

## THE CLUB REPORTER

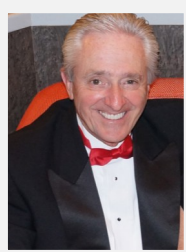
OCTOBER 2015



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## EDITOR'S WELCOME



It's official, this is the first issue of the third year of publication for the staff of The Club Reporter (Diane and I) and do we have some exciting articles and events planned for this year. In this issue we will announce; 1.) The winners of the "Members And Their Pets" competition. 2.) Focus on our 2015/2016 Club Event Schedule. 3.) Feature a very special Club Member by the name of Dr. Mary Ellen Stepanich. Dr. Stepanich, is a retired professor from Purdue and Western International Universities, has published articles in academic journals, show scripts for her barbershop quartets, and "Voices from the Front," a radio play that was honored as the 2010 Program of the Year from the International Association of Audio Information Services. She currently lives in Arizona and is best known by her fellow Club Members as the lead singer in the barbershop quartet known as Lilac Crazy ("LIE like crazy!") who performed at our December 2014 Christmas Meeting. In addition, she recently wrote and published her tongue-in-cheek, but touching memoir entitled, "D is for Dysfunctional... and Doo Wop!" and a follow-up novel called, "Doo Wops In Paradise", which is the first in a series of novels based upon the real-life adventures of the comedy quartet, Lilac Crazy. I will talk about both of these books later in this article.

Mary Ellen shown third from the left in the Quartet.

Mary Ellen shown third from the left in the Quartet.

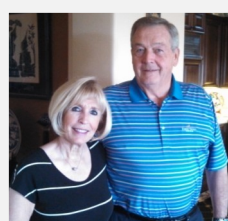


Jim Harshman, Editor, The Club Reporter

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Nov 12 Pebble Creek Golf Resort—GM Tele-cast
- Dec 9 Arizona Opry—Christmas Program

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



On Tuesday, October 20, 2015, the Club will officially "kick-off" it's 2015/2016 calendar year agenda with a "Picnic In The Park" to be held at *Beardsley Park, Sun City West Recreation Center*. Two Ramada's have been reserved for your enjoyment and to allow you to partake of some of the best Kansas City Style BBQ in Arizona.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dillon's BBQ will be supplying the goodies and for your listening pleasure, Sun City West's own band DRYHEAT will be providing the entertainment. The best in Traditional, Bluegrass, Western, Folk, Country and Gospel music. So come prepared to request your favorite songs. Please visit their web-site at [www.dryheatbluegrass.com](http://www.dryheatbluegrass.com). This will be a "Club Subsidized Event", so you can be sure you are really getting a "bang for your buck". Guests are welcome! I would ask that as soon as you receive this newsletter that you complete the attached Registration Form and mail it to Jim Irwin to **arrive no later than Friday, October 16th**.

In closing, I would like to direct your attention to the April 5, 2016 "Special Event" listings located in the Fall and Winter Schedule 2015/2016 shown below. Building on the success of last year's Biosphere2 special event, we hope to repeat that success by providing you the opportunity to join us once again on a great day of adventure and socializing with other Club Members and guests. In early October, you will be receiving an email/mailling giving you an "Activity and Cost Analysis" of each event. I am asking you to immediately review this information and give us your feedback. Based on the majority consensus of our members, we will select the one day event and provide you with additional information and a sign-up sheet at our November Meeting at Pebble Creek. We need to have a good idea of how many members and guests will be participating in order to reserve space at the venue selected.

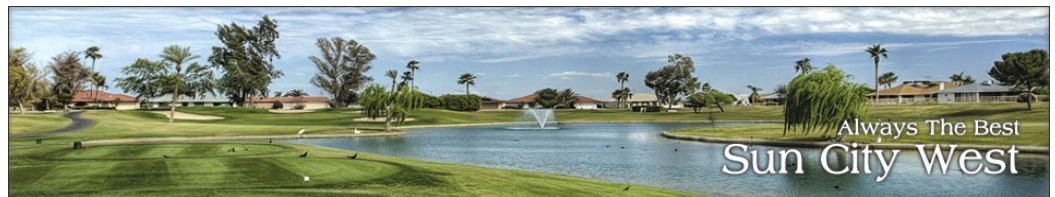
Again, as I mentioned in the September Club Newsletter, Barbara and I will not be returning to the Phoenix area until November, so we will be unable to join you at the picnic. We will be at Pebble Creek in November for sure.

