

## **Ladies of the Lake – June 2017**

**by Barbara Galvin**

**On June 7, 2017, the sun was bright and the Ladies of the Lake were happy to return to their regular routine meeting at the pavilion, with a potluck luncheon. Hostesses, Pam Gaskill and Peggy McGrew, not only made the pavilion look lovely with flowers on lace tablecloths, but also added class and laughter with the "Wear a hat" theme.**

**Some ladies liked wearing their hats so much that they never took them off! Others had the hat, but did not wear it until the "show and tell" part of the afternoon. Actually the ladies looked classy with a variety of hats from wide brims and lots of color to baseball caps with sparkle. Pam Gaskill shared some historic information about hats.**

**Hats were originally protection for the head, especially from weapons. Pam also explained how hats were considered a symbol of status; only the wealthy were allowed to wear certain head-coverings. Eventually as styles changed, and the middle class expanded, hats became fashionable. Slogans were even utilized by millinery companies to promote sales: "Get ahead! Get noticed! Wear a hat!"**

**More practically, science and medicine have given people solid evidence that there is more to wearing a hat than fashion. Consider the fact that heat is lost through the head uncovered in cold weather. So, mothers know to cover a baby's head with a hat. Even hospitals now put stocking hats on newborns.**

**In the history of hats, the most popular period was the Roaring Twenties. Today, except for the extravaganza of the Kentucky Derby hats, and church ceremonies like weddings, hats are not a regular fashion accessory.**

**However, for the Ladies of the Lake, hats were important for this June meeting. Bev Ver Steeg began sharing the story of her hat, a beige straw, which could be washed by hand and totally "crushed" to be packed and still look brand new. It had a medium sized brim and strings to keep it from "flying away." Bev loves that hat!**

**Jane Stevens was next with a hat from a wedding in the 1950s. It was a little blue hat that sat on top of her head, with little extensions to clasp the sides of her head. Memories of a wedding... Yes!**

**Peggy McGrew put on a cap that advertises seed corn sold by her husband. It pays to advertise! Sharon Butler brought her nurse's hat, but the photo of her in the hat was even more revealing. A trip back to the time when all the nurses wore hats! Remember?**

**Talking of nurses, Sandy Morrow also brought a hat which most resembled a box, made from the ribs of cactus. It was from the University of Arizona School of Nursing. Sandy's husband called the hat "the lampshade." Can you see it?**

**Barb Dunlap shared a moving story of "Red Hats," and her dear mother, who never wanted to join "Red Hats" because she considered it was for old ladies. Her mother was determined never to join when she was in her 60s. Then, when she was 93 years old and residing in a nursing home, Barb visited her and saw a photo of her mom in a red hat! The staff had put a red hat on her mother for their "Red Hats" photos. Barb burned the photo after her mother passed away.**

**Nona Kempton had a positive story of Red Hats groups. To Nona, the group meant "do your own thing!" Freedom was the key, especially freedom of expression. Nona showed us her freedom--- no hat on her head, but a visor.**

**Lonnie Woodring wore a cap from a vacation to Mt. Vernon, where she had visited several presidential homes. But Lonnie was convinced that the true father of the nation is not George Washington but Patrick Henry! Patrick Henry had 17 children! (enough said....)**

**Mary Ingassi wore a blue cap, which is her favorite work hat. The favorite changes each year because Mary throws away the hat at the end of the season.**

**Nancy Hoppes sported a huge brimmed hat with colored strips in straw. Nancy could have gone to the Derby; instead her hat was from the Roseville Garden Club meetings.**

**Barb Jonckheere had a spanky straw hat, which was 20 years old and in perfect shape! It was the first wearing of the hat. (Barb does not like hats, except on others!)**

**Laura Jennings wore a Bass Pro Shop cap which was the designated "Breakfast cap" for hunting season. It was only worn for the restaurant!**

**The talk of hunting lead Gail Maher to share her story of her own hunting experience in a tree stand. She wore so many layers, she was told not to worry about being hurt if she fell. She'd bounce! (No, she did not shoot a deer; she did ask, "will it cry?")**

**Jane Stevens gave the treasury report. The Rummage Sale was a success so the Memorial Garden will be taken care of with mulch and whatever else is needed. Also, the raffle was a money raiser. Winners of hand crafted items made by Hank and Barb Dunlap were:**

**Sandy Langdon---the tall birdhouse, Jen Kuehn-- the snowman, Dawn Ramirez-- the cat, and Connie Chandler-- the small birdhouse.**

**Congratulations, winners!**

**Nancy Hoppes thanked everyone who helped in any way for the Rummage Sale.**

**The luncheon had a large variety of salads: sweet kale salad, apple salad, fruit salad, potato salad and meat loaf with chicken salad sandwiches. Desserts were delicious, from a number of strawberry molds to key lime pie, from brownies to coffee cake, from cheery cheese cake to apple caramel cookies. The ladies enjoyed.**

**Then, hostesses Pam Gaskill and Peggy McGrew surprised everyone with a drawing of numbers for two lovely Boston ferns which were center pieces on the tables. Winners were Nancy Hoppes and Sharon Butler. Congratulations, ladies!**

**Ladies of the Lake wearing their hats were Pam Gaskill, Bev Ver Steeg, Jane Stevens, Gail Maher, Sharon Butler, Sandy Morrow, Barbara Jonckheere, Patty Anderson, Nona Kempton, Barb Dunlap, Nancy Hoppes, Laura Jennings, Mary Ingassi, Lonnie Woodring, Peggy McGrew, Barb Potter, and Barbara Galvin.**

**The hostesses for July 5th meeting reminded the Ladies to bring a Brown Bag lunch for that day. Sandy Morrow and Carlene Adams will provide drinks and desserts. Make it a date to see us after the 4th of July, on the 5th with a Brown Bag lunch in hand.**

**Nancy Hoppes also reminded ladies that there will be entertainment on the Little Swan Lake by Shubie's Trio on July 8th from 5:30-6:30PM. Bring a lawn chair or pull-up the boat to hear this trip play music from the 70s and 80s. They have played in Monmouth. Have you heard them?**

**Plan for the future. On September 2nd, Nona Kempton and Jane Stevens will be hostesses. We will be ordering out! A "show and tell" is being planned. So, gather your goodies, needle work, stitching, drawings/paintings, photography. Whatever you are happy creating and pleased to share, bring along to September's Ladies of the Lake meeting.**