



# Corralin' the Chorale

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER of the VILLAGE CHORALE of LAGUNA WOODS

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## www.villagechorale.com

Our website has a tremendous capacity of having the chorale schedule updated, special announcements posted, copies of newsletters stored, chorale handbook information listed, officers information shown, etc. Our website also enables sharing of photos, slide shows, favorite music recordings, favorite video recordings, sheet music pieces, and etc. If there are any favorite things to share with our chorale members, please contact Ken Min, our Website Administrator, who will coordinate a sharing scheme through our website. Do not put your favorite things on your book-shelves. Put them on the website. This website is owned by the Chorale and cherished by all members!

## Scholarship News

Three area Musicians received Village Chorale Scholarship funds last spring. Ms. Donna Beccia, who was then a student teacher at El Toro High School attended our May concert 2008 and was introduced to the audience. One thousand dollars was sent directly to Alliant University in San Diego to apply to her college loans.

Alysia Murray and Judy Ann Davila were the recipients of \$500 scholarships through Village Chorale contributions to the General Scholarship Fund at Saddleback College.

Alysia is a vocalist and piano major. A single parent, she has a piano studio in her home in Laguna Beach and has been active in vocal groups while at Saddleback college.

During the 2007-08 school year Judy was a student assistant for John Elg's High School music classes in Mission Viejo. These activities finalized her desire to become a High School teacher and she will be studying this year at Cal State Fullerton for the next level of music education.

The Village Chorale has a long history of presenting Scholarship Awards to students who plan to continue studies in the field of music after their graduation from Saddleback College. It is a logical project for the Chorale to take on since we are vitally involved in music performance and promotion. This year the Board has voted to ensure raising of Scholarship funds by adding a new event to our Spring '09 Calendar.

Our first annual "Cant Cant" (a Show - an Auction - a Stitch) will be dedicated to raising funds for Scholarships when we stage the event in Clubhouse 7 on March 12, 2009.

## NEWS BITS

**1. Part of the lyrics** in Star Warford's performance in last May's concert were the words "days may be cloudy or sunny." Well since then Star has had a bit of both. Surprise surgery added some very dark clouds to her rainy/shiny days this summer. But the sunny news is that she is on her feet now. And hopefully the upcoming chemo treatments will be just a breeze.

**2. A Nominating Committee** is about to begin work on finding a First Vice President to serve this year. Review your By-Laws in this year's Handbook to be reminded of this position which we voted last spring to add to our standing list of officers.

**3. A Special Committee** will begin studying the pricing structure of our concert tickets this month - whether to change prices so that tickets sold by members equal the price of those sold at the box office. There are good pros and cons to be discussed. If you would like to serve on this committee talk to Carol A.

**4. In addition** to rehearsing and performing there are always projects and events in which Chorale members can become involved. Fall events are the Punch & Cookie Day this month and in November our Annual Potluck. Our ticket sales is the biggest fall project and for those interested there will be advertising to sell for our winter Program Brochure. Let Gloria Kirbens know if you can help with Punch & Cookie Day. And tell Grace Hu if you wish to be on the Potluck team. Be ready to help with Advertising Sales - watch for announcements!

**5. The first day** we wore our new Concert Attire was an exciting day! All dressed to the nines in our special order black spandex tops and black tuxes brought us one step above all the 38 Village Chorales who had preceded us. And we still love "feeling pretty" in our concert attire! Linda Ewoldt needs to receive your Costume Order and payment in time for your special order to arrive for Picture Day!

Just think . . .

*The early bird may get the worm  
but it's the second mouse that gets the cheese in the trap.*

Change is inevitable,  
except from vending machines.

## In Memory

There is a special sadness this year and one empty chair in our Tenor section as we mourn the passing of Marilyn Berman. Marilyn joined the chorale in 1989 and was always there - quiet but taking everything in. She always had a smile.

Though we never learned much about her life outside of chorale we appreciate having sharing many hours together rehearsing and performing.

We miss you, Marilyn !

## Reminders for September

Tue. 2 Today is Soprano Sctn Rehrsals 1:00 -2:00 p.m.

**Today is Chorale Rehearsal 2 - 4 p.m.**  
**Happy Anniversary! Natalie Dean**

Sun. 7 **Happy Birthday! Mike Kennedy**

Tue, 9 Today is Alto Sctn Rehrsals 1:00 -2:00 p.m.

