

**Join us for our Zoom PlayDay
with coach Alexa Haynes-Pilon
Sat., Sept. 12, 9:30-11:00 am**

FREE – a great membership benefit!

A performer on baroque cello, viola da gamba, baroque bassoon and dulcian, our coach **Alexa Haynes-Pilon** was recently described by Early Music America as “a special artist with a brilliant future.” She performs regularly with early music ensembles across North America and is the principal cellist of Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra, a co-director and cellist/gambist with Musica Pacifica, and a co-founder of Ensemble Bizarria, a Los Angeles-based early music chamber ensemble. She co-founded and is co-Artistic Director of Los Angeles Baroque (LAB), a community baroque orchestra based in South Pasadena, CA.

Alexa has been on faculty at the San Francisco Early Music Society workshops, the Port Townsend Early Music Workshop near Seattle, and at the Road Scholar Hidden Valley workshop in Carmel Valley, CA,.

At the University of Toronto, Alexa studied baroque cello with Christina Mahler and viola da gamba with Joelle Morton. She recently finished her doctoral studies at the University of Southern California, studying baroque cello and viola da gamba with William Skeen and baroque bassoon and dulcian with Charlie Koster.



Program: Still Life with Viols

We will explore consorts thematically linked to objects from still-life artwork— bells, ink, windows, flowers, etc. Composers will include Holborne, Wilbye, Byrd, Gibbons and Jenkins.

Since we have a variety of viol sizes, we'll not be doing “Music-Minus-One.” Instead, you will hear all the parts for each piece; I have recorded myself playing most if not all of the parts.

Take this as an opportunity to challenge yourself: Have you always wanted to learn how to read treble or bass clef on a tenor viol? Bass players, do you need to challenge yourself on your alto clef sight-reading skills? Treble players, do you need to work on your bow arm/bow weight? I encourage each of you to set a challenge or goal for yourself and work on it during the play-along session! No one (except your house-mates and pets) will hear you, so this is a great moment for some personal assessment and growth. —Alexa

Registering for the PlayDay

Deadline: NOON, Thursday, Sept. 10

1. Go to [our website](#) and log in*. (Note: each member logs in and signs up separately.)
 2. Under Events / PlayDay Registration, fill out and submit the form. A confirmation email will follow.
- * If you haven't yet activated or renewed your membership, click [HERE](#) for how-to instructions.

Registering and getting music for our PlayDay

1. [Click here](#) to get to Pacifica's website, then log in (*easy if you've saved your Member ID and Password*).
2. Once logged in, you'll be able to go to Events/PlayDay Registration with instructions for registering and for getting to Google Drive (a simple click) where we've stored pdfs of all the parts & scores.
3. In Google Drive [first open the file called "START HERE."](#) This is a letter from our coach Alexa, listing the program order, the parts in each piece and their clefs, and the number of pages in the score.
You might want to print it out as a reference.
4. Notice that there's a folder for each piece of music we'll be playing. Open a folder, then open your chosen part or the score. Print it out (or download it to your tablet). Repeat this step for each of the 7 pieces.

Once you register, Cindi, our Zoom host, will send out a confirmation email with a **link to our Zoom meeting** and helpful notes.

She'll send another email reminder to all registrants at 5pm the Friday evening before.

Using ZOOM

If you've never used Zoom, we highly recommend learning the basics so that you can have a good experience and not miss anything. The Seniors Guide website offers "[A Step by-Step Guide to a Zoom meeting](#)," including how to Download Zoom, Join a Zoom meeting and Participate in a meeting. Here are a few tips:

Muting your microphone

Your computer microphone is pretty sensitive, and if you are unmuted, it can pick up a lot of your background noise, like moving your chair or shuffling music.

- Find the button that looks like a microphone on the bottom left corner of the Zoom screen.

Time to renew your membership?

For those members whose renewals were due in August, you should have gotten an email reminder recently.

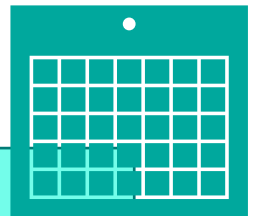
Membership is required in order to register for PlayDays— you don't want to miss them!

Alice Benedict has organized a full lineup of great coaches for our monthly PlayDays, which will be on Zoom until we can safely resume meeting in person. They will include some time for socializing at the end so we can stay in touch during this difficult time.

