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*We thank our major contributors:*

### Benefactors

*Phil and Sandra Seymour*

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## Mission Statement

The California Jazz Foundation is a nonprofit charitable organization formed to provide assistance to musicians and others in need who have made substantial contributions to America's only indigenous art form – JAZZ.

## Statement of Purpose

The intent of the California Jazz Foundation is to provide services and support to jazz musicians and others who have made substantial contributions to the art form. The Foundation will:

- establish and maintain a network of medical professionals in every discipline to provide services on a pro bono and/or sliding scale basis;
- educate recipients and raise their awareness of the importance of preventive care
- act as a clearinghouse to connect those in need with the appropriate service agencies
- assist in preparing appropriate governmental applications for services
- educate musicians as to their professional rights and benefits from trade unions and guilds
- assist with the filing of contracts and the coordination of benefits from existing agencies
- provide emergency financial assistance when needed, and offer other critical services

In furtherance of these goals, the Foundation will accept donations, apply for grants, produce at least one annual fund-raising event and procure and coordinate volunteer services.

*The California Jazz Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization*

*Special thanks to Howard Rumsey for directing contributions in honor of his 90th birthday, and to Freddie Gruber who will contribute all profits from a documentary being made about his life, to the California Jazz Foundation.*

## Become a Member Now!

Visit our website [www.californiajazzfoundation.org](http://www.californiajazzfoundation.org) and click on 'Donate Now.' Follow the instructions for contributing by check or credit card.

*This inaugural newsletter was underwritten by Phil and Sandra Seymour*

# CALIFORNIA JAZZ FOUNDATION

...here to help

Winter 2008 Newsletter



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I write this initial message to our members, and to the jazz community at large, with great joy. The California Jazz Foundation has grown, in less than two years, into a viable organization with the ability to assist our jazz musicians who find themselves in life crises. We have enjoyed a warm and supportive reception from all quarters and, although a fledgling institution, have already established a track record with our musicians who are in need of assistance. We have formed a large medical referral network and have forged gratifying alliances with other pertinent non-profit organizations such as Society of Singers, Musi-Cares, The Actors Fund and Local 47 of the American Federation of Musicians. We achieved non-profit recognition from the Internal Revenue Service in January, 2007.

Our hard-working Board of Directors reflects a cross-section of the community. They are joined by a common love of jazz and a shared goal of helping those musicians who have given us all so much enjoyment over the years, often with little reward.

This Newsletter will be published quarterly and will keep our members up to date with our past and future events, with opportunities to volunteer in various areas, and will profile various involved members of the Foundation. Our first profile is that of our beloved Dr. Joe Kahn, one of our first board members who, although having relocated to Chicago, remains an invaluable resource for the Foundation. We will also keep our readers informed of the benefits of membership in the California Jazz Foundation.

*Edythe*  
Edythe L. Bronston

## ...A true story

On April 11, 2007 I was critically injured when an MTA bus struck my car. I sustained a variety of injuries ranging from a broken hip to multiple facial lacerations. I had to be cut from my car with the "jaws of life" and the vehicle was completely destroyed. Pain, disbelief and shock were quickly replaced by anxiety and overwhelming uncertainty, pondering how I would recover physically, emotionally, and financially from the growing losses suffered as a result of this accident. I felt I was on the fast track to losing everything including my home and opportunity to continue my education. As a full-time student and jazz musician needing immediate aid there was no one to help—or so I thought.

A friend called the California Jazz Foundation and within hours of learning about my situation, they began making arrangements to get me medical care, legal representation, aid to cover living

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## HELP JAZZ MUSICIANS WHEN YOU SHOP AT RALPHS

The California Jazz Foundation is now officially registered with the Ralphs Community Contribution Program, sponsored by Ralphs supermarkets. Through this program, Ralphs contributes back a percentage of your household's monthly purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

If you shop at Ralphs and have a Ralphs Club card, you can make the Foundation your charity of choice by going to: [www.ralphs.com/ccprogram.htm](http://www.ralphs.com/ccprogram.htm).

