

# Fresh News

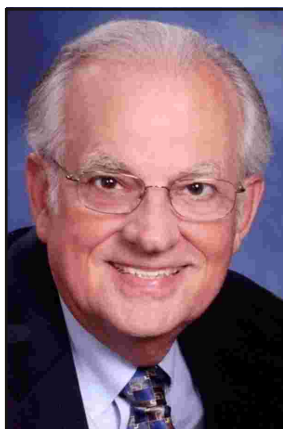
Volume 29, No. 4

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2015



**..with Bill Comstock, FF Group #4**

Our  
President,  
**Neil  
Lantz**  
**THANKS  
SAN  
ANTONIO!  
HELLO LOUISVILLE!**



The 2015 convention in San Antonio marked yet another memorable society event as nearly 300 members celebrated with Group #24 and honored long-time Freshmen member and current San Antonio resident Bill Comstock. Under the chairmanship of Geoff and Sarah Comstock and the musical direction of Curtis Calderon, this year's convention, the Society's 28th, once again afforded the opportunity for Freshmen fans from across the country and around the world to celebrate their favorite vocal jazz group and to renew fan friendships made via a common love of the legendary Freshmen sound.

Although Group #24 has been together less than a year, their concerts in San Antonio made it obvious that they're working hard to maintain, if not advance, the Freshmen standard of excellence. Their performances in San Antonio were very well received; and the five trumpet presentation Saturday night, under Curtis's arrangement and direction was very fresh and exciting. Both concerts showed a renewed enthusiasm and energy by the guys, and the audience found those qualities to be most welcome and quite contagious.

On a personal note, it was also a great joy for me to once again moderate the Fresh Memories session. Along with Freshmen alums Greg Stegeman and Kirk Marcy, honorary alumnus Sue Barbour, for the first time in many years the current guys shared a few memories and reflections on being in the group. As well, we were honored to be joined by Bill Comstock, his close musical collaborator, jazz great Gene DiNovi, and the wonderful song stylist who appeared with Group #8, Sue Raney.

Indeed, the San Antonio gathering was a joyful, fun-filled event. And now, it's time to look ahead to FFS convention #29, to be held next August 25-27 in Louisville, Kentucky. Sara Lou and I, along with a convention planning committee of 21 excited FFS members, are honored to be co-chairing the 2016 Convention. We encourage you to mark your calendars and watch for convention details in the Jan/Feb/March issue of Fresh News. Registration will open on February 1, 2016 and we hope to see you all in Louisville next August.

## 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

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25115 Avenue Stanford, Suite A-102, Valencia, CA 91355

Phone: 661-259-4500 FAX: 661-259-1310

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

Please note: Dates subject to change without notice.

**October 26, 2015**

**Osage, IA**

Cedar River Complex, 809 Sawyer Dr.

Showtime: 7:00p

Tickets: 641- 832-7158

**October 27, 2015**

**Marshall, MN**

H.S. Schwans PAC, 400 Tiger Dr.

Showtime: 7:00p

Tickets: 507-532-5463

**November 6, 2015**

**Jackson, TN**

314 East Main St.

Showtime: TBD

Tickets: 731-425-2489

**November 7, 2015**

**Franklin, TN**

419 Main St.

Showtime: 8:00p

Tickets: 615-538-2076

**November 15, 2015**

**Newberry, SC**

1201 McKibben St.

Showtime: 3:00p

Tickets: 803-276-6264

**December 10, 2015**

**Old Saybrook, CT**

300 Main St.

Show time: 8:00p

Information: 860-510-0453

**December 11, 2015**

**Laconia, NH**

345 Union Ave.

Show time: 7:00p

Information: 603-455-8032

This event is FREE! First come, first served

**December 13, 2015**

**Sarasota, FL**

7333 Scotland Way

Show time: 2:00p

Information: 941-552-5325

**December 16-19, 2015**

**Palm Beach, FL**

Royal Room Supper Club, 155 Hammon Ave.

Show time: 8:00p

Reservations: 561-655-5430

**December 20, 2015**

**Largo, FL**

105 Central Park Dr.

Show time: 2:00p

Reservations: 727-587-6793

**January 9, 2016**

**McKinney, TX**

2801 Orchid Dr.

Show time: 7:30p

Tickets: 214-548-4384

**January 15, 2016**

**Gold Canyon, AZ**

Gold Canyon Methodist Church, 6640 S. Kings Ranch Rd.

Show time: 7:30p

Tickets: 480-983-2171

**January 16, 2016**

**Coolidge, AZ**

Pence Theatre, 8470 Overfield Rd.

