

Region 15 2020 Membership Celebration!

Golden Members and Member of Note Honorees

October 23, 2020

Region 15 Golden Members - 50 years+



Anita Barry
Jersey Harmony



Linda Brown
Capitaland



Pam Hyde
Saratoga Soundtrack



Connie Kash
Twin County



Jan McCaskill
Harmony Celebration



Sharon Vitkovsky
Harmony Celebration



Region 15 Golden Members - 55 years+



Marge Dederbeck
Harmony Celebration



Marilyn Herke
Seneca Soundwaves



Barbara McKeon
Island Hills



Sonny Steffan
Chapter At Large



Brenda Strauss
Liberty Oak





Region 15 Golden Members - 60 years+



Joyce Brandt
Hickory Tree



Edie Murphy
Harmony Celebration





Region 15 Golden Members - 65 years+



Judy Rowell
Harmony Celebration



Region 15 Golden Members - 70 years+



MaryJo Pardee
Harmony Celebration





Lisa McVey

Capitaland Chorus 2020 Member of Note

Capitaland Chorus is proud to present Lisa McVey as our 2020 Member of Note.

As the coordinator of our Choreography Team, Assistant Bass Section Leader, Video Recorder for our weekly rehearsals, Lisa remains patient, encouraging, and willing to stop to help anyone with questions/clarification.

Her positive attitude and contributions to Capitaland Chorus are immeasurable. Whether it be time she has dedicated to our Management Team, Show Chairperson, extra help, or contributing to other chorus committees, Lisa seems to have never ending energy and lucky for us, those attributes are catchy and makes Capitaland Chorus even stronger.

She shares her years of musical knowledge and experience in a constructive and graceful manner. Her many years as a Sweet Adeline have strengthened her contagious enthusiasm, passion, positive attitude, and love for barbershop. Lisa McVey truly exemplifies the qualities of a Sweet Adeline!





Elaine Mattice

City of the Hills Chorus 2020 Member of Note

It gives us great pleasure to present Elaine Mattice as City of the Hills Chorus Member of Note for 2020-2021. Elaine has been a valuable member of COTH Chorus since 2002. Through the years she has taken on leadership roles, always with the best interests of the chorus in mind. She serves on the Music Committee and does an exceptional job as Baritone Section Leader. She leads fun and educational warm ups in rotation.

Elaine is also a member of the Marketing/Fund Development committee, with her primary duty being that of Singing Valentines Coordinator. She uses her outstanding organizational skills to schedule, communicate and follow through with this challenging, yet rewarding fundraising project. Her multitasking abilities allow her to juggle chorus commitments along with a full-time job as a Medical Technology Team Leader at a regional hospital Clinical Laboratory as well as home, family and church responsibilities.

Congratulations, Elaine, on this special Sweet Adelines honor!





Kathy Dembek

Evergreen Chorus 2020 Member of Note

Evergreen Chorus is proud to honor our 2020 Member of Note, Kathy Dembek.

Kathy joined Evergreen Chorus in 2010 and attended her first regional contest in 2011. Having sung in another chorus, she was familiar with Sweet Adelines. She was encouraged to visit Evergreen Chorus by one of our tenor's, Jeannette Morse. Our new bass quickly became an active member.

When there is a job to be done, Kathy always makes herself available to assist in any way that she can. Being instrumental in planning several Chorus Competition Retreats, she works alongside the director for these successful events. As the first CCL for Evergreen, all the needs of the chorus were taken care of in preparation for contest in Philadelphia.

When it is time for our annual show, you can find Kathy coordinating raffle tickets, afterglow plans and so much more. During the month of December, Kathy is busy organizing our Holiday Singing Cards Fundraiser.

As a Bass Co-section Leader and Recording Listener, Kathy assists our basses be the best they can be. She often offers her home to the basses to learn and review music.

Kathy has been Team Coordinator in the past for Evergreen Chorus and is our current TC. During this time of COVID, Kathy is our host on virtual rehearsals. Hosting countless meetings and making sure Tuesday nights run smoothly.

Our Musical Family greatly appreciates Kathy's dedication. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor. Much love from your singing sisters!





