

Meet Carol Chesney – Soprano 2



Tell us about your childhood.

I grew up in the most northern part of the Bronx, called Woodlawn. (near Yonkers)

I was the youngest of 3 girls.



Age 3 - in a park Chester (Bronx)

I had my grandparents around, plus aunts, uncles, and cousins. Got tons of love.



1948 - Age 2 on top of TV Dad had made

What song brings back childhood memories? My dad was a bass (couldn't remember lyrics!) but knew "True Love" sung by Bing Crosby and Grace Kelly.

He also sang "On the Sunny Side of the Street."

My mom was a concert pianist. She could change keys automatically. Then later played all music without any sheet music at all.



Age 6

What started your interest in music and singing?

*I learned to play a piano accordion, and from there could play chords on piano, by ear. At 13 years old, I saw **Sound of Music**, with Mary Martin, at Lunt Fontaine Theatre in NYC. That's where my love of singing really began. So, my mom found a classical voice teacher at an academy in the Bronx. I would take a bus every Saturday to learn. But I was hooked on musical theatre.*

When did you become involved with the WVC?

I joined West Valley Chorale in 2016.

What's the most satisfying thing about singing with WVC?

The quality level of it all. Amazing voices surround me. Not many folks seem to like this kind of music, but I'd love to see a return to the excellence of it, especially for seniors. It's exciting! The oneness of mind to make the best sound ever!

Who is your favorite composer(s), and why?

My favorite composer is Anton Bruckner, born in Austria. Great harmonies!

Do you have a hobby(ies)?

Of course, musical comedy.



Singing "Cain't Say No" at the Stardust



Singing "Broadway Baby" at Stardust

"Nowadays" from Chicago



Singing "Honeybun"

I also love playing bridge, baking, and healthy cooking. I love to discover homemade recipes, no processed foods.

What's the best thing you've read in the last five years?

The Bible, always!!

What is your favorite movie of all time?

*As a kid, **One Touch of Venus** with Ava Gardner and Robert Walker. **Sea Biscuit** with Jeff Bridges and Tobey McGuire. That movie is full of morals and life lessons.*

What is the best concert you have ever been to?

As a 20-year-old I saw Tony Bennett at the Copa in NYC, then again 40 years later at Mohegan Sun in Connecticut, in a huge arena. He was better than ever!!

What would you sing at Karaoke night?

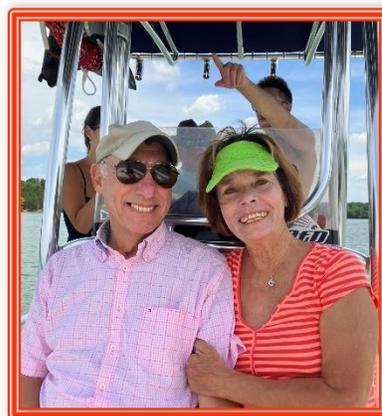
If I did sing karaoke, I'd sing a Broadway tune, something lively and strong.

What is on your bucket list?



Zip Lining

I don't really have a bucket list. We've been so



On a boat in Nashville



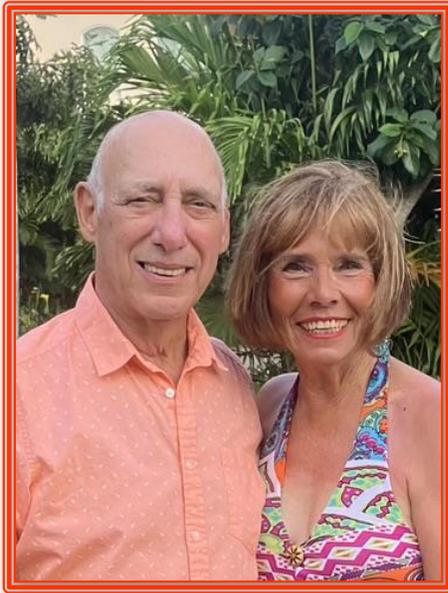
Hiking in Scotland

blessed with travels over the years.

