

# OLD HARP

Number 44  
2017

*The New Harp of Columbia  
Annual Newsletter*

## **The Singing Family of Sevier County**

In 2015, this newsletter had a picture of the Clabo's and Whaley's and featured four generations. In 2014, we lost the patriarch, Herb Clabo at age 103, but we welcomed the newest member, Vera in February 2016, and can still feature four generations of Old Harp singers.

*Paul Clabo, Janet Clabo Whaley, Andrew Whaley and Vera Whaley (2016).*

*(Missing: Mom, Allison King Whaley. Allison's mother is Veta Wilson King and her uncle is Hal Wilson and they are all Old Harp Singers!)*



*Judy and Paul Clabo, Janet and Andrew Whaley, Herb Clabo (2014).*

## **Big News for Sevier County**

[Andrew Whaley confirmed that there will be a two-day Old Harp Convention-style singing in Sevier County this year.] "We've received permission from pastor Preston Joslin for use of the Valley View Baptist Church and facilities on the fourth Saturday of September (9-23-17). As of now, the plan is to have the singing structured just like Headrick Chapel. We'll start at 10:00 AM, break for a potluck lunch, and sing in the afternoon. The singing at Headrick's Chapel will occur the next day as usual (September 24). This is kind of a testing effort. If it doesn't work well we can always change it for 2018, but most people have agreed that it's worth a try.

I'm fairly certain this is the first two day singing convention in the modern (1900+) history of the New Harp of Columbia. Most all people that I've spoken to have expressed a lot of interest and excitement about it. Wears Valley has been a hotbed for Old Harp for well over a century and I hope this move will help to preserve and strengthen that tradition. I look forward to seeing you all soon."

## OLD HARP ANNUAL SINGINGS IN 2017

Date	Day	Time	Potluck?	Singing and Location and Contact
Feb. 26	Sunday	2:00	*	Epworth Annual Singing during the Jubilee Festival, Laurel Theatre, Knoxville. Contact: Claudia Dean. *Refreshments at 4:00 pm.
March 19	Sunday	2:00	No	Oldhams Creek Missionary Baptist Church, 3629 Boogertown Road, Sevier County. Contact: Veta King or Hal Wilson.
April 1	Saturday	5:30-8:30		Church of the Savior, Knoxville. Part of their Appalachian festival.
April 8	Saturday	9:00	No	<b>Quay Smathers Singing School</b> , Clyde, NC Contact: June Jolley
April 9	Sunday	2:00	No	Tuckaleechee United Methodist Church, Townsend. Contact: Tom Taylor.
April 16	Sunday	5:30	Yes	Easter Singing at Bill Gooch and Meg Mabbs home, 4401 Alta Visa Way, Knoxville.
May 7	Sunday (1st)	2:00	No	Middle Creek United Methodist Church, Sevierville. Contact: David Sarten
May 9-13	TBD		No	Wilderness Wildlife Week, LeConte Center, Pigeon Forge. Contact: David Sarten or Veta King.
June 3	Saturday	10:00	Yes	Franklin singing at New Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Greeneville, TN. Contact: Jeff Farr.
June 25	Sunday (4th)	12:00	Yes	Beech Grove Primitive Baptist Church, Sevier County, Contact: Sharee Green
July 16	Sunday	2:00	No	Little Greenbrier Schoolhouse. Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Contact Robin Goddard.
Aug.	17-20			<b>Camp Do-Re-Mi</b> , Wildacres Resort, Little Switzerland, NC.
Aug. 20	Sunday (3rd)	2:00	No	Cades Cove Primitive Baptist Church, Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Contact Robin Goddard or Tom Taylor.
Sept. 3	Sunday	2:00	No	Wears Valley United Methodist Church, Sevier County. Contact Bruce Wheeler.
Sept. 10	Sunday	5:30	Yes	Music of Appalachia class from the University of Tennessee and regular Second Sunday singing. Laurel Theatre, Knoxville, TN. Contact: Claudia Dean.
<b>First Two-day Old Harp Singing Convention!</b>				
Sept. 23-	Saturday and	10:00	Yes	Valley View Baptist Church and
Sept. 24	Sunday (4th)	10:00	Yes	Headrick Chapel, Wears Valley, Sevier County. Contact David Sarten or Bruce Wheeler.
Oct. 15	Sunday (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	2:00	No	Dollywood Singing, Pigeon Forge, Contact: David Sarten.
Oct. 22	Sunday (4th)	2:00	No	Maryville College, Center for Campus Ministry. Contact: Tom or Nan Taylor or Nancy Olsen.
Nov. 18	Saturday	TBD	No	Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center Holiday Homecoming, Townsend. Contact: Robin Goddard
Nov. 22	Wednesday	6:30	Yes	11 <sup>th</sup> Annual Larry Olszewski Memorial Singing during the traditional Thanksgiving Eve potluck and Old Harp singing. Laurel Theatre, Knoxville, TN. Contact: Tina Becker.
Dec. 9	Saturday (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	9:30	No	Sugarlands Visitors Center, National Park, Contact Paul Clabo or David Sarten.

# Old Harp Monthly Singings in 2017

**ATHENS, TN—Old College Singers**—at McMinn Living Heritage Museum (Call Cora Sweatt to confirm)  
**Third Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m.**

Jan. 17, Feb. 21, Mar. 21, Apr. 18, May 16, Jun. 20, Jul. 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21.

**GREENE COUNTY—Franklin Singers** at Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Greeneville (Call Jeff Farr to confirm)

**Last Sunday of the month at 3:00 p.m.**

Feb. 26, Mar. 26 Apr. 30, May 28, Jun. 26, Jul. 30, Aug. 27, Oct. 29, Nov. 26.

