

# OBITUARIES

## Kneisel Hall director Seymour Lipkin dies at 88

BY BILL TROTTER  
BDN STAFF

BLUE HILL — Renowned pianist and conductor Seymour Lipkin, who served as artistic director of Kneisel Hall for the past three decades, passed away Nov. 16 in Blue Hill. He was 88.

Lipkin served as artistic director of Kneisel Hall in Blue Hill from 1986 until his death.

According to an obituary published Thursday in The New York Times, Lipkin first made his mark in 1948 when, at the age of 20, he won the top prize in the national Rachmaninoff Fund Piano Contest in New York.

“He went on to play on the world’s foremost recit-

al stages and with the world’s most eminent orchestras,” The Times noted.

In addition to his position at Kneisel Hall, Lipkin was a longtime faculty member of the Juilliard School in New York and the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. He also had served at times as assistant conductor of the New York Philharmonic and as music director of the Joffrey Ballet, the Long Island Symphony, the New York City Opera and throughout Italy, according to his biography posted on the Kneisel Hall website.

Kneisel Hall is a seasonal chamber music school and festival located on Pleasant Street in Blue

Hill. Every summer, from mid-June until early August, a small faculty works with approximately 50 pre-professional musicians, concentrating almost exclusively on chamber music for strings and piano, Kneisel Hall officials have said.

According to a 1996 profile of Lipkin published in the Bangor Daily News, Lipkin was small in stature and had a gnomish quality, “like an eccentric uncle wearing a signature fishing hat, sporting spunky tennis shoes and carrying a pencil in his breast pocket.” All diminutive aspects of his appearance, however, vanished when he sat down at a piano.

“But hear him play Beethoven and watch out,”

Alicia Anstead wrote in the BDN profile. “He’s big. Grand, provocative, exquisite, distinguished, one of America’s best: These are some of the words critics have used through the years to describe Lipkin’s talent.”

According to the BDN profile, Lipkin’s grandfather was a violinist, something his father wanted to be. Instead, Lipkin’s father became a physician. But both his parents wanted him to be a musician. He started taking lessons at age 3 and left for Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia at the unusually young age of 10.

“By good luck, it fit,” Lipkin is quoted as saying in the article. “I never thought of doing anything else.”



COURTESY OF KNEISEL HALL

Seymour Lipkin, pianist and director of Kneisel Hall in Blue Hill, died Nov. 16 at the age of 88.

## Former South Korea president Kim dies

REUTERS

SEOUL — Former South Korean President Kim Young-sam, who was elected to office in 1992 and put an end to more than three decades of military rule, died early on Sunday at the age of 87.

Kim, who had been in ill health and repeatedly hospitalized in the past three years, died of complications from sepsis and heart failure soon after midnight on Sunday, Seoul National University Hospital President Oh Byung-hee said.

Kim first won a parliamentary seat in his late twenties, beginning a life long career in politics during which he challenged a string of authoritarian leaders and pushed for democratic reform.

He was criticized for failing to join forces with rival democracy leader Kim Dae-jung when military leaders agreed in 1987 to a constitutional amendment allowing free direct voting for the presidency, losing to former general Roh Tae-woo.

He would go on to win the



Kim Young-sam

next election in 1992 and served as president from 1993 to 1998 under the 1987 constitution that to this day allows for a single five-year term.

Kim saw the country’s economy take a nose-dive in the final months of his presidency, weighed down by massive foreign debt and culminating in the biggest bailout of the Asian financial crisis by the International Monetary Fund.

## Finance publisher Austin Kiplinger dies

REUTERS

Austin Kiplinger, a journalist who took over the financial publishing firm founded by his father and helped create the first magazine devoted to personal finance for U.S. families, has died at age 97, his company said in a statement on Saturday.

He died on Friday at a hospice in Rockville, Maryland, of cancer in his brain, according to his son, Knight Kiplinger.

Austin Kiplinger’s father, W.M. Kiplinger, in 1920 founded Kiplinger Washington Editors Inc, which today produces the magazine Kip-

linger Personal Finance, the business forecast publication The Kiplinger Letter and the Kiplinger Tax Letter.