Showtime: 7:00p

Tickets: 520-477-7469

**January 29-30, 2016**

**Arlington Heights, IL**

111 W. Campbell St.

Show time: 8:00p

Tickets: 847-577-2121

**February 5, 2016**

**Bonita Springs, FL**

9751 Bonita Beach Rd. SE

Show times: 3:00p & 7:30p

Tickets: 239-992-3410 ext 250

# A Call From Julian Bond

by Don Follett

The recent death in August of Julian Bond, a U.S. civil rights leader over the past half century, a long time member of the Georgia state legislature - and a 20-year FFS member - reminds me of a short story:

I had just gotten to my office in Minneapolis that June morning and someone said, "Don, line one is for you."

The sobering voice coming from a cell phone in a car - in low, commanding tones (sounding much like James Bond, movie hero) spoke out: "This is Julian Bond. Do you know where I can get some tickets for the Four Freshmen concert?" He was calling from Washington, D.C., inquiring about the FF Minneapolis gig in a few days. "Other than at the Minneapolis Orchestra Hall box office, I can't help much," I said, lamely; it wasn't as if I had a bunch of tickets in my back pocket. The FF show was slated for the following Monday. We chatted for a few moments and a very business-like Bond hung up. It was a brief, but surprising phone call.

Three nights later, Bond and his wife Pamela were at the Orchestra Hall concert and in genial fashion joined in the afterglow reception backstage of a memorable FF concert - as it was the first in a big Minnesota venue for the then-new FF member Brian Eichenberger, who was from the area (Fresh News, Sept-Oct 2000). Bond's wife grew up in the Minneapolis area and the couple were in town also to visit relatives. Bond had attended at least one FFS National Convention and, when his schedule allowed, always tried to see the quartet on the road, he said. At the time, he was serving as chairman of the NAACP.

Former Freshman Ray Brown spoke of Bond's delight in the Freshmen music in the Fresh News (April 2005). Bond, 75, died Aug. 15 at his Florida vacation home from a vascular disease, according to the New York Times.



# The New Four Freshmen are here.

by Curtis Calderon



Dear fans,

The New Four Freshmen are here. I say it like a new group has formed, but I feel like this group is unique, going to go far and has the most in common with the famous earlier groups. I'll explain a little what I mean :)

**First off, in Stein Malvey**, we have a unique guitar sound, that as he's grown into his part as a rhythm section player, he's really starting to shine. He's always been a great guitar player but was more reserved during the first year as he got accustomed to the group/sound. Now that he's very comfortable in the group, his guitar is becoming a big part of our sound. His groove, his solos, everything. His voice has become very strong over the last year as well and he's sounding great. To me, and will all due respect to all of our former guitar players, his guitar is becoming as unique as Bill Comstock and Don Barbour's. His voice is more reminiscent of Bill Comstock for the second part singing and for those of you who know me, that's just fine by me :) I loved Bill and Don's second part singing and guitar playing because they brought such a unique voice/guitar.

**Next, we have our rock, Bob Ferreira.** As I gotten to know Bob over these last 14 years, he's continually shown who he truly is, his devotion to the Four Freshmen and you are hard pressed to find a better guy or someone who has worked as hard as Bob for the Freshmen. His drums are just as exciting and energetic as Ross's were and bring a new sound to our group through his sensitivity and creativity, expand and go beyond what Ross set up initially. Both Ross and Bob brought and bring a great energy to kick off the rhythm section and both, very capable musicians. Bob also brings a great solo voice to the group, that I feel might be one of the best solo voices the Freshmen have ever had. Though everyone has always loved the vocal soloists through the years, I've never seen them react to the others as much as they react to Bob Ferreira.

**Finally, we get to Tommy Boynton**, our newest member. This guy has what it takes to be the next Flanigan. With all respect to past lead singers we've had, Tommy is the first guy with the power up there that reminds me of Bob. He's a hard worker and loves this music. We've only been touring now for six months and he's already shown great improvement in his lead singing and bass abilities. He came in strong and is going to be a monster soon enough. He's developing his own sound on lead and when we sing, it's like a reincarnation of Bob singing with us. They both have their own styles, but the sound and strength of that soaring tenor is there!! Tommy is certainly carrying the sound and in fact, when we played our week at the Dirty Dog Cafe in Michigan, we basically received standing ovations at every show and people LOVED our stuff off of the mic. I attribute much of the enthusiasm to Tommy's singing. Without a great lead singer, you don't have much. When you come to a show now and hear us, I think you'll agree, Tommy is a great addition to the group and Bob Flanigan would be ecstatic!

