

Ladies of the Lake – December 2017
by Barbara Galvin

A lovely Christmas celebration was held on December 6, 2017, at Lake Bracken by the Ladies of the Lake. The restaurant dining room was decorated for the season with exquisite Christmas trees, even sporting holiday golden ribbon bows. To complete the festive mood, Gloria Miller played Christmas songs on the Hammered Dulcimer. What a lovely sound!

Hostesses, Barb Dunlap, Barbara Jonckheere and Lonnie Woodring added to the party atmosphere by doing their best in their own expertise. Barb Dunlap with her husband Hank made happy snowmen, complete with stocking hats, for each lady to take home to continue the party. Barbara Jonckheere organizes all the details to make sure the festivities are not interrupted by difficulties. Cookie makers were entrusted with the dessert menu--cookies, cookies, and more cookies. Thank you, Sandy Morrow, Carlene Adams and Pam Gaskill. Sugar cookies, chocolate chip, strawberry cream, and brownies were just a few of the varieties of cookies beautifully arranged on a separate dessert table. Lonnie Woodring is the game director and she keeps everything moving.

Ladies of the Lake were encouraged to peruse the menu and to select whatever sounded delicious. Some favorites were the Philly Sandwich and the Club House Chicken Sandwich. Once each lady had placed her order, Peggy McGrew said a blessing over the food and the ladies present before the meals were served.

Lake Bracken makes everyone feel special, from helping the ladies decide what to select to being available for little extras like the waitress who took a group picture, not once but several times with different cameras. What a sweetie!

The dessert table beckoned to the ladies who tried to sample all the different types of cookies. Who doesn't like cookies?

Then Lonnie Woodring had center stage as she explained the rules for the gift exchange. Each lady brought a gift wrapped or placed in a holiday bag. Names were placed in an envelope and as the name was announced, the lady had her choice of any gift on the huge circular table. The gift was then opened and shown to the other ladies.

After Laura Jennings picked a rug, Sharon Butler selected a plaid throw. Now ladies were free to steal someone's else's gift and to gift that person with the unwanted gift.

Denise Thomas selected a bracelet which she wore to show off her gift. Darlyne Ackers will be staying warm with the Muk-luks she picked. Judy Brown selected the game, Tri-dominos. Gloria Miller selected her own gift, a lovely necklace. Kay McKinley admired the Christmas tree wooden stand with a star on top.

So far there had been no steals, so Jane Stevens was secure with her selection of Bear Christmas socks and a Christmas tree made with all ornaments. Nancy Powell showed off her snowman that was a night light when plugged in. Then, it happened! It was Pansy Sloan who cruised the room looking for special something--that special something turned out to be Gloria Miller's necklace which meant that Pansy had a new necklace and Gloria selected another gift from the table.

Gloria Miller had a quaint lantern. Barb Dunlap drew Christmas dish towels and potholders. Meanwhile Joy Bledsoe eyed her bracelet.

Then again, it happened! Gail Maher stole Sharon Butler's plaid throw. So Sharon went to select Innkeeper's candy. However, Gail's throw was soon Sandy Morrow's as Sandy stole it. Gail went back to the table and was pleased with a crystal snowman that lit up.

Patty Anderson had eyed Gloria Miller's lantern and soon it was Patty's lantern. Joy Bledsoe selected kitchen towels. Then Gloria Miller saw Denise Thomas' bracelet and she stole it. Denise then had a silver bracelet instead of gold. Bev Ver Steeg selected snowmen towels, before Barb Galvin picked Roasted Chestnut spray.

Linda Gregory eyed the wooden Christmas tree with a star on top. She had it! While this was happening, Gail Maher snatched a lovely bracelet with natural stones. Peggy McGrew eyed Judy Brown's game and soon it was Peggy's. Gloria Bewley selected a projection light. The lantern was stolen by Judy Brown. Patty Anderson had the snowman night lite and Barb Jonckheere selected body lotion.

Just when Pansy was relaxing with her stolen necklace, Elizabeth Hiel stole it. Not to be out done, Mariana Schrader snatched Barb Galvin's chestnut spray. With laughter as the ladies were trying to keep track of who-had-what, Gloria Miller took Barb Dunlap's bracelet, which led to Gail Maher stealing the snowman from Kay McKinley, who stole the wooden Christmas tree with a star.

Shameful ladies! Laura Jennings took her turn, and got wine with a kitchen towel. Carlene Adams had a Christmas ornament with an owl. Karol Franke had a modern necklace and Pam Gaskill went for the heavy bag-- wine!

The thieves were at it again! Barb Galvin took that wine from Pam Gaskill, while Pam selected a candle scenter. Crime does not pay! Lonnie Woodring stole that wine from Barb who then stole Laura Jennings' wine.

Laura Jennings picked a mistletoe hangar and the theft was finished!

Mariana Schrader announced a big thank you for all the fun at the party to all the hostesses. Thank you, ladies!

Several newcomers were also introduced: Kay McKinley, Karol Franke (daughter-in-law of Norma Franke, and living in Norma's house) and Linda Gregory, who has only been living at the Lake for a few months. Welcome, ladies!

Ladies of the Lake enjoying all the games, food, and company were Barbara Jonckheere, Laura Jennings, Darlyne Ackers, Jane Stevens, Lonnie Woodring, Gail Maher, Pam Gaskill, Sandy Morrow, Nancy Hoppes, Pansy Sloan, Sharon Butler, Bev Ver Steeg, Gloria Miller, Karol Franke, Barbara Galvin, Nancy Powell, Linda Gregory, Kay McKinley, Judy Brown, Peggy McGrew, Joy Bledsoe, Gloria Bewley, Elizabeth Hiel, Mariana Schrader, Carlene Adams, Barb Dunlap, and Denise Thomas.

The final surprise was the distribution of the table centerpiece poinsettias. Winners were Carlene Adams, Jane Stevens, Sharon Butler, Sandy Morrow, Patty Anderson, Laura Jennings, Elizabeth Hiel, Gail Maher, Darlyne Ackers, and Kay McKinley. Congratulations, Ladies of the Lake! The Christmas party was so pleasant, the ladies plan on returning next year.

Join the fun on January 3, 2018, when the ladies will be brown bagging their lunch. We'll find out who was naughty and who was nice! See you then.