

JIVE TALKIN'

Friends of Jazz bids a sad farewell to Joe Pecs

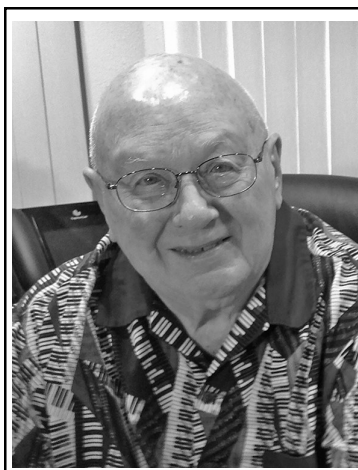
The fun-loving jazz enthusiast was a founding member of FOJ — and was with the non-profit from Day One.

Just weeks ago, Friends of Jazz had the sad occasion of saying goodbye to one of its founding members and a true, rock-solid cornerstone of FOJ: Joe Pecs.

Health issues had slowed Joe down, but he and Leona were delighted, of course, to attend the annual All That Jazz party two summers ago at Los Coyotes Country Club when the event was held in their honor for their crucial roles in the founding of FOJ and for their continuous support of FOJ and its mission.

The Pecs were “on board” with FOJ from the very start, a casual Sunday brunch held at Steamers in March of 1999. When the first slate of officers was selected, Joe was selected as recording secretary, and he and Leona were among the 17 people who on that day launched Friends of Jazz.

When FOJ published its first newsletter a few months later, Joe wrote a feature article for it detailing the founding of Friends of Jazz. The 2013 All That Jazz party where Joe and Leona were guests of honor was held on July 28 to coincide with their birthdays and their wedding anniversary. A few days after the event, Joe and Leona emailed a note: “Dear Friends of Jazz: Thank you so much. We enjoyed our party and seeing all of our



JOE PECS was devoted to Friends of Jazz and to carrying out its mission.

friends again. Thanks for the picture frame, the GREAT time, and the music. Love, Joe & Leona.”

Joseph Eugene Pecs was born in South Bend, Indiana on August 8, 1928, where he attended Central Catholic High School. Upon graduation in 1948, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and was stationed at Camp Pendleton in Southern California. It was there that he met and married Leona L. Dorr, and the couple had 62 years filled with much happiness and laughter.

Upon Joe’s 1952 discharge from military service, the Pecs moved to South Bend, where sons Joseph Leo and Valentine Edmund were born. Three years later, they moved into a house on Maxxim Ave. in Fullerton and had two more children, Elizabeth Anne and Mary Eugenia. The house and the city of Fullerton became their permanent home.

Joe lived out his remaining years in the original home that he and Leona purchased. His first job in California was working for Shell Oil in downtown Los Angeles. He worked with the old plug board IBM tabulating equipment until computers came along, at which time he went into computer management. Joe was instrumental in creating the data processing curricula for the Adult Education Division of North Orange County Community College District in the early ’60s and taught evening classes until the early 1990s.

Joe was an active parishioner for 60 years at St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church in Fullerton. His Funeral Mass was held there on Saturday, June 27, drawing family, friends and neighbors, many who knew Joe for many decades. Attesting to Joe’s love of jazz, “When the Saints Go Marching In” was played as the prelude. Children Beth and Joe gave the first and second readings and granddaughters Tamara and Michelle made the presentation of the gifts. Military honors were conducted for Joe in the church plaza following the services.

Joe loved jazz, comics and the theater and attended many live musical performances and plays. He frequented the Carpenter Center in Long Beach and Steamers Jazz Club and Café in Fullerton — the latter often in the company of his many friends from Friends of Jazz.

“Joe always had a smile on his face no matter what his personal challenges were. And he loved music — especially jazz.”

— Bill Klinghoffer,
Friends of Jazz President

Jean and Bill Klinghoffer reflected on Joe’s role within Friends of Jazz. Jean noted his crucial place as “one of the original people at Steamers who helped get Friends of Jazz started. He was our secretary

Please see JAZZ JOE on page 3

All That Jazz keeps every guest smiling

The annual All That Jazz pre-Mardi Gras fundraiser was a successful, well-attended event enlivened by great music.

