



**ANNUAL REPORTS  
OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**2019-2020**

# 2019-2020

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## PRESIDENT

In an unexpected year of challenges and unpredictability, seeing the joyful faces of so many children participate in our programs and concerts was uplifting. If music is the strongest form of magic, then we can feel tremendous pride in bringing the magic to so many.

Our slowed pandemic pace gave us time to deepen our relationships and find new ways to connect as we stayed safer at home. Zoom became our newest tool to keep us connected both personally and as a Philharmonic family. AB5 impacted programs in January and the global pandemic halted all remaining programs, meetings, fundraisers and concerts. The silver lining has us coming out stronger as we reevaluate our programs for increased impact. Our challenge is to turn obstacles into opportunities.

Several deserve special thanks on a Committees-wide front. Donors exceeded Judith Jelinek's generous \$25,000 matching Music4Kids challenge. Jan Lawrence brought in \$45,000 in grants to support YMP and Marlene Nielsen spearheaded MUSICMATTERS while chairing High School Orchestra Festival.

We have been blessed with both an Executive Committee and Music Education Committee that shared their talents, enthusiasm and expertise. Committee Chairman and Group Presidents are applauded for their leadership. Huge thanks always to our hard-working and generous volunteers for your tireless efforts. We couldn't do any of this without you. It's a team effort!

I am forever grateful to Heather, Madeline and all the PSOC staff for all they do for members and programs. Sarah Little joined as VP of Education and Community Engagement and brought a fresh perspective to the organization and our programs. I have had a valuable resource in many past Committees presidents who have been generous with their wisdom and advice. I value you all!

I look forward to our 2020-21 Executive Committee installation in September and celebrating our members, volunteers of the year and amazing Committees and Groups. Until then, please read both the snapshots of our incoming officers and the interesting Committee and Groups annual reports.

Representing the Committees on the Society Board, Executive Committee, Finance and Development committees was eye opening and a privilege. I've gained valuable insights and greater appreciation of an outstanding and impressive organization. We are fortunate to have Tommy Phillips' leadership in an unprecedented time.

I've loved being your Committees President and I celebrate all of you in our Philharmonic family. Working alongside you, visiting Committee and Group meetings, attending fundraisers and Zooming with you has been a joy. I'll cherish this year and look forward to being together again as we continue to give the gift of magic!

*"When you can't change the direction of the wind, adjust your sails."* Music education is one of the smartest investments we can make and I look forward to reimagining what our new year might bring. Stay connected through the summer as we adapt to this 'new normal'. Our camaraderie and shared purpose is contagious and together we can achieve more. Stay encouraged!

Kim Weddon  
President

## PAST PRESIDENT

Serving this third year of the Presidency of The Committees has been a pleasure and an honor, which could not be accomplished without shared leadership. Ever grateful for President Kim Weddon and President-Elect Jean Felder, who have helped to lead thoughtfully and creatively, especially through the “storm” that began in February. Working closely monthly with the committed Executive Committee members helped make my work fun. The dedication of Heather Cromleigh to her job as Director of Volunteer and Education Services is a support beyond measure to The Committees and the PSOC Board. Another helpful bright light is the new VP Education and Community Engagement, Sarah Little, who is bringing energy and new ideas to current issues.

Opportunities to meet and engage together with the Committees’ Board of Directors members over the last three years has been most enriching. The strong support of Tommy Phillips and the PSOC Board of Directors for our dedicated volunteers has been evident in their encouragement of our quality music programs and fundraisers. This partnership has many benefits for each other and our community, as we inspire and delight present and future music lovers.

In addition to monthly Executive Committee and Board meetings, it has been enjoyable to serve with county-wide Committee members in the following capacities:

- \* High School Orchestra Festival Steering Committee
- \* Served on the Finance and Music Education Committees of The Committees
- \* Nominating Committee Chairman
- \* Musical Reinvestment Committee Chairman
- \* Coordination of revisions to the Executive Committee Handbook
- \* Attended Philharmonic Society Board of Directors bi-monthly meetings
- \* Served on PSOC Board Concert, Executive, and OCYS Advisory Committees
- \* Annual Meeting/Installation event Coordinator

Special thanks go out to the Nominating Committee who are challenged to fill the Executive Committee open leadership positions with their thoughtful insight and tactful invitations to serve: Kathy Wopschall, Jean Felder, Kari Kerr, Marlene Nielsen, Karen Ridout, and Toni Sobel. Final thanks to everyone for their together-we-can attitude, generosity of time and resources, cooperation and selflessness, making Philharmonic Committees the best volunteer teams in Orange County. Bravo!

Mary Chelius  
Past President

## **PRESIDENT-ELECT**

The most important responsibility of the President-elect is to learn the job of President so that a smooth transition takes place from one year to the next. Kim Weddon has been a generous and knowledgeable mentor and a skilled leader. Mary Chelius has shared her experience and wisdom as well. Thank you to Kim and Mary for helping me to prepare to be president for the 2020-2021 season. Thank you too to the members and staff for their support and help.

Other responsibilities include:

Attending Leadership Workshops

Coordinating The Committees Annual Kick-off at St Mark Presbyterian Church (facility set-up, organize refreshments and pre-order Board of Director lunches)

Organizing the Executive Committee holiday luncheon at Gulliver's

Securing meeting dates and sites for Leadership Workshops and Board of Directors

Arranging hostesses for Board of Director meetings and lunch reservations following the meetings

Scheduling Spotlight presentations by the Committees/Groups at Board of Directors meetings

Arranging for members to sell CDs for Philharmonic concerts

Serving on the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Music Education Committee, High School Orchestra Festival, Finance Committee, Reinvestment Committee, Programs Development and Committees-wide fundraising steering committees

Attending Society Board Meetings

Attending the Society's Artistic and Marketing Meetings

Serving on The Committees Nominating Committee

Compiling and editing The Committees Annual Report

Working with the people associated with the responsibilities listed above has been a unique experience I have enjoyed. I never cease to be impressed by the depth of talent and creativity among the members. This year the learning curve has been steep. Learning to use electronic communication, peer to peer fundraising, and Zoom meetings as tools for our success has been a challenge the members accepted and succeeded in accomplishing.

I look forward to the 2020-2021 year knowing that there is a commitment among the members and staff to adapt our youth music education programs to serve the students of Orange County in this new environment and to be creative in fundraising to support our new direction. We are, after all, resilient, flexible, intrepid, and most of all passionate about bringing music education to the youth of Orange County.

Jean Felder

President-Elect

## VICE PRESIDENT YOUTH CONCERTS

***NOTE: Grade 2** concert planning began in August with hopes for a pilot concert in the spring. Planning came to an abrupt halt with news of AB5. The convergence of events that followed later proved it was to our advantage we did not move forward last fall.*

**Concerts for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**, the outcome of the Philharmonic Committees' first youth concert offering over 60 years ago, opened January 21 for the first of eight performances reaching nearly 11,000 students by early March. Celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, the Orange County Youth Symphony (OCYS), presented a repertoire of timeless classics and familiar selections based on the theme of *Water and Music*. The theme was woven into a musical story exploring how each composer used water as inspiration in creating music. Students were guided to listen for ideas shared by the narrator that moved each composer as he wrote. What role models these impressive OCYS student musicians provided this young audience as they experienced not only how music communicates without words, but also how inspiration is the source of music composition! Hopefully, this concert experience will be a step forward in developing an appreciation for classical music and the level of excellence and commitment required to express it so beautifully.

Our **Grade 6 World Music Concert** held February 4<sup>th</sup> at Soka Performing Arts Center featured musicians from the Shanghai Chinese Orchestra. Several small ensembles provided a one of a kind cultural music performance as students experienced the beauty of Chinese music played on traditional Chinese instruments. While this concert opportunity only became an option in early December and faced some obstacles the morning of the concert, what emerged when musicians, announcer and translator took the stage and the music began was remarkable! There is no doubt this was a most memorable experience for all who attended!

My heartfelt thank you to our amazing Concerts Team. They were essential to the planning, development, scheduling and logistic organization and implementation to make these concerts safe and accessible for all attending. Heather Cromleigh for her ongoing communication with schools in scheduling/confirming attendance dates, Segerstrom and Soka Venue Coordinators, Patty Reilly and Jean Felder; the Segerstrom Venue Team, Aurea Hoad, Mary Chelius, Karen Ridout, led by Joanne Fernbach; Grade Level Concert Chairs, Pinky Clark and Ronnie Devries; and the South Coast Plaza Bus Team led by Jan Lawrence. However, the work of the above individuals could not have been realized without the largest group of our Concert Team—our Committee/Group Concert Chairs! Their dedicated efforts in contacting Committee members to fill concert dates provided timely responses and ongoing updates—essential to ensuring we would have the necessary usher and support staff in place for every performance.

To all Committees members serving as ushers this year—THANK YOU for adapting to changes in logistics plans that impacted busing locations for drop-off and pick-up, routes for entrance and exiting procedures (a bit tricky on two days with additional bus-in programs in progress in our same time frame) along with newly adopted security requirements. Your resilience in addressing these major modifications with patience and grace was impressive! Thank you to ALL who participated in the variety of capacities this year for your dedication and commitment to ensuring students have a safe and memorable live concert experience. It has been an honor and joy to work with you.

Sandi Wright-Cordes,  
VP Youth Concerts

**7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
PHILHARMONIC INVITATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL**

On Saturday, March 7, 2020, 17 orchestras, more than 1,000 Orange County high school musicians, took their place on stage at the world renowned Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall to create a memory they will not soon forget. Philharmonic Society Board member, John Benecke again served as emcee for this event. Our esteemed adjudicators, Ulli Reiner and OCYS conductor Johannes Muller Stosch listened intently while providing valuable audio and written feedback to both praise and provide encouraging direction specific to each selection performed. Ticket sales were healthy helping both to grow our audience as well as providing additional funds for each school's music program.

This year's festival was truly an inspiration to all involved. Our profound gratitude to all who made this day possible: the High School Orchestra Festival Steering Committee, the more than 65 Committees volunteers for their enthusiasm, hard work and energy throughout this day, to Sarah Little for so quickly immersing herself in the immediate needs and requirements for this day, and to the Segerstrom staff and stage crew for their ongoing support. Looking back, how very fortunate we were with the timing of this event, as the pandemic closing came just one week later.

**SCHOOL PARTICIPATION**

<b>High Schools</b>	<b>School District</b>	<b># Years Participating</b>	<b>Tickets Sold</b> (includes online & door)	<b>50% Rebate /\$ Earned</b> (minus 8.5% online processing fee)
Aliso Viejo	CVUSD	7	69	\$510.50
Beckman	TUSD	7	224	\$1671.50
Capistrano Valley	CVUSD	4	218	\$1531.50
El Toro	SVUSD	4	104	\$768.50
Esperanza	PYLUSD	3	46	\$345.00
Garden Grove	GGUSD	3	47	\$352.50
Huntington Beach	HBUHSD	6	83	\$6\$02.00
Irvine	IUSD	2	53	\$384.50
Los Alamitos	LAUSD	4	17	\$127.00
Marina	HBUHSD	6	17	\$127.00
Mission Viejo	SVUSD	7	90	\$647.00
Oxford Academy	AUHSD	4	6	\$45.00
Rancho Alamitos	GGUSD	4	6	\$45.00
San Juan Hills	CVUSD	6	216	\$1620.00
Santa Ana	SAUSD	6	14	\$105.00
Tesoro	CVUSD	7	141	\$1035.00
Trabuco Hills	SVUSD	5	119	\$870.00
			<b>TOTAL 1470</b>	<b>\$10,787.00</b>

**HSOF STEERING COMMITTEE**

	<b>Position</b>	<b>Committee</b>
Mary Chelius	Stage Exit Greeter	Upper Bay
Arden Dombrowski	Samueli Staging Director	Islander
Jean Felder	Docent Staffing Coordinator	Saddleback
Joanne Fernbach	Check-In/Communication Manager	Marina/Windjammer
Jan Lawrence	Adjudicator Coordinator	Town and Country
Judy Michel	Hospitality	Santa Ana
Marlene Nielsen/CHAIRMAN	Warm-Up Room Director	Islander
Karen Ridout	Ticketing/Front of House	Marina/Windjammer
Toni Sobel	Signage Development Team	Town and Country
Kim Weddon	Plaza Arrival/Departure	Islander / La Casa
Sandi Wright-Cordes	Back of House	Town and Country
Sarah Little	Administration	VP Education and Community Engagement

Marlene Nielsen  
2020 HSOF Steering Committee Chairman

## VICE PRESIDENT YOUTH PROGRAMS

**GRADE LEVELS:** K-12      **NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED:** 39,931

**MUSIC MOBILE:** Close to 8,000 students enjoyed the ever-popular Music Mobile. The enthusiasm and engagement of the participants is due to the extraordinary dedication of the presenters. Unfortunately, a few committees did not get to finish their programs due to COVID-19 in the months of March and April.

