



## What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.  
Bentonville/Bella Vista  
May / June 2020

May & June Birthdays  
No May birthdays  
June 12 Tina Brandt



President: Kris Sherry [krisrsherry@aol.com](mailto:krisrsherry@aol.com)

**A Note from our President-** Wow! This last three months has been such a whirlwind of events. Since the end of March we have been unable to meet in person so many of our members have been doing virtual meetings through the web application Zoom. As always, Altrusans have proven to be not only resilient but creative in how we get together and make a difference in the community.

Early March was our Annual Games Day fundraiser where we were fortunate enough to have an amazing new venue at the St Bernard Catholic Church that not only allowed for room to spread out, but a fully stocked kitchen for all our goodies. We projected to make \$4,020.00 and exceeded that projection with a total revenue collected of \$4,512.15. This year we also decided that we would let the men be involved in game play and had two full tables!

April was our first virtual meeting with President Gay taking us all through the initial Zoom connection. District 8 Conference was supposed to be held in Ft Smith but because of the pandemic with Covid 19 was cancelled this year. However, we secured several awards for our work with the dictionary project and other efforts.

May was the month of nominations and elections for the Board. I couldn't be more happy with the group of ladies that have been selected to assist me in my first adventure as Club President. In fact, each one of you members remind me of why I joined this club almost 5 years ago. When I was in leadership development I was introduced to an author, John Maxwell, who spoke a lot on leadership and team work. One principle that he focuses on is "The Foxhole Principle". Basically, he explains that when preparing for battle, dig a hole big enough for a friend or a colleague. You face many kinds of battles in life, and the "foxholes" you sometimes inhabit come in many shapes and sizes. Each one of you ladies are an integral part of my "foxhole". You make me better. You have taught me about community and life. You have believed in and encouraged me. I appreciate each one of you for the contribution you make to our club and cannot wait to see what the next two years brings.

*Kris Sherry/Davis*

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

August 14, 2020 – Regional Altrusa Workshop  
September 15, 2020 – Deadline to apply for a grant from Altrusa International Foundation  
October 3, 2020 – Regional Altrusa Workshop  
April 22-24, 2021 - Tulsa, OK 65th Annual District Eight Conference  
July 21-24, 2021 - Quebec City, Canada Annual International Convention

Our **May 5**, meeting was held via *Zoom*. The meeting was called to order by President Gay with this **Altrusa Accent...** *This too shall pass!*

Members were asked to report their February, March, and April volunteer hours to Sue via email.

Foundation Treasurer Vella Lewis and Operating Treasurer Karen McAuley reported that the club's finances were in good order. How lucky our club was to have had our Game Day before the Covid 19 insanity.

Gay reminded everyone that there will be a new budget in June when our new fiscal year begins. She checked with Vella to see if all funds budgeted for this year have been spent. Money is available for potential donations from this year's budget!

The **Samaritan Community Center** had no plans to prepare backpacks this year due to Covid 19, so we were not able to provide help in the form of books for the backpacks. But we have money! So, it was decided to donate \$500 to the Samaritan Community Center for their food distribution in the form of "SnackPacks" for families. Here is our brand-new President, Kris with our Immediate Past President, Gay practicing social distancing and presenting the check to Bryan Armlovich of the Samaritan Community Center. After the check presentation Kris stayed and packed Snackpacks and sorted groceries in the Market Pantry all afternoon. Our new President has hit the road running. Gay has left some big shoes to fill!



In June they will organize back packs instead of Snack Packs as they have packed enough to last until mid-July!

Last fall we donated 150 backpacks to the **Gravette Library**, for their summer reading program. This year Covid 19 changed things and there will be no in-Library programs. They have designed a new program featuring classic fairy tales that will include online Story Times and Summer Learning Bags. We still had money! So, we donated \$500 to help with this program. Karen Benson the Librarian says, "Thanks to Altrusa, we'll have a great, even though different, summer reading program! By the way, I was notified yesterday that I've been selected to speak at the national Association of Rural and Small Libraries conference about our STEAM program. I can't wait to tell everyone about those sewing machines!" We are happy to help Karen.



**Club Dues** were due, but due to possible financial difficulties for members created by Covid 19, the deadline for payment of dues was extended to July 15. Or two payments – half by July 1 and half by November 30 - was also acceptable.

