



What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.

Bentonville/Bella Vista

March / April 2021

March Birthdays

Mar. 10 Kris Sherry/Davis

April Birthdays

Apr. 10 Carla Marcinkus

Apr. 13 Karen Robbins

Apr. 14 Valerie Katz

Apr. 18 Gay Kiker



President Kris Sherry krissherry@aol.com

A Note from our President... It is hard to believe that another quarter has already gone by and we are still not back in full swing. It is also hard to believe how much we have accomplished with the current state of things. We have continued in our virtual meetings and Zoom has really turned out to be an incredible resource. We heard about the folks at Hope Academy and what they are doing to enhance learning for displaced children, and we learned about Ignite Professional Studies and the work they are doing to join local high schoolers with professional resources as they move into the workforce. We ALMOST got to tip toe through the tulips at Perspectibility's True Colors Tulips Farm, but mother nature had other plans.

As far as our many programs, we continued our work in the community through our book barns at Thomas Jefferson and Decatur Northside, we provided books and a donation to the Bella Vista Library for shelving, continued to stock the book shelf at Sugar Creek Laundry, did laundry for DEB Project and Days for Girls, sewed children's masks for the PreK and elementary schools, and a myriad of other service projects. Whether with a group or acting on their own, each one of these opportunities was a way to show how committed to our community Altrusa BBV truly is. I appreciate the efforts each one of you make to this club and Altrusa International. We make a difference in this community and it is because of each one of you and your passion for service.

That being said, the one thing I really miss is our fundraisers! Game Day and Spaghetti Dinners are so fun as a member, even if they are a lot of work. I am looking forward to this fall and finding a way to put spaghetti back into it with you ladies!

Kris Sherry/Davis

Our **Mar 2**. Zoom meeting was called to order by President Kris with the following **Altrusa Accent...** *Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's Not. Dr. Seuss*

The literacy committee had a sorting of the book's day! Books were given to **Thomas Jefferson Elementary School** for their all-school book give-away and for their new first grade teacher. Terri read a Thank You card from Sue Bentel, the school librarian. There has not been much activity with the outside book boxes, so the librarian is considering moving them inside. Another possibility mentioned was to put them near new member Christina's food truck. She has offered to have a book drive for us at her food truck, The Meatin' Place, in Gravette so some of the books may go there!



Gail let us know that she delivered 7 boxes of books to **Northside Elementary School in Decatur**. Each classroom got at least 20 more books than they had requested, and class sets of books were also delivered!

Connie, Connie! What will she do next? Megan Lewis-Reed, of Altrusa of Washington County, had an idea for her. The Benton County Jail has a book cart program. So, after learning the criteria, she found 8 adult books, and took them to the jail!

Sue gave the virtual Altrusa Benediction.



Mar. 15, found members Linda, Karen R., Vella, Tina, and Valerie at the presentation of a \$500.00 scholarship check to **Single Parent Scholarship Fund** Director Jack Eaton. Due to Covid all face-to-face activity had been suspended so there has been little the club could do to support SPSF. However, recently we participated in furnishing toiletries for their drive through distribution to SPSF participants. We were pleased to find a way to help.



Also on **Mar. 15**, we were at the **Bella Vista Library**. We couldn't have a card party to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday, but we celebrated it by donating books to the

Our members wanted to know how the library used our \$1,000 donation. It was used for 40 non-fiction books. Wow, those books are expensive!



Our **Mar. 16**, Zoom meeting was called to order by Vice President Connie with a reminder of the **CALL TO CONFERENCE!** Our 65th Annual Altrusa District Eight Conference will be held virtually on Sat., April 24th. This would have been the Saturday of our physical conference. Hopefully, we can attend in person in 2022.

Governor's Book Challenge! In lieu of a Conference Service Project this year, the District Eight Board approved a book give away challenge. This is a challenge to all clubs to donate books in their own communities between now and April 17th. Clubs report donations to Governor Penny Daugherty along with a picture to be posted to the District Eight Facebook page. The clubs donating the most books to their community during that time will have their project shared on the Altrusa International Service Facebook page and win a \$150 registration fee paid by the District for the next Conference.

