

## What's New

The last several months have been quite busy for Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus! As we started the New Year, our focus turned to increasing our membership and preparing for the Regional Competition. Over the summer and fall months, we had already added four new members but felt we could benefit by adding even more.

On the first Saturday of February, we hosted Open Auditions using guidelines posted in the Facebook ConverSAtion group. We had seven women audition and all were amazing. We invited them to attend our rehearsal the following Thursday. We sent each home with the sheet music to our two Regional Competition songs. All seven came fully prepared and were already almost completely off the sheet music by that first rehearsal.

Life happens, though, so over the next few weeks, four of the seven had to drop out for various reasons. The remaining three, along with the four other new members, have been incredible additions to our vocal sound, resulting in us having seven new voices when we attended this year's annual Regional Competition.

And that paid off with being awarded "Most Improved Chorus" with an increase of 99 points to our overall score!! We were absolutely thrilled!! We now have some lovely new bling to wear. We are thankful to the coaches, Kim Scott Higdon and Britt-Helene Bonnedahl, who worked with us this year. Their efforts were obviously not in vain!



## Directors' Corner

Earlier this year, after having served as Director of Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus since 1980, Diane Sherley decided it was time to step down from her position as Director. Her retirement became official at the conclusion of this year's Regional Competition, in which our chorus earned the accolade of "Most Improved Chorus" and she and co-director (and daughter) Chanda Morris were named "Most Improved Directors." Diane is a charter member of the chorus and has been directing us since 1980, having achieved the level of Certified Director/500 in Sweet Adelines International.

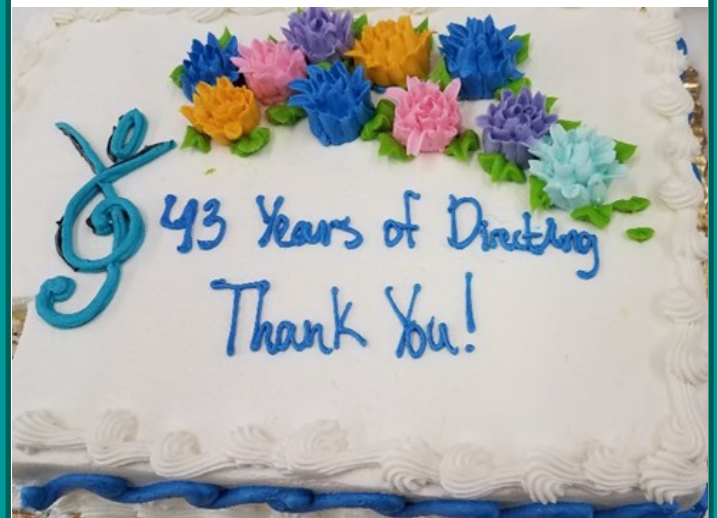


Diane has a long history in barbershop. Her father was a barber-shopper, and both her mother and sister were charter members of our chorus. Diane sang with her sister Deana in a quartet called "Rainbow's End" and will continue singing with "On the Edge" quartet, along with Chanda, Jenny Winsor, and Beckie Preston. Chanda and Jenny will now be the chorus co-directors.

After returning from this year's Competition, the chorus pulled off a surprise retirement party for Diane. We had sent out a request for donations to purchase a brooch commemorating Diane's tenure as our Director and received more than anticipated, so we enlarged the size of the brooch. We were joined at the party by several former members, friends from Barbergators chorus, and spouses, and Diane was truly surprised. She wears her brooch to every rehearsal and plans to continue singing with our chorus, which makes us very happy!

## Calendar of Events

- Open Auditions ..... September 9  
University City Church of Christ, 1 pm
- 3rd Friday Concert Series ..... November 17  
St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 7 pm
- Holiday Harmonies Concert ..... December 9  
First United Methodist Church, 2 afternoon shows
- Chorus 50th Year Anniversary Party ..... March 16  
Matheson Museum



## *New Members' Thoughts*

We were thrilled to have seven new (to us) members singing with us at this year's Competition. Here are the thoughts of several of them about that experience:

### **Aubrey:**

Preparing for and participating in the competition this year was so rewarding! To find a few sentences may not do any justice but here are my thoughts...

From what I was luckily able to glean at the Competition this May, I was and am continually in awe of the amazing community that Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus, and ultimately, Sweet Adelines have fostered.

While preparing for the competition as a newbie, I sure had a lot to learn and I had to learn it fast! However, the chorus continually provided caring guidance on everything from what notes I should (or definitely should not) be singing, how to navigate the competition forum (including but certainly not limited to stage makeup application), and most importantly that no matter what happens, if we do our best, we will feel our best, and be an even better team for it!



### **Jessie:**

I have been a member in Sweet Adelines North Atlantic Region 1 (New England, a slice of NY and Canada) since 1990 and a member of Area 2 of Harmony, Inc. since 2018.

