

SOUTH BAY BEAT

Volume 49

MARCH 2023

Number 3

Rich
Owens'

Thrown
Together



Jazz
Band

Sunday
March 26th
2pm band plays
1pm jam session



Sunnyvale Elks Lodge #2128

southbaytraditionaljazz.org • Admission: Members \$10 Non-Members \$15



THE SOUTH BAY BEAT

is published by

SOUTH BAY TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY

A non-profit organization dedicated to the performance, promotion and preservation of jazz.



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♪ Board Members

We would love to have you join any one of these Board Member Committees. Just let us know.



ALL YOU JAZZ LOVERS . . .

PLEASE HELP by contributing articles to the newsletter. This is YOUR paper. You are welcome to write about anything that would be of interest to our readers. We would like to hear from writers, cartoonists, artists, critics, etc. Send your contribution to Jim O'Briant at jobriant@garlic.com

ADVERTISING RATES

(effective January 2005)

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THE MUSIC BORN IN AMERICA FOR THE WORLD TO ENJOY

SOUTH BAY TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please take this opportunity to show your support for preserving trad jazz. We invite you to join by filling in the form below.

Please enroll Renew You may contact me regarding volunteer work

REGULAR MEMBERSHIPS: Thru December 2023

Individual - \$30 Couple - \$40 Musician - \$15 Musician Couple - \$20

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS: SUSTAINING - \$100 PATRON \$250 ANGEL - \$500

Would you prefer to read your South Bay Beat online? Yes No

Membership includes subscription to our *South Bay Beat* newsletter.

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____ Phone No. _____

Email _____

Make check payable to: **SOUTH BAY TRADITIONAL JAZZ SOCIETY** and mail with this form to:
SBTJS, P.O. BOX 3980, SAN JOSE, CA 95150

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joyce Taylor, President

At our South Bay Trad Jazz Music and Dance Sunday afternoon, Feb. 26th, the Nathan Tokunaga Quintet was fabulous. We had a full house with many dancers and listeners who came for Nathan and his band, and they kept the dance floor full all afternoon. The crowd couldn't stop applauding for Nathan and his band!

Britta, our dance teacher for the afternoon, was spectacular. Many of our dancers participated in Britta's dance lessons.

Thank you to those who helped decorate, set up and take down on Sunday including Sunny and Nathan Tokunaga, Bill Todd, Pritish and Manav Budrani, and a gentleman from our audience who came early to help (I

will get your name for sure at our next performance). Sanjana, a high school student, is volunteering to help us each Sunday. Cecelia Maloney, Franklin Davis, and Tom Downs have donated to our costume prizes. Thanks to each and every one of you.

On our Music and Dance Sunday afternoon, March 26th, we will feature another great band, the Rich Owens Thrown Together Jazz Band. It will be another great jazz & dance party, and once again, Kristin Wojkowski is planning to bring more vintage clothing from her "All Things Vintage" shop in Oakland.

Looking forward to March 26th and seeing you there.



SBTJS Jam Tunes MAR. 26, 2023

- 1ST JAM SET -

Starts at 1:00 pm sharp

Apex Blues	Eb
Easter Parade	Bb
Way Down Yonder in New Orleans	F
Ain't Misbehavin'	Eb
Tennessee Waltz	Bb
It's a Long Way to Tipperary	Bb
Won't You Come Home, Bill Bailey	F

- 2ND JAM SET -

Starts about 4:00-4:15 pm

Once in a While	Bb
Exactly Like You	Bb or C
Ice Cream	Bb
Dinah	F > Ab
When Irish Eyes are Smilin' (Waltz)	C
Doctor Jazz	Eb
Shine	Eb

Musicians who wish to participate in the jam sets need to sign up in advance with Don Abel or Joyce Taylor.

JAM SET PLAYERS

February 26, 2023

Joyce Taylor . . . Leader/Banjo/Vocals
 Don Abel Leader/Cornet
 Franklin Davis Trumpet/Vocals
 Lyle Gillison Reeds
 Pritish Bhudrani Reeds
 Jon Schermer Trombone
 Brian Richardson Trombone
 John Soulis Trombone
 Philip Rice Trombone
 Howard Miyata Trombone/Tuba
 Jim O'Briant Tuba
 Manav Bhudrani Guitar
 Larry Yelowitz Piano
 Bill Todd Drums
 Larry Seeger Bones/Washboard

Thanks to these musicians, who donate their time and talent. Musicians who wish to participate in SBTJS Jam Sets must sign up in advance with Joyce Taylor or Don Abel.

