



What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.
Bentonville/Bella Vista

July/Aug. 2019

July / Aug. Birthdays

July 16 Pat Sporleder
July 19 Connie Brown
July 29 Linda Krysl
July 29 Terri Gaither
Aug. 1 Donna Williams
Aug. 29 Janet Tonne



President: Gay Kiker riverman77414@yahoo.com

A Note from our President: WOW, what a summer we've had! As I write this note, I just found out we will be receiving \$6,365 from the WalMartGivesNWA pilot program! What an accomplishment for our club. It shows how dedicated our members are to giving back to our community. AND, it shows that individually we can do great things, but together we are awesome! Of course, I knew that fact already. It's been a busy summer with Days for Girls sessions, book donations all the way from Ft. Smith to Bella Vista and everywhere in between, backpack stuffing, giving out backpacks, helping other clubs in our area, making several monetary donations, and an Altrusa workshop. I thought with schools closed, this would be a nice quiet summer, but I was totally wrong. There's always a volunteer opportunity around the corner. And our club members are always ready to take on any and all such opportunities. Now, the work begins on our signature project, the dictionaries. And, our work also begins on our signature fundraiser, Spaghetti! I have no doubt both will be great successes. I'll report on that on my next note. Thanks, members, for all you do in the name of Altrusa. I know the community greatly appreciates it as do I.

Gay Kiker

July 1. This is Amanda, **Bella Vista Library** librarian. Earlier this year our club was able to furnish books to start a new graphic novels section. We just added 90 more new graphic novels to their collection. Amanda was so excited. she and the other librarians were jumping up and down!



July 9. Su Lynn and her Daughters of the American Revolution committee presented a 3 hour program, "Patriotism, It Runs in the Family" celebrating veterans, from the Revolutionary War to the present. This past March, Marion Chapter was awarded 1st Place in the state for the program. Congratulations go out to Su Lynn, her committee and the Marion Chapter for the recognition.

July 16. Our meeting was called to order by President Gay with the following **Altrusa Accent...** Service consists not in saying great things, but in the daily earnest practice of its principles... *Mamie L. Bass*

Anne Marie is starting the ball rolling for the **Spaghetti Dinner** in Oct. She said it was time to start selling ads for the flyer that will be placed on tables at the dinner and handed out at Altrusa functions during the year. This is a big fundraiser for us so we will get started! Gay showed an efficient "To Go Bag" sample for the take- out orders. Linda Krysl offered to purchase them (500 bags for \$53.99)! Thank you, Linda!

Gay reported that the **Audit Committee** met. The books were evaluated as thorough and complete. Our treasurers are to be "complemented for their accuracy and neatness."



Literacy. During the recent record flooding of the Arkansas River, the Moffett School (400 Pre-K thru 8th grade students) in Moffett, Oklahoma was totally flooded and everything inside ruined. The five northwest Arkansas Altrusa Clubs (Bentonville/Bella Vista, Fayetteville, Rogers, Springdale and Washington Co.) gathered new books to replace those lost in the school library and classrooms. They delivered 912 new books and \$100 to the Altrusa Club of Fort Smith for distribution to the school. We had good publicity coverage in both of our local papers about the Altrusa Clubs' donation to the Moffitt School. Valerie

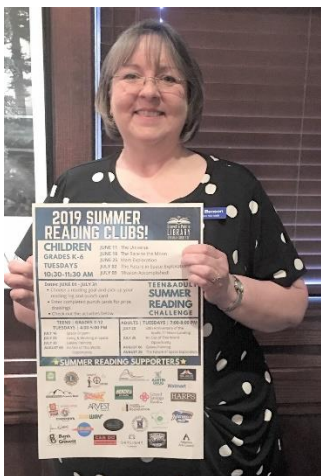
reminded everyone that when we present a donation, it's a great opportunity for a photo and publicity. Please, take those pictures!

Autumn's Re-Ride. Sheryl is our ranch wrangler (liaison) to Autumn's ReRide and Youth Ranch. She stocks our Book Barn with wonderful books about horses, ponies, ranch and farm animals. We donated \$200 and she went shopping for rakes, shovels, spray bottles, essential oils and arts and crafts supplies. Autumn's ReRide is a ministry that pairs rescued horses with children and their families to promote a place of healing and encouragement.



Our website now contains a working button that allows individuals to **contribute to our chapter** via our PayPal account.

Gay has had an idea for a fundraiser for over a year to bring "BLING!" to Altrusa in the form of an Altrusa Pin. There was some difficulty with the Altrusa International bylaws, but Gay met with our new International Governor, Beverly Hardy, at the Altrusa Conference last April, and she gave us the go-ahead. The pin will say Altrusa in sparkly gems. The plan is to sell them at future Altrusa outings. We had no trouble voting in this idea with a big YES!



