

KEY CONTACTS:

Club Officers & Directors
2024-2025
President - Melanie Pederson
Vice Pres – Laurie Herman
Secretary – Amanda Allen
Treasurer – Diane Shaw
2nd Year Director – Patti Geiser
1st Year Director – Kathy Jervis
Immed. Past President -
Valerie Derryberry
Parliamentarian/BRR -
Diane Bielanski

Contact:

Club email

altrusahsv@gmail.com

Altrusa HSV Website

<https://districteight.altrusa.org/hot-springs-village/>

2023-2025 District Eight

Governor – Lorraine Brewer
Club Liaison – Laura Wijkowski

District Eight Website

<https://districteight.altrusa.org>

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Dare to Leap

President’s Message – Melanie Pederson

I cannot believe summer is almost over! Where did the time go? Yes, August is officially the last month of summer. The days are slowly starting to get shorter; schools are gearing up for the return of students, and families are scurrying to take one more family vacation before the start of the new school year.

August is also a time to strengthen the bonds within our Altrusa family. Whether through community service projects, business, committee and board meetings, or social gatherings such as the Fifth Friday event, this month offers numerous opportunities to connect, share experiences, and build lasting relationships. These connections are the foundation of our strength as a club.

As summer transitions into autumn, we are gearing up for our Fall Fun fundraiser and planning multiple services projects. It is also a perfect time to explore new ideas, take on new challenges, and push the boundaries of what we can achieve together.

Let us use this month to innovate and expand our horizons. I encourage you to attend our District Eight Fall Mini-Conference “Harnessing the Winds of Change” on Sept. 21 at Northwest Arkansas Community College in Bentonville. This district workshop is a one-day program of information, sharing of

Ideas and networking with fellow Altrusans. Registration and housing information will be sent as soon as it is available.

We need to continue making a difference in the lives of others with our random acts of kindness, volunteerism, service and all the things we do to help others. Every act of service and kindness, no matter how small, contributes to a larger positive change. Remember to send your acts of kindness to Amanda and service hours to Patti.

Lastly, as we enjoy the “dog days of summer,” let’s exemplify and embody the Altrusa spirit of community service, leadership, and fellowship. Together, we can accomplish great things by starting where we are, using what we have and doing what we can as



‘The most effective way to do it is just to do it.’

-Amelia Earhart, pioneer aviator and first woman to make a solo, nonstop transatlantic flight

Extra! Extra!

In observance of Labor Day (and the editor’s fun trip), September’s Dogwood Blossom will arrive in your email a few days after Sept. 1.

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Featured Picture

Celebrating Non-Fifth Friday:
Eleven Club members met for a fun social time at the Sunset Grill on June 28. Clockwise, from left, are Brenda Walls, Elaine Schroeder, Adrienne Cohen, Terry Bayes, guest Cindy Cheatham, Melanie Pederson, Diane Shaw, Beth Annen, Patti Geiser, Doris Harder, Valerie Derryberry and Mary Jane Weiss.

U.N.'s International Youth Day Aug. 12 Celebrates Young People as Digital Innovators

By Kathy Jervis

International Youth Day on Aug. 12 is an awareness day designated by the United Nations.

The purpose of the day is to draw attention to a given set of cultural and legal issues surrounding youth. International Youth Day was first observed on Aug. 12, 2000. The U.N. defines "youth" as those persons between 15 and 24 years old. The 2024 theme is From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development.

Digitalization is transforming our world, offering unprecedented opportunities to accelerate sustainable development.

Digital technologies such as mobile devices, services and Artificial

Intelligence (AI) are instrumental in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals.

Young people are leading the charge in digital adoption and innovation with three-quarters of those aged 15 to 24 using the Internet, a rate higher than any other age group. However, disparities persist, particularly in low-income countries and among young women who often have less access to the Internet and digital skills compared to their male counterparts.

While there is an urgent need to enhance digital inclusion, youth are largely recognized as "digital natives" using technology to drive change and create solutions.

The role of young people in digital



innovation is essential for addressing global issues.

