

### FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



My family and I are coming to the end of our Scandinavian adventure as I prepare this, my final greeting to the OCDA membership from Sweden. In writing for both this newsletter and for the Central Division's *Resound*, I have tried to share some of my experiences and reflections about living and teaching abroad. If I have done so excessively, please accept my apologies and rest assured that we are coming home soon, and I expect that I will be sitting at a computer in Ohio to write next year's columns!

One of the really special traditions that I have experienced several times this year has been singing

with others for the sheer enjoyment of singing. This occurred one time with other choral conductors who had gathered for an annual conference, and a number of times when the community chorus that I am conducting met socially. On most occasions, this wonderful part singing was done during or immediately following a fine meal.

Early in October I travelled to Västerås, a lovely city not far from Stockholm, to attend a national choral conference. At the end of a second day of concerts and interest sessions, we made our way to a candlelit banquet hall to enjoy a dinner that featured roasted deer and other regional favorites. Copies of the music to be sung at this celebratory feast were part of the table settings, right along with the wine glasses and cloth napkins. Throughout the evening the glasses were raised and beautiful four-part harmony was sung by the 150 attendees.

The thirty-five voice Christianstads Motettkör rehearses regularly on Tuesday evenings. Members always bring their song books with them to post-concert receptions and other social gatherings that they have, because there is always singing at such events. Similar to the tradition practiced by choristers of the more prestigious universities here, this recreational singing is done in Swedish, English, German, French, and Italian. It is an important and enjoyable bonding activity for the choral societies of this nation.

Now I don't mean to imply that I don't enjoy music making with others when I am back home in the United States. But the reality is that most of the time that I am dealing with choral music, I am striving to help others learn and/or prepare for a performance. Even when I am singing with others at a choral conference, I find that I am usually at a reading session shopping for new repertoire. Rarely do I sing with others for no purpose other than the pleasure of doing it.

I think that MENC got it right a few years ago when they began promoting the "Get America Singing...Again!" campaign. Perhaps a few more American families are standing around the piano now and then having some good old fashioned sing-a-longs because of these efforts.

But what about those of us who have committed our professional lives to choral music? What if we sang when we gathered just for the joy of doing it? Perhaps we ought to do more of that. Maybe we will when we meet at Otterbein in June!

Vi ses snart! (See you soon!) Mark Munson

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### OCDA Summer Conference 2006

June 19-21

Otterbein College Westerville, OH

any questions contact: Dr. Daniel Monek OCDA Conference Committee Chair dmonek@marietta.edu (740) 376-4689







### WHAT'S WRONG WITH JUNIOR HIGH?

### by Deb O'Reilly, Junior High R&S Chair

Let me be the first to tell you that I never intended to be a junior high choral director. I don't know anybody that I went through college with that was running around aspiring to be the next greatest junior high choral teacher. No, no.. I was going to have a thriving high school program, put on wonderful shows, perform at competitions, and form lasting relationships with students. Well, I got that, but not at the high school level.

When I got my job at Sycamore Junior High School, music colleagues would ask me, "So, are you planning on moving up to the high school someday?" After a while, it really started to irk me. "We have a really good thing here. Why would I leave? What's wrong with junior high?" I'm not trying to knock on high school directors. I was one! My point is that junior high programs can be just as *valid* as high school programs.

Now, I HAVE to give credit where credit is due. My teaching partner, Linda Gartner, has invested 24 years into this program and this school. This program is a result of her hard work. She also had a lot of great ideas and was supported by her administration. I just happened to be in the right place at the right time! Currently, we have 450 kids, 5 choirs, 2 extra choirs (including a 90 member boy choir!), great concerts, successful competition performances, and we have a GREAT time with these kids. ... AND IT IS JUNIOR HIGH. I had to see it to believe it. I had to experience it to "get" it. I had to teach it to know it was possible.

So, why do I write all this? I really feel that a lot of choral music educators sell this age level short. At one time, I did! These junior high kids will do almost anything you ask them to do! They will sing Mozart and they will sing good ol' folk songs. We have choirs that sing 2 pt., 3 pt. and 4 pt. (I must insert that I split my mixed choirs into gender choirs 2 years ago and it was the single best decision that I made for the kids and for ME!) Most importantly, we have FUN. We definitely **don't** take ourselves too seriously!