2023 Special Memberships

SUSTAINING

Steve & Bonnie Abrams
 Linda A. Allison Steven & Joy Apple
 Larry Blake & Carolyn Hughes
 Doc & Bernice Eggen
 Larry Farnsley
 James & Helen Goodwine
 Bob Hamilton Sharon Hicks
 Sherri Howard
 Karen Kalinsky & Stan Isaacs
 Frank & Diane Kardas
 Terry Laclair John Law
 Ken Lepere Cecelia Maloney
 Howard & Susan Miyata
 Mary Pelican & Carol Goedde
 Ken Peterson & Anita Siegel
 Eli Bail & Carol Rosenberg
 Jon & Verlene Schermer
 Sharon Swensen Joyce Taylor
 Sunny & Harvey Tokunaga
 Roz Temple & Jack Wiecks
 Larry Yelowitz

PATRON

Pat & Shirley Campbell
 Jack Gerken Judy Hagan
 Leone Rodriguez & Fred Nidiffer
 Jerry & Lois Rosenblum Bill Todd

ANGEL

We would love to see your name here!

DOUBLE ANGEL

Rick & Amy Magnuson

We appreciate & value your membership!

•• CORRECTION ••

Due to an oversight, the names of Jerry and Lois Rosenblum were inadvertently omitted from the "Special Memberships" list in the January and February issues of the South Bay Beat. Their names now appear in this listing. The South Bay Beat regrets the error.

HELP SBTJS SAVE \$3,000 PER YEAR

The cost of graphic layout, printing and postage to send printed copies of the South Bay Beat to all our members comes to about \$3,000 per year.

If you allow give us permission to do so, we will send you the South Bay Beat each month via email, in PDF format. Alternatively, you can read the South Bay Beat each month on our website:

<https://southbaytraditionaljazz.org/newsletters>

Please email our Acting Editor, Jim O'Briant at jobriant@garlic.com to ask him to move your name from the postal subscribers list to the email subscribers list.

FINANCIAL AND VENUE ISSUES PLAGUE CALIFORNIA JAZZ SOCIETIES

News has arrived from several fronts, painting a picture of jazz venue issues and financial difficulties for several local Trad Jazz organizations in California.

SAN DIEGO -- Just after the February issue of the South Bay Beat went to press, we received word from the A.F.C.D.J.S. (America's Finest City Dixieland Jazz Society) in San Diego that due to their present financial situation, they are unable to continue producing the annual Thanksgiving Festival, nor can they continue to hold their monthly jazz concert/dance events. Their announcement left the door open to resume these events at some future date, and as we learn more from them in the future, we'll keep you informed.

SANTA ROSA - T.R.A.D.J.A.S.S. of Sonoma County has moved to a new venue as of their March 5 concert & dance. The New Venue is the Druid Hall at 1022 College Avenue, Santa Rosa, at the corner of College and King Streets, across College Street from Santa Rosa Middle school. Parking is on the west side of the building, accessed from Royal St., behind the building. The band scheduled to play at T.R.A.D.J.A.S.S. on April 2 is the Rose City Ramblers.

NAPA – The Napa Valley Dixieland Jazz Society has lost access to another venue, and has moved to the Sonoma Moose Lodge, 20580 Broadway, Sonoma, CA. This move also entails a change of meeting date for the NVDJS, who are now meeting on the Second Saturday of each month. Their guest band on March 11 will be Tom Barnebey's Hot Four Jazz Band plus One.

MONTEREY – After meeting each month for more than a decade at the Monterey Elks Lodge, the Monterey Hot Jazz

Society (MHJS) will move to a new venue. Sunday, March 12 will be their last monthly session at the Elks Lodge. MHJS will move to a new venue in April, but the location has not yet been announced. Easter falls on April 9, which would normally be the date of the MHJS "Second Sunday" event. We should be able to announce their new venue in the April issue of the South Bay BEAT. The scheduled band for April 16 is the Bounce Kitty Buskers.

