



NEWSLETTER

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

CALENDAR

Friday July 11 – 10 a.m.

Board Meeting

Home of Pat Maki

July 29- Aug. 2, 2014

2014 International Convention

Double Tree Hotel, Sacramento, CA

Tuesday August 12th – 10 a.m.

Board Meeting

Home of Pat Maki

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tonight I am back home after spending a wonderful evening of great music and great camaraderie with our Mu Phi members, patrons, scholarship winners and their guests. This year's Patrons Appreciation Dinner was the crowning glory concluding an entire year of great successes, inspired music, heart-warming associations and fulfilled plans. I am basking in the glow of gratitude for all that we have done, for the encouragement, the financial support, the enjoyable events that we have provided to a wide range of recipients. We have given so much but I think, deep in our hearts, we feel that we have received even more. As Pat Maki remarked tonight, because we are passionate about what we do, our rewards come in the form of satisfaction that we are involved in a vitally important mission: to help preserve the present and future of classical music. We work hard because we care!!

As part of tonight's agenda, I thanked the 2013-2014 Officers and paid tribute to our chairs of major events. At this time, I wish to express my deepest appreciation to any and to all who have devoted time and energy to our chapter's events. Every job is important. Even though some are modest in their time/effort requirements and others are quite enormous, they are all important. Like any team, every player is essential, whether being the star performer or the one doing the most menial of tasks.

As board members, each officer has a specific assigned duty. My very special thanks to Lenita and Pat Maki for their work as Vice Presidents and inspired program planners, to David Champion, assisted by Ruth Cuccia, for expertise and wisdom in handling the chapter finances, to Maurice Suhre who has diligently taken the minutes for each meeting, for Nancy Carr who has created our very attractive newsletters, and to Carla Sedlacek who conscientiously mailed them to members without computer access, to Ann Terrill who was in place, camera in hand, taking pictures, but also working to preserve our scrapbooks digitally, to Linnea Eades, assisted by LaVerne McCoy, who arranged for all the hostesses for chapter meetings, to Pat Arand who beautifully accompanied our singing, to Helen Freeborn who kept us inspired and to Ramona Gifford who kept us informed and in contact with schools and other organizations. However, each board member contributed to the decision making and business that came before the chapter. Considering other organizations and the difficulty motivating people to act beyond their own area of responsibility, it is amazing that our board members are not

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only willing to serve in other capacities, they actually volunteer to do additional work.

In December, Kris Basua very capably organized and presented our Young Performers Showcase. Thank you, Kris. Our thrilling Musical Mosaic was admirably planned and professionally managed by Kathy Kerstein and Pat Harpole with help from their husbands, who are also patrons, from Jan Bunker and her husband, Gordon Goldberg who also prepared the programs and flyers. Mary Feyk handled tickets and Ramona Gifford, Pearl Kim and Mie Shirai solicited ads for the program booklet. Kris Basua and several others set up the reception. Thank you to all who spent time and energy on this major fund raiser, ensuring its artistic and financial success and providing for the enjoyment of the audience.

Our Scholarship Auditions for collegiate music students is an event that requires rather long-range planning and attention to many crucial details. It is not without its frustrations. Emily Lacina handled the job with professionalism and great aplomb, ably assisted by Pat Maki. Thank you both.

Our Musica Primavera was so very capably and creatively chaired by superwomen Lenita McCallum and Pat Maki. But without a large team of assistants, their great plans and inspired ideas would have been in vain. A very special thanks to all those who cooked, baked, assembled and shopped for the various food items. Thanks to those who contributed to and assisted with the Silent Auction and the Mu Phi Mall; thanks to the set up crew and the tear down laborers. Thanks to everyone who lent a hand to create an enchanted evening of fond reminiscences, delicious cuisine (AKA comfort food of the 60's), happy imbibing, fun shopping and most important, great camaraderie.

Throughout the year, every meeting needed a hostess to open her home for us to meet and additional hostesses to assist with set up, serving and clean up. Thank you to each of you who served in these capacities. Because music is always of prime importance to all our activities, we enjoyed masterful performances by our own members at most of these chapter meetings. The exceptions were the collegiate members who performed in March and the Scholarship Auditions winners who performed tonight. Thank you, wonderful Mu Phi musicians for allowing us to enjoy your talent and exceptional achievement.

