



The Chorister

Volume 3, Issue 3

October 1, 2016

Singing Locally, Giving Globally!

- Intergenerational singing community of all ability and experience levels
- Excellence in choral artistry
- Noted guest conductors, clinicians, soloists, & instrumentalists
- Eclectic array of music including choral standards, commissioned pieces, and major contemporary works interspersed with folksongs, jazz, world music, and sacred selections
- Substantive Community Service

Check Us Out On YouTube!

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Martha Banghart

Assistant Director

Wayne Perry

*

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NEWSLETTER

EDITOR

Liz Phelan

Calendar

Fri. Oct. 14 Youth Choir Welcome Night—Bethel 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Tues. Oct. 18 Rehearsals begin for Youth Choir—Bethel 5-6:30 p.m.

Sat. Oct. 29 Inform & Inspire—Silo Hill 5-8 p.m.
Youth Choir Retreat—Bethel 9 a.m.-noon.

Sun. Oct. 30 Alzheimer's Walk—HC Equestrian Center 11 a.m.

Sun. Nov. 20 Chamber Choir—Bethel Presbyterian 3:00 p.m.

Director's Notes

Reflecting on the 10th Anniversary of DCC, one might wonder how it all began. Well, the Maryland Conservatory of Music was looking to develop an adult choir and I was approached since I had a successful high school program. I thought it would be a fun retirement project. Of course that was 2005 and I ended up retiring in 2009.

Registrations were handled through the conservatory and advertised in their brochure of course offerings. Tuition was quite pricey and did not include music. I contacted some of my former students and twisted the arms of close friends ending up with an inaugural ensemble of 12 unbalanced voices. Among those original daring souls was Mary Sue Shaw who is still singing with us. I asked her to conjure up some reflections from those early days when we rehearsed at John Carroll's auxiliary building, and here are some of her recollections:

- The most prominent memory



Artistic Director
Marty Banghart

is of that tight room with the low ceiling. I think their nuns were all short.

- The lighting was very poor. There were no ceiling lights and only floor lamps.
- It was warm in Spring and Fall and cold in Winter.
- We were so few and not too skilled, so we were glad when Marty brought her High School singers in to join us in the several concerts we gave.
- I felt really excited to be required to wear concert black and look like I knew what I was doing.
- We felt challenged to make lots of money for the Conservatory, so they could replace or purchase new chairs and music stands. Lights would have been nice too. (Nothing ever improved.)
- In the days before YouTube, Marty was kind enough to make tape recordings of my parts so I could rehearse at

home.

- As I remember we were there for four semesters (we quickly outgrew the place) and then moved to North Harford High School's new facility. I remember touring the still rough planter feature in the atrium of North Harford and saying that the serpentine fixture reminded us of a water way. Thus the name Deer Creek was fitting. (Louise Ballard actually came up with the name.) We sang in that open space and delighted in our echoes. After the crowded rehearsal space we had suffered with before, North Harford seemed like a Cathedral.

Another point Mary Sue forgot to mention was the competing sound of a bagpiper practicing outside the conservatory. Thus our humble beginnings...

It is with great pride and excitement that I welcome the incredible growth and accomplishments of our organization and look forward to continuing our mission of choral artistry, personal enrichment, and community service.

Board Update

As we begin to move into the heart of our winter concert season there are many exciting opportunities for everyone to participate in the DCC's 10th Anniversary celebratory season.

In preparation for the winter concert program design and printing there are **advertising spaces** that can be sold to businesses that you frequent. Personally, I have 3 small businesses that support the DCC every year

by purchasing a quarter page ad space each. After each concert I give the program to each of these businesses owners to thank them for their loyalty to the DCC. Ads may be purchased on the DCC website.

The **Deer Creek Youth Choir** begins its rehearsal schedule in mid-October so periodically dropping to listen to them is a great way to demon-

strate support for this group.

Attending a **Chamber Choir performance** is an inspirational experience and the members of that group always greatly appreciate their peers listening to them. Key dates to put on your calendar for the fall and winter performances of the Chamber Choir are October 24, November 20,



Board President
Pete McCallum

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Spotlight On... Soprano Katie Allen



Katie Allen

Eighth grader **Katie Allen** is one of the DCC's newest members to join our soprano section. Her interest in music began early singing with the Children's Chorus of Maryland in second grade and continued as she sang in Norrisville Elementary School and North Harford Middle School choral and drama programs,

where she performed in concerts at both in and out of school venues. This year she has been invited to audition for the All State Junior Chorus and All County Honors Chorus.

