

STAFF SIGNALS

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Denver Alumnae, Xi C Province

Denver, Colorado

President's Note

Dear Sisters,

It was good to see so many of you at Dee's house for the October Meeting, and wasn't that a wonderful program Laura Lee and Donita Banks presented for us? We were also pleased and honored to affiliate as new members of our chapter, Cheryl Denslow and Janet Williams and to initiate as Friend of the Arts, Mary Christ. I'm sure they will all be great assets to our chapter. This month, we will initiate as Friend of the Arts, Andrea Wiseman, who has already played flute with a woodwind quintet on the last SAI - DO public musicale. Hope to see you all at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 16 at Betty Fass' new clubhouse for the November meeting. Don't forget to bring something for the Make-It-Bake-It-Sew-It-Grow-It Sale.



Roses,

Martha Ann Lobmeyer

Upcoming Events

December
6, Saturday, 11:30 AM
Incorporation Day Luncheon

Fresh Fish Company
7800 E. Hampton Ave.
Denver, CO 80231

January
18, Sunday, 2:30 PM
Meeting & Musicale
Flute/Piano Program

Rosanne Sterne, flute
Lucy Garrett, piano
Home of Mary Alice Brauer, hostess
9484 E. Orchard Dr.
Greenwood Village, CO

80111
Cynthia Garrels, co-hostess

February
15, Sunday, 2:30 PM
Meeting and Musicale
Quilts and Music of the Underground Railroad

Linda Rolf & Laura Lee, voice
Donita Banks, piano
Home of Donita Banks, hostess
2571 Brentwood Court
Lakewood, CO 80227
Liz Reberry, co-hostess

22, Sunday, 6:00 PM
Social Event
Roses in Winter Dinner
Program TBA

Hostess: Rita Jo Tensly
Co-hostesses: Executive Board
Morningside Clubhouse

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Corrections to August 2008 Newsletter:

On page 2 the National Vice-President of Membership was incorrectly identified. Her name is **Sarah Mason**, not Marsha. My apologies for the mistake.

Kristin L. Rousom, editor.





Rita Jo Tensly and Annalee Worthen at a 1955 reception.



Corrections to the 2008-2009 Yearbook

Please make the following corrections to this year's Yearbook:

P. 11 - Under **Projects**, add "Pan's Pennies from Heaven" 2008-2009

P. 14 - *Change* Betty Fass' e-mail to: bettyfass@yahoo.com and her phone number to:

P. 22 - *Change* spelling of Mary O'Neil Crist to Mary O'Neill Christ, add e-mail: maryechrist@msn.com; address is 8711 E. Kettle Circle.

P. 26 - The calender for 2008 is **incorrect** beginning in March; please consult a different calender for the correct dates. The 2009 calender is correct.

P. 32 - In the chart, the Inccorporation Day Luncheon day, date and time are listed *incorrectly*. The correct information is: 12/6, Saturday, 11:30am. 🎵

It's easy to play any musical instrument: all you have to do is touch the right key at the right time and the instrument plays itself.

~J.S. Bach~

Friends of the Arts, Mary O'Neill Christ and Andrea Wiseman

MARY O'NEILL CHRIST has been active in the Colorado musical community for many years performing with various musical groups including the Colorado Opera Troupe and the Colorado Symphony Chorus. With a BA in Music from Pomona College and an MA in Vocal Performance from the University of Denver, a host of performing and teaching opportunities have been opened for her. She has been a Special Lecturer at Regis University for voice and piano (1986-1991), a member of the choirs at Montevue Presbyterian Church (1984-1993) and Wellshire Presbyterian Church (1993-present), and

is currently an Administrative Assistant for the Rocky Mountain Children's Choir. Mary continues to further her vocal education in her studies with Winnie Hartman, with whom she has been studying since 1990. She has also attended the Aspen Music School in Aspen, CO, as well as spending time in Graz, Austria at the Graz Institute of Musical Studies. In addition to performing and studying, Mary teaches voice lessons in a private studio.