Lauren Reid

Golden Apple Chorus 2020 Member of Note

Lauren Reid has been singing since before she can even remember! Her parents were both active in their church choir, and Lauren fell in love with singing from the very start. When she walked into the Golden Apple Chorus in December, 2002, we knew she was a natural barbershopper at heart!

Lauren has a strong and beautiful (and accurate!) lead voice. She loves singing the melody, and quickly became an important voice in the chorus. The chorus can always count on her to attend performances and chorus events. She also jumped right into taking on some important assignments. She was Communications Coordinator on the GAC management team for many years. As fundraising chair, she managed many successful events to boost the chorus treasury. She has been show chair for the past several years. She also coordinates holiday collections to donate gifts or gift cards to local community organizations.

Lauren enjoys quartetting, listening to the harmony parts swirl around her lovely lead voice. She has been involved with several chapter quartets, including Undecided, Snow Business, Our Way, Hoopla. She is the first one to volunteer for quartet demonstrations during chorus rehearsals.

Lauren was born and raised in White Plains, NY. She graduated from Manhattanville College, earning both undergraduate and masters degrees. She has been teaching fifth graders in the Crompond Elementary School in Yorktown Heights, NY, for the past 22 years. She is a caring teacher, who consistently gives her whole heart to her students. This year is particularly challenging, with a hybrid teaching model, and Lauren is putting in the extra effort required to teach her students in the classroom and virtually, while keeping everyone safe and healthy. She is the elected union representative for her school in the Yorktown Central School District. She is very active in her church, singing in the choir and running the annual summer youth camp. She is also the Queen of Trivia – TV, movies, music – Lauren has a head full of trivia facts! Lauren is the primary caregiver for her father. She has a sister and brother, and a large, close-knit extended family.

The Golden Apple Chorus is very lucky that Lauren found our chorus. We are grateful for her dedication, her willingness to take on any job, and sharing her love of singing. And we are proud and honored to select her as Golden Apple Chorus 2020 MEMBER OF NOTE!





Karen Strong Mullen

Greater Nassau Chorus 2020 Member of Note

Greater Nassau Chorus is proud to announce our 2020 Member of Note: Karen Strong Mullen.

Karen is a member of our music staff and a Section Leader for the bass section. She also assists with ways and means, serving as point person for our annual lottery fundraiser and leading ad sales for our annual show. She recently hosted our first virtual paint night, lending her artistic skills to us for a fun night of fundraising.

At the Regional level, Karen is a member of the Blue Notes Chorus. She and her sister Linda sang with Summer Windsong, Region 15's 1995 and 1996 champion quartet, who went on to compete at the 1995 International Quartet Competition. In 2003, she sang with regional champions Moondance Quartet, along with GNC director Harriette Walters. Karen and her family are a barbershop legacy. Her father, Jim Strong, directed the Long Island Sound Chorus, of which Karen, her mother Betty and sister Linda were all members. The legacy continues in Greater Nassau Chorus, where sisters Karen and Linda are joined by Randi, Karen's daughter.

Master Director 700 Harriette Walters shared this to honor Karen:

"Karen is GNC. She lives the values of our chorus and is everyone's champion. On a personal note, I sang with Karen in Moondance Quartet and we had a wonderful reign together. That was when we knew, as barbershop brats, we were completely aligned and shared our passion for barbershop and for the ongoing pursuit of excellence! And that was also when our friendship was born, which we both knew would be lifelong and everlasting.

Karen and I are symbiotic in how we support each other as well as all of our GNC family. Karen is always there with supportive words, comments, ideas and sees the best in others. She is unselfish and transparent, allowing herself to be vulnerable, which fosters humility and growth in our chorus.

Whether it be in the past or in our present circumstances, Karen remains committed to being "one week closer" to realizing exactly where we want to be at GNC and it is my extreme pleasure to collaborate with her and proud to have her on our GNC Team.

Karen is truly our Member of Note! Congratulations my friend! Enjoy every minute! The stars are shining on you today! Much love today and always."





