



What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.
Bentonville/Bella Vista
May / June 2022

May & June Birthdays

No May birthdays
June 12 Tina Brandt



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

A Note from our President Welcome to our year of transition! I will be serving only one year as President in order to coincide with District Eight's biennium. My main goal this year is to get through it with ease and grace.

We are transitioning back into a "new normal" following the two year break due to Covid. We were homeless most of those two years, but things are looking up in that department with finding FIRST Watch for our FIRST Tuesday of the month meetings. It has a great meeting room and delicious food. We are still trying to establish our transition for the Third Tuesday of the month meeting. Unfortunately, First Watch is not available on those dates. We will find our spot eventually.

Thanks to those of you who agreed to serve as officers for this year of transition and thanks to those who agreed to head our committees. I know that is where all of the work is done, and it is greatly appreciated. So, let's just dig in and make this a great year of transition. I plan to sit back and enjoy the next two years knowing we've gotten back into our "new normal" groove.

Gay Kiker



On **April 19** we visited the Northside School to drop off a \$500 check, as well as blankets, hats, coats and water bottles for the students. On hand to make the presentation were Connie, Gay, Karen R., Gail, and Karen M., who presented the check to Allyson Carter (library media specialist), Cary Stamps (school principal) and Steve Watkins (superintendent).

Our **May 3** meeting was called to order by President Connie with the following **Altrusa Accent...** The more you celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate. *Oprah Winfrey*

\$\$\$ Club Foundation Treasurer Vella Lewis reported that the ending Foundation Account balance was \$15,072.19. Club Operating Treasurer Karen McAuley reported that ending Operating Account balance was \$4,850.62. The petty cash balance was \$129.63.

The ladies who went to the **District Eight Conference** recounted the good times they had! The Club earned over \$925 in jewelry, purse, and scarf sales.

The **Fort Smith Club**, which hosted the event, gave out goodie bags. The actual bags were ones that we had given them. We received a Thank you note from the **Hot Springs Village Club** for the blankets our Club gave them for their comfort care kits which they give to victims of rape. The **Deb Project** donated a quilt for us to take for the silent auction at Conference.



The two guest speakers were from Fort Smith. They dressed as, and recounted the lives of, Hanging Judge Parker and his wife Mary.

We all had a good time!

Connie reported for the Literacy Committee that we donated 30 books to **Helen R. Walton Children's Enrichment Center**.

Sammy sent us a Thank you card for our help at the **DEB Project** on April 5th. And they donated book pillows which will be used as prizes at a summer reading program.

Days for Girls – Gay reported that of the \$2,400 grant funds, \$2,304.60 has been used for panties, waterproof fabric for the shields, and the servicing of sewing and serge machines. Connie reported that 101 kits for women and girls went to the Ukraine border. Fifty went to northern Ecuador for girls rescued from human trafficking. She reported that we are close to our grant goal of 210 kits.

A small group of members went to the **Sulphur Springs Library** on **April 20th**. Those at the library, including the mayor, were very excited about our support. Karen M. observed that the Sulphur Springs Library is the sweetest old library in the sweetest old building. We donated a few more boxes of books to the library and they said, *"We are making their children's library"*.

Ellen Farwell recently retired from the Bella Vista Library as the children's librarian. A book will be donated in her honor to the Bella Vista Library.

May 17, 2022

Our **May 17** meeting was called to order by President Connie with the following **Altrusa Accent...** And suddenly you just know...It's time to start something new and trust the magic of new beginnings. *Shiraz Paracha.*



On **May 18** some of our Club members judged entries in the **Thomas Jefferson Elementary School**, school-wide writing contest. At each grade level awards were given for the best writing, illustrating, and overall entry.



Karen M. related that at the **May 16., Decatur Elementary - Northside Elementary School** book swap, close to 300 books were given away and the students were so excited they kept coming back to say, *“Thank you Book Ladies!”*

On **May 18** we presented a \$500 scholarship check to the **Single Parent Scholarship Fund**. We received a letter from the organization’s CEO and a card from the head of the organization’s capital campaign. Both thanked our Club for our donation.

