

2/13/15
Daily NewsSun

COVER STORY

SCW Rotary Club cultivates meditation garden idea

By Tina Gamez
DAILY NEWS-SUN

In its quest to work on community projects, the Rotary Club of Sun City West is partnering with the Recreation Centers of Sun City West on a meditation garden at Beard-sley Park.

Rotary President Bob Murray said a letter was sent to the Rec Centers governing board about a year ago stating that the club was interested in doing community projects.

From a list of potential projects, Murray said Thursday in an interview, "we've selected a few of them that we're going to try to put through."

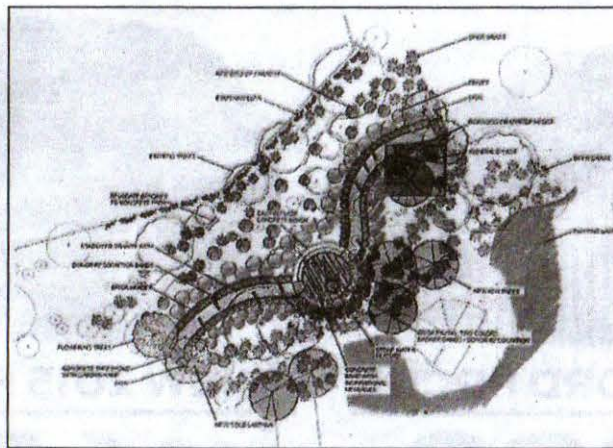
The meditation garden was the top choice.

During Monday's general manager operations meeting, Cindy Knowlton, recreation manager for the RC-SCW, discussed the plans for the project with the governing board.

The meditation garden will have a meandering walkway that is currently a dirt path behind the entertainment pavilion, Knowlton said. The path will lead to a center circle with a fountain.

She said the brick circle will give people an opportunity to buy memorial bricks. There will be vegetation of seasonal flowers, a hedge lining the path, new trees and more.

The estimated costs for the Rotary Meditation Garden are more than \$65,000, offi-



Architectural drawing of the Rotary Club of Sun City West's meditation garden. cials said, and it will be funded by donations, leaving about \$15,700 to be a shared cost between the Recreation Centers and the Rotary.

Knowlton said the Ro-

tary embraced the project and "now it's kind of in their court in terms of developing a scheme for getting the funds together to make it happen."

The Rotary has its portion of the \$15,700, according to Knowlton. "The rest of it needs to be funded."

Murray said the meditation garden will be bigger than it was originally designed. "During the process, we wanted to embellish it and give people an opportunity to donate" some of the trees, bushes and flowers.

In return, Murray said donors will receive a plaque with whatever they want written on it.

"We want to keep the cost of the project down as much as we can," and, Murray said, other clubs in the community could become involved.

Knowlton acknowledged

» See Garden on page A5

Garden

» From page A1

that "it's nice to have a civic group out there that would like to contribute to the betterment of the community."

Board Director Diane Cheney said this "could be a model for other community organizations to step up."

"This is the culmination of Lake Westphal's dream," said board director Jack Steiner.

Westphal, 92, a former board director, was working to establish a memorial garden, Steiner said.

"I'm really excited about the prospects for this," Steiner added.

Director David Wilson, who is also the chairman of the Sun City West Fire District, said the fire district has been involved with the Rotary and "they've been a really good partner in promoting community issues, notably smoke alarms," which Wilson said the Rotary helps sponsor.

Murray said Rotary likes it when Rotary clubs work with communities and other clubs. "It shows a kindred spirit, rather than just Rotary alone."

FIG. 21-1



Scene 1



Pioneer Lions mark 30 years in SCW

Coinciding with the 30th anniversary of the Sun City West community, the Pioneer Lions Club is preparing to hold its own 30th anniversary celebration Wednesday, Dec. 3 at the Briarwood Country Club, 20800 N. 135th Ave. The event will highlight both the club's longevity and the holiday season, with other Valley Lions Clubs invited to participate.

The charter for the Lions Club of Sun City West was approved June 3, 1978, and the charter was received Oct. 7, 1978, at the Lakes Club in Sun City. The new club was sponsored by the Sundowners Lions Club in Sun City, with 32 charter members "borrowed" temporarily from several Sun City Lions Clubs. Meetings were held Mondays at the Melody Lane Restaurant in Sun City on. The first meeting in Sun City West was July 2, 1978, with 19 members in attendance. Club projects at that time were delivery of the Homeowner Directory, holiday deliveries for the florist and the newspaper recycling collection. Final membership that first Sun City West year was 51.

