



Vaccine Clinic Results in Joyous Side Effects

Few of us realized when the week began that more than 350 individuals at VHRC would receive their first COVID-19 vaccine dose over the next few days. Yet that is exactly what happened. Prior to Monday, Virginia politicians and policy-makers announced that the COVID-19 vaccine would be administered to Group 1B, which includes individuals 65-years-old and older, starting that day. Yet, we at VHRC, had heard nothing. Disappointed with the lack of communication from CVS, our vaccine partner, VHRC's leaders called CVS and LeadingAge Virginia, an organization that supports non-profit senior living communities, all last weekend to determine when VHRC's next vaccine clinic would be. At no point during those phone calls were they told that CVS would be arriving Monday morning.

Nonetheless, on Monday morning, realizing that CVS was in fact on campus, VHRC's clinical team leapt into motion, organizing a vaccine clinic very quickly. Thankfully, all of the residents' vaccine consent forms had been completed, collected and organized days prior. From there it was a matter of contacting residents and informing them that – surprise! – they could receive their vaccine this week. Our residents, too, responded to this exciting but unexpected news with delight that the vaccine clinics were happening so quickly.

"This is organized so beautifully," said Sue



Clark of the surprise vaccine clinic. She went on to comment that she felt lucky to get the vaccine at this time while others around the country are uncertain when they will get it. "I have a friend in Florida. She thinks they are doing things so great there, but she can't get the vaccine."

"This [vaccination clinic] has been very well organized," said Janet Davenport. "I actually got a call to come up earlier than my original appointment."

"I am delighted to get it," said Sally Fellowes after receiving the vaccine. "And we've gotten it so fast. I wasn't expecting it. It's a real compliment to the VHRC administration. This has really been a group that has been on top of the problem since the very beginning. Nothing is missed, nothing is forgotten, nothing is overlooked. It's been a good experience overall, considering what we are dealing with."

In Perfect Harmony

For Joyce and Ray Lombardi, their passion for choral singing came later in life – in Paris. “We were at a Christmas party at the embassy,” says Joyce, recalling their last assignment in Ray’s Foreign Service career. “Everyone was gathered around a piano singing Christmas carols. Ray never had any training, but he had a wonderful voice and could really sing. Someone there invited him to join a French chorus, so we did. Neither of us had ever performed before.”

After retiring and moving back to this area, the couple found a new chorale group, NOVA Community Chorus, in 1997 – and their first gig was singing Mozart’s Requiem at Carnegie Hall. “We had lived in New York City when we were first married, so being on stage where we’d sat in the balcony watching shows years ago was quite an experience!” says Joyce. The Community Chorus has been their focus ever since. “We usually worked our plans around it because we didn’t want to miss any of the singing!” The 100-person choral group held eight concerts a year locally and also performed abroad, including as choir-in-residence at Gloucester Cathedral in England, and singing high masses at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome and Notre Dame in Paris.

Ray passed away in 2019, just weeks before Joyce moved into VHRC, “but I am so grateful for the wonderful life I had with him,” says Joyce, who credits Ray for getting her into choral singing. Their life together began as college sweethearts in Rhode Island, and went on to include



first jobs in Manhattan where Joyce tested textiles at Sears Roebuck’s lab, and State Department posts in Belize, Italy, The Hague, Belgrade and Paris. But these days, the Community Chorus, which meets virtually, is what Joyce cherishes most. This week, she is very happy to have joined the NOVA chorus class again. “I just like singing together with people who eventually become your friends.”

The Campus Voice

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