



What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.
Bentonville/Bella Vista
May / June 2021

May & June Birthdays

No May birthdays
June 12 Tina Brandt



President: **Connie Brown** cbrown0719@aol.com

A Note from our President- Last week, Kris notified all of us she was resigning as President of our Club as well as terminating her membership due to personal reasons. We are thankful for the five years she was a member and especially this last year when she served as our President. We will certainly miss her but understand her need to put her personal and family needs first. We wish her the best!

As Vice President I was perfectly happy lining up program speakers each month and supporting our President in whatever way I could. As Vice President, I knew that if anything happened to our President I would serve in that position. I have served as President of the Little Rock Club and had been there, done that and got the t shirt. Life happens all around us and as Altrusans we learn to be leaders. I am honored and privileged to serve as your President this year. I will do my very best as I know you will. I'm sure I'll make mistakes but all of us do. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to call me.

I'm excited as we look to this year. The Spaghetti Dinner Committee is planning for a wonderful event for September 30th. Our literacy related committees are looking forward to schools restarting to see what that will look like. We're anxious to restart our Days For Girls and SOS projects. We're being asked to partner with other organizations, like the Bentonville Library Foundation and Friends of the Library, to serve our community.

We're all readjusting to life after and with Covid. We've been so excited to recently resume our face-to-face meetings. It's a joy to be together again!!! Our best days are ahead, and we can do amazing things because we do them together!!

Connie Brown

Our **May 4** Zoom meeting was called to order by President Kris with the following **Altrusa Accent... May the Force** be with you. *Obi-Wan Kenobi*

If you haven't paid your dues of \$95 yet, Your late!

Connie reported for the **Literacy Committee** that we have been asked by the **Bentonville Friends of the Library** to help with their book sale fundraiser in August.

Terri reported that **Thomas Jefferson Elementary School** Librarian Sue Bentel had a book swap in April and will do one in May. We will provide 450 books for an all-school book give-away that Sue will run near the end of the school year.

Gail related that the **Bella Vista Library** is doing something altruistic with their summer reading program. They will donate one pound of cat food to the Bella Vista Animal Shelter for every child who meets his/her reading goal. They have asked us for 100 children's books and 80 adult books.

We asked Cary Stamps, principal of **Northside Elementary School** in Decatur, if they needed anything. He said it would be nice to send a book home with each student at the end of the school year. They can use 250 books.

We are well stocked and are ready to help!

Tina let us know that the **DEB Project** took part in a community effort to help a Decatur family of 8 whose home was destroyed in a fire and all their needs were met! Their pantry needs donations of (not in glass containers) peanut butter and a variety of jelly, kid healthy cereal, boxed meals, kid friendly snacks, wet wipes, size 4 – 6 diapers.

Judy reported for **Days for Girls** that there is always a need for people to sew, stuff containers, and preshrink fabric. So, when Days for Girls is ready to prepare kits again (Lorrie and her husband are undergoing a COVID quarantine) contact Judy to set up a group workday or contact Lorrie to pick up homework. Christina let us know that Lorrie Healy is having a "camp" for girls to work on the kits. She would appreciate having mentors for the girls.

On the **Communications** front, Valerie has submitted info to the local papers about **the Single Parent Scholarship** Fund presentation. When you come across Club publicity, please try to obtain a copy for Valerie.

Because of COVID, several of our committees haven't been operational so it is assumed that everyone would like to continue with the committee assignments that were made in June 2020. If you would like to change or add to your existing committee assignment(s) please let Connie know.

Judy gave the Altrusa Benediction.

The **May 18** meeting was called to order by President Kris. This was the first meeting we were all able to attend in person in more than a year!! Gay described it as being in "3-D,". Our meeting was held **at Ignite Professional Studies**.



Teresa Hudson, Program Director of **Ignite Professional Studies** of Bentonville Schools, who had spoken about the program at our March 16th meeting, reviewed the basics of the program. She introduced four current participants – Avery, Ave, Max, and Zane, who described what they valued about the program as well as some of their experiences in it. We then divided into small groups and had guided tours of the building. WOW! What a wonderful program this is.



As soon as we have a date for the Spaghetti Dinner, we will let the Education Innovation teacher at **Ignite** know so that she can see if any of her students would like to volunteer to help!

We had a guest. Sue McEvoy, who helped us acquire many books when she worked for Scholastic.

Gail has been in contact with Karen Benson at the **Gravette Library**. The \$500 donation that we gave the library has not been spent and she hoped she could re-route it. As part of one of the grants the library was awarded, Karen set up a focus group to look for ways to improve the library and increase its use. As a result of this, there has been a 225% increase in library use! Two of the needs identified by the focus group are more large print books and more audible books.

Our **June 1**, meeting was at the Whole Hog restaurant in Bentonville. The meeting was called to order by President Kris with the following **Altrusa Accent...** Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's Not. *Dr. Seuss*



This was a business meeting, and we had a lot of business to discuss! As you can see, the members showed up in person! We were pleased to have Connie's daughter Carrie Schweer (far left) join us.