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## THE FOUNDATION'S FIRST JAZZ SUMMIT

Preparation for the Foundation's first Jazz Summit, to be held at Catalina Jazz Club on December 2, 2007 is underway as we go to press on this, our first Newsletter. The Summit, orchestrated by Event Chair Betty Hoover and Committee members Joe Rothman, Barbara Brighton, and Mike & Lucy Peak, and with substantial assistance by Board members Merle Kreibich, Dick McGarvin and our new Executive Director Sue Townsley, promises to be an exciting annual event.

The anticipated sellout crowd will partake of a sumptuous sit down dinner, accompanied by three sets of live music presented by some of our most exciting musicians, including Roy Hargrove, Roberta Gambarini, Bruce Forman, Tamir Hendelman, Gerald Clayton, Ernie Watts, Marvin "Smitty" Smith, Chuck Berghofer, Joe LaBarbera and Tony Dumas.

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...A true story  
(continued)



expenses and transportation to my physical therapy appointments. Don't these people know I'm a jazz musician? Yes, they did and that was the reason they were there for me. The California Jazz Foundation in conjunction with Society of Singers and MusiCares, made it possible for me keep my home, get the necessary medical treatment and recover enough to resume my academic studies in the 2007 fall quarter.

As a native daughter of New Orleans, the greatest jazz city in the world, I am sincerely and deeply grateful to the California Jazz Foundation for your efforts to ensure the longevity of jazz as an American art form by providing invaluable resources and services to the artists of that community in their time of need. You have made me proud to call myself a jazz musician because your efforts demonstrate a love, respect, and genuine concern for us I did not know existed. You allowed me to endure the healing process with courage and dignity. You were my bridge over troubled water and I stand on higher ground because of it. Thank you! ■

Sandra Booker  
Jazz Musician (Vocalist)

#### Community Contribution (continued)

From there, click on "Community Contribution" on the left side, click on "Sign Up" under "Participant", then input the Foundation's Non-Profit Organization number ... 84297...and then your Ralphs Club card number (13 digits, without spaces).

This is relatively painless, will only take a few minutes, and will greatly benefit the Foundation! Thank you. ■

Edythe L. Bronston, President  
California Jazz Foundation

## Profile of Joseph Kahn, M.D.

Joseph Kahn, M.D., was the first Director named to the Board of the California Jazz Foundation in January, 2006, by Edythe Bronston, founder of the fledgling organization. Joe loves to talk about the early days of jazz and his appreciation for the music and the musicians.

Joe has been a lifelong jazz fan and has had a passion for the music since boyhood. He grew up in Chicago in the 1930's, listening to his bedside radio which broadcast big band music from all over the country. An early interest in Benny Goodman, who was his favorite, ultimately led to enthusiasm for smaller groups such as Artie Shaw's Gramercy 5. In high school, Joe was friendly with Bobby Rosengarden, who took Joe home with him and introduced him to "real jazz."

In 1944, Joe was in the Army, stationed in Philadelphia for nine months. New York was a short hop away and every weekend found Joe on 52nd Street where all the greats played "real jazz" in the tiny clubs lined up one after the other. The manager of the Three Deuces was from Chicago and became friendly with Joe and the other servicemen, giving them entrée to the club with no door charge.

After the service, Joe attended University of Illinois, again spending his weekends seeking out jazz. Chicago was the site of many wonderful clubs, including The Downbeat Room, where the house band included J.C. Higginbotham, Red Allen, and regular guests, including Billie Holiday!

Medical School kept Joe too busy to pursue his musical interests and Joe joined his father in a family practice until

1972, when his father died. From 1968 to 1975, when his children were born, Joe was a member of CARE, spending one month of each year in locations such as Honduras, Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Indonesia, and the Navajo reservation, providing much needed health care.

