



## What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.

Bentonville/Bella Vista

July /August 2025

### July/August Birthdays

Connie Brown July 19

Terrie Gaither July 29

Linda Krysl July 29

No August Birthdays



President - Linda Krysl [lakrysl@aol.com](mailto:lakrysl@aol.com)

### A Note from our President,

Fall is in the air and Bentonville/Bella Vista Club is gearing up with Club projects.

School has started so that means we are back working with the Librarians and seeing all those smiles from the children.

President *Linda*

The **July 1**, meeting was called to order by President, Linda Krysl with the following **Altrusa Accent...**

*Believe you can and you're halfway there!!!! Theodore Roosevelt*

Linda introduced our visitor, Robin Jara. Robin is the neighbor of Nancy Evans who visited our Altrusa group in June.

We're amazing and everyone knows it! We have again been designated as a **Distinguished Club** by Altrusa International! We're so proud!

We helped fund the **Sulphur Springs Library** and **Gravette Public Library's Summer Reading Programs**. Lots of books being read, Games, story time, arts and crafts and so much more.



Reading in the summer helps prevent summer reading loss. But, summer reading programs aren't just for kids. Adults got to paint, find treasures in kinetic sand, make bookmarks and yarn dolls, eat snacks, win prizes and have story time. Adults are logging their reading hours this summer in hopes of winning prizes too! The library is for everyone! We were happy to support summer reading programs where children, teens and adults enjoy the gift of reading!

Take a look at the lovely art done by participants of an Adult Summer Activity, "Preschool Night for Grown Ups"! The hot pink one was done by one of our Altrusans!





One day at Summer Reading, attendees learned about different musical instruments. The Juniors completed an instrument matching sheet, and the Seniors made rain sticks. All came back together, and Miss Anna taught some fun rhythm stick songs.



Our **July 15**, meeting was called to order by President, Linda Krysl with the following **Altrusa Accent...**  
*Try to be a Rainbow in someone's Cloud* Maya Angelou

On **July 23**, the **Altrusa International Convention** in Quebec City, Canada began. We received Fourth Place in the Altrusa International President's Kindness Challenge, but we were number one in District Eight! We donated the most books toward the Million Book Promotion sponsored by Altrusa International. We won 1st Place for the Letha H. Brown Literacy Award which came with a \$500 check!

The new motto of our new **International President, Chris DeVlieger**, is "Love, Literacy, and Legacy".

Your editors favorite Facebook item



Here's Kathy, our Club's **Days for Girls** Chair, with the serger we purchased for the Days for Girls Rogers AR Chapter. Serging is a major part of the process required in making Days for Girls kits. She has accepted the position of Co-Lead of the **Days for Girls Rogers AR Chapter!** We have contributed financially and volunteering since Days for Girls was adopted by Altrusa International as our international service project in 2017!

**Altrusa of Fayetteville** needed some books to help the science teacher at the small rural Greenland School District. We are so fortunate to have Sue, a retired librarian, as a member of our club, She picked out some great books to share with Fayetteville for this special project.



Our **August 5**, meeting was called to order by President Linda Krysl with the following **Altrusa Accent...**  
*"All Our Dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them."* Walt Disney

**Altrusa of Washington County** is helping Greenland high school and asked for our support. There is no librarian at the school. Students cannot go to the library without a teacher, which disrupts the classroom. So, the Science teacher is proactive and is setting up a bookcase in her room for grades 8-12. She needed science books. We gave them 3 boxes!

Our program for the meeting was an "I Report". We learned about new member, Roxane Hipwell. Roxane was born in Nebraska. She wanted to be a forest ranger growing up. She and her husband Jay have 4 sons together and 9 grandsons.

Our **Decatur School District Signature Project Committee** is busy! Sue Sterling detailed our start with the **Decatur Schools and Library**, and working with Kris Davis, the school district social worker, we have delivered 25 headsets to Decatur along with 5 glue guns. We have another 25 headsets on order for them. We have delivered school supplies to Kris from the DEB Project. We have a workday at the Decatur FAA building near the high school on September 16 (a regular bi-monthly meeting date). We will work to help Kris organize the items there and then have lunch. We are ordering 25 water bottles for Decatur, for the young ones. If anyone has any gently used water bottles, or ones that you received at an event and want to get rid of, please bring those to a meeting. We have Beanie Babies to use for Decatur events and workbooks that we may save for the Decatur Summer Reading Program as give aways.

