



# MUSICmatters

Quarterly News from Music for Minors

## Our Mission:

To nurture in children  
a lifelong love  
of music by  
providing quality  
music education  
programs in schools  
with our trained  
volunteer and  
professional  
educators.

## From the Board President

Recently I had a chance to be part of two wonderful community celebrations. The first was the John W. Gardner Community Builder Awards, sponsored by the Los Altos Community Foundation. Gardner believed the best thing we can do in life is

make a positive difference in the lives of others through leadership and commitment. Award winner Grace Johnston, founding member of MFM 34 years ago, embodies Gardner's philosophy. We are extremely proud of Grace's lifetime of service with our organization.



*Sonja Palmer, Executive Director (left), and Mary Powell, Board President (right)*

The second community celebration was a student concert led by MFM docents at a local elementary school. As I listened to the children singing together, I reflected that the concert gave each child an experience of community that they will take with them wherever they go in life, and I recognized that one day they too will begin to make a difference in the lives of others!

## From the Executive Director

Amplification!

It's been a record year for MFM and the volume control is, well, out of control. This past fall, our campaign focus was "crescendo"—we wanted to grow our service to the community. And we did just that. We are celebrating more grade levels served, more schools served, and more kids served . . . essentially, more music. This is in large part due to the outpouring of support from our increased numbers of donors and event attendees resulting in increased charitable dollars.

What our children, schools, and communities need IS more music. There is still a critical need to invest in the future

of education and the future of our children. Due to budget cuts, most schools must rely on charitable support to include music, art, physical education, and even science in the curriculum they offer. MFM is in its 34th year offering a comprehensive weekly music syllabus, comprising choral singing, movement and dance, theory, and appreciation.

As we near the close of our current fiscal year, we look ahead to our 35th anniversary year with excitement as we honor our impressive legacy and extraordinary history. Thank you for your continued belief in music, MFM, and a well-rounded education for all.

## \$100,000 at Mardi Gras Mystique

Over 200 musically-minded Mardi Gras revelers gathered at the Los Altos Golf and Country Club on March 5th to benefit MFM music education programs for elementary schools. The event raised nearly \$100,000—funds that will directly impact the learning experience for thousands of local children by making music a part of their school week.

Mardi Gras queen Gunilla Follett praised the guests for their generosity in raising funds to train more than 20 new instructors for next year, saying, “Each newly trained music docent has the joy of touching dozens and often hundreds of young lives with music. When they graduate and go into the classroom, these teachers know what a special privilege they have been entrusted with, and they often tell us that the years they spend as an MFM docent are among their most meaningful and sustained for volunteer service.”

Special thanks go to Gunilla Follett and Mary Powell for being the driving force behind this event, and the entire MFM board of directors and additional donors who served as the event host committee or matching donors to help us garner such a record result. And, thank you to the MFM “family” for their contributions:

- The staff at MFM for their countless hours of work
- Gosia Hoot, MFM docent, and her lovely children’s choir that entertained guests
- The “Trois Ténors”—Webb McKinney, Matt Powell, and Jack Tuttle—for their fine auctioneering skills
- The honorable Barbara Pierce and Cory Cullinan, former MFM student and current children’s music performer, for words of inspiration
- And, of course, the hundreds of donors for the evening.



*Festive music education supporters enjoying Mardi Gras!*

## Shop and Share With eScrip

Join eScrip! Shop at participating eScrip merchants and we receive a donation from eScrip! It’s an easy way to donate to Music for Minors. Apply at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and use our ID number: 500023150, or call us at 650.237.9130.

### Save the Date!

#### MFM Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

Thursday, May 19

11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Congregation Beth Am  
26790 Arastradero Road  
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022

Please RSVP to the MFM office.

## Docent Recruitment

Every year, we strive to maintain and grow the music education program at each school we serve. Many new schools are on our wait list as current demand exceeds the supply of available docents. The need for new docents is great. Help us make a difference by frequently informing your community about our good work and how individuals can make a difference to keep music in our schools. We are recruiting volunteers now!

**Fall Training:** September 13 through November 22

- Los Altos: Tuesdays, 6 – 9 pm
- Redwood City: Thursdays, 9 – 12 am

We are delighted that Donna Weiher, formerly MFM’s Interim Training Director, will be leading the 2011 training.

To learn more about becoming a docent, please encourage any interested volunteers to attend one of our upcoming sessions:

#### Volunteer Information Meetings

- Wednesday, May 11, 12 – 1 pm, Mountain View
- Tuesday, June 14, 7 – 8 pm, Redwood City
- Thursday, July 14, 12 – 1 pm, Mountain View
- Wednesday, August 17, 7 – 8 pm, Redwood City

Call 650.237.9130 for more info and to reserve a spot.

## Changing Tunes – A Message From Chris Burke

This past fall I had a wonderful experience in London and enjoyed days of unscheduled time. Since my return, I have been enjoying that same freedom. It is with that feeling that I have decided it is time for me to step back from my role as MFM Training Director. Rest assured, Sonja and I are exploring ways that I can continue to be of service to MFM. I still firmly believe that every child should have the gift of music.

I began as a docent in my own children's classrooms in 1985, and MFM has been a central part of my life ever since. I have always appreciated the permission to be goofy, act like a child, and laugh myself

silly, which I have taken full advantage of over the years. I have also taken the job of teaching music to children very seriously and have given it a great deal of thought.

