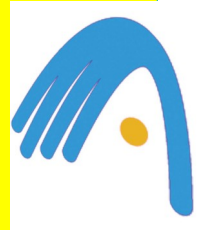


Newsletter of the
Fountain Hills
Cultural and Civic
Association

Expressions!



<http://fountainhillssca.org/>

Spring, 2010

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**2009-2010 FHCCA
Officers**

President:
Boyce Baldwin
Vice President:
Jenny Willigrod
Secretary:
Betty Pantuso
Treasurer: Jerry Miles

Message from the President:

Spring is here! People are enjoying the weather and everything Fountain Hills has to offer! If you're bored in Fountain Hills, you are just not trying!

Over the last few weeks, the Fountain Hills Cultural and Civic Association has sponsored so many fun, exciting and enriching programs. The In-Home Concert series – always a hit and always sold out! It's good to be a FHCCA member and get first shot at those series tickets, they sell out quickly. The Piano Competition continues to grow and give extremely talented young musicians a chance to compete for prize money, and it allows all of us the opportunity to experience some of the finest talent in Arizona. Also, the Public Forums is always interesting and topical. The Town Council Candidate forum gave us a great overview of the candidates and their positions. The Community Band is a must see! They are so good in such a short amount of time. Look for more performances starting in the fall. Then there's the Community Chorus – better than ever! People comment that each concert is more wonderful than the last.



The Greening of Downtown continues to move ahead. More and more people and groups are getting on board and this project will really improve and enhance Fountain Park and the Downtown area. The FHCCA Board has chosen this project as our Arizona Centennial project, and it will be a great way to celebrate Arizona's 100th birthday! "Can You Dig It?" is not only the theme of the project, but it's a video too! If you haven't seen it yet, go to the FHCCA website <http://fountainhillssca.org/index.html> and visit the Greening of Downtown page. From there you can view the video and see many of your friends and neighbors.....and members of the FHCCA Board of Directors dancing some of their best moves (???) for the camera!

In the coming weeks we have two events I would personally like to invite you to attend. On Friday April 23, join us for a fun fundraiser to benefit the Public Art Committee at the home of Sheila and Wally Nichols. They have generously opened their home for a "Margarita & Taco Bar Party". For \$25 per person come and enjoy food and drink along with entertainment by The OKAY Chorale, who is back by popular demand. As an added bonus, our very own town manager Rick Davis has promised to bring his banjo, and that man can really play!

On Tuesday May 18th we will have the Annual FHCCA Meeting and dinner at Appian Way. Election of the Board of Directors will take place, and the committee chairs will highlight their activities over the past year. Everyone is welcome at the meeting although dinner will cost \$25 per person. The Appian Way always provides great food and is a wonderful host for this annual event. Please make plans to attend and see what your Fountain Hills Cultural and Civic Association has been up to this year. To attend the May 18th Annual Dinner Meeting or the April 23rd Margarita & Taco Bar Party, please contact Sheila Nichols at srnichols@earthlink.net or (480) 837-0209.

Sincerely,

Boyce Baldwin
FHCCA President

The FHCCA's Fourth Annual Piano Competition

Five piano competition finalists each performed two selections from memory on Sunday, March 14, 2010 at the Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church, as they competed for a total of \$4,500 in cash prizes. Selections were by J.S. Bach, Chopin, Brahms and Beethoven. Our fourth annual state-wide competition was chaired by Alice Brovan.

The junior division competitors were **Jennifer Chiang**, 14, from Tempe; **Rebecca Sheng**, 13½, from Chandler; and **Scott Sun**, 14, from Gilbert. Ms. Chiang won first place and was awarded \$750. Ms. Sheng won \$500 and Mr. Sun received \$250.

In the senior division, competitors were **Stephanie Chen**, 16½, from Scottsdale; and **David Chou**, 17, of Mesa; Chou won first place and \$2,000. Ms. Chen was awarded \$1,000. Two years ago, at the age of 15, David Chou also won first prize in the senior division of the Fountain Hills competition.

Robert Hamilton and Sam Rotman served as judges for this year's finals. Both men are internationally respected pianists and recording artists. Hamilton, an official Steinway Artist, has given master classes throughout the world and is currently on the music faculty at ASU. Rotman made his performance debut at age 16 with the San Antonio Symphony before 6,000 people. He is a graduate of Julliard and the winner of five piano competitions in Europe and the United States.

Piano teachers represented by the finalists were Walter Cosand, Aemilia Teguh, Tehling Chiang, Rosemary Stelmach and Fei Xu.

Steinway of Phoenix provided a 9-foot Steinway concert grand piano for the event. A reception, served by members of the Four Peaks Women's Club, was held after the competition allowing the audience to meet the students and their parents and teachers.

