

MUSIC FOR MINORS II

37141 Second Street,
Fremont, CA 94536
(510)733-1189

www.musicforminors2.org

May-June 2010



Yes, despite the budget cuts, the arts live on because they must!

May Highlight

Raleys Reach Grant Contest

April 21 - May 12
Vote for MFMII

New Docent Recruitment

May 16, 10:00 - 4:00 pm
MFMII Booth
Arts & Crafts in Shinn Park
1251 Peralta Blvd., Fremont

School Site MFMII Performances

June Highlights

Year-End Recognition Dinner

"What a Year! Let's Celebrate"

Friday, June 4 6:30 pm

Sandy Shimkus Home
40370 Canyon Heights Dr., Fremont 94539

Help honor all Docents, Board Members,
Liaisons, Staff! Families Welcome

Principals and Prospective Docents also invited

Classroom teacher quotes.....



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SHOWCASE 2010

President's Message

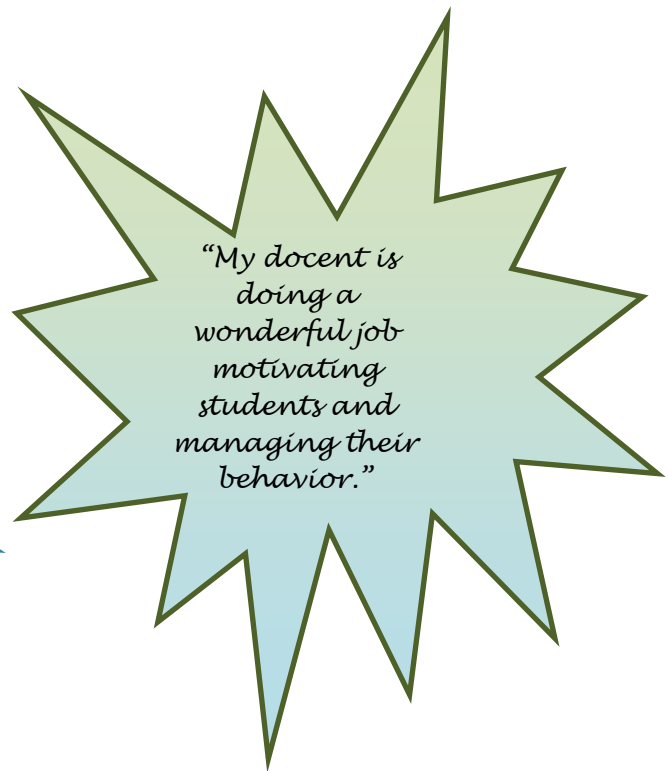
Virginia Williamson, Board President

The beat goes on, and on... As this year of Music for Minors II winds down, it's time to reflect on what a wonderful year this has been! I find that I've been reflecting on all that I've experienced during my first year of working with this amazing organization as Board President. It seems such a short time ago that I was privileged to attend the graduation ceremonies for the many new docents who were trained this year, and already I have witnessed the wonderful work of our docents with performances by students in the joyous culminating event, *Children's Showcase 2010!* Through all the events, workshops, and the steadfast work of docents in classrooms, I have never ceased to be

amazed at the dedication and commitment of everyone involved with Music for Minors II -- docents, staff, board, parents, classroom teachers and donors, all working together in this most important endeavor. It has truly been a privilege to be a part of this amazing organization as it plays such a vital role in bringing music into the lives of children.

Now as we look forward to next year, I am excited to know that Music for Minors II will again be there for the children. I look forward with happy anticipation to the planning for what will take place in the coming year. I hope you will join us as we continue the mission of Music for Minors II to put music into the hearts of children!

