



ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL INC.

## ALTRUSA—GRAM

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Dear Fayetteville Altrusans and Friends,

Take me out to the ballgame! Our April calendar is different from our regular club calendar.

We'll start with an evening membership event on Thursday, April 9, at Arvest Ballpark, to watch the Naturals take on the Amarillo Sod Poodles. We'll enjoy the game together and have a table in the concourse where we can meet potential Altrusans. Gates open at 6 pm, and I'll throw out the first pitch at 7:05 pm. If you missed the pre-order period for tickets but want to join us, please let me know; we may have some extra tickets available!

We'll meet again for a lunch meeting on April 23 at San Miguel. We have a literacy program about a new initiative at Historic Cane Hill.

These changes accommodate our District Eight conference from April 24-26 at Four Points Hotel in Bentonville. Conference is always an inspiring experience! I hope you'll join us for as much of the programming as possible. You can find the schedule in this newsletter or in the District Eight Call to Conference. If you haven't registered yet, you can find registration materials in the Call to Conference or pay online here: <https://altrusadistricteight.regfox.com/2026-altrusa-district-eight-conference>

Speaking of inspiration, we had two fantastic programs in March! Check out these pages for pictures from our visit to the Nelms Dyslexia Center and information about the Fayetteville Public Library FPL on Wheels bookmobile program. We're continuing to explore new ways to promote literacy as a club.

We also elected new officers at our evening meeting. I thank the club nominating committee of Faye Jones, Judy Rownak and Alice Ann Simkins for their work finding a new club president and president-elect. Extra thanks to Mary Mann and LaNita McKinney for their willingness to join our other officers and serve the club. I know they'll be wonderful in these leadership roles.

Margaret

**2025-26 Board:** President Margaret Hershberger-Kilyanek (m.hershberger.kilyanek@gmail.com); President-Elect Sue Payton (suemiller\_payton@hotmail.com); Vice-President Charcee Small (cs@bogartimmigration.com); Secretary Lorraine Brewer (lobrewer@uark.edu); Treasurer Chris Bell (dane4@arkansas.net); Director Carolyn Rash (crash418@att.com); Director Glenna Cummingham (glennacummingham@yahoo.com), Immediate Past President Teresa Bevis (bev587@aol.com)



Leading to a Better Community.

Altrusa is an international non-profit organization making our local communities better through leadership, partnership, and service.

#### Important Upcoming Dates:

Apr 9 – 6:00 pm **Arvest Ball Park, Springdale**  
 Apr 13 - 1:00 pm Club Board Meeting, via Zoom  
 Apr 23 -11:30 am Club meeting, San Miguel  
 Apr 24-26 – District Eight Conference, Bentonville  
 May11 - 1:00 pm Club Board Meeting, via Zoom  
 May 14 - 11:30 am Club Meeting, San Miguel  
 May 28 - 6:30 pm Club meeting, San Miguel

## In case you missed it:

- Nelms Dyslexia Center treated members to lunch and a tour of the center for our first March meeting. One of first things you notice, the wall of presidents, business owners, entertainers, athletes, and Arkansans who all had dyslexia. When the families enter for the first time, they realize that dyslexia doesn't have to limit what can be achieved.





- The following members were elected to serve as our 2026-2027 Club Board: Mary Mann, President; LaNita McKinney, President-Elect; Charlcee Small, Vice-President; Lorraine Brewer, Secretary; Chris Bell, Treasurer; and Carolyn Rash, Director (2 year). Glenna Cunningham will continue for her second year as Director and Margaret Hershberger-Kilyanek will be Immediate Past President.

