

Chorus Chatter

News and Musings for Young at Heart Chorus Members

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

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Dennis's Doings



THE PIANO



When we sing as a chorus, we always have a piano to accompany us. Ever wonder who invented the piano? The piano was invented by BARTLOMEO CRISTOFORI of Italy. He was an Instrument Maker/Caretaker of Musical Instruments for the Medici family of Tuscany.

He was not happy with the loud sound that came out of the HARPSICORD. In a HARPSICORD, the strings are plucked, making the sound loud. He discovered that if a soft hammer was used to strike the strings, the sound could be controlled. This allowed the pianist to create both loud and soft sounds. Thus, the original piano was called a "piano-forte," for soft-loud. The white keys and black keys were reversed during the time of Mozart. The change was made to make the white keys stand out against the black keys and the back of the keyboard. Pianists were overjoyed y

the change, as they felt it made their hands stand out more during performances.

The first piano only had 54 keys, but later was changed to the standard keyboard of 88 keys so there would be a greater range. The piano is one of the most played instruments in the world today.

Just a couple of fun facts
Enjoy the PIANO.



DENNIS

Seven Years

This issue marks seven years of publishing this newsletter for Young at Heart. It was started back then as a way to help members connect. Most members didn't know each other very well, and name tags wouldn't have helped much. Instead, I thought a newsletter would provide a way to share our stories with brief profiles on each member. After having accomplished that, the newsletter took on a life of its own as a source for sharing a variety of

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information about the chorus and other items of interest. We have a lot of new members whom we haven't profiled as yet, and we look forward to sharing your stories. in future issues.

Here's an item from our first issue that still holds true today:

Our Mission

The Young at Heart Chorus really has two missions. First, we want to entertain the residents of assisted living and nursing homes, as well as other senior centers in the Las Cruces area with our music. Second, we want to provide an opportunity for people in the Las Cruces area to belong to a choral group, to sing and to enjoy music and friendship together.

Accentuate the Positive

Also titled "Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate the Positive," is on our September program. It's a popular song that was published in 1944. The music was written by Harold Arlen and the lyrics by Johnny Mercer. The song was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Original Song at the 18th Academy Awards in 1945 after being used in the film *Here Come the Waves*.

It is sung in the style of a sermon, and explains that accentuating the positive is key to happiness. In describing his inspiration for the lyric, Mercer said his publicity agent went to hear Father Divine, and the subject of his sermon was 'you got to accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative.' Mercer thought, 'Wow, that's a colorful phrase!'

Wikipedia

The Cars



Driving through the small town of Tularosa, in southern New Mexico, it's hard to miss five pairs of enormous eyes peering from the windshields of vintage vehicles parked on an otherwise vacant lot. The rusty but still colorful fire truck, tractor, wrecker and forklifts belong to Lance Geist, a self-described picker who collects what

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he proudly calls "rusty gold." Geist and his wife, Robin, who own a construction company in Tularosa, had collected vintage vehicles for years but never displayed them. Inspiration struck during a family vacation in 2022. "My grandkids love the movie *Cars*, says Geist, who is also an artist. "When we saw the real *Cars* characters at Dsneyland, I started looking at my vehicles. Each had a previous work life that makes it unique. I wanted to play on that and bring out their distimctive personalities." Painting eyes om them, he figured would do the trick. When Geist rolled out the collection in spring, 2023, it became an instant hit. He is readying more "personified" vintage vehicles, including a 1948 DeSoto that was owned by a local municipal judge, as well as more land vehicles and perchance a small airplane and a boat.

New Mexico Magazine, July 2024



Is Friday the 13th Unlucky?

There are a lot of superstitions about the number 13 and Friday the 13th bringing bad luck, but where did they begin? The earliest myth is that the *Code of Hammurabi*, one of the world's oldest legal documents, omitted a 13th law, although that was probably a clerical error. The number 12 was considered a "perfect" number in the ancient world, and we still have 12 months in a year, 12 Zodiac signs, 12 tribes of Israel and two 12-hour periods in a single daym to name a few. Some argue that 13, following on the heels of a perfect number, was thought to be lacking and unusual.

Two other popular theories revolve around the appearance of a 13th guest at an ancient event. In the Bible, Judas Iscariot is the 13th guest to arrive at the Last Supper and later betrays Jesus. Ancient Norse lore holds that a treacherous and mysterious god, Loki, brought turmoil and evil to the world by appearing as the 13th guest at a dinner party in Valhalla and upsetting the balance of the 12 gods already there. So, the number 13 is often avoided in the West. One survey shows that more than 80 percent of the hi-rise buildings in the United States do not have a 13th floor, and most hotels, hospitals and airports avoid using the number for rooms and gates. However, in many Asian countries, the number 4 arouses similar feelings, primarily because their words for "four" and "death" sound similar or even identical.

Wikipedia