

# Swingtime

The Region's Only Good Music Magazine!

Volume 23, Number 1 Published by C. Robie Booth, Ltd.

Spring 2012



Photo by C. Robie Booth

## *Georgettes in Swingtime's Future*

The Georgettes vocal quintet (from left): Georgie Wonders, Linda Egan Johnson, Katherine Hudson-Sabins, Erin Upson and Dave Rhodes. They all double as instrumentalists in the Georgie Wonders Orchestra, which will be featured in the Swingtime Jazz Society concert on October 14 at a location to be announced. This special concert will include a dance floor for those in the audience so inclined.

Nina Sheldon Stars for Swingtime  
March 11 at Provence ♦ See Pages 4, 10

# The Night Owl



## Ye Newe Puzzler

Our mystery man is one of the greatest players of the vibraphone. He turned professional at age 12 in Brooklyn. He learned his craft at the knees of Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker and Bud Powell.

In 1959 he formed what became The Dream Band with Conte Candoli, Al Porcino (trumpets), Bob Enevoldsen, Vern Friley, Frank Rosolino (trombones), Med Flory, Bill Holman, Richie Kamuca, Bill Perkins (saxes), Pete Jolly (piano) and Mel Lewis (drums). Some have called it the greatest band there ever was. You can see he liked Woody Herman and Stan Kenton veterans.

He also had several award-winning quartets and quintets, one of which had **Ronnie Zito**, the fine Utica drummer. Pretty damn good company no matter how you cut it.

The first postmarked reply wins a lifetime subscription to **Swingtime**. Phoned responses (428-7618) win a one-year subscription.

## Half-Notes

It was too bad there were so few young people at the 100th Vespers at First Reformed Church in Schenectady. It was a fine program highlighted for me by **Lee Russo's** very demanding saxophone solo on a classic, "Bernie's Tune," that usually demands a full front line (e.g., Gerry Mulligan, Bud Shank and Chet Baker). It was excellent.

As was the complement of leader **Tom D'Andrea** on drums, **Mike Benedict** on vibes and **Rick Rosoff** on trombone.

What top musician was asked for "April in Paris" at Grappa '72? She replied that the whole trio didn't know it, said "You want April? Here's April!" And ripped into "I'll Remember April."

**Skip Parsons** had a whopper of a septette at The Fountain in January. **Jonathan Steenstra** (stagename Johnny Peppers), a New Jersey import, on bass and soprano saxophones; **Kenny Olson**, trombone; **Rich Downs**, cornet, flugelhorn, vocals; **Rich Skrika**, keyboard; **Bernie**

**Mullea**, guitar; **Tim Coakley**, drums, and the leader on several reeds.

Here's a report from Jerry Gordon and Peg Delaney, SJS officers:

On December 27, the **Lee Shaw Trio** (with **Rich Syracuse** on bass and **Jeff Siegel** on drums) appeared at the First Reformed Church of Schenectady. It was the first concert jointly sponsored by the Swingtime Jazz Society (SJS) and A Place for Jazz (APFJ), and the audience of more than 160 ardent fans was testimony to its success.

Lee's 86 and has some health problems, but you'd never know this by listening to her. She plays with all the vigor, enthusiasm, skill, and originality that we've come to expect from the area's most renowned jazz pianist. She's a national treasure. Look for more joint ventures from these two fine organizations.



Photo by Rudy Lu

Lee Shaw at the APFJ/SJS concert

# The Gals Who Play Jazz

Early in the year 2011, **Peg Delaney** was asked by Diane Geddes, the Outreach Coordinator of The Albany Musicians' Association, Local 14 AFM, to put together a musical presentation in March to help celebrate Women's History Month at the Bach Branch of the Albany Public Library on New Scotland Avenue. Peg contacted **Linda Brown**, bassist, and **Patti Melita**, vocalist, regarding working with her on the project. Peg created a list of well-known jazz tunes with women lyricists, composers, and songs made famous by outstanding female performers. **The Gals Who Play Jazz** arrived on the scene.

