



## What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.

Bentonville/Bella Vista

September / October 2023

### Sept. /Oct. Birthdays

Sept. 1 Donna Williams

Sept. 15 Denise Farnsworth

Sept. 17 Sue Sterling

Oct. 10 Peggy Rosenthal

Oct. 31 Cheryl Johannsen



**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:** Every project is an opportunity to learn, to figure out problems and challenges, to invent and reinvent.

**Terri:** Well, throughout September and October we certainly have had some exciting opportunities for our club to do all of those things! We learned that volunteer opportunities for our club are never ending. We had such great participation involving almost every member of our club to volunteer time to pick up, deliver and often present 1,000 dictionaries to eight of our local schools.

**Sue:** Let's not forget the Halloween events that many of us helped with at both the Gravette and Bella Vista libraries! We also learned that some schools like R.E. Baker are welcoming our offer to supply boxes of books to children to read even before school begins each morning.

**Terri:** And...we certainly did successfully meet the challenge of getting our Spaghetti Dinner back on track at St. Bernard's this September. It went so well, we're hopefully signed up already for next year. Along with spouses, friends and partners, it sure was an All Club event!

**Sue:** We also invented a great way to celebrate International Literacy Day this September. We will be presenting the Gravette Library with a very generous donation that will give them, as well as any NWA library member, access to a digital subscription to books and magazines.

**Terri:** In response to a request from our newly installed President of Altrusa International, Linda Smith, we have invented a wonderful way to do many intentional acts of kindness. At every meeting, we sign Thank You cards for the many people whom we've recognized as being super helpful or kind. So far, we've sent 17 cards with a total of 278 signatures!

**Sue:** And, last but not least....Book Swaps look like they will be reinvented! Both Pea Ridge and R.E.Baker schools as well as Decatur will be soon welcoming our books on a Book Swap day to be determined.

**Terri:** If you can't stop thinking about it, don't stop working for it! We look forward to what the next few months will hold for our wonderful club.

Thank you all for all that you do!

*Terri Gaither - Sue Sterling*

Our **Sept. 5**, meeting was called to order by Co-President Terri with the following **Altrusa Accent...** - *In every job that must be done, there is an element of fun. You find the fun, and the job's a game. Mary Poppins.*

**Sept. 8** was **International Literacy Day**. As our project the Club donate \$457.16 to the **Sulphur Springs Library** to acquire a digital subscription to books and magazines. The content would be available to all library members.

Project **Dog Squad...** BOOKS, BOOKS! We have books! Since June 1, we have distributed 7,960 books. We started acquiring dog books in May and so far 29,955 dog books have been dispersed to 17 different recipient organizations.

**Sept. 9** was a birthday party at the **Sulphur Springs Library** celebrating their one-year re-opening. Birthday hats, cake, presents, free dog books, a cake lady, games and 24 like new bicycles and new helmets donated by **Pedal It Forward NWA!** The Library is becoming the center of community activity in Sulphur Springs. Altrusa donated 23 books to the library, one for each of our members. Children also got to pick out some of our free dog books to take home. Happy Birthday Sulphur Springs Library!!



The **Gravette Summer Reading Program** had over 100 participants! Two winners in the program each read 88 hours during the period.

The **Bella Vista Library Summer Reading Program** had 280 participants. In 35 days over 6,000 books were checked out!

The **Bentonville Library Summer Reading Program** had 4,350 participants! 124,000 books were checked out over a two-month period and 41,000 hours were read. And 8491 free lunches were served.

**Linda Smith, President of Altrusa International** has identified the following as international projects for her biennium. Days for Girls, 1,000,000 Book Donations, and 500,000 Volunteer hours.

She is challenging each member to do an **intentional act of kindness** each week. Our club will participate by identifying organizations or individuals that merit a thank you card. Cards will be signed at meetings and mailed to the recipient. Members will be asked to name individuals/organizations that deserve a *Thank you*. Thank You cards for the Bentonville and Bella Vista Police departments were signed by members and sent.



