

# Swingtime

*The Region's Only Good Music Magazine!*

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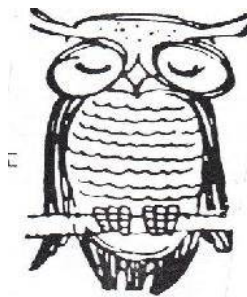
Winter 2016-17



Photo credit: Heather Hamlin

**Maria Zemantausky's quartet, Alegria, will perform at Swingtime Jazz Society's concert on January 8 at the Stockade Inn. See Pages 4 and 5 for details.**

# The Night Owl



## *A Great Loss*

**Dolores Mancuso** died Oct. 9 in New Hartford. She was 94. She was a musician's singer, a legend in Central New York. She made a few appearances here, at the Downtown Athletic Club in Albany and Roth's in Schenectady, sharing the stage with her Utica friends trumpeter **Sal Amico** and saxophonist **Chick Esposito**.

I met her first as a cub reporter in Utica. She was my jazz heroine. Her husband **Salvatore** was one of the greatest bass players of his time. They played together for 33 years until Sal's passing.

Later their son **Sammy** became a well-known drummer and they joined his trio. Another close associate was pianist **Rick Montalbano** from Rome. His son **Rick** is married to the singer **Jane Monheit**.

In Utica in the mid-1950s, a wonderful musical family was called the Magnificent Magandanzas. In my column *Jazz Beat* in the *Utica Daily Press* I referred to the Marvelous Mancusos. Sam's signature was closing a number with a walking descending bass line of which I have never heard the equal. You could ride that thing home. Dolores adored standards and modern (at that time, mostly bop) jazz. She was extremely hip, singing with total command in a style somewhat akin to June Christy, but uniquely her own.

## *Ed Hubble Dies*

**Ed Hubble**, a prominent trombonist who often played with our friend **Skip Parsons**, died last summer. He was influenced by Jack Teagarden, Miff Mole and Vic Dickenson. At age 17 he was

playing with Red McKenzie, then with big bands of Buddy Rich, Alvino Ray and Jess Stacy.

Frequent cohorts were Wild Bill Davidson, Eddie Condon, Pee Wees Russell and Erwin, Buddy Hackett and Max Kaminsky. He was with the World's Greatest Jazz Band on its world tour. He last resided in Montgomery County. Thanks to drummer and friend **Bill Brust** for this information.

## *Half Notes*

Last summer's appearance of operatic soprano **Renee Fleming** with the Philadelphia Orchestra at Saratoga Performing Arts Cen-



ter was one of the greatest performances I have ever seen. She thanked "the world's greatest orchestra." Conductor Yannick Nezet-Seguin responded by introducing her as "the world's greatest singer." It was a wow!

Non-subscribers can always get free copies of the latest **Swingtime** magazine at Sanford Town Library in Colonie, d'Raymonds Restaurant in Loudonville and Swifty's restaurant and pub on Everett Road in West Albany. . . Help! **Ann Pfau** please call Robie at 428-7618.

Straight ahead, little friend.

— C. ROBIE BOOTH



Photo by Jerry Gordon



## ***Paul Mastriani Wins High Honor***

Pianist Paul Mastriani receives Swingtime magazine's annual Lifetime Achievement Award from C. Robie Booth. He won by unanimous vote of past winners. His plaque praises him as a "brilliant pianist, influential composer and close associate of the most important jazz musicians in the region."

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

# Alegria Plays for SJS Jan 8

**Maria Zemantauski** is one of the world's few heralded female flamenco-style guitarists, and one of even fewer female flamenco composers. She has performed in Spain, Italy and across the continental United States to great acclaim. Her albums, *Mrs. Laughinghouse* (1997), *Seeing Red* (2000), *Under the Lemon Tree* (2005) and *Pretty Feet & Mistletoe* (2010), have received stellar reviews from music critics around the world.

Maria's programs are a dynamic blend of artistic freedom, innovation and tradition. This is not surprising considering that as a child, she resisted guitar lessons, telling her encouraging parents that she wanted to "discover the instrument on her own without being told what to do." As one reviewer wrote, "Zemantauski has continually pushed the boundaries of the possible with her trusty 6-string, blending genres that have little or no business appearing on the same bill, much less in the same song. It's rarely less than electrifying to watch her do it." She believes that the expressive possibilities of the guitar are limitless and pursues her music with passion, confidence and grace.

