

# Swingtime Presents Lee Shaw Trio

January 13 at the Stockade Inn - See Pages 9 and 10

# Swingtime

The Region's Only Good Music Magazine!

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Photo by C. Robie Booth

## Helping a Young Band Mature

This trio is delivering a most important growth experience to a couple of dozen young musicians from Schenectady. The Capital Park Middle School Jazz Band was formed by music teacher and saxophonist Lew Petteys (center) in 1975. Today Rob Aronstein (right), like Petteys, well known in jazz circles, has admirably taken over the reins. Helping the youngsters out at a recent concert between sets at A Place for Jazz was guitarist Mike Derrico. The children learn how to improvise at a formative age and, hopefully, will perform in the years ahead.

# The Night Owl



**Tom Shields**, trombone master, has been all over the place the past summer with photos in all three dailies and a "Five Questions" interview in *The Record* (Troy) on Aug. 30. He's been with **Reggie's Red Hot Feetwarmers** for 27 years. He said their music was "an eclectic mix of jazz, country and Dixieland that livens up the crowd. Often dancing with the band are tap dancers and jitterbug duos."

Enjoyed **Patricia Dalton's** quartet a recent night at Provence in Stuyvesant Plaza. The fine singer featured **John Esposito** on piano, **Charles Frommer** on sax and clarinet and **Malcolm Cecil** on bass. The restaurant deserves much support for constantly presenting quality jazz.

Likewise Grappa '72 with the likes of **Peg and Bill Delaney** (much enjoyed their beautiful music at Paolo Lombardi's in Wynantskill), **Annette Harris**, **'Azzaam Hameed**, **Jeanne O'Connor**, **Esprit Lounge**, etc.

I love clever titles. "Seven Deadly Zins," "Zoot Case," "Dennis Anyone?", "Ellis in Wonderland," "Woody'n You?"

Traveling to the Cape, I heard a wonderful program, "Be Bop and Beyond" at 89.3 FM in North Dartmouth, Mass. I'm told you can hear it all over southeast New England. Dave Reese hosts show from noon—3 p.m. Saturdays. Particularly liked the Don Menza Orchestra with "Dizzyology."

**Sonny Daye's** piano solo on "Learning to Fly" is a thing of wonderful jazz. It was

a highlight of his appearance with his bride **Perley Rousseau** at their autumn concert "She Wrote the Song" in Colonie Town Library. A wonderful presentation, too, with Perley's songmanship and her fine narrative. It takes them up to six months to research and score one of their several excellent programs. --CRB



Photo by C. Robie Booth

Perley Rousseau at Grappa '72

**For the area's most up-to-date jazz calendar, visit [aplaceforjazz.org/calendar.htm](http://aplaceforjazz.org/calendar.htm)**

# Lou Palmer Was Musical Genius

By NED SPAIN

The world of music has lost a standout among musicians, one of the greatest to ever come out of our area. Pianist Lou Palmer (1935-2012) died Wednesday, October 17, at Saratoga Hospital at the age of 77.

Born and raised in Mechanicville, it became evident at an early age to his parents that they had a child prodigy on their hands. His talent was first discovered by them when, at the age of four and with no musical training, he would hear a tune on the radio, go to the piano and play it by ear. He then began, still four years old, to perform extensively at local civic affairs in addition to multiple performances on The Children's Program on WOKO radio. He won a talent contest in Ballston Spa against contestants of all ages.

All of this took place before he began taking piano lessons. When he was five, his parents enrolled him with a local teacher in his home town to take formal lessons. By this time, he was a seasoned performer. That was just the beginning of what turned out to be an outstanding career and lifelong love of piano performance. He continued to perform in local musical programs, and by the age of ten had become proficient in the piano masterworks, including Beethoven, Chopin, Mozart, Haydn and Grieg. His career reached a new plateau when, at age 11, he performed a piano concerto with the



Lou at age 10

New York Philharmonic under Leopold Stokowski. In 1948 at age 13 he entered an adult talent contest on the nationally-televised Tommy Dorsey Show and won first prize of \$250. This led to five more appearances on this show. He appeared on the Horace Heidt Program the following year, having won

first prize in the Horace Heidt nationally-broadcast talent competition held at the RPI Fieldhouse. He was then invited to appear on the Heidt TV show in New York City.

Perhaps his most significant milestone was reached when, having graduated from high school at age 16, he entered the Juilliard School in New York City, making him one of the youngest students in the history of the school. This was a result of winning a full scholarship, for which he competed with Van Cliburn.

I have two personally favorite stories about Lou Palmer; both of them involve Tommy Sternfeld. Tommy was the owner of a highly respected dance studio in Albany, and he was also a well-known local radio and TV producer. My first and better-known story is about Lou's five-year association with the weekly "Teen Age Barn" television show on WRGB, of which Sternfeld was the producer. The show began in 1949 when Lou was 14 and ran until 1953. It became the most popular of all locally produced television shows.

