





October 2011 News & Updates

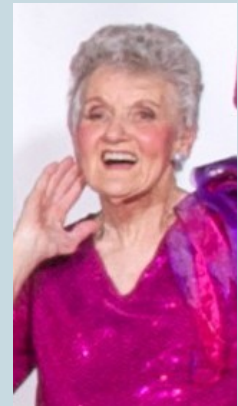
## Stroke of 12

Region 12 eBLAST

### Just try to keep up with Peggy!

When one comes to a River Lights Chorus rehearsal one of the first things you will hear is the all familiar song, "Sentimental Journey." The next thing you will notice is that the entire chorus is participating in the physical warm-up program. Then you see the warm-ups being led by "the object of our affection" and that would be our precious Peggy Lewis.

Peggy volunteered to create a warm-up program for the chorus, and since then we have been on the move. Frankly it is unspeakable to think of not joining Peggy in her quest to keep the chorus moving. So why you ask are we devoting so many words to the subject of physical warm-ups? The answer is simply this - warm-ups are an important part of our chorus rehearsals and even more important when they are being led by Peggy, who at age 89 has created a warm-up package that is fun, inspiring and keeps us on our toes!



We are featuring Peggy Lewis this month because we want to share her amazing story with Sweet Adelines throughout the Region. Peggy joined Sweet Adelines in 1976 and has spent her entire 35 years as a baritone here in Modesto. She started with the Modesto Valley Tones Chapter which later became the Blossom Valley Chorus. She remained with Blossom Valley until 2005 at which time she joined River Lights Chorus. She is an active member of River Lights serving as Editor of our NewsFlash which comes out the day following our rehearsals. Everyone agrees that she is a great writer.

Peggy's career covered ten years from 1977 to 1988 when she retired as a trust officer in the Real Estate Department at Wells Fargo bank. Prior to 1977 she worked as an appraisal officer for several appraisal firms. Peggy and her late husband are the parents of four boys. She is grandmother to five grandchildren and great grandmother to one darling little boy who loves to come to our shows.

When asked to develop a warm-up routine she was required to find a variety of music which moved to the same tempo and would allow the chorus to move to eight counts for each movement. This was a fun challenge for our Peggy who attends aerobics two to three times per week. She also belongs to a ukulele club which sings and performs in the Modesto area. Another of her favorite activities is participating in the Modesto Institute of Continued Learning sponsored by Modesto Junior College. Peggy has stated "I am excited to be singing for Shirley. I have learned so much about the art of singing. I will continue as long as I can make it up on the risers." And we are thrilled and honored to report that this magnificent lady does just that every week.

## A Frank Conversation about Money

*Sharon Hohmann submitted this article after a conversation she recently enjoyed with Pat Hunter. Just two old timers discussing money, contributions, and their love of this great organization!*

**Sharon:** Pat, do you remember that discussion we had recently about giving money to Sweet Adelines? I had a call yesterday from one of our chorus members and I'd love your input on the subject, too!

**Pat:** Was she asking about giving to the chorus, the region, or International?

**Sharon:** Well, I wasn't sure at first, but this is what I told her! Our own chorus has created a plan where members are recognized with a gemstone level of giving – ruby, sapphire, etc. based on the amount of your gift. Donors are noted in our programs, or may remain anonymous. Imagine my surprise when I was recognized for the monetary value of my contributions to our silent auction, when I hadn't made out a check!

**Pat:** Wow! What a great idea!

**Sharon:** Since I didn't know how much she was talking about, I went on to suggest the gift of money to our angel fund, which helps members take part in chorus events when they are short of funds. One of our members has for years brought paperback and hard cover books to chorus and all the money goes to the angel fund. I've got plenty of wonderful books this way myself!

**Pat:** I hope you also suggested some of the ways that she could donate to the larger organization. Remember when you were telling me about your beloved aunt who, having no place in particular to donate her money, and having no children of her own, was making out checks to organizations that really meant nothing to her personally? I can tell you that I'm very proud to be a member of the Cornerstone Society, having named SAI as a beneficiary in my estate plan. I've been a member for 43 years, and the chance to give something back to this organization that continues to bring me joy, fulfillment, travel, education, applause and a multitude of friends, just means so much to me! The small gift that I make will continue giving back long after I'm gone.

