



# Fresh News

Volume 35, No.2

APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2021

**REMEMBER  
THE DATE:**

# Bay City

**June 8-10, 2022**



*We're  
waiting  
for you.*

RIVER CRUISES



NAVAL SHIP MUSEUM



PLANETARIUM

Our  
President,  
**Donna  
Gallaway**



## **GREETINGS FFS MEMBERS**

I hope you all have had the opportunity to seek out, schedule and receive the COVID 19 vaccine as we continue to navigate this pandemic. Who knew we would still be dealing with this thing more than a year after the initial shock hit us! We can find it easy to complain about how it has changed our lives, but have we really stopped to think about how deeply it has so affected musicians and all of those whose lives are tied to the performing arts? These folks have had their livelihood snatched from them with little indication when they may return to the stages of the venues across this country. Yes, this includes our very own beloved Four Freshmen! We can only hope and pray that they will be able to "hit the road" once again very soon and return to the life of live performances we all are craving to see and hear.

On another note, the survey that was recently sent to all members, either by email or by postcard, was an attempt to determine the viability of a 2021 convention in September in the state of Washington. It takes a great deal of planning and a financial commitment to make one of these events happen, and we did not want to put the FFS treasury in jeopardy by moving forward not knowing if we would have enough members coming. Gil Peterson, Chairman of Convention Planning Committee, Neil Lantz, past president and member of Gil's committee and myself decided to invest in a survey to assist in our decision regarding a convention for 2021. Unfortunately, we did not receive the number of positive responses we needed to proceed with planning for September this year. Therefore, there will be no convention in 2021 which is the second consecutive year without one; very sad indeed! We regret having to do that as these conventions/reunions are such an important part of FFS as we gather to share our love for and with the Four Freshmen and their music.

(continued on page 5)

# **CONVENTION vs. COVID**

by Gil Peterson

Greetings to everyone.

I would like to give you a brief history of recent events related to our annual FFS Conventions. As most of you recall, our original plan for the 2021 FFS convention was planned for June of 2021 in Bay City, Michigan. The registration forms and other information were in the January issue of the Fresh News. Many of you returned your registration forms and were making plans to attend. Due to the COVID-19 virus, the FFS Board of Directors, after much discussion, made the decision to postpone the 2021 convention in hopes of acquiring a desirable future date. Jim Williams, our Bay City Chairman, approached the hotel in hopes of finding a viable future date. Unfortunately, there were no suitable dates available until late October. Michigan weather that time of year is very unpredictable and could cause serious travel problem for our members. So, once again, a decision was made to postpone the Bay City Convention.

During the Bay City planning, we were in contact with Mark Schlichting in Bellingham, Washington as a possible site for a 2022 convention. Mark was very enthusiastic and agreed to seek out a hotel in his area that would meet our needs. The Four Points Sheraton was selected and a Letter of Intent was signed. Mark did a masterful job of not only locating a hotel, but booking several very exciting tours and other interesting events for the convention.

When the decision was made to once again postpone the Bay City Convention, we approached Mark with the possibility of having the Bellingham Convention in 2021 instead of 2022. The Sheraton agreed and the dates of September 16, 17 and 18, 2021 were selected. The weather in Washington that time of year is generally incredibly beautiful. Everything seemed to be moving forward for a 2021 FFS convention. However, we still faced numerous unknowns related to the vaccines, the virus, and travel restrictions. The only way to find out was to poll our membership with a survey which you all received by e-mail or postcard.

I truly regret to inform you that the results of the survey were very discouraging. We did not get the positive responses envisioned. Under those circumstances, to move forward with plans for a Bellingham Convention could spell financial disaster for the FFS. Therefore, a decision was made to postpone/cancel the Bellingham convention. We still have hopes to hold a future convention in Bellingham. Mark has done a remarkable job and I feel sure we can have a very successful convention there in the future.

After all that, believe it or not, I do have some very good news. I am delighted to tell you that Jim Williams has informed us that everything is still in place for a Bay City Convention in June of 2022. Obviously, all the information concerning the Bay City Convention will be forthcoming at the appropriate time in the future.

I am hopeful that you are all safe and healthy and I look forward to seeing you once again in Bay City, Michigan in June of 2022.

Best fresh wishes to all.



# How I First Heard The Four Freshmen

By Ron Stanley

I have been a Four Freshmen fan and supporter since I heard them in my college days (the early fifties) while attending San Jose State College.

It was 1955, and The Four Freshmen were performing at a little hole-in-the-wall on Market Street in San Francisco. I had to see them live. My date for the evening (later to become my wife), also a fan, and I decided to head across the bridge to attend the show. We thought we had planned to leave early enough to get there so we could get a good seat. Unfortunately, the traffic was heavier than expected. When we arrived, were informed that all seats were filled. It was standing room only - in the back of the room.

