

# **Chorus Chatter**

*News and Musings for Young at Heart Chorus Members*

<https://www.youngatheartlascruces.website/>

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**Issue #85...October 5, 2024**

**Editor: Ray Scroggins**

## **Direct-ly from Dennis**

Great job at Good Sam. Everybody sang well, and we were all into the great voices of Young at Heart. I am really interested in the Aztecs and Mayans. I have read about them, and Denise actually took me to see an ancient game called pok ta' pok. Very interesting. Go on ine, and watch. Most of the music from these two civilizations has disappeared, but, both the Aztecs and Mayans used a variety of instruments to make music. The Aztecs used clay flutes, conch shells as trumpets, rattles and drums. The Mayans used flutes, whistles, drums and conch shells. Both civilizations used these instruments for births, weddings, celebrations in the community and funerals. Music and singing were a very important part of their culture and their life.

Music is important in ours too! We use a piano. We sing together because we enjoy singing and bringing that enjoyment to our audience . Sometimes the audience might be small, but with your efforts, we bring

a smile to those who come to hear us sing. Often, we get them to participate and interact with us, which makes me feel good. It should make you feel good and smile as well. keep on singing. Thanks for being a part of YAH!

## **Ole' Buttermilk Sky**

The song, on our October program, was composed in 1946 by Hoagy Carmichael and Jack Brooks, and introduced by Carmichael in the film *Canyon Passage*. It was primarily written as a cowboy song to set the scene where the character meets his lover. The song also used jazz music for the lyric "can't you see my little donkey and me." *Wikipedia*

## **Check Out Our Website**

If you haven't visited the chorus website in a while, remember you can always read all the newsletter issues and find the latest chorus roster and the index to all the music in our library. You'll also see pictures of our past activities and profiles of present and past members. Just click on this link, or right click and

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select Open Hyperlink:

<https://www.youngatheartlascruces.website/> You'll need to log into the Members Only section using YAHLC as a password. Then go back to Members Only at the top, and choose the section you want to visit. Let Ray know if you have any questions.

### Harvey & Reba



Harvey Payne and Reba McGear Payne joined Young at Heart earlier this year. They met in Bellingham, Washington

and were married in February, 2022. After moving to Las Cruces, they sang with the Mesilla Valley Chorale before joining YAH.

While living in Bellingham, they sang with the Bellingham Community Chorus but met through playing Bridge Harvey was the director of a bridge group, and Reba joined. They also were members of a seniors walking group that helped bring them together.

Reba had sung for years, starting in church, where her father was the pastor and her mother was the choir director. She's been singing ever since. She sang with an international chorus in northern Washington that had U.S. and Canadian members. Harvey says he is relatively new to the singing world and says he only has six months experience. Reba played piano throughout nursing school and currently enjoys playing the ukulele. She's thinking about starting a daytime ukelele group here. Harvey spent his career in the U.S. Navy, serving primarily on aircraft carriers in the Far East. After retiring, he spent eight years studying various subjects in which he was interested under the G.I Bill and also started a few janitorial businesses. Now, in addition to playing bridge, he enjoys gardening, with more than 30 plants in their backyard.

Reba spent a 50 year career in nursing. After receiving a Master's degree in 1972, she spent 25 of those years as a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner. She also has been an avid hiker throughout most of her life and has climbed Mt. Ranier in Washington, a challenging peak.

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Harvey has three children and four stepchildren, as well as one grandson. While Reba has no children of her own, she now has a grandson through her marriage to Harvey. As the oldest of four children, she says she also has lots of nieces and nephews.



"You put a round thing on a spinning plate with a needle and then you play with buttons and knobs ... only old people know how to do it!"

### A Big Thanks

You probably don't give much thought to how the music you get for each month's program is put together. It's time for a big thanks to the team of Jo Banks and Dennis Cherry, who make it happen.

First, Dennis decides on what songs to put in the program, based on our

theme and sometimes with advice from other music team members. Then he goes to Jo's house, where all our music is kept in multiple file cabinets in her garage, and pulls all the folders for the selected songs. Back home, he reviews each file, sometimes types out new word sheets and prints any needed copies of music or word sheets with the printer bought with members' donations.

The folders then go to Jo, who puts together about 30 individual folders for each member plus a few extras. This is a huge job that probably takes up every flat surface in her house. Some folders contain just word sheets, others just music, and still others a combination of both. Keeping that all organized is enough to boggle the mind, but Jo does it every month. So, the next time you get your music folder, think about the effort that went into putting it together, and thank these two champions for putting it all together.