

A·R·S·NEWSLETTER

A Supplement to American Recorder for the members of the American Recorder Society • September 1996

ELECTION RESULTS

It's official! Newly elected to the ARS Board of Directors in the recent quadrennial elections were **Martha Bixler**, **Virginia Nylander Ebinger**, **Frances Feldon**, **Cléa Galhano**, **Alison Melville**, **Bill Rees**, **Israel Stein**, and **Shelley Wold**. They will be joining continuing members **Gene Murrow** and **Judith Whaley**, who were reelected.

The organization wishes to thank all nominees for their willingness to serve the ARS, as well as those now ending their service on the Board: Jack Anderson, Valerie Horst, Judith Linsenber, Peggy Monroe, Scott Paterson, Constance Primus, Nancy VanBrundt, and Nikolaus von Huene. Thanks also to members of the Nominating Committee, Marilyn Perlmutter (chair), Louise Austin, Ferninand Baer, Barbara Duey, Glenn Middleton, Peggy Monroe, and Constance Primus for assembling the slate of nominees.

More than 20 percent of those eligible to vote returned ballots. While the ARS membership is split almost evenly between chapter members and those not affiliated with a chapter, chapter members were over twice as likely to vote. The state or province with the largest number of votes was also the state with the largest number of ARS members: California, with nearly 12 percent of those voting. (An additional incentive to California voters might have been the presence of three California nominees on the ballot.) By geographic region, however, the Northeast U.S. had the lion's share of votes cast: nearly 28 percent.

By-Laws Changes Approved

The proposed amendments to the By-Laws were all approved by more than the required two-thirds majority vote, with percentage of approval ranging from 87 percent to 92 percent. Copies of the revised ARS By-Laws are available from the ARS office.

Caution: Web Site Under Construction

The ARS has a site on the World Wide Web at <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/recorder>. Components are being added gradually. To suggest additions to the ARS page, send e-mail to 74363.3365@compuserve.com. Plans include links to other related sites; the table of contents of the most recent issue of *American Recorder*; the ARS publications list; application forms for the ARS Personal Study Program exams, as well as for chapter grants and scholarships; a list of chapters, with a local contact and list of scheduled meeting times for use by travelers; a list of Junior Recorder Society Clubs and their leaders; a sample of recorder music, so that those visiting the site will be able to hear a recorder played.

LEADERS SHARE FOOD FOR THOUGHT AT BERKELEY FESTIVAL

The ARS schedule at the 1996 Berkeley Festival included a lunch meeting of chapter leaders on Friday, June 7, in the choral room at the University of California-Berkeley campus.

Attending were **Britt Ascher** (East Bay, CA), **Charles Coldwell** (Seattle, WA), **Gerry Greer** (Sacramento, CA), **Valerie Horst** (ARS Vice-President, New York City, NY), **Marilyn Marquis** (East Bay, CA), **Bob Monroe** (Seattle, WA), **Peggy Monroe** (presiding as representative of the ARS Chapters & Consorts Committee, Seattle, WA), **Barry Moyer** (Triad, NC), **Gene Murrow** (ARS President, Ossining, NY), **Barbara Prescott** (Upper Valley, VT/NH), **Connie Primus** (ARS Education Liaison, Denver, CO), and **Israel Stein** (formerly Boston, MA, now Berkeley area), as well as **Gail Nickless** (ARS Executive Director) and **Benjamin Dunham** (AR Editor).

A number of points were brought up as introductions progressed around the table, including the importance of finding opportunities to play in public; circulating a questionnaire to chapter members so that they provide feedback directly to coaches or to those charged with engaging coaches best suited to members' needs; facilitating formation of consorts within the chapter, and letting better players go when they feel ready while recruiting others to go through this improvement process; having 30 minutes of continuing work to provide ongoing chapter goals at the beginning of each meeting before introducing guest coach; sponsoring limited-enrollment mini-workshops in members' living rooms, if paying for both a workshop leader and a facility is a financial problem; emphasizing youth, and offering free admission to an adult accompanying a child to an appropriate chapter event such as a concert; forging an affiliation with a community music school where both adults and young people take classes; the importance of *American Recorder* in broadening the viewpoint of local members; and the primary function of the ARS as a channel of communication and source of information.