 ***Keep the Beat!*** 



MFMII & "In harmony" contacts

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Calendar of Events

May, 2010

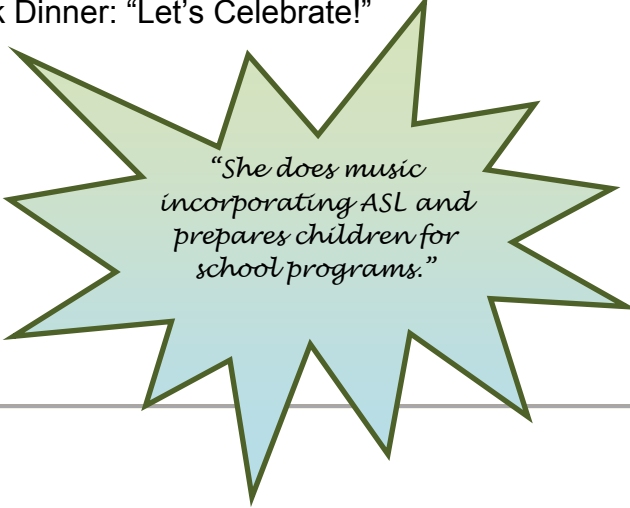
- May 12 Last Day to Vote for MFMII Raleys Reach Contest
- May 16. MFMII Interactive Booth 10:00-4:00
Arts & Crafts in Shinn Park
- May 20 7: 0 pm, Gomes - How the West Was Won
- May 26 "That's Entertainment!"
Schilling School Chorus, Newark
Directed/Produced by Carol Zilli



"It helps that she's one of my student's moms. We have a great relationship and great communication."

June, 2010

- June 3 7:0 pm, Gomes - Dig It!
- June 4 Year-End Volunteer Recognition Potluck Dinner: "Let's Celebrate!"
- June 7 Vannoy - Spring Showcase
- June 10 7:0 pm, Gomes - Take Your Hat Off



"She does music incorporating ASL and prepares children for school programs."



In Memoriam:

Music for Minors II extends our sympathies to the family of Dr. Genevieve (G.G.) Fitzmaurice, co-founder of Music for Minors I on her passing this year. G.G. and Grace Johnston envisioned a music organization so that music would be in children's classrooms and lives despite budgetary cuts in arts education when they established Music for Minors I in 1976..

Both G.G. and Grace continued their commitment when Music for Minors II was established by Carol Zilli in the East Bay in 1988 by being guest presenters in MFMII's docent training classes for many years.

Dr. Fitzmaurice's extensive musical background and teaching for over 60 years was shared in our MFMII training classes from 1990 - 2006. Her authorship of the training core text and her commitment to the highest standards of volunteer service has had a tremendous impact on thousands of adults and children. MFMII honors G.G. for her service and love of music and children and will always be grateful for her role model and inspiration to be the best music advocates we can be. Thank you G.G.

Executive Director's Notes

Carol Zilli, Executive Director

What a musical year this has been!! Lots of fun-filled musical experiences for children and adults in classrooms and the community marked another successful year for MFMII. Fall docent training brought about 40 new energetic docents to the classrooms to join our veteran docents bringing our total children served to over 4000 children weekly by over 80 docent volunteers who also in serviced 184 classroom teachers in their weekly lessons. Hats off to all of our dedicated docents whose sacrifice and hard work is appreciated by all and especially the children.



December brought a wonderful **HOLIDAY LUNCHEON** filled with delicious homemade delicacies, singing fun, and sharing as we celebrated the season of love and good cheer. Families participated in the fun too which added to this warm traditional gathering.

January marked our **RED GRAMMER CONCERT** which was pure fun for all, especially the parents who became instant stars on stage with Red. “Wimoweh” will never be sung the same again. Hats off to our board members and concert committee who coordinated this wonderful community event: Susan Lesh, Concert Chair, Virginia Williamson, Sandy Shimkus, Lisa Hansen, Sharon Filippi, Johann Devakumar, Veera Kazak, Farnaz Parhami, Betty Cole, Peggy Su and Carol Zilli. There’s nothing like a Red Grammer event to lift your spirits. Our thanks to the Bill Graham Foundation and concert donors whose support was much appreciated.



February brought everyone a unique and exciting **DRUMM WORKSHOP** with Jeni Swerdlow that captivated everyone who attended. Connections were definitely made through rhythm led by this dynamic and engaging facilitator. Docents, Board members, Staff, and the community kept smiling as they played on their assorted drums creating some amazing sounds. There’s nothing like a drum to express yourself and unite with others.