I have made many good friends along the way and had many inspiring and entertaining moments with training, and the people involved with MFM. I will always love getting together with docents and trying out new songs, dances, and activities. I draw a great deal of satisfaction from that. I so enjoy watching docents develop, and being part of that process. This has been a very stimulating and rewarding experience, and I look forward to making music with you all again soon.



*Doctor Noize, former MFM student, wowed audiences with his fast-paced performance style in two school assemblies (Henry Ford and San Carlos Charter Learning Center), as well as a Family Concert in Redwood City in early April.*

### To learn more or make a donation:

Contact us at 650.237.9130 or visit [www.mfm.org](http://www.mfm.org)

## Volunteer Spotlight: Marilyn Entin

For the past 10 years, Marilyn Entin has been sharing the gift of music with all of the first graders at Guadalupe School in San Jose. "In 2001, when I retired from 33 years of teaching elementary school," Marilyn said, "I decided to totally immerse myself in music." Becoming an MFM docent was a natural next step, bringing together these two important threads of her life.

A singer since the age of two, Marilyn has continued to enjoy organized singing, and performs with both the Bay Area Showcase and Mission Valley Choruses. Three years ago she even began a third-to-fifth-grade chorus at Guadalupe. It has grown from a group of 35 to 70 in this



short time, testament to Marilyn's ability to inspire and engage her students. For Marilyn, singing is an expression of joy, and she expects the children to bring enthusiasm to the music. When it is time for a concert, she infuses them with a special spirit of performance. "Be a part of it!" she encourages.

Marilyn has been touched over the years by the individual letters she has received from her students. When they tell her they love music and want her to be their music teacher forever, she knows she has made a connection. Connections to what the kids are learning are also meaningful to Marilyn. One day a teacher mentioned that the students would be covering a unit on fire safety the following week, so Marilyn returned for her next music lesson and taught a rap on fire safety. "Flexibility is the name of the game," Marilyn says of her approach, and she has always worked to keep her classes lively. This is also the key to her class management style. Changing up the activities from active to quiet to active again, and flowing at a good pace have been at the heart of her teaching.

Her advice to new docents includes keeping things simple. Have plenty of movement activities in your back pocket, and be ready to ramp it up on rainy days. "And don't take yourself too seriously," she adds with a smile. Although Marilyn will be moving on from docenting, we will invite her back to help with mentoring from time to time.

Words cannot adequately express our gratitude for the decade Marilyn has dedicated to bringing music to the children of Guadalupe. Happily, the kids themselves have been letting Marilyn know—in their own words—how deeply she has touched their lives. Thank you for the music!

# Thank You to Our 2010 - 2011 Docents!

We are tremendously grateful for this outstanding group of volunteers who are making such a difference in our communities. They share their joy and talent bringing music to classrooms throughout the school year. With extraordinary dedication, MFM Docents ensure that music continues to be an essential component of the elementary curriculum. They are exceptional in every way!

**Adelante:** Michelle Haussler, Lidia Orduna-Ruiz, Lisa Perry. **Baldwin:** Randy Bicking. **Canoas:** Marie Alberry-Hawkins, Sally Cooperrider, Gabi Hederer, John Ku, Meike Silleviss Smitt-Huizinga, Lydia Wang. **College Park:** Erik Chen, Carrie Gordon, Katie Lipka, Jeanne Sole. **Discovery Charter:** Doug Kronzer. **East Palo Alto Charter:** Betsy Kerr. **Fiesta Gardens:** Teresa Anthony, Pips Bisceglia, Tao Flaherty, Laura Peters, Jennifer Sinclair, Betty Wu. **Fox:** Karen Althoff, Mike Ofiesh, John Sadler, Carol Sundermeyer. **Guadalupe:** Marilyn Entin. **Henry Ford:** Suzie Hilgeman, Maren Stever. **Marshall Lane:** Marie Alberry-Hawkins, Gail Arenberg, Joy Gutnick, Sue Heller, Gosia Hoot, Tobi Nielsen, Daphna Rahmil, Cathy Sanchez. **Montclair:** Joanne Baker, Sharon Barth, Arlene Chan, Susan Kane, Joanna Read, Heather Simonsen. **Nimitz:** Dorothy Heimgartner, Linda Hoff, Michele Huie, Kimberly Johnson, Irene Koo, Julie Lu, Daphna Mangan, Pat Miller, Ecstasy Mooty, Donna Poulos, Kathleen Virmani. **North Shoreview:** Jeanne DeFelice, Melinda King, Andrea Llenos, Cathy Luo, Lynda Moretti. **Orion Alternative:** Sara Baldeschwieler, Yoli Lin, Sue-Mi Shin, Marianna Raymond. **Roosevelt:** Camille Fischer, Peggy George, Marianna Raymond. **San Carlos CLC:** Anne Anderson, Ruth Bennett, Julie Taha. **Sedgwick:** Clara Chen, Swati Dharmadhikari, Jonelyn Langenstein, Ila Langner, Georgia Sutherland. **Springer:** David Chung, Claire Hubel, Beth Moeur, Marina Orzano Heye, Yan Shi, Karen Tobey, Kyoko Yamashita. **Stellar Learning Academy:** Zhanna Shpits. **Sunset Ridge:** Raquel Menjivar, Maria Pires. **Taft:** Jan Coberly, Mimi Goity, Beth Nord. **Washington:** Jenifer Beswick, Andrea Whitten.

## Special Docent Anniversaries:

**10 years:** Marilyn Entin, Dorothy Heimgartner  
**5 years:** Donna Poulos

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