When Diane received a request for performers for the John A. Howe Branch of the Albany Public Library for a September performance, Diane suggested The Gals as a possible group. The Library agreed. Linda, thinking ahead, asked if Peg and Patti would consider "rehearsing" while performing instead of just a rehearsal in one of their homes. All agreed that it could definitely work. To date they have performed at Brown's Brewing Co., 417 River Street, Troy, a number of times, the last of which was February 12. They were so well received that Brown's is having them back from 4-7 p.m. every Sunday from February 26 to



The Gals Who Play Jazz at Brown's Brewing Co. in Troy. From left are: Linda Brown, Peg Delaney, and Patti Melita.

April 8 (but not March 18).

Looking ahead, the Gals are scheduled to perform at the Sage College Pavilion in Troy, from 11:30-1:30 on Monday, March 12; at the Bach Branch of the Albany Public Library in Albany from 6:30-7:30 on Wednesday, March 14; at the Bethlehem Library from 2:00-3:00 on Sunday, April 15; at Tuesdays at Noon at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 58 Third Street, Troy, on Tuesday, April 17, from 12:00-1:00, in celebration of National Jazz Appreciation Month; and at Cooks for Kids at the NYS Museum on Tuesday, May 1 from 5:00-7:00.

*Stay on the Beat*

Catch us at  
**SwingtimeJazz.org**



*Proudly Presents*

# Nina Sheldon Trio

featuring pianist and vocalist Nina Sheldon



**Otto Gardner**



**Nina Sheldon**



**Peter O'Brien**

**4 p.m. Sunday, March 11, 2012**

**(open jam session to follow from 6 to 7 p.m.)**

**Provence Restaurant, Stuyvesant Plaza,  
Western Avenue, Albany**

**Pub menu and beverages available for purchase**

*Due to limited seating at Provence, reservations are required.*

***Call Doc Salvatore at (518) 584-3548***

# Cats and Jammers



## Random Reviews

Thanks to all the Jammers (also termed sitters-in) who joined SJS as players in our January program.

**Josie Wallace**, granddaughter of Helen Fitzgerald to whom the concert was dedicated, drew big applause for her banjo-ukelele and vocal on "Blue Skies." The Seattle cabaret performer was also called for an encore at the celebration for life after Helen's requiem.

**Dr. John Angerosa** on piano made his lively Swingtime debut, backed by regulars **Tim Coakley** on drums and **Tom Shields** on bass. **Patti Melita** sang, **Lew Petteys** played tenor sax and coordinated an ensemble of **Steve Horowitz**, trumpet; **Arden Yonkess**, double bass; **Gordy Rockstroh**, sax; **Alex Slomka**, trombone; **Nate Giroux**, tenor sax and **David Kavanough**, drums.

## Tim Olsen Quintet

Swingtime Jazz Society's quarterly feature kicked off with one of the best original compositions I've heard, "Lock 17" by Olsen. It has a strong theme and swings to beat the band. Another, "The Way," he introduced as "think church, think Coltrane" written for a Catholic folk group for whom it was "too jazzy." Pianist-leader Tim is also a church organist as well as a professor at Union College.

There was a virtuoso long solo by **Eric Walentowicz** on sax and drummer **Rick Rosoff** took up his trombone for a beautiful, finely toned solo.

Grappa 72 continues to present fine music on Wednesdays and Thursdays, **Frankie Mastan Trio** with Frank on piano, **Doug Harris** on bass and **Leonard Tobler** on drums, and on Fridays with some of the best regional combos.

A new one for me was **Esprit Lounge** with leader **Tony Schettino** on guitar, his son **Alex Schettino** on bass, **Michael Carlito** on drums and pretty **Samantha Grassian** on vocals.

"How High the Moon" was one of their best, with nice bopping by Samantha and good, impressive guitars minus the legendary "whoop bam" Les Paul ending.

## Lainhart Remembered

Richard Lainhart in his alter ego was the original **Doc Scanlon**. The vibist fronted the sextet formed by **Don Dworkin**. His was a pleasant, genial presence and his swinging contributed much to the group's early success. Dworkin, bassist-vocalist, now wears the Scanlon label as well as that of Reggie Dwightman, head of the Red Hot Feet-warmers.

## 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

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Photo by C. Robie Booth



Graham Tichy, Doc Scanlon and Cliff Lyons at Provence

Photo by Maryanne Gordon



Jerry Gordon and Louis Armstrong  
in Las Vegas

Photo by C. Robie Booth



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Photo by C. Robie Booth

**'Azzaam Hameed and Annette Harris at Grappa '72**



## Terrific Trio

ing with vocalist Desirée Rousseau-  
at her recent night club appearance  
enee “super-fan” (left) and the singer’s  
er, noted vocalist Perley Rousseau.



