

# San Mateo County Branch

## Newsletter November 2012

*November, in American Life Month, is the month of Thanksgiving. It is also the month when religious holidays and celebrations start. In our branch, it is Newsletter month. So here I am, with fresh news to ponder, and news not so fresh to remember. A number of successful branch events have taken place since the beginning of school year.*

*In our September issue, Janice Sheng, our President, thanked our past leadership members. She also thanked the present members of her team as she introduced them to all of us. She shared the branch's goals and plans for the present school year.*

*The Roundtable Discussion on September 28th, headed by Pat McNutt, was astounding. Teaching issues, problems, concerns, and ideas, flowed like a river from the members who were present at the meeting. The food was plenty and delicious too.*

*Gina Vandellos introduced and welcomed seven new teacher members.*

*Marcela Toma wrote about CM 2013 schedule, and shared helpful tips with teachers who are involved in the Certificate of Merit Program.*

*Chen Chen gave updated information regarding Branch recitals.*

*Yvonne Ho-Massey, Halloween Festival Director, invited us to participate in the Halloween Recital on October 21st. Everyone had a great time. Music is always a TREAT, and that's no trick.*

*Kevin Imbimbo always works wonders on our Branch website. So, please remember to regularly visit our website at [www.mtacsanmateo.org](http://www.mtacsanmateo.org) Don't forget our State website as well, [www.mtac.org](http://www.mtac.org)*

*For more detailed information, check out our newsletter archives. On behalf of my fellow Board Members, we wish you a Happy & Musical Thanksgiving. Thank you very much for your support.*

**Best,**

**Florida (Florie) Ventura - Corresponding Secretary email:  
[mtacsmcorrespondence@gmail.com](mailto:mtacsmcorrespondence@gmail.com)**

## *President's Pen - Janice Sheng*

What a fantastic start to the new academic year we had! We presented an energetic and vivacious Roundtable Discussions event in September, organized by Vice President, Pat McNutt; the creative and **spooktacular** Halloween Festival in October, organized by Event Chair Yvonne Ho-Massey. Our first Student Recital of the year - organized by Chen Chen Hsu - took place on November 10th. Another interesting Branch Program - "Workshop on Performance Anxiety" - takes place on November 30th.

I am thrilled to introduce Deanna DuBois to you as our Community Outreach Program Chair. She has wonderful ideas on how to get our students involved in community outreach, while gaining additional performance opportunities. I am also excited to announce that Irina Carrenca will be the Event Chair for our Spanish & Latin American Music Festival on February 24th. Please check out the "Events & News" page on our website for updates on the events at our branch. In addition, we now have a Scholarship Program Committee which consists of representatives from the strings, voice, and piano disciplines, as well as our branch Treasurer and myself.

The development of these new programs is a result of great teamwork of our leadership team and our members. I feel very lucky to be surrounded by, and to work with, such exceptional group of individuals. On behalf of our leadership team, I wish to express thanks to our members for the support that you've given us. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

## *Branch Program - Pat McNutt*

Margret Elson will speak on Optimum Performance Techniques on Friday, November 30, 2012, from 10:15AM to 12:30PM, in the Oak Room of the San Mateo Main Library, 55 W. Third Ave., San Mateo, CA 94402. All are welcome! See our Events & News page for more details.

## *Membership - Gina Vandellos*

**"WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!"**

Christine Chang - Piano Teacher

Hsiao-Pei Hsu - Violin Teacher

Jieun Yee - Piano Teacher and Accompanist

Reminder: Please keep your information up to date! Go to [www.mtac.org](http://www.mtac.org) -> to MTAC Login, then proceed to Teacher Information where you can update your contact information.

## *Community Outreach - Deanna Du Bois*

I am very excited to launch our new Community Outreach Program!

This year the San Mateo Branch Community Outreach Program will reach out to the Bay Area Retirement Homes. We are planning to have students (of any instrument) perform at Nursing or Assisted Living Homes. This will be great practice for the student and very enlightening for the elderly community.

In December, we will feature performances of students Certificate of Merit levels 4 to Advanced. Next Spring or as early as February, we will include more levels.

Please let me know if you have any students who would like to perform in the Community Outreach Program Recitals. There will be approximately two in December and two in the early Spring.

***Our first Community Outreach Program Recital:***

**Where:** Bayview Villa Home (Assisted Living Facility)  
777 Bayview Drive, San Carlos

**When:** Sunday, December 9, 2012 at 2pm

***The 2nd recital Community Outreach Recital:***

**Where:** Carlmont Gardens Nursing Home  
2140 Belmont Dr., Belmont

**When:** Saturday, December 15, 2012 at 3pm

***MARK YOUR CALENDARS!***

Don't pass up these opportunities.

Get involved and have fun!

***Branch Festival Recital - Spanish And Latin American Music Festival***

**Date:** Sunday, February 24th, 2013 There will be two times for this recital: 4:30-5:30 PM and 6:00-7:00 PM

**Registration opens:** December 1st, 2012

**Location:** Foster City Community Center, Wind Room

**Festival Chair:** Irina Carrenca - [mtacsm.festivals@gmail.com](mailto:mtacsm.festivals@gmail.com)

Application: [www.mtacsanmateo.org](http://www.mtacsanmateo.org) --> Festivals Web page --> Festival Application