



What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.
Bentonville/Bella Vista

Sept. 2015

President: **Katy Henkel** katycruise@cox.net

A Note from our President: A Note from our President:

Have you ever opened the door to a room, not knowing anyone on the other side of the door? Then immediately, someone ran up to you, gave you the biggest hug you've had in a long time, took you by the hand and led you into the room of 17 other kids that wanted to do the same thing.??? **A feeling like none other** – I had that experience just a few weeks ago when our Altrusa Club began reading to the classrooms at Tennie Russel Pre-K School in Bentonville, Ar. What a thrill, no preparation on my part, just sit down and let the FUN begin.

Many of our members have been visiting these classrooms with equally fun experiences. This is a Service Project we have enthusiastically adopted this year. I think we members are getting as much benefit as the kids.

We had one of our meetings at the School, had a tour of the facility to become familiar with their needs. As a bonus, we were honored to meet Tennie Russell, a retired Educator, whom the school is named for. Our 8 year Club member, Vella Lewis, is her daughter. Vella and her Mother can both be described as very “Classy Ladies”.

Thanks to our chairman of the Tennie Russell Committee Connie Brown, and her Beanie- Gram upgrades we are aware of the needs where we can help. A Great Project!!!! *Katy Henkel*

Sept. 1. President Katy’s opening Accent today was, Time is life. Give someone some of your time and you have given them a piece of your life.

--Some problems don’t seem good at the time, but eventually help us grow and become stronger.

--Well done, is better than well said!!

Peggy was contacted by Sammy Laney of the DEB project to see if we would be interested in a “5K and Family Fun Walk” fundraising event scheduled for October 24, **Make a Difference Day!** We worked with the DEB project last year and are excited to do so again. It will be held at Grace Point Church and she thought we might be interested in setting up a booth and collecting children’s books during the event. There is a \$100 booth fee, but, if 10 of us participate in the event, the fee is waived. Many of us signed up for the “\$20 donation and sleep in portion of the day. Hey! It counts towards our 10 participants...

Sept. Birthdays:



Sept. 2 Agnes Sebesta

Sept. 7 Su Lynn Hanson

Sept. 25 Elizabeth Weathers

It's official! Michele Oakley is now a member of our merry band of Altrusans. A fruit bowl theme was used by Katy to initiate her. She was assisted by Peggy and Gay. They read amusing notes about the fruit as Michele transferred each one from one bowl to another. Each fruit was compared to an aspect of Altrusa and by the end; Michele had a bowl overflowing with fruit. Both Peggy and Gay delivered the phrase about the orange. I think someone may have adlibbed out of turn. But the wish was sincere, from all of us. "Orange you glad you're an Altrusan Michele?"



We were very happy to see Vella. She was scheduled for surgery but it had been postponed. We have time to offer up a few more prayers for her. She should be feeling so much less stress when we see her again.

Gay's **Spaghetti Dinner** crew had the dinner tickets, and gift bags to fill for our mystery bags, ready! We had a wonderful turn out for the meeting so Gay and Agnes won't have to track down too many members to deliver them. Then a signup sheet was passed around so we could all decide just where we wanted to *serve*. All members were tasked with making 2 batches of brownies for the desserts but we were asked not to cut or frost them. Gay's girls will cut them at the church that day. They want the size to be consistent and stuffing the frosted ones in the to-go bags was not a pretty site. Several people volunteered to make "blondies". There was a request last year to make something for people who don't or can't eat chocolate. Oh that's so sad...

The **Communications** committee reported the yearbooks are at the printer! They may be ready at the next meeting. There has been much celebrating at my house. Printing those things on my home printer was a task to be dreaded and wine was definitely called for. Hmm... that wine tasted sooo much better after shipping the yearbook off. Many thanks to the newest member of my committee, Nita McCain. She has a printing firm!

There is a small problem with our facebook page. I made Soraya the administrator and now she can't get on to our page. Since I am no longer the admin., I can't either. I am seeking help...

The **Tennie Russell Project** team is doing a fantastic job! Connie was very pleased with the response to her Tennie-Gram asking for Beanie Babies to be used by the children at the school as "reading buddies". There was a bunch of Beanie Babies brought to today's meeting. Keep up the good work members. This will be an ongoing project this year. Connie's committee will deliver the Beanie Babies next Tuesday on **World Literacy Day**. Connie gave out forms for background checks in case any of us would like to volunteer at the school. Karen Robbins is a notary and can notarize the forms when needed. There is no cost, and as far as I know none of us are running from the law, so we all took the form.



Next on Gay's agenda was getting the business cards for our **Ad Flyer**. Deadline for the ads is next meeting, so there will be time to have them printed before the Spaghetti Dinner. The ads are \$50 per business card and the flyers will be displayed and given out at our fundraisers, projects, and all the other fun things we are doing. After reminding us that the, Donation receipts for tax purposes, was attached to the minutes of the last meeting, Gay took stock of her listeners and passed some out.

The dictionaries are in! They are resting comfortably in Mary Louise's garage. Janet's **Dictionary Committee** will be sorting them on Wednesday so we can pick them up the following week on Thursday. We are to contact the schools and make arrangements for their delivery. Janet wants them all to be delivered by the end of this month girls. Let's make it happen!

Sept 8 was International Literacy Day. Pictured here are Jenny, Michele O. Connie and Michelle S. with the children choosing from the 98 Beanie Babies we donated for their reading center. This project is especially dear to this Altrusa Club as the school was named for the mother of our own, Vella Lewis. The search for Reading Buddies will continue all year



Sept. 15. Our leaders were absent! Katy and Peggy were off seeing the world so Gay took the reins. She was ready with an Altrusa Accent.
– Did you know?

1. Altrusa was founded in 1917 in Nashville, TN. The next International Convention will be on the 100th anniversary of Altrusa in Nashville, TN.

2. Altrusa is currently in 10 countries – US, Bermuda, Canada, England, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, Russia, and Scotland.

3. Altrusa International is divided into 15 Districts, including CAL, Clubs at Large. We are part of District Eight.

The Spaghetti **Dinner** is in the final stages of readiness. Gay reminded all members to sell their tickets, fill their mystery bags, and bake those brownies. She also reminded us not to *frost or cut those brownies*. That will be done at the church by her committee. Consistency, that's what is needed!

Gay also thanked everyone who sold ads for the flyer. It has been sent to the printer and will be ready in time for the dinner. These girls have been busy and it shows in some great results.

Great news from Janet, all **dictionaries** have been picked up. Soon they will all have been delivered. Janet and her crew have done a fantastic job!

After a discussion with the faculty at **Tennie Russell Primary School** concerning their needs, Connie's committee recommended we apply for a grant from Altrusa International to help pay for 13 sets of phonic and phonemic awareness manipulatives, one for each classroom. The grant will ask for \$1600 with our club adding

\$414.96 to cover the total cost of the sets. After discussion, the motion was passed. Connie, Michele, and Gay will need to “get crack’n” on the grant application. The deadline for application is today!

Make a Difference Day. We need a few more members to sign up to participate in the DEB project Family Fun Run event. This will be a great opportunity to build awareness for the club and I understand running is good for you. ??? We’ll see.

Gay gave out brochures from **Innisbrook Wrap Company**. We will be selling this wrapping paper over the next few meetings to raise money for our operating account. She indicated there will be wrapping paper *and chocolates* available. If we run with the DEB project we will have earned those chocolates! Yum!

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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 See us on Facebook www.facebook.com/altrusa8