



What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.

Jan. / Feb. 2024

Terri Gaither tegaither@hotmail.com

Sue Sterling susannelsterling@gmail.com

Jan. / Feb. Birthdays

Jan 16 Sue Bentel

Jan 26 Karen McAuley

Jan 26 Vella Lewis

Feb.22 Sue McEvoy

Feb 25 Kathy Williamson

A Note from our Presidents... Sue: In the last newsletter we said we knew 2024 would be a very **positive** year.

Terri: And it's really turning out that way.

Sue: Yes. It has been **positive**. In fact, let's look at the **positive** accomplishments from the first quarter in a positively alphabetical fashion.

Terri: Okay. I'll start. **P** represents the assembly of Snack **P**acks that we did at the Samaritan Community Center. It was fun and **P**roductive.

Sue: **O** is for our **O**bservance of Read Across America Day by donating books and having a tour of the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter. It is wonderful that we have the shelter in our community.

Terri: Community **S**ervice is part of our Club's ethos. A group of us **S**erved the Bentonville Library Foundation at their Annual Appreciation Luncheon.

Sue: While we're on **S** and speaking of libraries, we gave \$500 to the Gravette Library for their **S**ummer Reading Program.

Terri: Now **I**. We continued to **I**mplement a relatively new service project – books for the R. E. Baker School book boxes so that the students can read before school.

Sue: We demonstrated our **T**ake a book philosophy at the Decatur Elementary School and Rotary Winterfest.

Terri: Another **I**. A new activity is **I**ntentional Acts of Kindness cards and monthly member reporting. Our members live their lives with compassion for others.

Sue: We also had fun like when we **V**iewed our Yearbook to answer questions about our Club, District Eight and Altrusa International.

Terri: We **E**agerly and **E**ffectively **E**arned funds while our guests **E**njoyed playing and **E**ating **E**xcellent **E**ggs at Game Day.

Sue & Terri: Thank you, everyone, for your positive attitudes. And now on to more positivity...

Our **Jan 2**, meeting was called to order by Co-president Sue Sterling. with the following **Altrusa Accent...** New Year – a new chapter, new verse, or just the same old story? Ultimately, we write it. The choice is ours. *Alex Morritt*

Gay mentioned she just sold \$280 in “bling pins” to someone from a Puerto Rico Altrusa Club. The funds will be added to the Operating Account.

We got *more* dog books that were Immediately donated to the American Legion in Bentonville.

District Eight and International are encouraging clubs to go a step further “1 Million Book Giveaway” We re doing our part!

DEB Project – Connie shared the following from Tina. January / November, 2023: 13,858 clients served and 20,924 items gifted. Christmas saw 163 families with over 1,400 gifts donated.

Days for Girls – Carla reported material was purchased with our donation and production is scheduled for Mondays and Wednesdays beginning at 9:30 am.

Communications Valerie shared a newspaper article from Democrat Gazette. The new yearbook has been delivered to club members. If you don’t have yours let Valerie know.

The **Sulphur Springs Library** is working on building memberships to help with funding request. Sue M will bring membership forms to a meeting so that we can all join the Sulphur Springs Library in order to add to their membership numbers which, in turn, will help them get grants. Sue explained that we can belong to more than one library in Benton County.

R.E. Baker School – Sue M reported that Dog books are still in use and students are sharing. Possible reading buddy opportunities exist and they are still interested in a book swap around March

Intentional Acts of Kindness Cards - Thank you notes were sent to Dennis Ling (Valerie’s brother) for his work on our web page along with Marin & Jill Babb, owners of the Wonderland Tree Farm for providing a Christmas experience for families and groups.

Our presidents like to keep our members involved in our meetings. Today’s **I Report** challenge? “What is my realistic or unrealistic goal for this coming year.” Members provided answers, including *committing to an exercise program, doing the splits, staying home for two consecutive months. and learning something new.*

On **Jan. 16.** we had a great **Zoom** meeting. Snow and icy roads made it unadvisable to meet face to face. The meeting was called to order by Co-President Terri G. with the following **Altrusa Accent...** You are never too old to set another goal or dream a new dream. C.S. Lewis



On **Feb. 3rd** we had a great time at the **Bella Vista Rotary Club Winterfest!** We gave each child 10 and under a free book and a bookmark. The

Rotary Club held this annual indoor carnival in cooperation with the BV POA. There were games for the children with numerous prizes. There was face painting, animal balloons, button making, cake walks, participation by the BV Public Library *and* maybe a Polar Bear!



On **Feb. 20** in lieu of a meeting Club members volunteered at the Samaritan Community Center. Members had a great time stuffing Snack-Packs for kids. Each week they provide 6,000 Snack-Packs to children in 170 nearby schools. The Snack-Packs help alleviate hunger on weekends for children who receive free breakfasts and lunches at school during the week. Because of their packing 850 children didn't go hungry that weekend!



On **Feb. 25** club members volunteered at the **Bentonville Library Foundation's** annual Appreciation Lunch.



The **American Legion Family** of Post 77 in Bentonville, presented our club with a certificate of appreciation. The club donated dog books for Children of Veterans, at their Christmas Party

We attended the **DEB Project** tea party. Co-President Terri gave a presentation about Altrusa. The DEB Project is the best at networking with other nonprofits. We make a difference in our community by working with them.



Bits and Pieces

Sue McEvoy has a new Great Grandnephew.
Several members attended memorial for Marion Eagle.

Christina Bush, a former member, passed away in November.
All of us agreed with Gay that the illnesses going around should go away.

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