



100 East 8th Street, Suite 150, Holland, MI 49423
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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Number: **388**

Website: www.hope.edu/hasp

Kim Mendels, Director, mendels@hope.edu

Susan Timmer, Program Coordinator, timmer@hope.edu

December 2020

Email: hasp@hope.edu

MONTHLY PROGRAM Monthly Program Chair: *Claudia Berry*, jcberry@sirus.com, 616.399.2538

Date: December 1, 2020

Time: 9:30-10:30am

Place: HASP Virtual Classroom, hope.edu/virtualhasp

Presenter: Rhonda Edgington

Program: Christmas Organ Music From Hope Church, "Familiar Tunes and New Discoveries"

Christmas music is one holiday tradition we shouldn't have to live without in 2020! Join Rhonda at the organ console of Hope Church as she performs settings of familiar Advent and Christmas hymn tunes written by composers old and new, and also mixes in some holiday music you may not have heard before. You will have the best seat in the house, as you can watch Rhonda's hands and feet move over the keys during this presentation, followed by Q&A about the organ and music played.

Rhonda Sider Edgington is often commended for her innovative programming, colorful use of registrations, and exciting playing. She spent seven years studying, working and performing in Bremen, Germany, originally under a Fulbright scholarship. Edgington has played recitals at venues in the US such as St. Thomas Fifth Avenue in New York City, Arizona State University, and the Cadet Chapel at West Point, and in Germany on famous historic organs. She has performed at national and regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists and Organ Historical Society, and been heard on the radio program Pipedreams. She is an avid collaborative musician, and plays organ, piano, harpsichord, and the carillon. Rhonda is the Organist and Assistant Music Director at Hope Church, Organ Instructor at Calvin University, Dean of the Holland American Guild of Organists chapter, and maintains an active performing career. She posts on Instagram at: [i_luv_schnitgers](https://www.instagram.com/i_luv_schnitgers)

Upcoming Monthly Programs

January 5, 2021 – Dr. Fred Johnson III, Professor of History, Hope College:
"America's Tortured Soul"

February 2, 2021 – Christopher Lubbers, PHD Philosophy, University of Florida:
"Christian Privilege What It Is & How to Use It for Good"

HASP PRESIDENT

“A virtual hug from your president”



In my remarks at the annual meeting last June, I said that several years ago I adopted the mantra that “Life is just one adjustment after another.” Looking back over the past eight months, it appears that HASP has done a good job of doing exactly that.

Back in March, Hope College “shut down” the campus which meant that Kim had to work from her home. She directed our HASP activities, including scheduling and hosting many committee meetings so that we could continue our programs.

Our annual meeting in June was taped and edited by our newly hired Program Coordinator, Susan Timmer. It was a well-done production which included a virtual tour of our new facilities. If you missed it, you can still watch it at [HASP YouTube Channel](#).

The Curriculum Committee went to work putting together a short, but great summer term filled with a variety of courses – and it was free to HASP members. Over the summer months, this committee began working on a fall term focusing on “sustainability” – a timely subject matter which was emphasized throughout the successful term.

Our monthly programs continued to be presented on the first Tuesdays of every month with many speakers presenting from their homes or offices located in places other than Holland.

We welcomed 15 new members remotely and are anxious to meet them in-person in the future.

The Service Committee asked for volunteers to meet with Hope students in various classes during the fall semester. More HASP members than were needed volunteered to meet remotely with the students.

Special Events worked diligently to offer a Trivia Night which included participants going into “break out rooms.” More virtual events are being planned.

We learned how to “mute ourselves,” “turn off the video,” and use the “chat button” during our classes and meetings. We called these actions “Zoom Etiquette” which were quickly adopted by you.

Zooming, yes everyone is zooming! Let’s pat ourselves on the back, or better yet, give yourself a hug for making all of these adjustments during the last eight months of 2020.

Sincerely,

Barbara Stegink

President

MEMBERSHIP *Membership Chair: Carla Ver Schure, verschure@sbcglobal.net, 616.392.5666*

We welcome the following new members:

BETHANY BAKER

Profession: Senior Project Engineer, General Motors
Education: Michigan State University
Hobbies: Photography, birds, needlepoint, sewing
Mentor: Bridget Morel

BEN BAKER

Profession: Product Engineer, General Motors
Education: Michigan State University
Hobbies: History of technology, hiking, canoeing, "how things work", environmental systems
Mentor: Bridget and Louis Morel

CHAD SCHMUCKER

Profession: Attorney, Judge
Education: University of Michigan, Wayne State
Hobbies: Reading, politics, walking
Mentor: Anne Heyns

JOYCE SCHMUCKER

Profession: Teacher, Coordinator, Director, Administrator
Education: Michigan State University
Hobbies: Reading, needlework, hiking, cooking, outdoor activities
Mentor: Anne Heyns

KATHLEEN STEWART PONITZ

Profession: Director of Marketing, Sr. VP, Principal
Education: University of Michigan, University of Edinburgh
Hobbies: Community and architecture design, travel, golf, sports, cooking, reading
Mentor: Mary Vincent

While we are working remotely, please contact Susan Timmer, timmer@hope.edu, for membership assistance or questions.

