



# NEWSLETTER



## Let's Celebrate!

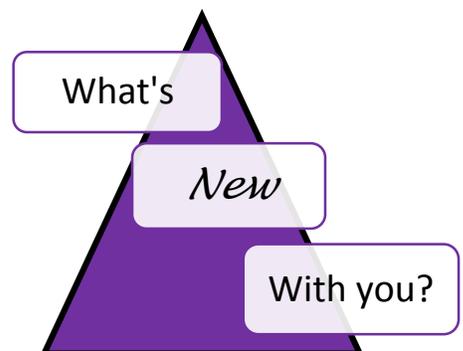
*Looking forward to seeing you this Sunday at our GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. Let's party as we reminisce about 50 glorious years of Mu Phi fellowship and accomplishments.*

### CALENDAR

Sunday, Jan. 11, - 4:30 PM  
50th Anniversary Celebration  
La Venta Inn, PVE

Tuesday, Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> – 10 AM  
Board Meeting  
Home of Pat Maki

Friday, Feb. 6, - 7:30 PM  
Musical Mosaic  
Rolling Hills United Methodist Church



## President's Message

Today as we drove by a gas station (formerly called a "service station," but that was when they actually provided services far more than just collecting your money while you, yourself, serviced your car) I was struck by the slogans advertising the purpose of the station: "refresh, refuel, recharge." It occurred to me that these terms are relevant mottos for today as we embark on another New Year, celebrate our 50 years as a chapter and launch into the next 50 years. To the side of the three slogans was another sign, "recycle." This, too, seemed relevant as a fitting description of our goals, methods and activities. However, the first three terms seem inspirational and motivating but "recycle" sounds so retro... unimaginative, repetitive and even boring. My moment of enthusiasm was suddenly dashed by a harsh reality. Could I possibly reconcile these differences and come out on top with a positive analogy?

This truly is a golden year for Mu Phi. Our chapter is celebrating 50 years of fulfilling the motives of our Fraternity, of service to our community, of growth in membership, of providing financial assistance where it is so desperately needed and of increasing our stature within the community. The entire Fraternity is experiencing a spring-like re-awakening as new chapters are forming and former chapters are being re-installed. Our joyous convention last summer provided enormous impetus and inspiration for us as individuals and chapters to refresh our devotion to our goals, to refuel with new understanding and appreciation for our purpose and to recharge our energy and zeal in order to put ideals into action.

On Sunday, January 11 we will gather together to celebrate who we are and where we have been, recalling the highlights of 50 defining years of Mu Phi music, friendship, service, education and harmony. It will be a grand party no one should miss!! We will all come away refreshed, refueled, recharged.

Friday, February 6, will be another glorious Musical Mosaic expertly planned by co-chairs Pat Harpole and Kathy Kerstein. Even though they had two groups cancel at almost the last minute, they were able to quickly find replacement performers who will be just as fine as those originally scheduled. Please see the new flyer accompanying this newsletter. Because this event is a major fundraiser to acquire the resources to fund public school music program grants, we all must endeavor to sell as many tickets as possible. Although it is reported that our economy is on the rise, the music programs are

still suffering from losses accrued over many years of depletion and dismissal. It will be a long time before our dream is realized of restoring music education to the state of eminence it once held in the public school curriculum. Meanwhile, we must do all we can to sustain and support the struggling music programs and teachers as they heroically carry on in their efforts, often against frustrating and difficult odds. This is a major part of our mission, to refresh, refuel and recharge public school music education.

We had another wonderfully successful fundraiser at the Torrance Peet's Coffee this past month. We are most grateful to Peet's for inviting us back for the third consecutive year as their co-op non-profit organization to receive their dollar-for-dollar matching donation. The success of this fundraiser was due in large measure to the performances at Peet's by several of our members and their students: Pat Maki, Gail Mellert, Jan Bunker, Shirley Yamamoto and Lenita McCallum. The customers who were present during these performances were treated to lovely music which underscored the success of the music programs that do still exist in our local schools. Thank you to organizer/arranger Pat Maki and to all who performed and to all who encouraged friends and family to drop by and donate. This certainly was an opportunity during the busy Holidays to stop for a few moments to refresh, refuel and recharge, knowing your heart was warmed more for the feeling of having done something constructive than for the delicious beverage you consumed.

But here is all this talk about refreshing, refueling and recharging, but what about recycle, that term that seemed contradictory to the first three energizing terms. It does seem to honestly describe our activities and goals. We have maintained the same format for our meetings over the years, we continue to have our two major fundraisers, Musical Mosaic and our Musica Primavera, with lesser fund-gathering events tossed in here and there. We provide grants to public schools and scholarships to college students. Are we in a rut? Should we make a New Year's resolution to break out from the mold, stop recycling our activities and procedures and venture forth into new territories?

In many ways, we have taken some new steps, recently those which are associated with our Golden Anniversary. Two years ago we presented the 2011 International Competition Winner Yukiko Sekino in recitals and a master class. We placed full page ads in the year-long concert programs for our local performance organizations: the Peninsula Symphony,

the Beach Cities Symphony and Los Cancioneros Master Chorale. These ads provided funds for these worthy performance groups and highlighted our chapter and its accomplishments. In addition, we provided funding for many members of Gamma Sigma to attend the 2014 International Convention.

When Jorge Avila, concert violinist and former International Competition Winner, comes to be our headliner for our January 11 gala, he will also perform in a special salon for the Peninsula Symphony and conduct masterclasses at Mira Costa High School. At the gala, he will be joined by pianist Kenner Bailey and by another International Competition Winner, cellist Marek Szapkiewicz, in performing “A Golden Celebration” composed by LA Alumni Chapter member, Adrienne Albert, commissioned by the Mu Phi Foundation in recognition of its 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary. Even though we do recycle so much of what we do, the old saying, “if it ain’t broke (“baroque” for lovers of early music) don’t fix it” can be a helpful adage. Bringing fresh inspiration to tried and true formats has proven to be a wise and profitable course of action. Calling upon new talent and new performers for our meetings and to be featured in Musical Mosaic and Musica Primavera has kept these events fresh and exciting. Encouraging the performance of Mu Phi composers and other excellent contemporary music has enlivened our chapter meeting programs.

It seems very true that if a mission statement includes goals and objectives that stand the test of time, that are reasonable and attainable over a period of many years, that are not dependent upon certain personalities for their accomplishment, that continue to fulfill their purpose, then that mission statement is valid and has reason to endure. And so it is with Mu Phi and our chapter as we advance music in our community and promote musicianship, scholarship, education and service, all done through a bond of friendship. Yes, we recycle what is good and worthy and in so doing, we refresh, refuel, recharge... and restore the presence and importance of music in our hearts and minds and in our schools and the community.

Faithfully yours through love of you and music,  
Darlene

## *Helpers needed*

Helpers are needed to set up for our Jan. 11 Anniversary gala. Please contact Lenita if you can lend a hand.



## *Upcoming Concert*

Pacific Bells, a handbell ensemble, will present a program and demonstration on Sunday, Jan. 18 at 3:00 PM at St. Luke’s Presbyterian Church, 26825 Rolling Hills Rd., Rolling Hills Estates.

## *Mu Phi is online!*

Visit our [Palos Verdes/South Bay Alumni Chapter website](#).

Visit the [International Mu Phi Epsilon website](#).

Follow [Mu Phi Epsilon on Facebook](#).