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## **Southeastern Regional Newsletter 2010**

Dear Harpists,

I am happy to share with you the following news from around our region. In addition to news from the chapters, I'd like to call your attention to the Southeastern Harp Weekend being held annually each fall. Director Carolyn Deal shares: The Southeastern Harp Weekend is a multifaceted lever harp conference held every October in beautiful Asheville, North Carolina in a wooded retreat setting. Clinicians and performers are world-class, most of them classically trained on pedal harp and now blazing new trails with lever harp. The vendor hall is the largest in the Southeast. The food is delicious, and the lodging, meals and tuition are all reasonable. It's a friendly atmosphere with a colorful array of topics for all levels. Note that it always sells out and has a waiting list! The 2011 conference will be held October 7-9. [www.southeasternharps.com](http://www.southeasternharps.com).

Also, please look under Georgia Chapter for information of regional interest from the Atlanta Harp Center.

Best wishes for a great 2011,

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### **Reminders**

The American Harp Society has a new website! [www.harpsociety.org](http://www.harpsociety.org) Check it out. There are many National programs that chapters can participate in, with huge benefits to the membership, but not huge cost to the chapter. The Concert Artist Program will pay the AHS Concert Artist's travel expenses so the chapter can present them in concert. The Music Education Auditions are also a great chapter activity to help the students have goals to work toward and improving musicianship. Every 3 years a chapter can apply to bring in an additional advisor, and the travel expenses of this National Committee guest advisor will be reimbursed.

## Chapter and Area News/Events

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### Central Florida Chapter

(submitted by Jan Jennings)

The Central Florida Chapter had another productive year.

Emmy Rathgeber, student of Jan Jennings, won first place in the strings division of the Young Artists Solo Competition at Rollins College in November 2009, and was also a finalist in the Young Artists International Harp Competition in Rabun Gap, Georgia, in July where she performed the “First Arabesque” by Debussy, “La Source” by Hasselmans, and the first movement of the Pescetti Sonata. She was presented in her first solo concert, sponsored by the International Harp Museum, on July 25, 2010. She began her junior year in August as a harp major studying with Mary Brigid Roman at Florida State University.

Kaila Geisinger, student of Jan Jennings, won first place in the Intermediate II division of the harp competition at the Midwest Harp Festival in Tulsa, Oklahoma in July. She played “Minstrel’s Adieu to his Native Land” by Thomas. Kaila was selected to appear on National Public Radio’s Young Artist Spotlight and recently recorded two pieces on a new CD with three-time Grammy nominated opera singer Gabriel Silva.

Haley Rhodeside, former student of Jan Jennings and currently studying with Susann McDonald at Indiana University, competed in the USA International Harp Competition in Bloomington, Indiana in July.

Jan Jennings was on the jury of the Lyon & Healy Awards in Shanghai, China in April. She also gave a workshop and performance. She was a clinician at the Midwest Harp Festival in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in July and will be returning again in 2011. Jan also gave a workshop and master class at Temple University in September. She will be performing and presenting a workshop at the World Harp Congress in Vancouver in 2011.

The Chapter held our annual recital weekend August 6 –8, 2010, at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in Oviedo. Guest artist was Lynne Aspnes, who was featured in a solo concert on August 6. Ms. Aspnes presented two workshops and a master class on Saturday, August 7. Exhibitors included the International Harp Museum, Michigan Harp Center, Harps International, Simple Elegance by Verlon, International Music Service, and harp technician Erich Rase. On August 8, there was a harp ensemble concert featuring the students of Jan Jennings and guests. There were 26 harps in the ensemble.

Deborah Wendt, student of Jan Jennings, will be competing in the Young Artists Solo Competition at Rollins College on November 20, 2010.

Members of the Central Florida Chapter will play in a harp ensemble concert on Sunday, November 28, 2010, at 3:00 p.m. at Broadway United Methodist Church, 406 E. Amelia St., Orlando, Fla., 32803. The concert will be free and open to the public. The theme is the "Hanging of the Greens" and will include dialogue by Pastor Clare Chance between musical selections explaining the symbolism of the Christmas decorations. There will be a reception with refreshments following the concert.

Pat Bair, Elaine Scott, and Jan Jennings will perform as the Marching Harp Band in the Winter Park Christmas Parade on December 4, 2010.

