



What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.

Bentonville/Bella Vista

May / June 2019

May Birthdays

May 6 Mary Louise Harris

May 12 Bobbie Platt

June Birthdays

June 12 Tina Brandt

June 13 Judy Frisbie



President: Gay Kiker riverman77414@yahoo.com

A Note from our President... Since my last report, we've been involved in lots of fun activities. 5 of us went to District Eight Conference in St. Louis. It was informative, inspiring, profitable, tiring, and most of all FUN. We sold lots of our "slightly used" jewelry. In fact, we were the only club selling this year, which made our sales soar. We were visited by the incoming International President, Beverly Hardy from Florida. She will be installed this July in Reno at the International Convention.

We came back and went right into our 20th Anniversary celebration in May. That too was a fun day filled with Altrusa memories. We were visited by several fellow Altrusans from this area. The end of the school year gave us the opportunity to give every student at TJ Elementary a book (that's over 300 books!!). We're hoping they enjoy their summer and come back in the fall ready to enjoy swapping books with us again.

We are starting our new Altrusa year which means we will have lots of volunteer opportunities during the coming months. Some will be repeats from last year, and I have no doubt there will be some new and exciting ones. Please don't hesitate to bring new ideas and volunteer opportunities to the club members. We are always open to new projects and fundraisers.

Thanks for making the last year a success for the club. We raised a lot of money, and donated tons of books throughout the community. I know this group will keep the spirit of Altrusa flowing throughout the year to come.

Gay Kiker

On May 4th Altrusa International of Bentonville/Bella Vista turned 20!!

Connie had the event running live on Facebook and our new District Eight Governor Penny Daugherty tuned in!! Elizabeth Weathers and Pat Moore, who were instrumental in getting our Chapter started, were there as was Theresa Stafford from the Bentonville Library Foundation.



We were very pleased to have three Altrusa Past Governors, Alice Ann Simpkins, Becky Wood, and Carolyn Rash there to celebrate with us.



Three charter members, Michelle Payton, Mary Louise Harris and Karen Robbins, who are still active Altrusans, were in attendance.



Our friends from Altrusa Of Fayetteville made the journey to help us celebrate.



Present and past club presidents in attendance. Charter president Karen Robbins, past presidents, Michelle Payton, Linda Krysl, Katy Henkel, and Peggy Rosenthal and our current president Gay Kiker.



Tina and Marian greeted guests and had them sign the guest book. 41 signatures!



Sheryl, Sue and Pat made sure all attendees something to drink.

As usual, Connie and Gail, our **Literacy Committee** Co-Chairs have been very, very busy! Connie wowed us with the news that we gave away an estimated 15,000 books during the 2018-2019 fiscal year. We have had our last **book-organizing session** in Mary Louise' garage. As it turned out, Kris has a storage container that had room for our books! Our crew got together and moved, sorted, and cleaned a whole bunch of them. Since Connie and Gail have been busy getting rid of the books, the job just a *little bit* easier.



On **May 21st** . They restocked the book shelf for another learning night at the Sugar Creek Laundry. We partner this project with the University of Arkansas Early Childhood Literacy program.



On **May 23rd** we partnered with Kiwanis of Bella Vista for a project their K Kids Club at Cooper Elementary was doing. Connie and Gail picked out 100 picture books to supplement the K Kids book drive so that they were able to give each of the 260 pre k children at Tennie Russell Primary School two books to take home for the summer. Kiwanis, with their motto of "Serving the Children of the World" is a great match with our Club's emphasis on children's literacy. The K Kids took a field trip the Tennie Russell School and read to the children.



Anne-Marie suggested a larger site for our Games Day fundraiser. At St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Bella Vista we could have 100 tables instead of 30. Anne-Marie will see if the site is available on March 3rd. The new Co-Chairs of the Games Day Fund Raiser Committee are Marian Eagle and Sue Sterling. The Games Day crew will be busy!



Mary Louise is moving to Venice, Florida. Altrusa International has awarded **Emeritus Status** for her. This means that she is an Altrusan wherever she goes. We will miss our Charter Member greatly!



Su Lynn received a first place award for her program at the DAR conference. We are very proud of her

Our **June 4th** meeting was called to order by President Gay with the following **Altrusa Accent...** Don't cling to a mistake just because you spent a lot of time making it! *Unknown*

Our **Literacy Committee** is still handing out books. Gail brought the first batch of books to the Bella Vista Library for their Summer Reading Program. There were over 700 people at the opening celebration. Their summer reading program has over 300 children enrolled and we are helping them by sending the books! She will deliver a total of 600!