I get excited thinking about the possibilities with this current Four Freshmen group. The new CD is selling well and in fact at a recent concert we played in northern California, we broke their sales record for CDs sold. Some of our biggest fans, who are also musicians and give great constructive criticism, have sent great reviews of the new CD and Tommy's voice. We have the right combination of everything for us to move up to the next level. I want to personally thank all of you for your great support over the years and your continued support. We are going to release a vinyl version of Four Freshmen and Friends (the latest CD) later this year, so I encourage you to purchase some for gifts for your 20-something year old friends and family to introduce them to the Four Freshmen! Not trying to make a sales pitch as much as I'm trying to spread the music around. We already have great interest in the vinyl version, not only for collectors, but for a lot of our young fans and for our hard core fans who never sold or tucked away their record player :)

**The future is here, well, it's coming soon!! :)**





## Stars Hall of Fame the Unknown Induction

by Autie Goodman

Bob, Kenny, Dennis, and myself were inducted into the stars Hall of Fame in Orlando Florida in 1980. None of our fans know about it. We didn't have a newsletter at the time and Bob never mentioned it. He was not a person to brag about the induction. I thought our older fans would like to know of that honor. Ed Townsend started our first newsletter in 1980 in Dallas Texas.

### A Side note from Terry Goodman.

*Dad had his 90th birthday on the 4th of August and shows no signs of slowing down. Truthfully I'm having a hard time keeping up with him! Thank you for all you are doing... I hope all is well, cheers!*

## Music Mart Change

by Barbara Emerson

This is just to announce a change to the music mart ordering. Up to now if you printed the order for off the web site you paid \$1 per CD for shipping (\$5 for overseas orders). If you used the order form in the Newsletter, you were asked to pay \$1 for credit card orders. Needless to say that was inconsistent. To make them consistent, we're changing the order form in the newsletter to match the one on the web site except that we've change the expected cost for overseas orders to \$7 (as has the web site sheet).

In actuality we will charge the actual shipping cost for all orders (but not more than \$1 per CD) so the amount on the form is more of a guideline. The only complication we haven't yet ironed out is those who send us a check. A single CD can have shipping costs that range from \$0.93 to \$1.32. It is probably too cumbersome to start issuing refund checks for \$0.07 if you order a CD and include \$1 and it only cost \$0.93. We could be more standardized if all the CD's came in the same packaging but jewel cases are disappearing and the newer ones are lighter and cheaper to mail.

## The Four Freshmen at the Dirty Dog, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI

by Ed Nussel

You might have had mental images about a place called "The Dirty Dog Jazz Café" but these quickly change when you enter this cozy, intimate establishment. Located in a tree lined suburban Detroit shopping area called Grosse Pointe Farms the Dirty Dog has been an annual three day stop for the Freshmen over a nine year period. The venue is excellent because the audience is comfortably close to the performers. The place has only 15 tables with a small bar toward the back.

The show opened with *Day In - Day Out* and followed by a variety of old and new favorites. The Freshmen are even doing acappella including *Here's That Rainy Day* while Curtis Calderon provided plenty of pace with his trumpet solos. They played several selections from their newest CD which also demonstrated a wide range of selections including *So Dance Samba*, *Moonglow*, *The Girl from Ipanema*, and of course, *It's a Blue World*. In the end a total of 19 selections were performed in a show which lasted over an hour.

Afterwards, we had an opportunity to visit with Tommy Boynton, the newest Freshman. We found him very approachable and cordial. My wife and I both commented to him how well he has fit into the organization. He accepted the compliment very graciously.

Another successful visit to the Dirty Dog by the Four Freshmen.



Photo by George Nosky



## Same Show - Different point of View.

by Ellie and George Nosky

We saw the Freshmen July 23rd at the Dirty Dog Jazz Café in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan. It was our first time to hear the new group and we thought they were wonderful. The Dirty Dog is an intimate venue with great food. Because of its size the guys do two performances a night for four nights. All performances were sold out. This was their 9th year there so you know they have formed a special relationship with the owner.

The new guy, Tommy, has really settled in within a very short time. There seemed to be a renewed energy in the group which transferred itself into the music. Curtis is doing a wonderful job of arranging. Their acappella version of a new song, John Coltrane's *Central Park West* is beautiful and was well received by the audience. Curtis did the arrangement AND wrote the lyrics.

Besides all the beautiful standards of the Freshmen, this group has added some other songs. We felt they are great additions.

If you haven't heard them, you will be in for a wonderful treat at the Convention. Also their new CD, *The Four Freshmen & Friends*, recorded live at the Newport Jazz Party is a must for your collection.



## Why Attend the Convention?

by John Emerson

Every year we have a convention celebrating the Four Freshmen. Our attendance hovers around 10-15% of our membership and, after having gone to most of them since 1996, the attendees are mostly the same group of members. So most of our Society stays home. I realize there are many reasons - cost (either of the convention or of travel), health, distance, etc. We've had the convention all over the country so it must have been fairly near one of those times. We do our utmost to keep the cost as low as we can. So if we get past those hurdles than there must also be a segment that doesn't see attending the convention as being very different than seeing the group at a local appearance.

