



Zonta Club of St. Paul
Member of Zonta International
Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

Zonta Paul

Volume 85, Issue 6 - November 2011

<http://www.zontastpaul.org>

Greetings!

I hope everyone has been able to get out and enjoy the wonderful fall weather we have been having! The birch and some maple trees still haven't lost all their leaves. Driving through southeastern Minnesota last week still showed a nice array of yellow, orange and bronze foliage.

We met at Evelyn's on September 25th for a program meeting. Our guest speaker was Heather from Breaking Free, whose mission is "To educate and provide services to women and girls who have been victims of abuse and commercial sexual exploitation (prostitution/sex trafficking) and need assistance escaping the violence in their lives."

Breaking Free Internal Statistics: Facts About the Women and Girls in our Program

- 85% are victims of rape/molestation before the age of 18
- 95% use drugs/alcohol to numb the pain
- 83% are victims of assault with a deadly weapon
- 57% have been kidnapped at some point
- 60-90% are without safe housing
- 100% are someone's daughter, sister, and/or mother

We are planning on connecting with their volunteer coordinator to see what our club can do for them.

Alice Smith, our area director, also updated us on the fall conference and told us about what other clubs in our district are doing. Our new area director for the next biennium is Cheryl Retterath from Austin Zonta Club. The other positions for the District were unopposed. All of the proposed amendments passed.

Thank you to Evelyn for sharing her new home and its facilities with us.

Our Next Meeting will be Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Our next meeting will be hosted by Phyllis Acker and Erma McGuire at the Ridgewood Room in their condo building. Address is 334 Cherokee Avenue. Plan to arrive between 3-4 p.m. Since this is also a security building, Phyllis will be watching for us to arrive. We will be making the fleece blankets for young mothers at this meeting.

We will be discussing the various options we have for supporting the Minneapolis Tornado women victims as well as other service grants. Jan Shannon contacted Kwanzaa Community Church, located at Bryant Avenue North, in Minneapolis regarding needs of these women. They are in need of basic essentials. Cub gift cards would be an immense help and toiletry items, such as toilet paper, etc. and things that are not available from food support and food assistance programs. Some of these things include soap, paper products and household supplies.

MVNA also indicated that Cub gift cards would be the most appreciated item. They have clients throughout the metro area who could use the gift cards, not just the North Minneapolis tornado victims.

Joan contacted Keystone and will be getting more information on any programs that they have that we might be able to support.

Here is a little information from their website. "Keystone Community Services is a community-based human service organization in St. Paul, Minnesota, offering a variety of human service



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programs for all ages across our service area at multiple sites. Our programs include three food shelves and emergency assistance; a comprehensive Seniors Program that provides Meals on Wheels, peer counseling and programs for active seniors; case management for seniors, the disabled and at-risk families; and a support program for Hmong youth and their families.”

All programs would, of course, accept a monetary donation.

We have heard from Emma Norton Residence and have a speaker coming to share what Emma Norton is and does and what our group might be able to help with.

Altrusa suggested that we work together on an MVNA project. They have a number of groups that they support in addition to MVNA, all of which are projects that help support women in various areas.

Cost for the November meeting will be \$20, with net proceeds going into our service fund.

If you are able to, please bring items to the November meeting for our Holiday bags. We will be determining a date for the “Shopping Spree” and location for assembling the gift bags. Items needed include candy, cookies, crackers, note pads, stocking stuffers, etc. that are individually wrapped, toiletries, and other items that young women would enjoy. The bags are not intended to provide basic needs, but rather, those things that a young woman or mom might not have access to.

MEMBER NEWS **Happy Birthday to:**

Pat – November 3rd
Joan – November 15th
Dorothy – November 21st

POINSETTIA SALES



Enclosed in this packet are the flyers for the annual poinsettia and greens sale. Linder’s raised their price on the pixies, but kept the other poinsettia and plants at last year’s prices. The greens are new arrangements this year and priced accordingly.

Judy will be taking your orders and sending them in to Linder’s. Contact her with any questions you may have. Please do what you can with the sale. As always, the proceeds will go to our service projects.

Tuesday - DECEMBER 13, 2011
MEETING:

Our December meeting will be a Holiday Event at Judy’s home. It will be held Tuesday, December 13th starting at 5:30. Please invite any friends or prospective members to this meeting. It will be strictly a social event.

Tuesday - January 24, 2012

Meeting will feature our guest speaker from Emma Norton. Please mark your calendar.

I found a number of interesting articles about Thanksgiving on the internet and thought this one was the simplest and informative. As with anything on the internet, I hope it is true and



correct, since anyone can put anything on the internet and give it the appearance of truth! This article is from www.wilstar.com a multi-themed site to search for information, news, puzzles, games, fun science and holiday history.

