

# JIVE TALKIN'

February 2023

Volume 4, Issue 1

## Good times will roll for annual Mardi Gras

**The biggest event of the year, coinciding with FOJ's 24th anniversary, will showcase great music, food and auction items on Sunday, March 19, so get ready to "let the good times roll."**

Few annual Friends of Jazz events are better and none are bigger than the king of all major fundraising events, the party celebrating Fat Tuesday: the Mardi Gras Ball, set for March 19 at the Velvet Rose in Orange.

Guests will participate in FOJ's biggest party of the year, which coincides with Friends of Jazz's 24th anniversary.

As guests arrive at 5 p.m. and check in at the reception table, they'll receive a keepsake to take home. The professional photographer from last year's ball will be set up, and before entering the ballroom, each participant and/or couple will have their photo taken and will receive a print.

During the cocktail hour (5 to 6 p.m.), guests will be able to review and bid on the many silent auction items on hand (see the partial list on page three of this issue). A jazz trio (piano, bass and drums) of Cal State University, Fullerton student musicians under the direction of Bill Cunliffe will provide the music for the first part of the evening.

This year, FOJ will have three emcees presiding over the ball as Master of Ceremonies, welcoming guests and introducing the new king and queen.

See **MARDI GRAS BALL** on page two.



*The new king and queen will be crowned by 2022's MGB King and Queen, Nick & Dottie Batinich (above).  
Photos by Lizz Juarez & Judi McDuff*





## ♪♪ Quarter Notes ♪♪

Friends of Jazz noted the passing of some members and supporters going back many years.

We pay our respects to Ron Celotto, Ted Stumpf, Tony & Pat Florentine, Irene & Mac McCormick, Doris McGrath, Leona Pecs, Joy Shepherd and Frank Kanahele. Many of these fine members supported FOJ through their time and funds. Some served on FOJ's board. Some volunteered at various special events. Some made sure to show support by attending the many functions on the calendar throughout the year. Some made monetary donations or gave us items for use in silent auctions and opportunity drawings. Joy Shepherd and her husband, Shep, were our Mardi Gras King and Queen in 2013.

Each held Friends of Jazz in a special place in their heart, and we hold them in our hearts with affection, respect and fond memories. ♪

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 714-273-7504, PO Box 5671, Fullerton CA 92838-0671, or [jazz4u0522@gmail.com](mailto:jazz4u0522@gmail.com).  
**[www.friendsofjazzinc.com](http://www.friendsofjazzinc.com)**

## Recorder classes kicked off in January

Be sure to catch the next recorder concerts being performed by fourth-grade students from participating elementary schools. Concerts may be performed at the end of each 10-week period of classes and are free to the public. The kids and their families always enjoy having the support of Friends of Jazz members in the audience to show support and to encourage and cheer them on.

This year's schools that are participating are:

Acacia, Raymond, Richman, Woodcrest, Rolling Hills, and Beechwood. About 470 kids at the 6 schools are taking these classes this Spring. Teaching these classes are Rob Verdi and Illene Munnich.

You can learn more about Friends of Jazz's recorder program by emailing Cindy Leone, who runs the program for FOJ and provides classroom instruction for the young students. Her email is [cl7850@aol.com](mailto:cl7850@aol.com). ♪

## New members join FOJ while others renew

Friends of Jazz is happy to announce these members who recently joined:

Ron & Ruth Egigian, Mike Sun, Ares Mejia, Paul & Amy Hinz, Milo Penner, Cynthia & John Miller, Nicolas Gallegos, Silvia Aldrete, Patrick Smith

**Members who renewed:**

Mark Miller  
Tyler August  
Glenn & Nancy Rudd  
Carole Bruns  
Donn & Debby Rohrs

## MARDI GRAS BALL

Nick and Dottie Batinich, the 2022 Mardi Gras king and queen, will preside over the coronation of the 2023 King and Queen. Following the coronation will be an authentic, New Orleans-style Mardi Gras krewe parade, complete with beads and twirling parasols. The live jazz for the parade, provided by the Fullerton College Lemon Street Stompers led by Director Bruce Babad, will "let the good times roll." Fullerton College's vocal jazz group, J-Train, with Jamie Shew, Director, will showcase their vocal talents before dinner.

