



# NEWSLETTER

What's

*New*

With you?

## CALENDAR

**Monday, Sept. 8th – 10 a.m.**

***Board Meeting***

***Home of Pat Maki***

**Sunday, Sept. 21 - 5:30 pm**

***Potluck Supper and Program***

***Home of Ramona Gifford***

***Amanda Chavez, flute***

***Sean Whited, guitar***

## Patrons

Patron Contributions are also due. Please watch for your letter coming by U.S. Mail!

Pat Arand, Patron Chair



## Award Winning!

### Chapter Awards:

Outstanding Alumni Chapter of the Year  
Outstanding Website  
Outstanding Yearbook  
Outstanding Newsletters  
Most SERV Hours per Member

### Individual Winners – Congratulations!

Lenita McCallum – Award of Distinction  
Ramona Gifford – Orah Ashley Lamke

Distinguished Service Award

Shirley Yamamoto Most SERV Hours  
Deborah Aitken - Music Delegate par excellence

Ruth Cuccia – Honorable Mention District Director Award

### Newly Installed:

Ruth Cuccia elected as IEB 3<sup>rd</sup> VP, Alumni Advisor

## President's Message:

Greetings, Outstanding Members of the Outstanding Mu Phi Chapter!! You did it again and I am certain you will in the future. Your loyalty to our chapter's ambitious projects, your support of all our endeavors, your cooperation to serve wherever asked, your warmth and friendship toward one another, the excellence of your musical accomplishments and your appreciation of the value of music for yourselves, our community and for the upcoming generations...all have contributed to the points that added up to place our chapter on top. But an impressive number of points were not necessary for us to recognize the winning qualities we see all around us. Your beautiful, rich voices when we sing "The Triangle," your enthusiastic response to the programs we present, your bright and shining faces showing up at meetings or working behind the scenes or in the spotlight at our functions, your creative energy to improvise new ideas or strategies, your willingness to evaluate and make changes where improvement or new inspiration are needed... these show the character of you, our wonderful members. Kudos to each of you and to all of you.

Included in this newsletter is my report as your Business Delegate. I tried diligently to fulfill my obligations to you by attending every session, taking copious notes and reporting as faithfully and accurately as I could. Although the business parts of the convention may sound dry and boring as you read them, I can assure you, being in attendance at the well run, highly organized meetings was an inspiring lesson in excellent leadership. There are many critical issues facing our Fraternity and the IEB and Committee Chairs are tackling these issues with wisdom, vision and creativity. While there has been an enormous decline in number of members and chapters over the years, the IEB is fighting hard to reverse the trend and has succeeded in slowing the slump. There will be some radical changes in the near future as our leadership seeks to bring Mu Phi into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and re-activate the relevance that it inherently possesses. You are welcome to volunteer to serve on any committee or make suggestions to the IEB. You can contact President Rosemary Ames directly or go through our new Alumni Advisor, Ruth Cuccia.

Let's all re-dedicate ourselves to the noble aims and purposes that attracted us to accept membership in Mu Phi in the first place. It is worthy of our finest efforts!

With appreciation for all you do,  
Darlene

## Dues are due!

The deadline for Alumni Dues to the chapter is September 1st. Respond promptly to the invoice sent to you by our treasurer David Champion so your name can be included in the chapter directory for this year.

Included in your dues are member dues forwarded to the international Mu Phi Epsilon office in early September. Late payment of dues creates extra paper work for both the local chapter and the international office, so please don't be late!

Make your check to Mu Phi Epsilon and send it to our treasurer as soon as possible.

His address is:

David Champion  
229 15th Street  
Manhattan Beach CA 90266

It's traditional to make a donation to the International Fraternity of a penny for every year since its founding. A Founders Day donation of \$1.11 is included in your dues.

Regular Chapter Dues are **\$86.11**

Emeritus dues are **\$26.11** (age 80 and above) (you must apply to the International Office for Emeritus status)

## Patron Contributions

Patron Contributions are also due. Patrons' names are listed in our chapter yearbook which will go to print the second week of September. Checks should be only for Patrons' contributions, not including chapter members' dues. Please write "donation" in the memo portion of your check so your contribution can be tax-deductible. Donations of \$50.00 or more will receive a tax letter in early January. Patron contribution levels are Friend (\$25-\$49), Silver (\$50-\$99) Gold (\$100+)

**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT**  
**July 28 – Aug. 2, 2014**  
**Hilton Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento, CA**

**Business Sessions**

**IEB President's report – Rosemary Ames**

The Vision Fund goal was not reached. The purpose of this fund was to 1) update communication systems, 2) add one day to the triennial conventions and 3) provide more clinicians and musicians to the conventions. The International Bylaws need to be updated. They are 20 years old. A committee will be established to 1) listen to the members' issues, problems and suggestions, 2) coalesce the findings and begin a draft and 3) send final draft to chapters for their approval, prior to the 2017 Convention.

