



What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.
Bentonville/Bella Vista
March / April 2019

- March Birthdays**
Mar. 10 Kris Sherry/Davis
- April Birthdays**
Apr. 10 Carla Marcinkus
Apr. 13 Karen Robbins
Apr. 14 Valerie Katz
Apr. 18 Gay Kiker
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President: **Gay Kiker** riverman77414@yahoo.com

A Note from our President- What a busy few months!! Working together we held a highly successful Game Day event. We made more profit this year than past years, we had more silent auction items than past years, we sold more basket chances than in past years, and we might have had more fun than in past years. To me the fun part is the most important, well maybe the money part is more important. BUT, the fun is what brings many members and card players back each year!

We have also helped TJ Elementary in several ways: we helped with their Spring Fling, we helped with their Book Fair, we swapped books with the kiddos, and we donated the left over craft items we had laying around. We helped DEB project with their 1st ever fashion show with tons of silent auction baskets. I'm pretty sure they made a decent amount of profit that day. We also purchased adult graphic novels for the Bella Vista Public Library. All of this, and we had countless other community volunteer opportunities that we were involved with. AND, we're gearing up for our 20th Anniversary party on May 4th.

WHEW!! No wonder I'm tired!! I was asked to give a quote about why I joined Altrusa and why I stay: "I joined Altrusa to meet new people, I stay because I have made lifelong friends." I'd like to thank each and every member for their help and support in each of these projects and fundraisers. You are all very much appreciated. Our great success and recognition in our community as the "group that does books", is due to the dedication of our members. I am humbled to be your president this year (and next).

Gay Kiker

We are Altrusans and what do we do? We give books to the children. Can I get a Yahoo!



Mar. 5. Game Day!! Altrusans met at the United Lutheran Church for the annual Game Day event. Kris and Katy had their teams working hard. In the kitchen food was being prepared. Thing One (Kris) and Thing Two (Terri) were busy selling tickets for the baskets, guests were warmly greeted, silent auction items were beautifully arranged, and Carla and Donna were manning the book sales table. I was busy too. I picked up the members of my Bridge group and then had to call Bob to bring me the cards, pencils and score sheets. Good thing I wasn't in charge of Games Day.

As usual, the day was a huge success. Attendees were heard to say "This event is always so much fun and Altrusa has the best food!"



There were two of these food tables and the food just kept coming. After a break the delicious deserts were served.



Our friends from Altrusa of Fayetteville came to support us. Many thanks!





We had a great day!!

And... Katy was very pleased to report that our Games Day event raised \$3,202.70 -- an increase of over \$1,100 from last year!

Mar. 19. President Gay opened our meeting with this **Altrusa Accent...** Be who you are and say what you feel. Because those who mind, don't matter and those who matter, don't mind. *Dr. Seuss*

Connie mentioned that as fast as we give away books more books seem to come to us. That is how our wonderful **Literacy Committee** keeps our goal to get books to the children moving right along. She told us that we have given out more than 10,000 books already this year! They need more Beanie Babies though so keep your eyes and ears open.

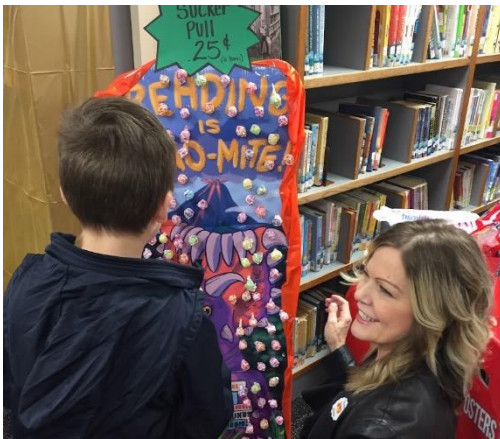
We gave the **Thomas Jefferson Elementary School** 300 hard cover books. Our donations are modernizing the school library. Then The vice principal of TJES gave us 5 boxes of books, used to teach reading. Those books were given to **One Community** in Springdale, an organization that does after school tutoring and has a summer reading program, among other things. Our books, coming and going!