Katie has a keen interest in drama. She performed in musicals during four years of drama camps at Harford Community College and had several solos in North Harford Middle School's produc-

tion of *Seussical Jr.* This summer she took a Triple Threat Theater class at EMC Studio Black Box Theater Group.

Katie has also had nine years of dance ranging from tap, jazz, and ballet to hip hop, and has now begun learning to play the piano.

Special genres of music for Katie include musicals, folk songs, opera, and Disney songs. Particular favorites are *Phantom of the Opera*, "Barbara Allen," "Caro Mio Ben" and *Beauty and the Beast*.

When not making music Katie enjoys playing tennis and field hockey, bike riding on the North Central Trail, studying, swimming on the swim team, and running 5K races. She also volunteers at pre-school summer camps, and was a junior volunteer at Eden Mill Nature

Center for two summers.

Those who know her would tell you that Katie is hard-working, funny, friendly, and helpful to others. Special people in her life include her parents and sister, grandparents, and a few close friends. She likes pasta, Greek salads, fruits, and vegetables. Her travels have taken her to most states along the Eastern Seaboard. She particularly enjoyed visiting Walt Disney World, Ocean Isle, Myrtle Beach, the Poconos, and of course O.C.

What might surprise you about Katie? She earned her canoeing license at age eight, and wears a mermaid tail to the pool and beach! She has also sung the National Anthem at swim meets and at an Iron Birds game with the Norrisville ES Networkies. The DCC is delighted to welcome Katie into our singing family!

Walk to End Alzheimer's!

Do you like to walk? Well, for our anniversary year, the DCC has committed to support Alzheimer's Awareness in our community as our service commitment, so this opportunity might be for you!

Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, the Alzheimer's Association **Walk to End Alzheimer's** is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support, and research. This event calls on participants of all ages and abilities to help improve the lives of millions who suffer from this debilitating disease.

Harford County is one of the communities sponsoring a walk, and in support of our commitment to Alzheimer's awareness this year, the DCC has formed a team to participate. YOU are invited to be on Team DCC!

When? Sunday, October 30th

Where? Harford County Equestrian Center, 608 N. Tollgate Road, Bel Air, MD 21014

Time? Registration -11 a.m., Opening Ceremonies at Noon

Route Length? Two miles

How to Register? It's easy!

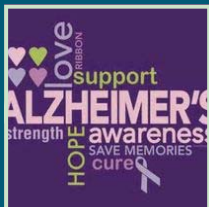
- Go to the Harford County Walk to End Alzheimer's website: http://act.alz.org/site/TR?fr_id=9047&pg=entry
- Click Register / New Walk / Join a Team / Choose from an existing list.
- Scroll down to Deer Creek Chorale under Local Organizations and click.
- Click SEARCH FOR A TEAM.
- Deer Creel Chorale comes up,

then click JOIN, and fill out your information.

What Does it Cost? There is no registration fee. However, they ask every walker to make a personal donation and commit to raising funds in the fight against Alzheimer's. The DCC has set a goal of \$2,000 total from everyone participating. Anyone raising over \$100 gets a T-shirt on Walk Day.)

What if I Can't Participate in the Walk? There is a need for volunteers both on the Planning Committee and on Walk Day! Go to the Home page (above) and click Volunteer. You can also just donate.

This is a great opportunity to support the important second part of the DCC dual mission – Service to the Community. Join the fun! Tell all your friends!



Our Community Outreach Focus!

Looking Fabulous!

DCC's concert attire dresses will arrive by October 10th. Dresses will be available for pickup at Bethel Presbyterian Church (our rehearsal location) during their office hours Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The church

office number is 410-692-5282.

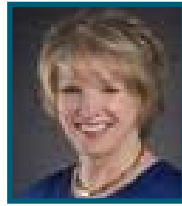
Dresses will also be available for pick-up at rehearsals. You must pay for your dress prior to or at the time of pickup (check made to DCC). Members

are responsible for having their dress hemmed (not taped!) prior to the first concert. Any questions? Please email Cris Martin at cmartin288@gmail.com.



Developing News... 10th Anniversary Gala!