(Continued on Page 11)



Photo by Colleen Pratt

## Robie First Winner of SJS Award

Jerry Gordon (right), president of the Swingtime Jazz Society, presents its first Lifetime Achievement Award to C. Robie Booth, publisher and editor of this magazine. The scene was SJS's October concert-dance featuring the Georgie Wonders Orchestra at the Colonie Elks Lodge.



# Cats and Jammers



Nice section cover story on broadcaster, drummer, newspaperman **Tim Coakley** in the Schenectady *Gazette*. Tim has done a wonderful job as leader of A Place for Jazz, taking the helm after the death of founder **Butch Conn**.

The prize for most elegant dress goes to **Mary Stallings**. "Stunning!" quoth reviewer Tom Pierce. Her trio were all in matching black suits and ties. I liked her choice of not-well-known material along with some standards I enjoyed the Garneresque touches by pianist David Udolf. Harvey S (bass) and Steve Williams (drums) were in top form.

Drummer **Bill Brust** sent us a most interesting rate scale from the 1949 journal of Musicians Protective Association, Gloversville and Johnstown Local 163. Playing for dances required \$2.50 per man per hour. The band at Adirondack Inn earned \$50 per week plus room and board. A musician playing in a grille got \$40 for six nights, four hours per night. Of course, martinis were 50¢ and you could get a fish fry dinner for 49¢ at your neighborhood tavern.

**Jeanne O'Connor** sang up a storm in a recent Provence (Stuyvesant Plaza, Guilderland) appearance with pianist **Peg DeIaney** and bassist **Pete Toigo**. "Do Nothin' Till You Hear from Me" was a terrific bit of swing. "Route 66" featured a wonderful solo by Pete; Peg and Jeanne did some groovy bop on "Stompin' at the Savoy" and "Fly Me to the Moon."

**Michael Patrizio**, whose arts center and school have received wide press cov-



**Mary Stallings at A Place for Jazz**

erage, hit a sad note when his proposed jazz improv class drew not a single student. He loves jazz and teaches all levels of all kinds of music. It's at 5 First Avenue in Colonie.

**(Continued on Page 11)**



**Lisa Middleton**



**Linda Egan Johnson**



**Erin Upson**

**Katherine Hudson-Sabens**

**Photos by Jerry Gordon**

The Georgie W  
Hudson-Sabens  
Speraw, Jeff Tr  
guitarist Carmel



**Photo by Jerry Gordon**



# A Georgian Ball



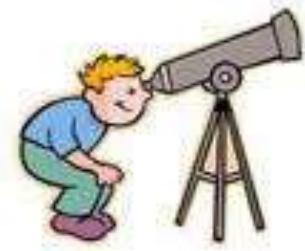
These cats are swingin' at Siena during Meet the Saints night. From left: Rennie Crain, Tom Shields, Pete Toigo, Skip Parsons, Tim Coakley and Mike Canonico. Gordon Jevons chaired the fundraiser for the Siena College Creative Arts Committee. Darrin Scott, WCVR radio director, emceed and introduced the men's and women's basketball teams. C. Robie Booth was music chairman. (Photo by Jerry Gordon)

onders Orchestra, from the left: John Vanstone, Linda Egan Johnson, saxes: Georgie Wonders, Katherine s, Erin Upson, Ryan Cioffi, Jon Globerson, Al Kaye, Mark Lambert (bass), trombones: Art Duncan, Jack Cowbridge, Michael Blostein, trumpets: Tony Zarillo, Jack McGirr, Marty Knowlton, Pete Campisi, (not visible: John Ferri and drummer Ben Rau)



Photo by Jerry Gordon

## LOOKING FORWARD



# Lee Shaw Trio Is SJS Headliner

The **Lee Shaw Trio** headlines the Jan. 13 Swingtime Jazz Society concert and jam session at the Stockade Inn, 1 N. Church St. in Schenectady.

Lee is the world-class pianist who has won audiences everywhere she has performed. She received an honorary doctorate from The College of Saint Rose, is a member of the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame, won the first Swingtime magazine lifetime achievement award, was a charter honoree in the Albany Musicians' Association awards and has had rave reviews of her several recordings. Her compositions are as exciting as her dynamic piano mastery.

**Rich Syracuse** is her much-recorded bassist. He is the Adjunct Professor for String and Electric Bass Studies at Skidmore College, and performs with the College Orchestra in Saratoga.

Drummer **Jeff "Siege" Siegel** is likewise a frequent studio artist and educator. Rich has been with Lee for 20 years and Jeff for a dozen years.

The concert is at 4 p.m. During the jam session from 6-7, instrumentalists and vocalists are invited to sit in.

Admission is \$15 adults, \$5 students and children. The Stockade Inn provides an excellent special menu for Swingtime events. Food is reasonably priced and the drinks, likewise, from merry mixologists. It's a good idea to call Doc Salvatore at 584-3548 for reservations.

*Add to your calendar:*

**Jeanne O'Connor**, supersongstress, stars with **Peg & Bill Delaney** on Dec. 21 at Grappa '72, Central Avenue between Colvin Avenue and Everett Road, Albany. This fine restaurant and music venue will continue good music through the New Year.

