



# Southwestern Region Newsletter

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Fall 2012

## Greetings!

*I'd like to take this opportunity to send a heartfelt "thanks" to all of you who attended the 40<sup>th</sup> National AHS Conference in New York, New York in July 2012. The Conference celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Harp Society, and brought its members back to the organization's historic roots. Many of you may know that the 2012 Conference Chair, Emily Mitchell, is a member of the Southwest Region and resides in the Houston area. Congratulations to Emily and her team for a really memorable AHS Conference!*

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*Looking ahead to this summer, the 10<sup>th</sup> AHS Summer Institute will be held at the **Colburn School in the heart of downtown Los Angeles, California, June 18-June 22, 2013**. This year's theme is "Focus on Friends," and will feature fine chamber performances and small ensembles. The Lyon & Healy Awards will take place from June 12-15, and the 20<sup>th</sup> National Competition will be June 15-18. I look forward to seeing many of you there!*

*Congratulations to the Dallas Chapter, which is the recipient of the 2011-2012 AHS Chapter of the Year Award! Please read about this chapter on the national AHS, Inc. website, and visit the Dallas Chapter's website at [www.DallasHarpSociety.org](http://www.DallasHarpSociety.org). Your chapter can also apply for the Chapter of the Year Award! Please contact me if you would like additional details about applying.*

*As a friendly reminder, please encourage the members of your local chapters to become members of the national AHS, Inc. to have the full benefits of the society. By joining, they will receive the American Harp Journal, access to harp insurance, email notifications, and will be able to participate in all activities of the Society including competitions and summer gatherings.*

*The AHS has a website at [www.HarpSociety.org](http://www.HarpSociety.org), which contains a new membership portal! Please log in to update your contact information, tell us about yourself, and upload a photo. This portal will make it easier for you to contact other AHS, Inc. members, and will help the Society be more connected. We also welcome you to join us on FaceBook. We publish one annual newsletter for our region, so this newsletter includes information about both past and future chapter events. Please feel free to email details of future happenings to me at [jaymee.haefner@unt.edu](mailto:jaymee.haefner@unt.edu) by October 15, 2013 for inclusion in next year's AHS Southwestern Region newsletter.*

*Our region certainly has a great many things to celebrate. Thank you for all you do to promote the harp!*

*Warmest wishes,  
Jaymee Haefner*

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*Visit the AHS website at [www.harpsociety.org](http://www.harpsociety.org). We also welcome you to join the National and Southwest Region FaceBook groups.*

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## Austin Chapter

Emilia White, President  
[www.AustinHarpSociety.org](http://www.AustinHarpSociety.org)

In March and April of 2012, twenty-three students ranging in age 8 to adult from the greater Austin area participated in the two-part Austin Harp Solo Auditions at with guest advisor Emily Mitchell. Many thanks to Ms. Mitchell, Mr. Frazier and Anderson High School, the participants, and all the volunteers who made last spring's auditions such a success.

In October 2012 the following officers were elected: Emilia White, President; Natalie Teodori, Vice President; Lisa Lamb, Secretary; Lynn Turner, Treasurer.

You can learn more about upcoming meetings and events as information becomes available on the chapter website [www.AustinHarpSociety.org](http://www.AustinHarpSociety.org).

- **From the studio of Elaine Barber**

This summer, Elaine enjoyed attending both the American Harp Society Conference and the Historical Harp Society Conference in NYC in June, along with a number of other Austin harpists. She was also fortunate, along with two of her students, Jessica Wiedemeier and Emma Sky Blaw, to study seprewa (Ghanaian harp) with master musician Aaron Bebe Sukura. They were in Ghana along with other members of their Girl Scout troop participating in a Worldwide Scout Jamboree. This fall Sydney Rieder and Jessica Wiedemeier have been chosen to play in their Region Orchestras, and Jessica Wiedemeier and Sasha Richie are performing with Austin Youth Orchestra.