With a master's degree in cultural anthropology, she is a relentless promoter of the arts as a vital educational component and an integral part of society. She is highly regarded for combining both performance and sociocultural analysis and is a frequent guest lecturer at colleges and universities nationwide, including the University of San Francisco, University of California at Santa Cruz, Eastman School of Music, Ithaca College School of Music, St. Lawrence University, California State University at San Marcos and The University of Kentucky at Lexington. Her music can also be heard in the award-winning documentary "Radical Harmonies," an historical perspective of Women's Music Festivals and "The Heretics," a documentary film about the Women's Art Movement of the 1970s in the USA.

Maria performs extensively as a soloist or with her ensemble, "Alegria," which has been described as an "elegantly understated global music ensemble." She is also a founding member of "GX3+" trio. Maria has been the coordinator of

cultural affairs at Hudson Valley Community College since 2004 and is also on the faculty in the college's Department of Fine Art, Theater Art & Digital Media.

**Monica Wilson-Roach** has been playing cello and bass for over thirty-five years. She was on faculty at the Juilliard School and has performed in the Texaco New York Jazz Festival, the Documenta X in Kassel, Germany, the Jazz and Bluesfest – Live from Wolfrap, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music performances of Donald Byrd's Jazztrain with Grammy Award winning artist Vernon Reid. She has also written and recorded string arrangements for films including "Free Angela Davis and All Political Prisoners," "The Main," and "Though A Lens Darkly," featured at Sundance and recipient of the NAACP award. Ms. Wilson-Roach was a featured speaker on the WMHT program "WMHT Talks Education Special," in addition to her band, TEN27, performing pieces from their multimedia concert "The Black Book Project" live on the show. Most recently, she was commissioned to compose a three-movement piece for The Northeast Ballet Company's new dance suite "The Beach." Monica has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Knitting Factory, Merkin Hall, Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center out-of-doors, and The Egg. Currently, she conducts the Empire State Youth Orchestra CHIME in School educational outreach program, TuttiCelli cello choirs, and the Macedonia Chamber Orchestra. In addition to recording on over 25 CDs for various artists, she has also performed with the Lawrence Butch Morris Conduction Project, the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Albany Symphony Orchestra and the Glens Falls Symphony Orchestra.

**José Miralles**, a life-long Capital District resident and a graduate of Union College, has been playing guitar and writing songs since the mid-1970s. In 2003 he released a CD, *Reflections*, a collection of 13 original songs and instrumentals in a wide variety of styles ranging from folk and pop, to rock and classical.

José was introduced to Flamenco at a young age during a visit to

(Continued on Page 8)





*Proudly Presents*

## Alegria



Maria Zemantauski, José Miralles,  
Brian Melick, Monica Roach

**Sunday, January 8, 2017 4-6 p.m.**

**Followed by a one-hour open jam session**



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

**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](mailto:rosenthalralph@verizon.net)**



# Swingtime Snapshots

Photos from the Oct 9 concert by Jerry Gordon



The Dadtet performed at the Swingtime Jazz Society's October 9 concert. L-R: David Gleason, Mike Lawrence, Andrew Hearn, Dave Fisk, Ben O'Shea, Brian Patneaude.



At the jam session, Dave Gleason accompanied L-R: Maddie Coons, Alessandra Shellard, Quentin Cain and Elias Assimakapoulos. Elias is one of the 2016 Lee Shaw Scholarship awardees.



Young jammers Kenny McCabe (tenor sax) and Joe Giordano (trombone) with Joe Barna



Mike Lawrence accompanies Jack Speraw, Fred Isabella, Steve Horowitz and Marty Rawlens.



Maggie MacDougall has been singing at our jam sessions for several years. We're glad to report that after decades of practice, she's become an overnight success on the professional circuit. Her first paid gig was on November 6 at The New York Restaurant in Catskill, accompanied by Peg Delaney on piano and Linda Brown on bass. The trio performed again at Brown's Malt Room on December 4 under their new name, The Magpies. We wish the group continued success.