Sincerely, Bob & Barbara Goebel

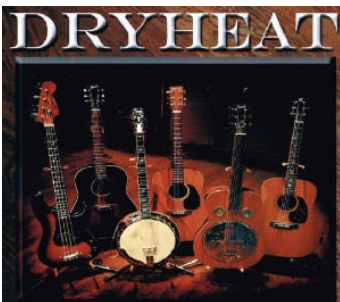
**FALL & WINTER SCHEDULE 2015/2016**

Tuesday

October 20, 2015

**"Picnic In The Park"**

Come join us at *Beardsley Park, Sun City West Recreation Center*



Two Ramada's have been reserved for your enjoyment and to partake of some of the best Kansas City Style BBQ in Arizona. Also, for your listening pleasure, Sun City West's own band DRYHEAT will be providing the entertainment. The best in Traditional, Bluegrass, Western, Folk, Country and Gospel music. So come prepared to request your favorite songs.

Please visit their web-site at [www.dryheatbluegrass.com](http://www.dryheatbluegrass.com)

## FALL & WINTER SCHEDULE 2015/2016

Thursday

November 12, 2015

"Live Telecast  
From Detroit"  
GM Speaker



Meeting will be held at the *Pebble Creek Country Club*, Goodyear, AZ

The theatre (West side of N. Pebble Creek Pkwy) has been reserved for a one hour telecast from Detroit beginning at 11AM. Speaker: Margaret Brooks, Executive Director, Malibu Product and Marketing will discuss the launch of the all new 2016 Malibu.

Wednesday

December 9, 2015

"Arizona Opry  
Dinner Theatre"  
Christmas Special



[www.azopry.com](http://www.azopry.com)

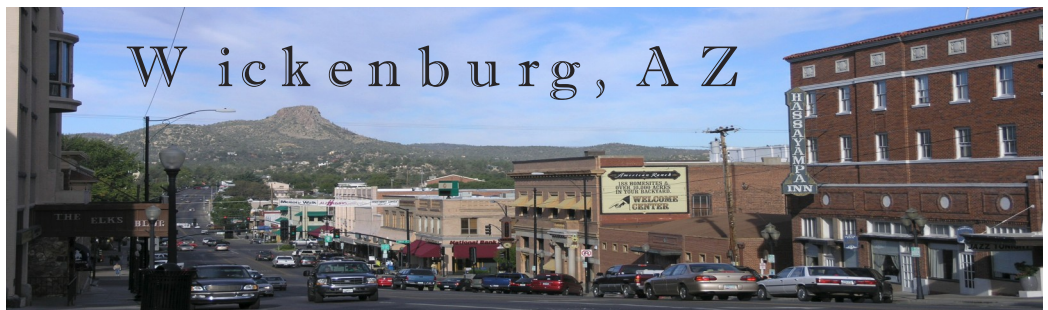
Click on performers  
and read their bios.  
We are talking big  
time talent.

This may just be the event of the year. And to think, it has been hidden away all this time in **Apache Junction, AZ**. Dress up and come get into the Christmas spirit-hear the classics both secular and non-secular put on by the most talented musicians in the valley. Great music, great food! Hey, it is only October and this *matinee show* is already sold out.

Tuesday

January 12, 2016

"A Day in  
Wickenburg, AZ"



The rich mining town of Wickenburg, AZ is a testament to the hardy resolve of the gold rush dreamers who flocked to the area in the 1800's. Our day will be packed with things to do. Final agenda items have not yet been finalized, so look for confirmed details in the Club's November Newsletter.

**FALL & WINTER SCHEDULE 2014-2015****Tuesday****February 9, 2016****"Sun Lakes by Coulter"  
Oakwood Country Club**

This is a Coulter Cadillac, Buick/GMC - Tempe "dealer sponsored event" which will feature Greg DePaola's famous luncheon with a beef carving station and buffet. The GM speaker will be Mark Johnson, Engineer, Operational Excellence Champion .

**Tuesday****March 8, 2016****Phoenix Stadium**

We are currently in talks with the management of the Phoenix Stadium for a tour with lunch or dinner at a nearby restaurant. If you remember, the unique thing about this stadium is the grass floor which is rolled into the stadium on game day. Plus, it is the home field for the Phoenix Cardinal football team. Finalized information will be provided in the Club's January Newsletter.

**MEMO****March 2016**

***The 2016 March Golf Outing*** will be held in Scottsdale this year. Details have not been finalized as of this date, but will be provided to you as soon as they are available.

