

Swingtime

The Region's Only Good Music Magazine!

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Clockwise from upper left: Tucker Callander, Jonathan Greene, Dylan Perrillo, Chuck Kish and Chad Tallman



Hot Club of Saratoga on June 12

“Gypsy Swing in the Spirit of Django Reinhardt” will be on full display when the Hot Club of Saratoga performs for Swingtime Jazz Society on Sunday, June 12. The concert is from 4-6 p.m. and will be followed by a 1-hour open jam session. The event will be at O’Brien’s Public House, 43 3rd St, Troy (if you’ve been around awhile, it’s where the old Trojan Hotel was). See Page 5.

Hot Club of Saratoga, Saratoga/Capital Region’s premier gypsy swing quintet, plays a repertoire that reflects the spirit and style originated by Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli in The Quintet of the Hot Club of France most prominent in the 1930s and kept alive through a long line of gypsy jazz artists since that time. Most of the tunes Hot Club of Saratoga plays (Continued on Page 4)

The Night Owl



Half-Notes

Skip Parsons was duly honored with a cover story in a recent *Spotlight* feature by **Rob Jonas**, the veteran sportswriter who was recently appointed an editor. Well done. It covers his 60-plus-year career. He's been a fixture at The Fountain restaurant in Albany for 45 years.

And congratulations to another friend, the marvelous singer **Kim Nazarian** of Loudonville (her dad is **Greg Nazarian**, leader of the Count Basement band), who got a praiseworthy interview in the local press. She headlined a recent concert at The Egg (Albany). Her group, New York Voices, has played there several times to rave reviews.

The Greg Nazarian Dance Band swings. CRB had the privilege of catching their act and cutting a rug or two at a recent Beltrone (Colonie) affair.

They use many charts of the great swing bands, some of the arrangements by the late, great **Al Quaglieri**, who was pianist and arranger for the Count Basement Band, which rehearsed in Greg's Loudonville basement.

The sound is crisp and precise, the solos solid, and the mood proper, whether sentimental, jump or mainstream.

The band plays June 4, July 2, Aug. 6 and Sept. 3 at Beltrone; June 11, July 9, Aug. 1 and Sept. 12 at Shenendehowa Adult Community Center, 6 Clifton Common Court, Clifton Park. All dates are 7 to 10 p.m. Admission is \$10; Beltrone residents are free. I was surprised so few of

Photos by C. Robie Booth



Lisa Middleton and Ralph Anokian with Greg Nazarian Dance Band

them took advantage of it.

Beltrone is at 6 Winners Circle, off Aviation Road, off Wolf Road, Colonie.

Jazz on Jay

Jazz on Jay (Thursdays at noon on Jay Street in Schenectady) has a savory mix for this summer's series:

- June 2 **Jeanne O'Connor and 'Azzaam Hameed**
- June 9 **HaNG Trio**
- June 16 **Jazz 4 U**
- June 23 **Annie & the Hedonists**

(Continued on Page 8)



Greg Nazarian Band

Front row, from left: Dale Douglas, Dana Yanulavich, Dan Grider; back row, from left: drummer Chuck Billings, trombonist Bob Rostetter, trumpeter Peter Holmes, trombonist Allen Groves, trumpeter Jim Rockstroh, Jane (substitute). Not shown, George Tanner, bass. Twenty years ago, Greg took over the Bud Bryer band which was formed of members of the noted Yankee Doodle marching and concert bands.



Leader Greg Nazarian

In Memoriam: Michael Verdile



Michael Verdile, 81, died March 8 after a short illness.

He was perhaps the leading sponsor of big name jazz in this area in the mid-1960s when his Lion's Den at the erstwhile Phoenix Hotel in Lansingburgh hosted Richard Groove Holmes, Hampton Hawes, Tony Zano, Yugene Smith and many more, advertised on a giant billboard on the arterial. "Cost \$100 a week," he told me.

The best local talent, too, especially the Vito Mamone Trio with Stan Marsden on vibes, Sid Norman on bass and Vito on accordion. He managed Verdile's splendid restaurant in the 'Burgh, Rudy's nightclub, Michael's Banquet House, Donovan's restaurant, Sneaky Pete's and several more. He and his family won the Frank W. Kennedy Memorial Award for generosity and commitment to the Lansingburgh community.

Hot Club of Saratoga Swinging on June 12

Continued from Page 1 were written or recorded by Django at some time in his musical life.