Harp for sale: Lyon & Healy 85P natural; 40 strings, excellent condition, includes adjustable bench. \$8600. Contact Ann Reaves, 352-243-6441 (Clermont, Florida).

## **Georgia Chapter**

The Georgia Chapter has been busy this year. In February and March, Atlanta harpist Deidre Augustin served as the adjudicator for the annual AHS Music Education Auditions. Also in the spring, Lynne Aspnes and John Wickey gave a duo concert at Oglethorpe University under their ensemble name, TrueNorth.

This year, the chapter has offered a Salon Series where local harpists can come together and have an opportunity to perform for an audience, test out new pieces, listen to newly available titles, or just enjoy an afternoon of music. The salons take place in the relaxed atmosphere of a member's home and combine the music with lively conversation and a cup of tea. The salons have been well received by both professionals and non-professionals and there are plans for more in the future.

Sunita Suneslow will be joining us for two workshops in early November at the Atlanta Harp Center. (A special thanks to the Atlanta Harp Center for hosting and helping to sponsor many of our events.)

Finally, on February 27, 2011 we are planning a repeat of the large ensemble concert we organized two years ago. Our first "Really Big Harp Concert" involved over 50 harpists, 4 small ensembles, and drew a packed house. We are hoping for high participation this year as well. The 2011 concert will be conducted by M.J. D'Arville and will include works by Albeniz, Joplin, and Ortiz.

*News from the Atlanta Harp Center:*

The Atlanta Harp Center has been quite busy this past year. In addition to being a showroom for Lyon and Healy, Salvi, Camac, and other harp brands, along with music and accessories, the Harp Center has provided harps for a number of prominent summer music programs, including the Interlochen Arts Academy, Harp Arts Retreat, Young Artist's Harp Seminar, and others. The Harp Center has also sponsored a number of guest artists in concerts and workshops, including Frank Voltz, Cheyenne Brown, Lynne Aspnes, Iceland Symphony principal harpist Katie Buckley and Sunita Staneslow. We have also traveled around the country to sponsor exhibits in Nashville, Williamsburg, Asheville and other venues. Harp Center Manager Rhett Barnwell has been featured in concerts and workshops at Harp Journeys (Houston, TX), Beginning in the Middle (Williamsburg, VA), Somerset Folk Harp Festival, Historical Harp Society Annual Conference, Southeastern Harp Weekend, Nashville Harp Society, and the Washington, DC Harp Society.

The Atlanta Harp Center and Seraphim Music will be co-sponsoring the Liturgical Harp Conference, February 3-6, 2011, in Charleston, South Carolina. Featured artists will include Ray Pool, Sam Milligan, Sunita Staneslow, Christine van Arsdale, Rhett Barnwell, Lynn and Martha Bailey and others. For more information on this event, please visit: [www.seraphimusic.com](http://www.seraphimusic.com). The Harp Center is also planning to sponsor a weekend with Lynne Aspnes and John Wickey March 18 - 20th. Please check our website, [www.atlantaharpcenter.com](http://www.atlantaharpcenter.com) for more details as they become available.

## **South Florida Chapter**

(submitted by Kay Kemper)

**December 2009:** Students of Nancy Ann Gillan's Harp Crew Studio (Crystal Alves, Brittany Bauer, Dana Esposito, Dorche Dickerson, Mary Rose Gallipeau, Megan Gallipeau, Veronica Markle, Hannah Otto, Sofia Perez and Michelle Villar, as well as Danielle Levine (student of Kay Kemper), played a Holiday Recital for the residents at St.

Andrew's Estates Retirement Community in Boca Raton. Megan Gallipeau created the beautiful programs. Beryl Mancuso, adult student of Kay Kemper, accompanied the choir at her church for their annual Christmas Pageant in Lake Worth.

**January 2010:** Dr. Glen Arfsten performed harp and piano duets with Lisa Ponbriand at the First Presbyterian Church in North Palm Beach.

**February 2010:** Deborah Fleisher was a guest artist at the "For Love of Harps" weekend presented by the Southwest Florida Chapter of the AHS in Naples. Brittany Bauer, Dorche Dickerson, Dana Esposito, Veronica Markle, Sofia Perez and Michelle Villar all received "Superior" marks in the local Florida Federation of Music Club's annual judging.

