



What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.
Bentonville/Bella Vista
May / June 2017

President: Peggy Rosenthal prosenthal@dreamvacations.com

A Note from our President: Summer is upon us and we're deep into planning our 2017/2018 year.. Ahead of us are projects, some new and some existing, and the all-important fundraisers that allow us to support these projects. In late September we will distribute nearly 2,000 dictionaries to third graders across three local school districts. This is a long-term project for us that continues to grow as the population in the area increases at record pace. This year, we are so grateful to have received a grant from Altrusa International to support the dictionary project. That, combined with our annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser, will ensure we have the funds necessary to purchase of all those dictionaries.

Late spring and early summer find many of our members traveling. Between graduations and weddings, we all seem to have place to go. And, in July, several of our members will attend the International Convention in Nashville, celebrating 100 years of Altrusa. I wish all of our members safe travels this season. We look forward to hearing about your experiences!

Just chilling, *Peggy Rosenthal*

On **May 2** President Peggy opened our meeting with this **Altrusa Accent:** A word of encouragement from a teacher to a child can change a life. A word of encouragement from a spouse can save a marriage. A word of encouragement from a leader can inspire a person to reach her potential. **John C. Maxwell**

Mary Louise's daughter Becky McCartney visited us today. It's always so nice to see her.

Due to relocation, health issues, and other commitments we are starting our new year without Bobbie Morgan, Charlotte Fischer, Donna Williams, Barbara Lemire and Jean Anderson. We will miss these wonderful Altrusans and hope they come by and visit us.

Tina, of the **Literacy Committee**, reported that Sammy and the **DEB Project** hosted "Project Prom" in April helping 8 girls and 2 boys from Bentonville West and 7 girls from Bentonville HS to look *good* for the dance. Sammy was also a guest speaker at a leadership graduation at NWACC where she shared that the DEB project has served over 800 children since its beginning. Sammy sent us this quote: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." We are so happy to be part of the DEB Project, as one of our projects!

May. & June. Birthdays

May 6 Mary Louise Harris

May 12 Bobbie Platt

June 12 Tina Brandt

June 27 Michelle Sallersin



On **May 6** the Springdale Altrusa Club hosted a Tea, Fashion Show, and plant sale. Our two new District Eight Director's, Connie Brown, and Springdale's, Diane McReady, were there, ready to pour. This wonderful afternoon was to benefit Compassion House.



On **May 16**, President Peggy opened our club meeting with this **Altrusa Accent**: "If you have an opportunity to make things better and you don't, then you are wasting your time on Earth." **Roberto Clemente**

Mary Louise's daughter Becky McCartney came to visit again today. Welcome back, Becky!

Today Mary Mann, a fellow Altrusan, and Shaylan Dillon, came to present **The Samaritan Community Center's** (SCC) 8 outreach programs. The Samaritan Community Centers motto is to *Serve the hurting and hungry*. They are not a faith based but a "grace" based non-profit. Even though they serve tens of thousands of community members, they employ only 65 full and part-time staffers and they are blessed with over 360 volunteers monthly.

The programs that we were introduced to were:

1. Samaritan Market – This is the food pantry that serves over 23,000 individuals which include 21,000 children *IN OUR COMMUNITY*.
2. Samaritan Care – This outreach includes counselling, encouragers and social workers. Samaritan Care helps those in need find resources to assist them in their dire times as well as counsellors that are staffed through John Brown University's Masters intern program and overseen by licensed psychologists.
3. Samaritan Café – Where other non-profits may call this a "soup kitchen" it is the desire of SCC to project respect and understanding for those in our community that are hungry
The Café is open to the General Public and provides a free hot meal during the lunch hours. They served over 49,000 meals last year (2016).
4. Samaritan Garden – The garden allows clients of the SCC to have access to healthy food. Last year alone they harvested over 16,000 lbs. of food and are on track this year to harvest 20,000. The SCC will be hosting a fundraiser June 10 from 5pm-8pm to raise money for this specific program. NOTE: DID YOU KNOW THAT....because of community partnerships this is the FIRST fundraiser the SCC has ever had?? If you would like more information about the Garden Social Fundraiser please follow this link >><https://www.eventbrite.com/e/samaritan-community-center-garden-social-tickets-34211299919>
5. Samaritan Dental Clinic – Although this service is only offered to uninsured adults, in 2016 alone they provided \$362,732 in dental services. They were also able to provide over 30 sets of dentures to community members in need. We heard a very sweet story about a veteran who had not had teeth for 10 years and was in tears when he was given his new chompers!
6. Samaritan Shop – If you have never been to the Samaritan Shop it is an awesome store and is now located in the old K-Mart building directly across the street from Walmart on Walnut. The Samaritan Shop is also a way you can donate ANY household item to help. The Samaritan Shop provides SCC with over 1/3 of its total operating income. The Shop also distributed \$483,955 in free clothes to the needy in 2016.
7. Samaritan Kids – This outreach is responsible for the SnackPak program and the BackPak program. The Snack Pak program supplies 196 schools in the area with snack paks and cost is around \$60,000 per month. This program helps hungry children by providing them with a weekly snack pak filled with nutritious items that

kids can have access to over the weekend. The BackPak program distributed back paks and school supplies to over 3500 children in our community.

