



# NEWSLETTER

*The Way We Were  
Reminding ourselves  
of where we have been*

## CALENDAR

**November 17 – 3 PM**

Founders Day

Home of Ramona Gifford

Hostesses: Jan Bunker, Helen Freeborn

**November 19 – 10 AM**

Board Meeting at Pat Maki's

**December 7 – 3 PM**

Young Performers Showcase

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, Lomita

**December 17 - 10 AM**

Board Meeting at Pat Maki's

**January 4, 2014 - 5 PM**

Chapter Twelfth Night Party

Home of Lenita McCallum

**Friday, February 7 - 7:30 PM**

Musical Mosaic

## President's Message

As the hobgoblins, ghouls and ghosts give way to turkeys, corn husks and cornucopia as October slips into November, we can anticipate the upcoming Holiday Season by recalling the many reasons we have for giving thanks. Individually, each of us can count multiple blessings that grace our lives, no matter how challenging life seems at times. As musicians, we have great cause for gratitude for music's joy and fulfillment that enlivens our spirit, satisfies our yearnings and fills our heart with song. As Mu Phi's, we have an added layer of enrichment in sharing our love of music with those of kindred tastes and desires.

Today, I received a call from a friend and former colleague, Janet Davidson, who had been a close associate in MTNA/CAPMT up until she and her husband moved to Colorado. She is the major driving force and president of the new alumni chapter in Colorado Springs, installed one year ago. Janet and her husband, Paul, are in California visiting their family. We chatted primarily about Mu Phi and our work in our respective chapters. Her new chapter has only 14 members but hopes to grow through the same measures our chapter is pursuing: re-engaging unaffiliated members living in the area and seeking prospective members to bring in through Special Election.

One of the points Janet and I shared about Mu Phi is the selfless purposes of its aims. Our quest to advance music locally and globally and to serve our community through music is truly noble and fundamentally altruistic. Granted, our chapter features some of our own members in our Musical Mosaic and we program our members to perform at our meetings. But this is part of the goal to advance music and the performers receive no monetary compensation. Unlike the music teachers associations and other related organizations to which many of us belong, Mu Phi's primary purposes are not to provide events and activities which bring personal gain to its members in the form of students, income, certification, etc. Yes, Mu Phi certainly promotes and provides professional development and education in addition to performance opportunities for our members, but our

## International Convention, 2014 July 29 to August 2, Sacramento, CA

chapter's emphasis is to enrich our community's cultural climate and to provide support for public schools' music education and experiences. We work hard to achieve those goals but realize no personal material benefits. Ah, but the satisfaction that comes from devoting our energies to keeping music alive for the next generation more than rewards our efforts. Please think about these ideas and consider those around you who could possibly join Mu Phi, either as a member or as a patron. You may submit their names to our Membership Chair, Teddy Greenwald, or to our Patrons Chair, Pat Arand.

Our international convention will be next summer, July 29 to August 2 in Sacramento. There are many opportunities to be involved. Please see the announcements in this newsletter and consider how you might participate. The fact the convention is in our state, and we are one of the largest alumni chapters, implore that we should be well represented!!!

Many thanks to all who planned, organized and participated in our October 20 meeting. We were treated to a delightful musical program thanks to outstanding clarinetist Nancy Carr, masterfully accompanied by Denise Peykanu and to pianist Akiko Dohi whose personal charm infuses her music with enchantment and warmth. Pearl Kim provided her lovely home and Janice Champion, Mary Feyk and Noriko Sato prepared the delicious refreshments. The mini bio of our October Cameo gave us even more reason to love and appreciate Ramona Gifford.

### Yearbook Corrections:

Please correct the names of our two new Honorary Patrons: They are Dr. Nancy Zinner and Michael Koth. Apologies to Nancy and Michael!

### Yearbook reminder:

Yearbooks are now available – if you do not have yours yet please make arrangements to get yours from Lois Tai.

### Awards Reminder:

The October newsletter gave details about a number of Mu Phi Awards. If you wish to nominate a candidate, please submit the name to any board member. Or if you wish to apply for an award yourself, such as the Musicological Research Contest Award or the Mary Alice Cox Award for Lifelong Learning. Complete information is available on our website: [www.muphiepsilon.org/palosverdes](http://www.muphiepsilon.org/palosverdes)

### Call for Presenters

Accompanying this newsletter is the Call for Presenters. It includes a list of possible presentation topics, instructions and the Application Submission Form. Applicants must be alumni or collegiate members who have paid their dues for the 2013/14 year. All presentations are funded by the presenters.

### Composition Workshop

A composition workshop will be given at the convention by the noted composer and Sterling Patron, Dr. Chen Yi. An application form accompanies this newsletter for anyone who is interested in playing a solo or chamber work during the workshop.

### Additional Attractions

Because Sacramento is in close proximity to many historic, beautiful, grandiose, exciting, entertaining areas, the convention planners are hoping to organize several pre- and post- convention tours. Consider making the northern part of our state your vacation destination by visiting San Francisco, Napa Valley, the Gold Country, Lake Tahoe or Yosemite. Sacramento itself houses the California State Railroad Museum, the Crocker Art Museum and of course the State Capitol, in addition to many museums and historic places of interest.