**Today is Chorale Rehearsal 2 - 4 p.m.**  
**Happy Anniversary! Anne Cullinane**

Wed.10 **Happy Anniversary: Judi Gutierrez**  
**Happy Birthday! Grace Hudson**

Tue, 16 Today is Tenor Sctn Rehrsals 1:00 -2:00 p.m.

**Today is Chorale Rehearsal 2 - 4 p.m.**  
**Punch & Cookie Day** following rehearsal

Tue, 23 **Today is Board Meeting 12:30 -1:30 p.m.**

Today is Bass Sctn Rehrsals 1:00 -2:00 p.m.  
**Today is Chorale Rehearsal 2 - 4 p.m.**  
**Happy Birthday! Bob Pettengill**

Tue, 30 Today is Soprano Sctn Rehrsals 1:00 -2:00 p.m.

**Today is Chorale Rehearsal 2 - 4 p.m.**  
**Last Day - New Memberships**  
**Happy Birthday! Del Matonic**

**Soprano Gloria "Anne" Cullinane** - Anne & Andy were married in '67. Have 7 kids, 15 grandkids, 21 gr-grandkids. She works full time. She speaks for church Women's Groups. Tunes to HGTV. Favorite room: Sewing Room.

**Soprano Natalie Dean** - Natalie studied voice and piano and accompanied groups in her 35 year love of music and now also directs the Village "Harmonaires." Her grandkids excite her - she even likes their goofy "Knock-knock" jokes!

**Soprano Judi Gutierrez** - Judi & Tom were wed in '67. They have 4 children, 4 grandchildren. She is preschool teacher; born Phila. PA; enjoys "MarthaStewartLiving" mag; Watches "Jeopardy", Tiger Woods; Is awed by Big Sur

**Soprano Grace Hudson** - is widowed with 2 children, 2 grandchildren; Plays piano, organ & saxophone and has had voice lessons; was former member and returned in F'07; Plays golf; you'll find her working at Saddleback Thrift.

**Soprano Mary Mike Kennedy** - Born in FL; liked living in Sacramento & Nashville; Tunes to "Turner Classics"; Grandson has been singer/dancer in "42<sup>nd</sup> Street"; Has 7 children, 13 grandchildren; Favorite year? - age 27!

**Bass Del Matonic** - PA born; At least one of his 6 grandkids put him in writing as "hero"; Is a bit of a perfectionist; Likes observing wild animals; Sings a lot; Cheers a lot - for Steelers and Notre Dame teams.

**Bass Bob Pettengill** - Takes long Motor Home trips; Likes reading, walking, historical, music, theater; Born in Minneapolis; Was a College Professor; Favorites: author Michener, hero Jefferson, team USC/Angels, TV-PBS

## Belated Happy Birthday to you! Anniversary Too!

**Jun 2 Happy Birthday!** Bass **Alvin (Al) Gross** is a widower with 1 son, 1 daughter, and 2 granddaughters; Al was born in NYC but is glad he lives in So. Orange County; Likes to read, watch TV and sports; was in the Palmia Chorus; Loves Bacon.

**Jun 8 Happy Birthday!** Sop **Anne Cullinane** born Texas, enjoyed living in Hot Spring, AK; She plays Keyboard in her Irvine church weekly; age 40 would be nice - to do more of the same she's already done! Need more time/so much to learn!

**Jun 13 Happy Birthday!** Alto **Marlyn Chan** Born in Hawaii; Enjoyed visiting China & France; Likes playing piano, listening to music, doing CPU, good movies, MSNBC, buttered popcorn! Is thrilled grandkids love piano lessons & she can hear them.

**Jul 2 Happy Anniversary!** Sop **Vicki Fuggi** Vicki & Mike will soon be moving to new home; Her solo gigs (weddings and churches) will continue, as will her job - in insurance. Vicki joined the chorale in Fall of 2006.

**Jul 4 Happy Birthday!** **Jul 4 Happy Anniversary!** Tenor **Maurice Rouleau** is a Realtor part time ; sang with church and community choirs; He and Estelle have a daughter and 2 grandchildren; He was born in Rhode Island

**Jul 4 Happy Anniversary!** **Jul 30 Happy Anniversary!** Sop **Mary Young** is our Past President; she and Jerry have been married since '83; their dog is important part of their life; she enjoyed "hippie" music

**Jul 6 Happy Anniversary!** Bass **Larry Irion** Larry & Penny son: Joe & grandson: Kevin. Lived in Istanbul Turkey. He is in Theatre Guild & known for speaking voice. Sang w/Roger Wagner. Favorites: Hero Milton Freedman & Author Ayn Rand.

