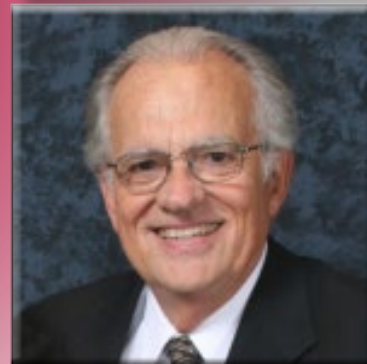
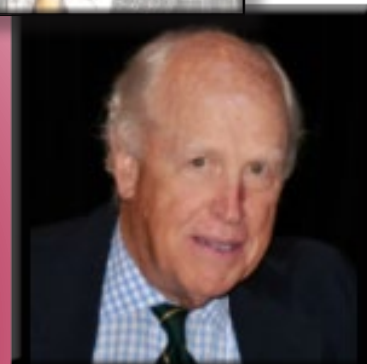


Fresh News

Volume 34, No.3

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2020



Our New President, Her Officers and Board of Directors

Our
President,
**Donna
Gallaway**



GREETINGS FFS Members

As you have likely noticed, the photo with this article is a change which came about in early May when Neil Lantz retired as president of the Four Freshmen Society. The Board of Directors encouraged me to consider a nomination to fill that position, and I was elected to serve as your president for the next three years.

My husband Tom and I joined FFS (which was then FFAS under the leadership of John Bangs) in 1990. I have served as secretary of FFS for more than 20 years and enjoyed every minute of that job, which did not require a lot of work. However, it did provide the welcome opportunity to really get to know a large number of dedicated folks who love and support The Freshmen and that fabulous music to which we are so addicted.

I have served on FFS convention planning committees for Virginia, Toledo, Ft. Wayne and the recent one in Daytonas well as helping with on-site registration at several others. I have also overseen the Silent Auction at a couple of those events. It has been through offering to assist at these reunions (we are like a family in FFS) that I have built relationships that have enriched my life more than I can say. I encourage each of you to get involved and make it a priority to attend the next FFS Convention in June of 2021 in Bay City, Michigan. I guarantee you will have no regrets and will go home having made many new friends and memories - including live music by our very own Four Freshmen!

I am honored to enter this new era as your president, but I realize I have big shoes to fill. Neil has done a remarkable job leading us for the past eight years. We all wish Neil and Sara Lou the best retirement possible, knowing we will still see them actively participating at every chance. I pray you have all stayed safe and healthy during this stressful time and have listened to some wonderful Four Freshmen music, as I have while painting my living room! I am looking forward to meeting and greeting all of you as we gather at Fresh events in the future.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Unfortunately, the 2020 Four Freshmen Society Convention scheduled for September 24-26 in Bay City Michigan has been canceled. This decision was made due to an abundance of caution brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Those who have already registered will receive a full refund. The convention has been rescheduled for June 9-11, 2021.

**See you next year
in Bay City!**

TIME TO RETIRE

As the saying goes, "time flies when you're having fun," and it's hard for me to realize that it's been nearly eight years since I was elected to the presidency of the FFS Board of Directors. Over that time, together with my hard-working and always helpful wife, Sara Lou, it's been a wonderful opportunity to serve the Society membership in faithful support of The Four Freshmen. My role since 2012 has afforded me the opportunity to work closely with members of the board, past and present, with dozens of FFS volunteers in the success of our annual conventions, and with countless other Society members with whom I share mutual love for the historic and continuing music of The Four Freshmen. As many of you know, however, earlier this year I decided to retire as President of the Board (on May 1) and to continue as a Board member until the next annual meeting in Bay City.

Over my term in office, Sara Lou and I have especially appreciated the opportunity to enjoy our personal friendship with The Four Freshmen. Unfortunately, we lost Bob Flanigan and Ross Barbour along the way. During the past several years however, we offered our very best wishes to former Freshmen Vince Johnson, Brian Eichenberger, Curtis Calderon, and Jon Gaines as they moved along to new opportunities; and it was our pleasure to welcome "new" Freshmen Stein Malvey, Tommy Boynton, and newest guy, Jake Baldwin. And, of course, it's been a special pleasure to work closely with the "old man" of our favorite group, Bob Ferreira.

As I said, it's been a fun and rewarding tenure to serve as the Society President, and I thank everyone for the opportunity. And now, I want to recognize our new President, Donna Gallaway. Donna has a long history in support of the Society and The Four Freshmen, having served most recently as Secretary of the Board and Co-Editor of *Fresh News*. It's been my pleasure to work with her over the years, and I look forward to her continued work as the eighth President of the Society Board. I urge everyone to congratulate Donna and to offer her their full support as the newest Society leader.

Neil Lantz

TRIBUTE TO NEIL

by Gil Peterson

Let me say right out front, with my limited vocabulary, I will be unable to pay the tribute to Neil Lantz that he truly deserves. Neil is a very low-profile individual that never has sought accolades or praise. As the President of the FFS and staunch supporter of The Four Freshmen and the FFMF for the past eight years, he has simply dedicated hundreds of hours as our President and leader that very few of us know anything about.

