



Greetings from Regional Director Jennifer R. Ellis

Hello! It's been so wonderful to get to know so many of you through the chapter officer trainings.

Are you currently unaffiliated with a chapter and interested in forming a chapter in your area? [Contact me](#). I'm happy to help.

Does your chapter need assistance with virtual programming? AHS is connecting chapters with volunteer Zoom Angels who can help with your event's technical needs. [Contact Allison Volk](#) for more information.

There is so much wonderful, creative programming going on, even amidst this Zoom Era. Read on to learn more about the fantastic events hosted by our region's chapters.

Sincerely,

Jennifer R. Ellis

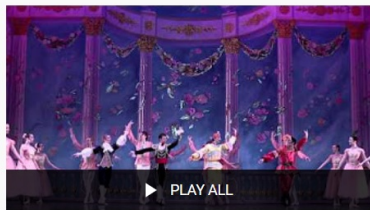
Pacific Region Director
American Harp Society, Inc.



National Notes . . .

News you can use, from chapters, regions, and national:

We have exciting opportunities to gather via video conference bringing our membership together. Both chapters and [national programs](#) alike are meeting virtually during the year. New resources are being added regularly to the [AHS](#) and [AHJ](#) YouTube channels, and plans are in place to offer two dynamic national events in June of 2021: the rescheduled [National Conference](#) and the [2021 National Competition](#) finals.



Summer 2019 Extras -
Tchaikovsky Cadenzas

9 videos • 37 views • Last updated on Apr 24, 2020

Build your community within the AHS and join us as we learn about and serve the harp!

Nominations for new AHS Board members are now open [online through November 30th](#). If you are interested in serving, or you know a colleague who might be well-suited to Board service, please submit your nomination(s) during November. To submit a nomination online, log in to your Member365 account. Then, cycle through the badges on the right side to find "Call for Nominations". You may also download a [paper nomination form](#).

ALASKA

Interested in forming a chapter? It's [easy to get started](#), and I'm always [happy to help](#).

BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

West Coast (Vancouver) Chapter

Meetings and Events

- February 4, 2020 - The VSO's international Principal Harp auditions were held on February 4 and 5, 2020, with two finalists chosen. One had the opportunity to do her trial week with the orchestra, then the pandemic hit, the orchestra had to close, so we are still waiting to hear the second finalist when this is over.
- February 15, 2020 – We had our AGM's for 2018 and 2019 on February 15, 2020. We elected our officers and added new names to our board of officers.
- April 13, 2020 – We had no idea a global pandemic was coming, so we were planning a mini-harp festival with concerts and workshops with **Sasha Boldachev** and **Sharlene Wallace**. These were cancelled for the time being.
- August 21, 2020 – Cohosted (with Müzewest) a master class and online concert with **Chelsea Lane** and her mother, violinist Carolyn Edward in August.
- October 24, 2020 – Harp Day (held online)

CALIFORNIA

Bay Area Chapter

Meetings & Events

- Meeting and Events
- September 22, 2019 – Open Membership Meeting at Tertulia's Coffee
- January 26, 2019– Annual BACAHS Potluck

- February 29th and March 1st, 2019 - We had a wonderful event with **Julia Kay Jamieson** last spring, including a workshop, harp ensemble, and solo performance!
- Then, COVID hit! We had to go virtual.
- Starting May 6, 2019, we launched a paid online BACAHS Harp Lunch Break series Wednesdays at noon. We wanted to both help financially support our local harpists during this difficult time and find a way to bring our chapter together. Our average views for each video are around 500, with some topping more than 1000! Anyone who is interested can watch these on our facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/bayareaharp>

May 6th – Destiny Muhammad
 May 13th – Ryan Conrad
 May 20th – Diana Rowan
 May 27th – Laura Simpson
 June 3rd – Amelia Romano
 June 10th – Kirstal Schwartz and Rick Silvestri
 June 17th – Janice Ortega
 June 24th – Meredith Clark
 July 1st – Karen Gottlieb
 July 8th – Jennifer Ellis
 July 15th – Natalie Cox and Dan Reiter
 July 22nd – Verlene Schermer
 July 29th – Sarah Voynow
 August 5th – BACAHS Annual Meeting... via Zoom!
 August 12th – Krista Strader
 August 19th – Constance Koo
 August 26th – Nancy Thym
 September 2nd – Kristin Lloyd
 October 7th – Samantha Mulgrew
 November 18th – Dana Wallace

- September 2020 - We launched a harpist relief fund giving small, confidential relief grants out to BACAHS members.
- September 14, 2020 - Board members completed their chapter officer trainings via Zoom.

Upcoming Events

- Our newly formed competition committee, **Susie Spiwak**, **Jessica Schaeffer**, and **Karen Gottlieb**, are organizing the 2021 Yvonne LaMothe Schwager Competition. The competition will take place virtually this year. More info including the repertoire and application are available here: <https://bacharp.org/announcing-the-2021-yvonne-lamothe-schwager-competition/> Please note, there is financial assistance available to anyone who needs help paying the application fee.