The five finalists were selected from 16 applicants after two rounds of elimination. The first round consisted of tapes or CD's sent to Fountain Hills and judged by committee members Alice Brovan, Lois McElligott and Barbara Wyman. The second round was a live performance at Steinway of Phoenix and was judged by Barbara Spoelman and Stella Sapperstein, both Nationally Certified Teachers of Music.

Sponsors who provided prize money were Sid and Carol Coates, Rachel Dirkse, Fountain Hills Investment Company, Al and Sharon Koehlinger, Kiwanis Club of Fountain Hills and Bev Belury and John Hersey.

Other committee members this year were Carol Coates, Joan Evans, Jean Linzer, Jackie Miles, Edith Roberts, Sandi Thompson and Lee Van Camp.

Mr. Chou and Ms. Chiang will perform at the home of Jerry and Jackie Miles on Sunday afternoon, October 17, in a benefit recital for the 2011 Piano Competition. The public is invited.



Annual Fountain Hills Choir Fest

On **April 11, 2010** the FHCCA is again sponsoring the Annual Fountain Hills Choir Fest. This year it will be hosted by the Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church Choir. Joining them will be choirs from Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran, the Fountains United Methodist, Trinity Lutheran, the Rio Verde Community Church, and the Fountain Hills Community Chorus. The program starts at 2:00 p.m. with each choir singing two selections. At the close of the program all the choirs will join together to sing John Rutter's beautiful and inspirational, "For The Beauty of the Earth".



The public is invited, and there is no admission charge. There will be a reception following the program. The **Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church** is located at 13001 Fountain Hills Blvd. Join us on April 11th!

Public Art Committee

Sandi Thompson, Chair

The Public Art Committee of FHCCA (Fountain Hills Cultural & Civic Association) continues to seek donations, large and small, (we really like those large ones) to provide funds for future acquisitions of works of public art. We have a catalogue of several dozen pieces we would like to purchase, in all price ranges, from \$3-5,000 up to \$60,000 and more. This is really a great way to celebrate a major birthday or anniversary, to honor children or grandchildren or to remember a loved one.



We have set our sights on acquiring a major piece by Estes Park artist **Victor Issa** called ***Power of Thought***. Mr. Issa was the artist who did “**Sports Buddies**” located on a pedestal in the Community Center lobby.

In the near future we hope to reach an understanding that will permit us to have this piece on loan for an extended period of time while we find donors for the work. This was the process we used when we purchased ***An All Day Job*** near the Fountain Park performance pad.

Power of Thought is a ten foot tall piece, mounted on a 42" high base. It depicts many of the world's outstanding historical inventions and creations, ranging from the pyramids to the

Super Sonic Transport. It would be a magnificent addition to our collection. It would probably be located somewhere in the Community Center courtyard. If you are interested in helping us acquire this piece, please call Sandi at **480-816-1298** or Jerry Miles at **480-837-3214**.

Oh yes, if you haven't taken advantage of the monthly sculpture art walks, jointly sponsored by FHCCA, Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Fountain Hills, you should do so. The last one of this season was held on Saturday, April 3rd. These walks give you a much better understanding of our public collection that ranks with the best in the Southwestern United States.

PUBLIC ART FUNDRAISER

MARGARITA AND TACO BAR PARTY

(and other stuff to drink like beer, wine & sodas)

At the home of Wally & Sheila Nichols

16825 (A) Hawk Drive

Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

Friday, April 23, 2010 from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

ADMISSION: \$25.00 PER PERSON

By Popular Request - We're bringing back

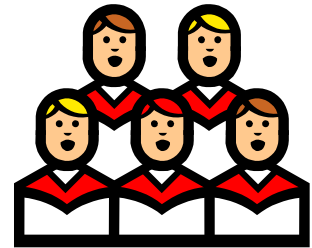
THE OK CHORALE

(And Rick Davis has promised to bring his banjo)

Send us a check, or pay at the door, but please RSVP to srnichols@earthlink.net or call 480-837-0209

Fountain Hills Community Chorus In Concert

The Fountain Hills Community Chorus, under the direction of **Matthew Frable**, performed its annual Spring Concerts on Sunday, March 28 and Monday, March 29 to large and enthusiastic audiences. The concert, entitled "**Friends at the Fountain**," featured many Broadway musical favorites, including "Getting to Know You" from *The King and I*, "Bring Him Home" from *Les Miserables*, "One" from *A Chorus Line*, and "You'll Never Walk Alone" from *Carousel*, to name just a few.



The Community Chorus, founded in 1991, is a non-audition group that sings in four-part harmony and is open to anyone who loves to sing. There are two main concerts every year, a Holiday Concert in December and a Spring Concert in late March or early April. Additionally, the group performs for various community functions, as it recently did for a Rotary Club luncheon earlier this month.