With time running short, ARS President Murrow posed several questions for consideration by the leaders until they could be discussed at some later date: While the first ARS chapters started as affinity groups with the energy primarily coming in, should that energy now go outward to the community? Are we an early music organization or a recorder organization? How do we view the role of the national ARS organization? Should we put more emphasis on encouraging large groups or small groups?

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

I ran across a quote this summer that I liked: "Use what talents you possess. The woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best."—Henry Van Dyke.

It struck home because I frequently hear members say that they are "not very good" recorder players. Yet conversations with these same members tell me that these are people who gain a wealth of pleasure from playing the recorder.

Shortly after I encountered the Van Dyke quote, I also read a magazine profile of National Public Radio's Noah Adams and his new book about his interest in playing piano. Adams recounted how reading the obituary of a writer/scientist who regretted never learning piano was the reason that he bought a piano and began to play. Eight months later, he gave up in frustration: he wasn't very good.

Adams later renewed his commitment to music after attending a summer camp, much like the summer workshops some of our members attend. That experience allowed him to finally get past the problems of learning to play a musical instrument as an adult, and to realize how much more he brings to his music studies than a seven-year-old could.

While my summer activities didn't extend to purchasing and reading Adams' new book, I still suspect that his piano adventures relate to playing other instruments like recorder. My summer did include the opportunity to take some long walks in areas where I could listen to a variety of birds. Perhaps some birds sang more sweetly than the others, but it was definitely listening to the combination of their songs that affected me. I'm glad they each sang so enthusiastically without regard for whose song was best.

—Gail Nickless

FOUR CHAPTERS RECEIVE ARS GRANTS FOR FALL ACTIVITIES

Jack Anderson, chair of the ARS Chapters & Consorts Committee, reports that the following chapters have been awarded grants for projects starting during fall 1996:

Atlanta (GA), supporting the commissioning of a new work by Timothy Broege for intermediate recorder ensemble; the McCleskey Middle School Recorder Ensemble will premiere the work during the 1997 Boston Early Music Festival.

New Orleans (LA), assistance with a workshop entitled "Punctuating Renaissance Music," with clinician John Tyson.

Rio Grande (NM/TX), aiding with the chapter's first-ever workshop, which emphasizes music from Nueva España (teachers include Eileen Hadidian, Peggy Monroe, Paul Hallsted, and Christine Sanders).

San Diego (CA), helping move the Third Annual Junior Recorder Festival, an event attended last year by 120 young people from eight schools, to a larger facility.

As a follow-up to past grants, the committee also announced that the seed money awarded last year to the **Princeton (NJ) Chapter** was used by chapter member Judith Klotz to generate a \$3,000 grant from the Institute for the Study of Child Development of Robert Wood Johnson University in New Brunswick, NJ. That amount will fund the beginning of a study on benefits of recorder-playing to children with asthma.

Note: Chapter grant applications to support spring/summer 1997 projects will be mailed to chapter representatives in October and will be due November 15.

ARS "PERSONAL STUDY PROGRAM" MAKES DEBUT

The ARS Education Committee has recently completed an expansion and revision of the ARS education materials into the **ARS Personal Study Program**. Enclosed with this magazine is a free members-only checklist, *Thirteen Stages to Help You Improve Your Playing*. You can use this checklist for your own self-directed study or as a way to organize your preparation for the exams signifying achievement of ARS Levels.

Other materials included in the ARS Personal Study Program are: 1) The *Guidebook to the Personal Study Program*, which contains the latest revisions to the Levels I-III requirements and material formerly published in the *Study Guide* and *Study Guide Handbook*. This *Guidebook* will be available in November and will be particularly necessary for those who intend to take one of the examinations; 2) The *Music Lists*, a useful resource that contains a graded list of solos, ensembles, and method books.

These two components, previously available only as one publication, are now sold either separately or as a package. The Education Committee hopes this will be helpful to those who are only interested in the *Music Lists*.