Membership Process

- Request information by emailing Susan Timmer timmer@hope.edu. If you are requesting information on someone's behalf, please provide their name and email address.
- Prospective members are asked to attend a Monthly Program via Zoom prior to submitting an application (instructions to attend will be provided).
- Submit application for processing and approval.
- Sign up for classes and enjoy HASP!

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the following HASP members:

James Strickland -Jim taught and chaired the physics department at Grand Valley State College, where he remained until his retirement in 1995. He passed away Oct 16, 2020.

Robert Palma -Bob retired after a long teaching career in the Religion Department at Hope College. He passed away October 17, 2020.

Gordon Van Wylen -Dr. Van Wylen served as Hope's president from 1972 until 1987. He passed away November 5, 2020, at age 100.

Barbara Mast -As a member of Calvary Reformed Church, Barb served as an elder and was involved with the seniors. She passed away November 7, 2020.

Alan L. Kindig -After a long career in engineering with the General Electric and Prince corporations, Al was an active volunteer. He passed away November 12, 2020.

CURRICULUM Curriculum Chair: Sharon Arendshorst, snarendshorst@gmail.com, 616.335.3132

Fall term is winding down and your Curriculum Committee has been working diligently to prepare another stimulating array of zoom-appropriate courses to offer during the winter/spring term, January 18—April 30. We chose as our special focus courses related to racism, equity, diversity and inclusion. Through the wide variety of courses planned for winter/spring, we hope to deepen insights and invite conversations around these important topics. At this writing, we will be offering around 47 courses, 13 cross-listed under the special focus umbrella. Your next course catalog will be sent in December and registration will open early January 2021.

As fall term draws to a close, please take the time to fill out the evaluation forms that were emailed to you by Susan at the conclusion of the courses you attended. The evaluation for all courses will be open until the end of the term. The simple on-line form takes only a few minutes to fill out. The Curriculum Committee finds the evaluations and your comments very helpful as when considering future courses. Be sure to recommend topics and presenters you'd like to see in future terms as well as your own willingness to develop a course.

The recorded sessions of the fall courses will be uploaded to the HASP YouTube channel and released to HASP members on **Monday, December 14**. Enjoy your favorite classes again by searching for "Hope Academy of Senior Professionals – YouTube".

Remember: All committees accept course ideas and proposals year-round!

Curriculum Chair: Sharon Arendshorst—snarendshorst@gmail.com 616-335-3132

Fine Arts: Sarah Briggs – sarahbriggs969@gmail.com 517-449-5818

Humanities: Judy Parr – parr.judyandbill@gmail.com 616-546-3424

Science, Medicine & Technology: Bruce Basset—bruce-b@sbcglobal.net 847-542-7449

Social Sciences: Mike Economos – mikeeconomos@gmail.com 269-857-1248

SERVICE *Service Chair: Maura Reynolds, mreynolds@hope.edu, 616.392.2874*

THANK YOU

Thanks to the HASP members who volunteered in Hope classes. Here are some responses from Hope faculty about your contributions:

- My students “were genuinely beaming as they described how much they loved their interactions with you all.”
- “You at HASP have been amazing to work with.”
- “Our experience with HASP volunteers...was OUTSTANDING. It was challenging but highly successful.”
- “We're really lucky to have HASPers who are so generous with their time and experience.”
- The HASP group that visited with my students was fantastic. The interactions were genuine and somewhat inspirational. I know the students enjoyed the session, and they have spoken about it several times since. We will have to plan for this activity again.

Please watch the newsletters for information about volunteer opportunities with spring semester classes at Hope.

OFFICE & DIRECTOR NEWS *Director: Kim Mendels, mendels@hope.edu, 616.335.0627*

Office Hours for January 2020 - April 2021 will be determined at a later date based on recommendations from the Campus Safety and Health Committee. Right now we will be working remote unless a presenter needs access to the classroom for tech support on Zoom. Please contact us by email at either mendels@hope.edu, timmer@hope.edu, or hasp@hope.edu.

HASP is closed Monday, December 21 - January 4, 2021, in conjunction with Hope College shut-down.

Our winter weather closing policy (in "normal" times HASP courses/events are canceled when Holland Public Schools are closed) will be handled on a case by case basis this year while we are still remote. We will only cancel classes if the presenter is unavailable via Zoom.