**The Ruddys** will play at Lainie's in Loudonville (Shaker Road near Osborne) from 7 to 11 Dec. 21. On New Year's Eve they'll perform at Portofino's Italian Ristorante in Latham from 6 to 9. Guitarists-vocalists **Scott Ruddy** and **Jessica Williams** will be joined by **Jimmy Rocco** on drums at Lainie's. At Portofino's, Jimmy will be on vocals and guitar.

**Sarah Pedinotti**, who was presented by Swingtime Jazz Society in one of its best-attended concerts, has moved her band Railbird to Brooklyn. They've been touring and getting good press, including a big spread in **The Daily Gazette** of Schenectady

**Bette Midler** presents "Priscilla" from Feb. 12 to 17 at Proctor's Theatre in Schenectady. Hers is a high-energy, high-spirited performance, visually and musically. Tuesday through Saturday performances are at 8 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m.

**Stay on the Beat**

Catch us at

**SwingtimeJazz.org**

# SWINGTIME

## Jazz Society

[swingtimejazz.org](http://swingtimejazz.org)



*Proudly Presents*

## The Lee Shaw Trio

*with Rich Syracuse and Jeff "Siege" Siegel*



**4-6 p.m. Sunday, January 13, 2013**

**Followed by open jam session from 6 to 7 p.m.**



**Stockade Inn, 1 N Church St, Schenectady, NY**

**Pub menu and beverages available for purchase**

**\$15/person (\$5 for students)**

*Due to limited seating, reservations are required. Call Doc Salvatore at (518) 584-3548*

(Continued on Page 8)



Photo by C. Robie Booth

## Brightening Holidays at Portofino's

The Ruddys are one of the good music acts being presented at Portofino's Italian Ristorante in Latham. From left: Jimmy Rocco, Jessica (Ruddy) Williams and Scott Ruddy. Feature story on Portofino's in the next issue of Swingtime.



Photo by Jerry Gordon

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**Popular entertainer Norma Colasessano was seen busking during Troy's Victorian Stroll on Dec. 2. She's a favorite at many senior centers and other area venues.**

# Lou Palmer Dies

(Continued from Page 3)

Lou was a mainstay, starting with the first show and missing only a few programs throughout the entire series. He shared the stage with many other well known locals, including Lona Jones, Ann Collins, Art DeLuke, Vito Mammone and the Ashdown Sisters.

On radio station WABY Saturday mornings, Sternfeld had a show called "Stump Louie" and the format of the show was for people to call in with requests. This show was performed in the Strand Theater in Albany before a live audience. Lou spontaneously played the requests as they were called in. The idea was to stump Lou. Nobody ever did. When they decided to discontinue the show, Lou had to pretend that he didn't know a certain request.



At the Wishing Well in 2011

After Juilliard, Lou found that he didn't like the grueling life of the concert pianist and found a happy and satisfying career performing in night clubs. He retired in 2011, having pleased the patrons for many years at the Wishing Well in the Saratoga area.

Lou excelled in his avocation as well, mountain climbing, having climbed the Matterhorn. He also conquered all of the 46 high peaks of the Adirondacks no less than

seven times. The most harrowing experience of his mountain climbing adventures happened while camping near the summit of 20,320-foot Mount McKinley. His tent (with Lou in it) was buried under an avalanche. Fortunately, there were rescuers nearby who dug him out.

We will remember him for his great musical talent and the pleasure he brought to so many.

## Night Owl

(Continued from Page 5)

One of the fabulous figures to grace the boards at Cohoes Music Hall was shapely **Claire Camp** as Cassandra in their marvelous production of "Cats."

### In Memoriam

**Dave Brubeck**, the pianist whose famed quartet was the longest-tenured of the last 60 years, died one day short of his 92nd birthday. He pioneered in unusual time signatures beginning with 5/4 time on "Take Five," which became a classic. Previously, traditional times were 2-beat, 3/4 or 4/4. He considered Darius Milhaud his major influence and often used Stockhausen and Schillinger bites. Some of his

work could be considered neoclassical. His sons, Darius, Chris and Danny are all major musicians.

Brubeck's greatest quartet included Paul Desmond on alto sax, Gene Wright on bass and Joe Morello on drums. Wright, who replaced original bassist Norman Bates, often played with our own piano giant, Lee Shaw. (Story on Lee, Page 8.)

Outlasting Brubeck by 10 years, **Elliott Carter** died Nov. 4. The avant-garde composer and pianist won two Pulitzer Prizes and the congressional National Medal of Arts. His compositions were challenging to both player and listener. He was certainly one of my favorite composers and was very pleasant to me when I interviewed him at Colgate University in my youth.

—CRB

# Join Swingtime Jazz Society

The **Swingtime Jazz Society** roster of members has reached 59. 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 once-only fee of \$100 for joining.

See Pages 8 and 9 for our Jan. 13 attraction, the **Lee Shaw Trio**.

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

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