**IEB 2<sup>nd</sup> VP report – Sandra McMillen, Collegiate Advisor**

Currently, there are 81 collegiate chapters with a total membership of 1704. But only 21 chapters submitted reports. Nine new collegiate chapters were started and one (USC) was re-activated since the 2011 Convention.

**IEB 3<sup>rd</sup> VP report – Lenita McCallum, Alumni Advisor**

There were 40 alumni chapters that paid dues. There are 924 members, a decrease of 18 over this fiscal year. The trend of declining membership and chapters becoming inactive has slowed. Two new alumni chapters were started since the 2011 Convention. 70,631 ½ SERV hours were reported and over \$75,000 was donated to music causes. Conference calls were conducted over this past year and three task forces formed to consider: 1) Allied membership, 2) combining collegiate and alumni chapters in various ways and events to spur greater interaction and strengthen weaker chapters and 3) to suggest changes in the Rituals.

**IEB 4<sup>th</sup> VP report - Martha MacDonald, Music Advisor**

Jane Davidson, *MuNu*, received an award for her undergraduate work project.

**IEB 5<sup>th</sup> VP report- Kurt-Alexander Zeller, Eligibility Advisor**

The IRS requires that all chapters have the same fiscal year: July 1 to June 30. All must have simple and consistent bylaws. Since the last convention, 34 people have been approved for membership through Special Election.

**Editor – Melissa Eddy**

All members may write articles, take photos and submit them for possible publication.

**Insurance**

The IEB will purchase liability insurance to cover all chapters. This insurance is to meet the requirement of venues which require a proof of insurance in order for an outside organization to use their facilities. Each chapter will be assessed \$35.

**ACME**

All members are encouraged to submit the names of those members who have achieved national and/or international fame or recognition.

**Archives**

Chapters are encouraged to program Mu Phi composers and authors. If you are aware of a composer or author not already catalogued, please submit the information to Wendy Sistrunk, Archives Chair.

**Resolutions Committee**

The resolution to consider changing the name of Allied Members and resolutions to alter the current \$50 assessment of alumni and collegiate chapters were referred back to committee. Resolutions were passed to honor the 2011-2014 IEB members and to Gloria Debatin, past INEST.

**Parliamentarian**

It was encouraged by Carla Malta, parliamentarian, that at the end of the year, each chapter should review the actions taken during that year and if necessary, or desired, re-do any work.

**New IEB elected**

The following members of the IEB were elected as nominated:

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| President                              | Rosemary Ames   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> VP Extension Officer   | Charlotte Brown |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP Collegiate Advisor  | Jenny Smith     |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> VP Alumni Advisor      | Ruth Cuccia     |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> VP Music Advisor       | Jan Scott       |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> VP Eligibility Adviosr | Kayla Lisa      |

Appointed: Executive Secretary-Treasurer (INEST) Jenny Maeda

**Alumni Workshop Highlights**

**Overview of the Fraternity's structure**, including the IEB, INEST, Editor, National Committees, Advisory Board, Webmaster, ACME Members and District Directors.

**Chapter presidents' duties and reading list**

**Parliamentarian's recommendations for proper governance of a chapter:**

- An Audit is to determine if the balances match, there are no outstanding bills, checks over a pre-determined amount have two signatures, the bookkeeping records are clear. Audit Procedures: have a financial review (audit) every couple of years. It is best for a non-member to conduct the audit. Be sure the District Director looks over the treasurer's books every triennial.
- Minutes are to be sent out electronically, can be reviewed, corrected and accepted electronically. They should contain only official motions and actions, they do not need to include discussions.
- Retain financial records for seven years. Chapters do not do anything with the IRS.

**INEST** Jenny Maeda was hired in conjunction with her company, Synergos to fulfill the financial and certain other needs of the Fraternity.

- Dues are the major involvement for INEST
- Supplies are ordered through her
- Maintains the most up-to-date database of the entire membership  
The list can be arranged according to zip codes and other references

## Mu Phi Epsilon – Palos Verdes/South Bay

August 16, 2014

Includes past members

Database needs to be updated in order to be more useful

Chapters should be searching for new members or inactive members and recruit them into chapters. Once initiated, a member is a Mu Phi for life.