My desire is to love folks up a lot, the way Jesus loves them. And help where I can.

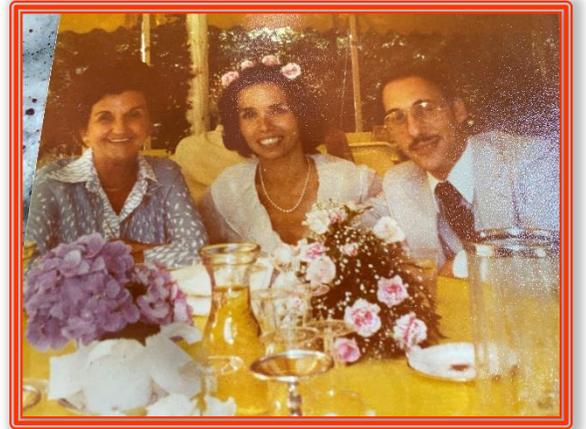
What are you most thankful for?

I am most thankful for God choosing me.



At a Wedding

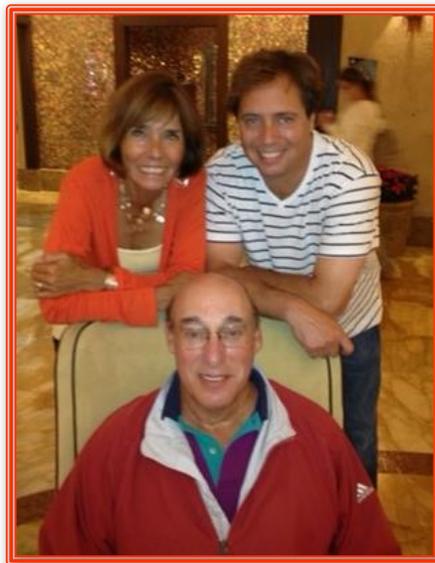
Then He gave me a terrific devoted husband (married 58 years) and we have 4 grown kids. Soooo much to be grateful for!



Wedding - Age 30



With Granddaughter



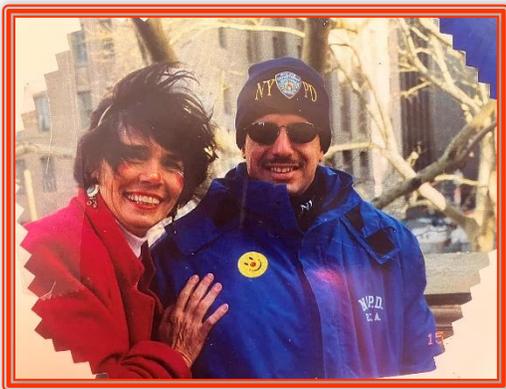
With Son and Husband

What is something people would never guess just by looking at you?

There's probably nothing hidden about me. I worked on my shyness from the time I was 13-14 years old, and never went back.

What are you most proud of yourself for?

I am proud of my life, once I became a Christian at 33 years of age. Then by the time I was around 47, I became totally sold out to Jesus. I like to bring joy into people's lives.



Nov. 2001 after 9-11

A life changing event for me was when I volunteered down in NYC after 9/11. 10 yrs before that, I trained to be a hospital clown.

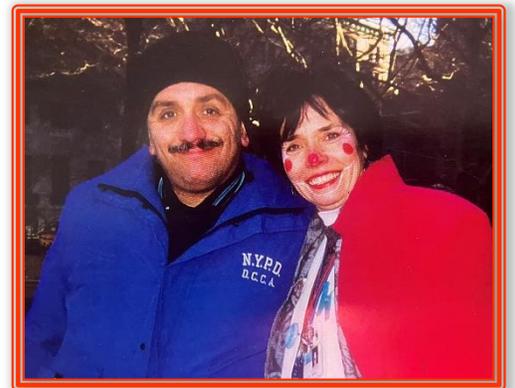
So, we decided to train down the city from November until April, and loved folks up at the disaster

centers. Stickers, bubbles, just gently patting their backs.

