

Special people celebrate a special anniversary



FRAN VALENCIC

Jack Starks knew it would be fun to join the enthusiasm of a live auction and bid on a dinner for four to 10 people at his home.

He won auction and invited 13 to a dinner to celebrate a special

occasion — his and Bev's 68th wedding anniversary, at the Venice Golf and Country Club.

Jack made the event more special by inviting **Jean Peters**, director of the **Venice Symphony** from 1992 to 2012, and former symphony board members, including **Eric Watters**.

Others at the dinner were **Ed and Betty Campbell**, **Jim and Linda Renz** and **Betty Castigliano**.

They each shared stories of former conductor **Wes Schumacher** and performing at the

Church of the Nazarene. **Jim Renz** talked about the construction of the Venice Performing Arts Center and **Ed Campbell** said that without a doubt the search for the new maestro was a highlight of his symphony work.

Happy Anniversary to **Jack and Bev Starks** and thank you for including us in your party.

Tuscan Gardens

"It's great to see the twinkle in their eyes," **Barbara Horswell** wrote when she described the newly formed Tuscan

Gardens Chorus, The Tuscanaires. The group performed at Tuscan Gardens with a reception in the Bistro followed.

Solos by **Ellen** and **Don** received warm applause. The Tuscanaires look forward to their Christmas concert and will invite the public to attend.

Two of our best

The special people of this week are **Jack and Bev Starks**. These two realize what a blessing it is to celebrate 68 years together. Jack and Bev

are regulars at many social events in town. They enjoy the Venice Theatre, both MainStage and Cabaret. They have been attending Venice Symphony concerts forever. They enjoy receptions at the Venice Art Center.

Bev and Jack especially value friends and family. Bev was thrilled recently when she received a call from someone she was classmates with in first grade. The classmate recognized Bev from a newspaper photo. Needless to say, they enjoyed a fun lunch.

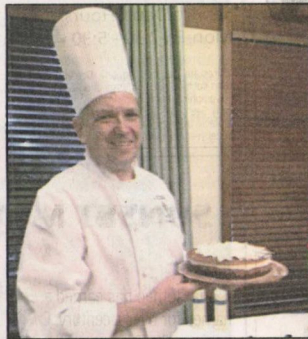
Bev and Jack seem to embrace life. They celebrate each day with joy and a smile. They are always ready with a nice word or a hug. They are a blessing to this community with all their volunteer work and with their always-warm, friendly spirit.

Jack and Bev Starks are two people who make Venice a great place to live.

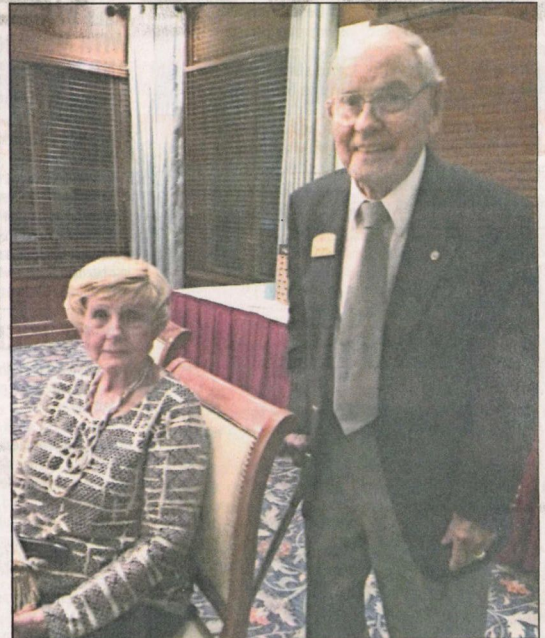
Fran Valencic is the social columnist for the Venice Gondolier Sun. She welcomes your tips and ideas. Contact her at franvalencic@comcast.net.



Ann Van —, left, and Dana — enjoy an afternoon choral concert at Tuscan Gardens.



Chef Jay of the Venice Golf and Country Club prepared a luscious chocolate mousse anniversary cake for Jack and Bev Starks' anniversary dinner. He covered it with white chocolate.



Left: At right: **Rose** presents choral director **Barbara Horswell** with a thank-you bouquet of roses. **Rose** initiated the idea of a Tuscan Gardens chorus and **Barbara** decided it was a good one and directed it.

Bev and Jack Starks celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary with friends, reminiscing about their years serving on boards, including the Venice Symphony.



Jean Peters talked about her more than 20 years as executive director of the Venice Symphony, seeing it grow to a level of prestige in Venice. Her stories included the petting zoo and concerts in the park. "This was a wonderful part of my life," she said.



The Tuscan Gardens Tuscanaires perform for about 50 friends and family. The concert included familiar tunes, such as "Let Me Entertain You," "Moon River" and "New York, New York."



Jerry and Dory enjoyed an afternoon of music at Tuscan Gardens. Jerry sings with the Tuscanaires.



Soloist Ellen sang a spectacular "Summertime" from "Porgy and Bess" at the Tuscan Gardens concert.