The Music Mobile was invited to CIBC Private Wealth Management in Newport Beach. Many investors enjoyed playing the instruments and reclaiming their childhood. In November and December, the Music Mobile participated in the Family Concert Series at the Segerstrom Center for the Performing Arts. Many families enjoyed playing the instruments before and after each performance. Many pictures were taken of proficient musicians as well as future ones.

**CALIFORNIA JOURNEYS:** Bowers Museum, Heritage Hill, San Juan Capistrano Mission  
Over 1,800 students participated in the curriculum-based CA Journeys. Each venue came alive with enriching activities and historical accounts of early California. The program culminated each tour with an extraordinary musical adventure through California's rich history with the phenomenal talent of John-Patrick Yeiser. The success of the program was directly attributed to our incredible volunteers (Committee members) and museum staff.

**MUSICIANS ON CAMPUS:** Throughout Orange County, 12 musician groups performed for 115 audiences between the months of October and to the end of December. The passing of AB5 in January made it necessary to cancel the remaining concerts. There were 87 concerts remaining after January.

**ENSEMBLES ON TOUR:** A unique program for intermediate school students. Of the 12 intermediate schools participating, a total of 2,222 students enjoyed the music of the ensembles. Unfortunately, due to AB5, the program was suspended in January 2020. The three programs presented were very successful and enjoyed by all present.

**TIX FOR TEENS:** This year tickets were given to high school and middle school students. Close to 800 students enjoyed performances at Segerstrom, Samueli Theater, LB Presbyterian Church & LB Artists Theater.

Thank you to ALL Chairmen, Committee members and volunteers, your dedication ensured the success of these programs. You brought music to kids, and that's what we're all about!

Vivian Kusiak  
Vice President Youth Programs



## VICE PRESIDENT ANNUAL FUND

2019-2020 was another successful year for our Annual Fund donations.

Membership of the Philharmonic Society of Orange County requires a donation of \$60 or more to the Annual Fund and Committee members are also members of the Society and contribute as such.

Not counting funds collected from members who donated \$1,200 or more to the Annual Fund, a handsome total of **\$62,680** was collected by April 1, 2020.

This year the Annual Fund workshop for FY 2020-2021 was held in March immediately prior to the Coronavirus/COVID-19 “stay at home” order from the Governor.

With March, April and May Committees meetings now canceled, AF Chairs were faced with the challenge of distributing the 2020-2021 AF forms, in person as they usually do, and then collecting and recording the members’ checks to return to the Society by June 30.

At the suggestion of Heather Cromleigh, our Director of Volunteer Services, Committee AF chairs were offered support in the form of a mailing of duplicate forms to all their members to be sent out from the Philharmonic Society office on April 1.

The Annual Fund chairs of eight committees accepted the offer. The mailing included a return envelope addressed to Heather at the office and upon return the checks and accompanying forms were recorded on a weekly schedule, with reporting back to Annual Fund Chairs to take place in late July.

Correlating current Committees membership with the Annual Fund required donation for PSOC membership continued to provide challenges but the recent installation of a new software program in the office, Tessitura, will make it easier to manage.

Gift acknowledgement receipts will be mailed to members after July 1, 2020.

The Annual Fund balance as of **April 1, 2020** was **\$62,680.00**

The Annual Fund balance the end of the **2019 Fiscal Year** was **\$67,440.00**

The assistance of all the Annual Fund chairs of the Committees and Groups and our Director, Heather Cromleigh, during this particularly challenging time is most appreciated.

Elizabeth Sue Jones  
VP Annual Fund 2019-2020

## VICE PRESIDENT MEMBERSHIP

One thing our members have in common is they all believe that **MUSIC MATTERS!**

Our Committee members join together to make a difference in a child's music experience. They are dedicated and passionate individuals who generously share their time, skills, and resources bringing Youth Music Education Programs to students across grade levels.

What a GIFT to the students in Orange County!

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*The Philharmonic Committees support the mission of the Philharmonic Society of Orange County by providing exceptional youth music education programs that **ENGAGE** and **INSPIRE** students to develop a life-long appreciation of music and the power it has to **CONNECT** and **ENRICH** lives.*

### **ENGAGE \* INSPIRE \* CONNECT \* ENRICH**

Through the many volunteer hours put in by our Committees members it is evident that they **ENGAGE** and **INSPIRE** students as well as one another as they **CONNECT** through music and these experiences **ENRICH** all of us. The enthusiasm generated when our members engage in our activities draws in new members. As we welcome new members, they find a connection because of a friend or an acquaintance that sparked their interest to join our Committee efforts. This year we have welcomed many new members to our Committees, joining our current members in supporting our mission, many of them having participated for more than 25 years!

Our Membership Outreach Events within our communities are the perfect opportunity to share our programs. At these events it is rewarding to meet individuals that have such an overwhelmingly positive response to our exceptional Youth Music Education Programs.

#### Membership Outreach Events for 2019-2020:

San Clemente Shopping Extravaganza – October 5  
Philharmonic Society Opening Night – November 20  
Philharmonic Society Family Concerts – November 24 and December 15  
High School Orchestra Festival – March 7

*Thank you to our members for supporting these Membership Outreach efforts.*

I am inspired by our members and am honored to be a member of the Philharmonic Committees. It has been my pleasure to serve as Vice President of Membership for 2019-2020.

Kathryn Wopschall  
VP Membership

## VICE PRESIDENT WAYS AND MEANS

We started our year with a Committee-wide Shopping Extravaganza at the Outlets at San Clemente. Then it was off to the fundraising races: Alta Bahia's Music of Mardi Gras; Balboa's Christmas Boat Parade; Cameo's Holiday Giving Lunch; Capistrano's Holiday Tea; Fullerton's Phund the Phil; Huntington Harbour's Holiday Boutique, Cruise of Lights® plus several generous donations outside of their fundraisers; Jane Grey Porter's Stuff the Stocking; La Casa's two restaurant events and Evening at the Theater; Lido Isle's check writing; Saddleback's Sail into Spring; Town and Country and Santa Ana's Literary Luncheon and Upper Bay's Hoist the Sails. Total **\$130,070.00**.

Due to the coronavirus "shelter in place" there are six events either on hold or canceled: Huntington Valley West's "Bunco Bash"; Huntington Harbour Juniors "Sail Away Fashion Show"; Huntington Harbour's "Cinco de Mayo Tamale Social" and "Attic Treasures"; Coto de Caza's "Wines of the Philharmonic"; Big Canyon/Spyglass Hill's "Blue Hawaii Luau" and Committee-wide "Just the Girls Boutique". This will leave us a potential loss of <\$71,000.00>. With these numbers we could go into next year with a large shortfall.

Without a House of Design we knew we needed to find other ways to bring in money from outside of The Committees. We had two brainstorming sessions and came up with three new Committee-wide events: MUSICMATTERS, "Just the Girls" Boutique and the Golf Classic.

The "MUSICMATTERS" peer-to-peer (P2P) fundraiser is up and running thanks to the hardworking team of Marlene Nielsen and Jan Lawrence. It has brought in close to **\$15,000** so far and will continue for years to come.

The recently postponed "Just the Girls" Boutique will be a 3-day boutique chaired by Kathy Wopschall and Stacey Brettin to be held at Marlene Nielsen's home, including many of our favorite House of Design vendors.

"Score on a High Note" Golf Classic scheduled for September has now been postponed to the spring due to social distancing mandates. The committee, chaired by Karen Ridout and Toni Sobel, is busy planning a fun, lucrative annual event.

Grants: Jan Lawrence has become the guru of grant writing. Total so far **\$45,000**. If you know of any companies or foundations that grant funds to non-profits please let Jan know.

This year has been one of challenges but thanks to you, our group of fantastic hardworking dedicated volunteers, I know we will bring in the funds needed to support our youth music programs. Go out! Log into your MUSICMATTERS page!! Find those golfers!! Plan your Committee's fantastic fundraiser!! Watch out world, the ladies in Philharmonic Blue are on the move!!

Kay Burra  
VP Ways and Means

## VICE PRESIDENT PUBLIC RELATIONS

***Public Relations: A strategic communication process that builds a mutually beneficial relationship between organizations and their publics.***

Publicity is of great importance to not only the Philharmonic Society, but also the individual Committees and Groups, particularly in connection with fundraising and membership activities. To know what kind of message you want to communicate, you need to identify your objectives and what “public” you are directing your efforts towards. It is good to remember that **50% of your message should be to inform and 50% to motivate.**

As a member of the Executive Committee, it is my responsibility to hold a Public Relations Workshop for Committee/Group PR chairmen. Chairman/Presidents are also invited to attend. At the workshop, I review the information in the Public Relations section of the Chairman’s Handbook binder, brainstorm with them, encourage them to submit press releases to local papers, and to take pictures of their members at their events to share. Ideas are shared from seeing their Committee/Group newsletters. Feedback and ideas from both new and continuing PR chairs is valuable.

I am editor of The Committees *Overture* newsletter, with issues produced fall, winter, and spring as a team effort with the PR chairmen and the Executive Committee sending me articles and high rez photos. I write, edit, and proof articles, gather Tribute Fund and Music4Kids information from Heather, and list PSOC concerts, fundraisers, and event dates. My goal is to have an informative and interesting “snapshot” of the activities of our members. I then send the files to our graphic designer who organizes the puzzle pieces to create the *Overture* newsletter, which can then be used for membership and fundraising outreach.

The Philharmonic staff assists in many ways; email blasts are sent out to Committee and Philharmonic Society members to inform and motivate them to participate in fundraisers, events, and Philharmonic programs. They assist in publishing The Committees Facebook page. Join us at <https://www.facebook.com/thephilharmoniccommittees/> to keep informed and support our events and send in your pictures! It is my goal to work this summer on updating the Committee’s webpages to make it a place for members to find information and download forms.

As always, it has been a pleasure working with the dedicated and hard-working members of the Executive Committee, Committees Board of Directors, and the PR chairmen from the various Committees/Groups. Thank you for your contributions of photos, articles, and ideas.

Volunteering in the Committees is a rewarding experience and keeps us all young and sharp. I appreciate the opportunity to learn new skills (Grammar Rules!) and make dear friends as we “play it forward” by providing meaningful music experiences to children.

