



What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.

Jan. / Feb. 2023



Jan. / Feb. Birthdays

Jan 26 Karen McAuley

Jan 26 Vella Lewis

Feb.22 Sue McEvoy

President: Gay Kiker riverman77414@yahoo.com

A Note from our President... 2023 came in with a bang! It was easy to get back into our groove when our meeting was on Jan. 3rd. It was so good to see everyone and get started on the second half of our Altrusa year. Decatur saw a book swap in January and we started gearing up for our Game Day fundraiser in March. February was busy, for those who could get out of their driveway!! An ice storm halted a variety of events, including school, for almost a week. But, some of our members were still able to help our local Rotary club with their Winterfest event. Our little library in Sulphur Springs had a very successful fundraiser in February with the help of a few of our members. And we also helped with the Bentonville Library Foundation annual Donor Appreciation luncheon. All the while, getting everything ready for the Game Day fundraiser in March. Our members always amaze me with their "can do" attitude and seemingly unending energy. I for one was feeling lethargic in January, I guess the winter doldrums, but helping with these events has renewed my Altrusa energy. We have a busy spring coming up with the fundraiser and the District Eight Conference. I'm sure there will be a dozen events pop up along the way. It's so nice knowing that our club members will help whenever they can and all of our "pop ups" will be successful. *Gay Kiker*

The **Jan. 3** meeting was called to order by President Gay with the following **Altrusa Accent...** Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles, it takes away today's peace. *Zig Zigler*

The **Literacy Committee** has been busy getting the books to the children. Connie let us know that our Club has given away 11,397 books since June! Altrusa International has challenged clubs to give away one million books! We gave new books and all of our remaining Reading Buddies (Beanie Babies) to the **Single Parent Scholarship Fund** for them to hand out during the holidays to the younger children of their clients.

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

A **BIG** thank you to **Ardis Ann Middle School**. A book drive was organized by their librarian, and as a result, we received 10 boxes of used books.

Sue M. and Connie have been taking miscellaneous items to the **Sulphur Springs Library**. If you have board and/or card games that you don't need, bring them to our next meeting and they'll be taken to Sulphur Springs.

Connie saw an announcement on KNWA looking for submissions of Remarkable Women. She submitted an essay nominating Sammy Laney of the **DEB Project**. Sammy is now one of four finalists! The winner will receive a trip to Los Angeles and a donation of \$1,000 to a charity of the winner's choice.

The **DEB Project** sent a letter summarizing their 2022 accomplishments. There was \$31,135 in scholarship money (an increase of \$10,00 from last year) to students in our community. Over 16,000 items went to children and families in need in Northwest Arkansas. Clothing and other donations helped support almost 1,500 children. The Christmas Tree Project assisted 90 children with 702 gifts. Two new therapy dogs went to local Bentonville schools. In total, they have donated seven therapy dogs since starting the program in 2019. The Internship Program allows students to apply for a college scholarship through the DEB Project. Since starting this program, we have had over 50 students participate with almost \$100,000 in scholarships.

We have watched Sammy Laney and the **DEB Project** grow and we are so happy to have been a part of it's growth.

Lorrie Healy of **Days for Girls** had an opportunity to buy flannel at a low rate of less than \$2 a yard. Lorrie was given a \$400 check (the amount budgeted for 2023) so she could purchase this much needed item.

Connie and Carla reported that they have been in contact with **R. E. Baker School** in regard to our working with them. At this time, they are looking for people who would be lunch buddies with students or who would read with children at 7:20 a.m. as they waited in the hall outside the classroom before being allowed to enter. Let Connie or Carla know if you're interested in doing either.

Gay no longer has a landline. Please delete the 855-8715 number from your contacts list.

Our **Jan. 17** meeting was called to order by President Gay with the following **Altrusa Accent...** Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened! *Christopher Roche*

We were pleased to see Marian Eagle at the meeting!

On **Feb. 4** we had 500 books ready for the **Bella Vista Rotary Winterfest**. The weatherman sent ice and snow so many of the families chose to stay home. We still handed out books to children from ages 5 to 12 as well as their younger and older siblings who came to Winterfest.



