

Ladies of the Lake News - February 2017

by Barbara Galvin

The Ladies of the Lake met on February 1, 2017, to enjoy Brown Bag Lunches. The idea of not making a fuss for the usually blustery cold months has not only caught on, but the idea is a hit! Eighteen ladies joined other "Brown Baggers" to share biographies and the fellowship unique to the group. (Maybe the "Brown Bags" are frightening the snow flakes, because both the January and February meetings were dry. We are definitely on to a meteorological discovery!)

February's meeting brought several ladies we have not seen for some time, like Marti Dallmeyer, who had numerous commitments, usually on Wednesdays. She is back and brought delicious goodies to share. Marti has the Country View Dairy products sold in Northern Iowa and also on-line and at the Macomb Co-op. She shared Triple Berry Jam and an Aromia Berry Pepper Jam with crackers and cream cheese. Scrumptious! (Don't let the "pepper" on the label scare you!) The combination of berry- sweet with a hint of pepper spice is delicious. Thistle Creek Orchard is the label. Another sample was Country View Dairy Yogurt, which has no additives, gluten-free and even light on sugar. Something people with allergies may truly appreciate. Look for the Country View Dairy label. Thank you, Marti, and the Jam Bars were yummy, too.

Chrisa Anderson, another Lady of the Lake, has been missing our meetings. Her reason is the remodeling of the previous Quilt Shop into the "Storm Shelter" Pub right in downtown Avon. The pub is open and the Ladies of the Lake were invited to visit. The March meeting will be held at "The Storm Shelter" on March 1. Chrisa brought us a sample of dessert. Thank you, Chrisa.

Chrisa also brought a new lady to join us. Mary Sheen moved to Little Swan Lake after her position in Peoria closed. She will be working for Chrisa, an accountant, in the remodeled upstairs office at The Storm Shelter. Welcome, Mary, and we hope to see you regularly.

Jane Stevens called the meeting to order after the ladies relished their no-fuss "Brown Bag" lunches. Once again several gracious ladies made desserts, like Strawberry Dream Cake and Pound Cake (like Grandma used to make) and Brownies. Thank you, dessert ladies. The last of the new directories were distributed.

Nancy Hoppes reminded everyone that the Rummage Sale will be held on May, 20, 2017, which is the Saturday after Mother's Day. Start sorting and selecting items you no longer want or use. As the May date approaches, a specific date and time will be designated for dropping off items for the Rummage Sale. Please note: no clothes and no electronics. Knick-knacks, jewelry, books, vases, dishes, and furniture are good.

Nancy also explained about the misuse of the Little Swan Lake recycling area. Some unscrupulous person dumped the old bathroom shower doors and toilet behind the recycling bin. Let's be good neighbors who play by the rules. Spend a few bucks to take care of junk so the recycling bin remains for those citizens aware of the convenience and environmentally good action.

Barb Dunlap spoke next about hearing ideas to encourage people to remove tires from Little Swan Lake. The tires are misplaced in a lake setting and must be removed. Ideas about how to get it done?

The Ladies then asked Jane if the biographies would continue. Jane said, "definitely." Chrisa Anderson and Mary Sheen volunteered to go first and second, because tax season is already here. These ladies will be extra busy!

Chrisa was born in New Hampshire and came to Avon after her husband Glenn retired from 20 years in the military and started working for the railroad. Now Chrisa has quite a schedule. She explained how both the newly opened pub and the accounting job had her working 96 hours one week! Chrisa also teaches at WIU. Talk about busy... Tax season is here so Chrisa will be working non-stop, but she took time to describe the Storm Shelter Pub. "It's cool!" The pub is open from 11:00AM until 2:00AM. The decor is Army, which Glenn envisioned. They are preparing for Super Bowl Sunday!

Mary Sheen was introduced then by Chrisa. Mary is from Bartonville, and has three grown children, a daughter and two sons. When she experienced the Peoria job closing, she was 50 years old and decided she needed a change. That change was Avon! Welcome, Mary!