Jan Lawrence  
VP Public Relations

## **SECRETARY**

“When words fail, music speaks.” Hans Christian Andersen

As Secretary, my primary responsibility is to attend both the Executive Committee and Board of Directors monthly meetings. At those meetings, I take the minutes and then transcribe them into a bullet report, which is emailed to the members of those two groups. All members receive a copy of the minutes, whether or not they were able to attend the meeting in order to stay informed and up to date, Philharmonically speaking.

Prior to each meeting, I email a copy of the minutes with any corrections, or additions highlighted for the members to review. This reminds us of what occurred at the last meeting, one month ago. A written copy of the minutes is also given to each Committee and Board member as part of their agenda packet that also includes flyers for upcoming Committee events, and a calendar of scheduled events. This packet is copied and assembled by Heather Cromleigh prior to our meeting. I prepare for the upcoming meeting by creating a template for the minutes by inserting the agenda, created by the President, along with the reports, sent by the officers.

Attendance is taken at each Board meeting as members sign in for their Committee. The sign-in sheets are kept in a notebook with the papers related to each monthly meeting. Before our first Board of Directors meeting in September, I prepare by creating lists of all Executive Committee and Board of Directors Committees Chairmen and Presidents. I create a data base with their respective names and email addresses in preparation for emailing them minutes and other communications. I also make name placards for members of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors to use at our monthly Board of Directors meetings.

It has been an enjoyable year filled with meeting some amazing new people, and learning how our Committees work to bring music to the children of Orange County.

Barbara Tanner  
Secretary

## **TREASURER**

The responsibility of The Committee's Treasurer has continued to evolve over the years since I first held this position. The Society Finance Department now accounts for all income and expenses of The Committees.

Although technically the Treasurer is supposed to make all deposits for The Committee's accounts and provide the Finance Department with copies of the checks along with the purpose, the challenges of this year resulting in the PSOC office being closed for a while necessitated Heather making several deposits and then emailing me the information for my monthly reports.

At the beginning of each month the Finance Department provides a list of checks written. Using that information and the deposits, I prepare a financial report to be presented to the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. I also provide the Finance Department with a monthly report explaining each deposit and letting them know if each check they've written has been cashed or not.

The yearly Treasurer's Workshop has been held in June the last few years to give new treasurers an overview of their responsibilities. However, this year we elected to hold it in September to give us a chance to return to "normalcy." I asked exiting treasurers to continue to submit the monthly reports through the summer.

Periodically I remind the treasurers of the various Committees and Groups of their responsibility to submit their monthly reports to the Finance Department no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month.

The Treasurer is responsible for convening the Finance Committee to prepare a budget for the Society's approval. The approved budget is then presented to the Board of Directors in the fall. This year I sat in (or listened in) on the Society's monthly Finance meetings. This gave me a much better understanding of our relation to the Society as a whole.

The Treasurer is also a member of the Reinvestment Committee which meets near the end of the fiscal year.

It's been a very different year due to Assembly bills and viruses, so many thanks to Roan, Jessica and Heather. Together we made this work just fine.

Sandy Potter  
Treasurer

## **DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND VOLUNTEER SERVICES**

This has been quite an amazing year! I am profoundly moved by the hard work, resilience, grace and dedication of our volunteers in responding to the dual challenges of AB5 legislation and Covid-19. Your perseverance and positive can-do attitudes speak so well of all of you, and you serve as role models for me. As always, I feel honored and privileged to work with such kind, generous of spirit, effective volunteers who contribute so much to the youth of Orange County.

The highlight of this year for me was the addition of Sarah Little as Vice President of Education and Community Engagement. While we are beset with legislative and financial challenges, we can all be confident that the future of our education programs is in very capable and caring hands!

I would like to give special thanks to Judy Michel in her new role as chair of Musicians on Campus, and to Ann Ludwig as ongoing chair of Ensembles on Tour. Thanks to their hard work, we had the system brilliantly worked out and running like clockwork, and I share their frustration with having to cancel all presentations after January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 due to AB5 legislation. They both responded with grace, as I knew they would. We remain hopeful that these programs can resume in some form in the 20-21 season.

### **Key Responsibilities for The Committees:**

- Facilitate interaction between the Philharmonic Society of Orange County's staff and The Committees' volunteers
- Supervise Huntington Harbour Office Manager
- Train volunteers in the use of credit card machines and assist at fundraisers as needed; manage ways and means account (credit card transactions) to ensure each Committee is properly credited for their sales
- Manage Music4Kids and Tribute Fund campaign and donation process, ensuring all gifts are appropriately coded and acknowledged; assist with Annual Fund campaign
- Update and distribute the Committees' Directory and Chairman Handbooks each summer
- Coordinate the production of the quarterly newsletter, the "Overture"
- Attend Committees Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings as Liaison
- Schedule meetings in the office and off-site
- Facilitate CD and merchandise sales at PSOC concerts
- Welcome all volunteers and others who come into the office and assist as needed

### **Key Responsibilities for the Education Department:**

- Develop and maintain an active database of music education programs and public and private schools
- Assist with researching school schedules to support the development of the annual schedule of music education programs
- Prepare e-mail correspondence and/or e-newsletters to public and private schools announcing all concerts and programs and obtaining their selection of dates and times
- Organize and tabulate reservations for each concert held in concert halls and community organizations to determine seating for each venue
- Obtain seating schematics for each venue for performances in concert halls and community organizations to plan seating charts and traffic flow of buses and cars
- Prepare payroll sheets and check requests for artists, facility rentals, and related expenses

- Update contracts for artists and venues as needed
- Attend school programs and concerts as needed

**Key Responsibilities for the Philharmonic Society Board of Directors:**

- Facilitate interaction between PSOC staff and Board of Directors
- Work with President and Chairman of the Board to schedule and plan all aspects of the Society Annual Meeting, including:
  - Select appropriate date and location; arrange amenities and entertainment
  - Create and mail invitation/proxy form and list of Board Nominees to all Society Members
  - Tabulate returned proxies and make results available to the Proxy Committee
  - Assist presenters as needed
  - Take minutes and store in accordance with audit requirements
- Work with President and Chairman of the Board to schedule all Board, Executive Committee and Committee meetings, including Retreats
- Select appropriate dates and locations; arrange amenities as needed
- Attend meetings as appropriate
- Take minutes and store in accordance with audit requirements
- Prepare and maintain all Society documents, including History, Mission Statement, By Laws, Board Responsibilities, Board Roster, Committee descriptions and assignments
- Assist Board Chairman and Committee Chairs as needed

Thank you for all that you do for The Society, and for allowing me to be a part of it all. I look forward to many more years of working with all of you!

Heather Cromleigh  
 Director of Volunteer and Education Services / Board Liaison



## VICE PRESIDENT OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Several words come to mind when thinking of this season – unprecedented, flexible, resilient.

Unprecedented – The state Assembly Bill that restricted ways in which contract employees could be categorized (known simply as AB5), severely impacted several of our programs. After careful consideration, both the Musicians on Campus and Ensembles on Tour programs were suspended as of January 1, 2020, in order to mitigate the risk of catastrophic overspending.

If things couldn't get “unprecedented” enough, enter global pandemic. Although the majority of our programming was complete by the mid-March safer-at-home order from the Governor, it put much of our spring fundraising efforts on hold. Compounding this to the already strained fundraising efforts (including the absence of a House of Design), it landed us short on our goals.

Flexible – As if expecting that being together to raise funds wouldn't be an option, several of the leadership team jumped into mobilizing a peer to peer virtual fundraising campaign called MusicMatters. It has invigorated many of our members to engage with their individual networks to share the efforts of our programs and raise much needed funds.

Other instances that come to mind when thinking about the word “flexible,” are changes that occurred to the standard performance procedures during the High School Orchestra Festival, the switch to virtual meetings and the times when quick-thinking was necessary to keep the show going.

Resilient – Through the challenges of this season, the Committees Members stepped up to each task with knowledgeable enthusiasm and grace. Whether it was docenting for a CA Journeys program, creating a Music Mobile schedule, leading students to a Concert for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade performance, each member worked to make our programs special by ensuring the smoothness of logistical activities and in turn, creating long-lasting memories for the students we serve.

I don't think it's the purpose of this report to highlight all the moments we were successful (there are really too many to list). However, both the High School Orchestra Festival and Concerts for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade stand out in my mind as stellar examples of the impact we make on students in the way of music performance, appreciation, concert experience and leadership.

I started working at the Philharmonic Society of Orange County on November 1, 2019. In the short time since having this position, circumstances have both forced us to reassess what music education programs we present, how we present them, how our students are impacted, and how we work with each other. It's worth noting here how truly impressed I have been with the Committees Members' commitment, enthusiasm, creativity and genuine support of youth music education for the young people of Orange County. It's quite intimidating to step into a group like this who have such a history with each other, the organization, and their own experience as educators, professionals and leaders.

In the seasons to come, as we define our “new normal” post-Covid19, I look forward to working together to capitalize on the strengths of our programs, how to best utilize the resources we have and to deepen the impact on our student audiences. With this includes transparency around budgeting, expenses and revenue; more collaboration with leadership geared towards programming; and clearer working expectations between PSOC departments and the Committees.

I truly appreciate the authentic support that you've shown me over the past 5 ½ months. I look forward to creating the future of our youth music education programs with you all.

Sarah Little

Vice President of Education and Community Engagement

## MEET THE 2020-2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### **PRESIDENT – Jean Felder (Saddleback)**

It all started when a member invited Jean to new member luncheon in 2011. She has since held a variety of leadership positions with Saddleback and for the youth programs, joining the Executive Committee as VP Youth Programs in 2017. She has been active this year as President Elect and is excited to lead The Committees as President this coming year. During her career she was a teacher, education director for NB Chamber of Commerce, and owned and operated a monogramming business. Jean enjoys all youth programs but has a soft spot for California Journeys at the Mission San Juan Capistrano. She loves classical music and played the violin but found the piano was a better fit. Jean is a devoted grandmother, and enjoys needlecrafts, reading, gardening, and attending concerts and other events.

### **PAST PRESIDENT – Kim Weddon (HH Islander and La Casa)**

Kim discovered the HH Islanders in 2003 and added La Casa membership in 2004 after chairing the House of Design Boutique. She joined the Executive Committee in 2017 as VP Ways & Means Chair – a good fit since fundraising is a passion. She has chaired HHPC, HH Islanders, House of Design, Cruise of Lights<sup>®</sup> and many boutiques. Kim taught 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in Michigan and ended her career with a general management-consulting firm. She played the flute briefly and loves music. Elvis gospel is a favorite but you'll also hear a mix of oldies, country and classical on her radio. Elvis' performance at the 2019 Installation was a musical highlight! Concerts, Music Mobile and HSOF are favorites but she's also discovered the joys of our youth programs. Kim is devoted to her two children and six grandchildren. She enjoys reading, design, concerts, outings with friends and watching her kids play sports.

### **PRESIDENT ELECT – Kathy Wopschall (Saddleback)**

You might think that being the oldest of seven kids, that Kathy wouldn't want to spend time with children, however, that hasn't been the case. Her students inspired her and as a member, she loves giving students memorable experiences in music. Kathy taught 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> and was a bilingual teacher in Los Angeles, Santa Ana and Saddleback Valley schools. She joined Saddleback Committee in 2016 and has planned successful fundraisers as their Ways & Means Chair. She studied violin privately and played with the Peter Meremblum Youth Symphony Orchestra in Los Angeles. She loves both music and art, especially Antonio Carlos Jobim (known as the father of bossa nova), and Impressionist artists Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Paul Cezanne. Her favorite programs are 5<sup>th</sup> grade concerts and HSOF. Besides being a UCLA Bruin, she enjoys sailing, gardening, traveling and studying French (a bucket list item).

