



SARAH CORSON CHILD CARE & LEARNING CENTER

August 2023 Newsletter



CLOSED for Staff in-service

A reminder, we will be **CLOSED Thursday, August 3 and Friday, August 4** for our annual staff in-service days. We will be attending a training, rearranging some areas of the Center, and planning curriculum for the upcoming year.

Date Change – Pre-K Graduation Party

Due to many scheduled family vacations in late July, *we have moved our Pre-K Graduation Party to Thursday, August 31 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.* We will be doing water play, playing games, and having a special treat. We hope all graduates can join us!

CLOSED for Labor Day

A reminder, we will be **CLOSED Monday, September 4** in observance of Labor Day.

New System

We have launched new child care management software to help us streamline the logistics of our program. The billing portion of Brightwheel rolled out in late July, and as of Monday, August 7, we hope to ask parents and guardians to sign children in and out electronically. A tablet will be placed in each classroom for this purpose, as well as for use in communicating with families.

We are excited to get to know this program and all it has to offer! We ask for your patience as we make this transition. Please see me if you have any questions!



#1 Platform for Early Education

Welcome Lisa!

We would like to welcome Lisa, our new Pre-K Aide, to the Sarah Corson Center! Lisa comes to us with experience working in her Church Child Care, as well as with experience as a mom. Lisa's references all said she is "sweet as can be." We agree.

—Jaime Snider, director

Director emeritus

By PAULETTE AVERY



Lynn Sjolund in his conductor days

After graduating from the University of Oregon with a degree in music and music education, Lynn Sjolund, a native of Olympia, Wash., got his first music job teaching in Lebanon, Ore. A few years into his time there, a friend suggested he consider moving to Medford. Lynn didn't follow up on that until a 1956 call from the Medford School Superintendent. It was a job offer, including agreeing to hold open the job until Lynn was free to come about four weeks later. During his visit, he saw the junior high musical -- he says it was spectacular -- and he agreed to take the job as choral director at Medford High School.



Lynn Sjolund

At that time, it was somewhat of a tradition for the high school choral teacher to also direct the choir at First Presbyterian. Lynn took the church position and led both the chancel choir and a youth choir that sang each week at the early service. A highlight of his years as choir director was putting on a performance of *Amahl and the Night Visitors* with both choirs. Current members Kathy Gordon, Ann Lowe, John Frohnmayer, Eric Smith, and Ginni Peterson were part of that production. Lynn also served several terms on Session.

At the urging of a group of choir members, Lynn founded the Rogue Valley Chorale, currently celebrating its 50th anniversary. During his tenure as director, Lynn took the chorale on seven trips to Europe and a performance at Carnegie Hall! He retired from the chorale 10 years ago after 40 years on the podium. He has been directing the chorus at Rogue Valley Manor since 2014, thus continuing to do what he loves.

During his long and illustrious career, Lynn served as president of both the Oregon Music Directors Association and the Northwest Music Educators Association. He also received an award from the Northwest Choral Directors Association and was the U of O Distinguished Alumnus in 2014, the only music major ever honored. The Oregon chapter of American Choral Directors Association named Lynn to their Hall of Fame in 2021.

He and his wife Doris, who often plays the piano and organ for us, have been married for 52 years.

Sitting pretty in Kataka



Ready for pickup in Monrovia

Thank you, First Presbyterian. The chairs for God's Children Worship Center which you purchased have arrived in Kataka, Liberia. And they are in use as you read this. It took an international currency transaction, and the good graces of a Kataka truck driver to make it happen.



The July chair celebration

The colorful resin chairs were purchased in Monrovia, Liberia's capital city, about an hour's drive from Kataka. Bob Frey, chair of our Mission Committee, reports that Pastor Romeo Blessing and the truck driver had to go to Monrovia to cash the money order we sent, it couldn't be processed in Kataka, a city of about 35,000 people in the middle of Liberia's rubber plantation country. Pictures of the chairs, and of a celebration by the children, arrived here about two weeks ago.