



Palos Verdes/South Bay Chapter

Newsletter - August 2022

Behind Every Mu Phi There is a Story

From the keyboard of the President:

Hello members of the Palos Verdes/South Bay Alumni Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon!

I know that the last two years have been rough on everyone. Many concerts were canceled, Broadway was literally shutdown. The pandemic tried to silence the music, but music continued to flourish, even during the early months of the pandemic in 2020. Many found a way to lift spirits by providing music, even if it was via a livestream on Facebook or YouTube. Many ensembles had to learn how to rehearse using technology such as Clean Feed, Jamulus, or another platform that offered the least amount of sound delay. Even though this proved to be quite challenging, what the pandemic has taught many of us were new skills that can now be incorporated into our hybrid and live performances.



We are now entering a new era where there is war in Ukraine. Over the past summer, my husband Rick and I have had the privilege to help the people of Ukraine through the LAKMA - Los Angeles Korean-American Musicians' Association, in two concerts. The first was performing Mozart's Requiem on May 15, 2022, at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Los Angeles, and then performing the Peace Concert on August 6, 2022, at the Disney Concert Hall.

During the Peace Concert, there were videos shown about the atrocities by Russia as they wage war in Ukraine. The videos were heart wrenching to see. We also heard about the prolonged tensions between North and South Korea. I had no idea that there was an armistice between the dividing countries that was enacted 70 years. We also learned of a group of women traveling along the demilitarized zone whose mission is to get the two governments reach a peace treaty. At this concert, we performed Ralph Vaughn Williams' "Dona Nobis Pacem." It is this theme, "Give Us Peace," that musicians and singers of all walks of life gathered united to support the efforts to end the wars and tensions these countries are experiencing even to this day.

Where am I going with this you may ask? The common thread is that during both the pandemic and the current wars and tensions, relief was sought and found in music. Historically during the darkest times, many cultures found a solace in music. There is something in music that can provide hope, strength, comfort, and unity. Even though we may not speak the same language, music has also been a source of healing.

As we are now entering a new fiscal year, I am excited to see the return of live performances starting in September. It is the dawning of new hope through music for our chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon. The first general meeting will be at the home of Emily Anderson. More details to come later. We have

several potential new initiates that may be joining us from the Gamma Sigma Chapter. My hope is that our chapter will continue to grow.

There are so many exciting things in the works which will also be announced later. Once things have been firmed up, and when the time is right, we will make this known to the you, our members. I look forward to a brighter future in our chapter through music and friendship. Keep your hopes alive by keeping the music alive.

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



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

September 6th, 2022 – newsletter deadline (send entries to teach2play@gmail.com)

September 20th, 2022 – 9:30 AM – Virtual Board Meeting

September 25th, 2022 – 4:00 PM – at Emily Anderson’s home, 1505 Sunnyside Terrace, San Pedro, **Welcome Back Potluck (RSVP to Mona Gifford: monagee@cox.net), entertainment from Gamma Sigma friends.**

October 4th, 2022 – newsletter deadline (send entries to teach2play@gmail.com)

Every September, the chapter publishes our annual yearbook. If you have yours handy, please check your own listing. If any corrections or changes are necessary, send them to Julio Sequeira (jjsequiera@me.com) and David Champion (david@thechampions.com).

60th year chapter anniversary in 2024

David Champion would like to have a member or two join him in planning a gala for our chapter anniversary in 2024. It’s time to choose a venue and date. If you would like to join the 60th anniversary planning committee, send him an email message or give him a call.

Member and Patron News

Who will we welcome next to the PV/SB CHAPTER?

Last month we featured three new initiates to our chapter. I fondly remember being brought into the Palos Verdes/South Bay chapter in February of 2001, surrounded by significant people who would later become important connections for me. Do you remember your initiation? It occurred to me that you each may not realize you have an important role to play in expanding our chapter. Is music important to you? Do you have friends who could be a part of our MPE, too? Contact **Anli Lin Tong** (anli90275@yahoo.com) if there is someone you'd like to nominate for membership. She can answer your questions and give you the steps to take. We're all stronger together!

~ Debra Shrader

From Patron **Anne Destabelle**:

My friend Pat Brown is looking for a small singing group to visit her friend Jackie Grossman in RPV. She goes to dialysis 3 times a week and is free on Sunday afternoons with a piano in her living room. Do you have an interest in forming a small group for this purpose? Contact **Anne** at destabelle@cox.net.