I took a five-dollar bill from my wallet and showed it to the doorman and said, "Don't you think you could find us a little table up front?" Can you remember what five dollars was worth in 1955? Well, it worked. He whispered to one of the ushers and shortly thereafter we saw a tiny 18 inch table along with two small chairs being carried toward the bandstand. He motioned us to follow. WOW!

We sat down and were at about knee level with the boys. We were in seventh heaven. Shortly thereafter, the performance started. We both had goose bumps listening to the guys perform. During one of their romantic songs, my date and I looked at each other with stars in our eyes and slowly started to bring our lips together. At about four inches apart, the slide from Bob Flanigan's trombone came between our lips and startled us. I looked up to see that ever present grin on his face and a raised index finger slightly moving from side to side saying, "no, no, no." Those in the audience close enough to see what was happening were laughing and cheering. My date was turning three shades of purple. We decided to behave ourselves for the rest of the performance, but did catch a few audience members sneaking peeks to make sure we were being good.

Fast forward to 2007. The Four Freshmen Society Convention was being held in Portland, Oregon. We decided to drive up in our brand new car and attend. Bob and Ross were there in the roles of MC and hosts. I was hopeful that I would have the opportunity to talk to  
(continued on page 5)

# "Grab your coat and get your hat..."

by Trudy Feigum

*...Leave your worries on the doorstep;  
just direct your feet to the sunny side of the street!"*

Can you think of a more encouraging song today? The Four Freshmen put their unique harmonies to an arrangement by Billy May of *The Sunny Side of the Street* in May 1961 on their *Voices in Fun* album. The melody was by Jimmy McHugh; lyrics were by Dorothy Fields.

Give thought to when this song was written: 1930! This was right after the crash of the stock market, moving into the Great Depression. The lyrics reveal the song's progression from sadness to optimism. There's an opening verse that is rarely sung:

*"Walked with no-one  
and talked with  
no-one,  
And I had nothing but  
shadows.  
Then one morning you  
passed  
And I brightened at last.  
Now I greet the day,  
and complete  
the day,  
With the sun  
in my heart.  
All my worry blew away  
When you taught me  
how to say: ..."*



Toward the end of the song is a likely reference to the Depression, "If I never have a cent, I'll be rich as..." The lyrics, as written, cite the name of the man touted to be the richest of all time, Rockefeller. The Four Freshmen substituted the name of the first and most well-known gossip columnist and screenwriter, Louella Parsons.

The 1930s were not a walk-in-the-park for a lot of people, but out of that agony for so many came this upbeat instruction to keep your focus on the positive and not get weighed down with the negative. What better way to help lift our spirits during this time of ongoing shutdowns and cancellations, including the 2021 FFS convention, than to hear the bright sounds these four talented guys produce?

As an aside, many of us who have sung with the Wannabees at conventions over the years have been privileged to sit under the tutelage of original Four Freshmen, Ross Barbour, as well as Four Freshmen; Kirk Marcy, Greg Stegeman, and Vince Johnson. If there is one direction none of us should forget, it's to sing loud and bright! It's something I'm reminded of every time I listen to The Four Freshmen. Whether it's *The Sunny Side of the Street*, or any of the vast number of songs they've stamped indelibly on our memories, The Four Freshmen's tones are bright. You can't listen and not feel better!

# Green Valley, AZ and Some Reflection

by Bob Ferreira

Hello fans and friends! I hope this finds you all safe and healthy. Like all of you, I am patiently waiting for the days when life returns to enough of a sense of normalcy and there is once again public confidence to book, attend, and perform concerts. As I have said repeatedly, the four of us are chomping at the bit to get out there and make some music for you all.

Since February of 2020 we have only had three performances... Which is just insane! It has been very tough on everyone, but with each of these three performances was gained a renewed sense of excitement and optimism for the future. Like so many infamous periods in our country's history, we will get through this. This too shall pass.

Our most recent performance was on February 17th in Green Valley, Arizona which is about thirty miles south of Tucson. For me, it was about a seven hour drive from Las Vegas and was the first time I had driven to an Arizona performance in over ten years. It was a simply beautiful drive. The weather was typical late 'Winter' weather for the Southwest and perfect for driving. Through my day of travel I had plenty of moments to reminisce on the multitude of similar drives I had made in my first few years with the group. Back in the early '90s the group would play at least two or three engagements a year in Phoenix, Scottsdale, Tucson, or other outlying areas of Arizona. Sometimes the group would all pile into the "Flanivan" with our gear and head out together, but more often I would prefer to hop in my teal green '93 Honda Civic coupe loaded with drums and luggage and make the trek, solo. I have always been one of those that prefers to have the driver's side window open most of my

drives, regardless of how hot or cold it was outside which could be annoying to some. To me, it was all about feeling the wind through my long luxurious mullet (snickers are allowed here!).