**Jul 7 Happy Birthday!** Alto **Julie Matonic** Julie was a Board Member - Library & Performance. She is famous for her Chicken Chili and Deviled Eggs. Likes salad. Is avid at doing watercolors. Is a bit shy. Likes saying Vermillion,...vermillion.....

**Jul 9 Happy Birthday!** Sop **Rosie Hackney** birthplace - Philippines; has sung in choirs since grade school; sings Melody Makers and Kool Kats; Likes to read, play ukelele, hike, exercise, and travel. Her nemesis - snakes; has 5 grandkids!

**Jul 12 Happy Birthday!** Sop **Ginni Fay** was in Palmia Choir; Was born in St. Louis; Liked living in Palm Desert; Loves sports; Likes OC because it's so clean & safe; Likes reading Judith McNaught; Loves chocolate! Thought Hippies silly!

**Jul 15 Happy Birthday!** Tenor **Sarah Raifeisen** was charter singer with Reformed Temple Choir; Wishes to be a dancer; joined Chorale when she moved here in 1994; Born in Detroit, liked living in Washington D.C.; She is good financial manager

**Jul 20 Happy Anniversary!** Tenor **Chuck Perea** Chuck & Charla have 4 children & 8 grandchildren; Is well known as LW soloist - in several groups. He likes to cook and spend times in group Bible Studies

**Jul 23 Happy Birthday!** Alto **Rita Berlin** Likes to read, cook, bake, travel, keep up with old friends and family; Favorites: 60's decade, LuLu's Restaurant, Ocean vistas! Was born in NYC; Has sung on stage - Musical Theatre; Was Social Worker.

**Jul 27 Happy Birthday!** Bass **Ned Read** If he were just 40 he'd still be flying! He was a WW2 pilot; tunes TV to 14; He could be a 2-burger a day person; reads Westerns; likes singing & dancing; likes OC for weather & beaches; enjoys his dog!

**Aug 2 Happy Birthday!** Sop **Mary Middleton** would be a lonesome gal without her Irish Setter Paddy. Most interesting place she lived—Thailand. Is an Angels rooter. Has studied music and piano at Saddleback; Enjoys football and baseball.

**Aug 7 Happy Birthday!** Alto **Joyce Nanchy** is a widow with 3 children, 12 grandchildren. Listener to Music & News; Enjoys gardening, cooking, shopping. Has had voice lessons, Sang solos at her church, Wants to travel. Hero: Kate Smith

**Aug 10 Happy Birthday!** Sop **Vicki Fuggi** Born in Baltimore, Liked living in West Hollywood; She has sung, she does sing, she will sing! Likes to walk, exercise (Curves), entertain friends, read; Best known for her singing - has a BM from UofMD.

**Aug 16 Happy Birthday!** Alto **Julie Pettengill** sang in various choirs; was born in Minneapolis - likes California! She reads, listen to classical music, & RVs with husband Bob; Likes: National Graphic & Smithsonian Magazines; was skater as a child

**Aug 16 Happy Birthday!** Bass **Bill St. John** is former Chorale Chair; Was born in Bayonne, NJ; Liked Europe - the Vatican; likes to garden, golf, and travel with his wife; Was a Clerk of Superior Court; sang in various church & glee clubs

**Aug 16 Happy Anniversary!** Bass **Adam Scoccia** Rita and Adam have 3 grandchildren; son Ron is deceased; does computers, reading, & learning music. Designed a game- has patent; likes singing Barbershop too; was Mechanical Engineer

**Aug 17 Happy Anniversary!** Bass **Doug Tummond** Elaine & Doug have a child & 3 grandkids; He tries not to collect things; He most likes War History, reading fiction, network surfing, Bible Study, Hiking, and Eating out. May never go

# A SINGER'S Testimonial

For most of us when it's dinner time we walk into the kitchen and start the preparation - especially if in our list of most favorite things to do cooking is second only to singing. But meal preparation takes a different course if because of a major stroke your right leg cannot receive and interpret messages from the brain.