During the late 1950's and the 1960's, Joe sought out live jazz every chance he could, haunting the clubs on Rush Street (like Mr. Kelly's and Happy Medium) and the North Side (the Club Silhouette). At the Sutherland Hotel, he saw Sonny Stitt, Miles Davis and Maynard Ferguson; at McKee's, he saw John Coltrane; at the time, Lurlean Hunter had a club where Joe saw Johnny Hartman.

Joe and his late wife, Diane, moved with their children to Los Angeles in 1978 and settled in Pasadena where he practiced medicine until 2005, when he retired. After losing Diane in 2000, he met and married the lovely Bette O'Banion in 2003. Although Joe and Bette moved to Chicago earlier this year, he remains a vital and vibrant member of the California Jazz Foundation Board, serving in an ex officio capacity, and giving generously of his sage advice.

Joe is that rare person who considers that he has led a charmed life and is blessed in that he lived through the "glory days of jazz"- and that he can remember them so vividly. ■



## YOU CAN HELP! HOW?

**Become a member...**For details, call (818) 400-3263. **Volunteer...**we need people with a background in education, insurance, medical applications and social work. We also need volunteers to assist with such diverse needs as driving clients to medical appointments, helping at one of our events, and assisting in an education program. If you have a skill or service which might be valuable to our clients, please call or visit us on our website: [www.californiajazzfoundation.org/](http://www.californiajazzfoundation.org/) ■

...here to help

## ORANGE COUNTY EVENT

Our second event took place on July 15, 2007, at the lovely home of Mike and Lucy Peak. Mike donated the services of his band, the "Peak Experience," comprised of Stacy Rowles on flugelhorn and vocals, Ann Patterson on tenor and flute, Peggy Duquesnel on piano, Richard Weller on drums, and Mike on bass. A silent auction added to the Foundation's coffers, with a multitude of items offered for bid, including a Story and Clark art deco baby grand piano, historical jazz posters, and designer jewelry. A Mexican buffet was served in the Peaks' beautiful garden and "concert-grand" time was had by all! ■



## LOCAL 47 INTRODUCTORY EVENT

The California Jazz Foundation's introduction to the jazz community took place on March 18, 2007 at Musicians Union Local 47 in Hollywood. The event, ably chaired by Betty Hoover, was a huge success and was a first in many areas. Not only did we have 27 wonderful musicians, many of whom donated their services to the Foundation by turning back their paychecks, but virtually all of our local jazz clubs donated a wide assortment of delectable food for us to sell. The Los Angeles Jazz Society came forward with a cadre of fantastic volunteers who worked tirelessly and cheerfully the entire day. Even the weather cooperated.

This marvelously welcoming vibe was commented on by all - musicians and attendees alike - and the event was so warmly received that we have been persuaded to make the Union concert an annual winter affair.

Kudos to Betty Hoover, our Event Chair, who pulled together this wonderful day, and to all of the marvelous musicians who donated their salary back to the Foundation. ■



## WELCOME TO SUE TOWNSLEY

We are extremely pleased to announce that Sue Townsley has joined the California Jazz Foundation as our Executive Director. Sue has had a long and extremely successful career at UCLA since 1977, working in the Chancellor's office, coordinating conferences and campus-wide events, working with the Development Office and spearheading the Friends of Jazz at UCLA. Her talents have been recognized by all with whom she has worked, and she has been the recipient of many achievement awards. Sue has worked closely with Kenny Burrell and Tommy Hawkins, and will continue to consult with them on a voluntary basis. Sue retired from UCLA in June, 2007 and we are the lucky organization which has obtained her stellar talents. ■

### *Foundation's First Jazz Summit* *(continued)*

As an added attraction, a live auction of many valuable items gathered by Auction Chair Sandra Seymour and her Committee, will be conducted by Todd Wohl, a professional auctioneer. Watch for photos of this event in our Spring Newsletter. ■