Sandy Morrow was the next biographer. She was born in San Francisco, CA, but grew up in Southern Arizona in a small copper mining town where her dad worked on a smelter. She reminisced about how the Copper Mining Company literally owned everything, including the tiny houses where workers lived. It was also very segregated. There were different towns within the town itself: Indian Town, Mexican Town, and the rest of the people. Sandy attended public school and marveled that when she attended her 50th reunion, she "saw" the Hispanic influence in buildings and especially churches. Sandy became a nurse after receiving a degree from the University of Arizona. Later she worked toward a master's degree at Iowa City. She not only worked in pediatrics, she also later taught. She met her husband at Cottage Hospital where he was a pharmacist. They lived in an apartment in Galesburg as they completed boards and worried about the draft. Eventually they bought a drug store in Bushnell and in 1975 they moved to Little Swan Lake. Sandy has a son and a daughter, both professionals. That's not surprising since Sandy taught for 20 years at Carl Sandburg, in Macomb and in Canton. Since her husband, Bob, retired, he and Sandy travel.

Sharon Butler, born in Kewanee, is also a nurse. She attended the School of Nursing where she met her future husband John in her senior year. Graduating in 1964, Sharon and John began their family of four lovely and talented daughters. Laura, Linda, Kelly and Cara live close. Linda followed Sharon's lead and became an RN. Sharon is Grandma to Lily, Preston, Grace and Emily, who keep her busy. Sharon remembered beginning her nursing career at Cottage Hospital in 1964 when she made \$1.85 per hour; we all laughed at that but also remembered. By 1968, Sharon worked her way up to supervisor. Meanwhile her husband John decided to build a home which is in Greenbush. There were difficulties in getting the home built but Sharon and John persisted and enjoy their home, especially since Sharon retired in 2004.

Marti Dallmeyer grew up in Roseville, married a Caterpillar engineer, and eventually inherited her family's farm. She attended both Indiana University and Purdue and became head of dietetics at Barnes Jewish Hospital. She worked at OSF in Peoria and joined WIU's faculty. She worked at the University of Tennessee where she was told about her Yankee accent. She was a nutritionist, while her husband opened a "hotel" for flight attendants to stay with them in Denver, CO. Later, Marti earned a PhD. She then taught at the University of Iowa and earned a pilot's license. She has two sons. Marti eventually took a teaching position at WIU, where she spent 23 years. She also taught at Bradley University and enjoyed accompanying students to Europe for six years. Marti is now running the family business, The Farm. She is appreciative to be working with the best soil in the world to produce the best food.

Barb Dunlap volunteered to go last because her story would be short! Barb grew up in West Chicago where Campbell Soup Factory supplied jobs for the large Mexican section of the city. Her Dad was a "founding father" of Naperville, while her Mom was from Windfield. Her ancestry story was about her grandfather who owned businesses and never discussed financial problems. No one in the family knew the situation, but when Grandfather died, people paid long standing debts which had been given as loans to help out during the depression. Grandpa had quite the funeral! Barb herself went

to Catholic schools in Wheaton and then on to Southern University. Barb was at Southern when Kent State erupted in violence and riots. Her experiences were summed up with Barb saying, "I was in the wrong place at the wrong time." She saw mob action and experienced pepper spray and was forced to hide beneath a car to avoid arrest. She received a BS in Computer Science and had a most unique interview for her first job. It focused on Barb's Kent State rioting experiences and the interview lasted one day and half of the next day. But Barb was hired and when the company closed, she was called back. She worked for the same company for 44 years. Barb met her husband Hank over the problems of always parking in front of his house. Hank had a Corvette. Eventually they made a deal. Two sons later, they lived in Naperville and Oswego in the 1970s. Then, when Barb's mother died and the dog died too, she needed a change. They decided that looking for a house might help. Barb worked her magic on the computer and found Little Swan Lake. As Hank and Barb drove to find this house, neither was happy. The place, Little Swan Lake, was "too far away" and "too expensive" and too hard to find. Yes, GPS failed them! They were heading by way of Greenbush! But, the price had declined and soon they were "found" again. Barb and Hank love Little Swan Lake!

The Ladies of the Lake attending the Brown Bag February meeting were: Elizabeth Hiel, Gail Maher, Barb Dunlap, Sharon Butler, Gloria Bewley, Jane Stevens, Nancy Hoppes, Sandy Morrow, Barbara Galvin, Marti Dallmeyer, Darlyne Ackers, Patty Anderson, Bev Ver Steeg, Laura Jennings, Judy Brown, Chrisa Anderson, Peggy McGrew, and Mary Sheen.

On March 1st, we will be meeting at the Storm Shelter Pub in Avon for lunch. Be prepared to feast both your eyes on all the Army memorabilia and your stomach on a delicious lunch.