

November 2006 Thanksgiving

Hi everyone,

Just to let you know that yes we DO have Thanksgiving here in Zanzibar – a little early but none the less it was a wonderful Turkey Day.

The Americans showed up in force and we gave thanks – first and foremost for a successful election and the return of the Democrats – hurray!!!! We had a number of Peace Corps volunteers and of course we are all aware of how fortunate we are to be Americans and to live in the land of plenty!!!

And our gratitude to all of our friends here in Zanzibar and the magnificent Zanzibar Turkey that was prepared for us – we are such fortunate people!!!

So – here are some photos:



Patrick rolling out his version of Martha Stewart's pie crust (it was flaky and wonderful) A photo of me doing my job – talking away!!! Dave (who came from the US for a visit and brought cranberry sauce, stuffing and pumpkin pie filling – we like him!!!) and Jacquie who organized the evening.



Our Thanksgiving table – Turkey (I love the tin foil on the drumsticks so you don't get your hand dirty while your gnawing at it) – two kinds of cranberry sauce, green beans, 3 bean salad, another bean salad, stuffing, sweet potatoes, rolls and mashed potatoes that arrived later. Patrick (who is a vegetarian) was kind enough to do the honors. Now the turkey was not a Butterball and may not look like much but let me tell you – it was delicious (lots of dark meat) and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The story of the turkey will be told for years to come – a new Zanzibar folk tale. Frozen birds are banned in Zanzibar because of the Avian flu so we thought that we would have to accept that we were going to eat tough scrawny Zanzibar chickens for Thanksgiving dinner but no – Jacquie and her friends worked their magic!!! Olaf, who is British, knows many people and went looking for the

owners of some turkeys that he had seen running around the week before. At first yesterday morning he thought that he would only be able to find a duck and we were going to be happy with that but finally he found someone who knew someone who said they could get him a turkey. He contacted Jacquie at 2:00 in the afternoon and said "Come by the new small store that sells chickens at 4:00 and I'll have a prepared turkey for you". Well – she got there with her friend Dave who had arrived the day before from the US and they were told to go to another place to see another person who would lead them to the turkey. Now – this is very much the Zanzibari way – nothing is ever in a straight line. So – for the next two hours they waited patiently – moved around and had to have faith that all would be well and that we Americans would have a turkey for our Thanksgiving dinner. Lo and behold – finally Dave and Jacquie followed the trail to the Zanzibar Beach Resort where a person came out with a fully prepared turkey on a platter and ready to be served!!!! The moral of the story is "Persistence and patience will always bring you good results".



Everyone is enjoying eating the turkey dinner and getting to know each other. Hey guys – this was the coup de grace!!! Pumpkin and blueberry pies and Nadine, a Brit, made a decadent chocolate peanut butter creation!! And here are all the Americans nice and full after a big Thanksgiving dinner – alas no parade and no football but we are all happy campers that we were able to spend a special day together!!!! Most of them are Peace Corps and students here on an exchange program. My British friend Helen, who is a wonderful photographer, was kind enough to do the honors for us.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!!!!

Kathryn