Now I certainly don't want to disparage seeing them live. I see them every chance I get. But the convention is an entirely different animal. What you see and experience at the convention is not even close to the same. Starting first with the Four Freshmen, you see them perform with groups you'll almost never see outside of the convention. I've seen them with many big bands (Brooks Tegner, Dan McMillon, the Toledo Jazz Orchestra, etc.), with String Sections (both in Reno and in Fort Wayne), with five trombones and, most recently, with five trumpets. This last one convinced me that the convention is different. This performance with five top class trumpeters was not a rehash of their *Four Freshmen and Five Trumpets* album - only one song was taken from that recording. All the other material was brand new to the Freshmen and arranged by Curtis Calderon. You'll probably never see that outside of a convention.

In addition you get treated to a host of different groups "opening" for the Freshmen. I've seen The Lettermen, Sue Raney & Gene DiNovi, The Arbors, Uptown Vocal Jazz Quartet and Doc Watkins Texas Swing Septet to name a few. Some of these you can still see on their own (e.g., the Lettermen, Uptown or Doc Watkins), some don't perform anymore (The Arbors) and sometimes they are artists who almost never perform together (Sue Raney & Gene DiNovi). Again, it's a musical treat that is almost exclusive to these conventions.

Then there's Thursday night. The Four Freshmen Society has many top flight musicians in their membership and on the Thursday night of the convention the Society members perform in a three hour "jam session". The music is exceptional, the show is hosted by former Four Freshmen and we are usually treated to performances by them as well as other professional musicians in attendance. Again, this show is not something you will get to experience outside of the convention.

Lastly, there's the members themselves. I'm sure when you go see the Freshmen live locally, you'll be there with many Four Freshmen fans. The difference at the convention is that you get to spend time with

## An Evening with the Freshmen at St. Joseph, Missouri

Harold Riehm, FFS Lawrence, Kansas

My kids call my wife, Donna, and me "groupies". And we are, I guess because anytime the Freshmen are playing within 300 miles or so ...we are there. Along with, of course buying and wearing out all their albums, attending an occasional Convention, and pleading with our kids to never let the great Freshmen tradition fade away.

So on September 12, it was off to St. Joseph. The concert, in a beautiful old and intimate theater, was, I think, one of their best. First time we'd heard the two newest Freshmen, and they are already perpetuating the Freshmen excellence, vocally and instrumentally, we have enjoyed over many years. Curtis led the audience through the history of the group, as only Curtis can, and updated us on exciting recent developments.

At one point Curtis, in joking with the obviously low-tech audience, asked how many present were members of the FF Society. A few hands went up, including ours. At intermission we were the focus of attention to many around us wanting to know what the Society was, how long had we been devotees, had we ever attended one of their Conventions and why we were so devoted. We reveled in the attention, but mainly because we could spread the FF Gospel. It helped, too, that Donna and I had on our shirts from the FF Cruise of ten or so years ago.

But all this notwithstanding, the beauty of the night was the music. An interesting combination of standards from the past along with new tunes and arrangements from the present, especially from their great new CD- "Four Freshmen and Friends". I confess to goose bumps and chills down my spine when I hear *Blue World* and other great FF standards and add new ones to that list.

Bob, thanks for being so good for so long ...we like the livelier version. And a special thank you to Curtis for his dynamic brass accompaniments and for his touching column in the last newsletter. We all know that money never has been nor will it probably ever be the primary motivating factor for members of the group. But love of music, respect for selections from the Great American Song Book, and appreciation of the unparalleled beauty of the harmony started by four guys 67 years ago, will forever be the basis of the music we love and that they perform so well. Thank you all for sharing your immense talent with us.

They were Hoosiers! — and I was too, from Kendallville, close to Fort Wayne and a little farther from Indianapolis, two important cities in the early history of the first Group. As a 1956 high school grad, amidst the transition from slow dancing to the music of Bill Haley and Elvis, the one true group we loved throughout was the Four Freshmen. It was that way then....and with us and so many more, it still is! As Bob so beautifully sings our hope is we will forever "keep the music playing".

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## A Freshmen Song Story

by L. Bisel, 55 year fan and FFS Representative.

I was walking my baby back home and wondered how can I tell her that my heart stood still, she stepped out of a dream and that there is no greater love in this whole wide world, and there will never be another you because you're so far above me.

She answered, please remember, it happened once before, I'm a fool to want you. I wish I didn't love you so, but teach me tonight and I'll remember April after you've gone. And, the very thought of you has got me crying again. Sometimes I'm happy, but I get along without you very well on the street of dreams.

