

Chorus Chatter

News and Musings for Young at Heart Chorus Members

Issue #43...April 5, 2021

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April Showers

are legendary for bringing May flowers and are celebrated in a popular song of the same name, with music written by Louis Silvers and lyrics by B. G. De Sylva.

First published in 1921, it is one of many popular songs whose lyrics use a "Bluebird of happiness" as a symbol of cheer. ("So, keep on looking for a bluebird, and listening for his song."). The song was introduced in the 1921 Broadway musical *Bombo*, where it was performed by Al Jolson. It became a well-known Jolson standard.



Why Do We Celebrate April Fools' Day?

On April 1, 1700, some English pranksters

begin popularizing the annual tradition of April Fools' Day by playing practical jokes on each other. Although the day, also called All Fools' Day, has been celebrated for several centuries by different cultures, its exact origins remain a mystery.

Some historians speculate that April Fools' Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, as called for by the Council of Trent in 1563. People who were slow to get the news or failed to recognize that the start of the new year had moved to January 1 and continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through April 1 became the butt of jokes and hoaxes.

These pranks included having paper fish placed on their backs and being referred to as *poisson d'avril* (April fish), said to symbolize a young, "easily hooked" fish and a gullible person.

April Fools' Day spread throughout Britain during the 18th century. In Scotland, the tradition became a two-day event, starting with "hunting the gowk," in which people were sent on phony errands (gowk is a word for cuckoo bird, a symbol for fool) and followed by Tailie Day, which involved pranks played on people's derrieres, such as pinning fake tails or "kick me" signs on them.



Save the Whales...
Collect the Whole Set!

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Check it Out

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

<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 me know if you have any questions.

Think Positive

A positive disposition may protect your memory. Researchers assessed disposition and memory in 991 middle-aged and older adults three times between 1995 and 2014. They discovered that positive emotions over the years were linked to better word recall, a measure of memory, as the participants aged. *Bottom Line Health*



Can You Name All Seven?

Can you name all seven of Snow White's dwarfs without peeking at the answers on the last page?

The Healing Power of Music

Las Cruces choir directors praised the power of music in a recent article in the *Las Cruces Sun News*. For almost the past

year, the Covid-19 virus has shut down in-person gathering for the 54 million Americans who sing in groups professionally or for fun. In Las Cruces, most choirs stopped rehearsing and performing but are looking forward to when they can plan their next big performance.

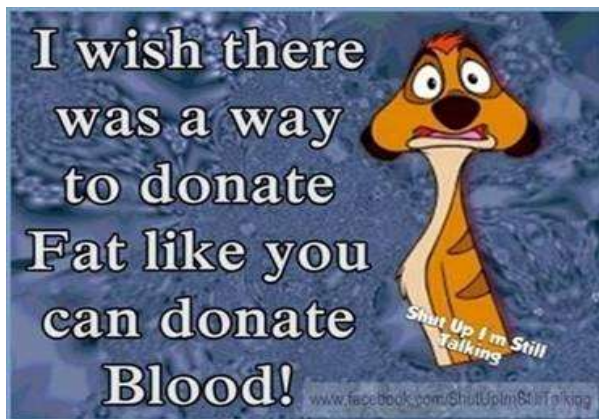
Carol Nike, who directs the women's group Celestial Sounds and the choir at St. James Church, has been giving voice lessons over Zoom and even hosted a Zoom recital. She also hosts a weekly Zoom hymn sing for members of her church. Oñate High School Choir Director Ida Holguin has been holding classes over an online platform and also co-directs the choir at Peace Lutheran Church with Jieun Newland. All three music directors plan to resume in-person rehearsals and performances once it's safe, but Nike said she wonders what the impact of extended closures means for local vocalists.

"The shared vibrations of singing bring people together in a way that nothing else can," Nike said. "I've seen research that says the shared vibrations of music gives people a feeling of camaraderie more than any other musical ensemble. It's healing, not just because it helps us to express emotions that have been buried, but also because of the healing vibration of sounds," she said. Holguin said there's nothing that heals like music. "The first time that people are able to go to a live concert again, whether it's a choir concert or a symphony, or an opera, I just think that that is going

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to bring more happiness to people than we even realize right now, because no matter what we do in life, we listen to music," she said. Newland notes that when positive lyrics and a great melody combine, it can be a powerful experience. "Thinking about the positive message engrained with the melody will bring you some kind of joy and happiness. I think it's not only the message you want to believe, it becomes engrained in your thought," she said.



There are so many kinds of apples that, if you ate a new one each day, it would take you almost 20 years to try them all.

Corporate Bytes (online)



Words that Mean Something Different in England

Geezer-In America, "geezer" is a derogatory term often paired with "old" to describe an elderly (and often eccentric) old man. In Great Britain, the word "geezer" is a slang term for a regular man and is often used the same way Americans refer to young guys as "dudes."

Trainer- Here, trainers are fitness experts who can help you work out. Abroad, trainers are just another name for sneakers, or tennis shoes.

Boot -While in America a boot is a type of footwear, in England, the term refers to the trunk of a car.

Jumper-In the America, "jumper" can refer to a person who's attempting to jump from a bridge or building. In Great Britain, "jumper" is the name for a knitted top, or, as it's called in America: a sweater.

Braces - Here "braces" are used to straighten your teeth, but in Great Britain, the word refers to what we call suspenders.

Comforter-In the U.S., a comforter is a quilted bedspread, but in England, a comforter is a baby's pacifier.

Some Thoughts for the Day

- When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.
- I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.
- Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.
- When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "east."

Snezy, Bashful, Sleepy,
Happy, Grumpy, Dopey, Doc