

***We are pleased to present  
and celebrate our  
Greater NY/NJ Region 15***



***Members of Note  
2018***

# Carol Stearns

## Capitaland Chorus



*"Carol has worn so many hats during her time in Capitaland Chorus that it's hard to know where to begin.... a wonderful and dedicated Lead... an important part of the Membership Team... Carol is also very welcoming to all visitors with her great smile.... The list goes on, but we want Carol to know that she is much loved and appreciated!"*

# Carol Stearns

## Capitaland Chorus

Capitaland Chorus would like to congratulate Carol Stearns on being voted Woman of Note 2018!

Carol has worn so many hats during her time in Capitaland Chorus that it's hard to know where to begin. In addition to being a wonderful and dedicated Lead, she often works behind the scenes. For example, she served on the Board for many years, acted as Secretary, and is an important part of the Membership Team where she acts as Membership Chair for part of the year.

Carol is also very welcoming to all visitors with her great smile, and most recently, arranged the installation ceremony for the 2018 Management Team. The list goes on, but we want Carol to know that she is much loved and appreciated! Congratulations on this honor!

***Congratulations, Carol!***

# Susan Dana LeViness

## City of the Hills Chorus



*"As their section leader, her encouragement makes all basses wish to do their best as singers.... It is obvious that she has spent a great deal of time preparing the classy dance steps and challenging musical exercises to start our evening's rehearsal.... Our chorus is extremely fortunate to have a talented musical leader such as Sue."*

# Susan Dana LeViness

## City of the Hills

Each year members of the City of the Hills chorus of Oneonta select one member who has dedicated her time and talents to better the chorus. For 2018, City of the Hills Chorus of Oneonta is pleased to announce that Susan Dana LeViness has been selected our Woman of Note.

Our chorus is extremely fortunate to have a talented musical leader such as Sue. Sue often leads us in warm ups at the beginning of a rehearsal. It is obvious that she has spent a great deal of time preparing the classy dance steps and challenging musical exercises to start our evening's rehearsal.

The chorus' bass singers love the challenge that Sue presents as their section leader. Her encouragement makes all basses wish to do their best as singers. Besides these challenges to Sue as a chorus member, she is also the chorus' Treasurer and a member of the Music Committee.

Her love of music began as a child, singing with her mother. She sang alto in both high school choir and women's glee club in college. Currently, Sue is a member of her church choir and community choir. She sings bass in the Sweet Adeline quartet, Girls' Night Out, and is the lead in 4 – Ever Young, a mixed a cappella quartet.

Sue is a retired elementary school teacher. She is married with two sons and three grandchildren.

Thank you Sue for being a solid member of our chorus for 23 years. You certainly deserve the honor of being our 2018 Woman of Note.

***Congratulations, Susan Dana!***



# Beatrice Manning

## Evergreen Chorus



*"Bea has been an integral part of Evergreen Chorus.... She is a kind, gracious, endearing, loving member and supportive of all Evergreen endeavors. You are the Sunshine of our Lives. You are the apple of our eyes. Forever you will always be in our hearts!"*

# Beatrice Manning

## Evergreen Chorus

Bea has been a member of our chorus for 26 years. She received her 25 Year Longevity Award last year.

1988, a time without cell phones and not too many computers at home. Bea's daughter was school friends with the son of one of our members, Betty Battistoni. Betty knew of Bea's love of music and often asked her to rehearsals. Bea always declined. Until one evening, Bea made up her mind to attend a rehearsal. Unfortunately, Bea fell at home earlier in the day BUT that did not stop her! Bea attended an Evergreen rehearsal with Janie Macchioroli and brought her "donut hole" pillow so she could sit! She was asked to sing Tenor. Bea stayed the evening but decided not to return.

1992, a time with a few more computers, but still no cell phones! Bea decided to look up Evergreen Chorus again. She returned, and this time was asked to sing Baritone! She liked it!!! Bea auditioned and has been singing Baritone ever since!

During the time Bea has been in our chorus, she has had many roles. When Bea was asked to 'fill in' as Recording Secretary for the Board of Directors, she said, "Yes". Bea remained on the Board for two and half years. She has served as Co-Chair for an Evergreen Show. She has organized Raffles for fund raising. Bea was our Chorus liaison to SAI for new members, assisting in filling out forms for member IDs.

Bea has always been there to help Evergreen in whatever way possible. In years past, she has helped transport our risers for Evergreen shows, as well as for Region 15 music schools. Thank goodness for Son-in-laws and their trucks!

In recent years, Bea has graciously opened her home and her yard to be the site of Evergreen Chorus' Annual Yard Sale! We all bring items to sell, with food and drinks to enjoy, and Bea supplies her driveway and front yard! Everyone looks forward to being at Bea's house!

Bea has been an integral part of Evergreen Chorus. Bea is eager to improve her vocal skills and attends all performances...even when it was a blizzard and she drove through the storm. She is a kind, gracious, endearing, loving member and supportive of all Evergreen endeavors.