Gay completed our Club's **Annual Report**. We have earned enough points to be a **Distinguished Club** again this year!

The **District Eight Award Winners** have been posted. Our club was well represented. Peggy is our leader in this endeavor. Due to her fine work we received the following awards.

**Letha H. Brown Award** - 1st Place - with *Books in the Hands of Children*. First place winners in will receive a \$100 check from District Eight as well as a \$100 check from the International Foundation. It will also be judged at the International level against first place winners from other Districts!

**Governor's Distinguished Service Award** - 2nd place – for the project "*Katherine Priest Dictionary Project*"  
**Communications Award** - 3rd Place Valerie is tickled!



**May 9** was a book sorting day. There were 50-60 boxes of books in storage that need to be sorted and “stickered”. Peggy reported that the group made “some good progress” and that it was a “thrilling” experience.

It looks like they had good weather. 😊

Our **May 19** meeting was held again via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by President Gay with this **Altrusa Accent...** If you FAIL, never give up. *FAIL* = First Attempt In Learning. *END* is not the end. *END* = Effort Never Dies. If you get *NO* as an answer remember *NO* = Next Opportunity.

Our **Literacy** committee’s plan is to refocus on the start of the school year and are monitoring the local libraries to be aware of their needs.



As with the rest of the country, the **DEB Project** is dealing with Covid 19. They had \$280 of the \$500 that was allocated for them this year still unspent. They needed socks so a check was delivered so they could purchase them. They will be in our budget for next year! How this project has grown since we first met Sammy Laney. She is remarkable.

President Kris is on the Advisory Council of the **Single Parent Scholarship Fund**. She reported that they have been doing counseling via Zoom and have helped 37 adult students with a variety of assistance including food, rent, utility bills, child care, college books and tuition.

On the **Communications** front Valerie is working on the new yearbook. It was suggested at one of our meetings that the yearbook might be easier for our members if it was online rather than printed. Please think about this and we can discuss this at a future meeting, Articles have been sent to our local newspapers on the Samaritan Community Center Presentation.

**Days for Girls** has prepared 3000 masks which have been donated to rural hospitals, nursing homes and first responders. Lorrie is looking for guidance in finding ways to sell masks and use the proceeds for Days for Girls. It was suggested that she advertise on Facebook. Judy Godard volunteered to help her in the sales effort. If you know of anyone who’d like to buy a mask(s) from Lorrie, please tell them about her. Lorrie Healy 801-699-8669

Sadly, two of our members will not renew their membership this year. Su Lynn needs all her resources for her DAR commitments. Janet T. has not renewed because of responsibilities with two jobs. They will be missed, and we hope both will return when time permits.

With a theme based on the COVID-19 pandemic, Gay initiated Judy Godard into our club. Judy has been working on our club projects for some time already. We are incredibly pleased that Judy has officially joined us. Welcome Judy!

A joyous Gay created clever rhymes as she installed our new leaders.

**President** – Kris Sherry

**President Elect** – Connie Brown

**Recording Secretary** – Sue Sterling

**Corresponding Secretary** – Tina Brandt

**Treasurers** – Vella Lewis and Karen McAuley

**Directors** – Karen Robbins, Valerie Katz and Gay Kiker

We wish them good luck and know they will lead us well.

Our **June 2** meeting was called to order by our new President Kris, with this **Altrusa Accent....** I always thought someone should do something, until, one day I realized I was someone. *John F. Kennedy*

Thanks to Sue, we have a photo of those who Zoomed in!



Karen Robbins gave us some statistics about the **Single Parent Scholarship Fund.**

In 2019 total scholarship funds were \$399,250 for 48 single parents.

The average parent income is \$11,000.

52% of parents have been victims of violent crime.

The average GPA of parents is 3.5.

Impressive!! Aren't we happy to be able to support their activities!



Kris, Gay, and Terri gave our \$400 donation to the **Thomas Jefferson Elementary School** Librarians, Diane Reid and Sue Bentlel. We have been given permission to put up a “**Book Box**” outside the school!