We had a guest! It was Gillian Allen, a native of Scotland, a past president of the Altrusa Club in Dallas and a friend of Connie and our Facebook page. She now lives in Thibodaux, Louisiana and is working to form a club there. She is the one who made the Altrusa face masks!

Tina has been keeping an eye on the **DEB Project**. She said the store is getting ready for the summer reset and needs people to help hang clothing and the pantry could use wet wipes and diapers. Activity on the on-line site has been a little slow. Sammy is working on getting another therapy dog to be given to Washington Junior High School. The pantry needs donations of peanut butter and jelly (not in glass containers please), diapers, children's hair accessories, and gift cards for Walmart and Harps.

Judy reported on **Days for Girls**. Our Liaison Lorrie Healy let her know that there are always items that must be washed (to shrink) before they can be used for the kits. If members would like to do some laundry, please let Lorrie know. 801-699-8669. She'll have the material ready for you. Looking for an Altrusa get together? Let Judy know! You can have it at Lorrie's. There's room for social distancing. Connie and her quilting group donated several bolts of material! We had three paperback books written in Spanish which we gave to Days for Girls and were sent to Venezuela. So, now we can say we donate books internationally! Karen R reported that she received a donation of 25-30 spools of polyester thread (black and white) and will give them to Days for Girls.

Our program today was presented by Teresa Hudson, Program Director of **Ignite Professional Studies of Bentonville Schools**. She spoke to us about this career preparation program. High School juniors and seniors attend their regular classes at Bentonville High School, Bentonville West, and in the virtual school for half a day and spend the other half day in Ignite classes. Parental support is critical so there is a plan to educate them about the program also.

There are 8 strands in the Program -- Construction Management, Culinary Arts, Digital Design and Photography, Education Innovation, Global Business, Health Sciences, Technology, and Video Production. Each one has morning and afternoon classes with 20 students in a class.

To get into the program, students must complete an application and interview with a panel made up of teachers, students already in the Program and professionals. Items such as GPA, past attendance, and minority status are considered.

Through a collaboration with Northwest Arkansas Community College, students may get college credits and certifications. For example, Health Science students can earn a CNA certification. The Program has a waiver from the state permitting instructors not to be certified teachers. Instead, they are individuals who are or have been working in the specific strand in which they teach.

Students work on community service projects such as the DEB Project and Days for Girls.

Funds are raised to help pay for college and certification fees.

The Program has been in existence for six years. The original classes were for technology students and were held in the Tata Building. As the number of strands and students grew, classes were held in other businesses throughout Bentonville. In 2019 the Ignite Center for Advanced Professional Studies was opened. It houses 6 of the 8 strands. There is also a Construction and Design Center on Wildcat Way. The Culinary Arts career strand meets at Brightwater, a Center for the Study of Food. Large grants from the Walmart Foundation have helped the Program grow. Our Club is invited to tour the Center and have one of our meetings there!

We received a donation of books from Kimberly Burgess who is a teacher in the Ignite Program. She teaches in the Education Innovation strand of Ignite and is excited about the possibility of having her students do volunteer work with us. Maybe at the Spaghetti Dinner and on book sorting days.

Carla's granddaughter has been accepted in the Ignite Professional Studies Program!

On the communications front, Valerie reported that the latest newsletter was sent out. She sent articles to the Vista and the Democratic Gazette about the Single Parent Scholarship Fund donation and on the donation we received from the DAR.

Our guest Gillian gave the virtual Altrusa Benediction.

On **Mar.25** we were able to send each child in our two project schools' home with a book for spring break! Gail, on the far right delivered books to **Decatur Elementary** and Terri delivered books to **Thomas Jefferson Elementary**.