It bears repeating that your membership is crucial to our society; we appreciate your renewal!

HANDY TIP:

Copy and paste this Zoom link into your digital calendar for Sept. 12 as part of your entry for our PlayDay event



- If the microphone has a red line through it, you are muted and no one can hear you.
- If the microphone has no red line through it, your mike is live and every little noise in your room can be heard.
- To mute, click the mike icon (and then a diagonal red line will appear through the icon).
- To unmute, click the icon again. (It's a toggle switch: on/off/on/off...)

Chat

If you have a question or comment during the session, please enter it by clicking the Chat button, which looks like a speech bubble; it's at the bottom of the Zoom screen. You can send a message to everyone, to the host, or anyone else.

Note from our Prez–

I'm writing this after getting back from a little consort playing – the first in a long time. It was in a garage (with the door open); the air quality was horrible, the breeze kept blowing my music around, my treble wouldn't stay in tune as it's not used to the great outdoors, and we were all wearing masks (challenging to count out tempos!). BUT wonderful to make music in person again, with all of the fumbles and triumphs (we got to the end together, most of the time) that are involved.



Our PlayDays are resuming in September, but sadly, not in person (yet). Alice Benedict has put together a fantastic slate of coaches for us this year. Our PlayDay coordinator, Cindi Olwell, will be our Zoom host, working hard to help our coach and members meet the technical challenges of our virtual PlayDays.

I think we have all been inspired by the creative problem-solving that resulted in a fantastic VdGSA NonClave this July. I was pleasantly surprised by how much I learned. Of course, because it was online, I also missed socializing over meals, drooling over instruments in the Emporium, and consort playing in the laundry rooms. The auction was really entertaining (I'm the lucky person with the winning bid on a vielle—my little stringed family is growing). Be sure, if you attended, to complete the survey that was sent out, so that planning for next year's event includes your feedback.

And finally, huge appreciation to all who put together our Viols West Princess Lucky Tea virtual event! As a fairly new member, I haven't yet been to a Viols West workshop and was really looking forward to the road trip. It appears that there is a great deal of tradition involved, so I have some catching up to do! In addition to seeing everyone and having lots of fun watching the presentations, I now know the secret to a perfect pot of tea!

Pat Jennerjohn

FIRE EVACUATION NEWS from our members

**From Marilyn Cantey
in Santa Cruz:**

"I was evacuated on Thursday. So far the house is ok, so viol and my Steinway piano are ok. Wasn't much fun packing for a horse, 2 dogs, computers, financials, etc. But we are safe."

**From Ellen Fisher
in Paradise Valley Estates, a retirement
community in Fairfield:**

"We had a mandatory evacuation for less than 24 hours; I took one of my 4 viols. We were able to return the next day to discover the fire had burned right up to the edge of our community in one place after it jumped across the 8 lanes of I-80. Our maintenance workers were watching its progress very carefully from



a rooftop, and stopped it at the fence line using hoses and buckets.

"This very timely intervention meant that we suffered no destruction of property, and no injuries. Meanwhile, our thoughts are with some of our more rural areas, where residents, some with cows, pigs, horses, etc., are not yet allowed back after 9 days so far. Facing fire with animals is so much more difficult than just getting people to safety!"

Archivists discover valuable trove of first editions!

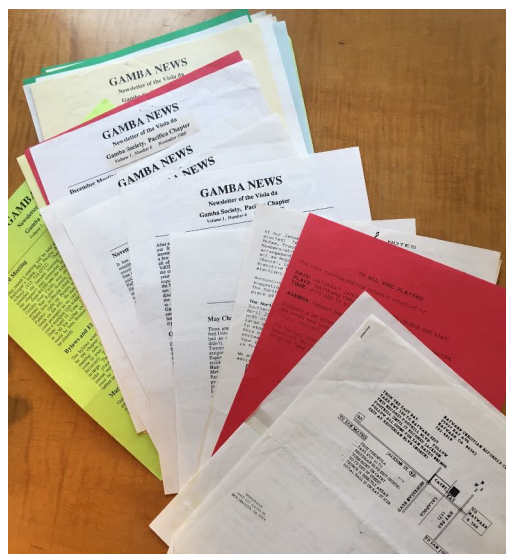
In a scholarly coup, two diligent researchers have unearthed important first editions of Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society's groundbreaking editions of Gamba News, dating as far back as the mid 1980s.

