



Palos Verdes/South Bay Chapter

Newsletter - July 2022

*Discovering Ways to Connect through
Making Music*

From the keyboard of the New President:

Hello members of the Palos Verdes/South Bay Alumni Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon! This is Lorna Katz, your newly elected President! I want to thank you for allowing me the honor of serving you during our new fiscal year. I am looking forward to meeting you and to greeting each of you in person. To get things started, I was asked to write something for the newsletter, so I thought maybe you would like to know a little bit about myself, as well as let you know what plans I have for our chapter.

I am originally from Hawaii, born in Waimea on the island Kauai. I grew up in Honolulu, where I graduated from Farrington High school in 1979. While in high school, I was very active in orchestra, marching band, choir, and theater. During my sophomore year in high school, I was selected to take part in the Honolulu Youth Choir, comprised of the best choral students from each high school on Oahu.

In 1982, I moved to California with my first husband and raised two daughters, Jennifer who was born in 1984, and Toni who was born in 1986. I worked as an accounting clerk at various manufacturing companies from 1984 to 1998, but music continued to always be a big part of my life. I was part of the worship team at Hope Chapel in Torrance in 1988 and became the worship leader from 1990 to 1998, having written many of the worship songs that were sung during our church services. During this time, I co-produced the church's worship album, "One Worship." In 1997, I caught the attention of radio personality Dave Parks, also known as "K-Dave," of KWVE 107.9 FM, when I submitted my children's Christian song "Touch" to the radio station. Out of this, my solo album, *LornaJean and the Jellybean Club* was born. My songs were featured regularly on the Saturday Morning Kids Show with K-Dave and Company. I briefly toured southern California with the K-Dave and Company Show, performing for many children.



Joanna Nacheff, Jennifer Cannon, and Lorna Katz

In 1999, I changed careers from a pencil pushing accounting clerk to becoming an actor. I have been a member of SAG-AFTRA since 2001, having appeared in numerous television shows, featured films, music videos, commercials, and print jobs. A list of my credits can be found on [IMDB.com](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0441844/) under Lorna Jean Katz. Most of my work was as a

background actor. I became a regular as a hospital administrator on Fox's hit show, "House M.D." (2004 – 2012) with Hugh Laurie. After that show had wrapped, I appeared as a bar regular on TV Land's show, "Hot in Cleveland" (2010 – 2015) with Betty White, Valerie Bertinelli, Jane Leeves, and Wendie Malick.

I am also a member of Sweet Adelines International, an organization dedicated to performing and educating people in the art of acapella singing in the barbershop style. I have won an international gold medal in 2007 with the Harborlites Chorus, Region 21. During my membership with this organization, I have served as an Assistant Director with the L.A. South Towns Show Chorus, and later with the Golden Sands Chorus, (Region 11). I was the Education Coordinator for the San Diego Chorus, Region 21, in 2021. My duties included offering classes in music theory to the members, as well as scheduling various educators to come and give in-house seminars.

In 2015, I decided to fulfill my lifelong dream of getting my college degrees. I began attending music classes at El Camino College. I auditioned and was accepted to the Applied Music Program as a vocal performer. I graduated in 2018 with honors, with an AA in Music Performance – Voice. In 2018, I transferred to California State University Dominguez Hills to complete my BA in 2020. In the Spring of 2019, I joined the Gamma Sigma chapter. I then became president of the chapter later that same semester and served until Spring 2020, my Senior year. I graduated with my BA in Music Performance – Voice, Magna Cum Laude. In addition, I was also invited to join Phi Kappa Phi, having graduated in the top five percent of my class. Presently, I am a grad student at CSUF, pursuing a MM in music theory and composition studying with Dr. Pamela Madsen. I will be graduating in Fall 2022. It is my hope to continue my education in pursuing a doctorate in the same discipline.

As your president, I hope to expand performance opportunities for our alumni members, bring about more education within our chapter in the use of computer technology, such as creating music videos and recordings, and to continue to serve our community through music. Since the pandemic forced schools to be taught virtually through zoom, I have gained many skills in video creation, editing, and posting on platforms such as YouTube. I would like to hopefully teach a basic skills class in creating music videos class for our members soon.

Thank you for putting your faith and trust in me as your incoming president. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to send me an email. If I cannot answer your questions, I will make sure I will find the answers from one our board members. Also, if you have any suggestions on how to improve our chapter, please forward them to either myself or to one of our board members. I look forward to a year of excellence in our chapter.

Your President of the Palos Verdes/South Bay Alumni Chapter
Mu Phi Epsilon

Lorna Katz



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

July 19th, 2022 – 10:00 AM – MPE Board and Planning Meeting – at the clubhouse, Anli Tong's home.