I exclaimed, day by day, the more I see you come rain or come shine once in awhile I understand that I may be wrong, as in this whole wide world it all depends on you.

She answered, that's my desire but please remember you've got me crying again, but it's a pity to say goodnight, so don't worry about me and please walk softly on the street of dreams as this is the end of a beautiful friendship.

I'll be walking my baby back home day by day on route 66 in stormy weather. It's a blue world, but now you know so I'll be seeing you.

## The 50th anniversary of *The Girl From Ipanema*.

by Tom Feigum

This is the 50th anniversary of *The Girl From Ipanema*. The Freshmen have it on their new CD, a great arrangement by Curtis.

I discovered the Four Freshmen in the late 50s and saw them the first time in college in the early 60s as Group 4. I have loved the sound ever since. My luck was that when I married in 1966, my wife discovered the Freshmen through me and also loved them.

We sold our business, retired, and started attending the International FF Society Meetings in 2000. We have not missed a meeting since. They are more fun than people our age are supposed to have.

All this is to say that we were in San Antonio and saw the new Group 24. You will not be disappointed. If anything, the Group returns to the strong lead countertenor. Tommy has hit the Flanigan spot. At the same time Stein who has been with the group about 18 months is a good strong addition also.

The new CD, recorded in California this year, has some additional great new songs and arrangements by Curtis that really do give a further advance to the Freshmen.

## Everything Freshmen

by Don Follett

Avid readers may have noticed in a recently published 2015 book entitled *1965-The Most Revolutionary Year in Music*, (by Andrew Grant Jackson) that our favorite quartet, the Four Freshmen, was mentioned twice, both times in reference to the Beach Boys. The book recites the many changes in pop music during the 1960's, against a background of turbulence in the U.S. and around the world, plus the "British invasion" of rock music groups.

It would not be Bob Flanigan's favorite book.

## Why Attend the Convention?

(continued from page 5)

them and you get to see them year after year - it's virtually a family reunion every year. There are lunches, dinners, & tours with other members. We have discussions with current and former Four Freshmen. There are times when you can get together and sing those Four Freshmen arrangements you have loved to listen to over the years.

In short, the Society's convention is a three day immersion into the Four Freshmen with friends from all over the world who share your passion in this music. Come on out and join us. Next year we'll be in Louisville, Kentucky in August. You won't regret it.

## Four Freshmen Music Foundation Established

by Trudy Feigum

What can we do to bring young people into the Four Freshmen Society? How can we help them learn about the Freshmen Sound?

These are questions often asked at Four Freshmen Society (FFS) General Membership meetings.

FFS President Neil Lantz introduced Trudy Feigum at the 2015 General Membership Meeting. Feigum, Virginia State FFS Representative, was appointed almost a year ago by Lantz to chair a Steering Committee to explore the formation of a foundation.

"It is my distinct pleasure to announce that we believe we've found a way to help answer these questions," said Feigum when asked to report to the members.

The Four Freshmen Music Foundation, Inc., was officially established yesterday, September 18, 2015, during this convention in San Antonio. An independent, free-standing organization, established and recognized as a 501(c)(3) by the Internal Revenue Service, the FFMF is being incorporated in Indiana, as a tribute to the Freshmen's home state and their connection with Butler University.

"The FFMF is completely separate from the FFS," Feigum said, "and in no way is it intended to compete with the Society. It will complement the efforts of the Four Freshmen Society by using tax-deductible donations to support educational programs and create a legacy to honor the uniquely distinctive Four Freshmen Sound."

The new organization's mission statement, developed by the committee of nine FFS members, reveals the direction the FFMF intends to pursue.

***The mission of the Four Freshmen Music Foundation shall be to perpetuate appreciation and understanding of the historic music and unique harmonies created by the Four Freshmen beginning in 1948. This will be accomplished by, but not limited to, educational efforts about the singers and their repertoire among music educators, music students and music fans worldwide.***

Among several purposes of the FFMF cited by Feigum to carry out the Foundation's mission are the promotion and support for educational clinics and other learning opportunities in elementary, middle and high schools, colleges and universities. The Foundation will foster and encourage the study of the Four Freshmen's interpretation of the Great American Songbook, and provide by grant and scholarship for these studies. Additionally, the Foundation will promote and encourage establishment of a permanent archive to contain historical memorabilia of the Four Freshmen.

Members of the Steering Committee recognized by Feigum were Dave Bentley, Wayne Corey, John Emerson, Gil Peterson, Christian Rank, Kermit Sveen, and Anne Johnson.

