

What Happened?

News and Information about our Club. Bentonville/Bella Vista

November / December 2022



Non. / Dec. Birthdays

Nov. 1 Terri Mclure
Nov. 10 Janet Edwards
Dec. 7 Marian Eagle
Dec. 14 Pat Schrad

President: Gay Kiker riverman77414@yahoo.com

We started out in November still counting money made from the Spaghetti Dinner! I'm sorry I missed it, but, from reports I heard it was a great success. We made money, so, that's all that matters. Speaking of money...we were delightfully surprised when we received a large donation from a source that wants to remain anonymous. That made us very happy! We will be using that donation for our literacy projects for the rest of this year. We also made our annual donation to Single Parent Scholarship fund of NWA in November. Thanksgiving through the end of the year, I was busy with family visits and the holidays. Actually, Thanksgiving through New Year's was a blur. I was not able to attend our Christmas luncheon, but, I heard the ornament exchange was a lot of fun. I found myself watching a lot of Hallmark movies in December, and cleaning out closets and drawers. DEB project benefited from these household projects with a large donation from me. I also just rested. I didn't realize how much I had been "on the go" for the last few months. It felt nice to wake up and know I had nothing to do that day. I hope you all were able to rest during December too. Now I'm ready for the new year! There will be lots of projects, a Game Day fundraiser, and District Conference this spring. I am rested and ready for them all! I hope you are too!! *Gay Kiker*

Our meeting on **Nov. 1**, was called to order by President Gay with the following **Altrusa Accent...** We burn out not because of what we do. We burn out because we forget WHY. Remember your why. *unknown*

Our **Days for Girls** project is still on-going. 875 pouches to hold the hygiene kit components were completed. Want to help? There is always a need for volunteers to help with the many tasks involved in making kits.

On the **Communications** front Valerie reported that Articles about our Club appeared in the Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette and the Bella Vista Weekly.

Beginning with a reference to the first Altrusa group in Tennessee in 1917 and continuing with interesting facts about Altrusa and the symbolism around it, Gay initiated **Sue Bentel** into our Club. As part of the initiation process Sue received an Altrusa pin, name badge, Club Yearbook, and binder of information. We enthusiastically welcomed our latest Altrusan!

Sue McEvoy has offered to fill in for Gail during her sabbatical. Sue will be the liaison with the Bella Vista and Gravette Libraries. Thanks Sue!



Our **Nov. 15**, meeting, at the Bella Vista Library was called to order by Vice President Connie with the following **Altrusa Accent...** Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can. *John Wesley*

Gay received a call from the Manager of **St. Bernard's Catholic Church** telling her that the Parish Council elected to *not* invite us to have our next **Spaghetti Dinner** at the church. Gay explained that there was a misunderstanding about clean-up and wine offering requirements. Connie has been talking to a member of the St. Bernard Church's Parish who has agreed to request that our Club have an opportunity of address the Council.

The Bentonville School Board has put a hold on book give-aways. So our book swaps at the **Jefferson Elementary School**, will be on hold.



Connie reported that the **District Eight Governor** appealed to all clubs to support **Veterans Day** in some way. The **Socks and Cookies** organization, which sends care packages to overseas deployed military, had asked us if we wanted to support them again this year. We were able to fulfill both requests! We gave Socks and Cookies 450 Stars for Heroes cards and 6 cases of Jack Links jerky which were left over from the DEB Project Style Show.



On **Dec. 3**, Connie, Karen R., and Valerie went to celebrate with the **Rogers Altrusa Club** at their December fundraiser at the Whole Hog Café.



Tina had a wonderful surprise for us! Her synagogue closed in June for a variety of reasons. As a result, all of their assets had to be distributed. Tina and her husband were very active members of the congregation and when she asked if they would consider donating to Altrusa, they responded positively. She presented our Club with a very generous check! Everyone at the meeting was amazed, and oh so grateful.



Vella read parts of a personal letter she had received from the **Bella Vista Library Foundation** requesting donations to pay for an expansion of the Library's parking lot. We discussed making a contribution since we have the majority of our meetings at the Library, and we routinely support their programs. Since we had just had a major jump in our finances, Valerie moved that the Club donate \$500 from our Foundation Account to the Bella Vista Library Foundation for the expansion of the parking lot.

Connie's Version of the **I Report...** Connie suggested that at a meeting each member there answer one question from the I Report list. As a result, at today's meeting everyone answered this question, *What is one thing nobody knows about you?* We learned some fun and interesting things! Shall we do it again?

We have been busy this Holiday Season getting the books to the children. We received some Spanish children's books from the **Bentonville Friends of the Library**. Some were given to the **Sulphur Springs Library**.

We gave younger children's books to the **American Legion** in Bentonville for their drive-through event for children of veterans.

Books that had been donated to us from the **Bentonville Library Bikefest** were given to the **Gravette Library**.

And Halloween costumes that were donated to us by the **DEB Project** were given to the **Sulphur Springs Library** for use in their costume exchange next year.



We have partnered with the **Single Parent Scholarship Fund** of Northwest Arkansas for many years. We again sponsored five individuals for Christmas. We also gave new books and Beanie Baby "Reading Buddies" to the younger children. Barb on the left from Altrusa of Rogers, and Carrie on the right from Bentonville/Bella Vista are both Community Ambassadors. They helped spread cheer at the **Festival of Giving** where scholarship recipients and their children were provided Christmas gifts!!



We had a great time at the **Single Parent Jingle Mingle!** It was fun to see friends and hear from one of the students getting her degree from the University of Arkansas this fall! We love hearing success stories that change a family's trajectory, and we love being part of helping those stories happen, helping to change the lives of single parents and their children!

We delivered sets of tween/teen books to the **Gravette Public Library** for teen book club or summer reading activities.

We are so fortunate to have community partners who support our literacy project. **Ardis Ann Middle School** had a book drive for us!



We provided new books for the younger children at the annual **Children of Veterans Christmas Party!** Children were provided Christmas gifts and families were provided bags of food.



Karen M. reported a book swap on, Dec. 5 at the Decatur Elementary - Northside Elementary School



On Dec. 6, we had our **Holiday Party** at the First Watch Restaurant, we had a chance to chat and mingle, and really enjoyed an ornament exchange!



Bits and Pieces

The general login for Altrusa is: user – altrusan password – MamieBass1955

Marian Eagle and her husband would appreciate our prayers.

Peggy Rosenthal's grandson Jackson is one of three students from Thomas Jefferson Elementary School chosen to fold the flag on Veteran's Day, November 11.

Pat Schrad had additional back surgery on November 4.

SAVE THE DATES

Feb. 4, 2023 – Bella Vista Rotary Club's Winterfest for Kids

March 7, 2023 – Game Day

Valerie Katz: Communications valeriekatz567@aol.com

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