

What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.

Bentonville/Bella Vista

Nov. - Dec. 2021



Nov.* Dec. Birthdays

Nov. 1 Terri McClure
Nov. 10 Janet Edwards
Dec. 7 Marian Eagle
Dec. 21 Byretta Fish



A Note from our President... We're coming to the end of another Covid calendar year. It took being innovative, but we were able to maintain our Distinguished Club status in spite of challenges. We did trunk to trunk transfers, porch pickups, work from home projects and we had to send our books into our schools without us!! We met by Zoom, in a park and at Gusano's! We learned to adapt as we continued to serve others. Hopefully our New Year will allow us to enjoy a new normal! We really enjoyed being together at our holiday party and we look forward to being together again - that's what we miss the most!!! Merry Christmas, happy holidays and see you in the New Year!!!

Connie Brown

Our **Nov. 2nd** meeting was held at Gussano's Restaurant and was called to order by President Connie with the following **Altrusa Accent...** A smile is the best makeup any girl can wear! *Marilyn Monroe*

Several Club members worked at the at the **Bentonville Public Library Bike Festival**. They assisted in a variety of activities – registering, handing out free bikes, presenting medals. There were crafts, stories, music, bike activities and races, food, yoga, free bikes and helmets for kids who needed one and a free new book for each child! Altrusa and the Bentonville Library Make a Difference *EVERY* Day!



\$\$\$ Reporting for Club Operating Treasurer Karen M, Gay let us know that the club October balance was \$4,290.85 and the petty cash balance \$129.63. Club Foundation Treasurer Vella reported that the October balance was \$12,388.71

Connie reported for Tina that the **DEB Project** is having their **2nd Annual Christmas Tree Project**. They assist children placed in foster care, grandparents that do not receive assistance from Christmas giving agencies, and School Social workers needing last minute gift assistance for children in need. If you would like to be a part of this amazing event, get a gift list for a child from the DEB Project and purchase \$100 of gifts for her/him, or give a check to the DEB Project to purchase gifts. Helping to wrap the gifts that have been donated or purchased is another avenue. You can pick up a tub with gifts, wrapping paper and ribbon to take home to wrap.

The **Dictionary Project** has been a concern due to lack of interest in some schools. Anne-Marie met someone who had been a third-grade teacher in Bentonville and was so appreciative of the dictionaries that we gave to her class. She said that they used them often. Good news!

Gail is keeping an eye on local libraries. She reported that meeting rooms at the Bella Vista Public Library are now open and may be reserved. And the Gravette Library sponsored Moon Over Main Street where telescopes were placed on the street for people to do star and moon gazing.



The book swap on **Nov. 10** at the **Thomas Jefferson Elementary School** went well. Terri said It was good to be back in the school again. The kids bring one book and get to swap for two! They were looking forward to an all-school book giveaway on Dec. 15.



The **Single Parent Scholarship Fund** started distributing cash donations and wrapping paper on December 1st. so we needed to provide our contributions right away. Connie said that right after the meeting, members could accompany her to the fund office to deliver wrapping paper, children's books and the Club's \$500 donation to their **Festival of Giving project**.



Pictured, Sue M., Sue S. Connie and Barb Smith of Altrusa of Rogers

Pictured, Shannon Campbell. COO of SPSF and Connie

Our **program** today was about **DAYS FOR GIRLS**. We have received \$2,000 from the **Altrusa International Foundation** for our grant to support Days For Girls and the check was presented to **Lorrie Healy** at the meeting. When Connie introduced Lorrie, head of the Rogers Chapter of Days for Girls and the organization's State Coordinator, she remarked that we are very lucky to have such a dedicated and hard-working person so close to us.

The kits allow girls to get to school and women to go to work while their having their periods. Before getting their first kit, the girls/women attend a class where they learn about the menstrual cycle, the value of hand washing, and self-defense. If the kits are made and used correctly, they will last up to 5 years. Completing a kit takes 3 sewing tasks and about 20 non-sewing tasks. We must *all help* with this project as stated in our grant.



The kit, pictured to the right, contains a draw string bag, panties, 8 liners 2 shields, a bag for soiled liners, a bar of soap, a calendar, and a pamphlet.



Lorrie's chapter distributes 15 – 50 kits to Venezuela every two to three months. The kits are made according to precise directions about size, fabric patterns, and each countries' shipping restrictions as well as the culture and religion of the people who are being served. They are currently establishing a relationship and making in-roads in Bolivia.

She is grateful for all of the help she has received from Altrusa members who do laundry, sewing, ripping stitches, cutting, and folding kit items. And for supplying irons, rulers, surging thread, and fabric. To learn more, go to <https://www.daysforgirls.org>.

New member reduced prices are now in effect!



Betty Absheer, past Altrusa District Eight Governor passed away on October 30. Those who knew her said she was always upbeat and loved singing. Cynda Wright recalled that when she was District Governor one of her club visits was to Poplar Bluff in southeast Missouri. "Betty had me arrested, handcuffed and had my rights read to me," Cynda said. "I don't remember the crime I was charged with but I told the deputy that if he handcuffed me, he would have to marry me." "She always had a smile. She always saw the good in people and never complained about anybody," Cynda said. She was a kind, caring and gentle leader, and will be fondly remembered.

Dec, 7 was our **Holiday Party!!!** We gathered at Gay's home. We were told not to drive down her very steep driveway. We parked at the top of the hill and her husband Ben shuttle us to and from the house in his golf cart. This was a potluck and we enjoyed great food, games, socializing and of course laughing!.



Happy New Year!



Again, many thanks to Connie and Sue S. for their help putting this newsletter together!

Bits and Pieces

Marian Eagle is now at home!!

Valerie had COVID and recovered quickly.

Tina was at home, recovering from a series of health-related issues.

SAVE THE DATES

Deadline for Spring Grants from Altrusa International Foundation – March 15, 2022

March 9 2022– *Games Day!!*

66th Annual District Eight Conference – April 21-23, 2022, Fort Smith, Arkansas

67th Annual District Eight Conference – April 27-28, 2023, Tulsa, Oklahoma

58th Biennial Altrusa International Convention – July 19-22, 2023, San Antonio, Texas

68th Annual District Conference – April 25-27, 2024, Salina, KS

69th Annual District Conference – April 24-26, 2025, Missouri

Want to get on the Altrusa web page? Here's how; user name – altrusan password – MamieLethaNina1917

Valerie Katz: Communications vkatz21@gmail.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