We will not be printing a hard copy of the HASP membership directory this year. It will be available to members online at a later date.

If you would like to make a year end gift to support our HASP Endowment or one of our scholarships please send to:

Hope College
Development Services
PO Box 9000
Holland, MI 49422-9000

If your gift is for HASP, please write the HASP Endowment or HASP Scholarship in the memo line of your check!

Your gift matters to students like Samatha Trausch:

Dear HASP,

I am writing this letter to express my sincere gratitude for the Hope Academy of Senior Professionals Members Scholarship. I was ecstatic to learn I was receiving this honor, and I am deeply appreciative of the support.

As I was searching for a college to attend, Hope became one of my favorites. When I visited Hope, I knew that it would be the perfect college for me because of the size of the campus. This school was the only one I looked at that felt the most like home to me. After attending Hope for over three years now, this is still true. Hope College is where I belong, and I am so grateful to be taking classes at such a wonderful college. Without receiving this aid, I would have most likely not been able to join the Hope College Class of 2021.

I am double majoring in dance performance/choreography and business and minoring in dance pedagogy with the intention of opening and running my own dance studio one day. I am from a very small town in the northwest corner of Ohio named Edon. I love to dance and spend time with my family and friends. The community that I grew up in is so important to me, and that is why Hope is the perfect place for me. I am an avid football fan, especially when it is the Ohio State Buckeyes or the Dallas Cowboys. I also love to be outdoors on the farm, in the beautiful countryside that is my home. I was in 4-H for ten years, where I showed pigs at my county fair. I was also in FFA and choir for all of high school. At Hope, I have been very active in the Dance department. I was involved in Ballet Club as a dancer for freshman and sophomore year, and I have danced in Dance 45 and 46 in addition to being a member of StrikeTime Dance Theatre. This year, I am once again a company member for StrikeTime Dance Theatre, dancing in Dance 47, and the treasurer and a choreographer for Ballet Club. I was also inducted into the Dance Department Honor Society, Sigma Omicron last fall. I was elected the Treasurer this year.

Thank you again for your generosity and support. This scholarship has lightened my financial burden which has allowed me to focus more on my school work and learning! Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to this great community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me. Thank you so very much!

*Samantha Trausch, Hope Academy of Senior Professionals Members Scholarship Recipient
Class of 2021*

A Message From Kim

Dear HASP friends,

2020 has been hard and not what any of us could have expected. We entered the year optimistic and excited about moving into our new, beautifully renovated HASP space with a full array of courses, special events, monthly programs, and more. By mid- March all these things were canceled and our lives changed in many ways. (continued)

We have all experienced loss in this last year. Loss of people we loved, loss of plans we'd made to make special memories, loss of our routines and engagement with others, loss of jobs, financial security, and the list goes on. It would be wrong not to acknowledge these losses and the sadness we feel as a result. Its part of the process of healing, and important to lean into and work through it and hopefully, find peace and hope on the other side. We would not know joy and gratitude if we did not also experience loss and disappointment.

Some of you know that my favorite author is Frederick Buechner. No matter what season of life for me, I always seem to find comfort and hope in his writing. Recently I came across this excerpt from one of his books in my collection. We've had our share of tears over here in the Mendels household (3 daughters :) over the last eight months from both frustration and losses, so I share this with all of you as well:

Tears

YOU NEVER KNOW what may cause tears. The sight of the Atlantic Ocean, or a piece of music, or a face you've never seen before. A pair of somebody's old shoes can do it. Almost any movie made before the great sadness that came over the world after the Second World War, a horse cantering across a meadow, the high-school basketball team running out onto the gym floor at the start of a game.

You can never be sure. But of this you can be sure. Whenever you find tears in your eyes, especially unexpected tears, it is well to pay the closest attention. They are not only telling you something about the secret of who you are, but more often than not God is speaking to you through them of the mystery of where you have come from and is summoning you to where, if your soul is to be saved, you should go to next.

-Originally published in Whistling in the Dark

I love this because it's true isn't it? Our tears tell us something about ourselves – and what's in our hearts. Whether they are tears of joy or tears of loss and sadness, pay attention to them.

Gratefully and humbly, I remind you that we are a community of lifelong learners, of friends and colleagues, and a community of Hope. Being people of Hope doesn't exempt us from trouble or disappointment. It does mean that we cling to something greater than our troubles, and hopefully also means we can always find something to be grateful for!

So as you move into this time of Thanksgiving and Christmas, however different it may look and feel this year, I pray you find joy in something unexpected, that you remain safe and healthy, and that in the New Year we will see each other again.

Blessings, Kim Mendels, HASP Director

