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Six Local Teachers Receive Lori Petrick Educator Awards

By SUE PASCOE
Staff Writer

Four individual teachers and a teaching team were selected to receive a \$2,000 Lori Petrick Educator Award from the Palisades Charter Schools Foundation this month. The award was established in 2003 to honor the late, much-beloved teacher at Palisades Charter Elementary.

This year's winners are Jeff Lantos (Marquez Elementary), Marlene Morris (Canyon School), Charlena TerVeer and Kathie Yonemura (team teachers at Canyon), Shari Laham (Kenter Elementary) and Larry Newman (music teacher at Kenter, Marquez, Palisades Elementary and Topanga Elementary).

The awards (\$10,000 total) are underwritten by the Boone Foundation, and will be presented at a gala event in Pacific Palisades on May 20.

The *Palisadian-Post* featured fifth grade teacher Jeff Lantos in the April 6 issue. This week we highlight more of the winners.

LARRY NEWMAN

If your child has studied an instrument at one of the local schools, you probably know Larry Newman, the founder and director of Children's Music Workshops. He earned his bachelor of music education from Temple University College of Music and a California teaching credential and master of arts in music performance from Eastern Illinois University.

Although he started his elementary teaching career in the Philadelphia School district, Newman came to the L.A. School



Larry Newman

Rich Schmitt/Staff Photographer

District in 1986. He became frustrated with a system that would allow schools to have an orchestra program for five years but would then stop it for two years, so they could reassign the teachers into

schools that currently were on hiatus from orchestra. The Palisades schools, where he was teaching at the time, were about to lose orchestra, so Newman resigned and went to the Malibu

schools. Eventually, the booster clubs at Palisades Complex charter schools paid to bring Newman to their schools in order to maintain their quality instrument programs. Six

local students from his program recently won music scholarships at the Los Angeles City Elementary School Music Association Scholarship Competition.

Newman's Music Workshops are currently offered at Marquez, Topanga, Palisades Elementary and Kenter.

A former trumpet teacher at Glendale College and an instructor in jazz studies at Eastern Illinois, Newman works as a professional trumpet player and has toured the U.S., Canada and Japan. He has worked as an orchestra member on several cruise ships, and was the trumpet instructor on "Ray," the Ray Charles movies starring Jamie Foxx.

Currently, in addition to teaching elementary students Newman leads the Pacific Palisades Brass Quintet. He lives in the Palisades with his wife Susie and two sons: Brandon, who attends Saint Matthew's, and Tyler, a student at Marquez.

Although he has taught all levels of music instruction, Newman likes elementary students. "You see such progress with them. They start without even knowing the name of an instrument and in a year or two they're sitting in an orchestra," Newman says. "Elementary music is the most fun and most rewarding."

The Petrick Award judges gave Newman all 10's in the evaluation criteria, and commented: "The Children's Music Workshop, under the direction of Larry Newman, appears to provide an invaluable service to the students and school community."