You see Bea is our eldest member going strong! We were so happy to have her on stage in Las Vegas in October 2017. Bea, we love you!

You are the Sunshine of our Lives. You are the apple of our eyes. Forever you will always be in our hearts!

***Congratulations, Beatrice!***

# Anna Zachensky

## Golden Apple Chorus



*"Anna is truly committed to helping the chorus in any way she can.... She also loves to 'entertain' our chorus with her funny antics, clever Halloween costumes, and wonderful sense of humor! Anna is a shining example of a Sweet Adeline, a devoted chorus member and friend, and a dedicated ambassador for our chorus."*



# Anna Zachensky

## Golden Apple

Anna Zachensky joined the Golden Apple Chorus 20 years ago, in 1998. She was a key member of the Lead section for many years. Then a few years ago, the chorus had a sudden shortage of basses. So Anna cheerfully volunteered to switch from lead to bass. She is now bisectional, and loves singing bass harmonies.

Anna is truly committed to helping the chorus in any way she can, and is always involved in chorus projects. She has been Show Chair, Publicity Committee, Hospitality and chorus Historian. Her favorite project is Ways and Means. Anna set up her own little boutique within the chorus, for fund raising, donating many of her own treasures that she has collected over the years. Anna is also highly successful at getting donations for our annual show. She is a long-time resident of Hawthorne, NY, and knows many of the local merchants. She is not shy about approaching potential advertisers. Most years, Anna is the top fundraiser for our show program. It is hard to say no to her sweet, bubbly personality. That charm also enables Anna to procure two free dinner theater tickets every year, which are used for a special raffle at our annual show.

Anna is always looking for potential venues where the chorus can perform. She is active in local community organizations, including her church and senior club, and recommends us for their holiday events. Last year, when we were searching for a new rehearsal hall, Anna found us a wonderful new place, which is spacious and air-conditioned, and even saved us money!

Anna graduated from nursing school after her children were grown, and her compassion and warm personality were much loved by her patients. Anna LOVES to dance, and especially enjoys ballroom dancing. A kid at heart, she loves entertaining children, and spent many years as a clown in McDonalds. She also loves to “entertain” our chorus with her funny antics, clever Halloween costumes, and wonderful sense of humor!

Anna has six children, five sons and a daughter, Dorothea, who is also a member of our chorus. She has ten grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

Anna is a shining example of a Sweet Adeline, a devoted chorus member and friend, and a dedicated ambassador for our chorus.

Golden Apple Chorus is extremely proud of our 2018 Woman of Note, Anna Zachensky!

***Congratulations, Anna!***

# Jennifer Esposito

## Greater Nassau Chorus



*"She is an A+ GNC member. She is committed to excellence and cares very much about helping our chorus achieve our goals.... She works tirelessly for our chapter, has a positive influence on our chapter, and is a GREAT ambassador for our chapter!"*

# Jennifer Esposito

## Greater Nassau Chorus

Jen Esposito, a.k.a. J Po, has been a member of Sweet Adelines for 32 years. She really did join the Greater Nassau Chorus (GNC) when she was just 16 years old. Jen is a senior member of the music staff helping to develop and demonstrate choreography and has also recently taken on the position of GNC finance coordinator. She is an A+ GNC member. She is committed to excellence and cares very much about helping our chorus achieve our goals. She puts in countless hours working on choreo plans, and changing those plans, and changing those plans again. She has an uncanny ability to remember EVERY choreographed move we have ever learned AND she can demonstrate these moves from any position on the risers. She is very giving of her time to work individually with anyone who needs visual assistance in addition to running choreography review before and after rehearsal when necessary.

J Po has been married to Larry for 24 years and they have two boys, Andrew and Matthew. Her oldest, Andrew, has his mother's passion for music and is studying guitar performance at Nassau Community College. They live in Massapequa, Long Island, New York where J Po is very active in her church. She has actually been known to provide insight on a sermon or two.

She leads the chorus with a wonderful sense of humor, shows concern and care with all aspects of our performance and represents GNC in a very positive light. She is a wonderful tenor and is a true example of someone who takes personal responsibility for herself as a GNC singer. She holds GNC very near and dear to her heart. There is nothing J Po won't do to help GNC.

She works tirelessly for our chapter, has a positive influence on our chapter, is a GREAT ambassador for our chapter and is a real woman, singing real harmony and definitely having real FUN!!

***Congratulations, Jennifer!***

# Susan Schuman

## Harmony Celebration Chorus



*"From the minute Susan joined HCC almost a decade ago, she has selflessly given of her time and expertise.... For stepping forward both on the risers and off. For offering solutions and suggestions. For sharing your talents so freely. Susan, you are a treasured member always."*

# Susan Schuman

## Harmony Celebration Chorus

You could say Susan Schuman is Harmony Celebration's own special version of a "triple threat." She is someone who sets a very high performance bar when it comes to supporting the chorus administratively, musically, and in so many other less tangible ways.

