



## What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.

Bentonville/Bella Vista

July /August 2023

### July/August Birthdays

Sarah Murders July 15  
Pat Sporleder July 16  
Connie Brown July 19  
Terrie Gaither July 29  
Linda Krysl July 29  
Carrie Schweer Aug. 22



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



OUR NEW OFFICERS  
FOR 2023 / 2024  
AT THE HICKERY INN

**A Note from our Presidents: Terri:** In June, July and August, Club members collaborated with professionals at the Bella Vista, Bentonville, Gravette and Sulphur Springs libraries.

**Sue** We were at their sites to enhance their summer programs. Everyone was also busy dealing with dog books – a woofderful gift.

**Terri:** Woofderful and fabularf. Way back in late May, before the dog days of summer were coming our way, alert member Carrie Schweer was volunteering at a non-profit when she saw pallets of books. She learned that there were no plans for them, so she called Connie Brown and the Dog Squad was born.

**Sue:** Upon hearing about the books, the ears of Literacy Committee members perked up. They channeled Lassie and Rin Tin Tin to solve the challenge of distributing thousands of books. Knowing that their work was cut out for them, they contacted other organizations. And, as quick as the kibble in a bowl disappears, all the books were stickered and delivered.

**Terri:** Then, another alert member, Sue Bentel, got the scent of more books at the same non-profit so the Dog Squad continued. There was no time to paws. Members made more calls, put on the stickers, and dispensed them lick-ety-split.

**Sue:** Just when we all thought we could rest our dog-tired feet, we were called to fetch 5,000 books back from the Bentonville Library. The howl went out. Some organizations were contacted again; new ones were spotted.

**Terri:** We found places for all the books and didn't have to go to Pluto to do it.

**Sue:** Thank you, thank you, thank you, to all. Our Club is a really great pack.

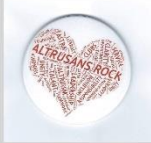
*Terri Gaither - Sue Sterling*

Our club has, once again, been recognized as a Distinguished Altrusa Club!

Altrusa International, Inc  
2023-2025 Biennium



Linda Smith, President  
Altrusa International, Inc



Altrusans R.O.C.K.  
Realize Opportunity. Create Kindness

Our new **Altrusa International President** Linda K. Smith from Salina, Kansas in District Eight has chosen Altrusans **ROCK** (Realize Opportunity Create Kindness) as her theme and Random Acts of Kindness as her program, for this biennium.



We won some awards at the **International Convention**. The Facebook challenge and the amount of book donations we made last year. LaNita from Fayetteville sold all the Altrusa “bling” pins (60) on the first day of the convention. She also got a list of people that wanted pins. So far, the Puerto Rico Club wants 28 pins, another club wants 11 and Gay has a third club finalizing their number. Our supply of pins is nearly exhausted, so Gay moved that we order another 100 pins. The motion passed! What a money maker this has been. Thanks Gay!



We mourn the loss of Mary Louise Harris, charter member and emeritus member of our club. She was a tomboy growing up. She was with Mary Kay cosmetics for over 30 years and earned 8 cars. She was a shy person who succeeded by remembering to “Live by faith, not by fear”. She said that her husband was the most interesting person she ever met. She fell for his hairy hands. Her words to live by? The Golden Rule. What an amazing lady. We know heaven is rejoicing in a life well lived. We were honored that she was a member of our club.

### Altrusa Clubs working together!



Recently we were given some new baby blanket/hat gift sets. We know our nearby **Altrusa Club of Springdale** works with **Compassion House in Elm Springs**, a residential facility for pregnant teens and their babies offering a safe place to live while empowering each resident with life skills, education and support. We did a trunk-to-trunk transfer of 50 blankets in the parking lot of McDonalds.



There are many summer reading programs at our local libraries to help prevent summer reading loss. We support three different libraries’ summer reading programs with financial support and volunteers.

We were able to give new books to kids who get **free summer lunches** in Bentonville. All kids - toddlers, home schoolers, Bentonville school students, any kids 18 and under could just drop by one of three locations for the free meals. Here we are busy putting our stickers on the free books for them!