Karen Benson from the **Gravette Public Library** began in 2016 as a volunteer in a library that had just one half-time paid staff member, and by December she was Library Director. Under her guidance there has been a 650% increase in participants of the library! When she started there was no children's program. Now there is Maker Monday, Tech Tuesday, and Wear It Wednesday for the children. In this year's summer program, the children had to read 250 minutes. In four weeks they read 77 hours more than in eight weeks last summer. She is successfully using graphic novels to introduce teens to classic literature. Their library is one of our Literacy Committee's projects and we send them books regularly. We received 100 bookmarks made by the South Central Region Embroiderer's Guild and passed them along to her. Wonderful program Karen!

The club voted to donate \$500 to **Luci Lights**. These marvelous lights are blown up like a balloon and get their power from the sun. Our donation will bring light to a whole school in a 3rd world country that has no electricity. This is an Altrusa International project and we hope they will be able to provided us with information about the school that our donation is sent to.



Using a theme of winemaking, President Gay and Vice President Kris initiated our two newest members, Janet Tonne and Karen McAuley. As our “newest vines”, they agreed to continue to grow as Altrusans. Members agreed that with “tender loving care” we will help raise them. Sponsors Karen Robbins and Peggy Rosenthal gave our new members their Altrusa Yearbook, pin, and name badge.

Our new Altrusan’s jumped right in. The very next day Janet Tonne. was at The DEB Project, signing up to volunteer and Karen McAuley donated a bag of mostly

new books which she purchased at a church sale. These ladies will be a great asset to our club. Welcome ladies!

July 19. At the **Altrusa Intl. Convention** in Reno, Nevada last week we were recognized as being a **Distinguished Club!** The only one in Arkansas and one of only four in our District Eight. The honor was largely due to the fact that we had two members, Connie Brown and Karen Robbins, who were part of the District Eight team. We know we’re special and are honored to receive this award! We work hard serving our community and having fun while we do it! Kudos to Linda Smith of Altrusa Intl. of Salina, Kansas. She has held many, many offices in District Eight, including District Governor. At the Convention in Reno, she was elected Vice President of Altrusa Intl. Congratulations Linda!



On **July 23** some of our members were serving refreshments and directing guests at the Bentonville Library. Delia Owens, New York Times best-selling author of the book “Where the Crawdads Sing” was there for a book signing.

July 31. Our charter member and member emeritus, Mary Louise Harris, moved to Florida today to be with family. We'll miss her and we wish her the best as she begins a new chapter in her life. When we asked her what we could do to help with her move, her response was an emphatic, "Find me an Altrusa Club in Florida!" We tried but there is none near her! International President Beverly Hardy is from FL and would know if club expansion in FL is in the works. Mary Louise would be an ideal charter member in a new club in FL.



Aug. 6. Our meeting was called to order by President Gay with this **Altrusa Accent...** Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can. *John Wesley*

We all agreed this sounded just like our Connie Brown! Here is what she and her **Literacy Committee** were up to the past two weeks!

Altrusa of Rogers had their annual **Pages and Pictures** event for the children in the Summer Day Camp at the Rogers Activity Center. There were crafts, games, art, prizes, storytelling and free books! Connie volunteered herself and some books at this event!

At the **Thomas Jefferson School** the teachers had filled the stage with material they no longer needed. When they asked Connie if we could use any of the Giant books, dictionaries, math manipulatives, science readers, atlases, classic books and teacher resource books, Connie said "Sure" She loaded all 1,592 books and 25 math manipulative sets and had her husband take them for a 94 mile ride to a very grateful Moffitt School in Oklahoma that was wiped out in the flood. (She said her husband works near there so it wasn't a big deal. We think it was!) The **Thomas Jefferson School** also had other books and reading rugs that were no longer needed and Connie took them right over to the Gravette Library. And! We have placed twelve boxes of books at the **Thomas Jefferson Elementary School** to be given out at the All School Book Giveaway on Wednesday, August 28.

The five Northwest Arkansas Altrusa Clubs helped stuff 1,800 of the 4,250, age appropriate backpacks packed at the **Samaritan Community Center**. That's a lot of stuffing and they were having fun doing it!! Check out the video on our facebook page. www.facebook.com/altrusa8



Our Altrusa of Washington County friends had their annual **Parent UP** event. 400 backpacks stuffed with school supplies, 300 Snack-packs for Kids, and 200 family personal care bags, 100 free haircuts, free lunch, free books and fun children's activities! And, of course, Connie brought children's books for the event!