Rehearsals are held every Monday evening from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Fountain Hills Community Center. Registration and the first rehearsal for the Fall 2010 session will be held on **Monday, September 13 at 6:30 pm**. Members may register at any of the first three rehearsals.

On Sunday, April 11 the Chorus will participate in the **Annual Choral Festival** being held at the Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church at 2:00 p.m. Several local choral groups and church choirs will each perform two songs from their repertoires, after which all singers join together to perform one final piece. Admission to the event is free and everyone is welcome.

Successful 2010 In-Home Concert Series

The In-Home Concerts Classical Series featured all new artists this season.

Arizona native and international opera star, **Kathleen Berger** brought us a lovely selection of classical songs and finished her program with four songs by Gershwin.

The Espresso Trio, consisting of piano, violin and cello entertained us with a lovely selection of classical compositions.

From Led Zepplin to Macedonian Folk Songs . . . from the Beatles to Rimsky-Korsakov . . . from Gershwin to their own ground-breaking compositions, the music of the **Richter-Uzur Duo** made for a very entertaining afternoon. Fanfare Magazine, in describing the **Richter-Uzur Duo** states:

"Here is serious musicianship that doesn't take itself too seriously – an illusive combination, but skillfully realized . . . Bravo, and bravo again!"



For the **Jazz Series**, we were entertained by some returning artists and some artists new to our concerts.

Our ticket holders enjoyed the return of **Joe Bourne's** jazzy vocals and found a new chemistry with the addition of Judy Roberts' piano and vocal duets.

The music of **The Armand Boatman Trio** included the artistry of Joe Corral on flute and piccolo and had the house rocking!

Our series ended a successful season with a jazz concert by the award-winning **Nuance**.

Fountain Hills Community Band

In November 2009, the Fountain Hills Community Band started weekly rehearsals under the direction of Dale Larson. The band has over 40 enthusiastic members, some who are professional musicians, and is comprised of adults up to age 82, two high school students, three players from Rio Verde, as well as musicians representing Phoenix, Scottsdale, and Cave Creek



The first public appearance for the band was as an entry in the 2009 Fountain Hills Thanksgiving Day Parade followed by concerts for Pony Express Days and the Munch & Music series at the Community Center, and most recently at Rio Verde Country Club. The band has received standing ovations for each concert and responded by playing an encore piece. We are so proud of the impact the band has made in such a short while. We will celebrate our successful first performance season with a picnic at McDowell Mountain Park in early April.



Future performances in Fountain Hills may include playing for Veteran's Day and other military observances, our annual entry in the Fountain Hills Thanksgiving Day Parade, seasonal events such as at Easter and Christmas, and other special concerts as time allows. The band performs free of charge at multiple venues while individual and corporate donations are greatly appreciated!

If you are interested in joining the band or have questions about the band, please contact the director, **Dale Larson**, at dalelars56@hotmail.com.

Arbor Day Project 2010 Celebration

April 30, 2010 - 6:00 P.M. Fountain Park (Performance Pad)

The Greening of Downtown committee will be creating two areas within Fountain Park to celebrate Arbor Day on April 30th. These areas will demonstrate how the proposed landscape plan will provide much needed shade and beautify our landmark park. Your donation dollars are needed now more than ever to implement this outstanding park enhancement plan.



The goal set by the volunteer committee is to receive donation pledges for 700 leaves in 2010. These leaves will be displayed in a prominent location either in the Fountain Park or in the downtown median on the Avenue of the Fountains. The location will be dependant on the number of leaves purchased. Please consider making your 2010 tax deduction donation to this project now to ensure that the demonstration areas will be outstanding examples of the landscaping vision. Donation opportunities are included in the flyer on the Website.

We are fortunate to live in Fountain Hills. Our sense of pride and "yes we can" attitudes are the heartstrings which weave us together as a community. I hope you will be as excited as I am about this project and will be a part of Fountain Hills "Greening of Downtown." I "dig it" and hope you will too! For more information on this project and to view the "Can You Dig It?" community video, please visit <http://www.fountainhillsscca.org/>.

A Nominating Committee has been appointed by President Boyce Baldwin

The committee's report will be given at the April 20th Board meeting. The Nominating Committee will suggest 6 individuals to fill the seats of board members whose terms are expiring as of June 30. The committee will also nominate a board member to represent the new Community Band. Directors' terms of three years are staggered so that approximately one third of the terms end each year.

The slate of nominees will be presented to the membership at the Annual Membership Meeting in May, where nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

The Nominating Committee will also recommend a slate of officers which the new board will vote on at it's June meeting.