**Sharon:** Well, I've left a codicil to my will with a specified amount to our chorus, and I've joined the Overtone Society. I agree with you that it's nice to know that our contributions will support the organization after we no longer add our voices to the chorus! Pat, I also think that the small recognitions are an important part of this whole idea of giving. The pin we wear as a contributor, the recognition at the chorus level, etc. I know that a couple of my friends are considering gifts to our Region 12 as well. I know how they feel, since the friendships I've made throughout the region are a cherished part of my life. Should we suggest to the region that they introduce a recognition element in any gift they receive from our members?

**Pat:** Sounds like a great idea! Without the region's strength to give us programs, we wouldn't see much of the members in our other choruses, would we? Let's do it!

## Sacramento Airwaves

ON WITH THE SHOW!! Anyone had a conversation with Babs Causley lately? For sure, it ended with her most famous line — **Turn your radio on!** This dynamo of a Show Chair has done it again, leading Sacramento Valley Chorus to an "over the top" creation, sure to wow all audiences!

The Sacramento Valley Chorus invites YOU to travel with them across the USA, listening to radio station K SVC's "Rockin' Radio Show!" Experience this award-winning chorus singing familiar tunes like "FAME", "Aquarius", and "Heard It Through The Grapevine" - plus many more! Enjoy them in barbershop four-part a cappella harmony! Guest Headliner is the Men's 2011 International Quartet contestants "95 North" When: Saturday, November 5, 2011 Where: Christ Community Church 5025 Manzanita Ave. Carmichael. Times: Matinee - 2:00pm, and Evening - 6:30pm There

will be an Afterglow after the evening show!

The rehearsal hall is live with enthusiasm and energy as we get the moves on and rock out! Our busy coaching schedule is on track for a great competition performance in the Spring, thanks to Pat LeVezu, Ron Black and Jan Gervais. Members are busy putting in plenty of personal practice time to perfect all those skills we're acquiring.



SVC is always in support of the arts and this year we had several racers out there earning funds for our organization. Thanks to Jan Onishi, Pattie Wright, Jean Flint, Desiree Ayala and Judy Halloran , Sac Valley will be able to offset some expenses. Sally Kwong, Maxine Verma and Mary Surkala staffed our brightly decorated booth at the event and talked to lots of prospective members. We did not, however, choose to do a 5 K in a tutu. Hmmm! Last year's 5K Race for the Arts raised the funds that allowed us to put together a Strategic Plan with Kathy Carmody. Dynamo, Babs Causley has led the chorus leadership through an interactive process to put our plan into action. Each

week the membership has become acquainted with another aspect of "Who are we?", "What makes us run?", "Where are we going?" and "How do we get there?" It's a plan!

SVC especially enjoyed AIM weekend and all the opportunities for growth that it presented. We proudly introduced our new members, Rhonda Amerine, Alison Miller and Terrie Carrozzella to the learning opportunities, activities and the connections with everyone in our region.

## Don't Call it Frisco

WAVES OF SOUND spilled over the town of Pacifica on the west coast as The San Francisco Sound Wave Chorus debuted "DON'T CALL IT 'FRISCO!, Songs and Stories of The City," September 10th, at the Mildred Owen Concert Hall. Reviews are in and the SOLD-OUT show was a HUGE success, packing people in to the rafters.

When have we ever felt more proud of our performance?! Sound Waves are still feeling the "afterglow." This tribute to The City of San Francisco included the Guest Quartet: Heavenly, 3rd Place Region 12 Medalists. [Enjoy this article](#) advertising our show which was published in the Pacifica Tribune. Sound Wave Directors Diane Myrick and Laura Gaither brilliantly created a space for all chorus members to contribute personal stories and images toward writing the show. We wove a wonderful tapestry of songs that speak to the moody, mysterious and breathtaking City-By-The-Bay, conveying the real San Francisco Experience. All that in 4-part harmony!