Pictured are Krystle Goodwin, Communications and Marketing Director; Gay, our Club’s liaison to SPSFNWA Karen R., Tyler Clark, Chief Executive Officer, Carrie, and Connie.



On the **Communications** front, Valerie let us know that information about our Club’s success at the District Conference appeared in both the NWA Democrat Gazette and The Weekly Vista.

With a smile, Gay reported that a trip to conference usually means a change in the club bylaws and this year was no exception. Altrusa International *has* changed what is required in **Club ByLaws**. She prepared a handout showing the changes, which was reported in the club minutes so members could vote on them at the next meeting.



With a theme based on the growth of a tree, the **Installation of Club Officers 2022-2023** was undertaken. Immediate Past President – Connie – is like the fertile ground on which the tree grows
 Directors – Terri G. and Pat – are like the roots of the tree that keep it firmly in place.
 Operating Treasurer – Karen M. – is like the trunk that provides a solid base for growth.
 Corresponding Secretary and



Recording Secretary – Tina and Sue S., respectively – are like the branches that extend out and demonstrate the tree’s growth.
 Vice President – Connie – is like the tree blossoms that indicate future growth.
 President – Gay – is like the sunshine and rain that ensure growth.
 Club Members are like the leaves that are needed to enhance all of the above.

We were once again happy to serve at a function of the **Bentonville Library Friends & Foundation**. It was held to share the plans for the library's expansion. A post from the library facebook page: "The Big Reveal Event could not have been possible without the help of members from Altrusa International Bentonville/Bella Vista Inc. These ladies took great care of the attendees at both sessions. Thank you!"



Our liaison to **Thomas Jefferson Elementary School** Terri G. presented books for the school library in honor of Sue Ebanks Bentel, the school librarian's retirement, and presented a check for \$300 to the school library



Club members recited the Altrusa benediction.

The **June 7** meeting was called to order by President Gay with the following **Altrusa Accent..** Service consists not in saying great things, but in the daily earnest practice of its principles. *Mamie L. Bass*

The **Grants Committee of the Altrusa International Foundation**, selected our club to receive a grant in the amount of \$4,000 for the Oceans of Possibilities summer reading program at the **Gravette Public Library!** Club members continue in their quest to get the books to the children with their interest and support of this worthwhile service opportunity. The grant proposal included a commitment that Club members would volunteer during the Gravette Library Summer Program which takes place on each Thursday morning at 10:30 to noon from July 14 through August 11. the Gravette librarian, will use the \$500 that our club contributed to support the Altrusa International Foundation Grant for a year's worth of movie rights. Pictured; President Gay, Gail, Karen Benson, Library Director, and Karen M.



The Deb Project. Tina presented our \$200 donation to Sammy Laney. She will use the \$200 to purchase \$25 gift cards to give to foster families that need to purchase something that is not in stock at the Thrift Boutique. The Boutique needs diapers in all sizes.

Gay reported for Valerie that she is working on the Club Yearbook.

Karen R. presented the slate of officers for our **Foundation Board** for the 2022-2023 term: Valerie, Vella, Carla, Terri M., Karen R. and Peggy. It was moved and seconded to accept this slate. The motion carried.

At our last meeting, Gay presented proposed changes to the **Club Bylaws**. The changes allow for electronic meetings, electronic voting, clarifies quorum definitions, and clarifies voting procedures. At this meeting, It was moved and seconded that we approve the Club Bylaw changes. The motion carried.

We will have our first meeting each month at the **Bentonville First Watch Restaurant** at 500 SE Walton Blvd, So, the **FIRST TUESDAY** will be at **FIRST WATCH**. The 2022 dates are: July 5, August 2, September 6, October 4, November 1, and December 6. Yahoo!!

