

*East Valley*  
**YOUTH SYMPHONY**  

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**HANDBOOK**

*Encouraging and inspiring young musicians*



# EVYS Calendar 2023-2024

AUGUST 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

JANUARY 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

SEPTEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

FEBRUARY 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

OCTOBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

MARCH 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

NOVEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

APRIL 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

DECEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

MAY 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## ROUND 2 AUDITIONS 2023-2024

Aug 14, 16, 19

## PARENT MEETING

Aug 28

## REHEARSALS

Sep 11, 18, 25

Oct 9, 16, 23, 30

Nov 6 (Concert attire check) 13, 20, 27

Dec - no rehearsals this month -

Jan 8, 22, 29

Feb 5, 12, 26

Mar 4, 11, 25

Apr 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

## NO REHEARSALS

Sep 4 - Labor Day

Oct 2 - Fall Break

Jan 15 - MLK Jr. Day

Feb 19 - Presidents Day

Mar 18 - Spring Break

## SPECIALS

Oct 21 - Getting-To-Know-You

Feb 10 - Play-A-Thon

## CONCERTS

Nov 17

Mar 8

May 3

## ROUND 1 AUDITIONS 2024-2025

May 20, 21

## REHEARSAL TIMES

*Preparatory Winds,*

*Concert & Chamber Orchestras*

4:45 pm - 6:15 pm

*Symphony Orchestra*

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

All EVYS members should be tuned, warmed-up, and ready to play at the start of rehearsal.



**The East Valley Youth Symphony (EVYS)** is now in its 17th season! During our previous season, EVYS consisted of approximately eighty musicians from the East Valley with three conductors, and one wind specialist.

EVYS was founded in 2006 with the mission to encourage and inspire young musicians in the East Valley by providing an uplifting and challenging orchestral experience under the guidance of skilled conductors and supportive parents.

We welcome our musicians for the upcoming 2023-2024 season!

All parents and musicians are requested to read this handbook and sign the required forms. In order to participate in EVYS, the following items are ***due at the first rehearsal:***

- **Tuition** - full payment or first installment payment
- **Member Contract** - signed by musician and parent
- **Media Release Form** - signed by parent
- **Waive, Release, and Assumption of Risk Form** - signed by musician and parent
- **School Participation Letter** - signed by school conductor
- **Parent Volunteer Form or SignUpGenius** - one parent per family to assist for at least 1 practice or event per semester for a total of 2 over the season. Volunteer opportunities will include time and/or goods (i.e.,- food, etc) for events.

## ... a note from our President

### Dear Fellow Parents and EVYS Members:

We pride ourselves in maintaining a culture that fosters the growth and development of our children to become some of the best musicians in the valley. As we continue our 17th season, I am optimistic that EVYS will provide an experience that will not only challenge, but also reward your children. The musicians will work under the guidance of skilled conductors and tackle difficult literature while learning the secrets of the masters.

As we look to the future, I can guarantee that we will work hard to provide your children an amazing experience. Music can be enjoyed by the novice as well as the virtuoso musician. EVYS hopes to build on your child's love of music and provide them with a framework to be lifetime musicians regardless of their ultimate path in life.

Thank you for your membership and continued support of EVYS.

*Garin Campbell*

President, EVYS Board of Directors

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## 2023-2024 Board of Directors

**Edwin Reyes** - Advisor

**Dana De Los Monteros** - Auditions Director  
auditions@evysaz.org

**Garin Campbell** - President  
president@evysaz.org

**Tasha Giacinto** - Concert Attire Director  
concert-attire@evysaz.org

**Jerry Giacinto** - Vice President  
vice-president@evysaz.org

**Carly Pendleton** - Concert Coordinator  
concert-director@evysaz.org

**Shireen Olsen** - Treasurer  
treasurer@evysaz.org

**Don Porter** - Fundraising Director  
fundraising-director@evysaz.org

**Karen McCarthy** - Secretary  
secretary@evysaz.org

**Shanda Vandenbark** - Volunteer Coordinator  
volunteer@evysaz.org

**Sheridan Chumley** - Member

**Linda Wheeler** - Social Media/Marketing  
Publishing Director  
media-director@evysaz.org

*Open Positions - Fundraising Team, Volunteer Coordinator, Recruiting Director,  
Social Media Team*

## ... a note from our Artistic Director

We are thrilled to congratulate you on becoming a member of the East Valley Youth Symphony Program for the 2023-2024 Season! Each year becomes more and more exciting as we continue to meet as musical ensembles to learn, prepare and share music with each other, friends, family and community members.

