

# What Happened?

*News and Information about our Club.*

*Bentonville/Bella Vista*

**Nov. - Dec. 2019**



## **Nov. Dec. Birthdays**

Nov. 10 Janet Edwards

Nov. 27 Katy Henkel

Dec. 6 Sheryl Burhenn

Dec. 7 Marian Eagle

Dec. 21 Byretta Fish

**A Note from our President** You would think after a huge fundraiser (which was a large success!!) in October, our Altrusa members would need a break. But, nooooooo!! Not this group!!

There were book swaps, book fairs, Single Parent Scholarship gifts to buy, Christmas parties to either attend or help with, warehouse book sales, and lots more to round out 2019.

TJ Elementary saw a couple of book swaps before the end of the year and a book fair. The volunteer hours we earned at the scholastic books warehouse sale converted into cash for the TJ Elementary librarian to purchase new books for the library. We met at the Gravette Public library to tour the space and see what their needs are. We are giving that library several sewing machines as well as a cash donation. We contacted Decatur Northside Elementary school to see if they were interested in our help. Of course they are, and we've already done a book giveaway with their students. We decided to add Decatur and Gentry to our annual dictionary project starting next fall.

We purchased Christmas gifts for two Single Parent Scholarship Fund families this year as well as helped with their annual Christmas party. And, our club members celebrated Christmas with a tour of a local tree farm including shopping, a hay ride, and s'mores by a fire.

I am looking forward to starting 2020 with this group of wonderful Altrusans. They make my job so easy as President. I'm always ready and willing to talk about the greatness of our group and the many projects we do for our community. Here's to a great 2020 and beyond!

***Gay Kiker***

**Nov. 5.** The meeting was called to order by President Gay with the following **Altrusa Accent...** My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor and some style. *Maya Angelou*

**Game Day is coming!** Wednesday, March 4 has been selected for the event.

**Communications** - Valerie handed out the new yearbooks, and sent out the Sept./Oct. newsletter.



Altrusa of Fayetteville again partnered with the Fayetteville Public Library during the week long True Lit Festival to sponsor the Young Writers Contest for 6th graders in Fayetteville. Gail, our member/murder mystery author, again served as a poetry judge.

On **Nov. 6.** ten of our members went on a tour of the **Gravette Library** that we have taken under our wing. The Librarian, Karen Benson, and her staff, gave them a tour and told them about the wonderful programs they have. The 240 books that were brought to donate were well received. Afterwards they enjoyed lunch at El Bohemio Mexican Restaurant!



Our **Look for a Book** activity for **National Make a Difference Day** resulted in an unexpected donation. Someone who saw a “Look for a Book” said she’d like to buy Osborne books for us!

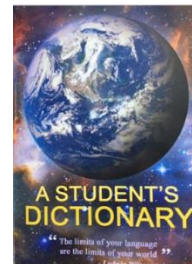
Connie was once again getting and giving around the Village. The **DEB Project** had a sewing machine they didn’t need, so Connie redirected it to **Days for Girls!**

Our Vice President, Kris. Did a free, Walmart sponsored training, to set up our profile to enable us to receive donations through **Candid**. Candid’s expertise is in data, technology, research, and training to serve the entire sector of nonprofits, foundations, social enterprises, and individual donors to promote more and smarter giving. Based on what she did, we are already at the “gold” level. There is grant information on their site which may prove valuable in the future. Kudos Kris!

**Bits and Pieces...**Gay helped with the harvesting at her daughter and son-in-law’s winery. The opening was a success! *Sheryl* is done with this round of treatments and is feeling well.

**Nov. 19.** Our meeting was called to order by President Gay with this **Altrusa Accent...** Nobody cares how much you know until they know how much you care. *Theodore Roosevelt*

We had 140 dictionaries left over from our annual **Dictionary Project** this year. We found the small rural **Decatur School District** which is adjacent to us had over 85% of their students in poverty and their middle and high schools were in academic distress. We gave them the extra dictionaries and the next day they were in use by the 3rd and 4th graders and all levels of ESL classrooms. We plan to add the Decatur and Gentry Schools to our dictionary project next year.



**Nov. 22** was Book Swap Day at **Thomas Jefferson Elementary School**. The kids bring one book and get to pick two to take home! We also provided more books for the new 2nd grade teacher, books for the art teacher, matchbox cars and car rug for the after school program, new Christmas books for the library and prizes for the Conscious Discipline program!

**Communications** If you don't have the updated Yearbook, please let Valerie know. We got press coverage for our Make a Difference Day project in both the Vista and the Gazette.

**Bits and Pieces** *Katy* has successfully moved! *Su Lynn* is moving in December to another area of Bella Vista. *Gail* has finished her book signing events here and has three left in Minnesota.



On **Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>** we had our **Christmas Party!** We started with dinner at Gusano's. Then off we went to the Wonderland Tree Farm. It was a perfect night for caroling on a hayride and making s'mores around the fire. The gift shop with all their unique Christmas items was a welcome site. It was an awesome evening and loads of fun!



**Dec. 5.** Once again we participated in the **Single Parent Scholarship Fund Festival of Giving**. This year ten of our members shopped for Christmas presents for two single moms and eight children.





On **Dec. 6** we had a great time helping to staff the **Single Parent Scholarship Fund's Christmas Party**. We served pizza and drinks, and manned the photo booth and toy room. But Christmas is a giving time so we gave each of the 78 children a new book and a Beanie Baby reading buddy. Our talented Su Lynn made a lovely centerpiece to be used as a door prize.



**Dec. 12** was Book swap day at **Thomas Jefferson Elementary School**. The kids and staff signed a big Christmas card for us and sent us all a jingle bell necklace that were made by the kindergarteners! We also gave books to the art teacher, Star Reader stickers, and more prizes for the Conscious Discipline Tiger Roar Store!



**Dec. 16** found twelve of our Altrusa members volunteering at the **Scholastic Books Remote Warehouse Sale** to earn books for the Thomas Jefferson Elementary School Library!



Our program today was **Altrusa 101** by President Gay. Gay explained that everything she knows about Altrusa she got from these great sources: the websites and facebook pages of Altrusa International, District Eight and our Club. Also, our Club Yearbook and other Altrusans.

Among the items she discussed were:

The history of Altrusa International

The establishment of our Club and that our first Club President was Karren Robbins

Altrusa International accomplishments

The principles of Altrusa as written by Mamie L. Bass, Altrusa's first national president

The Altrusa and ASTRA keys

The difference between Operating and Foundation accounts

Protocol Tips for Club Members

Frequently asked questions including: What is the Altrusa International website?

<http://altrusa.org> The member login is user ID -- altrusan password MamieLethaNina1917

**A fundraiser reminder!** When shopping on Amazon go to [www.smile.amazon](http://www.smile.amazon) and designate our Club (Altrusa International Bentonville, AR) as the charitable organization. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to our Club's Foundation. After you do it once a pop-up will remind you the next time.

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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](http://altrusa-bb.com) See us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/altrusa8](http://www.facebook.com/altrusa8)