BUT, it isn't always easy. You deal with a lot of hormones, drama, and some days you feel like a babysitter. And no, the musical payback isn't like it is at a higher level. But that's not why you teach junior high. You teach this age because <u>you</u> most likely give these kids their first vocal music experience. These are kids that will go on to be in your high school choirs, church choirs, and maybe your college choirs. It is in junior high that they first develop a love of singing. If we don't give them our absolute best at this age level, we could very well lose them forever. Teaching Junior High IS valid and CAN be great!



OCDA News, the official publication of the Ohio Choral Directors Association, is published three times annually, from Ashland, Ohio, and is distributed without charge to members of the Association as well as to selected members and officers of the American Choral Directors Association.

OCDA reserves the right to edit any application for appearance and to edit all materials proposed for distribution on the basis of content and length.

### **Copy and Ad Deadlines**

Fall Issue	September 15
Winter Issue	January 15
Spring Issue	April 15

### **Advertising Rates**

Full Page 9"x 7"	\$130.00
1/2 Page 4.5"x 7"	\$75.00
1/4 Page 4.5"x 3.5"	\$40.00

10% discount for the advance purchase of three consecutive ads.

Prices above are for copy ready materials submitted on or before the specified deadline.

Advance payment must accompany materials. Plaese make checks out to: Ohio Choral Directors Association.

### Editor

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To have your concert included here in the next issue of the OCDA News, please email the editor, Ron Blackley, at: rblackle@ashland.edu

Sunday, May 21, 3:00 p.m. Mathille Theater, Schuster Ctr. for Performing Arts 1 West Second Street, Dayton MUSICA: Laughter and Tears: Concert III

**Sunday, May 21, 7:00 p.m.** Westlake United Methodist Church WUMC Monday Morning Handbell Choir

### Sunday, May 21, 7:30 p.m.

Finney Chapel, Oberlin College Campus Oberlins Choristers Concert and Touring Choirs: A Singing Celebration admission: \$7.50

**Tuesday, May 30, 7:00 p.m.** Hilliard Darby H.S. Performing Arts Center Robing and Farewell Concert - no charge

# **WOCDA**news



**OCDA Summer Conference** June 19-21, 2006: Otterbein College

### OMEA Professional Conference

February 8-10 , 2007: Columbus

### **ACDA National Conference**

March 7-10, 2007: Miami, FL

### **OCDA Summer Conference**

June 18-20, 2007: Otterbein College

### IN THE FALL 2006 ISSUE YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO ARTICLES FROM YOUR:

President

Treasurer

Newsletter Editor

Summer Conference Coordinator (conference wrap-up)

South Central Regional Chair

Music and Worship R & S Chair

### AFFIRMING A SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

### by Jan Swanson, Elementary Interest Area Chair

Celebrate the advent of spring and end of the year concerts by acknowledging what you have accomplished this year with your choir. Moment or two to reflect on your success and how you might change programs for next year. Ask your choir members to comment on what they did well. How could they improve? What would they like to do next year? What skills have they learned that they can carry with them moving on to the next choral experience in the upper grades?

As we strive to improve and build our programs, it is imperative to evaluate what worked in the past and what may need to be reworked in the future. Begin with self evaluation.

- C Cooperation
- H Honor student input
- O Organization
- I Integration
- R Reflection

**Cooperation** is key! Conversations need to occur with colleagues in your building, parents, community members and peers in the profession in order to establish a cooperative learning environment. Choir members need to realize that the choir organization is a team effort. Successful choral results depend on the cooperation of all those involved in the process. Students need to be made fully aware of all those persons who assist in planning and successful concerts.

*Honor student input!* Quoting from "The Mozart Effect" (Don Campbell): "Mozart did not write "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" as a small boy. It was a children's song of his time called "Ah vous dirai-je, Maman." Mozart did compose a set of twelve variations (K-265) when he was sixteen. What at first seems artless and childlike, can actually inspire creativity." We need to follow Mozart's example and allow children to have input in planning, practice and procedures with appropriate limitations. This process often reveals incredible choral results.

