



TRAD JASS Newsletter

Traditional Ragtime And Dixieland Jazz Appreciation & Strutters Society

DEC 2020 Monthly Newsletter

Volume XVI No. 311

General Information

Dave Graves 707-478-3312 / lgraves@pacbell.net

Jam Sets

Dave Stare 707 480-6145 / davestare@hotmail.com

Newsletter/Membership

Louise Graves 707-318-1297 / lovetradjass@pacbell.net

DEC MEETING CANCELLED

**Check out page 2, 3 & 4 for
"My Life in Jazz"**

Written by one of our board members, John Z. Ray

**Please review page 5 which contains the Board
of Directors ballot for 2021 and a copy of the
Ballot with the list of those running for office.**

Each year our club offers one or more scholarships to the Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society's TEAGARDEN JAZZ CAMP, which is held each summer in Pollock Pines, CA. This scholarship provides the student (s) with full room and board, activities, and the educational participation provided by some of the finest traditional jazz musicians in the country. Additionally, the applicant receives two free guest passes to a TRAD JASS meeting where the applicant will be performing.

This Scholarship is in agreement with an important part of our by-laws:

* Preserve, promote and perpetuate all forms of Ragtime and Traditional Dixieland Jazz. For the purpose of TRAD JASS, Traditional Dixieland Jazz is defined to be all styles of jazz which originated prior to what is generally known as the swing era of the 1930's and 1940's.

* Encourage appreciation of and education in Ragtime and Traditional Dixieland Jazz.

* Educate, encourage and assist musicians of all ages in the art form of Ragtime and Traditional Dixieland Jazz.

As a member of our club, you are helping to preserve Traditional Jazz. We Thank you for being a part of our our wonderful and fun group.

Live Music & Dancing

Santa Rosa Moose Lodge
3559 Airway Drive 95403

Available for purchase:

Beer, Wine, & Soft Drinks
Cheeseburger, Fish'N' Fries, Chicken Strips,
Chili Dog, Country Fried Steak

(Bartender is volunteer, please tip)

Admission Prices

\$15 General Public

\$12 Our Members (all ages)

\$12 Guests of Members

\$12 Members of any Jazz Club

\$12 Moose Lodge Members

\$ 8 Group of 3 or more from Senior Home

\$ 5 Jammer - Non Member of a Jazz Club

\$ 0 Jammer - Member of a Jazz Club

Yearly Membership

\$30 Single / \$50 Couple

Life Membership

\$1000 Single / \$1500 Couple

T.R.A.D. J.A.S.S is a non-profit corporation founded to preserve Traditional Dixieland Jazz & Ragtime Music through public performance & education.

Directors & Officers

Dave Graves - President

Dave Stare - Vice President

Louise Graves - Sec./Adv./Newsletter

Gerry Turner - Treasurer & Budget

Clay Wilson

Phil Cartwright

Sharon Griffith

John Z. Ray

Melissa Stoufer

Linda Green

Tom Clark (Assigned until 2021)

Other Positions

Band Liaison

Tom Clark

Advertising Rates

Full Page 8 1/2 x 11

Single Month \$25

Per month rate \$20

Yearly \$100

Bus. Card \$10 per mo. / \$60 per year

Deadline for adv. is 3rd Monday of the mo. prior to the next publication. Contact Louise Graves: lovetradjass@pacbell.net

TRAD JASS accepts no responsibility for accuracy or validity of material submitted.

NO BANDS IN 2020

Looking forward to 2021

My Jazz Story #1 John Z. Ray Nov. 2020

I was four years old when my dad first took me to the barbershop. It was quite scary as the men were talking and laughing loudly, using flowery language. If a single mom came in with her son, the room would quiet down. The mom's boy would get in the barber chair next. As soon as they were gone, the room would get loud and flowery again. If a ball game wasn't on the rabbit eared tv, the shop owner would tune the FM radio to the local jazz station.

When I was eight years old in the 3rd grade at 6th Avenue Elementary School, the music teacher, Miss Kevorkian, asked if I'd had swimming lessons. "Yes," I replied. She said "Good, you'll have a good wind!?" She gave me a trombone, told me to put my lips on the mouthpiece and to push the slide out as far as I could. She said "Good, you can reach 7th position!?! Your're going to play the trombone."

Now whenever I went to the barbershop the DJ spoke as cool as the music while introducing tunes and repeating the call sign 'KBCA, 105.1, Los Angeles.' To transition from one tune to the next, the DJ would talk while a jazz tune was playing in the background. The same tune was used for each transition so during a morning in the barbershop I might hear the tune six times or more. I developed an ear for the different instruments: tuba, trumpet, saxes, flute, and trombone.

