

# Chorus Chatter

News and Musings for Young at Heart Chorus Members

---

Issue #25...July 15, 2019

Editor: Ray Scroggins

**The Whiffenpoof Song** is the traditional closing number of the Whiffenpoofs, an *a capella* singing group established at Yale University in 1909. We'll be singing it in September.

The song first was published in 1909. For the lyrics, Meade Minnigerode and George S. Pomeroy, both 1910 Yale graduates, adapted Rudyard Kipling's poem "Gentlemen Rankers." That poem already had been set to music by Guy H. Scull, although the original form is unknown. Mory's Temple Bar, referred to in the lyrics, is a restaurant adjacent to the Yale campus, where the Whiffenpoofs still perform on Monday nights. Its owner in the early 1900s, Louis "Louie" Linder extended credit to the undergraduates.

The Whiffenpoofs are composed of senior students who compete in the spring of their junior year for the 14 spots. Its best-known alumnus is Cole Porter, who sang with them in 1913. Traditionally an all-male group, it admitted its first woman member in 2018.

## Why "Doing" is More Important Than "Trying"

What does a person really mean when they say "I will try?" Is it a commitment to not working hard, taking risks, suffering discomfort or following through? Trying means that you are going to give it some level of attention or effort, but at the first sign of blowback or discomfort, you are going to quit but be able to put your conscience at ease by uttering, "At least I tried." The difference between trying and actually doing is that, when doing, one stays with it to the end, regardless of consequences or reactions of others. *Dr. Laura Schlessinger*



**Louise Forshaw** has been a resident of Good Samaritan Village since 2011. You may remember that we dedicated our song "Louise" to her a few months ago during our auditorium performance there. At age 95, she still volunteers in the gift shop and library at Good Samaritan and also contributes articles to their newsletter, *The Grapevine*, including a review of our chorus.

Louise grew up in New York's The Bronx but spent her career as a high school English teacher in Great Neck, a city on Long Island. Marrying later in life, she says she and her husband, Bill, ended up in Las Cruces in 1975. After deciding to leave the East Coast, they looked for a location with a hospital, nearby airport and good library while on a Western trip. Upon visiting the old Branigan Library downtown, the friendly welcome they received there helped convince them this was the place to be.

That encounter led to a long-time association with the library when they saw a suggestion box and Bill, recalling that they had a Friends of the Library group back East, suggested one here. When the formation of one was announced in the local paper, Louise got involved as a charter member, served twice as president and was historian until finally retiring last year. She remembers the "book brigade" that moved the books from downtown to the new library.

## Chorus Chatter

News and Musings for Young at Heart Chorus Members

---

Louise and Bill traveled the US and Canada and also spend two winters at a rented apartment in Switzerland while they explored Europe.

After Bill died in 1998, Louise eventually moved to Good Samaritan in 2011. Earlier, she had brought her mother here from Florida to recuperate and moved her to Good Samaritan, where she lived for 15 years before she died in 2001. Now, Louise's younger sister also lives there, so the family tradition continues.

In addition to her volunteer activities, Louise enjoys reading plays bridge and Scrabble and goes to many of the plays and concerts in our city.



**Whatever Lola Wants**, she gets, the men will find out when they sing this song in September. The saying was inspired by Lola Montez (pictured above in 1847), an Irish-born "Spanish dancer" and mistress of King Ludwig I of Bavaria. She later became a San Francisco Gold Rush vamp.

The music and words to the song were written by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross for the 1955 musical *Damn Yankees*. In the play, the song is sung by Lola, the Devil's assistant, a part originated by Gwen Verdon.



**Hoagy Carmichael** wrote many of the songs we sing, including "Georgia on my Mind" and "Ole Buttermilk Sky". Born Hoagland Howard Carmichael in Bloomington, Indiana on November 22, 1899, he was a singer, songwriter, and actor. The American composer and author Alec Wilder described Carmichael as the "most talented, inventive, sophisticated and jazz-oriented of all the great craftsmen" of pop songs in the first half of the 20th century.

Carmichael was one of the most successful Tin Pan Alley songwriters of the 1930s and was among the first singer-songwriters in the age of mass media to utilize new communication technologies, including television and the use of electronic microphones and sound recordings. He described his unique voice as sounding "the way a shaggy dog looks...I have Wabash fog and sycamore twigs in my throat."

Carmichael composed several hundred songs, including 50 that achieved hit record status. He is best known for composing the music for "Stardust", "Georgia on My Mind", "The Nearness of You", and "Heart and Soul", four of the most-recorded American songs of all time. He also collaborated with lyricist Johnny Mercer on "Lazybones" and "Skylark." His "Ole Buttermilk Sky" was an Academy Award nominee in 1946.

### Dictionary Mysteries

If Webster wrote the first dictionary, where did he find the words? And if a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?

# Chorus Chatter

News and Musings for Young at Heart Chorus Members

## Vocal Health Tips

- Stay hydrated! Caffeine, alcohol and some prescription medications dehydrate the vocal folds.
- Be mindful of how much speaking or singing you do, and stop when you feel fatigued.
- Avoid competing with a noisy environment, such as in restaurant, on airplanes or near noisy machinery. Never yell!
- Smoking, including vaping, is particularly irritating to the vocal folds
- Avoid excessive throat clearing or coughing.
- Avoid excessively acidic foods.
- Pain, hoarseness, loss of control or range and rapid vocal fatigue are all warning signs. Seek help from a voice health professional. *Barbershop Harmony Society*



## The Six Best Doctors in the World

In his final essay before he died of pancreatic cancer in 2011, Steve Jobs, the billionaire co-founder Chairman and CEO of Apple Corporation said, "There is a big difference between being a human being and being human. Only a few really understand it. You are loved when you are born. You will be loved when you die. In between, you have to manage!"

Jobs concluded, "The six best doctors in the world are sunlight, rest, exercise, diet, self-confidence and friends. Maintain them in all stages, and enjoy a healthy life."



## Music Boosts Creativity

People come up with more creative solutions when they listen to happy, upbeat music than when they sit in silence, according to researchers from the Netherlands and Australia. It may be because music improves your brain's flexibility or because it relaxes you just enough for the creative juices to flow. But don't play the music too loudly; research has also found that moderate volume provides the creativity sweet spot. *Readers Digest*