

FROM THE CHAIR

As an outgrowth of the jazz courses conducted by Dr. Herb Wong at the Palo Alto Unified School District Adult School, the Palo Alto Jazz Alliance was founded in 1992 by Herb and Henry Page, who at that time was principal of the Adult School. From its very start, this nonprofit organization, dedicated to the support of jazz education, has been managed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors. So, here we are, as 2016 opens, 24 years later, still swinging thanks to the continued commitment of the Board and other volunteers and contributors. In recognition and appreciation, I'd like to tell you a bit about our current Board members.

SHIRLEY DOUGLAS. She is the one with whom you have most communication since she is responsible for sending out the membership renewal notices as well as the membership cards. A graduate of San Jose State College (now University), Shirley taught 3rd grade for a few years in the Alum Rock School District in San Jose. She is a longtime Palo Alto resident who grew up in Southern California. She keeps a hand in the working world at the Stanford Bookstore. Shirley is a big fan of the Four Freshmen.



Harvey Mittler and Herb Wong at a 2013 PAJA concert.

Photo: James R. Kaspar/JRK Images

HARVEY MITTLER. If you have attended any PAJA concerts in the last few years, you've heard and seen Harvey on the stage introducing performers or asking you to please turn off your cellphone. Harvey is a practicing attorney, a San Francisco native who has lived for many years in San Mateo. He has a B.A. in political science from Berkeley and a J.D. from Hastings. He handles all our concert organizational matters, and started playing this

role in concert with Herb Wong. He is therefore a kinglypin to our operation. He handles lots of frustrating details with efficiency and good humor. You may also have met his wife, Claire, who always helps by selling tickets at our events, among other good deeds. Harvey is a true jazz fanatic with a record and CD collection that has to be seen to be believed, and he also has 49er season tickets. . . and our sympathy.

ED FOX is PAJA's treasurer and editor of the *Jazz Buff*. He grew up in Lawrence, Mass., 20 miles from my hometown of Danvers. Ed got a B.A. at the University of Connecticut a few eons ago, and did graduate work in philosophy at Princeton. He tells me he is still employed—for many years he has been the publisher and tours director for Track & Field News in Mountain View, the world's leading track magazine. He lives in Palo Alto. His most memorable jazz moments include seeing Art Tatum and Billie Holiday in person.

RON SAX is PAJA's secretary. He keeps the minutes for the Board meetings that are held on the second Monday of every month. He grew up in Benton Harbor, Michigan, and has lived in Palo Alto for many years. Ron is a retired computer programmer who worked at SLAC and Research Libraries Group, two companies associated with Stanford University. His jazz interests vary widely, and he is one of the few "old timers" who appreciates those younger jazz artists who push the envelope.

LARRY LOVERCHECK. Our computer guru. He maintains all membership data and provides labels for our various mailings—*Jazz Buff*, concert postcards—and keeps Shirley supplied with proper information for our renewal notices. Larry is a retired engineer, a Northwestern grad who worked at various Silicon Valley companies. A longtime Palo Alto resident, he grew up in the scenic state of Wyoming.

DORIS HARRY. Doris is our newest member. Her late husband Tony was the *Jazz Buff* editor before Ed Fox. Doris is a graduate of the College Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, and she is the founder and director of The Music School in Sunnyvale. She now resides in Menlo Park. We look forward to making use of her extensive experience in music education.

AND ME, or is it I? Like Ed, another New Englander who came West seeking the Holy Grail. (We're still seeking...) I'm a graduate of Tufts University and I retired some years ago from the Addison-Wesley Publishing Company where I was the director of the Innovative Division. I am now hiding under unread newspapers in Palo Alto.

Over the years, there have been many others who played a role on the Board, such as Michael Griffin, Patty Boyle, and Bruce Powell, to name three who still remain active and helpful to PAJA. All of you also deserve a Thank You for helping to keep PAJA up and running. Hip, hip, hooray to all hands.

So we are moving on, starting 2016 with A REALLY BIG SHEW, as Ed Sullivan used to say. Hope to see you January 9th at the Performing Arts Center at Menlo-Atherton High School (corner of Middlefield and Ringwood/Ravenswood). You'll groove to the sounds of the Montclair Women's Big Band with the great vocalist Kenny Washington. Bring your kids, grandkids, cousins, uncles, aunts—even people who are unsure about this thing called jazz. As Herb would say, it's going to be a BLAST.

In continued appreciation of your support,
C. Stuart Brewster, Chair Palo Alto Jazz Alliance

GLENN GRIGG WEIGHS IN

In the last issue of the *Buff* we polled a few members to get their input on their favorite jazz musicians and/or groups. Glenn Grigg's contribution came in late, but was so interesting, we thought we'd print it anyway. "**Sonny Rollins:** Sonny plays with strength, clarity of tone and has a vast repertoire. His 'voice' is unique, unmistakable and most assuredly his own. It only takes me about three 'toots' on his tenor and I'm sayin', 'Yeah, that's my man Sonny.' His improvisations are often long and winding, but never boring or repetitious as, it seems to me, there are always subtle references to the melody of the song that launched it. When he gets into circular breathing, he just goes on and on, in a marvelous way! I love seeing him, as I have each time he has played the Monterey Jazz Festival. When I hear him play, I can visualize him standing tall, playing to each and every one of us.

