



# Seattle Shores Chorus



Volume 1, Issue 1

FALL of 2009

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## Special Thoughts

- *Love—Laugh—Sing and don't Worry—Be Happy!*
- *Worry is the darkroom where negatives develop*
- *Music frees the Soul*



This is the first quarterly newsletter to be sent. If you received it in the post and would rather receive it thru e-mail, know someone else that would enjoy receiving it, or would like to be removed from our list—Let us know. See contact information on the back page.

## Celebrating Another Year (56 and still going strong)

*Seattle Shores Chorus celebrated our 56th year this past May with cake and of course song. Many prior members showed up to help us celebrate. Opal Hicks, a charter member with the chorus, was the master of ceremony. The following is part of her presentation.*

Many people have asked “how did Sweet Adelines get started in the Northwest?” Well, I am happy to tell you.

My husband and I moved to Seattle in March of 1951. In the fall we heard there was to be a barbershop show put on by the Seattle Men's Chapter of SPEBSQSA at the Metropolitan Theatre in

the Olympic Hotel. We made plans to attend and although it was my first experience to hear barbershop chords, I thoroughly enjoyed it. During intermission a woman by the name of Grace Doyle announced from the stage about the formation of a women's singing group called Sweet Adelines. She invited any woman interested to contact her. She gave her phone number and my husband said “write that down” and so I did.

The following Monday I phoned her and discovered that they were rehearsing at her home on Tuesday night.

I went to her home and found 6 or 8 women there to sing. There was only one baritone and she was having trouble with the part. Since I had always sung alto, I decided baritone was for me.

We continued to rehearse each Tuesday and had several men trying out for the position as our director. After 1 1/2 years Jack Hicks became our director. He had been a music major at USC and also knew barbershop.

In order to charter with International, a group needed a Director and at least 12 active members. It took us about 1 1/2 years to

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## Bonnie Willis—going on 50 years of sharing her talent!

Bonnie Royse Willis was singing acapella music before she could walk. She was singing four part harmony with her three sisters longer than she can remember. You could say she was born to sing barbershop music.

Bonnie joined Sweet Adelines 49 years ago in 1960 with Lakeside Chorus while still in her teens. Her first love was quartet singing, and only intended

to be in a chorus for a year . The first quartet she was in came in 5<sup>th</sup> at International Competition that year, and then went on to winning 3<sup>rd</sup> place the next year. In June of 1965, she got a call to try out for a quartet called “The Embers” singing tenor. They worked very hard for 5 months, and came in the top ten at the International Competition

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The Embers  
1965



Bonnie started out as 'temporary' but has become the longest serving director Seattle Shores Chorus ever had.

Bonnie Willis (continued from front page)

that year, and by the next spring at the regional competition in Houston, they came in 1st. She joined the Jet Cities Chorus and sang with them a few years while serving almost every office available in a chorus.

For the next few years, "The Embers" sang all over the continent and did 2 tours overseas with the USO representing Washington state. They even sang at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

How's that for practice, practice, practice? "The Embers" came in 2nd place 3 more times before they had to disband due to the failing health of one of their members. Bonnie has a total of 3 third place International medals, and 3 2nd place

International medals.

Bonnie joined Seattle Shores Chorus in 1988 and helped the chorus go to International Competition in Miami. Her then quartet, "Heartbeat", came in 1st in the regional competition. She became the "temporary" director in 1994 after the chorus came in 5th place with director Carol Burdo. She became the longest serving director Seattle Shores Chorus ever had.

She has received many awards since becoming director—Novice director, novice quartets and Most Improved Chorus. A highlight of her directing career was the performance at Jamestown Virginia at the 400th anniversary

celebration. She says we never sounded better.

You might think all this would be enough to keep any woman busy, but Bonnie is not just any woman. She did all this while working full time, raising 2 beautiful daughters (who also sing), and owning and running a working cattle ranch. She has also been in several quartets at her church.

Bonnie took a well deserved retirement from directing in 2009 and passed the baton on to the next generation. She still sings with the chorus and is still very active with the music program at her church.

We wish her good health and good voice for many, many more years to come. She is an inspiration to us all.

Thanks, Bonnie!



Coach—Sandy Robinson Marron

Sandy Marron came to Seattle Shores three times during 2008—2009 to help the chorus to strengthen vocal production skills and improve their musicality.

She's a Master Director of Lions Gate Chorus, 2008 International Bronze Medalists, Tenor of Brava!, 2004 International Quartet Champions, Tenor of Martini Quartet, 2008 Region 26 Quartet Champions, Approved Sound Judge, Certified International Faculty member and a professional Barbershop Coach for both Sweet Adelines and Barbershop Harmony Society.

Sandy has a diverse

background of musical experience and education including 12 years of piano and theory training with the Royal Conservatory of Music in Canada, 5 years in Choral Music Education at the University of Victoria, singing and conducting classical, jazz and musical theater. She received her Bachelor of Arts & Education degrees in Psychology and Music Education from the University of Victoria in 1986. Then she discovered Sweet Adelines in 1987 and has been forging ahead non-stop since!

She joined the Burnaby Chorus where she served as Tenor Section Leader and

then Assistant Director. She enrolled in the Director Certification Program in 1991 and accepted the position of front line director of the 100+ member Lions Gate Chorus and has directed them from 22nd placement at International in 1996 to 3rd place Bronze Medalists in Calgary in 2008.

As a 16 year member of the Regional Music Faculty and an Approved Sound Judge, Sandy also serves as a Certified International Faculty member.

Seattle Shores Chorus loved having Sandy work with us and truly appreciate the many skills she taught us. We applaud Sandy and her expertise.

