

# CALENDAR..

**Monday:**  
12 noon—Reames Past Matron's club, Masonic temple.  
6:30 p. m.—Jackson County Civic Music association, dinner at Jackson hotel.  
6:30 p. m.—Westminster guild, First Presbyterian church, at church.  
7:30 p. m.—Degree of honor Past Presidents, home of Mrs. George Barker, 2371 Sunset court.  
8 p. m.—Olive Rebekah lodge, Odd Fellows hall.  
8 p. m.—Rogue Valley Coin club, Girls Community club.  
8 p. m.—St. Mary's Grade School Parents' club, activities room of school.  
8 p. m.—VFW auxiliary, dance at Camp White theatre.  
**Tuesday:**  
10 a. m.—American Gold Star Mothers, Medford chapter, home of Mrs. Oscar Anderson, 218 Winema way.  
10 a. m.—Rogue Valley Navy Mothers club, with Mrs. James Wickes, 809 Adams lane.  
1 p. m.—Central Point Royal Neighbors, home of Mrs. E. Collins, 2665 Connell ave.  
1 p. m.—Lady Elks, Temple party lounge.  
1:30 p. m.—Oak Grove Neighborhood club, home of Mrs. Gertrude Winningham, 105 Perrydale ave.  
2 p. m.—Mail Tribune Reporter's class, Girls Community club.  
4 p. m.—Jackson County Association of School Librarians, SOC Library of Children's Literature, Ashland.  
6:45 p. m.—Rogue Valley Knife and Fork club, Rogue Valley Country club.  
7:30 p. m.—Medford Parents Home Extension unit, home of Mrs. Dale Jefferson, 527 South Holly st.  
7:30 p. m.—Wilson Park Home Extension unit, home of Mrs. Alvin Boswell, 1132 Leland st.  
8 p. m.—Crater Lake auxiliary, VFW, Veterans hall.  
8 p. m.—Pythian Sisters, Pythian bldg.  
**Wednesday:**  
11 a. m.—Medford Townsend club, Carpenters' hall, 123 1/2 West Main st.  
12:30 p. m.—Chapter AA of PEO Sisterhood, home of Mrs. C. C. Thompson, Central Point.  
1 p. m.—AAUW Book Review group, home of Mrs. A. J. Munroe, 4748 South Pacific highway.  
1 p. m.—Roxy Ann Garden club, home of Mrs. Leon Boese, 3160 Roberts rd.  
1:30 p. m.—Wanderer's club of the Nomads of Avru-

# Potpourri

If brides and bridegrooms knew more about the so called "traditional" wedding music, particularly "The Bridal Chorus" from Wagner's opera "Lohengrin" and Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" they would not want it played at their weddings. So writes Vernon Gotwals, in a recent edition of Presbyterian Life, in an article entitled "Music for Marrying."

Noting that an increasing number of ministers and musicians are urging that other music be substituted for these selections, the author says that the main objection to the compositions is not the music itself, but its secular nature and the associations derived from the opera and play from which the music comes.

Mr. Gotwals explained in this fashion: "The Bridal Chorus" from Wagner's opera, "Lohengrin", which is sung immediately following the famous Prelude to Act III, is superficially inappropriate for the use to which it is commonly put because it comes after the wedding. It is sung by the knights and ladies of the chorus inside the bridal chamber as Lohengrin and Elsa enter. But there is a much more profound objection. The wedding itself has taken place in an atmosphere of fear, suspicion and mistrust. And the marriage is soon to end unconsummated because of the nagging curiosity of the bride, and the enchanted state of the groom. Wagner's own words to this music are in fact dramatically ironic, and no one who knows and understands this opera could countenance the suggestion of them at a Christian wedding. For before the act is over Elsa and Lohengrin have quarreled bitterly, the bridegroom has killed a rival in self-defense and because of Elsa's determination to know his true identity, he is forced to abandon his bride forever."

The author then turns his attention to the Mendelssohn number, pointing out that the composer wrote the music to Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in 1842-43, just a couple of years before Wagner began "Lohengrin." Mr. Gotwals relates something of the story of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and then adds "The famous 'Wedding March' was intended to be played between Act IV, in which Bottom, transformed into an ass, courts a temporarily bewitched Titania, and Act V, in which Bottom and Flute and their clowning cronies act out a hilarious performance of the story of Pyramus and Thisbe. This is just the stuff with which to end a church wedding!"

He further points out that the main themes of both pieces have been bluesquered to such a degree in movies and television that the thoughtful engaged couple will want something less hackneyed and more appropriate.

Author Gotwals is just as firm about the solos so often heard at weddings. It is their words to which he objects. He points out that the Presbyterian "Book of Common Worship" describes marriage as a "sacred relation" and adds that the persons to be married and their guests are assembled "in the presence of God."

"How then can they offer songs which glorify earthly love to the exclusion of God's love?" he asks. In this category he mentions the familiar "I Love You Truly" with words and music by Carrie Jacobs-Bond, and "Oh Promise Me" composed to words of Clement Scott by Reginald DeKoven. Of the latter he says "This song is not only secular; its words are execrable verse."

"Because," according to Author Gotwals, was "originally composed by Gud d'Hardelot to his own French words—the words of an unrequited lover. He adds "This might perhaps have nothing to do with the case when Edward Tschernacher's English words, with their prayer that God's love may make our love divine are used, except that whereas the music fits the composer's French words like a glove, it does not fit the English words very well at all. The result is that the poor soloist has constantly to fit such phrases as 'of hope and joy I see' or 'roses waking around my feet' to five rapid sixteenth notes, to say nothing of the incongruity of the original urgent and passionate rhythm now forced onto a prayer of aspiration."