The instrumentation of the full quintet - solo and rhythm guitars, string bass, violin, and clarinet/sax - allows us to explore this style throughout the range of its roots. Since forming in early 2013, Hot Club of Saratoga has brought the hot swing sound to coffee houses, restaurants, bars, clubs, swing dances, festivals, weddings, and numerous private parties. If you're looking for gypsy swing true to its origins while subtly expanding the genre, music that just makes you smile and move, give us a listen.

Chad Tallman on solo guitar brings his study of Django's style and unique phrasing to every performance. He earned a music degree at Ithaca College with a focus on classical guitar. In addition to teaching guitar, Chad has played in several rock and funk bands over the years. He had stopped playing guitar altogether at one point for 2 years when one day he heard Django with fresh ears. He pulled the guitar back out with renewed enthusiasm and hasn't looked back since. When not playing guitar, you can usually find him creating a different sort of sweet lick at The Bread Basket Bakery, where he is pastry chef in his family business.

The unique rhythm style providing both chordal backup and percussive drive called "la pompe" (the pump) is maintained under all the soloists by **Chuck Kish** on rhythm guitar. Chuck comes to gypsy jazz from a background of rock organ, folk music with guitar and some dulcimer, and most recently jazz guitar. His "formal training" is restricted to accordion lessons as a kid and guitar lessons at various times in later years after being self-taught since college days. In addition to playing, Chuck dabbles in instrument building, having built a couple of guitars, including the one he plays in HCS, as well as a hammered dulcimer, numerous mountain dulcimers and kalimbas.

Violinist **Tucker Callander** is a native of the Capital Region, growing up in Latham and attending Shaker High School. He has been performing in the area since he was 10 years old

with various groups, including the Empire State Youth Orchestra, Glens Falls Symphony, and Schenectady Symphony. He has had the opportunity to perform in Europe on several occasions, including serving as the principal 2nd violinist in the Conservatoire de Strasbourg Symphony Orchestra while studying abroad.

Mr. Callander attended Syracuse University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in violin performance. He served as the concertmaster his senior year. After graduating, he began branching out of the classical world into a variety of genres, from country to jazz to rock. He has played in front of sold out crowds at the Times Union Center and at music festivals such as Country Fest. He currently plays in several groups including the Hot Club of Saratoga, the Chelsea Cavanaugh Band, and Chilly Nickels.

Jonathan Greene is an active jazz, world and classical multi-instrumentalist. Most recently, Jonathan had the honor of playing with groups that opened for Jay Leno at Proctors, as well as Marcus Roberts and Anat Cohen at the Troy Music Hall. He has also subbed on clarinet for the Albany and Glens Falls Symphony orchestras. He is the founder of Grid, Saratoga's online newspaper.

Holding it all together and often leading off in new directions is **Dylan Perrillo** on string bass. Dylan grew up in the sunshiny village of Voorheesville, where he was fortunate enough to have participated in their wonderful music program beginning in primary school. Originally having played guitar at the age of 7, he found that his skills were rendered useless when his older brother, Tyler, began playing guitar as well. Thus, it became clear to the young lad that switching over to the electric bass was necessary. When Dylan entered his studies at Schenectady County Community College, he learned to play the upright bass and began playing with musicians from around the capital district. Since then, he has had the pleasure of performing with some really great people from all over the country. Dylan greatly enjoys being a part of the Hot Club of Saratoga for the music and fellowship it employs.

SWINGTIME

Jazz Society

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Proudly Presents

Hot Club of Saratoga



Gypsy Swing in the Spirit of Django Reinhardt

Sunday, June 12, 2016 4-6 p.m.

Followed by a one-hour open jam session



O'Brien's Public House
43 3rd St, Troy

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

Reservations: Ralph Rosenthal at (518) 423-9343
or rosenthalralph@verizon.net

Swingtime Snapshots

Photos by C. Robie Booth



Drummer Tim Coakley, bassist Bill Delaney and pianist Peg Delaney at SJS party.



Linda Brown at the Albany Musicians Union's annual celebration of Jazz Appreciation Month.



Linda Harrison sings at SJS party.



Trumpeter George Ehrmann at SJS jam session at The Rail Yard in West Albany. Eileen Mack sings at her party for Swingtime Jazz Society. Jerry Gordon, president and official washboard performer of SJS.



