

FLUTE NOTES

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2017



TFC Calendar

Events

FEB 1, 15	Rehearsals
MAR 1, 8	Rehearsals
MAR 13	Dinner Party with Carol Wincenc, 6 pm (see President's Letter)
MAR 22, 29	Rehearsals
APR 2	Performance at 9 am service for Our Savior's Lutheran (call time is 8:30 am)
APR 2	Concert , 3 pm at Our Savior's Lutheran (1200 N. Campbell Ave.); call time is 2 pm; dress is black slacks & shoes with TFC polo shirt
APR 12, 19, 26	Rehearsals
MAY 3	Members' Recital , 7 pm at St. Philip's in the Hills Church, Bloom Music Center
MAY 10, 17, 24	Possible rehearsals for Mt. Lemmon concert
MAY 28	Possible Performance on Mt. Lemmon, 11 am

Rehearsals meet in Bloom Music Center at St. Philip's In The Hills Episcopal Church, Campbell Avenue at River Road. Please bring a stand and plan to arrive 10 minutes early so that you can get set up/warmed up/talk to your friends! Send any questions to Juan Montoya at jdmv1@hotmail.com. Rehearsals run 7:10-8:40 pm.

Roster Included

TFC's latest roster is included as an attachment with this newsletter.

Got News?

The next Flute Notes deadline is April 1. Send your news to sandyschwoebel@aol.com.

President's Letter

Spring is just around the corner, and TFC is busier than ever. We had three wonderful sight reading sessions in January which introduced a lot of new literature. And the word about our Club must be getting around town; in the past few weeks we've welcomed at least five new members!

In the midst of all the rehearsals and practicing, your board has planned a social event to help you relax and enjoy your flute life. Fabulous flutist **Carol Wincenc** is coming to Tucson to perform at the Tucson Chamber Music Festival, and we have arranged for her to come to dinner!

TFC is hosting a flute-themed potluck dinner with Carol as our special guest. This will be held on Monday, March 13, from 6 pm to 8:30 pm at my house (925 N. 3rd Avenue). What is a flute-themed potluck? Think flautas, champagne flutes, and other flute-shaped foods! (Of course, we will need some "regular" shaped food as well.)

Soon you will receive an email with the invitation, and be sure to respond if you want to attend so that we can plan — you will be assigned a category of dish to prepare (such as main course, vegetable, dessert, etc). Spouses/partners are welcome to attend as well.

Carol Wincenc is not only an amazing flutist, but a wonderful person as well and I'm sure you'll enjoy getting to know her. Many thanks to Conral Paul for helping to set this event up! You can learn more about Carol on page 6.

TFC is a small Club and we are always looking for an extra pair of hands to help out. Currently, we are searching for a **Publicity person** (to send press releases, make up posters, etc.). If you can help, please contact me or another board member.

And don't forget, TFC is a tax-deductible organization. We're now entering our 47th year, and your **donation** (of any size) will help to keep us going for the next 47! Simply mail it to TFC at P.O. Box 1293, Tucson, AZ 85702. Many thanks!

— Sandy Schwoebel, President

Spotlight on: Jan Smith

by Jerry Ervin

She's often the first to arrive at a TFC rehearsal, and is usually among the last to leave. Meet one of TFC's newer members, Jan Smith, who has stepped forward this year to serve as TFC's librarian. It's a job that requires dedication, organization, and tenacity. (And she's quick to state that she appreciates having a lot of help!)

Not quite a native to the area (but pretty close), Jan came to Tucson with her family at the age of two. It happened in a roundabout way: Jan's father was on his way home to Coffeeville, KS (northeast of Tulsa) after serving in the Navy during World War II. A brief stopover in Tucson made a favorable impression on him, so when a job change materialized soon after Jan was born, selecting a place to go was easy: "My parents and my aunt and uncle all moved here. They opened up an auto repair business—Phillips 66—on S. 6th Avenue, just south of Ajo Way. There's now a Whataburger on that lot."

Jan's parents absolutely loved Tucson. So did Jan; you can hear it in her voice when she harks back to the days when Tucson was a comparatively small town. (In 1950 the population was around 45,000.) Jan recalls that almost every weekend the family would go picnicking, camping, or fishing. "We were pretty poor, although I never knew it." Jan and her brothers



would also go swimming in Wetmore Pool. "I think it was where Tucson Mall is now," she says.

