

Swingtime

The Region's Only Good Music Magazine!

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Nitro Jive to Swing for Swingtime on March 13

Swing band Nitro Jive will perform at the Albany Rail Yard - bring your dancing' shoes! From the left: Scott Hall, Keith Pray, Jeff Dowd, Michael Lamkin, Billy Deuel, Erik John, Jon Bronk. Read more on Pages 4 and 5.



April is
JAZZ

Appreciation Month

See Page 3

The Night Owl



It Was a Wow

When singer **Colleen Pratt** fronted a trio with pianist **Peg Delaney** and bassist **Bill Delaney** t'other night at Grappa 72 it became one of the most exciting nights of the year for the old Owl's ears.

I was bowled over by La Pratt's treatment of Burt Bacharach's "A House Is Not a Home." The title came from a book by New York madame (that's polite for brothel keeper) Polly Adler, but it's not the message here. It is a poignant ballad in the mood of "Here's That Rainy Day," which Colleen likewise delivered to utmost advantage. Most of the rest of the three (or two and a half) set engagement were jazz standards, often featuring her unparalleled bop singing.

Peg Delaney is the new boss. Her incredible technique ranges from the best mainstream cum modern with resounding improvisation and drive. When she introduces a Broadway tune, it spells an immediate and unmistakable showbiz flavor.

Bill Delaney is the winner of the 16th annual Lifetime Achievement Award presented by *Swingtime* magazine. He is a rock of rhythm and his solos are imaginative and upbeat. This is one helluva trio.

Time for Swing

It seems our Olde Puzzler has lost its favor. Many of its competitors for many years have gone to that great jam session in the sky. So I'll spend a bit of time strolling down Memory Lane.

Betty Grable, June Haver and Muzzy Marcellino were three of several singers with the Ted Fio Rito band.

Janet Blair, Nan Wynn, Scrappy Lambert and Skinnay Ennis sang for Hal Kemp. In the latter's bands were Dave Barbour, Charlie Margulis, Saxie Dowell, Paul Weston, Bunny Berigan and John Scott Trotter. When Kemp was killed in an auto crash, Trotter, Ennis and Bob Allen led the band, which was then turned over to Art Jarrett.

Jarrett's singers included Gale Robbins, Betty Barrett and Eleanor Holm, the swimming star

who was married to him until she left for her medal-winning in the 1936 Olympics.

Gene Krupa, who had one of the best all-time bands, numbered Anita O'Day, Irene Daye, Johnny Desmond, Dave Lambert, Ginnie Powell and Lillian Lane among his singers.

Kay Kyser had Ginny Simms, Harry Babbitt, Jane Russell and Mike Douglas as vocalists.

Half-Notes

Irving Fields, age 100, pianist at Park Lane Hotel in NYC, says his most requested number is "Stairway to Heaven." His "music of forever is Gershwin, Sinatra, Chopin and Jerome Kern," according to *AARP* magazine.

Concerts in the Barn at Pruyn House in Colonie has no jazz or classical music this summer. Mostly ethnic programs. Some good news, though: *Swift's* fine restaurant (Everett Road, West Albany) provides food three of the five nights (July 13, Aug. 3 and 10).

Looking Forward

Music at Noon at Troy Savings Bank Music Hall presents on March 8 the **Bleecker Consort**, medieval and renaissance music. On April 12 it's the **Auriel Camarata** with choral music. The series closes May 10 with the always scintillating piano artistry of **Findlay Cockrell**. All concerts are at noon (people call and say what time is the noon concert?) and you are welcome to bring food and drink. And it's free!

Georgie Wonders Orchestra plays for the 89th anniversary of Charles Lindbergh's solo flight across the Atlantic on May 21 at the Rhinebeck Airdrome Hunger Dance. Friday June 24 they play for Bands and Brew at Shepard Park in Lake George and Sunday July 3 at Clifton Commons in Clifton Park.

Straight ahead, little friend.

—CRB



Sonny & Perley performed at the Ormond Beach (FL) Public Library recently. Sitting in were Jerry Gordon on washboard and local resident Joe Bratton on tenor sax.

April is Jazz Appreciation Month

Jazz Appreciation Month

The Schenectady-Amsterdam Musical Union's annual Jazz Appreciation Month concert will be held on Sunday, April 10, from 4-7pm at Robb Alley in the Proctors Arcade. 2016 is a special year as it marks the 10th anniversary of the JAM concert in Schenectady. Special presentations, including the 2016 Jazz Hero award, will partner with exceptional musical offerings highlighting some of the Capital Area's finest jazz musicians. As the schedule becomes available, it will be

posted on aplaceforjazz.org/calendar.htm.