March quickly followed with our exciting **Showcase “The Beat Goes On”** that definitely added another successful chapter to this wonderful program history that MFMII has sponsored. Thanks to our dedicated, talented and enthusiastic docents: Jonna Carlile, Cathi Pearson, Namita Maunder, Linda Hsu-Jensen, Jennifer Apy, Jodi Benson, Kathy Garfinkle, Sandy Shimkus, and Jaya Murthy, 300 children

united in song for this spectacular community event that entertained an audience of over 600!



The beat definitely went on and will continue in MFMII thanks to our hardworking docents and the joyful students they reach. Our thanks to Fremont Bank for their generous grant to help underwrite concert costs and to Dale Hardware, for their wonderful T shirts for the 300 children participating. Community support has always been the backbone of MFMII.



Bryan Gephart (FUSD Board Member and Bryan Hughes (Fremont Bank) join in the celebration.

March also marked another MFMII **Showcase** in Castro Valley by our **Independent School Docents** coordinated by Liaison/Docent Sharon Young. Congratulations to docents Lori Cinco, Ineda Adesanya, Rochon Brooks, Melba Jacobsen, Victoria Lewis, Paula Vallerga, Dorothy Stelzer, and Sharon Young for their outstanding work that really showcased the children's musical talent on a professional stage at the Center for the Arts.

March being Music in the Schools Month, was also filled with our ever popular **DANCE**

WORKSHOP with Jo-Ann Fread. Those who put on their dancin' shoes had a ball as always movin' to the beat of folk songs, tappin' their lummi sticks as they danced to "Cherokee Nation" and experiencing the African "High Life" rhythmic movements. People discovered their hidden talents on the dance floor and were anxious to share it with their students the very next day.

April brought a booth at the YMCA Healthy Kids Day at Central Park in Fremont where **Gomes** 5th grade students led by **Docent Sandy Shimkus** in MFMII's Showcase, returned to the stage at the Park Pavillion to once again entertain families with their clever rendition of Rockin' Robin. Two workshops presented by **Carol Zilli** at the Child Family Community Services Diversity Conference at the Hilton in Newark rounded out the month of April. Approx. 75 teachers and parents sang, danced, and played boomwhackers and handbells and learned about MFMII's service to children.

MFMII also joined the Raleys Reach Grant Contest in April which continues through May 12th in order to win a \$ 7500 grant for our fall training program. All it takes is people to vote for us daily by going to: <http://www.raleys.com/cfapps/reach/nomination.cfm?ideaaid=1421535&message=thank> You&check=Success Or start by going to <http://www.raleys.com>, enter your e-mail address, receive an e-mail directing you to a registration page and follow the instructions to register for a free account. Go back to the home page at <http://www.raleys.com> and click on the Raleys Reach banner in the upper right or go to <http://www.raleys.com/reach>. Click "browse all ideas" and vote for "Fill the musical void in the schools with MFMII." Thanks so much for voting daily for us through May 12th. See enclosed flyer for your distribution.

May marks many more musical events as docents lead their students in culminating musical performances at their schools. See the calendar section of this newsletter for dates and times. Don't miss these wonderful examples of the fruits of the weekly lessons by our wonderful volunteer docents. Children blossom from their MFMII experiences.

