



Volume 12, Issue 2

May 2010

### *In This Issue:*

Letter from Chair-Elect

Lesley Malmstrom

Page 2

Gallery Night

Page 4

Annual District Art Show

Page 5

In Their Own Words

Page 6

Band Director Awards

Page 6

### **Future Newsletters**

If you know anyone who would like to be added to the KMFA email list please suggest they send a request to:

[info@kyrenefinearts.org](mailto:info@kyrenefinearts.org)

## **Final Curtain Call**

It's hard to believe, it's been six years since I became KMFA Chair. I've been so proud to serve in this capacity; fulfilling the purpose of what KMFA represents, working with wonderful volunteers and District employees; and best of all, seeing the results of the work.

It all began, for me, when Jeannie Sawyer, a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher at Cielo, recommended me to music teacher, Kay Umberson. Kay was looking for parents who would participate in KMFA and Jeannie thought I'd be a good fit. Jeannie knew me well; we were good friends as she'd been the Preschool Director at my daughter's preschool, and had coincidentally come to Cielo to teach the same year my daughter started Kindergarten.

Within only a month, or so, of my involvement with KMFA I was given the opportunity to be Chair. I never would have thought it would last for six years. In that time KMFA has benefited from dedication of several parents who share their talents, and expertise, to make KMFA the strong association it is today. Recently we collaborated to create a beautiful exhibit display for events such as the recent District Arts Festival. We'll be able to take the display to various schools and events to help our members find us, and draw attention for interested new members. We relied heavily on the creative expertise of

Jason Boles to design the updated new logo and colorful graphic displays.

Jason and web designer Musette Steger are working together so that Musette can make numerous updates and revisions for the KMFA web site: [www.kyrenefinearts.org](http://www.kyrenefinearts.org).

Suzanne Whitaker writes excellent articles, takes minutes and works in schools on arts projects. Paige Peterson watches the account, keeps our bottom line solid and runs memberships reports.

Then there's Joy Fogarty. The name fits her because she's a joy to work with. As a District employee, and our liaison, I can't tell you how important our working relationship has been through the years. She's done numerous projects to connect the student and teacher's needs, or events, with KMFA's mission.

I think it's important for you, the members, to know that KMFA is officially recognized by the school District as being an ancillary body and receives ongoing and official support of the District. Dr. Schauer has attended meetings and in his absence has always had a representative of the Superintendency present. Patty Weegar or Gina Taylor, and sometimes both, were always at our meetings. The connection, communication and support are some of the rea-

*(Continued on page 3)*



*Supporting a complete music, visual, and performing arts education program for all schools in the Kyrene School District No. 28*

## KMFA Welcomes Chair-Elect Lesley Malmstrom



### Do you have a new or gently used musical instrument?

Please consider donating the instrument to Kyrene Music and Fine Arts Association. Kyrene welcomes donations of new and gently used musical instruments to assist in building our band and orchestra inventories for our students. For more information, please contact Joy Fogarty 480-783-4112 or [jfogar@kyrene.org](mailto:jfogar@kyrene.org) at the Kyrene District Office.



I first became aware of the Kyrene Music and Fine Arts Association last year after reading our school newsletter. KMFA needed both volunteers and new Board Members. I was joined at my first meeting by several other prospective new members also interested in becoming actively involved in KMFA. A common theme seemed to drive our interest: we all wanted to support a strong fine arts and music curriculum in our Kyrene schools. Many of us had the opportunity to participate in our own fine arts curriculums at our childhood schools and could attest to the positive benefits a music and arts education provided. It is a resounding theme that rings true for many of our parents and educators.

Shortly after that first meeting, Stephanie Angelo, KMFA's chair for the past 6 years, announced she would be retiring from our Board. After many years of devoted service, her daughter is now entering her new high school district and Stephanie will be directing more of her time there. Upon her announcement, the new active members realized there would be many needs to fill. Stephanie's time, dedication, and experience in leading KMFA would not be easily replaced. It is with that in mind, several KMFA members agreed to increase their commitment to this great organization. And it is with pride and commitment to support a complete Music and Fine Arts curriculum in our Kyrene District that I accepted the position of KMFA Chair.