Janet Cebula

Harmony Celebration Chorus 2020 Member of Note

Janet Cebula has been a dedicated Sweet Adeline for 40 years! She began her SAI life (as a child) singing Baritone with the “Liberty Belle” chorus in the Boston area, and did that for 10 years. Then, in 1991, Janet moved from Massachusetts to New Jersey to sing in the “Ramapo Valley Chorus” because she wanted to sing for the iconic Renee Craig!

During these past 30 years she has been a loyal member and a huge asset to her chorus, now Harmony Celebration! During that time, she obtained her Master’s Degree as an Occupational Therapist, and works with and advocates for blind and visually impaired patients.

She is an avid quartetter and has sung Bass in several awesome quartets, always winning a medal! Currently, she is the Bass in “Just 4 Kicks” quartet, the 2018 Region 15 Championship Quartet!

Janet gives more than 100% of herself to ensure the good health of HCC. She is a Bass listener, giving of her time and knowledge to help anyone who might benefit from her musical expertise.

She is currently the Membership Co-chairperson for the chorus, and truly excels in this position. She always goes that extra mile, and does so much... quietly, behind the scenes. She volunteers to be on committees that will ensure growth, and continued good health of our membership.

She is extremely creative and can be credited with many innovative ideas to help HCC grow, and was very instrumental in obtaining a new member during this quarantine, a member we haven’t even met yet!

Janet always has a smile, a big hello, and a hug for each and every chorus member. Hopefully, she will be able to do that again soon! She is loved by all, a totally awesome person, and it is a pleasure to award the Harmony Celebration 2020 Member of Note award to Janet Cebula!

Congratulations, Janet!





Sue Morano

Heart of Long Island Chorus 2020 Member of Note

The 2020 Member of Note for the Heart of Long Island Chorus is... Sue Morano!

As the self-proclaimed chorus comedienne, Sue has a special talent for spreading smiles and laughter to those of us lucky enough to be in her light. 2020 has been a year full of challenges, and the extra smiles and laughs that Sue brings to our lives are extra special these days.

Through her wildly entertaining skits, complete with costumes and props, her daily uplifting Facebook posts, and her overall positivity and love for her sisters in song, Sue has done a great behind the scenes job and her efforts have really helped us through the past months. Even when most of us didn't even give the chorus a second thought, she was reaching out and keeping our social media going as if nothing had changed, and we have had members and non-members report that they check our page daily to see what she is posting. She has also been an integral part of the show committees and is always contributing new, creative ideas for fundraisers and other events.

Thank you, Sue for all you do to keep all of our spirits lifted! We love you.





Vicki Warnock

Heart of New Jersey Chorus 2020 Member of Note

Heart of New Jersey Chorus Member of Note for 2020 is Vicki Warnock!

Vicki has been a Sweet Adeline since 2010 and is currently serving as Vice President of the Chapter Board.

In the past she has held many leadership positions including Co-Team Leader on the Management Team, Bowling for Dollars Chairperson, Convention Housing Coordinator and Convention Liaison.

She belonged to the fabulous '*Shore To Please*' Quartet for 4 years and with them performed at our Annual Shows, Holiday Caroling, Singing Valentines and numerous Sing Outs! Having professional experience with StreetHeart Girlz, an all-female acapella doo wop group, Vicki is a terrific role model for energy and showmanship. She always has a 'great face' and tells a story with her expression.

Vicki is our go to person who is always going above and beyond for us and is always doing it with a smile!

She organizes our event food lists, runs the most fun gift exchange game at our holiday parties and makes our hospitality suite experiences (at both retreat and contest) hilarious!

Vicki is also one of our shining stars in the front row! She sang lead until 2017 when the chorus needed more basses to balance the cone, she graciously switched to the bass section. And she is so talented that her voice sounds strong and beautiful in every part! Her honest, funny and energized personality makes everyone feel respected, included and informed. She has been stepping up and taking charge in our chorus for years and is always there to help.

If there is a problem or a challenge, Vicki immediately seeks a solution. Never defeatist or negative, she always seeks to resolve any issue. When there was a need - Vicki stepped up to assist the treasurer to collect dues and angel fund contributions as well as working with our grant writer to organize the paperwork. She truly has the best interests of the chorus at heart and she consistently jumps in and is always the first to offer her assistance with whatever needs to be done.

