



The 76th Anniversary is “à la carte” in Lynden, Washington

by Mark Schlichting

A new, unique, “Gathering Event” for 2024 is set for October 9-13 in Lynden, Washington, and it will be in conjunction with The Lynden Music Festival, which is celebrating its 15th Anniversary! The festival will “headline” our boys with two banquet concerts on Friday and Saturday nights, a student jazz vocal workshop on Thursday afternoon, and many other music events. Google: Four Freshmen “This October,” listen, and get inspired to come!

Lynden, Washington is in the “Fourth Corner” of both the State of Washington and of the contiguous United States! It is famous for its spell-binding beauty, with the historic Blaine Peace Arch and the Canadian Cascades to the North, majestic Mt. Baker to the East, the breathtaking San Juan Islands to the West, and many dairies and luscious berry fields to the South. Lynden is 15 miles north of Bellingham (you can fly directly into BLI and shuttle north), and 5 miles south of the Canadian border; a particularly welcoming venue for our many West Coast Freshmen Fans!

A correction to the article entitled “WARM” in the previous *FRESH NEWS* of January, 2024:

The Four Freshmen sang *The Star Spangled Banner* at the Veteran’s National Memorial Shrine in Fort Wayne, not at a dedication at Purdue University. At that event, Curtis did indeed “fill-in” for the ailing Tommy, who had been diagnosed with COVID two days earlier. But Curtis’ attendance at the convention had been planned in advance and sponsored by Linda and Greg Harrison, who covered his expenses.

— Mark Schlichting

“Gatherings” Start in Bonita Springs, FLA

by Linda Harrison

For The Four Freshmen, the day of March 15 started with a 5:40 a.m. flight to the west coast of Florida and ended with a stellar performance at 2:00 p.m. and again at 7:30 p.m. The venue was the extraordinary First Presbyterian Church in Bonita Springs (1500 seat auditorium), the Florida church of George and Ellie Nosky and formerly of Jack and Mary Morrison.

As always, the guys were on top of their game and had an exceptional bassist from the Florida Gulf Coast University accompany them. Those of us who have followed the Freshmen over the years are familiar with most of the tunes they performed, but it is always a pleasure to be reminded of their unique harmonies and rhythms. Jake was given opportunities to exhibit his particular talents with the trumpet and flugelhorn.

The audience (mostly in the 70-80 age group) was particularly appreciative of the songs made famous by early Freshmen groups, and they expressed their delight with extended applause.

From Florida, the guys move on to Tiffin, Ohio, where a small “Gathering” of fans is expected to enjoy a meal and conversation with them prior to the performance at the Ritz Theater.