### **VICE PRESIDENT YOUTH CONCERTS – Sandi Wright-Cordes (Town & Country)**

Sandi's career spanned roles as teacher, district program facilitator, K-12 Gate supervisor and elementary principal. She met Jan Lawrence at a pancake breakfast and joined Town & Country in 2009. She is a Past President of The Committees and has had numerous leadership roles in T&C, House of Design (Benefit Chair), HSOF Chair, and on the Executive Committee as VP Membership and Youth Concerts. As our current VP Youth Concerts, it's not surprising that youth concerts, Music Mobile, and HSOF are favorites. Sandi thanks her 4<sup>th</sup> grade music program for inspiring her to play cello. She listens to classical, pop, R&B, everything but hard rock (as yet an undeveloped taste). She climbed Mt. Fuji with family while living in Tokyo, Japan, but for now her special interests include The Committees, being a member of the Orange County Millennial Orchestra (OCMO) and gardening.

### **VICE PRESIDENT YOUTH PROGRAMS – Vivian Kusiask (Santa Ana)**

Vivian taught K-3 for 38 years in SAUSD and is still an active substitute. While her mother was in recovery at SJ Hospital in Orange in 2016, she ran into Anne Niedringhaus, who had taught music to Vivian's daughter. Anne knew the solution to Vivian's boredom as a retiree – the Santa Ana Philharmonic Committee! Vivian has been Santa Ana's Co-Chairman and joined the Executive Committee as VP Youth Programs last year. Vivian's brother gave her a guitar and it proved to be a godsend when working with 5 year olds. She taught engagement, movement, quiet-down songs – a song for every occasion. Learning about CA history in the CA Journeys programs brings out the teacher in Vivian. She loves soft rock and most of the songs from the '70s are a "hit". Her hobbies vary from reading to gardening and she's passionate about the Philharmonic and Bowers Museum. Her children and grandson Matthew are the loves of her life.

### **VICE PRESIDENT ANNUAL FUND – Elizabeth Sue Jones (Cameo)**

Elizabeth "Sue" Jones has a varied background as a former teacher, an administrator for a shelter program for youth at risk, and child advocacy executive director. She answers to Elizabeth or Sue and was introduced to Cameo Committee by Kathy Dogali and Kathy Young when she returned to Orange County in 2012 after a 14-year absence. She has been Cameo's Chairman and Recording Secretary and joined the Executive Committee as Vice President Annual Fund last year. This coming year she'll be Cameo's Co-Chairman while she repeats as VP Annual Fund. Sue has been a member for eight years and her favorite youth music program is the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade concerts. She is an enthusiastic Philharmonic concert subscriber and fills her time with classical music, environmental issues, horticulture, liberal politics and walking Teddy Bear, her adorable Labradoodle puppy.

### **VICE PRESIDENT MEMBERSHIP – Ida Staples (Balboa)**

Roberta Schmidt invited Ida to a Balboa meeting when she stopped at Roberta's garage sale in 2016. Of course, Ida joined after meeting such a beautiful group of ladies working so hard for such a good cause. Roberta fondly tells folks "I picked her up at a garage sale!" In addition to volunteering, Ida juggles work as a realtor with Compass Real Estate and as an Executive Protection Specialist providing personal security services to clients. She is Chairman and PR for Balboa and joins the Executive Committee as VP Membership. Her favorite music program is the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade concerts at Segerstrom and it was a special treat to docent the year her son was in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Ida played the flute in grade school and is all inclusive when it comes to music. She loves it all! She enjoys concerts, wine tasting and anything to do with the outdoors.

### **VICE PRESIDENT WAYS & MEANS – Barbara Tanner (Santa Ana)**

Barbara has been VP Annual Fund, Secretary and is the incoming VP Ways & Means for the Executive Committee. She joined Santa Ana Committee twice, once after Ann Niedringhaus invited her to attend a meeting and the second time when she retired in 2013 after 25 years teaching 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades. She earned her Master's Degree in Science Education at California State University at Fullerton, was awarded Teacher of the Year, managed Gate and instructed workshops in science curriculum. She has held a variety of leadership roles, from Santa Ana Co-Chairman to House of Design Secretary. She learned to play piano and Musicians on Campus, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade concerts are favorites. Barbara enjoys reading historical fiction, mystery/suspense and science fiction (especially Harry Potter, her hero) and doing needlepoint (her addiction since retiring). She's competed 123 projects!

### **VICE PRESIDENT PUBLIC RELATIONS – Beth Ruegger (Saddleback and La Casa)**

Beth returns to the Executive Committee as VP Public Relations and Overture editor, which she held in the past, in addition to VP Annual Fund. She retired from a career in Telecommunications as a manager for AT&T in many different jobs. After she retired, a friend from work invited her to a Saddleback Committee meeting and she later added a dual membership in La Casa. Beth spends time gardening, giving tours as a Center Docent, loves good design and our wonderful Philharmonic Houses of Design. She's been the expert Exterior Chair for many of our past design houses. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Disneyland Band was her favorite youth program and many of you will remember Beth on stage introducing the band. She enjoys classical, pop and some rock music.

### **SECRETARY – Kari Kerr (Big Canyon/Spyglass Hill)**

Kari joined BC/SH after a friend bought her to a meeting six years ago. Her career is varied – from commodities analyst, banking, real estate appraisal, substitute librarian and high school algebra teacher – and she is now working her way through a masters program in landscape architecture. On the volunteer front, she has held many leadership roles as Chairman, Membership, Recording Secretary, Ways & Means and Parliamentarian in BC/SH, and this will be her first year on the Executive Committee as Secretary. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade concerts at Segerstrom is her favorite youth program. Kari plays the piano and listens to classical with a soloist, blues, bluegrass and country. She loves giving parties and traveling, and fills her time with any sort of arts and crafts, running, golf and skiing. She's looking forward to getting to know all the ladies in The Committees!

### **TREASURER – Sandy Potter (Fullerton)**

Sandy worked for Aetna for 38 years and Private Healthcare Systems as a call center manager for 12 years. She was introduced to Las Canciones Committee by a fellow band parent and has been a member for 25 years. She joined Fullerton when Las Canciones folded in 2013. She has been Treasurer and Chairman with both Committees. We're fortunate that she is repeating her role on the Executive Committee as Treasurer. Sandy briefly played the piano, organ and clarinet and has an eclectic taste in music, from Rimsky Korsakov and his "Scheherazade" to The Animals and House of the Rising Sun. Watching kids' reactions up close makes the Music Mobile her favorite youth program. She has two daughters, one in Alaska and the other in Florida - no grand kids, just grand dogs. Sandy fills her time reading and playing bridge.

## **THANK YOU AND FAREWELL TO A TREASURED FEW**

### **2019-20 PAST PRESIDENT – Mary Chelius (Upper Bay)**

Mary greatly appreciates all Committee, Executive and Board members for their invaluable camaraderie, advice and fundraiser frivolity over the years. She leaves the Executive Committee as she finishes her three years as President Elect, President and current Past President. During her many years with the Executive Committee, Mary has also served as VP Youth Concerts and VP Annual Fund. She was an elementary educator for 38 years and joined Upper Bay 17 years ago after receiving a personal invite. Her favorite youth program experience has been serving as Segerstrom venue coordinator since 2005. Mary sings with her church choir and hopes to resume playing the piano. She's a fan of classical and choral music and is interested in local and international Mission outreach, especially in the Holy Land.

### **2019-20 VICE PRESIDENT PUBLIC RELATIONS – Jan Lawrence (Town & Country)**

Jan loves volunteering with the women in the Committees and has made lasting friendships. She is a Past President of The Committees and has held a variety of leadership positions in Town & Country and The Committees. She has spent 10 years on the Executive Committee, the last four as VP Public Relations and Overture editor. Her journey began when her daughter, Kristen, won a scholarship through Town & Country in 1997 and Jan discovered several members were PTA friends. She earned a masters in speech pathology, volunteered in the schools as she raised four children, was PTA president, and helped run a non-profit, Joyful Foundation. The Music Mobile has been a favorite program. She enjoys good rock and roll and a pretty eclectic range of music: classical, smooth jazz and symphonic metal. Jan stays busy reading, “going down the rabbit hole” in search of new knowledge, helping Kristen as her music manager and listening to great music.

### **2019-20 VICE PRESIDENT WAYS & MEANS – Kay Burra (Big Canyon/Spyglass Hill)**

Kay has spent the last two years as our cheerleading VP Ways & Means, inspiring Committees to raise funds for our youth music programs. Working with such a wonderful dedicated, hard-working Board has been a privilege and a pleasure for her. Kay was a teacher and then a corporate travel consultant in her career. She joined Big Canyon/Spyglass Hill after being given one of Bobbitt Williams' famous “opportunities”. In her 15 years with BC/SH she has held several leadership positions including Chairman, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Ways and Means and Hospitality, and will repeat as Chairman this coming year. Her favorite youth music programs are the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade concerts. Kay learned to play piano long ago in a galaxy far, far away. Andrea Bocelli and Garth Brooks are favorite artists and she spends time reading and flower arranging.

## ALTA BAHIA COMMITTEE

We are an energetic and active group of ladies in the Newport Beach area. We meet from September to May on the third Thursday of the month for lunch and our meeting. We usually meet in our members' homes and enjoy entertainment. We have a Christmas luncheon and sometimes a summer party.

Our fundraiser this year was a Mardi Gras theme luncheon at the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club. We had a Dixie Land band entertaining us, a silent auction and opportunity prizes. We welcome new members.

Our Volunteer of the Year is Diane Stovall.

### **Diane Stovall:**

I am honored to have been chosen for Volunteer of the year by the Alta Bahia chapter. I became a member in 2011, a year after my mother, Lois, died. She really enjoyed it, as have I.

I was raised in a musical family. My Grandpa Al was a bandleader and toured the west with his swing band in the 30s and 40s.

My father, Robert, was a lifelong singer and would hire local talented OC musicians for his band and performed locally through the 80s and up to 2005. This experience taught me the joy and importance of music and that it is a universal language.

Being on the Ways and Means board I have been lucky to book talented OC musicians to perform for our annual fundraising event this past six years. Boy, what fun we've had. The ladies of Alta Bahia are inspiring because they are truly passionate about raising money for the OC Philharmonic Society and bringing classical music to school children attending the Segerstrom Concert Hall.

Marge Gumb, Co-Chairman

## BALBOA COMMITTEE

The Balboa Committee was formed in the mid-1950s and meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month in members' homes from September through June. Quite a few of our members live on the Balboa Peninsula, but we also have members from Corona Del Mar, Costa Mesa, Irvine and other areas of Newport Beach. We have an incredible group of women who gather for meetings, take care of business and end the gathering with a potluck lunch and glass of wine! Fun fact - our Committee has over 517 years of combined PSOC membership!

Thanks to our long time Youth Concerts Chair, Elaine Linhoff, we were able to secure a bay front home in December 2019 where we held a Newport Beach Boat Parade viewing party. The fundraiser was small and intimate, reminding us all of the "old days" when our fundraisers were held at the home of one of our members with homemade munchies and our spouses serving up the spirits. Elaine turned 90 years old in March and has been a Committee member for over 47 years! She continues to do an amazing job coordinating our docents and managing the "green" section at the Segerstrom Concert Hall. We don't know what we would do without her. We were hoping to have another spring fundraiser but unfortunately, we have all been affected by the current global pandemic. We are hoping to resume our fundraising plans and make 2020-2021 even better.

