

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – ANNUAL MEETING – June 3, 2009

As I look back on this particular academic year, I am struck by the many events we have held and the hard work that all have devoted to the Suzuki learning we are nurturing here at our school. So many wonderful performances have been the fruits of this labor, and I am so proud of the work of the children, the faculty and the parents to bring this all about.

This has been the beginning of a new era for the school. I now feel that we are no longer a new organization in its infancy and constantly growing, but now an adolescent beginning to bloom and feel the emotional surges of what we can now do.

To have come this far, we can always remember the founding director for her boldness in getting us started, Gwendoline Thornblade. But at a most critical time in the late 1990's, it was the SSN Board of Director who kept the school going, kept the doors open and kept our Suzuki learning thriving. This year, we see the moving on of two significant board members, Dr. David Gastfriend and also Dr. Jean Kasmer. Both have served as presidents of our board and have been crucial in strengthening our school, the board and our overall vision and mission for the school.

I also want to recognize, Craig Zuckerman, our treasurer, whose service to the board has been undeniably beneficial. We have converted our accounting system to better and clearer reporting, made solid and prudent financial decisions and helped with all aspects of fundraising and fiscal management. I want to thank Craig for all his time and expertise.

Many wonderful events have been part of this year's line-up: especially the favorites. We played at the Harvest Fair, Lasell Village Retirement Center, Perkins School for the Blind, and the annual book graduations. The fall Artist Concert Series was spectacular with guest artists Jennifer Frautschi, Emmanuel Feldman and Joy Cline Phinney. Next fall we will feature the Borommeo String Quartet and we will renew having a master class workshop with guests musicians from the Artist Concert Series. A true highlight for me is the faculty concert—and this year's was extra special with Spring Gala.

We welcomed many outstanding new faculty, Carol Sykes, Nancy Hair, Michelle Ordorica, Brett Abigana, and many others. I also want to acknowledge the transition with Tung Pham leaving for grad school as well as JeaNa Beack, our registrar and violin faculty member—They have been a great team in the office. Teresa Fiorenza, Alicia Arnold, Angie Tung now are moving on to new lives in new situations. This fall there will be a few new faces, and I will not take all the time to announce all of them but we have two new violin faculty and two new piano faculty being added to our roster. As two of these departures are related to getting married and starting new directions in their lives, we wish them all well.

As for us, life never stops! We have a preschool opening, a new playground. New grants coming from the state for our Cultural facility project, and from Harvard Music al

Association for our Chamber music program. We will celebrate Dr. Suzuki's 110th anniversary of his birth in October and we have new workbooks for the music lab department. —There is so much more we can do, but always we expect some wonderful music and the lives we enrich by it--to be part of everything we do.

Thank you.