ANDREA WISEMAN grew up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where she earned a Bachelor of Music degree from

Louisiana State University in 1989. She later moved to Boulder and earned a Master of Music from the University of Colorado, and then settled in Denver. In 1995, she married a terrific guy, Paul. After several years teaching private lessons and performing in ensembles in the area, Andrea became a mathematics teacher. She now teaches high school Mathematics at Denver School of the Arts where she combines her love of the arts with her passion for teaching. Andrea will be initiated at the November meeting. 🎵



May 18, 1954 - Officers for 1954-1955, L to R: Annalee Worthen, President; Rita Jo Tensly, Treasurer; Sue Jean Oursler, Chaplain; Linda Kenney, Editor.

Denver Alumnae Chapter ~ Soon We'll Be Seventy!

Part 1: "So Near, So Dear is SAI" ~ Denver Alumnae Chapter - The Early Years 1930s - 1960

By Donita Banks

On March 22, 2010, Denver Alumnae Chapter will be 70 years old! Starting with this issue, Donita will write an article for *Staff Signals* highlighting various aspects of our history: November, 2008: the 30s, 40s, and 50s; February, 2009: the 60s; May, 2009: the 70s; August, 2009: the 80s; November, 2009: the 90s; and February, 2010: the 2000s.

Denver Alumnae Chapter was officially installed on March 22, 1940, at the home of Marjorie Gallaher, with National President Gertrude Evans presenting the Charter. Thirty members were affiliated on that date and a tea was held following the installation ceremony. However, an alumnae/patroness group was organized and held meetings many years before it became Denver Alumnae Chapter. Information is sketchy, but it was probably organized in the late 1920s or early 1930s to support Sigma Upsilon Chapter, which was installed at Lamont School of Music on September 30, 1926.

The yearbooks in our archives date from 1932-1953 and were printed jointly by the college chapter and the alumnae/patroness group/chapter. They include listings of national and local officers, membership of each group, and the programs for the year. The yearbooks gradually improved in quality and included more information as the years went by. Evidently the 1953-1954 yearbook is the first one to include only Denver Alumnae information and the 1954-1955 yearbook is the first to include a history of our chap-

ter. The 1938-1939 yearbook lists 17 active members, 5 pledges, 43 active alumnae and 23 patronesses. Ten years later there were 24 Sigma Upsilon members, including Jeannine Bronelle - now Shafer-Flint, 33 active alumnae members, 20 inactive alumnae members and 25 patronesses. In the 1959-1960 yearbook, 31 active Denver alums, including Ardice Garrels, Jeannine Shafer and Rita Jo Tensly, and 29 patronesses are named.

The alumnae/patroness group of the early 30s evidently was very active, since they planned and implemented the first Denver SAI National Convention held at the Brown Palace Hotel August 25-28, 1935. The general chairman was Marjorie Gallaher. Delegates from each of the seven Provinces which existed at that time attended and enjoyed concerts, a picnic lunch at Red Rocks, and a banquet. There were many illustrated newspaper articles covering the event. Gertrude Evans, the National President from Ithaca, New York, attended as did other National Officers including Denverite Helen Olin Roberts, who had been appointed National Secretary in 1933.

Some of the chapter's special events during the 1940s included Founders Day banquets, a "Big Sister" party in 1941, a bridge musicale at the Daniels and Fisher Tea Room in 1942, a Victory Concert in March of 1944 which marked the close of an extensive War Bond Drive, a performance of a Christmas play, "White Gifts for the King", arranged by member Mildred

DeGrasse in December, 1945, and a performance by a local choir of member Dorothy Johnson Taylor's first published work, an SATB Christmas song. A copy of the January 1950 *Staff Signals* mentions that founders Nora Crane Hunt and Elizabeth Campbell had passed away in 1949. At the time, Blodwen Roberts was Editor and Mildred DeGrasse was President.