There was a book swap on Jan. 20 at the **Decatur - Northside Elementary School**. The kids brought one book and got to pick out two! They love our book swaps and so do we!!

One day while Connie and Sue McEvoy were at the DEB Project store, members were looking for someone who could deliver a car full of supplies for **Decatur Elementary** students from the store to the school. They loaded Connie's car and she and Sue took the supplies to the school where students there unloaded the supplies. Connie and Sue then had the chance to tell the principal about Altrusa and the DEB Project.



Daniel Meyer, the Principal at Decatur Middle School, was one happy principal with all that “stuff”!

Karen R. reported that we received a *Thank you* letter from Sara at the **Single Parent Scholarship Fund**, for the \$500 Festival of Giving donation we made so that five individuals could receive presents from their Christmas lists. Among her comments were, *Your contribution helps our recipients break the cycle of poverty that they often fall into. Because of your dedication to SPSFNWA, our recipients achieve their educational and financial goals.* The average GPA of their recipients is 3.36.

Gay reported that she and two other Club members met with representatives of St. Bernard's Church to explain what our Club does to support literacy, what happened at our Spaghetti Dinner and what we would do to ensure that there wouldn't be problems in the future. It was universally agreed that there was a lack of communication on both sides. The Church Council meets next week, and we will learn afterwards if we can have spaghetti dinners there in the future.

The large **Altrusa Bling Pins** that our Club created, have been a successful way for us to earn money for our operating account. They were enthusiastically received at last year's District Conferences and our supply is low. With the District Conference and International Convention coming, (*where Linda K. Smith from our District will be installed as International President*) we will have opportunities to sell more. After discussion it was decided that we purchase 100 more.

Tina Brandt acquired a donation of \$12,500 for us from Congregation Etz Chaim. She asked that the funds be used directly to support literacy and our association with the DEB Project. She also asked that she be advised of how the donated funds are being spent. Terri McClure, Sue Bentel, Vella Lewis and Pat Schrad will monitor the funds.

Every two years, a new District Eight Governor is installed, and it has been a tradition to give the exiting Governor a parting gift. Our Club has been asked if we want to contribute towards the gift. In the past, we have given \$25, and we will do the same this year.

Gay passed out a handout titled **Local Club Officers Duties** (Club Board of Directors). She then stressed that everyone should consider becoming an officer in any position – including President. She said, *Being an officer is not hard; an office is as hard as you want to make it.* Referring to the handout, she went through the duties of each officer. Then she referred to another part of the handout titled Protocol Tips for Altrusa Club Members. She asked that members read it over and remarked that our Club members have good meeting manners. The third part of the handout was titled TEAM. It gave the definition of team and tips for having an effective team. She said that because our Club members are great team members, anyone who holds an office can feel secure that she will be supported.

The **Feb. 7** meeting was held at First Watch Restaurant. The meeting was called to order by President Gay with the following **Altrusa Accent...** Don't do things to be noticed or praised. Do things simply because they are the right thing to do. *unknown*

Connie got 200 small *purses* from **Days for Girls**. They will go directly to the libraries that we support.

On the **communications** front, Valerie got publicity for Game Day in the *Northwest Arkansas Gazette* and *The Weekly Vista*. Another release is pending. She sent in our Club's contribution to the Altrusa District Eight Service Bulletin.

Due to a rather unfriendly incident with the Bella Vista Library and the inconvenience of meeting at two different locations, Gay and Connie have been looking into places where we could meet on both the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month year-round. As a result of their research, we will have a meeting at Table at Hickory Inn and at the Acropolis. Based on our experiences at those two sites, we will decide if we would like to have all of our meetings at one of these locations.

Linda Krysl, Terri Gaither, and Pat Schrad were appointed as the **Nominating Committee** to encourage members to serve for the June 2023 -- May 2025 term.

Our **Feb. 21.** meeting was held at the Acropolis Restaurant. The meeting was called to order by President Gay with the following **Altrusa Accent...** Don't be afraid of change. You may lose something good; but you may gain something better. *Brigette Hyacinth*

\$\$\$ FINANCIAL REPORTS

Club **Operating** Treasurer Karen M. reported that the Jan. 2023 ending balance was \$4,319.34. The petty cash balance remains at \$129.63.