Well-known acquainted with the Region 15 spotlight as a founding member of four-time regional champion Escape Quartet, this talented Lead singer went on to earn four more regional quartet medals with her latest foursome, Harmonics. It's hard to imagine that she was first voice-placed as a Baritone when she first joined Hickory Tree Chorus!

But you probably aren't aware of all the other duties that this Sweet Adelines veteran (22 years and counting!) handles for HCC, both musically and administratively. And often, these tasks are performed very much behind the curtain — like taking the time to arrange a Hanukah song to round out HCC holiday performances.

From the minute Susan joined HCC almost a decade ago, she has selflessly given of her time and expertise. As one of HCC's assistant directors (officially recognized under our mother organization's Director Certification Program!) Susan frequently leads sectional and small group rehearsals and stands in for Director Scott Brannon during small, daytime performances. She mentors new HCC members, coaches choruses and quartets throughout Region 15, and is often called on by the regional education team to provide private voice instruction.

Susan's contributions to HCC's financial well-being are also humbling and vital. She is instrumental both in the success of the ongoing chorus "scrip" fundraising program (by far our biggest annual money maker) AND in negotiating almost all of our performance opportunities, big and small. The latter includes working closely with our director, Scott, to ensure that we have the right representation and balance of singers. As any chorus can attest, coordinating dozens of schedules is no easy task. But Susan can be very persuasive.

We'd be remiss if we didn't mention the other important task that Susan handles on a regular basis: she's one of our valued "pitch-pipers." We are not kidding, this is not a responsibility to be taken lightly. Is it one you'd be willing to handle personally? In fact, everyone reading this article should make it her mission to thank at least one chorus piper the next time you see her!

For stepping forward both on the risers and off. For offering solutions and suggestions. For sharing your talents so freely. Susan, you are a treasured member always. And HCC is proud to call you our 2018 Woman of Note.

***Congratulations, Susan!***



# Alanna Salzman

## Heart of Long Island Chorus



*“Alanna has a ‘billion’ great ideas, has a vision and work ethic to work hard to make things happen.... Alanna has been a wonderful, positive addition to our chorus and we are happy to celebrate with her!”*

# Alanna Salzman • Heart of Long Island Chorus

In early January 2017, Heart of Long Island Chorus held the very first rehearsal with new Director, BJ Hillinck. This exciting evening for our chorus also happened to be the day Alanna Salzman picked to come to a rehearsal for a first visit to our chorus. Alanna was new to Long Island as she had recently moved here from her home state, Massachusetts. While living in Massachusetts she had belonged to a Chapter of SAI and she made it a top priority on her list when she moved to find a new chorus as soon as possible! After visiting some neighboring choruses, Alanna decided Heart of Long Island Chorus was her best fit and we were very honored and lucky that she chose us! She has since hit the ground running!

Alanna auditioned within a few weeks of her first visit and had quickly become a valuable member of the lead section and also to the chorus as a whole. Alanna could be found before and after rehearsal setting up and breaking down risers and offering help in any way needed. After a few months of being in the chorus, talk of our first Chapter Show was being discussed and with only a few months under her belt, Alanna volunteered to be on the Show Committee. An unexpected change in membership put Alanna in the Show Committee Chairperson seat, but that didn't scare her away! Alanna took hold of the reigns and led the show committee through a successful fundraising and music filled event. She secured a location for the show, created layout and design of the show's 48 page program, sold advertising space for the program, organized the Raffle Basket fund raiser held during intermission and even found time to learn the entire repertoire so she would be able to sing through all of the songs!

After an open chair position on the HOLI Management Team was announced a month later, Alanna was nominated, accepted and was elected into the position mid-term. She was re-elected at the end of the term and is currently serving her first full year as our Marketing Chairperson. One of her first tasks she initiated was to survey the entire chorus population to get members' ideas and feelings about the chorus brand. She is currently working with other members of the chorus to keep Social Media pages and HOLI Website current and relatable, all while keeping our most important goal of increasing membership in the forefront and keeping rehearsals FUN!

Because of her efforts in promoting the chorus, we've seen an increase of visitors to our rehearsals, and, have added one new member, currently in the process of a second member, plus two more potentials still in the decision making stage. Alanna is currently working on final touches of her plan for a mobile recruitment booth to bring to festivals and fairs in the area. She is working not only on the handouts and flyers that will be given out, but she is also recruiting a team of members to learn and teach tags to visitors to the booth, in hopes that they will get a taste of what we do and want to come visit a rehearsal in the future. Alanna has a 'billion' great ideas, has a vision and work ethic to work hard to make things happen.

Outside of the chorus and her music interests, Alanna loves anything science related! She loves all kinds of animals and has had a menagerie of pets. Alanna works as a Graphic Designer at a major needlework company, designing their packaging and labels as well as other products. She has travelled around the world and is a big Harry Potter fan as well as an avid board game player. When Alanna isn't baking tasty treats, you might find her writing or crafting! Alanna has been a wonderful, positive addition to our chorus and we are happy to celebrate with her!

