



# What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.  
Bentonville/Bella Vista

Oct. / Nov. / Dec. 2014

## Oct., Nov. & Dec. Birthdays:

Oct. 10 Peggy Rosenthal  
 Nov.10 Janet Edwards  
 Nov. 27 Katy Henkel  
 Dec. 12 Merry Vincent  
 Dec. 12 Lisa Eldridge  
 Dec. 15 Judy Lemoine  
 Dec. 21 Byretta Fish



**President: Katy Henkel** [katycruise@cox.net](mailto:katycruise@cox.net)

### A Note from our President: The Dictionary Project.... Did you Know ...

The idea for The Dictionary Project began with Annie Plummer, an African American Woman who worked as a cleaning lady and crossing guard. She was familiar with the hardships of life due to a limited education. She decided that if somehow she could get a dictionary into the hands of children, it would make an impact in their education and their communities. Today, the idea of this woman, who never graduated from high school, is a national mission.

Our Altrusa group began this project in 2004 with 100% of our membership participating. In the year 2013 we distributed 1644 dictionaries to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in Bentonville, Bella Vista, Pea Ridge and Gravette School districts. Our Altrusa Club has now personally delivered over 7,500 dictionaries and looking forward to doing it again in 2015. Children’s Literacy Goal at its Best! \*\*\*\*\*

*I believe... Reading will give you lasting pleasure.* **Katy Henkel**

The Altrusa 2014 Dictionary Project to deliver dictionaries to all 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students in Benton Ville, Bella Vista, Pea Ridge and Gravette was a huge success. 1650 dictionaries were labeled, loaded into member’s vehicles, and delivered to eager students. Soraya, Michelle, Bobbie M., Bobbie P. and Judy all worked together to get some of those labels in the dictionaries.



The Dictionary Project is funded each year by a home cooked spaghetti dinner. Our dinner preparations were interrupted by a tornado warning. Luckily, the church had a “Safe” place for us to wait. While waiting Susan, Peggy and Jean checked the tornado’s progress on their smart phones. Those kids and their phones!



Part of the fundraising at the Spaghetti Dinner is our Mystery Bag sales. Suzanne was in charge of those Mystery Bags and it's no mystery that they were well received!

Here is a classroom of happy new dictionary owners!



**Oct. 10.** Tornado and all, our Spaghetti Dinner was a success. *Our dictionaries are paid for!*

Katy gave an Altrusa Accent telling us about the history of the Dictionary Project. She found it in the book "Simple Acts of Faith", a Norman Rockwell book. It told of the beginnings of the project and how it has spread through the years.

District Eight Director Ronda Blakley visited us via Skype, a new and money saving way for our District to "Keep tabs on us".

We have two new members. After visiting us on several occasions, Tina Brandt and Judy Sallerson paid their dues and officially joined our happy group. Welcome!

**Oct 21.** We welcomed 4 guests, Jenny Montgomery, Nita McCain, Cheryl Fraylee, and Joyce Cunningham. We always have room for more members.....

All dictionaries have been delivered. Linda Krysl brought notes she had received from the 5 classrooms she delivered dictionaries too, and read some of them to the members. They really touched our hearts and tickled our funny bones.

It looks like the Bags for Books event is in the planning phases. The date has been set for March 10 at the Embassy Suites in Bentonville. Tickets will remain at \$35.00. Dillard's will again be a sponsor.

Donna Fallin of the Circle of Life Hospice organization came to bring information on Hospice, "Hospice 101". How to qualify the cost of, and who pays for Hospice care were discussed. She also told us about respite and bereavement programs. She showed us a video presentation featuring folks who had had family members who benefited from the program. Many of our members had received Hospice care for loved ones and shared their stories with us.

We discussed the **DEB Project** and decided to give a one-time gift of \$500.00 in support of the project. We also decided to once again sponsor the **Single Parent Scholarship Program** this Christmas with a gift of \$500.00. Karen Robins will chair that event.

Our guest, Elizabeth Weathers, brought fliers for the Fayetteville club's fundraising project. Assorted nuts and Christmas greenery are being offered. Those of us who remembered how wonderful they were last year stepped up and went shopping.

**Oct. 25.** **Su Lynn** sent us an e-mail with all pertinent information for the upcoming Maj Jongg tournament. She included this note of thanks and encouragement. *"Doors open for our Guests at 9:30 am. Thank you for making the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Altrusa Mah Jongg Tournament a Success. Have fun and think of all the Dictionaries we can purchase, the children we will meet, and the blessing we can be to our community!"* Thank you Su Lynn!

**Oct. 28.** The tournament was well planned and executed. Su Lynn and her committee made the whole day a seamless event. Food was prepared, Mah Jongg was played, door prizes and gift baskets were given.

Attendees pronounced the day "Fabulous!"

**Our winners:** 1<sup>st</sup> place: Sandy Simms

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Our own new member, Judy Sallerson,

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> place tie: Michelle Dorman & Ronnie Nelson



Sandy Simms, Judy Sallerson, Michelle Dorman, Ronnie Nelson



**Nov 4.** Sammy Laney of "Project DEB" stopped by our meeting to thank the club for our generous donation and to update us on what she was able to accomplish with it. As a thank you she gave cookies to all members present. Some members remembered that "Life is Short" and ate the cookies before lunch!

All committees reported on their progress. There was a lot to report so we didn't get to the scheduled "I" Report. We are growing and we are busy!

**Nov. 18.** We initiated 2 new members today. Soradya Rudofsky and Tina Brandt were welcomed as Altrusans in a



Herb Ceremony where they learned the general well-being of our club will be enhanced by the qualities associated with herbs, some of which were; *Sage* stands for Esteem & Wisdom, *Parsley* stands for Friendship, *Cilantro* stands for Sincerity and Usefulness, and *Basil* stands for Good Wishes and Serious Intentions. Here they are with their sponsor Michelle.



Jenny Montgomery paid her dues today and became our newest member. She, along with Judy Sallerson, will be *officially* initiated in January.

The ceremony was followed by updates on our **Bags for Books** and **Single Parent Christmas** projects. There was some lively discussion on plans for upcoming fundraising events for 2015.

The plans for our Christmas party, hosted by Suzanne, are well underway. Your reporter is seriously bummed that she will be in California and will miss this, sure to be wonderful, event.

See you next year!!

Valerie Katz: Communications [valeriekatz567@aol.com](mailto:valeriekatz567@aol.com)

Meetings are held at 11:30 on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month, at the River Grill Restaurant in Bentonville. Our web-site [altrusa-bb.com](http://altrusa-bb.com) See us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/altrusa8](http://www.facebook.com/altrusa8)