As the incoming Chair, I am reaching out to our members, teachers, and parents to consider attending one of our upcoming meetings and learn more about KMFA. Our active members contribute, on average, a few hours a month of service providing a variety of skills such as graphics design, website design, writing and administrative skills, financial skills, and manpower. You can obtain more information and our upcoming meeting schedule (meetings resume July 2010) at [www.kyrenefinearts.org](http://www.kyrenefinearts.org) Or, please contact us by calling (480)783-4095. Our Board Members would love to share information about how you can become more involved. With your help, our arts education programs in the Kyrene District will continue to benefit from KMFA's involvement.

As we wrap up another successful year, KMFA thanks you for your continued membership support. And I look forward to meeting more members at our upcoming monthly meetings and events next year.

Lesley Malmstrom  
Chair-Elect  
KMFA

## Curtain Call

*(Continued from page 1)*

sons why KMFA is gaining momentum and energy unlike it's experienced in many years.

The vast majority of the work that KMFA does is quietly done behind the scenes. We don't do flashy events with guest artists or spend membership dollars on anything that isn't directly related to arts education in the schools. Just because you don't see something happening doesn't mean it isn't. KMFA wasn't built on press releases and public gatherings. Our mission is to support and advocate for the Fine Arts curriculum in the schools. That may mean assisting with instrument repair, sponsoring supplies, or bringing a workshop into classrooms. What it means to you, as members, is that 100% of every membership dollar is spent on activities and materials within the District related to arts education. Period.

This school year, the project that made the Board most proud was the creation of the Dan Neville Memorial Scholarship for students to take out of state music trips, but don't have the financial means to participate. As a result, this year three middle school students, that qualified for the out of state honors trips, were able to have all expenses

covered for excursions to California for Orchestra, Chorus and Band. You'll see a note that one of them wrote in this newsletter.

I saved the best for last. Your incoming Chair, Lesley Malmstrom, is everything I could have hoped for in a successor, and more. Lesley's career as Vice President at Bank of Arizona gives her the professional chops to progress KMFA into the strongest arm of the Kyrene District. To be successful, associations have to be treated like a business, and she'll do that. Lesley also possesses a great deal of warmth and poise. In other words, the perfect blend; and she'll do KMFA proud.

Among our volunteers, all of whom work full time, we have an artist, graphic designer, web designer, business teacher, and a vice president of a bank. The work they do, on the behalf of KMFA, is as professional and well done as if they were helping their own clients. With the exception of me, all of them have children currently in elementary school. That speaks volumes for their dedication.

During the years I've been KMFA Chair I've maintained two businesses, traveled several times zig-zagging across the states, been a board member of National Speakers Association - Arizona, the Pro-

grams Chair for NSA-AZ, an Editorial Chair for NSA's national Speaker Magazine, Vice Chaired a national conference, sat on two domestic violence councils, and co-authored a true crime memoir which will be published in a few months. Last month I began volunteer work on a committee formed at the request of Justice O'Connor and Attorney General Terry Goddard. As my husband says, I'm "never looking for something to do."

My daughter is entering high school so I'm going with her, so to speak. Now I get to be a Band Booster and dance mom. Because of the efforts between the Tempe Union High School District and Kyrene Elementary District to give students opportunities to perform in concerts and practice marching band together, my daughter already knows her future band mates and her band teacher. How great is that? And it didn't happen by accident. The two Districts work hard collaboratively to make these performance opportunities happen.

We lost Jeannie Sawyer to cancer a few years ago, but I think she would've been pretty happy about all KMFA has done. So as I take my final bow off the KMFA stage I'd like to thank each of you for your membership to KMFA, and

*(Continued on page 6)*



Supporting a complete music, visual, and performing arts education program for all schools in the Kyrene School District No. 28

## Having a “Gallery Night” in Your Own School

By Suzanne Whitaker

Would you like to see your child’s artistic talent in the spotlight? Are you sometimes frustrated with the lack of emphasis on the arts in your child’s learning process? Would you like to bring another art forum into your child’s school? April 30th was the annual “Gallery Night” at Kyrene de la Sierra Elementary, where every single student gets to shine. Absolutely every student was represented with at least one outstanding piece of artwork. And, a representation of fourth and fifth graders had the opportunity to be docents (art educators) for the evening. Sierra has made this an annual event for many years and art teacher, Barb Maki-Tiede, along with help from parent volunteers and funds from the PTO, has streamlined this event so that with prior planning you could implement this in your own school.

Many of the class art projects that Barb Maki-Tiede teaches are based on a particular artist’s style, such as Vincent Van Gogh, or on a certain subject, such as “Landscape.” The students design their own drawing or painting. And, on “Gallery Night,” a group of volunteer students impart the information that they have researched regarding their assigned artist or genre. When art goes (parents and students) view the artwork that dons almost every hallway in the school, a student docent is there to tell them about it.