***Congratulations, Alanna!***

# Lois Taylor

## Heart of New Jersey Chorus



*"Lois is a true Sweet Adeline and we HONJees are lucky to have her.... She puts in many hours for the betterment of the chorus.... She quietly and patiently goes above and beyond.... She is enthusiastic and patient with a wonderful sense of humor and keeps our chorus moving forward."*

# Lois Taylor

## Heart of New Jersey Chorus

The Heart of New Jersey Chorus' Woman of Note for 2018 is Lois Taylor! Lois is a true Sweet Adeline and we HONJees are lucky to have her. We think she represents all the wonderful qualities that a Sweet Adeline is supposed to have.

Lois joined Sweet Adelines in May, 1981 and has been a big contributor in four choruses (Somerset Valley, Far Hills, Hickory Tree, and Heart of New Jersey). Lois has held many positions in these choruses: Team Coordinator, Music Librarian, Secretary, Ways and Means Chair, and Board Member.

As Heart of New Jersey Chorus Team Coordinator (TC), she puts in many hours for the betterment of the chorus, without a thought of recognition for her efforts. She will patiently answer any question, and if she doesn't have an answer she will find the solution. She quietly and patiently goes above and beyond. She is a great asset to HONJ and the larger SAI organization she has been a member of for many years.

Lois works so hard to make the chorus run efficiently as TC. She is enthusiastic and patient with a wonderful sense of humor and keeps our chorus moving forward.

In addition to her Team Coordinator role, Lois negotiates performances for us, which brings funds into the chorus! When anyone needs help, Lois is there. Equally important — Lois is a good strong lead.

On a personal note, Lois has one brother who is married and a nephew Curtis who live in Michigan. She likes to travel and take in movies and especially spend time with her friends. She has performed on the International stage four times with Hickory Tree Chorus (Indianapolis, Las Vegas, Hawaii, and Texas).

Congratulations from all of your Heart of New Jersey sisters, Lois!

***Congratulations, Lois!***



# MaryLou VanHandle

## Hickory Tree Chorus



*"If you are looking for an individual who is responsible, dependable, energetic, and tireless, we have the gal for you.... She works with a sunny smile and a good word for everyone.... What really matters is how much she cares about our chorus and its members.... For all that she does and who she is, we are proud to name her as our Member of Note."*



# MaryLou VanHandle

## Hickory Tree Chorus

If you are looking for an individual who is responsible, dependable, energetic, and tireless, we have the gal for you. If a job needs doing, she is there with bells on and gets it done before you are finished asking. On top of all this, she works with a sunny smile and a good word for everyone.

Our candidate, MaryLou Van Handle, has been a Sweet Adeline for 29 years. She was a member of Far Hills chorus of Region 19 for 8 years and a member of Hickory Tree Chorus for 21 years.

As a member of Hickory Tree, MaryLou has filled many roles. She has contributed to our performances and readiness as a front row dancer, a vocal listener (tape checker), a member of the costume committee, and Annual Show Manager (8 years). With her years of experience and congenial personality, she has been especially suited for the role of Rookie Mentor, fulfilling duties that involved helping new members adjust to the many aspects of chorus life.

Marylou has been a valued member of our Management Team, holding several different positions within our administrative leadership. She has been the team's Secretary, Ways and Means Chair, and Team Coordinator. Currently, she holds the position of Financial Manager, a position in which she has helped to create and implement new systems that have streamlined the finance process and made them more efficient.

What really matters is how much she cares about our chorus and its members. Always willing to work hard in a variety of ways and lend a helping hand to others, she strives to keep us on the Sweet Adeline path to musical excellence. No job is too small or too large for Marylou if she's called upon to help.

MaryLou is a shining example of a dedicated, upstanding Sweet Adeline. For all that she does and who she is, we are proud to name her as our candidate for Member of Note.

***Congratulations, MaryLou!***

# Linda Ann Costello

## Island Hills Chorus



*"One person CAN make a difference and I believe every Chorus member DOES!" Says Linda Ann, "Although I am a hard worker, I like to make learning fun, easier, more productive and accurate."*

# Linda Ann Costello

## Island Hills Chorus

Music is my passion! Proud and happy to say I have been a Sweet Adeline Island Hills Chorus member for 26 years! I have served in multiple capacities as an Assistant Director, LEAD section Leader, music team member, and Chairperson from 1994 to 2012. I completed 95% of the Director Certification Program and attended all SA Educational seminars/conferences- both regional and international. My goal is twofold:

1. To grow and improve my own musical/singing skills to become the best I can be.
2. To help my LEADS, Chorus, Director and music team grow, plan & change to the best of my ability alongside the management team.

