

SOUTH SUBURBAN MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

September 2017 Newsletter

President: Bonnie Kreutz (303) 378-5265

Membership Chair: Jean Lee-Baker (281) 705-1853

Editors: Stephen Fiess/Neal Wegener (303) 791-6473

Website: www.ssmtamusicteachers.org

CALENDAR

- September 12: **SSMTA September Meeting and Pot-luck Luncheon;** Arapahoe Road Baptist Church
780 E. Arapahoe Road
- October 10: **SSMTA October Meeting;**
Arapahoe Road Baptist Church
780 E. Arapahoe Road
- October 15: **Deadline for 2017 Ensemble Festival Registrations**
- November 11: **2017 SSMTA Ensemble Festival**
- December 27: **Deadline for 2018 Achievement Day Registrations**
- February 24, 2018 **2018 SSMTA Achievement Day**

MEASURE FOR MEASURE

from Bonnie Kreutz, President

Hello Everyone! I'm excited and a little nervous to be the new President of SSMTA. I have served in other positions on the SSMTA Board, but never President. I am grateful to have a wonderful board to work with, and would like to thank them in advance for all their help. I know I will be relying on them and everyone else in the group to keep me on track for the next couple of years. It's amazing the vast amounts of collective experience we have to draw on from our group, and how we are able to keep things humming along and support each other!! Pause and give yourselves a pat on the back for all you do!

Looking ahead, Ensemble Event is fast approaching, so time to pull out those favorite duets and maybe try something new!!

ACCOMPANIST REFERRAL LIST

Linda Cody, 796-0369; Stephen Fiess, 791-6473; Barb Galuzzi, 906-0430; Betsy Johnson, 719-649-2521; Carol Rankin, 477-2686; Cheryl Saborsky, 771-2532; Elaine Van Dellen, 955-5790. Please contact newsletter editors if you wish to have your name added to this list!

TEACHER REFERRAL

If you have any openings for new students, please contact our SSMTA Referral Chair Linda Vogan: (303) 908-1694; or denlinvog@comcast.net. Also, if you know of any potential students that you cannot accommodate, please give them Linda's contact information!

MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2017 SSMTA MEETING

Our May meeting (our last meeting of the 2016-2017 season) was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by SSMTA President Gloria Ross.

This meeting included our annual *Excellence in Music Awards* performance, Board recognition, and Spring Pot-luck.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Sheila Hamaker reported that there is a balance of \$4,804.00 in our checking account, and \$10,010.00 in savings as of April 30, 2017. ANNOUNCEMENTS

CSMTA State Conference will be held in Greeley, June 1-3.

2017-2018 Membership Dues are due in July. Please consider renewing before July 1st to be included in the CSMTA State Directory.

Any changes in forms or due dates for events and activities need to be sent to Sheila Hamaker in order for our SSMTA website to be kept updated.

SSMTA Ensemble Festival is Saturday, November 11th. Deadline to register for Ensemble Festival is October 15th.

SSMTA Achievement Day is Saturday, February 24, 2018.

Deadline to register for Achievement Day is December 27, 2017.

Best wishes for a great Summer!!!!

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Nazila Nekoora, secretary

2017-2018 SSMTA BOARD

President – Bonnie Kreutz

1st V. P. of Programs – Patty Kershaw

2nd V. P. of Membership – Jean Lee Baker

3rd V. P. of Student Activities – Kaye Craig

Secretary – Linda Vogan

Treasurer – Sheila Hamaker

Past President – Gloria Ross

President-Elect – Nazila Nekoora

Welcome & Thank-You to our new Board!!!!

SSMTA MEMBER

This month's SSMTA Member Spotlight features SSMTA member and Past-President Gloria Ross.

Gloria Ross

My musical journey began at the age of six. I studied piano and voice with a teacher in Southern California for ten years, without much enthusiasm, I'm afraid. I keep that in mind when dealing with my students now. Why did I fail to discover the excitement music has to offer? How can I inspire my students in a way that was missing in my experience? I stopped taking piano lessons due to performance anxiety.