My past roles have been as a Region 1 faculty member and regional management team member; I now serve in international appointed positions on the Song Assessment Tool Subcommittee with Sweet Adelines, Inc. as well as the Diversity and Equity Committee with Harmony Inc.



This year was the first time I competed in the role of a member since I started directing a chorus in 2005! I loved having a chance to experience competition again in the role of a chorus member.

GHSC musical leaders did an awesome job preparing us for stage and our scores reflect the effectiveness of that preparation and the competency of our leadership. Being on the risers onstage with everyone was a thrilling experience and spending time with the group over the past few months has been the refuge I needed through the storms in my life.

I decided to visit GHSC because I needed a musical outlet without the complications of leadership and when I walked through the door, I was drawn in by the friendliness and acceptance of the group. I have enjoyed meeting new people in our region and running across old friends I have made through my other positions in

this wonderful organization.

While I loved my contest experience with the group, it is the connection with everyone during everyday rehearsals which truly gives me joy.

### **Karen:**

I have been singing with the group almost a year; but the camaraderie of preparing for and going to the Regional Competition took our musicality to a new level. And sharing that experience brought us even closer together as group. So much fun - everyone involved was so positive and supportive!



### **Linda:**

My first competition with the Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus was an incredible experience. Being able to rely on the expertise and guidance from the more seasoned chorus members helped to calm my newbie nerves. The best advice I was given was to "remember to have fun." It is easy to get lost in the competitive details of costumes, hair, makeup, not to mention ensuring I hit all my notes correctly, so I needed the reminder not to forget to enjoy myself along the way. I loved the spirit of camaraderie among the other choruses and how kind and genuinely supportive they all were, wishing us luck as we were on our way to perform. It truly was a joy to sing with such wonderful people, and yes, I did enjoy myself!!

### **Sue:**

This was my first time being part of the chorus and taking part in Competition. I roomed with a 30-year seasoned veteran of Sweet Adelines and learned a lot about the process. We all had a great time and I look forward to next year!



## Director Changes

Even with the retirement of our long-time director Diane Sherley, our chorus is still in very capable hands. Chanda Morris (Diane's daughter) will continue as Co-Director, a position she has held for many years. Chanda has been singing with the chorus since she was 14. She became Assistant Director in 2002 and Co-Director in 2004. In 2008 she completed the Sweet Adelines Director Certification Program to become a certified director and has since achieved Director 500 level.

Joining the Director team is Jenny Winsor, who began singing with Sweet Adelines in 1984. She was a member of the Neapolitan Chorus in Naples, FL before moving on to City of Palms Chorus (now known as Spirit of the Gulf Chorus) in Fort Myers, FL. She joined Gainesville Harmony in 1987 and has served as our Associate Director since completing the Sweet Adelines Director Certification program in March 2019. Jenny has been one of our chorus section leaders for several years and is also our webmistress.



## Recent Challenges

This has been a challenging year for the chorus in a couple of significant ways. In January, our director Diane Sherley broke her foot and could only maneuver for several weeks by the use of a rolling knee walker. Then just as she was starting to get around better, Jenny Winsor broke her ankle in an accident at work and was not able to drive for several weeks!

Jenny has been tasked with transporting our chorus trailer in which we store our choral risers to rehearsal every week, but with her unable to drive, we received permission from the church where we rehearse to park our trailer in their parking lot. (Normally, we keep it in a locked facility.) Sadly, not even ten days after parking it in their parking lot, it was stolen! When we looked at replacing them, we discovered the price has nearly doubled in the years since we bought them. We announced the theft and began accepting donations and created a GoFundMe page to raise funds to replace them.

We found replacement risers on eBay which meant we didn't have to raise quite so much money in order to buy them. We ordered three sets at first and then bought two more sets so we now have all five sets again. Amazingly, we raised all but \$1000 toward our replacement goal. So many donated toward our replacement efforts. One person very generously donated the entire amount needed to buy a new trailer. We have now found a local signage company to put our name and logo on the new trailer as a deterrent to thieves. But none of this would be possible without the donations of our wonderful supporters. So we thank you, again!!

## Old Scrapbooks?

In preparation for our 50th-Year Anniversary Celebration, we are trying to locate some old scrapbooks of chorus activities from our earlier days. If you know of anyone who might still have those, would you please contact us?



## Find Us Online!

Website: [gainesvillechorus.com](http://gainesvillechorus.com)

Facebook: [facebook.com/GNVHarmony](https://www.facebook.com/GNVHarmony)

Twitter and Instagram: @GNVHarmony

Email: [gainesvillechorus@gmail.com](mailto:gainesvillechorus@gmail.com)

Sweet Adelines Region 9:  
<https://coastalharmony.org/>

## Thank You

We'd like to thank our sponsors, whose support allows us to share our harmony with others. They are listed on our webpage. Thank you also to Mitzi Korb, Aubrey Edgar, Jessie Caynon, Karen Young, Linda Jacoby, Sue Kapr, and Donna Martin who contributed to content, formatting, proofreading, and publishing of this newsletter.