One person CAN make a difference and I believe every Chorus member DOES! I have always been a team player, enthusiastically work with our Director and Chorus leading the vocal warm ups; leading or co-leading sectionals; monitoring and patiently helping 'newbies'; creating demo learning tapes, tutoring LEADS before and after rehearsals, and hosting extra rehearsals at my home. I have coached several quartets and performed and directed many performances over the past 20 years.

I am a good listener and teacher who is always willing to give as well as receive constructive criticism with kindness and respect, trying to set a good example and practice what I preach.

Although I am a hard worker, I like to make learning fun, easier, more productive and accurate.

Two of my favorite mantras are: "sell the song" and "perfect practice makes perfect."

***Congratulations, Linda Ann!***

# Kim Mann

## Jersey Harmony Chorus



*"Kim brightens our front row each week with her lovely tenor voice, cheerful smile and enthusiasm.... We are so pleased to have Kim recognized by Region 15 for her devotion, hard work, vocal prowess, friendship, and joy that she brings to Jersey Harmony Chorus."*

# Kim Mann

## Jersey Harmony Chorus

Jersey Harmony Chorus is excited to present Kim Mann as our recipient of this year's Woman of Note award. Kim brightens our front row each week with her lovely tenor voice, cheerful smile and enthusiasm. A member since 2014, Kim, being the ultimate hostess, has served on the hospitality committee since joining and on occasion, has hosted various JHC social and work sessions in her home. More recently, she has been Secretary on the management team and presently serves as Team Coordinator. This year, she has also become a Music Team member, splendidly serving as our choreographer.

Kim and her veterinarian husband, Joel, reside in Hillsborough, NJ along with their son, Matthew, daughter Alison, who are both currently college students, and a small bevy of cats! The family enjoys lots of activities together, highlighted by their ski vacations. She has recently rejoined the work force and is loving her position in project management.

Although a tenor in chorus, Kim shines as the lead in "Love That Red!" quartet. Along with three other JHC members, Diane, Deb, and Melissa, "Love That Red!" always adds delightful entertainment to JHC shows and occasional outside performances.

We are so pleased to have Kim recognized by Region 15 for her devotion, hard work, vocal prowess, friendship, and joy that she brings to Jersey Harmony Chorus.

***Congratulations, Kim!***



# Jeanine Perruso Brown

## Liberty Oak Chorus



*"Many members of LOC who nominated Jeanine mentioned what a great ambassador she is for Sweet Adelines and Liberty Oak Chorus because she is warm-hearted, inclusive and kind.... She is extremely approachable and her love for music is evident as her bubbly personality shines forth from the risers. Jeanine puts her heart and soul in everything she does and is a passionate and devoted member."*

# Jeanine Perruso Brown

## Liberty Oak Chorus

Liberty Oak Chorus presents our Woman of Note to Jeanine Perruso Brown.

Jeanine started singing as a child on the top step of her back porch with the neighborhood kids shining their flashlights from the bottom step as her spotlight, and she has been singing her heart out ever since! In high school, she sang in choruses and studied voice. After high school, her friendly and outgoing personality led to her success working in the travel industry. She currently is a Customer Sales Representative/Corporate Travel Agent for a company in Princeton. Jeanine is married to Lyb Brown and has a large extended family that she loves very much.

In 1996, Jeanine joined Sweet Adelines' Suburban Sound Chorus where she became hooked on barbershop. Jeanine dove into quarteting, singing with at least seven quartets to date. In 2008, Jeanine joined Liberty Oak Chorus and enthusiastically took on the role of Chair of the Ways & Means Committee. She came up with great ideas like selling the pop-up fans that keep many of us cool on the risers. Jeanine always gives 110% of herself to any effort she undertakes which became clear when she agreed to run the boutique for Liberty Oak the first time the chorus served as Assisting Chorus in Albany. She worked tirelessly making sure the boutique ran smoothly and efficiently even though it was the first year in that venue. She is so creative and talented at collecting and assembling the raffle baskets which garner so much attention at the boutique and raise a lot of funds for the chorus. She has run the boutique two more times making it very successful every time!

Many members of LOC who nominated Jeanine mentioned what a great ambassador she is for Sweet Adelines and Liberty Oak Chorus because she is warm-hearted, inclusive and kind. Jeanine will strike up a conversation with anyone she meets about the joy of singing and being in LOC. Jeanine has a beautiful lead voice and shares her singing expertise with anybody who needs it, often helping her fellow leads whenever asked. She is extremely approachable and her love for music is evident as her bubbly personality shines forth from the risers. Jeanine puts her heart and soul in everything she does and is a passionate and devoted member. Liberty Oak Chorus is thrilled and proud to name her as our Woman of Note!

