



NVDJS NEWS

November 2021

The Napa Valley Dixieland Jazz Society

President's Message (By Vice-President, Marilee Jensen)

November, 2021

Our last "monthly session" of The Napa Valley Dixieland Jazz Society (NVDJS) was March 8, 2020, at the Veteran's Home in Yountville, prior to the more active spread of the Covid-19 Virus. But all that stopped with the significantly increasing surge of the pandemic during the spring of 2020. Recently, more and more places are resuming operation and things may be improving, so we're carefully considering how and when to possibly convene our Traditional Dixieland Jazz monthly sessions in Napa.

On July 26, 2021, we had our first Napa Valley Dixieland Jazz Society (NVDJS) Board of Directors meeting in 2021, with our second meeting held on Sept. 8, 2021. At the meeting in July we added two new members to our Board of Directors, that is Lee Campbell and Phil Cartwright. At the September meeting we approved those two new Directors plus we added a third Director, that is Jack Harford, also approved by the Board. We now have seven on our Board of Directors, as stipulated in the Bylaws as the minimum number of our members to be on the Board of Directors.

We have been considering different possible venues, but we now understand, there is a good possibility that we will be able to return to the Veteran's Home, in Yountville, once they are comfortable opening up to the public. As is understandable, the timing is still uncertain.

We've been considering starting again in January, 2022, if possible, although we still have to carefully analyze this action. We are firm that we would continue to plan our NVDJS sessions on the second Sunday of each month. We are not yet collecting dues, for standard memberships or contributions, until we have more definite plans for re-starting.

We do believe that most of the established bands are eager to play and anticipate that we will be able to hire high quality bands when we consider it is safe to do so.

As reflected above, we are continuing to gauge the seriousness of the pandemic to determine when it will be relatively safe to consider resuming our activities. And you'll be the first to know!



**DOROTHY HOFFMAN
ACTIVE WITH NVDJS
NOVEMBER, 1999 TO OCTOBER, 2007**

Dorothy Hoffman is 98 years old this year and proud to let everyone know. Don Robertson recently visited with her and says she is as bright and witty as ever.

Congratulations to Dorothy for all the energy and impetus which she gave our club and Dixieland Jazz in the area.

Dorothy's daughter, Jody Yepson, says she always enjoyed music, especially from the 1940's and Dixieland and always had music playing in her home.

Dorothy started going to different Northern California Traditional Jazz Festivals, such as Sacramento, every year and she would get her friends to join her at these different jazz events which she enjoyed so much.

Dorothy especially enjoyed "cake walking", also known as "strutting", usually done with the jazz song, "Cake Walking Babies". When "cake walking", many of those on the floor would carry a decorated or fancy umbrella, sometimes handmade or won in raffles. According to her daughter, Dorothy ended up learning to make her own fancy umbrellas to use for cake walking.

Dorothy was especially impressed with Napa Valley Dixieland Jazz Society, because of our philanthropic goal of funding scholarships for young musicians to learn to play this type of music at traditional jazz camps. "That was always near and dear to her heart."

In reviewing the Napa Valley Dixieland Jazz Society officers, we see that Dorothy started actively participating in our club in November, 1999, working on publicity and the raffle, in order to increase our revenue. As both Don Robertson and Linda Stevens mentioned, one of Dorothy's most notable achievements was selling many advertisements for the newsletter, resulting in considerable additional income for our club. Dorothy continued to work with publicity for our Napa Jazz club through December 2007, along with being President of the club from October 2003 through October, 2007.

During all of her time as an officer of our club, the venue for our monthly sessions was the Napa Elks Lodge, beginning in November 1999. Don Robertson mentioned that during this time, Dorothy had become a member of the Napa Elks Lodge and was very particular about everything being left in place and clean at the end of each of our sessions there. Because of the timing, I imagine Dorothy was instrumental in our club successfully using the Napa Elks Lodge as our venue for our monthly sessions for ten years, through December 2009.

From January, 2008, both Dorothy Hoffman and Phillip Eggers are identified as our "Director Emeritus" for our club. Phillip Eggers expressed his opinion to me that Dorothy Hoffman was the "Best President" our club ever had. Dorothy Hoffman was always very active leading our club, and promoting Napa Valley Dixieland Jazz events in the area. Again, congratulations to Dorothy Hoffman!