"Now I'm not taking anything away from **Charles Lloyd**. He has his own unique style and tone. I was at MJF when he premiered 'Forest Flower Sunrise, Forest Flower Sunset.' It was a night to remember. Truly one of the all-time highlights of any MJF that I've attended. (And I've attended all of them, but two!) And like Sonny, he too is easy to recognize after just a few notes. Then, there are the young lions, like **Joshua Redman**. A master of the tenor in his own right. He's a youngster because I remember seeing him and Roy Hargrove (trumpet) at Monterey when they were both in a high school band together.

"Speaking of young lions, one cannot overlook tenor men **Craig Handy** or **Ravi Coltrane** either. OK, this counts as one of the five [you asked for]. Sonny is the one and everyone else is honorable mention, so to speak. I have other instruments, including vocalists, to explore [for the four other favorites]." OK, Glenn we'll stay tuned. Let us have your other selections when the muse strikes you.

SPEND SUNDAYS AT THE BEACH

The Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society resumes its Sunday performances on January 24. Here's the Winter Series schedule:

January 24	The John Santos Sextet
January 31	The Michael O'Neill Quintet
February 14	The Sonny Fortune Quartet
February 21	The Dave Douglas Quintet
March 6	The Marquis Hill Blacktet
March 21	The Orrin Evans Trio

Shows start at 4:30pm. So, make plans now and put Bach's on your schedule. It's a Bay Area treasure that needs our support. For more information: www.bachddsoc.org/calendar.html.

MONTEREY JAZZ FESTIVAL ALL-STARS TOUR KICKS OFF

Each year, MJF assembles an all-star group to tour around the country, and starting January 14, 2016, another superb group embarks on a 17-city tour, with 28 shows in 10 states. There are two Bay Area performances—January 24 at Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley and at Kuumbwa in Santa Cruz on January 25.

This year's group consists of Raul Midón, guitar; Ravi Coltrane, sax; Nicholas Payton, trumpet; Gerald Clayton, piano; Joe Sanders, bass; Gregory Hutchinson and Kendrick Scott sharing the drums. For more information about tour dates, times, musician bios, etc., log on to www.montereyjazzfestival.org. These are all major figures on the contemporary jazz scene, and the trip to either Berkeley or Santa Cruz will be well worth it.

THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Thanks once again to those who donated to PAJA in 2015. Our little band of jazz enthusiasts couldn't keep putting on concerts and fostering jazz education on the the Peninsula without your added support.

Patty Boyle, Menlo Park
C. Stuart Brewster, Palo Alto
Joan Cassman & Michael Duncheon, San Mateo
Madeline Chun
Lew Creary, San Jose

Good Tickets Still Remaining

PAJA's next major concert

THE MONTCLAIR WOMEN'S BIG BAND

"One of the West Coast's most formidable jazz ensembles," All About Jazz

"An irresistible swing machine... airtight ensemble, high-energy rhythm section and big brassy sound," CD Baby

with the great KENNY WASHINGTON, featured vocalist

"Washington slays 'em wherever he performs," Andrew Gilbert, eastbayexpress.com



Order tickets by mail — until January 5:
Ed Fox, PAJA Tickets,
294 Tennessee Lane, Palo Alto 94306

Or at these outlets:
Peninsula Music & Repair, Palo Alto
The Record Man, Redwood City
Vinyl Solution, San Mateo
Groove Yard, Oakland

SATURDAY EVENING

January 9th, 2016 • 7:30pm

**Center for the Performing Arts, Menlo-Atherton High School
555 Middlefield Road, Atherton (Corner Middlefield & Ravenswood/Ringwood)**

Tickets: \$40, general public • \$35 PAJA members • \$15 students

Celebrating the Centennials of Billie Holiday and Frank Sinatra
A unique pairing of two Bay Area treasures:
Kenny with MWBB—a concert to remember!

For music samples: www.kennywashingtonvocalist.com and www.montclairwomensbigband.com

THE JAZZ PERISCOPE *Selected gigs for January and February*

PAJA

1/9 Montclair Women's Big Band, w/Kenny Washington
At Menlo-Atherton Center for Performing Arts7:30pm

YOSHI'S OAKLAND *www.yoshis.com/oakland*

1/4 Jeremy Pelt 8pm
1/12, 13 Tower of Power 8, 10 pm
1/20, 21 Wallace Roney, with Buster Williams 8pm
1/24 Mads Tolling, with Kenny Washington 7pm
1/26, 2/23 Tommy Igoe Groove Conspiracy 8pm
2/13, 14 Pete Escovedo Latin Jazz Orchestra
2/15 Gary Peacock Trio 8pm
2/19, 20 Poncho Sanchez Latin Jazz Band
2/22 Dave Douglas Quintet 8pm

