



## PFMC President's Newsletter for January, 2016

My message for the fall conferences in October 2015 included thoughts and ideas from a past president, Nancy Hatz, whom I adore and respect highly. Each conference was well planned, included beautiful music, and terrific food. Thank you to district chairmen: Charlene Hubbard, Ruth Ann Rumbold, Sue Roy, and Carol Mixer. You are so committed to PFMC!

This was my message:

### “THE ‘PETER, PAUL, AND MARY’ OF GARDENING”

As you all have discovered from my fall conference messages over the past three years, I enjoy gardening! There is so much about gardening that is applicable to the success (or decline) of an organization like the Pennsylvania Federation of Music Clubs.

Many of the clubs in PA have ‘bloomed where they were planted’ thus insuring success in their clubs. Several clubs have allowed seeds, like the ‘cracked pot’, to scatter- succeeding, often times outside the federation, bringing in new members and new ideas to explore. Some dedicated members, ‘diverse instruments of rhythmic tunes’, or I have affectionately referred to as DIRT, have organized and shared with other clubs, thus creating a meaningful union of differences.

Our federation of music clubs just celebrated the birthday of our matriarch, Nancy Hatz, who has dedicated herself to making things work for the good of all music lovers and musicians. Of her 100 years, over half of it has been spent listening to an idea before judging it, picking a club up rather than finding ways to make obstacles for it, and cheering on music members, either as part of the squad or on the sidelines. Her state president’s theme during 1986-1990, fit her personality perfectly: “PLANT, IMPLANT, and TRANSPLANT”; for me it’s the ‘Peter, Paul, and Mary’ of Gardening!

*I am sure Nancy will not mind if I use her theme of ‘planting, implanting, and transplanting’ as the message in my final chapter as a ‘gardening’ president.*

When I PLANT a seed or a bulb in the soil, I always think positive! I look forward to seeing the first signs of growth, and then continue to rejoice as it becomes a beautiful flower! I weed around it, fluff up the soil, maybe add fertilizer, and water it when Mother Nature holds back the rain it needs. Our music clubs began after an idea was planted by a person or persons who kept a positive feeling that it would begin to grow, and as it grew so did the enthusiasm. When people or problems, like weeds, tried to inhibit its growth, they were stopped in their

tracks. Every club's success comes from a little 'fluffing up' by creating new community outreach activities, interesting club programs, and by the willingness to share and try new ideas. As the club grew, a little fertilizer was added whenever a new member or a new thought came along. Sometimes water was needed, a soft spray of enthusiasm and purpose, to provide a refreshing, revitalizing source of energy for the growth of the club.

When I IMPLANT, I make sure a plant is securely, firmly set into the soil. Often times I find a plant that comes up every year begins to require additional soil which provides a solid cover for the wonderful root system it will need to produce a beautiful plant. Just like in a music club, we must set firmly the mission and focus of the music club. It takes time to put the positive and supportive ideas into members' minds. This can be accomplished when we recognize ideas that work, when opportunities are taken, and leadership and training is shared and appreciated. Did you know that the PFMC President who first talked about 'orientation and leadership' was our very own Nancy Hatz. Martha Murdoch, a Past President from Pittsburgh, said, "There is no royal or defining road to any concentrated effort. Accomplishment and success to endure must grow slowly but steadily." (News Sheet, May 1940)

When a plant becomes so full and begins to take up space, it is time to TRANSPLANT. Timing is crucial. Movement from one place to another is successful if it is done with TLC. In our music clubs, there are ideas that begin to 'take up space' and limit the new ideas to be implemented. You are not throwing away the old, but instead you are moving it to another aspect of the organization. Transplanting within a music club can be demonstrated when a new member comes into a club, and as time goes by, the member looks at a program with a different perspective; one that may improve the club by making it attractive to younger musicians and music lovers. As our members get older, bringing in younger people becomes extremely important. An example of transplanting outside an organization, would be taking your club out into the community and into other organizations, showing how music can enhance what they do.

100 years young Nancy Hatz has dedicated herself to helping us all see the magic and the beauty of music in our lives. Her wisdom is bound only by the ideas that she has planted, implanted, and transplanted. May we as "rightly tuned instruments, respond" as Nancy has. May the coming year bring you many opportunities for bringing the "spiritualizing force of music" into your club programs, into your communities, and into your members' lives.

GARDEN SONG by David Mallett 1975

Inch by inch, row by row, gonna make this garden grow  
All it takes is a rake and a hoe, and a piece of fertile ground  
Inch by inch, row by row someone bless these seeds I sow  
Someone warm them from below, til the rain comes tumbling down.