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*Congratulations to all harpists from our region who prepared for the 2012 Anne Adams Competition!*

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- **From the studio of Kela Walton**

Kela Walton continues to enjoy both teaching and performing in Austin. She was invited back to teach yoga classes at Longhorn Music Camp again in June 2012, and continues to combine her love of harp and yoga in classes and workshops. In March 2012 Kela Walton & Jacquelyn Venter co-directed the 3rd Annual Round Rock ISD Harp Ensemble Festival. Seventeen students from eight different RRISD secondary schools participated in a weekend festival focusing on the ensemble music of famous harpists. The festival's closing concert was held on March 31, 2012 at Stony Point High School. Walton's students Analee Cantu and Barbara Hughston earned First Division ratings for their harp solo performances in the Region 26 High School UIL Solo & Ensemble Competition in February 2012 and qualified to participate in the UIL Texas State Solo & Ensemble Competition in May. In March 2012 Gabbie Bernhard qualified to compete at the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools State Music Competition where she earned a First Division rating for her solo performance in April. More news from Kela Walton's studio can be found at [www.students.kelaharp.com](http://www.students.kelaharp.com)

- **From Lisa Lamb**

In June, Lisa Lamb published the book "Harp Games" which includes games and activities for harp teachers to use with their students. These games reinforce concepts including music theory, note reading, rhythm, dictation, ear training, musical forms, musical terms, music history, and more. The book is available from Lisa's website at [www.silverwingsmusic.com](http://www.silverwingsmusic.com) or from Lyon & Healy. Lisa is in her third season as harpist with the Austin Civic Orchestra and teaches both harp and flute lessons in the Austin area. Highlights from the past year include the publication and world premiere of her piece "Charcoal Landscape" for solo cello and flute ensemble and the publication of her article "Teaching the Complete Musician" in a National Flute Association Pedagogy Anthology. Her flute and harp duo has also presented "Music and a Story" programs at the Austin Public Library to introduce children to the harp.



- **From The Girl Scout Central Texas Harp Ensemble**

The Girl Scout Central Texas Harp Ensemble was established in 2011 as a special interest group for student harpists (K-12). The purpose of this group is to give young harpists an opportunity to play together in a collaborative, noncompetitive environment, provide group performance opportunities in the community, and promote the harp. This group is open to girls of all playing abilities. The Girl Scout Harp Ensemble meets once a month, with occasional additional outings and service project performances once a quarter. This is a girl-led group with collaboration and direction from Elaine Barber, Principal Harpist for the Austin Symphony Orchestra. The girls decide on the music they wish to play, location of their service project performances, and additional related activities. The girls are also encouraged to write and arrange their own parts. Last year the group focused on classic Girl Scout songs like "Make New Friends" and experimented with extended techniques with the classic camp songs like "Herman the Worm". The Girl Scout Harp Ensemble performed at the Texas State Capitol in conjunction with the Girl Scout Centennial Celebration. This year the harp ensemble will focus on earning their performance badge and will put on a 'harp clinic' for non-harpists to introduce the harp to young girls, educate them on harp basics, provide a hands on opportunity to play a harp, and participate in a Girl Scout harp sing-a-long.

*Austin Chapter* continued from page 2

- **From TMEA Region 18**

Students from the Austin and Westlake areas auditioned for the Region 18 Middle School and High School Orchestras October 13, 2012. Jasmine Chen and Brenda Chiang (both students of Ayren Huslig) won first and second harp in the Region 18 High School Symphony Orchestra. Bridget Walsh and Kevin Cho (both students of Ayren Huslig), along with Jessica Weidemeier (student of Elaine Barber) won first, second, and third harp (respectively) in the Region 18 High School Philharmonic Orchestra. The Region 18 Orchestras will perform at 4pm on Saturday November 17, 2012 at the Westlake Performing Arts Center.