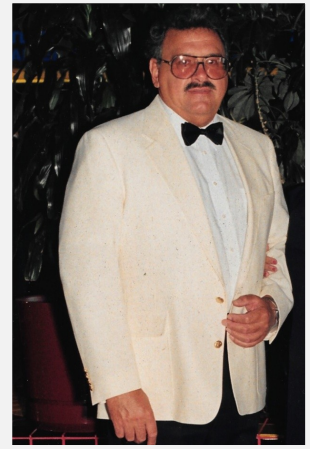
**Tuesday****April 5, 2016****SPECIAL EVENT**

Jim Harshman & Jon Moss have now completed their cost analysis for the following proposed April "special one day events" and will deliver the information to you in a special email/ mailing early in October. We will be seeking your input as to which event interests you the most, because we can only do one of them. Popular opinion will drive the selection of the location. At the November Pebble Creek meeting we will offer you an opportunity to sign up.

1. ***A Day In Sedona:*** Side trips to Oak Creek Canyon, wine country or city "hop on" - "hop off" tours followed by dinner at a local resort hotel.
2. ***Verde Canyon Railroad Tour followed by dinner and a stage show at the Blazin' M Ranch .***
3. ***Pima Air & Space Museum/Boneyard Tours, the Mission San Xavier del Bac followed by dinner at the Westward Look Wyndham Resort and Spa.***

**MARY ELLEN STEPANICH**

Mary Ellen is the surviving spouse of a Delco Electronics Division Engineer who joined the GM Retirees Club of Arizona after being introduced to the group several years after the passing of her husband in 1999. Her husband, Michael, joined GM after a four year enlistment period in the U. S. Air Force. He began working for A. C. Spark Plug in Milwaukee, WI and later was transferred to Delco Electronics in Kokomo, IN until he retired after 35 years of service in 1990. Michael was both an electrical and mechanical engineer. His Delco business team was credited with two outstanding accomplishments; 1.) Created the inertial guidance system that took the Apollo spacecraft and Neil Armstrong to the surface of the moon in 1969. 2.) Created the theft deterrent systems on U.S. and Japanese automobiles. Mary Ellen and Michael were married in 1983 and he became her handsome loving husband until he passed away of a heart attack at their home in Peoria, Arizona at the age of 66. You can read more about their love story in her memoir book entitled "D is for Dysfunctional...and Doo Wop!"



**Mary Ellen Blevins Stepanich** was born at home in the small rural town of Fort Branch, Indiana on January 8, 1940...during the Great Depression and WWII. Her parents were very poor, but hard working people. Dad worked mostly as a hired farm hand, but did work at odd jobs and in a few small plants in surrounding communities. Mom was primarily a "stay-at-home" mom, but occasionally would work outside the home when needed. However, Mom was very musically inclined, played the guitar and harmonized with friends which had a profound impact on eventually shaping Mary Ellen's life as you will see later on in this article.

Mary Ellen was not an only child, but had a younger brother. Bill was a very talented musician and very smart. He became a Doctor of Veterinarian Medicine with a degree from Purdue University, earned a Masters Degree in Radiology from Iowa State University, then was hired at Purdue's School of Veterinary Medicine where he became the youngest full professor in the history of the department. Eventually, he became the head of the Radiology Department (Diagnostic Imaging) and received many awards. Now, are you beginning to get the drift that the Blevin family may have had a few "extremely smart/musically talented" members? If so, read on.

Mary Ellen had no problem with pulling top grades in elementary school. In fact, she was able to skip a grade and began singing in a quartet at the age of 12 years old. Music became more part of her life in high school and she became an accomplished pianist, not to mention the fact that she was also valedictorian of her senior class earning a full ride to Indiana State Teachers College. In college, she minored in music - piano and joined the Sigma Kappa Sorority to further advance her music and theater career. Mary Ellen's notable academic achievements from 1961-1986 were many; Bachelor of Science, Indiana State College (1961), Masters of Business Administration, Indiana State University (1964), and Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Behavior, Purdue University (1986).