August 2nd, 2022 – newsletter deadline (send entries to teach2play@gmail.com)

August 16th, 2022 – Virtual Board Meeting

September 6th, 2022 – newsletter deadline

September 18th, 2022 – General Meeting, Welcome Back, program TBA

Member and Patron News

- Many months ago, you may have seen discussion of the school grants. The money received during the Musical Mosaic goes to this effort. Recipients of our School Grants this year were:
Bryan Dowdle at West High School, Torrance
Jenny Roh at Torrance High School
Shellie Parkinson at Palos Verdes High School
Debbie Wastling at Arts Alive
Karin Lopez at Rancho Dominguez Prep School
Faith Benford at PVPUSD elementary schools (Orff training)
Ismael Pineda at YOLA
Weili Kang at LAUSD elementary schools
Charles Dickerson at ICYOLA
Jeff Andersen at Carson Senior High School
Laura Savitz at TUSD elementary schools
- **INNER CITY YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF LOS ANGELES** will present their “season finale” at Disney Hall on July 10th. Our member **Charles Dickerson** invites you to obtain some of the FREE tickets for the concert, either at 3:00 PM or 7:30 PM. Make a reservation for a seat at either time slot: <https://icyola.org/seasonfinale/>
- It is the season for honors!

Anli Tong was recognized for the Violet Award. Her tireless efforts to advocate for our chapter and membership recruitment have been invaluable. She received a certificate and a special pin.



Ramona Gifford presents the Violet Award certificate to honoree **Anli Tong**.



At the June meeting, **Jennifer Holly Cannon** received a special Violet Award to for her contributions to the chapter as program co-VP and numerous hours spent coordinating the technical aspects of our zoom meetings and concerts! She will be sorely missed by all those at the Hills Music Academy and by Joanna Nacheff at El Camino where Jennifer served as assistant. We bid her farewell as she moves to Atlanta this month.

Out-going President LaVerne M. McCoy congratulates **Jennifer Holly Cannon** on her special award.



L to R: David Champion, Ramona Gifford, Lina Lee, Lorna Katz, LaVerne M. McCoy, Debra Shrader, Carla Sedlacek, Lois Tai

On June 21st, the new Slate of Board Members for 2022-23 were installed:

President:	Lorna Katz
Co-Vice-Presidents:	Mika Yamamoto, Lina Lee, and Shanice Aaron
Treasurer:	David Champion
Co-Treasurer:	Lois Tai
Recording Secretary:	Lenita McCallum
Newsletter Editor:	Debra Shrader
Steward:	Carla Sedlacek
Co-Steward:	Ramona Gifford
Past President:	LaVerne M. McCoy

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS OF THE CHAPTER!

By special election, we initiated three new members of the alumni chapter on June 21st. Welcome to Jennifer Anderson, Betty Cheung, and Amanda Schulz. We will feature them in the upcoming newsletters so you can get to know these talented musicians!



Mu Phi member Emily Anderson and her daughter Jennifer Anderson, newly initiated.



New initiates Betty Cheung on left and picture of Amanda Schulz on right, with member Debra Shrader holding iPad for the remote connection.

Drum set for a student? Anyone know of someone who could use a decent student drum set that includes bass drum with pedal, hi-hat with pedal, two cymbals, two large toms, two small toms, and one snare? I used this trap set in my classroom for years, but since I've retired, I don't have room for it at home. Drumming is one of the best ways to develop musicianship and coordination. I'm hoping someone will raise their hand to remove it from MY hands! Thanks – Debra Shrader (teach2play@gmail.com)

Visitor from afar – Lenita McCallum Witherspoon continues to serve the chapter as our Recording Secretary, even though she recently moved to Hawaii! She made a trip to California and visited friends at **Ramona's** last week. **Pearl Kim** shared a few moments with her.



Pearl Kim and Lenita Witherspoon

As a surprise, **Ramona Gifford** presented out-going president **LaVerne M. McCoy** a memento for her years of service. A violet-decorated curio dish was passed from the Gifford household to LaVerne.



Ramona Gifford presenting a surprise memento to outgoing President LaVerne McCoy.



My Adventure as President of the Palos Verdes South Bay Alumni Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon

My term as president has come to an end. I am proud to have served in a position of leadership. When first approached by the nominating committee, I was reluctant and resistant. I didn't think I had an adequate knowledge base to lead effectively and efficiently. After much encouragement, I acquiesced and took the task very seriously.

I learned that I possessed far more knowledge than I thought and was capable of functioning quite comfortably. Of course, I had my whole executive board to rely on and to reassure and support me. I completed an independent crash course of the duties of the president, standing rules, rituals, and other pertinent information.

The PVSB Alumni chapter has been very effective in aiding music programs in schools and colleges and it continues to hold this distinction as we prepare for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. With the assistance of my treasurer's calendar all reports were filed prior to the established deadlines.

There was a strong line of communication between the members of the board and me. My confidence grew with each event and endeavor. My receptivity to ideas and projects created a bond that made us excel in many new ventures.

I am compelled to say that my board was most responsible which aided in the administration of our Alumni Chapter's successes. We have met and exceeded many of the goals that were included in our annual yearbook.

I thank each member of the Palos Verdes South Bay Chapter and the magnificent Patrons for the many (large and small) contributions that you made. Again I say "Thank YOU!" It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as President. I will read with pleasure my name, "LaVerne M. McCoy" in the list of Past Presidents.