Former Pacifica Presidents Julie Jeffrey and Cindi Olwell, conducting archaeologically complex excavations in closets and cupboards, have recovered editions of the Gamba News dating back to the origins of the society.

"This is fully as significant as the discovery of the Rozanna-Rosetta stone," commented gambist Jeffrey, a professional librarian. "It may change the entire history of the gamba revival in the Bay Area."

"Perhaps we will finally understand why the chapter named itself after one of the smallest towns in the region," added Olwell. "Did we perhaps wish to appeal to surfers?"

The valuable documents, printed on multicolored paper and still bearing the postmarks and addresses of their original recipients, have been placed with society secretary Le Professore Nicholas Jones, who will undertake the daunting task of precision scanning and uploading them to the society's award-winning website.



*Below: 1987 Missive proposing our viol society!
From ad hoc committee Lee McRae, John Mark,
Julie Jeffrey, Al Roper and Todd Wetherwax.*

Proposed: A gathering of viols of diverse styles

Dear fellow gambist:

An ad hoc planning committee has located quite a number of viol players in the greater S.F. area ranging from Mendocino, Sacramento, Reno, Santa Cruz, Palo Alto to the East Bay. We would like to meet other viol players, hear new music, work with coaches willing to donate time (in the beginning), etc. A date and place has been set for our first meeting. Perhaps we can meet in other locations in alternate months.

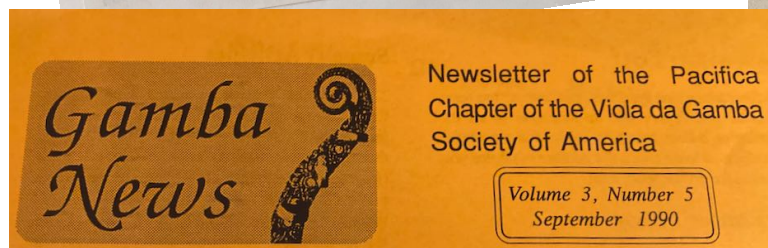
Date: Sunday, November 15, 1987
Place: (see map overleaf)
Time: 1:30 - 5:00 pm

We want to consider ideas you may have about the content of such meetings. Should we form a chapter? Should we have elected officers who would maintain an organization? Do we want lecturers, entertainment?

Agenda: Introductions - discussion - coffee break - formation of small consorts - break - larger group playing, if time. We will have music for groups of 4-5-6: Dowland, Holborne, Gibbons, Lawes, etc.

We have many wonderful musical resources, players, coaches in this area, and hope that as many of you as possible will be interested to join us.

Ellen Powers, President of Viola da Gamba Society of America has sent us information on how to start a chapter - if that is what we want to do. One of the first items is how to create a fund to cover expenses. To help start such a "kitty" we are asking all who can to donate sheet music, records and other music-related items(*) for an on-going informal exchange - with any \$\$ collected going towards our expenses. Maureen McTigue (408 996 9825) has agreed to help with this.



Lifted!

from a very early
Pacifica Viols newsletter—

Thanks go to editor Peter Ballinger.
Peter- 2 gold stars if you still have the
solution...?
We could publish it next month...

Oops!

Two words were misspelled:
“Ukelele” and “Xylophobe.”

Amherst Early Music Online Class Schedule- September

AEM continues to offer 90 minute weekend online classes at \$25 per class. Each Monday, AEM posts the classes for the upcoming weekend in the right-hand column of their [home page](#). To receive each weekend's class info, join their [mailing list](#).

Listed below are two classes that definitely are appropriate for viol players. Check [this link](#) for general info, or [this link](#) to see the entire September class schedule. Register by 9am Fridays.

Saturday, September 12

12:00 - 1:30 p.m. PDT

Back to School with Christopher Simpson (and John Moran, viol)

Saturday, September 19

12:00 - 1:30 p.m. PDT

A Cantus Firmus Connection for Viols and Friends of Viols with John Mark Rozendaal

Puzzle Corner

Find 100 musical instruments. No viola da gamba - only one-word instruments!

