



What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.

Bentonville/Bella Vista

March / April 2020

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



President: Gay Kiker riverman77414@yahoo.com

A Note from our President- Wow, what a difference a day makes!!

The first of March we were all involved in our Game Day fundraiser (which was a great success) and then, everything changed. I've been on semi lock-down since the middle of March. No school book swaps, no DEB project volunteer time, no bridge games, no pedicures, no haircuts, etc. It's starting to get ugly around here! School is canceled for the rest of the school year, non-essential services have been shut down, sporting events, concerts, even church has been shut down. It's a very scary time for everyone. But, I'm still here...spending lots of time with Ben, checking up on his Mom at Concordia daily, buying groceries for us all, and catching up on a lot of Netflix, Amazon Prime, PBS, and regular TV. During all of this, I have tried to keep the club informed of all things Altrusa. We successfully elected our next slate of officers, approved several donations, received updates on our committee activities, found out our coffers are full, all via email!! But, since we've entered into this "new normal" phase, our club's support of each other is crucial. I've tried to keep in touch via email as much as possible. But, nothing beats face to face contact. That's why we are entering the Zoom meeting world. Hopefully we won't have the need for Zoom for very long, but, I think being able to see everyone is going to help tremendously. I celebrated my birthday this month with several friends at a social distancing tailgate party. It was wonderful just to see other people, talk to them, share new stories, and enjoy a great evening. For just a few hours, things seemed back to normal. So, join me in this new Altrusa adventure of Zoom meetings. Together we will get through this. Please stay safe and WASH YOUR HANDS!! I love and miss you all. **Gay Kiker**



Our club has suffered a great loss. Our member, Sheryl Burhenn, has lost the battle she was waging with breast cancer. Sheryl was a dedicated Altusan, our Treasurer and our Autumn's ReRide bookshelf elf. She loved her family and found great delight in her little grandson. ***She will be missed.***

March 3. 21 years ago, Altrusa Intl. of Fayetteville sponsored the creation of our club. Today we were happy to help them celebrate their **80th birthday!** Our club was represented by members, Carla, Gail, Gay, Karen R. and Connie. They carried with them a gift of 80 children's books for the occasion. Fayetteville's Mayor Lionel Jordan brought a proclamation from the city. District



Eight Governor Penny Daugherty and thirteen former Past Presidents attended. President Jennifer McKeown read greetings from Altrusa Intl. President Beverly Hardy. They got us started and our friends from Fayetteville are still supporting our club by coming to all our celebrations. We wish them a happy birthday and a big thank you!

March 4th. Game Day! The Game Day crew did an outstanding job putting this day, in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday, together. The food, baskets, and silent auction items were beautifully arranged and ready when the doors opened. This year they invited the men, and they came! There will be 12 ladies who won't have to answer the question "What do you do at these card parties all day?" They enjoyed the coffee and coffee cakes before, and the yummy lunch during, the day. They bought tickets for the baskets and even won some!



Carla and Marian were on point to greet everyone and sell tickets for the baskets. And if more tickets were wanted - Thing 1 and Thing 2 were out and about offering more.



Donna manned the book booth. Marian was checking the table displaying our club activities. Pat and Ann-Marie were doing a final check of the silent auction table. Valerie was just wondering around, and someone took her picture.





As always, our friends from Altrusa of Fayetteville were there to support us.



Meanwhile, the kitchen was alive with Altrusans getting breakfast treats and lunch goodies ready. What a wonderful surprise it was when ex-club member Judy Frisbie joined the preparation group.



Doesn't the food table look fabulous! And there were two of them!





Reanetta Edwards, President of Altrusa of Springdale came to help us, and here she is, washing dishes. Thanks, Reanetta!

We had a great day!!

Thanks to the Game Day crew and everyone who helped, our **Game Day** event was a financial success! We had 44 tables, a record number! The preliminary income reports are in. Table Sales - \$2,112; Silent Auction - \$805; Baskets - \$1,334; Book Sales - \$67; Left Over Food Sales - \$15. Grand total - \$4333! Vella is expecting more funds to be turned in. Gay said when we're together we can give ourselves a round of applause. Until then we should share a virtual group hug.

March 11 was the day for our Book Swap at the **Northside Elementary School** in Decatur. Last month the art teacher let us know she needed some art supplies. So today our members, Karen M., Karen R., and Gail, arrived with some. Among the items delivered were paper bags and plates, construction paper and colored & number 2 pencils! You can tell by these happy faces that the students thought trading 1 book for 2 was a great deal!



Our **March 17** meeting was held by email due to the corona virus health concern. Our President, Gay, was right on top of things with this innovative idea. There were a few items the executive board needed to present to the members. 1- That we make a monetary or "monument" donation in the amount of \$300 to Autumn's

Re-Ride in remembrance of member Sheryl Burhenn. 2- That we make a monetary donation of \$1000 to Christa Henson and her boys for the loss of their house due to a house fire. And 3- That we conduct voting for officers online. This idea was embraced by the membership.