Sherry Chase was named our Volunteer of the Year for 2019-2020. Sherry is our Hospitality Chair and she is perfectly suited for the job. Sherry always has a smile while she ensures that we will always have a home for our next meeting. She coordinates the potluck sign-ups and fills in with an entree, salad or wine when needed. She takes hospitality to another level. Sometimes she is lucky to be able to sit and enjoy lunch because she is busy serving food, refilling wine, or starting on the dishes. She is the last to leave only after the hostess's kitchen is clean and everything is back in its place. In addition, Sherry is selfless with her time as she exceeds expectations when it comes to volunteering her time to docent at the youth concerts. Always upbeat and optimistic, her laugh and smile light up the room!

I also want to recognize and thank a few others in our group this year: Mary Lou Hilker for another year of coordinating entertainment and hosting a wonderful Christmas meeting at her home. Also, our Recording Secretary, Maryann Nethercutt who has held her position for several years and made sure our meeting minutes were successfully distributed and recorded. Maryann will be passing this opportunity along to someone else next year. I also want to recognize Linda Tenno. She volunteered to oversee our Musical Reinvestment program and was essential in coordinating with the NMUSD (Newport-Mesa Unified School District) in identifying some of our schools most in need of musical instruments. This year we were able to give back to two schools: Newport Beach Elementary and Tewinkle Elementary. A huge thank you to these ladies and the rest of our Committee for all they do!

Being Chairman for the last three years has truly been my pleasure!

Ida Staples, Chairman

## **BIG CANYON/SPYGLASS HILL COMMITTEE**

Big Canyon/Spyglass Hill Committee was originally formed from two separate Committees that merged in 1995. Big Canyon Committee was first formed in 1973 and Spyglass Hill Committee in 1974. Our Committee serves Newport Beach and the surrounding areas. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, September through June at various restaurants and private clubs throughout the Orange County area. We enjoy fascinating and educational speakers at our luncheons, including our new member Mary Saucedo, whose presentation on Woman's Friendships was uplifting and encouraging.

We currently have 44 members, with our longest standing member having served 42 years. We are a diverse and energetic group of wonderful women who enjoy volunteering time and funds in support of The Philharmonic Society. Our fundraising events include the September New Member Tea, Treasure Sale, and (contingent on variables related to the Covid-19 virus) we will be planning our "Blue Hawaiian Luau" fundraiser.

In April, our Committee lost one of our longstanding members, Jan Seitz-Jashinski. She was a kind and supportive member who served in different capacities throughout her membership. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Magaly Hüther and Christel Schar led our Youth Concert Committee this season. Ushering at the Youth Concerts is a highlight experience to many of our members. It is a reminder of why we are a part of The Philharmonic Society. We are delighted and inspired by the children who attend the concerts and encouraged to provide these opportunities to generations of children to come.

This year we are proud to announce our volunteer of the Year, Magaly Hüther. She joined our group in 2016 and has been a dedicated member in every sense of the word. She served as Corresponding Secretary for two years, Youth Concert Co-Chair for one year and will continue in that position this coming season. Whenever there is a need she steps up to help out, whether to pick up flowers for a luncheon, usher, serve on a committee, or help organize an event, she is there with a helping spirit. You will often see Magaly accompanied by her dog "Argyle", whom she is training to one day work with the visually impaired. Thank you, Magaly, for everything you do to help make our BCSH Committee a great success!

Our season was impacted by the Covid-19 virus that forced the cancellation of all Philharmonic performances, programs and meetings. It is amazing that under such mitigating circumstances how we banded together to support our mission and most of all, each other. This speaks to the resilience of our members that in the most challenging times saw our program and goals through.

Our April meeting was held via Zoom (which was a learning curve for some of our membership). Learning and incorporating this new technology kept us connected and moving forward in ways we would never have imagined.

Thank you to all of our wonderful Committee members for your support in what was a challenging yet enlightening year in the true spirit of volunteerism. I look forward with great enthusiasm to a new year and ready for whatever comes our way. I know we can do this!

Deirdre McTeggart, Pys.D, Chairman



## CAMEO COMMITTEE

The Cameo Committee, formed in the late 1950s in the Newport/Corona del Mar area, is an active group of 25 friendly and interesting ladies. We have four members with 25-year pins, and two members with 50-year pins. We meet at the centrally located premiere Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club on the first Wednesday of the month.

Our meetings start off with a social time as we highlight our experiences and encourage one another to attend the wonderful fundraisers and children's educational music programs all recorded by our Hours of Records Chair, Barbara Stirrat, followed by a lovely music-inspired entertainment and delicious lunch coordinated by our Hospitality Chairs, Judy Thompson and Gisela Doniguian, along with beautiful center pieces and dessert provided by our Cameo Members.

We started our year with attending The Committees Kick-off in lieu of our regularly scheduled meeting in hopes to invigorate our members as well as share our experience with our guests as to our enthusiasm for being a part of the PSOC. All who joined enjoyed seeing all the Committee-wide members as well as the highlights and recaps of all the music programs. Some of us even had the opportunity to join in the musical fun of playing world music instruments with the California Journeys demonstration.

Our musical programs have delighted us with Norm Freeman, vibraphone, and Katherine Cash, violin. Both trained at Juilliard and are the resident Jazz musicians for St. James Episcopal Church in Newport Beach; Rick Streitfeld, pianist and stain glass artist from Huntington Beach, played tunes from the 60s and 70s; Sonia Olivas, Int'l Certified Harp Therapy Practitioner, played festive holiday music and orchestrated a joyous sing along with our fellow Cameo members and guests.

Our Heart and Flowers Chair, Tess Lier graciously sends flowers, cards, telephone calls and even makes house visits to members in time of need and good cheer. Our Ways and Means Chair, Kathy Dogali organized lovely invitations for our December Holiday Giving Fundraiser check writing event that yielded \$6,350.00. Many of our members play bridge regularly as the Cameo Group and contributed \$100. Our Youth Concerts Chair, Kathy Young enthusiastically rallies our members to volunteer as docents at the various concerts as she gives the group sound bites of each concert details in regards to dates, description, carpool opportunities and more. Our Annual Fund Chair, Mary Olsen and Treasurer Chair, Leslie Ordonez both received recognition from The Committees Board of Directors for their exemplary work in turning in their reports in a timely fashion.

Marlene Nielson introduced a new Peer-to-Peer Campaign Fundraiser "MusicMatters". She taught each of our members how to successfully sign up and become a virtual fundraiser for all of our youth music programs. Our Recording Secretary, Ann Tomlinson has been diligent with keeping track of our minutes and often wearing multiple hats by filling in for our members whenever the need is there.

Our Volunteer of the Year is Elizabeth (Sue) Jones. She is an exemplary Committees member who always finds clever and generous ways to fund, volunteer, and implement new strategies to enhance the youth programs. Sue is past Cameo Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and presently is a member of The Committees Executive Committee serving as Vice President Annual Fund. She keeps us up-to-date with ongoing projects. We are very proud to have her in our Cameo Committee.

Sonia Marie Olivas, Chairman

## CAPISTRANO COMMITTEE

It has been a great pleasure for us to have served as co-chairs of the Capistrano Committee this year! It was another great year for our Committee! We started the year with a potluck salad luncheon. This is a great time to reconnect with our fellow Committee members.

Once again our Committee has participated in almost all of the Committees' youth programs. We started our volunteering efforts early this year by working eight days at the Mission San Juan Capistrano with John Yeiser and a lot of fourth graders. But it wasn't all work... We enjoyed some time for socializing as well. When the scheduled day at the Mission corresponds to our meeting date, we enjoy having lunch at Pat Linville's house between the Mission and our meeting. Unfortunately, our dates for Music Mobile were cancelled as the schools closed for the spring, but we did enjoy ushering for the fifth grade concerts. We even combined an ushering day with our meeting over lunch in the Plaza before taking a fabulous tour of the large Segerstrom hall with former PSOC Committee's member, Cathy Gilbert who is now a docent for the Center. Many of us also enjoyed the docent and herding jobs at Heritage Hill – until the schools closed and our spring dates were canceled.

We really enjoyed another fabulous Holiday Tea. We weren't sure how the switch from Saturday to Sunday would turn out, but it worked really well. Judging from how fast the sandwiches and scones were gobbled up, it appeared that everyone was ready for a lovely afternoon of tea and entertainment! Once again we were entertained by a lovely string quartet. We had a fun April meeting planned that was unfortunately canceled due to COVID-19. We look forward to the completion of our Committee year and the installation of new officers. We had hoped for this wrap up to be at a tea for our members along with entertainment by one of our scholarship recipients, but the scheduling of this is a bit tentative at this point. Additionally, we hope to be able to party again with our spouses and friends on a lovely August or September evening!

One of the best parts about raising all of this money for the youth programs is the ability to request ten percent of our donation back for musical reinvestment in our community. The Capistrano Committee is so fortunate to have retired music teacher, Ann Ludwig, in charge of our amazing scholarship program. Between the funds we raise from within our Committee and the musical reinvestment funding, we have been able to award a great number of scholarships to worthy middle school and high school students. This year there are a total of nine recipients!

The Capistrano Committee is excited to name Maria Trefethen as our 2020 Volunteer of the Year. Maria joined us in 2018 and jumped right in! Whenever we ushered, she was there, always flexible regarding assignments and smiling! She took on the responsibility of treasurer for our Committee after one year of membership and is looking forward to continuing in that capacity. We couldn't ask for a more agreeable, flexible, can-do member. Thank you, Maria and congratulations!

Sandi Campbell-McClain and Ann Ludwig, Co-Chairmen

## COTO DE CAZA COMMITTEE

The Coto de Caza Committee consists of members from the community of Coto de Caza and the surrounding South Orange County neighborhoods. We continue to serve and share our love of music while nurturing friendships and girlfriend time.

### Our Mission Statement:

The mission of the Coto Committee is to support the music education programs provided by the Philharmonic Society of Orange County. As members, we support that effort by committing to raise funds through events and donations and provide volunteer manpower. Our goal is to provide a friendly, fun, and supportive environment for our members.

We always have a lot of fun with our events. This year, we decided on themed meetings and had great fun dressing up for Halloween, listening to children from the Chinese Immersion Program Hairma perform at our Chinese New Year meeting and eating Louisiana style crab while listening to a Jazz performer at our Mardi Gras meeting. Our annual Holiday Cookie Exchange was a huge success, featuring cookies made by our members and a visit from the Orange County Fire Department – in the Fire Truck – to collect our donated toys to support their Sparks of Love toy drive.

This past year, our meetings were generously hosted by our members and we proudly displayed our Silver Bowl Award for Membership. Our Committee continues to search for ways to grow and found our fundraiser, “Wines of the Philharmonic,” was a great way to meet potential new members from the community while combining our love of music, dancing, good food and wine. Our goal is to not only raise money, but to increase awareness of the Philharmonic Society and the youth programs so important to our youth. Although we have had to put our event on hold, we can’t wait to set our new date!

This year, the Coto Committee nominated Lisa Taylor as Volunteer of the Year. As a new member, just finishing her first year with the Committee in 2017, Lisa accepted the request to serve as Co-Chairman of the Committee (never having served in any officer role) , then was elected Chairman in 2018 and this last year served again as Chairman. She has been willing to help keep the group together and growing while ushering, serving at the House of Design and the Holiday House, chairing our last Summer Sizzle, helping with fundraisers and anything else that needed to be done. Lisa has worn many hats this last year and has logged hundreds of hours supporting the youth programs and our Committee. She presided over our very first Zoom meeting and we look forward to getting together again and sharing our love of the Philharmonic.

Lisa Taylor, Chairman

## FULLERTON COMMITTEE

The Fullerton Committee usually meets at a local restaurant for breakfast from September through May. However, sometimes we combine ushering at Youth Concerts, lunch and our business meeting on the same date. We are a small but mighty group that enjoys helping out when and where we are needed.

This has been a challenging year. We gained a new member and lost a member. And the Marie Calendar's where we had been meeting for the past couple of years closed sending us on a location search for our breakfast meetings.

