

SOUTH BAY
CHAMBER MUSIC
SOCIETY PRESENTS

ROBERT THIES,
PIANIST &
PHILLIP LEVY,
VIOLINIST



APRIL 18, 2021
3:00 PM PDT
VIRTUAL
CONCERT

WWW.SBCMS.NET
CLASSICAL CONCERTS IN
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ROBERT THIES,
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

ROBERT THIES, PIANIST AND PHILLIP LEVY, VIOLINIST



Sonata in C minor for Piano and Violin, Op. 30, No.2.....Beethoven
Sonata in G Major for Piano and Violin, Op. 78 "Regensonate".....Brahms



South Bay Chamber Music Society: About Us

The South Bay Chamber Music Society is a nonprofit corporation founded in 1963 by renowned violinist Ruth Breytspraak to promote the appreciation of great music in the South Bay. Our aim is to present the highest quality chamber music performances featuring the finest musicians in Southern California.

For the major part of our funding, we rely on the generous donations of individuals. As our organization is run entirely by volunteers, the majority of proceeds go to support the musicians' honorariums. If you would like to contribute, please [click here](#).

The concerts are also made possible by the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department, by the County of Los Angeles Arts Commission, by the Colburn Foundation, and by the City of Rolling Hills. Our corporate sponsors include Boeing and the Williams Companies, Inc.

Board of Directors

Robin Paterson, President
Jim Paterson, Vice President
Toni Crichton and John Williams, Co-Treasurers
Linda Jenson, Secretary

Jan Simon • Jerald Simon • Ron Smith
Elaine Trotter • Wendy Wolf

Artistic Director

Robert Thies

Ensemble in Residence

The Thies Consort

Associates

Curtis Green • Christina Kim • Jim Ryan
Rod Raynovich • Tom Van Huss • Mike Wheeler

South Bay Chamber Music Society
Post office Box 2313 • Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274
sbcms.net • www.facebook.com/SBCMS.music



Robert Thies, Pianist



A pianist of “*unerring, warm-toned refinement, revealing judicious glimmers of power,*” [Los Angeles Times] Robert Thies (pronounced “*Theece*”) is an artist renowned for his consummate musicianship and poetic temperament. He first captured worldwide attention in 1995 when he won the Gold Medal at the Second International Prokofiev Competition in St. Petersburg, Russia. With this victory, Thies became the only American pianist to win first prize in a Russian piano competition since Van Cliburn’s famed triumph in Moscow in 1958. This victory brought accolades from the White House, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Governor Pete Wilson, and Mayor Richard Riordan. The Los Angeles City Council declared February 16, 1996 “*Robert Edward Thies Day,*” and Robert was featured on the July 1996 cover of Piano and Keyboard magazine. His win was announced in the International Herald Tribune, and the Los Angeles Times wrote a feature article, “*Another American Pianist Invades Russia, Successfully.*”

Conductor Jorge Mester hails Robert “*a genius*”, and Maestra JoAnn Falletta touted after a recent performance, “*Conducting the Brahms Second Piano Concerto with Robert Thies was one of the most beautiful and deeply satisfying musical experiences of my life.*”

Praised for his “*thoughtful and intensely moving interpretations*” Thies enjoys a diverse career as an orchestral soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician. He has already performed forty concerti with orchestras all over the world. In one season alone he performed thirteen different concerti, garnering consistent critical acclaim. He has appeared with such orchestras as the Saint Petersburg Philharmonic, Liepāja Symphony (Latvia), Mexico City Philharmonic, the National Symphony of Mexico, Auckland Philharmonia (New Zealand), Louisville Orchestra, Fort Worth Symphony, Virginia Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, Pasadena Symphony, Des Moines Symphony, and the Naples Philharmonic. His concerts have been broadcast throughout the United States, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Bolivia, Hungary, Mexico, and New Zealand.

As a Steinway artist and frequent recitalist in the United States and abroad, Mr. Thies has developed a reputation as a “*genuine*” and “*sincere*” artist, creating delicately balanced programs and performing in a manner



to draw focus to the composer rather than to himself. Under the sponsorship of *Community Concerts*, he completed a forty-city tour of the United States in 2001. In May 1999, he was honored with a special invitation to perform in the Hermitage Theater in St. Petersburg, Russia, built for Empress Catherine the Great. His South American debut occurred in Cochabamba, Bolivia in 2002, and he has given recitals in Mexico, Germany, Austria, and Hungary.

