



Fresh News

Volume 40, No. 1

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2026

Remember when you fell in love with
the extraordinary harmony of The Four Freshmen?

Fall in Love Again!

CELEBRATING THE FOUR FRESHMEN
March 6-7, 2026 - Nashville, Tennessee



Our
President,
**Donna
Gallaway**



GREETINGS FFS MEMBERS & FRESHMEN FANS

I hope you are all doing well and preparing for a joyous holiday season. 2025 will soon be history, and the Freshmen have turned a page in their history. Ryan has retired from the group and Chris has become the newest member of what is now Four Freshmen Group #28! From what I'm hearing, it has been an extremely smooth transition enabling the group to continue performing without missing a beat. That is such a huge advantage for the Freshmen and their fans!

We are looking forward to seeing, hearing and sharing some time with the Freshmen in Nashville the first weekend in March and would love to see a great number of FFS members there as well. Please check out the details in this issue and plan to join us there! I look forward to meeting and greeting you all in Nashville soon! In the meantime, I wish for all of you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Editors Notes:

We want to acknowledge Linda Harrison for writing the excellent article about Donna Gallaway in the *Past Presidents* section of the previous *Fresh News*. Her biline was inadvertently left off and we wanted to make sure she is credited for such a fine job.

Also; To order CDs for Christmas, go to the [FFS website](#) or [The Four Freshmen website](#) for this edition of *Fresh News*.

– Barb Meyers

Getting to Know Our Members

By Dick Meyer

My wife and I joined the Society after hearing the group at Xavier University in Cincinnati.

I was a musician for four years in the West Point Band. Then I went off to Miami University where I had my own 12 piece band.

I left Miami with Louie Bellson's band in January 1960. While playing the Coconut Grove, my wife had an accident. I then worked for her father's jewelry business in Cincinnati.

During this time, my best friend was Frank Brown, the best all around trumpet player from coast to coast I ever worked with.

In our waning years we were playing in many ballrooms such as the Coney Island Amusement Park, where we played for many years. It closed in 1969. Frank's big band was playing and they brought The Four Freshmen in as guests. The minute Bob Flanigan heard Frank, it became an instant friendship.

We met again in 1980 at Las Vegas and had another fun weekend with Bob. I saw Bob again in 1990 in California at "Back to Balboa."

Also one of the greatest concerts I ever went to was around 2014. It was Group 23 with the Middleton Ohio Symphony Orchestra. The conductor was Carmen DeLeone, who was a great jazz lover. Carmon knew all The Four Freshmen charts and surprised the them. It turned out to be a wonderful night for everyone.

I Suggest You Get to Nashville

By Gil Peterson

Greetings,

I am primarily writing this brief article to encourage everyone to make every effort to attend the upcoming Nashville reunion on March 2026. Linda Harrison and Mark Schlichting have done a masterful job of organizing and bringing all the pieces together for what appears to be an outstanding event for all Freshmen fans. Since we no longer have conventions, this will be a marvelous opportunity for FFS members and others to be together again.

Nashville is a very exciting musical venue on its own. Then add to that The Four Freshmen – I don't think it can get much better.

All the information you will need is on page 3 and the registration form is on page 5 of this edition of *Fresh News*, so make your plans now.

You can't afford to miss this musical bonanza.

What more can I say!

I am looking forward to seeing all of you. Stay safe.

I will see you in Nashville.

Register now ONLINE for the Celebrating the Four Freshmen event!

You can register for the March 6-7 event right now.

Just use your smartphone to scan this QR code

or go to fourfreshmensociety.com/celebration2026

See you in Nashville!





CELEBRATING THE FOUR FRESHMEN

THE EVENT

Plan to join us for a great weekend that promises everything you would want in a special occasion that features the incredible sounds and presence of The Four Freshmen, as well as time available to hang out in the "Gathering Room" to meet with other fans.

Starting at noon on Friday, March 6, the Full Two-Day Celebration includes two delightful meals, two fun afternoon programs, plus personal access to current members of the group, who are invited to share lunch with us.