My only regret with those early trips was that I wish I had taken more time to spend in the places I had performed and soaked in more. Being young, there were plenty of times when I would drive the 5½ hours from Vegas to Phoenix or Scottsdale, check into the hotel, go to sound check, do the show, take a shower and check out of the hotel only to drive the 5½ hours back to Vegas that night to hang out with my friends. I could still make that kind of trip today, but it would definitely be much more taxing on this older body, nor would I want to because I now prefer to be able to take it a bit slower and soak in a bit and reflect of where I played; or at least would take it a little slower to and fro to absorb the beauty of the scenery and magical landscapes; especially, the likes of the great Southwest. I was sure able to do that this time around as I set my car on cruise control comfortably in the right lane and let my eyes and memories absorb the natural wonders that flanked my journey along the US 93. After arriving in Green Valley and checking into the hotel, I walked around and found an intimate little restaurant close by and treated myself to some fine Italian cuisine. Tommy, Jake, and Ryan were unfortunately dealing with a very long rental car line at Phoenix's Sky Harbor Airport so were not able to join me. Treating ourselves to nicer restaurants is not something we do on the road as normal fare can be quite expensive, especially on extended tours. This time it felt like a little bit of a victory celebration... I was celebrating the fact that we are still out there doing it. No matter what life has thrown at this group and us individually, we are still out there doing it. Although the guys were not with me, I tipped my glass to them and looked forward to seeing my compatriots the next day.

The day prior to our shows we had a productive day of rehearsals and time to catch up in person on business affairs as well as what has been going on in our personal lives. It is quite a surreal thing to work so closely with three other individuals on something as tight-knit and intimate as music (especially vocal harmony) while seeing so little of each other. This is where one discovers the character, commitment, and work ethic of the people with whom one works. I couldn't be happier and feel very fortunate. **(continued on page 5)**

## Bay City will be Ready

By Jim Williams

The uncertainty of the COVID 19 virus has caused the postponement of our 2021 Convention to June 8-10, 2022. Everything will be transitioned without much disruption. One thing for sure, having to continue to wait to hear our beloved Four Freshmen should heighten our anticipation and make the convention more enjoyable as we break our fast. The tours will remain the same, and the hotel is just as anxious to host us. We will have the hotel almost entirely to ourselves. The biggest change again will be the shift from a Thursday – Saturday convention to Wednesday – Friday. Bay City is a weekend tourist destination during the summer, resulting in virtually all Saturday nights being booked for 2022.

One of the advantages to a small town is proximity. The Doubletree, being on the Saginaw River in the downtown, will encourage you to

explore both the River Walk and a stroll through the downtown. Just to remind you, there are over 20 restaurants and pubs within easy walking distance of the hotel ranging from Jimmy Johns, and an Omelet Shop to fine dining with a variety of choices in between. Three blocks from the hotel is a full block of antique stores, including Michigan's largest antique store.

Bring a light jacket, a hearty appetite, and of course a desire to, once again, hear our favorite vocal group, The Four Freshmen. Until then, stay home, stay safe and stay healthy. See you in June 2022.

*The Michigan weather should be delightful in early June.*





# GREETINGS...

(continued from page 2)

The positive side is that we have secured the dates in June of 2022 for our convention in Bay City, Michigan, and we will work on rescheduling Bellingham, WA for 2023. Time flies, so start thinking about coming to Bay City in 2022 to help celebrate with FFS and the Four Freshmen! If you have never been to a convention/reunion, put this on your bucket list and join us. I guarantee you will enjoy every minute and make new Fresh friends. My husband Tom and I attended our first one in Oshkosh, WI in 1991 nearly 30 years ago, and we were hooked.

Start urging friends and family to join FFS so they can come with you in 2022 to experience all things Fresh. Take the membership application in this issue of Fresh News and sign some folks up. We love welcoming new friends to the FFS family.

I hope you all will stay healthy as we emerge from this dark time, but there is light ahead. Remember, happiness is only a listen away from the great, up-lifting sounds of Freshmen music and rest assured, WE WILL BE TOGETHER AGAIN.

