

What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.

Bentonville/Bella Vista

Nov. - Dec. 2020



Nov. Dec. Birthdays

Nov. 10 Janet Edwards

Nov. 27 Katy Henkel

Dec. 7 Marian Eagle

Dec. 21 Byretta Fish

A Note from our President... “Well, by the time you read this newsletter, the holiday will be coming to a close and we will be beginning a new year. Never has there been a year that most folks will be glad to see coming to an end. The year 2020 has been a roller coaster of events. We have all suffered loss, sickness, sadness, and grief with the pandemic, but one thing is for sure, you all never missed a beat when it came to continuing with your giving and loving hearts. We had our first successful Support our Soldiers effort with the Stars for Heroes, Donated thousands of dollars to our sponsored schools and other collaborating NFP’s, wrapped gifts for the DEB project, ironed fabric for Days For Girls, collected beef jerky and candy for veterans, awarded Christmas Gift Cards to Single Parent Scholarship of Benton County and continued to meet for our regular meetings and “chats”. I know this year has been tough, believe me. (I never thought my first year EVER to be president would be filled with such challenges) However, I want to thank each one of you for being gracious with me and many of you for helping me find my way through it. Happiest of holidays to you all... and to all a goodnight.

Your friend *Kris Sherry/Davis*

Nov. 4 Our local libraries have struggled during the pandemic. Our Bella Vista Library was caught in it. At first they were closed but the Library has reopened and we were happy to donate \$1000 to be used to support the children's library. Club members enjoyed a tour of the children's section that has been moved into a beautiful, open, spacious area in the new addition.



Connie, Gail, Valerie, Children's Librarian Ellen Farwell, Gay, Terri, and Library Director Suzanne Adams.



Gail and Connie were loading books for the **Decatur Public Library** and Gail delivered them

The **Gravette Library** will not have their annual fundraiser but, instead, will have a basket raffle.

On **Nov. 17** Our Zoom meeting was called to order by President Kris with this **Altrusa Accent...** Oh Lord that lends me life, lend me a heart replete with thankfulness. ...William Shakespeare

Teri reported that the school librarian at the **Thomas Jefferson Elementary School**, would do a second book swap on November 19th. The book swap boxes outside the school need new stickers and Gay will send the template to the school librarian who will print new ones.

Teri has been managing the book box at Metfield Park in Bella Vista that is filled with adult-level books. They were not being used so Connie suggested she drop them off at the book box near the food trucks on Highway 71 that do have a following.

Judy reported that our **Days for Girls** Liaison, Lorrie Healy, recently received a donation of lots of material from the family of a quilter who died. The material needs to be washed, dried, and, if needed, ironed. If you would like to help, contact Lorrie who will have the material ready for you. (801-699-8669). She will leave it on her porch if you prefer.

Connie let us know that the **Stars for Heroes** favors were delivered to the Arkansas State Veterans Home where they were going to be given out on Veterans Day. The VA could not accept the favors because they were concerned that there might be a client who would look upon the star as being disrespectful to the flag.

Socks and Cookies received their pocket favors, candy, jerky, paperback books and Christmas cards. They were so pleased they asked if they could include a picture of the donation presentation in each box.

Our Program today was given by Peggy Hicks of **Clothed With Compassion**. She is the Ministry Coordinator at the First Christian Church & WaterWay in Bentonville. She spends most of her time running the Clothed with Compassion Program. Our Altrusa Chapter encountered Peggy through the DEB Project when we donated backpacks and were able to donate leftover backpacks to Clothed with Compassion. We, in turn, received new books that were left over from the Miracle on 14 Street event which is a cooperative celebration when Congregation Etz Chaim and First Christian Church provide a meal, coats, and toys to individuals in the community.

