

Patience Myers, President

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Linda Coney, Editor
Joan Wade, VP Communications

February, 2014

The purpose of this organization, operating under the auspices of the Houston Symphony society, is to promote quality music education and enrichment programs for area students and to promote music appreciation in the Bay Area through an affiliation with the Houston Symphony and other resources.



Gustavo Bianchi and Feng Zhao

to Perform for Houston Symphony League Bay Area
February 12, 2014

Pianist, Dr. Gustavo Bianchi , and cellist, Dr Feng Zhao, will be the guest artists for the February 12, 2014 meeting of the Houston Symphony League Bay Area (HSLBA) at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Nassau Bay. Socializing will begin at 10:00 am followed by a brief business meeting and the program.

Dr. Bianchi has enjoyed a distinguished career, having performed across the United States, South America and Asia. A recipient of many awards, Dr. Bianchi earned his doctorate at the University of Texas in Austin, where he has served in an adjunct faculty position. His master's and bachelor's degrees are from Florida State University. Teaching as well as performing have been an essential part of his life. He founded the Northwest Hills Chamber Music Festival and was recently awarded the "Outstanding Pre-college Teaching Achievement Award" for the city of Austin.

Dr. Feng Zhao was born in Tianjin, China where he began playing the cello at age ten. At age thirteen, he gave his first public performance and a year later, his solo performance was broadcast through the Central Radio Station of Beijing, China. He went on to study at Shanghai Conservatory, earned a master's degree at Kent State University and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Texas in Austin.

Bianchi and Zhao will perform sonatas for cello and piano by Cesar Frank and Dmitri Shostakovich at the HSLBA meeting. Guests are welcome at HSLBA's monthly meetings and membership is open to those who want to support or promote music of the Houston Symphony. Contact Membership Chair Pat Biddle at 281-488-2346, or visit the Web at www.hslba.org.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE February, 2014

To continue telling you a little about the HSLBA Board members, Joan Wade, VP of Communications, has had a very interesting life. In fact, there was a recent article in the *Bay Area Houston Magazine* about Joan's degree in Government; Joan worked summers on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, for such impressive figures as Senator Estes Kefauver. After Graduation she worked for Senator Wayne Morse where she was able to attend the McCarthy hearings and meet many politicians. She lived this exciting life in the Capitol until 1966 when her husband Lew accepted a job for NASA JSC. She was elected to the Nassau Bay Water Board in 1967 prior to incorporation, and after incorporation she was elected to the first City Council in 1970. In 1975, Joan was one of the five founders of the Houston Symphony League and has served in many Board positions. She continues her volunteer service to HSLBA, which ranges from writing press releases to seeking home selections for the "A Day by the Bay" Home Tour.

The VP of Education, currently Nina McGlashan, holds one of the most important positions in our organization. She is responsible for all the logistics connected with getting musicians scheduled for the 26 CCISD elementary schools, then getting Musician Group A to School B, on the right day and time, with guides in the school and HSLBA members to introduce the musicians to the children. Nina also comes through with this enormous job, but her 33 years of teaching elementary school probably gave her all the strength she needs for this demanding job. Some interesting facts about Nina: she met her husband, Bob, when she was going to college for an MBA, she taught the late Mexican singer, Selena, in first grade in Lake Jackson, and she rode in the Goodyear Blimp. An accomplished woman indeed!

PLEASE buy tickets for the Houston Symphony, coming to Gloria Dei on Saturday, March 15 at 7:30 pm. All tickets cost \$20 each and are available at HSLBA meetings, Nassau Postal and online at: HoustonSymphony.org. See you at the Symphony, and NOT in Downtown Houston, either.

