



### MFMI Events

**June 10:** Year-End  
Volunteer Brunch

**June 14:** Board Retreat

**June 27:** Alameda County  
Fair Performance 12:30pm.

**July 12-13:** Summerfest at  
Newpark Mall - MFMI  
Booth and Performance

**Sept 13-14:** Castro Valley  
Fall Festival, MFMI Booth  
10 am – 6 pm

**Sept 21:** Newark Days  
Booth

**Sept. 10:** Docent Training  
Orientation 7-9pm. Niles  
Elementary School

**Sept. 15 - Nov. 19:** Docent  
Training Fremont and C.V.  
Adult Schools (See flyer)

**Nov 6:** Charlotte Diamond  
Music Workshop, 7pm Niles

37141 Second Street  
Fremont, Ca 94536  
510-733-1189

[www.musicforminors2.org](http://www.musicforminors2.org)  
MFMI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit

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Spring 2014

Who wouldn't want to be inspired, **feel joy**, freedom, and a sense of belonging to a community? Who wouldn't want to be more happy and less stressed, more calm and yet more **energized**? Imagine a world with people who have been **nurtured** and "fed" with music who have had **social, emotional, and academic learning** experiences, who trust more and know how to bond with others while being happier, **healthier human beings!**

Music for Minors II (MFMI) does more than imagine that world, **it creates it** every week in the almost **200 classes** of **more than 5,000 children** that our **almost 80 trained volunteer music docents** serve by sharing the joy and nurturing the **love and literacy of music in East Bay, Pleasanton, Dublin, and South San Francisco** schools. We also create it and enhance it when our **children perform on community professional stages** and at **school sites** throughout the school year.

As MFMI concludes its 26<sup>th</sup> school year of music enrichment service, we recall the countless thank yous of parents, teachers, and principals, but most of all, of children whose huge smiles and warm hugs convey what they've experienced from our talented and dedicated music docents. Some classroom teacher comments convey some of the impact MFMI has had in classrooms:

*"We have used the inner hearing skill taught by our docent to practice reading books silently 'in our head' and have worked on 'beat' in math patterning."*

Kindergarten Teacher  
James Leitch, Fremont

*"The majority of my students are learning English as a second language. I have noticed an increase in their surety as they speak and more confidence as they seek the word in English, thanks to the opportunity to sing in class." – and -- "We've had several discussions about numbers, seasons, body parts, etc. that my docent shared with songs and then students will spontaneously break out into song."*

First Grade Teacher  
Martin Elementary, S.F.

*"My docent has taught me to be more flexible in my teaching. I'm thrilled that my students are going to be entered into a song writing contest thanks to my docent!" – and -- "I have noticed that some of my students that don't often excel academically do very well during MFMI lessons. It's so great to see them feel confident and proud of themselves."*

Fourth Grade Teacher  
Bunker Elementary, Newark

*"Some of my more difficult students are so happy and positive during and after music. It increases their self-confidence."*

These are just some of the amazing feedback we receive from our classroom teachers. Principals and parents also speak highly of their MFMI experience.

Our **impact has been great** which rededicates us to recruit the **27<sup>th</sup> annual Docent Training Classes starting on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>** so that we can serve thousands of more children in great need of music. **See the flyer in this newsletter** for more information and help MFMI recruit and support new volunteer docents and board members as we continue our important mission to reach children in need of music.

In this newsletter please enjoy the pictures of our successful **Red Grammer Concert** which included MFMI students performing onstage with the artist for an exciting memorable experience that builds such self-confidence and teamwork. We thank Red for his ever-inspiring gift of song and for being such a good friend of MFMI for so many years. Hats off to the fantastic **Concert Committee members led by Co-Chair Melinda Mawson and Sandy Shimkus** whose dedication and hard work produced such an amazing event for the community. We greatly appreciated the sponsorship of **Fremont Bank** once again and the other local businesses that helped underwrite our expenses. As always MFMI greatly values our community support.

On **May 20<sup>th</sup>**, MFMI presented **Music for Seniors** at the Ruggieri Senior Center in Union City. It was a fun-filled hour of music with this great group involving singing/signing songs, rhythmic movement/dance, and instrumentation. MFMI also hopes to recruit some docents from this music-loving group. Our seniors have a wonderful appreciation and love of music and there's nothing like sharing it with others.



**Red Grammer Concert Committee**

On **June 10<sup>th</sup>** we recognized our wonderful volunteers at the **Recognition Brunch**. It is MFMII's way of saying THANK YOU to those who make our program possible. We thank MFMII Advisory Council members Lily Mei and Ray Rodriguez, FUSD and NUSD school board members respectively, for attending this event and helping us celebrate our 26<sup>th</sup> year of service and honor the dedication and talent of so many in our program.