By celebrating the digital contributions of youth, we can inspire further innovation and collaboration towards achieving sustainable development. Half of the people on our planet are 30 years old or younger and this is expected to reach 57 percent by the end of 2030.

Summary of Altrusa of HSV Business Meeting on July 11 and Board Actions on July 8

The business meeting of Altrusa of HSV was held Thursday, July 11 with Vice President Laurie Herman presiding. (President Melanie Pederson is in Wisconsin visiting her family.) Twenty-five members attended of a total active membership of 31. Two Club guests were welcomed, Cindy Cheatham and Kelli Langley.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Laurie Herman congratulated members for achieving the Altrusa International's Distinguished Club Award for 2023-2024. She read a letter from Altrusa International commending the club and affixed the award to the Club's banner. She recognized and congratulated two Club members for their recent write-ups in the Hot Springs Village Voice. Martha Smither was featured in the Voice's magazine for all her work as a community leader and Beth Annen was featured in the newspaper with her book, "Crooked Cross, A Mother's Love." She thanked Club members who participated in the Club Retreat held June 11 and said the Board is evaluating feedback from the retreat. She reminded Club members of the District Eight mini-conference, Harnessing the Winds of Change, Sept. 21 and said details will be available soon.

She notified Club members of the

Board's plan to begin compiling a database of Altrusa supporters and those who have attended events. The database would be used to announce events or fundraisers via email and notify supporters of important Altrusa news. Chris Hanses volunteered to take on the database project.

Laurie announced the passing of former International President Linda Nichols and told Club members how to make a memorial donation to the Altrusa International Foundation if they wished. Sunshine Chair Doris Michaelson will be sending a condolence card on behalf of the Club to Altrusa International.

ACTION ITEMS:

*Club members were notified of the Board's plan to rename the Club's Spring fundraiser from Valentine's Extravaganza to Spring Fling and hold the event on March 15. The Spring fundraiser committee has secured the Coronado Community Center on March 15, booked Jacob Flores as the entertainment, and is working on getting students who will search for a "pot of gold" and interact with attendees. Since the Club had approved holding Spring and Fall fundraisers, no vote was necessary.

*Approved participating in the Walk for Cancer Research Shoe Drive, a mini-

project recommended by the Service Committee that would be at no cost to the Club. Altrusans will be asked to donate their gently used shoes and solicit their friends for donations, then bring the shoes to the Aug. 1 and Sept. 5 meetings. Those shoes will raise funds for the Walk for Cancer Research and will be shipped overseas, where small vendors in Third World countries will be able to resell the shoes to people who need them. Laurie Herman made the motion to approve Shoe Drive participation and Martha Smither seconded it; the vote was unanimous.

*Approved another no-cost mini-project recommended by the Service Committee: Club participation in the Sixth Annual Operation Holiday Salute. The project sends holiday cards to veterans in hospice care in the United States. Altrusans will be asked to sign cards thanking the veterans for their service. The cards will be collected in August and September and sent to the nonprofit Veterans Last Patrol, based in Spartanburg, S.C., for distribution (information at veteranslastpatrol.org). Last year, the organization distributed 60,000 cards; the goal this year is 70,000 cards delivered to seriously ill veterans. Patti Geiser made the motion to approve the project and Diane Shaw

See Meeting Summaries, Page 5

Committee Highlights

Finance

Diane Shaw, Chair

The Finance Committee did not meet in July.

The next meeting will be 9:30 a.m. Aug. 16 at mForce Capital, 412 Ponce de Leon Dr., Suite A, Hot Springs Village. As always, all Club members are welcome to attend.

At the Aug. 16 meeting, the committee will be finalizing the Club's Fall Fun game day ticket layout and reviewing the budget for the fundraiser.

Members also will be checking the task list and task assignments for game day.

Membership

Mary Kramer, Chair

The Membership Development Committee will hold an informative orientation meeting at 3:15 p.m. Aug. 1 at Trademark HSV Real Estate before our regular Business Meeting. This is open to anyone. Our club Fifth Friday celebration will be 3:30-5 p.m. Aug. 30 at the Sunset Grill. The next Fifth Friday will not be held until January because the last one in 2024 is the day after Thanksgiving. Come and enjoy making new friends in a relaxed atmosphere.