Providing the after-dinner music for lis-

*Continued from page one*

tening and dancing is CSUF's Fullerton Jazz Orchestra, directed by Bill Cunliffe, and a handful of surprise musical performers will take the stage, as well.

Tickets are \$125 per person, and FOJ's board president, Colleen Wadsworth, urges you to "get your tickets now, because you don't want to miss this fabulous, one-of-a-kind event!"

For more information about this year's Ball, call Colleen Wadsworth at 714-273-7504 or contact Nick Batinich at 714-525-6669 ([nickbatinich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nickbatinich@sbcglobal.net)).

## Don't miss these upcoming CSUF and FC events!

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 3/24        | Fullerton Jazz Orchestra and Chamber Ensemble, 8pm Meng Hall, CSUF |
| 4/21-22     | 48th Annual Fullerton College Jazz Festival, day-long, campus-wide |
| 4/21        | Fullerton Jazz Chamber & Latin Ensembles, 8pm Meng Hall, CSUF      |
| 4/22        | CSUF Jazz Singers, 8pm Meng Hall, CSUF                             |
| 5/2<br>lege | Synergy & Jazz Lab Band, 7:30pm, Campus Thea., Fullerton College   |
| 5/5         | Fullerton Jazz Orchestra, 8 pm Meng Hall, CSUF                     |
| 5/4         | Jazz Combo Night, 7:30 pm, Campus Theatre, Fullerton College       |
| 5/9         | Jazz Band & J-Train, 7:30pm, Campus Theatre, Fullerton College     |

NOTE: THESE EVENTS ARE FREE TO FRIENDS OF JAZZ MEMBERS.



## High school band program is swingin' at Rembrandt's

Friends of Jazz's spring high school band program got off to a great start this year when Esperanza High's jazz students performed at Rembrandt's in Placentia on Saturday, Feb. 4.

Esperanza's outstanding scholarship award winner was Jacob Rudd, who played both clarinet and tenor sax. Kudos to Director Brad Davis and his terrific jazz students.

FOJ's Jim Harlan is running this program again this year. Each high school receives \$500 from Friends of Jazz; in addition, each individual musician is given \$500.

All performances are at Rembrandt's Kitchen & Bar, 909 E. Yorba Linda Blvd., Placentia, from 1 to 3 p.m. Doors open to the public at 12:30 p.m. Reservations for families are suggested. Call (714) 203-1353.

La Serna High School jazz

bands played on Feb. 11 to a huge crowd of family and friends. The scholarship winner was Gustavo Prieto, and Matt Rohrs directed the bands.

For more information about the program, contact Jim Harlan: [Jim@Jim-Harlan.com](mailto:Jim@Jim-Harlan.com). 🎵



Photos by Don Dyer, Linda Wolf, & Judi McDuff



### Here's the program schedule for this year:

Feb. 4: Esperanza High	Mar. 25: Valencia High
Feb. 11: La Serna High	Apr. 15: Irvine High
March 4: Los Alamitos High	Apr. 22: Katella High
March 11: El Dorado High	Apr. 29: Yorba Linda High
March 18: Mission Viejo High	

Joining Friends of Jazz and attending events are just two ways to help FOJ realize its mission. Volunteers for our events and projects play a huge role in our success. So please, call our board president, Colleen Wadsworth, (714-273-7504) and see if your talents, skills and interests are a good fit with what we do to help keep music in our schools.

## Partial list of Mardi Gras Ball silent auction items

Here are some of the fantastic items you can bid on and win at this year's Mardi Gras Ball:

Las Vegas timeshare, 4 days/3 nights (date/time TBD). Value \$850.  
 Sedona timeshare for 4 days/3 nights (date/time TBD). Value \$750.  
 Four (4) Santa Anita Park clubhouse admission passes and valet parking pass (expires March, 2024). Value \$50  
 Pilates 90-minute private training session. Value \$90  
 Four (4) tickets to a July 12th performance at Laguna Pageant of the Masters. Value \$300  
 A 1-bedroom, 1-bath timeshare in Napa for 4 days/3 nights. Value \$1,350.  
 Two (2) \$250 gift certificates redeemable for shopping at South Coast Plaza or for events at South Coast Repertory, Segerstrom PAC, Westin & more. Value \$500.