Because of social distancing and other virus concerns our Club may have to change at least two of our major projects, the **Spaghetti Dinner** and the **Dictionary Presentations**. Janet has agreed to contact the schools to get their input regarding dictionaries. **Tiffany Snodgrass, Assistant Principal at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School** thinks there is value in giving each third grader a dictionary since it can be used when covering the state curriculum to “analyze a word to interpret information”. She also thinks it’s valuable to give students something that they can physically hold and thumb through and that belongs to them.

The **June 16** meeting was called to order by President Kris with the following **Altrusa Accent...** *The man who moves a mountain begins by carrying away small stones. Confucius*

Connie introduced **Tiffany Snodgrass, Assistant Principal at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School**. Connie noted that we have two connections to Tiffany. We do several things to support Thomas Jefferson Elementary School and we support the **Loads of Learning Program** that she and her husband Ben, who joined the meeting later from his position as Captain with the Bentonville Fire Department, run laundromats in Rogers and Bentonville. There is a small bookshelf at the Rogers site which Connie stocks and a larger area that Tina stocks at the Bentonville laundromat. We also send playing cards and puzzles that are donated to us, to the Bentonville site. ← →



Tiffany appreciates all that we have done at Thomas Jefferson. Monetary contributions to the school library and Roar Store, volunteer time running the book swaps and working at the school’s book fair and Roar Store and, of course, book donations. She and the school librarian have been discussing how they and a few teacher’s aids could run the monthly book swap with books we would provide since we are no longer allowed in the building. According to what she’s heard, the Roar Store project, with its emphasis on earning tickets for positive behavior, was a success. The students were able to spend their tickets on items at the store. The store will need items for this coming school year.

She and her husband decided that a laundromat would be an ideal place to help members of the community. They purchased Olive Street Laundry in Rogers and then later bought Sugar Creek Laundry in Bentonville. In “normal times” once a month at Bentonville and once every two months in Rogers, they have a **Loads of Learning Night** when families can do their laundry for free and receive free meals. A professor from the U of A is there with students who do science projects or crafts with older children while other volunteers read to the young children. All children leave with at least one free book. During the current restrictions, only one person

is allowed in at a time to do laundry and pick up food and books. Ben enjoys seeing the kids light up when they're told they can take books home. Even in this time of social distancing and other restrictions, they are still distributing our books.

The **Literacy Committee** will investigate expanding the use of **Book Boxes**. They will meet to make recommendations about placing and filling them at schools and other locations in our communities. Connie thought that we may be able to get some from the Northwest Arkansas Gazette as they are taking their paper to an online venue and we have used their newspaper boxes in the past. Terri has acquired two more of their boxes for the remarkable price of \$1 each. This is the Book Barn Sheryl Burhenn had at Autumn's Reride using one of those boxes.



Gail reported that we're thinking about having a book box in front of the Decatur School and the school principal is agreeable to that.

Kris recorded a portion of this meeting and will see if it makes sense to record future meetings and then send a link to those who could not attend. She said she can also help committee chairs set up Zoom meetings.

**Altrusa District 8** is offering online training on a variety of subjects. Training is on the evening of the second Sunday of every month and should not last much longer than 30 minutes. Contact Kris for details and to get a link to the training.

**Bits and Pieces.** Connie went to an actual *in person* meeting with the Pea Ridge Quilting Group. Instead of meeting in the church basement, they brought chairs and met in the parking lot. Kudos Connie!

Because virus-related restrictions have just been reduced in Michigan, Gay's daughter and son-in-law will be able to open the tasting room and outdoor restaurant of their winery. *Road trip?*

Kris' daughter was interviewing for a prekindergarten position with the Bentonville School District and now *has* a position with the Tennie Russell School!

Former member Bobbie Platt's son is out of the hospital but still very sick. You can reach her at 3085 E. San Juan Rd., Palm Springs, CA 92262 [bobbieplatt41@gmail.com](mailto:bobbieplatt41@gmail.com) (479) 381-2455.

Judy Godard's granddaughter, who will be going into her senior year at the Colorado School of Mines, has already been accepted in their Master's Program.

Valerie Katz: Communications [valeriekatz567@aol.com](mailto: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](http://altrusa-bb.com) See us on Face book [www.facebook.com/altrusa8](http://www.facebook.com/altrusa8)