She loves to be involved and was one of the 60 Region 15 singers to join the Sisters in Harmony Europe tour where she went out of her way to get to know every new face! On top of all of this - Vicky is a Registered Nurse and during this difficult time she has been a wealth of information and support. She has taken the lead to secure face screens, hand sanitizer, waivers and surveys for everyone. And she eases concerns when there is confusion (with all we're hearing on the news these days!)

We are very lucky to have Vicki in our chorus and we are proud to name her as our 2020 Member of Note!





Phyllis Prestamo

Hickory Tree Chorus 2020 Member of Note

The Hickory Tree Chorus is thrilled to name Phyllis Prestamo as our 2020 Member of Note.

You know the saying, *“If you want something done, ask a busy person.”* Well that describes Phyllis perfectly! Phyllis worked in a demanding job for most of her tenure with us, yet found time to serve in a million ways. She was on the Management Team for many years serving as Membership Coordinator. Her skills as an administrator and warmth as a people person helped us pave the way for an organized, welcoming on-boarding process and complete music library!

She has been instrumental in planning our retreats for umpteen years, on both the financial front dealing with coordination with the hotel venue as well as the creative end with themes, decorations and activities to keep us energized!

Phyllis has also been part of our scholarship committee, organizing the applications and participating in evaluating the audio/visual and written submissions from the prospective HS senior winners. This year, all masked up, she hand-delivered the award checks to our 2 winners.

She recently retired from her career in school administration and transitioned from membership activities to head our make-up committee. She showed so much initiative last year creating a ‘Beauty Bit’ column with ten informative and humorous entries about looking our best from ‘Hydration’ to ‘Foundations’ to ‘Lipstick.’

A member since 2005, Phyllis has recently joined the tenor section after singing lead for many years. She has been on the front row as well as on the risers, going cheerfully wherever we most need her voice and performance skills.

For the past several seasons, Phyllis joined the band of HTC holiday singers! Initially a leader on our holiday repertoire, she was quickly able to learn many of our holiday arrangements in tenor, allowing us to fill additional holiday performance requests.

A contributor in so many ways, Phyllis is a team player who is an enthusiastic, respected and admired member of Hickory Tree. We are lucky to have Phyllis among us and are proud to recognize her as our 2020 Member of Note!





Laura Riffaud

Island Hills Chorus 2020 Member of Note

Laura has been a wonderfully talented member of our chorus for many years. Her enthusiasm for and knowledge of music has helped the chorus improve even during this difficult time as she worked so diligently as an assistant and interim director.

My career in Barbershop has been many years in the making. I started singing in fourth grade. I had amazing teachers from elementary school through high school who exposed me to many musical styles—from traditional SATB to learning how to scat and improvise. I LOVED music. But it was not until 7th grade that I was introduced to barbershop harmony by my chorus teacher, a SPEBSQSA member. I was immediately hooked. All through high school I sang baritone in a quartet. We performed in nursing homes, at Rotary events, and at people's parties. In 1976, my quartet attended an IHC rehearsal. The director, George Avenir, was so welcoming. He allowed us to sing many of his arrangements— Lucky Day, Here Comes Charlie, Am I Blue?, Something,... and of course, Soldier! Incredible arrangements! 1978 was the year I graduated from high school and in that same year, IHC won the international contest. I feel that I have been connected to IHC for most of my life.

My passion for four part harmony brought me back to Island Hills in 1994, after the birth of my first daughter. I immediately started my search for a quartet. Barbara Festa was my baritone section leader. I switched to tenor so we could form a quartet. We sang in Rhythm & Rhyme for many years and competed 6 times until our bass, Blanche Leunig, relocated to Maine. After Blanche moved, we met Teresa Heuser who was singing with GNC at the time. We formed Savoir Faire and competed three times, placing 4th at one of our Regional contests. We had coaching on a regular basis, and attended classes and VocalFest, through the years. And I took private vocal lessons periodically to improve my education. During those years and under the direction of Dave, Scott and Wayne, I learned a great deal.