In 1980 Lion Dick Bryan, a Lions International Past President (1969-70), joined the Sun City West club and remained a loyal and inspiring member until his death in 2003. Also in 1980 the club changed its name to Pioneer Lions Club of Sun City West to reflect being a pioneer club that was approved even before the first settlers moved into Sun City West.

The Pioneer Lions have been a dynamic group, setting many performance records. In 1981-82 at least 61 members worked at the

LPGA golf tournament at Hillcrest Golf Course. The same year, when the 64th International Lions Club Convention was held in Phoenix, all Pioneer members worked at various convention tasks. More than 25,000 Lions from all over the world attended, and the Vice President George Bush was the featured speaker.

In 1984-85 the club's membership of 91 began delivering the monthly Sun Cities Life magazines to all Sun City West residents—in recent years, club members have delivered 15,500 magazines each month. In 1980-81 the club sponsored a second Sun City West Lions Club, the Sunrise Lions, plus a Lioness Club and in 1989-90 they sponsored the Surprise Sun Village Lions Club.

In 1991-92 the annual Pancake Breakfast began, and in 1993-94 the first annual Hot Dog Day—Halloweenie—took place. The Pioneer's Eyeglass Collection Program sets records each year, and a school program marks Flag Day. In 2000 the club's constitution was amended to welcome female members, and in fall of 2008 the membership included five women. New members, male and female, are still being sought.

Membership through the years has varied from 32 members at inception to a high of 107 in 1985-86, followed by a gradual decline as members aged, to a low of 38 in 2007-2008, mirroring a national decrease in activity within most service clubs. Nevertheless, in 2007-08 membership included five past district governors, and volunteer service hours donated by the 38 members to-

taled 2,689 hours.

Following is a list of the organizations that received grants totaling \$22,241 from the Pioneer Lions in 2007-2008: Sight First II, Camp Tatiyee, Sight & Hearing Foundation, Recording for the Blind, Lions Vision Center, West-

side Food Bank, Flags for Schools, Lions Foundation of Arizona, Center for the Blind, Leader Dogs, Sun Sounds, Lions International, Melvin Jones Memorial, Salvation Army, Sun City West Prides, the Sun City West Posse and Lions Club International Foundation.

SCW Sunrise Lions mark 25 years



Sun City West Sunrise Lions and dignitaries marking the Club's 25 years of service are, from left, President-elect Ed Davey, President Ed Lieske, Past International Director Joe Preston and District Gov. Bill Morrison.

BY MARIE SCOTT

The Sunrise Lions Club era started on April 9, 1981. That's when the club was organized and registered as a member of Lions Clubs International with 72 members. Jack Bowers was president.

The club's Charter Night was Oct. 8, 1981, with Lion Pete Strupp of the Pioneer Lions serving as Guiding Lion. Three Charter Members — Bob Ingersoll, Gerry Sachs and John Spaulding — are still active in the club. The tradition of meeting weekly at 7:30 a.m. Thursdays has continued to the present.

The club's 25th anniversary celebration was held at the Briarwood Country Club recently. Lion President-elect Ed Davey welcomed those attending, Lion Nate Brickman led the Pledge of Allegiance,

and Lion Bob Ingersoll led the singing of God Bless America.

Master of Ceremonies Lion Jim Heig introduced the guests and Lion Barbara Dienes offered the Invocation, and dinner was served.

Following dinner, the Sensations, led by Janet Hochstatter, gave a delightful musical presentation. District Gov. Bill Morrison then introduced the speaker of the evening, Past International Director Joe Preston, whose talk was lively, entertaining and inspiring.

During its 25 years, the Sunrise Lions Club has contributed over half a million dollars to worthy causes, including the construction of the S.C.W. Foundation Building. Currently, it is contributing to

See *Lions*, page 12

Lions, from page 11

the following: AZ Lions Sight and Hearing; AZ Lions Foundation; AZ Quest Camp for the handicapped; Center for the Blind; Dysart Community Center; the Freedoms Foundation; Habitat for Humanity; Melvin Jones Memorial; Recording for the Blind; the Salvation Army; Sun City West Posse; Sun City West PRIDES; Lions Clubs International; the Sun City West Community Fund; New Life Shelter; Interfaith Community Care; Westside Food Bank; Kids Kafe; Sun City West Visitors Center; S.C.A.T.; Leader Dogs; Christmas Baskets for the Needy; and Books for the Troops.

Sunshine Serenaders

Her web site is GOSPEL/PIANO LADY, so you know right off you better be on your best behavior whenever she's around.

And best behavior is exactly what the diminutive Gospel/Piano Lady, a.k.a. Frances Decker, expects from her musical troupe, the Sunshine Serenaders. "I tell them no swearing and no dirty stories", says Decker.