- **From TMEA Region 26**

Students from the Round Rock and Lake Travis areas auditioned for the Region 26 Middle School and High School Orchestras as well as the Region 26 Harp Ensemble on October 13, 2012. Caitlin Komm (student of Delaine Fedson) won first harp, and Whitney Souery (student of Kela Walton) won second harp in the High School Orchestra. Sydney Rieder (student of Elaine Barber) won first harp and Ariadna Demkov won second harp (student of Kela Walton) in the Middle School Orchestra. The Region 26 Harp Ensemble members in chair order are: Analee Cantu, Magera Shaw, Claudia Xian, Rebecca Norman, Mayna Nguyen, Gabbie Bernhard, Carolyn Cravey, Nnenna Nwagbo, and Jarod Janner. The Harp Ensemble, under the direction of guest clinician Delaine Leonard Fedson, and both Region 26 Orchestras perform at 4pm on Saturday November 17, 2012 at the Round Rock ISD Performing Arts Center.




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*Visit the Austin Chapter's  
website at  
[www.AustinHarpSociety.org](http://www.AustinHarpSociety.org)*

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## Dallas Chapter

Becky Scherschell, President  
[www.DallasHarpSociety.org](http://www.DallasHarpSociety.org)

WELCOME to the American Harp Society in Dallas 2012-2013 from the Executive Board! The big news is that our chapter was named **Chapter of the Year 2012** by the Executive Committee of the national American Harp Society this summer at the National Conference in New York City. We are very proud to have received this honor. Hopefully our chapter will always be a model of the standards originally set forth by the founding committee of the AHS, Inc.

The other big news is that we are going to be celebrating our chapter's 50th anniversary. Julia Herrmann Edwards founded our chapter with the help of Marcel Grandjany in April, 1963. We will begin celebrating this fall.

Now that fall is upon us, it's time to look forward to another year of programs, events, and times to get together. Enclosed are a Calendar of Events and a Membership Enrollment Form, which is due by November 15, 2012. Membership may be paid at our first or second meeting or mailed. We are excited to have our opening meeting once again at the home of Carol and Oran West on Sunday, October 21 at 3:00 p.m. It will be a finger food get-together, with time to meet and greet and see a power point presentation narrated by the late Julia Herrmann Edwards, which was created in 1993 for the 30th anniversary of AHS in Dallas. Many of us will be seen as much younger people! Bring a finger food treat to share, and come and enjoy the company and the presentation in Carol's and Oran's beautiful home.

Each of us as members of the executive board is dedicated to the success of our Dallas chapter of the American Harp Society, and welcome your ideas and your participation as we work together to support the harp community and bring awareness of the beauty and versatility of the harp to the general public. Many of you may have friends, students, and family members who would enjoy and appreciate an invitation to join our chapter. Please feel free to extend those invitations on behalf of our chapter.




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*Visit the Dallas Chapter's  
website at  
[www.DallasHarpSociety.org](http://www.DallasHarpSociety.org)*

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*Dallas Chapter continued from page 3*

Thank you for your support and membership in the American Harp Society in Dallas. You are also invited to visit our interactive website at [www.DallasHarpSociety.org](http://www.DallasHarpSociety.org) for more information, or to contact any board member at [info@DallasHarpSociety.org](mailto:info@DallasHarpSociety.org).

We look forward to seeing you and hearing from you. Best wishes in this upcoming year!

Becky Scherschell - President  
 Patrick Stanfill - Treasurer  
 Dr. Jaymee Haefner - 1st V-Pres.-Programs  
 Maia Jourde - Student Events  
 Laurel McConkey - 2nd V-Pres.-Membership  
 Yumiko Endo Schlaffer - Historian/Webmaster  
 Kimberly Snauffer DeRosa - Secretary  
 Mary LeBus - Hospitality  
 Jennifer Solis - Assistant Secretary  
 Carol West - Assistant Hospitality

## Greater Houston (San Jacinto) Chapter

Terese Weber, President  
[www.HoustonHarp.org](http://www.HoustonHarp.org)

Please join us for the next meeting of the Greater Houston Chapter of the American Harp Society on Sunday, October 7 at 3:00. This meeting will be held at the home of Arpi Lamell, 5131 Glenmeadow, Houston, Texas 77096.

