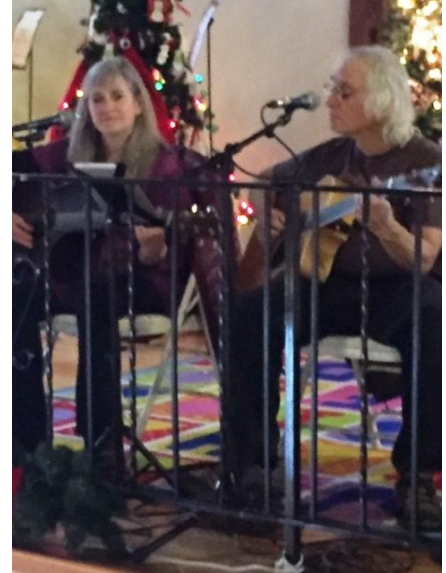
Friday, November 30, 2-6 pm
Saturday, December 1, 10-5 pm
Sunday, December 2, 12-4 pm

All proceeds support area Christmas Funds,
Community Service and Altrusa Scholarships



Festival Flings & Rings





MUFFIN DELIVERIES IN MARCH 2020

In honor of National Muffin Day, Meredith Altrusa baked and delivered over 25 dozen muffins to the homeless, shelter, and treatment facilities on March 2nd. They were eagerly received by all.

Muffin drop-offs...



COMMUNITY SERVICE IN ACTION



ALTRUSA AND WIC A COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

The Altrusa Literacy Committee of Meredith continues (8+ years now) to partner with the local WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program – a federally funded program providing nutritional help and education for pregnant women - breastfeeding women up to 12 months after the infant's birth, non-breastfeeding women up to 6 months after the infant's birth and infants and children up to their 5th birthday. WIC locates this program here in Meredith at the First Congregational Church and in Ashland at the Community Center.



We provide age-appropriate books for the children and educational resources as well as light reading books for the WIC mothers on the first Tuesday of each month in Meredith and once a month in January, April, July and October for WIC families in our neighboring town of Ashland. Handouts that address "Tips for Reading to Your Children" are also left with the books each month.

The poster you see in the back ground, was donated by a past, now deceased, member and reads as follows:

"Next to hugging your child, reading aloud is probably the longest lasting experience that you can put into your child's life." **Jim Trelease**

Literacy members are always on the lookout for good "board books" for the very young children and appropriate books for those up to age 5. New this past year we added bilingual (Spanish and English) books as well. Members rotate each month setting up the books and signage at 8:30 in the morning of the WIC visit and then come back at 2:30 to break it down. All books are stored by members and replenished and/or refreshed each month.

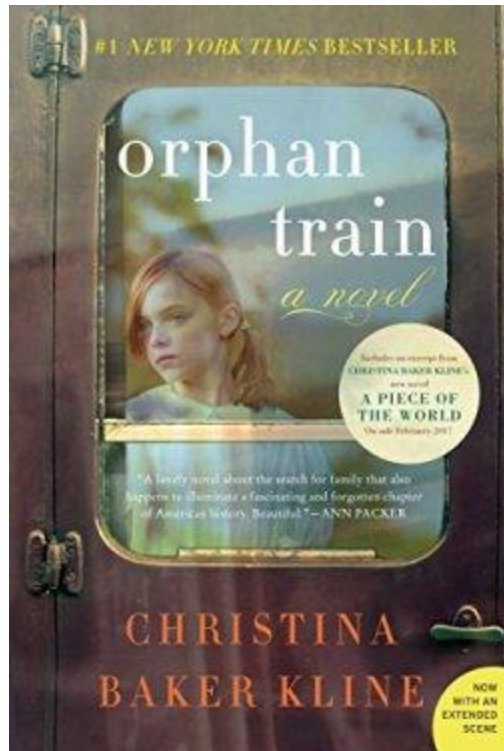
The Meredith Friends of the Library volunteers have been very supportive by culling out and setting aside books donated to the Library book sale that they feel could be used for our program as well.

It certainly has become a community effort!