Sincere thanks to our Collegiate Representatives, Janet Favreau, Shirley Yamamoto and Joanna Nacheff, who were in place to assist when called upon, particularly regarding our Scholarship Auditions. Carol Levin served the community and Shirley Yamamoto our local colleges by managing their grant requests. Liz Turner responded immediately each time we became aware of a need to extend support or sympathy; Linnea Eades made the huge effort to contact each member and patron to get their SERV hours and to prepare the official form. Pat Arand efficiently carried out the responsibilities of Patrons Chair and Teddy Greenwald, David Champion and Pearl Kim indicated their willingness to work on membership development, although that area was rather eclipsed this year by our 50 Year Celebration plans and the international

July 1, 2014

convention. Debra Shrader studied up on the Mu Phi Foundation and made an informative presentation at one of our chapter meetings. Multi-talented, technology expert David Champion served as webmaster, ever striving to keep it attractive, updated and user-friendly. Lois Tai devoted many hours and much skill in preparing the yearbook.

Undoubtedly, but certainly unintentionally, I have omitted someone from my gratitude list and for that, I humbly apologize. Truly I am so extremely grateful to all who have contributed to the success of our chapter, so please, if not officially named in my thank you, know that you are appreciated. As I am working on my President's Report, it is overwhelming to see how much we have accomplished, how successful our efforts! Because of you, the members, the patrons, the chair persons and the board members, we are able to realize the purpose and aim of Mu Phi: to recognize scholarship and musicianship, to maintain a bond of friendship among ourselves and to advance music in our community by promoting musicianship, scholarship and education. This is our joy and raison d'être.

CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Setting up a charitable trust is an easy way to avoid capital gains taxes and to make charitable donations. If you have appreciated stock in a brokerage or retirement account, you can avoid paying taxes on the gain by moving the stock to a charitable trust. You then get the tax deduction on the full amount moved into the trust and you can order the trust to make contributions to your favorite charities. (Hopefully to Mu Phi Epsilon) There is a minimum amount needed to open the trust, usually \$5,000.00, but distributions can be spread out over years. There is also a minimum amount that must be donated for each distribution, usually \$50.00 or more. Funds remaining in the trust continue to grow through investment with minimum fees. You don't need a lawyer to set up such a trust; brokerages will do it for you. Here are links to two brokerages that handle trusts. [Fidelity Investments](#), [Charles Schwab](#). Check with your own broker or our treasurer, David Champion for more information. If you have a charitable trust and wish to donate to our chapter, contact David to be sure the Palos Verdes/South Bay Chapter receives credit for your donation. For general information about donating to Mu Phi Epsilon, you can also consult our [Guidelines for Donations](#).

Scholarship Auditions

The Scholarship Auditions, chaired by Emily Lacina and assisted by Pat Maki, were held on April 5 at El Camino College. There were 20 applicants and they all auditioned. The judges were James Petri, John Campbell and Mary Feyk. The winners were:

Jose Torres, flute	\$800
Gabriela Chea, voice	\$600
Josué Sojo, guitar	\$400
Pauline Tamale, voice	\$400
Abraham Cervantes, voice	\$400
José Gutierrez, guitar	\$200
Bronson Buskett, composition	\$200

50th Anniversary Celebration

Do you know of former members and patrons who might enjoy attending our 50-year anniversary celebration in January of 2015? If so, please contact Ruth Cuccia (email: cuccia4@sbcglobal.net, or phone: [310-832-7433](tel:310-832-7433)), or Mona Gifford (email: monagee@cox.net, or phone: [310-377-7711](tel:310-377-7711)) as soon as possible. We want to make sure everyone that can will attend this very special event! Thanks for your help!

Making a Move?

Send updates to your contact information to David Champion and Darlene Vlasek.

Musica Primavera

Thanks to co-chairs Lenita McCallum and Pat Maki and all who assisted, our Musica Primavera was a great success. A very appreciative thank you to Dr. Nancy Zinner, who so generously provided her home with its magnificent back yard plus the use of many needed items such as tables and chairs. The entertainment provided by John Brown delighted everyone as we reminisced about our younger years. The Silent Auction items were very desirable, evidenced by the fact that almost every one of them was purchased. Thank goodness the delicious food we enjoyed was somewhat updated from the versions we thought we liked years ago. The mac and cheese was the best ever! Did anyone miss not savoring the various ingredients molded into lime Jello salad? Or tomato aspic? All in all, the evening was festive, fun and financially rewarding.

International Convention

Mu Phi Epsilon 2014
International Convention at
Double Tree by Hilton Hotel,
Sacramento, CA

Tuesday, July 29 through
Saturday, August 2, 2014.

Registration and Hotel Reservation forms at
www.muphiepsilon.org/palosverdes

Interested in carpooling or room
sharing? Contact Darlene

“What's New With You?”

is a theme under consideration for the coming year. Have you tried something "new" lately? Discovered a new composer? Learned a new piece? Read a new book about music, learning, or life? Have you attended a fabulous musical performance? Would you be willing to share this at a meeting? Contact Lenita to volunteer (lbandcb@cox.net or [310-530-1468](tel:310-530-1468)).

