



ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL INC.

# ALTRUSA—GRAM

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 altrusafayettevillear@gmail.com  
 Editor: Carolyn Rash

Dear Fayetteville Altrusans and Friends,

Fresh strawberries, baseball games, graduations – it’s May – the last month of the Altrusa year. We’re celebrating our successes from this past year, reflecting on those experiences and looking forward to how our club will grow and change in the next year.

This month, our club is celebrating successes at District Eight conference. Thanks to our excellent newsletter editor Carolyn Rash and the communications team, our club won honorable mention in the communications award! Even more exciting, the Iraqi Orphan and Needy Children On to School project won first prize for the Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award! Extra thanks go to Teresa Bevis for her work developing and leading this project!

In addition to winning awards at conference, our club was well represented among attendees. LaNita McKinney spearheaded a fantastic conference service project: packing meal kits for veterans. I hope you’ll join our club as we complete those kits and distribute them at the Arkansas Air and Military Museum on May 23.

**What’s in this issue**

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This month, we’re continuing to bring Mozart to the Fayetteville Public Schools. Club members enjoy accompanying Mr. Mozart and our own Judy Rownak as they share his life and work with third graders and give them books. This long-running project is more than 25 years old; we submitted it for a Governor’s Distinguished Service award at conference, but we’ll have to wait until next year to learn the results.

As our club year ends, please make sure to send in your renewal form and service hours. I need an accounting of the time you’ve spent on Altrusa service for the club annual report, and our club needs you so that we can continue to grow in service in the coming year.

Margaret

**2025-26 Board:** President Margaret Hershberger-Kilyanek (m.hershberger.kilyanek@gmail.com); President-Elect Sue Payton (sue\_miller\_payton@hotmail.com); Vice-President Charlee 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.

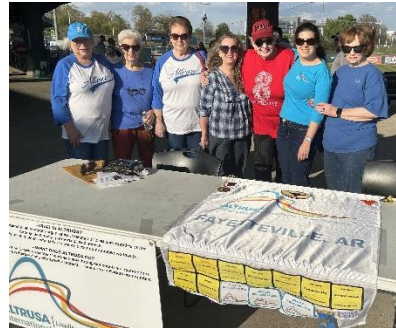
Altrusa is an international non-profit organization making our local communities better through leadership, partnership, and service.

**Important Upcoming Dates:**

- May 11 - 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
- Jun 6 – 5 – 7 pm Spring Fling, 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church
- Jun 8 - 1:00 pm Club Board Meeting, via Zoom
- Jun 25 -6:30 pm Club meeting, San Miguel

## In case you missed it:

- We had a special “Add An Altrusan” Membership Drive/Fundraising/Fun event for our first meeting in April. We were featured at the Naturals baseball game. The weather couldn’t have been better. The staff at the ballpark were great. A few people stopped at our table and took a rack card. One woman had been a member in Florida. We referred her to the B/BV club. Margaret did a great job throwing out the first pitch. She even got to keep the ball. We earned \$144 for the club and 2000-3000 in attendance know about Altrusa.



- For our second April meeting, Cane Hill Restoration Association Executive Director, Vanessa McKuin, gave a presentation on the history of Cane Hill and activities taking place there. A potential literacy project involves repairing their Little Free Library and moving it. The slides are on the next page.



Faye introducing Vanessa. Holly Johnson, Director of Development, also attended.



- For 25 years, Judy and Mozart (Mark Smidt) have presented this entertaining and informative program. Each student receives a book on Mozart or cd of his music.



May Birthdays: 5/5 Faye Jones; 5/23 Maribelle Williams; 5/31 Lea Heffington  
 June Birthdays: 6/3 Lorraine Brewer; 6/17 Chris Bell; 6/18 Liz Fulton; 6/20 Betty Bradford;  
 6/23 Karolyn Farrell

## Altrusa Schedule May / June



May	11	Club Board Meeting	1:00 pm	Via Zoom
May	14	Club Meeting	11:30 am	San Miguel
May	28	Club Meeting	6:30 pm	San Miguel
Jun	6	Spring Fling	5 – 7 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church
Jun	6	World Environment Day		
Jun	8	Club Board Meeting	1:00 pm	Via Zoom
Jun	25	Club Meeting	6:30 pm	San Miguel

## In case you missed it:

- Excerpts from the Cane Hill presentation are below.