Candace Deisley chats with her favorite musician, John Pizzarelli at The Egg





C. Robie Booth, publisher of *Swingtime Magazine*, presents its Lifetime Achievement Award to bassist Bill Delaney at the monthly ARM lunch at Grappa '72. (Photo by Jerry Gordon)

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C. Robie Booth
6 Briarwood Road
Loudonville, NY 12211

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

The Night Owl

(Continued from page 2)

- June 30 **Adam Siegel Quartet**
- July 7 **Ten 27**
- July 14 **Steve Lambert Quintet**
- July 21 **Heard**
- July 28 **Brian Patneaude Quintet**
- Aug. 4 **Skip Parsons' Riverboat Jazz Band**
- Aug. 11 **Dave Fisk Quartet**
- Aug. 18 **Alex Slomka Trio**
- Aug. 25 **Scott Bassinson Quartet**
- Sept. 1 **The Gals Who Play Jazz**

Fleming at SPAC

Renée Fleming, considered by many to be the new "Bubbles" (Beverly Sills), will bring her stunning soprano voice and wonderful singing (there is a difference) to Saratoga Performing Arts Center 8 p.m. Aug. 18. **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** will conduct the Philadelphia Orchestra. Tickets are \$26 for lawn; \$40 and up for seats.

Film and Concert to Celebrate the Late Lee Shaw

A Film and Concert to Celebrate the late Lee Shaw will be featured at The Linda in Albany. Calendar-wise, it's 6/10 6-10.

There will be a VIP reception at 6, the film by producer-director **Susan Robbins** at 7, jazz concert from 8:30 to 10 by her long-time compatriots **Rich Syracuse** on bass and **Jeff Siegel** on drums, with **Nick Hetko** on piano, who was a student of Lee's and just graduated from the prestigious Manhattan School of Music.

The entire event -- the VIP party includes light fare and wine and a chance to meet Susan and co-host **Mike Camoin** -- costs \$30. The film *Lee's 88 Keys* and the jazz session costs a most reasonable \$20. The Linda is at 339 Central Avenue (corner of Quail Street). Further information at thelinda@wamc.org or call 845 246-1433.

You may not know her name, but jazz pianist Lee Shaw is a legend among musicians. She was coveted by Lionel Hampton (but declined an invitation to join him), tutored by Oscar Peterson, and her final trio boasted Hudson Valley home-boys Rich Syracuse on bass and Jeff Siegel on drums. Shaw fell in love with the piano at age 5, and director Susan Robbins's bio-pic, *Lee's 88 Keys*, comes alive with recollections of Shaw first hearing music and learning to play, on to becoming a bona-fide musician. The story is rich with music, history and a multitude of anecdotes and accolades from fellow musicians, former students (including local luminary John Medeski), and friends. Shaw struggled with being a woman in a male dominated field, the financial challenges of pursuing a musical dream, and the conflict of her ever-sharp mind residing in an aging vessel. Indomitable, she was driven by her love of music and passion for jazz. Experience that passion in *Lee's 88 Keys*.

The event is on the anniversary of her 90th birthday.

Tickets are available on-line at tinyurl.com/ShawTix

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 col-

lege.

This fund is under the umbrella of the not-for-profit Swingtime Jazz Society. Contribu-

tions 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.

For information about the scholarship, contact Chairperson Peg Delaney at 518-237-3129 or pegjazz1@gmail.com.

Swifty's Wears 2 Splendid Cloaks

By C. ROBIE BOOTH

For the bar regulars it's "the place where everybody knows your name." For diners (newcomers and oldcomers) it's a place you are sure to find fine fare at reasonable prices.*

Owner **David Swift** has three locations at Utica, Delmar (the former Brockley's) and West Albany (Everett Road in the former Ice House, Shipyard and Beff's, which had also been at the Delmar location). He has 140 employees. Three of them alternate as managers between the two local restaurants: **Lindsay Willis, Bethany Parker** and **Sabrina Ross**. They are all young, highly competent, courteous, friendly and attractive.

The Delmar restaurant opened in June 2009; the Utica location opened in July 2012 on Genesee Street near the Stanley Theater (where this erstwhile cub reporter interviewed Louis Armstrong and Woody Herman); the West Albany palace of joy

Photos by C. Robie Booth



Manager Lindsay Willis and owner David Swift

celebrated its first anniversary April 29 and has been going gangbusters ever since. All have the same menu, but have different daily specials.

"The recipes are the same, but we allow them to use their own creativity," said Swift of his chefs.

"We're a family in every sense of the word," said Lindsay. She joined four and a half years ago in Delmar as a server, became a bartender, then manager. "I just love the fact that we're a family and

everyone cares as a family."

"Our commitment is to the community and our staff and the comfort of our regulars and new customers," summed up David.

The bar scene is a story in itself. If you arrive at cocktail hour, the first 14 seats from the entrance hall to around the corner of the bar will be filled with people who know your name. And each other. But not to be discouraged; there is space further down and at the six circular high tables

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

Swifty's Restaurant

(Continued from previous page)

and in the comfy lounge.