Contributing their own personal stories gave our chorus members each a sense of ownership which has translated into a huge commitment towards the show's success. Remember those wedding dresses you saw in April? They too made their way on stage in the reprise of our contest songs. Added to the performance were three (yep 3) costume changes, five different small ensembles and the chorus "band", EASILY DISTRACTED, who provided a "folky flavor" to some of the stories told in song.



The summer has been SO busy. In June the SF Sound Wave Chorus sang at the San Francisco Free Folk Festival where the audience was taught a little about barbershop and learned the tag, "Run to the City of Refuge," to sing with the chorus. August found the chorus singing at the San Francisco Theater Festival, with the debut of the new parody lyrics in "Grey Skies". (A take-off on "Blue Skies" and so very appropriate for San Francisco.) Our PVI's with Cyndi Sharp and Barb Vander Putten were so motivating. Each member dug deep

into her problem areas and was rewarded with real solutions to consistently better sound production. The chorus also enjoyed an Ice Cream Social with LATE NIGHT who first lead sectionals with us, then sang for us, and brought ice cream as part of a fundraiser for their quartet.

We have a new Fundraising Committee to raise money for our new risers. We also have on-going fundraisers such as selling SCRIP, selling drinking water at rehearsals, and now a book sale. We will need additional fundraising in order to pay for the risers. Another new committee is the MPM Committee (Membership, Publicity and Marketing) -- ten members volunteered for it but we know that in reality, we are ALL on the committee. This group is looking at our procedures, forms we use, discussing outreach, etc., etc.

Speaking of outreach, we are thrilled with our three new awesome members -- one lead, Lisa Dipko, one tenor, Lynn Clinton and bari, Alisa Peters, who is a past Region 11 Quartet winner. All 3 women are fantastic additions to our group! We have new guests ALL THE TIME and love that new women are taking a look at joining us. We hope that several more will be making that decision in September. This season was also one of loss. Two of our beloved, long-time SF Sound Wave Chorus members passed away. Our beautiful Katie Bray Guiney died in April and our very long time member Helen McDonnell just passed away at the end of August. Both spent many years with our chorus and made major contributions to its success. More importantly, each woman left members who loved them and they will be very much missed.

*Submitted by Jodi Kavrell Meromy*

## Pacific Empire is Denver-Bound

### Harmony Classic 2012

We are so proud, pleased and honored to be representing Region 12 at the 2012 Harmony Classic contest in Denver, Colorado next October. The PEC Music Team has been brainstorming our new package for this exciting and innovative contest. We have been watching past contestants to see what has been done and what kind of entertainment packages are successful and entertaining. There is a great variety and lots of fun! New music is flying into the hands of our members and scripts are being written. Everyone is so excited about the prospect of a new adventure into Harmony Classic. Make plans to come see the competition on Tuesday evening of International week in Denver!

Pacific Empire Chorus is at a new rehearsal location! After many years in the same location, we needed to find a "home" that would better meet our goals of connecting to our community. We have found this at the First Presbyterian Church in Petaluma on B Street just north of 10th Street. It is a lovely church with fantastic acoustics, warm and inviting rooms and just a great group to work with on a weekly basis. We invite you to attend one of our rehearsals at our new location. PEC starts at 7pm each Wednesday evening. For more information you may email [info@pacificempire.org](mailto:info@pacificempire.org) or visit our website at [www.PacificEmpire.org](http://www.PacificEmpire.org)

PEC is having such a great time getting music and script ready for our next exciting show: Seasons of Harmony on November 19th at the Petaluma First Presbyterian Church at 3pm. There will be fun new music, a fabulous silent auction and homemade desserts. There will also be local performers & Pacific Empire Chorus quartets to entertain you. Tickets for this show are \$15 for Adults and \$10 for Children and are available at [www.PacificEmpire.org](http://www.PacificEmpire.org)

## Fall Shows & Events

### Saturday, October 15th

2:30PM and 7:30PM

We Have A Dream - Song of Sonoma

Evening show will have an after glow. 600 Acacia Ln, Santa Rosa. More info: [elizabeth@joydancelove.com](mailto:elizabeth@joydancelove.com)

### Saturday, November 5th

3:00PM

Harmony Fusion Chorus Show, benefiting The Shepherd's Gate Shelter for Homeless and Abused Women and Children  
Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton

### Saturday, November 5th

2:00PM and 6:30PM

A Rockin' Radio Show - produced by Radio Station KSVC and Sacramento Valley Chorus  
Special guests: 2010 Far Western District Second

## Exciting News about January AIM

The Regional Management Team has contracted to hold both of the 2012 AIM weekends at the **San Mateo Marriott**.

