

AMERICAN HARP SOCIETY WESTERN REGIONAL NEWSLETTER



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REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It's hard to believe that it's been a year since our last newsletter. Many exciting things have happened with our members in the last 12 months. At the last Board of Director's meeting in June 2008, a decision was made to produce only one "snail-mail" newsletter a year. This decision was made to help save costs and time. This once-a-year paper newsletter is a chance to share your news, experiences, upcoming events and accomplishments.

Communication is an important benefit of membership in the American Harp Society. I am willing to produce quick emails to disseminate information to our region throughout the year.

If you would like to be part of future email communications, send your email information to me at ahs.western@yahoo.com. ***Please send your email even if you think I have it so that I know that you wish to receive email updates on news in our Region.***

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT...

AHS PROGRAMS FOR ALL MEMBERS

Did you know that...On the AHS National website, www.harpsociety.org there is information about the following programs:

The AHS Summer Institute will be held from Sunday, June 29 through Thursday July 2, 2009 in Salt Lake City, Utah.
<http://www.harpsociety.org/conference/summer.html>

The AHS 18th National Competition will take place on Sunday, June 28 – July 2, 2009 as part of the Summer Institute.
http://www.harpsociety.org/awards/nat_competition.html

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You can also use this address to send me your news! I will periodically send you a note to request information to publish in our Regional Email Newsletter.

In this newsletter, in addition to sharing news in our region, I will focus on some of the opportunities available to member of the AHS. It's been my experience that many of us don't realize how much information and how many opportunities are available through the AHS.

Here's what's happening in our nationally and in our Western Region.

Happy harping,
 Jessica Siegel

The Lyon & Healy Awards will take place on Friday, June 26 and 27, 2009 at Westminster College in Salt Lake City, Utah.
<http://www.harpsociety.org/awards/lyon-healy.html>

The Winners Outreach Program is designed to help by giving performance experience to American Harp Society National Competition prize winners other than the Concert Artist. Chapters may request financial support of up to \$300 for assistance in presenting the current competition prize winner(s) residing within that chapter's region.
<http://www.harpsociety.org/resources/musiced.html>

Please see *Did You Know* on page 4

Santa Clara Valley Chapter

Website: www.scvharp.org

The SCVC held its first event on October 12, 2008 with a concert and potluck dinner. Seika Dong played the pieces she will be performing in November at the Soka (Japan) International Harp Competition.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 25, Sunday, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Covering Mistakes Workshop with Stephanie Janowski, at home of Sue Dinwiddie, 543 Jackson Drive, Palo Alto. Please RSVP to Sue at (650) 325-3033 or sued@daise.com

Saturday, March 14, 2009 - Deborah Henson-Conant Concert

Spreckels Performing Arts Center, Santa Rosa.
8:00 p.m.

www.spreckelonline.com/performingarts/

Sunday, March 15 - Deborah Henson-Conant

Deborah Henson-Conant will be in our area on Sunday, March 15, 2009. Keep your calendar open for that date. The SCVC is planning to host a workshop featuring Deborah.

MEMBER NEWS

Jeremy Keppelmann was a featured harp soloist on National Public Radio's "From the Top" broadcast in October. Jeremy also performed the Mozart Concerto for Flute and Harp with the Toccata Orchestra in Reno, Nevada in June and performed on the Focus on Youth concerts at the World Harp Congress in Amsterdam in July, 2008.

Vivian and Wesley Hsu have been selected to the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra. They also were accepted to the Lily Laskine

Junior Competition in Paris, France, in September 2008. Both passed to the second stage and Wesley passed to the third (concerto) stage and was the Third Prize winner of the competition. Both performed on the Focus on Youth Concerts in Amsterdam at the WHC.

Addie Stephens has been appointed to the principal harp position with the Oakland Youth Orchestra.

OFFICERS:

President: Lynne Rovin

Treasurer: Karen Kueter

Recording Secretary: Jennifer Hurley

Newsletter: Stephanie Janowski

Website/Membership: Celeste Misfeldt

TRANSITIONS

The following Western Region members have passed away during the last year.