Four (4) tickets to a play at the Chance Theater valid through December 31, 2023. Value: \$200

Pass for Four (4) to the Magic Castle. Value \$200.

Sunday Brunch for four (4) at the Fullerton Elks Lodge. Value \$60.

Fratellino's Italian Restaurant of Brea gift certificate. Value \$30.

Summit House Restaurant gift certificate. Value \$150.

One (1) Polly's Pie's pie per month for a year. Value \$180.

Two (2) tickets to "Coleman '72" at South Coast Repertory Theatre valid April 23-May 14, 2023. Value \$150.

Front end alignment, tire rotation & balancing, fluids, safety check, Golden West Tire Co. Value \$230

Four (4) wine tasting parties for 20 at Total Wine & More. \$500each.

Two (2) tickets to an Angels game. Value \$150.



Friends of Jazz, Inc.

PO Box 5671, Fullerton, CA 92838-0671

*Celebrating our 24th Anniversary!*

## Sponsors Party honors major supporters

**Special event honoring FOJ's highest donors rings in the new year with lots of style – and lots of jazz**



FOJ's annual Sponsors Party was held at The Velvet Rose in Orange on Sunday, January 22. About 55 people attended this annual special event at our newest venue.

The party honors and thanks all Friends of Jazz members who join at membership levels of \$250 or more.

The evening's music was provided by a Fullerton College jazz quartet. Musicians were: Santiago Lopez, tenor sax; Zane Johnson, guitar; Carlos Zagal, bass; and Andrew Yanes, drums. Vocalist Morgan Delaney sang plenty of great tunes. And Jamie Shew, Director of the Fullerton College J-Train, treated us with a few more tunes.



Chef Zee (it was his birthday!) served a delicious mashed potato buffet in colorful martini glasses with salad and rolls; FOJ provided cheesecake for dessert.

It was a lively, fun party. Thanks to the National Charity League gals and many others who made it all possible. 🎵



## News & Notes



*Condolences on the passing of Joy Shepherd, wife of Shep Shepherd. Both were long-time members, delightful friends and Mardi Gras King & Queen in 2013. We miss them!*



*Our condolences on the passing of Frank Kanahale, Orange County jazz fan. He was a loyal and dear friend to musicians all over So. California. He will be missed.*

## Upcoming Events:

**Feb.-Apr. High School Jazz at Rembrandt's**  
**March 19 Mardi Gras Ball, The Velvet Rose, Orange**  
**April 21-22 Fullerton College Jazz Festival, Fullerton**



## AROUND TOWN



Friends of Jazz's talented Jennifer Hart will be singing at BACI Restaurant in Huntington Beach with Mark Massey on piano the second Friday every month. Jazz pianist Ron Kobayashi works his keyboard magic every Thursday night at Bayside in Newport Beach, and on Friday nights, he hosts a rotating jam session at this nightspot. Every Thursday night from 7 to 10 pm, singer-guitarist Anthony Williams appears at Ziings Bistro in downtown Fullerton. Vocalist Debbi Ebert, accompanied by Richard Ihara, can be heard Friday and Saturday nights from 6-10pm at Cedar Creek Inn in Brea.

Live jazz and blues happen Wednesdays at Fullerton's Twisted Vine, 127 W. Commonwealth Ave. Check out free jazz concerts on weekends at Les Amis, 128 W. Wilshire Ave., Fullerton.

Ragtime is on at Spice Social, 138 W. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton (Mar. 18), and at the Nixon Library on March 26. (Check the OCRS website for more dates). And one Friday night a month, beginning Feb. 17, enjoy local jazz students, 7:30pm, at Pilgrim's Coffee House, 124 W. Wilshire Ave., Fullerton. 🎵