Held at Los Coyotes Country Club on July 26, the event featured FOJ’s own Jennifer Hart as vocalist, Hal Ratlif on piano and Bob Forte on drums. Special guest Tony Guerrero blew a mean trumpet and also joined Jennifer on vocals.

One of the evening’s highlights was when Shep Shepherd came up out of the audience to sing.

Please see ALL THAT JAZZ, pg. 4



Steamers Jazz Club closes its doors

After more than 20 years as a thriving business in downtown Fullerton, Steamers Jazz Club & Café has closed its doors.

The club, which was hit hard by the recession, had served as the host for dozens of Friends of Jazz functions, including FOJ's very first meeting; its first fundraiser, a New Orleans-style event that was the basis for the current annual Mardi Gras Ball; the High School Band program held each spring; the first RagFest held in October of 2000 and most of the subsequent RagFests; and FOJ's monthly board meetings.

Terence Love, the owner and founder of Steamers, hosted FOJ's first meeting at his club and participated in the non-profit's formation. On that day in late March of 1999, he was given the position of FOJ's technical advisor, a post he continues to hold to this day.

Rumblings that Steamers might eventually close began earlier this year, and in early July it was announced that the club's final night would be Thursday, July 30. A jam session of jazz artists held sway that night to give Love and his club a big send-off. A year or more ago, Love began cutting back on staff and hours, closing in the daytime and, more recently, closing each Tuesday and charging a \$2 cover (more for some shows) to try to head off having to close.

A saxophonist from a family of musicians, Love came to Southern California from Chicago in 1963, playing in local rock and jazz bands. Of Steamers, he had said he wanted to open a club where musicians wanted to play, as opposed to a restaurant that happened to offer live music. His father, Daniel, and brother, Kevin, were "huge financial supporters" – including loaning him the money to open the business in 1994. He also invested in a \$53,000 Yamaha grand piano and in a high-end sound system – the kind normally found only in the most exclusive nightclubs.

Notables who have graced the stage include actor Joe Pesci, who has sung and played guitar at Steamers many a time; Grammy Award-winning Latin jazz great Poncho Sanchez; Diana Krall; jazz organist Joey DeFrancesco; and Buddy DeFranco, George Benson, Barbara Morrison, Jeff Hamilton and Jack Sheldon. The club has hosted everything from album recording sessions to CD release parties, gaining reputé as the best club in Orange County, and perhaps in all of Southern California – a

Please see **STEAMERS** on page 7

This publication is produced by Friends of Jazz, Inc., an educational, Orange County-based, all-volunteer, non-profit corporation in operation since March, 1999. Please contact us at 714-871-6342 or PO Box 5671, Fullerton CA 92838-0671. **www.friendsofjazzinc.com**



Members of The Alpine Quintet are, from left, Walter Bartel, Erika Wehrle, Al Wehrle, John Lundgren and Randy Anglin.

Photo courtesy Old World Huntington Beach

Oktoberfest will feature Alpine Quintet

For the first time since it became an annual Friends of Jazz fundraiser, our annual Oktoberfest will feature authentic German music performed by a live band.

The Alpine Quintet, founded in Orange County in 2007, performs regularly at The Phoenix Club, Old World in Huntington Beach and "all the German clubs," says bandleader Al Wehrle, as well as the annual Oktoberfest on Maui (the big island). Wehrle said those who attend FOJ's Oktoberfest (on October 25) can expect not just polkas and German music, but a wide variety of musical styles. 🎵

Help needed for FOJ mailings

Volunteers are needed for Friends of Jazz mailings, such as newsletters and flyers for upcoming pre-Mardi Gras parties. If you may be able to help, please contact Jean Klinghoffer, 714-871-6342, or Barbara Fischer, 714-526-5667. 🎵

[Editor's note: In the previous issue of *Jive Talkin'*, we ran incorrect information about display ads in the Friends of Jazz newsletter. Here is the correct information.]

