

What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.

Bentonville/Bella Vista

Jan. / Feb. 2016



Jan. & Feb. Birthdays

Jan. 4 Susan Ford

Jan. 14 Suzanne Webb

Jan. 20 Carolyn Lacey

Jan. 26 Vella Lewis

No Feb. Birthdays

President: Katy Henkel katycruise@cox.net

A Note from our President: My hope that in this year to come, you make Mistakes.....

Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're Doing Something.

So that's my wish for you and all of us, and my wish for me. Make New Mistakes. Make glorious, amazing mistakes. Make mistakes nobody's ever made before. Don't freeze, don't stop, don't worry that it isn't good enough, or it isn't perfect, whatever it is: art, or love, or work, or family or Life.

Whatever it is you're scared of doing, Do it.

Make your mistakes, next year and forever. *Katy Henkel*

At 9:30am on Jan. 5th our plan was to present the Tennie Russell School with the alphabet phonics blocks we bought with the help of our Altrusa International Foundation grant. We were going to present the blocks, take the tubs into the classrooms, play with the children for a few minutes, and then go to our regular 11:30 meeting at the River Grill.



What we did **not** know was that the tubs had to be assembled... There were 13 classrooms, 26 tubs per room. Each tub had a set of stickers to be applied, one for the top of the lid, one for the inside of the lid, and one for the front of the tub. Then the items that went into the tabs had to be identified and placed in them. There was a capital letter, a lower case letter, and 6 items to be identified as starting with that letter, placed in each tub.

Many of these items were wrapped in the plastic that all but denies you entrance and we were using plastic pre-school scissors! The first tub took about ½ an hour. We got better. More helpers showed up and the items were being more easily recognized. We did the last 2 in 10 minutes each! We were able to finish 8 of them. The rest were finished by members who took them home to unsuspecting helpers for completion.

It was time to head for our meeting!

Charlotte's mother Elizabeth Weathers from the Fayetteville club was visiting that day as was Wendy Delarosa a guest of Tina's, and Soraya's mother Sylea Freed. Sylea is here for the duration of Soraya's pregnancy. Remember, she is having twins!

Arkansas Gives was introduced by Peggy as a one day fundraising event to be held on April 7, 2016. We will all notify our friends and raise some money for our projects!

Judy is working on our clubs hosting a Tea Party! It will be on a Sunday afternoon, and our guests will be invited to our next few meetings. Our goal is for new members!

Connie's work with the Tennie Russell School this year has been nothing short of amazing. In December, several members volunteered at the Scholastic Books Warehouse sale. Through those volunteer hours, our club earned 204 new books, worth \$1063. Connie also shared that through donations of reading buddies, a small stuffed animal such as a Beanie Baby, from our members, friends, and relatives, we have collected 520 reading buddies. There is enough for each student in the classroom, and one for each student to take home as part of our Christmas project. *All of these activities were at no cost to the club!*

President Katy read an email she received from the principal of the Tennie Russell School. In December, our club sent a Christmas gift for every student, 260 of them! Each child received a new book and a reading buddy, to have at home. All those happy little faces put similar happy faces on our members.

At our **Jan. 19th** meeting Connie gave a "**State of our Tennie Russell Project**" report. The highlights cover our participation at the school; all of the donations from other organizations on the local, state, and national level; and donations from individuals. To date, we've donated to the school; 520 reading Buddies (the beanie babies), 260 books, 264 treasure box books, 13 books for reading centers, 13 large story books for group reading, office supplies, teacher resources, and 533 articles of new or gently used clothing. Estimated value of these items donated is \$10,373. AND we're not finished! Connie, you go girl!!

Esther Price, a guest of Michelle, was a visitor this day.

President Katy opened the meeting with this Altrusa Accent :

Two Things to Remember:

"Take care of your *THOUGHTS* when you're alone",

But, take care of your *WORDS* when you are with people...

The **District Eight Conference** will be here before we know it! April 21-23, right here in Bentonville at the DoubleTree Hotel. The 5 clubs in NW Arkansas are the hosts for this conference. Our club is responsible for Hospitality. Katy is in charge so they will all feel welcome! Gay is the Registration and Credentials Chair. She will be checking people in when they arrive and providing the registration packets for everyone. She will have her hands full! The club is ready to pitch in and help them both.