- Private materials such as the Ritual Book are non-accessible to non-members
- Direct payment of dues will hopefully be worked out in the future
- Chapters that charge their own dues can have those dues collected through INEST

Consider the use of virtual meetings

Extend personal invitations to members

Personally invite unaffiliated members to functions

The IEB is working with Synergos to create a more flexible database

Have some members go to collegiate chapter meetings to explain about alumni chapters & be actual presence

Combine Founders Day collegiate & alumni chapter

A group or individual alums serve as mentors for collegiate grads to help them through the transition from collegiate to alumni chapter

Have strong member to be the collegiate chapter advisor who gives assistance & knowledge, attends meetings

### Alumni Conference Calls Action Items

#### • **The Ritual**

The Ritual does not reflect today's members: their gender, ethnicity, religion

Update the language

Offer options without religious overtones

Reflect the professional stature of the Fraternity

Clarify that flexibility is possible

Eliminate references to kneeling and kneeling stools

Clarify option to not use robes

Possibly wear nice clothes or all the same color

Get in the habit of using the Ritual

Officer Installation Ceremony

If an officer continues in the same position, but is absent during the Installation Ceremony, that person does not need to be installed in a special ceremony.

Possibly use more contemporary but appropriate music

Neither the Ritual Book nor the grip can be placed on the website.

Reasons to retain the Ritual:

Reminds us of the importance of Mu Phi

Reminds us of what we are about & where we're from

Collegiates feel connected when they transfer to an alumni chapter

Use it to set the tone for the meeting

#### • **Allied Membership**

Available to those who have been initiated, pay their dues and do not live near an alumni chapter

Probable name change to better describe who these members are

If Allied Members in our area, contact them, try to get them involved

For those who cannot belong to an alumni chapter, encourage them to become Allied Members

#### • **Membership Retention**

For a variety of reasons many members do not continue as active members

Ways to retain members' active involvement:

Vary the time of meetings throughout the year

Be creative in timing and location of some meetings, such as preceding or following a concert

Reiterate the fact that Mu Phi is for life.

During Initiation Ceremony, instill the sense of duty to be active, that we pledge our support to the Fraternity.

Provide more assistance to the collegiate chapter so that collegiates do not "burn out" from being over worked

#### • **Combination Chapters**

Ideas are being developed to encourage alumni members to work more closely with collegiate chapters and for collegiate members to participate in more alumni chapter events. In the future, possibly chapters will be comprised of collegiate and alumni members in order to strengthen each.

### Additional Points

#### • **Financial**

It is the responsibility of chapters to prepare for convention expenses

Fundraise in order to acquire the money

Set aside a specific amount each year

Scholarships may be given to whomever the chapter chooses, collegiate level and above. Mu Phi membership is not a prerequisite

Consider more than the required \$1 per member donation to the Fraternity

The Harmony campaign is for individual members' donations Golden Benefactor supports Foundation scholarships & grants

Person or chapter pledges \$100 per year for 10 years.

Goes up to Double Golden, then Sterling

Onyx Circle is an endowment fund of \$5000 donated over a period of 1- 5 years

All donations (over \$50 per check) must go to the Foundation in order to qualify for a tax deduction. The Foundation will return the exact amount to the chapter

Consider a charitable trust as a way for the individual to donate and receive a tax deduction

Do not send anything directly to the IRS; always go through INEST and/or the Foundation

For a single check over \$50,000, consult INEST.

#### • **Recognition for the chapter**

Offer grants to local music teachers

Choose a musician or music educator of the year

Advertise in the program of local musical organization

#### • **Bylaws**

No changes this triennium

Major revision next international convention

## Awards

As previously reported, our Palos Verdes/South Bay Alumni Chapter received almost all of the top awards given by the Fraternity.

Our chapter was awarded **Outstanding Alumni Chapter of the Year** (congratulations to all of you), **Outstanding Website** (congratulations, David Champion), **Outstanding Newsletter** (Congratulatory Nancy Carr), **Outstanding Yearbook** (congratulatory Lois Tai) and **Greatest per member number of SERV hours**, average of 446.2 hours per member. **Deborah Aitken** was chosen to be a Music Delegate and performed magnificently! **Ruth Cuccia** received Honorable Mention for her work as the District Director of our Pacific Southwest District.