The Development Committee worked together throughout the summer planning our 10th Anniversary fund raising efforts. After much discussion we have committed to an ambitious **fundraising goal of \$50,000 for this special year and are hard at work kicking off our annual campaign.**



*Development Chair
Cris Martin*

Each year, our artistic director, **Mary Banghart**, composes a letter describing successes of the past season and plans for the current season. The letter has been sent with special thanks to nearly 200 past donors. An additional letter with an invitation to become a supporter has been sent to over 400 folks on our general mailing list (and will complement the gorgeous brochure produced by the Marketing Committee).

This year, our annual **Evening of Inform & Inspire** will offer a bit of a different twist. Invitations have been sent inviting guests to join us **Saturday, October 29th** for an evening of dinner, drinks, and live music featuring jazz and Gershwin at **The Music Barn at Silo Hill** in Sparks, Maryland.

The featured speaker at our gala will be Goucher College President and world renown jazz pianist **Jose Antonio Bowen**. Also performing will be our own **Steve Scheinberg** and his jazz trio, and **Carolyn Black-Sotir** who will be singing Gershwin. What a fabulous program!

Silo Hill offers a stunning view of the surrounding countryside and is the host of

the noted Steinway Series of concerts featuring local and national guest artists.

We will be repeating the Premium Raffle baskets that were such a success at last year's event. Tickets for Inform & Inspire are \$60 per person. **It will be a wonderful evening. PLEASE join us!** Need an invitation? See any member of the Development Committee, and there will be extras at rehearsal. RSVPs are due by October 22nd.

We hope that each DCC member will be able to suggest one or two people who might appreciate receiving an invitation to Inform & Inspire for this year's October 29th event. Remember – every donation makes a difference. Word of mouth can move mountains!!

DCYC News...

We are very excited for the start of the inaugural season of the Deer Creek Youth Choir. We have had some wonderful auditions over the past few months and we are really looking forward to bringing these young voices together for the first time in just a few short weeks.

All DCYC singers and their families will kick-off the season on Friday, October 14th with a Welcome Potluck Dinner and Information Night at Bethel Church. DCYC will hold its first rehearsal the following Tuesday, October 18th from 5-6:30pm.

We will also hold our first annual DCYC Fall Retreat on Saturday morning, October 29th from 9am-12pm at Bethel Church. This morning retreat will be an opportunity for icebreakers, team building and leadership games, and musicianship games in addition to a little extra rehearsal time for this newly formed ensemble.

DCYC will be made up of young singers from a wide range of schools and communities including Jarrettsville ES, North Bend ES, Joppatowne ES, St. James Academy, as

well as Seventh District ES in Baltimore County. We are thrilled to bring these talented young singers together each week to develop their vocal ability, artistry, and musicianship skills. We will continue to audition and accept new singers to Deer Creek Youth Choir on a rolling basis during on first year.

Please continue to spread the word about this exciting new ensemble! Given our shorter fall season, we will be heavily recruiting again in January for more singers to join us for the 2017 Spring season.



*DCYC Director
Julie Culotta*

Jammin' With the DCC!

In the past, guest favors for our Inform and Inspire event have normally been boxed candies. However, we've stepped it up this year in keeping with the new venue for the evening—The Barn at Silo Hill.

Mary Sue and **Glenn Shaw** of Shaw Orchards donated 25 lbs. each of fresh strawberries and peaches to be used for

jam-making! Over the course of four, long, HOT days, the committee formed an assembly line of jam-makers and made 400 half pint jars of strawberry-balsamic-cracked peppercorn and peach-lavender jams. The jars have labels that read, "Jammin' with the DCC," and each guest will leave with both flavors of jam.

Thanks so much to **Mary Sue** and **Glenn** for the delicious fruit, to **Glenn** for manning the hot water baths outside in the scorching heat, and to **Marty, Cris Martin** and **Suzanne Zantop** who worked so hard to provide this treat! It was truly a labor of love.



What's The Buzz?



Birthdays and Celebrations

We have three birthdays to celebrate in October. **Amber McCafferty** begins the month with a celebration on **October 12th**. **Sharon Kachur** follows on **October 18th**, and **Sharon Bottcher** enjoys a "haunted" birthday on **October 31st**. We wish all a very happy birthday! *(If Liz doesn't have your birthday yet, please send it along to her—month and day only!)*

Welcome New Members!