A couple of years ago I became an empty nester and was able to devote more of my time to music. I officially joined the Music Team, formed the quartet "It's All Relative" with fellow chorus members Robin DiDomenico, Kara Dashnaw and Barbara, and was invited to become an Assistant Director. In that role, I have directed our chorus in a few public performances, and I just love it! During the pandemic our director decided to step down and I have been co-directing IHC with my dear friend, Barbara. When we stepped up to lead the chorus together, it felt like a very natural next step. It has been an exciting challenge. I look forward to growing in this role, and am excited to see what the future holds.

Barbershop harmony has been a part of my life for so long that I can hardly remember a time without it. My love of singing harmony has even passed to my two daughters. Sofia sings with Karen Sweeters and Nina sings with Sirens. Nina is also the bass in "Perfect Fourth", a young quartet in our region. Being a Sweet Adeline and a member of IHC has been and will continue to be, so important to me.

I am so grateful for the people I have met and the opportunities membership in SAI has brought me!





Sarita Shaevitz

Jersey Harmony Chorus 2020 Member of Note

As you look across the front row of Jersey Harmony's risers, there are, of course, smiling faces. You may pause when coming upon Sarita Shaevitz, always bright, energized, and exuding friendliness! For Sarita, this is not just a "show" face. Her warmth and positive attitude are constant and contagious and come from within. As a member of Jersey Harmony's lead section, she is diligent in being performance ready and participates in many events throughout the year.

Sarita lives in Princeton with her very musical family, husband Josh, teen daughter, Maina (also a JHC member) and son, Rishi. The entire Shaevitz family often supports Sarita and all the JHC members, sharing their musical talents in a variety of ways. Despite a demanding career, a frequent traveler, and very active family life, Sarita fills the role of many JHC tasks. Each week she prepares an informative and attractive "Hot Sheet", our chorus newsletter. She is quick to offer to host special chorus events at her lovely home and often gives technical assistance such as hosting Zoom meetings.

We are so grateful and privileged to have Sarita as part of the JHC family, and so pleased to honor her as our 2020 Member of Note!





Lee Popiolek

Liberty Oak Chorus 2020 Member of Note

2020 has made us all too familiar with pandemics, hurricanes, quarantines, earthquakes, concerns about the health and safety of family and friends near and far. Thank goodness we had our Liberty Oak Chorus activities and experiences to look forward to each week.

Oh wait. LOC as we knew it was suddenly gone. Literally here one day and gone the next. It felt like we lost not only the music but each other and it was devastating.

And then... ZOOM! Our musical life did not return to normal but thanks to our Member of Note it improved dramatically. With patience, expertise and dedication she held 90 plus hands and convinced us all was not lost. Liberty Oak Chorus would survive and it has.

She is a professional organizer specializing in all kinds of life skills for students and adults including those with special needs. She has co-chaired the Assisting Chorus responsibilities for LOC using those skills to ensure all positions are filled and the Region 15 Convention runs smoothly. She is a proud member of the Awesome Basses of LOC and loves every minute on the risers.

She is married to her awesome husband, John, and has a lovely daughter, Robin, who just completed a degree in Pastry Arts and has made some incredible desserts for the family.

Some of the comments in her nominations are...

"She is a very warm-hearted person and a great Ambassador for the Chapter."

"Part of her efforts involving Zoom meetings include being attentive and sensitive to the needs of the director."

"She has been a key player in keeping the chorus connected during these unprecedented times."

"She does what she does for the love of the chorus."

Liberty Oak Chorus is very pleased to announce our 2020 Member of Note and to thank her for all she has done to zoom us into the future, Lee Popiolek.





Jackie Moss

Long Island Sound Chorus 2020 Member of Note

Over the past ten years Jackie Moss has served as our Chorus secretary and is presently our marketing coordinator. Clearly a woman who steps up and steps in, her quiet elegance is proactive and spiritual. Each week she greets her sisters-in-song with clear loving eyes that ask, “How are you? Really?”

Jackie was initiated into music when she first heard Barbara Streisand sing. “My life was changed,” she says. Growing up in a small Pennsylvania town, she knew that if she could just get to New York she could be like Barbara – a self-actualized, independent, creative, outspoken woman.” She entered California State College in Pennsylvania and met the love of her life, Mel Moss. “He was from Brooklyn and he wanted to take me home to meet his mama.”