A dedicated chamber musician, Thies is highly sought after as a collaborator, and he has shared the stage with many esteemed musicians, including those from the LA Philharmonic and the LA Chamber Orchestra. In March 2012 he was the official pianist for the International Piatigorsky Cello Festival at USC, at which he performed over 25 works in one week and played a recital with renowned cellist, Thomas Demenga. In May 2016 he will reprise this role. An avid proponent of art song, Thies has also appeared with many outstanding singers in recital, most recently in Los Angeles with LA Opera baritone, Ryan McKinny in a performance of Schubert's great opus, *Winterreise*. Over the past decade he founded the *Thies Piano Quartet*, the *Pantoum Trio*, and most recently, *The Thies Consort*. The *Consort* performs a wide range of works of varying instrumentation and size, thus allowing for innovative and unique programming with musical continuity based on a style, composer, or other concept.

Thies's "*grace and unsurpassed lyricism*" are in high demand at festivals and special celebrations. In 2002, in conjunction with the Hollywood premiere of Roman Polanski's film *The Pianist*, he performed Władysław Szpilman's *Concertino for Piano and Orchestra* with the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony. That same year Thies earned national recognition for his collaboration with noted cultural historian and author, Joseph Horowitz, in the Pacific Symphony's *Dvořák in America* festival. To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of Arnold Schoenberg's death, Thies was invited to Mexico City's Palacio de Bellas Artes in 2001 to perform the composer's seldom-heard *Piano Concerto* with the National Symphony of Mexico, a memorized performance for which he received high critical acclaim. During the fall of 1997 Mr. Thies worked alongside distinguished late Polish composer Henryk Górecki in the United States premiere of his *Piano Sonata*. This collaboration was later documented in a 2012 Polish documentary entitled *Please Find Henryk Mikołaj Górecki*. In a commemorative gesture just after Górecki's recent passing, Thies's performance was broadcast on KUSC 91.5 FM Classical Radio. Thies has performed at the music festivals of Ravinia, Aspen, Sedona, Cape May, Music Academy of the West, Mostly Mozart, the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival, High Desert Chamber Music, and the Port Townsend Chamber Music Festival.

In Los Angeles, Thies has worked with film composers James Newton Howard, the late James Horner, Danny Elfman, Mychael Danna, John Williams, and Lalo Schifrin, among others. His playing can be heard prominently in the 2015 film, *Concussion*, as well as in Mychael Danna's Oscar winning score to *The Life of Pi*. In 2017 he was a featured soloist in Philip Glass's score to *Jane*, a documentary about Jane Goodall, which was played live to picture at the Hollywood Bowl. He was a featured pianist on Danny Elfman's concert piece: *Serenada Schizophrana*, and in 2015 and 2016, he was a featured musician in live performances of Elfman's *A Nightmare Before Christmas* at the Hollywood Bowl. In 2010 the Grammy winning conductor, Lucas Richman, invited him to join a full symphony orchestra on a North American tour of John Williams' *Star Wars in Concert*.

Thies's recordings can be found on the *Centaur*, *Albany*, *Golden Tone*, and *Denouement Records* labels. In 2017 he recorded Brahms' two *Sonatas for Clarinet and Piano* with clarinetist David Sapadin. In 2015 with violinist Linda Wang, he recorded recently discovered masterpieces by Ravel and Messiaen. In 2014, he recorded two works of composer, Bruce Babcock, and a sonata by Bruce Broughton. He has also made numerous classical recordings for Yamaha Disklavier, featuring the music of Prokofiev, Ravel, Brahms, and Beethoven. He has premiered and recorded works written for him, such as Stu Phillip's *Variations for Piano and Orchestra*, and



Kevin Kaska's *Fantasy for Piano and Orchestra*, and has premiered and recorded many works by Grammy-nominated composer, Gernot Wolfgang.

