



# Palos Verdes/South Bay Chapter

## Newsletter - April 2021

*Discovering Ways to Connect through  
Making Music*

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### From the keyboard of the Co-President:

We as a fraternity organization are not allowing the pandemic to inhibit our efforts. The scholarship applications have been sent to the college and university applied teachers as well as to the collegiate chapter. The Grant distribution is underway.

The nominating committee is busily approaching members to become officers for the new fiscal year. Please think about it before declining. We {the board members} will be available to support you in every way that you deem necessary.

Soon we will be preparing for the Patron Recognition and Scholarship Winners Potluck. We are (Lenita, et al...) moving forward with the Benefit Concert plans. Our member Carla Sedlacek plans to perform some of her original compositions at this concert. As you know from her progress reports that there have been challenges; but through her music she learned to de-stress. Music is the master of stress.

The MPE Convention will occur on the same dates but you only have to travel to your computer to attend. The registration fee will be dramatically reduced. The convention will be fully virtual. The schedule, the fees, and format are yet to be determined. The board is trying to determine the cost of the convention and afterwards set the fees so low that the entire organization can/could attend without a financial burden.

At our Presidents and DD meeting Monday night, we were shown the different aspects of the new website, which is not fully operational at this time. Additions are made to the site on a daily basis.

My plea to you is to stay safe in all your endeavors as many services and activities are opening up. I took a friend to an outdoor lunch on Sunday to celebrate her birthday. Practice using the mask and stay safe distances apart.



***LaVerne M. McCoy***

## Member and Patron News

- On March 21<sup>st</sup>, the first day of spring, the MPE family came together on Zoom to hear **Lenita McCallum Witherspoon** share the story of her poetry inspiration for the book ***Finding My Way***. Some of the creative energy came from grief after the death of her first husband, and some came from travels (ten days) in Russia, with hearing beautiful music in spectacular venues. Life stories filled more pages of her poetry book. She shared several of the poems, too, to end her portion of the program. Hearing balalaikas playing in a massive group were a very special concert, inspiring yet another poem. Since the final printing of Lenita's book, she has continued to pour out more creativity, including one poem called "Words, Words, Words!" She expressively read some of the beautiful, more recent verses. If you missed the meeting, I hope you'll watch the recording (link at the end of this newsletter).

***Finding My Way*** by Lenita McCallum Witherspoon (Author), Nancy G. Backes (Illustrator), David K Witherspoon (Foreword). Her book is available from Amazon (<https://www.amazon.com/Finding-Way-Lenita-McCallum-Witherspoon/dp/1733398260>). Barnes & Noble (<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/finding-my-way-lenita-mccallum-witherspoon/1138015016>) or directly from Lenita (autographed). Lenita will donate a part of the funds from each purchase (five dollars) to the chapter.

- **Julio Sequeira** and his students were involved in a traffic accident the day he would have been presenting to our chapter meeting. We hope all have recovered!
- A reminder from **Mika**: **SERV (Service, Education, Resource, Volunteer)** hours can be continuously collected to make it easy to report at the end of the year. This year's records are due to **Mika Yamamoto** ([mika.y.voice@gmail.com](mailto:mika.y.voice@gmail.com)) on **June 1<sup>st</sup>**. Patrons and members may submit hours for three categories:
  - Service and Education
  - Resource and Volunteering
  - Financial or In-Kind Gifts
- **LaVerne M McCoy** shared the email from **Dr. Hansionia Caldwell** with a summary of jazz links to celebrate ***Jazz Appreciation Month (April)***:
  - Watch the film "Anatomy of a Murder" (1959) - Courtroom drama starring James Stewart, Ben Gazzara, Eve Arden and Lee Remick. Soundtrack by Duke Ellington & Billy Strayhorn. Directed by Otto Preminger. Available on YouTube, Amazon Video, and Turner Classic Movies.
  - Honorary Soror Ella Fitzgerald and Duke Ellington - *It Don't Mean A Thing* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=myRc-3oF1d0>
  - Ella - *Someone to Watch Over Me* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDhF-PsDuCw>
  - Ella - *Cry Me A River* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Gn9A-kdsRo>
  - Duke - *Satin Doll* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ar0rtpre5Q8>
  - Duke - *Take the A-Train* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cb2w2m1JmCY>

- Animal lovers! **Shanice Aaron** brings you the Cape Parrot Project on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 12 pm:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9XM2Qyn719Q&t=409s>

## Upcoming MPE Meetings

**Mika Yamamoto** and **Jennifer Holly Cannon** announce the program for the **April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, 3:00 PM**, again presented on Zoom:

### *“Music, Artistic Projects, and Education with Technological Resources”*

**Ms. Leslie Sharp** – presenting a variety of projects including her recent choral project

**Ms. Nicole Laborte** – presenting topics in gaining skills with technological resources for music education

**Mr. Julio Sequeira** – presenting topics in music education with cultural diversity (originally scheduled in March)

**Join Zoom Meeting at 3:00 PM, April 18<sup>th</sup>:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82459418789?pwd=bHpBNE5aUIBDSi9LRlFJWXh4TENNQQT09>

Meeting ID: 824 5941 8789

Passcode: 181992



## **DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

**April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 3:00 PM** – “Music, Artistic Projects, and Education with Technological Resources” presentation by **Leslie Sharp, Nicole Laborte, and Julio Sequiera**. See Zoom link to participate

**April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 9:30 AM** – Virtual Board Meeting

**May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021** – Newsletter deadline

## **Missed a meeting?**

**Here is a link for the recording and the program:**

**MuPhiEpsilon Palos Verdes/SouthBay Alumni Chapter March General Meeting – March 21, 2020**

**Program:** [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-CGebPfH\\_iieggdm3yYQISgk29I27ha](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-CGebPfH_iieggdm3yYQISgk29I27ha)

**Meeting Recording:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/OZeB\\_CbP9hG7BAHDQ9iFBIJR\\_xzr61qIHQiuZ434SbQcOPa81u5vbHvKaGrIUJT3f.VR9pBr7GJZanzscG](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/OZeB_CbP9hG7BAHDQ9iFBIJR_xzr61qIHQiuZ434SbQcOPa81u5vbHvKaGrIUJT3f.VR9pBr7GJZanzscG)

**Access Passcode: MPE\_March2021**

A note to all to PROTECT our PRIVACY:

You may have received an email or two with a long list of names and emails attached in the “to” field. Did you know that those are a rich source of data for hackers to grab? None of us wants to have our identity stolen, nor do we want to have our friends’ information gathered by less-than-honorable individuals. So next time you want to forward information to friends, put their names in the “BCC” field. That stands for “Blind Carbon Copy,” an old term that just means no one will see the names and emails from your email. If we all try to keep that in mind, we shall cut down on the junk email and remove that information from the few with bad intentions.

