

**Mark Capon Trio Stars for Swingtime.
SEE PAGES 8 AND 9 FOR DETAILS.**

Swingtime

The Region's Only Good Music Magazine!

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Photo by C. Robie Booth

Lee Shaw greets fans at the premiere of the film about her career. See Page 3.

The Night Owl



We are going to skip Ye Olde Puzzler this issue. It has not been getting much response. Several people including **David Bullard** the saxophonist, **Pete Campisi** the trumpeter and **Georgie Wonders** the bandleader got the answer, Jean Goldkette, who managed several bands, including Don Redman and McKinney's Cotton Pickers, while leading his own popular band. If there is demand, we'll reinstitute the puzzle.

Hot Club Is Cool

The Hot Club of Saratoga played a fine program recently at Lanie's in Loudonville. They swung on "Lady Be Good," "I Can't Give You Anything But Love" and a wonderful happy "Avalon."

They swing like hell, mix in a lot of blues, using rhythm guitar, a real bass (floor model), excellent drums and low-register guitar. Their motif is, as the name implies, Quintette du Hot Club de France with **Stéphane Grappelli** and **Django Reinhardt**. We'll be doing a photo feature on this fine group next issue.

Enjoyed very much the performances of Georga Osborne and Jonas Cohen in "Souvenir," the story of Florence Foster Jenkins at Cap Rep in Albany. Georga is an award-winning Broadway actress and singer.

We're anxiously hoping that **Jim Charles** and **Tony Rivera** can get the necessary support to resume the tremendous theater they brought to Cohoes Music Hall. Kudos to them for keeping the excellent children's theater going.

Half-Notes

I never thought I would enjoy "Up on the Roof" until I heard **Jeanne O'Connor** sing it with **Peg Delaney** (piano) and **Bill Delaney** (bass) at Grappa 72 one evening. A real groove. Pianist **Rennie Crain** sat in to much applause. He was pianist-arranger for Bob Chester when **Al Quaglieri** was lead trumpet; with Tex Beneke where Mel Lewis was on drums; and with Glen Gray and the Casa Loma Orchestra.

Jammin' with Union College Jazz Ensemble at Panza's (Saratoga Lake) in March: Trombonist **Art Duncan** a la Buddy Morrow on "Night Train" was introduced by bandleader Tim Olsen with "he plays in nine bands." Good rendition. I especially enjoyed the big band's "Intermission Riff" (Ray Wetzel), Gershwin's "Promenade" with excellent solo by soprano saxophonist **Warren Thompson**, and Woody Herman's big hit "Woodchopper's Ball."

During the jam session, we were treated to singers **Colleen Pratt** and **Patti Melita**, pianist **Wayne Hawkins**, drummer **Tim Coakley** and the aforementioned Art Duncan on tram.

Organist **Akiko** blew up a storm as the ultimate act of the Albany Musicians Union April party at Colonie Elks Club. Her outstanding quartet was presented by **Bill McCann** for his 30th radio anniversary.

—C. ROBIE BOOTH



Stars of Yesteryear and Today

Paul Mastriani, Dyanne Marlowe and Paulina at a Chris Martin luncheon. Pianist Paul and vocalist Dyanne were stalwarts in the Gene James Trio with Gene on bass with occasionally Bobby Massaro on drums. Paulina sings around town, often with the Georgie Wonders Orchestra. Paul will be featured in Swingtime's October 18 concert, where he will be joined by his son Paul on drums and bassist Pete Toigo.

Susan Robbins' Lee Shaw Film Premiered

Lee Shaw, our own world-class pianist, was the subject of "Lee's 88 Keys," an excellent documentary that premiered April 12 at Proctors Theatre and will be shown at the Spectrum on June 3. Susan Robbins, the pro- **(Continued on Page 11)**



Organist Ned Spain and Joni Balcolm in their heyday.

A Hammond Organ Goes Silent

By NED SPAIN

On April 23, the music world lost a world class Jazz Organist. Joni Balcolm was born Joanne Hamilton in Ardmore, Oklahoma, on April 12, 1928. At an early age her family moved to Zanesville, Ohio, where she received her education and taught herself to play piano and organ. Her natural talent unleashed, she quickly became a professional performer, playing organ both in church and in local restaurants, where she was billed as "Joni at the Organ." Along the way she married and gave birth to two sons, Terry in 1946 and Randy in 1955.

In April, 1961, Joni was booked out of Ohio for an extended stay at the former Hogan's Towne House, an upscale eatery on State Street, Schenectady. She found a new home as the locals formed a loyal following. It was upon her arrival that Joni stopped in at my newly minted organ dealership near Hogan's. I happened to have a Hammond B-3 on my floor complete with Leslie speaker and she asked if she could "try it out." She quickly pro-

ceeded to make an impression that lasts to this day.