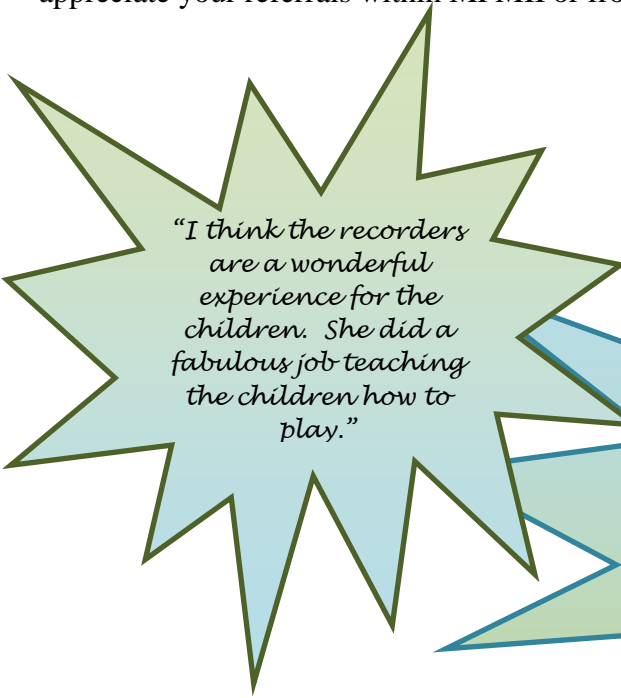
A HUGE THANK YOU TO ADOBE! Thanks to docent Jodi Benson and her husband Craig, MFMII received a generous donation of Adobe software to be used for our website updating and newsletter enhancement among other things. These items couldn't have come at a better time and they will be put to good use.

THANKS go to our wonderful retiring board members: **Johann Devakumar**, **Betty Cole**, and **Jonna Carlile**. Their dedication and time and effort has been much appreciated. Johann has been our Publicity Director for several years now and has done an excellent job of getting MFMII connected technologically. V.P. Betty, a music specialist and Special Education teacher has served MFMII well bringing a lot of experience working with children and as a volunteer with LOV Newark. Her beautiful singing voice and piano playing will be missed at our social events. Jonna Carlile, veteran docent for many years, former MFMII Administrative Asst. and recently filling in temporarily for Board Secretary, will be missed also as she demonstrates the best of volunteerism and community service. Nominations are now open for these three positions on our board. We would appreciate your referrals within MFMII or from

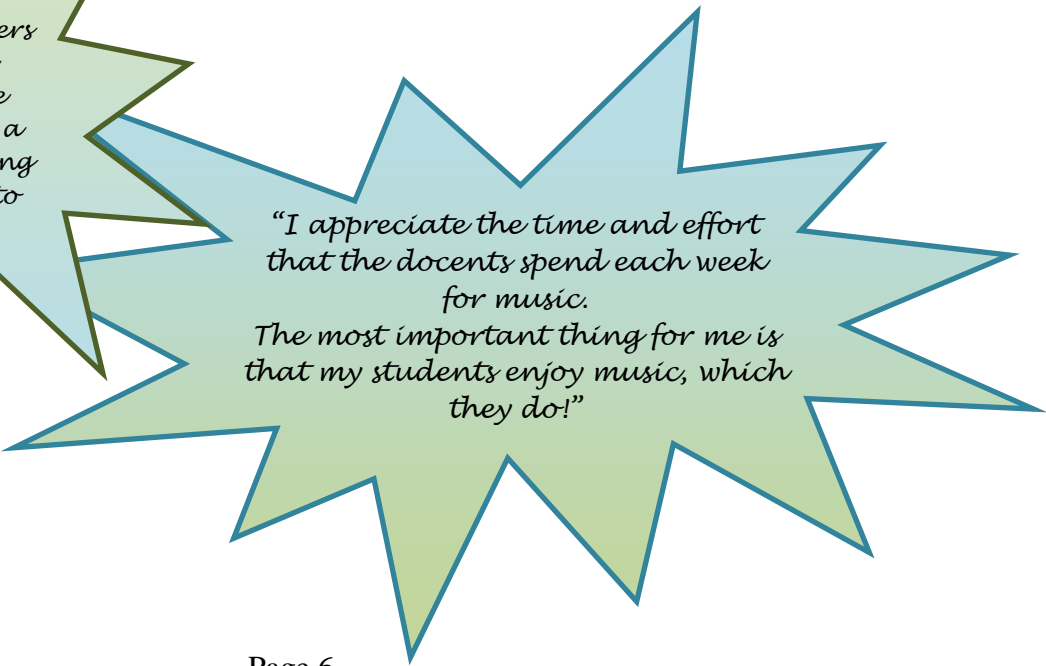
the community. We look forward to new ideas and another great team!