During the 1950s the chapter continued holding Founders Day banquets, sponsored Public Musicales, held a joint tea with Mu Phi Epsilon and Delta Omicron in 1952, presented a monthly radio program on a local station, presented a Christmas program, "Golden Gifts in Yuletide Music" in December of 1952, featuring an SAI alumnae vocal ensemble directed by Helen Olin Roberts, and had a close relationship with the Denver Musicians' Society. Jeannine Bronelle was the Sigma Upsilon delegate to the National Convention in Chicago in 1950 and Ardice Miller (Garrels) was the Sigma Upsilon delegate to the Golden Anniversary Convention in Chicago in 1953.

Two other items of interest gleaned from the scrapbooks: Alpha Phi Chapter was installed on June 13, 1936 with three National Officers present. The Boulder Alumnae Chapter was first installed on June 11, 1949. 🎵



December 9, 1958 - Performers at a Christmas Musicale at the AAUW Clubhouse, front, L to R: Ardice Garrels, Ethel Harnden, Betty Metzger, Ruth O'Neal; back, L to R: Dorothy Johnson Taylor, Blodwen Roberts, Flavel Spirk, Jan Heskett.



May 18, 1954 - Installation of Officers for 1954-1955, L to R: Annalee Worthen, President; Rita Jo Tensly, Treasurer; Sue Jean Oursler, Chaplain; Linda Kenney, Editor; Lucille Mathis, beloved member who served as a Province officer in the 1950s.



Catherine Rands explains about her Troubadour Harp at the September musicale.

Chapter Chatter

DONNA CHASE's band, Sounds of Faith, made their first recording this past winter and it has been "hugely" successful and well received. During the month of August, they performed at Brookside Nursing Home in Castle Rock, on a float in the Douglas County Parade, and at the Englewood Meridian. Her group regularly plays for services at her church one weekend each month.

LUCY GARRETT has been very active in the community performing with fellow musi-

cians Barbara Gillett (piano) and Rosanne Sterne (flute). In mid-October, she performed several piano duets with Ms. Gillett, including works by Dello Joio, Brahms, and Faure at St. John's Cathedral. In early November, Lucy accompanied Ms. Sterne on flute at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church. They played the program consisted of music by Vivaldi, Barber, Vaughan Williams, Gaubert, Boulanger, and Bloch.

DEE NETZEL plays regularly the third Saturday of each

month at the Decker Library. This year marks the 25th year of the Colorado Chamber Society with which she has been affiliated for four years. Dee also performed Ernest Chausson's *Chanson Perpetuelle* with soprano Barbara Amaral and the Lark Quartet, managed by Marcia Whitcomb. A lovely memorial for friend Jean Kennedy was held at the Botanic Gardens in early October after which Dee played her piano favorites at a nearby High Rise. ♪



Lucy Garrett, Wilma Parsons, and Janet Williams enjoy great food and conversation before the September meeting.

Fall Meetings with Flair!

By Donita Banks

On **September 16**, we gathered at the home of Mary Hanson to kick-off our 2008-2009 year of events. A delicious potluck dinner offered a chance to renew our friendships with dear SAI sisters, old and new. We then enjoyed a lovely program, "Around the World on 36 Strings" by Catherine Rands. She played a variety of pieces on her Troubadour Harp (also Lever, or non-pedal harp) and demonstrated playing techniques

on this beautiful instrument. Donita Banks presented a 50-year-membership certificate to Lois Badgley. A new money-maker, "Pan's Pennies from Heaven" was introduced.

The **October 21** meeting was held at the home of Dee Netzel, with Mary Nichols as co-hostess. Laura Lee, mezzo-soprano, and Donita Banks, piano, presented a beautiful program of Italian Art Songs, "That's Amore!"