Our **April 6** Zoom meeting was called to order by President Kris with the following **Altrusa Accent...** There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you. *Maya Angelou*

Connie reported that we received a donation of books from Sue McEvoy, formerly with Scholastic, and we received a *Thank You* note from the Bella Vista Library for the \$1,000 donation.



Once again Peggy's business, Dream Vacations, was awarded the 'Best of Northwest Arkansas' in the Travel Agency category. Kudos Peggy!

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Club Foundation Treasurer Vella reported that the March 2021 Foundation Account ending balance was \$15,734.19

Club Operating Treasurer Karen M. reported that the March 2021 ending Operating Account balance was \$3,825.55 and the **Petty Cash** balance at the end of March was \$159.63.

We have given the **DEB Project** volunteer work, pantry items and financial donations. They have given us books and book bags, a sewing machine, girls underwear, fabric, and pantry items that were about to expire for Days for Girls and beef jerky for Socks and Cookies. The members voted to give the DEB Project a certificate in recognition of the collaboration. Coming soon 😊



Meet our Altrusa Reading Dog, Tilly. Tilly and her human, our Literacy Co-Chair Gail, delivered some dictionaries and teacher reading books to **Decatur Northside Elementary**.



Our Altrusa bookshelf elf at **Sugar Creek Laundry** just made a new sign for the bookshelf!! Tina is a very creative elf!

Our dues are due again! Karen M. will collect the **\$95** dues for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Valerie gave the virtual Altrusa Benediction.

When the social worker at **Decatur Elementary** asked us about providing more masks for the children, we knew just who to call. Our mask maker Marian had made them a bunch when school first began, and she went right home to make more. Well done, Marian!



Our **April 20** meeting was to be held at the **True Colors Tulip Farm**. Sadly, the weatherman brought mayhem in the form of snow! President Kris attempted to salvage the day with the following **Altrusa Accent...** "Knee deep in flowers we'll stray. We'll keep the showers away. And if I kiss you, in the garden In the moonlight, will you pardon me? And tip toe through the tulips with me?" *Al Dubin & Joseph Burke*

We left April with a bang! April 24 was the **65th Annual Altrusa District Eight Conference**, unfortunately this year via Zoom. But we had some winners! The 2nd Place Nina Fay Calhoun Intl. Relations Award for our work with Days for Girls, and 1st Place for the Governor's Book Donation Challenge!

We donated 2 of our bling ALTRUSA pins for the silent auction benefitting Altrusa International Foundation. Past Governor Linda Smith had the winning bid. They will be advertised in the next DSB, so there may be a few sales soon!

Through the efforts of Connie, Peggy, and Karen R., we were awarded a **\$2,500 International Disaster Relief Grant** from the Altrusa International Foundation. The grant proposal focused on challenges faced due to COVID-19. On **April 29**, we presented the \$2,500 check to Jack Eaton, Executive Director of the **Single Parent Scholarship Fund** of Benton County.



Doesn't our new Banner great! Good job Kris!

We had a great turnout of club members for this occasion!

Pictured from left are club members Valerie Katz, Connie Brown, Tina Brandt, SPSF director Jack Eaton and club members Carla Marcinkus, Linda Krysl, Kris Davis, Gay Kiker and Karen Robbins

Look Mom! No masks!

We will have our first in person meeting in May! Linda Krysl will host. Members will bring their own lunch. 11:30 am 24 Stonehaven Dr, Bella Vista
479-876-2102 479-903-1600

SEE YOU ALL THEN!

Bits and Pieces

Connie is off oxygen during the day!

Carla's granddaughter's baby (a girl) is due soon.

Valerie has a first great grandchild. Liam was born in February.

Kris has another new granddaughter!

Gay had fun sharing Knock-knock jokes with her 9-year-old grandson at a recent visit.

Karen Robbins has officially retired.

Valerie Katz: Communications valeriekatz567@aol.com

Meetings are held at 11:30 on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month via ZOOM.

Our web-site altrusa-bb.com See us on Face book www.facebook.com/altrusa8