**Organization**- Planning ahead is important! Calendars must be set up a year in advance. Parents need to be informed of all activities at the beginning of each school year in addition to every policy that students are expected to follow. Choose literature suitable for the age group.

*Integration* – Attempt to integrate with other academic content areas. With all the choral literature available, thematic programming is easily accomplished.

**Reflection** – Document successful experiences in order that they can be repeated. Allow students to discuss the performance via video or recording so that choir members feel valued and trusted.



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# **Ohio Choral Directors Association**

# Summer Conference 2006

# special guests...

Ann Howard Jones is the Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Boston University. Recognized for both her expertise in conducting technique, choral and vocal pedagogy, rehearsal procedures and performance practice and as a conductor, Dr. Jones was Assistant Conductor for Choruses with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra from 1984-1998, where she was closely associated with the late Robert Shaw. A Boston Globe review called Jones "a superb chorus trainer; for years she was a protégé and colleague of one of the great figures in the history of American choral music, Robert Shaw. Others



copied all of Shaw's tricks of the trade, which in hands other than his can sound like mannerisms; Jones caught his more essential quality and brings a Shaw-like evangelical zeal to everything she does..."



Bob Chilcott is one of the most active composers and choral conductors in the world today. He has been involved in choral music most of his life - he was a chorister in the choir of King's College, Cambridge and between 1985 and 1997 was a member of the British vocal group The King's Singers. He has been a fulltime composer since 1997. Over the last eight years, he has poured his energy into choral composition, conducting, and promoting choral singing throughout the world. As a conductor he has worked extensively with choirs and festivals

throughout the world and was the first non-American conductor to conduct a National Honor Choir for the American Choral Directors Association.

**Emily Ellsworth** has been Artistic Director of the Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus since 1996. She is also the editor of the newly created Opera Workshop series for Boosey and Hawkes Publishing and has served on the music faculty of Doreen Rao's Choral Music Experience Institute for Choral Teacher Education since 1988.



### Otterbein College • Westerville, Ohio • June 19-21



### **OCDA SUMMER CONFERENCE 2006** Otterbein College, Westerville

All events take place in Riley Auditorium, Battelle Fine Arts Center, unless othervise noted.

### Monday, June 19

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Board of Directors Summer meeting		
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Registration, Dunlap Gallery, Batelle Fine Arts Center		
1:00 p.m.	Opening Session: Welcome, Announcements, etc.		
1:15	Emily Ellsworth Session 1		
2:15	Break		
2:30	Bob Chilcott Session 1		
3:45	Break		
4:00	Concurrent sessions:		
	Reading Session I – Elementary, Children's and Boys Choirs		
	OR Musicology Session- Ross Duffin, Case Western Reserve Univ.		
5:00	Emily Ellsworth Session 2		
6:00	Break		
6:15	Dinner Roundtables by Interest Area or Independent - Locations TBA		
8:00	Ann Howard Jones - Director's Chorus/Session		
9:30	Reception/Social Time		
	Tuesday, June 20		
7:15 a.m.	Continental Breakfast, Dunlap Gallery, Batelle Fine Arts Center		
8:00 a.m. – 5:00	EXHIBITS ARE OPEN (Room 131, Batelle Fine Arts Center)		
8:00 - 8:50	Reading Session II – College, Community and Church Choirs		
9:00	Bob Chilcott Session 2		
10:00	Break/Exhibits		
	Concurrent Sessions:		
10:00-11:45	Rehearsal 1: OCDA Childrens Honor Choir		
10:15	Ann Howard Jones – Director's Chorus/Session		
11:15	Break/Exhibits		
11:30	Reading Session III – New Music Reading Session		
12:30	Business Luncheon		
2:00	Ann Howard Jones Session 1		
3:00	Bob Chilcott– Director's Chorus/Session		
	Concurrent Sessions:		
4:00-5:30	Rehearsal 3: OCDA Childrens Honor Choir		
4:00	Break/Exhibits		
4:30	Reading Session IV – Multicultural, Men's and Women's Choirs		
5:30	Dinner		
8:00	Concert: Hillsborough High School Symphonic Choir conducted by David White		
9:30	Gemütlichkeit		
	Wednesday, June 21		
7:15 a.m.	Continental Breakfast, Dunlap Gallery, Batelle Fine Arts Center		
8:00 a.m. – 5:00	EXHIBITS ARE OPEN (Room 131, Batelle Fine Arts Center)		
	Concurrent Sessions:		
8:45-10:30	Rehearsal 5: OCDA Childrens Honor Choir		
9:00	Bob Chilcott – Director's Chorus/Session		
10:15	Break – Exhibits		
10:30	Ann Howard Jones Session 2		