Su Lynn is moving and down-sizing. She made a large donation of adult books which Connie redirected to the Bella Vista Library. Some were used as prizes in their Summer Reading Program!

The Osage Creek Elementary and Creekside Middle Schools transformed a donated school into a traveling library. During the summer It makes a series of 11 stops each Wednesday morning in the schools attendance zones. So Connie brought a box of books to the **Bridge Bus library!**



Gay discovered that we have recently qualified as an eligible Northwest Arkansas nonprofit for the **WalmartGivesNWA Program**. In this program, Walmart will donate, \$10 for each eligible volunteer hour that is correctly reported. Just to make sure we do it right, Connie will set up individual accounts for each of us and will also report our hours in those accounts. As you can see by the amount of time she has spent on the literacy council, she had a lot of time on her hands. 😊 Thanks again Connie

Aug.12. At the **Days For Girls** workshop this week we presented a check for \$200 to this wonderful organization who make and send kits to girls in third world countries to use during their monthly menstrual cycle so their schooling is not interrupted. The club has volunteered all year to make 100 kits that can be laundered and used for about 5 years. The club also donated 7 steam irons, 3 sewing machines, a serger and 9 spools of serger thread to Lorrie Healy who is the Arkansas Director for Days For Girls and the head of the local Rogers Chapter. Days For Girls has been Altrusa International's project for the past 2 years and this club was happy to do their part. Lorrie Healy said "I am overwhelmed by the generosity of our Altrusa ladies."



Lorna Wanyama, a days for girls volunteer in Busia Kenya wrote. "Amazing, great work. I work at a school outreach program and my dream would not be true without this love, generosity, and support because I purely depend on well-wishers for sanitary supplies." Connie said that the goal is 30,000 hygiene kits by the end of the year. So I guess we better sew, sew, sew!

Aug. 15. Tina is our bookshelf elf for **Sugar Creek Laundry/Big Ben Cleaners!** She restocks the bookshelf and fluffs it up on the day there is **Loads of Learning**. During Loads of Learning there is free laundry, free supper, free children's activities by the University of Arkansas early literacy students and, of course, free children's books (all the time)!



Five of our members attended the **District Eight** regional event, **A Summer Day of Chatter!** The motto of new Altrusa President Beverly Hardy is *Teamwork Makes the Dream Work*. The keynote speaker, Stephanie Maass, shared information about Laundry Love in northwest Arkansas. And of course, we donated a laundry basket full of books to the children who come to Laundry Love. There were recommendations about promoting leadership and finding the skill sets of people in their club. The Altrusa International's website has been revamped and contains a lot of helpful information including an International Service Database where you can see what projects other clubs are doing. It was announced that the 2021 Altrusa International Convention is going to be in Quebec City, Canada, and the 2023 Convention is going to be in San Antonio, Texas. From this picture it looks like lunch was included!

Aug. 20. Our meeting was called to order by President Gay with the following **Altrusa Accent...** Never regret a day in your life. Good days give happiness, bad days give experience, and best days give memories... *unknown*

Plans for the **Spaghetti Dinner**, Thursday, October 3, are in full swing. Karen McAuley handed out 15 tickets for each member to sell.

Karen Robbins gave us an up-date on the **Single Parent Scholarship Fund**. There are 131 students in the program and 40 of them are new. They have 160 children under age 9 and 78 who are 9 or older. 115 scholarships were awarded in 5 in Supportive Services (nursing students awaiting classes), 11 in a new program called GAP which helps in the transition from graduation to work force by filling in the financial gaps as their government assistance decreases. The average Grade Point Average is 3.2.

Our club was thrilled when we received a \$1,500 donation from **Mars Incorporated**. A big thank you to Janet who keeps us in the Mars donation basket. Mars has also graciously agreed to let us have our dictionaries delivered to their office. Our dictionaries were delivered to Mary Louise' garaged for years so we needed a new plan. Many thanks Mars!

The **"BLING!"** has arrived! Gay received the shipment and our members started buying. Gay was busy taking the \$15 for each pin by cash, check, or charge. If members are going to be at another Altrusa club they will take pins along to sell.

The I Report! Oh how I've missed it. So let's learn today about new member Karen McAuley. She works for GE and she sells aircraft engines! When she feels stress she eats, takes a deep breath, and walks away. What does she think about almost every day? The things she is grateful for. Her pet-peeves are dishonesty and pessimism. The quality she wants to see in the people around her is integrity. I think she will love being an Altrusan.



Bits and Pieces. Sheryl will go to the Mayo Clinic to make plans for her surgery. Our good wishes and prayers will go with her. Donna is doing well after her recent surgery and Kris showed us an ultrasound picture of her "grandbaby."

And again I want to thank Connie and Sue for their help getting all this information to me.

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