See the ARS publications page in *AR* for ordering information and prices.

For those who are already preparing to take one of the Levels exams, you may take the exam under the former requirements as long as you complete the exam by August 31, 1997.

PRESIDENT'S APPEAL

We are pleased to list the following donations, received after the May issue of *American Recorder* went to press:

Donor: *Denver Chapter-ARS, East Bay Chapter-ARS;

Patron: Raphael and Patricia LaBauve; Anna Lawson (all second donations); Patsy Rogers

Supporter: Louise F. Austin (second donation);

Friend: *Chesapeake Bay Recorder Consort, Margaret W. Ftikas, John P. Guinther, John R. Shumaker;

Other: Judge Marie Collins, Kung Shuhung; Katherine H. Stevens, Nancy M. Tooney; Patricia White, Larry Zukof.

*Contributors to the fund for the ARS office computer, donated as part of the Denver Chapter challenge to other chapters.

NEW CHAPTERS IN FORMATION

While not officially formed, two new chapters are due congratulations for significant progress made during the summer.

Centered in the expanse of the Mojave desert, the **Eastern Sierra (CA) Early Music Society** will draw on members in a several hundred mile area, including one member who is a California state park ranger in the ghost town of Bodie. The far-flung group's inaugural event is a September 7 workshop in Bishop directed by Fred Palmer; contact Lou Ava Seybold at 619-375-7455 for more information. The group also plans to start a Junior Recorder Society and says they will prove that "isolation need not mean inactivity."

The potential **St. Louis (MO) Chapter** held a June meeting attended by approximately 30 players, and a "second movement" in July. Anyone wishing to affiliate with that group can call Suzanne Schoomer at 314-862-8246.

ACS SCHOLARSHIPS SUPPORT SUMMER WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

The following individuals, ranging in age from teenager to retiree, were awarded ARS scholarships to attend summer 1996 recorder workshops:

Janice Beauford, Denton, TX, Oberlin Baroque Performance Institute; **Katjusa Cisar**, Madison, WI, Indiana University Recorder Academy; **Barbara Lukacs Grob**, Holton, MI, Mideast Workshop; **Lucia Nieto**, Lima, Peru, San Francisco Early Music Society Baroque Week; **Amy Oeseberg**, Royak Oak, MI, Mideast Workshop; **Reed Riordan**, Altamonte Springs, FL, Amherst Early Music Music Workshop; **Molly Snedden**, Trumansburg, NY, Long Island Recorder Festival Summer Workshop; and **Mary Halverson Waldo**, Shorewood, MN, Holy Names College Suzuki Summer Workshop. Ms. Waldo was the 1996 President's Scholar, chosen by ARS President Gene Morrow because of her active leadership role in the Twin Cities Chapter of ARS as well as her key role in a recorder outreach program for underprivileged children at a near-urban school.

ARS summer workshop scholarships are paid from a memorial fund set up by friends and family members of Andrew Acs, a gifted recorderist who shared his talents through his teaching at workshops. Deadline for summer 1997 scholarship applications is April 1; applications will be available in January.

An additional weekend scholarship was awarded from the Jenny Wedgwood Lehmann fund for **Liz Adams** of Plainsboro, NJ, to attend the Westminster Recorder Weekend at Rider University in Princeton, NJ. Coincidentally, Lehmann was a Princeton chapter member, as is Adams; Lehmann also served for many years on the ARS Board of Directors and chaired its Education Committee. Applications for weekend workshop scholarships are accepted on a continuing basis, and should be submitted at least two months before funding is needed. Contact the ARS office for more information.

BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS CALL FOR NEW CHAPTER/ARS RELATIONSHIP

Two recently approved amendments to the ARS By-Laws will result in gradual changes during the next year in the way the ARS relates to its chapters: Groups of fewer than 10 members will be designated as consorts rather than chapters, and communication between chapters and the ARS will flow through the chapter presiding officer.