Feigum introduced Dave Bentley, newly-elected Foundation treasurer, and Candy Bell, board secretary. Feigum was unanimously elected chairman of the Foundation. Names of the new board will be announced soon, Feigum said.

"In closing," Feigum told the audience, "I know many of you would like to be Founding Members. Please make your check - in any amount - payable to the Four Freshmen Music Foundation, Inc., today or before the end of 2015 and you will have this honored designation."

Checks are to be mailed to David W. Bentley, 41 Parish Road, New Canaan, CT 06840-4424.

More information about this exciting new organization can be found online at [www.FourFreshmenMusicFoundation.org](http://www.FourFreshmenMusicFoundation.org).



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Deadlines for consideration of articles:

1. Jan/Feb/March - Dec 15

3. July/Aug/Sept - June 15

2. Apr/May/June - March 15

4. Oct/Nov/Dec - Sept 15

Submit manuscripts to the Editor: Barb Meyers, bam241136@gmail.com, Cell 419-309-7855

### FFS New Member/or Renewal Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

(9 digit zip please)

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Fax # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

New Member Fee: \$32 Single or Couple (worldwide)

All Renewals: One Year \$22

Two or more years \$17 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 [www.fourfreshmensociety.com/dues](http://www.fourfreshmensociety.com/dues)

### New Members

Franklin & Dottie Ashley,  
Mount Pleasant, SC

George & Lori Becknell,  
San Antonio, TX

Arthur & Maria Benzick,  
San Antonio, TX

Jeffrey & Dana Benzick,  
San Antonio, TX

Harold & Judy Blake, Brandon, MS

Robert & Kay Boynton, Aurora, CO

James & Susan Brown, Veneta, OR

Renda & Sharon Brumeloe, Yukon, OK

Bob & Judy Cenar, Berkeley Heights, NJ

Frank & Carol Chianese, Macomb, MI

Rick & Kathy Feese, Maple Valley, WA

July & Len Gattarello, Kelly, TX

Peggy Georgi, Cicero, IN

Kevin Hayes, Eastpointe, MI

Mark Hearn, Carmel, IN

Marsha Leaptrott, Roseburg, OR

Phil Mattson, Minneapolis, MN

Dick Moss, St. Cloud, FL

Dana O'Donoghue, S. Palm Beach, FL

Laurence & Anne Shallenberger,

Houston, TX

Doug & Cindy Smith, Columbia, MO

Ayla Torres, Kelly, TX

Carmen Tranchito, Richmond Hts, OH

### Contributors

Lois & Bob Frye, Melbourne, FL

Tony Leone, Washington, PA

# The Four Freshmen Society Inc.

Item	Cost	QTY	Total
5 Saxes/5 Guitars	\$ 15.00		
5 Trombones/5 Trumpets	\$ 15.00		
50 Years Fresh	\$ 15.00		
Capital Collector	\$ 15.00		
Culmination - Greg Stegemann (*)	\$ 15.00		
Faux Freshmen - Scratchin' the Surface	\$ 10.00		
Faux Freshmen - Season of the Heart	\$ 10.00		
Faux Freshmen - Unsung	\$ 15.00		
Four Freshmen and Friends <b>NEW</b>	\$ 15.00		
Fresh	\$ 15.00		
Freshmas	\$ 15.00		
Freshmen Year/Voices in Latin	\$ 15.00		
Golden Anniversary	\$ 15.00		
Graduation Day	\$ 15.00		
Graduation Day - Double CD	\$ 15.00		
In Session	\$ 15.00		
Jazz Factory	\$ 15.00		
Ken Albers Arrangements	\$ 28.00		
Live at Butler	\$ 15.00		
Live at Clearwater	\$ 15.00		
Live at Penn State (*)	\$ 15.00		
Live at the Franklin Theatre	\$ 15.00		
Live from Vegas CD	\$ 15.00		
Live from Vegas DVD	\$ 15.00		
Live from Vegas (DVD & CD)	\$ 25.00		
Live in Holland	\$ 15.00		
Live in the New Millenium	\$ 15.00		
Live Trombones	\$ 15.00		
Lost Soul - Curtis Calderon	\$ 15.00		
Love Songs	\$ 15.00		
More 5 Trombones/In Person Vol. 2	\$ 15.00		
"Now You Know" (Book)	\$ 100.00		
"Now You Know" (Book - Overseas Order)	\$ 120.00		
Remembering Ken (*)	\$ 15.00		
Return to Romance/Live in Manchester (*)	\$ 15.00		
Road Shows	\$ 15.00		
Road to Portsmouth (*)	\$ 15.00		
Snowfall	\$ 15.00		
Star Spangled Banner - Single CD	\$ 5.00		
Star Spangled Banner - Five Pack	\$ 20.00		
Still Fresh	\$ 15.00		
The Liberty Years	\$ 15.00		
Through the Years (*)	\$ 15.00		
Voices in Brass/In Person Vol. 1	\$ 15.00		
Voices in Standards	\$ 15.00		
Voices in Modern/Funny How Time Slips Away	\$ 15.00		

## Subtotal

Shipping - \$1 per CD

add \$7 per order for Overseas

add \$20 for "Now You Know" Overseas

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(\*) Available to Members Only

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

Make check payable to:

The Four Freshmen Society, Inc.

