



What Happened?

News and Information about our Club.

Bentonville/Bella Vista

March / April 2025

President - Linda Krysl lakrysl@aol.com

March/April Birthdays

No March Birthdays

Apr. 10 Carla Marcinkus

Apr. 13 Karen Robbins

Apr. 14 Valerie Katz

Apr. 18 Gay Kiker



A Note from our President: To All Bentonville/Bella Vista Altrusan's, Having just returned from the District 8 Conference in Olathe, Kansas, I wanted to let you know how inspiring it was. We all met some wonderful ladies who are leading us into the next Biennium. We have a fun ride ahead, come join us.

Linda

Happy 108th birthday, Altrusa International!!!
Happy 26th birthday to us!!!



GOOD NEWS!! All current officers have agreed to carry on for the 2025-2026 year.

The meeting held on **March 18** was called to order by President Linda, with the following **Altrusa Accent... Friendships**— *Are built of a thousand small kindness, Swapped back & forth & over again.*

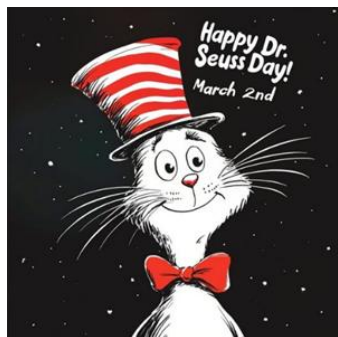
Michelle Obama

New member Roxane Hipwell was initiated. Pictured are Roxane, our President Linda, and Roxane's sponsor Gay. Welcome Roxane!



Karen Robbins introduced speaker **Teresa Stafford**, head of the **Bentonville Library Foundation** for our program today. The Foundation, a separate entity from the library, was established in 2004 to raise money for the New Library, and then for the Library Expansion. She told us about the recently completed library expansion and the new adult programming being planned. May 8 is the rollout of *Community Biking*: what bike do you need, what are the road rules, etc.

Walmart would like 10% of their employees to bike to work to the new campus.



Born Theodore Seuss Geisel, this American children's author and cartoonist, wrote more than 60 books under the pen name Dr. Seuss.

It's **Dr. Seuss' Birthday! and Game Day!** With Fun, friends, food, chance baskets and silent auction items, we had another successful Game Day!



For **Read Across America Day**, we made sure the students at the small rural **Decatur Northside Elementary School** were reading! Each child gets to choose a free book and if they *brought* a book to swap they get to *pick out two* to take home!

Scholastic Books have been enjoyed by generations of readers. We were there to help the librarian (Renee in blue) at **Centerton Gamble Elementary School** set up for the Scholastic Book Fair. The school earns free books and equipment through the fair.

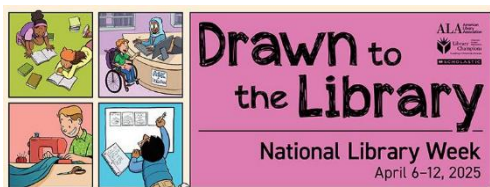
The **Gravette Public Library** was incredibly honored to announce that they have been awarded the third **Libraries Transforming Communities, Accessibility Grant**. With this \$10,000.00 grant, they will be concentrating on improving the accessibility of their collections by adding more large print and specialty books for all ages, reading aids, and more.



This is my favorite Facebook item this month

The results of the **Best of Northwest Arkansas Contest** in the **Library category**: 1st Place Fayetteville, 2nd Place Gravette and 3rd Place Bentonville! We worked with the Gravette and Bentonville libraries, so we are thrilled with the results! Congratulations!

Our **April 1** meeting was called to order by President, Linda with this Altrusa **Accent...**
I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples. Mother Teresa



It's **National Library Week** and we are celebrating the many ways libraries bring people together, spark imagination and inspire lifelong learning! The **Gravette Library** received their third \$10,000 award from the American Library Association. This award goes to libraries transforming communities. Lamaris Carrie is their new librarian.



Days for Girls International reported that in 2024, **Days for Girls** reached **319,416** women and girls with kits and AWH education, taking their total since 2008 to over 3.5 million reached! A representative from the Marshallese Education Initiative in NEA told Laurie that they will become certified as a Days for Girls Ambassador of Women's Health. On June 1st, they will go to the Marshall Islands to distribute 100 of our kits to the sparsely populated outer islands. We gathered for two days and assembled kits for that distribution. Laurie also attended the Marshallese Women's Conference at the Jones Center in Springdale, where she distributed another 40+ kits.

Celebrate Our World is our unique District Eight international service project. We celebrate the diversity of children in our community and will place these bi-lingual books where they will be enjoyed!



April 15 found members packing SnackPacks for the **Samaritan Community Center**. Each week they deliver 6,000 SnackPacks to 160 schools in Northwest Arkansas, ensuring children at risk of food insecurity have something to eat over the weekend when school meals aren't available.



It was time for our **Altrusa District Eight Conference**. Clubs from Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma gathered in Olathe Kansas (pronounced Oh LAY' tha - a Shawnee Indian word meaning beautiful) for a wonderful conference whose theme was "Game on"! Our **Jewelry Boutique** was anticipated by all and was a huge success! Members had a good time sorting the jewelry too!



And we sold 30 Bling Pins to our Puerto Rico Altrusans for their conference.

We packed up our book donation for the **Conference Service Project – "Kids and Books"** Our book donations will be given to *the Upper Room* which operates an intensive summer reading program in inner Kansas City!

I would like to say thank you to Connie Brown for her help in putting this together!!

\$\$\$ Financial Balance Reports:

Operating Balance \$7,895.51

Financial Balance \$8,916.55

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

Login for Altrusa is: user – Altrusan password – MamieBass1955