

## Life and music of 'Songbird of the South' to be celebrated in January 25 concert

By Sue Dings



Soprano Nadine Salonites will present a first person narrative of the life and career of world famous songstress Kate Smith (inset) including her most famous hit, "God Bless America."

**Dear Readers:**

In order to receive future newsletters, your continued support is needed. Increases in printing and postage necessitate a change in policy. Beginning with the Winter newsletter, APPAC will only be able to send a copy to those who have supported us with a donation in the past or during our current Support Drive (See page 3).

The life and 50 year career of Kate Smith will be presented in a first person narrative and a rich variety of songs by Nadine Salonites on January 25, at 3 pm at the Pioneer United Methodist Church in Auburn. Mrs. Salonites will be accompanied on the piano by Kathleen Turner.

"Kate Smith, known as the Song Bird of the South, was an unbelievably versatile song stylist, having sung ballads, sacred, folk, musical comedy, blues, jazz, novelty, western, sentimental, current pop, patriotic and classical," said Salonites.

Songs associated with Kate Smith that Salonites will sing include a novelty number that was a hit of 1939, "The Woodpecker Song," to the ballads and war songs, "White Cliffs of Dover," "I'll Be Seeing You" and "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree." The program also will include "Ave Maria," "You'll Never Walk Alone," "Almost Like Being in Love" and, of course, "God Bless America."

A graduate of College of the Pacific with a major in music, Salonites continued vocal study in London and Munich. After returning to the United States, she took on lead roles in 20 operas, sang with various California symphony orchestras, and, more recently, performed one-woman

shows. These included life stories about Ernestine Schumann-Heink, a German opera singer in the late 19th and early 20th centuries; Kate Smith, a 1940s American television and radio performer; and Davidella Hershey, daughter of the builder of the Woodland Opera House. She has also shared her musical knowledge with others as a voice teacher at the UC Davis music department, a position she held for 15 years. Currently she teaches in a private voice studio.

As a resident of Woodland, the soprano's favorite venue is the historic Woodland Opera House where she has been a frequent performer. Salonites, was 13 years old when she started singing. "I was really blessed," she said. "I had a big voice that had to be molded."

This will be a concert to hear old time favorite songs and learn of Kate Smith's remarkable life and times. Information will also be shared about the plans for the Auburn Placer Performing Arts Center, (APPAC). Admission will be by donations to APPAC.

The audience is invited to a reception hosted by the Auburn branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW) following the concert.

For information, call Sue Dings, (530) 885-9009

# Recent accomplishments set the stage for 2009

## Message from the Board

It is my privilege and pleasure to work with the dedicated individuals who make up the Advisory Board and Board of Directors of the Auburn Placer Performing Arts Center (APPAC). Let's look at some of the recent accomplishments:

- The facade of the State Theatre building has been restored to its 1937 glory, complete with marquee and vertical sign. Check it out some evening – a definite beacon for our community.

- The Annual Supporter Drive is progressing with more than \$14,500 in contributions so far. If you haven't provided your financial support yet this year – now is the time! Remember, we are a 501 c (3) non-profit corporation. Your contributions *are* tax deductible.

- Our building has gone green. Old inefficient lighting sources have been replaced with more energy efficient sources. The result is a reduction in the building's energy consumption (the equivalent of removing 35 sixty-watt light bulbs). Energy costs should be reduced by approximately \$60 per month.

- Two tenant spaces have received new ceiling tiles, resulting in better sound proofing and additional energy savings.

- The stairwells to the second floor tenants have received some patching and fresh paint. Although progress has been made, there is much more to be done – interested in helping? Please call us at (530) 885-0156 and get on our volunteer list or participate on an active committee.

Let's look at what you can expect to happen:

- The possibility of being able to offer you an opportunity to own a portion of the State Theatre building, through the establishment of an L.L.C., is being studied and structure evaluated. Although the L.L.C. offerings will not be tax deductible, contributions to APPAC's Capital Campaign will.

- Expect the Capital Campaign to start after the release of the L.L.C. offerings – around the end of the first quarter 2009.

- The preliminary APPAC Business Plan has been reviewed by Venue Tech which is currently in the process of finalizing a Formal Business Plan to be utilized by APPAC. Completion is expected by January of 2009.

- Rental of vacant tenant spaces. Know of someone who would like to operate out of the State Theatre building? Call us at (530) 885-0156.

- Expect live performances to start at the State Theatre building next year along with select film series.

As you can see, much has happened and the pace is only expected to increase. Please join me in thanking the people that are making this happen for our community. You are invited to become part of this community effort. Please call us and let us know how you would like to help (530) 885-0156.



**Ron Ravo**  
First Vice-President

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Backer Cat . . . . . \$50  
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• All Supporter, Backer, and Big Cats receive a CAT pin

• Marquee Cats receive a Marquee pin

Donors listed represent new supporters from April to December 2008. Subsequent contributors will be added to the list in the Spring Showtime.

*That was then . . .*

**January, 2008**

*This  
is  
now!*



*APPAC wants to say thanks to the community of Auburn. Without you, our organization could not have come this far, and without you, we will not be able to achieve our goal of providing a state-of-the-art performing arts center.*

## **APPAC to explore live productions in 2009**

In keeping with the mission of APPAC, the Board of Directors will be exploring the production of music and small live theatre in 2009. Plans are already in place to consider producing live performances once a month and to show occasional movies as well.

The Production and Architectural committee under the leadership of Board Member Monroe DeJarnette has completed plans for the construction of a 20 foot by 20 foot stage to be housed in the left hand

theater of the current movie house.

The stage can be used for local and touring dance troupes, choral groups, musical theater, dramatic productions, and speakers. Theater seating will be installed to increase the audience capacity in the left auditorium to approximately 100.