***Congratulations, Jeanine!***

# Thea DiSunno

## Long Island Sound Chorus



*"Don't let the flirty eyes and showgirl flash of Thea's stage persona fool you. Underneath the glitz and glamour is a hard working business gal.... She is a strong presence on the risers, mindful of every note, breath and key change, helping to keep the chorus precise and focused."*

# Thea DiSunno

## Long Island Sound Chorus

A member for over forty years, Thea has grown young with the chorus. Back in the seventies when music waved over the land like a great flag of freedom, Thea and her BFF, Peggy, cooked a good supper, waved bye-bye to their kids and babysitting husbands (who also happened to be first cousins) and drove west with one thought in mind – to sing. A Thelma and Louise duet, they have been jamming together ever since. That's a tower of sheet music and a couture's closet of costume changes!

But don't let the flirty eyes and showgirl flash of Thea's stage persona fool you. Underneath the glitz and glamour is a hard working business gal. Thea has always maintained a leadership role in the chorus, holding various posts on our Management Team including Membership Coordinator. She is also the Music Team leader for the lead section, helping to qualify and prepare them for competition. Her early musical training on the piano and piccolo enable Thea to read and interpret music. She is a strong presence on the risers, mindful of every note, breath and key change, helping to keep the chorus precise and focused on the conductor's direction.

Her pal, cousin-in-law, and BFF Peggy is now the director, and Thea does everything she can to support her. Our two dedicated DiSunnos form a sturdy structural beam upon which our Chorus rests. Thea wears the responsibility like a silk shawl. "I learned how to work with a smile when I was a waitress in my father's Paradise Soda Shop in Sag Harbor," Thea remembers. She started working when she was just twelve along with her five brothers and sisters. "I always kept my rose colored glasses on. I looked for the good in people and situations. Everything looked good to me regardless of the circumstances. It's not that life is always easy," she mused philosophically, "but you've have to take your cards and play them."

Thea has been dealt a good hand and has played it well. She has worked her entire life taking the skills and experiences she gained from her father's family business and applying them to her husband's. She has been an integral part of Mike DiSunno and Sons since the eighties. The name Mike DiSunno and Sons is synonymous with East End construction. "It doesn't seem like work to me," she says, "it's my life. I just love it!" Perhaps this is what keeps Thea looking and acting so young. "How do you keep such a positive attitude?" this interviewer asked. She answered in her calm, peaceful way. "I meditate. I sing. I practice gratitude. I go to the ocean every day. I adore my brothers and sisters and all my friends. My high school sweetheart, Carmine, and I have raised three beautiful daughters. Now we have three grandsons and a granddaughter. Our grandchildren are the icing on the cake."

***Congratulations, Thea!***

# Beth LaBarge

## Saratoga Soundtrack Chorus



*"Beth approaches any job she does with dignity and grace. She maintains decorum and professionalism when dealing with different personalities and learning styles.... We congratulate and thank Beth for all she does for Saratoga Soundtrack Chorus. She is very deserving of this honor."*



# Beth LaBarge

## Saratoga Soundtrack Chorus

The Saratoga Soundtrack Chorus is proud to name Beth LaBarge as our 2018 Woman of Note.

Beth has been a Sweet Adeline for 18 years and sings lead. She is a hard worker both behind the scenes and in front of the chorus. She is currently a lead section leader and the chair of our Music Team. In the past, she has served on our Management Team and was a Team Leader. Beth has also put her diplomatic skills to work as our liaison between the chorus and the Management Team. She has also facilitated our annual goal-setting sessions.

Beth approaches any job she does with dignity and grace. She maintains decorum and professionalism when dealing with different personalities and learning styles.

Beth works for GE as a leader of a global HR education and training team. When not working or singing, Beth enjoys spending time with husband, Mike and their three adult children. She also likes to travel and spend time at her camp in the Adirondacks.

We congratulate and thank Beth for all she does for Saratoga Soundtrack Chorus. She is very deserving of this honor.

***Congratulations, Beth!***

# JoAnne Coutlee

## Seneca Soundwaves Chorus



*"Her hand is the first to go up when something needs to be done for the chorus. Her cheerleading spirit is to be admired.... Jo will be moving to North Carolina [in 2019].... We will miss her positive attitude and hard work on behalf of the chorus and feel this is our opportunity to recognize her for her thirteen years of dedicated membership in Seneca Soundwaves."*

# JoAnne Coutlee

## Seneca Soundwaves Chorus

The Seneca Soundwaves Chorus nominated JoAnne Coutlee for the 2018 Woman of Note Award.

Jo joined The Seneca Soundwaves in January 2005. She sings lead and has served as Lead Section Leader for the chorus over many months. As a certified Zumba teacher, Jo has led our chorus through physical warmups with enthusiasm and energy. Being a full-time elementary school teacher for over 20 years, Jo has a special place in her heart for young people. Over the years, she has taught barbershop to her students at St. Michael's School in Penn Yan and created school musicals using these talented young voices. She has worked on the Young Women in Harmony program in our chorus, while also serving as counselor at the Lakeside A Cappella camp in Cazenovia for the past three years.

