

What Happened?



News and Information about our Club.

Bentonville/Bella Vista

Jan. / Feb. 2015

President: Katy Henkel katycruise@cox.net

Jan. & Feb. Birthdays

Jan. 4 Susan Ford

Jan. 14 Suzanne Webb

Jan. 20 Carolyn Lacey

Jan. 26 Vella Lewis

No Feb. Birthdays



A Note from our President: There are many “official” ways to describe Altrusa that we can find in our Member’s Yearbook, like the Altrusa Logo, The Altrusa History, The Mamie L. Bass Principles, the Altrusa Key, Altrusa Grace, Altrusa Collect, Altrusa Benediction, Altrusa Motto.

The following is MY way of describing some qualities that are needed when you become an Altrusan, Our Bentonville / Bella Vista Group embodies this in all they do, I am proud to be part of this group.

ALTRUSA

A = Attitude, happiness depends upon your outlook on life - find the good in all situations

L = Love what you do, have passion in everything you do and it will never be work

T = Thoughts, positive thoughts make everything easier, stay focused and stay positive

R = Relax, take the time to relax, keep a balance in your life

U = Unique, you are unique, with special gifts, use them, never forget *You* have talent

S = Success, the true secret of success in anything, is enthusiasm

A = Appreciation of life, don’t take it for granted - Live each day.

I Believe.....That the Lord didn’t do it all in one day. What makes me think I can? *Katy Henkel*

On **Jan. 6.** President Katy opened our meeting by telling us to “Do what you can, with what you have, where you are” and then led the Altrusa Grace.

Michelle Sallerson brought in another guest! Shoshana Myerson was warmly received by our members.

Connie Brown officially joined today. Let’s hope President Katy doesn’t run short of initiation ideas. We are really growing!

On that wonderful note, Jenny Montgomery was initiated today. Katy’s theme was “Let your Light Shine”. She described how we need all types of lights in our Altrusa group. A couple of the highlight were; a Clear Bulb represents knowledge (how we can serve in Altrusa). A Spiral bulb is like new members we bring in, they will bring new ideas. (Just because we aren’t familiar with something doesn’t mean it won’t work). Christmas lights, a group of lights working together like our group. (When one light goes out,



we continue working together).

In our Old Business portion of the meeting Janet said she still has 40 dictionaries left over from our **Dictionary Project**. Suzanne suggested giving leftovers to the libraries to be used for summer programs. Our guest, Shoshana Myerson suggested we give a dictionary to the Chabad Rabbi in Bentonville. They have 7 children who speak mostly Hebrew and need improve their language. Good thinking ladies.

Charlotte reminded us to continue bringing **Books for Africa**. Katheryn will be here soon and will take them back with her.

Our **Bags for Books** event is taking shape. The Mars Organization is onboard with a \$500 sponsorship!

I have been in CA since a week before Thanksgiving but reports on the Christmas party made it sound like a truly wonderful evening.

In the New Business portion of the meeting this year's **Scrabble Wars** was discussed. Vella is our contact for the event to be held on Jan. 24th @ the Doubletree Inn from 6:30-9:30pm. It was loads of fun last year and the food was yummy!!

Cares and concerns: Bobby Platt's son was in the hospital with Congestive Heart Failure but is now home.

On **Jan. 20**. Our president was off cruising so Vice-President Peggy opened the meeting with the Altrusa Grace.

In December Agnes, Lynda, Nita, Bobbie P, Peggy, and Gay went to **Havenwood** in Bentonville to deliver 60 adult books and 65 children's books as part of our ongoing literacy projects. Havenwood is a home for single Moms who are in training to go back into society to work, manage a budget, and care for their families. Debbie Martin, of Havenwood, joined us today to tell us more about their program.



The date for our **Bags for Books** fundraiser is March 10, at the John Q Hammons center. This event is a partnership with United Way supporting the Dolly Parton Imagination Library project. There are 1655 children in this NWA area receiving books every month until they turn 5 and start school.

We will try to include e-mail addresses on the back of the tickets so can we let everyone know if we have to cancel or postpone because the weatherman has had the bad form to bring more snow!