In February 2006 Robert released his debut solo recording *Live in Recital*. That same year he recorded a crossover improvisational album, *Difference*, with Croatian flutist, Damjan Krajacic. This collaboration led the groundwork for the release of two critically reviewed albums for *Gentle Rain Records* in the Fall of 2012 and 2016: *Blue Landscapes* and *Blue Landscapes II: Discoveries*, two collections of original compositions and improvisations. The latter CD won a Global Music Award.

Mr. Thies is sought after as a master class teacher, chamber music coach, lecturer, and adjudicator across the globe. As a private teacher, his students have won competitions and been accepted to major music conservatories around the country. In 2017 he was appointed Artistic Director of the South Bay Chamber Music Society, founded in 1963, and one of the premier presenters of chamber music in Los Angeles. In June 2015 Thies presented a program of Scandinavian music at the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm, Sweden as a member of the College Music Society. In 2013, he was appointed Director of Chamber Music at the European American Musical Alliance (EAMA) in Paris, France. In May 2012, he gave a webinar simultaneously to three universities in the United States and Mexico, and spoke about developing one's musicianship to open up various music career options. He is also a frequent guest lecturer to various branches of the Music Teachers Association of California. From 2003-07, he was a member of the faculty of the American Institute of Musical Studies (AIMS) in Graz, Austria, and worked beside his former teacher, Harold Heiberg, an authority on German art song. There Thies coached singers and pianists on the works of the great Germanic composers of Lied: Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, Wolf, and Strauss. His article on collaboration "*I am Not an Accompanist*" was published in the Fall 2017 edition of the California Music Teacher's magazine.

Though born on the East Coast, Thies makes a home in Los Angeles. His teachers have included Robert Turner and Daniel Pollack, both protégés of the legendary Russian pedagogue Madame Rosina Lhevinne, and the great pianist Josef Lhevinne. For more information, visit Robert Thies at: www.robertthies.org.



Phillip Levy, Violinist



Hailed by the San Francisco Chronicle as the top classical performer of 1995, violinist Phillip Levy has received worldwide critical acclaim at festivals in Spoleto, Bayreuth, Edinburgh, Israel, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Ojai, Seattle and Aspen.

"Powerful playing... clean articulation, appealing tasteful and confident sense of style... taking no aspect of music at face value." (London Telegraph, Wigmore Hall Debut Recital)

Mr. Levy has received many prestigious awards and prizes including the International Chamber Music Competition, Florence, Italy; The Royal Overseas League, England; The Myra Hess Trust, Welsh Arts Council, American Israel Cultural Foundation and Rubin Academy Violin Competition, Israel.

He has collaborated with renowned artists including Sir Yehudi Menuhin, Iona Brown, Sir Neville Marriner, Dawn Upshaw, John O'Connor, Ralf Gothoni and Lynn Harrell. He has also premiered and recorded new works by composers William Bolcom, Henri Lazarof, Donald Crockett and John Harbison.

Born in Cardiff, Wales, Mr. Levy trained in Israel and Europe. Returning to England, he joined the English Chamber Orchestra and the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, with whom he also appeared as soloist. He led the London based Locrian and Amphion String Quartets and was subsequently invited to perform Bartok's Violin Duos on BBC television with Sir Yehudi Menuhin.

Concertmaster of The Monterey Symphony Orchestra for six seasons, Mr. Levy frequently appeared with them as soloist and conductor. He was also the principal violinist for the Apple Hill Chamber Players, held a senior lectureship in violin and chamber music at Stanford University for eight years and also led the Stanford String Quartet, performing and recording with them extensively.

Currently residing in Los Angeles, Mr. Levy leads the Capitol Ensemble, artists in residence for the Los Angeles County Museum's Sunday's Live radio broadcasts on KUSC and featured on the program's title .

His numerous solo performances have been broadcast on Israel Television and Radio, NPR and the BBC.

Mr. Levy is also a recording artist for the Hollywood film studios and has been featured on over one thousand movie soundtracks, including Star Wars, ET, Toy Story, Finding Nemo, X-Men, Frozen and Avatar. He has also recorded with legendary artists such as Barbra Streisand, Sting, Phil Collins and Elton John.