Administratively, Jo has been co-team leader for three years. She volunteered as Show Chair for a dinner show at DiPacific's Restaurant with Phyl Contestable from "Nunsense" and coordinated a very successful show at the American Legion in Geneva, featuring The Yellow Jackets from the University of Rochester. We had the special opportunity of singing with them at the fund raising event.

As Membership Coordinator, Jo has lent her skills and creativity in putting together our annual Open Houses for the past several years. She has worked tirelessly to create a new theme for each open house event. Her hand is the first to go up when something needs to be done for the chorus. Her cheerleading spirit is to be admired.

Jo will be moving to North Carolina next year to be closer to her son and daughter-in-law. We will miss her positive attitude and hard work on behalf of the chorus and feel this is our opportunity to recognize her for her thirteen years of dedicated membership in Seneca Soundwaves Chorus.

***Congratulations, JoAnne!***

# Stephanie Ofshinsky

## Sirens of Gotham Chorus



*"Through a long and arduous director search, the Sirens are endlessly grateful to Stephanie for keeping our chorus moving forward.... She has a deep level of commitment to this chorus, and her passion for all that we do is unparalleled. We thank you, Stephanie, for a great year and are delighted to honor you as our Member of Note."*

# Stephanie Ofshinsky

## Sirens of Gotham Chorus

The Sirens of Gotham are excited to honor Stephanie Ofshinsky as our 2018 Member of Note! Steph is a charter member of Sirens, having sung with the chorus for all of its seven years. With her strong music education background, Steph has been a member of the Siren's Music Team since the very beginning. Her various roles included Bari Section Leader, Costume Coordinator, and Assistant Director. Always an ambitious Siren, Steph took the time to complete a Director's Certification Program and became an Associate Music Director! Soon after that, she led us in our contest up-tune at the 2017 Regional Competition where we qualified to compete in the 2018 Harmony Classic Competition in St. Louis!

Around this time last year, we were bidding a fond farewell to our Founding Director, Sarah Clay Lindvall, as she moved to Atlanta. It was then that Stephanie resolutely accepted the challenge of standing in as our Interim Director. This job is no easy task; to step up and lead our passionate group of performers at such an exciting and transitional time required her to volunteer seemingly endless time and tremendous energy. Steph has handled it all with grace and boundless determination. Under her leadership, we have had a productive and successful year! We have had three audition cycles, welcoming a total of 16 new Sirens! At the 2018 Regional Competition, we earned our highest score and placement to date! In addition to all this, for 11 months Steph has held the reigns--brainstorming, organizing, and rehearsing pieces for our first ever entertainment package for Harmony Classic. All along the way, she continued her work as a music educator, sang lead in a competing quartet, AND sang as a lead and front line dancer in the Harmony Celebration Chorus! We seriously don't know how she does it all!

Through a long and arduous director search, the Sirens are endlessly grateful to Stephanie for keeping our chorus moving forward, planning months down the line, and running rehearsals each and every week. She has a deep level of commitment to this chorus, and her passion for all that we do is unparalleled.

We thank you, Stephanie, for a great year and are delighted to honor you as our "Member of Note."

***Congratulations, Stephanie!***



# Barbara Hultgren

## Song of the Valley Chorus



*"Barbara has always been a member whom we can count on.... Members of the chorus describe her as fun, always positive, a joy to be around, friendly, welcoming, and a team player. 'She always has a smile on her face and a song in her heart.' Barb has been a very dedicated member of our chapter, doing whatever she can to help our chorus to grow and improve."*

# Barbara Hultgren

## Song of the Valley Chorus

Song of the Valley Chorus is proud to announce Barbara Hultgren as our Woman of Note 2018. Barbara joined our chorus in 1999 and has always been a member whom we can count on. She is in her sixth year as our Communications Coordinator. In the past, she has been our Music Librarian, and Baritone Section Leader. Members of the chorus describe her as fun, always positive, a joy to be around, friendly, welcoming, and a team player. "She always has a smile on her face and a song in her heart."

Music has always been a part of Barbara's life. In her early years in Schenectady, she played flute and clarinet, and sang in the school chorus, church choir, and the Schenectady Lite Opera.

After becoming a nurse and moving to Orange County, she met her husband, an opera singer. He introduced her to the world of classical music. Their two sons were certainly raised in a home where music reigned. Even now, besides practicing her baritone parts at home, she still sings every day while doing the dishes.

Barbara sings her baritone with a sparkle in her eye and you can see that same sparkle when anybody mentions an opportunity for folk dancing. She is a folk dancer at heart and has been dancing for forty years. In addition, along the way, she took up Tai Chi and became an instructor. Our chorus has been the beneficiary of those skills when she has led our physical warm-ups

Barb has been a very dedicated member of our chapter, doing whatever she can to help our chorus to grow and improve. She's a great example of a "Real Woman, singing Real Harmony, and having Real Fun."