**School site performances fulfill our mission!**



**Docent Shane Sharkey** directs his 2nd and 4th graders at Stanton's annual International Festival. Shane's 4 years as a MFM II Docent has rekindled his passion for music for children so much so that he has opened the Castro Valley School of Music on the corner of Center and Castro Valley Blvd. for children of all ages to come and explore the world of music. His teachers are professional musicians who are outstanding and the beautiful building includes a center area for recitals and other performances. Group and private vocal, guitar, drums, piano, bass, saxophone, and more await the musical delight of all. Congratulations Shane on this exciting community service founded with great love and commitment.

As MFMII continues to expand its services in the East Bay and nearby areas in need, we find the need to expand our part time staff with the position of a **Program Director** who will coordinate our annual events and assist in the management of the program. For more information about this open position that offers someone the opportunity to serve the program's mission in a unique way, please contact [czilli@aol.com](mailto:czilli@aol.com).

"Recruitment" of volunteers as docents, liaisons and board members is the magic word at this time of year as we plan our fall docent training classes. Look forward to an exciting music workshop with one of the most renowned voices in children's music, Charlotte Diamond, on November 6th! There is nothing like a Diamond Workshop to inspire and teach so many creative ways to bring out the music in children. Who doesn't know Charlotte Diamond by her famous "Octopus" ("Slippery Fish") or "I Am a Pizza" songs?

This is just a preview of the exciting things to come in our 27th year of service. But by far the most exciting thing in MFM II is when we recruit a volunteer to join us in bringing music to children in need. So let's get the word out everywhere that MFM II offers you one of the most worthwhile volunteer opportunities to serve and make



**Ducks for Bucks Event**



**Tri-Valley Evening Rotary Club on March 6th at Castlewood Country Club**

the musical difference in a child's life and your own!

Send all prospective docent volunteers' contact information to [czilli@aol.com](mailto:czilli@aol.com) and [sharon.filippi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sharon.filippi@sbcglobal.net) or call MFMI at [510-733-1189](tel:510-733-1189). Our goal is to train 40 new volunteers to reach thousands of more children with song.

After a musically fulfilling year of service, a fantastic **concert** and **dance workshop** and many **MFMI presentations, school site performances, Family Music Nights,** and participation in community events, MFMI wishes the entire community as well as our wonderful volunteers and staff, **a relaxing, fun-filled summer vacation with family and friends and of course, lots of music!**



**Carol Zilli**

**MFMI Executive Director/Founder  
Docent Training Teacher - Fremont**



**Top left: Niles school kindergarteners  
Bottom left: Gomes 3rd graders**

**Top right: Vannoy's "Dancing on the Rooftop"  
Bottom right: Gomes 6th graders in "Dig It!"**

## **BOARD BIZ**

Hats off to our MFMI Board of Directors under the capable leadership of President Elise Balgley. As volunteers, the Board oversees the program and with the Executive Director focus on financial needs and program development. Businessmen and women, docents, and community members-at-large meet monthly from August through June. New members are always welcome. Contact Carol Zilli, [czilli@aol.com](mailto:czilli@aol.com), for more information. We thank our Board for another year of great support for the program's mission.

# DOCENT CORNER

What a wonderful year this has been. We have so many amazing docents who have given countless hours to spread the joy of music in classrooms all over the east bay. I have been fortunate enough to observe our new docents in action and am pleased to say that they embody all that is good about the Music for Minors II program. Every child in every classroom I visited was engaged and learning. There were songs in different languages, dances and instruments being played.



## WHAT HAVE THE NEW DOCENTS BEEN DOING IN THE CLASSROOM?

It was like magic when a group of special day children were laughing, counting and singing at the same time. It was a joy to see. I saw kids marching like a Leprechaun during St. Patrick's Day and they showed their musical skills when they clapped the rhythm to some cool chants. Students are reading music while learning to play the recorder. Students have learned how to sway to the beat of a song while using beautiful colored ribbons. New docents have gone high tech and are using iPads, document cameras, PowerPoint presentations and other gadgets to enhance their lessons. Students are writing their own chants to a rhythm they create. The students have been learning about history, math, geography, and other curriculum related material. They are singing, dancing, learning music theory and having a wonderful time.



## WHAT HAVE THE VETERAN DOCENTS

### BEEN DOING IN THE CLASSROOM?

Many of our docents have been busy with performances along with their regular classes. From Maypole dances, to Spring performances, to plays, our docents are enhancing the classroom curriculum while giving students the opportunity to perform on stage. They recently attended a Dance Workshop and were able to share the dances with their students.



