

## What Happened?

### News and Information about our Club. Bentonville/Bella Vista

November / December



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#### Nov. / Dec. Birthdays

Nov. 1 Terri Mclure

Nov. 10 Janet Edwards

Dec. 14 Pat Schrad

#### A Note from our presidents...

**Sue:** This is a time of year when we reflect on the past and think about the future. As Altrusans of Bentonville/Bella Vista, we can look back at many things that we accomplished in 2023.

**Terri:** There were so many things, it's hard to know where to begin – we did a Game Day and a Spaghetti Dinner. We donated funds to the Sulphur Springs Library, Gravette Library, Bella Vista Library, Days for Girls, Single Parent Scholarship Fund, the DEB Project, and Decatur Elementary. Our members volunteered at all the libraries, including the Bentonville Library, at the DEB Project, and at Decatur Elementary. We provided help to Days for Girls. We donated 1,000 dictionaries. We gave about 30,000 dog books to 17 different organizations. We added two new, wonderful members – Cheryl Johanssen and Kathy Williamson. Plus, there were many additional things individual members did on our behalf.

**Sue:** And then we got to enjoy other experiences. We received the Outstanding Advocate Award from the Bentonville Public Library. We had programs on Hub of Hope, the Walmart Foundation, and Perspectability and True Colors Tulip Farm. We toured the new Samaritan Community Center in Rogers. We shared I Reports where we each respond to a prompt that tells something about us. We began sending Intentional Acts of Kindness notes to individuals in the community that we want to honor. We received a very generous donation from Congregation Elz Chaim thanks to Tina Brandt. We earned \$1,000 in jewelry sales at the District Conference and more in “bling” pin sales that were sold for us by a friend in the Fayetteville Club at the Altrusa International Convention. We had a “training” session led by Gay on Local Club Officer Duties and “Books 101” led by Connie which explained how the books we get are handled.

**Terri:** And then, thanks to Valerie and Connie, we received lots of publicity this year. For the second time, our Club came in first in an Altrusa International Facebook competition. To see a more thorough view of the year in words and pictures, go to our web page: [altrusa-bb.com](http://altrusa-bb.com)

**Sue:** Now we are preparing to enter a new year. I'm looking forward to it. We hope to continue supporting the organizations that we have in the past. It appears we will be adding book swaps to R E Baker and Pea Ridge School. We will do something special to celebrate our 25th Anniversary. There's a District Conference in Salina, Kansas. There will probably be some exciting things that we haven't foreseen yet and, perhaps, some challenges.

**Terri:** I think this poem by Ralph Waldo Emerson expresses a good way for our Club to handle each day in 2024. Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year.

He is rich who owns the day, and no one owns the day who allows it to be invaded with fret and anxiety.

Finish every day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt

crept in. Forget them as soon as you can, tomorrow is a new day.  
Begin it well and serenely, with too high a spirit to be cumbered with your old nonsense.  
This new day is too dear, with its hopes and invitations, to waste a moment on yesterday.  
**Sue:** I agree. All of you make up a very positive force. 2024 will be a positive year.

*Terri Gaither - Sue Sterling*

Our meeting was held on **Nov. 7**, and was called to order by Co-President Sue Sterling with the following **Altrusa Accent...** As the years pass, I am coming to understand that it is the common, everyday blessings of our common everyday lives, for which we should be particularly grateful. *Laura Ingalls Wilder*

A short introduction to Marian Eagle and her full life, was presented for new members that may not have had the pleasure of knowing her. A memorial service was held on Sat., Dec. 9th, at Simple Pleasures.

Financial Reports: **\$\$\$** The ending balance of the Operating Account was \$6,108.35.  
The Foundation Account ending balance was \$22,678.04 which includes money from the CEC donation.

Oue Program today was **"Connie - Books 101"**. She provided an overview of what goes into book distributions. She detailed uses for New vs Gently Used vs Old books vs unusable, Hardbacks vs Paperbacks, and Reading Levels. Much consideration is given to any books whose content may include conflict, sex, race, violence and drug use. Also covered, was the number of books that were required in various book giveaways or swaps. A request for a book give-away for 250 children, would require approx. 600 books. If a member gets a request for books, she needs to present it to the Literacy committee, to ensure there are appropriate books, before making a commitment.

Sue McEvoy reported that both the Bella Vista and the Gravette Library-Halloween events had HUGE attendances. Altrusa volunteers at both had a great time, along with the librarians, the costumed children, and their families.



Our first Book Giveaway for this school year is "in the books!" We had a fun giveaway at the small rural **Decatur Northside Elementary!!!**

On **Wed. Nov. 15**, a check for \$457.16. was presented to the **Gravette Library** for their E-magazine subscription. The funds came from the CEC donation which had been previously approved in the budget. After the check presentation the group went to Sulphur Springs Library to see the exciting new changes made there, and then on to Leroy's Diner for lunch.