While Joni played standards and show music with the best of them, her greatest talent was jazz. Her improvisations were on par with the likes of Jimmy Smith and Richard "Groove" Holmes. I introduced her to the Hammond

Organ management and arranged a performance at a sales meeting in Miami Beach. They were blown away as Joni went all out, but they already had four famous jazz performers on staff.

Among her many local venues were the Diplomat in Utica, where she acquired a fan by the name of Robie Booth. She teamed up with Bill Delaney's step-dad, Dale Foster, and with Buddy Bedell to form a trio at Veeder's for many years. Joni joined yours truly at the former McLaine's Restaurant in Burnt Hills, where we enjoyed an extended performance on dual organs, complete with overhead mirrors. (See photo.)

When Joni's sons moved out on their own, Joni moved to Long Beach Island on the Jersey Shore, where she performed for many more years. She wound up her career as Alzheimer's disease progressed, necessitating her retirement. She passed away peacefully at a retirement facility in Pemberton, New Jersey, with her sons at her side.

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Swingtime Snapshots



The jam session at the March concert included (L-R) Tim Coakley, Wayne Hawkins, Lew Petteys and Art Duncan



Patti Melita was part of the "amateur" entertainment on the 2015 Jazz Cruise.



SJS March 8 concert: Tim Olsen and the Union College Jazz Ensemble at Panza's

Photos by Jerry Gordon

Some local folks on the 2015 Jazz Cruise - seated, L-R: Rennie Crain, Bobbie Crain, Maryanne Gordon, Bev Elander. Standing: Jerry Gordon, Alice Rudnick, Susan Raskin-Abrams, Al Sabo, Patti Melita, Peter Ryan, Peg Miller, Joe Slomka, Alex Slomka



Photo by our waiter



The Hot Club of Saratoga at Hattie's in Saratoga Springs, where they wail every Sunday evening. L-R: Dylan Perrillo, Adam Siegel subbing for their usual violinist, Chad Tallman, Jonathan Greene and Chuck Kish.



Ned Spain performed on the Conn 640 organ at the historic home of David Bullard and Hilary Tann when they hosted a lovely mid-May party for some friends and members of the Swingtime Jazz Society.

Swingtime Jazz Society Presents the Mark Capon Trio

On Sunday, June 14, the Mark Capon Trio will perform in concert at Provence Restaurant in Stuyvesant Plaza. The concert runs from 4-6 p.m. and is followed by a one-hour open jam session.

Guitarist **Mark Capon** led groups at New York City jazz venues Cleopatra's Needle, The Garage, Creole, and others as well as many in the Capital Region. He received jazz study grants from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1988 and 1989, was featured on the 1994 television broadcast TELEJAZZ in Newark, New Jersey, and was a semifinalist in the Fish Middleton Jazz Scholarship competition in Gaithersburg, Maryland in 1995 and 1996. Mark accompanied various vocalists in the 2012 New York City documentary "Sandy Jordan's World of Jazz and Cabaret." Mark studied with the late legendary jazz guitarist Tal Farlow. Mark's CD release *The Jazz Guitar Of Mark Capon* received notable reviews in *All About Jazz* and other publications.

Bassist **Pete Toigo** has been active in the Capital Region and beyond for several decades. Recent performances for the Swingtime Jazz Society have included the

Tim Olsen Quartet, the Nat Phipps Trio featuring Jeanne O'Connor, String of Pearls, the Teresa Broadwell Quartet and Patti O and the Hip Hooligans. He continues to perform with all these groups, among others. Recent jazz recordings include four tracks on Tim Olsen's *Creature of Habit* on Planet Arts Records, Tom Scaramo's *Jazz at Foster's* on Zinnia Records (an independent label dedicated to the music of Lennie Tristano and Sal Mosca) and Terry Adams of NRBQ's upcoming release of the music of Thelonious Monk.

Percussionist **Mark Foster** covers all areas of percussion: classical, drum set, vibes, electronics and accessories. As a performer, he has recorded over two dozen commercial recordings with the Albany Symphony Orchestra, including their recent Grammy-winning release on Naxos. Local recent combo jazz performances include Michael Benedict, James Wilson, Colleen Pratt and Peggy Delaney. With the Empire Jazz Orchestra, he has performed with Randy Brecker, Benny Golson, Lee Konitz, Rufus Reid and David "Fathead" Newman. Previous live jazz gigs include Sal Maida, Bobby Massaro, J.R. Monterose and others.



The 2015 Concert Series

All concerts are at **7:30 pm** in the Great Hall, the beautiful listening space in the Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady at 1221 Wendell Ave in Schenectady. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$7 for students, and children under 12 are free if they're with an adult. To order tickets, call 518-393-4011, email coakjazz@aol.com or visit aplaceforjazz.org

September 18: René Marie

October 2: Theo Hill Quartet

October 16: Manuel Valera and New Cuban Express

October 30: John Nazarenko Trio

November 13: Chris Potter Quartet

SWINGTIME

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The Mark Capon Trio



Mark Capon

Pete Toigo

Mark Foster



Sunday, June 14, 2015 4-6 p.m.