A S P M H F Z Z K S T X Q B P X Z R U K N B T
A P P Z F L A T T A B O R F Z G J V D R Q D W
B X F I X U H F M U S A B M I R A M N R Q V B
U F S W N T A C E L E S T A C S Q D W K T H C
T R U M P E T V I O L A W V G G C D A C X X S
M C N R O H T E S S A B D H L P S K C O J E M
Z O V L L H E N I L O D N A M A I S E L G H G
J R I V L E N O T Y R A B X X A G P B B T T Q
W N O I E C X H R E H T I Z L Y R E E D X B K
E E L O C K X P N C Y M B A L S L Y R O Z F B
Q T I L N E D O E D I E L C I H P O B O E F D
W O N O O L H S P A M A N V A S H W P W K P Z
W B X N L P F U A Q B A W N M C M O D H W Q H
X E S E O H D R N P G N J F I O C P R Z O C R
O L S X I O X R D R Y J H V L L N O M N T B Q
C L A I V N S A O Y C Q A A V A E O R A A V E
A S B R M E B S R H T L B J R B G R C D D Q S
R S T E N A T S A C C M R P R M H E B H I J V
I L L E N A S S A B I I E E F E O M O M O O K
N K F V D Z N G M C A G S C M C C N W L I R N
A O I M M S O U B K G R C P Z I O L I A E T D
G L H L A N I G R I V E T H R V C A R C H T G
S I A L G N A R O C Q N T N A A G L V D A S B
B D R A O H D N T E K C A R O L H B U E E E E
T S P H H S E T U L H C R A O C U K H D S R X
S F P L A N I T R E C N O C H F E M Z X R P Y
T U B K C A S O G N O B K I Y L O L E C E E S
E X N E T M U S E T T E T D E L D N L A T N V
Q N D E B A S S O O N A R L J O R A A R U T U
J I R I P P O X S S R U E N L O R G I I L M M
C R U O D I G T P R G X R O H I C A N L P T G
M Y M B H J P I O Y J E C M N R N T A L R V T
W S S R D L E N D K T C U E W G A U P O K B N
G E D O T L E R A T I R T T L M R T M N M A L
F I F E W I U G I P C Z H E T A F B I N X G U
C J V H F H L C U D S R X A Y M O Z T U L C M
T Q Y T T W N Q O L O B M O J N A B I T G B G
T G L D F N J S C I F O L G E L G U B X T J T

Zintillating Zooming through the Solitary Summer of Sheltering

by Neck Joins, specious correspondent

With ingenious inventions, valiant viola da gambists courageously competed with the dolorous dumps of 2020, with moving musical moments, lots of lifelong learning lessons, and cheerful chat.

At once abandoning alliteration, I'll turn to a swift summary of these electronic events (with a few lovely links to YouTube lectures from our national NonClave).

Pacifica Members' Bash, June 27

- Hosted by David Morris, who started us off with his sublime song to the tune of "Five Foot Two":

Click the link, as you think,
"Will my system swim or sink?"
Is anybody sick of Zoom?

Frozen screens, missing scenes,
And you forgot to put on jeans!
Yes, everybody's sick of Zoom!

We know it's not the same, this little game
called "Consorts for one",
But it won't last, and once it's past, we'll go
right back to having fun
In groups of ten! Women! Men! Sitting
close!... but until then
I guess we'll have to stick with Zoom.

- Penny Hanna playing Hume
- Telemann played by Gwyneth Davis
- Master-class by David Morris with Branson Stephens playing Marais
- Presentation of laurel wreaths for Ellen Farwell (stepping down from the board) and Cindi Olwell (stepping down as President), magically transported through Zoom-space. (Wreaths fashioned by David Morris.)
- Ceremonial passing of the Gamba Gavel from outgoing President Olwell to incoming President Pat Jennerjohn (similar magic was made)

VdGSA NonClave, "Family Affairs"

July 26-August 2

- 3-4 simultaneous online classes every day
- Ice-cream social hosted by VdGSA president Lisa Terry and music director Ros Morley; auction; and banquet, m.c.'d by a be-wigged Brady Lanier, complete with a virtual "progressive dinner" in a sequence of breakout rooms, culminating in a group sing of the "Viola da Gamba" song ("Have you heard a viola da gamba?") with a new verse by John Pringle.
- Loren Ludwig's lecture, [#Gambo: The Viol as Social Media in England and America](#)
- Pat Neely's lecture on ['The Family of Man' - Diversity in the Renaissance Arts](#)
- A recital by Lyracle (Ashley Mulcahy—voice & James Perretta—lyra viol):
"A New Generation: Continuing Tarquinia Molza's Legacy"
- A video exploration of Lisa Terry's basement (you had to be there...)
- Announcement of next year's Conclave: July 26- Aug. 1, 2021 at **Miami University in Oxford, Ohio**, *Deo volente!*

