



## What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.

Bentonville/Bella Vista

April / May 2023

### April / May Birthdays

Apr.10 Carla Marcinkus

Apr. 13 Karen Robbins

Apr. 14 Valerie Katz

Apr. 18 Gay Kiker

No May birthdays



Co-Presidents: **Terri Gaither** - [tegaither@hotmail.com](mailto:tegaither@hotmail.com)  
**Sue Sterling** - [susannelsterling@gmail.com](mailto:susannelsterling@gmail.com)

### A Note from our Presidents:

**Sue:** Well Terri, it's the start of a new Club year and here we are at the helm. We are fortunate that the Club's past presidents have been giving us guidance as we prepare to navigate the waters.

**Terri:** Yes, and to carry the boat analogy further, I'm relieved and confident that our crew of great Altrusa women will keep us sailing on a straight and noble course.

**Sue:** Ahead we have more Dog Squad stops to make. In May, the Club received a donation of almost 11,600 dog story books. We've stickered them and handed them out to a variety of appropriate places.

**Terri:** And, we gave over 10,000 more of the books to the Bentonville Friends of the Library. Plus, May was a month when we made several monetary donations. The Bella Vista Library, the Single Parent Scholarship Fund and the Decatur Elementary School each received \$500.

**Sue:** Everyone has enthusiastically signed up for committees where they can respond to needs in the community and show their talents. There's loads of energy and skill in our group.

**Terri:** I, like you, am looking forward to celebrating accomplishments and having fun as we all voyage into the new Club year.

*Terri Gaither - Sue Sterling*

The **April 4**, meeting was called to order by President Gay with the following **Altrusa Accent...** Train your mind to see the good in everything. Positivity is a choice. The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts. *Author anonymous.*

Gay reported that St. Bernard's has approved our request to have our **Spaghetti Dinner** there on September 26!! **Put it on your calendar now!** Gay will co-chair the Committee with Sarah Murders.

Connie reported for the **Literacy Committee** that Governor Sanders signed the library bill into law March 30, The law may impact our distribution of books. We have always excluded religious books from our distributions, but now we'll be looking at other possible controversial/sensitive topics to exclude as well. We don't throw those books away, we find them a different home, like a book box. We just won't put our name sticker on them.

Sue S. reported that, thanks to a fund raiser hosted by the American Legion in Rogers, the **DEB Project** received \$1,328.

CEC Committee Chair Terri M. prepared a spending report for the **Congregation Etz Chaim (CEC)** donation. The Committee recommends allocating the following funds: \$3,600 for dictionaries, \$200 to the Sulphur Springs Library (This was to enable the Club to give \$500 – the amount they needed for their Summer Reading Program.), and \$800 to the DEB Project. They recommend using the funds for special projects. There was concern that if we added CEC funds to our already budgeted funds, our recipients might assume that we would always provide the higher donations. Any ideas on how the remaining funds should be spent would be appreciated by the committee.

### **Books for Struggling Readers**

The focus is decodable books for children with learning difficulties. Sarah has been in contact with the Thomas Jefferson Elementary School Resource Teacher and the Literacy Coach that works with TJ and Sugar Creek Schools. Older students who struggle with reading don't want to read books that look like they're *for babies* or have content that is aimed at young readers. Graphic novels are one solution; another is audio books with the novels. Books with special fonts are easier to read by some students. High Noon books were recommended. A class set of 10-12 High Noon books for older beginners, ages 8-14. is about \$600. A set of six books for younger students is about \$35.

The **April 18**, meeting was called to order by President Gay with the following **Altrusa Accent...** Don't wait for the perfect moment, take the moment and make it perfect. *Zoey Seyward*

Linda Krysl announced the members who have agreed to serve as officers of the **Foundation Board**.

They are Connie Brown – President Sue McAvoy - Vice President

Gay Kiker – Secretary Vella Lewis and Terri McClure - Foundation Co-Treasurers

Valerie Katz and Sarah Murders - Directors

Gay reported that she has completed the **Club's Annual Report** for Altrusa International. Based on the results, we are a **Distinguished Club** again this year!

Today's **PROGRAM** was about a non-profit that focuses on human trafficking. **Susan Poole** is the program manager of **Hub of Hope**. She said the organization was founded in 2017. They have worked with 200 clients. Right now, there are 45. All but one of their clients was lured into the business in the United States. Their objectives are to provide healing and opportunities for victims and prevention and education for communities.

To aid victims, they provide basic needs as well as services to help them succeed. Often victims want to leave the area. Hub of Hope may refer them to a home in southern Arkansas that specializes in helping victims of sex trafficking. If the victim wants to leave the state, Hub of Hope, as a member of the National Human Trafficking Alliance, can find them similar homes throughout the country.

Getting girls/women to comply involves force (both psychological and physical), fraud, and coercion. Forty-six percent already know the person that will become their trafficker. He is often a figure of authority in their lives. The average age of entry is 12 to 14. The victims they've dealt with ranged in age from 19 to 53.

Locally, **Into the Light** works with juveniles. They obtain clients through their helpline, from community members who suspect trafficking, through local women's organizations like the **Rape Crisis Center** and through their regular visits to the jail/detention center.