During discussions at the last two Board meetings, two overall conclusions emerged: 1) Full chapter services cannot be offered in a cost-efficient manner to chapters of less than 10 ARS members (a number that had been in effect for nearly 25 years before it was relaxed in 1992). 2) Better two-way communication between the ARS and chapters could be achieved if the chapter's presiding officer, the individual currently entrusted with the leadership of the chapter, also served as the chapter's representative to the ARS.

As a result of the amendments to the By-Laws, both chapter representatives from last year and chapter presidents (where known) received a letter in August outlining the changes about to take place. It requested that chapters send to the ARS office by November 1 the name of the current chapter presiding officer (who must be a member in good standing of the ARS) and whether those chapters having fewer than 10 members planned in the next year to recruit enough members to remain a chapter or would prefer to be designated an ARS consort.

This information is especially important as preparations begin on the biennial *ARS 1997 Membership Directory*, where chapters and consorts are listed as well as their primary contacts.

The Board's discussions also produced a list of expanded consort benefits as an acknowledgement of its commitment to try to assist groups of three or more ARS members. That list includes: contact listing in the *Directory*; news items in Chapters & Consorts in *American Recorder*; eligibility for new member rebates to assist consorts to reach chapter status; a small packet of Play-the-Recorder Month publicity materials; annual communications from the ARS office. The Board also acknowledged that the two groups have different goals, with consorts not required to accept new members while chapters must.

Contact the ARS office for more information on benefits for chapters and consorts. See pages 8-9 of the 1995 *Directory* for a list of chapter benefits and responsibilities, or page 24 for consort information. The ARS thanks retiring chapter representatives for their valuable service.

PASSING GRADES

Judith Whaley, chair of the ARS Education Committee, has announced that two Level I Certificates of Achievement were recently earned as a result of examinations given by the Santa Fe chapter: **Barbara Alpert** of Santa Fe, NM, and **Douglas Cowan** of Albuquerque, NM, both students of Betty Parker. **Garrett Webb** of Kailua-Kona, HI, a student of Andrea MacIntosh-Lee, also passed the Level II exam. Congratulations!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

20-22 **Fall Workshop, ARS Musica Montreal**, in Saint Anicet, Quebec, Canada. For recorders and viols. Fac: Valerie Horst, Betsy McMillan. Info: Monte Swartzman, 514-487-1897, or 514-485-9417 (fax).

21 **Twelfth Annual Early Music Fair**, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto. Info: 416-966-1409.

21-22 **Eighth Annual Workshop for Recorder & Viol Players, Monadnock Chapter/ARS**, at 20 and 39 Bixler Way, Jaffrey, NH. Fac: Sheila Beardslee, Martha Bixler, Lucy Cross, LaNoue Davenport, Ken Wollitz. Info: Janet French, Box 427, Alstead, NH 03602-0427; 603-835-2220.

27-29 **ARS Annual Meeting**, in conjunction with the fall Board Meeting, Dallas, TX. Location: Casa View United Methodist Church. Info: 303-347-1120.

28 **Dallas Chapter 20th Anniversary Concert**, in conjunction with the ARS Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Casa View United Methodist Church, 9998 Ferguson Road, Dallas, TX. Info: 214-327-6823, or davidgb@tenet.edu.

28 **"Early Music of Philippe Verdelot and Friends," A Workshop for Recorders and Viols, East Bay Chapter**, Skyline Community United Church of Christ, Oakland, CA. Leader: Marilyn Boenau. Info: 510-284-7134; e-mail mascher@holonet.com.

28 **"Sacred and Profane," Westchester Recorder Guild Fall Workshop**, Emanuel Lutheran Church, Pleasantville, NY. Info: Carol Leibman, 914-241-3381, or 914-997-4552. September

OCTOBER

5 **"Punctuating Renaissance Music," Recorder and Viol Workshop**, New Orleans, LA. Leader: John Tyson. Info: Shauna Roberts, 504-861-2898; e-mail: ShaunaR989@aol.com.

11-14 **Columbus Day Weekend Workshop, Amherst Early Music**, at North Adams State College, North Adams, MA. Info: 212-222-3351.

