

THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
6483 STATE ROAD  
PARMA OHIO 44134

YAKITY, YAK-YAKERS #7



JOSEPH J. JACUBIC  
UNIT 572

APRIL 2018

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## UNIT MEETING: APRIL 11, 2018



*I would like to share articles that would be of interest to the Auxiliary members of Unit 572 to better educate all of us on what the Auxiliary does and truly means. Shirley Kessler*



## THE STORY OF THE POPPY & MOINA MICHAEL

From the battlefields of World War I, weary soldiers brought home the memory of a barren landscape transformed by wild poppies, red as the blood that had soaked the soil. By that miracle of nature, the spirit of their lost comrades lived on. The poppy became a symbol of the sacrifice of lives in war and represented the hope that none had died in vain. The American Legion Auxiliary poppy has continued to bloom for the casualties of four wars, its petals of paper bound together for veterans by veterans, reminding America each year that the men and women who have served and died for their country deserve to be remembered. The poppy, as a memorial flower to the war dead, can be traced to a single individual, Moina Michael.

After America entered the war in 1917, Moina applied to volunteer with the YMCA Overseas War Workers, the only war effort that was open to a 48-year-old woman eager to contribute. On Nov. 9, 1919, just before the Armistice, Moina was on duty at the annual YMCA Overseas Conference.

"This was, for me, a full spiritual experience," Moina wrote in her memoirs. "It seemed as though the silent voices again were vocal, whispering, in sighs of anxiety unto anguish...I pledged to KEEP THE FAITH and always to wear a red poppy of Flanders Fields as a sign of remembrance and the emblem of 'keeping the faith with all who died.'" On the back of an envelope, Moina quickly wrote out her response to McCrae's verse, her own poem entitled, "We Shall Keep the Faith."

After jotting down her poem, Moina excitedly declared, "I shall buy red poppies...I shall always wear red poppies—poppies of Flanders Fields!" She showed "We Shall Not Sleep" to gentlemen at the conference and relayed her idea to them. The gentlemen were so excited about the idea that they gave her \$10 and asked for poppies to wear. Moina rushed out of Wanamaker's department store that sold silk poppies and bought 25 to distribute to conference attendees.

Moina wore a poppy on her collar until she returned home to Georgia in 1919 and became known as the "**Poppy Lady**." She continued her teaching career by instructing a group of disabled veterans. Moina's efforts were complemented by the work of Madame E. Guerin in France, who heard of Moina's story on a visit to America. In 1930, Moina was awarded a medal for distinguished service at the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention in Boston.

ALA poppy distribution is still going strong. Last year, nearly \$2 million was collected from poppy distribution and allocated to disabled or hospitalized veterans. Moina Michael's teaching career lasted 54 years, but her lesson is still being taught today as poppies are distributed across America by Auxiliary volunteers, "teaching the lesson of Flanders Fields."



## OTHER UNIT NEWS



At the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, **President Barbara Benz** will appoint a three person nominating committee. This committee will select the future Officers and Delegates for our Auxiliary. Are YOU ready to step up and become more active in your Auxiliary? We hope to see you on April 11<sup>th</sup> when the nomination process begins. *A description of each of the officers and their duties will be explained at 6:30pm before the meeting starts.* Elections will be held at the May meeting.



**From the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Last chance to help! Pay your dues now and we still can be a goal unit. It's all up to you! If your dues are not paid, you lose your Auxiliary benefits. Please pay your dues, be our angel, we need YOU!

(Sr Dues: \$25-Jr Dues (under 18 yrs): \$5) Mail to: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 572, 6483 State Rd Parma, OH 44134



**From the Chaplain's Corner, Peggie O'Neill-Baron:** "And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be signs and for the seasons. and for days and years." Genesis 1:14

*If there is need for a prayer, a visit, phone call, or to inform us of those in need, we would love to hear from you! Please contact me if you are aware of a member who is ill, or hospitalized. We are here for you! You can contact me, at 216-554-7954 or email me at POneillBaron5591@aol.com.*

*Please put in Subject: Unit 572 Request/Information*

*I would like to request to keep in prayer, especially this month, Shirley Kessler, our Ladies Unit Correspondence Secretary and for friends and family of Nancy Pekarcsik our Ladies Unit Historian. Let us not forget our men and women who protect us and our Nation. Please keep them in your daily prayers and that God Bless and protect our Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen and Guardsmen and their families.*



### **S.A.L. Breakfast - April 15, 2018 – 9:00 am – 12:00 noon**

Members and Public welcome!

Cost is \$8 for adults and \$6 for kids 12 and under.

"All you can eat" scrambled eggs, pancakes, bacon, sausage links, toast with coffee, tea and juice.



### **A.L.R. SPAGHETTI DINNER**

**Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> from 5-8 pm**

Dinner includes spaghetti, 1 meatball or sausage, salad, garlic bread and dessert for only \$8.00. Tickets are available now. Appreciated are any desserts that are brought.

***Congratulations to Canteen bartender Lynn for winning the Auxiliary's Easter Basket Raffle!***

## 2018 DATES TO REMEMBER

Apr	11	Unit Membership Meeting - 7:30 pm, Post Home
	15	SAL Breakfast
	21	ALR Spaghetti Dinner
	25	Unit Board – 7:30 pm, Post Home
May	09	Unit Membership Meeting - 7:30 pm, Post Home
	23	Unit Board Dinner/Appreciation Day
	28	Memorial Day observed – fly your flag!

Barbara Benz, Unit President  
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