A much sought after teacher, Mr. Levy has taught at festivals throughout the world.

For more information, visit Phillip Levy at <https://philliplevy.com/>



Program Notes

Sonata in C minor for Piano and Violin, Op. 30, No. 2 (1801-1802)

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

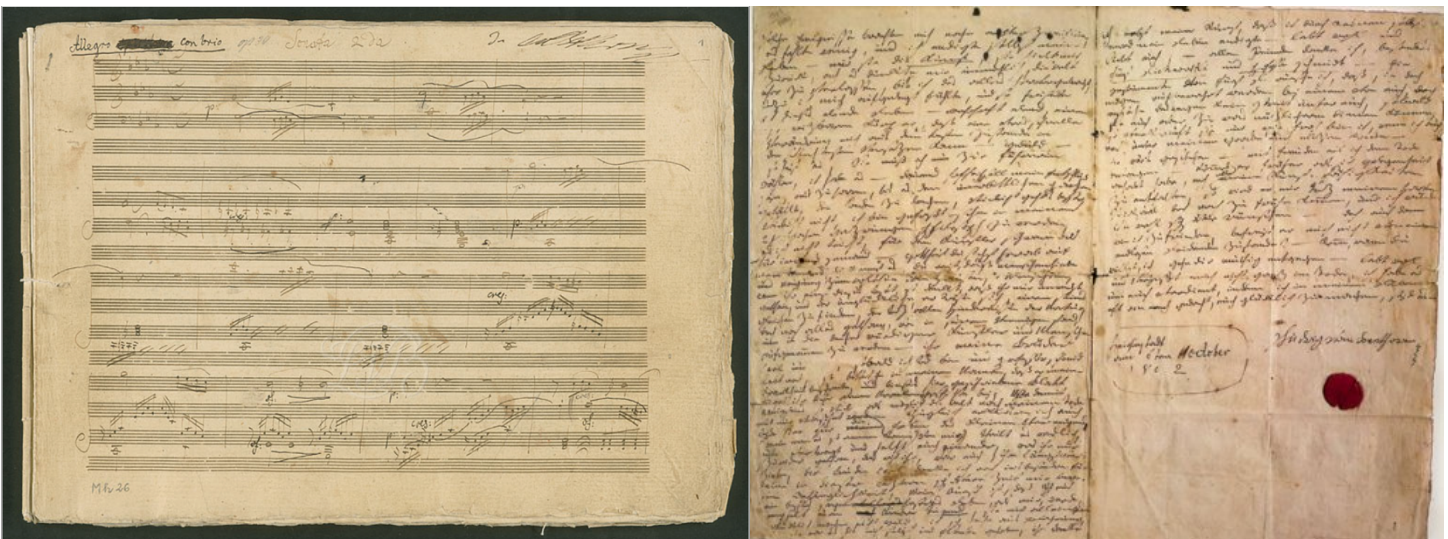
When we think of violin sonatas, we often think of the violin being the foreground force of the music. In 1803, Beethoven's three sonatas for piano and violin (opus 30) were published under the title of *Trois Sonates pour le Pianoforte avec l'accompagnement d'un Violon* (Three Sonatas for the Pianoforte with the Accompaniment of Violin). This, of course, does not mean that the violin is any less significant. Rather, it becomes a force that emphasizes the dramatic tone of the work alongside the piano.

Beethoven redefines the traditional standard of three movements in Classical period to four movements in this violin sonata. In fact, he chose to do so in only three (this one, the fifth, and the tenth) of his ten violin sonatas. Beethoven often picked C minor for his especially dramatic works, such as his well-known Fifth Symphony, the "Pathétique" Sonata, and the Third Piano Concerto.

This Violin Sonata was composed around the same time he wrote his heart-wrenching suicide note, "*Heiligenstadt Testament*," in 1802. By this time, his compositions were beginning to be recognized near and far. Yet, his worsening deafness overshadowed his success. The overlap of his deepening depression and the growing recognition of his music is represented well in these four movements. The vigorous emotional journey of the outer movements envelops the calm and light mood of the inner movements.