The plans for our **20th Anniversary Celebration** are moving right along. Karen's committee has decided that the color theme will be silver and blue. We all need to be on the lookout for things for the history table. Clippings, notes, pictures.. The celebration is being well covered on our Facebook page. Connie is putting something related to the event on it each day. Connie also managed to get 5 new contacts for the Democratic Gazette paper and online venues. Valerie sent all of them the news regarding our 20th Anniversary Celebration and invited them all to come!

Our **District Conference** delegates were chosen. Gay and Kris will represent our club as delegates and Karen and Valerie as alternates. Our own **District Director** Connie will also attend.



On **Mar. 29** Connie was at a luncheon at the Arkansas Governor's Mansion. Our Hot Springs Altrusa club hosted the 4.0 Student Recognition and Scholarship Luncheon. Connie is an Altrusa Director and she does a wonderful job. We are so blessed to have her in our club.



April 1 found many of our members helping at the **Thomas Jefferson Elementary School Book Fair**. Kids and volunteers enjoyed the event!



April 2. The meeting was called to order by President Gay with the following **Altrusa Accent...** Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it. *Lou Holtz*



The **Bella Vista Library** was extremely happy to receive our donation of \$496.82 for graphic novels. Gail passed around six examples of these books. Most of us thought graphic novels were just comic books. Not so!

Karen let us know that **The Single Parent Scholarship Fund's** Fall 2019 scholarship application is now on line. If anyone knows of a single parent who might be interested, now is the time to let them know.

Su Lynn brought us information about the **Royal Family Camp** at our Feb. 5th meeting. This is a summer camp for foster children. Connie and Gay got the ages of the 32 boys and girls who will attend the camp and we will provide books and reading buddies for all of them. The DEB project had a large donation of very nice blankets that they passed along to us and we will pass them along to the campers!

We still need **Storage Space**. Valerie suggested that if we could find someone who has an enclosed trailer that they don't use and would like to loan/give to us, we might be able to rent a space at Bella Vista RV Rentals to park the trailer and store all the stuff that is now cluttering up many members garages.

Kris proudly announced that her daughter, who is graduating in May, is on the Chancellor's list and she is one of only six people who received the Senior Scholar Award from the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences at the University of Arkansas. Kudo's to both of you!

On **April 6** the **DEB Project** had their **First Annual Fashion Show**. The models in the show, children and adults, were all adoptees. It was a huge success and they raised over \$14,000 in ticket sales, commitment cards, silent auction items, and sponsorships. The Project may even get interns through the Bentonville School's Ignite Professional Studies program. Wow! And this was the first one! Connie, Vella and Judy went two days early to help Sammy put the silent auction baskets together. As you can see, our club was well represented at the fashion show.



The **April 16** meeting was called to order by President Gay with the following **Altrusa Accent ...** Don't wait for the perfect moment, take the moment and make it perfect. *Zoey Seyward*

Our Altrusa fiscal year begins in June. That's the time we let our club know we are coming back! The **\$95 annual dues** need to be delivered to Sheryl in May. Please be prompt. Our club will get fined for being tardy!

Terri let us know that the last book swap of this school year at the **Thomas Jefferson Elementary School** will be in May. Our members have been bringing in craft *stuff* that the school has let us know they needed. We got a very nice thank you card from them for the craft items and for all the hard work our TJES committee has put in all year. Great work ladies!

Our **Literacy Committee** is getting ready for several summer projects. The Kiwanis K-Kids Program, the Bella Vista Library Summer Reading Program, and the Royal Family Camp for foster children. We will have to have a book cleaning and organizing party in Mary Louise's garage in May!

