



Palos Verdes/South Bay Chapter

Newsletter - July 2020

*Finding Friendship
and Harmony through Music*

From the keyboard of LaVerne M McCoy, Co-President

Greetings to the Palos Verdes South Bay Alumni chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon.

I hope you are all doing well sheltering. When possible and always wearing a mask. This protracted pandemic has created challenges that I am sure we can subdue and prevail. We will of course change the method of performing the task before us. We will continue with our monthly board meetings. As of March 2020, we began having our meetings via Zoom, thanks to David Champion. Our general meetings are on hold until we feel that it is safe for us to meet in groups greater than ten.

Technology will be our avenue to simulate as much as possible our normal activities. We will prepare performances to share via internet. We emailed an information request to all members. Please respond with your choice of service. We need the information to plan for the next fiscal year.

Please consider sharing your musical and performances so that we may publish it in the MPE newsletter. We invite you to attend our July and August board meetings as we need as much input as possible to plan for the coming months.

Harmoniously yours,

LaVerne M

From Darlene Vlasek, Co-President

Our Palos Verdes/South Bay Alumni Chapter is most fortunate to have among our members many talented and eager professional performers. As we are all suffering from the cancellation of musical events, silent concert halls, empty recital seats, we can be grateful that the voice of beautiful music cannot be silenced. Although a virtual concert or recital does not compare to live performances, it is nevertheless, a grand opportunity for us to continue enjoying music and for performers to continue sharing their music. Therefore, we invite all of you who are presenting virtual performances, to allow us to publish this news in our newsletters and by means of

e-blasts. Please provide all the pertinent information, including the link and if the performance will also be available for viewing at a later time.

Thank you and we hope your audiences will swell with enthusiastic, appreciative listeners!

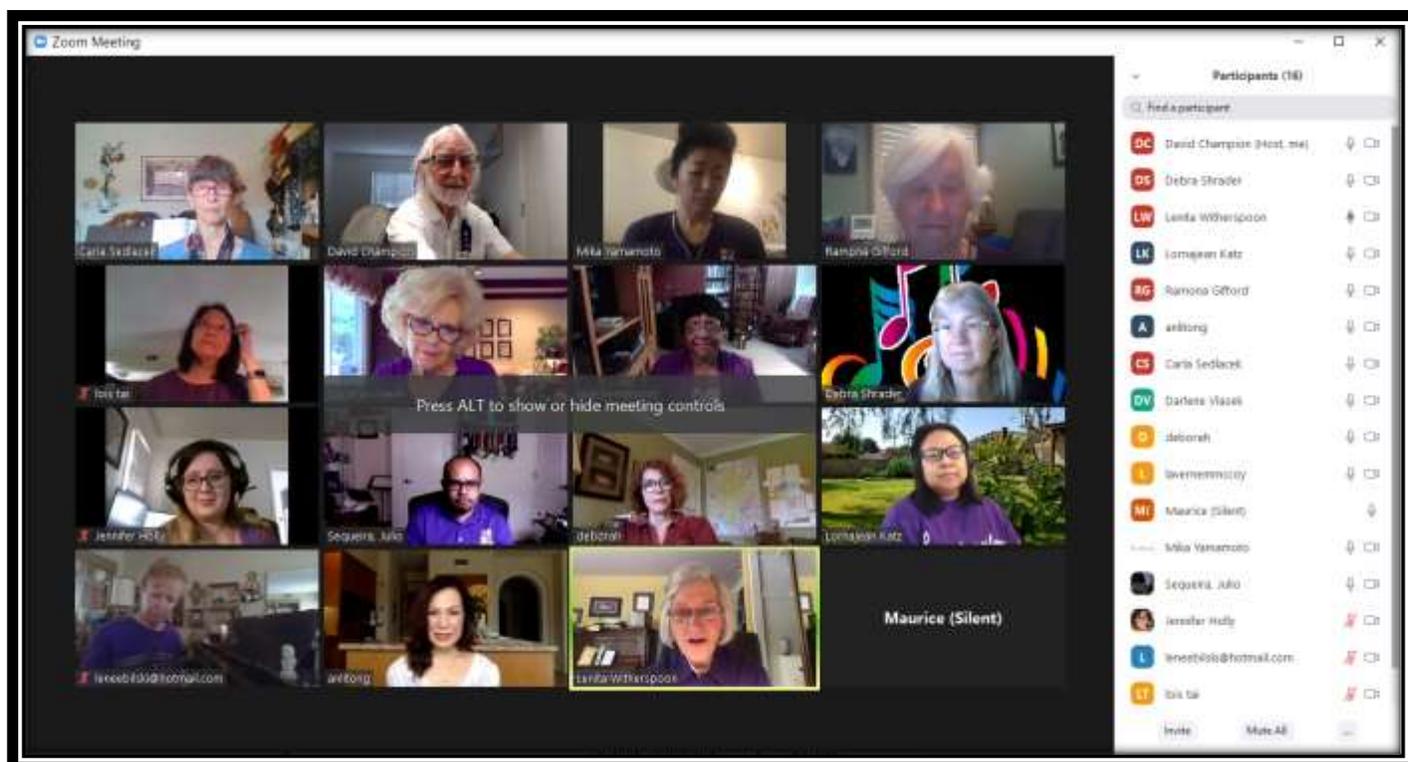
Best wishes to all!!