In preparation at the start of the school year, Barb Maki-Tiede sets up a spread sheet with each teachers name by grade level then she goes through the curriculum and plugs in one project for each class in that grade level, emphasizing a good representation of all mediums. She also estimates how much paper and supplies she will need and lets the PTO know the cost upfront.

As a parent organizer for your school, your jobs would include having paper cut at the district office, making student labels, getting volunteers to help mount the work on paper, and hanging and taking down the work. While a large undertaking, it doesn’t have to be difficult and mounting can be done in small increments and on-site in an empty classroom early in the year. Linda Wade, this year’s organizer for the event had this to say, “The best system is an organized one and having two volunteers from each classroom in place from the start of the school year can really help to keep this on task.” In addition, both Barb and Linda agree that being flexible, patient, and asking for help when you need it makes “Gallery Night” a success for everyone.

When Sierra, a fourth grader, was asked what she thought was most important about “Gallery Night” she said it “gives students the opportunity to take pride in their work.” Beau, a fifth grader,

said learning about all the different kinds of art and artists can “give kids the chance to develop their own kind of art.”

It was unanimous among the student volunteers that they were motivated to be a docent because it looked like fun to talk in front of others and to educate others about the art. Gabrielle, a fourth grader, encouraged other students to be a docent and “Have fun and not be nervous.” And, Samantha, a fifth grader, said, “It feels good to present. You know you did a good job.” At the end of the night, Sedona exclaimed, “A lot of people listened to me!”

There are many extra hours but “It is worth the extra time and effort,” Barb Maki-Tiede says, [because] the benefit for the students is having a special night to celebrate the learning they have been doing in the classroom. They are so proud to bring their parents and show them the work they have done. It is also good for them to see all the other projects and learning students have been doing...at Sierra. It is amazing to see the depth and variety of learning that goes on in our art curriculum when you can see it on display throughout our hallways.”

For more information, contact Barb Maki-Tiede, [btiede@kyrene.org](mailto:btiede@kyrene.org).

## Kyrene's Annual District Art Show A Huge Success

By Suzanne Whitaker

Through the organizational efforts of Cassidy Parker, Arts Teacher at Estrella and Jennifer Pooler, Arts Teacher at Paloma, and Kyrene's committed art teachers, outstanding student artwork from all of Kyrene's elementary and middle grades were on display at the District Office Building from May 3rd to May 7th. Selected students had the opportunity to showcase their creativity and give focus to their skills as an artist based on the curriculum.

At the celebration on May 4th, Superintendent Dr. David Schauer thanked our incredible teachers for their dedication and also spotlighted this year's winner of the "How the Arts Help Develop My Imagination" essay contest, Nina Ziegler, a fifth grader at Sierra Elementary.

Adding to the fine arts atmosphere, Desert Vista High School students from the Byer's String Quartet with conductor Darlene Wedington-Clark, entertained attending parents, students, teachers and administrators by playing several classical pieces.

The Art Show consisted of paintings, drawings, ceramics, weavings and paper constructions based largely on the works of famous artists or genres of art. Over the school year, the art teachers emphasized the key elements of art while the kids interpreted, had fun with the process, and ultimately achieved a tangible work of art for all to enjoy. The art demonstrated everything from color and form to three dimension and whimsy, African masks to Egyptian sarcophaguses. Perhaps what garnered the most attention this year was Lagos Elementary's ceramic slices of cake, based on the art of Wayne Thiebaud. Congratulations to all of Kyrene's young artists!



This year's winner of the "How the Arts Help Develop My Imagination" essay contest, Nina Ziegler, a fifth grader at Sierra Elementary with Dr. Schauer and Barbara Maki Tiede, art teacher.

## The Arizona Band and Orchestra Directors Association (ABODA)

The Arizona Band and Orchestra Directors Association held a workshop on March 10, 2010 at Desert Vista High School in Phoenix, Arizona. All Kyrene middle school band and orchestra groups performed and were given feedback by the judges.

Participating in the music festival was an excellent way to strengthen the instrumental music programs in Kyrene. Music festivals offer the opportunity for performing groups to receive positive comments from experienced professional music educators and all groups who participated in the festival received a rating of a superior, excellent or good. Diane Grieser organized the Kyrene performance and transportation schedules and the Kyrene students enjoyed participating.



