



# AVMA Friends and Alumni Monthly Digest

February 2023

Hi everybody! We're back after a bit of an unplanned hiatus. You know how it goes: first things go slowly, then they go quickly. That slowly part took place over the holidays, and now we're fully into the quickly part. So let's quickly get to this edition's updates!

**Introducing Lauren Peithmann.** This edition's main headline is that AVM has a new director! Lauren Peithmann started after the holidays and, well, let's give her the talking stick and let her introduce herself:

*Hello Andover Vocal Music Students and Families!*

*My name is Lauren Peithmann, and I am excited to join the music department team at Andover High School!*

*I have worked in music education for over 20 years. Before this position, I taught music and choral classes in public schools and after-school programs in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey. I also enjoy musical theatre and have previously directed vocals for many musicals. Most recently, I have served as the Director of K-12 Performing Arts in Salem, New Hampshire. In this position, I oversaw teaching staff, produced many events and concerts, and supported performing arts students in 7 schools.*

*I earned my Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Ithaca College and my Masters in Choral Conducting at Yale University. Currently, I am finishing my Doctorate in Musical Arts at Boston University. My research interests focus on practices for inclusion in music education spaces.*

*I am thrilled to return to the classroom to work with the Andover Vocal Music program students. I look forward to becoming a part of this vibrant community of music-makers and sharing my passion for choral music with all of you.*

*Thank you for welcoming me!*

So far, she's jumped right in and helped make the AHS Winter Concert on Jan 18 a success, and as you'll see in a bit, she's helped lead FSTF to a strong start to the competition season. Welcome Ms Peithmann!

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**Tasty Tuesday Updates.** First off, back in November, we had two Tasty Tuesday events: the Tasty Tuesday at Pazzo Pizza and an all-new, online, week-long Texty Tuesday with the Andover Bookstore. And how did we do? Well:

- The Pazzo Pizza event generated \$275, which Pazzo Pizza generously rounded up to a \$300 donation to AVMA!
- Texty Tuesday not only raised \$500 for AVMA, but also two overflowing gift baskets of books that we donated to our friends at the Atria Marland Place! A great haul all around!

And, as continues to be the case, all of these local businesses are very grateful for the extra business you drive to them during AVMA Tasty (Texty) Tuesdays and are eager to work with us again in the future. That wouldn't happen without you, so thank you for your participation!



Tasty Tuesday took a break for the holidays, but is now back, with our next event this coming Tuesday (Feb 7) at Bartlet Street (Let's Eat!) in downtown Andover. It runs from 3-8 PM, and they will donate 10% of all purchases – dine in, take out, online orders, gift cards, you name it – back to AVMA! If you're in town, make a point of planning a Bartlet Street dinner for this coming Tuesday and keep an eye out for more Tasty Tuesday events this spring!



**A Fundraiser for the AHS Show Choirs!**

**Bartlet Street**  
Tuesday, Feb 7  
3pm 8pm

Dine in Takeout  
gift cards

A percentage of all sales will be donated to AHS Show Choirs!

Thank you for your support!

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## Competition Season is Here (But You Probably Already Knew That).

All three show choirs kicked off the comp season as per usual with a visit to Lowell for the Mill City Show Choir Festival. Similar to last year, the kids spent their Mill City morning in workshops with the clinicians and bonding with the other choirs in the area, and then they perform and compete in the afternoon. And similar to last year, the Mill City judging is tough.



But check this out: BTB and NBT came home with silver medals, and FSTF brought home a gold! Not only that, but FSTF's Louis Morrison won Best Male Soloist and the group won the Outstanding Solo Lineup, which, when you realize FSTF was up against Waltham's Music Unlimited and Daniel Hand's VIBE, is no small feat!

If you want to check out the performances for yourself, you can find them on YouTube via these links:

- BTB: <https://youtu.be/vl5UYbtZ2DA?t=3720>
- NBT: <https://youtu.be/vl5UYbtZ2DA?t=5970>
- FSTF: <https://youtu.be/vl5UYbtZ2DA?t=12097>

Next up, of course, is the Shepherd Hill Central Massachusetts Show Choir Festival, which is tomorrow (Sat Feb 4)! NBT is set to take the stage at 1:30 PM, BTB at 2:30, and FSTF at 5:00 (assuming that everything is running right on time, which is something we know happens frequently at show choir competitions. But FSTF leads off the evening showcase, so they may be more likely to start right on time).

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Good news is that Shepherd Hill livestreams the event on YouTube, and here are the links:

- NBT and BTB:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGOHJW6scLc>
- FSTF:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSr3EGShqtg>



After Shepherd Hill will be Tantasqua on Sat Feb 11 (current go times are BTB at 10:30 AM, NBT at 11:15, and FSTF at 4:40), then a return to the Connecticut Classic at Daniel Hand, then NESCS, which this year has moved to Mar 10-11. More to come on NESCS next month but for now, mark (or double-check and update) your calendars!

**RaiseRight.** Finally, you may have seen that Amazon will be discontinuing the AmazonSmiles charitable giving program at the end of this month, which is a bummer, but which also gives you that much more of a reason to sign up for and take advantage of our ongoing RaiseRight fundraiser!

Through RaiseRight you purchase gift cards to scores of stores and online vendors that you regularly shop at anyway, and a percentage of the purchase price of the cards gets donated back to AVMA! Once you're set up, it's really easy to not only buy cards to give as gifts, but also to buy cards that you can then use to pay for your personal shopping: just toggle between the RaiseRight app and Zappos, or the Gap, or LL Bean, or CVS, or Best Buy – the list goes on and on! And some of these percentages are pretty big (14% for the Gap, 16% for LL Bean), so the contributions back to AVMA can add up pretty quickly.

To sign up for RaiseRight and start using it immediately, follow these steps:

1. Complete the quick sign-up form either on the [RaiseRight website](#) or mobile app.
2. Download the RaiseRight app:



OR Visit [Account • RaiseRight](#) and look on the bottom right of the page.

3. Select "Join a Program."



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4. Enter our organization's unique enrollment code (**DLEE76C872773**) to tie your earnings back to AVMA.
5. Complete the fields to create your account.
6. Enter and verify your phone number for 2-step verification (2-step verification protects your account if you forget your password or someone is using your account without your permission).

If you have any questions, please reach out to RaiseRight program coordinator [Suzanne Neuman](#). Thanks!

And now you're caught up on what we've been up to! In closing, don't forget to give us a like or a follow or subscribe on our social media channels:

- **AVMA YouTube Channel:** [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGreFvbQIEKB\\_OrD7RLNY0g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGreFvbQIEKB_OrD7RLNY0g)
- **Andover Vocal Music Association public Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/AHSVocalMusic>
- **AVMA Twitter Account:** [https://twitter.com/andovervma\\_org](https://twitter.com/andovervma_org)

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Until next time, stay safe and healthy, keep singing and dancing, and keep supporting AVM and AVMA!

The AVMA Board