By Marilee Jensen

Band of the Month: Each month, we plan to feature a band in the Bay area that is active and playing real jazz of our liking. The Cell Block 7 is a great band and is still very active. I chose this band because I like their music and style and I love the photo! (Editor)

Cell Block Seven in Hungary



When was the last time you saw three (count 'em 3) double belled euphoniums in action? This photo was taken in Hungary a few years ago when the Cell Block 7 played in five different cities as part of the nationwide Boheme Jazz festival. Ten bands from 6 countries played in 20 different cities during a six day period at the festival. The SRO audiences of 300-500 people loved the music.

Most of you know the Cell Block 7 as a California band that plays in the tradition of the two cornet Lu Watters band. The Hungary tour musicians: The front line (shown here from left to right: Dan Talbert, tbn; Bob Romans, cnt; Bill Sharp, cnt) doubled on the 1900s marching band instrument, the double belled euphonium. The two young guys in the back were Phil Cartwright, banjo and Tom Downs, tuba. Not shown were Bill Gunter, washboard; Daryl Hosick; piano and Jon Stutler, clarinet.

The eight piece band plays a variety of songs, some of which (but not all) carry the torch for the King Oliver/Louis Armstrong two cornet tradition. Their book of several hundred tunes ranges from early Armstrong through Duke Ellington and everything in between.

The Cell Block Seven has a long history of playing traditional jazz. The band started back in the 50's at SMU in Dallas. That band played with Phil Harris and Bob Hope and even appeared in a movie!

After a few years of dormancy, Bob Romans resurrected the band in the 70's and it has been going strong ever since. The CB7 has several CDs and DVDs. The band has played all the major festivals on the West Coast and has toured in six countries (maybe more!). Contact Bob Romans at cellblk7@comcast.net to hire the band or to find out where they are playing.

Jazz Club Information

The Napa Valley Dixieland Jazz Society is a non-profit organization founded to encourage an appreciation of and education in Traditional, Dixieland, Ragtime and Swing.

Officers: President, Linda Stevens; Vice-President, Marilee Jensen; Treasurer, Marilee Jensen; Secretary, Lee Campbell.

Board of Directors: Linda Stevens, Marilee Jensen, Lee Campbell, Phil Cartwright, Jack Harford, Don Robertson, Joy Waite.

Other Positions: Don Robertson, Membership and Newsletter Circulation Manager; Joy Waite, Publicist; Phil Cartwright, Newsletter Editor.

Jazz Clubs

1st Sunday

TRAD JASS of Santa Rosa meets at the Moose Lodge, 3559 Airway Drive, Santa Rosa 1:00-5:00PM. Members \$12, other clubs \$12, public \$15.

December 5: Gold Coast Jazz Band

2nd Sunday

Napa Valley Dixieland Jazz Society Currently on hiatus.

3rd Sunday

New Orleans Jazz Club of Northern California meets at the Elk's Lodge, 3931 San Pablo Dam Rd El Sobrante Members \$8, other clubs \$10, public \$12.

November 21: Flying Eagles Jazz Band

December 19: Mission Gold Jazz Band

4th Sunday South Bay Trad Jazz Society Currently on hiatus.



Pre-Pandemic photo of Don Robertson and Linda Stevens in Grant Hall at the Veterans' Home in Yountville.

Membership

THE NAPA VALLEY DIXIELAND JAZZ SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

We hope to begin our regular schedule of operations in January, 2022. When we are ready to “re-open” and have established a venue and begin hosting bands, dues will remain the same as before the pandemic.

Standard Membership: Single -- \$40.00/year Couple -- \$70.00/year
(Session Admission fee: \$8.00 per person)

Contributing Membership: Single -- \$125.00/year Couple -- \$200.00/year
(Session Admission fee: Free)

Monthly Admission

NVDJS Members: \$10.00 Other Jazz Clubs: \$12.00

Other Guests: \$15.00 Youth (12-18 years): \$3.00

Children No charge

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Make out check to NVDJS and mail to:
NVDJS, P.O. Box 5494, Napa, CA. 94581



FIRST CLASS MAIL

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