Save the Date:

January 20 - 22nd - San Mateo Marriott

1770 South Amphlett Blvd., San Mateo, Ca 94402



Darlene Rogers will be joining us at our January 2012 AIM weekend as Guest Faculty. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from one of our International Faculty members.

At home in Texas, Darlene has a job as a church musician and has a private voice studio. It is hard to find

Place/Silver Medalist Quartet, 95 North  
Christ Community Church, 5025 Manzanita Ave,  
Carmichael. More info: [www.sacramentovalleychorus.org](http://www.sacramentovalleychorus.org)

### **Saturday, November 5th**

9:00AM - 4:00PM

**Regional A.R.E.A. School** - all are welcome  
Redeemer Lutheran Church 1355 Hawthorne Avenue  
(corner of Moss Avenue) Chico, CA  
Tuition: \$20.00 Faculty: Jan Gervais, Cyndi Sharp,  
Sharon Carlson

### **Saturday, November 19th**

3:00PM

Pacific Empire Chorus presents: Seasons of Harmony.  
Featuring a jazz band, Petaluma Pete, quartets.  
Desserts & coffee.  
First Presbyterian Church of Petaluma, 939 B Street,  
Petaluma, CA 94954  
[www.pacificempire.org](http://www.pacificempire.org)

### **Saturday, November 19th**

8:00PM

Home for the Holidays, presented by River Lights Chorus.  
Featuring The Central West Ballet, Whatever 4, Golden  
Valley Chorus, Eight is Enough.  
Gallo Center, Modesto. For more information call [209-551-0246](tel:209-551-0246) or [www.galloarts.org](http://www.galloarts.org)

### **Wednesday, November 26th**

1:45pm

Bay Area Showcase performs at the San Jose Harvest  
Festival, San Jose Convention Center.

a day when she is not surrounded by music. And that's  
exactly how she likes it--she is the Master Director of Texas  
Harmony Chorus, does PVIs and coaches Rich-Tone Chorus  
on a regular basis, travels almost every weekend teaching  
vocal skills to fellow Sweet Adelines. She is a Certified  
International Faculty member and relishes each opportunity  
to teach or coach. She works with both choruses and  
quartets at all levels of expertise. At this time Darlene is co-  
chairing the Acapella Harmony Academy (the next  
international education event for general membership) with  
Kathy Carmody to be held in July 2012. It's going to be an  
exciting time!"

## **Have you logged in yet?**

### **The new Region 12 website**

The [Region 12 website](http://www.sairegion12.org) has been revamped and hopes to be  
your one-stop spot on the web for all useful regional  
information. There are two parts to the website, a public area  
and a members-only area. Much of the information you need  
is available in the public area. Look at each menu along the  
top and explore the website. Then, you'll want to log in as a  
member.

Please follow these instructions to log in as a member of  
Region 12:

1. Go to <http://www.sairegion12.org/login.html>
2. Enter your user name - this has changed from our old site.  
Your new user name is your first name and your last name,  
in lower case, with no spaces. For example: annsmith
3. Enter your initial password, which is sasinger.
4. Once you have logged in, you should EDIT YOUR  
PROFILE. Right there on the members' home page, you'll  
see a link to [Edit Your Profile](#). Click it, and enter all your  
information that you want to share with other members of  
Region 12. The public can not see this profile information.  
You can change your password here.

When you are logged in as a member, you will see an extra  
black toolbar at the top of your screen, with more menus to  
explore. Here you'll find chorus rosters, sheet music for

special events, documents and other resources.

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