Friends of Jazz is now accepting display ads in its quarterly newsletter. The response to ads in the Mardi Gras program has brought new business to many of our advertisers, and ads in *Jive Talkin'*, which comes out quarterly and reaches nearly 500 readers each issue, not only help FOJ, but also provide new customers for the business owner.

Ad sizes and rates are as follows: business card (3.5" w x 2" h), \$25; double business card (3.5" w x 5" h), \$55; and half-page horizontal (7" w x 5" h), \$100. To place your ad, or for more information, contact Irene Kauppi at 714-525-5162. 🎵

'Jazz Joe' was a co-founder of Friends of Jazz

Joe Pecsí, continued from page 1

when we first started out, and he also secured our super-talented Judi McDuff."

Bill touted Joe as "a nice guy who was a lot of fun. He always

had a smile on his face no matter what his personal challenges were. Joe loved music — especially jazz. Joe would step in and help where and when needed. Steamers was his home away from home. He is really missed — but he has left his mark." 🎵



A friendship of major benefit to FOJ

By Judi McDuff

I first met Joe in the 1990s. I was working for the North Orange County Community College District's School of Continuing Education at the Yorba Linda Center on Fairmont. Joe was in charge of the computer program for SCE. Four times a year he would bring me the schedules of all the computer classes, i.e., teachers' names, classes, dates, times, room numbers. Naturally, we began a working relationship, and a friendship began to grow.

Joe was very excited about a newly established group called Friends of Jazz. They had recently incorporated and were setting up parties, fundraisers, and events to promote their mission of keeping jazz alive. Joe was one of their founding members. When he discovered that I had grown up loving jazz and big band music, and was a musician, he couldn't wait to get me involved. In fact, he arranged a meeting with Bill Klinghoffer, president of FOJ.

I remember meeting Bill and the three of us discussing jazz, FOJ and, in partic-



Leona Pecsí and Judi McDuff at Los Coyotes in 2013.

ular, the future of jazz while at lunch in Fullerton. FOJ's newsletter editor had recently left and someone was needed to take over the role. Since I was already creating newsletters, flyers, and the like at my job, I was a natural. A month or so later, Joe invited me to go to lunch again, but this time it was to meet his lovely wife, Leona. We ate at The Summit House and I felt like I was a member of the family.

Within the next year, not only was I editing the newsletters, but I was creating invitations, flyers, and just about anything that involved writing, editing and design. Eventually,

I chaired a fundraiser at Steamers. What a plus! I was doing my favorite types of work, all of it centered on my first love, music.

Joe continued to send me email jokes (you all know how he loved his jokes!), and I was so impressed at his vast musical knowledge and his deep love of jazz. And yes, he was an accomplished musician — he played the accordion. So if it hadn't been for Joe, I probably would not have become involved in Friends of Jazz and wouldn't have met so many wonderful jazz aficionados — many of whom also became my friends. 🎵

[Editor's note: Judi McDuff was editor of FOJ's newsletter from 2000 to 2009.]



OCCF grant funds go toward music instructor pay

For the first time ever, grant monies received by Friends of Jazz have been designated to help cover paying instructors in FOJ's fourth-grade recorder jazz improvisation program.

The funds come from a grant from the Orange County Community Foundation's

Jane Deming Fund. FOJ received the \$5,000 from OCCF on July 3. The funds will cover materials for the program and, in a first, instructors' salaries. Until now, all instructor time has been compensated for by Friends of Jazz.

This past spring, FOJ received a total of

\$6,000 in grant monies toward the fourth-grade recorder program: \$3,500 from the Wilson W. Phelps Foundation to purchase recorders, \$1,500 from Rotary Club of Fullerton to purchase materials, and \$1,000 from the National Charity League, also to purchase materials. 🎵

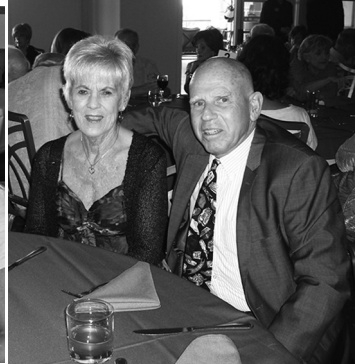
At All That Jazz event, everyone had a ball



ALL THAT JAZZ, continued from page 1

Shep's selections included the standards "Make Someone Happy" and "When You're Smiling" and the 1932 Rodgers & Hart classic "You Are Too Beautiful."