**MARY ELLEN STEPANICH**

Now, let's take a look at what her credentials have enabled her to achieve through her professional work career and volunteerism history:

***Work History:***

Pair School of Business, Chicago, IL - business teacher, 61-63

North Vermillion County Secondary School, Clinton, IN - Business teacher, 63-64

U. S. Navy Public Works Center - Information specialist and newsletter editor, 65-69

Western State University School of Law - Registrar and Director of Admissions, 71-80

Purdue University-Adjunct Professor, Asst. Professor, Tenured Assoc. Professor 83-90

Western International University-Professor and Assoc. Dean of Curriculum, 91-98

***Additional Professional and Volunteerism History:***

Member, Sweet Adelines International (Women singers organization) 72-Present

Director, Star City Chorus, Sweet Adelines, Lafayette, IN, 86-90

Director, Cactus Country Chorus, Sweet Adelines, Glendale, AZ, 95-2000

Region 21 Management Team, Sweet Adelines, 95-99

Board of Directors, Sweet Adelines International Headquarters, 99-2000

International Faculty Member, Sweet Adelines, 97-2006

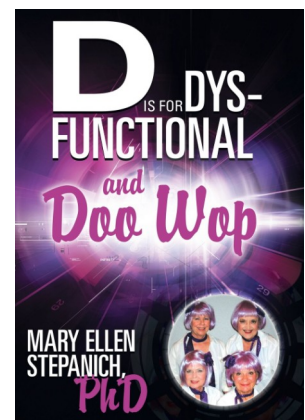
Faculty, International Education Symposia, including Auckland, New Zealand and Sydney, Australia, 2000



Reader & Broadcaster, Sun Sounds of Arizona, radio for blind & print disabled, 2003-present

Interviewer and Researcher, Sun Health Research Institute, 2010-Present

Lead singer in the Comedy Barbershop Quartet - Lilac Crazy - Present.



Authored two books: Her Memoirs entitled "D is for Dysfunctional and Doo Wop" - 2013 and a novel "Doo Wops in Paradise" 2015.

## MARY ELLEN STEPANICH

**Memorable Events:**

Being selected as a finalist in the Harvest Moon Festival singings contest in Chicago, IL - 1961 and being interviewed on the John Doremus radio program.

Breaking her nose while photographing avionics equipment on the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy, 1967.

Becoming Quartet Champion, Regional 21, Sweet Adelines, 1980

Winning Sweet Adelines International competition with San Diego Chorus in 2001, Portland, OR

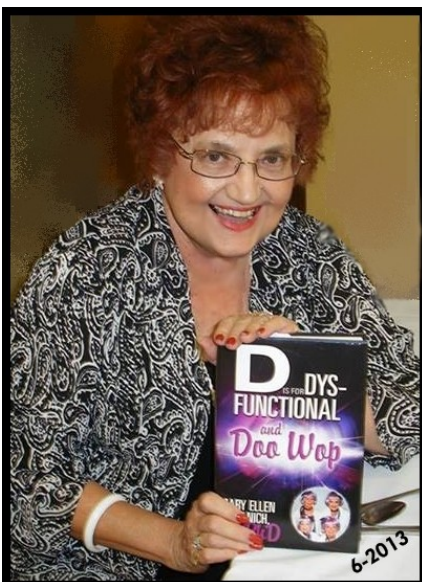
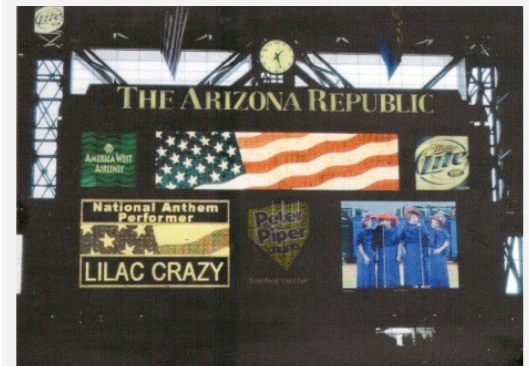
Winning Golden Mic Award in 2006 as Volunteer of the Year at Sun Sounds of Arizona.

Winning Program of the Year Award in 2006 from International Association of Audio Information Services for her narrative reading of Ann Rice's "Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt."

Winning Program of the Year Award in 2010 from International Association of Audio Information Services, for her radio play she wrote, entitled, "Voices From the Front".

Directing the Cactus Country Chorus in a show at the Maas-tricht Performing Arts Center, and singing the National Anthem at the U.S. Military Cemetery, in the Netherlands.

Singing the National Anthem with my quartet, Lilac Crazy, in Bank One Ballpark, with Senator John McCain in the audience and seeing my face on the big screen.



In closing, I would be remiss if I didn't tell you that not all of Mary Ellen's life was a bowl of roses, by any means. She would be the first to tell you that very early in her life she felt like she had been "value programmed", not for success, but for failure. Her entire life she has faced struggles being accepted by peers, to be heard and heeded by parents, teachers and relatives, and to be appreciated for the person she was, deep inside, by a multitude of husbands and lovers. With a little bit of mental mining of memories, she was forced to come face to face with the cause of her life-long struggles for normalcy.