**KNOX COUNTY—Epworth Singers** at the Laurel Theatre, Knoxville (Call Claudia Dean to confirm)

**Second Sundays at 6:30 p.m.**

Jan. 8, Feb. 12, March 12, May 14, Jun. 11, Aug. 13, Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12.

**SEVIER COUNTY**—at Middle Creek United Methodist Church, Pigeon Forge (Call David Sarten to confirm)

**Third Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.**

Jan. 17, Feb. 21, Mar. 21, Apr. 18, May 16, Jun. 20, Jul. 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## Web Sites of Interest:

**www.oldharp.org**  
 www.christianharmony.org and  
 www.thechristianharmony.com (NC, Ala, GA,  
 seven shapes) • www.campdoremi.com •  
 www.qssingingschool.org •  
 www.oldfieldssingers.com (Upper East Tennessee,  
 seven shapes) • www.fasola.org (Sacred Harp/four  
 shapes) • www.sacredharpnashville.org (Nashville  
 Sacred Harp singers)

Appalachian Fest in April:  
[facebook.com/events/268914540192243/](https://facebook.com/events/268914540192243/)

Board Members of the Friends of *The New Harp of Columbia*: President Chaz Barber, Vice President David Sarten, Treasurer Joe Sarten, Secretary Ann Strange, Claudia Dean, Robin Goddard, and Andrew Whaley

Numbers of the Scale. 1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8
X		⊕	◇	△	○	□	△	X
Names of Syllables.	Do.	Ra.	Mi.	Fa.	Sol.	La.	Si.	Do.
Pronounced.	Do.	Ray.	Mee.	Faw.	Sole.	Law.	See.	

## Treasurer's Report

by Joe Sarten

Friends of The New Harp of Columbia had income of \$1,890.71, up approximately \$60.00 from 2015. 2016 expenses were \$945.96 for a net income of \$944.75. It cost approximately \$370 to publish and mail the newsletter in 2016. At the end of 2016 FNHC had \$6,017.31 in assets including checking accounts, cash on hand, and book inventory. The vast majority of our donations this year were \$25 or less. Special thanks to the **Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center** for their generous donation and to all those who made it possible by coming to sing there in November. Donation of your time to come sing can help FNHC financially.

## Tennessee Volunteers who Sing

by Claudia Dean

This summer I filled out an Arts and Economic Prosperity survey on behalf of the FoNHC. I dutifully plugged in answers (frequently zero) until I got to a question about volunteer hours. At first I thought, well, not very many, and then I began to make a list. Robin Goddard is our Dinner on the Grounds impresario, Tina Becker sends out monthly singing schedules like clockwork, Ann Strange does the newsletter and Bob Richmond records the minutes. Joe Sarten does the bookkeeping, David Sarten leads most of the Sevier County singings and outreach, and Chris Stoddart handles our email and online presence. I'm sure I missed some people but the fact is that Old Harp singers have true Volunteer Spirit. Thanks to everyone who participates in any way.

## To Alaska to Sing

By Leslie Booher

"I went on the Alaska Sacred Harp Cruise in mid-May (2016)." This announcement brought the meeting of the Friends of New Harp to a screeching halt on Thanksgiving Eve. Then, everyone talked at once asking questions, questions which I will try to answer here.

This was what I call a small cruise, not because of the eight day, seven night length, but because the vessel (their term) had just 39 passengers, all singers. The promise was that we would get to sing an hour each day from either the 1991 Sacred Harp book or from the Cooper book. I flew from the Tri-Cities Airport at Gray, TN, to Atlanta, to Seattle, to Juneau and flew back from Sitka. I roomed with Gail Doss from Nashville, whom I had met before, but the pairing was random. We were picked up at the airport and transported to our various housing. Amazing hospitality. In the evening, we went to The Hanger, right on the water, where we had a pre-ordered dinner, made acquaintances, and sang for an hour. We were to find out that everything in that part of Alaska is on water. At noon, we met at the Episcopal Church to sing for an hour. We had been announced on local public radio, and there were several local people there to hear us.

Finally, we boarded the Baranoff Dream of the Alaska Dream Cruises line. The 'stateroom' was infinitesimally small. We couldn't both stand up at once. The staff were more than obliging, though, and responded to our every need and whim. The food wasn't out all the time, but it was excellent. We had a nature

interpreter (girl) and a cultural interpreter (guy) giving talks about where we were and what we were seeing and answered any questions. One day, we went WAY up in Glacier Bay and watched glaciers calf. Whales. Sea otters. Eagles. And puffins! They made my trip. We went to bed before the sun went down, and it was up fully about 4:00 a.m. One day, we visited a Norwegian village called Petersburg. We sang in the Sons of Norway hall, biggest building in town, and a lot of locals came to hear us and to participate. We were also recorded for public radio. Another day, we went to a tiny Tlingit village that was pitifully poor. We sang several songs there, in return.

Most days, we sang from 4:00 to 5:00 in the dining hall. The kids would set the tables, then move them all to one side, and we would have a square with the chairs. Tight quarters. One day, David Ivey put out a list of songs for us to sign up to lead. We were to figure out the theme. Turned out that they were all written by women, and we had several more modern songs Xeroxed that were written by women, including five by Linda Sides from AL, who was on the cruise. Connie Stanton whom some of us know from Camp DoReMi was with us too. The last day in Sitka, we sang at the Lutheran church with the local Sacred Harp group.



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Founder: Larry Olszewski; Publisher: Friends of The New Harp of Columbia; Editor: Ann Strange. Thanks to contributors and moderators of all the singings.