



What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.

Bentonville/Bella Vista

July /August 2024

July/August Birthdays

Connie Brown July 19

Terrie Gaither July 29

Linda Krysl July 29

No August Birthdays



President - Linda Krysl lakrysl@aol.com

A Note from our President

Summer is coming to a close and Fall is on its way. We know all those smiling faces at our book exchange/swaps are waiting for us. The members of Bentonville/Bella Vista Club are ready to make it happen. Thanks for all you do for these children.

Looking forward to the District Eight mini conference " Harnessing the Winds of Change", that applies to us, always learning and changing.

Thank you All!!

Linda

Our **July 2** meeting was called to order by President, Linda Krysl with the following **Altrusa Accent... Let the Fire Works Begin!!!!!!**

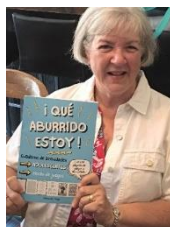
Our Club once again won the **Distinguished Club Award** for 2023-2024. That comes with a pin to put on our Banner!

(The only thing you **ABSOLUTLY** have to know is the location of the **LIBRARY**). *Albert Einstein*
We love our local libraries.

Kickoff of the summer reading registration at the **Gravette Library** was July 2nd. We helped with the free book giveaway. Friends of the Library had hot dog lunches, the Amazeum had crafts for everyone. Pedal It Forward NWA also provided 59 free bikes and helmets! Great way to begin the summer!



"Celebrate our World", is our **District Eight International Service Project**. We recently received some children's books and workbooks in a variety of foreign languages! We hope our community enjoys these while exploring the beauty of other languages.



Summer reading at the **Gravette Library** has been so much fun! Every week was a new adventure. We enjoy volunteering and helping fund programs that help prevent summer reading loss.



We bestowed **Emeritus Membership** status to Tina Brandt. Tina was our **DEB Project** liaison and has been a vital member of our club for many years.

We received a thank you note from Sammy of the **Deb Project** for the \$2500 disaster relief fund, and the \$300 donation we presented to them.



The Fayetteville club donated two storage shelves to us. We have all those donated books to store!

Our **July 16**, meeting was called to order by President, Linda Krysl with the following **Altrusa Accent... Breathe, Let Go-And remind yourself that this very moment is the only one you know you have for sure.**
Oprah Winfrey

The Sulphur Springs Library received a donation of fencing to go around the playground at their community center. They needed funds to help put in the fence. Our club voted to donate \$200 towards the \$600 cost of labor needed to install the fence.

(Note from Sulphur Springs.) So many things to be thankful for at our little library. Thank you to Altrusa International Bentonville/Bella Vista for a donation to be used towards putting up the fencing.



Gay Kiker provided handouts and a great presentation of “**Altrusa 101**”. This was an opportunity to help new members and refresh old members on the history of Altrusa. Also discussed were the Keys to Altrusa and the Principles of Altrusa, along with protocol and the differences between the Operating and Foundation Budgets

We were present at a special event at the Gravette Public Library. We served as greeters and helped with the book signing. They are involved with the “**All Arkansas Reads**” program that includes a book by author

Patty Callahan Henry.



Congratulations to **OneCommunity** for being a finalist in the Non-Profit of the Year contest. Partnering with **One Community** and providing wagon loads of books for the children’s summer reading program, *Feed Your Brain*, was a delight. This program keeps hundreds of children from summer reading loss. Giving them books to bring families together, foster a love for reading in households and strengthen community bonds.



We gave away over 31,000 dog books last year and it’s exciting to see some are still being distributed. **OneCommunity** distributed some at the Yvonne Richardson Community Center, Back to School Bash, in Fayetteville.



President Linda Krysl was on vacation so the meeting on **August 6**, was called to order by Vice President Karen Robbins, with the following **Altrusa Accent...** *“You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.”* — Ralph Waldo Emerson



Sargent Andy Butterworth, an Army veteran, had a brand new home built for him and his family by **Homes For Our Troops**. But, what's a home without books! Altrusa provided cute backpacks stuffed with books for each of their three small children, Janet, Houston, and Henry. Also, a stuffed animal and a fun bag of treats! We appreciated the Bentonville High School Navy JROTC for doing color guard for the Key Ceremony!



We enjoyed being on hand to help at the **Bella Vista Library Summer Reading Celebration!**



Kathy Williamson is our new **Days for Girls** liaison. Here she is getting some great hands-on experience making kit components. Our club has been involved with Days for Girls ever since Altrusa International adopted it as an international project. We work with our local Days for Girls-Rogers Chapter supporting them through volunteering and financing. We want to help reach every girl, everywhere. We were on hand for the distribution of 104 Days for Girls kits at the **Back-to-School Community Bash at the Yvonne Richardson Community Center** in Fayetteville. This local distribution was made possible by lots of people volunteering for sewing, and non-sewing tasks. Having the **Days for Girls Chapter** nearby helps us make a difference in the lives of women and girls in our area.



Best wishes to **Karen Benson**, Library Director at the **Gravette Public Library**, as she leaves the Library to pursue another opportunity with the city of Gravette. We have loved working with her making a difference at the Gravette Public Library. *(Response from Karen)* Thanks so much! The Gravette Public Library is blessed to have the support of our "Altrusa Angels."

We delivered books for the morning book boxes at **RE Baker Elementary**. Kids can arrive a little early at school, but they can't go in the classrooms. Each classroom has a box of books that kids can read during the time they are waiting to enter.

The **August 20** meeting, was called to order by President, Linda Krysl with the following **Altrusa Accent...** *If you stand in the water, It's always moving—so your moving forward--*



\$\$\$ Financial Reports; Karen McAuley reported that the Operating Budget only had one expense. That was a new member badge. The Current Balance is \$7,197.47

Vella Lewis reported that the **Foundation Budget** had one expense. That was the one-year rental for the storage unit at Spare Box Rental. The Current Balance is \$21,986.92

Sue Sterling opened a discussion on the opportunity for part of our money to be put into a CD to earn interest at Arvest, (our Altrusa checking account bank). Sue made a motion to put \$10,000 of our Foundation Budget into a 6–8-month CD. Club members agreed and it will be done.

Karen Robbins introduced our **Program speaker, Vicky Ronald** from the **Literacy Council of Benton County**. Vicky discussed the goal of the Council, helping anyone in our area, including refugees, to have a better command of the English language. Vicki spoke about 79 students of which 52 are refugees from Ivory Coast, Afghanistan, and Mexico. They have 75 on their waiting list and they need more tutors. Six of the students from the Benton County group have become citizens. The Literacy Council has lost \$25,000 in funding from one of their major donors and they have lost their money from the United Way. So, they need funding!

Save the Dates

September 13-Books Give Away at Decatur Elementary School

September 21-Mini Conference for District Eight

September 26-Spaghetti Dinner

October 17-DEB Project Fashion Show

March 4 -2025 Game Day

Valerie Katz:

Communications vjkatz21@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 See us on Face book www.facebook.com/altrusa8

Login for Altrusa is: user – Altrusan, password – MamieBass1955