

Free class on family history at the library

If you've ever wanted to know more about your ancestors, a free class is being offered to get you started. FamilySearch.org consultants will hold a class in the Sisters Library community room from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, May 14, to help those wanting to research their "branch" of the worldwide tree.

According to organizers, it's easy, fun, and very absorbing.

Participants are asked to bring an Internet-enabled device such as a laptop, tablet, or smartphone to access the FamilySearch.org website. Registration at the site is free. Class members should have a few names ready to enter into the program. Additional help will be available for those already registered with FamilySearch.org and wanting more information.

This is a starter class, but if there are enough participants and interest, subsequent classes will be held. For more information, contact Vaunell Temple at 541-549-1385.

High Desert Chorale performance set for weekend

By Jim Anderson
Correspondent

Sisters music-lovers — save your traveling for either before or after Mother's Day Weekend. That's when the Sisters High Desert Chorale is giving their annual free spring performance Friday, May 8, at 7 p.m. and again at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 10 at Sisters Community Church.

"I've always enjoyed choral singing," said a longtime chorale member. "I grew up on Vashon Island in Puget Sound where school and church singing groups were a big part of our small community."

"Wherever we've lived I've always looked for choral ensembles to join. When we moved to Sisters in late 2007, I was very happy to discover the Sisters High Desert Chorale. This community has some wonderfully talented musicians, with chorale director Irene Liden at the top of my chart! Singing in the chorale, we get to perform wonderful music, enjoy great fellowship, and make a positive contribution to our community."

One of the numbers will be "Lullaby (Goodnight, My Angel)" from Billy Joel's

1993 album, *River of Dreams*, and inspired by Alexa Ray Joel, his daughter by Christie Brinkley.

The piece was originally written as a prelude to the song "The River of Dreams" in the style of a Gregorian chant in which Joel had written English words describing a man who had lost his faith, and had the words translated into Latin.

"You Raise Me Up" is another number the chorale will perform. It was originally composed by the duo Secret Garden and written by the group's Rolf Lovland, with lyrics by Brendan Graham.

The chorale will be offering the American patriotic folk song "This Is My Country."

In addition to the chorale, Lola Knox will be at both performances with the Sisters High Desert Bell Choir, and conducting the Sisters Children's Choir who will be singing Mother's Day songs.

The children's choir will also be featured previewing some of the songs from their upcoming "Tribute to Shirley Temple," coming up later in May or early June.

"The choir ranges in age from 4 to 7, so this would be



PHOTO BY JIM ANDERSON

Practice makes perfect, and that's what the Sisters High Desert Chorale strives for during their weekly two-hour rehearsals.

the year to honor Shirley," Knox said.

Janie Buel, one of the perennial sopranos to sing with the chorale, has several reasons she loves to participate: "I'm so fortunate to sing under Irene Liden, a wonderful director who makes every rehearsal and performance a fantastic experience, and whose enthusiasm for making music is contagious."

When asked why the singers do what they do, the answers reflect the sweet harmony of the performances and the great fun everyone has during rehearsals. Tenor Dale Lysne summed it up this way:

"I have always loved the challenge of vocally and

aurally mastering harmony and blend of ensemble music. Choral singing is one of my ways to prevent dementia! I gain great personal satisfaction from working hard on learning music over a period of months to its culmination in presenting public performances. I love giving the gift of meaningful choral music to the community."

"The icing on the cake is being a member of this particular ensemble. Irene is a demanding director who really 'gets it,' but at the same time allows for much fun to occur in weekly rehearsals... lots of LOL moments. SHDC has been my avenue to make many close friends and good acquaintances."

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