Various Aspects of Love" by composers Vincenzo Bellini, Gaetano Donizetti and Gioacchino Antonio Rossini. A social time was followed by two ceremonies: affiliation of Janet Williams and Cheryl Denslow and initiation of Mary Christ as a Friend of the Arts. Biographies for Janet and Cheryl were published in the May 2008 issue of *Staff Signals*. Mary's biography can be read on page 2 of this issue. ♪

Editor's Note: Due to technical issues, photos from the October meeting will appear in the February issue of *Staff Signals*, along with photos from December and January.

Kristin Rousom, editor.

SAI National Membership Statistics

Each August, National Headquarters releases the current membership of the fraternity. As of August 2008, there are 212 active collegiate chapters, 118 active alumnae chapters, and 1 international chapter, contained within 59 provinces. The total initiated membership is 108,078.

♪



Chapter Projects

“Recipes of Note” Cookbook

We still have a few cookbooks left, so be thinking about friends and family that may still be interested.

“Make It - Bake It - Sew It - Grow It Sale”

This year we are having two sales, one at the November meeting and one in February or March. Keep your eyes open for the dates and be thinking about what you can bring to sell!

“Pan’s Pennies from Heaven”

Our newest project is based on an idea borrowed from a college chapter. Bring your spare pocket change to add to the jar. Ardice Garells and Lucy Garrett have saved the Pipes of Pan from our old lighted badge and made them brilliant for this project. Lucy’s friend _____ painted and mounted them and they look gorgeous! (There will be a picture in the next newsletter).

Repeat Performances!

The chapter community service project for this year will be sharing our monthly SAI program with the community. Donita Banks and Laura Lee will repeat their October program “That’s Amore” with the residents at River Pointe in Littleton on November 7. Dee Netzel is making arrangements for these performances. 🎵

*Pay no attention
to what the
critics say; there
has never been
set up a statue in
honor of a critic.*

~Jean Sibelius~

Finland and Estonia ~ A Cultural Experience of Music and Art

By JoAnne Kyhl

My trip to Finland and Estonia (Sept. 2008) was a lovely cultural event and educational experience. Our Elderhostel (18 individuals) attended the 8th annual Sibelius Festival in Lahti. In addition to the seven orchestral and chamber music concerts we heard, we visited the birthplace of Sibelius, the home where he, his wife, and their five daughters lived, the Sibelius Academy, and various monuments dedicated to him.

The newly renovated Sibelius Concert Hall has some of the best acoustics

in Europe and the Lahti Symphony Orchestra can be favorably compared to any first-rate American symphony orchestra.

We also visited the art museums in Helsinki and Tallinn, where we saw the works of Nordic painters and some of the great architects of the nation (i.e. Alvar Aalto, Eero Saarinen). Russian influences in architecture can be observed in the civic buildings and cathedrals. This genre echoes the imperial style of St. Petersburg (1880-1910). The Orthodox cathedrals (based upon an-

cient Byzantine models) are truly magnificent. The icons and paintings when viewed with lighted candles present a mystical and theological vision of sublime beauty.

Travelling in Northern Europe is a different experience from that of Southern Europe (the absence of pickpockets is a *real plus*). The Finns and the Estonians are extremely proud of their cultural heritage, exceptionally well-educated (almost everyone speaks *correct* English), and are receptive to foreign visitors. 🎵



Fraternity Fun (Crossword)

To go along with Donita's wonderful articles, here is a crossword to help remember some of our chapter history. The answers can be found in the newsletter or in your yearbook.