The **American Legion Family of Post 77** in Bentonville enjoys teaching their Juniors and Sons of the American Legion about patriotism and service. We donated new dog books to them for their children to receive at their Veteran’s Christmas party,

Our **Sept. 19** meeting was called to order by Co-President Sue S. with the following **Altrusa Accent...** – *The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. Mahatma Gandhi*

Our guest today was Elizabeth Weathers from Altrusa Fayetteville. The Fayetteville Club is having their yearly fund raiser and Elizabeth passed around greenery and nuts order forms.

Our **Program** today was given by **Angela Oxford – Sr. Manager NWA region of the Walmart Foundation**. Angela joined the foundation fourteen months ago. She provided an overview of the foundation and its expansive reach. They focus on areas where they can use the corporation’s expertise. Food insecurity is one area of focus. Disaster services is also a focus. Every store has a disaster service entity that will protect employees and the community, including opening the store as soon as practical so people can get supplies. Other areas of focus: sustainability, ethnic equality and the “round up” program providing customers the opportunity to round up their Walmart bill to the next dollar and designate it for a non-profit organization.



**Caring and Connecting NWA** is Angela’s program. Within that scope are activities such as exposing the Amazeum to children who cannot go to the physical building. Crystal Bridges complimentary entrance is another element of the program.

Walmart is doing a shoe drive in support of the **DEB Project**. Terri G. read a message from Sammy saying that the first week of Fall clothing sales beat previous records.



All 1,000 dictionaries for **The Dictionary Project** were delivered! Terri G. commented on the great involvement of members in the Dictionary distribution. Mars has been great and very supportive in allowing our dictionaries to be delivered to their building and kept there until members pick them up. On 09/15, Karen A. and Gay delivered 50 dictionaries to Decatur Elementary. While there, they met the new librarian and principal and talked about plans for



book swaps and dictionary projects. 5 out of the 8 schools we delivered to wanted presentations. Cheryl got a thank you email from the Central Park school.

Our **Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>** meeting was called to order by Co-President Terri with the following **Altrusa Accent...** *Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go. Unknown.*

On **Oct. 8** we had a great time helping the **Bentonville Friends of the Library** at their semi-annual book sale. All profits go right back into the library and there were adult and children’s books galore!





**Oct. 17...** In lieu of a meeting we went on a tour of the new Samaritan Community Center in Rogers. They have an amazing Cafe, Market, Garden, free Dental Clinic and Care Center. They pack over 6,000 Snack packs for kids each week during the school year and they provide 4,000 age-appropriate backpacks to area school children at the beginning of school. This non-profit serves the hungry and hurting of Northwest Arkansas by providing food and resources to families living in poverty. We volunteer with their backpack program!



**Oct. 19** was the **DEB Project's Style Show** at the Metroplex Event Center. Sammy graciously donated a table of 8 to our club and 7 members enjoyed the event.



?? I have no idea! ?? I wasn't there! ??

National **Make a Difference Day** was **Oct. 28**, also it was a great time to volunteer. We helped at Treat Street at the Bella Vista Library and the .5K Halloween Fun Run at the Gravette Library.



**Our presidents really out-did themselves!**



On the Communications front... The **Altrusa Yearbook** is done! A team of 3 went to worked on our website to up-date it. Valerie's brother agreed to put in the extra time for us because he loves his little sister so much, but he usually charges \$50/hr. for that kind of work.

The **Spaghetti Dinner** was a BIG success! We are still waiting for some receipts to come in, but it looks like we raised close to \$5,000!! A big thank you to the club members husbands and Lorrie Healy and her husband (Days for Girls) for all their help.





Russ, with **St. Bernard's Church**, said everything looked great the next day, and we are welcome to host our event there again!

**Intentional Acts of Kindness** – Thank you cards were distributed to; Spaghetti Dinner helpers and Third Graders who were well-behaved while receiving their dictionaries.

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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)