



# What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.

Bentonville/Bella Vista

Sept./Oct. 2019

## Sept. /Oct. Birthdays

Sept. 7 Su Lynn Hanson  
Sept. 17 Sue Sterling  
Sept. 26 Gail Cowden  
Oct. 10 Peggy Rosenthal

**President:** Gay Kiker [riverman77414@yahoo.com](mailto:riverman77414@yahoo.com)

**A Note from our President...** As fall approaches, I find myself quite busy with Altrusa fundraisers and projects. September always brings dictionaries. From contacting schools to get the number of third graders, to ordering the dictionaries, to members signing up to deliver, to contacting the schools again to schedule delivery, and finally to delivery day. It's definitely a process that our club members have perfected. Much thanks goes to the Dictionary Committee. And all dictionaries are usually delivered by the end of September.

Which brings October and spaghetti!! From getting the dinner on the church calendar, to handing out mystery bags for members to fill, to selling tickets and ads, to having members sign up for work duty on dinner day, to double checking with the church on details, to purchasing the ingredients, to preparing the sauce that day, to cooking the spaghetti (with a little help from our Altrousers), to cleaning up after the dinner...and everything in between! Much thanks goes to the Spaghetti Dinner committee.

But, both of these events would not be successful without the commitment and hard work of every one of our members. So, my hat's off to everyone. Committee chairs, committee members, and club members. That's the busiest we will be this Altrusa year (haha). There's nothing better than knowing fundraisers and projects are well taken care of and are great successes year after year. I hope everyone has a great holiday season and I'm looking forward to the first of next year when we will again gear up for more fundraisers and projects.

## Gay Kiker

**Sept. 3.** The meeting was called to order by President Gay with this **Altrusa Accent...** Some of us will make tiny ripples and others will send waves crashing, but each one will change the surface of the water forever. *Robin Dancer*

At the all School Book Giveaway at **Thomas Jefferson Elementary School** students chose more than 420 books. The Thomas Jefferson Library Assistant posted a huge *Thank you* to our club on her Facebook page. Our donation of \$100 for the positive behavior ticket incentive program was enthusiastically received by School Counselor Lacie Moore.



We celebrated **International Literacy Day**, September 8, by donating 175 new books to the **Bella Vista Library**, **Thomas Jefferson Elementary School Library**, and the **Gravette Library**. This day was first celebrated in 1966 by the United Nations to remind the public of the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights.



Remember...  
"Today a Reader, Tomorrow a Leader".



We received a donation from the Security section of Walmart. 450 backpacks and 50 bookbags. The backpacks were donated to us to support our commitment to literacy. Six of our members distributed mesh backpacks to the participants of **Bentonville Public Library's** Lessons for Homeschoolers, and the Library's weekly story-time programs.



The bookbags were given to the **DEB Project**. The DEB Project gives free clothing and other essentials to children entering the foster care system, area school children identified by a school social worker as in need or children impacted by a disaster. Giving your clothing a second life changes the lives of area children! Here are Connie, Gay, Sammy Laney DEB Project Director, and Tina our Club liaison to the DEB Project, ready for a days work!



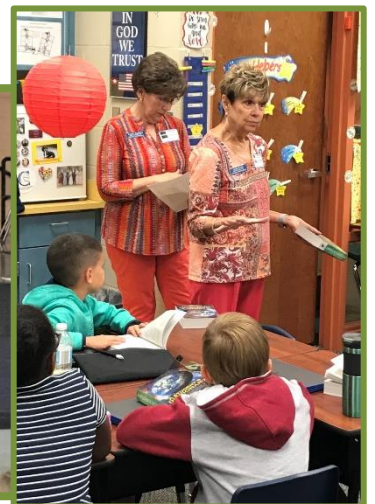


**Communications** We got PR in our 2 local papers for our \$200 check presentation to Days for Girls. The July/August newsletter was sent and the yearbook is at the printer!

**Bits & Pieces...** We received a *Thank you* from *Donna Williams* for our support during her recovery. *Sheryl* is grateful she is working with the Mayo Clinic. She will have surgery later this month. When *Kris'* car's engine failed, she not only found she was entitled to a free tow but a free engine as well! Spaghetti Dinner Cochairman *Ann Marie* was very relieved to learn that, thanks to a generator, the meat in *Gay's* freezer was okay during the recent power outage. *Gail* has finished her latest book and expects that it will be published by the end of this month. *Linda* had surprise visitors – college friends from 30+ years ago. She says that it's well worth it to keep in contact via annual Christmas cards.

**Sept. 17.** Our meeting was called to order by President *Gay* with this **Altrusa Accent...** Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in. *source unknown*

It was time to deliver the **Dictionaries!** First they all had to be picked up and the Altrusa labels put in them. Then they were delivered to very happy children. One school commented that kids are using Chromebooks but after speaking to the teachers it was agreed that the dictionaries are still a great resource. They work even when the internet doesn't! One teacher was going to do a scavenger hunt with them!





