



November, 2012



## Madonna Miles Trip: Cedar Point HalloWeekends

Last month the Madonna Miles group took a trip to Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio for HalloWeekends. Cedar Point, which opened in 1870, is the second oldest amusement park in the U.S. and holds the world record for

number of rides at a park: 72. Although the weather was cold, the students braved it and had a great trip. HalloWeekends is an annual event at Cedar Point that celebrates Halloween. The two main attractions this year were Terror Island (an island of pirates and

mermaid) and Cornstalkers (a corn field guarded by creepy scarecrows.)

This week the Madonna Miles group will travel to Frankenmuth, Bronner's Christmas Wonderland, and Birch Run Premium Outlets. See page 4 for more info!



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### Important Dates:

- November 15: First ISO Coffee Time!
- November 16: Final day to withdraw from classes
- November 16: Madonna Miles Trip—Frankenmuth and Birch Run
- November 21: ISO Shopping Trip
- November 22-24: Thanksgiving Break (No classes)
- November 30: ISO Shopping Trip
- December 7: Winter Semester Payment Due
- January 10: Winter Web Registration Closes

# Thanksgiving is coming!



Photo courtesy of travelenvogue.com

Thanksgiving is a favorite holiday among Americans. It is a time to celebrate family, friends, food, and everything you are thankful for. So even though the days are getting colder and darker, this holiday brings warmth and light.

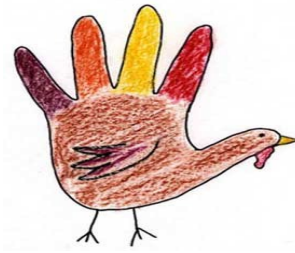
Thanksgiving comes at the end of the harvest season to celebrate the good food grown during the year. Many countries celebrate a harvest holiday like Thanksgiving. While American Thanksgiving is always celebrated on the

4th Thursday in November, our good neighbor to the north, Canada, celebrates its Thanksgiving on the 2nd Monday in October. In South Korea Chuseok is celebrated on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month (usually September or October). Though each country's harvest holiday is unique to its history and culture, some things common among them are family, friends, and food.

These days families get together to celebrate Thanksgiving by cooking a big meal and sharing it together. This meal usually includes a turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, squash, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, green beans, and many different types of pie: like pumpkin, pecan or rhubarb. Although these are standards of most Thanksgiving dinners, each culture celebrates a little differently. Southerners usually include baked macaroni and cheese and collared greens, while Mexican-Americans serve turkey with mole. Ashkenazi Jews often serve kugel (a noodle

casserole), and in Puerto Rico they make pumpkin flan instead of pie.

Before dinner many families take turns saying something they are thankful for, then say a prayer to thank God.



it to make a turkey.

Each year the U.S. president "pardons" a turkey; meaning the turkey isn't eaten but instead gets to live happily on a farm for the rest of his life.

After eating, many families watch a football game, then prepare to go out for the biggest shopping day of the year: Black Friday. Black Friday is the day after Thanksgiving when many stores offer huge sales. Millions of people take advantage of the discounts in preparation for Christmas.

## Chuseok—Korean Thanksgiving?

*Chuseok* is the South Korean harvest holiday occurring on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month. Like Thanksgiving, *Chuseok* is the biggest travel holiday of the year, as during this time many Koreans travel to their hometowns to celebrate with family. Often it is impossible to buy train tickets and traffic leaving Seoul is so congested it can take 12 hours to reach your destination.

*Chuseok* is a time to honor ancestors, and so many Koreans hold a memorial ceremony, called *Charye*, before visiting the graves of deceased relatives to clear the weeds around the graves.

*Songpyeon*. Photo courtesy of visitkorea.or.kr



Afterward families sit down to enjoy a meal together that often included *japchae* (stir-fried sweet potato noodles), *cheon* (vegetable pancakes), *bulgogi* (sweet marinated beef), rice, fruit, and most importantly *songpyeon*—a sweet, chewy rice cake filled with semi-sweet fillings such as red beans, sesame, honey, chestnut, etc. There is an old



Koreans saying that the person who makes beautiful *songpyeon* will make a good spouse or give birth to beautiful babies.

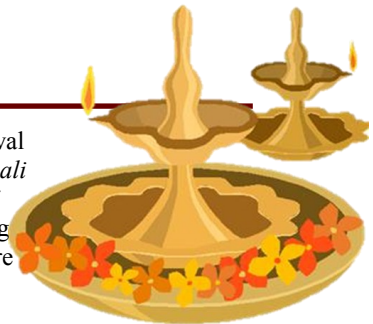
Often people wear traditional clothing, called *hanbok*, and in many areas folk games are played like tug-of-war, archery, and Korean wrestling, and traditional Korean dances are performed.



*Jesasang*, ceremonial table setting. Photo courtesy of Wikipedia.org

## Celebrate the holidays!

We would like to wish a Happy Thanksgiving to all of you, as well as a Happy *Diwali*!!! *Diwali*, the Hindu festival of lights, was celebrated this month across the world. *Diwali* is the biggest holiday in India and lasts 5 days! *Diwali* celebrates good overcoming evil, and light over coming dark, and also celebrates *Lakshmi*, the Hindu goddess of wealth. Like Thanksgiving and Chuseok it occurs at the end of the harvest season and is celebrated with *Puja*, big meals, sweets, fireworks, and lighting oil lamps. Since we are fortunate to have many people of the Indian culture in our area, you can celebrate *Diwali* by participating in local *Diwali* events, trying Indian cuisine at local restaurants or Indian grocers, and taking advantage of *Diwali* sales at local businesses! Happy *Diwali* everyone!



