

President's Message

July 21, 2020

Dear Friends,

I find myself adjusting to our new reality and am somewhat surprised to realize that along with the adjustment has come a glimmer of optimism. Although the worry is always in the background, the spirit of our jazz family fills me with joy, and I hope that it does you, too. Not a day passes without messages from our musicians, with upbeat notes and thanks for what we do. Of course, what we do gives us so much pleasure that we send that love right back.

In collecting my thoughts for this letter, I decided to start a new "tradition," that of introducing to you the individuals who comprise the California Jazz Foundation's Board of Directors, as well as a few select others who give so much to our cause. I will do so a few at a time, so that you get a sense of the talents of this extraordinary group of accomplished individuals, each of whom devotes an inordinate amount of time ... and love ... to our effort. They will be profiled randomly ... this is, after all, a JAZZ aggregation! Photos and more detail can be found on the "About Us" page on this website.

Jeffrey Winston is one of our most senior Directors and is also Secretary of the organization. He is a jazz producer, historian, journalist, poet, drummer and archivist. I first met Jeffrey when our dear mutual friend, Earl Palmer, was in the throes of his final illness and Jeffrey and I seemed to be the collectors and disbursers of information as to his status. As such, we spoke often, but had never met until one evening at a long-closed club in Glendale we ended up at the same extended table and recognized each other's voices! We became fast friends and colleagues in the joint love of the music and of the musicians who have devoted their lives to its making. I quickly learned of Jeffrey's amazing store of knowledge, historical and current, and he happens to be one of my all-time favorite emcees. He is a community activist, remains actively involved in the World Stage and is the CJF's ambassador to the jazz community. Jeffrey is always willing to lend a hand or an ear and to share his valuable insights into life and the music. He is a kind and gentle giant of a man, who I am proud to call my close friend.

Ann Dobbs is a past Director, who has served as our Administrator since 2012. Ann has been a friend of mine since 1979, when I met her daughter Lin in a sauna after a game of racketball and we learned that both her mother and I were currently law students (late bloomers both!). Ann later was elected by the Los Angeles Superior Court Judges as a Court Commissioner, where she served for 7 years and, upon her retirement, was pressed into service (by me) on behalf of our jazz community. Besides being extremely bright, funny, diplomatic and a great friend, Ann is blessed with the patience of a saint and it seems that every caller to the CJF office ends up being

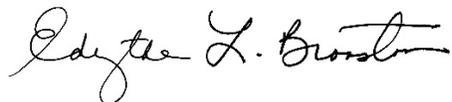
her buddy. Ann's son, Chris Dobbs, is a welcome, relatively new Board member who will be profiled in a later Message.

Peggy Barber joined the CJF Board in 2011, when she and her sister (Linda Knipe, a former Board member) were introduced to me at the Vail Jazz Party by Hanne Johnson. Peggy, who had just retired when we met, has an extensive and varied background in mathematics, engineering, lobbying, writing, technology, music, research and the uncanny ability to be able to fix anything! Peggy is a whirlwind, continuing despite her "retirement," as a public policy consultant in education legislation and always involved in political issues. She has raised a beautiful and accomplished family and adds a voice of reason to the Board's deliberations.

Greg Porée, our Music Director, is an uber-talented guitarist, composer, arranger, teacher, dog lover, and all-around great guy! He was the lead guitarist on "Dancing with the Stars" for eight years and recorded with an amazing group of iconic and diverse musicians throughout his career. Greg has been on the Board since 2012 and we can't imagine a time before he was in our lives. He has single-handedly created and is producing, directing and editing our brand new podcast series which premiered on July 17, 2020. Please check out "Sonic Tonic, the Podcast."

Next month I will profile four more of our "Significant Others!" Please continue to support our cause ... become a member, make a donation of any amount, attend our fundraising events once they have resumed, and help us to spread the word. We love to hear from you. With your support and generosity, we will always be here ... to help.

Thank you, Edythe



Edythe L. Bronston
Founder and President