Darlene

Chapter News

Annette Smith's birthday is July 11. You could send her a card! (Sorry, we got the date wrong last issue!)

On June 16th, the MPE PV/SB Board gathered on a Zoom meeting to install the new officers for the year. During this time of isolation, it was wonderful to see all the faces up close. We are finding good ways to connect, even when we cannot be in the same room together. Each element of the ritual was included, in full view of the participants. It IS interesting to see us try to do the MPE greeting without contact!



Update on the school grants:

Amanda Chavez was the last to collect her school grant. As most other teachers, she has been teaching band instruments online, not an easy feat. She has been kept on for next year at Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo High School in Long Beach even though other arts classes and most physical education classes including football have been abandoned. We were happy to support her, especially as she continues her music education endeavors. She has been accepted into the Columbia University Teachers College master's degree program and has begun taking online classes. She expects to go to New York City for in person classes in a year or two. We hope to get a photo or two for the next issue!

Member and Patron News

- **Paul Irving's** brother passed away in the latter part of May.
- **Clayton Cobb's** mother passed away last month.
- **Linnea Eades** with her 60 year certificate from MPE! Good to see you, masked and all



Advocacy

Continue to express your support for music education during these challenging times as school boards debate how to open schools for the fall. Debra Shrader received an encouraging note from the PVPUSD School Board President, Suzanne Seymour:

“This coming year we have challenges like no other. The board has expressed their support for elementary music and we have no intention of eliminating the program in the long term even if this year we cannot offer it in the traditional way. Thank you for dedication to our children.”

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

All events from the 2019-2020 Yearbook Calendar will be postponed until further notice.

July 21st and **August 18th** – Summer board meetings, to be announced whether by Zoom or socially-distant backyard gathering.



What's your favorite kind of face mask? I just got this one from my music teaching organization, American Orff Schulwerk Association. Send me your pictures of the masked musicians in your household, supporting the flattening of the Covid-19 curve!

-- **Debra Shrader**
teach2play@gmail.com



Deborah Aitken sent us her new look, too!

LaVerne's daughter made some musical masks for her mom, LaVerne, and one for **Darlene**.



A note from International MPE that arrived after our last newsletter. For more information, go to their website. <https://www.muphiepsilon.org/>

2020-6-11

Greetings,

Attached is a new policy from the IEB regarding making public statements and the use of the name Mu Phi Epsilon. As you know, recent events in our country have motivated many, many citizens and organizations to publicly speak out. Until now, Mu Phi has had no separate policy regarding how to make statements when using the name of Mu Phi Epsilon or a local chapter name. As a nonprofit, the Fraternity is bound by IRS regulations regarding our 501(c)(3) status for what is allowed and what is not. This document will serve as a guide for all chapters and members wishing to use social media to post statements and calls to action.

We are proud that so many of our members feel motivated to support their communities, friends, and families at this time. Keeping our mission in the forefront, our hope is that your calls to action will include music at the core, recognizing its potential and power to bring us all together as one.

Loyally,

Rosemary Ames

International President, Mu Phi Epsilon

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To all you Faithful Members of our Wonderful, Award Winning Alumni Chapter:

Please remember to fill out and send in your Interest Finder so that you can be a significant part of the valuable, commendable, beneficial activities this Chapter presents in support of youth music education, in support of jobs for extremely talented performers, in support of teachers capable of transforming lives with their loving, inspiring gift of music to their students, in support of lovers of great music who do not want this crowning glory of our culture to die away. An updated Interest Finder will be emailed to you in the next day or two. Please look for those areas still needing someone to accept. Palos Verdes/SouthBay Alumni Chapter needs you, your talents, your enthusiasm, your dedication, your decision to work for what you believe in.

Please send your indication of your choice of service to LaVerne and me.

Virtual hugs to you all,

Darlene

Musical Offerings from Our Members

Deborah Aitken is starting a series called "Tune of the Week." Each week she will play a short selection as her contribution to help alleviate the boredom, frustration and/or anxiety so many of us are feeling these days. They will be posted by early Monday morning on www.facebook.com/deborahaitkenrealtor. One has been posted already, which is a sonata by Scarlatti; the next will come out by this Monday and is by Ginastera.



Anli Tong is looking forward to presenting a virtual lecture recital, "The Legacy of Mieczyslaw Munz" at the 2020 Music Teachers Association of California (MTAC) State Convention this Saturday, July 11, 2020 at 2PM.

<http://www.mtac.org/events-information/convention/#&gid=1&pid=1>

Mieczyslaw Munz was one of the greatest pianists of the early 20th century whose brilliant concert career was tragically cut short due to a hand injury. His personal story of hardship and perseverance as well as his ultimate triumph as a distinguished pedagogue will be the subject of this program. Joining me on this lecture will be Gregor Benko, the eminent authority on historical recordings, and Polish music critic and historian Jakub Puchalski who is based in Krakow, Poland.

Anli will perform works by Chopin which were her earliest assignments as Mr. Munz's youngest pupil at Juilliard before his passing at age 76. She will share insights about Mr. Munz's artistry and unique gift as a teacher whose students now dot the musical map of concert pianists and teachers across the globe. Please bring Chopin Etudes and Nocturnes for easy reference to the lecture.

Stay safe!