Photo by Jerry Gordon

## A Pair of Grammys

Maryanne Gordon, who has 11 grandchildren, and  
Vince Giordano, whose music on Boardwalk Empire  
Volume 1 won the Grammy Award for Best Compila-  
tion Soundtrack for Visual Media.



Photo by Norma Colasessano

## Good Times Roll at Swingtime

We've said many times (see it again on Page 12) that Swingtime Jazz Society has many fun events in addition to concerts and jam sessions. Here is one recent occasion, a dinner at Chez Gordon (Jerry and Maryanne) in Lansingburgh. Top, from left: C. Robie Booth, Swingtime publisher; Helen Fitzgerald, Ned Spain, organist of Goldie, the giant Wurlitzer at Proctor's Theatre; Gim Lee; Lew Petteys, saxophonist. Bottom: Arthur (Doc) Salvatore, composer-saxophonist; Spain, Peg Delaney, pianist; Norma Colasessano, accordionist-photographer.



Photo by C. Robie Booth



Photo by Beth Harbour

## *Loudonville's Colleen Wins a Gold*

Colleen Somerville won a gold medal for figure skating at the Empire State Winter Games at Lake Placid Feb. 4. The 18-year-old daughter of Shane and Maureen Somerville is a senior at Shaker High. She skated to a medley of jazz and blues. Congratulating her at the historic 1980 arena is C. Robie Booth.

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

# Swingtime Jazz Society Presents Nina Sheldon Trio at Provenance

*"Nina Sheldon plays like a demon and sings like a living doll." The New Yorker*

After a detour into the medical arts, Nina's returned to active performing. She and her rhythm section performed to a packed house at NYC's Kitano last August, as they did at Smalls last October. In July, she led a quartet at The Falcon in Marlboro and a few weeks later led a quartet at the Benicia Jazz Festival in California, the only performer asked back for a second time. She returned to Smalls on September 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm with bassist Otto Gardner, and on March 11, Albany's Swingtime Jazz Society will present her trio in concert. Her CD, "Harvest", was named one of the top ten 2009 vocal jazz albums by *Songbirds*, a prestigious online vocal jazz newsletter; was listed among the top ten 2009 regional (Hudson Valley) CDs; and made jazz critic Owen Cordle's top ten list as well.

"Harvest" features Ray Charles' great tenor man, David 'Fathead' Newman, with John Menegon (played with Dewey Redman, 'Fathead' Newman) on bass and Bob Meyer (John Abercrombie) on drums. Quotes from reviews of "Harvest":

". . . effortless scatting that seems to float out of her keyboard. One is reminded of those golden times when the ladies June Christy, Anita O'Day and the just-passed Chris Connor seemed incapable of a cliched delivery." Andrew Velez, *All About Jazz*

"Thrilling, indeed." Owen Cordle, *Raleigh News & Observer*

"She features her own piano playing as well here, and it's a truly breathtaking conclusion to a grand CD." Dan

Singer, *In Tune International*

"Sheldon is truly someone to hear and admire." Michael Steinman, *Cadence*

In June '09, Nina backed alto player and former Mingus sideman John Handy at the Healdsburg (CA) Jazz Festival, led a quartet at the '08 Benicia Jazz Festival (CA), and opened the '06 Russian River Jazz Festival.

Marian McPartland featured her on NPR's "Piano Jazz" in '04, and last March, on NPR's "What Is a Jazz Singer?" Bobby McFerrin called her a singer with "attitude and authenticity." Lately, she's led trios at NY state jazz havens Justin's in Albany, the Stockade in Schenectady, Jake and Luna's in Woodstock with tenorman Ed Xiques (Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Ray Charles) and regularly features outstanding horn players in duos at La Duchesse Anne in Mt. Tremper.