- 11:45 Lunch
- **Concurrent Sessions:**
- 1:00 Concurrent Interest Sessions: Ann Usher (Nat'l Standards) and Frank Jacobs (Community Choirs)
- 2:00 Break - exhibits
- 2:15 Reading Sessions V – J.H./M.S., H.S., Jazz/Show
- Concert: OCDA Children's Honor Choir conducted by Emily Ellsworth 3:00

For more information, please contact...

Dr. Daniel Monek, Conference Chair

phone: 740-376-4689 • email: monekd@marietta.edu • OCDA Website: http://www.ohiocda.org

The Edward E. MacTaggart Department of Music, Marietta College, Marietta, OH 45750



### **REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

The registration fee for members is \$130. Included in this fee are parking, the Tuesday business luncheon, and reading session music (*guaranteed* only for workshop participants registering in advance).

- 1. Fill out the registration form and return as indicated below. The registration must be postmarked by June 6, 2006, in order for the pre-registration fees to apply. After June 6, 2006, a higher fee structure is in place (see below). Reading session packets cannot be guaranteed for those who do not pre-register by the June 6 deadline.
- 2. A refund will be made if a <u>written</u> cancellation is received by June 6, 2006. After that date a deduction of \$80.00 will be made.
- 3. The option to earn graduate credit through Otterbein College is available. The cost will be \$148 per <u>quarter</u> hour of graduate credit, and participants may register for 1-3 credits. If you would like to receive a graduate credit registration packet, please indicate this in the appropriate space on the registration form below.
- 4. Mail payment and Registration Form to: Dr. Daniel Monek, OCDA Summer Conference Coordinator, The Edward E. MacTaggart Department of Music, Marietta College, 215 5th Street, Marietta, Ohio 45750. Call Dan Monek at (740) 376-4689 or e-mail <u>monekd@marietta.edu</u> with questions. Please make checks payable to the Ohio Choral Directors Association.

### **REGISTRATION FORM**

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I am interested in	n receiving a graduate credit registr	ration/information packet.		
Select date(s):	ON-CAMPUS RE e a pillow. Rooms are not air conc June 20 Jun single room - \$24.40 per night double room - \$15.80 per person,	ne 21	Linens will not be pr	ovided.
TOTAL C	CONFERENCE PAYMENT (Make ch	ecks payable to OCDA)		

### AVAILABLE LODGINGS ON FOLLOWING PAGE



### **TRANSITIONS**

### by Robert Ward, Boy Choir R&S Chair

The human life cycle is based on a system that requires saying goodbye, accepting the loss associated with goodbye, and then courageously living into the reality of the new condition. This design manifests itself in many ways, and each manifestation challenges us to grow and mature. Not all lessons are easy, but all lessons are valuable.

As I write this column I am keenly aware of the process I am coming through; specifically, having left a tenured position of sixteen years to begin anew. Change does not come without a price, and in my case the change necessitated leaving friends, enduring a 900-mile commuter marriage, and abandoning long-term job security. All this to begin again in a place where personal connections were limited, geographical knowledge was non-existent, and where students and parents no longer accorded me the trust earned by virtue of time served.

During a time of transition leadership is critical – and personal courage is essential when the leader is the person enduring the most amount of change. Wyatt Webb wrote that, "There are only two things that prevent you from accomplishing your goals: fear and self doubt. When you learn to trust yourself and ask for help, the world gets a lot easier." These words served me well in my first year of transition, and I was fortunate to find Ohio teachers and conductors who were willing to listen and offer assistance. As I reflect on what was said to me over the past year, I find that one word carried enormous power – the word was simply, hello.

