

# NATS Spring Newsletter

National Association of Teachers of Singing

April 2018

Redwood Empire Chapter

## President's Letter

Warm and sunny spring greetings to all!

Tempus fugit! We're well into 2018 by now; in fact, many of us have students who will be finishing the school year soon, or even graduating! Some of us are making plans for summer trips and travels, or working on our spring cleaning, or have just finished doing taxes. The clock never stops in our chapter's event calendar either.

We had a very satisfying success with our first Singing Festival; everyone enjoyed the new format, and plans are already afoot to do it again next year, probably in February as before. There will be a brand new special feature next time too--we have just started a fund for the "**Thelma Dare Ahner Award**" which some talented young singer will receive for the first time in 2019! Our chapter treasurer Mary has already received a couple of sizable donations towards that prize, and we encourage you to think about making a tax deductible contribution to that fund as well during 2018!

Our spring master class is coming up on May 5th, and our presenter will be one of our very own esteemed members--Rhoslyn Jones! Please reserve that date in your appointment calendars, and stay tuned for more details on how to nominate your students to participate!

Also in the months of April and May, we'll be voting for our new board, to take office starting July 1st. Several of us have served for quite a few years, and think it's time to get some fresh input in our chapter's leadership. You'll be seeing some new faces and hearing some new ideas soon! Please give them your sincerest support and feedback!

Please note that this year the Board has chosen Saturday JULY 21 for the fall kick-off meeting instead of the usual late August date!!

Lastly, this will be my final president's letter to you all. My

husband just retired this spring, and our lake house in the Ozarks beckons, so we'll be tying up loose ends and moving there full time in the next few weeks. But of course I plan to stay in touch and cheer you all on from 2000 miles away! I've greatly enjoyed getting to know you as friends and colleagues, and being part of this wonderful and dynamic chapter, small though we may be!

Best wishes for the future,  
*Vaida Falconbridge*

## Calendar

**Saturday May 5:** *Workshop with Rhoslyn Jones; 1-4 p.m., SSU Green Music Center Rm. 1028.*

**Saturday July 21:** *General Meeting 1-4; potluck 12 noon; Board Mtg. 10 a.m. Mary Beard's home in Santa Rosa.*

**Saturday Feb. 9 or 16, 2019:** *Singing Festival and Competitive Recital. Details TBA*

## Singing Festival

Our festival in February, was a big success and participation was up compared to the last few years. Singers of any level could enter a Classical (C) or a Musical Theater (MT) Division, or both. Each singer received an evaluation and 9 singers were invited by the judges to return for a Competitive Finalist Recital at 5 p.m. The judges found it hard to pick only 9 singers for finalists and even harder to select 3 winners! This year's judges were Vicky Van Dewark, Tina Meals, and Jim Meredith. The accompanist was Yvonne Wormer. The singers in the Finalist Recital were: Division I: Yekaterina Lynch—MT (Beth Freeman); Division II: Andrew Cedeno —C (Christa Durand), Lucia London—C and MT (Jane Hammett); Division III: Kelley

Polite—C (Christa Durand), Morgan Vermeulen—C (Jane Hammett); Division IV: Susan Bernard—C (Christa Durand), Sara Frondoni—C (Marian Marsh), Whitney Weems—C (Eve-Anne Wilkes), Christina Allen—C (Eve-Anne Wilkes). The winners were: Honorable Mention: Yekaterina Lynch; Third Place: Christina Allen; Second Place: Lucia London, and First Place: Sara Frondoni.

The concert was wonderful. We found this the easiest of all the formats we've used over the years, with all events taking place in one day. The judges had to stay all day but they



didn't seem to mind at all. Eve-Anne Wilkes and Christa Durand are eager to continue the project next year!

## Upcoming Workshop with Rhoslyn Jones

On Saturday May 5 member Rhoslyn Jones will be giving a master class from 1-4 p.m. in room 1028 in the Green Music Center. She will demonstrate her acclaimed teaching skills with several of her own students, and then work with several from our studios. In April we can submit students names to be considered for the second part of the master class. A flyer is attached and more information will come by email. There were many requests for another workshop watching a master teacher work with their own students and then some of ours, so we are very much looking forward to this workshop.