Local 14 of the Albany Musicians Union will be sponsoring their annual Jazz Appreciation Month event on Sunday, April 24, at the Colonie Elks.

1:00 to 1:45 pm: Gals Who Play Jazz

2:00 to 2:45 pm: Scott Bassinson Quintet

3:00 to 3:45 pm: Allen/Benedict Big Band

4:00 to 6:00 pm: The Groover Quartet (from NYC, sponsored by Bill McCann)

Both events are free and open to the public.

A LIMERICK FOR COLLEEN PRATT

Colleen has attained lots of fame,
Well-earned in the musical game.
She's called Colleen Pratt
But did you know that
Bardascini is her real name?

Ned Spain

Subscribe to **Swingtime** magazine. A lifetime subscription is just ten smackers, and it's delivered to you by e-mail or first-class mail. Send checks to:

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☐ Yes, I'd like the e-version so I get it sooner, and in color!

Nitro Jive will Swing for Swingtime Jazz Society

Nitro Jive features exciting arrangements of jump, blues, swing and jazz that really get a crowd jumping! Dancers love their modern arrangements from bands such as Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Royal Crown Revue, Brian Setzer and Colin James, as well as traditional swing.

Audiences have come to love their show featuring exciting instrumentalists and front-man **Billy Deuel**, who has a (seemingly) endless supply of energy. After more than a decade of playing dances, clubs, festivals and concerts, Nitro Jive provides a non-stop electrifying performance.

Bandleader Billy Deuel attended SUNY Fredonia, where he led the award-winning Fredonia Jazz Ensemble during his last two years there. A saxophonist, he turned to singing when he couldn't find a male singer for Nitro Jive. Fronting this band has become a highlight; he has developed a real talent for scat singing.

Baritone saxophonist **Scott Hall** began playing the saxophone at the age of 10 in San Diego. While in high school, he was introduced to the large jazz orchestra and immediately became hooked. He began studying with locally renowned saxophone teacher, Dick Harvey, a former member of the Artie Shaw Orchestra. Scott was a founding member of the San Diego Youth Jazz Band, and while playing with them, he gained the opportunity to play in San Diego's best professional big band, the Big Band Jazz Machine. In 1999 he enrolled in the world-renowned jazz program at University of North Texas. While at North Texas he performed with many local bands including The Dallas Jazz Orchestra. Along with performing, he was sought as a private instructor and was also a panel judge for the Texas High School All-State Jazz Ensemble. After his second year at North Texas, he was selected to be a member of the prestigious Disney Collegiate All-Star Band in the summer of 2001. Following his studies at North Texas, he went to California State University, Sacramento. He played lead alto in the top jazz ensemble for the two years that he attended school there. In January of 2004 he was se-

lected to be a member of the California State University All-State Jazz Ensemble, assembled with the best musicians from the 23 California State University campuses. Following graduation in 2004, he relocated to Albany. He has performed with many groups, and is a member of Keith Pray's Big Soul Ensemble. Scott has played professionally in San Diego, Los Angeles, Sacramento and Dallas. His performance credits include Ralph Lalama, Gary Smulyan, Jerry Weldon, Alan Ferber, Ingrid Jensen, Andrew Speight, Christopher Holyday, Nancy Kelly, Bob Florence, Steve Houghton, Wayne Bergeron, Jeff Kashiwa, Tom Kubis, Shelly Berg, Dallas Jazz Orchestra, and The Big Band Jazz Machine (San Diego).

Keith Pray began his performing career in 1988 and has traveled from the west coast to Europe playing music of many styles with hundreds of gifted musicians including some of the giants of the business. For eight years he resided in New York City performing with artists from multiple disciplines including jazz, R&B, blues, Latin and big band. He resides in the Capital Region and has released five albums under his name, most recently *Confluence* on the ARC label. Keith has taught saxophone at SUNY Oneonta, jazz history and arranging at Schenectady County Community College and currently directs the high school bands in the Schenectady City School District. Keith is an in-demand jazz educator, having conducted many all-counties master classes and clinics, directing the Proctors Summer Jazz Institute for nine seasons and most recently co-founding All Ears, which develops jazz education workshops. Besides his own recordings, Keith has recorded for dozens of artists, and continues to maintain an active performing schedule. Keith also holds a certificate of Advanced Graduate Study (CAGS) from the European Graduate School in Expressive Arts: Therapy, Conflict Transformation and Education.

