



NEWSLETTER

What's

New

With you?

CALENDAR

Sunday, Nov. 16 - 3 PM

Founders Day – home of Pat Arand
Vicki Muto, soprano and Lois Tai, piano.

Sunday, Nov. 16 – 7 PM

LA Alumni Chapter Founders Day
Celebration, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church
1343 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica, 90405

Tuesday, Nov. 18 - 10 AM

Board meeting, home of Pat Maki

Saturday, Dec. 6, - 2 PM

Young Performers Showcase
St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, Lomita

Sunday, Jan. 11, - 4:30 PM

50th Anniversary Celebration
La Venta Inn, PVE

Friday, Feb. 6, - 7:30 PM

Musical Mosaic
Rolling Hills United Methodist Church

President's Message

Following the glorious performance by Jean Cobb and Pat Harpole at our Oct. 19 meeting, my thoughts have been filled not only with the beauty of music, but more importantly for me at the moment, its place in our lives and its inherent ability to convey feelings that are too rich, too deep, too personal to be expressed in any other way. The selections Jeannie and Pat performed were very significant to Jeannie and to major events in her life: her daughter's departure for college, her daughter's wedding and the recent passing of her father. She concluded with a new version of "How Can I Keep from Singing?" With each of these compositions, we, the audience shared the tenderness, the concern, the love, the heartache and finally the joy that each work embraced. Ah, the power of music to unite our hearts and thoughts as audience members joined the musicians in contemplating life's path through rites of passage and milestone experiences, in acknowledging the inner musical voice that yearns for expression.

We are so very privileged to be musicians and have the ability to sing forth, vocally or instrumentally, to have a means to convey our innermost thoughts and feelings and to understand and appreciate the wondrous music we hear. Unfortunately, we know all too well that for two or three generations, music education has been drastically reduced or eliminated in the public school curriculum. It is considered to be merely "enrichment" which schedules and budgets can no longer accommodate. But there is hope on the horizon. A recent article (Oct. 11) in the Wall Street Journal entitled, "A Musical fix for American Schools" by Joanne Lipman, highlights recent international research that proves beneficial effects of music study on students' academic achievement and character development.

The article starts out by stating, "American education is in perpetual crisis." It goes on to say that US students are falling farther behind their peers in the rest of the world, that learning disabilities are at epidemic proportions and that illiteracy costs American businesses \$80 billion a year. The author then states that there have been many solutions tried, but few have succeeded. The solution she recommends: music training. The remainder of the article

Mu Phi Epsilon – Palos Verdes/South Bay highlights some of the “compelling evidence that can boost children’s academic performance and help fix some of our schools’ most intractable problems.”

October 31, 2014

There are five main points that Ms. Lipman discusses, each citing “compelling evidence” to support the claims. The research and studies which reveal this evidence are conducted by highly educated professors and scientists who have no vested interest in the outcome. Unlike much of the earlier research on this topic, these individuals and organizations have no apparent bias regarding the results. The five research-based claims are:

1. Music raises your IQ.
2. Music training can reduce the academic gap between rich and poor districts.
3. Music training does more than sports, theater or dance to improve key academic skills.
4. Music can be an inexpensive early screening tool for reading disabilities.
5. Music literally expands your brain.

Do we need further proof of the value of our work?! As we work hard to earn funds to support school music programs, as we provide scholarships for students to have the means to continue their music studies, as we expose our community to excellent music, as we share our knowledge and joy of music with students, friends, family, don’t we feel convinced that our time and efforts are essential and are yielding positive results?! Our work is so needed, so... keep joyous and carry on!

Darlene

Organ Dedication

Patron DAVID YORK, organist, will dedicate a three-manual digital Rodgers organ on Sunday, November 9, at 2 p.m. at St. Luke's Presbyterian Church in Rolling Hills Estates. Besides playing several solo organ pieces, David York will partner with vocalists and instrumentalists in music that will enrich the congregation's worship experience.

Joining David are Kathy Kerstein, Lenita McCallum Witherspoon, Jeannie Cobb, Linda Muggeridge, Wistar Wood, Ann Koons, Jennifer Holly, Dorothy Muggeridge, Margaret Armstrong, and the church's Kirk choir directed by Stephen Pu.

The church is located at 26825 Rolling Hills Road in Rolling Hills Estates. There is no charge.

Plan ahead for these great events!

50th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, Jan. 11, 4:30 PM La Venta Inn, PVE
This event is not to be missed!!! Plans are being finalized to make this a most enjoyable and memorable experience both for old time members and newer ones.

Musical Mosaic

Friday, Feb. 6, 7:30 PM
Rolling Hills United Methodist Church.
Another great program is already planned.

Mu Phi love and concern: Our loved and long-time member, Carol Clever, is homebound these days. She has Parkinson’s and an injury to her hip from a recent fall. She would very much appreciate phone calls and visits. Her contact info is [310-408-5282](tel:310-408-5282) and 23321 Shadycroft Ave., Torrance, 90505.

Reminder:



bring a guest to a meeting or event, who is qualified to become a Mu Phi member, and receive a **Peet’s Coffee gift card!**

September Potluck - Summer Reminiscences



Amanda Chavez, flute



Deborah Aitken shares about her travels to Japan



Shirley Yamamoto, Ruth Cuccia, Amanda Chavez



Beth Howell reviews her trip to Europe





What's New with Me

by Nancy Carr

What's new with me? I attended "Clarinetfest" this summer. Now I suspect that many of you never imagined there was any event such as this, so it may be new to you too. Every summer the International Clarinet Association (ICA) sponsors Clarinetfest. The ICA began 41 years ago in Denver CO, where most of the early conferences were held. Gradually the conferences have moved out across the US, and now throughout the world. 2013 was held in Assisi, Italy, and 2015 will be in Madrid Spain. 2014 was held in beautiful Baton Rouge Louisiana at the LSU campus.

The theme was Entrepreneurship – certainly of great interest for all musicians. How can we put together a career, when we cannot expect to find a single source of employment? Teaching, performing, composition, writing, whatever you can imagine can expand your dreams. Ramon Ricker (Eastman School of Music) gave the opening address on Entrepreneurship, and his book "Lessons from a Street-wise Professor" pretty much summarizes all the great ideas of the conference.

Every year at Clarinetfest there are literally hundreds of performers, appearing in recitals in multiple rooms, all day long for five days. While the focus is on newer, or lesser known works, you can always hear the gems of the repertoire. The highlight for me was principal of the New York Philharmonic (member 1948-2009 – 60 years!) Stanley Drucker playing the Brahms Clarinet Sonatas. He still has the magic!

Upcoming Fundraisers

Peet's Coffee: We may have two locations to fund raise for Peet's Coffee this year. Definitely we are invited back to the Rolling Hills Plaza location and we may possibly be invited to Peet's in Manhattan Beach. Keep watching for details. The biggest attraction for the largest donations are student performances. Please be preparing students now for mini concerts at Peet's the week before Christmas. The kids love to perform and the customers love hearing them and chatting with them. Remember that Peet's will match contributions up to \$1000. So, we stand to earn in excess of \$2000, and that's just for one location.

Restaurants: Our board is exploring other easy fund raising activities, such as certain restaurants which donate back to us a percentage of each customer's bill on a particular pre-arranged day.

Young Performers Showcase

On Saturday, December 6, 2014 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 22nd 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. 144th Place, Hawthorne, CA 90250. ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 21 AND MUST BE IN WRITING – NO PHONE-IN APPLICATIONS. NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE WILL BE BY TELEPHONE BY NOVEMBER 30. 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; or email: kbasua@gmail.com

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.