During the '70s and '80s, Nina led bands at the Newport Jazz Festival and the Kool Jazz Festival. She powered the Village Gate's house band for 4 years, opening for Dizzy Gillespie, Charles Mingus, Art Blakey, and Stan Getz. Credits include the Montauk Jazz Festival, Kansas City Jazz festival, and Guadeloupe Jazz Festival with Clifford Jordan and Joe Chambers. At the Blue Note in Paris, she led a quartet opposite bop innovator Kenny Clarke.

She toured with Johnny Hartman, has backed up Sonny Stitt, George Coleman, Jane Ira Bloom, Bobby Shew, Gerry Nie-wood and Nick Brignola, and led duos and trios at New York City's Sweet Basil, Bradley's, Knickerbocker, and Zinno's

***Continued on Page 11***

# Swingtime Books Haugen, Wonders

Swingtime Jazz Society has voted to present a mainstream quartet and, in a change of format, a big band dance for its upcoming programs.

The **Al Haugen Quartet** featuring accordionist Haugen will perform at its June 10 concert at the Stockade Inn in Schenectady.

**Georgie Wonders Orchestra** will play for swinging and dancing Oct. 14 at the Colonie Elks Lodge on Watervliet–Shaker Road in Latham (to be confirmed). The big band is splendid to dance to; as a jazz band it features many of the Capital District's best players. Its singing ranges from hip soloists to a mixed quintet that tickles this reviewer with a wonderful kickin' version of "Baby Baby Don't You Go Away Mad."

Both concerts start at 4 with open jam

## Nina Sheldon Trio

*Continued from Page 10*

with sidemen Al Foster, Eddie Gomez, Cecil McBee, and Buster Williams.

Her album, "Secret Places," which featured Dave Liebman and Eddie Gomez, was named one of the top 20 jazz releases of 1987 by Dr. Herb Wong, president of Concord Records. John S. Wilson of *The New York Times* called her playing "brilliantly swinging" and remarked on her "strong presence as pianist, singer and writer of lyrics that are funny, outrageous and even wistful." "Brilliant application of lyrics to the bop tradition . . . a strong first album," said *Jazz Times*.

See Page 4 for concert details.

session at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$15 adults; \$5 for students. Reservations, call Doc Salvatore at 584-3548.

**Ellen Sinopoli Dance Company** presents the Next Move Festival of Modern Dance at 7:30 p.m. Saturday March 31. On Saturday, May 12 at 8 p.m. they'll feature a premiere at a Repertory Concert at Arts Center of the Capital Region in Troy.

The Night Owl can't cover the field as completely as A Place for Jazz, so kindly check their splendid comprehensive schedule at [aplaceforjazz.org](http://aplaceforjazz.org).

**Tom Shields**, our most versatile man of many instruments, holds forth on piano from 6:30—9:30 p.m. Thursday March 22 at Provence restaurant in Stuyvesant Plaza. He'll be playing often at the new Cambridge Hotel this spring; look for the dates on [aplaceforjazz.org/calendar.htm](http://aplaceforjazz.org/calendar.htm).

## Jazz Appreciation Month

April is Jazz Appreciation Month. The two musicians' unions in our area usually recognize it by hosting special events, and this year is no exception. On April 15, the Schenectady Union (Local 85) will hold a free concert from 3-7pm at Robb Alley, off the lobby at Proctors Theatre, featuring The Adirondack Saxophone Quartet + 2, Keith Pray's new 7-piece band, Lee Russo Quartet, and others. On April 29, The Albany & Troy Union (Local 14) will hold a free event at the Colonie Elks with musicians to be announced. In addition, there are usually concerts at various libraries, schools, and other public venues; watch [aplaceforjazz.org/calendar.htm](http://aplaceforjazz.org/calendar.htm) for announcements.

# Join Swingtime Jazz Society

The **Swingtime Jazz Society** roster of members has reached 55. 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 for joining.

See Pages 4 and 6 for our March 11 attraction, the Nina Sheldon Trio.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to: Patti Melita, SJS Treasurer  
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## *The Index*

Cats and Jammers .....	Page 5
Colleen Somerville .....	Page 9
Gals Who Play Jazz .....	Page 3
Georgettes .....	Page 1
Jazz Appreciation Month .....	Page 11
Looking Forward .....	Page 11
Night Owl .....	Page 2
Nina Sheldon .....	Pages 4, 10
Swingtime Jazz Society .....	Pages 8, 12
Swingtime Snapshots .....	Pages 6, 7

