

## 2019-2020 Music 'n' More at Lily Pads Report

### SUNDAY, September 22, 4 p.m.:

Singer/songwriter and social activist Joyce Katzberg was doing a farewell tour of Rhode Island, and she honored Music 'n' More at Lily Pads by including us in that "tour." Katzberg was a founding member of the Stone Soup Coffeehouse; a friend and colleague of Pete Seeger; a lifelong activist; as well as an engaging musician and songwriter.

The concert was a great success, with fans coming from all over the state to hear Joyce perform. She held people's minds and hearts tenderly and memorably, as she told us stories from her life and sang us the songs that went with them. She also had people singing with her for many of those songs.

### SATURDAY, October 19, 7 p.m.:

Actor and educator Sandra Laub presented the one-woman show, *Golda's Balcony*, by William Gibson, that she had first presented in 2013. This portrait of Israel's fourth prime minister Golda Meir (1969-1974) weaves the crisis of the '73 Yom Kippur War with Meir's personal history and the history of the Jewish people.

With compelling storytelling and a captivating performance, Sandra Laub and *Golda's Balcony* will not soon be forgotten by those who experienced that evening of theater. A stunning re-creation of a time and a person that provoked lots of talk and questions.

### SATURDAY, November 16, 7 p.m.

Storyteller Milbre Burch presented "Tales from Beyond the Ban: Folktales from Libya, Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen." This spoken-word concert featured oral tradition tales from the seven predominantly-Muslim countries named in President Trump's initial travel ban. Based in Chapel Hill, N.C., Milbre is a GRAMMY-nominated spoken-word recording artist and an internationally-known

storyteller. Her storytelling performances began right here in Rhode Island, as a member of The Spellbinders.

So many of those in the spellbound audience remembered Milbre from her RI storytelling days and were again entranced by her talent in taking us to faraway places and introducing us to such unusual characters.

On Sunday morning, November 17, Milbre told us about her life in storytelling, and she stepped in and out of a few stories as she did so. Everyone was captivated by the warmth and depth of her sermon and her tales.

### **SUNDAY, December 15, 4 p.m.**

Nick Smith and friends presented a musical reading of Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, and the committee for MLP helped with promotion for this seasonal event. It was very well attended and Narrator Zachary Searle's performance of the tale was well-lauded by all!

### **SATURDAY, January 25, 7 p.m.**

This is the third year that Music 'n' More at Lily Pads collaborated with the Rhode Island Black Storytellers to present one of the events FUNDA FEST in Peace Dale. FUNDA means to "teach and learn" in Zulu and Kiswahili, and RIBS has presented this festival of storytelling since 1998.

The FUNDA FEST 22 performers came from as near as Providence and as far as South Africa. Gcina Mhlophe is an anti-apartheid activist, storyteller, poet, playwright and author. She has used her captivating one-woman performances to help preserve traditional storytelling in South Africa and to encourage children there to love stories and reading. Gcina Mhlophe's daughter, Khwezi Becker, followed in her mother's footsteps, as a storyteller, poet and playwright. Joining these South African guests was Bronx poet Gentle Ramirez, plus Providence-based storytellers Valerie Tutson, Marlon Carey and Rochel Coleman.

The "house" was packed to 100+ capacity, with a family of 8 traveling from New York to hear Gcina perform. They were definitely *thrilled* to meet Gcina and her daughter. Gcina, Khwezi and Valerie also did ALL the parts of the service on Sunday morning, except for hymns and a choir anthem. It was an unforgettable soul-and-spirit-filled service.

**SUNDAY, February 23, 3 p.m.**

The Joe Parillo Trio, performed their special brand of jazz and contemporary music, with URI's Director of Jazz Studies Joe Parillo on piano, Boston-based Steve Skop on bass and Boston-based Brendan Byrnes on drums.

In the Fall of 2003 he brought to fruition the Jazz Studies specialization under the B.M. and B.A. Degrees at the University, as well as the Jazz Studies minor. He is also the coordinator of the Rhode Island Music Educators high school jazz festival and, for the past several years, he has taken young jazz musicians to the Newport Jazz Festival to open the festival performances.

With a modest audience of 40+, the trio presented a relaxing and also stimulating afternoon of music, including Parillo's compositions and a few jazz standards.

