



Greetings!

Punxsutawney Phil, the famous groundhog, "saw" his shadow and predicted six more weeks of winter. The Inner Circle annual announcement came at dawn on Gobbler's Knob, about 65 miles NE of Pittsburgh. However, the other, not so famous groundhogs, specifically Buckeye Chuck of Ohio, Jimmy the Groundhog of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, and General Lee Groundhog in Georgia, did not see their shadows and contradict Punxsutawney Phil. I think I like the nay sayers' predictions better.

The tradition dates back to 1887 and is said to have been a part of ancient European weather lore when the star was a badger, not a groundhog. Others think it stems from religious origins, as it shares similarities with Candlemas Day, also on February 2nd. According to an old English song, "If Candlemas be fair and bright,/ Come, Winter, have another flight."

According to the National Climatic Data Center, Phil's predictions have been right 39% of the time. However, Phil's Inner Circle claims 100% accuracy. I guess it just depends on where you live and how you feel about winter.

In any event, spend an evening to enjoy watching "Groundhog Day" with Bill Murray in celebration of February 2nd.

Our January meeting at Janet's was very enjoyable, many thanks to Janet for hosting it. We enjoyed a delicious roast pork dinner complete with salad and dessert, and a relaxing social time. We also finally got a chance to sample our "Zonta Country Soup" which we have been assembling and donating to families in the Twin Cities via MVNA and Jeremiah Program.

We had a fun evening sharing travel stories and other events. Evelyn's daughter, Peggy (from Fulton Missouri) joined us for the evening.

Janet is sharing her recipes for two of the delicious dishes we enjoyed:

Sweet and Sour Cole Slaw

1 (one) bag of vegetable cole slaw
Sweet and Sour Dressing to taste (I use Jimmy's. It comes in a jar in cold food section)
Fresh pineapple or canned tidbits (small can).
Mandarin oranges (one large can)
Mix together gently and refrigerate until ready to serve.

Apple Magic

Preheat oven to 350
4-5 large apples, peeled and sliced
1 package JIFFY cake mix (yellow or white)
1/4 cup margarine
1/2 cup chopped nuts (optional)

Spread apples in 8"x8" pan. Cinnamon sugar can be sprinkled on apples. Combine cake mix and nuts in bowl. Add soft margarine and mix until crumbly. Sprinkle over top of apples. Bake 40-50 minutes until golden brown and apples are done. Serve with ice cream or whipped topping.

Shirley and Evelyn are both home now.

February 25, 2010 Meeting

We will be joining Minneapolis for our February meeting. It will be held on Thursday, February 25th at the Aagesen Chiropractic Clinic, 5050 West 36th street, Suite 100, St. Louis Park, MN 55416. Members who wish to carpool, please contact Judy Cognetta.



March 30, 2010 Meeting

We will be moving our March meeting ahead one week to Tuesday, March 30th. Phyllis has arranged for a presentation at the Landmark Center in St. Paul by Bonnie McDonald, Executive Director of the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota. We will meet at the Landmark Center at 11:30 and have lunch at the café in the Center at your own cost. Then at 12:30, we will convene to Room 408 in the Landmark Center to hear about what the Alliance has done and is doing.

Info from their website:

“The Preservation Alliance of Minnesota (PAM) is the only statewide, private, non-profit organization advocating for the preservation of Minnesota’s historic resources. PAM was established in 1981 by citizens concerned about the loss of irreplaceable segments of our state’s heritage: structures, neighborhoods, community fabric.

Today, PAM works with groups like the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Trust for Historic Preservation to preserve our communities. It steps in when rare sites or structures are threatened. It works to educate citizens about heritage preservation. It develops networks among people and organizations to help increase awareness of state history, community preservation, and important community values.”

Some of the buildings saved by PAM include Grain Belt Brewhouse in Minneapolis, the Landmark Center in St. Paul, the Saint James Hotel in Red Wing and the Stone Arch Bridge in Minneapolis.

The meeting should be done by 1:30. We are suggesting that members consider bringing a \$10 donation for the Preservation Alliance in lieu of our regular meeting cost. Checks can be made out to the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota and are tax deductible.

The café is Anita’s Café and offers home style, scratch cooking. Their special for 2/2 was Wild

Rice and Sage Stuffed Chicken Breast with Mashed Potatoes and Fresh Vegetables. Soups included Navy Bean with Ham or Chicken Spaetzle. They also offer several salads, sandwiches, beverages and desserts. Sounds yummy!

Thanks so much to Phyllis for arranging this educational and interesting event.

Birthdays in February & March!

Lauraine – February 2nd

Virginia – February 19th

Evelyn – March 22nd

Upcoming Meetings:

April 22, 2010 – Program meeting – dinner at restaurant to be determined; Great American History Theatre to see “Queen’s of Burlesque.”
The play is a funny, poignant and revealing look at the lives of burlesque performers both on and off stage, transporting the audience back to the theater scene of the 1950’s.

May 25, 2009 – Business meeting – location to be determined

Please let Dorothy know by March 26th if you are able to attend the Landmark Center event. We will arrange to carpool since parking is sometimes an issue in St. Paul during the day. Call Dorothy.

If you have anything that you would like included in the newsletter, please let Peggy know. I know we would all be glad to hear what is going on with you!

Hope you all can make the February and March meetings.

Peggy