Patience

IMPORTANT DATES, SPRING 2014

Wednesday, Feb 12	HSLBA General Meeting	10:00 am
Wednesday, March 12	HSLBA General Meeting	10:00 am
Saturday, March 15	Houston Symphony Concert	7:30 pm Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Tickets available at HSLBA meetings and at www.houstonsymphony.org

Saturday, March 22	HSLBA Home Tour	12 noon – 5:00 pm
Sunday, March 23	HSLBA Home Tour	12 noon – 5:00 pm

Tickets available at HSLBA meetings and at local merchants

Wednesday, April 9	HSLBA General Meeting	10:00 am
Wednesday, May 14	HSLBA General Meeting	10:00 am

SAVE TWO MARCH DATES
SPONSORED BY THE HOUSTON SYMPHONY LEAGUE BAY AREA

Saturday, March 15, 7:30pm—Frank Huang, the concertmaster for the Houston Symphony will lead a forty piece string section of the Houston Symphony in a concert at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Mr. Huang will play a double role in the program, both as leader and as soloist. He will enthrall you with his brilliant technique, precision, and artistry in Tchaikovsky's *Serenade for Strings* and Vivaldi's eternal masterpiece—*The Four Seasons*. Tickets for the event are \$20, and may be purchased from Houston Symphony League Bay Area members, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church between Sunday morning worship services, Nassau Postal at 957 Nassau Pwky., the general meeting of HSLBA on February 12 at 10:00 am, and at the door. Tickets are limited.

Saturday and Sunday, March 22-23—The HSLBA annual “Day by the Bay” home tour will be March 22-23 from noon-5pm. The highlight of the tour is the magnificent Jim West Mansion on NASA Pwky. at Space Center, which was built in 1929 and retains some of the original craftsmanship. The ceiling, views from the top of the stairs, the woodwork and Venetian tiles are remnants of that era in the Italian Renaissance elevation. There are Art Deco designs in the bathrooms, sun and Palm rooms.

Go across the bridge to the Bay Area Museum at the back of Clear Lake Park. The “Little White Church in the Park” was the original Webster Presbyterian Church built in 1911, and has recently undergone renovations. It is a museum and also an event center.

Four homes are on the tour and offer “newer, younger” materials, designs, elevations, and they also suffered damages by Ike and have had renovations. Three are in Timber Cove and one is in Bayview. There will be lots of opportunity for your imagination to think “I could do that at my house!”

Tickets for all six structures are \$15/\$20 at the door and are available from: HSLBA members; general meetings on February 12 and March 12 at 10:00am at Gloria Dei; Unexpected Interiors in Historic League City; Casanova's Downfall; Arlan's Market; Marci's Consignments, Home Décor and Antiques; Island Furniture, and Nassau Postal.

A pre-tour party is Friday evening, March 21. Cost is \$75 which includes the tour.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM AUSTIN WOMEN'S SYMPHONY LEAGUE

The Women's Symphony League of Austin, Texas has asked me to send out the following announcement regarding their annual fund-raiser, the Jewel Ball.

This is the 60th annual Jewel Ball, to be held this year on Saturday, October 18, 2014. Young ladies and their escorts representing symphony organizations from TASO member cities will be formally presented as Visiting Jewel Couples, along with the Austin Royal Court. Jewel Court participants must be at least a sophomore in college, but not yet graduated as of the fall of 2014. The presentation fee for each Visiting Jewel Couple is \$4,000.00. For more information please contact Julie Baselice, Jewel Committee Chair at 512-380-0419 or julieb@baselice.com.

PETTING ZOO

A big THANK YOU to Vicki Buxton, Jim Hall, Karen and Jon Akkerman, and Nina McGlashan for taking the instrument petting zoo to Boys and Girls Harbor in La Porte. The students/residents were from 5-14 yrs. old. They seemed to really enjoy handling and blowing the brass and playing the violins and percussion. At first they were afraid of the brass, but delighted when all were able to play a few notes. Thank you for helping these children have a hands-on experience with the instruments--a fun education in learning.

All meetings will be held at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 18220 Upper Bay Road, Houston, TX 77058, with coffee served at 10:00 and the meeting beginning at 10:30 a.m., followed by the program.

Board Meeting: February 17

Bay Area Community Center 9:30 am coffee and 10:00 am Meeting
5002 E. NASA Parkway
Seabrook, TX 77586

**Newsletter editor
Linda Coney**

Articles for March newsletter due on or before MARCH 1, 2014

Please send articles to Joan Wade, Editor