April Birthdays: 4/4 Alice Ann Simkins; 4/10 Tina Brewer; 4/16 Christine Chelette; 4/18 Carolyn Rash  
 May Birthdays: 5/5 Faye Jones; 5/23 Maribelle Williams; 5/31 Lea Heffington



## Altrusa Schedule April / May

Apr	9	Club Outing	6:00 pm	Arvest Ballpark
Apr	13	Club Board Meeting	100 pm	Via Zoom
Apr	22	 Earth Day 		
Apr	23	Club Meeting	11:30 am	San Miguel
Apr	24-26	District Eight Conference	4 Points by Sheraton, Bentonville, AR	
May	11	Club Board Meeting	100 pm	Via Zoom
May	14	Club Meeting	11:30 am	San Miguel
May	28	Club Meeting	11:30 am	San Miguel

## In case you missed it:

- At our second March meeting, Faye introduced Carlye Dennis, Fayetteville Public Library Community Engagement Manager, and Sophia Ruiz, FPL on Wheels Librarian. They explained the bookmobile program, including how it started and how it has changed. Their enthusiasm for literacy is apparent. With a shared interest in literacy, possibilities of working with the library for future events were discussed.



## FPL On Wheels

The Fayetteville Public Library Bookmobile

### Mission Driven Purpose

1. Promote literacy and lifelong learning.
2. Introduce non-users to library resources & services.
3. Provide fun, interactive experiences.
4. Increase community-wide visibility of FPL.

FPL on Wheels launched at the **2023 Summer Reading Club Kickoff**, and began biweekly routes that visited four of Fayetteville's public housing locations, as well as regular stops at Fayetteville's Tyson Foods complex, Gulley Park & Walker Park.



### 2023 Outreach Attendance

grew by a staggering

# 400%

bringing library services to an estimated

# 12,500 people

### 2024 Outreach Attendance

with the new high-quality vehicle saw a

# 200% increase

in monthly usage, averaging

# 18 monthly stops

all across Fayetteville.



## On the Road

FPL on Wheels (2.0) launched at the **2024 Summer Reading Club Kickoff**, and vastly streamlined the experience we provide.

### REMOVING BARRIERS

FPL on Wheels is **fine free** and visits 14 community locations once a month. We bring books & DVDs for checkout, library giveaways, free books for minors that don't have a library card, snacks, and internet access across Fayetteville. Locations we visit, with route expansion on the way:

- Fayetteville Housing Authority Apartment Complexes
- Assisted Living Facilities & Fayetteville Senior Center
- Boys & Girls Club & University of Arkansas
- Gulley Park & other community gathering spaces



## In case you missed it:

- Here are a couple of reminders about special events in April.
  1. We have a special “Add An Altrusan” Membership Drive/Fundraising/Fun event scheduled for our first meeting in April. We will be featured at the Naturals baseball game. Below are the details.
    - **Location:** Arvest Ballpark (3000 Gene George Blvd, Springdale, AR 72762)
    - **Gates Open:** 6:00 PM
    - **Tickets:** Pre-ordered tickets are at the Will Call window in your name (Traice/Lea - 2, Chris - 2, Lorraine - 2, Glenna - 2, Margaret - 3, Faye - 8, Mary - 1, Carolyn - 2)
    - **First Pitch by President Margaret:** 7:05 PM
  2. The 70<sup>th</sup> Annual District Eight Conference is April 24-26 at Four Points by Sheraton, 211 SE Walton Blvd, Bentonville, AR 72712. The tentative schedule is on the next page. Here’s a reminder of what to bring

- Altrusa Pin & Badge
- Club Banner & Display
- Silent Auction Item
- Service Project Ingredients
- Checkbook/Cash/Credit Card
- Parade of Patriots Costume
- Framed Photo of Military Member or Friend



- Emeritus member Pat Kelly’s obituary is below.

FAYETTEVILLE — Patricia Kelly. She was born into a loving family and shared a deep, lasting bond with her mother, Mary D. Kelly, and her siblings, Jo Ann Tansacha and John Kelly. Pat loved her mother dearly, cherishing the strength and values she was given, and carried that love with her throughout her life. She was an inspiration to both Jo Ann and John, setting an example through her independence, kindness, and determination. The love they shared as a family was unwavering and returned to Pat in equal measure: a constant source of support, pride, and connection that remained at the heart of her life. Patricia attended Leverett Grade School, and later, graduated from Fayetteville High School. She continued her education at the University of Arkansas, earning her undergraduate degree in business in 1952. Her love of learning led her back to the university years later, where she completed her doctorate, further strengthening her commitment to education and excellence. For 34 years, Patricia taught