And hugs! It was amazing,



Nov. 2001 after 9-11



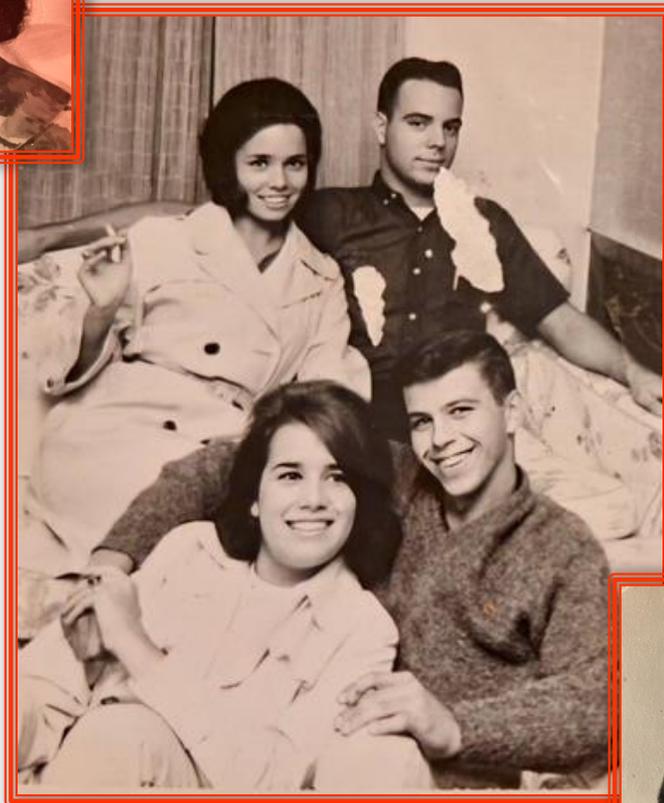
Nov. 2001 after 9-11

tough, but wonderful.