We are adding the "Four Freshmen Vocal Arrangements" book that we "sold" at the last convention. The white book is complete and has 60 arrangements (we have about 20 copies). The blue book is only volume one and has 36 arrangements (we only have 3 of these). We aren't actually selling them due to copyright concerns. They are available for FREE but there's a \$20 shipping and handling charge for the white book and \$15 for the blue book.



# ...and so it's over

## THE 2015 SAN ANTONIO CONVENTION AND BEYOND.

by Gil Peterson

In my opinion, the 2015 convention in San Antonio was a great success. Geoff and Sarah Comstock did a masterful job of putting all the pieces together leading to a first class convention. Everything moved along like a well-oiled machine. They also added a few new twists making the whole experience exceptional. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude. I had the pleasure of working very closely with both of them preparing for the convention. It was truly a delight for me to have that privilege.

***Thank you Geoff and Sarah.***

The musical experience was simply terrific! I believe that Group #24 has the potential of being one of the best ever. The new arrangements and material written by Curtis are no less than superb. There seems to be a new energy and a new openness surrounding the group. They were having a great time up there and you could feel those vibes coming through loud and clear. On Saturday evening, the five trumpets blew us all away. What a treat!!!

Everyone I spoke with was very excited about the group. Thank you Group #24 for your wonderful performances. We loved it!!

One of the highlights of the 2015 convention was the presence of Bill Comstock. Without a doubt, he is one of the most talented and remarkable gentleman ever. When he performed for us on Thursday evening, if your eyes were dry, you were perhaps the only one. Memories like that only come a few times in a lifetime and for me they find their way to that very special tiny place in my heart where they will remain forever. Thank you Bill.....all of us - love you more than you could ever know.

Another very exciting thing happened at the 2015 Convention. Trudy Fiegum announced to the FFS general meeting that the Four Freshmen Music Foundation had been founded. I believe this is something we should have done some time ago and we have to give Trudy a tremendous amount of credit for being the catalyst. You will be further informed about the Foundation's progress as time goes by.

When you step back and look at the overall 2015 convention, the hotel, the location, the food, the entertainment, the organization and the friendly Texas attitude, you would have to give the whole experience an A+. Don't all y'all agree?

With this outstanding convention behind us, we are now looking toward Louisville. With Neil and Sara Lou Lantz as co-chairs, I can't help but believe that the Louisville convention will be a super blockbuster! The Galt Hotel is certainly a beautiful venue and the city of Louisville has so many interesting facets to offer. How can you go wrong? I know we have a lot of time yet, but I am suggesting you get your ducks in a row and start making plans to be there. I can only assure you that you will not be disappointed. I will be looking forward to seeing you there and making some more wonderful Freshmen memories.





# Fresh Memories - Recalled

by Ann Smith, Texas Coord.

Panel Members: Bob Ferreira, Kirk Marcy, Greg Stegeman, Gene DiNovi, Bill Comstock, Sue Barbour, Sue Raney, Tommy Boynton, Stein Malvey, and Curtis Calderon



## Bob Ferreira, drummer, bass singer

Bob shared that his first convention was in Columbus, OH, when he was just 21 years old. He said that when he arrived, a greeter asked them if they were "The Four Horsemen".

Bob said that he and Kevin Stout joined the group at the same time. He said that the convention wasn't like we have it today. It was much smaller. It was held in one small room. When they entered the room, he and Kevin were famished and so they headed for the pizza table. They were intercepted by "a cute little old man" who got between them and the pizza table. He asked them, "what got you into the Four Freshmen?"

Kevin's desperate response was, "Peperoni and sausage."



## Tommy Boynton, new lead singer, bass player

Tommy has been with the Four Freshmen for nine months now. He shared with us in an aside comment that New Year's Eve was Brian's last show and that he (Tommy) started the next day, on New Year's Day. He said the first few months were hectic, because he was learning new music and recording a CD. He said he was still teaching at the time, plus going on the road with the Four Freshmen. He said it took a lot of playing catch up.