11-13 **"Music of the Old and New World," Rio Grande Chapter Weekend Workshop**, Las Cruces, NM. Fac: Eileen Hadidian, Peggy Monroe, Paul Hallstead, Christine Sanders. Info: 505-522-4178.

NOVEMBER

10 **Music Educators Workshop, Worcester Hills Recorder Society**, at the Joy of Music Program, Worcester, MA. Leader Grace Feldman. Info: Jennifer Barron Southcott, 508-263-5875.

15 **Applications for ARS Chapter Grants due**. Info: 303-347-1120.

16 **"Rendezvous with Ritchie in Rockland," Rockland Recorder Society**, Haverstraw, NY. Info: Lorraine Schiller, 914-429-8340.

16 **All-Day Workshop with the Flanders Recorder Quartet**. Master Class, recorder orchestra, demo/recital. Info: Amherst Early Music, 212-222-3315.

23 **Flanders Recorder Quartet Workshop, Greater Cleveland Chapter**, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Cleveland Heights, OH. Info: 216-561-4665.

MARCH 1997 (Play-the-Recorder Month)

15 **Deadline, J. Merril Knapp Research Fellowship**, for studies in the area of Handel or related topics. Info: American Handel Society, Dept. of Music, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742; 301-454-5756.

ON TOUR/IN CONCERT

Aldo Abreu: (as Artist in Residence) November 13-18, Louisville, KY; (with Berkshire Bach Society) December 31-January 1, Brandenburg Concertos, Sheffield, MA, and Troy (NY) Music Hall.

Amsterdam Loeki Stardust Quartet: February 12-March 3, 1997. Info: 800-394-2766.

Flanders Recorder Quartet: November 17, The Cloisters, New York, NY; 22, Chapel, Court & Countryside, Cleveland, OH. Contact Sempre Musica for info and availability, 310-287-1031.

Dan Laurin: (with Mark Kroll) November 15, First Congregational Church, Boston, MA; (with Trio Dan Laurin) 16, Concert Society of Maryland, College Park.

Judith Linsenberg: (with Sacramento Chamber Orchestra) September 11, Bach Brandenburg Concerto No. 2, Sacramento, CA; (with Musica Pacifica) November 3, Los Angeles Recorder Society, CA; January 10, Greenville, PA; 11, Pittsburgh Renaissance & Baroque Society, PA; 12, Philadelphia, PA; February 23, Noe Valley Ministry, San Francisco, CA; with Musica Pacifica and guest artist Bruce Haynes, May 9-10, SFEMS (Palo Alto and Berkeley); May 31, Occidental, CA.

John Tyson: (with Renaissonics) September 21, CD Release Concert, First Church, Cambridge, MA; (with Miyuki Tsurutani, harpsichord) October 6, New Orleans, LA; 7, Tulane University; (with Olav Chris Henriksen, lute and theorbo) 17, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Chapel, Cambridge; (with Mamiko Hirai, soprano, and Kenji Sano, lute) November 14-28, recitals and master class, Osaka, Japan.

Marion Verbruggen: (with Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra in California) October 10, Walnut Creek; 11, Herbst Theatre, San Francisco; 12-13, First Unitarian Church, Berkeley; 15, Newport Beach; 16, Palo Alto; 20, solo recital, Music Before 1800, New York City (available October 17-19); (with soprano Christine Brandes, gambist Mary Springfels, and harpsichordist Barbara Weiss) March 8, 1997, St. Cloud, Minnesota; 9, St. Paul; 11, University of North Iowa, Cedar Falls; 13-15, Newberry Concert Series, Chicago (available February 24-March 2). Info: Sue Endrizzzi, e-mail, CAMendrizz@aol.com.

Calendar Listings

Do you have a recorder event that you wish listed? Fill out the information below and send it to ARS Newsletter, 472 Point Road, Marion, MA 02738, or fax to 508-748-1928. Deadlines: 1st of the month preceding issue date. Because of the uncertainties of mail delivery, plan to announce events in an issue at least a month before they take place.

Date: _____

Name of Event: _____

Where: _____

Presented by: _____

Description (including faculty, if workshop): _____

Contact information: _____