She credits her husband for helping her find her musical way. Coming from a long line of musicians, he has always encouraged her and been her critic in the best sense of the word. “He’s super smart and loves music. We’ve been together over 40 years. We’re soulmates skipping down the trail together. It’s so great. He’s my best friend; he really gets me.”

Jackie finds music profound in its ability to create a sense of relaxation and openness in people, something she says we shy away from in our culture. “We don’t like to relax. We like to be driven and pushed. Music is like the Holy Spirit. It’s this gentleness, trust, openness, and vulnerability. That’s part of the medicine of music. It says *be here with me now. You don’t have to go any place, just relax and enjoy the beauty of me. Be in the present and enjoy the moment.*”

As a member of the Long Island Sound Chorus, Jackie feels the Sweet Adelines have helped her channel her inner Streisand. “Ok, Barbara!” she says, “I know what you’re about now!” The Chorus has helped her feel free to express herself and let the music come through her body. “It’s my new frontier,” she says with that unguarded smile. “It’s what I’m always moving towards. “

It is with wholehearted admiration and enthusiasm that the Long Island Sound Chorus declares Jackie Moss our 2020 Member of Note.





Lori Porter

Saratoga Soundtrack Chorus 2020 Member of Note

Saratoga Soundtrack Chorus is thrilled to announce that our 2020 Member of Note is Lori Porter!

As a long time Sweet Adeline, Lori has an obvious passion for the barbershop craft. Throughout her membership with the organization, she has taken on many roles and responsibilities. Most recently, Lori has served as the Baritone section leader and the Music Team Chair for Saratoga Soundtrack. Lori works tirelessly to develop and implement educational opportunities that will help strengthen the skillset of our members.

In 2020, Lori took part in a Personal Vocal Instruction program which gave all members the opportunity to get individualized coaching and feedback in one on one sessions. Lori is also instrumental in leading physical and vocal warm ups during weekly rehearsals. Her enthusiasm and upbeat attitude always start our rehearsals off on the right note!

Throughout the pandemic, Lori has taken a critical role in navigating online rehearsals and assisting with technology that keep our meetings engaging and educational. In addition to her many other contributions to the chorus, Lori is a fantastic performer. She has sung in a number of quartets, been the member of our front row and helps add an incredible richness to the baritone sound.

Above all, Lori is an invaluable member of Saratoga Soundtrack Chorus and embodies our core values by always leading with positivity, integrity and musical excellence!





Judy Broderick

Seneca Soundwaves Chorus 2020 Member of Note

Congratulations to JUDY BRODERICK our Member of Note for this year!

Judy brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our chorus. Her Sweet Adelines career began in 1979 singing with the Kanandarque Chorus.

Judy has sung with Genesee Valley Chorus, placing fourth and fifth place in competition awards. She sang with Rochester Chorus earning chorus champions several times in Region 16 competitions where she served as section leader, member of the music team, and on the Board of Directors.

Singing with Image City Sound Chorus, the chorus was awarded first place in the small chorus category five years in a row, while Judy served as section leader, member of the music team, member of management team, show chair and visual coordinator.

Judy sang with Buffalo Gateway Chorus during several Region 16 chorus champions and served on their music committee.

Her quartet experience includes *Sing Sations* in 1982, fourth place medalist and novice quartet award; *Fireside Harmony* from 1984/85, third place medalists and *A Touch of Class* in 1989 Region 16 quartet champions, 1991/92 third place medalist.

Judy joined Seneca Soundwaves Chorus in 2016 and currently serves as a bass section leader, visual coordinator, performance coordinator, management team member and show chair.

Judy is a hard worker and a perfectionist. We can all attest to her attention to detail and her willingness to explore the nuances of expressing emotion and conveying the story to the audience.

We are happy that she decided to “come out of retirement” and join our chorus. Once the singing bug stings, you are destined to continue learning, growing and improving your singing. Judy brings that enthusiasm to our chorus and we are happy to call her our sister in song!

Congratulations Judy!





Haley Cole

Sirens of Gotham Chorus 2020 Member of Note

Sirens of Gotham's Member of Note for this unique year shines a well-deserved spotlight on a member that likely feels the least comfortable standing in that light alone. Haley does not ask for thanks; she doesn't aspire for recognition. So, even though she might say she doesn't want the acclaim, we are honored to take this opportunity to formally thank her for all the amazing work she has done for this chorus.

