

What Happened?



News and Information about our Club.

Bentonville/Bella Vista

Dec. 2017 - Jan. / Feb. 2018

A Note from our President... Welcome to 2018. It's hard to believe that March is almost here and spring is right around the corner. But before we move too far into the year, I'd like to bring some focus to 2017 and all that was accomplished by the Bentonville/Bella Vista club.

With our focus on children's literacy, we worked really hard throughout the year to purposely put books in the hands of children. Look at this list:

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|--|---------------------------------------|
| Thomas Jefferson Elementary School | Bentonville and Bella Vista libraries |
| Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter | Samaritan Community Center |
| Autumn's Reride and Youth Ranch | Gravette Middle School |
| Goodman Elementary School | New Beginnings Children's |
| Laundry to Literacy | Barbershop Books |
| Habitat for Humanity of Benton County | |
| One Community | |
| DEB Project (Deserving Enriched Blessed) | |

Dec. Jan. & Feb. Birthdays

Dec. 6 Sheryl Burhenn

Dec. 15 Judy Lemoine

Dec. 21 Byretta Fish

Jan. 21 Libby McDonald

Jan. 26. Vella Lewis

Jan. 27. Tara Pander

Jan. 31 Barbara Lemire

No Feb. Birthdays

In addition to all the book distributions, we distributed nearly 2,000 dictionaries to third graders in Bentonville, Gravette and Pea Ridge school districts. We also volunteered in several capacities around our community getting the Altrusa name out there as often as possible.

For 2018, we have many of the same successful projects planned. We are also embarking on a partnership with the Bentonville Library Foundation to support some of their projects, realizing that partnering with other non-profits, sharing our focus on literacy, only makes us stronger.

District Conference will find several of us in Lawrence, Kansas that last weekend in April. Fittingly, we will be following the yellow brick road. Conference is always a good time to connect and reconnect with Altrusans across the states of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. And, attendees consistently come away with great nuggets of new-found information to share with the club.

I wish everyone a slightly belated Happy New Year. I'm excited about 2018 and all it will bring.

Until next time,

Peggy Rosenthal

Happy New Year everyone! Your reporter left town in the middle of December and did not return until the middle of February. While I was enjoying a warm vacation in California, my Club was doing a fabulous job in our community. It's time for me to get caught up. *It was a very busy December!*

I was here for our Christmas/Hanukkah party. 😊

Linda Krysl opened her home for the party and we celebrated with **lots** of yummy snacks made by the members. Katie organized us into games designed to keep us laughing as we got to know each other better.



Next was an evening at the Single Parent Scholarship Fund's, Christmas party. We welcomed guests, served pizza, did crafts with the kids and gave each child their choice of two new books. Earlier, Connie, Kris and Karen wrapped and delivered gifts to the families we adopted and shopped for this Christmas.



That was just the start of Christmas giving by our club!

Kris and Terri delivered books to the Altrusa *Trade-a-Book* event's at the Thomas Jefferson Elementary School. Terri pronounced them amazing!



Connie and Tina volunteered at the DEB Project's gift wrapping, fundraiser booth. They delivered three boxes of gifts and book sets for the foster children served by the DEB Project. Director Sammy Laney is holding some of the gifts.



A new way to get books out to the children was undertaken in December. We joined Ben Snodgrass of the Sugar Creek Laundry and Dr. Karmen Bell, Professor of Childhood Education, and her students at the University of Arkansas, to pair literacy and laundry. We also gave them 2 boxes of books for their new bookshelf.



Working with other Altrusa clubs was also part of our Christmas giving. We were happy to give a box of books to Altrusa of Washington County for their project at Welcome Health, a free medical and dental clinic in Fayetteville. They furnish the waiting room with gently used toys and books.





Karen and Connie went to the Altrusa Intl. of Fayetteville's, Christmas party and delivered TUGS for their annual warm clothing drive. They collect T shirts, Underwear, Gloves and Socks (TUGS). They also collect hats and diapers, so we gave them 25 packages of diapers too!



One Community received a box of books, reading sets, and giant size books, for teachers. Plus an audio visual cart. Looks like we made Mary very merry!



These librarians at the small rural Gravette Public Library were overjoyed when seeing all the early reading books Gail brought to them! The *Librarian is on the Roof* book was a favorite!!



Gail also delivered books to the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter and Connie delivered books to the Samaritan Community Center and stayed to sort and organized their bookshelf for them!

WOW! Our Literacy Committee Co-chairs were **very** busy this holiday season!



We were sad to learn of the passing of our friend, Mrs. Joyce Cunningham. Ms. Joyce was 92 years old, the mother of one of our past members, Charlotte Fischer, and an emeritus member of nearby Altrusa Intl. of Fayetteville. She was a very special lady, always had a smile on her face. Joyce was an inspiration to us all - she truly exhibited patriotism, service and efficiency.

On **Jan. 2** President Peggy opened the meeting and the New Year with this **Altrusa Accent...** "I have never heard anything about the resolutions of the apostles, but a good deal about their acts" *Og Mandino*

All committee chairs reported and we are a financially sound and very busy club.

Jan. 16. Baby it's cold out there! Due to cold weather and ice our meeting was cancelled.

Feb. 6 Our meeting was opened today by President Peggy with this **Altrusa Accent...** "If I make this all about them, we're in trouble. It's what we do and how well we execute" *Doug Pederson, Head Coach, Philadelphia Eagles*

Game Day is coming! We must start to prepare. We have received our assignments from Kris and Katy.

Feb. 20 President Peggy opened our meeting with this **Altrusa Accent...** "Each of us has a fire in our hearts for something. It's our goal in life to find it and keep it lit." *Mary Lou Retton*

We were delighted to have Elizabeth Weathers visiting us today!

Hadi Dudley, Director of the Bentonville Library, and Teri Stafford, Executive Director of the Bentonville Library foundation, brought us a wonderful and informative program on all of the outreach programs at the Library. Hadi wanted us to know their library was not a *Quiet* library. Attendees are encouraged to use the library to learn and connect. She gave us information on a traveling exhibit, *Thinking Money*, that focuses on teaching personal financial health. Teri talked about Library Lovers month and thanked us for volunteering to help at their up-coming luncheon.

Linda Krysl was in charge of our Nominating Committee and the nominees have been chosen and are ready to take the reins in June. Soon to be a new member, Sue Sterling, has volunteered to be our incoming recording secretary. Welcome Sue!

Feb. 25 February is *Library Lovers'* Month. We have recently partnered with the Bentonville Library and were asked to help at the Library Lovers' Luncheon hosted by the Library Foundation. We greeted and directed guests, then we joined them for a yummy lunch. We must have done a good job. We each got a plant to take home!



Feb. 27 There is a new Children's Hospital in North West Arkansas. The Altrusa Club's of North West Arkansas, Bentonville/Bella Vista, Fayetteville, Rogers, Springdale and Washington County, have donated books for their playrooms. Bentonville/Bella Vista initiated the project by donating 33 new books in honor of their 33 members. We will all take turns maintaining the bookshelves.



Tutoring is one of the activities we are doing at the Thomas Jefferson Elementary School. Terri has the basket of letters she uses to tutor two different groups of students who are currently reading below grade level. Great job Terri!

Our yearly **District Eight Conference** is April 26-April 29. **Sign up and go!** It is a fun and wonderful experience!

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