

Hello, Friends,

We had a great turnout for the December meeting—about 30 people, including several new members. Ingrid was kind enough to lead us in a relaxing breathing session with a moment of silence after for those loved ones we've lost. Then she treated us to an a capella verse of "Feliz Navidad" which set the tone to have some fun.

After some members shared their thoughts of things going on in their lives (new dogs, new beaus, new attitudes), we held a White Elephant gift exchange. Our group was so polite that there wasn't a lot of stealing of gifts, but we did notice that if you had the bottle of wine or especially the Dollar Tree gift certificate, you wouldn't keep it for long. Maybe next year we just exchange wine and gift cards!

Kathylee brought her guitar and sang in the background while we ate the wonderful food people brought to share. So many goodies! I hope everyone enjoyed themselves. Thank you to those who took and shared these pictures.



Announcements:

- **Saturday, December 17** is the day for laying wreaths for veterans through Wreaths Across America. Sponsorships are \$15 per wreath, and you can do that online at www.wreathscrossamerica.org. Last year we took several from our group to Bushnell National Cemetery to lay about a dozen wreaths. This year the start time is earlier (10:00am) so we'll need to leave by 9:00 a.m. if anyone wants to go. There is also a chance to do this at Highland Memorial Park, 1515 NE 3rd St., Ocala if you want to keep it local. Please let me know as soon as possible if you plan to go and lay wreaths with us. We'll have lunch somewhere nearby before returning to Ocala.
- Cindy Coker has announced that she is organizing a river cruise through central Europe in the April/May 2023 time frame. Look for more information after the holidays or contact her directly.
- There still seems to be some interest in having a monthly lunch but changing up the location. At the January meeting I'll announce the date, place and time of the January lunch, then we can discuss where we might go for other months.
- Please have a safe and happy Hannukah and Christmas. I know this will be a tough time for many, especially those who are having their first holiday without their loved ones. Please reach out to the newer members and include them if you can, so no one has to be alone.

The next meeting will be **January 13th** in the Card Room at 10:30.

Hope to see all of you at the next meeting.

Shelley
210-410-0090

Do not stand at my grave and weep.

I am not there; I do not sleep.

I am the thousand winds that blow.

I am the diamond glint in the snow.

I am the sunlight on the ripened grain.

I am the autumn's gentle rain.

When you awaken in the morning hush,

I am the swift uplifting rush

Of quiet birds in circled flight.

I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry.

I am not there,

I did not die.

-Hopi prayer

