

Lunch from 1A

free hot lunches five days a week: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at Helping Hands, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., and the Free Lunch program Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Free Lunch program also serves as a social function. Many people who come for lunch live alone and want some time with other people, according to Mann-Heintz.

"Some people just don't like cooking for just themselves," she said. "It's an important mental health factor. Anyone can come."

Several factors are responsible for the decline of volunteers.

"The main reason we are losing volunteers is their age," Mann-Heintz said. "The program has been going 19 years and people who started out when they were in their 60s or 70s are in their 80s and 90s now. We have some attrition due to age and some people just get tired of the commitment. We do have to draw from a population of people who don't have to work during the day. It takes between 50 and 60 volunteers to run the program. A



David Dumas, Paula Harrison and April Dumas, volunteers from the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, prepare to serve homemade soup for the Free Lunch program at the United Methodist Church kitchen on Dec. 23.

good crew is between four and six people."

The volunteers who prepare and serve food are required by state law to have food handler's cards.

"It's not difficult to get a food handlers card," Mann-Heintz said. "You can go

online, read the manual and take the test, pay your \$10 for the two-year license and print the card out on your printer. You can go online to Lane County Food Handlers, or just Google it.

"If you do dishes, help pour coffee and juice and clear

tables and clean up at the end, you do not have to have a food handler's card."

The Free Lunch program is set up so that each volunteer is expected to commit to only one day per month.

"Most volunteers make a monthly commitment. They

Center from 1A

reverend DuBose, my wife, spent the night there. She was in charge.

"The Masonic Lodge was warm and comfortable and welcoming. It took a lot of work to get this going and we want to thank the Masons because we could not have done this without their having offered their building."

Some of the seven overnight guests showed up at the lodge, at 84910 Highway 101 South, and some received a ride from the warming center van, which was driven by a volunteer who

started at the Fred Meyer parking lot and drove south to designated pickup points established by Siuslaw Outreach Services.

"We had four dog crates set up, which were loaned to us by the Florence Area Humane Society, but we didn't get any dogs on Tuesday or Wednesday nights," DuBose said. "It was a bit of a surprise because I've gotten to know many of the homeless and a lot of them have dogs."

Masonic Lodge Worshipful Master Hunt Ramsey said, "It went very well, the guests were helpful and respectful and very

grateful. In the morning everybody got their breakfast and out the door they went. Everyone was happy. The committee and the volunteers did a wonderful job."

The warming center committee and the Masonic Temple members need to act quickly when the weather turns cold.

"Typically the committee decides in the morning whether the shelter will be open that evening," Ramsey said. "They try to give us 24-hour notice, but that is not always feasible."

The Masons also offer more than just a building. Both Ramsey and Masonic Lodge

member Rod Stow helped out the first night.

"I think there are enough volunteers to make the program work," Ramsey said. "If not, I have a list of Masons who are willing to fill in where needed."

DuBose said that as of Tuesday, Dec. 30, Julian Laner, a veteran and student at Lane Community College, has been hired as the emergency warming shelter manager.

World-class soprano comes to FEC

Marie-Josée Lord, a world-class, Haitian-born Canadian soprano, has performed the key roles in Porgy and Bess and La Bohème to great international acclaim.

She has performed on radio, television and at prestigious venues across North America. Her intense and flamboyant personality, and her international caliber performance, will fill the theater at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St., on Friday, Jan. 23.

"Madame Lord is simply stunning, vocally and visually, with a personality to match," said SEAc coast president Ernie Doud. "Even those for whom opera isn't at the top of the list, Marie-Josée Lord will be.

"Her irresistible charisma and passion for lyrical art have made her an outstanding guest for many TV and radio programs, and a headliner for a number of metropolitan opera houses across North America," he added.

Marie-Josée Lord began her musical education in Quebec's historic capital upon her arrival from Haiti at age 5. Her adoptive parents, high-school science teachers, had a piano and were delighted to see how much the instrument intrigued her, and how quickly she learned.

Lord began formal piano lessons at age 7 and continued for nearly 10 years, also learning violin along the way.

After studying piano at the Quebec Conservatory, she began to see her limitations. But during a music workshop for voice, she discovered an art form that was everything she had been looking for.

Lord was encouraged by a friend to take voice lessons. Just for fun, she agreed. As a quick learner with a solid foundation in music, she asked her instructor to push her to work at an advanced level. The results speak for themselves.



Marie-Josée Lord (courtesy photo)

in 1992 as a mezzo-soprano, and gave her first recital in 1996. Her career progressed rapidly, taking on more advanced instruction and levels of performance. Eventually, the Montreal Gazette would write, "... A voice of wonderful depth and pliability casting a radiant glow. Her presence is spellbinding ... a very classy singer with a bright future." Awards and record sales followed.

She has performed leading roles in Puccini's Turandot Opera, Suor Angelica, and La Bohème, Chabrier's l'Étoile, Verdi's Falstaff, and in the world premiere of the operatic version of Starmania.

The rest of SEAc coast's season promises an exciting variety of musical styles and culture: Friday, Feb. 13, 7 p.m., Metales M5; Sunday, March 15, 2 p.m., The Voetberg Family Band; Friday, April 17, 7 p.m., Quartetto Gelato; and Friday, May 15, 7 p.m., Eugene Symphony.

Tickets for each show are \$30 per adult and \$10 for those under 18, and are available online at SEAc coastEA.org, at the FEC box office, or by phone at 541-997-1994.

Artist profiles, video clips, and more information on all of SEAc coast's shows are avail-

able at SEAc coastEA.org.

SEAc coast Entertainment Association is the largest provider of talent, event funding and diversity of entertainment to the FEC.

The all-volunteer group is dedicated to advancing the arts and bringing great music, dance, comedy and variety entertainment to Florence.

In more than 30 years the group has produced several hundred concerts and is proud to support the arts in Florence.

SEAc coast Entertainment Association is a 501c3 nonprofit. Contributions in support of their work are tax-deductible.

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WORD ON THE STREET

How is your New Year's resolution going?



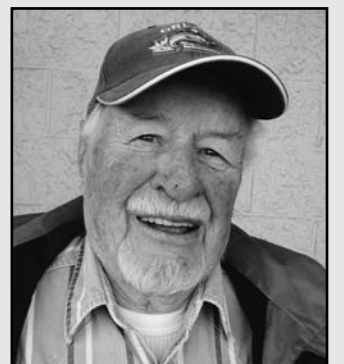
"So far, so good. ... Basically my resolution is to try and be a little more forgiving ... a little more caring and understanding of people who are not always so pleasant or nice to you for whatever reason it may be."
—MARY JANE BIELMANN, 57 FLORENCE



"I have never in my life set a New Year's resolution. So how is mine going so far? Pretty well!"
—AMY RICKFORD, 48 FLORENCE



"I never set New Year's resolutions. My wife does, but I don't. I suppose I should."
—FOREST GRISWOLD, 47 ELMIRA



"I stopped making resolutions about 30 years ago. I found I couldn't keep them."
—BOB FLETCHER, 85 FLORENCE

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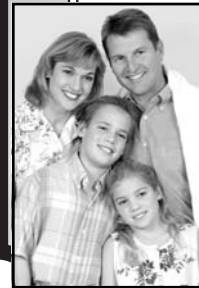
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