- **THE MAIN EVENT** - Of course, the highlight of the weekend will be the two unforgettable concerts by **The Four Freshmen**, showcasing their signature harmonies and timeless sound in two unique performances you won't want to miss.
- **FRESH TALK** on Friday afternoon is an informal and intimate gathering of the current members of the Freshmen as well as any alumni and Freshmen family members who might attend. We will have the opportunity to meet Chris Peters, the newest member.
- **JAM SESSION** on Saturday afternoon is an opportunity for talented fans to share their gifts in this special program featuring singers and instrumentalists from the audience. If you are interested in showcasing your talent, please indicate the song, key and voice or instrument on the Registration form. A jazz combo will be available to support you. Suggestions are encouraged for the Singalong portion of the program, and words to the songs will be printed for your use.

THE VENUE

Yes, the **Hilton BNA Nashville Airport Terminal** is actually located on the airport property, so you can walk to the hotel from your arrival terminal or request a wheelchair from your airline. If you require a walker after you get to the hotel, please let Daisy know at celebratingthefourfreshmen@gmail.com and we will investigate possible resources for that.

This is one time you don't have to rent a car or pay for an Uber or taxi. If you drive to Nashville, the hotel has offered discounted parking (\$20/day), or you could park in the economy airport lot (\$21/day) and walk or take the shuttle.

Room reservations at the discounted rate may be made here:

[Hilton BNA | Celebrating The Four Freshmen | Book Your Rooms HERE](#)

When you click on "Book a Room" from this special website, you will be taken to a page that already includes the two contracted nights of the event. If you want to come in earlier or stay later, click the Edit My Stay at the upper right hand corner. You will still get the reduced rate for 3 days before and 3 days after the event. Or call Kurt directly at 615-324-6417 and mention The Four Freshmen.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Daisy at celebratingthefourfreshmen@gmail.com or call 561-358-9418.

**We are excited about seeing everyone
and sharing a great weekend in Nashville!**



Four Freshmen Society PAST PRESIDENTS

Edd Townsend, John Bangs, Ted Driscoll, Don Follett, Tom Purvis, Dick Baldwin,
Mel Myers, Neil Lantz and Donna Gallaway.

VOLUNTEERING By Past President, Neil Lantz

I began my experience as a VOLUNTEER while working as a teacher and later as an administrator in the Fort Wayne Community School District. I've lived all my life in Indiana and am proud to be from the same state as The Four Freshmen. In fact, despite the age difference between the original Freshmen and me, all of us began our higher education at Butler University in Indianapolis. I was a decade after The Four Freshmen, but the only ones of us to graduate from Butler were Ross and Bob who received honorary degrees several years ago. Clearly, my home state should be justly proud of claiming The Freshmen for the last 77 years! I lasted only three months at Butler before contracting the 1957 "Asian Flu" while at the same time experiencing an emergency appendectomy. After a week in the hospital, I was directed to go home to Fort Wayne to recover completely...so much for my education at Butler.



When healthy enough to return to college, I had decided to transfer to Indiana University in Bloomington where I earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees over the next few years. Years earlier, The Freshmen had also dropped out of Butler and met Stan Kenton who introduced them to Capitol Records. I mention Kenton because I was a big fan of his band but had little interest in The Four Freshmen, however

popular they were becoming across the country. In those same years, I was also busy — led a west coast-style jazz octet at IU, met and married Sara Lou, and became an administrator in the university system.

Along the way, my interest and appreciation of The Freshmen vocal harmony increased, and I became a fan. I especially enjoyed their instrumentation along with their singing. I can't remember how long ago I first began seriously or attending one of their gigs, resulting in becoming a big fan and supporting the FF Society.

Meanwhile, I continued my work as a university administrator and also began my VOLUNTEER

experience with the Society, ultimately serving as President of the Board. Over those same years, I also VOLUNTEERED for the United Way and served as a Disaster Duty VOLUNTEER and later as a Board Officer of the Indianapolis Area Red Cross.