Sat. **Jan. 23rd**, found Vella, Bobbie P., Connie, Karen and Tina at the DoubleTree Hotel for the “Scrabble Wars”, an annual fundraiser for the Literacy Council. . There is always good food and a great silent auction before the games begins. Bobbie said they didn’t win because another team bribed the judges more than they did! It sounded like a really enjoyable evening.

Connie said there was a request from the Tennie Russell School for CD players. Janet had a connection and we were able to donate 13 new CD players!

On **Feb. 2nd**, before our regular meeting, club members joined Connie at the Tennie Russell School at 9:30am. Time this morning was spent playing with the alphabet tubs, listening to the CD players, and reading to the kids. Everything was already put together. Our members can be found there several days a week doing that.

At our meeting President Katy opened the meeting with this Altrusa Accent:

Altrusa Colors – **Teal** represents Clubs & Districts

Blue represents Leadership Development

Gold represents Astra & the Future

Red represents Our Members & Our Committee

Michelle Sallerson’s friend Esther Price visited us again. A new member? Let’s hope so!

Connie saw on TV that The Samaritan House was giving away books and asked if our club could have their leftovers. She spoke with a Tontitown book dealer and asked if they had any books they could donate. She picked up 2,029! Most are brand new Dolly Parton books we will be distributing on March 2 for Read across America day. She also picked up books from Girl Scouts.

Karen read a touching letter today from the mother whose family was the recipient of our Single Parent Scholarship Christmas project. She also sent some pictures the children had colored for us. This is another project that warms our hearts and reminds us how important our fundraising projects are. Our club is full of awesomely kind women.

On **Feb. 16** President Katy opened the meeting with this Altrusa Accent: Knowing that WE CAN make a difference in this world, is a Great Motivator. How can we know this, and Not be involved? That’s why we are Altrusans.

Our nominating committee had finished its task and Charlotte gave the report...

President: Peggy Rosenthal
Vice President: Gay Kiker
Recording Secretary: Michele Oakley
Corresponding Secretary: Mindy Ryan

Foundation Treasurer: Vella Lewis
Operating Treasurer: Connie Brown
Director: Katy Henkel
Director: Karen Robbins
Director: Janet Edwards

The District Eight Conference was again on our agenda. Bobbie P. moved Katy and Peggy be our delegates, and Gay be the alternate for the conference. They will make us proud. Ladies, be sure to sign up and attend. Conference will never be closer! Katy gave out registration forms for members wanting to attend. Even if you are not attending the conference, your help is needed that weekend.

Gay is still looking for help checking people in when they arrive and giving them the conference information needed for the Registration and Credentials committee.

Peggy has been working long and hard to get our submissions ready. The following awards will be submitted for **District Conference**.

Single Parent Scholarship Project -- submitted for Governor's Distinguished Service Award

Tennie Russell School Project – submitted for Letha H. Brown Literacy Award

DEB Project – submitted for Mamie L. Bass Service Award

Anyone having pictures from these projects, please send them to her.

Rebecca Christians from Autumn's ReRide Youth Ranch gave us a presentation today. This non-profit ranch has been in operation since 2009. She works with broken kids and broken horses. They are open from May through October giving kids the opportunity to interact with horses. Their staff is mainly volunteers and referrals are mostly word of mouth. The presentation was very inspirational and informative.



On **Feb. 25** Soraya had her babies! Vivian and Charlotte are home and all are doing well. Congratulations Soraya!

Saturday **Feb. 27** found many of us sorting and bagging the books in Mary Louise's garage. Wednesday March 2 is Reading Across America Day in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday. We will be giving each **Tennie Russell School** student a bag of books to take home and keep. We have had over 3000 books donated to us this year and this will make a nice start to a home library for each student.



A note from our President... Hey Altrusa Gals,

Thanks so much for getting up early on a Saturday morning for a great cause. We went thru over 2700 books, sorted, bagged and loaded them in less than 2 hours. Are you AWESOME, or WHAT ??? Think of these 260 kids and their eyes, when opening that bag and beginning to look at "all of those books". Wish we could see them all. Thanks again. This is what makes this Altrusa Group *The Best*. Mary Louise, we really appreciate your storage space and you having that coffee ready for us this morning, (not to mention the candy, also)

See you all on Tuesday.

Katy H.



We've been busy and have accomplished a lot. We are proud Altrusans!

Valerie Katz: Communications 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 See us on Facebook www.facebook.com/altrusa8