While at Foshay Jr. High I flourished in the concert band, orchestra, and brass choir. Helen Bicknell was a legendary teacher for decades at Foshay. We learned lots of classical music and marches. At Dorsey High School there was band, orchestra, and jazz band all taught by Donald (Doc) Simpson. The school was designated a 'music magnet school' which had kids from other high schools join us for rehearsals. The jazz band was hot. We won the City Battle of the Bands at the Hollywood Bowl!

While in high school I finally figured out what piece I'd been listening to in the barbershop. I promptly went to Tower Records and bought the album Miles Ahead, featuring Miles Davis on trumpet. The 3rd track, *The Duke*, was the melody from the barbershop. Here's a YouTube link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ey_Wp54CaY

Playing music was always fun but the lure of varsity sports was even greater. Football, basketball, and track took all of my time and energy. In my junior year at 15 years old, I put the trombone down. Twenty years went by before I blew another note. An old girlfriend found out I used to play and she got a trombone from a pawn shop for my 35th birthday. I tinkered a bit but things took off 4 years later when I moved to Denver with my my soon-to-be bride, Dee.

In Denver, I joined the church choir. I told a guy in the bass section that I played trombone. He asked me to come to the Shriner's Masonic Lodge rehearsals. In a great facility with a band room and music library, there were rehearsals for concert band, swing band, German band(polkas), and even a bagpipe tattoo! You didn't have to be a member as they wanted musicians. For the next twenty plus years I took jazz workshop courses and private lessons at Denver University, played and sang with community choirs, orchestras, at jazz competitions, and in night clubs all over the Front Range.

When our daughter got married and started having kids, my wife insisted that we move to the Bay Area. If we had been playing poker, I could have had 4 aces plus a joker and still would have lost the hand.

My Jazz Story #1 John Z. Ray - Continued

So, we're off to California in the summer of 2013. I hated leaving our church friends and the music network behind. I kept wondering what kind of music would be in Santa Rosa. I mistakenly expected to be playing Latin music like Tejano with its Polka influence. When I Googled 'jazz' there were lots of bands in the larger cities: San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, Sacramento. Thank goodness my wife found the New Horizons Band of Sonoma County who had an ensemble play in a 50th anniversary parade in Oakmont while I was out of town. I was told to show up at 10am on Tuesday. When I walked in at 9:45am they were already playing. A 60 piece concert band. What a heavenly sight and sound!. Lew Sbrana came over to me and said "How do they sound?" He thought I was somebody else. I told him " I'm here to play trombone." He apologized and pointed me over to the section.

Then at 11:30am the Swing Band set up and Ray Walker ran us through a bunch of tunes some of which I'd been playing for years. I was in heaven. I was told to come over to Ray Walker's house at 2p for Trad Jazz class. That was the first time I heard the term Trad Jazz. The interval and chord exercises were a good challenge. I could read the bass clef lead sheets even though I didn't know most of the tunes.

Fast forward a couple of years and during coffee break at New Horizons rehearsal Dave Stare comes up to me and says "John, I want you to join my Ragtime and Dixieland band." I said, "I don't know much about that kind of music." He says, "Aw, you'll pick it up!" So I show up at the next rehearsal and the current trombone player, Verner, hands me a binder. In a thick German accent he says "Here are all our charts." I thank him, open it up, and am shocked. There's not one note in any chart! IT'S ALL CHORDS, ONLY CHORDS, NO NOTES! "What's this; where's the melody?" He said the clarinet, trumpet, and piano get the lead sheets. The trombone has to harmonize with the lead so you get CHORDS! I'm thinking "Man oh man, what am I getting into!?"

It has been one of the highlights of moving to California. The Russian River Ramblers still let me come to rehearsals and performances so I must be doing a few things right. The monthly Traditional Ragtime and Dixieland Jazz and Strutters Society jam sessions has musicians of all caliber who are very gracious. We help each other fashion licks, solos, and harmonies while traversing the chords.

The album notes from that Miles Davis album had a picture of the arranger and conductor, Gil Evans. 'The Duke' was composed by Dave Brubeck as a tribute to Duke Ellington. Gil Evans is a graduate of Stockton High School. Dave Brubeck graduated from College of the Pacific in Stockton. Seems I've gone full circle from the South Central LA barbershop to the Bay Area waterways.