## How I First Heard...

Ron Stanley's article (continued from page 3)

Bob and see if he could remember the 1955 incident. During the intermission, there were several people in the adjacent hallway and I was on a mission. I spotted Bob about 20 feet from me walking back toward the auditorium, and yelled, "Flanigan!" He stopped and turned around. When I caught up to him, I said that I wanted to thank him for almost ruining my love life with the slide from his trombone in 1955 at that hole-in-the-wall club on Market Street in San Francisco. He looked at me with a puzzled look on his face and then it turned to that famous grin and he said, "That was you?" We both had a good laugh, exchanged pleasantries for a few minutes. Then it was back to the second half of the performance. When I returned to my seat, I told my wife that he remembered and she became embarrassed all over again.

## The Four Freshmen...On the Road!

Check the Website: [fourfreshmensociety.com](http://fourfreshmensociety.com) or [fourfreshmen.com](http://fourfreshmen.com) for updates

For bookings: International Ventures Incorporated

Dina Sheets-Roth

P.O. Box 256, McGregor, TX 76657

Phone: 661-259-4500

Email: [ivimanagement@me.com](mailto:ivimanagement@me.com)

Please note: Dates subject to change without notice.

***Due to the current health restrictions, please be sure to keep up with the status of concerts online at [fourfreshmensociety.com](http://fourfreshmensociety.com).***

### October 21, 2021

### Lawrenceburg, TN

Crockett Theatre, 203 North Military Ave

Show time: 7:00p

Tickets: 961-762-4231

### December 3, 2021

### Kerrville Bay, TX

Kathleen C. Cailloux City Center

for the Performing Arts, 910 Main St

Show time: TBA

Tickets: 830-896-9393

### December 5, 2021

### Horseshoe Bay, TX

Quail Point

Show time: 4:30p

Tickets: TBA

### December 7, 2021

### Fort Myers, FL

Tribby Arts Center, 17821 On Par Blvd

Show time: 7:00p

Tickets: 239-454-2067

### December 31, 2021

### Spring, TX

Venue: TBA

Show time: TBA

Tickets: TBA (March 2021)

### 2022

### January 23, 2022

### Malibu, CA

Lisa Smith Wengler Center for the Arts

24255 Pacific Coast Hwy

Show time: 2:00p

Tickets: 310-506-4522

## Green Valley, AZ... (continued from page 4)

The group played three shows for socially distanced audiences in a beautiful and intimate community theater and had a blast! We experimented with our repertoire and had some truly magical and comical moments on stage. I just can't express how excited I am for when the time comes that you all hear this current group and how amazing we sound together. Equally important, every one of these guys are consummate professionals, true gentlemen, and sincerely love and respect the music and traditions of The Four Freshmen. The personal sacrifices these guys continue making to help this group sound great goes beyond what most musicians would do given the current social, health, and financial climate and, to me, there is nothing more that I could ask for in three guys.

There wasn't too much of a point to this story other than expressing how proud, excited, and optimistic I continue to be in regards to the future of this group. My choice to slow down a bit more at times to soak in more of the smaller beauties and hidden treasures, that are often overseen in one's life, is a lesson that I believe most of us wish we would have learned earlier in life. Oh, and you mustn't forget the wind through my mullet! With that last one, it shows that I have certainly learned a lot!

I look forward to seeing each and every one of you down the road very soon! Until then, be well my friends!

# The Four Freshmen Society Inc.

Item	Cost	QTY	Total
5 Trombones/5 Trumpets	\$15.00		
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Faux Freshmen - Scratchin' the Surface	\$10.00		
Faux Freshmen - Seasons of the Heart	\$10.00		
Faux Freshmen - Unsung	\$15.00		
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Voices in Standards	\$15.00		
Four Freshmen and Friends LP	\$20.00		
"Now You Know" (Leather Bound Book)	\$100.00		
Book is \$120 for orders outside US			

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3) call 843-271-6001  
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or

4) email: [johnejazz@sc.rr.com](mailto:johnejazz@sc.rr.com)

Make check payable to:

The Four Freshmen Society, Inc.

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping - \$1 per CD for US orders

\$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

*In 1979, the Airmen of Note under the direction of Dave Steinmeyer had a concert at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. They had, as their guests, The Four Freshmen (group 6). That concert was preserved from the sound board by Dave Barnes. It was then cleaned up by Paul Halac. The result was a "new" CD of the Four Freshmen Live at Constitution Hall in 1979, backed by the Airmen of Note, the premier jazz ensemble of the U.S. Air Force. The Music Mart has embarked on a plan to find and release these rare recordings, particularly in years when there is no new CD from the Freshmen themselves. While the Society has done this in the past, we will now try to be more aggressive in this endeavor. We hope to have a "new" CD ready for each convention. We hope you enjoy this new material. Barbara Emerson*

## Corporate Board of Directors

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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   |

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## New Members

Shirley Breckenridge  
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Marianna Diehl  
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## FFS New Member/Renewal Form

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Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

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FFS Membership Dept.  
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