Supporting a complete music, visual, and performing arts education program for all schools in the Kyrene School District No. 28

## **“In Their Own Words” A Dan Neville Scholarship Recipient**

I had a great time at the California trip. I learned so much and had so much fun.

One of the most exciting parts was when we performed at Disney Land. The people there were so nice and kept it so fun for use all.

Another great part was the festival of music not only because we got superior, but because the experience was wonderful and I learned so much from it.

Thank you for the KMFA scholarship

Thanks,  
Akimel Middle School  
Orchestra Student

---

## **Band Directors Receive Awards**

Altadena band director, Will Norris, received the O.M. Hartsell Excellence in Teaching Music Award at the Arizona Music Educators Association Luncheon on January 8th at the Mesa Convention Center.

Aprende band teacher, Tracy Werner, was honored by the Arizona Music Educators Association as the “Outstanding Mentor Teacher of the Year.”

Congratulations to both of these outstanding music educators!

## **Curtain Call**

*(Continued from page 3)*

ask this of each of you; help me in saying “bravo” to the Board members and Kyrene employees that work so hard on behalf of KMFA. Come to the Board meetings to meet Lesley and the rest of the “cast” of Board members. If you aren’t able to commit on a long term basis, try to find an hour or two to volunteer for KMFA at a school event, or to assist on a project. Whoever said “many hands make light work” was definitely singing our tune. Maybe before you know it, it’ll be six years too!

Stephanie Angelo



Please go to the KMFA web site at [www.kyrenefinearts.org](http://www.kyrenefinearts.org) to learn more and download the mail-in membership form. Your children’s fine arts experience, exposure and education depend on it!

## The Kyrene Music & Fine Arts Association Board of Directors



The KMFA Board of Directors. Back row, left to right: Dr. David Schauer, Superintendent Kyrene Schools, Paige Peterson, KMFA Board Treasurer, Jason Boles, KMFA Board & Graphic Designer, Joy Fogarty, District Liaison, Musette Steger, KMFA Board & Web Designer. Front row, left to right: Patty Weegar, Executive Director Instructional Services, Suzanne Whitaker, KMFA Board Secretary, Stephanie Angelo (standing) KMFA Chair, Lesley Malmstrom Vice-Chair.



*Supporting a complete music, visual, and performing arts education program for all schools in the Kyrene School District No. 28*

## The KMFA would like to extend a special thank you to all our Members

---

### Patron Members

Sharon & Joe Barletta  
Kyle & Jenn Blackwell  
Sandi Doehman  
Jan Gerl  
Maria Green  
Claudio & Serisa Ianitelli  
Nirmala Jagadish  
Peter Kim  
Lei Lei  
Brody & Sandy Lines  
Roline Luo  
Angela & Fraboni Maddox  
Carolyn Matthews  
Haidyn Moroz  
Mark Naumann  
Mark & Kim Orth  
Kimberly Penez  
Jayne & Todd Peterson  
Ben Porritt  
James & Andrea Rice  
Joe Sawinski  
Laurie Selby  
Fran Umetader

### Lifetime Members

Paula & Burlon Anderson  
Shannon & Ken Beach  
Alice Burba  
JoEllen Butler  
Wei Chen  
Jodi & Yani Deros  
Dawn & Erik Erlandson  
Megan Golla  
Jerry & Daun Hartrim  
Ward & Darlene Helm  
Scott Hoppa  
Jim & Annette Kenehan  
Sandra Lehmann  
Mark & Kelly Lischue  
Lesley Malmstrom  
Courtney McGinnis  
Amy Perciballi\*  
William Perciballi\*  
Kathy & Dave Sweet\*  
Patricia Weegar  
Kyle Zeigler  
Buchanan Music

\*= Generously exceeded amount



Kyrene Music and Fine Arts Association  
Furlong Education Center  
8700 South Kyrene Road  
Tempe, AZ 85284-2108

Phone: (480) 783-4095  
E-mail: [info@kyrenefinearts.org](mailto:info@kyrenefinearts.org)

---

[www.kyrenefinearts.org](http://www.kyrenefinearts.org)

---

The Kyrene Music and Fine Arts Association (KMFA) is a non-profit organization comprised of parents, community members and fine arts educators in support of a complete music and fine arts education program for all schools in the Kyrene School District No. 28.

Kyrene Music and Fine Arts Association

Kyrene Music and Fine Arts Association  
Furlong Education Center  
8700 South Kyrene Road  
Tempe, AZ 85284-2108