3D Reconstruction of Beethoven by Hadi Karimi



Manuscript of Beethoven's Violin Sonata No. 7 in C minor (left); Beethoven's Heiligenstadt Testament, 1802 (right)



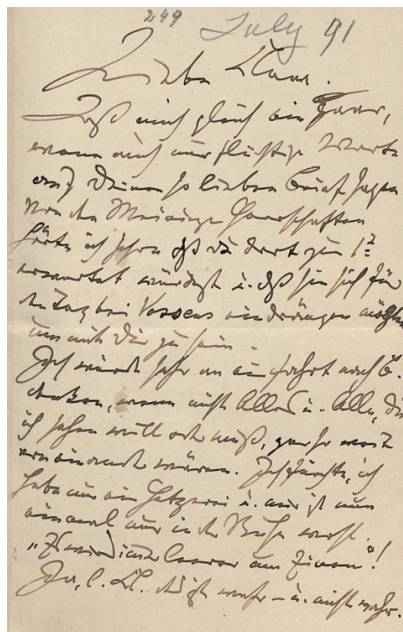
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

A color portrait photograph of Dr. Johannes Brahms. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark suit jacket over a blue shirt with a large, light blue bow tie. He has a full, long white beard and mustache, and his hair is grey and slightly disheveled. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera. The background is a dark, mottled grey. The photograph is mounted on a white card with a black border. Below the photograph, the text "Dr. Johannes Brahms." is printed in a black serif font. At the bottom of the card, the photographer's name "C. BRASCH, Hofphotograph" and the address "Leipzigerstr. 9, BERLIN W." are printed in a black sans-serif font.

Published around 76 years after the previous (Beethoven) sonata, the violin is comparatively much more expressive. He ironically yet intentionally defies the redefined standard of the four-movement. He even joked with his publisher that he would accept 25% less than his fee for a work like this Sonata. Even though this work is titled his first violin sonata, he might have written and deserted three to five violin sonatas before deciding to publish this work.

The title “Regensonate (Rain Sonata)” refers to the music borrowing from his own art song, “Regenlied (Rain Song)” and “Nachklang (Reminiscence)” for the third movement of this violin sonata.

Please listen to the art songs here: <https://youtu.be/Pp0gvonWc5M> and here: <https://youtu.be/Vju3fso-1TY>.



Letter from Brahms to Clara Schumann (left); A prelude and fugue dedicated to Clara Schumann (right)



Support Us

We produce chamber music concerts, free to the public, featuring musicians and programs of the highest caliber. We cannot do so without the generosity of our patrons and supporters. We thank you for your consideration in giving whatever you can to help us keep alive our tradition of bringing great music and culture to the South Bay.

Gold Circle \$1000.00 or +
Advocate \$500.00
Benefactor \$250.00
Guarantor \$100.00
Patron \$50.00

Support us with any amount you can. Every donation is appreciated. When you click on the link, you also have the option of setting up monthly donations. And in the section "Add a note", above your banking information, please share your name(s) you would like us to acknowledge with your generous donation!

Donate



Or, you may download and print the donation form below and mail your donation to us:

South Bay Chamber Music Society

P.O. Box 2313

Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

I (We) wish to support the current concert season of the South Bay Chamber Music Society with a tax-deductible contribution in the category checked below:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Circle | \$1000 and up | <input type="checkbox"/> Guarantor | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate | \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$250 | | |

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Thank you for your donation!



Our Corporate Sponsors

The Los Angeles Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission
The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs
The Colburn School of Music

Gold Circle Donors

Adrienne Brandriss
Patrick D. Garvey and Geneva Martin
Gary and Mary Gordon
Deanna and Gerald Holleman
Judy Mishkin
Julie and Stephen Paterson
Roger and Carol Schamp

Advocate

Ronald Bartell and Christine Mitchell
John W. Burnett
Robert and Donna Francis
Joanna and Michael Heim
Nancy Linn
Jan and Jerald Simon
John Williams
Georgeann Wyatt

Benefactor

Louise Allison
Ed Barad and Carol McCully
Gabriel Berghouse and Vicki Stone
Antoinette Crichton and Rod Raynovich
Diana Cutler
Marlene and Everett Emerson
Peggy Garvey
Zelda and Jerry Green
Evan and Dorothy Hazelton
Judy Herman
Linda Jenson
Harriet S. Kaplan
Dorothy and Allen Lay
Tom and Faith Lyons
William Mach
Lois McFarland
Karen and John McMahon