We are happy to share with you that all of our Artistic Staff will be returning plus a new addition to our team!

I am honored to return for another spectacular year as the Artistic Director and Symphony Conductor along with a very talented team: Victor Mendoza as the Winds Specialist assisting with the Symphony and also coaching the Preparatory Winds Ensemble; Priscilla Benitez as the Chamber Orchestra Director; Rebecca Joslin, a new member of the team who will be joining us as the Concert Orchestra Director and Hana Giauque as our Strings Specialist coaching and assisting with all ensembles. These fine teachers and musicians come to us with a wealth of experience as Music Educators as well as professional performers. Our team of leadership, both artistically and within the board is extremely talented and our combined dedication to teach young musicians and provide them with musical opportunities is focused and determined!

We are thrilled to be entering our 3rd season in our home as a resident group of the Benjamin Franklin Center for the Performing Arts and appreciate the respect level our musicians and families have shown to our new building! We are fortunate to have the opportunity to meet in this wonderful facility and look forward to a long relationship with BFHS! The administration of the Charter School System and the High School are supportive and committed in their partnership with EVYS.

Congratulations on your support of music, music-education and character development in our youth! We are looking forward to a full season of making great music, creating lifelong friends and sharing our passion for a better world through our music. Whether you are a student musician, an encouraging parent / family member, or a community friend supporting our mission, we applaud and thank-you for joining us on this spectacular musical ride!

*Cindy H. Petty*

Artistic Director and Symphony Conductor  
East Valley Youth Symphony

### - Our Conductors and Specialists -



Cindy H Petty



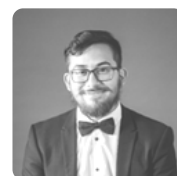
Priscilla  
Benitez



Rebecca  
Joslin



Hana  
Giauque



Victor E  
Mendoza

# EVYS Policies

## I. Rehearsals - starting Monday, September 11, 2023

Monday evenings at Benjamin Franklin High School (BFHS)

- 4:45 – 6:15pm Preparatory Winds, Concert Orchestra, & Chamber Orchestra
- 6:30 – 8:30pm Symphony Orchestra

## II. Tuition

The tuition fee for the season, August 2023 to May 2024, is \$325 for each of the Preparatory Winds, Concert Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra groups, and \$375 for Symphony Orchestra.

*All tuition fees are non-refundable.*

Payment may be made using one of the following methods:

- Pay cash or check to East Valley Youth Symphony
- Pay online using Venmo (@EVYS-Symphony)
- Pay through PayPal at [www.evysaz.org](http://www.evysaz.org) using Visa/Mastercard
- Payment installments are available
- Scholarship opportunities are available and are need based
- *For more information about payment installments and scholarship opportunities, please contact Shireen Olsen at [treasurer@evysaz.org](mailto:treasurer@evysaz.org)*

## III. Eligibility

All student musicians who are able to perform the minimum audition requirements as stated on [www.evysaz.org](http://www.evysaz.org) are eligible to audition to become a member of EVYS. EVYS members are required to participate in a school band or orchestra program, if offered by their school. EVYS members should obtain the signature of the school band or orchestra conductor on the School Participation Letter (*p. 15 of handbook*) to verify student participation at school and to give consent for participation in EVYS. Exceptions are made on a case-by-case basis.

If a school does not offer band or orchestra class, a school official may sign the release form indicating no program is available. If a student is attending homeschool or online school, a parent or private teacher may sign to give consent for participation in EVYS.

## IV. Auditions

All eligible applicants will be auditioned by a fair and qualified adjudicator. Orchestra placement will be determined by each member's EVYS audition performance.



At the discretion of the conductor and the EVYS Board, additional placement auditions may be scheduled throughout the season. In rare circumstances, and by invitation only, adjustments may be made following the first concert.