Youth Community Choir announced

Here in our own community of Palos Verdes Peninsula, the public middle schools are NOT offering choral music. In fact, it has been years since there was a choral program. **Dan Doctor**, esteemed choral director at PV Peninsula High School, is offering an opportunity to sing that will include grades 6-12. See the flyer for more information. If you know of students in those age groups, please circulate the notice to them!

Our MPE President **Lorna Katz** shared this news:

CSUF New Music Ensemble won the San Francisco Vocal Arts Audience award, of which I am a member and the Grad Student Assistant to Artistic Director, Dr. Pamela Madsen.

California State University Fullerton New Music Ensemble is one of the winners of the San Francisco Classical Voice Audience Choice Awards!!! Dr. Pamela Madsen is the Artistic Director, along with Dr. Eric Dries, Assistant Director, leading the students of CSUF who make up this wonderful, innovative group. Congratulations to Pamela Madsen's "Oratorio for the Earth!" Congratulations to everyone!!!

Visit: [Audience Choice Awards 2021–2022: Los Angeles Winners](#)

The website is full of names that we know from local venues. Check it out!



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In Memoriam

Maurice Ethelbert Suhre, age 87, of Redondo Beach, California passed away on Tuesday, July 5, 2022. Maurice was born July 5, 1935 in Kansas City, MO. David Champion recalls that after a career in aerospace, Maurice enrolled in the music program at California State University Dominguez Hills to obtain a degree in piano performance. He studied piano with Delores Stevens. He joined the Gamma Sigma Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon and after graduation joined the Palos Verdes/South Bay Alumni chapter where he served on the board of directors as secretary. Maurice was pre-deceased by his wife artist Rosemary. Members of our chapter may recall that Maurice would often introduce his date of birth with humor, saying he was born on his birthday. Interesting that he also died on that same date. The link for his announcement is at this site:

<https://obituaries.neptunesociety.com/obituaries/san-pedro-ca/maurice-suhre-10834903>



Above: The PV/SB MPE Board met in July to plan for the 2022-23 year. L to R: **Mona Gifford, Lorna Katz, Lois Tai, Darlene Vlasek, Lina Lee, Carla Sedlacek, LaVerne M. McCoy, Debra Shrader,** and **David Champion.** **Lenita McCallum Witherspoon** participated via recording from her vacation in Europe.

Right: **Anli Lin Tong** hosted our meeting, preparing a lovely lunch besides being a part of the board.



Below: Newly installed president **Lorna Katz.**

Below right: **Lina Lee and Lois Tai**



Mu Phi Epsilon Dues are due in August

The deadline for Alumni Dues to the chapter is August 31st. Respond promptly so our treasurer can report the roster of active members to the Fraternity Office by the deadline of September 1st and your name can be included in the September chapter yearbook. Included in your dues are member dues forwarded to the Mu Phi Epsilon office. Late payment of dues creates extra paperwork for both the local chapter and the national office, so please don't be late!

It is traditional to donate to the International Fraternity a penny for every year since its founding. A Founders' Day donation of \$1.19 is included in your dues.

Regular Chapter Dues are \$20.00

International Fraternity Dues are \$75.00

Founders Day donation is \$1.19

Total due is \$96.19

If you round up or make an additional payment, your extra payment will be considered a chapter donation and will further support our activities.

Make your check to Mu Phi Epsilon, write 2022-2023 dues in the memo portion. Send it as soon as possible to our treasurer's address:

David Champion

229 15th Street

Manhattan Beach CA 90266-4603

Checks are preferred but if you wish to pay through PayPal, send a request to david@thechampions.com. He can send you a PayPal invoice. The PayPal processing fee is about \$2.50.

Dues may be tax-deductible as a business expense if they can be justified as important to your business activities. Check with your accountant.

If you are making a **Patron Contribution**, make a separate check to Mu Phi Epsilon and write Patron Donation in the memo line of the check. Patron Contributions may be tax-deductible.

Suggested Patron's Annual Donation levels are:

\$25-\$49—Friend, \$50-\$99—Silver, \$100-\$149 Gold, \$150 plus—Platinum