In the eleven years since Rita Berlin had her stroke on Labor Day 1997 she has gone through intense cycles of recovery, rehabilitation, and retraining. And she's come up singing!

It may just be because of a spirited background of family singing as a child; because of dedicated solo and choral singing in High School and College; because of the demands of participation with the Fullerton Civic Light Opera; and/or because of a lifetime of choral singing in her Synagogue that we even know our Rita Berlin - front row alto of the Village Chorale!

It's quite a story! By 1997 Rita had worked for Orange County Social Services as a Mediator in child custody cases and in a Shelter for Battered Women for a number of years. So when the Labor Day Holiday arrived a trip from their home in Laguna Beach to be with family in Big Bear was a welcome event for Rita and husband Stewart.

But the weekend took a different turn when due to Rita's sudden unexplainable weakness Paramedics had to be called. She was taken to Hospital in San Bernardino and the next day Stewart took her to UCLA where she was in ICU for 28 days. The family (daughters Jill and Stacy were both pregnant then) ached through ten weeks of beginning rehabilitation with her at St. Jude in Fullerton. Rita didn't talk then - she couldn't. She communicated by writing but could not say a word!

But then in a therapy session one of the specialists asked her to sing "Happy Birthday." And she did! She sang right the way through the whole song - not missing a word. That was the turn around that brought hope and activity back into her life. With that singing came speaking. And with the speaking came a new lifestyle and hope.

Stewart and Rita bought a lovely home in the Village in 1998, she began singing in her Synagogue again (her idea), and in 2002 joined the Village Chorale. She meets to discuss her Book Club book selections every other week. And she plays bridge regularly too.

And yes, she does much of her own cooking. She just breaks up the project into small tasks and then when it's dinner time she's ready to put it all together and have her family and guests enjoy her cooking!

Singing can add 15 years to your life! Singing can also just plain add LIFE to your life!

**Board Members** are charged with scheduling, organizing, promoting, and ensuring that all aspects of the annual Chorale published Schedule occur in a timely manner with adequate funds to carry them forward.

**President** -

Soprano/Joined Fall 2004 - This is Carol Andrews second year as President. Carol also served as Editor/Publisher of our Program Brochures in the past.

**Vice-President** -

Alto/Joined Fall 2005 - Marlyn Chan holds the Vice President position duties for the second year. She has earned a reputation for being a "Ticket Sales Wizard" because of her many years' devotion to keeping all the ticket records and stats straight.

**Secretary** -

Soprano/Joined Fall 2006 - Vicki Fuggi is our second year Secretary. With a Bachelor of Music in Voice Vicki is a major Soloist for the Chorale.

**Treasurer** -

Soprano/Joined 1988 - Maribeth Clausen is our longest standing Chorale member. Maribeth has been a concert soloist and as well has served in all of the Chorale positions from Music & Auditions Chair, Librarian, Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice president, to President. And now on a new set of years as Treasurer this is Maribeth's second year.

**Budget Chair** -

Bass/Joined Spring 2005 - This is Del Matonic's second year as Budget Chair, a position created last year to broaden financial accountability of the organization.

**Membership Chair** -

Soprano/Joined Fall 2006 - Shirley Behar, one of our recent concert soloists, is our new Membership Chair. Her leadership includes tracking, encouraging, promoting, and information flowing to and from individual club members.

**Scholarship Chair** -

Soprano/Joined Spring 2006 - This is Janet Dwyer's second year as Scholarship Chair. Janet has previously been a concert soloist.

**Outreach Chair** -

Tenor/Joined Spring 2007 - Ken Min is our Website Administrator. As well he heads up a team who interfaces with various community and national groups to promote the chorale and expand member opportunities.

**Library Chair** -

Soprano/Joined Spring 2007 - Karen Min oversees the work of ordering, pulling, packeting, and returning all music to the Chorale Music Library. This is her second year.

**Events Chair** -

Tenor/Joined Fall 2007 - Phil Enns is, for the first year, coordinating team members who make our events happen - from Annual Events to Rebate Events and Receptions.

**Performance Chair** -

Bass/Joined Spring 2008 - As our newest Board member it is Ned Read's responsibility to oversee all aspects of our Concerts: auditions, tickets, programs, costumes, talent.

Just think . . .

*If you think nobody cares try missing a couple of payments!*