Human trafficking is a big business worldwide. It brings in 150 billion dollars annually. It is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world. You can learn more about them at [www.hubofhope.org](http://www.hubofhope.org)

Our **May 2** meeting was called to order by President Gay with the following **Altrusa Accent...** If you FAIL, never give up. FAIL = *First Attempt In Learning*. End is not the end. END = *Effort Never Dies*. If you get NO as an answer, remember NO = *Next Opportunity*. *Author unknown*

Sue M. gave us an update on the libraries. The **Gravette Library** will need help with their summer reading program, Have Book Will Travel. The program begins on **July 6 and will be every Thursday through August 3**. Volunteers will need to be there from 10 to noon. There will be a volunteer orientation on June 23; however, attendance at the orientation is not required in order to volunteer and volunteers don't need to be at every session.



Club members Terri McClure, Terri Gaither and Sue McEvoy are seen presenting a \$500 check to the **Bella Vista Library** to help with their summer program, They are hoping for help with their **Block Party on July 14** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It includes prize pick-up, pizza, ice cream. They need help setting up, tearing down, greeting, and crowd control. Let Sue know if you'd like to help. We have been contacted by the Library about taking on the complete responsibility of two book boxes. We have just been filling them. We will learn more about this when we receive a copy of a letter that has been sent to the library from the Bella Vista POA.

The **Sulphur Springs Library** has invited us to attend their **City in the Park Celebration** on June 28 at 10:30 a.m. They do not need our help for their summer reading program.

The **Bentonville Friends of the Library** raised close to \$7,000 at their book sale.

Gay showed the group the **Outstanding Advocate Award** that we received from the **Bentonville Public Library**. Terri Gaither will keep the award and bring it to our public events.

On the **Communications** front Valerie reported that publicity about our donations to the Gravette and Sulphur Springs Libraries has appeared in the *Democrat Gazette* and the *Weekly Vista*

Karen M. reported that we did the last book swap for the school year at **Decatur Elementary - Northside Elementary School**, She will let the Club know, as September approaches, when the next activity will take place.



Our *jewelry store* netted us **\$1,126!!** There was a good workshop about project planning, a panel on getting young members through social media, and a speaker who emphasized openness to new ideas.

Two more Club members – Karen M. and Sue S. – wanted to attend the **District Eight Conference** for one day only. So they joined our other representatives, Gay and Karen R.,



Our Club won second place in the **Letha H. Brown Literacy Award** category!

And apparently there was a Pajama Party!



Gay showed us a new lock that she purchased for our storage unit. It has a longer *handle* than the current one. **The new combination is 7323.** *The combination needs to be entered when both opening and closing the lock.*

The **May 16** meeting was called to order by Vice President Connie with the following **Altrusa Accent ...** Year's end is neither an end or a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us.

*Hal Borland*

Connie reported for the **Literacy Committee** that we received a **HUGE** donation of books (5,800). All were adorable books about dogs. So, the Altrusa "Dog Squad" was formed. They all needed labels, so on Tuesday, May 23, 12 club members got together and put gift labels in all of them, then sorted them for distribution to local schools, libraries, and dog rescue sites.



On the 24<sup>th</sup> 400 of those books plus a \$500 donation were delivered by club members Karen M., Gay and Karen R., to **Decatur Elementary** for their "One School, One Book" program next semester.



Here's Sue S. delivering the Dog Squad books to at Helen Walton's Children Center



Bentonville Animal Shelter took 100 books they plan to share with Centerton AS and Best Friends Animal Shelter (Bentonville ).



Bella Vista Animal Shelter Hospital



Bella Vista Urgent Care



Bella Vista Pet

**Lorrie Healey** of **Days for Girls** learned she could get a serger and other materials from a Houston Days for Girls Chapter that is dissolving. The cost of shipping would have been quite high. Fortunately, Tina Brandt will be traveling to Houston and will be able to pick up everything. Lorrie also reported that In response to requests for help to earthquake ravaged Turkey and Syria, the local chapter donated 150 bags.



Terri, Karen R., and Sue M. were at the **Single Parent Scholarship Fund** on May 17 to present the Fund with a \$500.donation.

\$\$\$ Club Operating Treasurer Karen McAuley reported the club's April 2023 ending Operating Account balance was \$3,572.41. The petty cash balance remains at \$129.63.

\$\$\$ Club Foundation Treasurer Vella Lewis reported the club's the April 2023 ending Foundation Account balance was \$25,408.49.

**New Presidents' Chit Chat.** Co-presidents elect Terri Gaither and Sue Sterling led a discussion about what was coming up in the Club's future year. A review of who will be serving on the various committee assignments, member suggestions about program topics and who would be attending the Altrusa International Convention in San Antonio in July were discussed.

### **Bits and Pieces**

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

Linda's granddaughter Nicole got engaged.

Valerie has completed the move! She thanked Terri Gaither and her husband for all of the help they gave and added that the move wouldn't have taken place without them.

### **SAVE THE DATES**

June 28 – Sulphur Springs City in the Park Celebration— 10:30 a.m.

July 1 – Bentonville Library Bikes and Books Festival

July 6 - August 3 (Just Thursdays) – Gravette Library Summer Reading Program – 10 a.m. to noon – volunteers needed

July 14 – Bella Vista Library Summer Program Block Party –11 a.m. to 2 p.m. – help needed

July 19 – 22 International Convention in San Antonio

September 26 – Spaghetti Dinner at St. Bernard's

Valerie Katz: Communications [vjkatz21@gmail.com](mailto:vjkatz21@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](http://altrusa-bb.com) See us on Face book [www.facebook.com/altrusa8](http://www.facebook.com/altrusa8)

Login for Altrusa is: user – Altrusan password – MamieLethaNina1917