We volunteered at the **Bentonville Library Oz Bike and Book Fest!!** There were bouncy houses, character storytellers, free books, free food, a patriotic bike parade and a bike obstacle course! **Pedal It Forward** gave away 150 free bikes and helmets to kids to celebrate Bentonville's 150th birthday. Over 1,800 people attended this amazing family event!



At the **Sulphur Springs Library** kids had a blast meeting local auctioneer David Barber and experiencing a real live auction! At the end of a great summer reading program we volunteered at a Picnic in the Park! There were water games, storytelling, hot dogs, prizes, snacks, bubbles, watermelon, giveaways, and of course, free books!



When the **Bella Vista Library** completed their Summer Reading Program they donated a couple of boxes of books to us!

**Have Book Will Travel** was the summer reading program at the **Gravette Library**. The Amazeum came and kids got to build their own creations to study the concept of chain reaction!!



There was a lot of reading going on in our libraries all summer. At the end of summer we helped out with parties, handing out pizza and prizes!



Sue M. and Connie volunteered at the **Bentonville Friends of the Library Children's Book Sale**. With over 40,000 books available, there were happy kids, parents, and teachers!



Our **July 18** meeting was called to order by Co-President Sue with the following **Altrusa Accent...** *Kindness is a language that the deaf can hear and the blind can see.* Mark Twain

Our club donated approximately 300 packaged dinners to the school counselor for distribution to needy families in the **Decatur School District**. Due to the many changes in leadership we are awaiting directions on how our help may be needed.

**\$\$** Gay and Linda completed the audit of the Operating and Foundation accounts. All was deemed accurate. Thanks ladies!

The **I Report**, “*three things always in my refrigerator*”, got many unique member responses, from lettuce and wine, to coffee creamer and grapes. Did you know pickle juice, supposedly, relieves leg cramps? And, one member has dog food and wine in her refrigerator, knowing that once dogs are fed, she can sit down with a glass of wine.

Our **Aug. 1st** meeting of was called to order by Co-President Terri with the following **Altrusa Accent...** - *If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change.* Wayne Dyer

**New members!** Cheryl Johanssen and Kathy Williamson were initiated. We learned a lot about Altrusa and fruit.

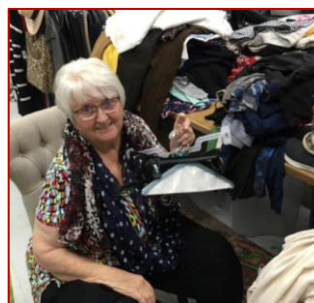


New **District Eight Governor Lorraine Brewer** challenged our clubs to **Celebrate Our World** with a new international service project. Our club is celebrating our wonderful Hispanic neighbors at **OneCommunity**. We gave them 3,000 new books for their multilingual multi-location summer reading program, **Feed Your Brain**. OneCommunity’s mission is to bring communities together to build a better quality of life through education, outreach, and service. Lulu and Julieta, from OneCommunity shared information about the bi-lingual, Spanish-English reading program and activities they have throughout the year for children and parents. They serve Hispanic and Marshallese families throughout our area. We were able to present them with new books and baby blankets for their programs.



Connie reported that we now have **Canva Pro** for flyers, posts, social media Etc. It was free as our club is a non-profit organization. To use Canva, go to [www.canva.com](http://www.canva.com), sign in with our club email [info@altrusa-bb.com](mailto:info@altrusa-bb.com) and our password is Altrusa1\*.

Congratulations to the **DEB Project** for being chosen **Non-Profit of the Year!** The DEB Project just wrapped up their Spring/Summer fundraiser, “Christmas in July” which was held at Top Golf. The event raised \$60,000! Our members dropped in to help at the DEB Project store during their seasonal store flip. The DEB Project provides free clothing and other essential items for foster children as well as children identified by a school social worker as in need. Our brand-new member Cheryl jumped right in to volunteer!





**Woof Woof!**

## The Dog Squad was loose delivering dog books!



The Bella Vista Boys and Girls



Arkansas Children's Hospital Northwest



Free meals for kids



The Police department



One Community



Arkansas Children's Hospital in Springdale



The Fire department

Valerie Katz: Communications [vikatz21@gmail.com](mailto:vikatz21@gmail.com)

Meetings are held at 11:30 on the 1st and 3rd

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 – MamieBass1955