# What's in a Name?

By **TIM COAKLEY**

Many jazz artists have recorded under different names because they were under contract to another record label. Some of the more imaginative ones follow:

Drummer Buddy Rich: Buddy Poor

Saxophonist Art Pepper: Art Salt

Trombonist Jimmy Cleveland: Jimmy O'Heigho

Drummer Joe Dodge: Joe Chevrolet

Clarinetist Benny Goodman: Shoeless Joe Johnson

Saxophonist Charlie Parker: Charlie Chan

Pianist Nat King Cole: Aye Guy

Saxophonist Lee Konitz made an anagram of his name: Zeke Tolin

Trumpeter Bobby Hackett was listed on an Eddie Condon LP as Pete Pesci (Condon's nightclub manager)

Trumpeter Billy Butterfield recorded an album as Gus Hoo, and gave his sidemen similar names:

Trombonist Lou McGarity: Erskine Tearblotter

Saxophonist Boomie Richman: Mad Milt Summerblouse

Saxophonist Hal McKusick: Fefe Phophum

Pianist Moe Wechsler: Baldy Wynn

Bassist Milt Hinton: Junior Hifitz

Drummer Don Lamond: Zane Grudge

By contrast, the Rampart Street Paraders had a trombonist named Abe Lincoln, which was his real name.

*Alegria ...*

(Continued from Page 6)

Spain, where his uncle handed him a Paco de Lucia cassette tape and said (loosely translated), "You should hear this, he can really play!" José has been a student of Flamenco guitar since 2001, and has performed at a variety of venues, including the Turning Stone Casino and Caffé Lena, as well as numerous area establishments, festivals and private functions.

Most recently he has been performing with Maria Zemantauski and Alegria. The group's di-

verse repertoire also offers a unique opportunity for José to pursue his passion for arranging music.

**Brian Melick** is a percussive treasure who is known for his unique "hybrid" sound, built from his incredible collection of world music instruments. His sensitivity, musicality, and adaptability lend an eclecticism to Heard (with whom he performed for SJS in 2014), and his playfulness is irresistible to watch and be a part of! He tours regularly with a diverse range of groups ranging musically from Flamenco to Celtic. [uduboy.com](http://uduboy.com)

## *Joe Barna Celebrating Lee Shaw*

Drummer **Joe Barna** and his band Sketches of Influence will hold a CD release party at The Stockade Inn, 1 N. Church St, Schenectady, on Thursday, Jan. 12, beginning at 7 p.m.

The party celebrates the release of the CD "Suite Lee," featuring music composed by Barna in honor of the late Capital Region pianist and composer **Lee Shaw**. Copies of the CD will be for sale at the event.

The first set will feature Barna, drums; **Nick Hetko**, piano; **John Menegon**, bass; and **Adam Siegel**, alto sax, playing music from the CD. The second set will welcome guest musicians for a jam session. There will be no cover charge for the event. Food and drinks will be available and reservations are recommended by calling the Stockade Inn at 346-3400.

Pete Campisi (right) has been a stalwart of the Georgie Wonders Orchestra since its inception.



### Need a tax break?

The SWINGTIME JAZZ SOCIETY is a 501(c)(3) corporation, which means that your donations are tax-deductible. Please send contributions to:

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



## 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 umbrella of the not-for-profit Swingtime Jazz Society. Contributions to this

fund should 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](mailto:pegjazz1@gmail.com).

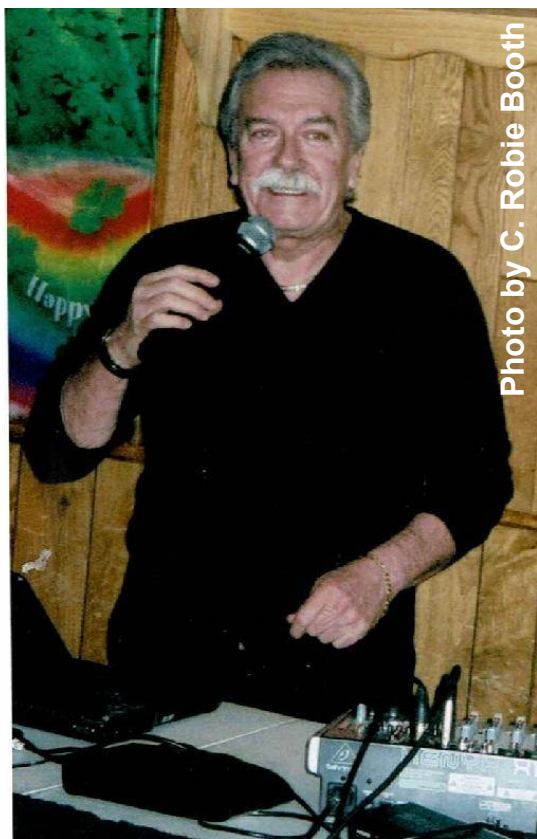




### ***Super Singers***

**Two of our favorite singers are Jeanne O'Connor (left), singing at Athos in Guilderland, and Linda Egan Johnson with the Georgie Wonders Orchestra at The Crossings in Colonie. (Photos by C. Robie Booth)**





