



What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.
Bentonville/Bella Vista
July / August 2022

- July 16 Pat Sporleder
- July 19 Connie Brown
- July 29 Linda Krysl
- July 29 Terri Gaither
- Aug. 22 Carrie Schweer



Birthdays!

President: Gay Kiker riverman77414@yahoo.com

A Note from our president... As our new Altrusa year begins, so does our recommitment to serving our community. We had a great time helping the Gravette Public Library with their summer reading program, Oceans of Possibilities. I know they were thankful for our help and funds. We helped the Bella Vista Public Library with the end of their summer reading program by providing free books to everyone that completed their reading goal. We also provided help to the Sulphur Springs Public Library with their effort to re-open after being closed for 7 years. Our connections with the other libraries in the area provided Sulphur Springs with many library books. We hope to continue bringing them books and establishing a network for them to reach out to other libraries. We helped the DEB store with their bi-annual store flip. And, we worked with the Rogers Chapter of Days for Girls reach a goal of getting 210 hygiene kits distributed where needed. But, our work is never done. We are gearing up for our annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser, our annual Dictionary project, school book swaps, and anything else that might come along. This group of dedicated volunteers is always open to new ideas and I am very excited be a part of that excitement.

I've tried to learn as much as possible about Altrusa International, District Eight, and our local club. The history of Altrusa is fascinating, and it is still relevant 100 years later. That tells a lot about the leaders and members and shows Altrusa can change with the times. You too can learn the history and inner workings of this great organization by looking at the Altrusa International website. It is stuffed with ideas, information about other clubs, how to increase membership, how to raise funds, how to install officers, how to approach social media, etc. etc. etc. If you aren't into "searching the web", save your questions for our meetings. If I don't know the answer, I will gladly look it up for you. Thanks again for putting your trust in me to lead us through the next year. I know with your help, we will soar. *Gay Kiker*



It's never too soon to get them the books!

Because of our Club's accomplishments as demonstrated in the 2021-2022 End-of-Year Report that Connie prepared, we are once again honored to be considered a Distinguished Club!



Linda spotted this cute little book box while on vacation and shared a photo with us!



On Sat. July 2nd members volunteered at the **Bentonville Library Oz Bikes and Book Fest**. They did a variety of activities, being a parade marshal, giving out goodie bags, serving lunch, counting attendees. As a reward for helping, the volunteers were given an assortment of items and our Club was given five hardback books. This free community fest gave 100 free bikes and helmets, had free children's books for everyone, games, princess story time, bike decorating, bike obstacle course, bubbles and a bike parade to the Bentonville square! And the Bentonville Friends of the Library Foundation sent us a thank you note for helping!

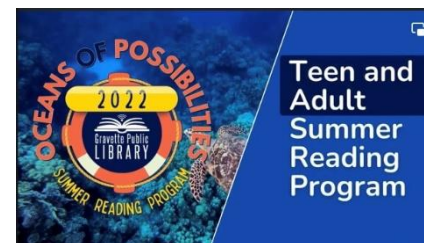


Our **July 5**, business meeting was held at First Watch Restaurant. The meeting was called to order by President Gay with the following **Altrusa Accent...** *Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died.* Erma Bombeck.

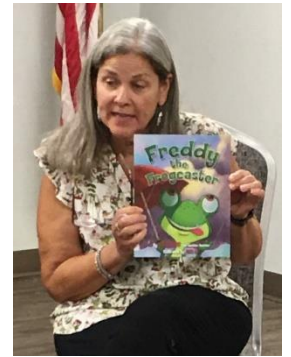


July 22. Gail reported that members had a great time at the **Bella Vista Library Summer Reading Pizza Party**. Over 300 children, teens and adults were in the program. We provided new books as prizes *and* each person who completed their goal got to choose a book!

Thanks to the grant from **Altrusa International Foundation, Inc.** we were able to assist the **Gravette Library Summer Reading Program, "Oceans of Possibilities"**. Members attended training and were ready for five weeks of fun! Each child who participated in the Little Lions Story Time "Oceans of Possibilities" summer program for toddlers received a blanket thanks to our donation. Sue and Connie delivered the blankets as well as fabric to be used in their Wear-It Wednesday teen program that resumes this fall.