Here's a YouTube link of Gil Evans conducting The Duke.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cL3A-o2D7pU>

There's a Call Board at the beginning. How many musicians do you recognize?

Continued Pg. 4

127.
 (MED. SWING) **THE DUKE** DAVE BRUBECK

C7b9 CMaj7 FMaj7 F#D7 B7 Emi7 Ami7 Dmi7 / Fmi7 Bb7
 EbMaj7 DbMaj7 Cmi7 Bmi7 Bbmi7 AbMaj7 Dmi7 Db7 CMaj7 /
 FMaj7 Emi7 b Dmaj7 CMaj7 Bbmi7 AbMaj7 Gmi7 C7 Fmi7 /
 Dmi7 Db7 Cmi7 / Cmi7 B7 Bbmi7 / Ab G Gb F Eb D Db7
 CMaj7 FMaj7 F#D7 B7 Emi7 Ami9 Dmi7 / Fmi7 Bb7
 EbMaj7 DbMaj7 Cmi7 Bmi7 Bbmi7 AbMaj7 Dmi7 Db7 CMaj7

"DAVE BRUBECK'S GREATEST HITS"
 NILES DAVIS - "NILES AHEAD"

T.R.A.D.J.A.S.S. 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We need to approve, and if possible add new members to the Board Of Directors of T.R.A.D.J.A.S.S. for 2021. We currently have Ten (10) members. We are hoping to reach the ideal of Eleven (11) members.

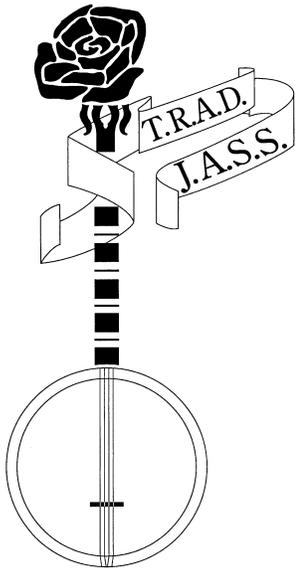
* BALLOT BOX OPTIONS:

- * Print and return to T.R.A.D. J.A.S.S., P.O Box 2861, Santa Rosa, Ca. 95405
- * Print, Scan back into your computer and return to lovetradjass@pacbell.net
- * If unable to print, reply to this email or call me @ 707-318-1297 and I will mail you a paper copy.
- * **If you want to be on the Board of Directors**, let me know with a reply to this email & I will add you to the Ballot.

IMPORTANT CHANGE FOR THIS YEAR:

Under normal “NON COVID TIMES” those qualified to vote would be Life Members or those with membership that have not expired. We are making an exception for 2021. If you consider yourself a member of the club, even if dues are not current, you are welcome to vote. Current paid membership is of course still important for maintaining the club, so we would encourage all know there dues to be past due to go ahead and pay for 2021. If you want to know the status of your membership, please contact me (Louise) by email or phone.

NAME	CANDIDATE's STATEMENTS	APPROVAL BOX
Dave Graves	I am happy to continue in 2021 on the TRAD JASS Board	
Louise Graves	I look forward to serving another year on the Board	
Dave Stare	I would be glad to serve on the TRAD JASS Board for 2021	
Gerry Turner	It is my pleasure to serve the members of TRAD JASS	
Melissa Stoufer	I am looking forward to continuing as a Board Member	
Sharon Griffith	I will be happy to continue as a TRAD JASS Board Member	
John Z. Ray	I look forward to serving on the Board of Directors	
Linda Green	I will be glad to serve on the TRAD JASS Board for 2021	
Clay Wilson	I look forward to again serving on the Board	
Phil Cartwright	I would be happy to continue serving on the TRAD JASS Board	



**Traditional Ragtime And Dixieland Jazz
Appreciation & Strutters Society**

P.O. Box 2861

Santa Rosa Ca. 95405

**DATED MATERIAL.....
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE! MAIL THIS COUPON

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

EMAIL: _____

Telephone: _____ Date _____

Enclosed is a check for the following: (Underline your choice)

Standard Membership	Single	\$30/Year
(\$12.00 Member Admission)	Couple	\$50/Year
Life Membership	Single	\$1000 Once
(Free admission for each (Member and One Guest)	Couple	\$1500 Once

Newsletter Subscription Only (by mail) \$10/Year (No Charge if emailed)

Prices effective January 2017

Membership cards will be mailed upon receipt of dues and completed coupon. Mail this coupon and check to:

T.R.A.D. J.A.S.S., P.O Box 2861, Santa Rosa, Ca. 95405