My transition has led me to an important discovery - specif-

ically, that I had forgotten what is the inherent loneliness of being the new person. Whether veteran educator or novice teacher, the desire to be recognized is important. To the new person, a simple "hello" from an established member of the community is like a lifejacket as you live temporarily on the island of isolation. Community is important and welcoming the newest members of the community is perhaps the most important thing we can do to ensure the long-term success of our profession.

OCDA is involved in several aspects of welcoming new members into the community. Certainly the mentoring program is an obvious example of OCDA's commitment to welcoming and assisting new teachers. The OCDA Children's Honor Choir welcomes new members by inviting teachers to participate and by giving young musicians the opportunity to experience the thrill of singing in a large, well-trained ensemble. "Hello" can be expressed in many ways.

My goodbyes are over. And while my transition continues, the day-to-day living becomes easier. My spouse (Emlyn) has now joined me, the students and parents with whom I work are less suspicious, I can navigate Columbus and its surrounding communities with increasing facility, and I can walk into the OMEA exhibit area and see a few familiar faces.

How I came to be in Columbus is a story for another time. For now, I will conclude with a special thank you to those members of OCDA who made the effort to make me feel welcome and less alone. Goodbye Oklahoma – hello Ohio.

### **AVAILABLE LODGINGS FOR SUMMER CONFERENCE 2006**

### LODGING CLOSE TO CAMPUS

### Bed and Breakfast

The following bed and breakfast inn is a one-block walk from Riley Auditorium, the main conference site. A group of three rooms have been reserved on a first-come-first-served basis until June 7; call early. Please refer to the Ohio Choral Directors Association when placing your reservation. All bed and breakfast rooms must be reserved by June 7.

**THE WESTERVILLE INN •** 5 S. West St. • 614-882-3910 \$85 per night. Two rooms have a queen size bed and one is a large room with a king size bed. Each has a private bath.

### **OFF CAMPUS LODGING**

**Extended Stay America at I-71 and Polaris Parkway** (formerly the Wellesley Inn) A block of rooms is reserved for this conference on a first-come-first-served basis until May 30. Please refer to the Ohio Choral Directors Association when placing your reservation. A "queen suite" with one queen size bed is \$69.99 (+ 12.1% tax) per night; a "double suite" with two double beds and a pull-out sofa is \$79.99 (+ 12.1% tax) per night. A continental breakfast is included with the room. Extended Stay America is 3.4 miles from campus,

across the street from the new Polaris Fashion Place shopping mall, Polaris Town Center plaza, and a wide array of restaurants. Call 614-431-5522 to reserve your room.

#### **OTHER WESTERVILLE ACCOMODATIONS INCLUDE**

Signature Inn • (614) 890-8111 or (800) 522-5252 Embassy Suites • (614) 890-8600 or (800) 362-2779

#### **CAMPING**

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#### **MEALS**

The business luncheon on Tuesday is included in the registration fee, and a continental breakfast will be served on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings in the Battelle Fine Arts Center before the first session begins. All other meals are on your own. Buffet style meals are available at the Campus Center. Restaurants within a 1-4 block walking distance from campus include Grinders, The Mill Street Deli, The Westerville Grill, Pasquali's Italian Restaurant, Dairy Queen and Graeter's Ice Cream.

## **OCDAnews**

### THE HIGHWAY TO PALATE OF BEAUTIFUL TONE IN CHILDREN'S CHOIRS IS PAVED WITH GREAT MUSIC!

by Amy Chivington, Children's Choir R&S Chair

Spring is here, and choral directors begin to plan for next year. I know that we all have musical goals in mind as we select music. In young choirs we want to develop music reading skills, beautiful tone, artistic line and expose our singers to diverse repertoire. The choices of repertoire have expanded greatly in the past 25 years. Often, I am asked to offer some repertoire "gems" and explain why I label this music with that word.

I have ten wonderful examples to share.