**Top Right: Mattos children receive applause for their performance. Bottom Right: Jo-Ann Fread Dance Workshop.**

## DOCENT RECOGNITION

Our featured docent for this newsletter is Suzy Young. She is a hardworking, dedicated individual that is filled with joy and enthusiasm and has been teaching Music for Minors II classes at Hirsch Elementary since 2009. Suzy always teaches the entire grade that her children are in. This year she has three children in three different grades, Kindergarten, third grade and fifth grade so she is teaching nine classes. More than 200 students are fortunate enough to have music in their classroom thanks to Suzy.

**Music Background:** Suzy doesn't have a background in music; in fact, she has a Masters in Public Health and worked as a researcher for UC Berkeley and the CA Department of Public Health. After the birth of her children, she continued working very part-time from home. She currently works a few hours/month as a contractor for the Genetic Disease Screening Program of the CA Dept. of Public Health. She took basic piano lessons, had music in elementary school, and sang in church but never felt comfortable about her voice. Her mom thought it was very important to be able to lead other singers so she and her siblings learned basic music theory from their mom.



**Docent friends give encouragement:** She was first introduced to MFMI by her friends at church that were docents. They always had amazing stories about how wonderful and how much fun it was to share the love of music with the students. This introduction happened before her children ever attended Hirsch. Her docent friends told her that as soon as her son was old enough she would be a docent as well so she says with a smile, "I really didn't have a choice". One of her good friends even offered to watch her newborn so she could take the training.

**First classroom experience:** At some point in time, again before her children were at Hirsch, she was asked to help the children at church learn some songs, and although she had little confidence in her singing and teaching abilities, she took on this role. The experience she had with the children at her church helped her to realize that she might have what it takes to teach music in a classroom setting. With her church singing experience, she started volunteering in her son's Kindergarten class and taught the children some songs. Her first reaction was nervousness since she had never been in a classroom setting before but she focused on the children and on her lesson plan and tuned the adults out. Once she started interacting with the kids, it was so much fun she wanted to come back every week. Soon after, with pressure from her encouraging friends and with a year of classroom experience behind her, she took the training to be a docent and is very happy that she did.

**Becoming a Docent:** The MFMI training gave her the tools she needed to improve her lesson plans and it deepened her understanding of how to teach, and what to teach. She includes a few minutes of music theory into each lesson like presto, largo, forte and piano. She included some introduction to reading music in her 5th grade class this year and taught them how to play the recorder. She spends a lot of time on show songs since Hirsch does two performances a year. The students put on a winter show where each grade level sings individual songs and a spring show where the entire school sings songs together and each grade level performs a dance. While working on the show songs she covers some of the basic music theory like pitch, melody and harmony.

**Best Experience:** When asked what her best experience with Music for Minors II has been, she quickly said, “I can’t pinpoint one, there have been a lot of great experiences”. Her first amazing experience however was the first spring program she was involved in. “I was with the other docents and hearing the whole school sing together was a moving and beautiful experience. The feeling of all the children singing together was great and something I will never forget”. Overall, “I love the little moments when a parent or grandparent comes up and says my daughter loves music and every time you teach a new song she comes home and sings it. It’s a great feeling to know that the children enjoy what I do with them and that other people are getting to enjoy it as well”.

**Working with teachers:** Suzy points out that sometimes she encounters difficult obstacles and most of the time it has to do with classroom management. For instance, sometimes there are combinations of children in classes that are more difficult to handle. Figuring out ways to engage them and motivate them and finding activities that the class can do and not get out of control isn’t always easy. It is especially difficult when a lesson plan worked wonderfully for a previous class and it doesn’t work for some of the children in another class so she does her best to work with her lesson plan, and works closely with the teachers to help manage the children.

**Classroom Management:** Suzy is famous for her innovative classroom management techniques. She has used different programs over the years to motivate the kids. One of her simplest techniques is to have a special request time at the end of the class. Another technique is to put beads in a jar and when the beads get to a line in the jar the kids get treats. This method was shared with some other docents and it turned their class around. One year she brought in trophies and had one per grade level. At the end of her classes for the week, the “best” class would receive the trophy and would keep it until the next week. The fifth grade class gets scores from 1-5. If the class gets a 3, then three kids, randomly drawn, get a treat. She keeps track of the numbers and by the end of the school year, everyone has received something. She also has something very motivational called a “WOW” meter. She moves the ribbon up and down depending on how the class is doing with a song, with their behavior or anything else that is appropriate for what they are working on.



**Why she is a docent:** Suzy finds it very funny that she teaches music because it isn’t a natural talent. Suzy said: “Being a Music for Minors II docent has been good for me because I was self-conscious and didn’t feel confident singing. Over the years my voice has



gotten better and I feel more confident”.