### Major Assistance Needed

Due to the extremely high costs of conventions, your assistance is greatly needed. All chapters are asked to make contributions and our chapter will take on a significant project, as we have for past conventions. We may include additional financial support as part of our own chapter's 50 Year Anniversary Celebration. However, this year the convention planners are also asking each member to help in soliciting underwriters for various aspects of the convention. These underwriters may be individuals, business owners or corporations. The underwriting opportunities range from \$20,000 for a full convention day to \$150 for convention name tags. Please be thinking of those companies or individuals who might consider taking on one of these underwriting projects which would be of reciprocal benefit. Additional information and the complete list of underwriting needs accompany this newsletter. A "Meet the Fraternity" letter is also included which is helpful in soliciting underwriters. The letter briefly describes Mu Phi, its governance and the international convention.

## Ramona Sage Knight Quandt Gifford



Ramona was born in Forest Grove, Oregon on December 21, 1933. She grew up on a farm in the Willamette Valley about five miles from this small town. Her first years of school were in a three room school. Piano lessons started when she was 8. High school was a bus trip away in Forest Grove. She ended up playing bass clarinet in the band because it was the only instrument left in the band room to choose and was chosen to attend All Northwest Band in Missoula, Montana one year. She always felt it was because of her unique instrument. Continuing piano lessons led her to the big city of Portland for MTNA competitions. After High School she was given a scholarship to attend the local university, Pacific University, as a music major. While there she played in string trios, was active in the local music sorority, Alpha Pi and had the opportunity to participate in many college activities. One time, she even accompanied a fellow student in Metropolitan Opera auditions. That was a big deal! Spreading her wings, she transferred to Lewis and Clark College, graduating in 1956 with a major in elementary education. She taught in Portland for 2 years and then in Anchorage, Alaska for two more.

Moving to Los Angeles in 1960, she met and married Ron Quandt in 1962. She taught one year in Palos Verdes and then went to LAUSD. Her daughter Valerie was born in 1964 and son Robert in 1967. Ron died in 1970. Ramona met Bob Gifford in 1973 on a Sierra Club hike here on the peninsula. They were married in 1975. She then returned to teaching as a music resource person, a traveling music teacher and had five schools all over LA. She claims to have retired in 1999. (This is the only part of her bio that is fictitious! ed.)

Ramona joined Palos Verdes chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon as a special election candidate while she was studying with Frances Thiel. Mu Phi has meant a lot to her throughout the years. Music has been a big part of her life.



**Proud Father** - David Champion with daughter, Erica, at her wedding, October 5<sup>th</sup> in West Hartford, Connecticut,

### Adventures Abroad!

Member Peter Schueller is currently living in Budapest, teaching Voice, Music, Musical Theater, Drama and even English at an English speaking school. He hopes to do more research regarding the Kodály Method and others.

Scholarship winner Manuel Arellano reports that he went on a tour of Europe, playing for the LA Children's Choir- Young Men's Ensemble on their tour of Germany, Austria, and Italy, followed by a month long music festival in Germany called Music Theatre Bavaria. This year he is at U of M working on a Masters in Collaborative Piano.

## October 20, 2013 General Meeting



Denise Peykanu and Nancy Carr



Akiko Dohi



## Pat Maki Recital October 27, 2013 at Marsee Auditorium, El Camino College



Ruth Cuccia and Pat Maki



Pat Harpole and Pat Maki

**Mu Phi Epsilon**  
**Palos Verdes/South Bay Alumni Chapter**  
**Young Performers Showcase**

On Saturday, December 7, 2013 at 3:00 PM, our chapter will host the YOUNG PERFORMERS SHOWCASE. It will be held at ST. MARK’S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of LOMITA, 24027 Pennsylvania Ave, Lomita, 90717. We are proud to include this event in our yearly programs, and welcome the opportunity to share our students’ talents.

The goal of the Showcase is to encourage intermediate and advanced level performers. Since the performance should be regarded as a privilege, only well qualified and well prepared students should be considered. Suggested Certificate of Merit levels are: Piano 5 & above; Strings 5 & above; Voice 3 & above.

Those eligible to perform are: children of or students of members or patrons of the PALOS VERDES/SOUTH BAY ALUMNI CHAPTER. Each member or patron may submit two names. Please indicate first and second choice, as the length of the program will determine whether both students may perform. The performers must be high school age or younger, with the exception of voice students who have not reached their 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday by the performance date.

The length of the musical selections should not exceed six minutes. Students in all instrumental categories and voice are eligible. We particularly encourage ensembles of which one member must be an “eligible” performer as described above.

Please submit the application form below with a fee of \$15.00 per student or ensemble (checks made payable to Mu Phi Epsilon) and send to Kris Basua, 3713 W. 144<sup>th</sup> Place, Hawthorne, CA 90250. ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 22 AND MUST BE IN WRITING – NO PHONE-IN APPLICATIONS. NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE WILL BE BY TELEPHONE BY NOVEMBER 29. Incomplete entries or those lacking the \$15.00 fee WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. The teacher is responsible for correct spelling of performers’ names, compositions, and accompanist. If you have any questions, please call Kris at home: (310) 679-7397 or cell: (310) 848-3120.

*Application for Young Performers’ Showcase*

*Name of Teacher* \_\_\_\_\_ *Phone:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Performer(s) or Ensemble* \_\_\_\_\_

*Instrument(s)* \_\_\_\_\_ *Age* \_\_\_\_\_ *Performance Level* \_\_\_\_\_

*Musical Selection(s)* \_\_\_\_\_ *Time* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *Time* \_\_\_\_\_

*Name of Accompanist* \_\_\_\_\_

***Please be guided by concert courtesy to STAY FOR THE ENTIRE PROGRAM AND ALLOW TIME BEFORE AND AFTER THE PROGRAM FOR PICTURES. PICTURE TAKING DURING THE PERFORMANCE IS DISTRACTING. The total program length will be approximately 1 ½ hours without intermission. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the Showcase.***