Club **Foundation** Treasurer Vella reported that the January 2023 ending Foundation Account balance was \$23,636.14. The financial reports are filed for audit.

Connie spoke to the **Lovely Purchase Chapter of the DAR** about our literacy efforts. They are going to approach the Decatur Elementary School about doing something there in relation to their Constitution Week. They gave our Club 10 books!



Connie, Carrie, and Sue M. said they had a wonderful time handing out free children's books at the **Sulphur Springs Library Souper Fundraiser** on Saturday, **Feb. 18**. Free games, crafts, face painting, food, photo ops and more! They raised \$1,600 towards a goal of getting WIFI into the library!

We have budgeted \$300 for their library. Their **Summer Reading Program** will cost \$500. It was motioned and seconded that we donate an additional \$200 from the



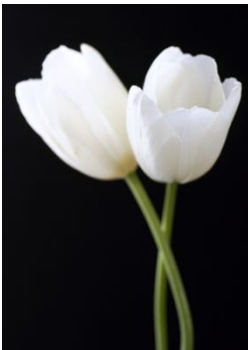
Congregation Etz Chaim portion of our Foundation funds to their summer program. The motion carried!

The **Bentonville Library Foundation** asked if we would help with registration and food services at their **Donor Appreciation Luncheon** on Sunday, **Feb. 26**. Several Club members were happy to help!.



We received \$81.54 as proceeds from the **Bella Vista POA Give Back Program!** This was 10% of the non-liquor sales of the Highlands Pub and Grill on **Sept. 27**.

Today's program was led by Kelli Jensen, a co-founder of **Perspectability and True colors Tulip Farm**. Perspectability is a local non-profit which is aimed at improving the lives of people who are neuro divergent. Neurodivergence is the term for when someone's brain processes, learns, and/or behaves differently from what is considered "typical." Her son Cody is neurodivergent. She and other parents like her worry about what his life as an adult will be. There are very few appropriate opportunities for training, employment, and housing for people like Cody.



Millions of neurodivergent adults are sitting at home, not being valued for the contributions they can make, while their aging parents worry about what will happen to their children after they die.

Perspectability operates the True Colors Farm at 13225 W. Tycoon Road in Bentonville. Neurodivergent people are hired to handle a wide variety of jobs during the six weeks that the tulip farm operates.

This U-pic tulip farm sells tulips when the bulbs are ready. This is usually in mid-April. True Colors' first season was in 2021 when 57,000 tulips were planted. This season they planted 120,000 bulbs. Bulbs are planted by hand by community volunteers.

The goals of Perspectability are 1. educate the public as to what is and is not available to neurodivergent young and older adults as well as the value of getting to know and hiring neurodivergent individuals 2. start a transition academy using the Learn for Independence curriculum which is designed to teach the students how to live independently. 3. create an inclusive subdivision. She recommends the film *In A Different Key* – a story about autism. Their funds come from True Colors earnings and donations. To volunteer you can just show up during tulip season!



For the second time, our Club came in first in an **Altrusa International Facebook competition**. We had the most *Likes* for our service projects. We won another chance to brag!

We are so honored – but the real winner is our community.



Bits and Pieces

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

Karen McAuley's mother-in-law died on Saturday. Our sympathies are with her.

Sue McEvoy has a new great, great nephew – the sixth new baby in a year.

Valerie Katz has a new great granddaughter. She got to hold her during her recent visit to California.

Amazon Smile no longer exists... Boo Hoo! But I am moving, and I ordered everything I thought I might possibly need before Mar.1!

Peggy's 7-year-old granddaughter broke her thumb in a bicycle accident.

Karen Robbin's great granddaughter had her tonsils removed.

SAVE THE DATES

March 1 – 10 a.m. Decatur Elementary Book swap

March 7 – Game Day

April 27 – 30 District Eight Conference in Tulsa

July 19 – 22 International Convention in San Antonio

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 Facebook www.facebook.com/altrusa8