Jazz pianist and organist, **Michael Lamkin** is from the Boston area via Miami, Florida, where he attended Miami

(Continued on Page 8)



Proudly Presents

Nitro Jive



Bring your dancin' shoes!

Sunday, March 13, 2016 4-6 p.m.

Followed by a one-hour open jam session



**Albany Rail Yard
1118 Central Ave
Albany, NY**

**Pub menu and beverages available for purchase
Open to the public - \$15/person (\$5 for students)**

**Reservations: Ralph Rosenthal at (518) 393-8365
or rosenthalralph@verizon.net**

Local Folks on The Jazz Cruise 2016



Jerry Gordon, Al Sabo, Ruth Sabo, Susan Abrams, Bev Elander



Candy Deisley (barely), John Woodward, Marie Woodward, Rennie Crain, Bill Delaney, Peg Delaney



One morning, when there was a minimum amount of conflict with musical offerings, all the Jazz Cruisers from the Capital District got together for brunch. All the photos in this spread were taken by Nicki Harris (not the singer). For more, see Page 9.

Ralph Cobb, June Cobb, Alice Rudnick, Bobbie Crain, Mabel Leon, Mike Lategano, Maryanne Gordon, half of Jerry Gordon



Ralph Cobb, June Cobb, Alice Rudnick, Bobbie Crain, Mabel Leon

Peg Delaney, Patti Melita, Tim Coakley, Bill McCann, Candy Deisley



Bobbie Crain, Mabel Leon, Mike Lategano, Maryanne Gordon, Jerry Gordon



Nitro Jive Bias (Continued from Page 4)

Dade College and studied with the late pianist Wally Cirillo of Red Norvo and Joe Diorio fame. He also led a number of trios and quintets. In Miami he has performed with multi-horn man Ira Sullivan and altoist Jay Corre of the Buddy Rich band. He relocated to Los Angeles for various studio sessions before returning to the northeast. Michael has performed extensively throughout the northeast region. Groups he has performed with, among others, are his jazz organ trio, Wee-B3 with guitarist Mike Novakowski and drummer Cliff Brucker; they have performed numerous gigs in the area, including The Stockade Inn, Albany Jazz Gala, Jazz on Jay series, Grappa 72 and Swingtime concert series. Latin jazz veterans Caribe Mambo, Groove Nouveau, One Eyed Cat, saxophonist Charles Neville and swing band Nitro Jive round out the lineup. Latest projects include vocalists April Marie, Pat Andreoli and Teresa Broadwell. Additionally, he has performed as a soloist and with his own trios and quartets in venues such as the Van Dyck, Stock-

ade Inn, One Caroline Street, the Albany Hilton, Justin's, Provence, Nicole's, Circus Café, Saratoga National Golf Club, Gideon Putnam, Cafe Lena, Grappa 72 and Castle Street Café. Other events include Victorian Stroll, Troy Night Out, Albany Musicians Jazz Gala, Jazz on Jay as well as other AFM union-sponsored events, University at Albany and the Sage Colleges. Michael has appeared on WAMC radio's "Dancing on the Air" and WGY radio's Don Weeks program. Recorded airplay has included WHRL-FM, WABY, WGY, WRPI and several stations nationally. He has performed on Alan Chartock's "See, Hear" television program on WNYT Channel 13 as a solo pianist and with his jazz organ trio. Recording credits include LA studio work and a CD with Caribe Mambo that received a favorable review in *Jazz Times* magazine.

Other band members are some of the best in the Albany area: **Jon Bronk**, trumpet; **Jeff Dowd**, drums; and **Erik John**, upright bass. You will find them performing with the likes of Keith Pray's Big Soul Ensemble, the Joey Thomas Big Band, Alex Torres, Body and Soul and Sense-

Lee Shaw Scholarship Fund



Photo courtesy
of Diane Reiner

To honor the memory of **Lee Shaw**, a scholarship will be awarded yearly to a high school senior planning to pursue jazz studies in college. This fund is under the um-

brella of the not-for-profit Swingtime Jazz Society. Contributions to this fund can be made payable to SWINGTIME JAZZ SOCIETY and mailed to Patti Melita, Treasurer, PO Box 232, Troy, NY 12181-0232 with "Lee Shaw Scholarship Fund" in the memo line. (Please remember that Swingtime Jazz Society is a 501

(c)(3) organization; this means your donation is tax-deductible and it should qualify if your employer matches your charitable donations.)