# Dee Dee's Feature

**Dick Spass**, leader of the erstwhile Coachmen, is the regular house musician at Dee Dee's friendly tavern on Watervliet-Shaker Road in Latham. He plays and sings every Tuesday about 5 p.m. and on special occasions. The Coachmen, a band of eight in their heyday, were among the busiest local entertainers. Today Dick's music covers a wide range with an emphasis on oldies.

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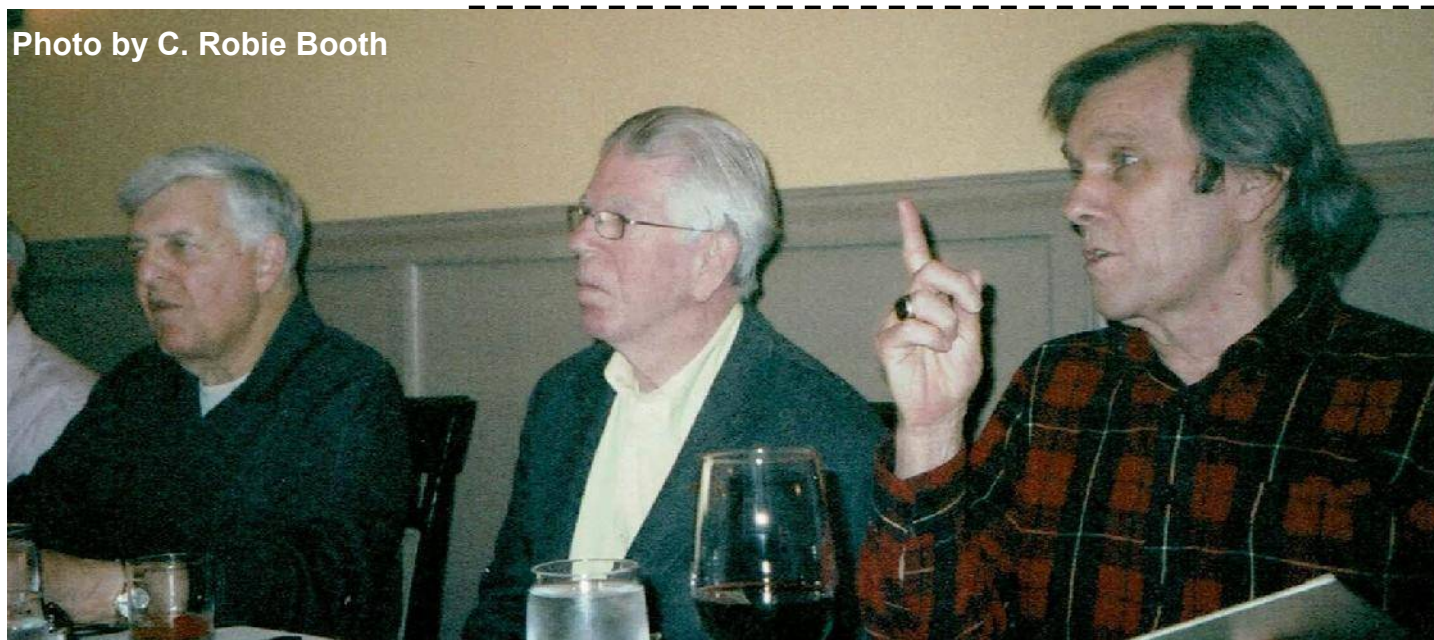
**Dave Bullard** (right) and his wife, the entertainer **Jan**, recently moved to Iowa. The saxophonist-flautist here is joined at an Almost Retired Musicians lunch by **Jerry Gordon** (left) and **Ned Spain**.

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





# Join Swingtime Jazz Society

The **Swingtime Jazz Society** roster of members has reached 79. 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 1, 4 & 5 for our January 8 attraction, **Alegria**.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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