

WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

Jack Benny Center for the Arts

PRESS RELEASE

Joseph A. Favero Memorial Do It Yourself *Messiah* and Carol Sing Along

Waukegan, IL (December 15, 2015) –The annual Joseph A. Favero Memorial Do It Yourself *Messiah* and Carol Sing Along will be held on Saturday, December 19, 2015 at 7pm at the First United Methodist Church, 128 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, Waukegan, IL. Tickets for the *Messiah* are available at the door or can be purchased in advance at the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, 39 Jack Benny Drive, Waukegan IL 60087. Tickets are general admission and cost \$15 each. Students, 18 and under are free. Scores are also available for purchase prior to and at the concert.

The Kenosha Chamber Choir will be joining the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus for the “Christmas Portion” of the *Messiah* and Carol Sing Along this year. Accompanying the chorus are area professional singers as the soloists. The tenor soloist is Nick Huff, a local favorite who first appeared with the chorus when he was 12 years old. Other soloists include: Laura Boguslavsky, mezzo-soprano, Leila Bowie, soprano and Bill McMurray, baritone. Each year, more than 350 people fill the church with Handel’s glorious music and Christmas Carols- a real holiday tradition in Waukegan that started in 2007.

Fellow commissioners wanted to memorialize Mr. Favero's contributions to Waukegan's cultural arts and determined the annual concert was a fitting tribute to him as a long term Waukegan Park District commissioner, arts advocate and beloved Waukegan High School music teacher. Joe Favero sang with the Waukegan Concert Chorus and played the trombone with the Waukegan Municipal Band.

The Messiah was composed in 1741 by George Frederic Handel, and was intended to be an Easter oratorio for orchestra, chorus and soloists. The music, however, has become more associated with the Christmas holiday season. The orchestra, chorus, four soloists and the conductor will fill the stage while the audience fills the house. Audience members may be seated according to voice range and will have the opportunity to sing along with the chorus. The front half of the church will accommodate patrons wanting to sing along with the choruses.

For additional information, please contact Ty Rohrer at 847-360-4749 or

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About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 48 sites and more than 725 acres of land, including the 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. Properties are managed to the highest environmental and conservation standards. Facilities operated by the district include the Field House Sports and Fitness Center, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, the Waukegan SportsPark, the Waukegan Skate Park, the Waukegan BMX Track, recreational centers, an outdoor swimming pool, disc golf course, dog exercise area and agility course, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports courts including basketball, tennis and pickleball. A full range of programs and services are offered year round for all ages, from infants to seniors as well as special needs populations. Healthy lifestyles, wellness initiatives, and a connection with the outdoors and nature are integrated throughout programs, services, and special events. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, the Bowen Park Theatre Company, and the Waukegan History Museum. There is something

for everyone! The award-winning District employs 59 full-time and over 250 part-time, year round, seasonal, and temporary employees. The District is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), and Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). The district maintains national accreditation from the NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), the Illinois Association of Park District (IAPD) Distinguished Agency accreditation and the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) accreditation and sustains a Level A Loss Control Program. The district was a NRPA Gold Medal Finalist in 2012 and 2013, and awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013.

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