We ushered at Segerstrom several times and "womaned" the docenting at Bowers for California Journeys. Between too many children showing up and on another occasion a school not showing up it was an adventure!

We once again did our Pfund the Phil fundraiser. As of this writing we were able to send in about \$3,000.

The Fullerton Committee is a wonderful group of women. They are truly a pleasure to know. Here's hoping that the next fiscal year will have fewer glitches.

Terry Brick, Chairman

## HUNTINGTON HARBOUR PHILHARMONIC COMMITTEE

The Huntington Harbour Philharmonic Committee (HHPC) consists of six independent Groups composed of 278 members who volunteered a combined (as of March 2020) 26,866 hours; the hours include ushering at various concert venue sites, also presenting and supporting youth music education programs throughout the county. These hours translated into more than \$63,500 raised for the Committees of the Philharmonic Society of Orange County.

Huntington Harbour Philharmonic Committee has been fortunate to benefit from the generosity of the community, including SE Pipe Line Construction, The Roosters of Orange County, William Ross Family Foundation and AES, as well as numerous individuals who have underwritten and support our fundraising endeavors.

Through our fundraising and community support we proudly distributed reinvestment funds totaling \$18,900 for music programs to 16 schools in the Huntington Beach City School District, Ocean View School District, the Los Alamitos School District, and private schools.

The Huntington Harbour 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Boat Parade with Grand Marshal Larry Gottlieb's theme, "Rock & Roll Fantasy," was once again a highlight of our season that served as a prelude to our major fundraiser, the Huntington Harbour Cruise of Lights<sup>®</sup>. This year we had over 43 beautifully decorated boats cruising the channels of Huntington Harbour.

Our own Islander, Kim Weddon, served as President of The Committees representing the Harbour proudly and brilliantly.

HHPC Volunteer of the Year is myself, Patty Reilly, who greatly appreciates this recognition.

Many of our events and fundraisers were either postponed or canceled by the COVID-19 virus outbreak. We look forward to next year where we can once again meet, organize, and join all our HHPC and other Committee members in volunteering and raising funds to support our youth music education programs.

Patty Reilly, HHPC Chairman

## HHPC – ADMIRALTY GROUP

The Admiralty Group completed its 57<sup>th</sup> year of service. We had our summer party at Michele Brenner's house on August 17, 2019 for our members, spouses, family, friends and prospective members.

Our meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. Our hospitality chair is Eve Jordan and her assistant is Mary Busche. They coordinate the meeting location and are the co-hostesses for the food. Everyone enjoys getting together and discussing the upcoming Philharmonic events.

The Cruise of Lights<sup>®</sup> is our biggest event of the year. Charmaine Rood and Linda Nibell worked valiantly in securing and organizing our volunteers.

Special Projects and member roles:

- Holiday Boutique – Gail Sebring
- Boat Parade – Roxanne Talley
- Attic Treasures – Janet Johnson
- House of Design – Jeanne Caille and Charmaine Rood
- Juniors – Gail Sebring
- Music Mobile – Anne Crowley, Eve Jordan, Judy Cassidy and Teri Bowers
- Ushering – Teri Bowers and Charmaine Rood
- Public Relations – Charmaine Rood
- Grand Marshal Event – Charmaine Rood
- V.P. Membership and Annual Fund – Grace Holdaway
- Recording Secretary – Ellie Winterfeld

This year we lost one of our dearest, loyal, energetic and amazing members, Mim Strickler. Mim was celebrating her 50 years in the Philharmonic when she passed doing what she loved best - on a cruise that she organized for fellow HHPC members. We will greatly miss watching Mim being recognized during the Committees Installation, where she would have received her landmark recognition of 50 years in the Philharmonic.

Admiralty's Volunteer of the Year is Anne Crowley (current President and is doing a 2<sup>nd</sup> term). She is very energetic and encourages our members to participate in all Admiralty and HHPC events.

As President of Admiralty, I am so fortunate to have so many wonderful ladies in our organization.

Anne Crowley, President

## HHPC – ISLANDER GROUP

At last May's annual Installation Luncheon, the Islanders had the pleasure of installing our own Kim Weddon with a skit, including Elvis singing "Blue Suede Shoes." Thank you, Kim, so much for the wonderful job that you did. You bring positive aura around and inspire all of us to work even harder. You are a blessing to our Philharmonic family.

Fast forward a year later; March 2020.....who knew all of our spring fundraisers would be canceled or postponed indefinitely due to a pandemic! Social distancing, Zoom conference meetings, flattening the curve, and wearing fancy face masks would become the new 'norm.'

The Islanders alternate between 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday morning and evening meetings, and we encourage our partners and spouses to join us at our nighttime meetings. Our Islander men play a considerable volunteer part, especially for our Huntington Harbour Boat Parade and Cruise of Lights<sup>®</sup>.

Last September, Marlene and Chris Nielsen hosted our Kick-Off Islander meeting. We had over 60 guests, and we feasted on excellent Mexican cuisine provided by Taco Surf. Our talented hospitality team outdid themselves on the décor headed up by Diane Kemple.

In October 2019, the HHPC Holiday Boutique was our first fundraiser and a huge success. Many of our members volunteered or donated opportunity prizes. The weekend weather was very cooperative.

The holidays are a busy time for the Harbour and HHPC with our Boat Parade and Cruise of Lights<sup>®</sup>. It's all hands on deck the month of December! The HHPC Juniors also cruise along with all of us, helping with loading and unloading buses and selling "glo" necklaces.

Unfortunately, our spring fundraisers are either canceled or postponed. The Juniors "Sail Away" Fashion Show was canceled but has a March date for 2021. Islanders Elizabeth Henry and Rachel Helgeson will remain at the "helm" for next year. Our Juniors are hardworking young students volunteering at homeless shelters, beach cleanings, and supporting our HHPC events. Our June "Attic Treasures" has been postponed, hopefully to land on a summer date.

Our HHPC Grand Marshal Event will hopefully happen on August 15, 2020. We honor our current Grand Marshal Larry Gottlieb, past Grand Marshals, and announce this year's Grand Marshal. Last year's Boat Parade theme was "Rock and Roll Fantasy". What will this year be? Our Islander member Jeanie Gibson and her team know how to throw a party!

We are thrilled to announce Karen Branoff as our Islander Volunteer of the year! She joined our Group in 2016. In addition to helping with Special Projects, Karen has a great gift for hospitality, and she has generously used those talents for our meetings, teas, and being a docent at all our HHPC fundraisers along with her husband, Tim. We are very proud to recognize Karen as our 2019-20 Volunteer of the Year.

Let's seize this opportunity to control what we can, accept what we can't, and take advantage of the hidden blessings that await us.

Marlene Nielsen, President

## HHPC – MARINA/WINDJAMMER GROUP

The Marina/Windjammer Group has been working together since 2002 when they incorporated the Marina Group founded in 1964, and the Windjammer Group founded in 1971. We have had a very active year as we have in the past. Our membership now consists of 43 members: 23 active, 12 associates and 8 supporting.

Our monthly meetings in member's homes continue to be wonderful opportunities for members to get together. Linda Halopoff coordinated home locations and luncheon entrees, salads and desserts for us this year. Due to AB5 we did not have musical guests. Lisa Weller took it upon herself to provide a few musical opportunities. This year, we had a holiday party at the Seacliff Country Club that was enjoyed by all.

We are so proud of the leadership of the Marina/Windjammer Group. Serving the year on the HHPC Board are Barbara Sentell, Maggie VanEck, Lara Anderson, Roberta Swain, Kelly Haynes and Karen Ridout. Roberta Swain made sure we supported the Holiday Boutique. The Boat Parade was headed by Maggie VanEck and Barbara Sentell. Cruise of Lights<sup>®</sup> chairs, Karen Ridout and Linda Halopoff, made sure we staffed our Cruise night and the office. Lani Martin and Coralie Prince provided Cruise guests with entertainment each night with musicians from local high schools and community groups.

A big thank you to Carlone Herman for her leadership in staffing the red and blue groups for concerts at Segerstrom Concert Hall. Coralie Prince and her crew brought the Music Mobile to area third graders. In addition to Committee chairpersons, our Marina/Windjammer's Board included: Lara Anderson, who spread the word of our activities in our local bimonthly magazine; Ruth Roe kept detailed minutes of our meetings; Susie Sampson sent cards and letters to those in need and welcomed new members to our team; Sherry Skerik kept our financial house in order; Bobby Spiegel kept track of our volunteer hours; Joanne Fernbach coordinated our part in the Grand Marshal Event and Kelly Haynes worked as our Juniors Liaison.

This year's Volunteer of the Year is Lara Anderson, who joined the Marina/Windjammer group in 2017. Lara has worked diligently in her public relations position using new forms of media to communicate our mission to local schools and neighborhoods. Lara also adds a layer of clarity to any discussion we have at meetings.

Lisa Weller, President



## **HHPC – SANDPIPER GROUP**

The Sandpiper bird is known to be gregarious and be part of a large group. That is a great representation of our membership. The Sandpipers are one of the six Groups that make up the Huntington Harbour Philharmonic Committee (HHPC).

We meet at 3:30 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. We have 43 members who actively support HHPC and Committees events. For most of the year we stayed busy by working the HHPC Holiday Boutique, 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Boat Parade and Cruise of Lights<sup>®</sup>, as well as ushering youth concerts and taking part in Music Mobile presentations. Due to the Covid-19 virus pandemic, the Grand Marshal Event, Attic Treasurers and Juniors Fashion Show have unfortunately been postponed until it is safe for people to meet in larger groups.

We have eight members holding positions in the Huntington Harbour Philharmonic Committee: Cleve Sprouts, Helene Rowlette, Lolly McHardy, Suzie Scott, Lyn Senske, Teri Adams and Susan Lipman.

Sandpipers welcome anyone who has a passion for providing music and music education to the youth of Orange County.

### **Volunteer of the Year**

Patty Taylor has been a member since 2010. In those ten years she has opened up her beautiful home for New Member Couples Brunch, monthly meetings and Fashion Shows & Teas. She has also been very active ushering, doing Music Mobile presentations and being the right arm of Nicole Stewart for the Holiday Boutique and Attic Treasurers. Thank you, Patty, for all that you do for the Sandpipers and their endeavors!

Teri Adams, President

## HHPC – SEAL BEACH GROUP

The Seal Beach Committee is four years old. Membership has grown to 35 members and continues to grow. Our enthusiastic members are committed to working/volunteering at the fundraisers and ushering at the various music programs. Our meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month from 3:00 to 5:00 at a member's home and everyone is encouraged to bring a perspective new member to our meetings.

One of our members, Ester Kenyon, is founder of the Seal Beach Performing Arts Association. Ester's foundation again donated \$500 to the Music4kids program. She specifically requested that the money go to Music Mobile.

Our Volunteer of the Year recipient is Barbara Wright for always going above and beyond. Barbara has been the Cruise of Lights<sup>®</sup> chair since the Seal Beach Group was organized. She also offers her home as a meeting place for volunteers to organize and decorate the Music Mobile float for the Seal Beach Christmas Parade. This year, 16 members marched down Main Street behind the Music Mobile clad in HHPC jackets, holiday hats and twinkling necklaces holding a banner advertising the Cruise of Lights<sup>®</sup> and carrying instruments. Barbara makes things happen!

This year we submitted an article to the local Seal Beach Sun newspaper requesting readers to donate any no-longer-used musical instruments hiding in their closet, attic or garage. The community gave us a piano, violin, flute, and cello. We bought new strings for the cello and an endpin. The instruments were then given to the Youth Center after school music program and Oak Middle School to be played again.

