



Patricia Steele | Daily Sun

Barbara Underwood, hula instructor, center, taught Sue Knutson, Carole Iberer, Gay Ratcliff-Seamens and Pat Cronenberg several hula moves.



The Villages Philharmonic Orchestra will perform a range of concerts this season at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center. Submitted photo

The Villages Philharmonic Set to Open Its 2018-19 Season

Ensemble will open with a pops concert Sept. 2 at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

By KRISTEN FIORE
Daily Sun Senior Staff Writer

Fill your ears, enhance your mind and enrich your soul with the music of The Villages Philharmonic Orchestra.

From popular tunes and operatic melodies to classical scores and holiday music, fans of the philharmonic are in for a well-rounded musical experience this season.

Even though the VPO has been between seasons, members of the orchestra have stayed active this summer.

VPO founder and conductor Pasquale Valerio has filled the months with traveling and music, from attending a festival in California to guest conducting orchestras in Italy.

Vocalists and musicians of the VPO put on a summer

concert series at Temple Shalom. The series will end at 7 p.m. Aug. 26 with "Tanglissimo," a concert of music by Bach, Chopin, Piazzolla and Srebrakowski.

Then, the VPO will open its 2018-19 season with a pops concert at 7 p.m. Sept. 2 at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

"We will have a fantastic team of Florida guest singers," Valerio said. "It will be mostly American music and medleys. We celebrate any kind of genesis."

The pops concert will be followed by an opera gala in October, Part I of Handel's Messiah in November and two holiday concerts in December.

Later in the season, the orchestra will perform more classical, pops and opera concerts.

Individual tickets, which range in price from \$25 to \$65, are on sale for all shows. Tickets can be purchased online at thevillagesentertainment.com or at any Villages Box Office location.

Valerio said his goal for the

THE VILLAGES PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA'S 2018-19 SEASON

- All shows at 7 p.m.
- Sept. 2:** Pops Concert
- Oct. 7:** Opera Gala
- Nov. 13:** Handel's Messiah, Part I
- Dec. 13-14:** Holiday Concerts
- Jan. 7:** Classical Concert
- Feb. 13:** Celebration of Pops Music
- March 18:** Classical Concert
- April 15:** Classical Concert
- May 13:** Magical Moments of Opera Scenes

season is to provide audiences with great music in a range of genres.

"I love The Villages and I love the audience there," Valerio said. "I always wish to increase the audience and to reach new residents of The Villages. I encourage everyone to experience the VPO."

LovExtension Inc. Enjoys Rotary Luau

The Wednesday party included Hawaiian-themed food, decorations and hula dancing.

By PATRICIA STEELE
Daily Sun Senior Writer

A taste of Hawaii came to Lake Miona Recreation Center on Wednesday evening.

Table decorations were bright and colorful. Guests wore brightly colored clothing and leis, and local instructor Barbara Underwood gave a demonstration on hula dancing. Spam, a reported favorite of Hawaiians, was served as one of many appetizers.

The Evening Rotary Club of The Villages' annual luau and barbecue for LovExtension Inc. clients is one of several ways the club supports the nonprofit.

Linda Krupski started LovExtension several years ago to provide social and well-being visits for local residents who do not have much support. The Evening Rotary club began supporting Krupski three years ago.

Elaine Stein, one of LovExtension's clients, enjoyed watching the hula demonstration.

"My health hasn't always been good, but I'm doing better now," said Stein, of the Village Del Mar. "It was a blessing to have Kathy (Wall, with LovExtension) stay in touch with me while I was dealing with cancer and chemotherapy and all the issues that come with it."

The Rotary members make a big difference for the clients, Krupski said. They

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EVENING ROTARY CLUB OF THE VILLAGES

Meetings: 5 p.m. Wednesdays at Lake Miona Recreation Center, 1526 Buena Vista Blvd.

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1509, Lady Lake, FL 32158

food, and the Rotary Club has been an important part of helping meet those needs, she said.

Rotarian Ava Norris, of the Village De La Vista, coordinates the club's volunteer work with the food pantry.

"I've only been with Rotary for about year, but I love how involved we are in the community and around the world," Norris said. "That was the draw for me."

Norris is excited about another new project that includes Rotarians. Rotary members will visit LovExtension clients on their birthdays.

"A lot of times there is no family close by and their birthdays aren't remembered," Norris said. "We'll visit them and take a little gift and a card. We just want to make them feel special."

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host a summer party and a Christmas party, help with food packing, and perform handyman tasks such as yard work and minor repairs for some of the homebound clients.

Krupski was concerned no one would come to the first party the club hosted for LovExtension.

"But in talking with the clients, I found they were thrilled to be asked to a party," Krupski said. "Often as people age, they can do less and are sometimes alone, and they get forgotten."

She and her volunteers try to make sure that doesn't happen.

LovExtension has grown as Krupski has learned of additional needs from working with her clients. There is often a need for extra food, incontinence supplies and even pet



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