



What Happened?

News and Information about our Club. Bentonville/Bella Vista

President: Peggy Rosenthal prosenthal@dreamvacations.com

A Note from our President... Happy Thanksgiving - Happy Hanukkah - Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Whew – quite a lot of celebrating going on around here. As 2016 comes to a close, I reflect on the great accomplishments our club has made this year.

We had several members closely involved in organizing and facilitating a fantastic District Eight conference in April. We started several new projects while continuing our support of long-standing favorites; the Dictionary Project and Single Parent Scholarship Fund. We discovered how powerful social media can be and capped off the year with an 800-book donation (100 for our centennial celebration multiplied by eight for our District) to a flood-ridden school in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

We saw several members leave the club, primarily due to work commitments and relocation, but also had double-digit growth of new members. The diversity of our club continues to grow which is key to our ability to embrace new projects and fundraising opportunities to support them.

All-in-all, it's been a great year, begun under the leadership of our past-president Katy to whom I offer a big "thank you" for paving the way. I wish a blessed holiday season to all of you and eagerly look forward to 2017 and the opportunities ahead.

Peggy Rosenthal

Our **Nov. 1** meeting was opened by President Peggy with this **Altrusa Accent**: "Elephants have the largest brains of any mammal on the face of the Earth. They are creative, **altruistic**, and kind." *Ingrid Newkirk*

Su Lynn Hanson suggested giving books to the children of **Havenwood** during their first week and making this an ongoing project as new families arrive. We will get in touch with the director & and get the ages of the children currently at Havenwood so we can get started!

Valerie and Bobbie P. made a trip to the Vista Newspaper to see why our Club News has been missing from the paper and to see if they would be interested in our Baton Rouge story. The Club News will be in the paper now. That was easy. The Baton Rouge Story seemed to generate interest. We were assigned a reporter and he was given Connie's contact information. They had a meeting and we thought all was well. Connie got a call from our reporter; he had lost all the information Connie had given him. Our story did not make the paper. After several more attempts to get in touch with the reporter I typed up the story, added

Birthdays Nov. / Dec.

Nov. 10 Janet Edwards

Nov. 17 Lisa McManus

Nov. 27 Katy Henkel

Dec. 13 Andrea Fair

Dec. 15 Judy Lemoine

Dec. 21 Byretta Fish



some photos and e-mailed it to the Vista and the Democratic Gazette. So far, no luck. We will continue to look through the paper and keep our fingers crossed that one of them will print our wonderful story.

Our **Nov. 15** meeting was opened by Vice-President Gay. Peggy was off cruising and had handed us over to her. Gay likes to make sure we know all about our club so this was the day's **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.

We got a note from Tina Brandt concerning the **DEB Project**, We will Partner with Shop with a Cop, to help fill stockings for girls and boys ages 5-10. November 29 is the date the DEB store will give them out. We will donate books!

Karen Robbins had news on the **Single Parent Scholarship Fund**. Their Christmas party does not need our help, but we are more than welcome to attend. She also had the information on the families we will be Christmas shopping for this year. Several members will purchase the items on the lists and bring them to our Holiday party. Members will then take them to the Single Parent Scholarship Fund office on December 7th.



Here are Michelle, Peggy, Tina, Charlotte, Su Lynn and Gay filling those stockings.

Connie has the list of kids from **Havenwood**. They will each receive a book and a Reading Buddy for Christmas!

Connie and Jenny helped this year at the **October Craft Fair** in Bella Vista and found out that organizations that helped were compensated. Connie contacted the people in charge and mentioned our group might be interested in helping next year. A new fundraiser??

Our **I Report** today was with Gail Cowdin. She said she would gladly be our I report guinea pig, The thing she wishes she had more of was patience. The 3 things always in her refrigerator?? Strawberries, Olives & wine. She thinks the place all visitors should be taken to is the Bella Vista Chapel. We were surprised to know that she played in a Jazz Band while in school. Her guilty pleasure? Chocolate! *AND*, she has written and published a Mystery Book! It was great to get to know Gail a little better, and we are happy to have her in our club.

Our Article about Baton Rouge has been published!! It was found on Google, and has been printed in the Vista! I am thrilled!

Sheryl Burhenn reported that our on-going project, **Autumns Re-Ride**, needs money to buy hay for the horses through the winter. A Go Fund Me page has been set up to help with the cost so members who want to help may do so.



Dec. 5 -- Again this Christmas we gave a Reading Buddy and a book to the students of the **Tennie Russell School**. The children will be able to enjoy them at home. We were all tasked to be on the lookout for Beanie Baby size, stuffed animals and books to include in the gifts.

There was a 10:00 am Book Workshop in Mary Louise's garage. We sorted, cleaned, and assembled the books and those Reading Buddies.



Hi! I'm not just a stuffed animal - I'm a reading buddy just for you!!! Here is your very own book!!! Whenever you read this book or any book, be sure to have me with you because I want to learn to read too!!!

Merry Christmas! from the Altrusa Club of Bentonville/Bella Vista.

Dec. 6 Was our **Christmas / Holiday Party**. The party was hosted by Gay in her beautiful and welcoming home. The food, catered by Papa Mike's, was outstanding! Katy had her usual arsenal of games that helped us get to know each other better and kept us laughing.





On **Dec. 7** Gay, Peggy, Karen and Kris delivered a \$500.00 check to Jack Eaton, the Director of **Single Parent Scholarship Fund**. And on that day they also delivered Christmas gifts for several of the Fund's families,



Also on **Dec, 7** Gay and Peggy delivered books and reading buddies to Debbie Martin, the Executive Director of **Havenwood**, for the children living there.

On **Dec. 8, 9, 10th** club members volunteered at the **Scholastic Books Warehouse Sale**, The hours spent there earn books for our many projects. Valerie, Connie, and Tara were there racking up some “Book Time” on Friday evening.



Happy New Year!!

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