Submitted by:
Sylvia Detscher and Pat McFarlin
Literacy Co-chairs 2019 - 2020

Book Review

THE ORPHAN TRAIN By order to know where you know where you have seemed appropriate to me, explains my interest in of the books I read and enjoy come as no surprise that the is a history based story that I 1854 and 1929, it was,



Christina Baker Kline "In are going, you first need to been". This saying always maybe because I feel it history. A major percentage involve history. So it should book, "THE ORPHAN TRAIN" highly recommend. Between unfortunately, common for

people to sell or give away their children. Some out of greed and for profit, I am sure. But mostly out of desperation as they could not provide even the basic food and shelter for the children. These children were put on "Orphan Trains" that took them places in the Midwest where people "adopted" (bought) them to work on farms and in factories and, unfortunately, for other horrible reasons. The Orphan Train follows the story of one such young girl, a nine year old Irish immigrant. Now a 91 year old woman, she lives in Maine and shares her story with a troubled 17 year old Penobscot Indian girl. The teen has been assigned community service or she goes to juvenile hall. The widow has the girl doing her community service by helping her clean out her attic, which is full of keepsakes, possessions and memories of her turbulent childhood. Surprisingly to them both, her past and the teen girl's life have many similarities. It becomes a bond between the two. This is a fascinating story about a terrible and mainly forgotten chapter of history. But it is also the personal, heartfelt story told through a child's eyes and now looking back from the grown woman's eyes at her past, present and to her future. It is also about courage, second chances and unexpected friendship. I could not put this book down. It will draw you in.

Submitted by Monica Bennett

Support Our Sister CLUB of Laconia

Altrusa International of Laconia
presents

The 30th Annual
Taste of The Lakes Region

Sunday March 29, 2020
4:00 pm to 6:30 pm

Church Landing
Meredith, NH



Pre Sale \$30.00 Per Person
After March 21st and at the door \$35.00 pp

Cash Bar
No one under 21 admitted

*Spend the afternoon sampling specialties from
these great area restaurants all to benefit
Altrusa's community projects*

405 Pub & Grill + Black Cove Beverages + Ellacoya Barn & Grille + Fratello's Italian Grille
Giuseppe's Pizzeria & Ristorante + Gusto Italian Café + Hart's Turkey Farm
Hector's Fine Food & Spirits + Hermit Woods Winery + Hilltop Restaurant at Steele Hill Resort
Lakehouse Grille + Local Eatery + O's Steak & Seafood / Canoe
Patrick's Pub & Eatery + Tamworth Distilling + The Cooling Rack
The Traveler's Restaurant + Twin Barns Brewery + Woodshed Roasting Company

Proudly Sponsored by:



TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE
online at www.altrusalaconia.org
Hector's Fine Foods & Spirits • Hart's Turkey Farm Restaurant
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Laconia & Franklin Savings Bank, Laconia

Come out to our Next big FUNDraiserS

FALL and Winter 2020

Many of you are aware of Temple B'nai Israel's (TBI) "We Care" concert series held in April and October benefitting local non-profit organizations.

Altrusa of Meredith has been invited to partner with TBI for their October 24, 2020 concert. The performer will be John Davidson – yes, that John Davidson, singer, entertainer, game show host. Please watch for more information regarding ticket sales in the coming months.

Altrusa of Meredith will also hold the 25th Annual Festival of Trees on December 4th, 5th, and 6th of this year. Please come out and support this on-going fundraiser which draws followers from near and far in providing trees, scholarships, and needed funding for families, non-traditional students, and Lakes Region non-profits.



John Davidson

Meredith Altrusa Club

Our members deliver library books to the homebound and fill bags for new kindergarten students with early learning materials for reading and math activities. We also read & donate books to IL Day Care preschool.

Lending a helping hand to our Communities for 39 years!

We host a monthly Free Community Dinner open to the public who enjoy a delicious and nutritious home made meal at the Meredith Community Center.

Working together, members volunteer their talents, energy and expertise in projects dedicated to community betterment and improving the quality of life for those in need both locally and globally.

Our 25th Festival of Trees will be held at Waukegan Golf December 4, 5 & 6. Check out our web site or find us on Facebook for ALL the other things that we do including offering adult scholarships.

PO BOX 706, Meredith NH 03253
Web Site: altrusameridithnh.org
Thank you TBI!

 ALTRUSA International creating new better communities
Meredith, NH



*Hello
Spring!*



“Spring is nature’s way of saying, ‘Let’s Party!’”
— *Robin Williams*