



# What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.  
Bentonville/Bella Vista



## July / Aug. Birthdays

July 15 Soraya Rudofsky  
July 19 Connie Brown  
July 29 Linda Krysl  
July 29 Terri Gaither  
Aug. 15 Leah McCalmon  
Aug. 24 Janie Sokol

**President: Peggy Rosenthal** [prosenthal@dreamvacations.com](mailto:prosenthal@dreamvacations.com)

**A Note from our President:** Time really does fly, or it seems to anyway. Our club's 2017/2018 planning is well underway. We have most of our committees staffed and our focus is turning towards the Dictionary project and the annual Spaghetti Dinner.

This year we will distribute over 1800 dictionaries to third graders in the Bentonville, Gravette and Pea Ridge school districts. Each year our distribution grows as families continue to move into Northwest Arkansas as record pace. We are very blessed this year to have received a grant from Altrusa International, which will help offset the cost of the dictionary purchase. This project is always fun, from the sorting and labeling all the dictionaries to teaming up and delivering to each school.

Right on the heels of the Dictionary Project comes our annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser. It is the primary fundraiser and will generate money for next year's dictionary purchase. With fall in the air, this event is a great opportunity for all of our members to work preparing the sauce, the spaghetti, setting up tables and serving the community who continually supports our efforts each year. We even get the spouses involved! What fun!

Children are returning to school and I've enjoyed seeing all the photos posted on facebook. Speaking of facebook, our own Connie Brown is doing a great job posting our club's news. Social media has truly taken hold and has proven a great vehicle for sharing Altrusa news, not only our club's but club news around the globe.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't remind everyone that Razorback Football (well College football in general) is right around the corner. It's my favorite time of year. WPS!

Cheers, *Peggy*

**July 2017** was a busy time for Altrusa of Bentonville/Bella Vista.

July 20-24 found new District Eight Director Connie, and Delegates Valerie and Karen, in Nashville, Tennessee celebrating **Altrusa's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday** at the **55<sup>th</sup> Altrusa International Convention**. Valerie had not been able to get a reservation at the Sheraton Music City Hotel and was having nightmares thinking about commuting from the satellite hotel in time for workshops, business meetings and other festivities. She and Karen went to the Sheraton on arrival in Nashville and were very happy to help Rita and Nancy, two Altrusans from Ohio, who had booked 4 rooms and now only needed 3, thereby saving them any cancellation charges and saving our delegates some much dreaded commuting. We were even able to get the free wi-fi!

←—————→  
Valerie & Karen celebrating! Two thumbs up!



District Eight Governor Brenda Smith issued two challenges for the Altrusa 100th Birthday. She asked all clubs to donate 100 books in the “**100 books for 100**” challenge. Our Club answered the call and donated 8,586 books during the last Altrusa year! The other challenge was for each Altrusa member to donate “**100 Hours of Service**”. We had 13 members who did! And, we received recognition as a **Distinguished Club** again this year.



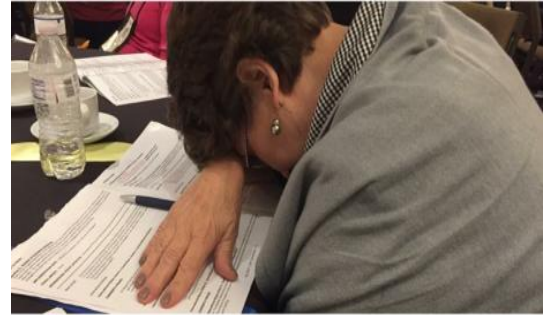
As one of our club founders, our first club President and a Club Charter Member, Karen carried our club banner during the Parade of Banners.

**District Eight was well represented with 53 attendees.**

**650 people attended the convention from clubs all over the world.**

There was fundraising going on throughout the convention and \$95,500 was raised for the Altrusa International Foundation. WOW!!

**Bylaws!** The rule for changing the bylaws was read and *understood*. A new bylaw was *eventually* passed establishing “Virtual Clubs” which will accomplish all of their business via the internet. Here is Karen during a business session when someone proposed an amendment, to an amendment, to an amendment, to a motion on the floor! President Silvia Silverman said if the business was not concluded during regular business meetings we would have to finish it up at the Installation Banquet. The banquet was delayed about an hour but the food was definitely worth waiting for.



Our fabulous facebook administrator Connie has made facebook friends throughout Altrusa Districts. Here are Connie and Karen with Connie’s facebook friend from India, Kousalya Parthasarathy.