This month we are delighted to welcome four more choristers to the DCC. **Elena Pietrowicz**, **Julia Scheinberg**, and **Brooke West** join our So-



prano section. **Katherine Frawley** is a new Alto, and **Dan Cassenti** joins our Tenors. Welcome aboard! We're glad you're here!

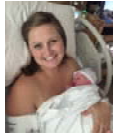
Happy 50th Anniversary!

Congratulations to **Meredith** and **Alan Leroy** who will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on **October 3rd**. In celebration they plan to renew their vows on **October 2nd** at St. James Episcopal Church, and then have dinner with some friends. They are also planning on taking their daughters, son-in-law, and two grandchildren on a vacation right after Christmas. The place is still undecided, but it will be someplace sunny and warm with a beach!



Congratulations—It's a Boy!

Our best wishes go to DCYC Director **Julie Culotta** on the birth of her son **Camden Henry Culotta** on **September 21st**. He was born at Upper Chesapeake Hospital and was 7 lbs. 4 oz. **Dave**, **Julie**, big sister **Adelyn**, and big brother **Cooper** are very excited to welcome him to the family!



Captain of the Team!

New member **Julia Foster** was recently voted Captain of the North Harford High School JV field hockey team by her teammates. She is the goalie for the hockey team and has been playing for about 8 years. Good luck this season!



Past Service Highlights—Pennies for Peace!

One of the most ambitious service programs ever undertaken by the DCC was the **2008 Central Asian Institute Project—Pennies for Peace** which raised and donated \$30,000 to build a school in Pakistan.

The idea began when Marty read the bestseller Three Cups of Tea about the plight of education-starved young women in Central Asia, and wondered if it would be possible to raise funds to build "just one school" for them. Eleven months later, with the support of one of the most influential musicians of our time, **Z Randall Stroope**, the "Inscription of Hope" concert was born.

The overall project had two major components. The first was "Pennies for Peace." This program is designed to broaden children's cultural horizons, and to teach them about their capacities as philanthropists—one penny at a time. (In that poverty stricken area of the world a penny can buy a pencil.) Seven Harford County schools, two

churches, two local businesses, and the DCC itself served as collection sites, and \$4,000 was raised. That is 400,000 pennies!

In addition to that effort, a major concert event "Inscription of Hope" was organized featuring five choirs with 213 vocalists, soloists Soprano **Lauren Brown** and Baritone **Gregory Hoyt**, concertmaster **Igor Yuzefovich**, and conducted by Randall Stroope, himself. The first half of the program featured seven of Stroope's own works focused on inspiring hope in a troubled world. The second half of the concert showcased John Rutter's Mass of the Children with an inspirational message from John Rutter supporting the effort. The concert generated \$26,000 to be donated to the cause.

In all, over 1,000 people were involved in the enormous fundraising efforts. And as a result of monies raised, a school in Paki-



stan was built, and operational expenses for five years were provided! Be sure to see the amazing video on the Service Others page of our website.

Today the Pennies for Peace program is alive and well, still providing the opportunity for children to reach out to help others. Over the past 20 years the Central Asia Institute has been able to support 450 projects and provide the gift of education to hundreds of thousands of people in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan.

According to the CAI statistics 98,225 people have benefitted, 67% of the beneficiaries were female, 1,183 teachers have been trained, 615 scholarships have been awarded, and there were 24 active construction projects in 2015. For more information go to <https://centralasiainstitute.org/>

Board Update (Con't)

(Continued from page 1)

and December 8, 2016. The specific locations of these performances can be found on our DCC website.

Selling tickets to our December 4th **Behold New Joy Winter Concert** is another way to spread the wonderful news about the DCC.

The concert will be held at **Inform and Inspire Planning Crew** St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Bel Air, the



same location as last year's spring concert. The acoustics in that sanctuary are truly magnificent and our chorale will "make the rafters ring." It is always an extremely gratifying and fulfilling experience to perform to a full house.

Finally, please seriously consider attending this year's spectacular **"Inform and Inspire Gala"** on **October 29th**, at Silo Hill Farm in Phoenix, Maryland. This evening of dinner,

jazz, and Gershwin promises to be a hallmark event in the life of our organization.

There are many ways for all of us to celebrate the DCC's 10th Anniversary season before Christmas, so let's all join in on the festivities!

Jarrettsville Creamery Success!



Thanks to all who participated in the Jarrettsville Creamery Restaurant Night to kick off our new year! A great time was had by all!