Our Program on the **Special Olympics** was interesting and we learned a ton of new information. Camie Powell, the Director of Corporate and Marketing Relations for Arkansas spoke about how the Special Olympics was founded and how it operates. It was started 50 years ago by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, sister of President

John Kennedy, who had an intellectually disabled sister. She realized that by utilizing lots of volunteers, as opposed to hiring a staff, many more people could interact with the intellectually disabled and learn to understand and appreciate them. Participants learn how to deal with defeat as well as victory. Awards are not handed out just for participating. If they travel for competition, they travel with coaches, not parents. *Participants take it very seriously.* There are 240 competitions a year in Arkansas alone! The competitors must be at least 8 years old to compete in local, regional and state levels. At the recent World Games there were 4 Arkansans on Team USA. They are always looking for volunteers and Donna Kilmer is our Area 3 contact.



Vice-president Kris, Donna Kilmer and Camie Powell

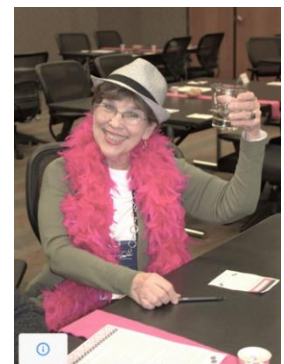


April 19 found Anne Marie winning 2 blue ribbons at the Q.U.I.L.T. show in Springdale. Wow! Anne Marie, you are a star!



Tidbits - Carla has been elected President of the United Methodist Women at her church. Kudos Carla! The tasting room is complete and the vines have been pruned at Gay's daughter's vineyard. Terri has a new grandchild that brings the total to 4 grandsons and 1 granddaughter. Valerie has done TV, radio and blog interviews about her book *The News from Arkansas* and she will let us know when and where they take to the air. And Tina's granddaughter made the high school dance team at her Houston, Texas school.

The **2019 District Eight Conference** was fun, informative, and inspiring. On Thursday night there was a Welcome to Conference event. We played Bunco!



When Gay went to flag practice the rest of us headed for our rooms for wine and snacks.



Each Conference has a project decided upon by the hosting club. Altrusa International of St. Louis chose Good Shepherd Children & Family Services. Connie managed to gather 102 baby bibs for the project, remembering that Altrusa is 102 this year. Connie tried to make an Arch out of them for this picture. I'm afraid our Arch was a little uneven. That may have something to do with the wine consumption. We were having fun!

Friday morning was the Opening Ceremony and Presentation of the flags. Then Gay strutted her stuff and carried in our Banner.



Gay was asked to open the meeting with the Altrusa Collect and Accent. She made us proud!



Last year the Conference adopted a new workshop called "Good Witches Chatter". It worked so well they brought it back again. The District Chairs, in their witches hats, had about 25 minutes to give us information on their subject. All things that work to make our clubs bigger, better, and easier. When their time was up Governor Becky Wood called "Bump" and we all rushed to our next Directors. Great idea! It was much easier to get questions answered and subjects understood. Well done Becky!!



Saturday afternoon found us at the Awards Banquet. We were a very happy group. We took First place for our entry in the Governors Distinguished Service Award. Third place in the very prestigious Mamie L. Bass Award, and Second place for our Club Display!



Here is Gay accepting the Mamie L. Bass Award from District Eight Governor Becky Wood and International President Elect Beverly Hardy

The weekend was just flying by!

Saturday Evening brought the Governor's Banquet. Prior to the banquet there was a reception (cash bar) and a time to have our pictures taken.



Gay convinced Karen to make a little speech about our First Place entry for the Governors Distinguished Service Award. She did a wonderful job!



Then there was the installation of the 2019-2021 Board. Here is Becky Wood handing the reigns of Governor over to Penny Daugherty who will lead District Eight for the next two years. Welcome Governor Penny! The flags were retired and Governor Penny led us in the Altrusa Benediction.



Then we had a surprise visitor! Charlotte was visiting her daughter and was just a few minutes from the Conference. It was wonderful to see her smiling



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 Face book www.facebook.com/altrusa8