

Chelan-Douglas Counties Republican Women's Club

Club Chatter



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



The closing of another year gives us an opportunity to pause and reflect on the past year's accomplishments. Of the many projects that occurred in 2010 four stand out to me. An actual lending library was developed by Susan Rumble who then gave it over to her very capable "librarians." We formed a satellite club for women who prefer to meet in the evenings. That club gained momentum in 2010 and is alive and well for 2011. Under the direction of Dee Drewry, we have a wonderful newsletter and a brand new website. Due to the enthusiasm and the hard work of many, we ended the year with 84 full members and 28 associate members! All of these accomplishments could not have happened without the dedication, determination and willingness of the entire membership. My heartfelt "thank you" to all of you!

2011 brings new leadership with fresh ideas and the opportunity to accomplish even more. The growth of CDRW is unlimited, and I want to encourage each of you to contribute whatever you are able to that growth. Be an active, participating member, and remember who you are as Republican women and why you belong to CDRW. Encouraging and supporting each other are key ingredients to the success of our club. So jump on board and enjoy the ride!

May each of you and your families have a blessed Christmas and a new year full of peace, good health and fun.

Pat

AFTERNOON AT THE COUNTRY CLUB:



The snow-covered golf course, along with all the beautiful decorations, created a magical ambience for our annual Christmas luncheon. We indulged in delicious food

and fellowship with our members and guests. The installation of our new Board of Directors was administered by our guest speaker, Sharon Day. Abundant Republican red and such cheerful company kindled the Christmas spirit in our hearts!

From Right to Left: Sharon Day, Shirley Leslie, Marjorie Leighton, Melissa Mathison, Donna Smith, Dee Drewry



CHRISTMAS "FIRSTS" AT THE WHITE HOUSE:

In 1889, President Harrison began the tradition of placing an indoor decorated tree in the White House.

Electricity had been brought to the White House in 1891, and four years later, first Lady Frances Cleveland hung electric lights on the White House tree.

From 1901-09, Teddy Roosevelt banned the White House Christmas tree for conservation reasons.

President Coolidge started the National Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony in 1923.

In 1929, First Lady Lou Henry Hoover began the tradition of the First Lady decorating an official tree in the White House.

In 1953 the Eisenhower's sent the first official White House Christmas card.

In 1954, the annual early December Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony was renamed the Pageant of Peace.

In 1961, First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy began the tradition of a themed Christmas tree.

In 1963, the Kennedy's had signed 30 White House Christmas cards before their trip to Dallas. None was ever mailed. The National Christmas Tree was not lit until December 22 because of the 30-day national period of mourning after the assassination.

In 1981, President Reagan authorized the first official White House Christmas ornament.

The same year, Barbara Bush took the first of 12 cherry picker rides to hang the star at the top of the National Christmas Tree.

In 2001, the first White House Christmas card to contain Scripture was chosen by Laura Bush—a quote from Psalm 27, chosen five days after 9/11.

This information and much more can be found at www.wallbuilders.com

 *Many thanks to Susan Rumble for the research assistance. This issue of the newsletter would not have happened without her.*

EVENTS:

December 25 → Ho, Ho, Ho, Merry Christmas!

January 6 → CDRW General Meeting—Program: Open Forum—Your Ideas for CDRW
New Time: 11:15 am—arrive and socialize; 11:30 am—serving begins; meeting starts promptly at noon

January 20 → Evening meeting; details TBA

February 7 → CDRW General Meeting; 11:15 am; details TBA & WFRW Day at the Capitol; 11:00 am-2:00 pm

February 17 → Evening meeting; details TBA

March 7 → CDRW General Meeting—Guest Speaker: WFRW President Eileen Sobjack
Time: 11:15 am—arrive and socialize; 11:30 am—serving begins; meeting starts promptly at noon

March 13 → Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 17 → Evening meeting; details TBA



POLITICAL TREES A'SWAYING



The **National Christmas Tree** is planted near the White House and is lighted each year by the President and First Lady. The first ceremony was held in 1923. The tree was a 48-foot balsam fir donated by the President of Middlebury College in Vermont. It had 2,500 electric bulbs. This year, 2010, marks the 87th year of this tradition.

From 1954 to 1972 a newly-cut tree was brought to the White House from a different state each year, but in 1973 conservation concerns halted that practice, and a tree was permanently planted.

The **Capitol Christmas Tree** began its tradition in 1964. It is set up on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol and is lit by the Speaker of the House.

This tree comes from a different state every year—this year Wyoming will be featured. In 2006, Washington State sent a 100-foot Pacific silver fir from the Olympic National Forest, the tallest Capitol Tree to date, although it has now been surpassed.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Members Paid	84
New Members (2010)	24
Associate Members	28

We have 34 members and six associates paid for 2011. Don't forget to bring your checkbook in January.