SUNNYVALE – We're pleased to be able to tell you that our own SBTJS appears stable by comparison. We've been holding our monthly Jazz & Dance Parties at the Sunnyvale Elks Lodge for years, and we see nothing on the horizon to change that. In addition, our finances are good. We're not rolling in dough, but neither are we in any sort of precarious financial situation.

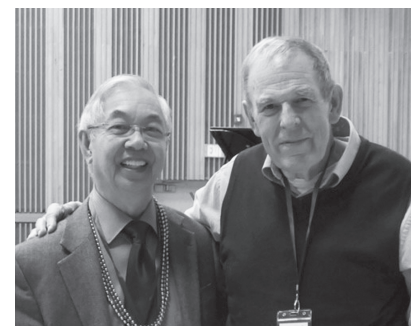
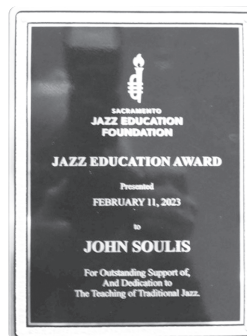
Thanks for this goes to our members who pay their dues promptly, and many of whom have become Sustaining Members, Patrons or Angels via an extra donation to help ensure our society's longevity. If you haven't yet paid your SBTJS membership dues for 2023, please do it now, using the form on page 2, or pay your dues when you come to hear the Thrown Together Jazz Band on March 26. Bring friends with you to SBTJS, and if they have a good time, bring them again.

Remember the words of Bob Branom, one of the founders of the Gateway Jazz Society in Saint Louis: *"If you love something, support it. If you don't, it will disappear."*

JOHN SOULIS HONORED BY SACRAMENTO JAZZ EDUCATION FOUNDATION

For many years, SBTJS members John and Sharon Soulis have been active in the Bay Area Trad Jazz scene. John is probably best known as Trombonist and Leader of the Mission Gold Jazz Band, which has played at South Bay countless times. He and his trombone are frequently on stage with the South Bay Jammers. John is also President of the East Bay Traditional Jazz Society, which operates the Jazzinators youth band, and which funds jazz education scholarships for students attending summer jazz camps in California.

All that John has done to promote Traditional Jazz and to mentor young musicians over the years has been recognized by the Sacramento Jazz Education Foundation, who have honored him with their prestigious Jazz Education Award.



Dr. William Au and John Soulis

John received his award from Foundation President Dr. William Au at a ceremony in Sacramento on February 11, in conjunction with the Foundation's Teagarden Youth Jazz Festival.

On behalf of all the members of the South Bay Traditional Jazz Society, our Board extend their congratulations to John Soulis for this long-deserved and well-deserved recognition.

WHO WAS DANCIN' & JAMMIN' ON FEB. 26TH?



Rich Owens'

THROWN TOGETHER JAZZ BAND

Rich Owens formed the Thrown Together Jazz Band in 2009 to provide entertainment for a local charity crab feed. The band was, in effect, “thrown together” to play for this event, and that’s where their name originated. They were such a hit that it became an annual performance, with each member bringing fun and enthusiasm to the performance, and each one spurring the others to play great jazz. True jazz is

improvised, so the band doesn't hold rehearsals. (Rich says, “Never have. Never will.”) Like the band’s late Grammy award-winning recording engineer Fred Catero once said, “It's like going fishing. You never know what you're going to get.” Still, we can always count on this band to be fun and surprising, and to provide a unique and memorable experience.

Personnel: **Larry Blake**, Trumpet; **Tom Belmessieri**, Trumpet; **Guido Fazio**, Reeds; **Howard Miyata**, Trombone; **Keith Baltz**, Tuba; **Allan Grissette**, Drums; **Pat Dutrow**, banjo/guitar; **Rich Owens**, piano, leader.



NATHAN TOKUNAGA WINS “JAZZ AT THE BALLROOM” SCHOLARSHIP

“Jazz at the Ballroom” is an organization whose mission is to keep swinging, classic jazz alive and thriving by sharing this unique American art form with the public. One part of their program is to sponsor, annually, three \$1,000 scholarships, which are awarded to three California high school students between the ages of 14 and 18.