June 4th "Let's Celebrate!" is always an enjoyable event in MFMII as it is when we honor our hardworking volunteer docents, board members, and liaisons at our year-end recognition dinner which is open to families as well. We look forward to meeting family members and having the opportunity to thank them for their sacrifice and support of our volunteers. Come for musical fun, great food, and of course laughter – all the ingredients of a healthy life!

As we end our 22nd year of service to children, Music for Minors II looks to the future with hope and enthusiasm knowing that our work is vital to the healthy development of children. We look forward to more collaboration with like-minded organizations who share our commitment to the value and need of music in children's lives and who care deeply about their academic and social success in life. Despite the challenges that lie ahead, MFMII meets them with a joyful song and a strong commitment to our mission so that many more children in need will be served. Please join us!



"I think the recorders are a wonderful experience for the children. She did a fabulous job teaching the children how to play."



"I appreciate the time and effort that the docents spend each week for music. The most important thing for me is that my students enjoy music, which they do!"

Docent Manager / Mentor, Docent Training Coordinator, Liaison Coordinator

Recently I have had the privilege of observing some of our newest docents in the classroom.

I am very impressed with the docents that I have observed so far and I am looking forward to the upcoming visits I have scheduled.



It is inspiring to see all of the children that are learning music theory in a fun and nurturing environment.

Following are some of my observations:

- ♪ All of the docents love teaching the children
- ♪ All of the children love their docent
- ♪ Every teacher I spoke with is excited about the Music For Minors II program and are pleased with the professionalism of each docent, love the enthusiasm the docents show when they teach and are impressed with the knowledge that the docents share with the children
- ♪ The students are learning very valuable lessons that they will use their entire life
- ♪ The new docents incorporate two or more music theory aspects into each of their lessons
- ♪ Many docents use sign language and hand gestures to enhance their lesson
- ♪ They are very enthusiastic and a joy to watch
- ♪ Several teachers participate during the lesson and enjoy it as much or more than the children
- ♪ They use many classroom management techniques that keep the students focused and help them learn (sit on a chair in front of the students, name tags, Ring a bell, Echo clap, Count down, “Simon Says” game, reward system) Look on the yahoogroups for more information.
- ♪ One of the new docents introduces a new song that the students will learn the next week by singing and teaching a few of the lines. The kids get excited about the new song and can’t wait for the next class.

I learned many valuable tools that can be used by all of the docents to enhance your lessons. I would like to encourage all of the docents (new and experienced) to visit each other’s classrooms and share ideas. It is amazing what is being done with the students and how much we can learn from each other.

Make sure that you RECRUIT NEW DOCENTS for next year.
There are still so many children to reach.

Resource Center Update

Veera Kaza (Resource Center Coordinator)

It has been a busy few months for me, ordering instruments for the resource centers and also equipment for training, such as a dvd/cd copier, camcorder, printer, portfolio case. The items were purchased with the money from the Candlelighter's grant.

The following items have now been placed in all 4 resource centers:

- Remo sound shapes and mallets (6 drums)
- metronome
- 20 note handbell set
- dry erase staff board for docent use 12x18"

Additionally Niles RC has the following:

- 35 dry erase staff lapboards, for student use 9x12"
- poster size staff paper
- Books:
Sleeptime Songs and CD
Favorite Folk Songs and CD
Easy American Folk Songs and CD

Castro Valley RC has:

- 2 additional Orff xylophones and mallets.

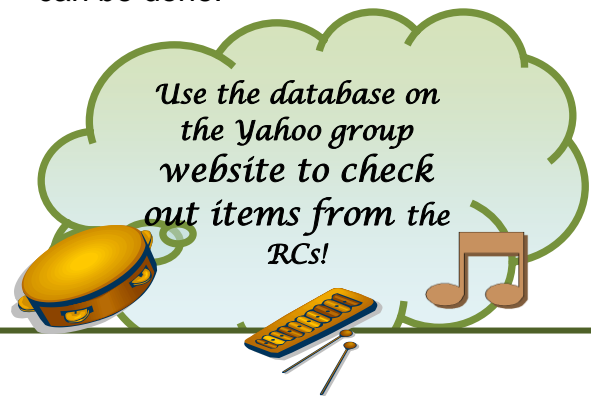
Feel free to check out the items and put them to good use. If there are any other items that you would like to see in the RCs, please let me know.