Drinks are king sized and excellently prepared by a corps of professionals. There are a couple of dozen draft beers.

Prices are moderate. This is a place of good humor. Typical raconteur is **Frank Morris**, who recently reminded me that Winston Churchill said "Politicians and diapers should be changed as often as possible...for the same reason."

***"Cheers," one of the greatest TV series ever.*



Manager Sabrina Ross

An Oscar for Frank

Frank Morris is presented with a statuette for a year's perfect attendance on the first anniversary of Swifty's in West Albany.

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 77. 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 1, 4 & 5 for our June 12 attraction, **Hot Club of Saratoga**.

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

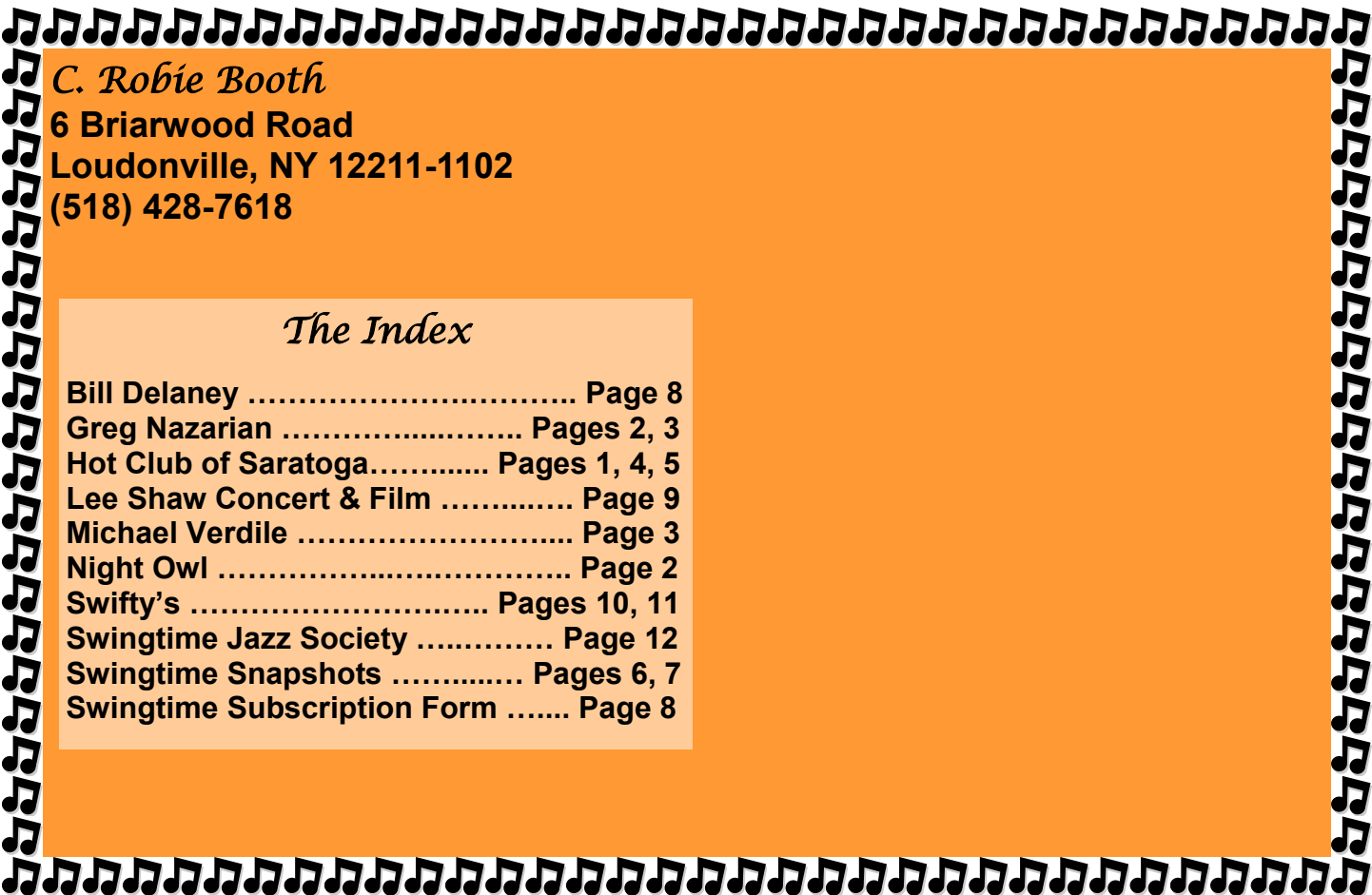
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