There will be an ensemble program featuring Louise Trotter, Emily Mitchell, and other wonderful harpists. The Lyon Healy Style 17 harp that is for sale by the Chapter will be played in the ensemble and will be available for interested buyers to try out after the performance.

The ensemble program will be followed by a Harpers' Bazaar, so clear out your music cabinet and knick-knack shelf and bring in anything harp related that you would like to sell--music, CDs, collectibles, etc. Please mark a price on your items. Proceeds will benefit the Chapter, and our new treasurer, John Gearhart, will be our cashier. (Please note that you are responsible for taking anything of yours that doesn't sell back home with you!)

Announcing our new slate of officers:

Terese Weber, President, [trswbr@gmail.com](mailto:trswbr@gmail.com)  
 Kay Martin, Vice-President, [kharps@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kharps@sbcglobal.net)  
 Elizabeth Paine, Secretary, [cross\\_harps@yahoo.com](mailto:cross_harps@yahoo.com)  
 John Gearhart, Treasurer, [jgearhartmusic@gmail.com](mailto:jgearhartmusic@gmail.com)  
 Louise Trotter, President Emeritus, [louiseharp@comcast.net](mailto:louiseharp@comcast.net)

Mildred Milligan Competition Winners and Student Recital participants for the final program meeting of the GHC 2011/12 season, Saturday, May 5, 2012. Many, many thanks to Susanna Campbell (Chair of the Milligan Competition) for her amazing organization and management.

Division I - no contestants  
 Division II - no contestants  
 Division III - First Prize, Cathleen Zhang; Honorable Mention, Savannah Lee  
 Division IV - First Prize, Elizabeth Campbell; Honorable Mention, Laura Barbé  
 Division V - First Prize, Haley Brant  
 Division VI - First Prize, Mayetta Im

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Visit the Houston  
 Chapter's website at  
[www.HoustonHarp.org](http://www.HoustonHarp.org)

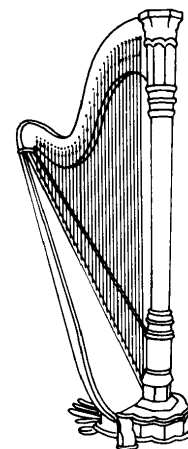
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## Lubbock Chapter (inactive)

Gail Barber, President

*The Lubbock harpists have had a very busy year.*

- Texas Tech students have performed a huge number of Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Choir and Band concerts, in addition to the spring Harp Solo and Ensemble Concert directed by Dr. Gail Barber. Performing on the May 6 Concert at Texas Tech were: Lauren Wessels, Annette Bajema, Melissa Rose Berger, Rachel Mazzucco, Jennifer Kirk Miller, Cassandra Lowe, Hugh Crow, and Mary Reigner.
- Our first Harp Ensemble Class in early September featured the Video: MARCEL GRANDJANY – THE TEACHER. This wonderful video was produced by the *Grandjany Centennial Fund* of the AMERICAN HARP SOCIETY. The tape was derived from nine home videos that were made in 1973 when Grandjany was over 80 years old. Because of almost 20 years of deterioration, extensive editing was required to salvage any of the footage. The Editors were Catherine Gotthoffer and David Ice. They produced a very valuable product. We were joined by our two new harp students: Mara Garza and Jamie Nesvadba. All of the students were very attentive and intrigued by the Grandjany video.
- Last year our two graduate students working on the MM in Harp Performance, Rachel Mazzucco and Jennifer Miller presented recitals. Rachel and her excellent colleagues, Susannah Self, flute, and Tonatiuh Garcia Jimenez, viola, presented an exceptional rendition of the Debussy: Sonata for flute, viola and harp in November, 2011. Jenny Kirk Miller and Denissa Munghia, flute, gave a beautiful performance of the Mozart: Concerto for Flute and Harp in April. Denissa's husband, Raul Munghia, did an excellent job of conducting a wonderful hand-picked student orchestra.
- Rachel Mazzucco finished the MM last spring and is now a TA working on the PhD in Music Theory. She won the audition for a one-year contract with the Lubbock Symphony for 2012-2013.
- Jenny Kirk Miller plans to complete her MM in Harp Performance this coming spring and start her DMA. Jenny played Puccini's *Madam Butterfly* with the Amarillo Opera during October and will perform Amahl in November.
- Lauren Baggerman Wessels will join Gail Barber in *Salome's Dance* with the Roswell Symphony in November. She will also perform with the Amarillo Symphony in November. Lauren appeared with the TTU Chamber Orchestra last spring in Elgar's *Sospiri*. She played exceptionally well-a very sensitive performance.
- Dr. Barber hopes to have her compositions, *A Turkish Fantasy for Solo Harp* and *Wondrous Destiny for harp ensemble with mallets and Tibetan chimes*, in print before the end of the school year.
- I am sorry to announce the passing of Carole Dyer Bratcher, my harp student for 14 years, and my very dear friend. She was a member of the AHS and a donor of harp scholarships. She joined us in many Harp Solo and Ensemble Concerts. We will miss her greatly.