The next Membership Committee meeting is 9:30 a.m. Aug. 13 at Patti Geiser's home.

Loan Closet volunteers Aug. 28: Elaine Schroeder and Dorothy Fager

Service

Laurie Herman, Patti Geiser, Co-Chairs

The Service Committee decided the Club's project for Make a Difference Day on Oct. 26 would be helping our community's food insecurities. World Food Day is also in October, Oct. 16, and we will be collecting food donations for area food pantries. Please bring donations to the Oct. 3 meeting. Keep an eye out for used books and magazines to donate to the Club's book boxes.

The committee meets every third Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. and all Club members are invited to attend. The August meeting will be at Brenda Walls' home.

-Patti Geiser

Helpful, Kind, That's an Altrusan for Ya!

Altrusans are generous with their time and talents, and they were kind, too. In June, members performed 417 acts of kindness, and we logged 778.5 volunteer hours.

Members reported 133 service hours, 288 member service hours and 354 hours volunteering for other organizations such as SCAT, the HSV Library, Animal Welfare League, Rotary Club and their churches, to name a few.

Four members have not yet reported their hours, so the total may be nearer 1,000 hours. Wouldn't it be super as a Club to donate 1,000 hours per month? Send your July Altrusa volunteer hours to ididitpd@gmail.com and your literacy hours and "acts of kindness" to amandamillerallen@gmail.com.

Communications

Amanda Allen, Chair

The Communications Committee did not meet in July, but that doesn't mean we've been "on vacation."

Members have been working on a new rack card for our Club and member Kathy Jervis has been getting the scrapbook organized and started for 2024. We soon will be getting the word out on our Fall Fun game day fundraiser.

This Month's Accent by Diane Bielanski

A Literacy Project Courtesy of Kellogg's that Costs the Club Nothing – What a Deal!

Altrusa International has a strong focus on literacy projects. I'm delighted to share with you an exciting opportunity to make a lasting impact in our community through the Kellogg's Feeding Reading Program.

This initiative not only promotes literacy but can support the Altrusa HSV Birthday Books Program at Mountain Pine Elementary School.

Here's how you can participate: Between May 21, 2024, and Sept. 30, 2024, simply purchase one participating WK Kellogg product and one participating partner product in the same transaction. After your purchase, upload your receipt within 30 days to receive a credit.

This credit can be redeemed for two books of your choice to either keep or donate to the Birthday Books Program. Each participant can earn credits for up to 20 books during 2024!

I will collect the books for Mountain Pine Elementary School, where each student will have the opportunity to select a reading-level appropriate book to celebrate their birthday – a wonderful way to encourage a love for reading from a young age.

For a detailed list of participating products and the full book selection available for redemption, please visit feedingreading.com.

To assist you further, I will be available at Altrusa HSV Business Meetings at 4 p.m. to help with receipt uploads and to address any questions you may have. You also can reach out to me directly at dianebielanski@gmail.com or by phone at (630) 880-3688 for help.

Let's come together as a community to nurture the joy of reading among our youth. Thank you for your participation and support in making a difference through Kellogg's Feeding Reading Program.

In Our Prayers

Velma Coolidge
Valerie Derryberry
and her family
Dorothy Fager and her family
Elaine Schroeder
Linda Shearer
Carole Thompson
Brenda Walls
Eyvonne Whipple
Jeannine Williamson
and her family

August Birthdays

Valerie Derryberry	Aug. 6
Eyvonne Whipple	Aug. 10
Joan Schoonover	Aug. 11
Velma Coolidge	Aug. 22
Lynda Grasse	Aug. 22
Melanie Pederson	Aug. 22
Joan Plautz	Aug. 24