Club Foundation Treasurer Vella reported the ending Foundation Account balance in May was \$15,566.32. Club Operating Treasurer Karen M. reported that the ending Operating Account balance was \$4,210.55. The Petty Cash balance at the end of May was \$159.63. Karen went over the 2020 -2021 Operating Account.

There was a review of 2020 – 2021 spending and recommendations for 2021 -2022. While looking at information showing expenses during the past fiscal year, members offered recommendations for the current fiscal year. The continued support of **Autumn's ReRide Youth Ranch** was discussed. The decision was made not to continue as they have moved farther away and keeping a book nook stocked was no longer feasible.

It was mentioned that a charitable donation from a source outside our Club was given with a specific purpose to an organization, but the organization did not spend it that way. Members agreed that, when we donate as a Club, we need to make sure that the funds are spent as we intended. We will now require proof that our donations are spent as planned.



The trunk of this car is the first 6 miles, of a couple thousand miles, to Valencia, Venezuela for, protein, formula, Spanish books and **Days For Girls Kits**. Car, plane, and ship and away they go!

The **Bentonville Library** gave us 10 boxes of children's books that were left over from prior sales, and Connie will be picking up 4 more boxes.

Gail and Terri met with the **Thomas Jefferson Elementary School** librarian who had been cleaning out the library. She gave them 3 boxes of book sets and lot of posters which to be taken to **Northside Elementary School** in Decatur.

Gail told us that Covid 19 had an upside for her. She remembered how to relax! She asked if someone would take over her duties at the **Decatur School**. Karen M and Gay volunteered to take over.

Karen Robbins reported on the good deeds the **Single Parent Scholarship Fund** accomplished in 2020. There was \$497,346 given in scholarships and stipends. Their Festival of Giving had 100 donors provide gifts to 87 students and their 173 children. In Spring of 2021 there were 122 recipients who had 228 children. **They averaged 3.32 on their GPA!** We received a *Thank You* letter and note for the \$2,500 Altrusa International grant we got.

The **Spaghetti Dinner** is on! Anne-Marie reported the fundraiser will be on Thursday, September 30, 2021, at St. Bernard's Church in Bella Vista. Tickets this year will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. We will have sit-down dining and the to-go dinners will be curbside pickup. We will have Mystery Bags, but we will not have ads.

It's that time of year again. We need to have our books audited. Gay and Peggy volunteered to be the **Audit Committee**.

After discussion, it was moved and seconded that we not send delegates to the International Convention.

Karen M was pleased to announce that all our dues were paid and submitted BEFORE the deadline!

June 15. Our program meeting was called to order by President Kris with the following **Altrusa Accent...** If you don't know where you are going, you might end up some place else. *Yogi Berra*

Our club is growing. Carrie Schweer, who was at our last meeting, and Sue McEvoy, who joined us at the **Ignite** meeting have joined our club!

We were pleased to have Linda Krysl's daughter Tammy Gerhart at the meeting as a guest.



The meeting was a volunteer day at the **Gravette Library**. Club members filled 125 backpacks with various activity packets for the library's summer programs. The library presented a video that showed many of the programs the library offers for children and adults in the community. It also gave statistics about the increase in overall library use during the last few years. The video included a photo of Club members donating to the library.

Connie let us know that we received a donation of books that the **Bentonville School District** had marked to be discarded. The five boxes of books for adults and children were given to the **Gravette Library**.



Gail took 7 boxes of books to the **Gravette Library** for their summer reading program. Karen M's massage therapist has written and illustrated several children's books and donated some to our Club. Gail and Karen delivered the author-signed books, along with the children's book that Gail has written, to the Gravette Library.

Pictured from left; Mary Kay, Library Assistant; Karen M. who donated books by local illustrator Pam Anderson; Gail who donated her own book Little Dee 7: A Handbell Story; and Karen Benson, Library Director

After Club members finished the volunteer project the meeting moved to the El Bohemio Mexican Restaurant!
Ole!

Thank you to **Mars** and Club member Janet. Mars has donated \$1,500 to be used for our spaghetti dinner!

Our prayers went out to Linda Krysl whose husband Mark passed away in May. The club is exceedingly grateful for the donations to the club in memory of Mark.

Karen R. described a letter from Jack Eaton, the Executive director of the **Single Parent Scholarship Fund** of Benton County, that announced the merger of his organization with the Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Northwest Arkansas. There was A public merger announcement that a celebration will occur virtually and in person at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, July 7th. We can join the celebration on Facebook – facebook.com/SPSFBC/ facebook.com/SPSFNWA/

As you have read in this newsletter, ***we are getting the books to the children!***

Bits and Pieces

Valerie has learned that she has two more great grandchildren on the way.

Tina's daughter in Portland, Oregon is a life coach. She now appears on local TV and gives advice to people who call in.

Christina's food truck is open from noon to 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. They may be moving to a new location.

Valerie knitted several baby blankets and was looking for a home for them. Tina checked with the DEB store to see if they could use them. Sammy was thrilled to have them!

Kudos to Gay and Kris for setting up Zoom meetings during the COVID-19 crisis.

A big thank you to Connie for planning programs that kept members interested and involved with the Club.

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Meetings are held at 11:30 on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. Our web-site altrusa-bb.com See us on Face book www.facebook.com/altrusa8