Unfortunately, the **District Eight Conference**, was also canceled and *NOT* embraced by the members.

Our **Literacy Committee** needed a new bookshelf elf at **Autumn's ReRide**. Sue Sterling has volunteered to handle the re-stocking of the Book Barn during the Ranch season which is June through October. Several boxes of books were given to the elf and she will periodically stop by to re-stock the Barn. Sheryl will be missed there too.

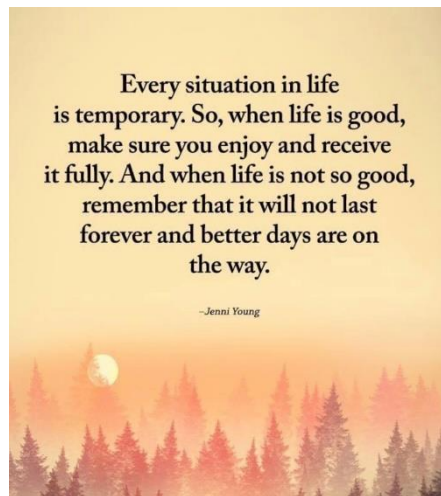
The **DEB Project** fashion show scheduled for April 10 has also been postponed. Anyone that purchased a ticket can use them in the fall when it is rescheduled

Our **Communication** with NWA is continuing. Valerie got good coverage of our Game Day, complete with a picture of the gentlemen who attended, in both of our local papers. Connie, who is in charge of our facebook page, has magically managed to post almost daily!



April 16

What are you reading???



April 22

Earth Day 2020. To our global family - take care, be safe and stay well!!

Thanks to Gay, we received another \$225 from **Facebook's Giving Tuesday!**

Bella Vista Bar & Grill has started a fundraising program for local service organizations. On Wednesdays, 10% of their sales can be designated for a qualifying organization. Karen M. contacted them, and we were scheduled for June 3. But, due to the corona virus health concern that date was changed. Karen will keep us up to date.

On **March 20** Gay sent out the nominating committee's proposed slate of officers. I was away from my computer for a few days and when I returned, I had 128 emails! Half of them answers to Gay's questions about our club activities. I'm not complaining, I am grateful that my Altrusa sisters are flexible and ready to respond and help in difficult situations. Here are our new officers!

President - Kris Sherry-Davis

VP - Connie Brown (she will NOT assume the presidency in two years, so we need to work that out)

Recording Secretary - Sue Sterling

Corresponding Secretary - Tina Brandt
Operating Treasurer - Karen McAuley
Foundation Treasurer - Vella Lewis
Directors - Valerie Katz, Gay Kiker and Karen Robbins



On **April 15** our own Peggy was seen on our local news stations telling folks we may be stuck at home. but we will get through this together.

The **April 21** meeting was held via Zoom, an app that let members see each other on their smart phones, computers, and tablets. Our President, Gay, was right on top of things again with another innovative idea. She called the meeting to order with the following **Altrusa Accent...** Train your mind to see the good in everything. Positivity is a choice. The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts.
anonymous

Roll was taken and 14 members zoomed in.

Connie reported that the **Literacy Committee** has boxes of books packed and ready to be taken to schools, but due to the virus situation book distribution is “out the window”. They are looking for ways to hand out books. They will check with grocery stores, day care centers, food banks, libraries and Facebook Marketplace and explain where and when the books would be available. The Bella Vista and Gentry librarians are doing story time on-line. They could announce what we are doing. The Gentry librarian is making books available for drive-by pickup. That might be a way to get books out.

Terri reported that During the last week of school at the **Thomas Jefferson Elementary School**, parents will be able to drive by and pick up the things the children had left at school. The school has been contacted to see if they would like us to have books available then, perhaps at tables outside the school.

Gail reported that the **Northside Elementary School** is still providing lunches. She has asked the principal if there would be some way, we could distribute books in conjunction with the lunch program.

And as always, the **Literacy Committee** is working to get the books to the children!

Gay reported that the **DEB Project** store is being set up for summer. We no longer provide books there. In fact, sometimes they give books to us!

Gay and Connie reported that the **Days for Girls** kit-making is at a standstill. In its place, International has switched to *Masks for Millions* and has given out directions on how to correctly make masks. Our local group has made 900 of them! We hope to go back to hygiene kits in the summer.

Gay is working on the **Annual Club Report** that goes to the International organization. They have changed the dates to cover April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. This is good for us since we had two District representatives in our Club during this time!

Bits and Pieces. Tina spoke with Sheryl’s daughter Michelle who asked her to convey her thanks to the Altrusans. She was able to find a housecleaner thru our suggestions. She says it's going to work out well. She's doing ok, staying busy and helping her Dad.

Terri read a *Thank you* card from her daughter Krista who was extremely thankful for the gift from our Club and was “blown away” by the donations she received from Club members privately and through

GoFundMe. Krista is still painting furniture as well as selling it. So! if you know someone who can use her services, please tell them about her.

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