



Fresh News

Volume 39, No. 1

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2025



The Stage is set and ready for The Four Freshmen in Shell Point, Ft. Meyers.

Our
President,
**Donna
Gallaway**



GREETINGS FFS MEMBERS & FRESHMEN FANS

Can you believe we are now in the year 2025? How time flies when you are having Fresh fun! Our favorite group of four musicians seem to be playing to good crowds with very favorable responses on the road, according to those who have been fortunate to see them in live shows recently. I have certainly enjoyed their videos on YouTube and Facebook which helps keep their music and the guys accessible when I am not able to be there in person.

FFS is grateful for all the contributions many of you have made to our treasury. That helps us to be able to continue to provide a nice newsletter and to support possible future Gatherings of Society members in other parts of the country, similar to what Mark Schlichting did in November in Washington. Oh how I miss our reunions and the opportunity to see all of you Fresh Fans! If you want to contribute to the Four Freshmen Society, just send a check to Chaz Cone at the address listed on the Board of Directors page or go online to fourfreshmensociety.com with a credit card. We appreciate the dedication to this organization that you have displayed over the years. What an awesome group of fans!

On behalf of the Four Freshmen Society Board of Directors, I wish you all a healthy, happy and prosperous 2025 and many days filled with the music we so love and support.

In Memory of Sarah Lou Lantz

By Gil Peterson

In the early morning hours of December 18th, Sarah Lou, our former First Lady when Neil Lantz was our President, passed away quietly in her home with her family beside her. We extend our deepest sympathy to Neil and her family.

I do not have the vocabulary to truly honor such a beautiful, angelic lady that Sarah Lou was, but I can say with certainty that if we all followed in the footprint of her life the world would be, by far, a much better world to live in.



Sarah Lou was everything we all should strive to be. She was without question, the most loyal, loving, caring wife, mother, grandmother and friend that anyone could possibly have. Those are qualities not everyone possesses in our society today. We who knew her are all blessed to have shared the acquaintance of this lovely lady.

Along with Neil she was a dedicated supporter of the FFS co-chairing two of our most successful conventions. Not only was she our First Lady but she was also a very valuable member of the Convention Coordination Committee sharing her expertise and advice regarding planning of future conventions.

We will never be able to replace her and we will never forget all the beautiful memories we shared with her through the years. As we say goodbye we know, without question, that Sarah Lou is now on her eternal journey somewhere beyond the backside of the sky. Our hope is that we will meet her again on this everlasting journey through time and space.

Editors note:

I'm donating \$100 in honor of Sarah Lou. It would be great if members who knew and remembered her could match the donation.

— Barb Meyers

Freshmen Holiday Harmonies Heat Up the Twin Cities

Written by Christian Rank Photos by Don Follett

The thermometer outside may have read 10° with a sub zero wind chill, but the Frosh really set the temperature sizzling with their unique interpretations of well loved holiday standards.

After a swinging *Day In Day Out* opener, the boys delivered one holiday surprise after another. *Winter Wonderland*, *Let It Snow, It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas* and Bob's *Christmas Waltz* medley really got the capacity crowd into the holiday spirit. Each individual Freshman had their moment in the solo spotlight: Ryan doing *The Wonderful World of Christmas*, a song I wasn't familiar with, turns out it was originally recorded by Robert Goulet. Check out his version if you get the chance. Next up was Jake's take on *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*, then Tommy with a swinging *I'll Be Home For Christmas* and finally Bob taking us *Home For the Holidays*. A *Charlie Brown Christmas* salute with *O Tannenbaum*, featuring an absolutely stunning flugelhorn solo by Jake, and a tender *Christmas Time Is Here* had all of us feeling a nostalgic holiday vibe.

Crooners is a first-rate venue with excellent food and was a perfect setting for this holiday themed show. It was very nice to catch up with long time Freshmen fan and former FFS president Don Follett who I haven't seen in over ten years.

