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The Village Voices

by

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Last night over 700 residents of The Villages and surrounding environs were treated to a delicious array of music ranging from the High Church's majestic rendition of "Almighty God" to Fievel's hauntingly beautiful "Somewhere Out There" from the movie "The American Tail," and many genres in between. If you missed this concert by the 130 person Village Voices Chorale you'll have to wait until fall to hear them again. Your loss.

Under Dr. Sandra Willetts coaxing, cajoling, seducing and humorous leadership this premiere group of singers gave a professional performance that had the overflow audience clapping before the songs had ended and demanding more. The line began forming before 5 pm and by the time the doors opened at 6:15 pm for the 7:00 pm start, the sidewalk and street outside the Church On The Square were filled with music lovers wanting to hear the VV's final performance of the 2005-2006 season.

As a member of this fine musical group I can attest to the sincere appreciation of the Chorale for the ongoing support of the community. Full houses are the norm and afterwards it does our hearts good to hear audience members talking among themselves re-living the performance one song at a time... gushing on how "this" song gave them chills and "that" song made them think fondly of days gone by. Thank you all from each of us who put all we've got into each song especially for you. Please continue to be part of our audience.

Judy and I were fortunate to meet two of our audience members while standing in line at Toojay's restaurant for a late dinner. Pat and Rob, from Michigan, said they enjoyed the concert very much and invited us to sit with them for dinner, which we did. Their obvious musical astuteness aside, these lovely people, who are "Winter Residents" of The Villages, take advantage of the amenities offered here as much as possible and Pat sings Lead in The Bell Chords, a ladies Barbershop Music chorus in The Villages.

Both Rob and Pat list Golf as a favorite past-time and Judy and I are looking forward to meeting them on the links in the near future. They will probably return to their Detroit suburb home the first week in May and are torn between leaving the friends they've made here and returning to their roots planted deep in Michigan. As are most of the people we meet here, Rob and Pat are genuinely friendly and kept us laughing during the short time we had with them. We hope to spend more time in their company in the future.

Golf was the subject of my article last week and raised its popular head in our conversation with Rob and Pat last night. Rob and I discovered from our conversation that the attitude and goals

of women in playing golf are drastically different than that of men. We also discovered that for the health and happiness of a marriage any husband who is allowed to accompany his wife on the golf course should be aware of those differences prior to the game commencing and keep them in mind throughout the round. In an independent study of my own I have found that 87.8% of men agree with these findings so guys please pay attention. Please allow me this disclaimer as well... there are exceptions to all rules of thumb concerning anything women think or purport to think, on any subject, and that the female gender has the uncontested right to even change the rules as they see fit or deem necessary. It must also be understood that with any group of women the rules set forth herein could vary in correlation to and proportionately to the actual number of women in the group.

Rule number 1- *Never*, unless specifically asked by the spouse, suggest the proper club that should be used for a particular shot.

Rule number 2- *Never*, tell your spouse that she “lifted her head,” or “didn’t follow through,” or “had too much club” at the end of any shot which resulted in a topped or otherwise mis-directed ball.

Rule number 3- *Never*, while preparing for a putt, should you advise your spouse to take in consideration anything to suggest the ball might not actually do anything but go straight to the hole.

Rule number 4- *Never*, after putting the ball, suggest she hit the ball with more finesse if the ball should run 10 or more feet beyond the hole.

Rule number 5- *Never*, after her drive, tell your wife she had a great shot if the ball ends up anywhere other than where they thought it should have gone. Especially if you don’t know where she thought it should go.

Rule number 6- *Never*, especially if playing within a foursome including other women, show your wife courtesies that would directly relate to her gender or spousal affiliation. No favoritism must be shown at all.

And finally,

Rule number 7- *Never*, unless otherwise advised by your spouse, fail to count each and every stroke she may take from tee to holing out, or suggest that a 6 inch putt is a “gimmee.” Allow her the right, nay the privilege, of hearing her ball rattle in the cup as a result of her own stroke.

As I end this article I would like to emphasize that the above mentioned information was derived from conversations and input from men with whom I’ve played in the past and has no relationship whatsoever to any actual personal experience of my own. See you next week.