Clues

Across:

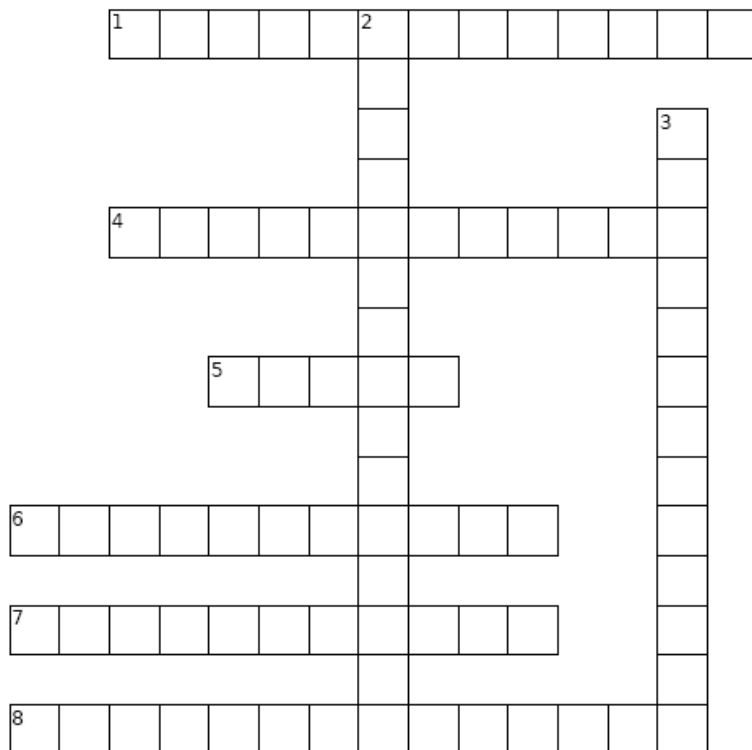
1. First President of Denver Alumnae Chapter
4. First Secretary of Denver Alumnae Chapter
5. Province to which Denver Alumnae Chapter was first assigned.
6. First Chaplain of Denver Alumnae Chapter
7. First Vice-President of of Denver Alumnae Chapter
8. National President who presented Denver Alumnae Chapter with its charter.

Down:

2. First Editor of Denver Alumnae Chapter
3. First Treasurer of Denver Alumnae Chapter

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Visit us on the web at: www.saidenver.org

Let's Go to the Movies - the Metropolitan Opera

On Saturday mornings, the Metropolitan Opera's matinee performances are broadcast live at local movie theaters up and down the Front Range. Performances begin at 11 AM and include a backstage video tour during the intermission time. The performances are re-broadcast without the video tour at 7 PM on the subsequent Wednesday at selected theaters. Ticket prices vary by theater, so contact your theater for pricing. Get there 45 minutes early to choose your seat.

Nov. 22: Berlioz's *"La Damnation de Faust"*

Dec. 20: Massenet's *Thais*

Jan. 10: Puccini's *La Rondine*

Jan. 24: Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice*

Feb. 7: Donizetti's *Lucia di*

Lammermoor

Mar. 7: Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*

Mar. 21: Bellini's *La Sonnambula*

May 9: Rossini's *La Cenerentola*

Theater locations:

Aurora: Kerasotes Southlands 16, 23955 E. Plaza Ave.

Boulder: Cinemark Century Boulder, 1700 29th St.

Broomfield: AMC Westminster Promenade 24, 10655 Westminster Blv.

Castle Rock: Kerasotes Showplace 12, 3960 Limelight Ave.

CO Spgs.: Cinemark Tinseltown, 1545 E. Cheyenne Mtn. Blvd.; Cinemark Carefree Circle, 2205 Cinema Point; &

Hollywood Interquest Stadium 14, 11250 Rampart Hill View

Denver: Regal Pavilions 15, 500 16th St.

Englewood: Regal Greenwood Plaza 12, 8141 E. Arapahoe Rd.

Ft. Collins: Cinemark Ft. Collins, 4721 S. Timberline Rd.

Greeley: Cinemark Greeley Mall, 2160 Greeley Mall

Highlands Ranch: AMC Highlands Ranch 24, 103 Centennial Blvd.

Lakewood: Cinemark Del Mar 16, 440 S. Teller St. & Regal CO. Mills Stadium 16, 14500 W. Colfax Ave.

Pueblo: Cinemark Tinseltown Pueblo, 4140 N Freeway Rd. 🎵