Minneapolis is a world class city with a lively, vibrant downtown, a thriving music scene, great shopping and plenty of world class restaurants and clubs. I was very impressed on my first visit and I will definitely be back! In warmer weather!



Top and bottom photos:
The Four Freshmen harmonize on stage at the Crooners Nite Club on November 30.

Right: One native, one transplant and one imposter!



Left: You never know who will be sitting at your table.



Left:
The Four Freshmen singing with local singer, Jennifer Grimm, at the Crooners Nite Club.



A Christmas Concert at Shell Point, Ft. Meyers

By Barb Meyers

This will be the highlight of my Christmas. An awesome Christmas Concert by the Four Freshmen in the beautiful Tribby Arts Center in this beautiful Senior Living area. From what I could see it was sold out and everyone loved it.

I took my daughter, Michelle, and my good friend Carol Yard. We sat next to Alexis, Ryan's significant other, a very lovely young lady.

The lovely blonde you see in the photo to the right was the guys' bass player for this concert. She is a university student and very accomplished. You could see by the look on her face she was really enjoying playing for them.



Gatherings

by Gil Peterson

Greetings to everyone. I hope your holidays were everything you wanted them to be and that 2025 will be the best year ever for each of you. Maybe in 2025 you will have the opportunity to attend one of the Gatherings near you. It will not take the place of our conventions, but you will have a chance to see and hear Group #27 as well as visit with other FFS members. My hope is that we will have more of these localized gatherings around the country.

I was fortunate to be able to attend the Lynden Music Festival in September. This turned out to be a marvelous five day music

festival. Mark Schlichting, one of our FFS board members, was successful in bringing the Freshmen to the festival as the "headliners". Group #27 performed masterfully in several different venues during the week. One of the most impressive events was a workshop for over one hundred and fifty students. The students received the Freshmen royally.

The two concerts they performed at the fairgrounds were both sold out. There were a number of FFS members present.

The festival was extremely well planned and flawlessly executed.

Since we are not having conventions anymore, we need to have a whole bunch more of these around the country. Gatherings like this are not too difficult to put together and they are much less expensive for our members.

If any of you would like to have such an event like this in your area, there are many of us who would be available to assist you. All you have to do is ask.

Once again, I have high hopes for 2025. Best wishes to each of you and your families. Stay safe, stay healthy and I hope to see many of you next year.

Best fresh wishes!

Some Most Memorable Encounters

Bill Huber's Memorable Encounter

In early September 2001, my wife, Angie, and I departed from the New York City harbor bound for Montreal, excited to be visiting New England and Canada, but even more thrilled to be sailing with the Four Freshmen. As we reached the southern tip of Manhattan, the sun glinted off the World Trade Center buildings. During the cruise we were treated to several performances by the Freshmen, including some private sessions open only to members of the Four Freshmen Society. Another special privilege was being seated at Bob Flanigan's table for each evening meal. Bob was a charming guy with endless stories of the Freshmen.

The photo shows Vince Johnson, Curtis Calderon, Bob Flanigan, Angie Huber, Brian Eichenberger, Bob Ferreira, and Bill Huber. The cruise was fantastic until after lunch at Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia on September 11. On returning to the ship, we learned of the multiple tragedies at the Pentagon, Shanksville, PA, and New York City. We would never again see the World Trade Center buildings.

Our next in-person visit with the Freshmen was at the 2006 Pittsburgh Convention. There we got to meet Ross Barbour, Greg Stegeman and Ray Brown, and renewed acquaintances with the Group #22 guys who were on the ill-fated 2001 cruise. The first page from my copy of *Now You Know* shows the autographs I collected there.



Barb Meyers' Memorable Encounter

Mel and I were on the same cruise as Bill. We left New York Harbor four days before 9/11. The photo of the ship is our Holland /America ship waiting for us to board. We were in Nova Scotia when the attack happened. We were all devastated and wondering what next, and how will we get home. The Captain told us all planes were grounded and there was no way for us to get home and he would try to make the rest of the cruise as memorable as possible for us - and he did. Our last stop was Montreal and the planes started flying by then. All in all it was a ten-day cruise.