**HISTORIC CANE HILL**

**LEGACY OF LITERACY,  
PRESERVATION OF PLACE**

An Introduction to Cane Hill  
especially for the Fayetteville Altrusa Chapter

Vanessa McKuin  
April 23, 2026

The mission of Historic Cane Hill is to **preserve, connect, and inspire** through meaningful experiences with history, education, architecture, nature, and the arts.

Cumberland Presbyterians  
1810-1827

Vanessa McKuin  
Historic Cane Hill  
History Weekly, April 4, 2024

**FIRST SUNDAY SCHOOL  
FIRST PUBLIC LIBRARY  
IN ARKANSAS TERRITORIES**

1828

“Cane Hill is one of the most densely settled neighborhoods in the west. There are four dry-goods stores, one grocery, two wagon makers, four blacksmith shops, a post office, one church, an excellent school, one sawmill, and three grist mills.”

- March 7, 1836 *Arkansas Gazette*

**ARKANSAS BECOMES A STATE**

JUNE 15, 1836

**TRAIL OF TEARS**

1830s-1840s

THE UNITED STATES			
TO	DATE	AMOUNT	REMARKS
James Coulter	1837		for furnishing a coffin for a deceased Cherokee belonging to a detachment of Cherokees on their way to the west.
	Dec 27	2.25	Statement of Charles W. Tomlin, Wm. & W. Miller

Receipt to James Coulter showing payment of \$2.25 "for furnishing a coffin for a deceased Cherokee belonging to a detachment of Cherokees on their way to the west." National Archives and Records Administration

**REMEMBER THE REMOVAL  
BIKE RIDERS**

**EDUCATIONAL FIRSTS**

DECEMBER 24, 1850  
CANE HILL COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE BEGINS EDUCATING AND GRANTING TWO-YEAR DEGREES

DECEMBER 12, 1852  
CANE HILL FEMALE SEMINARY IS FOUNDED, BECOMING THE FIRST DEGREE GRANTING INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN IN ARKANSAS

DECEMBER 15, 1852  
CANE HILL COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE WAS CHARTERED AS CANE HILL COLLEGE BY AN ACT OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATURE.

Spring 1861, circa 1860  
Jim Hahn/Alfred C. Hahn Collection/History, Cane Hill

**APPLE BLOSSOM  
SOCIETY**

**AMERICAN CIVIL WAR  
1861-1865**

**BATTLE OF CANE HILL  
NOVEMBER 28, 1862**

**FIRST CO-EDUCATIONAL  
COLLEGE IN ARKANSAS  
1875**

**AWARD-WINNING  
PRESERVATION INITIATIVES**

**THANK YOU!**  
Please come visit!

Vanessa McKuin  
vanessa@historiccanehill.org  
HistoricCaneHillAR.org

Here are some future events: July 17 Community Picnic & Jam; July 24-26, July 31 - Aug 2 Ladderback Chairmaking; August 13 Arkansas Portraits; Aug 22 Ozark Bug Crawl; Sep 19 Harvest Festival; Oct 18 Sona Beyond; Oct 23 Cane Hill After Dark; and Nov 7 Trailblazers History Hike.

## In case you missed it:

- Eleven of our members attended the 70<sup>th</sup> District Eight Conference in Bentonville. This page and remaining pages have information and pictures from Conference. Tama Davidson was elected as Treasurer-Elect. The next DSB will have more complete information about all the Conference events.
- Workshop materials and pictures can be found on the District Eight Google Drive. The link is <https://districteight.altrusa.org/news-events>. Once there, scroll down and click CONFERENCE 2026 MATERIAL. There are several folders. Note: pictures may not have specific names. Enjoy scrolling through them.
- Conference by the numbers:
  - 107 Full Registrations
  - 5 Guests
  - 21 of 24 clubs represented
  - 14 Past Governors present
  - 90 members joined Club 52
  - 6 clubs became Club 52 clubs
  - > \$600 raised for District Eight
  - >\$10,000 raised for the International Foundation
  - 103 Complete meal kits assembled
  - 135 Cake kits assembled
  - More than \$400 donated to complete meal kits
- Our club won first place in the Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award and honorable mention in the Communications Award.
- Pictures of Conference registration and Fun Night on Friday are below.

Registration table and patriotic decorations



Club members on Fun Night



Costumes for Fun Night



Lorraine and Pat participated in the Patriotic Family Feud on Fun Night



## In case you missed it:

- Conference pictures from Saturday events



Margaret carried our club banner. Chris carried the ASTRA banner. Banners for all club represented at Conference.



Corporal Aaron Mankin, United States Marine Corps was the Keynote speaker at the Leadership Luncheon. His message on his Journey of Service and Hope was truly inspirational.