# International Friendship!

The weather is getting colder and colder, so why not warm up with a hot cup of coffee and a good friend?

The International Friendship Program is starting this month! To kick off the program we are hosting a coffee hour



on **Thursday, November 15th in room 2012 from 11:30am—1:00pm.**

Anyone is welcome to attend—international students and American students. Members of the International Friendship Circle will have the chance to meet with their partners and socialize with other students.

So join us on the 15th for coffee and conversation. Snacks and coffee will be served! Please stop by!

**Movember...?** Movember is a movement to increase awareness of prostate

cancer and cancer prevention. You may have noticed in October many people wear pink for breast cancer awareness. During November some men grow a mustache for prostate cancer awareness and to raise money for cancer research. The movement started in Australia but quickly spread across the world. The term “Movember” combines the slang word for mustache “mo” with “November”. Some women even participate by wearing a false mustache!

Similarly, you may have heard of “Novembeard”, in which case men grow a beard instead of a mustache.



*(International Student Advisor, Amy, supporting Movember with her friend.)*

## Meet our employees!

A lot of hard work goes into making the International Students Office run smoothly. Luckily we have some very capable students working with us that I would like to introduce to you.



Fang Fang comes from Shanghai, China and has been at Madonna for two years. She is majoring in marketing and hopes to work in advertising because she likes to be challenged. She enjoys cooking and likes to collect things, like stamps and ticket stubs. “It’s my history,” she says with a smile. Fang Fang is very good at art projects and is responsible for the ISO bulletin boards you see around the International Department!



Emily comes from Qingdao, China. She goes by her English name “Emily”, but her Chinese name is Luning. “Lu” being short for the Shandong Province, and “Ning” which comes from her hometown Jining. Her major is accounting and she has been here for 3 years. “I love America and Michigan, especially the big snow in Michigan,” Emily says. She has a bright personality and always wants to help people any way she can. “Enjoy everyday at Madonna University!”



Would you like to be a featured student in our next newsletter? If so, please email Amy at [aldickerson@madonna.edu](mailto:aldickerson@madonna.edu). We would love to learn about you!

# What's Happening Around Campus?

## Madonna Miles:

Madonna Miles will be taking a trip to Frankenmuth and Birch Run this Friday, November 16th. The city of Frankenmuth was first settled in 1845 by Germans, and today the old world German spirit is kept alive with Bavarian architecture, dress, food, and festivals. Frankenmuth is home to the world's largest Christmas store: Bronner's Christmas Wonderland.

Birch Run boasts the largest outlet mall in Michigan with 145 outlet stores including J. Crew, Coach, Ralph Lauren, Calvin Klein, Lacoste, The North Face, and many more!

The cost is only \$13. If you are interested in going and haven't signed up yet, please contact Student Life in room 1411 or at [studentlife@madonna.edu](mailto:studentlife@madonna.edu)



## 75th Anniversary Liturgy:

Come celebrate the founding of Madonna University with a mass celebrated by His Excellency The Most Reverend Allen H.

Vigneron. Mass begins at 1:00 pm in the Felician Sisters' main chapel and a strolling supper will follow. All are welcome to attend. If you would like to attend, please R.S.V.P. to Lori Gatt at [lgatt@madonna.edu](mailto:lgatt@madonna.edu).

If you are interested in volunteering as an usher for this event, please email Amy at [aldickerson@madonna.edu](mailto:aldickerson@madonna.edu).

Volunteers should arrive at the chapel at 12:00pm and wear black pants and a white shirt.



## How to Obtain a Driver's License:

Join us for a workshop explaining how to get a U.S. driver's license or Michigan State ID card. Ms. Adriana Cera will be there to explain the procedure and documentation required, and to answer any questions you have about licenses or ID cards. The workshop will take place on Thursday, November 29th at 11:30am to 1:00pm. Location: TBA



## Coffee Time:

Our monthly coffee time is back starting Thursday, November 15th. Please see page 2 for details and keep your eyes open for future coffee time updates!



## Christmas Tree Blessing:

Friday, December 7th  
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm



## Shopping trips:

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the shopping trips in November have changed a little. There will be **no** shopping trip on Friday, November 16th. Instead there will be on the day before Thanksgiving (Wednesday, November 21st). There will **not** be one on November 24th.

November 21: 3:00—5:00

November 30: 3:00—5:00

December 7: 4:00—6:00 (time moved because of Christmas Tree Blessing)

Food will not be served in the cafeteria over the Thanksgiving break, so it is recommended you join the Nov. 21 shopping trip to stock up on groceries!



## Have something to say?

The ISO newsletter is written by the ISO staff and students.

If you are interested in writing an article or suggesting an idea for the ISO newsletter, or want to be featured as a student of the month, please contact Amy Dickerson at [aldickerson@madonna.edu](mailto:aldickerson@madonna.edu) or stop by room 1209.

We would love to hear from you!