Nathan Tokunaga, whose “Nathan Tokunaga Quintet” entertained us at SBTJS on February 26, has been named as recipient of one of this year’s scholarships. \$500 of this award will help pay for Nathan’s continuing musical education. The other \$500 will be paid to Nathan as a performing musician. All scholarship recipients are hired for at least three paid performances as part of Jazz at the Ballroom events.



Nathan’s mom, Sunny Tokunaga, is about as supportive a parent as any kid could want. She brought Nathan to SBTJS for the first time in January, 2020. She she’s a “Clarinet Mom” (the musical equivalent of

a Soccer Mom) because Nathan only recently turned 16 and doesn’t yet have his driver’s license. And to support Nathan’s musical growth, Sunny now serves as a volunteer on the South Bay Board of Directors.

When this scholarship was announced, Sunny sent a long email to the rest of the SBTJS Board, to thank our organization for Nathan’s musical growth. She singled out some Board Members in particular:

Treasurer Jon Schermer was “the only person who replied to my many cold emails to various jazz clubs etc. looking for a traditional youth jazz band. You connected us with John Soulis where Nathan played trad jazz for the very first time with his Jazzinators.”

Acting Beat Editor Jim O’Briant “made our very first visit to South Bay so much more welcoming. You also gave Nathan his first set of lead sheets of the South Bay Jammers on a thumb drive. You and Jon brought Clint to our table where we sat like deer in the highlights.”

Board President Joyce Taylor “welcomed Nathan, who knew few tunes and had no idea how to improvise yet, into the jammers’ family. Nathan played with you all once in Feb 2020 before the pandemic hit. I have videos to show that he was so very happy just to be able to play the melody of a few selected songs.”

Board Member & bandleader Clint Baker is “the best mentor anyone could ever have. I still remember the spark in Nathan's eyes on the way home from his first lesson with you and how he uncharacteristically, excitedly talked the whole way home. You have given Nathan all that you have, and have done all that you could for what's best for him. Nathan is most fortunate to have you by his side.”

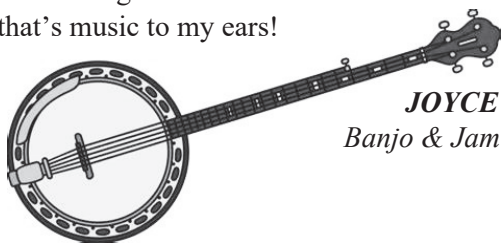
Event Coordinator & Social Media Guru Heidi Arnott “lifts Nathan up. You trust him and have given him so many opportunities to push boundaries and grow. He learned how to play the lead horn, back up a vocalist, and adapt to a cool swinging style when needed. You gave him the chance to lead his own professional band.”

Sunny concluded her message thus: “Nathan wouldn't be where he is today without each and every one of you. If you told me, during that first visit in January 2020, that in three short years Nathan would be leading a professional band on the South Bay stage, I'd have thought you were out of your minds. How can I ever say enough “thank-yous?” Hopefully, Nathan is an example of how we can come together to nurture and support more young musicians!”

MUSIC & MUSIC

As usual, the South Bay Jammers played very well on Sunday, Feb. 26th, and without a rehearsal. It was a pleasant surprise when the Budrani brothers walked in, to play the second Jam Set with us. Prithvi plays clarinet, and younger brother Manav plays guitar. You two were a wonderful addition. Keep coming back!

A couple of dancers told me they had heard that "jammer bands" didn't provide good music for dancing, but they decided to stay and check us out anyway. Afterward, they seemed surprised, and they said that our South Bay Jammers were a great band for dancing, and that they'll be back again, for dancing with both the Jammers and the guest band. Now that's music to my ears!



JOYCE TAYLOR
Banjo & Jam Set Co-Leader

SBTJS DATES FOR 2023

Mark your calendar now so you don't miss any of our 2023 Sunday Jazz & Dance Parties!

