

## FROM THE CHAIR

July 1<sup>st</sup> marks the end of the 2011-2012 fiscal year for the Palo Alto Jazz Alliance. (See financial report below.) To paraphrase that great Stephen Sondheim song from *Follies*, so majestically delivered by Elaine Stritch, WE ARE STILL HERE. We have more than 200 members and continue to be financially sound. And once again, we have been able to make significant grants to further our mission of providing support for jazz performance and jazz education.

Let me review these various efforts.

**San Mateo Union High School District.** Our funds pay for an outside director for a special jazz orchestra, made up of students selected from the seven schools in the district. We have participated in this program for more than ten years now.

**Stanford Jazz Workshop and Festival.** Our grants are used to provide scholarships for deserving students, age 12-17, who are attending the summer jazz camp on the Stanford campus. In addition, we provide partial sponsorships of Festival concerts. This year our gigs are Kenny Washington's Songs of Sinatra on July 8 and the All-Star Jam on August 3.

**San Jose Jazz Summer Camp.** We provided two scholarships for deserving students attending a two-week course operated by San Jose Jazz. We also donated to their "Progressions" program.

**Radio KCSM.** We are so fortunate to have this resource in our neighborhood, a critical element for keeping jazz alive in our area.

We have also allocated funds for the purchase of a needed drum kit to help revitalize the jazz education efforts at the **Community School of Music and Arts** in Mountain View. This grant will be provided soon in our 2012-2013 fiscal year.

In the 2011-2012 fiscal year, we authorized grants totaling \$8,000. Not much, you might say, but not too bad for a small organization dedicated to promoting jazz in our

area and assisting organizations involved in jazz education. So, let me quote Sondheim again, this time from his lyrics for *Candide*:

"We're neither pure nor wise nor good, we'll do the best we know,  
We'll build our house and chop our wood, and make our garden grow,  
And make our garden grow."

As always, thanks for your continued support,

C. Stuart Brewster, Chair

## FREE MEMBER PARTY

Sunday afternoon, September 9, 3-5pm—mark that down for PAJA's next free member party. It will again be held at the Community School for Music and the Arts in Mountain View—Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle (near the corner of California Ave. and San Antonio Road).

Come and meet your old friends and make new ones—everyone with an interest in the music we love. Free beverages and snacks. And some mighty fine music, provided by:

Wendy McCain, vocals  
Seward McCain, bass  
Rick Vandivier, guitar  
Jim Zimmerman, drums



See you there.

Wendy McCain

## RICHIE COLE'S ALTO MADNESS PLUS AT THE JCC

Our first concert at the Oshman JCC in Palo Alto was a joyous success. About 260 fans joined us for some bop classics furnished by Richie Cole's octet. Trumpeter Carl Saunders drove much of the momentum for the group, but he was ably accompanied by Cole, Andrew Speight, Noel Jewkes, Larry Vuckovich, Rick Vandivier, Akira Tana, and Jeff Chambers. All wonderful musicians. As Vandivier said later, "The gig was amazing, enriching, challenging, and BIG FUN! I was in the company of masters." See PAJA's website for a longer description of this

landmark concert, and some photos of the event.

## BENNY GOLSON SPEAKS

“Being satisfied creatively is not a good idea...I want to stay on the cutting edge. When I first joined Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers, Thelonious Monk came to hear us one night. He took me aside and said, ‘You play too perfect.’ The way he said it, I thought it didn’t sound like a compliment. He said, ‘You’ve got to make mistakes to discover the new stuff.’ Well, I came back the next night playing like a bungee jumper. I was crazy. But I understand Monk’s point. As a jazz musician, you can’t stay where it’s warm and comfortable. You have to move into the cold spot, take risks. I’m still hunting for new ideas, and still trying to best myself.” From an interview with the 83-year-old saxophonist by Lawrence B. Johnson in the *Detroit News*.



Richie Cole



Carl Saunders

Photos by Andy Nozaka

He had memorized the entire book; that’s how smart he was. The way he played indicated how smart he was. He didn’t waste notes. He picked all the good notes and left all the bad notes behind. For him, it was like a puzzle to be solved.” From a *DownBeat* article by Geoffrey Himes, February 2012.

## PAJA FINANCIAL STATEMENT

PAJA’s fiscal year ends June 30. Here is the financial report, July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012:

### Receipts

Dues	\$5,430
Donations received	12,880
Event receipts	<u>12,529</u>
Total receipts	\$30,839

### Expenditures

Printing, postage (Jazz Buff)	\$2,112
Other operating expenses	4,688
Grants	8,000
Event costs	<u>13,464</u>
Total expenditures	<u>28,264</u>

**Surplus** \$2,575

Other operating expenses include items such as liability insurance, free member party expenses, website costs, printing the new brochure, ASCAP and BMI fees, supplies, etc.

## FROM A PIECE ON BARITONE GREAT GARY SMULYAN

“When [Joe] Lovano left the band [Woody Herman] in January 1979, Bob Belden replaced him. ‘When you’re the new guy in a big band,’ Belden says, ‘you always want to look over at the next guy’s score to see where you are in the chart. On one side was Frank Tiberi, who never said anything, so he was no help. On the other side was Gary, but he was no use because he didn’t even have a score.

## SUMMER SOUL-STICE

Summer is the high season for jazz on the Peninsula and you’ll have a lot of great options this year.

## ESTIVAL FESTIVALS

**The Stanford Jazz Festival** kicked off in late June, and it’s one of the country’s major jazz festivals, with major artists like Houston Person, Kenny Barron, Wycliffe Gordon, Roy Haynes and many more. See the whole calendar at [www.stanfordjazz.org](http://www.stanfordjazz.org). Concerts are held at Dinkelspiel Auditorium and the intimate Campbell Recital Hall.

**The San Jose Jazz Festival** is a gigantic street fair, but with important jazz headliners. This year Dianne Reeves, Terence Blanchard, The Jazz Crusaders, The Jeff Hamilton Trio are included in the vast lineup. August 10-12. Free, unless you wish to purchase tickets for prime seats at the main stage. [www.sanjosejazz.org/en/festival.html](http://www.sanjosejazz.org/en/festival.html).

## SUMMER JAZZ SERIES

Various communities in our area offer weekly music series. These are the ones with the most jazz credibility.

**Jazz on Main 2012.** Downtown Redwood City. Mondays, June 18-August 6, 6-8pm. Primary Colors, 7/9; Octobop, 7/16, Anton Schwartz, 7/30. [www.jazzonmain.com](http://www.jazzonmain.com)

**Jazz on the Plazz.** Los Gatos Town Plaza (Main and Santa Cruz). June 19-August 29. Artists include Jamie Davis (7/11), Akira Tana and Secret Agent (8/1), Terence Blanchard (8/8), and Paula West (8/29). [www.jazzontheplazz.com](http://www.jazzontheplazz.com).