Much of my VOLUNTEERISM had begun when our son was old enough to play baseball and I was his Pee Wee League coach. An opposing coach also was responsible in Indianapolis for recruiting someone to chair a committee that would host the baseball competition of the 1982 multi-sport National Sports Festival featuring the top national collegiate athletes from around the country under the United States Olympic Committee. That VOLUNTEER work connected me with the USBF, later renamed USA Baseball. I was recruited to chair the baseball committee the following year when the festival was played in Colorado Springs. Over the next few years, I continued as a VOLUNTEER and was



elected to be President of the USA Baseball Board of Directors. This proved to be a great opportunity as it afforded me to attend and serve on a number of international committees over the years, including the Pan American Games, Baseball World Championships, and the Olympic Games in Spain and in Australia.

After our team won the 2000 Olympics, I decided to cut back somewhat on VOLUNTEER activity. That decision held until 2008 when Sara Lou and I agreed to VOLUNTEER as Co-Chairs of the organizing committee for the Four Freshmen Society celebration of the 60th year of The Four Freshmen "Back Home Again in Indiana". She and I also co-chaired the committee for the 2016 convention in Louisville. Along the way, I had been elected to the Society Board and served as President until I "again" retired in 2020. I was subsequently named as a Member Emeritus of the Board of Directors.

In my VOLUNTEER life, I had the opportunity and pleasure in both USA Baseball and the Four Freshmen Society to meet many new friends and their families. I remain ever so thankful for those friendships and will always remember and value the opportunities and experiences to serve as a VOLUNTEER for two major interests in my life, baseball and music.

Batter Up!
Neil Lantz



REGISTRATION FORM

CELEBRATING THE FOUR FRESHMEN

March 6-7, 2026 | Nashville, Tennessee

NAME (PLEASE PRINT) _____

NAME (2ND PERSON) _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PRIMARY EMAIL _____

PRIMARY PHONE _____

Registration Fee *Prior* to February 1, 2026

- Full Two-Day Event: 2 robust lunches, 2 afternoon programs, 2 completely different Four Freshmen evening concerts
= \$200 x _____ (# tickets) = \$ _____
- Friday 7:30 pm Concert Only = \$50 x _____ (# tickets) = \$ _____
- Saturday 7:30 pm Concert Only = \$50 x _____ (# tickets) = \$ _____

Registration Fee *After* February 1, 2026

- Full Two-Day Event = \$240 x _____ (# tickets) = \$ _____
- Friday 7:30 pm Concert Only = \$55 x _____ (# tickets) = \$ _____
- Saturday 7:30 pm Concert Only = \$55 x _____ (# tickets) = \$ _____

Total for Tickets \$ _____

JAM SESSION PARTICIPATION

- Yes, I would like to participate in the Saturday afternoon Jam Session

Song _____ Key _____

Voice or Instrument _____

Suggested Songs for the Singalong _____

PAYMENT

CHECK

Make check payable to D. PEREZ with FOUR FRESHMEN on the "for" line and mail along with registration form to:
D. Perez, 2133 SW Chestnut Lane, Port St. Lucie, FL 34953.

CREDIT CARD

Credit card information may be sent to: celebratingthefourfreshmen@gmail.com.

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Name on Card _____ Zip Code _____ Security Number _____

HOTEL RESERVATION

A special rate of \$189 at the Hilton has been offered for this event. You may use the following access link to make your reservation or call Kurt at 615-324-6417 and mention The Four Freshmen to receive your discount.

[Hilton BNA | Celebrating The Four Freshmen | Book Your Rooms HERE](#)

Very important: CUTOFF DEADLINE for the reduced room rates is February 13, 2026.



Looking forward to seeing you there!

Have You Met Ms Meyers?

By Linda Harrison

There is probably no one who knows more about The Four Freshmen and their modern history than Barb Meyers. Besides:

- 1) being the Editor of this quarterly *Fresh News*;
- 2) having been married to Mel Meyers, who was President of the Four Freshmen Society from 2009-2012;
- 3) traveling together on 6-7 Jazz Cruises;
- 4) producing the Toledo Convention in 2011; and...
- 5) living for a time in Las Vegas where they became close friends with Bob and Mary Flanigan.