- March 26
- April 23
- May 21 (3rd Sunday)
- June 25
- July 23
- August 27
- September 24
- October 22
- November 19 (3rd Sunday)
- December 17 (3rd Sunday)

(We usually meet on the 4th Sunday of each month. Sometimes, it is moved to the third Sunday, usually to avoid the weekends of Memorial Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas).

NAPA VALLEY DIXIELAND JAZZ SOCIETY

Second Saturday of EACH MONTH
APRIL 8, 2023
CELL BLOCK 7

SONOMA MOOSE LODGE • 20580 Broadway, Sonoma, CA
\$10 Members of NVDJS & other Jazz Societies, \$12 Public
www.napatradjazz.org

FRIENDS OF JAZZ

DANCE PARTY
AT DANVILLE GRANGE HALL
Grange Hall, 743 Diablo Rd.
- THIRD SATURDAYS -
More info. www.jazznut.com
510-655-6728



MONTEREY
HOT JAZZ SOCIETY
JAZZ

P.O. BOX 2765 MONTEREY, CA 93942
1:00 - 5:00 P.M. EVERY 2ND SUNDAY

at the Elks Lodge located in
150 MAR VISTA DRIVE, MONTEREY
Info. (831) 626-3146
(831) 449-3204
www.montereyhotjazzsociety.org

AT THE DOOR - \$15 Members/active military/students/club members - \$8

Fresno Dixieland Society

1 pm-5 pm • Fresno Elks Lodge 439
5351 N. Diana Ct., Fresno, CA
Info. Stephanie 559-246-4160
Members: \$10 Non-members: \$15
www.fresnodixie.com



NEW ORLEANS JAZZ CLUB

OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
P.O. BOX 27232, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94127
Meets on the Third Sunday-1:00-5:00 pm



March 19
Toot Sweet Jazz Band

www.nojcnc.org

Richmond Elks Lodge, 3931 San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante, CA
Info.: Tom Belmessieri, 925-432-6532 TBELMO@HOTMAIL.COM



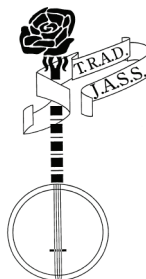
SAN JOAQUIN DIXIELAND JAZZ SOCIETY

2 dance floors Guest Bands plus Jam Set
First Sunday of each month
12:00-5:00 pm

ELKS LODGE
8900 Thornton Road, Stockton, CA

APR. 2, 2023 - Yosemite Jazz Band

www.stocktondixielandjazz.org/contact-us



T·R·A·D J·A·S·S

**NEW
VENUE!**

DRUID HALL
1011 COLLEGE AVE., SANTA ROSA, CA
1:00-5:00 pm each first Sunday
707-478-3312

P.O. Box 2861 Santa Rosa, CA 94505

April 2, 2023 - Rose City Ramblers
Info: <https://tradjass.org/>

ADMISSION PRICES: <https://tradjass.org/admission/>

South Bay Traditional Jazz Society

P.O. Box 3980, San Jose, CA 95150

southbaytraditionaljazz.org

Return Service Requested

**FIRST
CLASS**

2023 CALENDAR of EVENTS

MAR. 26 *Rich Owens' Thrown Together Jazz Band*

APR. 23 *The Chris Bradley Jazz Band*

MAY 21 *Heidi Evelyn's New Orleans (3rd Sun.) Jazz Band*

All material for inclusion in the April issue of the "South Bay Beat" must be in the hands of the Acting Editor - Jim O'Briant by 12 noon on Friday, March 31st. jobriant@garlic.com

BOARD MEETING

**WEDNESDAY
MAR. 29, 2023**

11:30 a.m.

Elks Lodge

**375 N. Pastoria Ave.
Sunnyvale, CA 94085**



Rich Owens' **THROWN TOGETHER JAZZ BAND**

PERSONNEL:

Larry Blake, Trumpet

Tom Belmessieri, Trumpet

Guido Fazio, Reeds

Howard Miyata, Trombone

Keith Baltz, Tuba

Allan Grissette, Drums

Pat Dutrow, Banjo/Guitar

Rich Owens, Piano, Leader

**SUNDAY
MARCH 26, 2023**

1:00-4:45 PM

**Sunnyvale Elks Lodge #2128
375 N. Pastoria Ave.
Sunnyvale, CA 94085**