At least two of those titles described the event: All of the guests were happy, and all were smiling throughout the event. 🎵



Photos by Eric Marchese



MARK YOUR CALENDARS WITH THESE UPCOMING FOJ EVENTS!

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Sept. 13, 2015 | Members Party, Fullerton Elks Lodge, Fullerton. Music: Professionals and students. |
| Oct. 8, 2015 | Appreciation reception, scholarship presentation and concert, Meng Hall, Cal State University Fullerton. Music: Fullerton Jazz Orchestra & Big Band. |
| Oct. 25, 2015 | Oktoberfest, Fullerton Elks Lodge, Fullerton. Music: The Alpine Quintet. |
| Dec. 5, 2015 | Scholarship presentation and concert, Fullerton College. |
| Jan. 10, 2016 | Sponsors Party, Los Coyotes Country Club, Buena Park. |
| March 6, 2016 | FOJ's 16th annual Mardi Gras Ball, The Embassy Suites, Brea. Music: Fullerton College's Lemon Street Stompers and the Cal State University Fullerton Jazz Orchestra. |

Gift of jazz books for children inspires students

When Bill and Jean Klinghoffer donated a basket of jazz books for children to the silent auction at the recent Friends of Jazz Mardi Gras party, little did they realize that their gift would inspire a group of young students to stage a Reader's Theater event based on jazz artists and jazz musical groups.

It all started when Dave Reid, Friends of Jazz member, bought the basket of books and gave it to the Hazel Miller Croy Reading Center at Cal State Fullerton.

Seven remedial reading students, ranging from third- to sixth-graders, and their teachers were inspired by the books and decided to use them in a special way.


One of the books was a coloring book of caricatures of jazz artists and musical groups, so each student picked a particular artist or group and colored the page. They then researched their subject and wrote a profile of them. The jazz figures included pianist Mary Lou Williams, harmonica genius Toots Thielmans, Latin bandleader Poncho Sanchez, singer Frank Sinatra, Manhattan Transfer, The Roots band, and drummer Billy Kilson.

The young students wowed a group of parents, friends and educators by reading their profiles and showing off their artwork in a Reader's Theater event at the reading center in May. Following each individual presentation, the center showed a brief video of that student's jazz artist performing. In the audience were the Klinghoffers and Dr. Claire Cavallaro, dean of the College of Educa-



Students of the Hazel Miller Croy Reading Center at Cal State Fullerton pose with their artwork of jazz musicians. Behind them: Dr. Erica Bowers, center director; Jean and Bill Klinghoffer; Dave Reid; Dean Claire Cavallaro, and associate center director Kathi Bartle Angus. *Photo by Patrick O'Donnell*

tion at Cal State Fullerton. Each student received a CD of his or her artist.

The books not only led to a creative program put on by young readers; it also introduced those students to the world of jazz and jazz artists – all thanks to a gift of books by the Klinghoffers. 

Friends of Jazz welcomes its newest members

Here are the newest members to join Friends of Jazz since our last newsletter:

April 2015

George Livermore
Baltazar Montoya (scholarship winner)
Ben Soriano
Jacob Steins (scholarship winner)
John Steins

May 2015

Linda Hoo (student)
Cory Hoo (scholarship winner)
Nonah Johnson (scholarship winner)
Brian Kluver (student)
Ramanand Mandayam
Rocky Mandayam (scholarship winner)

July 2015

John Tebay (replaced Bob Jensen at Fullerton College)

August 2015

John Bushman
Michele Newsum

Doug Weaver

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Second Decade of Keeping Music in Our Schools
Membership Categories for July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