Peg Delaney, chair of the Lee Shaw Scholarship Fund, has been hard at work. Over the past few months, she and her committee have developed an extensive application form and sent it to the music departments at 20 area high schools. They have established that the scholarship will be \$500, although this could be increased in the future if we receive sufficient donations.

If you know of a high school senior proficient in any instrument, including voice, who is continuing on to jazz music studies in college, please contact Peg (pegjazz1@gmail.com or 518-237-3129) for more information.

More Locals on The Jazz Cruise



Patti Melita was the only passenger-performer to have her own trio: Peg De-laney, Tim Coakley and Bill Delaney. Photos by the ship photographer.



**Mike Lategano celebrated #70.
Photo by Jerry Gordon**



Rennie Crain found a Steinway, just sitting there all alone, waiting to be played. Photo by Jerry Gordon



Photo by Gene Loparco

Celebrating a Century

Tim Coakley (left), radio host, drummer and president of A Place for Jazz, chats with drummer **Fred Randall** at Fred's one-day-late 100th birthday party on January 2. During his long career, Fred played for Kate Smith, Rudy Vallee, Bunny Berigan and Sophie Tucker, among many others. The Schenectady native's autobiography, *Keeping Time: The Life and Loves of Fred Randall*, is well worth reading. To honor the occasion, Swingtime Jazz Society gifted Fred with an Honorary Membership. Previous recipients of Honorary Memberships are Georgia Urban and Chris Martin.

*For the area's most up-to-date jazz calendar, visit
APlaceForJazz.org/calendar.htm*



Hot News for the Capital Region Jazz Community

*We're thrilled to announce an ongoing benefit for our members: **A Place for Jazz** and the **Swingtime Jazz Society** are continuing their alliance with **The Jazz Cruise**.*

The Jazz Cruise is the first and only full-ship charter dedicated to "straight-ahead" jazz. The 16th sailing will be from January 28-February 4, 2017, and will feature over 100 world-class jazz musicians. You'll sail on Celebrity Summit from Ft Lauderdale to Key West, Costa Maya, Belize City and Cozumel. Full details are at thejazzcruise.com.

This alliance allows members of either APFJ or SJS to enjoy the cruise at a reduced cabin rate, and it's just one more reason why you should join APFJ or SJS today.

- A discount of 7% off the cabin rate is available to members of A Place for Jazz who have paid at least \$50 for a 2016 membership, and to all members of the Swingtime Jazz Society.
- To get this discount, simply mention to Lisa when you make your reservation that you belong to APFJ or SJS.
- If you have already made your reservation for the 2017 cruise, contact Lisa Lowry (314-726-7626 or Lisa@ecpcruises.com) and tell her of your membership; the cabin discount will be applied retroactively.
- **Unlike last year, your rate will not be reduced when you make your reservation. Instead, you will get a rebate check after everyone in our group has paid in full.**

Almost 60% of the 2016 passengers booked their cabins for 2017 before they left the ship, so you'd better act quickly. If you haven't already done so, pay your 2016 [APFJ membership](#) now to take advantage of this great deal and enjoy some wonderful jazz and equally wonderful camaraderie. Call Lisa at 314-726-7626 or toll-free 1-855-993-2782 and make your reservation today!

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

Tim Coakley
President, A Place for Jazz
aplaceforjazz.org

Jerry Gordon
President, Swingtime Jazz Society
swingtimejazz.org

Need a Tax Break?

The SWINGTIME JAZZ SOCIETY is a 501(c)(3) corporation, which means that your donations are tax-deductible. If you'd like to make a contribution, please send it to

Patti Melita, SJS Treasurer
PO Box 232
Troy, NY 12181-0232

Join Swingtime Jazz Society

The **Swingtime Jazz Society** roster of members has reached 75. 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 to join.

See Pages 3-5 for our March 13 attraction, **Nitro Jive**.

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Mail to: Patti Melita, SJS Treasurer
PO Box 232
Troy, NY 12181-0232

C. Robie Booth

6 Briarwood Road

Loudonville, NY 12211-1102

(518) 428-7618

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