



## What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.

Bentonville/Bella Vista

May / June 2024



No May / June Birthdays

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

**A Note from our President:** I guess this is official now!!!!!! As we begin our year, I want to thank each one of you for the great year that we just completed. We won the Distinguished Club Award!!!

Thank you to Terri and Sue and their board for their leadership. Everyone working together on many projects to accomplish the end results. The Award!!

So let's keep moving forward to make this year a great one too. *Linda*

The meeting on **May 7** was opened by Sue Sterling with the following **Altrusa Accent...** *The odds of going to the store for a loaf of bread and coming out with only a loaf of bread are three billion to one" .. Erma Bombeck "AMEN",* was chanted by many of the members in attendance.

Karen M reported that **Decatur Elementary** had a Book Swap and Give Away. Childrens clothing donations from Helping Hands, and Judy Frisbie were given to the Social Worker, Kris Davis.

Sue M let us know that the **Pea Ridge Intermediate School** also had a Book Swap.

**Days for Girls**, Kathy W. has expressed an interest in leading this in 2024-2025. Kathy, Sue M, Connie and Valerie have been active this year with the local chapter in Bella Vista. During this Fiscal Year, our club helped build 3,288 kits internationally, for girls in Ukraine, Gaza, Syria, Turkey, Marshallese, Malawi, Jordan and Morocco, as well as 791 locally, through our connections at University of Arkansas. It has been brought to our attention, that even more locally, there are young ladies at NWACC, who are unable to attend classes due to not being able to afford menstrual products. Lori will work towards a plan to help assist these students.

Karen R Recommended that we discontinue support for the **Single Parent Scholarship Fund** in for 2024-2025 They no longer appreciate or offer any volunteer opportunities for our club.

Communications, Our President held a discussion on behalf of Valerie. Next year, at the next District Eight Conference, we will enter our Yearbook and Newsletters, for consideration of the District Communications Award. All agreed, these documents penned by Valerie are amazing.

**District Conference Reports:** Our club racked up awards at this year's conference, held late April in Salina, Kansas. We won \$500 in awards and members reported the conference "very exciting".

The awards are:

- FIRST PLACE-Mamie L Bass Community Service- Gravette Library Reading Project
- FIRST PLACE-Billie Jean Ward Fundraising- Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

FIRST PLACE-Lethia H Brown Literacy- Dog Squad Books Project  
FIRST PLACE-Governor's Award Acts of Kindness (a beautiful Plaque was awarded)  
HONORABLE MENTION-Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations - our work with One Community  
Membership Award for 10% Increase in membership

The team that went to the conference was asked for their lows and highs from the weekend.  
*LOWS* - Food- all buffets, not tasty, lack of choices, shortages. Bad weather driving to conference and the Memorial Service for lost members. *HIGHS* - Winning so many awards, Media presentation for clubs, and Jewelry Sales-raising \$900.66!!

The **I Report** this day was – Would you rather travel back 100 years into the past or forward 100 years into the future?

4 members would prefer to travel back to the past and 6 members preferred to travel forward.

Our **May 21** meeting was called to order by Terri Gaither with the following **Altrusa Accent... You're off to Great Places? Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, So...get on your way.** Dr. Seuss

## With cake, balloons and carnations, Our club turned 25!!



With a gardening theme our **New Club Officers** have been installed!

President – Linda Krysl  
Vice President – Karen Robbins  
Recording Secretary – Cheryl Johannsen  
Corresponding Secretary – Pat Schrad  
Operating Treasurer – Karen McAuley  
Foundation Co-Treasurers – Vella Lewis & Terri McClure  
Directors – Gay Kiker, Kathy Williamson, Sue Sterling and Terri Gaither



Our newly elected president Linda is ready to get the club busy. She distributed a sign-up sheet for 2024-2025 committees.

**Intentional Acts of Kindness Cards** – Members signed cards for Judy Frisbie and Angela Ayers, who assisted with donating of clothes from Helping Hands for Decatur Elementary, and Leighann Addie, who provided a discount on flowers from Just Petaling Flowers & Gift Shop.

We were at the **Bella Vista Library** to present them with a check to help defray the cost of their summer reading program, "Adventure Begins At Your Library."



We are always proud to support the work of the **DEB Project Thrift Boutique**. Here we are presenting them a \$300.00 check to help provide free clothing and other essentials to foster children and children identified by a school social worker as in need.

Several of our members attended the author meet and greet by one of our former members **Gail Cowdin**. The event was held at the small rural **Sulphur Springs Library**. Gail is a talented murder mystery writer. Check out her books on Amazon!



When Sue McEvoy, our liaison for **Pea Ridge Intermediate School**, delivered the books we would be using for our book swap at the school on May 14, she was met with an awesome surprise! The school had conducted a book drive to collect books for us! The book drive produced about 1000 books! At our book swaps, kids bring a book, and they get to pick two to take home! Members were at Pea Ridge Intermediate School handing out books with a smile.

Members were at **Decatur Elementary** on May 15, for a book swap that served 300 kids. We gave away approximately 800 books, and the school had a book drive and gave us about 600!

The **June 4**, meeting was called to order by our newly installed President, Linda with the following **Altrusa Accent...** *You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them.*  
*Maya Angelou*

**WOW!! Connie and Sue M. let us know that from June 2023 to June 2024, our club has given away 16,460 books!**

If you don't look at the club's **Facebook page** you are missing out. Connie is doing a great job posting messages and pictures for our club!

The Foundation Board met and is asking that we form a committee to search for a new **Signature Project**. Janet will be contacting the schools to see if the schools are using our dictionaries. Sue M., Pat S. and Janet are heading the Signature Project committee.

Our **June 18** meeting was called to order by President Linda with the following **Altrusa Accent...** *Keep Calm & Carry On. Government of the United Kingdom (regarding the Tornado issues in the area.)*

We welcomed guest Nina Berger. We must have impressed her. She joined!



Our county was hit with seven tornadoes on the Memorial Day weekend. The small rural community of **Decatur** was hit hard. Thanks so much to Sue Bentel for picking out and delivering boxes of children's books to the two disaster relief centers in town. We know books provide comfort and a means of escape.

The executive board recommended the club apply for a **\$2500 Disaster Grant from Altrusa International Foundation** for the **DEB Project**, who had already provided extra services for the families in Decatur. The Grant was approved, and the check was presented to Sammy after the meeting.



When it comes to the summer reading programs, at the **Gravette Library**, Altrusa provides financial support, donates items for the children's prize drawings, and volunteers time to help children with activities each week.

**\$\$\$** The **Proposed Operating Budget** -\$7160.06, and the **Proposed Foundation Budget**- \$19,120.00 were presented. It was proposed to accept the budgets, they were approved.

We will collect \$0.25 from anyone coming to the meeting without their badge. We will also put in \$1.00 for each of the cares, concerns or brags. This will help to build up our petty cash.

Our meeting location was discussed. The Table at Hickory Inn asked Altrusa to stay! We are staying!

**Bits and Pieces:**

The tornado in the area was discussed.

Karen M. had flooding in her basement

Prayers for Shelly Short who lost her husband Tim. They were our previous printers, T&S Printing.

**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<sup>th</sup>-DEB Project Fashion Show

March 4<sup>th</sup> -2025 Game Day

Valerie Katz: Communications [vkatz21@gmail.com](mailto:vkatz21@gmail.com)

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

Our web-site [altrusa-bb.com](http://altrusa-bb.com) See us on Face book [www.facebook.com/altrusa8](http://www.facebook.com/altrusa8)

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