The COVID-19 crisis posed special challenges for the entire Philharmonic Society of Orange County. The crisis came fast and swift decisions were made to cancel and postpone major fundraisers and music program events in order to protect students and members. Every year, we visit the Los Alamitos Elementary schools and introduce musical instruments of the orchestra through the Music Mobile van. Five Los Alamitos schools were scheduled and we agreed to do seven additional Huntington Valley West schools. We completed the Los Alamitos schools but unfortunately were forced to cancel the HVW schools due to California school closures.

Every year, Lyn and John Pohlmann open their home to host our installation. The event, "Prosecco, High Tea and Faziolis" features students from the Bob Cole Conservatory, CSULB, playing on two Italian Grand Fazioli Pianos. Unfortunately, the event has been postponed till further notice.

Because of the social distancing, we keep in touch via e-mail and Zoom and look forward to the time when we can all meet again and start our activities. Our next fundraiser, Attic Treasures, is scheduled for June. Hopefully by then we can have a very successful fundraiser.

Louise Dubos, President

## HHPC – TRINIDAD GROUP

Trinidad was founded in 1978. We currently have 43 members. Eight of our members have been in Trinidad since the 1990s, seven since 1980s, and one since 1978. This year we have one member who will get her 25-year pin, Helen Hagen. Helen ran our Music Mobile program for many years, and is also a music teacher for the violin. We are a very active group. We have over 7,000 volunteer hours. These hours were volunteered by working the Philharmonic activities: ushering the many concerts, Music Mobile, Cruise of Lights<sup>®</sup>, Boat Parade, Attic Treasures, and working with our Juniors Philharmonic Group.

We hold our monthly meetings on the third Thursday of the month. We host a luncheon and then have our business meeting. We have local restaurants cater our meetings. Sometimes our hostess wants to make lunch. It's lots of fun! Our board also has some active members that have both spouses holding board positions.

We have many social events during the year. We had a fall new member's brunch at Pam and Mike Myers' new waterfront home. In November we had a complete Thanksgiving feast luncheon hosted by Ellen Martin and Pam Myers. It was also held at Pam Myers' beautiful home. December brought a dinner outing to Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club to see the Newport Boat Parade. Linda Axel hosted this event. In January, our member Sheree Novak made all the arrangements for a brunch at Duke's restaurant. It was a great way to start the New Year. We then had a Chinese New Year's party at a Chinese restaurant in February. Then we came to quarantine...we did a drive by birthday shout out for Ellen's birthday. We've had a virtual meeting, and lots of phone calls to keep in touch.

Several of our members served on the HHPC Board this past year: Patty Reilly served as both Chairperson and Assistant Cruise of Lights<sup>®</sup>. Ellen Martin was Membership and Annual Fund for the HHPC Board. Hospitality was chaired by Dee Holte.

Trinidad is so proud to have Patty Reilly represent our group as our Volunteer of the Year. She has been involved in all of our Trinidad events. We knew she was always there to help us wherever she could. She represented our group on the HHPC Board as Chairperson. She was in the office every day of the Cruise, making sure everything ran smoothly. It was always a pleasure to see her smiling face when we worked in the office.

Linda Axel, President

## HUNTINGTON VALLEY WEST COMMITTEE

The year 2019-2020 began with our delivery of the reinvestment grant that we had awarded. We gave \$500 to Sean Adamiak, a music teacher at Talbert Middle School in Fountain Valley High School District. He purchased a class set of ukuleles. I was privileged to hear and see the students perform when Marilyn Manderscheid and I visited the class in the fall. The students had already learned to chord and play simple tunes. This was our 3<sup>rd</sup> grant to this district.

September was our first set of Music Mobile presentations. We had Westminster School District, with 13 schools on our agenda for March-April. Sadly, the schools shut down. We served seven schools in Fountain Valley with 14 presentations. These are a large part of our yearly schedule, thanks to member Eileen Maeda, our liaison and chair of this program.

January was when we began planning our second annual "Bunco Bash". Under the Chair of Jeri Wilson, we planned a St. Patrick's Day theme, with assistance from Judy Aoki. Unfortunately, we had to cancel on the day of the event and postpone it to a future date, because of coronavirus. (It will be on our 2020-2021 schedule.) We did, however, send \$1785.00 to The Committees from this non-event.

We ushered five concerts, with approximately 20 plus ushers, the Orchestra Festival with two members and Heritage Hill, with Jan Liss - Assistant Chairman of Heritage Hill - with five visits and approximately 15 participants.

We are a small group now with 19 members. Some of our associates have pitched in and are really lifesavers. December was our annual holiday dinner, with spouses and friends invited. Our Patty King will get her 25-year pin this year. She was HVW's House of Design Liaison for many years.

Our Volunteer of the Year is JAN LISS. She has been a member for 17 years, and is a retired 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade teacher. Jan is warm and gracious, and has a lovely voice (a member of Westminster Chorale). She has been our recording secretary for many years, a job she enjoys, and is quite accurate. She's been active with Heritage Hill and is an inveterate traveler, and fun to be around. We are lucky to have her.

Perle Tropp, Chairman

## **JANE GRAY PORTER COMMITTEE**

Our Jane Gray Porter Committee has met only twice this year, but has tried to keep up with helping where and when we can in terms of ushering, etc.

We have three of our members who volunteered to be chairman so we can cover the monthly board meetings and thus keep our members informed of all the various activities, fundraisers, and ushering needs. These ladies are Beverly Carmichael, Pat Puich and Louise Upham. We currently have twenty-three members and usually meet four times a year in a member's home with a final luncheon meeting in June at Sherman Gardens. Most of our ladies have been long time members of the Philharmonic Society.

Our first meeting is always held at the home of Carol Boice and is a pot-luck dinner with a theme based on her travel experience. It's always a fun and lively event as we get caught up on summer activities and work out our plans for the coming year.

Our Christmas meeting has become a traditional "chili" dinner and gift exchange. We also have our fundraiser at this time and we call it "Stuff the Stocking". Each member donates to help fund the various youth music education programs that the Philharmonic sponsors.

We normally then meet in the spring, but with the current restrictions in place we have had to cancel our meetings. Therefore, we will not have a Volunteer of the Year from our Committee, but will most certainly nominate someone next year.

Pat Puich, Co-Chairman

## LA CASA COMMITTEE

The past year has been a time of change and adaptation for the La Casa Committee. La Casa was founded in 1994 to provide leadership and ongoing support for the Philharmonic House of Design. Challenges with the 2019 House of Design resulted in a decision to not pursue a 2020 House of Design. La Casa members rose to the challenge of establishing a fundraiser for this fiscal year and had three fundraisers. We had restaurant fundraisers at Newport Rib Company and BJ's Restaurant. A percentage of proceeds from our Committee members' patronage of those restaurants on specific nights was donated to the Philharmonic Society Committees to support our youth concerts.

Our largest fundraiser was "La Casa Night at the Theater" held on Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at Modjeska Theater in Laguna Hills. Carol Mounedji as Chairman did a wonderful job of organizing every aspect of this fundraiser. We purchased all the seats and invited families and friends to join us for a fun filled evening. Guests were served wine and treated to several charcuterie trays while we enjoyed each other's company before the play. Our members had donated items for several opportunity baskets that we bid on before the play started and during intermission. The item of greatest interest was a gilded birdcage with \$500.00. Member Mary Granger won the drawing and graciously donated the \$500.00 back to La Casa. During intermission, we enjoyed homemade cookies that had been baked by several members. A fun time was had by all and we were happy to donate the proceeds to the Philharmonic Society Committees.

The La Casa Committee is hoping to have a Holiday House in the fall of 2020. The current worldwide Covid-19 pandemic and quarantine has made the search for a Holiday House more challenging.

La Casa Committee meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at various restaurants with programs focused on design themes. During the fall of 2019, we were treated to presentations on fall flower arrangements, fantasy pumpkins, and "Wrap It Up", an entertaining tutorial on wrapping gifts and decorating for the Christmas holidays.

We had a wonderful party during the summer at member Sharon Moore's home in Newport Beach. La Casa members enjoyed Sharon's beautiful home, in addition to the great food, wine and company.

A fun time was had by La Casa members at our yearly Christmas party. It was held in the evening at the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club in Newport Beach. We enjoyed the Christmas Boat Parade from the convenience and warmth of our dining room while the boats cruised by our windows.

Our Volunteers of the Year are Carol Mounedji and Diane Lawson. Carol did a fantastic job chairing our theater fundraiser in February. Her tireless efforts on this project led to a very successful event and fun evening for everyone who attended. Carol has also shown strong leadership skills as she chaired the Opportunity Prizes for several Philharmonic Houses of Design. She is such a supportive presence at La Casa meetings and is able to mobilize support for any opportunity prize raising more money than any of us had anticipated. Diane Lawson has been a treasured member of La Casa for many years. She provided great leadership during the three years she served as the Chairman of La Casa. Diane spearheaded Entertaining by Design while she was Chairman of La Casa. She was the Day Chair Coordinator for several Houses of Design. Diane is a tireless worker for La Casa and never declines any task that is asked of her. Her style and grace add a touch of sophistication to any La Casa event.

Tomi Baker and Marcia Passaglia, Co-Chairmen

## LIDO ISLE COMMITTEE

The Lido Isle Committee was established in 1958 and meets monthly at members' homes from September through April. We support and provide performance experience for student musicians from the University of California Irvine by inviting them to perform at some of our meetings. Their talent and dedication is so impressive and it's always interesting to learn about their career aspirations, why they choose to study music and what their training has entailed. Our Committee's camaraderie is wonderful and it's a pleasure to plan and take part in our volunteer activities and events.

This season we continued our efforts via Music Mobile presentations at many elementary schools, ushering at Segerstrom Center and other venues and raising funds through our underwriting campaign and check writing party. For the past eight years we have hosted a music education event at our community clubhouse with performers featuring various American composers' music interspersed with historical context and fascinating information about their lives. Those performers have now retired and we are evaluating options for replacing that very popular event.

Our Volunteer of the Year for this season is Donna Martell, our Chairman. She was Co-Chairman for several years with Evelyn Kroener. Although our activities were somewhat curtailed this year, we look forward to resuming our efforts and enthusiastically supporting the Philharmonic Society of Orange County.

Donna Martell, Chairman

**SADDLEBACK VALLEY COMMITTEE**  
58 years serving the youth of Orange County

We began our year with a lovely Summer Party at the home of one of our members. It was attended by members, spouses and guests. Once again, the proceeds from the party were combined with this year's reinvestment funds and were awarded to La Paz Intermediate School's Instrumental Program. The presentation of the check took place in December at the Holiday Concert with the Music Director and Principal greeting us and expressing appreciation. We have now supported all four of the Intermediate Schools Music programs in the Saddleback Valley Unified School District.

In September we had a Committee Luncheon and invited prospective members. It was a good way to meet the active members and learn about what we do as a Committee. We now have three new members.

We have been very busy this year with our ushering assignments for the Youth Programs 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Concerts. We have worked at Heritage Hill and the San Juan Capistrano Mission. Several have assisted and led the Music Mobile program and many worked at the High School Orchestra Festival. We also worked at the Membership table at the Family Concerts.

We celebrate the Christmas season with a party at one of our member's home. It is a fun evening with food and a musical program with students from the Capistrano Valley Christian School. At the end of the evening we gather around the piano to sing carols. It was a good opportunity to invite guests.

The highlight of our year was our fundraiser "Sail into Spring" held at the Dana Point Yacht Club. Every member participated and was very successful in raising funds for the Youth Programs. We also have an ongoing fundraiser selling The Committees logo garments to wear while ushering. Several of our members are now doing the Peer-to-Peer "MusicMatters" campaign and we will meet our fundraising goal.

