



What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.
Bentonville/Bella Vista
March April 2022

March / April Birthdays

No March birthdays
April 10 Carla Marcinkus
April 13 Karen Robbins
April 14 Valerie Katz
April 18 Gay Kiker



President Connie Brown cbrown0719@aol.com

Spring has sprung and we are off and running like someone left the gate open!! During Covid we were very cautious and held meetings by Zoom and outside in public parks. We missed our in-person activities!! We were able to recently have our first fundraiser in over two years. Our Games Day was so much fun - great games, delicious food, wonderful chance baskets and an impressive silent auction!! The best part was simply being able to be together again!! We're back again doing our school book swaps and book giveaways, volunteering for book fairs and we had a great time volunteering at the DEB Project!! Covid allowed our creativity to shine, and we continued making a difference in our community!! We're more than ready to get back with our projects, events and in person meetings!

See you soon, *Connie*

Our **Mar. 1** meeting was held at the Bella Vista Library. The meeting was called to order by President Connie with the following **Altrusa Accent...** In March winter is holding back and spring is pulling forward. Something holds and something pulls inside of us too. *Jean Hersey*

Club members voted on a motion from the Executive Board to amend our **Foundation Bylaws** and to put our Foundation Policies in writing. Specifics of the changes were presented to members at the Feb 15th meeting and sent out with the minutes of that meeting. The motion was voted on and passed.

Nominating Committee Presentation and Vote on Slate of Officers for 2022-2023

Before presenting the Committee's recommended slate of officers, Karen R. emphasized that these officers will be in place from June 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023. Past terms were for two years, but the new term will be for just one year so that we may have our officers' terms coincide with District officer terms. Beginning in June 2023, terms will again be for two years. The following slate of officers was presented: President – Gay Kiker, Vice President – Connie Brown, Foundation Account Treasurer – Vella Lewis, Operating Account Treasurer – Karen McAuley, Corresponding Secretary – Tina Brandt, Recording Secretary – Sue Sterling, Directors – Terri Gaither and Pat Sporleder. Each officer was elected individually by unanimous consent.



Mar. 2 found club members on a parade and book delivery celebrating Dr. Seuss' Birthday and National Read Across

America Day. The parade started at 10:00 am at the Thomas Jefferson Elementary School. Then at 10:30 it went to the Bella Vista Library and arrived at the Gravette Library at 11:15. About 40 new books were presented at each site with a total value of \$2,129.23.



When the Bella Vista and Gravette librarians heard we would be on parade to give them books, they were delighted. They call us their *Book Angels*.

Connie reported that so far this year, we have donated over 7,000 books to the community.



The **Literacy Committee** will investigate the **Sulfur Springs Library** and community to see what, if any, efforts we would like to make towards that library. Currently the library is closed and has no librarian. That library is working towards having a summer reading program and its children's books are *older than dirt*. There was discussion about our not overextending ourselves by working with too many organizations. The Gravette Librarian has been training an individual to serve as the librarian for Sulphur Springs. Karen said that the Sulphur Springs Library is very needy and could certainly use our help.

In response to Gail's comments about the Sulphur Springs Library, and our not overextending ourselves, we discussed the idea of replacing the **Thomas Jefferson School** with the much more needy Sulphur Springs. When we started working with Thomas Jefferson about four years ago, it was considered an underperforming school with a lack of parent participation, and this has changed.

Gail is working with the **Gravette Librarian** Karen Benson on a **\$4,000 Altrusa International grant** application in support of the library's summer program, *Oceans of Possibilities*, which runs from July 14th through August 11th.

Our **Mar. 15** meeting was called to order by President Connie with the following **Altrusa Accent...** Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all! *Helen Keller*

Game Day was a success!! – Every member took part in one way or another and we grossed \$1,620 in table sales, \$1,246 in basket chance tickets, \$790 from the silent auction, \$23 in book sales and \$29 in leftover food sales. Great Job ladies!!



Our Fayetteville friends came to supported us.



And we had a wonderful time!



The Game Day Committee did a critique after the event. They asked for comments from club members for ideas on improvements. Also, when attending similar events to make observations on how basket winners are announced and what kind of items are popular in the silent auction. It went so well that Sue has reserved St. Bernard's Church for next year's Game Day on March 8, 2023!

March 16. Terri G. reported that there was a book swap at **Thomas Jefferson Elementary School**. The third graders exchanged the most books. There will be a school-wide, book give-away on May 18. We will give away about 480 books.

Our **Days for Girls** grant proposal included a promise of member participation. As part of this, there was a workshop at Lorrie Healie's on **March 26th** from 1 – 4 pm. Lorrie has purchased \$850 worth of panties with some of the grant funds we received from the **Altrusa International Foundation**. Connie, Karen, Gay, and Valerie were at Lorrie's home learning how to roll those panties for the **Days for Girl's kits**.

They completed 101 kits which is a big part of the grant proposal where we committed to 210 kits



Karen R. reported that the latest Annual Report for the **Single Parent Scholarship Fund** included many great statistics for 2021 including: 246 (4 males 242 females) recipients with a total value of \$569,000; the average GPA was 3.36; there was a total of 906 scholarships and stipends given that had a value of \$718,850; there were 428 children of recipients.

We have submitted a grant proposal to **Altrusa International Foundation** for \$4,000 to support the **Gravette Library's** summer reading program. In the proposal we committed to providing \$500 of Club funds

As we recruit new members it would be helpful to have a **Pamphlet About Our Club** that tells who we are and what we do. There had been a one, but it had not been updated for many years. New member Sarah will make updated tri-folds available for our use.

