



VOICE

What Makes the Holidays?

Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect.

-- Oren Arnold

This time of year is crazy for all of us shopping, baking etc. But if we stop and think about it, what are the holidays truly about? Family, friends and celebrating a special time of year, a time when we can all come together and put aside the differences of the past year. For me that means my father's meatball sandwiches on Christmas Eve (yes that is our tradition) and watching "A Christmas Story" for 24 straight hours! Those are the silly things that my family and I will always cherish but what we will cherish even more is the time that we are together, the time we celebrate each other - those are the things that last, and they last a lot longer than what is found under the tree.

-Kathy

Dates to Remember

December 1st - 6:30pm Samaritan House Tree Lighting
Medford Memorial School

December 3rd - 6:00 pm Dickens Festival
Main Street, Medford Village

December 8th - 6:00 pm HOLI DAY PARTY
see details below

December 9th - 4:00 pm Medford Police
Operation Santa Tree Decorating
Medford Police Station

December 12th - Trip to Longwood Gardens

December 20th - Hanukkah Begins

December 25th - Christmas

December 26th - Kwanzaa Begins



Medford Works! - Making a Difference in the Community

The Medford Works Action Summit is scheduled to be held at Camp Ockanickon on Monday, February 27, from 8:00 a.m. through 1 p.m. (including lunch). The cost will be announced, but it should not be more than \$12-\$15 for coffee, bagels and then soup and sandwiches. All conference materials will be provided.

WCOM will co-facilitate the community non-profit group discussion with Sunrise Rotary. Other discussion topics will include Main St development (HMVA), Off-Main Small Business in Medford (MBA), Medford Event Planning (Medford Township), Economic Development Commission/mission, vision, and goals (EDC), and other topics as suggested. It will be an informal forum to seek solutions. Each breakout session will be encouraged to identify a concern, examine available resources, and draft an action plan.

Chris Schultz, Medford township manager, will welcome the group and stay to participate.

Registration materials with more specifics will be distributed with the January Voice and at that meeting.

www.medford-works.com

December Program



Holiday Party at Vicki's House
Menu
Citrus Tilapia - Chicken Marsala
Garden Salad
Rosemary Potatoes - Vegetable Medley
Sign up for Dessert/Appetizer/Beverage
\$20. per person

Holiday Party will include our Cookie Can Project as well as our gifts for the Home for the Aged Ladies. Please bring unused Christmas cards for Ancora patients as well!
And don't forget our unforgettable "take it from your neighbor" Pollyanna! (\$20 limit)



Home Life

Samaritan Hospice

The date is set for the Samaritan Hospice Tree Lighting. Thursday, December 1, 2011 at 7:00pm at Medford Memorial School. Please let Susan know what you will be bringing.

Medford Police Operation Santa

We will again be decorating the tree for Operation Santa. The date is December 9th at 4:00.

Home for Aged Women

We will, once again be providing holiday gifts to the residents at the Home for Aged Women.

Cookie Can Project

The Woman's Club of Medford will once again be participating in the annual Cookie Can project. We ask that each member bring 3 dozen cookies to the Holiday party for packaging.

Jan Stehlik has graciously agreed to transport the cookies to the Mt. Holly Soup Kitchen..



Mothers Matter

Mark your calendars - we have set our field trip to Mothers Matter for Wednesday, April 18, 2012.

Education

Book Donations

Please bring your donations of books and/or magazines for distribution to the Ancora Psychiatric Hospital Library. Julie will be accepting donations in October, January, March and May.

Girls' Career Institute

We have decided to sponsor a girl for participation in the Girls' Career Institute.

Girls' Career Institute is an annual program held at Douglass College and sponsored by the NJSFWC for high school Junior girls to explore women's issues and encourage awareness to contemporary problems.

More details to follow.

Read Across America Day

March 2, 2012

Details to follow

Spelling Bee Update

Dates for the Spelling Bee:

Mock Bee - January 11, 2012

Bee - January 18, 2012

Snow Date - January 25, 2012

Education cont.