Los Angeles Chapter

Meetings & Events

- January 20, 2020 - 2020 New Year's Membership Meeting and Potluck Party
- February 23, 2020 – Music Education 2020 Session 1
- February 29, 2020 – **Caroline Wilkins** Concert Artist Recital
- March 2020 – Music Education Session 2 – Held Virtually

Upcoming Events

Our 2020-2021 Season looks to be very fun and as inclusive as we're able to make it. So far:

- October - Halloween Harp Decorating Contest
- Mid-November - **Gracie Sprout** and friends present a Zoom workshop about doing home recording
- December - 21st Annual Holiday Harp Extravaganza : Pre-recorded practice tracks for members to play with click or ensemble parts for a "zoom" concert, compiled by Gracie Sprout
- January - Zoom "social hour"
- February and March - Music Education sessions via zoom
- February - Zoom "show and tell" with members sharing love songs for Valentine's Day
- March - Annual Celtic Harp Extravaganza, same format as Holiday Harps
- April/May - Valeria Finzi Memorial Scholarship Auditions
- Possibly June/July event - Patriotic ensemble event

Orange County Chapter

Orange County Chapter is restarting! It is looking for members as well as anyone interested in serving on the board or being involved. If you are interested, please contact Regional Director, Jennifer R. Ellis at harpellis@gmail.com.

San Diego Chapter

Interested in joining San Diego Chapter? Learn more [here](#).

Santa Barbara Chapter

Chapter News

Throughout the year: The Santa Barbara Chapter of AHS tries to maintain a social media presence on Facebook. We established a FB page in October 2014 and currently have 157 people that "follow" our page. We try to post things of harp interest every week or two in an effort to keep our FB wall vibrant and "alive". We have a 60% response rate. We also use our FB social media to help market concerts and workshops that we are sponsoring and/or supporting. In an effort to foster networking within the harp community, we will occasionally allow followers to post their used harp that they are trying to sell.

Meetings and Events

- October 4, 2019 - Chapter Business Meeting followed by Potluck and Harp Circle. The Business meeting included election of officers, and an update of the planning for the Kim Robertson Workshop and Concert planned for February 1 and 2, 2020, including a discussion and selection of topics for Kim to cover in the workshop.
- October 11, 12, and 13, 2019 - Members of the SB Chapter participated in the Scottish Highland Games, including playing in the concerts in the Harp Glen at the Games. Flyers announcing the Feb 1 and 2 Kim Robertson Workshop and Concert were distributed at the Games.
- On October 26, 2019 Saturday Salon members participated in a harp workshop

featuring **Catherine Litaker**. Also in October, **Karen Shelton**, on behalf of the Chapter, organized harp regulation tech for members.

- November 8, 2019- Potluck, Chapter Business Meeting and SB HarpCircle meeting.
- December 13, 2019 - Chapter Christmas/Solstice Celidh get together at **Anna Campbell's** lovely home.
- January 3, 2020 (Anna Campbell's house) Chapter business meeting, Potluck and SB HarpCircle meeting.

Silicon Valley Chapter

Meeting and Events

- September 9, 2019 – Annual Kickoff at the home of **Carol Pugh**. Music provided by members on an amplified harp and acoustic harp. Panel discussion addressed the challenges of gig playing, especially weddings.
- November 16 and 23, 2019 - Chapter Ensemble Concerts – which required acquisition, distribution and rehearsal of various selected harp ensemble compositions. Performed at the Villages in San Jose and Los Altos, CA
- December 19, 2019 - Youth Ensemble performance at the San Jose Museum of Art under the direction of **Sonya Yu**.
- February 9, 2020 – Harp Improvisation Workshop with **Laura Simpson** at the home of **Lynne Rovin**.
- March 29, 2020 – Student Audition and Evaluation Sessions Part 1
- May 3, 2020 – Student Audition and Evaluation Sessions Part 2
- September 27, 2020 – Due to shelter-in-place restrictions, our chapter is meeting virtually. Kick-off on September 27th was a virtual meeting with approximately 35 members in attendance. Our featured member was **Sarah Naylor** who performed a lovely variety of music on both the pedal and lever harps.



HAWAII

Interested in forming a chapter? It's [easy to get started](#), and I'm always [happy to help](#).



OREGON

Eugene Chapter

Interested in joining the Eugene Chapter? Contact them [here](#).



WASHINGTON

Greater Seattle Chapter

We are excited about a possible recorded concert via zoom followed by a live Q & A from **Caroline Wilkins**. We are also planning a Fall Meeting via zoom with a social aspect for our members to keep in touch. It's been a difficult year but looking forward to more options next year!



MEMBER NEWS

In addition to chapter news, we're happy to share member news.

West Coast (Vancouver)

- **Roseanna Chu** –presented on harp mechanisms and techniques at the Vancouver Academy of Music, performed with the West Coast Symphony, and led a virtual recital. She also, with her students, assembled a video of harp music shared at senior homes.