By Linea Croly

Administrative Staff
President: Jamie Miller
Vice President/ Recording Secretary: Barbara Fine
Corresponding Secretary: Laura Burzynski
Treasurer: Joyce Rimmer
Bd. Members: Vickilynn Gruber, Marian Gee, Lois Anderson, Opal Hicks
Musical Director: Judy Cooper-MacLaren
Ass't Director: Bonnie Massey
Choreographer: Karen Stark

## Celebrating—how it began (continued from front page)

meet these requirements. We actually were chartered with 21 members.

Our Charter was presented on May 4, 1953 by Dr. Sigmund Spaeth of New York City, noted musicologist and arranger of "Sweet Adeline" which was our official theme song for several years. He happened to be in Seattle to participate in the celebration of the 100th birthday of the Seattle Symphony and was delighted to be our presenter. We officially became known as the Seattle Chapter of Sweet Adelines.

Seattle Chapter was busy with rehearsals, performances, and competitions from 1953—1980. Soon after Seattle Chapter received its charter, they were instrumental in assisting the formation of

Puget Sound, City of Angeles and Lakeside Chapters. Throughout all of this Seattle had five directors. In 1980 it was decided that the Seattle Chorus and the Northshore Chorus would combine and become the Seattle Shores Chorus. Northshore Chorus had chartered in 1961 and up to that time had seven directors. Dick Conner was directing them at the time of the merger and remained for three years. International granted the chorus longevity of the Seattle Chorus.

In 1988 Seattle Shores Chorus won the Regional Competition which allowed them to go to Miami, Florida for the International Competition. The chorus has continued performing and bringing their music to many receptive audiences. Probably the outstanding

event in recent years was the invitation in 2007 to sing at Jamestown, Virginia for the 400th anniversary of the founding of our country.

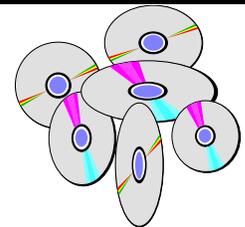
It is interesting to note that the Family Tree of Region 13 began to grow with City of Roses (Portland) receiving their charter in the fall of 1953. In 1954 the following chapters received their charters — Lions Gate (Vancouver, B.C.); Yakima and Edmonton. Originally, Seattle Chapter was in Region 12 (which was in northern California). Region 13 was later created in May, 1955.

This is a thumbnail sketch as to how Sweet Adelines started in the Northwest. It has been a fun time!

By Opal Hicks



Charter member Betty Koon died in 2008 and is sorely missed. The above brick is part of the brick walkway located at International Headquarters in Tulsa.



To celebrate our 55th Anniversary we made a CD for the first time—interested in buying one e-mail us at [seattle.shores@yahoo.com](mailto:seattle.shores@yahoo.com)

## Upcoming Events

**October 20-24:** SAI International Convention, Nashville, TN

**October 25:** Perform at Tacoma Dome Christmas Show

**November 14:** Seattle Shores Bazaar at rehearsal Hall in Shoreline

**November 20-21:** Ovation Quartet Workshop with 2009 Queens of Harmony, Moxie Ladies; Everett

**December 8:** Coaching with Carole Kirkpatrick

**December 12:** We sing in the SeaChordsmen Show in Ballard

**February 13/14:** Singing Valentines

**March 18-20, 2010:** Region 24 Convention.

**April 22-24, 2010:** Region 13 Convention - Anchorage

**May 13-16, 2010:** Region 26 Convention-Saskatoon,

**October 10-19, 2010:** SAI Convention - Seattle

Well, we have been a busy little group. Along with getting a new director we have sung at an AquaSox Game, at the Marysville Homegrown Festival and the Taste of Edmonds. A small group of us also performed at a local Retirement Center.

We are now getting ready for the Holidays—the Christmas Show at the Tacoma Dome and our guest appearance with the SeaChordsmen is just around the corner.



## BAZAAR

Looking for that perfect Holiday Gift for someone or just something unique for yourself?

Visit us at our rehearsal hall in Shoreline and hear us sing while you peruse the tables of homemade and donated items. There will be crafts and baked goods too. Maybe pick up one of our CD's. See address on back page. We are located around back on the lower level—NO STAIRS. When: Saturday Nov. 14th - 9:00 till 4:30.

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## Seattle Shores Chorus

P.O. Box 77666  
Seattle, WA 98177

Rehearsals held at:  
14800 First Avenue NE  
Shoreline, WA 98155

Voice Mail: 206-363-8987

E-mail: [seattle.shores@yahoo.com](mailto:seattle.shores@yahoo.com)



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Judy says,  
“Sweet Adelines has been an amazing addition to my life, giving me strengths and opportunities that may not have been available otherwise. I was blessed to have my two oldest daughters join the chorus a few years ago and it's a wonderful feeling to sing on the risers with your own kids!

Now, having a chance to direct has opened another door and I'm excited to take on this challenge.”

Welcome Judy!!!



## New Director—Another Door Opens!

Judy Cooper-MacLaren grew up in a musical family--her dad was first violinist with the Winnipeg Junior Symphony. She had three sisters and would sing and harmonize with them before even knowing what four part harmony and quarteting was! Judy studied music in college, and sang with various jazz ensembles, choirs, and performing groups there and in high school. Judy

always loved performing in musicals, and had cast parts in *Fiddler on the Roof*, *My Fair Lady*, and *South Pacific*.

Judy joined Sweet Adelines in 1992 in Spokane, WA, where her first chorus was Spokane Falls Chorus (now called Spirit of Spokane). After moving to Seattle in 1995, Judy joined Seattle Shores, and has been on their board of directors, and acted as

assistant director and choreographer. Judy has sung every voice part except bass--she's still waiting for that lower register to kick in--but tenor is her “true love”. Judy has also sung with various quartets, both competing and non-competing.