But let's start at the beginning. Barb became fascinated with The Four Freshmen in high school. She met Mel when she was 17 and he was 20, and it didn't take long for them to realize that they both loved The Four Freshmen. They got married a couple of years later. Mel was a jazz and big band drummer, a job that supported him through college and brought in extra money during their early marriage.

Soon after they were married, Mel spent two years in the army and was stationed in Fort Huachuca, Arizona. After living in Arizona for the two years, they moved back to Toledo for three years and then back to Arizona (Tucson) for 40 years.

Barb said, "We did a lot of traveling in those years. Mel was a department head for Hughes Aircraft and was responsible for opening new departments and monitoring old ones, so there were a lot of trips between Tucson and California. Then he worked for Motorola International and helped open Motorola Israel during this time. I was very proud of his accomplishments there."

Barb was in the banking industry, starting right out of high school. When Mel retired, she opened her own business in Arizona, a boutique that evolved into a successful shoe store for 10 years.

They had three children -- two boys and one girl, all raised in Tucson --

"All senior citizens now," Barb says, but no grandchildren.

The kids grew up in the era of rock, although they do appreciate all types of music.

Mel and Barb joined the Four Freshmen Society in 1994. They started out as state reps selling CDs at concerts. The first FFS Convention they attended was the FFS 50th anniversary in Las Vegas. There

were several celebrities there. As Barb tells it, "Mel and I walked out on the patio and there was Bob Flanigan and Joe Williams having a drink.

Mel said to me, "There is no doubt in my mind I'm in the right place." Mary Flanigan was raised in Ohio, as were Mel and Barb, so they seemed "a little bit of home" to her.

Barb comments, "It was a great friendship. I miss them both very much."

When Barb was in high school, Bob Flanigan was her celebrity crush. She says, "There are not many women who have a chance to grow up and be friends with their high school celebrity crush."

Barb is a breast cancer survivor, and during the time of her treatment -- surgery, chemo and radiation -- The Freshmen and the Flanigans helped her get through it with cards, letters, well-wishes and support for Mel, who was her caregiver.



In this picture with the guys (Group #22) in Laughlin, Las Vegas, Barb says, "My hair was just growing back from chemo, and I was finally feeling good. The guys were so good to me."

After Barb's convention in Toledo, Tom Purvis, who was FFS President at that time, asked Barb to produce the *Fresh News*. He had already set up the layout artist and printer to help support her in publishing the newsletter.

The multiple Jazz Cruises where they enjoyed The Freshmen -- Alaska, Mexico, Caribbean and many other destinations -- were mostly with Group #22 -- Bob, Brian, Vince, and Curtis.

The most memorable cruise was when they left New York on September 7, 2001. When 9/11 happened we were in Nova Scotia. We had many stops ahead of us and our last stop was Montreal. They all had to get off the ship, and a group spent 4-5 days together in Nova Scotia until flights started back up again.

Barb currently lives in Lakeland, Florida. Although she was very happy in Toledo, Mel insisted they move to Florida so she could be closer to her family, which they did in 2015. Two of her kids live in Florida, along with a younger sister and brother.

According to Barb, "I see some hope for the future with younger Freshmen fans. The Bean Tones, a young vocal jazz quartet including Chris Peters, 25, who just joined The Freshmen, recently played in Birdland to a sold-out audience, and they just returned from performing in Japan."

Looking back, Barb says, "We had interesting lives, and The Four Freshmen were a vital part of that. They were the music of our lives."

