

Chorus Chatter

News and Musings for Young At Heart Chorus Members

Issue #6 ...January 15, 2017

Tell Me a Story

The melody and words of a song paint a musical story, but a good performance is more than just singing the notes and words correctly. Jack Benny once said, "Get the audience to like you as soon as possible." One of the best ways to connect with them is by telling our story the best we possibly can.

Think about the message you are trying to convey to our audience when you sing. Make sure your facial expression and body language help tell the story. Hold your music up, look at the audience (and you can see the director better that way too), smile, raise your eyebrows, look enthusiastic, and sell the song. You'll be surprised how good you will feel and how much more our audience will enjoy the music we bring to them.

Our Practice Schedule

We have two practices each month, on the two Mondays before the first Thursday of the month. Sometimes the second practice will be on the Monday of the week of our first performance. This sounds a lot more complicated than it is, so just check our monthly calendar to be sure.

With only two practices before we sing a program, it's important to attend at least one of them if possible. We all have commitments that may keep us away, but it helps if you know the way we are singing the music and any changes we may make at practice. Our

Editors: Ray Scroggins & Dennis Cherry

performances are getting better all the time. When we start and stop together and sing together as well as we can, our audiences will enjoy it, and we will too. It's satisfying for everyone when we keep giving our best.

Got a Question?

If you have a question about any aspect of chorus life, send or give it to Ray. Other members may have the same question, so we'll be including a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) section in future newsletters to share answers.

Correction

In case any of you Elvis fans were confused by the reference in Jo Banks' profile from the last issue about him singing *Shanty Town*, it was all due to a simple typo. The song actually was done by Elvie Jokin, a former member of Young at Heart before most of us were involved, including this editor. Jo says, "She was a very special little lady, and the chorus dedicated this song and the year following her death to her."



Judy, Sue & Marcie sing *I'm Gettin' Nuttin' for Christmas* at Northrise Morningside

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Bob Shade says he is retiring after singing with us since 2008, when he and his wife, Arlene, joined the chorus. Let's call it a semi-retirement, since we hope he'll sing with us whenever he can, at least for our two performances at Good Samaritan each month.

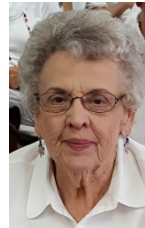
Bob spent his early years on a farm in Iowa and volunteered for the Army Air Corps. There he flew B-29 and B-17 aircraft in the Pacific during World War II. While in Sioux City training to fly the B-17, he met Arlene, who was a nurse at the local hospital. They married and had four children, a son and three daughters. Sadly, their son and first two daughters have since passed on, but their remaining daughter, Laurie, lives here in Las Cruces. Three grandsons complete Bob's immediate family.

After the war, Bob received his JD (Law) degree from the University of South Dakota and practiced law in the small town of DeSmet, SD. Because they needed the services available in a larger town for their Down's syndrome son, Bob and Arlene moved to Des Moines. There he joined Allied Mutual Insurance. He was involved in their fire insurance business for 14 years before joining an agency in Des Moines.

Bob also started a retarded children's group there and eventually became president of the affiliate state organization. He also was active

with the Masons, including the Shrine and Scottish Rite.

Upon retirement in 1987, Bob and Arlene moved to Raymond, Colorado, where they lived for 15 years. They moved here in 2002 and were familiar with Las Cruces because their daughter lived here. They also had stopped here often to fill their motorhome's water tank enroute to Texas or Arizona. Arlene died in 2012, but many of us still remember her fondly.



Flonnie Cross has been singing with Young at Heart since she moved to Las Cruces from Apache Junction, Arizona in 2005. Born in Casa Grande, she married her husband, Jerry, in 1955. While living in Arizona, she ran a clothing store for 20 years and then sold real estate for 15 years.

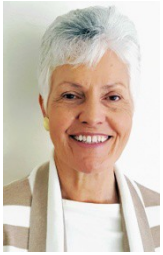
Singing is a big part of Flonnie's life. She sings with the regular and senior choirs at First Baptist Church and also has been a regular in the church's Living Christmas Tree for many years. While singing with Young at Heart, Flonnie also backs up Joy in the rhythm section. She and Jerry also enjoy going to the Senior Dances in town.

Flonnie left Arizona to find a climate that was better for her MS and came to New Mexico in part because Jerry was born in the state, at Santa Rita. They have three sons, seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

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Most live in Arizona, except for one grandson who lives in Georgia. Flonnie says it was fun to take her four granddaughters to her clothing store and dress them up when they were young.