THE THANKSGIVING STORY

“Most stories of Thanksgiving history start with the harvest celebration of the pilgrims and the Native Americans that took place in the autumn of 1621. Although they did have a three-day feast in celebration of a good harvest, and the local natives did participate, this "first thanksgiving" was not a holiday, simply a gathering. There is little evidence that this feast of thanks led directly to our modern Thanksgiving Day holiday. Thanksgiving can, however, be traced back to 1863 when Pres. Lincoln became the first president to proclaim Thanksgiving Day. The holiday has been a fixture of late November ever since.

However, since most school children are taught that the first Thanksgiving was held in 1621 with the Pilgrims and Indians, let us take a closer look at just what took place leading up to that event, and then what happened in the centuries afterward that finally gave us our modern Thanksgiving.

The Pilgrims who sailed to this country aboard the Mayflower were originally members of the English Separatist Church (a Puritan sect). They had earlier fled their home in England and sailed to Holland (The Netherlands) to escape religious persecution. There, they enjoyed more religious tolerance, but they eventually became disenchanted with the Dutch way of life, thinking it ungodly. Seeking a better life, the Separatists negotiated with a London stock company to finance a pilgrimage to America. Most of those making the trip aboard the Mayflower were non-Separatists, but were hired to protect the

company's interests. Only about one-third of the original colonists were Separatists.

The Pilgrims set ground at Plymouth Rock on December 11, 1620. Their first winter was devastating. At the beginning of the following fall, they had lost 46 of the original 102 who sailed on the Mayflower. But the harvest of 1621 was a bountiful one. And the remaining colonists decided to celebrate with a feast - including 91 natives who had helped the Pilgrims survive their first year. It is believed that the Pilgrims would not have made it through the year without the help of the natives. The feast was more of a traditional English harvest festival than a true "thanksgiving" observance. It lasted three days.

Governor William Bradford sent "four men fowling" after wild ducks and geese. It is not certain that wild turkey was part of their feast. However, it is certain that they had venison. The term "turkey" was used by the Pilgrims to mean any sort of wild fowl.

Another modern staple at almost every Thanksgiving table is pumpkin pie. But it is unlikely that the first feast included that treat. The supply of flour had been long diminished, so there was no bread or pastries of any kind. However, they did eat boiled pumpkin, and they produced a type of fried bread from their corn crop. There was also no milk, cider, potatoes, or butter. There were no domestic cattle for dairy products, and the newly-discovered potato was still considered by many Europeans to be poisonous. But the feast did include fish, berries, watercress, lobster, dried fruit, clams, venison, and plums.

This "thanksgiving" feast was not repeated the following year. Many years passed before the event was repeated. It wasn't until June of 1676 that another Day of thanksgiving was



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proclaimed. On June 20 of that year the governing council of Charlestown, Massachusetts, held a meeting to determine how best to express thanks for the good fortune that had seen their community securely established. By unanimous vote they instructed Edward Rawson, the clerk, to proclaim June 29 as a day of thanksgiving. It is notable that this thanksgiving celebration probably did not include Native Americans, as the celebration was meant partly to be in recognition of the colonists' recent victory over the "heathen natives." By then, it had become apparent to the settlers that the natives were a hindrance to their quest for more land, so the good will they shared at the first feast had long been lost.

A hundred years later, in October of 1777 all 13 colonies joined in a thanksgiving celebration. It also commemorated the patriotic victory over the British at Saratoga. But it was a one-time affair.

George Washington proclaimed a National Day of Thanksgiving in 1789, although some were opposed to it. There was discord among the colonies, many feeling the hardships of a few pilgrims did not warrant a national holiday. And later, President Thomas Jefferson opposed the idea of having a day of thanksgiving.

It was Sarah Josepha Hale, a magazine editor, whose efforts eventually led to what we recognize as Thanksgiving. Hale wrote many editorials championing her cause in her *Boston Ladies' Magazine*, and later, in *Godey's Lady's Book*. Finally, after a 40-year campaign of writing editorials and letters to governors and presidents, Hale's obsession became a reality when, in 1863, President Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November as a national day of Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving was proclaimed by every president after Lincoln. The date was changed a couple of times, most recently by Franklin Roosevelt, who set it up one week to the next-to-last Thursday in order to create a longer Christmas shopping season. Public uproar against this decision caused the president to move Thanksgiving back to its original date two years later. And in 1941, Thanksgiving was finally sanctioned by Congress as a legal holiday, as the fourth Thursday in November.

CORNUCOPIA, korn-yoo-KO-pee-uh

One of the most recognizable symbols of Thanksgiving is the cornucopia, also called horn of plenty. It is a decorative motif, originating in ancient Greece, that symbolizes abundance. The original cornucopia was a curved goat's horn filled to overflowing with fruit and grain. It symbolizes the horn possessed by Zeus's nurse, the Greek nymph Amalthea, which could be filled with whatever the owner wished."

Please contact Dorothy at 612-724-3799 to let her know if you are or are not attending the November meeting by November 14th. It is earlier than usual since our meeting date is a week earlier due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Hope to see all of you at the November 15th meeting.

Peggy