

Music Teacher's Association of California

San Mateo County Branch

Newsletter

February 2009

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President's Pen

Pat McNutt

My grandson wrote a seven-stanza poem last week entitled, "Music." Now, if I tell you it's a brilliant poem, you will consider the source, a starry-eyed Grandma. However, it is, in fact, brilliant. He's a 12 year old writer and musician of whom my family is very proud. As a result, I began thinking about musicians and families, and how our talents and interests extend. Stop and think about it for a minute, no, really....stop and think. In your extended family, who shares your passion for music, down through the generations and right now? It is an interesting exercise and one that may make you grateful for shared genes!

Kenric Tam wowed us with his mature interpretations of some great piano music January 25. Later this month, we have the opportunity to learn about finances – read below about this program. Come share with your friends and colleagues in our Branch events, and be inspired!

Website Update

Our new website is almost ready to go live and may be up by the time you receive this letter. The URL is mtacsanmateo.org – check it out! We will send an email announcement to all members when the website is up and running.

Branch Recital

Denise Chevalier

I am really looking forward to our next Branch Recital: February 15, 2009, 2:45pm at the Foster City Community Center, Wind Room. We will be featuring students of various ages and levels, and a wide variety of composers – Bach, Beethoven, Burgmuller, Chopin and Tchaikovsky to name a few. In addition to the great piano and violin music, we will have a special teacher performance at the end of the program. Please feel free to invite your students, friends and family! For more details about the concert, see the attached program.

Programs

Janice Sheng

Y.A.G. Concert – January 2009, featuring pianist Kenric Tam

Thanks to all the teachers that assisted in promoting and volunteering for this concert. We had a full-house and a wonderful event.

Seminar on Finances – How to Plan, Preserve and Prosper

Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Time: 10 – 12pm

Place: San Mateo Public Library, Oak Room

Free Admission, Reception to follow

Our branch is pleased to present a special program to help our members survive and prosper through these tough times.

Terry Matzkin, CLU, ChFC, who manages our funds at the MTAC state level, will present ideas on retirement planning, income distribution, protecting your assets, long term care issues and other related areas that you need to know. Our biggest fear is running out of money. Being aware of the problem is the first step toward a solution. It's easy to put off planning or pretend everything will just work itself out. That can be a very large mistake. There is a better way. Come hear Terry discuss strategies that are critical to your long term financial security. Terry has been in the financial services business for over 34 years and his motto is, "The situation is the boss."

Please RSVP so Terry knows how many packets of materials to bring.

RSVP correspondent:

Janice Sheng at jsheng.piano@gmail.com

650-430-1384

RSVP by February 17, 2009

Certificate of Merit

Marcela Toma

I would like to remind all CM teachers to email me for ANY changes from Path A to Path B, or Drops as soon as you can. We have a great number of students registered and it will make the scheduling smoother if we have the information ASAP!

Please be sure the carpool section is completed correctly. Use copy and paste for sibling and carpool identification. All students in one carpool or sibling group must use the SAME USERNAME. The deadline for entering the repertoire is Saturday, March 14, 2009. Teacher's work schedule will be handled by Pat McNutt.

Please contact Pat by e-mail: patm@coastside.net

You may request DAY and A.M. or P.M. shift and we will try to honor your request, but there is no guarantee.

Please register early as you may need to double check for accuracy later on.

Thank you all and good luck.

Branch Membership

Laurie Johnson

Please inform me of any changes in your contact information. I need up-to-date addresses, phone numbers and email contacts so our branch directory is accurate and also so I can forward the correct information to the state for inclusion in the State Membership Directory. Send any changes to laurlyn@comcast.net or 650-593-4559.

MTAC State Foundation News

As we proceed into the New Year during these economically challenging times, I (Sharon Townsend Roth) encourage and thank you for your vital work as music professionals.

Your MTAC Foundation is a voice and face of a nonprofit that is now even more vital to your community. With your help, I am hoping we can produce the great work of our organization. This is a difficult giving environment, but the work we do now is even more important than ever.

I am grateful to personally be involved with the State Board and the MTAC Foundation. Inspiring support is never easy. The encouragement of charitable giving is a labor of love. We care about MTAC; therefore we want to be successful.

The wheels of your Foundation keep turning, but they can't move forward without your help. I was delighted to receive a note with donations from a teacher. She asked her students to donate

to the MTAC Foundation instead of a holiday gift. Simple gestures on your part can and will go a long way.

We now have an opportunity to become a critical part of the nonprofit sector in our musical communities. Please donate. And remember, people give because they believe they can make a difference. Help your MTAC make a difference. Contact the state office for ways you can make a contribution. You can also find more detailed information on the MTAC website: mtac.org

Celebrating the life of Marilynn Carstens

Marilynn Carstens, music teacher, went on to her next great adventure on the morning of Tuesday, January 27, 2009. She was active in the Music Teachers Association as the driving force behind improvisation in the MTAC syllabus and as an author of two books on teaching music improvisation. Many members of the San Mateo Branch knew Marilynn and remember the talent and enthusiastic approach she had as a teacher. The information below was sent to us regarding the event that will celebrate her life.

A celebration of the life of Marilynn Carstens will take place on Saturday, March 7, 2009 3:00 p.m., at the First Unitarian Church of San Jose, 160 N. 3rd St., San Jose, CA 95112.

There will be a potluck following the service. Optional: bring food. Casual attire is encouraged since there will be music and dancing/movement.

An Endowment Fund, designated for Improvisation, will be established in the MTAC Foundation in her name. Should you wish to donate, please write a check made payable to the MTAC Foundation and send to the MTAC State Office, 833 Market Street, Suite 900, San Francisco CA 94103, Attention: Rhonda Williams, Financial Coordinator.

Marilynn's husband, Patrick, has also asked that donations be made to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, 750 Cutner Ave., San Jose, CA 95125, www.2ndharvest.net, in Marilynn's memory.