***Congratulations, Barbara!***

# Danielle Carter

## Spirit of Syracuse Chorus



*"Danielle Carter is a rare find.... When Danielle steps in front of SOS, her fellow singers are inspired by her passion—and undoubtedly become better signers through her thoughtful and natural instruction.... She is a wonderful example of the magic that can happen when young women are introduced to a cappella singing, and encouraged to grow and flourish in the music."*

# Danielle Carter

## Spirit of Syracuse Chorus

Danielle Carter is a rare find.

She first joined the Spirit of Syracuse as a teenager – still roaming the halls of Liverpool High School in Central New York. She was introduced to the art of barbershop early through her music teacher, Sky Harris. Soon after, she was participating in local Harmony Explosion camps and then Lakeside A Cappella Camp. In fact, this summer she stepped up into a peer leadership position at the annual camp, helping to mentor the next generation of barbershop singers.

A quartet was inevitably in her future... as bass of Resonance Quartet, she and her fellow quartet mates placed 5th in the 2015 SAI Rising Star Contest and 3rd in the 2016 Region 15 contest.

It was not surprising that Danielle has also chosen to dedicate her professional life to music, having just recently graduated with a degree in Music from Syracuse University's famed Setnor School of Music.

It is equally not surprising that our music leadership team repeatedly looks to Danielle to assist the chorus, taking on some of our more challenging charts and helping members truly "get it" while working on pitch and rhythm.

When Danielle steps in front of SOS, her fellow singers are inspired by her passion—and undoubtedly become better signers through her thoughtful and natural instruction.

And she continues to share her musical gifts in immeasurable ways. In 2016, Danielle became co-director of Scarlet Chorus, a YWIA chorus sponsored by the Spirit of Syracuse. Made up of about 30 young women between the ages of 12-25, Scarlet made a stunning debut at the 2017 International Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival in San Antonio, TX where they earned a "Superior" rating and took top honors as AA Plateau champions!

She is a wonderful example of the magic that can happen when young women are introduced to a cappella singing, and encouraged to grow and flourish in the music.

The Spirit of Syracuse is so very proud to call Danielle Carter our 2018 Woman of Note.

***Congratulations, Danielle!***



# Pearl Mintzer

## Twin County Chorus



*“Pearl exemplifies the criteria sought for the Member of Note. She works tirelessly for the chapter.... She has a positive influence on the chapter in many ways.... She is an ambassador for the chapter.... She eagerly shares her talents with the chorus.... For all her varied contributions to Twin County, we enthusiastically honor Pearl as this year’s Member of Note.”*



# Pearl Mintzer

## Twin County Chorus

Twin County Chorus is proud to nominate Pearl Mintzer as our Member of Note for 2018. She has been a valuable member of our chorus for 14 years. A Lead singer, Pearl served on the Twin County Board from 2006 to 2010. When the chorus changed to Management Team governance, she joined the team as Public Relations Coordinator. Leaving the team in May after six years, she was surprised to be appointed to the position of Lead Section Leader, succeeding our beloved Ursula Hudson. She accepted this new challenge, happy to give back whatever she can to the chorus.

Pearl exemplifies the criteria sought for the Member of Note. She works tirelessly for the chapter, often spending over an hour a day posting information on the Twin County website. She has a positive influence on the chapter in many ways, helping us grow through the increased use of computers and recordings. Her support enabled us to move from tapes to CDs to tracks for learning our music. Her videos of our choreographer demonstrating moves and of the chorus rehearsing, have helped us learn to move more freely. She is an ambassador for the chapter, posting news on the regional website and on Facebook.

In her professional life, Pearl is an independent recruiter, working from home, with little opportunity to meet people face to face. In 2004, she wanted to find something to do and have contact with people on a regular basis. When she listened to a doo-wop group perform and sang with them, they suggested that she learn about Sweet Adelines. Though she had no previous chorus experience, she loved the sound, and joined Twin County Chorus.

Pearl eagerly shares her talents with the chorus. Members can call her anytime for help in using their computers or navigating the website, since she feels it is important for us to know how to use technology and stay current with its changes and advancements. She also assists with creating flyers for our shows and membership drives. For all her varied contributions to Twin County Chorus, we enthusiastically honor Pearl Mintzer as this year's Member of Note.

***Congratulations, Pearl!***

# ***Greater NY/NJ Region 15 congratulates all of our Members of Note!***

***We thank you for your contributions  
to your chapter, to your region,  
and to Sweet Adelines!***

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You may have spotted that this annual spotlight is now called **Member of Note** (formerly Woman of Note).

Your Regional Management Team made this shift in order to be more inclusive and sensitive. Our ranks include variety – male directors or chorus helpers, and folks who may not identify as women, to name a few. The new name recognizes this gender diversity, ensuring we are embracing the full breadth of our regional talent.

That said, the criteria for this honor are unchanged! A Member of Note is one who:  
**Works tirelessly** for the chapter; has a **positive influence** on the chapter; and is a **great ambassador** for the chapter.

Whatever the name of this program, we are thrilled to continue shining a light on these superstars who go the extra mile for us!