The right hand side of the auditorium may be used for occasional movies. A Cinema Operations committee headed up by Richard Del Balso is currently investigating this possibility.

As these developments are in the planning stages, no dates have currently been set.

Musicians, performers and theatrical groups who are interested in producing live theater in a small venue, or have need to rent a "Black Box" or Studio style theater should stay tuned and follow APPAC's progress. Visit [www.livefromauburn.com](http://www.livefromauburn.com) and keep well informed through this newsletter and the local newspapers for future developments.

## **Movie theater operator bows out**



Theresa Cote, owner and operator of the Old State Theater movie house announced in December that she is moving her business to another location. She planned to be out of the building by Dec. 20.

The reason for the move as mentioned on her website is to make way for APPAC's progress in transforming the State Theatre building into a performing arts center.

Cote is currently looking for a new location. She stated that she is excited about the move and grateful for her loyal patrons.



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Performing Arts Center"*

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# Local musicians to perform in APPAC concert

By Sue Dings

On March 8, APPAC will host a viola and piano concert featuring local musicians David Thorp and his wife Chi-Hsin Kao Thorp.

The Auburn Symphony and other area orchestras appreciate David as their Principle Violist. Accompanied at the piano by his wife, who is an accomplished pianist and teacher, this concert at the lovely historic home of the Bill and Janet North will be a real treat for music lovers. Admission to the concert will be by donation to the Auburn Placer Performing Arts Center.

Thorp holds a B.M. in Viola Performance from the University of South Florida in Tampa and a M.M. in Performance from the Manhattan School of Music, New York City. Currently, he is principal violist for the Apollo Orchestra and for the Auburn Symphony.

He is a violin and viola instructor with the Bach Foundation and a Violist in the Apollo String Quartet. He has performed as a soloist with the Light Opera of Manhattan and the American Philharmonic Orchestra of Lincoln Center, New York.

Chi-Hsin Kao Thorp received her BM degree on piano performance from the University of the Pacific, Conservatory of Music, *summa sum laude*; and her MM degree from the California State University Sacramento, focusing on piano pedagogy. Chi-Xin is a member of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. Her teachers include Frank Wiens and Rex Cooper at the University of the Pacific and Richard Cionco, Lorna Peters (harpishord) at California State University, Sacramento.

For information, call Sue Dings 530-885-9009

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- Upstairs large office 1,125 sq ft.
- Upstairs newly remodeled 340 sq ft.
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# Thanks

## and a "Tip of the Hat" to . . .



• **Ron Ravo and Daniel Kuckart**, for their work on soundproofing two suites in the Theatre building, making them ready for rent.

• **Merja Broulette and Susan Carlson**, for their energetic, creative, and excellent work with the performance committee.

• **Linda Lareau of Courthouse Coffee**, for hosting the gathering of audience members before the Jack Williams concert.

• **Wayne Manning**, for sponsoring the Jack Williams concert.

• **Nick Willick**, for completing the sheet metal capping over the Theatre building walls and for assisting on the Oct. 11 work party.

• **Kevin Odell, George and Kathie Remaley, Dean Prigmore, Bill Radakovitz, Paul Ogden, and Richard Del Balso**, for the fresh paint and patching in the stairwells and entryway.

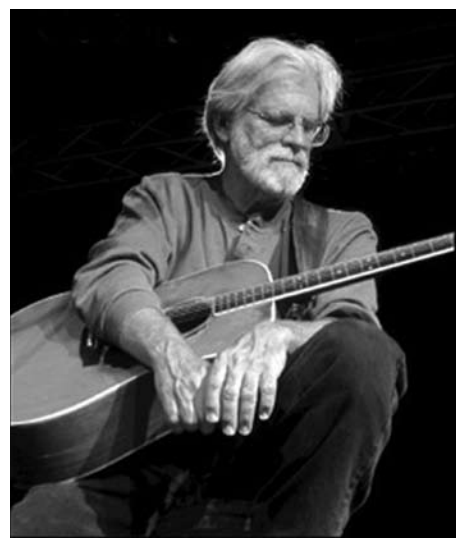
## Folk guitarist, songwriter Jack Williams thrills audience in APPAC fund-raising concert

Folk guitarist and recording artist Jack Williams provided a well-received performance October 11 at the Pioneer Methodist Church in Auburn. Williams demonstrated his unique repertoire of traditional and contemporary songwriting to the delight of the audience.

Wayne Manning, of Manning Consulting in Auburn, sponsored the performance with proceeds benefiting APPAC and the future restoration, renovation, and reconstruction of the State Theatre Building.

Several APPAC Board members participated in making the event a success. Janis Wikoff worked the publicity and partnered with Courthouse Coffee for a pre-event gathering. George and Kathie Remaley along with Richard Del Balso worked at the Donations and Supporter sign-up table,

Glenda Gonzales created the performance program, Jane Harder Amick arranged for the facility and overall coordination. Kevin Odell, Betty DeJarnette, Dean Prigmore and Patrice Taylor showed support by attending.



Jack Williams

Fifty-seven people attended the event at the Pioneer Methodist Church in Auburn. APPAC received more than \$600 in donations for the evening.



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(Photo by Keith Sutter)

## Upcoming Events

- *Community Concert Series*

### Claremont Trio

Friday, February 13 -- 7:30 pm

Placer High School Auditorium

- *Auburn Symphony Concert Series*

### Soloist: Konstantin Soukhovetski, piano

Sunday, January 11 -- 3 pm

Placer High School Auditorium

### Soloist: Corina Stoian

Saturday, February 28, -- 7:30 pm

Sunday, March 1, -- 3 pm

Placer High School Auditorium