8. Little Libraries – This is a program that encourages reading and literacy. The little libraries are placed in areas that are considered to be impoverished and allows children to select books that they can keep.

WOW! I am in awe.



Peggy, Gail, Terri, Connie's grandson Matthew, Connie and Bobbie P.

May 22 found many of our members at the Thomas Jefferson Elementary School for Young Author's Day. All students in grades K - 4 had written a book and our club went to be the judges. Later in the day they went into the classrooms to be reading buddies as the students read their books to them.

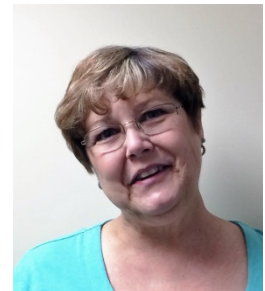


Gail and Karen

The **June 6** club meeting was opened by President Peggy who shared this **Altrusa Accent**: "Every game is winnable if you change your mind about what the prize should be and your perspective about the players at the table." ~Shannon L Alder

Audrey Rose was a guest of Michelle Sallerson at this meeting. She and Michelle have been friends for over 50 years!

Circle of Life Hospice has given our own Jenny Montgomery the *Heart Award* for the wonderful volunteer work she does there. She is much loved by the patients, their families and the employees. *Congratulations Jenny!* We are very proud to have you as a member of our Altrusa Club.



Our **Treasurers had** very good news for us today! Connie reported that the Operating account balance is \$3812.77 and Vella reported that the Foundation Account balance is \$13,311.70. Oh, the good work we will be able to accomplish in our community!

Sammie, from the **DEB Project**, sent us a letter telling us about their summer internship program. The goals for the interns are; for 25 hrs. of service they will receive a \$250 grant, for 50 hours a \$500 grant and for 100 hours a \$1000.00 grant. What a great program!





On **June 7** Connie was at the **Samaritan Community Center** answering their request for books for their "Little Libraries" program. The program is a huge hit with the children and they asked for our help in keeping it well stocked. Our **Literacy Committee** is doing a great job distributing books around NW Arkansas!

On **June 20** President Peggy opened the meeting with this **Altrusa Accent**: "Adopting the right attitude can convert a negative stress into a positive one." ~**Hans Selye**

Gay Kiker's sisters, Joanne and Nancy came for a visit today!! Welcome!

Vella has secured the church for our annual **Spaghetti Dinner** which will be October 5, 2017! Gay will be marshaling her troops and calling for lots of Altrusa help.

The **Board Meeting** resulted in a Proposed Operating Budget! Good work gals!

Today's program was brought to us by Leah Jones, Director of Operations, from the **Ronald McDonald House of Arkansas**, and her associates, Jessica and Megan. This was a great program!! The Ronald McDonald House, started in Philadelphia by the Philadelphia Eagles, was started so immediate families would have the ability to stay with their hospitalized child. They also provide resources for families and children that are lacking basic medical and dental care. Worldwide they serve more than 5.5 million children and families. They had videos that brought tears to our eyes.



They also had a list of ways we could help.

1. Sponsorships- by becoming a corporate partner to help fund a Room.
2. Time – cooking meals, doing laundry, cleaning, share-a-meal
3. A Coin Drop box at McDonalds
4. Or one of their local fundraisers! A Red Shoe Soire held in April or

or

participation in a Golf Tournament in August.



May

The **Literacy Committee** has had many requests for books. The Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter is looking for more books, and Youthbridge has asked for books for their "Take a Book Leave a Book" program at the Jones Center. So on **June 26** we were once again checking and sorting books in Mary Louise's garage!

Cares and Concerns: Bobbie Platt stopped by for a few minutes and we were soooo happy to see her! We hope she will be able to return for full regular meetings soon. Barbara Lemire's husband has passed away. Judy Lemoine's husband was diagnosed with lymphoma this last week. And Katy has had a tough time with this last round of chemo. She is getting out and about but still needs treatments. They all need our continued good thoughts and prayers.



Our "Book Barn" at **Autumn's ReRide and Youth Ranch** was swept away and unfixable after the storms here in NW Arkansas. So on **June 27** the **Literacy Committee** was once again ready to help. The new and improved "Book Barn" has been installed and is ready for the children. Isn't it Beautiful!!

Many thanks to Connie and Kris for their help in putting this newsletter together. They were keeping me informed of the clubs comings and goings while I was in California during May and June for Mother's Day and 3 high school graduations. Absolutely could not have done it without them.

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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