Seating will be at the discretion of the conductor of each ensemble for musical and educational reasons. There will be periodic skills and proficiency playing tests for each concert throughout the season, and seating may be adjusted following these. Materials for the skills tests will be announced in advance at rehearsal. Members absent for chair auditions or skills tests may forfeit their current ranking in their section.

Exceptions for missed chair auditions or skills tests due to school concerts may be arranged prior to audition or test date. Late chair auditions will only be given under circumstances deemed excusable by the Board of Directors or conductors. The conductors reserve the right to schedule additional chair auditions or skills tests without notice, so musicians should be prepared.

## **V. Attendance**

In order to maintain a high standard of performance, it is the policy of the EVYS Board that each member of EVYS attend as many rehearsals and concerts as possible.

Participation in EVYS is voluntary. Parent *and* student signature of the EVYS Waive, Release, and Assumption of Risk Form is mandatory prior to participation. Absences due to a health situation, a school concert, family emergency or illness will be excused. We do request that participants let their conductor know and complete an absence notice online in a timely manner. Absences are to be reported through the absence request form on the website at [www.evysaz.org](http://www.evysaz.org).

Punctuality is of great importance. Musicians are requested to be in their seats with their music out and their instruments tuned at the rehearsal start time. If a member has reoccurring absences or tardies without absence notices, a skills test or change in chair position may result.

## VI. Rehearsal and Concert Rules

- EVYS members commit to respect the property of rehearsal and concert facilities (i.e., no leaning on music stands, tilting back on chairs, or pushing chair racks into the wall).
- No food is allowed in the building or rehearsal room, only water. No sharing of food or water items is allowed.
- Instruments need to be protected. EVYS members commit to not play or touch anyone else's instrument.
- EVYS musicians are expected to be courteous and respectful to conductors, EVYS parent volunteers, and Benjamin Franklin High School facility and employees.
- No cell phone usage is allowed during rehearsals or concerts. Text messaging is specifically for emergencies only.
- EVYS musicians are expected to be punctual and seated early for rehearsals, performances, and after breaks.
- Musicians should always plan to bring their personal copy of music in the EVYS music folder and their own pencil.
- Music should only be marked with light pencil markings; no use of ink or colored pencils to mark EVYS music! Music must be returned at the specified time. Lost music will incur a replacement fee.

## VII. Concert Conduct

Part of the EVYS experience is to learn proper concert etiquette as both a musician and an audience member. During performances, we respect and support fellow musicians by turning off electronic devices and remaining quietly seated until the end of the concert after all EVYS orchestras have performed. In the event that anyone must enter or exit the performance hall during a concert, proper etiquette is to wait until the music stops to quietly enter or exit.

## VIII. Concert Attire

In order to provide an atmosphere of professionalism and excellence the following attire will be required for concerts:

**All girls:** Black, closed-toe dress shoes and black nylons or tights (no bare legs or feet allowed). Girls may choose from the following:

- Long, black, ankle-length skirt (no denim or high slits); long-sleeved black blouse (no showing cleavage; must cover elbows; no T-shirts)
  - Dressy, long, straight-legged black slacks (no denim); long-sleeved black blouse (no showing cleavage; must cover elbows; no T-shirts)
- NOTE** - leggings are not appropriate attire
- Long black dresses (no denim or slits) - 3/4 sleeve or long sleeve preferred



**All boys:** Black dress slacks (no denim); long-sleeved black button-up dress shirt (tucked in); black long tie, black shoes, black socks and black belt.

- *Preparatory Winds, Concert & Chamber Orchestras:* No Jacket
- *Symphony Orchestra:* Black Tuxedo Jacket (no tails)

**Concert dress will need to be approved on November 6, 2023,** when there will be a “concert dress” check and group photos taken during rehearsal. Any inappropriate and unapproved concert attire will not be allowed on the stage during a concert. Contact the Board if you would like to access our gently used concert attire donation box or have extra concert attire to donate.

### **IX. Parental Support and Volunteer Opportunities**

Music is the universal language, and it is our desire to facilitate the learning of that important language in our society. We believe that can be best accomplished by providing a nurturing environment of supportive parents, families, teachers, and community.