- "Art Thou Troubled" by G.F. Handel (Hinshaw), text by W.G. Rothery, offers a young choir the opportunity to explore artistic line and phrasing. The text provides a meaningful message of music's power to soothe the soul. Young choirs can rehearse unifying vowels and sing this lovely melody with a bright focused sound.
- "Bist du bei Mir" by J.S. Bach (Boosey&Hawkes or Warner Chapell) has been set in C Major (higher key of E-flat available from Warner Chapell) and is accessible to younger choirs, grades 4-6. The German text works best with this beautiful music. Introduce the Baroque Sarabande and move as the choir sings and creates musical line.
- One of my favorite extended works is "Friday Afternoons" by Benjamin Britten (Boosey&Hawkes). Britten was masterful setting texts with melodic and rhythmic interest. Singers grades 5 through middle school can enjoy this challenging music. "Old Abram Brown" is now in several elementary series texts, and yes, this is where the song originated.
- "Away from the Roll of the Sea" by Allister MacGillivray (Intrada) is a beautiful melody appropriate for an intermediate or advanced children's choir or a high school treble ensemble. Originally set for the Canadian women's choir Elektra, the text is artistically wed to the melodic and harmonic lines in strophic form. This music provides a choral ensemble an avenue to explore artistic line, syllabic stress and simply enjoy beautiful music.
- "Mi'Kmaq Honour Song" is a chant composed by Lydia Adams (McGroarty), Canadian composer. The piece is appropriate for advanced chidlren's choirs through college women's choirs. Young choirs can learn about singing a canon in close harmony. The piece opens with an interesting tone cluster, and animal sounds can be added by the choir. The audience can participate, adding their interpretations of chipmunks, wolves, owls and wind.
- "Wantane" by Mark Sirett (Boosey&Hawkes) is an Iriquois soundscape good for intermediate children's choirs through high school women's groups. Changing meters, and interesting harmonies come to life in this interesting composition. Tuning challenges are throughout. Choirs can experience the Native American sound, forward, focused, and chest voice, as well as lighter blended sounds in this exciting piece. Adding gathering drum, wind chimes and Native American flute to the performance is fun.

- "Gloria" from "Kyrie/Gloria" by Agneta Sköld (Walton)is a cherished "find" for me this year. This piece is a "WOW" opener recorded by the Nebrask Children's Choir under Randall Stroope. Cascading lines, interesting harmonies, and contrasting dynamics indicate that this would be great music for advanced children's choirs or high school women's ensembles.
- Randall Stroope's music is set with inspired melodies, wonderful texts, and supportive harmonic lines. "I Had a Paint Box" (Hal Leonard) is no exception. Young choirs will love the melody and the text. This song allows younger singers to explore concepts of artistic phrasing and creating line through dynamic shaping.
- "The Water is Wide" arranged by Laura Farnell (Alliance) is a beautiful folk song melody and this arrangement is absolutely wonderful due to its simplicity. I have used it to encourage <u>really</u> singing quietly in choirs. It offers young choirs phrasing challenges, and singing artistic line within the range of p-mf.
- "When I Sing" by Bill Henderson and arranged by David Elliott (Boosey&Hawkes) is a fun choral jazz piece for intermediate to advanced children's choirs, high school and college women's ensembles. The "bluesy" opening is an opportunity to introduce a jazz singer to your choir, and have them explore stylistic nuances, like closed consonants and bending pitches. The spirited swing section of the piece is a great contrast to the opening. Adding bass and traps to this piece is really effective to a stylistic performance.

For each one of my favorite "gems" you will each have yours. Let's share them!

### ACDA ADVOCACY RESOLUTION

Whereas the human spirit is elevated to a broader understanding of itself through study and performance in the aesthetic arts; and

Whereas serious cutbacks in funding and support have steadily eroded state institutions and their programs throughout the country;

**Be is resolved** that all citizens of the United States actively voice their affirmative and collective support for necessary funding at the local, state, and national levels of education and government to ensure the survival of arts programs for this and future generations.



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

At New Horizons the focus is always on you



Disney Magic Music Days is offering Festival Disney with world class adjudicators and performance sites at the Walt Disnev World© Resort.

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The Disney Honors is an invitation only event at the Walt Disney World Resort. Interested groups must submit application materials for review by a special Disney panel. New Horizons can assist you in the application process.



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