

## Ladies of the Lake - October 2018

By Barbara Galvin

Autumn was in the air! On October 3, 2018, the Ladies of the Lake met to greet and meet one another once again before our “snow birds” fly away south. Our hostesses created an autumn festival right in the Pavilion with orange and yellow, highlighting pumpkins of all sizes and shapes.

Hostesses, Pam Gaskill and Lonnie Woodring, are a dynamic duo! Everything looked lovely, like a fall day, but without the wind. Fall leaf garlands graced the tables along with ceramic pumpkins, metal pumpkins and, of course, plastic pumpkins. Beverages were also in keeping with the autumn theme. From apple cider to lemonade, with iced tea in between, Pam and Lonnie made sure everyone quenched her thirst.

After the grace before the luncheon, ladies were sampling Pork with Apples, Tuna Noodle Casserole, Chicken Florentine, along with several scrumptious salads. Those who favor healthy salad options ate Traditional Tossed Salad, Marinated Vegetable Salad, or Potato Salad. The more adventurous ladies had Snicker Doodle Salad and Watergate salad.

No lady skips dessert, especially at the Ladies of the Lake luncheon. Pecan Pie had the ladies beginning with dessert! Several kinds of cookies made snacking easy. Lady’s choice was peanut butter cookies or Halloween decorated cookies. More fall servings were Pumpkin Crunch Cake and Brownies.

Before door prizes (donated by hostess Pam Gaskill) and Halloween stories began, Barbara Galvin gave the ladies an update on Jane Stevens, our organizer and dear friend. Jane has been having some medical difficulties, so she needs our prayers.

The Halloween stories began with hostess Lonnie Woodring leading the group. Lonnie shared with us that “treats were a BIG deal!” She used a pillow case for the “treasure.” When she went back home, the kids traded candy so everyone had their favorites.

Barbara Galvin reminisced about checking out the houses with long lines of ghosts, witches, and cowboys. The lines meant “homemade treats” like popcorn balls, cookies, taffy apples, and individual candy bags. Delicious!

Barb Dunlap added to the Halloween stories with memories of her parents’ holiday tricks. Yes! The parents in Naperville and Winfield celebrated with five or six days of tricks before the treats were distributed. Remember, times change!

The mention of tricks made Barb Jonckheere remember that all eggs were taken away—literally, because when they were used, heavy duty cleanup was needed. So, Barb shared that they were instructed to play “nice tricks.”

Nona Kempton had all the ladies in stitches with laughter as she narrated how she and her late husband dressed up as cave dwellers to become the ugliest caveman and cave woman ever! Costumes were “required” for the adult Halloween party they attended.

Darlyne Ackers fondly remembered dunking for apples. With Darlyne’s large family they had to wait their turn.

Bev VerSteeg told how only “not used” outhouses were overturned. She and her late husband took their three children “trick or treating” in relay style. One parent stayed home, usually Bev, who then made popcorn balls, while the other made the rounds with the children.

Talk of costumes, Patty Anderson remembered only homemade costumes. No surprise at the number of ghosts!

Laura Jennings added that she even remembered using a striped sheet, so she became the “hippie ghost.”

Being a farm gal, Peggy McGrew began with telling us that she was a teenager before she even realized what “trick or treat” was. She began her story when she was 15 years old and became initiated. The other teens were all convinced that tricks had to come before treats, so Peggy became an accomplice in the soaping of her own aunt’s windows. Poor Peggy was wishing they had been caught! No such luck— so her guilt grew, especially when her aunt shared with Peggy, “why did the kids do that? They never did before.” Peggy never participated again in tricks!

On a positive note, Barb Potter “trick or treated” for UNICEF. She and her friends collected pennies for hungry children. Cherie Lock recalled that special “trick or treaters” received homemade donuts at her house, while others received popcorn balls. The family visited Nauvoo, where there were wonderful displays of elaborately carved pumpkins.

Getting to the spooky Halloween, Barb Jonckheere remembered some rogues commandeering their tree house where they waited to jump down and “steal” the other kids’ candy.

That caper reminded Laura Jennings of two brothers in her neighborhood. Their outhouse was a regular target for pranksters, until the Halloween when they moved their outhouse two feet forward!

The saddest Halloween memory was shared by Carlene Adams. She explained that costumes that were not handmade were “treasures,” so when her mother had two costumes, one for Carlene’s brother and the other for Carlene, she was happy---until her gorilla costume won the Ugliest Costume Award! Carlene was only five years old and she cried all the way home. Not the way Halloween gatherings are supposed to end.

A small town native, Pam Gaskill remembered the Lions’ club Costume Party which was held in the school gym. Pam said, “it was a BIG deal!” There were classes for ghosts and witches among others to learn how to make costumes.

A trip back to the 80’s was where Patty Anderson took the ladies. Her home town decorated all the houses elaborately, but her neighbor, Cindy Romano, out decorated everyone else! Cindy had human sized decorations, including a coffin where Cindy hid and popped up to scare the three sons Patty brought to tour.

Finally, Nancy Hoppes shared her story of her four year old son, John David, loving the decorations in her own Rosco. It was a huge cauldron complete with a witch stirring the pot. Who knows what children think, especially for Halloween?

Ladies of the Lake enjoying an early Halloween celebration were Pam Gaskill, Laura Jennings, Darlyne Ackers, Nona Kempton, Barbara Jonckheere, Barb Potter, Nancy Hoppes, Cherie Lock, Lonnie Woodring, Patty Anderson, Peggy McGrew, Carlene Adams, Bev Ver Steeg, Barbara Galvin, and Barb Dunlap.

Pam Gaskill creatively had hidden “special” leaves beneath three of the chairs around the tables. The Ladies were told to check out the bottom of their chairs, and the three lucky ladies who found the leaves won Pam’s door prizes, lovely mum plants. Winners were Bev Ver Steeg, Barb Potter, and Laura Jennings. Congratulations, ladies, and thank you, Pam, for making such fun.

Enjoy the last “hurrah” for lovely colors and lovely weather. Safe traveling is our wish for all our “snow birds,” and return healthy and rested.

Please plan to join us on November 7 for an early Thanksgiving celebration with hostesses, Darlyne Ackers and Barbara Galvin.