



Zonta Club of Pascagoula Area

NEWSLETTER

District 11, Area 1

December 1, 2011

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President's Corner

Much has happened since our Festival in October. A very happy event for me was the celebration of mine and Jerry's fiftieth wedding anniversary with a beautiful party given by our children. I thank all of you that attended and who sent best wishes and prayers for many more happy years together. Even my broken foot did not keep me from having a dance or two!

One of our vendors at this year's Festival invited us to attend an Arts & Crafts show in Picayune to get ideas to be used in promoting our show. Mary Garner, Norma and I spent the day there and were treated royally. Mr. McManus had a golf cart for our exclusive use all day. We toured every booth collecting business cards and gathering valuable information.

I want to thank every one for your donations of food, toiletries and other items needed for the food baskets, women's shelters and Promiss. You were very generous and all the items are being put to good use.

Donna, Norma and I have delivered Thanksgiving food baskets to six families in our area. Because of Donna's Aunt Phyllis, who has Tugus restaurant, we were able to give more food to more families complete with dessert and a gallon of tea. After we added the food everyone donated we had two boxes per family. They were so grateful and many of them prayed God's blessings on all of us. We already have our food stored in Donna's freezer for the Christmas baskets except for the ham or turkey and are well within our budget.

35th Arts & Crafts Festival Countdown



304 days

The next event on our agenda is the Christmas party for the residents of Plaza Nursing Center this Saturday, Dec. 3, at 2 pm. Andy has been gathering festive decorations, small gifts and food for the occasion. We usually have thirty to thirty five residents join us. They love the music and usually join in with the singing and a little toe tapping. If you can spare an hour please come and help us serve the cake and punch and share some Christmas cheer with the residents.

Our own Zonta Christmas party is Thursday Dec. 8th at St. John's Episcopal Church Parish Hall at 5:30 pm. Please come and bring a guest. The club will pay for each member's meal and we will be responsible for our guests food. We will be playing "Dirty Santa" again this year. Each person participating will need to bring a \$15 gift. Andy is busy planning a delicious menu, nice decorations and a few other surprises. We will have live music that I know you will enjoy.

The Home of Grace Christmas Party is Saturday Dec. 10th starting at 9 am. We will be making our grape vine wreathes and crosses again this year. To me the making of the wreathes is symbolic of what is going in the lives of the ladies who are at the Home of Grace for treatment. We begin with a vine that is barren with no leaves or fruit and with work and love it is fashioned into a thing of beauty. Please join us in helping the ladies make their wreathes. Even if you have never made one, you will be surprised at what you can do. Donna has some nice music lined up and is purchasing the supplies needed for the wreathes. We will be providing lunch for the girls and will need help with some preparation and serving.

If you have not attended the Plaza or Home of Grace parties you have missed many blessings. We always come away with our hearts full and with the knowledge that we have not only given but received so much more. Please plan to join us.

May God bless you all, Lynda



Charter President Lois Castigliola is honored



Zonta Charter President Lois Castigliola was honored on November 22, 2011 at the Pascagoula Library. Not only was it a celebration of her 90th birthday but she was also recognized for her lifetime of work in history and genealogy. The Jackson County Board of Supervisors and the City of Pascagoula issued a proclamation making the day "Lois Castigliola Day." Lois is a pioneer in local history and archives and was one of the first editors of the journal. Her work in establishing the County Archives along with Betty Rodgers will have a lasting impact on our county and historic preservation. Lois is still coming to work every day in the archives and has been very instrumental in making the genealogy section of the library and the Archives into what it is today.



Lynda Howell, Lois Castigliola

The Historical and Genealogy Society invited Zonta members to attend the event and be included in the program. Evelyn Draughn talked about Zonta and the fact that Lois is a Charter Member and our first president. Zonta members that attended were Evelyn Draughn, Melbaleen Lewis (Charter Members), Lynda Howell, Mary Garner, Norma Savage, Mary Blackwell and Andy Chenoweth.

Current president Lynda Howell presented Lois with a plaque, on behalf of the club.



Lois Castigliola, Evelyn Draughn, Melbaleen Lewis



December Birthdays

Mary Blackwell, December 2

Connie Braun, December 21

Sandra Morrison, December 4

Upcoming Events

Saturday, Dec. 3, 2:00pm: **Plaza Nursing Home Christmas Party**, Pascagoula, MS

Thursday, Dec. 8, 5:30pm: **Zonta Christmas Party**, St. John's Episcopal Church Pasc.