So... instead of having a Club meeting on **July 19**, we had it on the 21st in Gravette so that Club members could volunteer at the Gravette Library Summer Program which took place each Thursday morning from 10 a.m. to noon, July 14 through August 11. Chief Meteorologist Dan Skoff taught about weather safety and the children did science experiments and crafts. *We were on the 5 o'clock news!!!*



On week three The Amazeum came and the children made their own sea creatures from recycled materials! Each child earned a pony bead to put on their brag tag necklace for each 20 minutes they read. They earn special beads like sea turtles and dolphins if they complete the five challenge activities each week!

128 children were signed up for the annual program, but that number grew to 158! In addition to the youngsters involved, 13 teens and 33 adults also participated in the program. Karen Benson, **Gravette Library** director, proclaimed the summer reading program a resounding success!!



The fifth and final week of the children's summer reading program at the Gravette Library is a wrap!! They had great speakers, story times, prizes, arts and crafts, reading incentives and even a magic show!! The teen and adult programs didn't end until August 31. Summer reading programs help prevent summer reading loss. Thanks **Altrusa International Foundation, Inc.** for making this possible!



On **July 22**. 7 members attended the **DEB Project Shine for Foster Care** luncheon which was intended to provide information about the foster care system. Tina spoke at the event about her adopted daughter's success as a life coach. During the first six months of 2022 the DEB Project has, in over 7,000 hours of service, assisted almost 500 children!



Robbins R. reported that on **July 21** we were able to help sort school supplies and stuff backpacks for the children of the **Single Parents Scholarship Fund**.

Five members attended the **Single Parents Scholarship Fund's Spark of Hope** dinner at the Rogers Convention Center on **July 28**. We have partnered with Single Parent Scholarship Fund for many years! They change the trajectory of the lives of the student *and* their children through post-secondary education. Thanks to Karen R. for being our liaison to this organization for many years! Graduates and members of their families spoke of how the organization helped them. Carrie has become a **Single Parents Scholarship Fund Community Ambassador** and is impressed by the staff. She reports that "They are happy, energetic, and (compared to other organizations she has volunteered for) a breath of fresh air." We are happy to have this "breath of fresh air" as part of our club!



Carrie and Tyler B. Clark, their Chief Executive Officer

Karen M. and Sarah we were Uber drivers for 200 backpacks! The DEB Project had arranged to get the backpacks from the Samaritan Center but they needed a ride. Karen M. & Sarah's cars were totally stuffed with 200 amazing new backpacks for the three schools in Decatur. They delivered 50 to the elementary school, 100 to the middle school, and 50 to the high school!



Our **Aug. 2**. meeting at First Watch Restaurant. was called to order by Vice President Connie with the following **Altrusa Accent...** *The road to enlightenment is long and difficult, and you should try not to forget snacks and magazines.* Anne Lamott



Gay initiated Pat Schrad with the theme that becoming an Altrusan is like entering a garden of community service and continuing to make it thrive. Welcome Pat! At the end, Pat received a pin, yearbook, binder of Altrusa information, and an ID badge.

Several members volunteered at the **Bentonville Friends of the Library Book Sale** doing a variety of activities. All profits from this sale of over 40,000 children's books go right back to the Library for the Library expansion. There were happy teachers, schools, kids and families in attendance. When it was over, they gave us *43 flats* of left-over children's books! This will allow us to continue to do book giveaways and book swaps at the Thomas Jefferson Elementary School, the Northside Elementary School, and the Sulphur Springs Library. *Where to keep them??*



The blankets that had been donated to us by the American Legion Auxiliary in Rogers were taking up room in our storage site. Two boxes of blankets were given to the Gravette School. Three boxes were given to Northside Elementary School in Decatur, where it is common for children to have a blanket of their own on top of their Christmas list

The plans for the **Spaghetti Dinner** are in full swing. Peggy and Sarah are starting to gather items for the mystery bags. **Spaghetti Dinner Mystery Bag Guidelines** are as follows:

Only **unused** items – they don't need to be new, for example a gift you got and never used

Collective value of at least \$20 per bag/\$40 total

Themed bags are great! Some themes could be gardening, wine and chocolate, Razorback stuff, spa stuff, Halloween, or Christmas decorations

Every member should provide \$40 worth of items to Sarah by September 20. Items may be brought to an Altrusa meeting or you can arrange a time for Sarah to pick up your items. Sarah: (479) 463-0633.