The website Kiplinger.com operated by the company features every-day financial advice, such as how to navigate Medicare, retirement, investing and taxes.

A native of Washington, Austin Kiplinger graduated from Cornell University and went on to serve in the U.S. Navy where he piloted torpedo bomber planes in combat in the South Pacific during World War Two.

After the war, he helped his father in 1947 launch a Kiplinger magazine that

was the first publication devoted to personal finance for American families, according to the statement from his company.

Striking out on his own the following year, he moved to Chicago where over the next several years he worked for the Chicago Journal of Commerce and the ABC and NBC affiliates.

After returning to his father’s company, Kiplinger wrote and narrated a series of radio commentaries in the 1960s for the U.S. government-run Voice of America to educate listeners on such economic topics as home mortgages, consumer credit and stock investing.

In 1967, he took over as editor in chief and board chair when his father died. He headed the company until he retired gradually from full-time involvement in the 1990s, when his son, Knight, succeeded him.

Kiplinger Washington Editors Inc remains the last major Washington-based company still owned and managed by its founding family, according to the company’s statement.

Austin Kiplinger had a lifelong involvement in the U.S. National Symphony Orchestra, and served as a trustee, board president and later an emeritus trustee for the orchestra.

## In caring for sick infants parents make tough calls

BY JENNY GOLD  
KAISER HEALTH NEWS

PALO ALTO, California — Dr. William Benitz walked past the rows of clear plastic isolettes in the neonatal intensive care unit at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital at Stanford.

There’s little room to navigate — the space is jam-packed with the beeping machines, ventilators and nurses, who can care for as many 70 fragile infants. One tiny pink baby here was born weighing 13 ounces.

“A can of Coke is 12 oz. So imagine a baby who could almost curl up in a fetal position and fit inside a Coke can,” explained Benitz, the hospital’s chief of neonatology.

For Benitz, who first came to Stanford 42 years ago as a medical student, the ability of doctors today to save babies this small feels like something of a miracle. But as far as medical technology has come, he says, some of the sickest and most premature babies who pass through his NICU won’t make it or will go on to suffer severe lifelong disabilities. Just 30 percent of the babies born at 24 weeks gestation, for example, survive without impairments.

One of the most difficult parts of Benitz’s job is determining how much treatment to give babies like these and when it is time to let them go. More and more, doctors like Benitz are looking to parents to help make these decisions, based on their own values and preferences.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recently advised that parents should be given wide latitude to decide how aggressive doctors should be in cases where their child is at high risk of death or serious disability. In practice, this means parents willing to raise a child with severe disabilities might elect to pursue more aggressive care than those parents who do not want to take on the risk.

That’s a big change from the past. When Benitz first started here in 1973, doctors were considered the absolute authorities on life-and-death decisions. They consulted with colleagues, decided how much intensive care to give based on likely outcomes, and often didn’t even tell the parents until they’d acted.

“It never occurred to anyone that that might be a reasonable conversation to have,” he said. “We were in unexplored territory.”

As technology improved, and doctors tried to save sicker and even more premature babies, there were more decisions to make: Should they use a ventilator? Attempt a heart surgery? Those interventions helped many babies survive. Others did not fare as well.

“A lot of them ended up with significant impairments. In the mid-’80s we began to hear from families that maybe that wasn’t consistent with their goals for their children,” he recalled.

Packard Children’s social worker Jane Zimmerman, who works with Benitz, said many doctors back then were trying to protect parents. “The rationale for it was they didn’t want parents to have to take on that lifelong responsibility at having felt they made a decision that resulted in their child’s death,” she said.

But some parents were angry that doctors had stopped intensive care without consulting them. Others were furious that they had not been given the option to end treatment of babies who ended up with severe cogni-

tive and physical disabilities. Some filed lawsuits accusing doctors of causing their children “wrongful death” or “wrongful life.”

Such cases coincided with a larger movement in which patients fought for more say in their own medical care. By the mid-’90s, parents in the NICU had become much more involved in decision-making for their babies.

The choices parents face are often wrenching. In May 2015, Chris and Karin Belluomini had a daughter, Joy, who was born with Down syndrome, multiple heart defects and fluid around her lungs. The doctors at Packard gave them the option of just providing comfort care, treatments that would soothe their daughter and relieve any suffering, but weren’t aimed at fixing her heart problems.