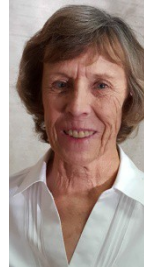
Phyllis Medd joined the chorus twice; once in 1999 and then again in 2003 after a four-year break for work. With 10 years of piano lessons and eight years of voice study, she adds a lot of musical talent to our group. She has sung in high school and university choirs, the Mesilla Valley Chorale and Celestial sounds.

Phyllis and her husband, Jack, grew up in Canada where they both taught school for 13 years before returning to college and moving here in 1980 to attend NMSU. They have lived here ever since but built a home in Killarney, Manitoba after they retired and now spend four months there each summer.

Although she has no children of her own, Phyllis has helped mold a lot of children as a teacher in grades from one to 12. Most of her experience has been in grades six through nine, as well as four years as an elementary school principal. She taught grade six at La Mesa for 12 years and also at the Southern New Mexico Correctional Facility for four years.

When not singing, Phyllis likes to hike in the desert with her husband and also enjoys

gardening and flower arranging. They have traveled to Africa, South America and Europe.



Wanda Worrell joined the chorus in 2009. She's one of our few members who aren't transplants to New Mexico, having been born and raised on a farm north of Las Cruces. She is a graduate of Las Cruces High School and also attended NMSU. For several years, Wanda worked at various banks and also was a day care director for 30 years. Currently, she volunteers 20 hours per week with the Kindergarten class at Sonoma Elementary, which she has done for the past eight years.

Most of her singing experience has been in school chorus and church choirs, in addition to singing around the piano at home with family. In her spare time, in addition to singing with Young at Heart, Wanda is interested in children, dogs, crossword puzzles and spending time outdoors. She has a daughter in Phoenix.



Jo and Joan team up on *My Favorite Things*, including a humorous verse on aging by Julie Andrews.

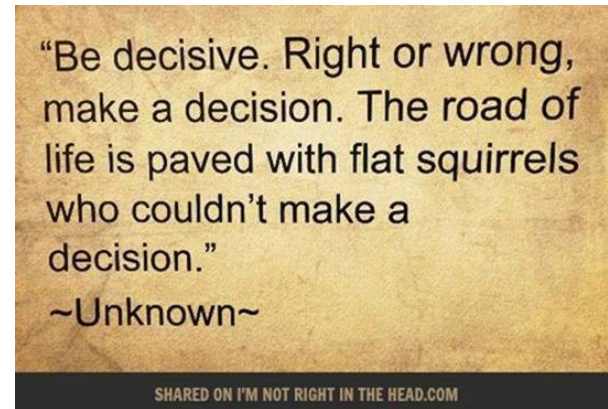
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YOUNG AT HEART CHORUS – FEBRUARY, 2017
Director – Dennis

BABY FACE	TWICE
TEA FOR TWO	ONCE
TINY BUBBLES	BOTH VERSES WITH ECHO
THAT'S AMORE	TWICE
I'LL SEE YOU IN MY DREAMS	TWICE
ALWAYS – (WOMEN)	TWICE - ENGLISH
STANDING ON THE CORNER – (MEN)	ONCE
MAKIN' WHOOPIE	ONCE / INTERLUDE REPEAT FROM "PICTURE ..."
<i>SPECIALS: - JIM AND GEORGE WITH BIRTHDAYS: JOY – HEY LOOK ME OVER JOAN & GEORGE – ZING A LITTLE ZONG</i>	
AIN'T SHE SWEET	ONCE / INTERLUDE / REPEAT
I COULD HAVE DANCED ALL NIGHT	TWICE
I'M BEGINNING TO SEE THE LIGHT	ONCE
TWILIGHT TIME	ONCE
BUSHEL AND A PECK	ALL 3 VERSES
SOMEBODY LOVES ME	1 TIME / REPEAT FROM "FOR EVERY...:"
DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE – (RELIGIOUS)	AS WRITTEN
AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL – (PATRIOTIC)	3 VERSES

*Some day we older folks will use
 cursive writing as a secret code*



FEBRUARY 2017
Young At Heart Chorus Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 2:30 Aristocrat	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 2:30 Good Sam Assisted Living	10	11 12:30 Red Hats at Encanto Hotel
12	13	14 	15	16 2:30 Good Sam Health Care	17	18
19	20 1:15 Practice	21	22	23 2:30 Northrise Morningside	24	25
26	27 1:15 Practice	28	DRESS: Standard black with white or red for Valentine's Day.			

Practice is at First Baptist Church unless otherwise noted.