Her own kids are always enthusiastic and look forward to music. “They are happy to see me in their classroom.” They like learning some of the songs at home and have fun doing it with her. Her Kindergarten daughter knows all the 50 states because Suzy was practicing the “Fifty Nifty United States” song with her fifth grader and her daughter sang along. Suzy says: “I think my kids would be disappointed if I didn’t teach their class.”

**Message from Suzy for all of the docents in the Music for Minors II family:**

“I don’t know if I have ever had an original idea in teaching music, but interacting with the other docents and taking their ideas and making them mine makes everything easier and exciting. Talking and sharing with other docents gives you great ideas. The support of the organization is great”.

**Sandy Shimkus**

Docent Training Teacher/Assistant/Coordinator

Docent Manager/Mentor

Gomes School Docent



**School Site Performances: Just Amazing! (Top Right: Gomes Team Michele, Mette, and Sandy)**



# RESOURCE CENTER NEWS

I am glad to know that the MFMI resource centers are being used by our docents. Please remember to return items to their correct RC, place items back in the closets and lock them securely. Thank you for your co-operation. Please remember that items can be checked out for 2 weeks. If you want to borrow items for longer, please let me know.

The inventories of the resource centers will take place on the following dates:

**Wednesday, 4 June, 9am - 2pm – Glenmoor RC**

**Friday, 6 June, 9.30am - 2pm – Proctor RC**

**Wednesday, 18 June, 9am – Niles RC**

Please remember to return items to the RCs before the inventories are done, so that we can get a correct count of items. If you can help with any of the inventories, please let me know. It is a fun way to find out what wonderful resources are hidden in those closets and meet other docents. I can't do it without your help.

Due to the popularity of boomwhackers, we have decided to buy some more (diatonic - C to C), so that each resource center has a class set and a whole class can play them at the same time. Niles RC got a class set of boomwhackers last year and they are well used.

The following items were added to the resource centers this year:

- Music K8 magazines and CDs - all resource centers
- Music Express magazines, teacher book and CD – Niles and Proctor
- Rhythm Band For Little People Kit– 16 posters, teacher booklet and CD –Niles and Proctor
- This kit contains melody midget type posters with instrument pictures, for the younger grades.
- Jo-Ann Fread Dance Workshop 2014 – booklet and CD – all resource centers
- Red Grammer CDs – Niles and Leitch/WS

As always, if there is anything that you would like to see at your local RC, please let me know.

Other useful resources:

Music K8 powerpoints of songs

<http://www.musicbulletinboards.net/mk8downloads/mk8downloads.htm>

Fun videos, dance steps etc from Music K8/Music Express magazines

<https://www.youtube.com/user/musicexpressmag/videoss>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MooToobMoosic>

Exciting news! Due to the success of the Red Grammer concert and feedback from docents, we are looking to make instrument starter kits for MFMI schools. We are still working out the details. The starter kits will probably include the following instruments and would need to be returned to MFMI at the end of each school year: 6 remo drums, 6 maracas, 6 pairs rhythm sticks, 6 tambourines, 6 triangles, 2 cymbals, 1 8-note resonator bell set.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the end of year celebration at Sandy's house. Wishing you a musical summer!

**Veera Kazak**  
**Resource Center Director**



# HELP KEEP MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS

## BECOME A TRAINED MUSIC FOR MINORS II DOCENT

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A CHILD'S LIFE  
BY SHARING YOUR LOVE OF MUSIC WITH CHILDREN AND MAKING THE  
MUSIC-CURRICULUM CONNECTION IN THEIR CLASSROOMS!

## WHEN AND WHERE IS TRAINING?

**ORIENTATION:** Tuesday, September 9, 2014

7:00-9:15pm-Niles Elementary School, 37141 Second Street, Fremont, Ca

**TRAINING:** Mondays and Wednesdays, September 15 – November 19

### FREMONT

9:30AM-11:45AM

Fremont Adult School

4700 Calaveras Ave. Fremont, Ca 94538

OR

### CASTRO VALLEY

7:00PM-9:15PM

Castro Valley Adult/Career Education

4430 Alma Ave., Castro Valley, CA 94546

## To apply and for more information:

Go to the MFMII website: [www.musicforminors2.org](http://www.musicforminors2.org)

Call MFMII at 510-733-1189 or email: [czilli@aol.com](mailto:czilli@aol.com) or [sharon.filippi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sharon.filippi@sbcglobal.net)



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Our mission as a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization is:  
"To nurture a lifelong love and literacy of music in children's classrooms and lives"