Members met with Kris Davis to learn more about student needs.



Cheryl and Connie met with the **Iva Jane Peek Public Library** librarian Debra, to learn more about the library in Decatur as part of the Committee.

Pat, Cheryl and Connie were busy being Uber drivers for school supplies and other items for the Decatur School District



**Decatur Library's** new librarian, Debra Giuffrida, has been on board since June 1, 2025. She is a writer and graphic artist. She has many things she would like to get started at the library. Adult book club, teen book club, story time for the littles. She has no volunteers yet, only a couple of board members. She gets \$1000 per year for new books. She would like to have a Halloween event and an Angel Tree at Christmas. It looks like some volunteer possibilities!

**A note from the Sulphur Springs Library.** (Today we celebrated the last day of Summer Reading 2025 in our beautiful city park. We want to give special thanks to the Bentonville/Bella Vista chapter of Altrusa International. Their sponsorship helps to make this invaluable program possible. Thank you to all the volunteers who worked to make this a successful summer.)



**A note from the Deb Project** (Wow! What a fantastic 1st half of 2025! We want to take a moment to share with you about how Altrusa support helps the foster care community. We truly would not be able to provide this care without YOU! Thanks to our wonderful partners, donors, and supporters, **DEB project** has been able to provide 14,762 items and serve 6,401 clients so far this year!)

The **August 19** meeting was called to order by President, Linda Krysl with the following **Altrusa Accent...** *I always like telling my students "Go out and do for others what somebody did for you."* Randy Pausch

Robin Jara joined our club today! Welcome Robin! So glad to have you as a member. Kathy Williamson's mom, Esther, was also welcomed to our meeting. Esther has just moved to the area.

Our children's literacy programs are known all across the country! We just received a huge box of small stuffed animals from Jennifer, who sent them to us all the way from California! Jennifer is the granddaughter of Valerie, one of our members.



Sue Bentel has been working to organize and sort our stash of children's books!

**Gravette Library's** Lamarise Carrier, who has \$3000 per year in book funds, has many irons in the fire. They have Maker Monday-crafts, Tabletop Tuesday-games, and Tech Thursday-3D printing and coding. They do have a Friends of the Library who help to raise money. Their Murder Mystery Night is coming up.

**Gravette Library** is an integral part of the Main Street in Gravette. Moon over Main St. is October 4. They close off Main Street and Sugar Creek. The Astrological Society brings their telescopes. Gravette has their Halloween 5K Cake Walk fundraiser from 11:00-1:00. \$10 per person, \$30 per family. They provide cakes for the winners. They need 2-3 volunteers for the Water Station table, and cakes. Robin Jara, Gay Kiker and Cheryl Johannsen have volunteered. 2 cakes will be provided for the give away.

Gay Kiker provided an excellent **Altrusa 101, Principles of Altrusa** class, to update the existing members and to help educate the new members. Sue Sterling provided a quick "test" that we all passed!



Roxane Hipwell provided the following "**elevator pitch**" about Altrusa to use when someone asks who we are. "ALTRUSA is an international volunteer organization made up of folks who want to make a difference in their community. Our club in Bella Vista/Bentonville focuses on children's literacy. Our motto is "Patriotism, Efficiency, Service."

### \$\$\$ Financial Reports:

Operating Budget-Balance of \$9,137.34

Foundation Budget-Balance of \$11,596.33

### Save the Dates:

September 6 Altrusa Leadership Workshop, Lawrence KS

September 8 World Literacy Day

September 16 Decatur Elementary FAA Building Workday (in place of our regular meeting)

September 25 Spaghetti Dinner Fund Raiser

October 8 Decatur Elementary Book Give Away

October 16 DEB Project Fashion Show

March 5, 2026 Game Day Fund Raiser

Valerie Katz:

Communications [vjkat21@gmail.com](mailto:vjkat21@gmail.com)

Meetings are held at 11:30 on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at Table at the Hickory Inn

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