Corporate Board of Directors

Gil Peterson, Chairman 541-672-0937
Donna Gallaway, President
419-516-3642
John Emerson, Treasurer 843-271-6001
George Nosky, Secretary 734-397-7096
David W. Bentley 203-972-1916
Maurice Byrne 905-575-1530
Chaz Cone 770-833-2902
Dan de la Torre 775-787-0632
Linda Harrison 561-358-9418
Marlene Lobsiger 260-760-5531
David Mehl 502-243-3030
Barb Meyers 419-309-7855
Christian Rank 734-728-1673
Mark Schlichting 360-303-2373

Corporate Board of Directors Emeriti

Yasushi Ichiura 011 81 33 467 7573
Neil Lantz 317-849-7443
Dorothy Lydic 412-301-0420

General Information

Donna Gallaway, President
787 E. Main Street, Leipsic, OH 45856
Phone: 419-516-3642
Email: gallawaydonna1@gmail.com

Financial Office

John Emerson, Treasurer
74 Doncaster Lane, Bluffton, SC 29909
843-271-6001
Email: johnejazz@sc.rr.com

Membership Office

Data Base-Change of Address
Chaz Cone, Director/Webmaster
6900 Hunters Knoll NE
Atlanta, GA 30328-1763
Mobile: 770-833-2902
Email: ffs@chazcone.com

Historian

Christian Rank
6501 Yale #404
Westland, MI 48185
Phone: 734-728-1673
Email: freshhistorian@yahoo.com

FreshNews

Barb Meyers, Editor
1673 Colonnades Cir. N.
Lakeland, Florida 33811
Phone: 419-309-7855
Email: bam241136@gmail.com

Music-Mart

Barbara Emerson, Director
74 Doncaster Lane
Bluffton, SC 29909
Phone: 843-271-6001 or 888-448-7429
Fax: 866-538-9044
Email: johnejazz@sc.rr.com

Four Freshmen Music Foundation

Mike Condit, Chairman
11822 Village Park Cir.
Houston, TX 77024-4418
Phone: 713-464-4184
Email: condit_m@msn.com

The Four Freshmen...On the Road!

Check the Website: fourfreshmensociety.com or fourfreshmen.com for updates
For bookings: International Ventures Incorporated
Dina Sheets-Roth
P.O. Box 2749, Wenatchee, WA 98807
Phone: 661-259-4500 Email: ivimanagement@me.com
Please note: Dates subject to change without notice.

2026

February 15

Largo, FL

Central Park Performing Arts Center, 105 Central Park Dr
Show time: 2:00p Tickets: 727-587-6793

..and on our website https://www.largoarts.com/box_office_information.php.

March 6 & 7

Nashville, TN

Celebrating the Four Freshmen! 105 Central Park Dr
See details in the article on page 3 of this *Fresh News*.

2027

February 3

Green Valley, AZ

Community Performance & Art Center, 1250 W. Continental Rd
Show times: 3:00p & 7:00p Tickets: TBA

Send a Gift of The Four Freshmen.

A Four Freshmen Society membership makes a great holiday gift.

The annual dues of \$25 (or \$20/ year when renewing for multiple years at once) stretch far beyond just expenses. As a FFS member, you are part of the greatest fan club in the world for a group of hard working, skilled and talented young men who, after 75 years, continue to perform one of the greatest historical legacies in American music!

Set up your gift or renew your membership by going to dues.fourfreshmensociety.com



Fresh News is published quarterly © 2025, all rights reserved, celebrating THE FOUR FRESHMEN, the best vocal/instrumental quartet in the world. Publication does not imply approval of FFS corporate directors or trustees. Each author is responsible for his/her article.

Deadlines for consideration of articles:

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

New Members

Gael & Don Durachko Bellafonte, PA
Harvey Weiss Eden Prairie, MN
Alex Maier Riverton, UT

6900 Hunters Knoll NE
ATLANTA GA 30328-1763

Address Service Requested



FIRST CLASS
US POSTAGE
PAID
SANDUSKY OH
44870
PERMIT #35

The Four Freshmen Society Inc.

Visit our Website: fourfreshmensociety.com



If you would like to make
a tax-deductible donation,
please go to
FourFreshmenMusicFoundation.org
or contact FFMF Treasurer
Dave Bentley dbentley@optonline.net,
203-972-1916.

© 2026