Cares and Concerns: Suzanne reported that Mary Louise has been having medical problems, so, keep her in your thoughts. Peggy's granddaughter is selling Girl Scout Cookies if anyone would like to order. Bobbie's son is doing so well he is off cruising with Katy and Bobbie!

On **Feb. 3**. President Katy opened our meeting with this Altrusa Accent, "Our mind is like a parachute. If you expect it to work, it must first be opened."

Committee Reports are due. My report on the Communications Committee would have been to tell the Communications Chair to haul herself back from CA!

Janet reported she took a box of dictionaries to the Bentonville Public Library as part of our **Dictionary Project**. We also received a \$50 donation from Deb Sorenson for the dictionaries. Thanks Deb!

Charlotte reported the books she has now for our **Books for Africa** project will go back to Africa with Katheryn the end of February. You can bring books to the next meeting. Janet reminded us to visit the "Friends of Diepsloot" faceBook page to keep up with this project.

50 books on their way to Africa

Katy and Peggy led the membership in a brainstorming session to collect feedback on the 2014 fundraisers in order to provide guidance for the fundraising committees in 2015. The members present wrote their concerns or questions on post-it notes. Katy's board was full of Altrusan ideas! There was lively feedback and discussion.

The Board wanted feedback on what the members thought about the 2014 fundraisers. The consensus showed concerns about, Timing, Expectations of members (cost, time), and Financial Performance. The Board will meet to ponder it all.

At our next meeting on Feb. 17, our new member Connie Brown will be initiated!

On **Feb. 12**, Our Board Members met to take action on that brainstorming session. Members present and ready to take on this awesome job were Katy, Peggy, Gay, Vella, Carolyn, Charlotte, Bobbie P., Bobbie M., Judy (Dictionary Project Co-Chair), Su Lynn (Gals and Games Chair), and Tina (in training for Treasurer position). Since I am still in CA, I'm pretty sure I missed out on a delicious lunch!

Katy handed out the summary of the brainstorming session. Each item was discussed in length with the following conclusions:

1. The club fundraisers should be held in the Spring, Summer, and Fall. Cold/Snowy Winter is for bundling up at home with a good book and a glass of wine. Since I am in CA I have had to tuff it out with 80 degree days...
2. The May 5 card party will be held as planned.
3. The Mah Jongg tournament will be changed to an August date if possible (Su Lynn will check with the church for a possible date). A separate committee will be formed to be in charge of this fundraiser.
4. The Spaghetti Dinner might be changed to a Fashion show. A committee was appointed to research a Fashion Show to be held on October 1, 2015 (same date as the planned Spaghetti Dinner) at the same location in Bentonville. The committee members appointed were Katy, Bobbie P., and Charlotte. Gay will present this proposal to the membership at the next meeting.

Katy wanted to know who was planning to attend the District Eight Conference in Columbia, Missouri on April 23-25th. Katy, Peggy, Gay, Bobbie P., Valerie, and possibly Michelle are set to go. Last year we made awards submissions for the Conference. We did well and are hoping to do even better this year. The conference was fun and informative. I think the news that a lively Bridge game was being played in the evenings might have influenced the excellent turnout.



Bobbie P. presented a fundraising idea from the Hospitality committee to raise funds for our Operating account. A club social could be held March 23. at the Jackson House in Bentonville. Agnes's daughter works at a boutique in Springdale that does "Trunk Shows", with the boutique providing items for purchase. The club would get a percentage of the sales. Bobbie P. will contact Agnes to make arrangements and present this proposal to the members at the next meeting.

Whew!! This is going to be another busy year!

On **Feb. 16.** Katy sent us this e-mail. Hey Altrusa Gals, We will be canceling our regular meeting tomorrow. The weather forecast is for more freezing weather tonight, we still do not have our street plowed and doubt that Bentonville will have school again tomorrow. (Our policy has been when Bentonville schools are closed – we are canceled.) Plan to resume on our March 3rd meeting and I will send a notice on that. If you know of someone that doesn't read their emails every day, let them know. Thanks, Katy Henkel

Don't worry Connie Brown, you will get initiated!

Valerie Katz: Communications valeriekatz567@aol.com

Meetings are held at 11:30 on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month, at the River Grill Restaurant in Bentonville. Our web-site altrusa-bb.com See us on Facebook www.facebook.com/altrusa8