in the business department at Fayetteville High School. She was more than a teacher: she was a mentor, a steady presence, and a source of encouragement for countless students. Her classroom was a place of high standards, fairness, and genuine care. She believed in her students wholeheartedly and inspired them to believe in themselves. Throughout her life, Patricia was an active and devoted member of Delta Kappa Gamma, Altrusa International, Inc., the Retired Teachers Union, and the National Education Association. She valued fellowship, professional excellence, and community service, and she gave generously of her time and talents. Patricia was a woman of independence and a big heart. She saw the best in others, no matter what their story told. Her kindness was quiet but powerful, and her strength was evident in the way she lived: with integrity, resilience, and grace.

Outside of her professional life, Patricia found joy in many hobbies. She was an accomplished quilt maker and loved embroidery and gardening. Her hands were rarely still, always creating something beautiful, whether it was a carefully stitched quilt, delicate needlework, or a flourishing garden. These creations, like her influence, will continue to bring comfort and beauty to those she leaves behind. Patricia truly embodied what it meant to be a woman of character and purpose. Her qualities — independence, generosity, perseverance, and love — will forever live on in our hearts. Graveside service will be 10 a.m. Saturday, April 4, 2026, at Benton County Memorial Park in Rogers, Ark. To leave an online tribute, please visit: [www.bernafuneralhomes.com](http://www.bernafuneralhomes.com).

## In case you missed it:

- District Eight Conference Tentative Schedule (meeting rooms lock at 11 pm)

### Friday, April 24

1:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Pre-Function Space Registration and Credentials (Drop Off Framed Veteran Photos and Service Project Donations)
2:00 – 7:30 p.m.	Place Flags, Holders and Gloves
2:00 p.m.	District Eight Board Meeting
2:00 – 7:30 p.m.	Set Up (Marketplace, Silent Auction, Vendors and Club Displays)
5:00 – 7:30 p.m.	Leadership Dinner (Board, Past Governors and Committee Chairs)
7:30 – 8:00 p.m.	Dress for Patriotic Fun Night
8:00 – 8:30 p.m.	Welcome to Conference Reception
8:30 – 9:00 p.m.	Fun Night Parade of Patriots
9:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Patriotic “Family Feud”
10:00 – 10:45 p.m.	Opening Ceremony Rehearsal (Flags, Choir, AV)
10:00 – 11:00 p.m.	Marketplace/Silent Auction (Continued Set Up)

### Saturday, April 25

8:00 – 8:45 a.m.	Registration and Credentials Open
8:00 – 8:45 a.m.	Silent Auction and Marketplace Open
8:00 – 8:45 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet (Hotel Guests with Voucher)
8:00 – 8:45 a.m.	First Timers’ Event
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Opening Ceremony (ROTC Color Guard, Parade of Banners, Mayor Welcome)
10:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Candidates Forum
10:15 a.m.–Noon	First Business Session
Noon – 12:30 p.m.	Break (Marketplace and Centerpiece Setup)
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.	Literacy and Leadership Luncheon (Keynote, Live Auction, and 50/50 Raffle)
2:00 – 2:15 p.m.	Break and Voting
2:15 – 3:00 p.m.	All Conference Workshop (Membership and Service - Hand in Hand)
3:00 – 3:30 p.m.	Service Project
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.	Marketplace and Silent Auction
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Club Photos
5:30 p.m.	Cash Bar Opens
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Entertainment
7:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Governor’s Banquet and Awards
10:00 – 11:00 p.m.	Governor’s Reception
10:00 – 11:00 p.m.	Marketplace Tear Down

### Sunday, April 26

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Silent Auction Pickup
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet
8:15 – 9:00 a.m.	Young Adult Meet and Greet
9:00 – 9:30 a.m.	Hotel Check Out
9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Celebration of Life Memorial Service
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Second Business Session
11:00 a.m.–noon	All Conference Workshop
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Board Meeting