Decker started the troupe as an offshoot of the Sun City West Westernaires in November 1981. Since then her Serenaders have performed over 400 concerts for all kinds of occasions in Sun City and Sun City West. Their focus, however, is mainly on nursing home performances because, as Decker likes to relate, "I promised the Lord that when I retired I would dedicate my life to entertaining those in nursing homes."

Beverly Manor, Sun Valley Lodge and the Glendale Care Center are just a few of the nursing homes whose residents look forward to Serenaders' performances. "We like to spread cheer and sunshine," says Decker, "that's why we're called the 'Sunshine Serenaders'."

Her Serenaders are also popular performers at club doings, anniversary parties and church group functions. They've entertained for the SCW Friends of the Library, as well as at the Westernaires' Ice Cream Social and Potluck Suppers. And they've also graced the Sundome stage for one of SCW most anticipated events of the year – the Annual Holiday Variety Show.

Decker, who doesn't read music, plays piano and organ by ear. She records her music for a show, then gives tapes to her Serenaders and tells them, "Please practice at home and, if you want to rehearse with me, call me." Her troupe is so talented they come

up with their own ideas for solo singing, dancing or comedy sketches based on her musical selection. Some months there's a specific holiday theme (Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Halloween, Christmas). And some months they "just go Western, Hawaiian or Roaring 20's". All Serenaders design their own costumes at their own expense.

In 2002, the Sunshine Serenaders were: Bob Bennett, Rosa Detamore, Sig Hjermsstad, Diane King, Anne Kirk, Ray Lorek, Ron McCollier, Evelyn Sturm, Betty Vissat, Frances Decker and stage manager, Floyd Vissat.

"I'm proud of my group," says Decker. "We're a happy group".

[Inbox for edsonallen@yahoo.com](#)[Yahoo! - My Yahoo!](#)[Options - Sign Out - Help](#)[Mail](#)[Addresses](#)[Calendar](#)[Notepad](#)

\$55 Florida Sale!

FROM

Delta
express[Reply](#) [Reply All](#) [Forward](#) [as attachment](#) ▾[Download Attachments](#)[Delete](#) [Prev](#) | [Next](#) | [Inbox](#)[- Choose Folder -](#) ▾ [Move](#)**From:** GospelPianoLady@aol.com | [Block Address](#) | [Add to Address Book](#)**Date:** Sat, 25 Aug 2001 12:57:35 EDT**Subject:** Re: 25th SCW Anniversary**To:** edsonallen@yahoo.com**CC:** SIGSINGS@aol.com

Edson, thank you for your prompt reply.

Yes, I belong to the Pioneer Club of Sun City West. It sure is getting smaller as time goes on.

My letter to you was about the Sunshine Serenaders From Sun City West having it's beginning from the Westernaires. Of my 11 people, eight are still with the Westernaires, and are also Sunshine Serenaders.

Mr. Sig Hjermstad is in charge of the Westernaire's input into the 25th SCW Anniversary. I am proud that he has been a Sunshine Serenader since 1986.

However, Westernaires and the Sunshine Serenaders are two different clubs.

I'm from New York State, and I remember the beautiful fall colors. I am sure you will enjoy that time there in Wisconsin and then back to your "other world of enjoyment".

It will be nice to meet you, and I will appreciate your alerting the planning people for the future of Sun City West's 25th Anniversary as far as Sunshine Serenaders' involvement.

Thank you for your help.

Frances Decker

Click a ☺ to send an instant message to an online friend

☺ = Online, ☹ = Offline

[Delete](#) [Prev](#) | [Next](#) | [Inbox](#)[- Choose Folder -](#) ▾ [Move](#)[Reply](#) [Reply All](#) [Forward](#) [as attachment](#) ▾[Download Attachments](#)

Inbox for edsonallen@yahoo.com

Yahoo! - My Yahoo!

Options - Sign Out - Help



Mail



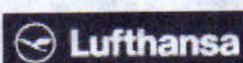
Addresses



Calendar



Notepad



Go to Europe

[Reply](#) [Reply All](#) [Forward](#) [as attachment](#) [Download Attachments](#)[Delete](#) [Prev](#) | [Next](#) | [Inbox](#)[- Choose Folder -](#) [Move](#)**From:** GospelPianoLady@aol.com | [Block Address](#) | [Add to Address Book](#)**Date:** Fri, 24 Aug 2001 13:16:17 EDT**Subject:** 25th SCW Anniversary**To:** edsonallen@yahoo.com**CC:** SIGSINGS@aol.com

Dear Edson,

My name is Frances Decker - purchased our home in June 1979, our furniture moved to SCW - July 1979. We retired from Eastman Kodak in March 1980 after my 60th Birthday to receive my Kodak pension, and THEN we drove from Fairport, New York (near Rochester, N.Y.) to our lovely home, and here we will stay until the Lord calls me home. Rawleigh passed away January 6, 2000 after a long illness. But when he was healthy, The Lion's Club, Lapidary and Silver Clubs were a part of his life.