**Lenita McCallum** was awarded a special President's Award of Distinction for her outstanding service to Mu Phi spanning many years. In the recent past, she had held almost every position on the Mu Phi Foundation Board and for the last 5 ½ years, served as 3<sup>rd</sup> VP, Alumni Advisor, on the IEB (International Executive Board.) In her usual style, she performed her duties extremely well, far above and beyond the basic requirements. She infused the whole Fraternity with renewed purpose and determination to grow and prosper and to achieve the noble aims of Mu Phi.

**Ramona Gifford** was awarded the Orah Ashley Lamke Distinguished Alumni Award, sharing the honor with Deon Price in the LA Alumni Chapter. We know and appreciate all that Ramona has done for our chapter and in the community, ever since she was initiated. It was greatly rewarding to see her recognized internationally. Thank you everyone who submitted your comments verifying her qualifications. Due to husband Bob's recent operation, Ramona had to cancel plans to attend the convention, but she was with us in spirit and we loved immediately surprising her with news of her award.

**Shirley Yamamoto** received the award for the highest number of SERV hours of any member in the Fraternity. She volunteered over 3,450 hours. I can vouch for that high number, since I have seen Shirley in action in her position as President of MTAC South Bay. Not only did Shirley work exceedingly hard for MTAC, she also worked for our chapter, serving as the Collegiate Representative for CSUDH and being in charge of the College Grants.

## New IEB Member

Our own member, **Ruth Cuccia**, who has faithfully and very effectively served as District Director these last four years, was elected to the International Executive Board as 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Alumni Advisor, taking the position that Lenita just vacated. We wish you well in your new position, Ruth, and are confident you will do outstanding work in your service to the alumni chapters and with your contributions to the IEB as it moves forward with drive and conviction to increase in strength and numbers.

## International Competition

The four finalists in the International Competition were harpist Rachel Brandwein, pianist Yi-Chang Chen, saxophonist Jeffery Kyle Hutchins and pianist Nicholas Susi. All four performed extremely well and it was difficult to determine which one the judges would choose as the winner. After considerable deliberations, they finally awarded the coveted first prize to **Rachel Brandwein**. Rachel will be available for performances for two years, with her travel expenses paid by the Foundation. The day following the competition there was a Judges Panel Discussion. This was illuminating for those of us who had heard the four finalists and puzzled about whom the judges would select. The most important quality they looked for in making their decision was artistry. They did discuss the question of sight vs. sound, which one is more important. They agreed that the visual adds to the overall impression, but it is never of greater value than the sound. They emphasized that the performer must make a connection with the audience and often that is through visual means.

## Music, Music Everywhere

There were performances throughout the convention and below are the ones I felt were most outstanding.

Performing on the Recital of Past International Competition Winners, all showing how well they deserved the honors they received:

- Keith Bohm, saxophone, performed two movements from "Las Cuatro Estaciones Portenas" by Astor Piazzola
- Cellist Marek Szpakiewicz played "Fancy on a Bach Air" by John Corigliano
- Pianist Yukiko Sekino performed Scriabin's Sonata No. 4 in F# Major, Op. 30
- Jorge Avila, violin, and Paul Verona, piano, played Adagio in E Major, K. 261 by Mozart
- The Foundation commissioned piece by Adrienne Albert, "A Golden Celebration", was performed by Jorge Avila, Marek Szpakiewicz and Yukiko Sekino.

At the Awards Dinner, pianist Kristin Jonina Taylor played the Prokofieff Sonata No. 3 in A Minor, Op. 28 with power and passion.

Arietha Lockhart, soprano, shared her musical gifts in two contemporary songs by Jake Heggie.

Concert violinist Zina Schiff admirably performed William Grant Still's "Pastorela" at the Honors Luncheon, ably accompanied by convention accompanist, Mary Au.

At the Music Delegates Recital, our beloved former member and niece of Lenita, **Tamara Maddaford**, flute, delighted us with "Petite Suite on the Themes of Berry Wylder" a composition by another former member, Leigh Kaplan **Deborah Aitken** took the house down with her rendition of "Seresteiras" by Heitor Villa-Lobos. Her playing was so masterful, it outshone all others.

We all enjoyed an entire concert by this year's International Competition Winner, Rachel Brandwein. Not only is her playing exquisite, she is elegant and poised throughout her presentation.

The music at the Formal Banquet was composed by convention guest composer Dr. Chen Yi. Her music was charming and evocative of the composer's homeland.