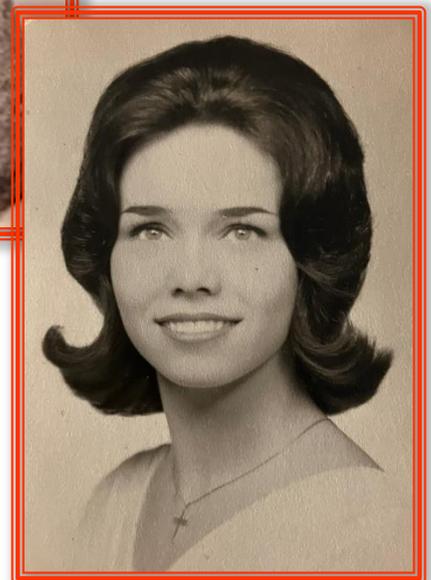
Additional Pictures



Age 15



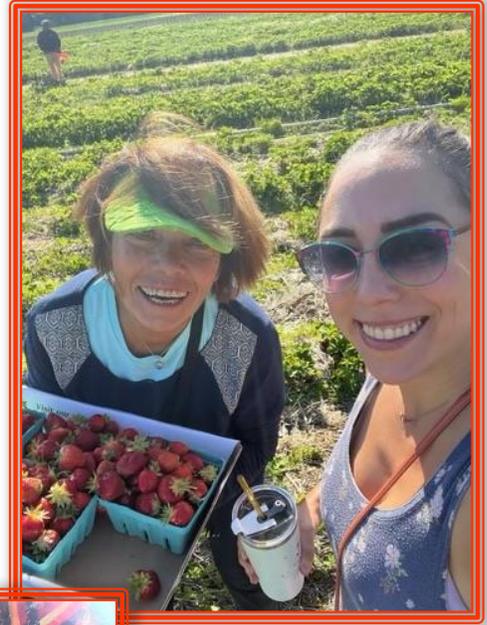
Being Cool at 16



High School



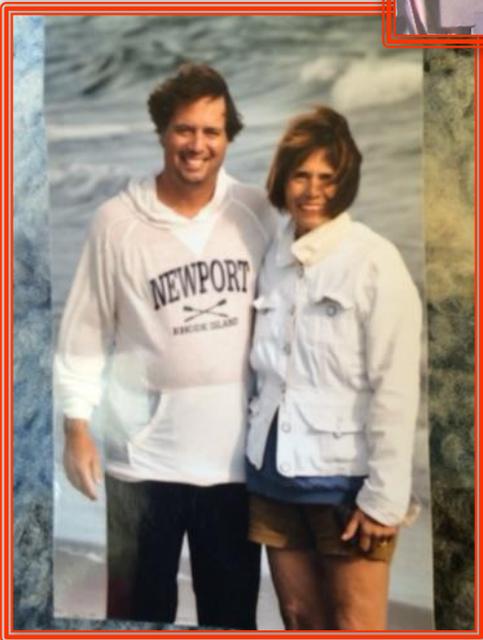
Hiking in Ireland



**Picking Strawberries in
Maine**



Singing at Italian Wedding



with son by ocean in Rhode Island



Rhode Island



78th in October

Meet Bob Walling – Tenor 1



Tell us about your childhood.

I was raised on a dairy farm in Illinois. The acres of open spaces and hours on a tractor allowed me to sing to my heart's content, play my trombone as loud as possible, and dream of faraway places I expected never to see.

What song brings back childhood memories?

The most memorable and still favorite song I love to sing is Mario Lanza's "Be My Love." When I saw him sing it in 1951 on our new TV, I said to myself, "I want to be like him."



Baby Bob with Mom, Dad, and 2 Older Sisters

Did you play any musical instruments or sing in school?

I played piano and trombone through two years after college when I taught elementary school music. Then I stopped. I still have the trombone. I have been a singer all my life and have expanded opportunities in retirement.



Bob's Family

What started your interest in music and singing?

My father promoted music to my two older sisters, younger brother, and me, and ensured that

we took piano lessons, played an instrument, and sang. He had a classical record collection of orchestra music that I listened to endlessly as a kid.

When did you become involved with the WVC?

*I joined the Chorale in the Spring of 2015 and was fortunate that first Spring to perform the **Beethoven Choral Fantasy** with the Scottsdale*

Philharmonic orchestra. I became President for the 2016-17 season. WVC was closer to home than other Arizona choruses I participated in.

What's the most satisfying thing about singing with WVC?

Performing classical choral music under Ken's direction with the great tenor section "small but mighty," and the West Valley Singers performances.

Who is your favorite composer(s), and why?

*Puccini Operas are gorgeous, and I love singing the Soprano and Tenor duets in concert. I hope to be able to sing the "O Mimi" duet from **La Boheme** in the West Valley Singer's concerts this season. Verdi and Mozart round out the big 3!*

Do you have a hobby?

Music and politics take up my time as I am President of a political club and perform as often as possible.



What's the best thing you've read in the last five years?

While I love fiction, reading musical scores, political, and investment news seems to absorb my time.



What is your favorite movie of all time?

*My earliest movie memory that has stuck with me all these years is **Singing in the Rain**.*

What is the best concert you have ever been to?

One in which I performed in 1963 in an Illinois State High School All-State Chorus under the directorship of Margaret Hillis, director of the Chicago Symphony Chorus with the All-State Orchestra in the original McCormick Place in Chicago. This was the first time I ever performed with an orchestra and was hooked.

What is on your bucket list?

Seeing my granddaughters graduate from high school, then college, and knowing they are established in life, my son and daughter in meaningful relationships,



The Walling Family

and that Suzi and I are able to age in place as long as possible. I've been fortunate to travel where I've most wanted and have the financial resources to give back and pay forward.



Bob and Suzi

What are you most thankful for?

My wife Suzi of 53 years, my son and daughter, and my granddaughters.

What is something people would never guess just by looking at you?

I grew up on a dairy farm and milked cows by hand.

What are you most proud of yourself for?

Rising from humble farm roots, achieving career and life success, and reading a letter from my father that I had achieved in life far more than he could have imagined, and that he was very proud of me.