

Chorus Chatter

News and Musings for Young at Heart Chorus Members

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Good Samaritan Health Care

On the third Thursdays of the months we perform, we sing for the residents of Good Samaritan Health Care.



Maria Contreras is the

Director of Health Care Center Activities and is also Volunteer Coordinator there. Originally from El Paso, she has lived in Las Cruces for 22 years and been at Good Samaritan for the past 15 years. She plans the daily activity calendar, usually with at least seven activities every day. Maria loves her job and enjoys meeting the residents' needs and giving them love. She says, "They're the reason we are here." Maria has three children, 17 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Chaplain Tom Kearns has

been serving the spiritual needs of the residents at Good Samaritan Village for the past four years. We see him when we sing at the Health Care facility, where he spends about 60% of his time. His office is located there, as is the Chapel, but he also spends about 25% of his time with the residents in the Living with Services apartments and 15% with the residents in Assisted Living. Before coming here

Ruidoso, he was a pastor, and he continues his pastoral work here across the continuum of care for the residents of Good Samaritan Village. Maria says she and Tom work as a team to serve the Health Care Center residents.



Marye Wagoner joined the

chorus a few months ago but has sung in many church choirs, as well as six years with the "Good Time Singers" and seven years with the Karaoke group at Trails West, where she lives.

Marye grew up on farms in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Nebraska. She was a technical writer for Motorola for 20 years and then spent 20 more years writing government proposals after moving here from Phoenix in 1977.

She had five children, five step-children and seven foster sons but has lost a daughter and two sons to cancer in the past few years. As of now, she has about 50 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. Marye's husband, a veteran of WWII and Korea and a Vietnam retiree, passed away in July last year. A celebration of his life was held at Trails West on January 6th.

Marye is an avid walker/hiker and has done 10K hikes with AVA (American Volkssport Association) in all 50 states and seven foreign countries. She still walks two to three miles daily and is also a scratch artist. If you don't know

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what that is, ask Marye. She says she doesn't have a great singing voice but loves to sing. Don't we all!

The Stars and Stripes Forever will be our patriotic song in February. It was composed by John Philip Sousa in 1896 while he was on an ocean liner on his way home from a vacation with his wife in Europe. He composed the march in his head and committed the notes to paper when he arrived in the United States. An act of Congress made it the official National March of the United States of America in 1987.

The piece is played most often as an instrumental by a band, although Sousa wrote lyrics as well. They are not as familiar as some other versions, especially the last strain. Two of the most widely known sets begin with the words "Three cheers for the red, white and blue" and "Be kind to your web-footed friends," a parody that was popular in the 1950s. If you aren't familiar with the parody, you can look it up on the web (pun intended).

One more historical note that has nothing to do with the song: Sousa's great-grandson, John Philip Sousa IV, was Ben Carson's campaign manager in the 2016 Presidential primaries.

Share the Wealth

If you have any stories, photos, articles or other thoughts you'd like to share with the other chorus members, send them to Ray. We're always looking for material to use in future newsletters. We may have to edit articles or condense the thoughts to fit our space. We're interested in anything on singing and music, how they affect our life and health, how to get more out of our musical experience together or how singing has had an impact on your life.

Volunteer Spotlight



Children's Reading Alliance photo

Rollie Antupit (2nd from right above) was among the volunteer Reading Buddies featured in *The Bulletin* last December. The program, started about 10 years ago by the Children's Reading Alliance (CRA) of Doña Ana County, is helping to stimulate children's interest in reading.

CRA has 12 volunteer Reading Buddies that, for 30 minutes twice each week of the school year, read with first- and second-grade students in four LCPS elementary schools.

Young at Heart has a lot of members who volunteer their time and talents, so if you have a volunteer story to share, please send it to Ray.

Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho, also known as *Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho* is a well-known African-American spiritual believed to have been composed by slaves in the first half of the 19th century. Early published versions included some parts in dialect, such as "fit" for "fought" as in *Joshua Fit de Battle of Jericho*. The lyrics allude to the biblical story in which Joshua led the Israelites against Canaan, but like many other spirituals, the words also may allude to eventual escape from slavery.

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South of the Border, written in 1939 by Jimmy Kennedy and Michael Carr, describes a trip to Mexico. In the lyrics, a man looks back with regret and pain for having lied to the woman he can't forget ("...and now as I wander, my thoughts ever stray...") and returned far too late to discover she had become a nun. The melancholy lyrics contrast with the music, which swings with syncopated joy. The song was a hit in 1939 for Shep Fields, Guy Lombardo, Gene Autry and Tony Martin. Many successful recordings were made later by Bing Crosby, Dean Martin, Fats Domino, Frankie Lane, Perry Como and others.

The best things in life.....aren't things!

The Happy Birthday Song, also known as *Happy Birthday to You*, is something we sing to people in our audience and the chorus every month, but how much do you know about it? It is the most recognized song in the English language according to the 1998 *Guinness World Records*, and its lyrics have been translated into at least 18 languages.

The song traditionally has been attributed to American sisters Patty and Mildred J. Hill, who used a song "Good Morning to You" as a song that young children would find easy to sing. The combination of the melody and lyrics in "Happy Birthday to You" first appeared in print in 1912 but probably existed even earlier.

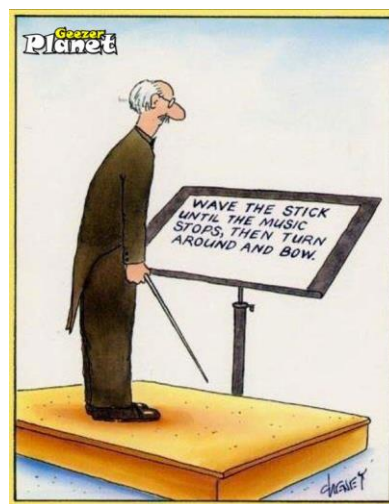
While none of the early versions included a copyright notice, a company registered a copyright in 1935, crediting different authors. That company was bought in 1988 by Warner/Chappell Music, which claimed that unauthorized public performances of the song were illegal unless the company was paid royalties. In one case, the royalty for a single use was said to be \$700! Various claims and lawsuits developed, and in 2016,

Warner/Chappell settled for \$14 million, and the court declared that the song was in the public domain.

Loch Lomond, which we will sing in March, is a well-known traditional Scottish song that has many meanings, often steeped in history and folklore. Fully named *The Bonnie Banks o' Loch Lomond*, the song features Loch Lomond, the largest Scottish loch (lake). In Scotland, the song is often played during an evening of revelry.

Many of the theories about the song's meaning are connected to the Jacobite Uprising of 1745. One of the more interesting interpretations is that the song is sung by the lover of a captured Jacobite rebel set to be executed in London. At the time, the heads of the executed rebels were set upon pikes and exhibited in all of the towns between London and Edinburgh in a procession along the "high road" (the most important road), while the relatives of the rebels walked back along the "low road" (the ordinary road traveled by peasants and commoners).

The Secret's Out



May your life be filled with song...and may your friends all sing along.