Tina let us know the **DEB Project** needed help getting ready for the spring/summer store reset so on **April 5th**, instead of having our regular business meeting we volunteered at the store. We untangled jewelry, hung clothing, sorted shoes, and worked in the food pantry.





Our **April 19** our meeting was called to order at the Bella Vista Library by President Connie with the following **Altrusa Accent...** Enough is a feast. *a Buddhist proverb*

\$\$\$ Foundation and Operating Accounts documents were submitted to members prior to the meeting by the respective treasurers. Club Foundation Treasurer Vella reported that the March 2022 ending Foundation Account balance was \$14,717.48. Club Operating Treasurer Karen M. reported that the Operating account ending balance was \$4,258.75. The petty cash balance was \$129.63. Both reports to be filed for audit.

Gail reported that we received a *Thank You* card from the **Bella Vista Library** for our Dr. Seuss books donation. (They were on display in the library along with an acknowledgement of our donation.) The library has a new Children’s Librarian – Alex Newman. She replaces Ellen Farwell who just retired.

Connie let us know that the Literacy Committee has decided to help the **Sulphur Springs Library** which will reopen after being closed for a long time due to the librarian’s death. Several members went through our supply of books and picked out 15 boxes of books for Sulphur Springs. When the Bentonville Friends of the Library (BFOL) group heard about the need, they invited Connie and Sue M. to pick out books that were left over from their recent book sale. Our Club and the BFOL together donated 60 boxes of books!

PROGRAM –ALTRUSA 101- Gay, our current President Elect and a past Club President reviewed the history of Altrusa International, Altrusa District Eight, and our Club. Her program included an eight-page handout on what she discussed, a chart that illustrated the relationship between international, district and local clubs and foundations, a frequently asked questions page, an Operating vs. Foundation page, and a Protocol Tips for Club Members page.

Club members recited the Altrusa benediction.

On **April 20th** we presented a \$500 check as well as coats, blankets, and water bottles to **Decatur Elementary - Northside Elementary School**. After this visit we visited the Sulphur Spring Library.



It was time for the **District Eight Conference**, April 21 – 23 in Fort Smith! We were excited and ready to go. We were allocated 2 delegates and 2 alternates. Gay and Connie were chosen as delegates. Karen and Valerie acted as alternates. These four ladies were also chosen to act as expeditors for conference. The main job undertaken was to sell 50/50 tickets at the lunches on Friday and Saturday.





The conference service project was Hygiene Bags, for distribution by police officers on the job when they encountered citizens in need. We took 41 toothbrushes, 48 dental kits and 144 bars of soap and helped load them into plastic bags for the project.



On Thursday night there was a trivia contest. Gay, Karen, and Valerie were on the winning team and won new cars!

Valerie and Peggy submitted 7 projects for awards at **Conference**. We came home with 6!!



3rd Place - Governor's Distinguished Award - Making a Difference at Thomas Jefferson Elementary- we held 2 for 1 book swaps and book giveaways each month for 500 students.

3rd Place -Letha H. Brown Literacy Award - Continuing Children's Literacy Projects During COVID we furnished new books for circulation at the Bella Vista, Gravette and

Decatur Libraries, stocked book boxes around town, provided books for students at two elementary schools, provided dictionaries to all third grade students in the Bentonville, Gravette and Decatur School Districts along with other smaller projects resulting in a total distribution of 7,212 free books this past year

Honorable Mention - Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award- During COVID we prepared and sent 84 sustainable menstrual Days for Girls kits to Venezuela and 651 kit components to the Chad Humanitarian Response Project of Days for Girls International.

2nd Place - Mamie L Bass Service Award - Katherine Priest Dictionary Project During COVID - we provided paperback dictionaries for all third graders in the Bentonville, Gravette and Decatur School Districts

3rd Place - Club Communications
3rd Place - Club Display

And we sold a lot of jewelry, scarves, and purses at our store. We told them 1 table would not be enough, we would need 2. We spread out even further than that! Thanks to members who donated their gently used items we had a wonderful success.





On 50's night there more games! We had a couple of winners there too! Gay won the "Kiss Elvis" contest and Connie got 4 out of five clothes pins in the bottle for a win.

What FUN!!



Bits and Pieces.

Sue McEvoy has a second, new, great, great nephew. He was delivered on Sunday.
 Gay was at Disney World with her 10-year-old grandson last week. It was an invigorating experience.
 We were so pleased to have Marian with us again.
 Byretta Fish will be able to attend meetings soon!
 Linda Krysl is moving back here!
 Gail is making progress in her recovery from shoulder surgery.
 Gail's husband just had a stent installed in his heart. He is feeling much better.

Save the Dates

May 16 -- books swap at Decatur Elementary (See Decatur School above.)
 May 18 – book give-away at Thomas Jefferson Elementary (See Thomas Jefferson above.)
 May 18 – Bentonville Library Foundation presentations (See New Business above.)
 June 7 – During the regular meeting we will assemble bags for veterans
 July 2 – Bentonville Library Bikes and Books Fest volunteer opportunities
 July 14 – Start of Gravette Summer Reading Program – volunteer opportunities each Thursday from 10 – 11:30 through August 11th
 July 22 – Bella Vista Library end of summer reading celebration volunteer opportunities
 July 27-31st – Bentonville Friends of the Library Children's Book Sale volunteer opportunities

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 Face book www.facebook.com/altrusa8

Login for Altrusa is: user – Altrusan password – MamieLethaNina1917