Musica Primavera



Patrons Appreciation Dinner

We had a wonderful Patrons Appreciation Dinner Saturday June 7. Lenita and David Witherspoon's home was perfect for the dinners, meeting and performance. Thank you for your hospitality! And thank you to all you great cooks who provided the potluck supper. We enjoyed learning more about our Cameo member, Carla Sedlacek. The Officers for 2014-2015 were duly installed and past officers appreciatively thanked. The highpoint of the evening were the thrilling performances by our Scholarship Auditions winners, Josue Sojo, guitar; Gabriella Chea, voice; Jose Torres, flute, and Bronson Buskett, composition. Kenner Bailey was the masterful piano collaborator.



Kenner Bailey, Jose Torres, Gabriella Chea, Bronson Buskett



Josue Sojo



Cameo member – Carla Sedlacek



Then - and Now!



One of 5 children, **Carla Sedlacek** grew up in El Cerrito, CA, a suburb in the larger Bay Area, including San Francisco. Her mother played the piano, and wrote prose and poetry. Later, she ran a kennel of toy-breed dogs. The children were avid readers and nature lovers, and when not reading, were often exploring their backyard and greater neighborhood for birds, insects, lizards, etc.

At about 6 or 7 she found out that people composed music – until then she thought it was some kind of god-made gift. This led to her first life choice to be a composer. But, mostly, influenced by her mother (author) and sister (artist), her second choice was to be a poet and artist. When she was 14 ½ yrs old, her mother moved the family to the San Joaquin valley, where she continued to run her kennel, and where Carla learned to ride horses – her third career choice was to be doing something with horses, especially Arabians.

She tried the flute in high school, but was not very attentive, and couldn't afford private lessons – so didn't make much progress.

Her musical studies finally got underway in earnest at age 21 at Harbor College, studying general music and voice there and at Dominguez Hills, where she joined Mu Phi. Singing had become her passion, and, to a lesser degree, composing. After college, she continued to support herself working at Kaiser Hospital. During this time she sang chorus in one musical, and one opera. Having gone back to Harbor College, as a place to continue singing, she met her future husband, Paul, who was also taking voice lessons. They share a love of music, literature, and nature. Frustrated with being a secretary, she went to UCLA and received a degree in library science.

She has been a children's and adult reference librarian for about 25 years, loves her job, and especially enjoys sharing story times and music with the children. Her specialty is in memorized stories and in singing songs accompanied by an autoharp. She continues to study voice (with Lenita McCallum) and piano (with Frank Unzueta) in her spare time. And, she hasn't forgotten her childhood dream to become a composer, having composed and performed a few of her works the last two years. She looks forward to retirement, however, as she has worked most of her life. Her wishes now are to spend more time composing, singing, hiking, studying nature, and hopefully traveling.

Member News

Member **Joanna Nachev** led the Los Cancioneros Master Chorale in its season finale on June 15th. The very enjoyable concert featured jazz from ragtime to Leonard Bernstein. Joanna announced that she will retire from the chorale at the end of next year's season, but promised the year will offer a spectacular set of performances so she can go out in style.

The Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles under the executive direction of our chapter member, **Charles Dickerson**, performed its season finale concert at the Walt Disney Concert Hall on Sunday, July 6, 2014 For more information, visit their website at <http://icyola.org/>. The orchestra has performed at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial dedication luncheon in Washington, D.C., at a Barack Obama presidential fundraiser attended by First Lady Michelle Obama and also at a number of receptions, holiday concerts, churches and universities.

Ruth Cuccia performed on June 14 with the Long Beach Camerata Singers' 'Camerata Goes Broadway!' concert at the Daniel Recital Hall, CSU, Long Beach. Other performances this year by LBCS were Handel's 'Messiah', and Bach's 'St. John Passion' (part of their Long Beach Bach Festival).

Member **Leslie Sharp** is the musical director for the run of the musical "Cabaret" at the [San Pedro Theatre Club](#). Leslie plays keyboards and leads eight musicians for the production. The performance dates have been extended due to good reviews in the [Daily Breeze](#) and the Los Angeles Times South Bay Section. "I have now had the great pleasure of working with James Blackman, a creative producer/director who I find to be quite brilliant, with a unique approach to theatre, as well as a unique approach to life in general. Our meeting seemed like an act of Fate as it came through our mutual friend David Fairchild who had played the character Lindsey Woolsey in Mame. Blackman still referred to him as Lindsay Woolsey. The association has been an exciting ride so far, that I hope will turn into a fulfilling journey. We have one more weekend for Cabaret, and then we begin work on Man of La Mancha. "