Very seldom does an individual come along who has natural leadership skills. That is a very special quality for anyone to possess. Neil Lantz, without question, happens to be one of those very rare individuals who possesses remarkable leadership qualities. The Four Freshmen Society, The Four Freshmen and the FFMF were extremely fortunate to have had Neil as our President and leader for the past eight years.

During Neil's tenure as President, the FFS and The Four Freshmen have experienced a number of issues that required serious and prompt consideration. Neil addressed each situation thoughtfully, methodically and carefully. After much consideration, he would present his recommendations to the FFS Board of Directors for approval. I don't remember a single time that the Board did not unanimously approve his recommendations.

For the past several years, I have had the honor and privilege collaborating with Neil while negotiating the hotel contracts for our annual



Conventions. Some of the negotiations were very involved and, in some cases, took several months to finalize. Neil has a very keen eye for detail and I was always impressed with his intellectual approach to finalizing these contracts. I think we did pretty well.

Beside serving as our President, Neil and Sara Lou Co-chaired two of our most successful conventions. Indianapolis in 2008 and Louisville in 2016. Approximately 600 members attended Indianapolis and 400 attended Louisville. I don't know if we will ever see numbers like that again.

I feel comfortable in stating on behalf of the entire membership of the FFS, The Four Freshmen and the FFMF our sincere appreciation to you, Neil, for your remarkable leadership over these past eight years. Without question, you did a masterful job and with much gratitude, we all stand and salute you. Thank you, thank you, thank you. **(Continued on page 4)**



Tribute to Neil

(Continued from page 3)

OUR NEW PRESIDENT

With Neil's retirement, a nominating committee was formed to search for a new President for the FFS. A number of highly qualified candidates were considered. After much thought and serious consideration, the committee nominated Donna Gallaway. The Board of Directors unanimously elected Donna Gallaway as our new President. This is historic in the fact that this is the first female President the FFS has ever had. Donna is a highly intelligent, unassuming, low-profile individual who has been a member of the FFS since 1991. She has served as Secretary of the Board of Directors for the past twenty years and currently serves as Co-Editor of the Fresh News. Donna graduated from Bowling Green State University with a B.S. in Education and with a Comprehensive Science Major. She taught school for several years and then assisted her husband in his dental practice for twenty eight years. Donna is very active in her local community of Leipsic, OH. She currently serves in her church as Financial Secretary on the Administrative Board. She is a Certified Lay Speaker in the Northwest Plains District of the United Methodist Church. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Global Ecumenical Mission in Zimbabwe. She has been on mission trips to Mexico, Belize, Appalachia as well as Charlotte, NC where she assists with gifts for children through Samaritan's Purse each year.

It is quite clear that Donna is a very active individual and highly qualified. The FFS Board of Directors is very pleased with our decision and we believe that Donna will be an outstanding President and leader of our society.

Welcome, Donna, we are with you all the way!



The Four Freshmen...On the Road!

Check the Website: fourfreshmensociety.com or fourfreshmen.com for updates

For bookings: International Ventures Incorporated

Dale Sheets & Dina Sheets-Roth

P.O. Box 256, McGregor, TX 76657

Phone: 661-259-4500

Email: info@ivimanagement.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.

August 21, 2020

Nashville, IN

Brown County Playhouse, 70 South Van Buren St

Show time: 7:30p

Tickets: 812-988-6555

November 10, 2020

The Villages, FL

Laurel Manor Recreation Center, 1545 Buena Vista Blvd

Show time: 7:00p

Residents Only!

Fund raiser for the Bob Washington Jazz Scholarship

November 16, 2020

Fort Myers, FL

Tribby Arts Center, 17281 On Par Blvd

Show time: 7:00p

Tickets: 239-454-2067

December 31, 2020

Spring, TX

The Philip Geiger Performing Arts Center, 16713 Ella Blvd

Show time: 7:00p

Tickets: 281-891-7130

2021

January 24, 2021

Malibu, CA

Lisa Smith Wengler Center for the Arts, 24255 Pacific Coast Hwy

Show time: 2:00p

Tickets: 310-506-4522

February 4, 2021

Lawrenceburg, TN

Crockett Theatre, 203 North Military Ave

Show time: 7:00p

Tickets: 961-762-4231

February 17, 2021

Green Valley, AZ

Community Performance and Arts Center, 1250 W Continental Rd

Show times: 3:00p and 7:00p

Tickets: 520-300-1750

June 9-11, 2021

Bay City, MI

Four Freshmen Convention & Reunion

Doubletree Hotel, One Wenonah Park Place

Open only to members of the Four Freshmen Society.

Bay City Will Be Ready

The postponement of our 2020 Convention to June 9-11, 2021, will be transitioned without much disruption. One thing for sure, having to wait another nine months to hear our beloved Four Freshmen should heighten our anticipation and make the Convention more enjoyable as we break our fast.