**DEB Project** –Sue S and Connie reported for Tina, that the DEB Project's Style Show, held on October 19th , was a great success. Sammy sent a Thank You note to the club and advised that their fund-raising goal was exceeded and the next Fashion Show is already scheduled for October 3, 2024.

On the **Communications** front – Valerie completed the Year Book and distribution was started at the Christmas party and subsequence club meetings.

**Intentional Acts of Kindness** cards were signed and will be sent to: Chris Koerner (Samaritan Tour Guide), Gayle Meads (Mars Security Guard), Craig Vough (Chalk Art at TJ and Gamble Elementary schools), Tom Diepenbrock (Janet's friend who so kindly bused tables at our Spaghetti Dinner), Angela Ayers (Assistant Director at Helping Hands, for all of the Dog Books) and Barbara Moore (Donna's friend who presented Altrusa with a \$200 donation).

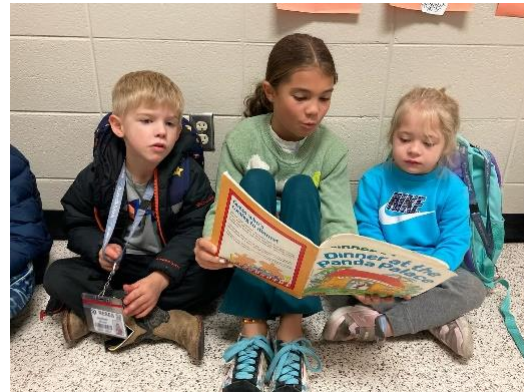
Dec.5 We had a great time at our **Christmas party!! Happy Holidays!!!**





**Dec. 18** The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 77 of Bentonville hosted a wonderful Holiday party! We were able to provide sets of our dog character books for the younger children.

Carla announced that **R E Baker** has implemented a school, book box program, where book boxes have been placed in front of each classroom and the library, so that children are free to get a book and read before school. When students arrive in the mornings they wait out in the hallways til it's time to go into their classrooms. We worked with the counselor and librarian to provide Morning Book Boxes so students can read during that time. We gave the school 25 books for each of 20 classrooms. We'll refresh them later this year with other books.



**Corvette Club Donation?** – The Corvett Club picks 2 non-profits each year and we were notified that our club was to be one this year! We were just asked that two members attend their Christmas Party to receive the check.

**A note to the Corvett Club** Two of our members will be at your Christmas party, December 16 at 7 pm at the Springdale Country Club. They are Connie Brown and Valerie Katz. Connie is a past president of our Club and current President of our Executive Board. Valerie is the Chairman of our Communications Committee and a Director on our Executive Board. Valerie will prepare all of the publicity on our end.

**A note from Jeff Abernathy – President NWA Corvette Club**

We are so happy to have you! It will be a great night, and we love helping out charities. We just ordered some "big checks" to use as a promotional item, of course we will have a negotiable check to give you. We will definitely have someone there to take pictures, and I truly hope Connie and Valerie enjoy the evening.

Connie and Valerie went to the party and enjoyed a nice meal. The folks at their table were busy finding out who had what Corvett. When they were asked about theirs they told them that they did not have Corvettes, that they were from Altrusa and were to receive one of the checks to be handed out. An announcement was made that these were the largest checks they had ever given out - \$8053.00!! Connie and Valerie went up, all smiles.



When they got up there, there were three people holding onto the big check. Valerie wondered why that lady, who she assumed was with the Corvette club, was hanging onto one side of the check. Connie pushed her hand over a little bit so she could get one hand on it. Pictures were taken. Valerie asked the other lady there on the check what her name was so that when she put the picture in the newspaper, she could get it right and she said she would write it down for her. Then the gentleman came with a real check and handed

it to Connie. The other lady who had been standing there *snatched* the check out of Connie's hand and said "That's not for you, that's for me!" Then the gentleman who had given us the check said "Oh no, I hope we have the name on the check right." Yes, it said Altrusa International, but it didn't say Bentonville, Bella Vista or any other club name. Connie and Valerie were on their best behavior. They didn't grab the check back and cause a scene. They just gathered up their belongings and left. Valerie told Connie if she wanted to go back and get the check she would back her up with her stick and tell them she was a disabled senior and they could be in big trouble for pushing her around. Connie being gracious, said she was sure that Washington county would put the money to good use. I don't think Valerie's thoughts were as kind.

**Dec. 26** The little rural Sulphur Springs Library had a visit from Santa last week. Children were able to pick out free Altrusa dog books and a Christmas book. There was hot chocolate and cookies made by the ladies in town. Santa was surprised when some of his North Pole friends showed up! Mrs. Claus gave everyone a treat bag! Santa and Mrs. Claus signed up for their very own library cards!



### Bits and Pieces

Carla recovered from her fall and is back in action!

Carrie's son Matthew, was in a mountain biking accident, he is recovering at home.

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.

Our web-site [altrusa-bb.com](http://altrusa-bb.com) See us on Face book [www.facebook.com/altrusa8](http://www.facebook.com/altrusa8)