*EVYS is run by parent volunteers. In order to accomplish the goals of EVYS, we count on all parents to participate and volunteer. It is necessary for the success of the program. Each family is asked to commit service time by signing the EVYS Parent Volunteer Form/SignUpGenius for at least one practice or event per semester – a total of two volunteer opportunities.*

*A \$25 fee per semester per family will be assessed if parents are unable to or do not volunteer.*

If parents or family members have additional talents (such as fundraising, photography, musical skills) or ways to give back to EVYS (such as food donations to specials), please reach out to a Board member!

### **X. Additional Information**

EVYS member photos or videos may be taken occasionally and published in EVYS related publications such as brochures, newspaper articles, social media, or on our website at [www.evysaz.org](http://www.evysaz.org).

*Please see the Media Release Form in this handbook.*

EVYS does not provide insurance for musical instruments. Members are responsible for providing their own insurance against damage or theft as they may deem necessary.

## HOW TO SUPPORT EVYS

East Valley Youth Symphony is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization. We rely upon the support of patrons to continue offering this exceptional experience for the youth in our community.

Fry's Food Community Rewards  
 Family Dinner Nights  
 Annual Play-a-thon Fundraiser  
 Silent Auction/Raffle Baskets  
 Sponsoring Scholarships  
 Social Media (@EVYSAZ)



More information is available on our website at  
<https://www.evysaz.org/support>



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**East Valley Youth Symphony**  
**MEMBER CONTRACT 2023 – 2024**

Every member matters in the realization of the East Valley Youth Symphony mission—to encourage and inspire young musicians by providing an uplifting and challenging orchestral experience. Upon reading the handbook and EVYS policies herein, members will please sign this contract signifying your commitment to conduct yourself according to those policies.

Thank you for being a part of EVYS excellence!

1. I have read and understand the EVYS Orchestra Handbook 2023–2024 and will honor the policies as stated herein.
2. I will further promote EVYS excellence by learning my instrument and the assigned EVYS music to the best of my ability.
3. I understand that I must sign and return this Member Contract and the School Participation Letter and pay tuition by the first rehearsal.
4. I understand that I will not be allowed to play in EVYS concerts unless my signed Member Contract and tuition have been submitted.
5. I commit to abide by this contract in order to participate in EVYS.

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EVYS Member Name	Signature	Date
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EVYS Member Email	Mobile Phone Number
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EVYS Member School Grade \_\_\_\_\_

As a parent, I will support and facilitate my child’s good standing in EVYS. I pledge to support our EVYS musicians by assisting with at least 2 events this season (1 per semester) through the EVYS Volunteer Signup Genius or pay the volunteer fee.

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EVYS Parent Name	Signature	Date
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EVYS Parent Email	Mobile Phone Number
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*Please return signed to EVYS conductor or Board member at first rehearsal.*



Music  
is the soundtrack  
of your life.

- Dick Clark



**East Valley Youth Symphony**  
**MEDIA RELEASE FORM 2023 – 2024**

During rehearsals and concerts, opportunities will arise to photograph or video record musicians engaged in music learning and performance.

I give permission for the use of photos or videos of my musician for print publications, newspaper, online publications, presentations, websites, and social media to promote EVYS.

I understand that no royalty, fee or other compensation shall become payable to me by reason of such use.

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EVYS Member Name

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EVYS Parent Printed Name

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EVYS Parent Signature

Date

*Please return signed to EVYS conductor or Board member at first rehearsal.*

**East Valley Youth Symphony**  
**PARENT VOLUNTEER FORM 2023 – 2024**

I understand that EVYS is run by parent volunteers and that all parents are asked to participate and volunteer for a total of two volunteer opportunities during the season.

- I am able to volunteer at least once per semester and will -
- be signing up when the SignUpGenius is released (food donations to Specials will be listed here).
  - volunteer to-
    - assist with fundraising.
    - assist with social media.
    - take pictures during the concert.
- I am unable to volunteer. I will pay the \$25 fee per semester per family. *(please choose an option below)*
- I choose to pay \$50 today.
  - I choose to pay \$25 today. Please bill me for the additional \$25 in January 2024.