Jennifer Gatlin, Altrusa International Director from Jack, Alabama, was a delight throughout the Conference.



Lorraine presiding at the Leadership Luncheon



Margaret accepting the Communications award



Our club centerpiece



Nancy Morris, Int'l Membership Development Chair, and Anne Condran, Int'l Foundation Trustee, also attended. They are both from Muncie, IN, District Six

## In case you missed it:

- More Saturday event pictures



LaNita explaining the process for filling the meal kits.



Members filling the bags



Finished meal kits ready to be boxed up and taken to the Air Museum



Saturday night banquet attire



Jubilation Jazz Band presented several patriotic songs and were fantastic!

## In case you missed it:

- More Saturday event pictures



District Eight Board



Past Governors



Margaret accepting the Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun  
International Relations Award

- Sunday Event Pictures



Margaret explaining  
our award  
international  
project



LaNita  
announcing  
results of the  
service project



Carolyn  
announcing the  
retirement of the  
flags



LaNita retiring the United States  
of America flag



### Patricia (Pat) Kelly

Pat was committed to education and excellence throughout her life. She earned her under graduate degree in business in 1952 from University of Arkansas and returned years later to complete her doctorate. She taught school for 34 years 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.

Pat had several hobbies, she was involved in several organizations including Altrusa. She gave generously of her time and talents. She saw the best in others, no matter what their story told. Her kindness was quite but powerful, and her strength was evident in the way she lived – with integrity, resilience and grace. Her qualities – independence, generosity, perseverance, and love – will live forever in our hearts.

### Our beloved Pat's memorial service info

### Beautiful silent auction basket



## In case you missed it:

- It's time to renew your membership and report your service hours. Renewal form is below.



### Altrusa International of Fayetteville AR., Inc.

Post Office Box 251, Fayetteville AR 72702

Web: [Altrusafayetteville.org](http://Altrusafayetteville.org)

Email: [AltrusaFayettevilleAR@gmail.com](mailto:AltrusaFayettevilleAR@gmail.com)

### 2026-27 Membership Application

- Renewal
- New Member
- Transfer
- Inactive
- Emeritus
- Honorary

Treasurer's use only:

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment options:

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Business: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Business email and phone: \_\_\_\_\_

How would you prefer to be contacted for Altrusa information and reminders? \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Significant: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Your

Altrusa of Fayetteville Sponsor(s): \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

<b>Membership Renewal</b>	
<b>May 1- May 31 Renewal</b>	
International fee	\$55.00
District fee	\$20.00
Club fee	\$25.00
<b>Total by 06/01</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
International Late Fees	\$5.00
District Late Fee	\$5.00
<b>Total after 06/01</b>	<b>\$110.00</b>
<b>Total after 07/01</b>	<b>\$120.00</b>

New Member			
Fee breakdown when joining between following dates:			
<u>April 1-November 30</u>		<u>December 1-March 31</u>	
International	\$55.00	International	\$27.50
Processing Fee	\$10.00	Processing Fee	\$10.00
District	\$20.00	District	\$10.00
Club fee	\$25.00	Club	\$12.50
<b>Total Dues</b>	<b>\$110.00</b>	<b>Total Dues</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>

**PHOTO RELEASE:** I, give Altrusa International, Inc., (Altrusa), entities the absolute right and permission to use photographs of me, in its promotional materials and publicity efforts. I understand that the photograph(s) may be used in a publication, print ad, electronic media (e.g. video, CD-ROM, Internet, World Wide Web), or other form of promotion. I acknowledge that Altrusa owns the photograph. I acknowledge Altrusa's right to crop or treat the photograph in its discretion. I also acknowledge that Altrusa may choose not to use the photograph at this time, but may do so at its own discretion at a later date. I waive any right to compensation arising from or related to the use of the photograph. I am 18 years of age or older. Initial

Would you benefit from transportation assistance? Yes \_\_\_ Not needed at this time \_\_\_

**Please indicate your choice of two service committees and one special committee:**

**SERVICE COMMITTEES:**

- Community Service
- Literacy
- International
- Membership Development
- Communications
- Finance

**SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

- BRR
- New Club Building
- Long Range Strategic Planning
- Scholarship
- ASTRA (FHS or U.A.)
- Grants

## In case you missed it:

- Here's the service hours form:



## Altrusa International of Fayetteville, AR

2025-2026 Service Hours for \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide total hours you spent in committee and board meetings planning and evaluating our service: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide hours you spent preparing and implementing service: \_\_\_\_\_

- This should include travel time to and from the Little Free Pantry, shopping for and restocking or re-arranging items in the Little Free Pantries or providing for the Marshallese Community effort by our club. In addition, please give Jennifer an account of how much you're spending on these donations for our grant report.
- This should include work on the TUGS+, the other monthly projects, and preparation for projects completed at our club meetings.