Upcoming Events

Aug. 1: Membership Development Committee will conduct orientation for new members and prospective members and all members are invited; Trademark HSV Real Estate, 3:15 p.m.
Aug. 1: Business Meeting, Trademark HSV Real Estate, hosted by Finance Committee. Social at 4 p.m.; meeting at 4:45 p.m. Please bring gently used shoes for donation to support the Village Walk for Cancer Research and holiday cards for veterans in hospice care (see information on two new service projects in meetings summary on Pages 2 and 5).
Aug. 12: Board Meeting, via Zoom, 9:30 a.m.
Aug. 12: International Youth Day
Aug. 13: Membership Development Committee meeting, 9:30 a.m., home of Patti Geiser.
Aug. 15: Service Committee meeting, 10 a.m., home of Brenda Walls.
Aug. 16: Finance Committee meeting, 9:30 a.m. mForce, 412 Ponce de Leon Dr., Suite A
Aug. 19: Communications Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m., via Zoom.
Aug. 28: [Village Loan Closet](#) Service Project 1-4 p.m. Volunteers: Dorothy Fager and Elaine Schroeder.
Aug. 30: Fifth Friday Social, 3:30-5 p.m., at the Sunset Grill.
Sept. 5: Business Meeting, Trademark HSV Real Estate, hosted by Membership Development Committee. Social at 4 p.m.; meeting at 4:45 p.m.
Sept. 9: Board Meeting, Trademark HSV Real Estate, 9:30 a.m.
Save the Dates:
Sept. 28: Village Walk for Cancer Research, 8 a.m., Balboa Pavilion. To sign up for the walk: <https://walkforcancerresearch.org/registration>
Oct. 24: Fall Fun Game Day, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Christ of the Hills United Methodist Church.
Nov. 6: Arkansas Symphony Orchestra's Children's Concert, Hot Springs.

District Eight Charters New Club and New Astra Club; New Members Invited to Zoom Meeting in August



District Eight officers are proud to report that they are growing! They chartered a new Club in Southwest Oklahoma in June.

Astra is also growing! They chartered a new club in Elgin, OK, and another club will be ready to charter sometime in early fall.

Currently the development team led by Penny Storms, pensto53@gmail.com, is working in Southwest Missouri and the Tulsa areas.

If you have family or friends that would be potential Altrusans, please let her know.

The district has several new Zoom meetings in the works for August:

Aug. 17, 10 a.m.: Foundation Board Workshop with Jane Hart

Aug. 20, 7:30 p.m.: New Member Networking. New members will receive an invitation from Governor Lorraine Brewer – watch your “in box.”

Aug. 27, 7:30 p.m.: Club Treasurer's Workshop with Connie Stoker

We are also reminded of the one-day Mini-Conference at Northwest Arkansas Community College in Bentonville on Saturday, Sept. 21.

We don't have many details yet but look for more information in the next District Service Bulletin.

–Laurie Herman

Will You Attend the International Convention in Quebec? It's Time to Think About Going

Altrusa International, Inc. holds an international convention every two years, sometimes in nearby locations – last year's was in San Antonio, Texas – sometimes in



International News

more distant ones. In 2025, the Altrusa International Convention will be in Quebec, Canada, July 23-26. Last year, three Altrusans represented Altrusa of HSV – Joan Schoonover, Carol Heckert, and Becky Elliott. The cowgirls (well, it was in San Antonio!) had a great time, networked with other Altrusans and learned a lot. It's time to start thinking about whether you might be able to attend the gathering in Quebec, and International wants to know. Did you receive and fill out their survey asking whether you plan to attend and whether you have a current passport?

If you're considering attending, and don't have a current passport, apply for one or get your passport renewed now. Even if you don't go, a current passport is really handy for a last-minute Caribbean cruise.

District Eight's own Linda K. Smith, International President 2023-2025, will have completed her term and will be honored at the convention.

International has not released many details yet about convention plans, but expect dynamic speakers, fun events, opportunities to learn, and plenty of chances to get to know other Altrusans and share ideas for new Club projects, fundraising and member recruitment.

–Amanda Allen

Meeting Summaries

(Continued from Page 2)

seconded it; the vote was unanimous.

*Discussed and unanimously approved the Club's operating budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Martha Smither made the motion to approve the budget and Irene Keith seconded it.

*Approved a recommendation from the Finance Committee to participate in the Rada Cutlery program Aug. 1 through Dec. 31 as a fundraiser.