Robin Feiler, Sierra Foothills Chapter

Donelle Page, Bay Area Chapter

Michael Rado, Bay Area Chapter

Alice Chalifoux, AHS Lifetime Member

Our thoughts and sympathy are with the friends and loved ones of these individuals. They will be remembered for their passion for the harp, their accomplishments and unique gifts they shared with us during our time together.

HARP HUMOR:

How many harp players does it take to change a light bulb?

Five: one to handle the bulb, and the other four to tell him which is the best hand position to use.

Redding Chapter

EVENTS

Saturday, November 1, 2008

-Gráinne Hambly, 2 p.m.

"The Music of O'Carolan"

Pilgrim Congregational Church, Redding.

Learn a piece by Ireland's best known harper-composer. The harp repertoire of the 17th and 18th centuries will be discussed, along with some ideas for arranging these pieces.

-William Jackson, 3:30 p.m.

"Accompanying Other Instruments"

The modes used in Scottish and Irish traditional music, approaches to accompanying other instruments, and ideas for playing in sessions by improvising chord patterns will be covered

MEMBER NEWS

The Redding Chapter has new officers.
Congratulations to these harp community leaders.

President: Candace LiVolsi

Vice Presidents: Kim Coring & Donna Youngblood

Treasurer: Jodi Zaharris

Secretary: Lauren Sharkey

BAY AREA CHAPTER

NEW Website:

<http://sites.google.com/site/bacahssf>

EVENTS

Saturday, November 8, 2008

2:30 matinee and 8:00 pm performances

19th Annual Festival of Harps

Dorothy Spreckels Performing Arts Center

5419 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park, CA

Tickets: 707-588-3400; www.spreckelsonline.com

November 23, 2008 5:00 p.m.

YouTube Recital at Harps Etc. This is your chance to be videotaped and have your music uploaded to YouTube. Come play a favorite piece and be recorded. 1601 N. Main St., Ste 106, Walnut Creek, CA. Please contact Esther at harping@gmail.com for details or check website.

BAY AREA CHAPTER (CONT.)

EVENTS

May 31, 2009, Time TBA

The BAC along with the San Francisco Conservatory will sponsor a concert by Sadie Turner, winner on the Young Professional Division of the 17th National Competition in 2007. Please see website for details.

Mid-June 2009

BAC is also excited to announce the first Schwager National Competition. Required Repertoire is the same as the Advanced Division for the 18th AHS National Competition. See the website for details.

MEMBER NEWS

Officers:

President: Mike Lewis

Vice Presidents: Janice Ortega & Clint Venable

Secretary/Treasurer: Esther Lee

SIERRA FOOTHILLS CHAPTER

MEMBER NEWS

Sage Po spent 4 weeks this summer on the CalArts campus at InnerSpark studying with Susan Allen. She received the "Herb Alpert Emerging Young Artist Award Scholarship", which provides a \$40,000.00 college scholarship. At age 14, Sage is the youngest person to receive this award.

Sage Po practicing



Did You Know from page 1

There is a **listing of Published Harp Parts for School Ensembles (Grades 1-12)**

<http://www.harpsociety.org/resources/education2000.html>

There is a **glossary of Bernard Andres**

Notations by Isabelle Perrin & Barbara Fackler.

<http://www.harpsociety.org/committees/harplit.html>

The Music Education Auditions are open to students of all ages who are national members, and consist of two auditions ("hearings") held approximately one month apart. At the first, the participants play two pieces of their own choosing. At the second, they play these again--to show their improvement--along with a third piece they have chosen.

<http://www.harpsociety.org/resources/musiced.html>

Anderson Insurance Services is the endorsed agent for the World Harp Congress Musical Instrument Insurance.

<http://www.harpsociety.org/resources/insurance.html>

The following Awards, Scholarships and Prizes Are Available to AHS Members

<http://www.harpsociety.org/awards/index.html>

Wickersham Award

Award based on musical promise and financial need. Preference given to those pursuing study in the field of music therapy using the harp.

Kathrin Fouse Award

Award based on musical promise and financial need.

Kids for Camp Award

Award to make summer music camp a reality for a young harpist. Based on financial need and musical promise.