**March 2010:** Lisa Kikol organized an outreach performance of harpists at the “Young at Art Museum” in Davie. Lisa Kikol, Sandra Allen, Danielle Levine, Charlene Conner, Ruth Pavlow and Kay Kemper participated.

**April 2010:** Deborah Fleisher’s Harp Studio at the University of Miami gave a recital.

**May 2010:** Dana Esposito and Sofia Perez went on to compete in Florida Federation of Music Club’s state competition in Jacksonville. Both won 1st Place in their respective divisions. Both also auditioned, and were accepted, at the Bak School for the Performing Arts in West Palm Beach. On May 23rd, our Annual Chapter Student Recital at Church of the Palms in Delray Beach had 21 participants!

**June 2010:** Deborah Fleisher, newly appointed harp faculty at the Hot Springs (AR) Music Festival, performed Ravel’s “Introduction and Allegro”.

**June-October:** Monthly meetings began of the newly formed Harp Circle. 6-12 adults, both student and professional, meet to play harp ensemble music on harps of all sizes.

**July 2010:** Lisa Green participated in a musicale at a private home in the Berkshires, MA. Kay Kemper performed Ibert’s “Trio for Violin, Violoncello and Harp” during the Palm Beach Music Festival’s 19th season.

**September & October:** Ana Maria Bolivar performed Ravel’s “Introduction and Allegro” for a private function at the Miami Arsht Center for the Performing Arts. Charlene Conner gave a solo recital for the Coral Gables Music Club. Deborah Fleisher is performing Debussy’s “Sonata for Viola, Flute and Harp” and Persichetti’s “Serenade No.10” as part of Festival Miami.

**Ongoing:** Becky Gibbons provides live music in patient access areas two times a week as part of “The Sounds of Healing Program” at Holy Cross Hospital in Ft. Lauderdale. We regret the loss of harpist Dennis Christopher (Gross), who was best known in Ft. Lauderdale as the harpist at “The Plum Room” of Yesterday’s Restaurant for nearly 20 years. Dennis was graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Music where he was a student of Alice Chalifoux. Also a certified embalmer, he began the tradition of harp playing at the Melbourne Funeral Home in Cleveland while a student. He also played both the piano and harp in musical theater. Dennis died peacefully in his sleep at hospice in April at the age of 64. He was known and will be remembered for his grand sense of humor.

Dr. Glen Arfsten has retired from teaching after 38 years, 30 of them in Palm Beach County. He was a high school choral director, then taught special education and honors geometry. A Minnesota native, Glen earned a Bachelor’s degree from St. Olaf College, a Master’s degree from Florida Atlantic University, and his Doctorate from the University of Alabama. Not only does he sing, play the piano, flute, harp and organ, he has published study materials for high school choirs as well as 6 volumes of music for the harp. In 2007, he was awarded an Honorary Lifetime Membership in the South Florida Chapter of the AHS for his immeasurable support and generosity. He is a wonderful asset to our community

## **Southwest Florida Chapter**

(submitted by Barbara Kraichy)

Even though the SWFLA Harp Chapter is not “Eastern,” we do have membership in that area, as well as further north, and some of those members participate in the Chapter ensemble, “Harps ‘n Sync,” made up of 25 or so professionals, amateurs, and young students, which performs every February in our festival “For the Love of Harps” to rapt audiences typically of a thousand. This year’s event is scheduled for the Feb. 4-6 weekend at the First Presbyterian Church of Bonita Springs, and features harpist Robbin Gordon-Cartier of the AMS Board of Directors, with lessons, master classes, and lecture presentations. She plays in recital Friday evening and will join Harps ‘n Sync in Sunday’s 3:00 concert, for Debussy’s “Dances....” with an ensemble accompaniment arranged by our resident violinist, Ron Erickson, who also contributes his new arrangement of Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue.” She will play “The Lord’s Prayer” at the church services, and has agreed to be a fish in Saint-Saens’ “Aquarium.” The ensemble presents some of the program at outlying locations in Marco and in North Naples on January 28 and March 27. Our chapter aims to promote music of substance and entertainment throughout the community through the medium of the harp, as a means of public education. We encourage young harpists through our scholarship program. At [www.swflaharp.org](http://www.swflaharp.org) you can see highlights of some of our past performances, and get more information. DVDs and CDs of last year’s concert are still available, and orders can be placed now for the next, at \$25 and \$10 respectively.