**HISTORY NOTES FOR CHRISTMAS MEETING/PARTY 2016**

**How We’ve evolved**

**In 1977 members took a trip to the Christmas Demonstrations at Dr. Ferrell Gardens for $2 each. They had a Christmas luncheon at a member’s home and each chipped in $3 for it.**

**In 1978 they went to the Botanical Gardens Christmas Greens Show and had a meeting in member’s home that focused on Christmas arrangements and decorations. They also had refreshmnents.**

**In1979 they again visited the Christmas Greens Show and had a meeting at a home.**

**After that a variety of activities other than meetings began**

**CHRISTMAS GREENS SHOW AT BOTANICAL GARDEN**

**In 1980 we clearly began hostessing at this event . We did it for 10 years ending in 1990.**

**Besides hostessing we participated in a variety of ways through these years. We started out by making wreaths, and helping with displays; decorated a hearth and mantle, as well as one of the doors; and moved on to creating vinettes for three years:**

**A Victorian period one called “Gone with the Wind” and another “The Garden Path.” By AnnD**

**Then, Joyce did one called “Another Season, Another Reason” depicting Mardi Gras.**

**For the year of our last participation members made a big alligator to represent the southern region.**

 **Titles: Winter Wonderland (mantle and hearth) Christmas at Tara**

**CRAFT AND BAKE SALES AT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING IN UPPER MARLBORO**

**These began in 1986 and continued until the last one in 1992. The first year we made $227.50 so Julie recommended this become an annual event and it did for 6 years. Things sold were baked goods made by members, as well as decorations sometimes made from kits and finally by members own creativity. For the final two they made basket arrangements and wreaths. The last one was called the Christmas Bazaar. I’m not sure if the folks who ran it called it that or if this was a different type of event.**

**JUDGED COMMUNITY DECORATIONS**

**In 1980 we were asked to have someone judge outside home decorations for the Roblee Community in Upper Marlboro. Ann Williams and Peggy Martin participated. We did this again in 1982 and 1983.**

**BRADFORD OAKS**

**The first mention of this community was in 1990 when Marian made an arrangement in a cornocopia for them. Nothing more seemed to be done until 1999 when we made and took tuna can Christmas arrangements to them. No mention of doing any more with them until 2010.**

**One Christmas we put together baskets of personal items – hats, gloves, etc. for them.**

**MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES:**

**1983 We decorated and undecorated Surratt’s House for their annual candlelight tour. We made wreaths and garlands.**

**1994 made baskets for District 1 Botique**

**2007 Members brought winter coats or peraonal items for Malone House at Marilyn’s request.**

**2008 We decorated His Lordship’s Kindness for their Christmas Tea.**

**TRAVEL**

**2006 a group went to visit Homestead Gardens to see all the wonderful pointsettas and had lunch at Killarney’s.**

**2007 Some members drove to Brookside Gardens to see the holiday display.**

 **2010 We went to tea at the Royal Tearoom in LaPlata.**

**2013 Some members went to Winterthur.**

**MEETINGS**

**In the beginning, it was as I mentioned up above – pretty simple – a meeting and refreshments or a luncheon that folks chipped in for in a member’s home.**

**There have been several meetings where a regular meeting schedule was followed – reports from all the officers, etc. and then programs on Christmas arrangements or decorations mostly given a member, and sometimes a video regarding decorations. There have been other gatherings where a formal meeting was not held but there was a program on Christmas plants or decorations or a talk on Christmas traditions where every member brought a decoration traditional to their Christmas. One member showed how to make bows.**

 **One program I would like to read you. It was given by Ann WILLIAMS IN 1980.**

**In 1982 the club voted not to have a Christmas party, which lead me to realize that sometimes there was a regular December meeting plus a separate Christmas party. But, particulars were not often given. One given was 1986 when there was a program of holiday tables and then mention of the party on the 27th. I realized then that they kept the meeting and party separate.**

**Refreshments for the most part have been furnished by the hostess. In 1985 was the first reference to having a pot-luck. Great idea. Great food but maybe too many of the same type?? For in 2005 they implemented calling members to see what they were bringing to avoid duplication.**

**GIFTS: It wasn’t until the 1984 minutes that there was the first MENTION of a gift exchange. The party was at Julie and Bob’s. Julie asked each member to bring two bottles of wine for a gift exchange. They did the same thing the next year. In 1999 is reference to drawing numbers for the gifts. Question – how was the distribution of them before that?**

**Not sure what happened after that but in 1987 there is mention of having a gift exchange with the cost being no more than $5. This has continued with inflation to today’s cost of no more than $10?**

**MUSIC: The first mention of music at the gatherings was in 1991 when Dottie Sisson played the accordian and folks sang carols. In 1994 Esther played the violin with everyone singing along.**

**2013 found us singing along again with Esther and her violin and Jessica. In 2014 Esther and Jessica gave a recital and then we sang.**

**50/50: 1992 the 50/50 was initiated, which still goes on today.**

**CONTESTS: The first mention of some sort of contest was in 1992. It was a creative wrapping contest for the gifts that were brought. Marilyn won. This contest continued for two more years. Then, in 1995 Julie presented a book of all Christmas memories and recipes contributed by club members and prizes were given for the best recipes and stories as selected by independent judges.**

 **Other contests were: 2009 the wreath competition. 2010 the candle ring arrangement contest. 2012 Ornament of natural materials 2013 Another ornament contest 2014 Door knob hangers. 2015 an empty giftbox decorated with natural materials AND 2016 a Christmas card.**