

## ***AYSPA Parents Newsletter – August 2005***

### **Why One More “Communique”?**

No single way of getting in touch reaches everyone all the time. We'll do our best to get important messages out in several ways: email, phone, web site, newsletters, mailings, face-to-face meetings, announcements at practice, and even text messages to your cell phone or faxes. Just let us know how to best contact you.

### **Help Us Stay In Touch**

We're still looking for email addresses from about 30 families, as well as the completed volunteer information forms from about 60 families. If you haven't already done so, please send Terri Pribyl (AYSPA secretary) an email so she can update her address book. Send your volunteer form to Mike Kruchoski and Jill Hartman at the AYSPA post office box. Contact info is included in this newsletter for your convenience. If you do not have regular or convenient access to email, please let us know so we can contact you by other means.

### **Luminarias and Workhouses**

As you probably already know, luminarias are our biggest fund raising activity. We need everyone's full participation and commitment to this critical event. (*Hint, hint!*)

If you'd volunteered to host a workhouse this year, we'll call you within the week to confirm your continued interest before doing our infamous “drive-by” to check out your location, driveway space, etc. If you don't get our follow-up call soon, you may have slipped through the cracks, so please call or email again. If you think you might want to be a workhouse, there's still time to throw your name into the hat.

A not-so-minor correction: contrary to what might be inferred from the handbook, *luminaria* “credits” are (regretfully) **NOT worth a dollar each**, although student account “points” *are*. (See pages 4 and 5 for the distinction.) Even our “eagle-eyed” reviews overlooked that confusing statement. More info about how *luminaria* credits are calculated and allocated in the next newsletter.

### **Meeting Schedules**

Please mark your calendars for the following important dates:

**AYSPA Board Meetings:** Wednesdays, 6:00 pm, Aug. 24, Sep. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Jan. 25, Feb. 22, Mar. 22, Apr. 12, May (to be determined)

**AYSPA General Meetings:** Tuesdays, 6:30 pm (tentatively), Sep. 27, Feb. 1, Apr. 18

**Luminaria Day:** Sat., Dec. 3, all day – be there and be square!

*Any schedule changes (or errata) will be announced by email, mail, and at practices.*

If you would like the AYSPA Board to address a concern at an upcoming meeting, call or email one of the officers a week before the scheduled Board meetings. Remember, the general meetings – there are only three – will feature a preview of the concerto soloists' pieces, update you on tour preparations and fund-raising, and elect next year's new officers, so be sure to attend. Talk to us if you're interested in serving on the Board.

### **AYS Music CDs**

*For the time being, same GREAT price as last year: \$14 each or \$38 for a set of all three. They make wonderful mementos of the 2005-2006 season for your students and terrific gifts for grandparents and other relatives. But, remember, there is a deadline for placing your order, and the price may go up a few dollars soon. You won't want to let this opportunity slip by.*

### **Did You Know?**

- Brazil is larger than the continental United States (i.e., “Lower 48”) and constitutes nearly half of South America. It is the leading economic force in South America, with the world's 8<sup>th</sup> largest economy.
- Brazil is a multi-cultural nation of Amerindians, Europeans, Africans, and Asians, with a population of 176 million. During the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, it experienced the same kind of immigrant influx that created the U.S “melting pot”.
- The official language is Portuguese, not Spanish. Brazilian Portuguese is distinctive from the European dialect.

- Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Belo Horizonte are the 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 53<sup>rd</sup> largest cities in the world. Belo Horizonte, with a population of 5 million, is about as populous as Dallas-Ft. Worth or Miami.
- Brazil is one of the most Internet-savvy countries in the world. For a fun look at Brazil, its people, and its culture, check out [www.brazilbrazil.com](http://www.brazilbrazil.com).

### **Chaperones**

The AYSPA officers, who are responsible for chaperoning your students on the tour, are parents, too, so we know you may have a lot of questions – maybe some worries – about your children on an overseas tour. We want to understand any special concerns or needs you may have, so Mike and Jill will host several relaxed, potluck gatherings to get acquainted with you and your students. Call or email them if you’re interested. Meeting dates are still to be determined.

Keep in mind that “free time” mentioned on the proposed tour itinerary doesn’t mean “unsupervised” time. AYS overseas tours are traditionally very well organized and chaperoned to make them exciting – both musically and culturally – as well as safe for our sons and daughters. Tour organizer Ilse Roderick is exceptionally experienced and well qualified to lead us on this marvelous adventure to our great American “cousin” to the South.

### **Companion Tours**

Parents, siblings, and other family members have a wonderful opportunity to join us in Brazil. For virtually the same cost as the students’ tour, you get double occupancy rooms (and, as Dale noted, with no bed checks) but fewer pre-arranged side tours. (The exact cost will be determined soon.) You can hardly ask for a better travel bargain, considering the number and variety of destinations that are included. Until we’ve appointed a parent coordinator to serve as a point of contact, you can call or email Kristine Purrington to let us know of your interest in the companion tour – or in being the coordinator (*hint, hint!*).

### **Sharing Your Travel Library**

If you’re thinking about buying books, videos, or language courses to begin preparing for the Brazilian “experience” of a lifetime, consider coordinating your purchases with, and then sharing among, other AYS families as one way to keep costs down. Mike Kruchoski already has:

- (1) “Brazil” by Insight Guides, and
- (2) “Culture Shock Brazil: A Guide to Customs and Etiquette” by Volker Poelzl.

If you want to buy something different, then borrow one of these for a week when you’re ready to swap for something new, please contact Mike. Share and share alike, right?

### **Miscellany**

AYSPA must make its first (of four) sizeable payments for the Brazil tour *next* month. If you haven’t made a tour payment yet, remember your *second* payment will be due August 15. Contact Mike or Jill if this poses a financial hardship.

If you’ve already contacted Mike or Jill about tour payments, fund raising opportunities, or financial assistance, they will be contacting you again in the next few weeks.

Interested in learning to speak Portuguese? Several native Brazilians living in Albuquerque may be willing help us.

### **Contact Info**

AYSPA, PO Box 50475, Albuquerque, NM 87181-0475

Co-Presidents: Mike Kruchoski, Jill Hartman

Co-Vice-Presidents: Alberto Peralta & Katherine Myers

Co-Secretaries: Charles & Theresa Pribyl

Co-Treasurers: Tim & Jackie Bowen

Co-Past Presidents: Jay & Nancy Clise

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