In Tucson, Jan first attended Government Heights (now Hollinger) Elementary School on W. Ajo Way, while her brothers attended Wakefield Junior High (now Wakefield Middle School, where, ironically, Jan is now a Literacy Connects volunteer). "The kids played. We played kick the can, we played baseball, we did all these fun kinds of activities."

When Jan was ten, the family moved from Tucson's south side to the east side. There her parents established Orville B. Smith Auto

Service near Speedway and Craycroft. And Jan remembers another change: "The girls were playing with Barbie dolls," she laments. "All these indoor kinds of things. Nobody played outside like we did on the south side."

Jan started flute in the fourth grade: "That great old TUSD music program," she muses. "They had so many clarinetists that they tried to encourage me to play flute. It didn't make any difference to me. And I just loved it." Her parents, not at all musical, rented a flute for her. "But when my father would come home, I would put my flute away. I wouldn't play around him; I didn't think he liked it." She never had any private lessons until adulthood.

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Even without active home encouragement for her fluting, Jan nevertheless made strong progress with it. "And then when I went to Rincon [High School], that's when I really got excited about playing." Indeed: She played in the band and the orchestra, and her father got her "a really, really nice Haynes."

Jan confesses that while she loved playing, she did not enjoy marching band. She recalls one year when the Rincon football team seemed headed for the state championship: "We had to keep playing and playing and playing and marching and marching and marching. Secretly, I was hoping that we would get beaten, but I couldn't tell any of my friends that."

In addition to playing in the Rincon band and orchestra, Jan also played in the All-City and All-State bands and was selected by audition to play in the "National Band," which took her to California. "I was shocked when I got chosen. I was scared to death." And no wonder: She was the only Rincon player accepted for the honor.

And what of that really, really nice Haynes? "My father thought I would never play after I graduated; he thought it would just lie around and the pads would dry out." So he suggested they sell it. "Instead of me saying, 'Dad, I really want to keep it, and I'll pay you for it,' I said 'OK.' And then I didn't have a flute."

The University of Arizona was Jan's next stop. "I majored in education," actually pursuing two majors: "I did a bachelor's program for K-8 teaching and at the same time I did a master's program for deaf education. So I completed both of those programs while I was working on my bachelor's degree."

Whence Jan's interest in working with the deaf? "While I was doing the regular education program, a professor from the special ed department came and talked to one of my classes about a federal grant program providing funding for universities to train future teachers of children with special needs." It was the mid-1960s, and children with special needs were finally getting an opportunity for education. There were very few teachers trained to serve the needs of the special education students (e.g., those presenting with deafness, blindness, developmental delays, behavioral disabilities, etc.), but as Jan soon

found out, money was available to address that issue, too.

Jan pauses for a moment, then continues: "Actually, my first contact with special needs had been with my uncle, who was mentally retarded (as it was called then). He was probably educable, but he was not allowed to go to school. It broke my heart to observe the discomfort many people had in being around him, around someone who was different. Even as a little kid, I knew that was wrong."

Upon graduation from the U of A, Jan immediately started working at the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB), and also started taking classes for—and ultimately earning—a master's degree in special education with emphasis on linguistics and reading.

Over a career spanning 39 years, Jan worked at ASDB and the U of A Department of Special Education, during which time she held increasingly responsible positions such as, for example: teacher of the deaf; program director for the hearing impaired and deaf education teacher preparation at the U of A; principal of the ASDB high school; and principal of the school's vocational education program. Along the way she developed an interest in an entirely new career field: Low Vision Therapy.

Lacking local support for the specialized training she knew she needed to enter that field, Jan found herself making calls around the nation to learn about grants and programs that might be open to her. Her tenacity paid off: she landed a spot at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in Philadelphia in its master's program in Vision Therapy.

Jan can relate a number of interesting and heartwarming accounts of some of the experiences she has had working with individuals with visual impairments. For example, once she was doing an internship at a Veterans Administration hospital in Birmingham, AL. "This one guy, he had very low vision," and Jan was teaching him to use a television/monitor setup to provide enlarged images of things he might want to read or see more clearly. Casting about for something significant for him to look at, Jan asked, "OK, pull out your wallet. What do you have in there?" He produced some pictures of children. "I said,

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'Oh, are these pictures of your grandkids?' He said, 'Yeah, but I've never been able to see them.'" Jan showed him how to put the pictures into the apparatus and turn it on. The images appeared, and the reaction was immediate: "He sobbed and sobbed and sobbed and sobbed. He said, 'It's the first time I've seen my grandchildren's faces.'"