SF JAZZ CENTER *www.sfjazz.org/center*

1/14, 15 Kurt Rosenwinkel (Henderson Lab) 7, 8:30pm
1/19-24 Chris Botti
2/11-14 Dianne Reeves
2/19-28 Terence Blanchard—jazz opera

BACH'S DANCING & DYNAMITE SOCIETY, EL GRANADA *www.bachddsoc.org*

Sundays, 4:30pm See Winter Series schedule on Page 2

KUUMBWA JAZZ CENTER, SANTA CRUZ *www.kuumbwajazz.org*

1/25 Monterey Jazz Festival All-Stars (Coltrane, Payton, G. Clayton, et al.) 7, 9pm
2/11 California Honeydrops 7:30pm

SAN JOSE JAZZ *www.sanjosejazz.org*

ANGELICAS 863 Main St., Redwood City *www.angelicasllc.com*

Every Tuesday evening
Jazz on Tuesdays Trio + vocalists 7:15pm
1/17, 2/28 Mike Galisatus Big Band 7:30pm
2/6 Rebecca Du Maine & Dave Miller Trio 8:30pm
2/14 Nancy Gilliland Jazz Trio 7pm

CAFÉ STRITCH, 374 S. 1st St., San Jose *www.cafestritch.com*

HOTEL SOFITEL, 223 Twin Dolphin Dr., Redwood City 650/598-9000

Wednesday evening jazz, with Michael O'Neill and vocalists 6-9pm

CAFÉ PINK HOUSE, 14577 Big Basin Way, Saratoga 408/647-2273

Jazz Fri. & Sat. evenings plus Sunday brunch
1/8 Akira Tana Otonowa 7pm
1/9 Harvey Wainapel & Alegitude (Brazilian) 7pm
1/15 Octobop 7pm
1/22 Anton Schwartz 7pm
1/28 Tod Dickow 7pm
1/30 Terrence Brewer Trio 7pm



Dianne Reeves

Robert & Marjorie Daehler, Palo Alto
 Malcolm & Cosette Dudley, Atherton
 S. E. Erickson, Jr., Belmont
 Kay & Les Filler, Emerald Hills
 Ed Fox, Palo Alto
 Beryl Gaidos, Danville
 John Gleed, Palo Alto
 Kate Godfrey, Palo Alto
 Mary Hand, Palo Alto
 Jan Henrotin, Palo Alto
 Anne Hessing, Palo Alto
 Bruce & Mary Hopewell, Napa
 Raymond Kenny, Los Gatos
 Dr. K. Knox, Santa Clara
 Robert & Christine Kradjian, Hillsborough
 Leslie Dymond Marks, Belmont
 Kent Mather, Palo Alto
 Wendy McCain, Palo Alto
 Richard & Anne Melbye, Atherton
 Eileen Merten & Justin Rockwell, San Diego
 Chuck & Virginia Nile, Woodside
 Sally Normington, Palo Alto
 Scott Norwood, Saratoga
 Bruce Powell & Jan Di Carli, Cupertino
 Bonnie Rattner, Redwood City
 Louise Rising, Palo Alto
 Karl & Teresa Robinson, Saratoga
 Steven Russell, Redwood City
 Dillon Scheel, Palo Alto
 B. J. Sorensen, Portola Valley
 Gary Stein, San Mateo
 Jeffrey & Sueann Stone, Menlo Park
 The Summit Family Fund, Los Altos Hills
 Jeffrey Thompson, Milpitas
 Terry Tran & Alice Nguyen, San Carlos
 Bill Whitmer, Palo Alto

Marilyn Wong, Menlo Park
 Gayla & Walt Wood, Los Altos Hills

INFLUENCING VIBRAPHONIST JOE LOCKE

“His older siblings brought home records by Led Zepelin, Jimi Hendrix and Queen, while his father routinely came home from a day of teaching to unwind with Beethoven or Mahler. ‘At night sometimes he used to like to play Gregorian chants,’ Locke recalls. ‘I remember waking up in the middle of the night and hearing monks singing downstairs. It was a beautiful way to grow up’ . . . By age 13 he was playing drums in a rock band when his mother suggested that he play glockenspiel in the high school marching band. ‘I won’t even delve into the psychology behind that,’ he laughs, looking back on what at the time seemed—and still seems—like a very unhip choice of instrument. . . A newspaper ad for a used vibraphone caught his mother’s eye one morning, and thinking the vibes were something like a glockenspiel, she took her son to have a look. ‘A set of vibes costs thousands of dollars, but here was a Jenco vibraphone for something like \$250. I used it for my first professional jobs. If there had been an ad in the paper for a glockenspiel that day, I would probably be a jazz glockenspiel player today.’” From “Good Vibes,” by Shaun Brady, in *Jazziz* magazine, Fall 2015.



Palo Alto
Jazz
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Join PAJA

Mail your check to Palo Alto Jazz Alliance
 P.O. Box 60397 • Palo Alto, CA 94306

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City, State, Zip _____

New subscriber Renewal This is a change of address

Annual dues, \$35 for individuals \$ _____

Annual dues, \$50 family (two persons) _____

Additional contribution to support jazz education _____

Total enclosed \$ _____