- Gold Benefactor (\$2,500+)** All benefits of Benefactor level plus two complimentary tickets to annual FOJ Mardi Gras gala dinner-dance.
- Benefactor (\$1,000)** All benefits of Patron level plus two additional complimentary tickets to annual FOJ Sponsors dinner (1/10/2016).
- Patron (\$500)** All benefits of Sponsor level plus recognition at a student scholarship presentation.
- Sponsor (\$250)** All benefits of Friend level plus two complimentary tickets to annual FOJ Sponsors dinner at Los Coyotes Country Club (1/10/2016).
- Friend (\$100)** All benefits of General level plus two complimentary tickets, when available, to a jazz event at CSUF or Fullerton.
- General (\$50)** Invitation to Friends of Jazz events plus recognition in FOJ newsletter.
- Student (\$20)** Invitation to Friends of Jazz events plus recognition in FOJ newsletter.

KEEPING MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS: OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

_____ Yes, I'd like to help with fundraisers, scholarship awards, mailings! Please contact me.
 For more information, call Jean Klinghoffer: 714-871-6342. Website: friendsofjazzinc.com

MEMBERSHIP FOR JULY 1, 2015 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2016

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E-mail address _____

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V-Code (3 digits on back of card) _____ [AMEX: Use 4 numbers from front of card]

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Cardholder acknowledges receipt of goods and/or services in the amount of the total shown hereon and agrees to perform the obligations set forth in the cardholder's agreement with issuer.

Friends of Jazz is California non-profit educational corporation organized under the laws of the State of California and tax-exempt under section 501 (C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service.

William “Bill” McGarvey did much to help FOJ

These last few months saw not only the passing of FOJ's beloved Joe Peci, but also of William “Bill” McGarvey, Jr., who was not only a huge supporter of Friends of Jazz but also a pillar of Fullerton society and the community at large for more than half a century.

Proof positive of McGarvey's presence in Fullerton and his impact on the community was the size and scope of the memorial service held at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center on Friday morning of June 26. More than 400 were in attendance – and the Muck's Zoot Velasco noted that had McGarvey not outlived so many of his peers, that number could easily have been double.

That gathering wasn't a “memorial service” in any true sense of the word – it was by design, and by all accounts, a celebration of a life not only well lived but lived large. Sons William III and Patrick shared their thoughts of their father – William III regarding “the man” and Patrick offering “a son's perspective.” Jim Williams welcomed us and provided the introductory remarks and closing words.

Guest speakers included fellow realtor Joe Lins, fellow community leader Zoot Velasco and friend Terry Bruton. CSUF's ROTC provided an Honor Guard which recognized Bill with the Presentation of Colors. Providing the music, in vocals and on piano, were Mathew Dunn, Mitch Hanlon and Monette Velasco, performing “Danny Boy” and “When Irish Eyes Are Smiling” and concluding with “Amazing Grace.”

William McGarvey, Jr., was born in Wooster, Ohio, on Nov. 5, 1921. His family moved to California in 1937, where Bill graduated from Manual Arts High School in Los Angeles two years later. He joined the Navy in 1941 and was on an aircraft carrier in the Pacific theater in World War II.

Bill married his wife Virginia in 1945, and in 1951, the couple moved to Fullerton, the city that would figure so prominently in their lives. In 1953, Bill joined Chapman Avenue Realty as a realtor. He later formed McGarvey-Thompson Realty and, subsequently, McGarvey-Clark Realty, where he served as Chairman of the Board.

In the more than six decades since coming to Fullerton, Bill McGarvey was heavily involved in charitable work and community service. He was the founding president of the Friends of the University for Cal State Fullerton, serving 37 years on the CSUF President Advisory Council Board. He was Past President of the Fullerton Rotary Club, the Fullerton District



Above, members of Bill McGarvey, Jr.'s family, including son William “Bill” III and wife Janet, son Patrick and wife Anna, and grandchildren Matthew, Meghan, Molly and William “Billy” IV. At right, the impressive wall of Bill McGarvey photos and mementos.