Inez Stafford Award

Established and administered by the Bay Area Chapter, AHS. Awards awarded for tuition to music camps, workshops, competitions or special lessons. For students of Northern California, Oregon or Washington.

Weiger Lepke-Sims Family Composition Award for Church Music to encourage new music to be written for solo harp, harp and choir, chamber music or orchestral music with harp.

Did You Know (con't)

The International Harp Archives was established in 1994 at Brigham Young University and serves as a support service for research related to the harp, harpists and harp music.

<http://music.lib.byu.edu/IHA/>

NEVADA CHAPTER

MEMBER NEWS

Michelle Gott is giving her Master's Recital at Juilliard on Friday November 7th at 6 PM.

Caryn Gott has numerous harps for sale in the Southwest and New York City. Her daughter, Michelle Gott manages the New York showroom. Contact Caryn at 702-454-3564

Caryn and Michelle will offer the 4th Summer Camp at Panguitch Lake, Utah. For more information contact Caryn at 702-454-3564. ▪

OTHER NEWS

The USA International Harp Composition

Contest information is available at www.usaihc.org

The 17th International Harp Contest in Israel

will take place October 6 - 20, 2009. Info at www.harpcontest-israel.org.il

Harps Etc. has moved to a new location:

1601 N. Main Street, Suite 106, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

800-836-5559, www.harpsetc.com
info@harpsetc.com

All harpists are welcome to participate in regular harp ensembles that rehearse at Harps Etc. Please contact Jessica at 925-937-4277 for full information.

Windsong: Every Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Windsong, Too!: Third Saturday of each month from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Adult Harp Circle: First and Third Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

AHS CONFERENCE REVIEW

This summer I attended the AHS National Conference in Dearborn, Michigan. My heartfelt congratulations go to Christa Grix and her Conference Committee for producing a wonderful conference. We were treated to numerous concerts featuring world class harpists in concert including Judy Loman, Yolanda Kondonassis, Isabelle Moretti, Ann Hobson-Pilot and our own California favorites Patti Masri-Fletcher and Douglas Rioth.

I spent quality time visiting with old friends and making new friends. We are an amazing community with much knowledge, wisdom, experience and support to offer to each other.

The Tribute to Alice Chalifoux was the high point of the Conference. Several of her former students performed, including a re-enactment of Ms. Chalifoux's famous interview on the Johnny Carson Show. You can view a clip of the original interview at YouTube.com.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iS3hl1fRnvg>

A Call to Action

You can make a difference! I invite you to share your thoughts, ideas, harp tricks and business ideas for our next Western Regional E-Newsletter. Share your thoughts about any/all of the following or create your own topic of conversation:

- What is your biggest performance challenge?
- How do you keep motivated to practice?
- What do you love about playing the harp?

Send your responses by 12/31/08 to ahs.western@yahoo.com

AHS Conference Review (con't)

The Conference theme was the Whole Harpist. Workshops centered on physical and spiritual wellbeing. We met one on one with ergonomic specialists to assess the health of our playing position, learned stress management and more conscious practice tricks, learned about aromatherapy and more. I left feeling reinvigorated, relaxed, more informed and entertained!

OTHER NEWS (con't)

Marina Roznitovsky from Reno, NV has started a new Try the Harp Group Class at Truckee Meadows Community College, Meadowood Center in Reno. For information contact Marina at: (775)673-HARP or mroznito@hotmail.com.

The Santa Clara Valley Chapter has an extensive listing of upcoming concerts and events that include AHS members in the Western Region at their website: www.scvharp.org.

ONE LAST THOUGHT

As a follow-up to the AHS Conference theme of consciousness and living well, I read a wonderful book entitled "The Last Lecture" by Randy Pausch. Randy was a professor at Carnegie Mellon University who was diagnosed with terminal cancer. When it came time to leave his position at the university, he had the opportunity to give a final lecture. The book shares some of Randy's thoughts and lessons about making your dreams come true. You can view the video of The Last Lecture at www.thelastlecture.com.

I hope you will find value in this lecture. Perhaps it will even help you find some answers to the questions posed in this newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,
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American Harp Society

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
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