

Ladies of the Lake – September 2017
by Barbara Galvin

The Ladies of the Lake met on September 6, 2017, and proved what many members already suspected. If the ladies do not need to cook anything, they will come! The numbers do not lie; there were 26 ladies at this September meeting. That number is usually reserved for holiday celebrations, which are also catered events; no surprise!

Main Street Cafe, at 101 South Main Street in Avon, catered a delicious lunch consisting of spaghetti with meat sauce, a tossed salad with several choices of dressing, garlic bread, and the best surprise, a cake. However, this was not just any old regular cake. This was a lovely sheet cake, decorated with "Ladies of the Lake" in bold letters across a blue frosting sky and water where swans were intrigued to see! Huge piles of crafts were placed on tables across from the serving area. The Ladies of the Lake remembered Nona asking everyone to bring a sample of her craft. Most complied with the request.

Before the "parade of crafts" began, Jane Stevens called the ladies to order to give the treasury report. Sandy Morrow also asked for the ladies to check out our favorite paper, which prints our Ladies of the Lake article each month, the Argus-Sentinal. This time, Sandy was giving us advance notice to watch for a special article about her husband, Bob.

Bob Morrow has never missed an Iowa Hawkeye home football game for 50 years. Yes! You read the number correctly--- 50 years. Even when he was hospitalized at the Student Health Center as a young man, he managed to check himself out for the Iowa game and then checked himself back in after the game. It is loyalty and dedication beyond most fans! Ergo, the paper is writing his story. Check out the Argus-Sentinal for the details.

Next, Carlene Adams asked for the ladies to please be vigilant in notifying her and the "Welcoming Committee" about new people moving to Little Swan Lake, so they may be cordially greeted.

Peggy McGrew reminded everyone of Walnut Grove United Methodist Church's annual fried chicken dinner to be held on September 16 from 4:00-7:00PM. A free will offering is the cost.

Martha Dallmeyer thanked ladies of the cards and flowers while she was recuperating from back surgery. She happily reported, "no more brace." Keep on healing, Marti.

Finally, everyone was full of delicious food and ready to look over the variety of crafts brought by so many of the Ladies of the Lake. As was fitting, Nona Kempton began; it was her idea to share! Nona has been quilting for 12 years and she has a huge variety of lovely quilts to prove her dedication and talent. She began by showing a brown with beige traditional quilt that she made in a quilting class. It was a Nine-patch Variation. Nona also completed a Mystery Quilt, which was made by directions given by one person. Guess everyone was surprised!

Nona also demonstrated how scraps of fabric could be utilized with glue for a collage effect. Another stunning quilt was a study of watercolors in squares of color. Rows of color ranged from light to dark or dark to light. Then, Nona gave her professionalism-signature by showing how all quilts need a label to identify the quilt-maker and date. Her examples were for her grandsons, of course, bearing the label, "Made by Grandma Nona." One was traditional squares with animals and alphabet letters. Each grandson received his own special quilt and then as they grew, the quilts reflected their special interests. Even Nona's dog has a quilt, a reversible one no less.

Nona also made a T-shirt quilt to remember colleges and vacation spots for a relative. Lots of work, but Nona also received 1st Prize in the Fat Steer Show Home and Garden Show. Her blue ribbons were proudly displayed on the winning quilts.

Darlene Armstrong showed her accomplishment during her Alabama stay, where she is eight months of the year. A beautiful pinwheel design graced her quilt.

Judy Rogers, who reminded the ladies of her first love, writing children's nonfiction books with her grandson, is anxious to begin book number 5. But, Judy also showed an exquisite cross-stitched lady framed. She also is into painting dried gourds. Never a dull moment!

Barb Dunlap, who has already shown her husband's talent and her own in so many projects., brought the cutest Halloween plastic pumpkin for Trick or Treat. This Halloween pumpkin was the head of a little doll for the costume day.