— Photos by Patrick O'Donnell



Board of Realtors, the Fullerton Chamber of Commerce, and Big Brothers of North Orange County.

In 1964, Bill was named Mr. Education by the Fullerton School Board, Man of the Year in 1965 by Fullerton Chamber of Commerce, and “Super Good Guy” by Boys and Girls Club of Fullerton in 1969, and was awarded the CSUF President's Medallion in 1992 – one of two such honors in the past 50 years.

In his turn at the podium, Zoot Velasco referenced Bill's famous red socks, saying they were “just the tip of the style iceberg” and that “he didn't just have character – he was one.”

“Whether you are talking about building business, building community or building integrity, he's your man,” Zoot continued. “He literally bought and sold Fullerton many times over as a real estate giant. He helped build the community we love, from the college to the Boys and Girls Club to the Muck and much more.”

“Jim Williams once showed me a list of 35 different organizations in town that he led. But for me, Bill is the quintessential representative of the greatest generation: Tough, honest to a blunt point, smart, outwardly unsentimental, inwardly deeply caring, and full of style and grace.”

FOJ's Jean and Bill Klinghoffer later said that Bill McGarvey “was very generous in donating to FOJ to help start the process of getting music in our schools.” Bill Klinghoffer called him “an all-around guy who helped those who needed help. He would do anything to help kids. There was nothing political about Bill. He was a part of FOJ from the beginning till he left us.”

STEAMERS, continued from page 2

club whose guests had included Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Sean Penn and Pat Boone.

Irvine-based Evans Brewing Company bought the business. New owners Mike and Evan Rapport are converting the club into an American-style gastropub serving lunch, dinner and various local craft beers.

While the new owners plan to retain some form of live entertainment, it won't be able to hold a candle to Steamers, which hosted more than 9,000 performances, 2,000 musicians and more than a million happy customers. ♪

**Oct. 25, 2015
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News & Notes

NOTICE: Volunteers are needed for Friends of Jazz mailings such as the newsletter and flyers for ongoing pre-Mardi Gras parties. Friends of Jazz is also looking to the membership for those who may be interested in helping board members with the responsibilities of their positions, or perhaps in an area where you, as a member, would like to be of help. If you can help, please call Dottie Batinich, 714-525-6669; Charlotte Henderson, 714-870-9067; or Jean Klinghoffer, 714-871-6342.



Upcoming Friends of Jazz Events

Sept. 13 Members Party, Fullerton Elks Lodge
Oct. 25 Oktoberfest, Fullerton Elks Lodge



AROUND TOWN

The **Fullerton Jazz Orchestra and Big Band** delivers a concert at Cal State University, Fullerton, on Thursday night, October 8, directed by Chuck Tumlinson. The performance, at Meng Hall, starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$8 Titan discount.

Starting on September 21, the **Fullerton Elks Lodge** will begin presenting the same big bands that used to perform on a regular basis every Monday night at **Steamers Jazz Club & Café** – groups like **Arlene and The Guys**, **Bill Strout's Big Band 2000** and **The Don Kubec Big Band**. We'll bring you more information and details about this as it becomes available.

Every Friday night, **Ron Kobayashi** is joined by a variety of special guest performers for Jazz Fridays at Bayside Restaurant in Newport Beach, performing contemporary jazz, R&B, and ballads. Ron's quartet, featuring **Jerry Mandel** on saxophone, also performs at Bayside on select weeknights.

Jazz pianist **Andrew Marks** entertains during brunch at Manhattan Steak & Seafood in Orange each Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. **Jennifer Hart** performs with her Hart and Soul Band at Adele's at San Clemente Inn from 7 to 10 p.m. on upcoming Friday nights this fall: Oct. 2 and 30, Nov. 20 and Dec. 18. On Oct. 11, Nov. 1 and Dec. 6 (all Sunday mornings), she'll sing at the Menifee Center for Spiritual Living, and on Nov. 8 and Dec. 13 (also Sundays) at the Saddleback Valley Center for Spiritual Living. 