Mary Ellen has written her memoirs in a book entitled, "D is for Dys-functional and Doo Wop" which is available for sale on Amazon. It

**MARY ELLEN STEPANICH**

shows what she had to battle to become relatively happy and content with her life. I have read Mary Ellen's book twice and consider her memoir to be more of a "how-not-to-book" rather than a "how-to-book" - specifically, how not to program your children to be dysfunctional adults who will make disastrous choices. It is also a "how-to-book" - how to live alone and lead a healthy, happy, and useful life as a single woman, either through choice or widowhood. She also has a "blog" which deals with the same subject. Visit her at [www.maryellenstepanich.com/blog](http://www.maryellenstepanich.com/blog). So, check them out...it's a fast read, but extremely insightful, plus now you can "blog-a-long".

**DOO WOPS  
IN PARADISE**

a Lilac Crazy Quartet novel

by

Mary Ellen Stepanich, Ph.D.



In addition, please look for Mary Ellen's new novel to be out soon. "Doo Wops in Paradise".

**MEMO:** The file size for this publication became too large for the inclusion of the results of the "Members And Their Pets" Competition, therefore, they will be published in the Club's November eNewsletter which is due out around October 15th. Thanks for your understanding.



## PICNIC IN THE PARK—REGISTRATION FORM



**Date :** October 20, 2015  
**Location:** Beardsley Park  
 12755 Beardsley Rd  
 Sun City West, AZ  
**Time:** 10:30 AM Arrival

**Cost:** \$15.00 per person

### Menu:

Sliced Beef Brisket  
 Pulled Pork  
 Mashed Potatoes & Gravy  
 BBQ Baked Beans  
 Dinner rolls with butter  
 Coffee, Iced tea, soft drinks,  
 Wine, beer and water  
 Cake and Cookies



Located at the corner of Beardsley and 128th Ave. Enter parking lot from Beardsley Road. Just follow the **BLUE BALLOONS**.

From the East, take the 101 Loop to W. Bell Road and travel West to N. El Mirage and turn right (North). Travel a short distance to the first left turn which is W. Groves Ave. Go left for approximately 100 yards and turn right onto N. Old El Mirage Road to the first stop sign which is Beardsley Road. Turn left and within two or three blocks you will see the entrance to the parking lot for the Center. Look for the **Blue Balloons** that mark the entrance to the parking lot and proceed to the rear of the lot.



**MEMO:** Should you have a "special meal request", please notify Jim Smeets at (623) 584-6709. We will do everything possible to have Dillon's fill your request. This is a 32% reduction in your cost due to the event being approved by the Board as a "Club Subsidized Event". In other words...your 50/50 drawing monies in action. Be sure to continue to play 50/50 so we can keep the savings coming.

**RESERVATION DEADLINE:** Please return this form no later than **October 16, 2015**

**Make checks payable to GM Retirees Club of Arizona**

**Picnic Cost** is \$15.00 per person X \_\_\_\_ persons in party = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Significant Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Should you not have received this newsletter in time to meet our deadline and still wish to attend, you can call Jim Irwin at (586) 530-7761 and he will make arrangements for you to pay at the picnic.

Please mail your reservation form to

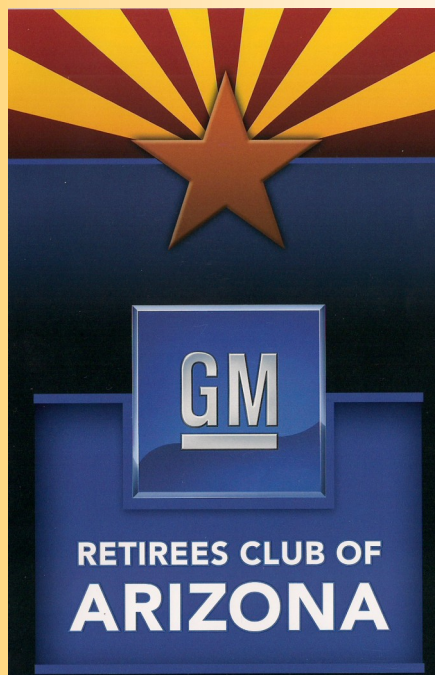
Jim Irwin, 535 Topeka Dr., Wickenburg, AZ 85390



**"Picnic In The Park"**

[www.GMRetireesAZ.com](http://www.GMRetireesAZ.com)

## GM RETIREE CLUB



" A G M R E T I R E E S C L U B O F A R I Z O N A P U B L I C A T I O N "

Designed by Diane E. Harshman

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