Our Volunteer of the Year is Louella Syler. She has been a member of our Committee since 2007. She has always been a generous and willing volunteer. She ushers and helps with the Music Mobile. She is always behind the scenes when it comes to food. She loves to pick the menu and sends the recipes to those who are helping her prepare the food. She is known as the Food Goddess. We are so fortunate to have her in our Committee. Congratulations, Luella!

Charlene Compton, Chairman



## SANTA ANA COMMITTEE

Santa Ana Committee was formed for the purpose of bringing the Philharmonic music programs to students in the Santa Ana Unified School District in 1990. Bobbie Rooker is a Charter member of our Committee. We have 36 members joining together with our many interests and talents participating in the various Philharmonic programs and attending fundraising events throughout the year.

We meet the third Tuesday of each month, September through May, at a clubhouse in Tustin reserved by Ivy Yan. We always begin with a social gathering while eating delicious treats provided by members while enjoying unique and varied programs scheduled by Linda Wexler, Ivy Yan and Betty Kohl.

September began at Judy Lecocq's home. We had the pleasure of hearing Steve Siu perform on his piano relaxing pieces, many of which are his original compositions. October we met and toured Heritage Hill with their guides learning about the history of the area in earlier years as a fourth grade student would experience while attending the Philharmonic field trip. On to November when a Santa Ana High School Choral Group performed music they planned on singing in New York City. A festive meeting in December found us each ringing hand bells playing holiday music as Alice Hood held up color cards and then exchanging gifts. January was putting together the final touches concerning our luncheon. February was a discussion on Marshon since some of our Committee members are gathering together and would like to get more people to join.

Music Mobile was scheduled by Pam Gosselin with 30 Santa Ana Elementary schools reaching 128 third grade classrooms which permitted 3,584 students to experience learning about an orchestra and the instruments. Being able to touch and "play" them was the most exciting. Our presenters this year were Pam Gosselin, Bobbie Rooker, Elaine Cordes and Susan Torrey assisted by Judy Lecocq, Betty Kohl, Celeste Benninger, Pat Whittam and Vivian Kusiak.

Our own Judy Michel scheduled Musicians on Campus for the complete season. The 12 groups of professional musicians performed at 115 schools in the county for fourth and fifth grades introducing the Brass, Wind, String and Percussion instruments. The musicians encourage students to choose an instrument for exciting experiences and perhaps a career.

Our Literary Luncheon, in partnership with Town and Country, was beautifully decorated and 172 ladies enjoyed a delicious luncheon. Our author shared many of her experiences she has had along the way to becoming the well-known author she is today. Combining auction prizes, opportunity baskets, necklace game and donations we raised \$18,262.

Saving the BEST to last. Announcing ANN NIEDRINGHAUS as our VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR. Ann joined in 1990 and has received her 25-year pin. During these many years she has enjoyed presenting the Music Mobile to hundreds of third grade SA students, and was seen as a docent for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5th grade concerts and orchestra festivals. Ann has served as chairman of most every possible committee we have. She was Ways and Means Co-chair this year for our successful luncheon. Many members of our Committee are here because Ann approached them saying, "I have something for you to do and enjoy." When a volunteer was needed for something Ann could be heard saying, "I COULD DO THAT." CONGRATULATIONS!

Dona Jean Delsandro and Vivian Kusiak, Co-Chairmen

## TOWN AND COUNTRY COMMITTEE

Town and Country Committee continues to be a cohesive group of ladies who are not only energetic volunteers, but also a closely-knit family of loving individuals. Our membership currently totals 41, with 19 Active members and 22 Associates. We come from a widely scattered group of cities in Orange County: Tustin, North Tustin, Santa Ana, Orange, Villa Park, Anaheim Hills, Irvine, Rancho Mission Viejo and Riverside.

This year, Town and Country members were represented in leadership positions on The Committee's Executive Committee, and on the Steering Committee for the High School Orchestra Festival. Some of our members are actively involved in the current all-Committee fundraisers, Peer to Peer's MusicMatters and the upcoming Inaugural Philharmonic Golf Classic in September.

Author Sue Ann Jaffarian was featured at this year's Literary Luncheon fundraiser, *Murder, Madness and Laughter*. Once again, we partnered with our dear friends from Santa Ana Committee as sponsors of this event that was enjoyed by 172 guests. Proceeds made possible our musical reinvestment funds to supplement instruments and supplies for Tustin Unified School District schools.

Our traditional Music Hour following Town & Country's monthly business meetings continue to entertain us - this year featuring piano duets, solo piano performances, and a piano/cello duet. Unfortunately, as was the case with all other meetings, concerts and events scheduled during the coronavirus pandemic, ours were also canceled. We were unable to continue with plans for our yearly "field trip" due to coronavirus concerns. We had planned to attend the Bowers Museum's exhibit of Disney Archives and enjoy lunch together at the Bowers Tangata Restaurant. We look forward to resuming all these activities in the new Philharmonic year and enjoying the camaraderie our membership experiences at each meeting and event throughout the year.

However sad we are that our year ended abruptly, we look positively at our Philharmonic year's accomplishments and the impact made in our youth music education programs. Among other activities, our Committee had concluded our Music Mobile visits to third graders at four Tustin elementary schools; ushered at the 5<sup>th</sup> concerts; and volunteered at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Philharmonic High School Orchestra Festival which was lauded as a huge success.

We have great respect for and congratulate this year's Executive Committee and their perseverance considering the challenges with which they've dealt so successfully!

Town and Country Committee is proud to choose **Jan Lawrence** as our Volunteer of the Year. This wonderful lady does everything listed below and even more. Moreover, she is always gracious and kind, welcoming to new and prospective members, and a friend to all. I only wish I had a bit more of her energy and enthusiasm! Jan serves at both the Executive and Committee level wherever needed:

- VP Public Relations, is editor of The Committee's "Overture" newsletter
- Editor and creator of Town & Country's monthly newsletter
- Graciously provides her home for luncheons and shares hosting of T&C meetings with Christa Kropp
- Manages the buses, come rain or shine, at all student concerts
- Provides parking at her home for the Music Mobile van and is a presenter at those 3rd grade programs

- Manages the finances as head banker at our Houses of Design
- Organizes silent auction set-up and auction payments at our annual Literary Luncheons
- Acts as communications/recording coordinator for Adjudicators at the High School Orchestra Festivals
- Assists with Mobile Cause “Peer to Peer” technical design
- Assists other members who struggle with technology
- Is a cheerleader for everyone!

Toni Sobel, Chairman

## UPPER BAY COMMITTEE

We started with fourteen mates still singing “Anchors aweigh my gals”. For the ninth time, we heard a brilliant program arranged by our host Dr. Burton Karson. Virtuoso Nathan Lewis started playing Bach on his violin, then sat at Burton’s Hamburg Steinway playing more Bach, ending with Chopin’s Grande Polonaise! Two of our guests were impressed enough to join the crew: Magaly Hüther, already a member of BCSH Committee and Sandy Skinner. Sandy’s mother, pianist Virginia Stuhrman was a founding member of our Committee!

In October, up at 6 A.M. in the galley, Chip Little baked croissants for the crew and pianist Eduard Gavril. November found us docking at Laila Conlin’s where 2<sup>nd</sup> year graduate students Michell Peng and Eduard Gavril performed pieces to be included in their Masters’ Recitals. In January, we watched hostess LaDonna Kienitz help freshman Daniel Cardena and a man bring a heavy black case. We all gasped when a tall, gorgeous golden harp emerged. Daniel explained the use of the different pedals as he carefully tuned the harp belonging to his UCI Professor Ellie Choate. Such beautiful sounds came out that we could not believe that Daniel only started to play the harp a few months ago, last fall.

Admiral Kim Weddon was coming to inspect the ship in February, but we had no pier. At the last minute, Chip Little let us dock and was back in the galley again to regal the crew and graduate students, violinist Adrienne Miller and pianist Michelle Peng. No wonder that Chip is our Volunteer of the Year! Each month we thanked our lucky stars and especially UCI Professor Nina Scolnik for providing us with such talented and fine students month after month.

I had invited Nina in March with PSOC President Tommy Phillips. We were set, VC Hospitality Sahar Istanbouli confirmed that she had a place for May and again Patty Clark would not only welcome us in April, she would also toil in the galley. I was already quite thankful that all the mates were rowing, mopping the decks, etc. Suzan Berkley was a punctual and enthusiastic Keeper of the Log. Vice Chair Membership Chip Little was nicely teamed up with the Volunteer hours Custodian Judy Creely. Truly, I was in awe when Purser Kathy Hummel announced the mates had generously donated more than four thousand dollars to our non-event “Hoisting the Sails”.

We were cruising, Old Ship Upper Bay (1957) was sailing smoothly when the whole PSOC fleet hit an invisible wall of coronavirus COVID-19. A couple mates were already in sick bay with health problems not related to the virus. Fearing for the safety of the mates, very early on I scrubbed the March gathering and safely going a lee. Ship Upper Bay is now in dry dock. We have virtual meetings, correspond via email. ZOOM, skype, etc.

### **But the storm will abate. Again, we shall sail on smoother waters.**

**2019-20 Volunteer of the Year:** Elsie “Chip” Little was born and raised in New Jersey in a warm and music loving family. If it had not been for the depression, her father, a fine Italian tenor, would have pursued an operatic career. Chip started playing the piano when she was eight years old and has not stopped! She attended Villa Victoria Academy, earning her BA at The College of New Jersey. She moved to California when she married Bob Little, taught third grade and music in Hawthorne for eight years while Bob studied law at UCLA. In 1972 they moved to Newport Beach where Bob opened his second law office while Chip raised their children and joined the volunteer world. Her mother in law, Evelyn Little, a pianist and founding member of Upper Bay urged her to join Alta Bahia Committee instead, telling her to make her own friends! Chip finally came aboard Ship Upper Bay in 2015-16 keeping herself very busy in the galley, hoisting and repairing the sails. Chip is the current VC Membership.

Captain France M-A Campbell, Chairman

## 2019-20 VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Alta Bahia .....	Diane Stovall
Balboa .....	Sherry Chase
Big Canyon/Spyglass Hill .....	Magaly Hüther
Cameo .....	Elizabeth Sue Jones
Capistrano.....	Maria Trefethen
Coto de Caza.....	Lisa Taylor
HH Philharmonic Committee .....	Patty Reilly
HH Admiralty .....	Anne Crowley
HH Islander .....	Karen Branoff
HH Marina-Windjammer .....	Lara Anderson
HH Sandpiper .....	Patty Taylor
HH Seal Beach .....	Barbara Wright
HH Trinidad .....	Patty Reilly
Huntington Valley West .....	Jan Liss
La Casa .....	Carol Mounedji Diane Lawson
Lido Isle .....	Donna Martell
Saddleback Valley .....	Luella Syler
Santa Ana .....	Ann Niedringhaus
Town and Country .....	Jan Lawrence
Upper Bay .....	Elise “Chip” Little

**25-YEAR PIN AWARDS  
MAY 2020**

**(Joined 1995)**

**Coto de Caza**  
Catalina Quintero

**Fullerton**  
Sara Falk  
Sandra Potter

**HH Islander**  
Sharon Larson

**HH Sandpiper**  
Sandy Meier  
Diane Moore

**HH Trinidad**  
Helen Hagen

**Huntington Valley West**  
Patty King

**La Casa**  
Michele Pribble

**Upper Bay**  
Eleanor Anderson

**50-YEAR RECOGNITION  
(Joined 1970)**

**HHPC Admiralty**  
Mim Stickler \*

**HH Marina/Windjammer**  
Haydee Tillotson

\*To be honored posthumously