There will be very little change from the proposed 2020 format. The tours will remain the same, and the hotel is just as anxious to host us. Dan will have to make some changes to his logo, but the biggest change is 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 2021.

The weather should be delightful in early June. The Doubletree, being on the Saginaw River in downtown, will encourage you to explore both the River Walk and a stroll through downtown. There are over 20 restaurants and pubs within easy walking distance of the hotel ranging from Jimmy Johns to an Omelet Shop to fine dining with a variety of choices in between. (Continued on page 5)

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Donna Gallaway, President 419-516-3642
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John Emerson, Treasurer 843-271-6001
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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 |

Submit manuscripts to the Editor:

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

Bay City (Continued from page 4)

Three blocks from the hotel is a full block of antique stores, including Michigan's largest antique store. For those of you looking for a little more vigorous form of exercise, you can enjoy your favorite adult beverage while helping to motivate the Pedal Trolley through downtown.

We're hoping that the change in schedule will allow us to make available some offerings that we couldn't have in late September. 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 next June.

FFS New Member/Renewal Form

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Spouse _____

Address _____

(9 digit zip please)

Telephone # _____

Cell # _____

E-mail _____

New Member Fee:

\$15 Single or Couple (worldwide)

All Renewals: One Year \$25

Two or more years \$20 each year

FFS dues are not tax deductible.

Please mail form and correct fee to:

Chaz Cone

FFS Membership Dept.

6900 Hunters Knoll NE

ATLANTA GA 30328-1763

Or online at dues.fourfreshmensociety.com

News from the editor.

*We are seeking those of you who want to tell their story about
“How I first Heard the Four Freshmen.”
I will publish them in future Fresh News depending on room.*

How I First Heard the Four Freshmen

by Barbara Meyers

I was in High School in the 50s when I heard *Day by Day* and my favorite *It's a Blue World*. I had a teenage crush on Bob Flanigan and that lasted for many years. I married Mel in 1956. He loved The Four Freshmen also. In the years after we were married we were able to see them in person several times.

A very good friend of ours whom many of you might remember, Roy Anderson, called us one day and told us about the Four Freshmen Society. He told us he had already joined and he was sending us a membership form. We joined and the three of us went to our first Convention. It was the 50th celebration in Vegas.

Over the years we have gone to most all of the Conventions and many cruises. We lived in Vegas for three short years. We became friends with Bob and Mary. How many people get a chance to be friends with their teenage crush and his wife?

by Chaz Cone

It was April 1958 and I was in my freshmen year at Georgia Tech. The Inter-Fraternity Council produced an entertainment weekend where there were parties and concerts to welcome Spring in Atlanta. IFC weekend was a big deal at an engineering school where there was no on-campus arts program. They brought in national acts; it was great.

I was walking across the parking lot of the Tech basketball coliseum when I heard something that made me stop in my tracks. Where was that sound coming from that a PA system was pumping into the springtime air?

I saw a flatbed truck at the edge of the parking lot with four guys playing and singing in a manner I'd never heard before. I looked around for the rest of the band and it was just them. I couldn't believe all that music was coming from just four guys who looked to be only a few years older than I.

I made my way through the crowd and stood at the feet of the little guy playing a standup snare drum and singing his heart out. I looked up at him, chin on my chest. I looked like some rube at a carnival midway; all I was missing was a bottle of milk and a straw.

I had never heard anything like this sound. It was thrilling. I didn't see how it was possible that so much music came from just four men.

When the set was over, I tapped Ross' foot and he leaned down. I'm sure I stuttered out my enthusiasm. He was most gracious. I asked if they had ever been recorded and he said they had a 10" LP out called *Voices in Modern*.

The Four Freshmen. Standing in front of me was Group #3, Bob, Don, Ross and Ken.

That afternoon I went to Jim Sallee's record shop in Buckhead and bought that LP. I took it back to the fraternity house and played it dozens of times. My fraternity brothers (some of them at least) became instant fans as well.

At the end of the Spring quarter, I returned home to Little Rock, Arkansas and the first thing I did was play the album for my mother. My eyes were wide and encouraging as "the sound" rolled out of our stereo, looking for her reaction. When the album finished I looked at my mom for her enthusiastic response. She said: "They sing off-key."

That's how my mother's ear heard harmony. I tried to convince her that this sound was fantastic but she just didn't get it. Some don't.

I do - and so do you or you wouldn't be a member of the Four Freshmen Society.

Though I heard The Four Freshmen a couple of times, I next met Ross face-to-face nearly forty years later at the FFS convention in 1996 at Lincolnshire, Illinois. It was just like 1958 again. We became friends over the years and I had the privilege of recounting this story when I spoke at Ross' memorial service in 2011.

And now, it's written down.



The Four Freshmen Society Inc.

Item	Cost	QTY	Total
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Capitol Collector Series	\$15.00		
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Faux Freshmen - Seasons of the Heart	\$10.00		
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3) call 843-271-6001
or 888-448-7429

or

4) email: johnejazz@sc.rr.com

Make check payable to:

The Four Freshmen Society, Inc.

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

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

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