



# NEWSLETTER



## President's Message

Is Mu Phi Epsilon relevant today, or has it outlived its purpose and validity? At the time of its founding, many similar organizations also sprang up. The period of transition from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw many rapid changes in everyday life. Machines were replacing manpower, time and space barriers were shrinking, electric lights made nighttime hours productive and safer and audio and visual communications were made instantly possible over long distances. And yet, with all these revolutionary changes, came the human yearning to be thoroughly grounded in established, traditional, core values. Many organizations of

various motives and purposes were formed, in which almost all of them stressed the importance of camaraderie, mutual respect, adherence to founding principles, and a little bit of secrecy. Many were strictly social, and others were philanthropic. Most also had a common interest or profession shared by all the members.

In this climate, Mu Phi Epsilon emerged as an honorary fraternity (originally a sorority) based on the rule that harmony should extend beyond music analysis and applications and should govern all activities and relationships. Mu Phi's founding purpose, centered on music, was the development of friendship among its members, emphasis on high scholastic performance and, through performance and education, the promotion of music in the community. So, if friendly companionship, academic achievement, musical excellence and unselfish service are old fashioned and now obsolete, then yes, Mu Phi is obsolete. But even though society, as reported on the nightly news and in the daily papers, no longer appears to adhere to ideal standards, this does not make those standards invalid. Rather, many aspects of society need to be inspired by nobler ideals and wiser conduct and get back on track. Mu Phi can and does help.

## CALENDAR

**JANUARY 22<sup>nd</sup> – 10 AM**

**Board Meeting  
At Pat Maki's**

**FEBRUARY 8<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 PM**

**MUSICAL MOSAIC**  
Pat Harpole and Kathy Kerstein,  
Co-Chairpersons  
Rolling Hills United Methodist Church

**FEBRUARY 19<sup>th</sup> – 10 AM**

**Board Meeting  
At Pat Maki's**

**FEBRUARY 27<sup>th</sup> to MARCH 4**  
Celebration of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
International Competition Winner,  
Yukiko Sekino, Recitals & Masterclasses

*President's message cont.*

But if people buy into the notion that organizations such as Mu Phi have outlived their purpose and are no longer relevant, and therefore discontinue their involvement, the result will be huge deficiencies affecting many areas. To name a few: fund raising for vital music education programs; opportunities for music students to share their accomplishments; easily accessible, affordable concerts within the community; support, encouragement and financial assistance for music students to pursue further education or begin their careers. This is not to mention a loss of camaraderie, a loss of the spirit of fellowship which comes from joining hand in hand to accomplish worthwhile projects, a loss of deep-seated, sincere concern for fellow beings, a loss of motivation to improve the world and the people in it.

As I see it, Mu Phi and its sister organizations are even more relevant today than when they were founded. The formidable struggle to preserve our musical heritage, the economic crisis in education, the fracturing of society, the marginalization of many individuals, violence and intolerance, all need the benefits of individuals dedicated to Mu Phi and committed to upholding its purposes. "The Triangle" states it so well:

**Oh, tell us what this life would be if it were not for  
song,  
For music soothes the troubled heart, and makes  
our courage strong.  
But sad would all our music be if we knew not a  
friend.  
Our lives would very lonely be, our cares would  
never end.  
With Music, Friends and Harmony, our lives are  
filled with power,  
As music send us on our paths, and brightens ev'ry  
hour.  
Mu Phi, Mu Phi, Mu Phi Epsilon!**

**Mu Phi love to each of you,  
Darlene Vlasek**



It's time now to look forward to this year's Musical Mosaic. Please mark your calendars in big purple letters for **Friday, February 8, 2013 at 7:30 pm** in the sanctuary of Rolling Hills United Methodist Church. Here's what will happen:

Our MPE members, guest artists, and local students will present an excellent musical program whose proceeds raise money for the music programs of our local schools. We are thrilled about our 2013 roster of artists—several are winners of the prestigious Beverly Hills auditions. We will also feature the superb PV Peninsula High School Chamber Singers and Chamber Orchestra, and our own Mu Phi Four: Patricia Harpole, Pat Maki, Gail Gerding Mellert and Lois Tai.