Followed by a one-hour open jam session

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Cats and Jammers



Mechanicville Bred 2 Noted Musicians

When **Don York** of Bethlehem conducted a major musical at Proctors a couple of years ago, the one-time jazz wunderkind didn't get a feature in the local press. It shows that composers, arrangers and conductors are neglected by their hometowners. An example is **Ray Heindorf**, who was nominated for 18 Academy Awards before his death in 1980.

The Mechanicville native and MHS graduate ('26) was the first to win two Oscars in a row: "Yankee Doodle Dandy" (1943) and "This Is the Army" ('44). He scored "Rhapsody in Blue," "A Streetcar Named Desire," "The West Point Story," "The Music Man" (a third Oscar) and "Damn Yankees." He had a hit record with his theme from "Picnic." Prior to movies, he worked with Rudy Vallée and Lupe Velez. A recent Doris Day feature on Turner Classic Movies found her saying one of her great Hollywood experiences was working with Ray Heindorf.

Another Mechanicville son was **Orrie Amadeo**, who played trombone with Lawrence Welk for two decades and later had a big band based on the Count Basie sound.

Stay on the Beat
Catch us at
SwingtimeJazz.org



A New Benefit for Members

The Jazz Cruise is the first and only full-ship charter dedicated to "straight-ahead" jazz. The 15th sailing will be from January 17-24, 2016, and will feature over 100 world-class jazz musicians. You'll sail on Holland-America's m/s Eurodam from Ft. Lauderdale to Dominican Republic, St. Thomas, St. Croix and the Bahamas. Full details are at thejazzcruise.com.

This new alliance will allow members of either A Place for Jazz or Swingtime Jazz Society to enjoy the cruise at a reduced cabin rate, and it's just one more reason why you should join APFJ or SJS today.

1. A discount of 7% off the cabin rate is available to all members of the Swingtime Jazz Society and to members of A Place for Jazz who have paid at least \$50 for a 2015 membership. (Rates are about \$2-3000 pp, depending on cabin.)
2. To get this discount, simply mention to Amy Grove (amy@ecpcruises.com or 314-726-7626) when you make your reservation that you belong to APFJ or SJS.
3. If you have already made your reservation for the 2016 cruise, contact Amy and tell her of your membership; the cabin discount will be applied retroactively.

If you have any questions about this program, ask Jerry Gordon (518-235-8232 or jerrygordon@juno.com). And when you've booked your cabin, please let Jerry know your cabin number so we can track the success of this program.

IN MEMORIAM

Superfan Peg Miller dies at 92

Margaret (Peg) Miller passed away April 20, 2015, at the age of 92.

She was a superfan of all good music. She was a band singer before her marriage to leader **Gordie Randall**. She had appeared on pioneer radio dramas on WGY and did some musical and Girl Friday work for Channel 6. Later she sang with church choirs, Mohawk Valley Chorus, the Sweet Adelines and a barbershop octet which she founded and led. It won state and national ribbons. She was also a long-time reader, drawing on her stage background, for the RISE radio program for blind and disabled people.

On May 3, more than 100 fellow musicians, friends and family attended a celebration of her life at the First Reformed Church in Schenectady's Stockade. Peg Delaney, Bill Delaney and drummer **Tom D'Andrea**, were the trio. "Body and Soul," "We'll Be Together Again" and a gorgeous "I'll Remember April" were their highlights. **Colleen Pratt** sang a soulful "Round Midnight" and **Patti Melita** a



lovely "Embraceable You." **Rennie Crain** tickled the ivories for two numbers with **Linda Brown** on bass and **Tim Coakley** on drums. It was a send-off she would have loved.

Susan Robbins' Lee Shaw Film Premiered

(Continued from Page 3) ducer and director, got a standing ovation and Lee was almost mobbed as she played a couple of numbers after the show. In the cover photo, the noted singer and educator Ann Turner waits to talk to Lee as Evan Tublitz and

Susan Robbins (that's her blond hair) look on. The Schenectady-Amsterdam Musical Union presented its 9th annual Jazz Appreciation Month concert after the premiere. The Jazz Journalists Association honored Lee with its 2015 Jazz Hero Award.

Join Swingtime Jazz Society

The **Swingtime Jazz Society** roster of members has reached 71. You are encouraged to join us by using the coupon on this page.

The Society's mission is to promote quality jazz by employing the finest regional artists for four or five events every year. The format is two hours of concert-cabaret music by the featured artists, followed by a one-hour jam session open to all cats.

All members have a full vote on future attractions and electing officers of the non-profit corporation. We also have a wonderful series of dinner meetings hosted by members. There is a one-only fee of \$100 to join.

See Pages 8 and 9 for our June 14 attraction, **Mark Capon Trio**.

I want to join the Swingtime Jazz Society.
Enclosed find my membership fee of \$100.

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