



Red Hat Honeys



The Fond du Lac Senior Center Chapter of the Red Hat Society

Cathy Stratz, Lady of Lore

January 2012

What's Buzzin' ...News of the Red Hat Honeys

This month's newsletter is dedicated to the long time Red Hat Honeys Chorus' "Piano Player"

– Sandi Gabert -

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

for these upcoming Red Hat activities:

Wed – Feb 15th – “Bling” exhibit at the Oshkosh Public Museum. \$5 per person, plus a Dutch treat lunch and gas donation.

March ? – Lunch out at either Rolling Meadows Restaurant or Gino's. More info as it develops.

Additional details will be in future newsletters or in the 3-ring binder at the front desk.



“Bling” Exhibit at the Oshkosh Public Museum on **Wed, February 15th**. Carpooling from the Senior Center at **9:30am**. Cost: \$5.00 plus “Dutch treat” lunch at the restaurant (yet to be determined/confirmed). Contribution for gasoline costs appreciated. Limit is 20 ladies with the registration deadline of Wednesday - February 8th. Hostesses: Barbara Lukas, Vivian Gordon and Rosemary Schorse.

Happy Birthday(s) to:



Gen Stratz ~ Jan 11th

Carol Lang ~ Jan 16th

Please let us know your birthday so we may celebrate you too.

Please remember to complete the “Red Hat Honeys Hostess Planner” sheet when scheduling an event so that all pertinent information is available for inclusion in the “What's Buzzin'” newsletter the way and with the information you want advertised.

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Please watch for the February ‘What's Buzzin’ newsletter for the December 15th crowning of our new Queen – All Hail our new Queen ~ Patti Werdin ~

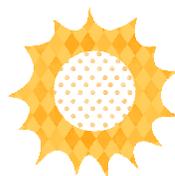
Umbrella Brigade News



The Red Hat Umbrella Brigade will “kick” off the New Year with a performance at the Lutheran Home on Wednesday, January 11th at 2pm.

You’re invited and if you have a relative or friend who resides at one of the facilities where we bring cheer, we'd love you to come and meet the resident you bring!

If any of you have a friend or family member at the monthly performance site, we’d love to have you bring them (and attend with them) to our performance.



From the Sunshine Committee:

Red Hat Honey's condolences to Sandi Gaberts' family and friends on her passing on December 4th.



SISTER
CURRENT,
CHAPTER
ACTIVITY.
FEEL

PLEASE BE
WELCOMING TO ALL

RED HATTERS (NEW,
AND PAST) IN OUR
WHEN THEY ATTEND AN
WE WANT EVERYONE TO

“BEARY” WELCOME!

Printed with grateful permission from the author, Barbara Lukas.

To Heather, Sabrina, and Chad from the Ladies of the Red Hat Honeys Chorus

Your mother came to us almost seven years ago as a short term substitute "piano-player" and never left us. We were a small, disorganized group of women with varying vocal abilities and experience who simply liked to sing together, but who had no real direction and no real repertoire. In retrospect it's a wonder she was willing to take us on; before your mother arrived to lead us and inspire us with her musical gifts, we were like a ship without a rudder. She always insisted on introducing herself as "just the piano player" but she was so much more than that to us. Her love for music was obvious and she was a gifted teacher. She helped us build a varied repertoire, and from the beginning, in a patient, low key way challenged us to learn more than we ever thought we could.

Her abilities in working with a group of older women such as we are were amazing. Some of us can't read music, some of us aren't even sure whether we are sopranos or altos, and she could never be sure just how many or exactly who would turn up for any given practice or sing-out; she coped with all of that with tact, patience and good humor. Practice was always light-hearted and we did lots of laughing. She taught us to sing songs we thought we could never learn and encouraged us every step of the way to do our very best. She was able to adapt the music we sang to our specific capabilities and aging voices, and she frequently changed parts around to keep us on our toes so that we should be well prepared to sing, regardless of the number of singers showing up at any particular time.

From September through May each year she gave of her time and talent unstintingly and because of her, the Chorus has been able to bring a lot of pleasure to other seniors of the Fond du Lac community. The Chorus also represented the Fond du Lac Senior Center a couple of times at a Spring Sing in Two Rivers. It was during one these performances that you Mom had a nasty shock; she looked up from the piano to see that our lead soprano seemed to have disappeared from the back row of the risers on which we were standing. She said later that her first thought was that Esther had had a heart attack and keeled over; in the event she had just bent down to pick up something she'd dropped. Your Mom, still playing, was relieved to see Esther pop up again and we all had a good laugh about it later.

She was an elegant and gracious lady and it goes without saying that we shall miss her dreadfully, her skills as a volunteer accompanist, mentor, guide, and teacher will not be at all easy to replace; as our card to you says: "A special life has passed from our sight but never from our hearts".

In sorrow and with gratitude, the members of the Red Hat Honeys Chorus. December 9, 2011.