If any other FFS member was on that cruise and have thoughts, please send them to me and I will put them in the next *Fresh News*.



The Four Freshmen Society Inc.

Item	Cost	QTY	Total
5 Trombones/5 Trumpets	\$15.00		
50 Years Fresh	\$15.00		
Culmination - Greg Stegeman (*)	\$15.00		
Faux Freshmen - Scratchin' the Surface	\$10.00		
Faux Freshmen - Seasons of the Heart	\$10.00		
Faux Freshmen - Unsung	\$15.00		
Four Freshmen (Jazz Factory)	\$15.00		
Four Freshmen and Friends	\$15.00		
Four Freshmen and June Christy on the BBC	\$15.00		
Four Freshmen Live in Stockholm (*) (CD & DVD) (group 4)	\$15.00		
Four Freshmen in Japan (CD) (*) (group 18)	\$15.00		
Four Freshmen in Japan (DVD) (*) (group 18)	\$15.00		
Four Freshmen with the Emmet Cohen Trio (group 21)	\$18.00		
Fresh	\$15.00		
Freshmas	\$15.00		
Freshmen Year/Voices in Latin	\$15.00		
Golden Anniversary	\$15.00		
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In Session	\$15.00		
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Road Shows	\$15.00		
Road to Portsmouth (*)	\$15.00		
Snowfall	\$15.00		
Stars in Our Eyes/The Swingers	\$15.00		
Star Spangled Banner (up to 10 per order)	Free		
Still Fresh	\$15.00		
The Liberty Years	\$15.00		
The Swingers/ 4 Freshmen-5 Trumpets	\$15.00		
Through the Years (*)	\$15.00		
Voices in Brass/In Person Vol. 1	\$15.00		
Rod Henley's Jazzmin Vocal Band	\$10.00		
"Now You Know" (Leather Bound Book) (\$120 non US)	\$100.00		

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Through the Years

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Live at Constitution Hall (2)

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Fresh (2)

Return to Romance

Remembering Ken

Voice in Love (2)

The Liberty Years

Voices in Latin

Still Fresh

Greatest Hits

Live at Butler

Faux Freshmen

Unsung

Scratchin' the Surface (2)

Season of the Heart

Ray Brown

Southern Comfort

Thank You Very Large

New LP's - Friends \$20, others \$15

Four Freshmen and Friends

Fresh

The Freshmen Year

Subtotal

Shipping - \$1 per CD for US orders (CD/DVD Combo is \$2)

\$4 per LP for US orders

Foreign Country: actual shipping costs for CDs
and LPs, \$20 for "Now You Know" book

Total

(*) Available to Members Only

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1. Jan/Feb/March - Dec 01
2. Apr/May/June - March 15
3. July/Aug/Sept - June 15
4. Oct/Nov/Dec - Sept 15

Submit manuscripts to the Editor:

Barb Meyers, bam241136@gmail.com, Cell 419-309-7855

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Please note: Dates subject to change without notice.

February 23, 2025

Sarasota, FL

Glenridge on Palmer Ranch Performing Arts Center, 733 Scotland Way

Show time: 2:00pm

Info: 941-552-5325

July 21

Pelia, IA

Douwstra Auditorium at Central College, 817 Peach St

Show time: TBA

Tickets: TBA

August 23

Cheboygan, MI

The Opera House, 403 N Huron St.

Showtime 7:30pm

Ticket info: TBA

December 7

Horseshoe Bay, TX

Horseshoe Bay Cultural Enrichment Granite Ballroom

at Horseshoe Bay Resort, 200 Hi Circle N

Show time: TBA

Tickets:



One more shot from the Crooners Show.
It was a special evening

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