Gay conducted the initiation of new member Sarah Murders who was sponsored by her mother, Peggy! Gay emphasized that Altrusa is a way of life. At the end she stated, *You don't join Altrusa; you become an Altrusan.*



Chance to Earn Bragging Rights

Connie reported that Altrusa International is having a Facebook competition starting June 20th based on *likes* related to Days for Girls postings. To give our club a *like* go to <https://www.facebook.com/AltrusaServiceDev> and look for a posting about our Club's Days for Girls activities and give it a *like* and a comment if you wish. There is no physical prize for winning, but we can still congratulate ourselves if we win.

Club members recited the Altrusa benediction.

Our **June 21** meeting at the Bentonville Public Library, was called to order by President Gay with the following **Altrusa Accent...** *Don't cling to a mistake just because you spent a lot of time making it!* unknown

Altrusa International had a year-long **One Million Books Challenge** that ended May 31. During that year, our club distributed 6,850 books!! *Where do we get the books?!?* We were able to pick out 26 boxes of books from the **Friends of the Bentonville Library**. Connie and Karen M. got adult books from the **Bella Vista Animal Shelter** garage sale. Sammy from the **DEB Project** got adult books for us from a realtor who was cleaning out a property.

DEB Project_Sammy was contacted by the Decatur School social worker who is concerned that families won't be able to use their vouchers for Samaritan Center-sponsored backpacks containing school supplies. The distribution is done at Arvest Ballpark in Springdale and families may not be able to afford the gas to get there and back.

Thomas Blackwell, Executive Director of Sharing and Caring of Benton County, spoke to us about this organization which focuses on brightening the lives of poor children. It began in 1984 as part of the Boys and Girls Club. In 2007, due to its success, the organization became independent with its own 501(c)(3) status. The primary focus is its Christmas program which involves providing individually-tailored Christmas gifts as well as necessities (food, socks, etc.) to families that have been referred to them for Christmas donations. Last year they provided Christmas gifts to 2700 kids in 980 families. Their other projects are providing money (it is given to school counselors) for scholarships and giving backpacks with school supplies to children who need them. They raise money through fund raisers and donations. They do not get federal or state funds. Volunteer opportunities include: Interview families to determine their needs, Shop for families, Help assemble the family donations, – this is done two weeks after Thanksgiving, Help distribute the donations – this is done at the Benton County Fairgrounds, and Help at a fund raiser. For more information go to their website – <https://sharingandcaringkids.com/>

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On June 23 we donated 9 book pillows as prizes for the **Gravette Library Summer Reading Program!!** Each brightly colored pillow has a pocket for holding a book. We're excited to support this program with a grant from the Altrusa International Foundation, Inc. we'll be volunteering each week of the program!



SAVE THE DATES

- July 2 –Bentonville Library Bikes and Books Fest volunteer opportunities
- July 14 – Start of Gravette Summer Reading Program – volunteer opportunities each Thursday from 10:30 – noon through August 11th
- July 22 – Bella Vista Library End of Summer Reading Program Celebration volunteer opportunity
- July 27-31st – Bentonville Friends of the Library Children's Book Sale volunteer opportunities
- July 28 – Single Parent Scholarship Fund Spark of Hope Awards ceremony 6 pm in the Rogers Convention Center volunteer opportunities.
- August 13 – District Eight One-Day Workshop at NWACC.
- October 8 – DEB Project Style Show volunteer opportunities
- October 11 – Spaghetti Dinner
- March 7, 2023 – Game Day

Bits and Pieces

☑ Gail is relieved that her nephew is okay after a severe car accident and hopeful that the family which was moving from Tennessee to Minnesota can get back to normal soon.

☑ Carla is feeling sad because Tootsie, her 13 year old chihuahua has become deaf suddenly after a medical procedure.

Terri M. reported that she had been in a Teammates Program and had mentored an at- risk 4th grader. She recently learned that the girl was graduating from high school!

Gail has a new great granddaughter – Dayln Dawn Weaver

Pat Schrad is doing well after back surgery.

Karen Robbin's son is getting married.

Sue Sterling and her husband are celebrating their 43rd wedding anniversary.

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