The Program began in 2011 and was intended to provide new clothes to Bentonville high schoolers who needed them. Studies have shown that new clothes give kids confidence. The Program has grown. Now it fulfills requests for new clothes for babies, preschoolers, elementary, middle, and high school students. Occasionally there are requests for adults such as refugees in the Canopy project and homeless individuals

referred by the Samaritan Center or Salvation Army. Since the Program began, more than \$247,000 worth of new clothes have been donated to fill over 400 requests. Since August 15th of 2020, over \$19,000 worth of new clothes have been given away.

The Program operates primarily by matching sponsors with children in need. A typical request is that the sponsor purchase 2 shirts, 2 pants, 1 package of underwear, 1 package of socks and a pair of shoes. Sponsors don't know the names of the individuals they are helping. They are given the sex, age, grade, size and likes and dislikes of the recipient. The new clothing, along with the purchase receipt in case something needs to be exchanged, is dropped off at the Program office. Then the counselor, social worker or community liaison who made the request picks up the clothing and delivers it to the person in need. Monetary donations are accepted and used to fill emergency requests. If you're interested in being a sponsor, text Peggy at 479-903-4098. The Program does not have a website yet but the facebook page is where you can find out more <https://www.facebook.com/NWAClothedwithCompassion>

The virtual **Altrusa Benediction** was given by Gay.



Valerie, Terri, Gay, Tina, Connie, Karen R, Kris

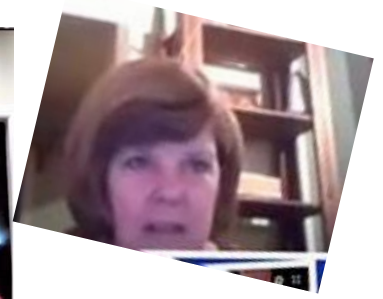
We helped bring Christmas to the **Single Parent Scholarship Fund!** Unable to staff their Christmas party because of the pandemic, Linda shopped for gift cards for the five families we adopted for Christmas. Connie and Gail picked out books and Reading Buddy stuffed animals for all the children. Always working to get the children reading, each stuffed animal had a tag that read, "Hi! I'm not just a stuffed animal - I'm a reading buddy just for you!!! Whenever you read a book be sure to have me with you because I want to hear it too!"



On **Dec. 8** we had a *VASTLY different* Christmas gathering. It was a Zoom chat. 13 members zoomed in and many showed off their Ugly Christmas sweaters. We talked about good and disappointing Christmas gifts and activities. Gay led a hilarious game asking questions such as - Have you ever regifted anything? Have you ever peeked by unwrapping and then rewrapping a gift? (It seems many of us have done that:.) Do you know a naughty Christmas joke/song? Have you ever knocked over a Christmas tree? It was good to get together and share some laughs.



Kris looks like she is wondering how she lost control of the meeting!



Valerie sent out the recent newsletter and had newspaper coverage for our library donation and the Single Parent Scholarship donation.



Check out Gail's first children's book. The inspirational story of **LITTLE DEE 7: A HANDBELL STORY** is now available on Amazon at Gail Lee Cowdin. A portion of sales will go to her church bell choir (The inspiration?) and to her granddaughter Caylen Cowdin who did the illustrations.



Our **Stars for Heroes** favors were delivered and were appreciated. We're already getting messages of thanks back for the Christmas care packages we sent to deployed military.

Ann-Marie and Tina were among the members who were able to wrap presents for the DEB Projects Christmas Tree kids.



Bits and Pieces... Kris is *very busy* painting the *entire interior* of her new home.

Valerie said the Governor of California uninvited her so she will spend Christmas here with Bob. I think she has been on a diet too long. She was heard telling Bob that all she wants for Christmas is pancakes.

I'm lost! I've gone to look for myself. If I should return before I get back, don't ask me to wait. Signed, 2020

Happy New Year!

Valerie Katz: Communications valeriekatz567@aol.com

Meetings are held at 11:30 on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month via Zoom.

Our web-site altrusa-bb.com See us on Facebook www.facebook.com/altrusa8