The Convention Chorus, conducted by Georgina Philippon, sounded exceptionally fine, considering the very short time they had to rehearse.

### Breakout Sessions

The breakout sessions I attended were well done, inspiring, educational, and thought provoking.

**Julia Scherer** shared her heart-breaking experiences of starting off as a singing, dancing youngster completely in love with music and freely giving expression to her feelings. Then as she grew and matured, studied and learned, she became the pawn of other players and realized she no longer had freedom of expression and worse, no longer felt joy in her music. She became obsessed with doing everything "correctly" and this took away all inspiration and confidence. Finally she became linked with a teacher who understood her, understood what had happened to her and was able to coax her back into her old self and she was able to re-gain confidence and joy. Julia also shared some interesting instruction materials outside the norm of typical beginning piano methods.

**Adrienne Albert** gave a session on her experiences as a singer working with Stravinsky, being married to a recording producer for Stravinsky, Leonard Bernstein and other musical luminaries and her own path into composing. This was essentially the same talk she gave at our District Conference two years ago, but I found it just as interesting and amazing the second time as when I first heard it.

**Kurt- Alexander Zeller** is an entertaining speaker and his presentation on body mapping was very informative. He emphasized the point that musicians *move* for a living. In fact, musicians move more hours than do dancers or NBA players. He stressed that the integrity of any movement depends on the integrity of the body map that governs it. If the body map is accurate and adequate, there will be good movement. But if the body map is a little off, the movement corresponds by being a little off. We must be a movement coach for ourselves and our students. One's body map should indicate structure, function and size.

A session titled "Music in the Palaces and Piazzas of Renaissance Florence" was given by **Rona Commins**. Between her commentary and slides one wished he/she could climb into a time capsule and travel back to the 1200-1400's in Renaissance Florence. She showed the Cathedral of Florence, begun in 1296 and finally completed in 1436. They wanted the cathedral to have a dome but had no idea how to construct one. The architect, Brunelleschi, studied the Pantheon and discovered it had a dome inside a dome. The first opera was performed in Florence for the wedding of Maria de Medici to Henry IV, who became the King of France. Within 100 years of the invention of opera, there were 200 opera houses and 658 operas composed. Rona showed a picture of a chiltaronne, a lute with a second neck and set of strings attached to the neck of the lute.

The purpose of the additional strings was only to amplify the sound, not to be plucked.

The final breakout session I attended was the Master Class by **Dr. Chen Yi**. Dr. Yi is a delightful pixie like figure with an obvious well-tuned ear that hears every pitch perfectly. She has a sense of irrepressible joy that puts a bounce in her step and a perpetual smile on her face. She shared her story of growing up during the Cultural Revolution in China and in spite of being removed from her homeland and study of music and forced into hard physical labor, she found great enjoyment in being exposed to the music of the countryside. She learned much ethnic Chinese music which she later was able to incorporate into her own compositions once she was freed from the repression of the Cultural Revolution.

### Special Sessions

The Gala Opening Session, the Installation of Officers, the Memorial Ceremony and the Initiation Ceremony (with four actual candidates, including Dr. Chen Yi) were all very impressive and dignified. Although formal, they were not pompous, unduly long or stuffy.

### Final Comments

The convention had an aura of success about it from the very beginning. The Convention Chair, Kathleen Earl, did a remarkable job in overseeing all the plans, making the arrangements, taking care of every detail, adjusting to each day's particular needs. Thanks to her and to the bubbling optimism of IEB President Rosemary Ames, the convention accomplished its aims even while Rosemary referred to it as a "party." At the conclusion on Saturday night, she thanked everyone for coming to her party. And a great and enjoyable party it was!



Adrienne Albert is accepting the Orah Ashley Lamke Distinguished Service Award for Deon Price, LA Chapter and Darlene Vlasek is accepting for Ramona Gifford of our chapter. Deon and Ramona shared the prize



Julio Sequiera, Ruth Cuccia, Darlene Vlasek



Ruth Cuccia and Wynona Lipsett

Ruth is being installed as IEB 3<sup>rd</sup> VP, Alumni Advisor



Mary Au and David Champion



Helen Freeborn, Wendy Reyes, Julio Sequiera



IEB Pres Rosemary Ames and Lenita McCallum

Rosemary is presenting the Award of Distinction to Lenita for her outstanding service to Mu Phi for many years.



Jorge Avila, Yukiko Sekina, Marek Szapkwicz

This trio just performed Adrienne Albert's "A Golden Celebration" commissioned by the Mu Phi Foundation