Please list other community service hours beyond service through Altrusa: \_\_\_\_\_

- This would include volunteer hours in the community through your work, other organizations or boards, etc.

Please report time spent on any of our fundraisers (Nuts, Greenery, Holiday or Valentines fundraisers, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Please report time given to our club, to the District or International administration, operations, leadership, or governance: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee chairs and board members have contributed volunteer hours in service to our District and International and should report that here.

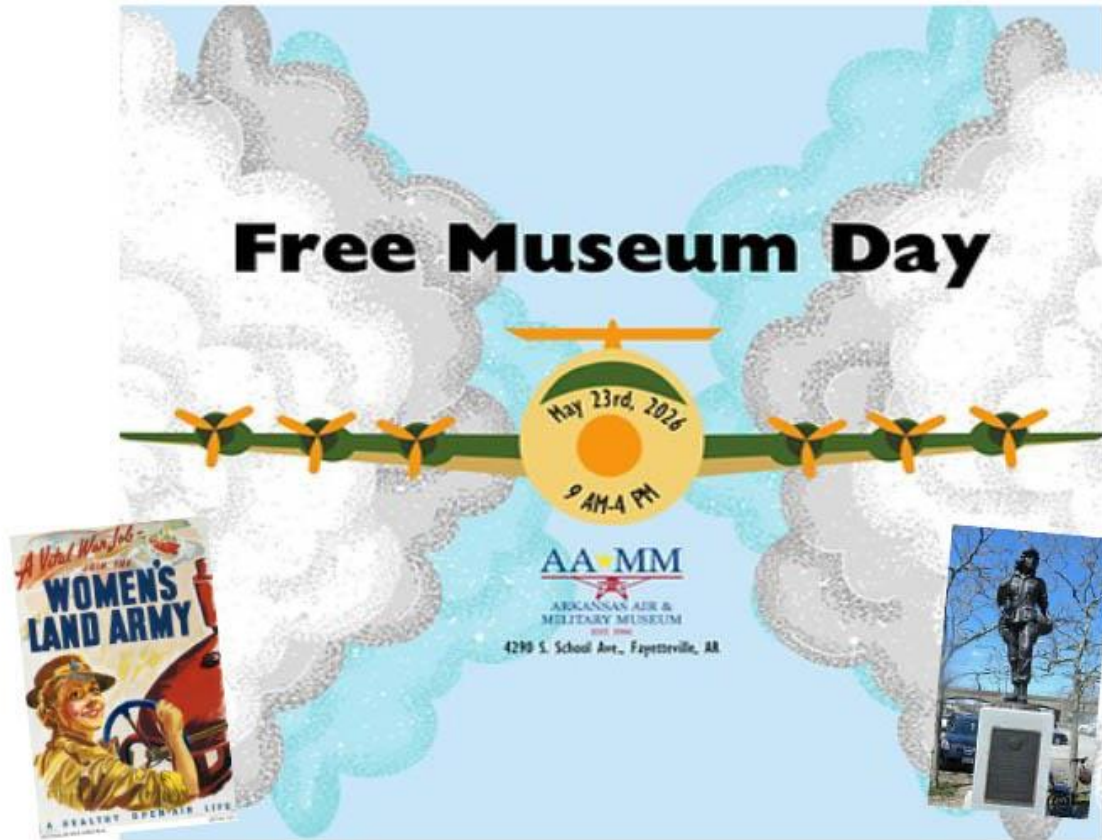
Please report donation amounts for our "Nourishing Our Neighbors Project: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this information to Margaret **by May 31** as that will be a tremendous help in completing our report on grants earned and the annual club report. If you want to simply reply via email without using this form, that is fine, too.

**THANK YOU!**

**In case you missed it:**

- Here's the information for the event where we will distribute all the meal and cake kits donated at Conference. Please let LaNita know if you will be able to help, even if part of the day.



**Altrusa International District Eight  
invites all Female Veterans to come  
tour the Arkansas Air and Military**

**Museum on Saturday, May 23, 2026, 9am-4pm.**

**Altrusa will have a  
table set up for Female Veterans to collect  
a shelf stable meal to take home.**

**Thank you for your service!**