HARP. Height, 5 ft. 8 in.

## Phoenix Chapter

Adrienne Bridgewater, President

*Please visit the Phoenix Chapter on Facebook for chapter updates!*

## Saguaro Chapter (Tucson)

Vanessa Moxness, President

[www.SophiaTucson.org](http://www.SophiaTucson.org)

*SOPHIA Events: (Saguaro - Old Pueblo Harpers in Arizona)*

Greetings to Saguaro chapter harpists, harpers and harp enthusiasts!

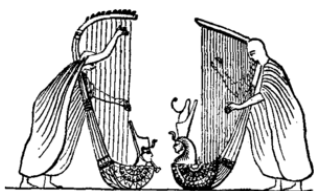
We are now officially a 501c organization! Many thanks to Lorna Govier and to Mary Bouley for working hard to establish our non-profit status.

In February 2012 our group, SOPHIA, participated in a workshop and concert featuring Celtic Jazz harper Maeve Gilchrist. Maeve's workshop, entitled "The Liquid Lever", gave our members valuable tips on how to move levers more quickly in order to facilitate highly chromatic lever work. We also learned about traditional Scottish harping as well as adapting modern jazz music to the lever harp. In addition, Maeve Gilchrist and her bassist partner Aidan O'Donnell gave a fabulous jazzy acoustic house concert for our members. In April Celeste Rogers hosted a Celtic harp circle, and in August our group attended an event where we sold harp sheet music and accessories to raise money for our chapter. During the summer we joined forces with various musicians who meet twice per month at the Rincon Market for a Celtic "slow jam". On Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Celtic harper Mary Bouley will host a harp circle. We will be playing songs from Tunes to Go, sharing dessert, and catching up after a busy summer. Other activities planned for the rest of the year include an October rehearsal for the Little Angels' Procession at Armory Park on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, a dessert and coffee event at a local restaurant on Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, and a holiday party on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at Carolyn Ancell's house where we will gather to play Christmas/Hanukkah harp music.