Haley brings such joyful musicianship and sincere artistry to our community every time she sings. She grew up in Indiana listening to and singing barbershop with her dad, so when she joined Sirens of Gotham in September of 2017, we were excited to add her velvety timbre to our bass section. Since late 2018, she has been singing tenor in the quartet Skittles with members of both Sirens and Voices of Gotham, winning Gotham's Annual Tin Pan Alley Novice Quartet Competition in 2019. She also sings bass with the Sirens of Gotham quartet Breakfast For Dinner, who took home 6th place in the Region 15 Quartet Competition after just a few short months of singing together.

Not only is Haley a talented singer, she is an accomplished visual artist and graphic designer who currently works as an Art Director at a major advertising agency in Manhattan. She has shared this expertise with the chapter in countless ways, designing all of our performance marketing materials over the past few years. Whenever a need arises, no matter how busy she may be, Haley always offers to assist.

Haley's incredible artistic talent is matched by her generosity and dedication to the membership. She mentors new members and is a consistent example of the true embodiment of our core values of Joy, Ambition, and Authenticity. Currently, we are delighted to have her as the VP of Events, a position she has held for over a year. In her role, Haley has coordinated exciting gigs such as Summer Streets 2019 and a series of (well-paid!) holiday performances at Industry City in Brooklyn.

As a Siren, Haley has had an unmistakable impact on our chorus. She wears her heart on her sleeve at just the right moments, helping to make our chorus culture loving and supportive. Many Sirens have fond memories of her honest emotional reactions to powerful musical experiences and moments in our chorus. In these moments when Haley sheds tears, shows us a large grin, or busts out in laughter, members around her feel welcomed to join in the joy and passion. In many ways, Haley helps us all be vulnerable together, reminding us of our shared fire: a deep emotional connection to music and a desire to represent ourselves truthfully to our audience and to each other.

Haley is a ray of sunshine that we are incredibly lucky to behold. We are absolutely thrilled to celebrate her as Sirens of Gotham's 2020 Member of Note.





Tom Noble

Song of the Valley Chorus 2020 Member of Note

Song of the Valley has unanimously chosen Tom Noble as our 2020 Member of Note.

Tom's introduction to barbershop harmony was in his all-boys high school in Evanston, Illinois. His glee club teacher encouraged him to sing in a quartet as an extracurricular activity. They enjoyed singing and even performed for the local all-girls high schools. In college he formed a quartet which won second place in a talent show.

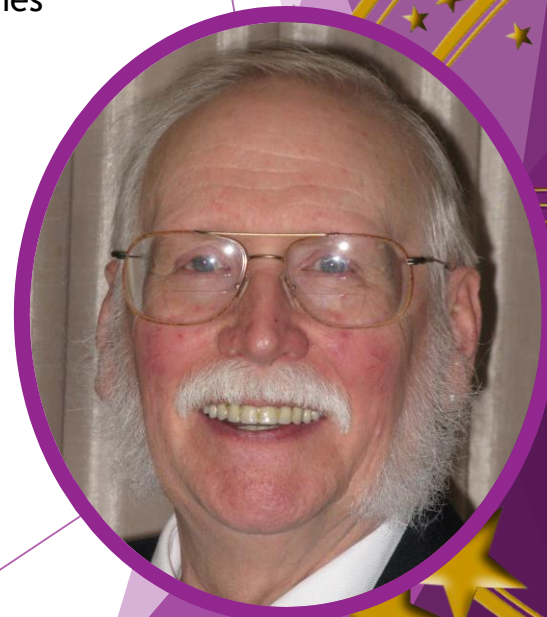
But the “aha” moment came when Tom borrowed the LP of The Confederates Quartet, the 1956 SPEBSQSA Champions. He fell in love with the harmony and learned all the parts of all the songs on the record. He discovered SPEBSQSA and became a member, singing tenor in a quartet with his father and brother. They won an Illinois District Novice Quartet contest. Soon he was singing baritone in the Gold Coast Four Quartet, which became the Illinois District Champions in 1964.