I have been a Westernaire since I arrived in 1980. We had a little group called Westernaire's Sunshine Troup of which I was the Assistant Program Director under Polly Harbert, our Westernaire's Director. But as November 18, 1981, I became the originator, Director/Pianist of the Sun City West Sunshine Serenaders, and as of August 29th when we will do a program at Immanuel Gardens, we will have performed 395 times, in the Sun Cities and the area.

We, although not a Chartered Club (only having 11 people), have been I think, an important part of this community. Most of my people have been with me a long time:

Ray Lorek - since 1984; Anne Kirk and Sig Hjermsstad - since 1986; Betty Vissat - since 1987; Diane King - Since 1988. Rosa Detamore - 1992; Ron McCollor - 1996;

Bob Bennet - 1997; Evelyn Sturm - 1998. (Floyd Vissat is our Stage Manager and when he married Betty, he became a Serenader)., and I started the Serenaders - 1981. At that time, I had 16-20 people, and as time went on - either illness, death, moving away etc., I find it wonderful what my little group can do. I have many newspaper clippings - from the beginning to the present.

I also have the original Activity Sheets of Sun City West since 1979-1989 and some of 1990, so there is history right there because at that time, a lot of pictures were on the Activity Sheets, and as you know, a picture is worth a million words - or something like that.

I am also a photographer and have over 30 books filled with my pictures, and many of them are from activities in Sun City West.

I saw your article in the Rec Center News and wanted you to know about my wonderful group - we entertain not only in nursing homes, but wherever we are asked to do so, and I hope we can be a part of the 25th Anniversary in February 2003

At the present time, Sig Hjermstad is preparing input about Westernaires and I gave him some of the input including the Activity Sheet informing the readers about joining the Westernaires, and one copy had a picture of an early Westernaire rehearsal.

Respectfully yours,

(Mrs.) Frances E. Decker
18018 - 134th Ave. .
Sun City West, Arizona 85385

(623) 584-3449

Click a ☺ to send an instant message to an online friend

☺ = Online, ☹ = Offline

Delete

Prev | Next | Inbox

- Choose Folder - ▾

Move

Reply

Reply All

Forward

as attachment ▾

Download Attachments

Yahoo! Messenger - Send instant messages to friends!

[Address Book](#) · [Alerts](#) · [Auctions](#) · [Bill Pay](#) · [Bookmarks](#) · [Briefcase](#) · [Broadcast](#) · [Calendar](#) · [Chat](#) · [Classifieds](#) · [Clubs](#) ·
[Companion](#) · [Domains](#) · [Experts](#) · [Games](#) · [Greetings](#) · [Home Pages](#) · [Invites](#) · [Mail](#) · [Maps](#) · [Member Directory](#) · [Messenger](#) ·
[My Yahoo!](#) · [News](#) · [PayDirect](#) · [People Search](#) · [Personals](#) · [Photos](#) · [Shopping](#) · [Sports](#) · [Stock Quotes](#) · [TV](#) · [Travel](#) · [Weather](#) ·
[Yahooligans](#) · [Yellow Pages](#) · [more...](#)

[Privacy Policy](#) - [Terms of Service](#) - [Guidelines](#)

Copyright © 1994-2001 Yahoo! Inc. All rights reserved.

FIG 21-1



4/21/91 - Plaza Del Rio Nursing Home - Our April Showers Program

ED, I printed these on my printer. If only I had known how to scan them to you directly.

So if you would like one or more of these, Please let me know and I will send the regular print or prints to you. In the first picture they are singing- "Just Let A Smile Be Your Umbrella" The second print we are taking a bow w/o the rain gear. (I'm by the piano)



Sincerely Yours
Frances Decker

e-mail: GospelPianoLady@AOL.com

Acknowledged
received 8/21/02

3/27/01 - Inter-Faith
@ St. Clements

We had presented
our Gay 90's Program
But the other
pictures didn't
show the "patients"

The lady I am
"hugging" is 102 yrs.



Nativity Program at Sungrove Village Care Center - 12/19/00 - (Sig Hjermstad is One of the Wise Men)
(See the Angels!)