On one hand, the Belluominis, whose child was a patient of Benitz and Zimmerman, have a strong faith in God and were more than willing to raise a child with disabilities, even if severe.

On the other hand, they didn’t want their daughter to suffer unnecessarily.

They decided to have doctors do everything they could for Joy — up to a point.

“We let them know if her heart stopped, we did not want her to be resuscitated. We just wanted her to be comfortable,” Karin Belluomini said in an interview at the family’s home in rural Gilroy, California.

Joy remained in intensive care for three difficult weeks. By the end, her blood oxygen levels were so low that the doctors said she could die at any time — possibly when her parents weren’t there. That’s when the Belluominis decided to remove life support, so that Joy could die peacefully in their arms, disconnected from the tubes and needles.

Both parents said it was difficult to even imagine not being a part of such decisions.

“As a parent, you just want to do everything and anything to protect your child, so to be able to really understand her conditions and how it’s affecting her and to know that we did have a say in that was extremely important,” Karin Belluomini said.

“You kind of don’t want that responsibility and would rather have someone say or do it for you, but in the end, I wouldn’t want it to have been any other way,” Chris said.

## Olympic runner Mal Whitfield dies at 91

BY ELAINE WOO  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

When Mal Whitfield sneaked into the Los Angeles Coliseum in the summer of 1932, he saw a black sprinter win a gold medal. The experience ignited a dream for the then-8-year-old from Watts.

“From that moment on,” Whitfield recalled decades later in Sports Illustrated, “I knew I wanted to run in the Olympic Games.”

Whitfield, who earned the moniker “Marvelous Mal,” went on to become the premier 800-meter runner of his era, winning gold medals in the event at the 1948 and 1952 Summer Olympics.

A member of the Tuskegee Airmen, the segregated and much-celebrated group of black pilots who fought in World War II, he also earned the distinction as the first American serviceman on active duty to win Olympic gold.

Whitfield, who later spent more than three decades as a sports ambassador for the U.S. State Department, died Thursday in Washington, D.C., his daughter, CNN anchor Fredricka Whitfield, told the Associated Press. He was 91.

Malvin Greston Whitfield was born in Bay City, Texas, on Oct. 11, 1924, and moved to Los Angeles with his family when he was about 4. By the time he turned 12, both his parents had died. He was raised by his sister Betty.

His Olympic dream was sparked by Eddie Tolan, who won the 100- and 200-meter dashes at the 1932 Games.

Whitfield attended Jefferson High School in South Los Angeles, leaving in 1943 to join the Army Air Forces and fly bomber missions during World War II. During the Korean War he was an Air Force

tail gunner on 27 missions.

He fit both college and running into his Air Force years. He prepared for the 1952 Helsinki Olympics while serving in Korea, training on the airstrip between bombing runs. He was a sergeant when he began taking courses at Ohio State University, but he did not earn his bachelor’s degree until 1956, at Cal State L.A.

At the 1948 Olympics, he won the 800 meters in 1 minute 49.2 seconds, setting a world record — his first of six.

He won his second gold as a member of the 1,600-meter relay team and also collected a bronze in the 400 meters.

In the 1952 Games, he matched his time from the previous Olympics to win the 800 meters again. Running in the 1,600-meter relay, he added a silver medal to his record.

In all, Whitfield won 66 of 69 800-meter races between 1948 and the end of the 1954 track season, including the National Collegiate Athletic Association title in 1948 and the Amateur Athletic Union title from 1949 to 1951. At the 1951 Pan American Games in Buenos Aires, he again triumphed in the 800 meters, securing his place as the era’s best runner at that distance.

In 1954 he became the first black to receive the James E. Sullivan Award, given annually to the nation’s outstanding amateur athlete.

He was honorably discharged from the military in 1952. In 1955, after retiring from competition, he accepted a post as sports goodwill ambassador under the State Department’s educational exchange program and continued to promote athletics for the U.S. Information Agency.

Nearly everywhere he went, amateur athletes flocked to him for advice on how to be a champion.

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