In the event you do not wish to shop for items, you may give \$40 to Sarah and the committee will go shopping for you! If you don't have a full, themed bag, you can provide items for the committee to use when they assemble the baskets. Unused items that will work are: pet things, candles, non-perishable food items like sauces and teas, cosmetics, cosmetic bags, wine (if you are not a wine drinker, it's recommended that you talk to someone at the store who can recommend a good wine).

Karen M. handed out tickets to those who were at the Aug. 2nd meeting. Every Club member is asked to try to sell 15 tickets. Need more tickets? Call Karen.

On the **Communications** front: Club publicity about the Gravette Library Summer Program Grant from Altrusa International appeared in three papers – the Democrat Gazette, Weekly Vista, and The Westside Eagle Observer. Yearbooks have been printed and will be distributed this month.



On **Aug. 13** Seven Club members attended the **District Eight Day of Buzz** regional workshop. Chloe Connelly, who is the former President of the University of Arkansas ASTRA Club, and Kate Lunsford, who is the Director of Community Engagement for the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter spoke at the event. Those present assembled *Brown Bags of Kindness for Kids* (bags with crayons, colored pencils, coloring books, books, water bottles, snacks, lotion) for the Children's Shelter.

The Altrusa International President-Elect Brenda Smith was there!

Our **Aug. 16** meeting was called to order by President Gay with the following **Altrusa Accent...** *Never regret a day in your life. Good days give happiness, bad days give experience, and best days give memories.* unknown

The former Librarian of Thomas Jefferson Elementary School Sue Bentel joined us! A new member?

\$\$\$ Sue S. and Karen M., our **Audit Committee**, audited the Operating and Foundation Accounts for the time period of June 1, 2021, through May 31, 2022. All documents for the time period were available and all funds had been accounted for. Sue declared, we should be pleased that we have Karen M. and Vella, as our dedicated and talented treasurers!

Club Operating Treasurer Karen M. reported that the **Operating Account** balance was \$5,608.44. The petty cash balance \$129.63.

Club Foundation Treasurer Vella reported that the **Foundation Account balance** was \$13,146.18.

Sue S. reported that the **Club Executive Board** approved the Operating Budget that was sent to members before the meeting and the Club adopted it.

Peggy reported that the **Foundation Executive Board** approved the Foundation Budget that was sent to members before the meeting and the Club adopted it.

We received a donation of \$30 from a friend of Karen McAuley and Linda Krysl.

At the Sulphur Spring Library grand re-opening, our member and author, Gail, presented Library Director Melinda Griffin, with a copy of her books. Gail writes great murder mysteries, and you can find her on Amazon! She also has written a children's book! We have donated 1,362



books to help the Library re-open. They have credited our Club with providing most of the children's books.



On the far left is Melinda Griffin , the Library Director and on the far right is Shane Weber, the Mayor!

The Bentonville Library Foundation requested our help at meals where they were giving community organizations information about their vision for the new library. Gay and Karen M. helped on August 10 with the Philanthropy Club of Northwest Arkansas; Karen R. and Terri M. represented our Club on August 11 at a breakfast for area realtors, bankers, and closing companies.

We are close to completing the 210 kits for **Days for Girls** that we committed to in the Altrusa International Foundation Grant. We should be done by mid-September. When the project is complete, Gay will provide a report to the Foundation explaining members' thoughts about the value of the grant International Days for Girls sent us a *Thank You* note to acknowledge the grant funds that we gave them.

Bits and Pieces

New password for Altrusa International website: MamieBass1955

We won bragging rights as winners of the Altrusa International competition for the *likes* we received on postings about our Club's Days for Girls activities on our Facebook page.

Bobbie Platt, because of health limitations, is now living with a brother in Florida.

Terri Gaither's daughter and her fiancé have purchased a fixer-upper home and many relatives are helping with the renovation.

Carla's husband had a heart catheterization.

Valerie had back surgery on August 16.

Terri Gaither's brother is undergoing difficult, cancer treatment and can use our prayers.
Gay's daughter and grandson are coming to visit in two weeks!

SAVE THE DATES

October 8 – DEB Project Style Show, 11 a.m. First Baptist Church, Bentonville, volunteer opportunities

October 11 – Spaghetti Dinner

October 22 – Bentonville Public Library Bike Fest

March 7, 2023 – Game Day

Valerie Katz: Communications vikatz21@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

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