Members will be able to send a link to the Rada site for their friends to order knives or an array of other products for themselves or as gifts for their families or friends. The Club automatically will receive a check from Rada when orders are placed. Patti Geiser made a motion to approve the fundraiser and Chris Hanses seconded it.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Amanda Allen Minutes of the June 6, 2024, Business Meeting were approved as written and will be filed in the Club's digital archives on Google Drive. Amanda read six additional pieces of mail the Club has received:

The 2024 nursing scholarship recipients, Mallory Burgess, Jean Pierre Madrigal and Leah Ollison, each sent notes thanking the Club for helping them further their education at National Park College.

Tina Ennis, a member of the RN Nursing Faculty and co-chair of NPC's Nursing Scholarship Committee, thanked the Club for the scholarships and noted that the young women who received the 2023 scholarships have graduated and will take their licensing exams soon. Alexis Holt will work for Baptist Health and Jessica Weatherford be at CHI St. Vincent.

The Village Loan Closet sent a note thanking the club for being a sponsor and for its generous donation of \$250.

The Hot Springs Village Anglers Club sent a card thanking Club members for baking cookies and desserts and for cooking and serving the meal to airmen and the anglers who took them fishing on Military Fishing Day.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Diane Shaw reported \$4,240.97 currently in the checking account and \$5,153.98 in a CD that has been reinvested.

SECOND-YEAR DIRECTOR: Patti Geiser said Club members had reported 747 volunteer hours for June. She asked all

Club members to keep track of their hours and report them monthly to her.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Development: Mary Kramer reminded the Club that an orientation program for new members will be held at 3:15 p.m. Aug. 1 at Trademark HSV Real Estate, prior to the Club's monthly Business Meeting. All members are invited to attend.

Service: See Action Items.

Foundation: Irene Keith thanked Foundation Treasurer Dorothy Fager for her work on the Foundation Budget for 2024-2025. The Foundation will present the budget to Club members at the Aug. 1 meeting.

Foundation Audit: Chair Joan Schoonover thanked Club Treasurer Diane Shaw for her help conducting the annual audit of the Foundation's accounting records. The numbers were in order and the Foundation did a good job of distributing money on community projects this year.

Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met Monday, July 8, 2024, via Zoom with President Melanie Pederson presiding. Opening the meeting, Melanie congratulated the Board and the Club on achieving Altrusa International's Distinguished Club Award.

BOARD ACTION

The Board took these actions:

*Officially approved renaming the Spring fundraiser to Spring Fling and holding the event on March 15. The change had been discussed at an earlier meeting, but Board minutes did not reflect a vote. Laurie Herman made the motion and Valerie Derryberry seconded it; approval was unanimous.

*Approved participating in the Walk for Cancer Research Shoe Drive, a



Laurie Herman shows off Altrusa of HSV's Distinguished Club Award.

mini project recommended by the Service Committee that would be at no cost to the Club. Laurie Herman made the motion to approve Shoe Drive participation and Valerie Derryberry seconded it; the vote was unanimous.

*Approved another no-cost mini-project recommended by the Service Committee: Club participation in the Sixth Annual Operation Holiday Salute. Laurie Herman made the motion to approve the project and Valerie Derryberry seconded it; the vote was unanimous.

*Discussed and unanimously approved the Club's operating budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Patti Geiser made the motion to approve the budget and Valerie Derryberry seconded it.

*Unanimously approved a change in the Club Policy pertaining to the death of a member to include the sitting District Eight Governor and the sitting International President.

-Amanda Allen

It's Time to Make Time for Birthday Books, Altrusans Read

The schedule for Birthday Books at Mountain Pine Elementary has been set.

For June, July and August birthdays – Wednesday, Aug. 21

For September, October, and November birthdays – Wednesday, Nov. 20

For December, January, and February birthdays – Wednesday, Feb. 19

For March, April, and May birthdays – Wednesday, May 21

This school year's Altrusans Read will be different. Altrusans will participate individually rather than going to the school on a designated day. Readers will select their grade level and work with the same class and teacher each time they read. Club members should tell Becky Elliott (rebeccaelliott1941@gmail.com) their choice of grade and she will give them the name and email of the teacher. Thereafter, readers will work directly with the teacher on a reading schedule.