Nancy Nystrom made a stunning Thanksgiving runner for her table. She also mentioned another labor of love, a Christmas runner stitched with gold thread by hand. Nancy's misadventure with quilting was creating an elephant quilt, which had "stuffed" elephants, that made the quilt much too heavy. Her solution: surgery was performed on the elephants!

Paula Hoffmann is the real quilter! She and her husband Brian owned the Quilt Shop in Avon for 26 years. Paula displayed a unique quilt with striking horizontal strips of rainbow colors, creating the background for the star of the quilt-- a dachshund that is divided! Yes! The dog's head and front paws are located on the left side of the quilt, while the dog's back paws and its tail are on the right side. The dachshund is too long for a quilt! So cute! Did I mention the doggie is checkered with lovely pastel color cubes? Too darling to part with! Though that is not an option since Paula's own Mia was the model for the quilt.

Pam Gaskill does candlewicking. She brought an exquisite "antique" pillow highlighting ribbon around a vase of flowers.

Judy Jones is a pro with a knife! She is a first class carver. She has been carving for 25 years. Judy brought a buffalo head made out of butternut wood; she carved the realistic head in one week. She also showed the ladies a "doodle," or so she called it; it was a realistic carving of a human hand. Such talent should be shared, and Judy is doing so. She is teaching a class at Wesley Woodshop on Thursday afternoons.

Kay McKinley held up a lovely serving tray, made of wood. She had painted an Easter bunny with basket. She claimed to not be "crafty," but we disagreed, especially when she added that what she really remembers about the painted tray was the telephone call she received before it was finished. The call informed her that the Christmas tree was no longer standing! No wonder she was getting ready for Easter!

Sharon Butler brought a "work of art" created by her dear friend, Gail Maher, another Lady of the Lake. Gail made an album, 10 years ago, to celebrate Sharon's vacation to New Zealand and Australia. The album has a cloth cover with Gail's crewel work. Sharon also got a laugh when she held up her \$40 pot holder. It is a star quilt pattern and it was made in a class where she learned that making star points was not fun!

Sandy Morrow painted several basket lids to create her own one-of-a-kind basket. Sandy also shared her secret, she has tried every kind of craft, but painting is her favorite.

Patty Anderson shared her passion for making small boxes to hold earrings or small pins. The boxes are made from greeting cards; decorated card on top and white back of card for the bottom.

Jane Stevens is a knitter. She took her hand-made afghan off the couch, because she shared, "I use it every day!"

A special thank you to Nona Kempton for the acorn napkin rings she made as favors for the Ladies of the Lake.

Those ladies who exclaimed they were not into crafts, still held the floor with their stories of why they do not do crafts. Carlene Adams had the best story! She was newly married and it was Christmas time, so she was making a gingerbread house. Six hours later, poor Carlene had half the house together but it never was finished. Into the garbage can it went! No more crafts for Carlene.

Ladies of the Lake enjoying the luncheon were Sandy Morrow, Judy Rogers, Paula Hoffmann, Nancy Nystrom, Nancy Hoppes, Gloria Miller, Gail Maher, Denise Thomas, Cora Lee Douglas, Carlene Adams, Peggy McGrew, Pam Gaskill, Barbara Galvin, Barbara Jonckheere, Kay McKinley, Barb Dunlap, Barb Potter, Bev Ver Steeg, Martha Dallmeyer, Judi Jones, Sharon Butler, Judy Brown, Mariana Schrader, Darlene Armstrong, Patty Anderson, and Nona Kempton.

Interesting Note: we actually had to introduce ourselves for September's meeting because we had so many new faces, or faces not seen for quite a while. Please don't be a stranger, come join us! We discovered Ladies of the Lake had 8 nurses and 8 teachers among other hard working ladies.

Mark the calendar for October 4th. Share in the fun, food and community news. Get to know neighbors and make new friends. See you on October 4th! Our hostesses will be Barb Dunlap and Barb Potter. (Two Barbs--- what could be better, asked the writer of this column, also a Barbara!)