## Stein Malvey, tenor voice, guitar

In January the group rehearsed for a week in San Antonio. Bob and Stein were going to the airport to pick up Tommy. Stein asked Bob to play along with what he was going to do. They had never met Tommy before, only talked on the phone, emailed, etc. Stein related to us a tale that sounded as if it were meant to be a practical joke, fun and funny. He told Tommy that Brian wasn't leaving after all, (although that was not the case). Then Stein said, "We'll put you on a plane and give you \$50." Then he confessed that wasn't true and that Brian really had left. He said that Tommy's face was big eyed and solemn, but he seemed to take it in stride. As this tale unfolded, we never saw a smile or a laugh from Tommy.

One audience member said, "That's mean."

It's hard to know what the intention was.

## Curtis Calderon, baritone voice, trumpet, flugelhorn

Curtis said that he'll never forget the first time he met Bob Flanigan. He said that he felt like Bob was 12 feet tall and that he (Curtis) was three feet tall.

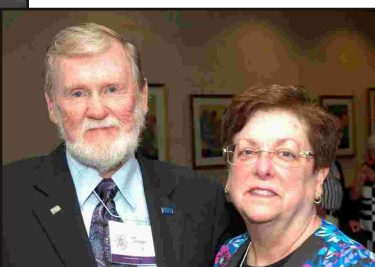
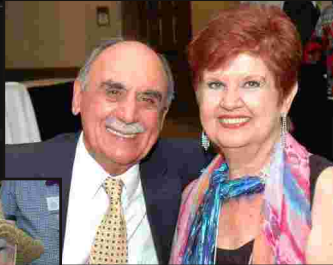
He said they could all feel the love from the original Four Freshmen. (They appreciated the newer guys carrying on their legacy).

Another story is about Curtis and Bob in a taxi in Japan. Bob was most eager to make a pit stop. However, the driver didn't speak English and wasn't stopping. Bob said, "I have to go so bad I'm afraid to swallow."

Curtis had never heard that and thought it was hilarious.







### Kirk Marcy, former Four Freshman, Bob Ferreira's former teacher

Kirk said that Bob was in his first jazz group at Edmonds Community College. It was a vocal group with eight men and eight women.

This group was performing some Four Freshmen songs, when they suddenly realized that their sound had grown much stronger. The real live Four Freshmen had sneaked in behind them on stage and were singing with them. They were flabbergasted - and thrilled.

### Greg Stegeman, former Freshman

Greg shared that at one gig, they were served tomato and mayo sandwiches. Bob remarked, "You really didn't have to go to so much trouble for us."

Greg told us about going backstage to meet The Freshmen in 1968. He was 17 years old and had just graduated. He was so impressed that all four of the Freshmen sat down during a break and listened intently to recordings of him singing all four parts on four or five Freshmen songs.



### Sue Barbour, Board Member and widow of Ross Barbour

Sue spoke up for Ken Errair and said he was sort of the forgotten Freshman. She credited him for getting The Four Freshmen to go on the road. This was done in his car, carrying all four of them plus their instruments. This was during the time that they were doing college one-nighters.

### Sue Raney

Sue shared that she met The Four Freshmen in 1957. It was on The Ray Anthony Show. Back then television was in black and white. She got to sing two songs with The Four Freshmen. The group consisted of Bob, Ross, Bill, and Ken.

She said she came to the convention to see Bill Comstock, her dear friend, one more time.

### Gene DiNovi

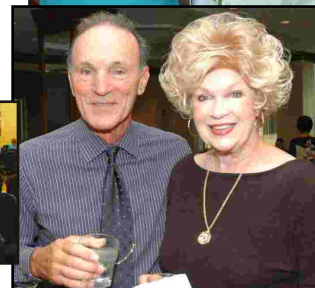
Gene started writing songs with Bill Comstock in the late 50s and early 60s. This includes *Summer Has Gone* and *Act Three*, both of which Bill has recorded. Gene wrote the music and Bill wrote the lyrics.

Gene is a fabulous piano player and played for Lena Horne for eight years, as well as also accompanying Peggy Lee.

He told us in a side conversation that the Italian teacher he studied with also taught such greats as Nelson Riddle, Henry Mancini, Andre Previn, and John Williams.. (No wonder he's so good.)

Gene started his talk by saying, "I cry at supermarket openings."

He wrapped up by saying, "What a pleasure to work with this guy" (Bill, who was seated next to him). Then he said, "Now find me a supermarket and I'll get out of here."

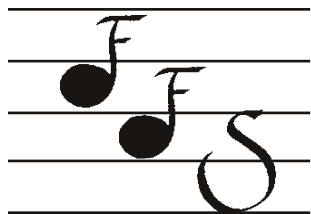


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**BREAKING NEWS.....**

**2016 FFS CONVENTION  
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DETAILS TO FOLLOW**