My teacher never taught me how to memorize effectively, so getting lost in the middle of a performance was debilitating. I didn't touch a piano for another 22 years.

I've always been a dabbler. I think of myself as a *Jill of All Trades, Master of None*. So many adventures in life have called to me that I've often flitted from one thing to another. There just aren't enough hours in the day and days in the year to fit it all in. During that 22-year hiatus from music, I got a BA in French at UCLA; and also studied Latin, Italian and Spanish. Then I added a degree in secondary teaching and a minor in English, while fostering my interest in the arts – painting, sculpture, printmaking, and metal enameling. I taught High School French and English for a few years, and then worked as a technical writer, editor, meeting planner and advertising manager for 13 years. My next adventure in California was Real Estate. I had just gotten my license and was poised to start selling those million-dollar properties when my husband, Jeff, got hired at Honeywell in Denver.

Jeff and I brought our three young children to Colorado in 1988. The Real Estate market was dismal, so I wasn't interested in going through re-licensing, and sacrificing nights and weekends for a struggling career. I decided to be a *stay-at-home mom* since the cost of child care would consume any salary I could get with my other skills. A couple of years later an interesting turn of events led me to piano teaching. Having moved from a small house in California to one twice the size, we had no living room furniture. I told Jeff the first piece of furniture I wanted was a grand piano. He thought I was crazy, because he'd never heard me play. It wasn't like riding a bike, but my fingers did slowly start to find the keys. I was introducing the piano to my 7-year-old, and she showed off her skills at a friend's house. That friend's mom convinced me to take on her daughter as a student, and everything snowballed from there. I ended up with 35 beginner students. Knowing I lacked the skills to teach as effectively as I would like, my first step was to join SSMTA in 1992. The monthly programs and mentorship started me on the right path. I had to wait for my children to get older, but eventually I went back to school and got a music degree in 2010. I'm still learning.

In the past four years, we've acquired two grandsons. I allot one day a week to watch Charlie, the older one. Here I go again, carving into my schedule for a new endeavor, but one that's personally important. This child will be in school in a couple of years, so I want to create special memories for us both. I'll probably be watching his younger brother one day a week by then. We're fortunate to be self-employed with the flexibility to manage our hours, so we can make time for other important aspects of life. Physical fitness is also really important to me, so I exercise in various ways, including golf and yoga.

There are so many fine musicians and skilled teachers in SSMTA and the larger community from whom we're able to continue to learn and hone our craft. I'm very grateful to Patty Kershaw for her special mentorship. I'm also thankful to the other teachers in our group, as well as to visitors who share their knowledge and help us to continue growing as teachers and performers.

SSMTA MEETING DAY SCHEDULE

September 12, 2017

9:10 -- 9:30 a.m.	<i>Arrival/Social Time/ Browse SPARKS music</i>
9:30 -- 10:00 a.m.	<i>Excellence in Music Award and Performance</i>
10:00 – 10:10 a.m.	<i>Break/Browse</i>
10:10 – 11:15 a.m.	<i>General Meeting and End of Year Festivities</i>
11:15 – 11:25 a.m.	<i>Lunch Prep and Browse</i>
11:25	<i>Pot-Luck Luncheon</i>

PLEASE HELP THE MEETING RUN SMOOTHLY

Help is needed from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. to set up the tables with boxes of SPARKS music.

Please arrive early for refreshments if you plan to partake, and take your seat by 9:30 a.m. so we can begin the meeting on time.

REFRESHMENTS

We will be enjoying a pot-luck luncheon after the meeting. Please bring a dish to share.

Ongoing thanks to Barb Galuzzi for taking such good care of hospitality at all of our meetings and student events!

OUR SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Please join us for our September program as SSMTA member Patty Kershaw, NCTM, presents a program entitled: *"What Can I Use to Teach That Piano Technique or Musical Principle?"* This session will incorporate "group activity in creatively using materials on hand to teach musical principles in our studio."

Please join us for this informative program!