Brenda and Michael McNamara
Wayne and Masako Partridge
Jim and Robin Paterson
Donald and Patricia Range
Cantor and Mrs. Stephen Richards
Sandy and Michael Sherman
Ron Smith
June and John Uharriet
Tom and Edie Van Huss
Evalee Weiss
Wendy Wolf and Mike Wheeler

Guarantor

Anonymous
Janet Ashley
Steve and Cindy Bandel
Melinda Barth
Dr. Rainer and Nancy Beck
Berta Bilezikjian and Richard Yee
Ruth Bloland
Claudette G. Bowie
Heather and Thomas Callow
Christine and John Campbell
Dorie and Brooks Chadwick
Morton Civen
Jeff Cohlberg
Don Croley
Alison Davis
Harry and Valerie Donahue
Lee W. Dorsey
Margo Doxakis and Philip Stein
Julia Dunphy
Dr. Richard and Gail Effros
Margareta and Ray Ericksen
Judith Farmer and Gernot Wolfgang
Kathleen Fitzgerald
William Funkey
Richard Gerber
Barbara and Burt Glazer in memory of Charles R Cahn
Mark Goldberg
Katharine Gross
Delores Harralson
Gary and Lee Ann Hart
Joanne and Ralph Iwens in memomemory of Michael G. Ryan
Robert Johnson and Linda Klein
Dale Karls and Diana Weatherly
Masao Katsumata
Rachelle Katz



Bill Knipps
Yasuhiko and Cleo Komorita
William and Emily Lacina
Peter Landecker and Sue Cutler
Rosemary Leake
Marilyn Litvak
Peter Livingston
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lucy
Drs. Mary and Susan Mach
Bill and Mary Malcolm
Beth Marquardt
Carlos Marques
McJones Family
Karol McQueary
Memory of Ben and Robert Brytan
Burckhard Mohr
Lorraine Mone
Patrick and Letcia Moran
Donna Morton
Dagmar and Samuel Muthamia
Michael and Gerri Oshry
Andrew Paroczai and Margaret Paul
Ken and Carol Pauley
Toni and Scott Pinsky
Quentin and Helene Pizzini
Shelley and Ben Pogorelsky
David Quadhamer
Gail Ruder
Alberta Samuelson
Eva and Michael Schulz
Judy and Jim Scott
Stephen and Janet Sherman
Conrad and Gail Siegel
Jim and Berthe Slattery
Carla and Doug Smith
Philip and Lynn Solomita
Kyung and Hoon Song
Michael and Julie Sulman
Tavetian family
Jean Tordella
Mary Toth
Mr. Detlev L. Werk Sr.
Milford G. Wyman
Henry and Jenny Yang
David and Carolyn Yu
Terri and Lawrence Zinkiewicz



Patron

Esther and Sandy Abramowitz
Stephen Beach
David Behr
Pamela Bleich
Janice Brennan
Chris Brooks
David Brown and Jill Conway
Joan Condon In honor of Robin and Jim Paterson
Naresh and Susan Deo
Dietz Brothers Music
James B. and Mary Ann Donahue
Robert G. Dye
Dr. G. Eng and S. Dreifuss
Sue Fishman
Dorothy Fitzgerald
Barbara and Burt Glazer
Penny Good
Doris Granata
Margaret Gross
Elizabeth Hawkins in loving memory
of Charles and Mary Cahn
Jeanne and Fred Henry
Lew Holzman, MD
Stanley Howard
Eric Johnson and Sherrilyn January
Dale Keyser
Jim and Pat Mack
Jess Morton
Margery Norris
Dean O Bray
N. Oghigian
Patt Parker
Jeff and Barbara Riker
Judy Shaffer
Anita and Arnold Sobol
Audrey Kraake-Suer
Laurel Telfer
John and Doriane Tippet
Els Tulman
Drs. Kenneth Ungar and Jan Keller-Ungar
Lynn and Kerry White
Lois Whitener
Bob Witte