Meet Altrusa of HSV's Newest Members: Joan Plautz and Jackie Wilson, Initiated in June

Altrusa of HSV is growing, and that's vital for our Club. New members bring fresh ideas and perspectives and new energy, and they become our new friends. They expand our opportunities to make a difference in our community. Welcome Jackie Wilson and Joan Plautz and get to know these service-minded women. Joan will be a member of the Service Committee; Jackie will be on the Membership Development Committee.

Joan Plautz

Q: Tell us about your family.

A: John and I have two children, Matt and Becca. Becca lives in Minnesota and Matt is in our home state of Wisconsin. We have three grandchildren.

Q: Tell us a bit about other milestones in your life, where you born, where you've lived, if you worked outside your home, a favorite memory or a trip you enjoyed.

A: I was born and raised in Milwaukee, WI. John and I were married in 1976, the bicentennial year. We lived in Waukesha, WI, where I taught 5th and 6th grade until our second child was born. At that point I "retired" from teaching. When both of our children were finally in school all day, I started doing long-term substituting in the Waukesha district and volunteer work with my children's schools PTA. Once they were out of grade school, I went back to work in Oconomowoc as a Gifted and Talented resource teacher for an elementary and middle school.

Q: Why did you choose HSV as your home and how long have you lived here?

A: We have been coming to the Village since 1976, back when DeSoto ended at about Callela. We built our home in 2007 and became "snowbirds" for many years. Arkansas became our full-time home about 3 years ago.

Q: What are your favorite pastimes/hobbies?

A: I enjoy reading and golf.

Q: Do you belong to other organizations or do other volunteer work in the Village?

A: Both John and I have become very involved in SCAT. I have worked as a volunteer scheduler since its inception, and currently I also do the training of schedulers. We are also both involved in our Church.

Q: What is on your bucket list? Any plans to accomplish these items in the near future?

A: We have been working on our bucket list for several years. One of my favorite trips was to New Zealand. We rented a car and traveled both islands. I still want to try ziplining!

Q: What is your favorite book/movie?

A: I have several favorite books, one of which is Poisonwood Bible. It was one of the books I had to read for book club. I still remember that it took me about a third of the book before I started to enjoy it and then I hated for it to end.

Jackie Wilson

Q: Tell us about your family.

A: I have been married to my husband for 55 years. We have 2 sons, 4 grandchildren, and 1 great grandson.



Welcoming Jackie (center left) and Joan are President Melanie Pederson, Membership Chair Mary Kramer (also Jackie's sponsor), and Joan's sponsors, Lynda Grasse, and Patti Geiser. Jackie's other sponsor is Dorothy Fager.

Q: Tell us a bit about other milestones in your life, where you born, where you've lived, if you worked outside your home, a favorite memory or a trip you enjoyed.

A: I was born and raised in North Little Rock. I married an Airman and we have traveled to: Little Rock AFB; Thailand (Bob only); Barksdale AFB LA; Grand Forks AFB ND; Ellsworth AFB SD; Yokota AFB, Japan; McCord AFB WA; Langley AFB VA; and Little Rock AFB.

As a military wife I was hired with the Department of Defense as an Executive Secretary on each base we were on. I retired with 31 years at Little Rock AFB. My husband retired with 25 years at Langley AFB VA. We love to travel anywhere and everywhere.

Q: Why did you choose HSV as your home and how long have you lived here?

A: We moved to HSV in 2019 from Hot Springs. My husband retired the second time from a sawmill company. We got a large cash offer to sell our home in HS with 20 acres and had to move quickly, and ended up in the Village.

Q: What are your favorite pastimes/hobbies?

A: I love to crochet, knit, read and do lots of service work.

Q: Do you belong to other organizations or do other volunteer work in the village?

A: Only with my church.

Q: What is on your bucket list? Any plans to accomplish these items in the near future?

A: Travel to Ireland

Q: What is your favorite book/movie?

A: Bible is my favorite book and movie would be the African Queen.

Q: Anything else you'd like us to know about you?

A: We love it here in the village with our Morkie puppy "Poppy."