We are on the lookout for a resource center assistant for Niles. If you are interested please contact Veera Kazak email: vrkazak@yahoo.com or tel: 510 793 3801. Due to personal reasons, Betty Mollat will not be able to continue as RC assistant to Niles. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Betty for all her hard work over the years and we wish her good health and happiness for the future.

After many complaints about the doors and latches at the Niles RC, they have been kindly fixed by Greg Fletcher (general contractor), so that the latches should move smoothly and the doors easier to open. Thank you Greg for volunteering your time and talent. Greg shall be adding more shelves to the RC @ Proctor school shortly too, so that it can hold all the new instruments and be better organized.

Please remember to lock all cupboards securely after borrowing items.

The inventory of the RCs is on Friday 4 June, so please spare an hour or so to help. The more people help, the quicker this task can be done.



Volunteer Help Needed

Resource Center Assistant for Niles

The main duties of the RC assistant are:

To oversee the use of items, maintain the RC in an organized way.

Help conduct yearly audits.

Label Music K8 magazines/CD with MFMI and its code.

Place in folder - every 2 months.

Make sure there are enough sign-out/quick check/reserved list sheets in the binder.

Check signout sheets for tardy returns.

Ensure latest copy of inventory list is available - print from MFMI Yahoo groups.

Check for poor condition of any items on the inventory sheet. Keep records.

Take broken instruments out of circulation.

Repair/replace when possible.

Reorganize the area as needed, to keep space used efficiently.

Gather and file "wish lists" from docents of suggestions of items that the RC should have, so that when money is available these lists can be consulted.

Board Member Opportunity

MFMI Board of Directors positions are open for those committed to keeping music in children's classrooms and lives. Consider serving in this important role of policy-making, fundraising, and overseeing the MFMI program. Work with great people to strengthen the MFMI/Community Connection. Contact Carol Zilli or Virginia Williamson or call the voicemail: 510-733-1189.

Docent Opportunity

Now's the time to help recruit new docents for the fall training class at Ohlone College in Fremont or at Proctor School in CV. Becoming a MFMI Docent is the opportunity of a lifetime. There's nothing like sharing music with children and making a real difference in their lives. Contact Sharon Filippi (sharon.filippi@sbcglobal.net) for applications or simply refer people to Carol Zilli or Sandy Shimkus.

Children need music now more than ever given the current severe budget cuts. MFMI continues to help fill the musical void in our schools with your help. Let's make our 21th training class the biggest ever so that hundreds of more children can be nurtured with the love of music.



MFMI members & followers become a FAN of "Music for Minors II" on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Fremont-CA/Music-for-Minors-II/8160517811?ref=ts> and please also FOLLOW us on Twitter <http://twitter.com/musicforminors2> ! We need your continued support and promotion of MFMI.



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YOUR VOTE IS NEEDED SO CHILDREN HAVE MUSIC!

Music for Minors II needs your support for its fall training program so that community volunteers can bring music to children's classrooms and lives.

How can I help?

Vote for Music for Minors II, the nonprofit keeping music in the schools since 1988, due to severe budget cuts in arts education over the years.

HERE'S HOW:

Go to <http://www.raleys.com>
Enter your e-mail address, receive registration directions, open a free account.
Go back to home page: <http://www.raleys.com>, click on Raleys Reach banner.
Browse all ideas and find: "Fill the musical void in schools with Music for Minors II."

Your daily vote through May 12th will help MFMII win \$ 7,500 for music docent training.
Please Visit: www.musicforminors2.org

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"To nurture a lifelong love and literacy of music in children's classrooms"