Mr. Gotwals dismisses "Ah! Sweet Mystery of Life" and "Indian Love Call" with the assertion "sacred songs they are not" and then goes on to Albert Hay Malotte's musical setting of The Lord's Prayer. Of this he writes "Quite apart from the issue of liturgical propriety in allowing a soloist to usurp words which belong to the minister or congregation, here one must raise the question of musical quality. It has not been necessary to make a critical evaluation of the music as such in other cases. Here it may be flatly stated that the music is not suited to the words. The musical idiom is that of the romantic song or of Wagnerian opera. . . . The music is counter to the spirit of Christ's instructions. 'Enter into thy closet,' he has just said (Matt., 6:6-7 KJV); 'shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret. . . . Use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.'"

The author admits he knows many will disagree with him, and adds that he does not wish to deprive anyone of musical pleasure, but "We have endeavored simply to explain the basis for an attitude which is spreading in our churches, an attitude which seeks to re-evaluate musical usage, especially in weddings."

He concludes "What may be universally urged, however, is that the bride and groom give thoughtful consideration to all the music to be performed at their wedding. Where they feel incompetent to judge or choose, let them rely on the organist and minister. If they make their own choice, let it be an informed choice. As for the organist or musical director, let him be prepared to play for the wedding couple a variety of suitable pieces from his own repertoire, from which they may choose. Thus will be hastened the day when no bride need proscribe. Wagner and Mendelssohn will have marched back to the theater whence they came; and wedding music, like all other worship service music, will be performed to the greater glory of God and not to the honor of a pagan love."—O.S.

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## Club Has Program On Roses

Mrs. Carl Morris, member of the American Rose society and a rose show judge, was guest speaker at a Medford Garden club meeting Thursday afternoon at the Courthouse auditorium. She talked on the culture, planting and slipping of roses, stating that the first and most important consideration was to select the site with good drainage and sunshine six hours a day, but protection from hot summer winds. The second most important idea is to select the types for the individual arrangements, she said.

Mrs. Ransley Miller read the opening collect taken from the National Council of Garden clubs magazine. Guests and prospective members introduced were Mrs. Norris, Mrs. Charles Hobbs, Mrs. Emil Duwe, Mrs. W. E. Olson and Mrs. H. L. Myers.

Prizes were awarded to Mrs. Clare Austin and Mrs. E. E. Wilson.

Plans were made for attending the annual fall Siskiyou District meeting which is to convene in the Redwood Grange hall in Grants Pass, Tuesday, October 14. Tickets for the luncheon have to be purchased before the meeting. For information phone Mrs. C. G. Gay, Spring 3-5881.

Mrs. L. P. Rentschler, president, introduced her tea chairman for the day: Mrs. Elton Waldron, Mrs. I. D. Canfield, Mrs. Leland Knox, Mrs. W. H. Dyer, Mrs. Howard E. Bush. Their tea table was centered with an arrangement of pink michaelmas daisies.

Mrs. E. M. Wallin, civic and welfare chairman, reported she had made arrangements to plant a tree at two of the new schools in Medford. For the "Make Medford Beautiful" campaign she encouraged the litter-bug clean-up program, especially in the drive-in theaters. She also stated the Senior Activity Center at 601 East Jackson street is in need of decorative plants in window boxes before a silver tea which is scheduled for October 12.

Mrs. Bush gave an interesting talk on local birds.

The Siskiyou District garden club plant and rummage sale is scheduled for October 31, and November 8 in the home Appliance store in Medford.

Mrs. Rentschler announced she would like to change board meetings to the fourth Monday in each month.

Medford Garden club will hold its next meeting November 6, at 10 a. m. The program on holiday arrangements and decorations will be at 1 p. m. This is to be an open meeting with nearby clubs as guests. Mrs. C. L. Miller and Mrs. Clare Austin are chairmen for the silver tea to follow.

## Club Announces Theme of Show

"Floral Beauty in Winter Time" will be the theme of the flower show sponsored by the Central Point Garden club October 20 and 21 at the courthouse auditorium.

Chairmen of the event, announced at the October 1 meeting, include Mrs. Gaston Floux, general chairman; Mrs. C. H. Ault, tea; Mrs. Eugene Orr, table arrangements; Mrs. Leo Ghelardi, guest book; Mrs. Wallace West, Mrs. Ivan Skyrman, and Mrs. R. D. Kay, advance entries; Mrs. John Holmer, Mrs. Everett Young, Mrs. Ralph Hixson, Mrs. W. I. Sutherland, staging; Mrs. Arnold Bohnert, Mrs. Charles Jantzer, Mrs. Joe Huffine and Mrs. L. E. Gorden, placement, Mrs. Sutherland, publicity.

At the last meeting Donald M. Frost of the Delta Pet ranch and nursery spoke on "Origin of Flowers in Our Garden." The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Joe Huffine, 369 North Second street.

Prizes were received by Mrs. O. T. Wilson, Mrs. Don E. Faber, Mrs. Grant Day, Mrs. H. W. Sturgeon and Mrs. John Holmer. Guests were Mrs. Minnie White and Mrs. Karl Yanough.

Assisting Mrs. Huffine with the serving were Mrs. Ralph Hixson and Mrs. Robert L. Schmidt. Following the meeting the group toured the chrysanthemum gardens at the Claude Thompson home on Scenic drive.

Refineries in Jefferson county, Texas, have a capacity of 886,000 barrels of oil a day.

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