Saturday, Dec. 10, 9:00am: **Home of Grace for Women Christmas Party**, Gautier, MS

Tuesday, Dec. 27, 5:30pm: **Board Meeting**, Hancock Bank Building Downtown Pasc.



Plaza Nursing Home Christmas Party

When: Saturday, December 3

Where: Plaza Nursing Home, 4403 Hospital St., Pasc., MS

Time: 2:00pm-3:30pm

Menu: Cake, Punch, nuts & mints

Come dressed in casual, cheerful Christmas attire. We will pass out gifts to the residents and be entertained by Jim Treadway & Greg Baggett from the Ole Geezers Band.

Zonta Christmas Party

When: Thursday, December 8

Where: St. John's Episcopal Church, Pascagoula, MS

Time: 5:30pm

Menu: Steak, Twice Baked Potato, Jazzed-Up Veggies, Bread Pudding & Wine

Family or friends are invited but you will have to pay for their meal. We will be playing Dirty Santa and drawing for the Cheer Basket. Jim Treadway & Greg Baggett will entertain us with Christmas music.

Home of Grace for Women Christmas Party

When: Saturday, December 10

Where: Home of Grace for Women, Gautier, MS

Time: 9:00am- 1:00pm

We will help the ladies make Christmas wreaths and help with serving lunch. Donations of wired ribbon, decorations for the wreaths, glue guns, glue sticks and scissors would be much appreciated. Bring your items to the Zonta party on Dec. 8.

Christmas 2011—Birth of a New Tradition

By: David Evans

The Christmas season has always been one of celebration, good cheer, and gift giving.

But with wallets thin and paychecks slim, perhaps we can find a new way this year to extend our hands to one another in practical and giving ways.

In our own small manner, perhaps we can start by avoiding some of the tinsel that comes out of those giant factories in Asia that have already kicked into high gear to provide us with ever more merchandise we don't really need to live a meaningful life. And as we know, this merchandise is being produced at the expense of American labor.

This year can indeed be different. This year Americans can give the gift of genuine concern for other Americans.

A friend of mine recently sent me an e-mail with many good suggestions which I am happy to share with you.

Before we start, though, we first have to get over the nonsense that nothing of worth can be found that is produced by American hands. I think we all know that myth is simply not true. It's time to think outside the proverbial gift box. Besides, who says a gift needs to fit in a shirt box, tucked in Chinese produced wrapping paper?

Some suggestions:

Everyone – yes everyone—gets their hair cut. How about gift certificates from your local hair salon or barber?

Gym membership? It's appropriate for all ages who are thinking about general fitness and overall health.

Who wouldn't appreciate getting their car detailed? Small, American owned detail shops and car washes would love to sell you a gift certificate or a book of gift certificates.

Are you one of those extravagant givers who thinks nothing of plunking down the big bucks on a Chinese-made flat-screen? Instead, how about something different. Perhaps that grateful person on your list would like his driveway sealed or plowed all winter. How about a cord of wood for a shut-it or lawn service for the summer. How about some outings at the local golf course. Besides, what's the point of getting the latest HD TV with 300 cable TV channels when most of the programming is mindless drivel. Let's get off our duffs which is good for the body and spirit and quit sitting around watching soaps and talking heads.

And who doesn't like to go out to eat once in a while. There are a bazillion owner-run restaurants – all offering gift certificates. And, if your main squeeze isn't the fancy eatery sort, what about a half dozen early morning treats at the local breakfast joint. Remember, folks, this isn't about big National chains – this is about supporting your home-town American neighbors who have their financial lives on the line. You'll be helping them keep their doors open.

How many people couldn't use an oil change for their car, truck or motorcycle done at a shop run by the American working guy?

Thinking about a heartfelt gift for mom? I'm sure that special woman would love the services of a local cleaning lady for a day.

Shop at your local thrift stores where the money they make is given to worthy local causes.

In writing this, I'm reminded that my computer could use a tune-up, and I know I can find some young guy who is struggling to get his repair business up and running.

OK, you were looking for something more personal. Local crafts people spin their own wool and knit them into scarves. They make jewelry and pottery and beautiful wooden boxes.

Plan your holiday outings at local, owner operated places of entertainment and restaurants. And be sure to leave your server a nice tip. And, how about going out to see a play or ballet at your hometown theatre. We musicians need love too, so find a venue showcasing local bands.

And don't forget to leave the mailman, trash guy or babysitter a nice big tip.

Christmas can be an opportunity to encourage American small businesses to keep plugging away to follow their dreams. And when we care about other Americans, we care about our communities, and the benefits come back to us in ways we can't imagine.

This can be the new American Christmas tradition.