Gail also delivered 150 books to the Gravette Library!

A teen group from the Bella Vista Library built 2 wooden book boxes. One is at Metfield and the other is near the beach at Lake Avalon. Terri and Anne-Marie volunteered to keep them filled. Connie and Gail sure appreciated the help.



Su Lynn brought us a new project for this year. There are 20 children enrolled in the **Royal Family Camp** for foster children and we are providing books, reading buddies, and the blankets we got from the DEB Project.

Tina had news about the **DEB Project**. One of their continuing programs is the internship which allows high school and college students who volunteer at the DEB store to receive college scholarship money. They can choose to volunteer for 25, 50, or 100 hours and receive a scholarship for \$250, \$500, or \$1,000.

Sheryl presented our donation of \$100 to **Autumn's ReRide Youth Ranch** for a hole sign at their Galloping for the Green Golf Tournament. She also noted that our Book Nook at the site has been filled!

Tidbits - Gay's grandson, a first grader, received a reward for Best Handwriting. Kris Davis' daughter had a lovely wedding. Peggy Rosenthal's granddaughter increased her reading ability by 60% in less than one year. Bobbie Platt is dealing with health issues.

Our **June 18** meeting was called to order by President Gay with this **Altrusa Accent...** In all of our contacts, it is probably the sense of being really needed and wanted which gives us the greatest satisfaction and creates the most lasting bond. *Eleanor Roosevelt - Altrusan*

The Executive Board met on June 4th and approved the proposed Operating Budget and the proposed Foundation Budget for 2019-2020. After Operating Treasurer Sheryl reviewed the proposed Operating Budget and Foundation Treasurer Vella reviewed the proposed Foundation Budget there was discussion and a motion to accept the budgets. The motion carried.

We are planning to help the public school in Moffett, Oklahoma. It's near Ft. Smith and was severely damaged by the recent flooding. We've been in contact with the Ft. Smith Altrusa chapter. We have received 60 copies of *The Time We Ran Away* which is an example of what Moffett can use.

The **DEB Project** has a new project. **Puppy Paws for Therapy** which trains dogs to help children with emotional difficulties through visits to schools. One dog will be ready in January. Sammy's goal is to provide a dog to a school each year. Their pantry, which includes food, diapers, hygiene and similar products is very successful. From January through May, about 1200 items were given away and over 200 children were helped.

June 24 was the date to work on the **Days for Girls** project. Lorrie Healy heads up the Days for Girls activities for Altrusa International of Rogers and has set up a place in her home here in Bella Vista to work on the project.

Communications The Club now has a generic email – info@altrusa-bb.com. There is a link to this on our webpage. Mail sent to that address now goes to President Gay. This can be changed when officers change. The address will be included on future flyers that we produce. Gay is currently working to set up a PayPal account for the Club. There would be a "Donate" button on our website linked to the PayPal account so people can donate to our Foundation Account. Great ideas Gay!

Committees for the 2019 – 2020 year have been announced.

Dictionary Project – Janet Edwards & Kris Davis (Co-chairs) Marian Eagle, Terri Gaither, Donna Williams

Spaghetti Dinner – Anne-Marie Steeneck & Pat Sporleder (Co-Chairs) Linda Krysl, Peggy Rosenthal, Sheryl Burhenn, Su Lynn Hanson, Katy Henkel

Literacy – Connie Brown (Chair) Gail Cowdin, Katy Henkel, Mary Louise Harris, Carla Marcinkus

Single Parent Scholarship – Karen Robbins (Chair) Linda Krysl, Su Lynn Hanson, Janet Tonne

DEB Project – Tina Brandt (Chair) Vella Lewis, Carla Marcinkus, Janet Tonne

Thomas Jefferson – Terri Gaither & Kris Davis (Co-Chairs) Sue Sterling, Vella Lewis

Autumn's Re-Ride - Part of Literacy – Sheryl Burhenn, Janet Edwards

Games Day – Sue Sterling & Marian Eagle (Co-Chairs) Pat Sporleder, Anne-Marie Steeneck, Tina Brandt, Donna Williams, Peggy Rosenthal

Communications – Valerie Katz (Chair) Connie Brown

Awards – Peggy Rosenthal (Chair) Valerie Katz

International Project – Days4Girls – Gay Kiker (Chair) Carla Marcinkus

And we have two **New Committees**.

Membership - Kris Davis, Karen Robbins, and Sheryl Burhenn.

Strategic Planning - Gay, Terri Gaither, and Sue Sterling

Looks like we will be very busy again this year!

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