Within a year after moving to NY in 1965, he was directing both a men's and a women's chorus. At various times since, he has been director of North Queens Men's Chorus, Flushing Meadows Sweet Adelines Chorus, the Hambletonian Chorus (Men's), and an assistant director of the Westchester Golden Chordsmen, where he sang in the Conchords Quartet.

Tom met his wife, June, in 1966 when she attended a guest night at Flushing Meadows Chorus. He proposed at a Sweet Adelines Music School in Philadelphia in February, 1967. They've spent 53 years together, singing, directing, and attending Society, Sweet Adelines, and Harmony, Inc. educational events, shows, contests, and cruises. Tom is also past president of the Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association.

Having served ably and enthusiastically as Song of the Valley's director since 2012 when our chorus was floundering and in danger of dissolving, Tom retired as director in January, 2020. At that time, he promised to use his musical and technological skills to support us. When the pandemic hit, his skills, enthusiasm, and support kept us functional and happy. He hosts our Zoom rehearsals, administers our Facebook account, and handles our learning tracks on Dropbox and Google Drive. He is our “go to” person for computer-challenged members. As one member asks, “Where would we be without him?”

Tom's comment: “I hope I brought music and harmony to SOTV during my time as director. Even in this time of pandemic, singers are coming together on Zoom to continue the journey. Bravissima!”





Kathy Zupal Storrings

Spirit of Syracuse Chorus 2020 Member of Note

“At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.”

When Nobel Peace Prize recipient Albert Schweitzer said these words, he probably did not have the members of the Spirit of Syracuse Chorus in the midst of a global pandemic in mind.

But for us in the chorus, the statement could not ring truer when it comes to our 2020 Member of Note honoree.

Kathy Zupal Storrings has over three decades of Sweet Adelines commitment under her belt. She is a beautiful vocalist – in 3 different parts, an experienced quartet singer, a dedicated music leader and a passion advocate for our youth members.

She has unfailingly stepped up to meet the needs of her chorus – from chorus team leader, financial coordinator, section leader, fundraising chair, costuming crew, grant writer, riser crew.... and all with a wicked sense of humor that keeps everyone giggling around her.

But if we HAD to condense Kathy down to one word, it would be “heart”. And hers is undeniably one of the biggest. Always ready with a word of encouragement, always ready to lend a hand, and always ready to help rekindle the flame- especially during a time when her fellow chorus sisters need it the most.

We are so grateful to name Kathy Zupal Storrings the Spirit of Syracuse Chorus’ 2020 Member of Note.





Asuka Ichikawa

Twin County Chorus 2020 Member of Note

Twin County Chorus has unanimously chosen Asuka Ichikawa, our Assistant Director, as Member of Note for 2020.

Asuka joined Sweet Adelines in 2008. Soon after, she took Region 15's music arranging classes and met Connie Kash, our former Director. She joined Twin County Chorus in 2011. Using her background as a stage actress in Japan, she quickly became active in our Choreography and Visual Team, and in our Music Committee.

Although Asuka can sing all four voice parts, she enriches our sound with her sweet tenor voice. She has competed in quartets, most recently as tenor in Saturday Express. She is now the tenor of Twin County's newly registered quartet, Sympatico.

Asuka is an ideal member because she comes to all rehearsals and performances, she is always prepared, and she is happy to help the chorus any way she can. Her attendance is notable, considering that she depends on trains and buses for transportation.

Currently, she is working on completion of the Director's Certificate Program. As our Assistant Director, she brings tremendous energy and talent when it is her turn to lead us in singing. She is also our Quartet Promotion Chair, and our Tenor Section Leader. Recently, when we had our Quartet Night, Asuka showed her talents in stitching together individual Performances to create quartet videos. In addition to all these responsibilities, she has also volunteered recently to be the chorus' Education Liaison with the Region.

As one of our most active, talented, and fun-to-be-around members, Asuka sets a perfect example of how a chorus member should share her time and talents.

Truly a remarkable member of our chorus, Asuka is Twin County's Member of Note for 2020.





**Congratulations
to all of our Region 15
Member of Note Honorees
& Golden Members!**