Many of our members perform professionally throughout the year. Some highlights of their activities include a January performance by Melissa Varga at the Cookies and Cabernet Benefit for the Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona, a March recital of Christine Vivona's pedal harp quartet at Rincon Congregational United Church of Christ and an April performance at Christ Church United Methodist featuring Rebecca Foreman, principal harpist with the Tucson Pops Orchestra and with the Southern Arizona Symphony Orchestra. Her repertoire for this event consisted of early music duets for two harps and also solos of Latin music. The Mosaic Trio--Pat Watrous on flute, Ann Weaver on viola and Patricia Harris on pedal harp--performed several classical concerts in April as part of Bisbee Arizona's premier chamber music series, "For the Love of Music". Mary Bouley, a prominent Celtic harper in Arizona, played at the Emerald Ball at Starr Pass Resort in March, the Manning House for Bloom's Day in June, and she appears annually at the Prescott Folk Festival. In May, Celtic harper Lorna Govier appeared at the Tucson Folk Festival and has recently released a new CD entitled, "The Bright Green Bough". In June, Christine Vivona, one of a few jazz harpists in the nation, appeared at the Arizona Inn as part of the Invisible Theatre's Sizzling Summer Sounds series. Rob Boone, piano and trombone, Betsy Kruse Craig, a wonderful singer, and Christine on pedal harp performed a concert of standards from Cole Porter, George Gershwin and many others. During late June and into July Patricia Harris, principal harpist for the Tucson Symphony, attended the American Harp Society's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary national conference in New York City.

S.O.P.H.I.A.

Visit the Saguaro  
Chapter's website at  
[www.SophiaTucson.org](http://www.SophiaTucson.org)



*Saguaro Chapter* continued from page 6

While there she conducted the Anne Adams Awards, with winners performing at the conference. On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, Christine Vivona led a jazz performance at the Old Pueblo Grill, with Christine on harp, Rob Boone on piano and trombone, Jack Wood on bass, and Cory Boone on drums. This fall, Patricia Harris will give two classical performances on October 6<sup>th</sup> at the Tucson Symphony Center featuring the symphony's Flute, Viola and Harp Trio, and on October 14<sup>th</sup> the "Christines" --flautist Christine Harper and harpist Christine Vivona--will appear in a flute and harp recital at St. Phillips Church.

Details of our calendar can be found on our website: [www.sophiatucson.org](http://www.sophiatucson.org). Looking forward to another great year involving all things harp!



## San Antonio Chapter

Nelda Etheredge, President

- From the Studio of Nancy McHugh - Nancy hosted a recital given by Hannah DeLauderanty who was in San Antonio for a brief visit. She performed her program for an upcoming concert she will be presenting in Memphis, Tennessee this fall. The concert was attended by students of Ms. McHugh and students of Nelda Etheredge.
- From the Studio of Nelda Etheredge - Students are preparing for Christmas harp ensemble performances throughout the City.
- From the Studio of John Strand - John is currently performing throughout the University Hospital System for patients, hospice service and chapel events within the hospital system.
- From the Studio of Alice Spero Keene:
  - The San Antonio Harp Ensemble will hold its annual Christmas concerts on:
    - December 8, Lifecare Hospital noon -2PM
    - December 9, Abiding Presence Lutheran Church 3PM
    - December 14 at Zion Lutheran Church in Helotes, 7PM.
 The harp ensemble director is Laurie Buchanan. Other area harpists participating are: Pauline Glickman, Nathan Sharplin, Frank Rice, George Gregory, Margarita Farias, Judi Pressig, Elisabeth Holler, Emily Jumes, Gail McKenna, Kristalyn Huber, Katherine Huber, Nancy Teply, Madeline Davis and Isabella Lorente. The concerts are free and open to the public.
  - This November, Alice Keene continues to stay active working with harp students the public school orchestra programs, private instruction out of her home studio as well as freelance jobs and recitals.
  - Last spring Alice Keene held a recital at the Stone Oak Parman Library on May 30, 2012. Sonja Westberg was a guest performer! The May issue of **Welcome Home**, a local newspaper, featured cover photo, inside photos and an in depth article on the harp studio of Ms. Keene and opportunities for study of harp in the public schools. **Welcome Home** also included a photo in their back-to-school September publication.
  - This past June Alice Keene was elected to the AHS Foundation Board. She is also serving as their secretary. Additionally
  - Alice was one of three and adjudicators for the Anne Adams Competition held at Montclair State University prior to the AHS National Conference in NYC.