**We received the \$6,365 check from WalMartGivesNWA!!  
Now we will put our heads together and figure out where to spend it!**



Laura Kellams, **NWA DIRECTOR OF ARKANSAS ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**, was here to tell us about her organization. It was founded in 1977. Her non-partisan, non-profit organization focuses on public policy that will improve the lives of children and their families. They directly lobby state agencies and legislators. The Kids Count Data Center from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, measures child well being. Arkansas is now ranked 41, up from 47. A current emphasis is having more and better pre-K programs for 3 and 4 year olds.

**Bits & Pieces...** We received a *Thank you* from Washington County Altrusa for helping with their Parent Up program.

*Kris'* daughter tutored a NW Arkansas Literacy Council student who, when tested, had the highest score of any Council clients.

*Su Lynn* reminded us that this is Constitution Week. As a DAR member she will join others in ringing bells at court houses all over the country.



## **Oct. 4th - Our 2019 Spaghetti Dinner Crew!**





Anne-Marie's crew was at the church by 9 a.m. to start cooking the sauce. Su Lynn and her crew got the mystery bags readied. Vella and Valerie took their places at the door to greet hungry eaters.

**We had a yummy and successful evening!**







Oct. 7. We took 258 new books to a brand new elementary school in the Bentonville School District. **Evening Star Elementary School** was happy to get them for their library,

Gail has published her 3<sup>rd</sup> murder mystery novel! And she still found time to serve as a judge for Altrusa of Fayetteville's **Young Writers Contest**, which is a part of the True Lit Festival at the Fayetteville Library. This is a wonderful event and our club is proud of Gail's willingness to be a judge!



At our October **Book Swap** at the **Thomas Jefferson Elementary School** there were lots of Halloween books the kids could choose from - they bring one book and get to take home two!



Last year we donated **Conscious Discipline Books** for the teachers so that all grades could be on a uniform discipline plan. We donated **Teeny Beanie Babies** and **stickers books** for prizes for the school store where kids accumulate tickets to shop based on their good behavior!!

AND, we volunteered at the **Scholastic Book Fair** at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School to help them earn non-fiction books for their library.



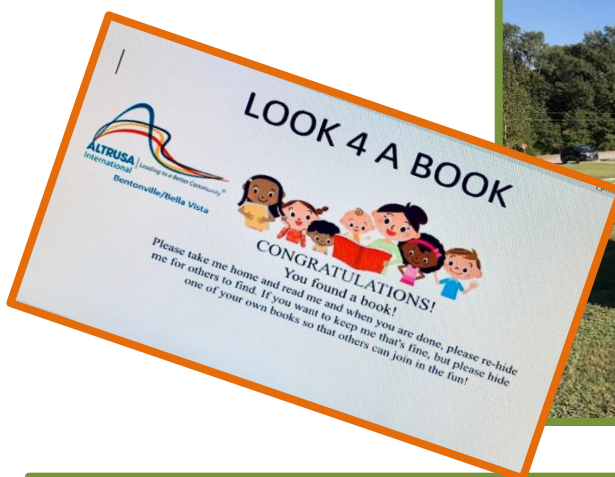
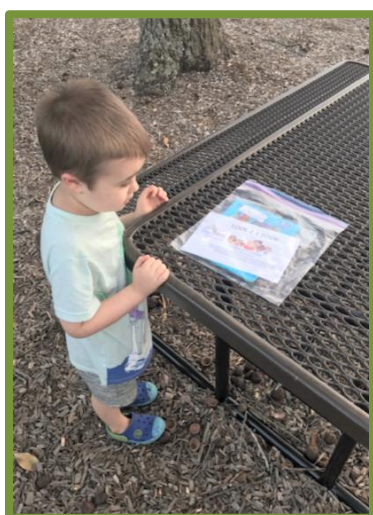
We donated 20 Halloween baby board books to the **Gravette Library** and were told, "We *make* their children's and juvenile's library." We received several more Halloween baby board books and donated them to **Helping Hands**, the **Bella Vista Library**, and the **Bentonville Library**.



The **Single Parent Scholarship Fund** of Benton County hosted a joint luncheon for the Altrusa Clubs of Bentonville/Bella Vista and Rogers. Both clubs have partnered with SPSF for years. Lives are being changed by their programs. Thanks to Jack and his staff for a delicious lunch and a very informative program. Pictured are Karen, SPSF President of the Board, Brian Wood and Janet, who just happens to be Brian's Mom.



Oct. 26 was **National Make a Difference Day**. We celebrated the day by placing 114 clear plastic bags in areas where children could find them. Each bag had a book and this this note enclosed. "CONGRATULATIONS! You found a book! Please take me home and read me and when you are done, please re-hide me for others to find. If you want to keep me that's fine, but please hide one of your books so that others can join the fun!" This concept was originated in England and Altrusa is excited to bring it to NWA!



Thanks again to Connie and Sue for their help in putting this newsletter together.

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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)