Spelling Bee Update

We will be looking for volunteers in the following areas:

Registrars

Refreshments

Floater - to keep the kids in line etc.

Set up

Clean up

Due to the timing of the bee Sign up will be via email at the beginning of January.

International Outreach

We will be creating a Team Heifer starting in the new year.

"Heifer's mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth. By giving families a hand-up, not just a hand-out, we empower them to turn lives of hunger and poverty into self-reliance and hope." Consider giving a Heifer gift this holiday season - www.heifer.org.

Arts

Christmas Tree Contest

Look for the WCOM entry starting December 10th on Main Street. The tree will have a bird theme - pine cones covered in peanut butter then rolled in birdseed. If anyone has a small bird feeder they would like to donate, please bring it to the holiday party.

Creative Writing

Up for discussion - To sponsor a creative writing contest for 8th grade students with the theme of tolerance. International Tolerance Day is November 16th therefore we would begin this initiative in 2012. No monetary prize but plenty of recognition for the winner!

Public Issues

Care Package for a Soldier

We will be collecting items for our adopted soldier at the Holiday party. Items such as batteries, socks, snack items, phone cards will be much appreciated.

Conservation

The WCOM will be participating in an Earth Day project, on Sunday, April 22, 2012, in conjunction with the continuation of Medford Works! We have decided to join the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's "Plant One Million" project, "an ambitious multi-state tree-planting campaign..." More details to follow.

Our Club

Book Club News

Shanghai Girls
by Lisa See
Date and Location
TBA



In 1937, Shanghai is the Paris of Asia, a city of great wealth and glamour, the home of millionaires and beggars, gangsters and gamblers, patriots and revolutionaries, artists and warlords. Thanks to the financial security and material comforts provided by their father's prosperous rickshaw business, twenty-one-year-old Pearl Chin and her younger sister, May, are having the time of their lives . . . until the day their father tells them that he has gambled away their wealth...

Everyone is welcome to join the book club whether you read all the books or just one !

Housekeeping

Anyone wishing to have a shirt of their choice embroidered with the WCOM logo, please let Kathy know **ASAP**. Price will depend on the number of shirts.

We still are in need of a committee chair for the Raffle Basket fundraiser, our most visible and successful fundraiser of the year, as well as committee members for a variety of projects.

Please consider taking up one of these worthy tasks!



Trip to Longwood Gardens

\$15.00 for the tour

Monday, December 12th
Meet at Taunton Forge Shopping Center to carpool at 12:30pm

Dinner locally on the way home
Please let Amelia and Geri know if you will be able to attend



Christmas 2011 -- Birth of a New Tradition

As the holidays approach Americans will give the gift of genuine concern for other Americans. There is no longer an excusethat, at gift giving time, nothing can be found that is produced by American hands. Yes there is!

It's time to think outside the box.

Everyone -- yes EVERYONE gets their hair cut. How about gift certificates from your local American hair salon or barber?

Gym membership? It's appropriate for all ages who are thinking about some health improvement.

Who wouldn't appreciate getting their car detailed? Small, American owned detail shops and car washes would love to sell you a gift certificate or a book of gift certificates.

There are a bazillion owner-run restaurants -- all offering gift certificates. And, if your intended isn't the fancy eatery sort, what about a half dozen breakfasts at the local breakfast joint. Remember, folks this isn't about big National chains -- this is about supporting your home town Americans with their financial lives on the line to keep their doors open.

How many people couldn't use an oil change for their car, truck or motorcycle, done at a shop run by the American working guy?

OK, you were looking for something more personal. Local crafts people spin their own wool and knit them into scarves. They make jewelry, and pottery and beautiful wooden boxes.

Plan your holiday outings at local, owner operated restaurants and leave your server a nice tip.

Musicians need love too, so find a venue showcasing local bands.

When we care about other Americans, we care about our communities, and the benefits come back to us in ways we couldn't imagine. THIS is the new American Christmas. Spread the Christmas cheer!