A surprise attendee was **Mamie L. Bass** Altrusa’s founder. (aka LaNita McKinney of the Fayetteville Club) She gave a very informative talk about the beginnings of Altrusa and informed us that the mysterious L. in her name was for Luella



Here is Connie at the Dancing through the Decades party.



Another highlight of the Convention, and very much enjoyed by all, was a trip to the **Grand Ole Opry. Yee Haw!!**

Karen and I did not go to the Dancing through the Decades party but when looking for my lost glasses in the office the next day found what looked to us like the top of the birthday cake!





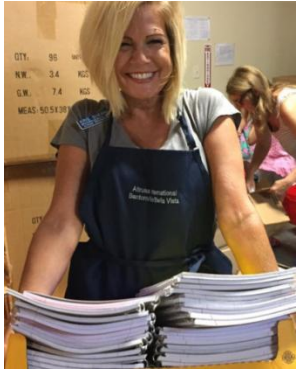
We are dressed for the Installation Banquet and thanking the, very soon to be, International Past President, Sylvia, for her two years of leadership.

It has been a grand 5 days. We wouldn't have missed it for the world.

The 2019 International Convention will be in Reno and 2021 in Quebec. Start saving and making plans. The Convention was fun, interesting, and awe inspiring.

We were home on Tuesday evening, July 25th. On Thursday morning I boarded a plane for California. Not so my traveling buddies.

On **July 26** our club, along with Springdale, Rogers, and Washington County worked at the Samaritan Community Center, sorting and counting school supplies to be packed in 3300 backpacks for children in need in our community.



Our leaders, leading by example... Our Club President Peggy, our Vice President Gay, our District Eight Director Connie, and our District Eight Governor Becky Wood, all pitching in to get the job done.



**July 29.** We were so happy to be able to support Washington Counties "Parent Up" event by giving them **200 books**. They gave away over 300 stuffed backpacks!



Karen was honored by the Single Parent Scholarship fund. They established a Program Builders Scholarship in honor of Karen and five others for their years of dedication and service to the program. Congratulations Karen!

**Aug. 1** President Peggy opened the meeting with this **Altrusa Accent:** Aging is not lost on youth but a new stage of opportunity and strength.

We received a very nice thank you letter from the Children's Shelter for the last donation of **650 books**.

Sammie of the **DEB Project**, has tickets at her store for the upcoming "**Women in Networking Gala**" which is on September 15. Tickets are \$50 for couples, and \$30 for singles. We will invite her to a meeting soon to give us an update on the growth of this project.

**Aug.13.** School would start in 2 days at the **Crossroads Alternative Learning Center** in Rogers. All their books were in boxes, they had no librarian! Karen and Connie were able to help the Altrusa Club of Rogers by helping them sort and shelve those books.



**Aug. 14.** Phil Mason, owner of Skillz Unlimited Barber Shop in Springdale, is participating in the "**Barber Shop Books**" program. He has a safe spot in his shop for children to read and be mentored. We gave him **75 books** in honor of the NWA Altrusa clubs.



Our **Aug. 15** meeting was opened by President Peggy with this Altrusa **Accent**: "One way to ensure that all kids will be successful in school and life is by focusing on literacy by the end of the third grade." **Doug Ducey**

We have two new members! Welcome Ann Marie Steeneck and Pat Sporlede.

President Peggy has the committee assignments for the 2017-2018 year. We are going to be busy again this year!

Janet has been busy getting our **Dictionary Project** underway. We will need to pay for those dictionaries so it is also time to start preparations for the **Spaghetti Dinner**. Gay has the church secured for October 5, 2017.

Our Program this day was **Dress for Success**. Virginia Germann, Executive Director, and Tracy Green, Boutique Operations Manager, brought us this program. The NWA program Dress for Success is a non-profit organization in Northwest Arkansas that helps women work toward economic independence. Their motto is Secure, Retain, Grow, Provide. In the past four years the Northwest Arkansas chapter has served 865 women. Their Career Services program helps clients with interviewing preparation, resume writing, coaching and mentoring.

We have lots of **Good News!!** President Peggy's travel agency, Dream Vacations, has made the "Top Ten Best of the Best" in NWA list. Gay no longer needs Physical Therapy and is hobbling around like a champ! Katy has finished her chemo and is driving! Jenny Montgomery's grandson has come home from the hospital! And Mary Louise Harris came in #3 in her unit for Mary Kay. We have so much to be thankful for!

**Aug. 18.** One of our new projects is the **NWA Children's Shelter**. Each child coming to stay at their facility gets a backpack that they may stuff *FULL* of books. When they leave, they take the books with them! Our club is providing books for this wonderful program.

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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](http://altrusa-bb.com) See us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/altrusa8](http://www.facebook.com/altrusa8)