



RECAP: December 16, 2021 MDSC Holiday Luncheon

Janet S. Weinstock, MDSC Secretary

The Maryland Deaf Senior Citizens, Inc. (MDSC) annual Holiday Luncheon on Thursday, December 16th at Martin's Crosswind in Greenbelt, MD with 107 people in attendance was a great success. Many thanks to Barbara Willigan and her committee for doing a fabulous job planning and organizing the event.

MDSCers, guests and volunteers donned in our best festive holiday apparels flocked into Martin's lobby and were greeted by Mike Moore and Katie Todd who checked them in. Each table of 8 was draped with white tablecloths and blue and green napkins to represent the colors of different winter holidays.

The program opened with Barbara Willigan and the MDSC board members welcoming the attendees with a prayer for gratitude and blessings for good health before we filled our stomach with raspberry-dressing-drizzled salad, rolls, an array of buffet lunch including our all time favorite crab cake and scrumptious desserts.

The Holiday Lights: symbols and principles presentation coordinated by Vice President Thelma was enlightening and entertaining! There are common threads in each winter holiday-Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Chinese New Year celebrated by people all over the world.

Millie Russo started with Christmas which falls every December 25th. We learned that Christmas lights are also known as fairy lights, festive lights or string lights, the custom borrowed from the pagan yule rituals that celebrate the return of the light of the sun as the days grow longer after solstice. The evergreen trees symbolize the renewal and continuance of life in dark times. Christmas lights custom goes way back to when trees were decorated with candles, symbolizing Christ being the light of the world. The first White House Christmas tree to have electric lights started in 1895 with Present Grover Cleveland.

Hanukkah presented by Sam Sonnenstrahl is an eight day and night event that represents the miracle of oil burning in the Temple that was destroyed. Hanukkah started when a group of Jewish rebel warriors Maccabees won independence in Judea. There was enough oil to light for one day but then the miracle lasted eight days. Jewish people all over the world celebrate the Festival of Light known as Hanukkah on 25 Kislev which follows the Hebrew calendar based on the lunar (moon) cycle. Jewish people light the menorah, a candelabrum with nine branches. One branch is placed above the others and used as shamash, the head candle that helps light other candles for eight nights.

Eve Mitton explained that Kwanzaa falls from December 26 to January 1. It was first celebrated in the United States in 1996. The kinara, made with love by our very own Treasurer Cathy, is a base with 3 red (struggle), 3 green (hope) and one black (our ancestors) candles that symbolize the seven principles. Each day is light with the seven principles starting with Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-Determination), Unima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity) and ending with Imani (Faith).

The husband and wife team of Shunling and Tony Lee shared fascinating information about the Lunar New Year which will happen on Tuesday, February 1, 2022. The color red, especially during Chinese New Year celebrations, is considered lucky. People stuff money in a red envelope, packet or pocket to give during the holidays and for special occasions. They demonstrated the customary greeting salute by facing one another, holding their fist and bending their head slightly. The Lantern Festival honors the deceased ancestors on the 15th day of the first month of the lunar calendar. It aims to promote reconciliation, peace and forgiveness.

President Leslie got on the stage to present the 2020 MDSC Awards to recognize four people who were honored via zoom last year. This year, Zinza was pleased to present the awards in person to Scarlett Joy Larson, Jackie Mann, William Tipton, and Janet Weinstock. The 2021 MDSC Awards recipients are Ginny Lindsay, Thelma Schroeder, Cathy Thompson and a very surprised Carrie White.

President Leslie and Treasurer Cathy teamed up to lead the Cash Prize activities. First, Sonny Mooreland was the lucky winner of this month's \$75.00 Bank Day drawing! Next, President Leslie drew March as the lucky month and 5 as the lucky day. The winner of each table whose birthday is close to March 5th came forward to the front and received \$20.00 cash in an envelope put together again with love by Treasurer Cathy. The grand winner of the birth-date activity was Elizabeth Marsh who was born on the almost right day - March 4th - won \$100.00.

.Our most sincere thanks to the following individuals for their part in making the event a great success: *Bev Boateng, Andriana Canning, Jeff Dunefsky, Iris Gomes, Erika Hush, Hanaka*

Johnson, Zellie Jones, Ed Knight, Mary Lynn Lally, Shunling Lee, Tony Lee, Cheryl Milton and her team at Martin's Crosswind, Eve Mitton, Michael Moore, Terry Morris, Carrie Quigley, Alisa Redmon, Millie Russo, Thelma Schroeder, Sam Sonnenstrahl, Laura Sweeney, Cathy Thompson, Rick Thompson, Kathleen Todd, Janet Weinstock, Barry White, Barbara Willigan, and Leslie Zinza.

Enjoy the pictures taken throughout the day by our Photographer Andriana Canning.



PART TWO HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



MDSC Members at the buffet.



Beautiful flowers decorated opposite to the buffet.



Notice all MDSC members at the tables SMILING!



Keep covid at the bay! Wear gloves!