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EVYS Member Name

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EVYS Parent Printed Name

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EVYS Parent Signature

Date

If you would like to pay by Venmo, scan this QR code with your phone, or type in **@EVYS-Symphony**



**venmo**

*Please return signed to EVYS conductor or Board member at first rehearsal.*

**East Valley Youth Symphony**  
**WAIVE, RELEASE, AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK FORM 2023 – 2024**

On behalf of myself, my household members, and my student, I hereby give permission for my student to attend camps, clinics, practices fundraisers, concerts, auditions, and competitions in and out of the East Valley Youth Symphony (EVYS). My student and I are familiar with, and knowingly and voluntarily accept, any and all risks associated with attending camps, clinics, practices, fundraisers, concerts, auditions, and competitions at a school campus, concert venue or fundraising venue. I acknowledge that my student's participation in this program is wholly voluntary and is not part of any regular school curriculum.

I specifically assume all risks and hazards associated with my student's participation. I understand that my student will be associating with staff, volunteers, Board members and other students and may contract or be exposed to viruses and diseases. My student's participation could therefore be hazardous to my student and others, both known and unknown to myself, with whom my student may have contact. I understand and voluntarily assume the risk that my student may acquire a virus or disease, and that it may subsequently be transmitted from my student to me, my family, members of my household, and/or other members of the community, known or unknown to me.

While instruction and reasonable supervision will be provided, staff cannot ensure my student's safety. Accidents and injuries happen, and it is impossible to eliminate the risk that my student will suffer an injury or illness.

I certify that my student currently has no current issues that make it unsafe for my student to participate. I will notify EVYS staff and not send my student to participate if my student develops a fever or illness; I acknowledge that my student and I are responsible for ensuring that he or she takes any necessary medications, and for avoiding any allergies. In the event of a medical emergency, 911 will be called and I will be responsible for any and all costs of medical treatment.

*Please return signed to EVYS conductor or Board member at first rehearsal.*



To the fullest extent permitted by law, I hereby agree to waive, release, and discharge any and all claims, causes of action, damages and rights of any kind against EVYS, its insurers, EVYS's governing board members, and all their respective employees, agents, representatives, and volunteers (the "Released Parties") arising from or relating in any way to any damage, injury, trauma, illness, loss, unwanted contact, harassment, disability, dismemberment, or death that may occur to my student, me, or my household members—whatever the cause—due to my student's participation. This includes, without limitation, any claim arising from negligence of the Released Parties.

I further agree not to sue the Released Parties, and to defend and indemnify the Released Parties for all claims, damages, losses, or expenses including attorneys' fees, if a suit is filed concerning an injury, illness, or death to me, my student, or my household members resulting from participation.

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EVYS Member Name

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EVYS Parent Printed Name

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EVYS Parent Signature

Date

**East Valley Youth Symphony**  
**SCHOOL PARTICIPATION LETTER 2023 – 2024**

Dear Orchestra or Band Teacher/Conductor,

Members of the East Valley Youth Symphony are required to participate in a school band or orchestra program if the student is attending school in person and if the program for their respective instrument is offered by the school. Please sign this form to verify enrollment and being in good standing, OR to give consent for participation in EVYS even though the student may not be enrolled in a school music program presently.

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Student Name

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School

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Orchestra or Band Teacher/Conductor Name, Phone Number & Email

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Orchestra or Band Teacher/Conductor Signature & Date

**Thank you music teachers for encouraging and inspiring the young musicians of East Valley Youth Symphony!**

(HOMESCHOOL & ONLINE STUDENTS – Parent or private teacher may sign in place of school conductor.)

\*If you have a private music teacher, please indicate name, phone number & email contact:

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Private Teacher Name

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Private Teacher Email

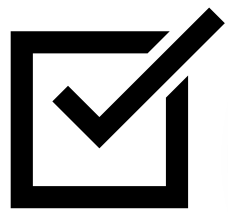
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Private Teacher Phone

*Please return signed to EVYS conductor or Board member at first rehearsal.*

Music  
is the strongest  
form of magic.





# Checklist

- Parent meeting (Aug 28, 2023)
- Pay tuition
- Turn in Member Contract (p. 9)
- Turn in Media Release Form (p. 11)
- Turn in Parent Volunteer Form (p. 12)
- Turn in Waive, Release, and Assumption of Risk Form (p. 13)
- Turn in School Participation Form (p. 15)
- Check for appropriate concert attire (p. 6 & 7)
- Mark all rehearsals, concerts, and specials in the calendar



@EVYSAZ