This is our Chapter's primary fundraiser; we need your help to advertise and facilitate this wonderful event.

1. You have been sent several flyers and 5 tickets. Please post the colored flyers in highly visible, public spots (be creative). Then make copies of the white full- and half-sized flyers and give them to students, friends, and neighbors. Word of mouth from a trusted musician (that would be YOU) is the very best recommendation of the excellence of the Musical Mosaic.
2. **Please sell tickets!** You can collect the money yourself and turn it in to David Champion at the concert. David's contact info is (310) 545-3442 or (david@thechampions.com). Also—please pay for your own tickets!



3. If you know anyone who would like to purchase an ad for the program, please contact **Ramona Gifford** [(310) 377-7711 or [monagee@cox.net](mailto:monagee@cox.net)] or **Teddy Greenwald** [(310) 212-5788 or [tgmorosco@att.net](mailto:tgmorosco@att.net)]. Our goal is to pay for the printing of our programs with the ads, so please consider purchasing a business-card-sized ad or a half- or full-sized ad. **Time is of the essence; we need all ads by Wednesday, January 25.** Please contact Ramona or Teddy ASAP.

4. On the day of the concert, we also need your help, even if you absolutely must miss the actual concert. **Please bring a plate or tray of goodies**—cookies, fruit, crackers (with or without cheese)—to Rolling Hills United Methodist Church on Friday, February 8, any time from 4 pm until the concert begins.

If you have any questions, please email Kathy Kerstein at [kkerstein@cox.net](mailto:kkerstein@cox.net) or Pat Harpole at [g.harpole@verizon.net](mailto:g.harpole@verizon.net). Thank you for your help in making the 2013 Musical Mosaic a resounding success,

**Patricia Harpole and Kathy Kerstein  
Musical Mosaic Co-Chairs**

**Music Mosaic**

**Peet’s Coffee Fund Raiser**

We earned over **\$2800** this year, even surpassing last year! Many thanks to **Pat Maki** for organizing and to all who performed and contributed. In addition, there were many appreciative comments from Peet’s Customers.

*An email from Shirley Yamamoto on her experience at Peet’s*

Hi Pat and Darlene,

I went to play solo flute at Peets from 12:05pm-12:45pm today. I had such a great time! There were two ladies who were so delighted that they said they will come and hear others play the next couple of days. There was an outspoken gentleman who agreed with everything I said about public schools needing more funding for music programs and he was helping me out in trying to get donations. Three customers donated and one of the employess ended up donating. I had a great time talking and joking with the two ladies after I finished playing. I made my donation, bought some goodies for presents and I'm all set for Christmas.

I wish I could play again before the 24th, but I must leave for Sacramento.

Best wishes on a successful fundraising!

Shirley

# Chapter News and Issues

## Twelfth Night Party

A great success - Thanks to **Lenita** and **David**'s gracious hospitality. Although a fire was burning in the fireplace, the real warmth came from the spirit of friendship we all enjoyed. We even got to find out something new and different about one another and especially about our spouses. Interesting, amusing and touching!



Please continue to reach out to our members who are unable to attend meetings and/or need transportation.

**Mount Olive Community Children's Chorus** invites all music-loving children and youth age 5 to 15 to join. Registration starts from **January 14**, and weekly practice starts on Friday, **February 8** 4:30 to 6:00 pm. Please contact Lois Tai loisjtai@yahoo.com 310-377-0368 or visit [www.mountolivechurch.org/](http://www.mountolivechurch.org/) for registration form.

Location: Mount Olive Lutheran Church  
5975 Armaga Spring Road  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

### Important deadlines:

#### **Jan. 31 Mary Alice Cox Award**

Its purpose is the continued or renewed development or the mid-career transition in any field of professional music. Applicants must have been an alumni chapter or allied member for at least 10 years.

#### **March 1 Marian Bowker Davidson Collaborative Piano Award**

#### **March 1 Original Composition Contest**

Further details are available in the Fall 2012 issue of "The Triangle" and online at [MuPhiEpsilon.org](http://MuPhiEpsilon.org)



Twelfth Night Party

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