VALLEY FORGE: A GREAT GIFT TO AMERICA

Let's take another look at Washington's winter encampment.

After losing Philadelphia to the British at the battles of Brandywine and Germantown, George Washington and the Continental Army took up winter quarters at nearby Valley Forge. This would be their home from December 19, 1777 until June 19, 1778.

The Valley Forge we envision comes from seeing pictures and hearing tales of freezing, starving men in a desperate battle against the elements. However, these impressions are greatly romanticized, coming from early efforts to create an American parable of perseverance in the face of great adversity, or created as a composite of other winter troop experiences.

In reality, the camp at Valley Forge was about like any other Revolutionary War-era encampment. It is true that some of the men lacked adequate clothing and shoes, but many were fully uniformed—the best-equipped were sent out on patrols and foraging expeditions. Supplies were not dependable (due to winter road conditions, worthless Continental dollars, and a Quartermaster General—Thomas Mifflin—who was in it for the glory and all but ignored his charge!) but they were not non-existent. Camp followers (wives and children, other women) were there to cook, wash, mend and care for the sick.

The 12,000 men approached their circumstances with a sense of humor and extraordinary forbearance. They set to work immediately building 2,000 log huts, defensive trenches and breastworks, and a bridge over the Schuylkill. When Christmas arrived only six days later, most were still living in tents. It snowed hard on Christmas day, 1777. Washington had a spartan holiday dinner with his officers—the enlisted men had only firecakes (flour and water batter) and cold water. The General visited as many of his soldiers as he could, and then went into the woods to pray.



In February, things started to turn around, Baron von Steuben (recruited in France by Benjamin Franklin) arrived to drill, discipline and instruct the patriots in maneuvers and arms. In March, a new Quartermaster was appointed (Nathanael Greene) who brought in 70 bakers from Philadelphia! The best news came in May when France became our ally. This caused the British to evacuate Philadelphia and move to New York City. Washington and his now-well-disciplined army left Valley Forge in pursuit, and fought them to a draw nine days later at the Battle of Monmouth, a remarkable achievement for this once rag-tag group of fighting men.

If it hadn't been for the camaraderie that resulted from the shared hardship at Valley Forge, and the valuable time spent with von Steuben, the army could have lost its resolve and the outcome might have been much different than we celebrate today!

Sources:

<http://militaryhistory.about.com/od/battleswars16011800/p/valleyforge.html>;
<http://www.revolutionarywararchives.org/valleyforge.html>; and
<http://users.erols.com/grippoc/campfol.html>

BITE-SIZED BITS...

The first three states to make Christmas a legal holiday were: Alabama in 1836 and Louisiana and Arkansas in 1839.

In 1875 Christmas was declared a national legal holiday by Congress.

"Christmas Cookey"

from *American Cooking*, by Amelia Simmons, published in Albany NY in 1796

To three pound of flour, sprinkle a tea cup of fine powered coriander seed, rub in one pound of butter, and one and a half pound sugar, dissolve one tea spoonful of pearlsh [a rising agent] in a tea cup of milk, kneed all together well, roll three quarters of an inch thick, and cut or stamp into shape and slice [as] you please, bake slowly fifteen or twenty minutes; tho' hard and dry at first, if put in a earthen pot, and dry cellar, or damp room they will be finer, softer and better when six months old."

[*American Cookery* is considered by most food historians to be the first American cookbook.]

Source:

www.foodtimeline.org/christmasfood.html

(Editor's postscript: If any of you ladies are brave enough to try this recipe, please let me know how it turns out. Recently my sister presented me a cookbook from 1907, "101 Desserts." We have experimented—the recipes are difficult to follow and in all honesty not particularly tasty.)

Illustrator **Thomas Nast** created images of Santa for the Christmas editions of Harper's Magazine from 1863 to 1886.

It was Nast who created the current image of Santa Claus, versus the older, skinnier, and not-so-jolly Kris Kringle from the Old World. He was also the first to use the donkey to symbolize Democrats (1870) and elephants for Republicans (1874).



SHARON DAY, A REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF THE HIGHEST CALIBER...

...and a force to be reckoned with. As our guest speaker at the CDRW annual Christmas luncheon, Sharon treated participants to an enthusiastic recount of Florida politics; and boy, does she know how to work a room. She is an energetic, get-in-your-face, grassroots Republican who "stands by her man." Seeing through Florida's never-defeated candidate, Charlie Crist, she shifted her allegiance and efforts to the campaign of Marco Rubio. Sharon's recollections of past not-so-successful election results and her innate ability not to be discouraged by momentary defeat should be a lesson to all of us—dust yourself off and re-energize. Your efforts are never wasted! On this visit to Washington State, Sharon made the significant announcement that she is running for RNC Co-Chair.