After completing her training program as a low-vision therapist, Jan returned to ASDB to work in that same field, which she did for the final 14 years of her career there.

After earning a "double bachelor's" (as Jan describes it) and two master's degrees, and while continuing to work full time, Jan somehow was able also to complete a Ph.D. at the U of A in Special Education and School Psychology, with concentration in visual impairment.

Since retiring at age 60, Jan has been able to devote increasing amounts of time to many activities that she enjoys. A longtime hiker and cyclist, she got seriously into cycling, doing 60-80 miles per week. This activity led to a 45-day cross-country cycling trip (Astoria, Oregon to New Hampshire), on which Jan made new friends. That in turn led to substantial ongoing international travel (Europe, Egypt, Laos, Colombia, the Galapagos), and more cycling with those friends.

All that physical activity has not come without cost: "I've had a lot of accidents, I've had a lot of repairs" including (to name a few) a broken pelvis that led to a hip replacement, a crushed right shoulder, and a torn rotator cuff that occurred when she was hiking. "I'm kind of a bionic woman," she admits.

And music? Prior to working on her Ph.D., Jan had bought a student model flute and played for a short while in the Arizona Symphonic Winds, in which TFC member Karen Ward-Parente was also playing. More recently, she has been taking piano lessons with Raymond Ryder (she'd actually played a little piano when she was much younger), and she also took a number of music courses at Pima Community College with TFC member Carol Christofferson. A further manifestation of this resurgent musical interest is that Jan has become an ardent concertgoer, frequently attending the opera, TSO performances, and chamber music events.

It's hard to see how Jan could cram any more activities into her already full life, but we're glad she's come back to TFC and has taken on the librarianship. Thanks, Jan.

(And stick around, won't you?)



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Young Artist Competition

The Southern Arizona Symphony Orchestra is hosting a Young Artist Competition for students ages 13-18. The deadline to apply is February 11. More details can be found at www.sasomusic.org/ycc.htm, or call (520) 308-6226.

The Flute Loops Play Around

The “Flute Loops” is a loosely formed small group of flutists who enjoy playing together and at various functions in Tucson. We are all members of TFC. We accept no payment for playing, but donations are welcome and go to support TFC.

We play for many things, but the only consistent gig we have is the anniversary of “Meet Me at Maynard’s,” a walk/run event with music which occurs each April. At the first annual event in 2010 there were only three who played; last year there were eight of us performing!!

The holiday period is always a busy time for us, as we perform at a variety of assisted living and nursing home facilities. This year our group donated performances of traditional Christmas and Hanukah tunes at several locations. We invite audience members to sing along, if they wish. It

is amazing to see the pleasure on their faces as they hear the music. We receive no remuneration for this activity, but the joy we see is payment enough!

For our most recent engagement, The Flute Loops played during intermission for a Tucson Symphony Orchestra concert on January 8, 2017. Members performing were Heather, Lisa, Rebecca, Judy, Karen, Laurie and Deb.

As stated earlier, this is a loosely formed group, and we welcome new members. If you are interested in playing with the Flute Loops, please let one of us know!! We plan to play again for the annual “Meet Me at Maynards” event in April, and we hope to perform at the Members’ Recital in May. Rehearsals will be prior to those dates.

—Judy Bolt



The Flute Loops did some community outreach for TFC by performing at a TSO intermission on January 8, 2017 at Catalina Foothills High School. L to R, front row: Karen Ward-Parente, Laurie Mering, Debra Jacobson. L to R, back row: Heather McKeag, Lisa Behr, Rebecca Malone, Judy Bolt.

Carol Wincenc

Carol Wincenc is coming to dinner! You can find more about that event in the President's Letter on page 1.

Carol is an American flutist, based in New York City, who is well known as a soloist and chamber musician. Coming to renown after winning the Walter Naumburg Flute Competition in 1978, she now teaches at the Juilliard School and Stony Brook University. She has altered the face of flute music by commissioning many, many works, and in 2011 received a Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Flute Association. You can read more about her (and hear her play) at <http://www.carolwincenc.com/>



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