Viols West, August 9

- Planned and hosted by Ros Morley, Larry Lipnik and Melita Denny
- Gong-playing and tea-making lesson by Princess Lucky, aka David Morris
- "It fell upon summer's day" strummed and sung by Penny Hanna
- 54th-anniversary celebration for Ellen and Peter Siebert, followed by a toast and a celebratory poem, [Well Hall](#) by Nick Jones
- [video](#) of Schenck with cacti by Lee Talner
- Mancini played by Nick Jones (recorder interloper) and Sue Jones (gamba)
- String talk by Wes Brandt
- Reading by mystery guest Carol Herman, disguised with an amusing anagrammed name
- Video vocal performance by Melita's student Mira Huang
- Marais played by Andrew Saunders
- Latency-loopy singing of "Happy Birthday" to Sue Jones

Viola da Gamba Society of America

Editor's Note:

This is part of a series of useful info on VdGSA's website.

The Story Chords Project

The history of a Society like the VdGSA is told through the reminiscences and memories of its members. The StoryChords Project was designed to help us capture these tales and share them with the membership. Whether you're new to the Society and want to hear our "myths of origin," or you were actually there for most of the hijinks described by individuals below, we invite you to explore the rich traditions and warm recollections of the VdGSA.



Catharina Meints

"...our courtship consisted of playing viols together."
Interviewed by Marie Szuts
December 2013



Charlie Nagel and Will Ayton

"I was a frustrated cellist..."
Interviewed by Suzanne Ferguson
July 2011

To see and hear the story of someone listed below, click [here](#), then choose to **Play** or **Download** the video of your choice. Enjoy!

*Note: **Joan Boorstein** died in June and was honored in the Dec. 2019 issue of the VdGS-New England Newsletter.; her contributions to the viol world were widely appreciated by many colleagues.*

.....

Rachel "Archie" Archibald
Jack Ashworth
Jack Ashworth and Brent Wissick
Mary Anne Ballard
Suzanne Beaudry
Martha Bishop
Martha Bixler
Joan Boorstein
Marjorie Bram-MacPhillamy
Judith Davidoff
Grace Feldman
Suzanne Ferguson
Al Folop and George Bachman
Jane Furth

John & Carolyn Hooker
Mary Johnson
Ron Vernon and Susan Marchant
Catharina Meints
Charlie Nagel and Will Ayton
Phyllis Olson
Chester Pearlman
Jean Seiler
Lari Smith
Kathy Spencer
Mary Springfels
John Whisler
Brent Wissick
Harriet Risk Woldt

Pacifica Viols PlayDays 2020-2021

Sept. 12: Alexa Haynes-Pilon

Oct. 10: Amy Brodo

Nov. 14: Wendy Gillespie

Dec. 12: Gail Ann Schroeder

Jan. 9: Shira Kammen

Feb. 13: Elisabeth Reed

Mar. 13: Erik Andersen

Apr. 10: Julie Jeffrey

May 8: David Morris

Date TBD: Pacifica BASH

Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society *as of September, 2020*

Board of Directors:

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patricia@focusedfinances.com

Vice President: open

Secretary: Nick Jones

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Treasurer: Ellen Fisher

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Membership: Ellen Fisher

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Cindi Olwell, Elisabeth Reed

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Ellen Fisher erfisher@gmail.com

Pacifica Viols Chapter Website:

<https://pacificaviols.org>

Quotation of the Month

*Of all the instruments that are,
None can with the Viol compare:
Mark how the strings their order keep
With a whet, whet, whet & a sweep, sweep, sweep.
But above it all still abounds
With a zingle, zingle, zing & a zit, zan, zounds.*

Words to a round composed by Henry Purcell
and presented to John Gostling, singer at
Canterbury and performer on the viol.

(...yet another bit lifted from
an early GambaNews.)

Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society
is a Chapter of the
Viola da Gamba Society of America

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