

Cape May Jazz give scholarships to young musicians

By **LESLIE TRULUCK**
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Every year the Executive Board of Friends of Cape May Jazz, Inc. congratulate outstanding young musicians with scholarships to continue their academic musical pursuits. This year Rebecca Russ of Middle Township High School, Kristin Brannan and Joshua Getka of Lower Cape May Regional High School, Peter Chamberlain, Kayla Ghanavati, and John Knight of Ocean City High School were each awarded a \$1,000

scholarship because they have each proven to be dedicated musicians.

Friends of Cape May Jazz, the Producers of the Cape May Jazz Festival celebrated with the recipients of their annual scholarships Aug. 15 at the Mad Batter.

"The students are not limited to jazz instruments though most jazz musicians are trained in classical styles," executive director David Greenspun said.

"We wish we could give to all of the applicants but it was very competitive this year and these recipients are

exceptional," said Greenspun.

The Cape May Jazz Festival is in their 16th year showcasing headliners and local acts each March and November at many venues in Cape May including Carney's, Cabanas, The Grand, Inn of Cape May, as well as Convention Hall and Star of the Sea school.

This November the 28th Cape May Jazz Festival presents "Favorites Return," a retrospective of some of their fondest jazz performers, including The Duke Ellington Orchestra, and Pieces of a Dream.

The festival showcases different bands each year and has seen at least a hundred musicians.

"Over the past 15 years we've had a lot of good and bad times, we've lost many musicians and people who were instrumental in getting us started, but like the jazz song says: the best is yet to come," co-founder and president Woody Woodland said.

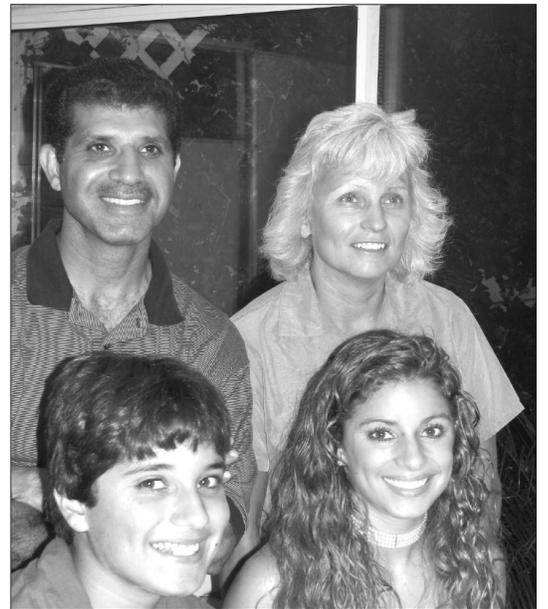
Woodland and Carol Stone founded the festival nearly sixteen years ago.

"Carol has done a remarkable job handling the nuts and bolts, my role is primarily dealing with the musicians, employees, publicity," Woodland said.

"Our jazz festival attracts many people of similar taste and concerns who meet in Cape May and become a part of the ambiance that we have created. It's a trip watching and observing the relationships that develop," said Woodland.

"Jazz brings people together and if for no other reason than providing an atmosphere of entertainment, that is my reward and the reward of all involved," he continued.

"We couldn't do it all by ourselves. There are so many interested and involved volunteers. We hope to continue to perpetuate jazz and the culture of jazz, not just here in Cape May. I think musicians are the most underpaid professionals in America, they provide entertainment and joy to so many people with very little monetary rewards, we try to pay the musicians what they ask but we let them know our bud-



Above, Kayla Ghanavati celebrates with her parents Kathy and Ali and brother, Kameron. At left, special guest Alan Weber on mike performs with Will McGrady on keyboard and Jack Meggie on bass.



Theater

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ation hopes to use the proposed stage to host the New Jersey State Film Festival and/or the Cape May Jazz Festival and make the theater available for individual and corporate rentals.

BTF plans fundraising events and promotions to raise money to pay the city loan, restoration of the theater, theater operation, and to develop a plan to present to the prospective new owner(s).

The foundation began when Jackson read of the theater's potential demolition in the Star and Wave and wrote a vision for the theater which

he gave to former Mayor Jerry Gaffney who serves as a liaison between the foundation and city council. Board members were introduced based on recommendations and a group of nine individuals formed the 501c3 non-profit known as the Beach Theatre Foundation.

The BTF's mission is to establish the theater and correlate the city as an internationally recognized film center. Appreciation, education, and production are among their many goals.

One of many theaters acquired by W.C. Hunt, the Beach Theatre complex was

designed by architect William H. Lee and originally opened in June 1950. Beach Theatre was the first in Cape May County to install a stereophonic sound system.

The theater was modernized 20 years ago, split into four separate theaters, large sidewalk flower gardens were removed and the fluorescent exterior light was added. The foundation intends to retain some modernity but also recreate some of the original aesthetics particularly in the curved 1950s-style marquee.

Other successfully restored theaters designed by Lee like one in Bryn Mawr, Pa. were

used as examples and inspiration for the foundation's efforts.

The city's right to eminent domain was brought up and quickly dropped during the question and answer period.

"It has not been discussed, I don't think the city wants that; it's a nasty process," Jackson said.

There will be no extraordinary construction in the first year and the renovations will be the responsibility of the new owner.

Jackson said the foundation will make minor improvements like steam-cleaning, painting, and "freshening-up

the bathrooms."

Anna Masciarella, who leases the Boutique at the Beach in the Beach Theatre Complex, said there is an apparent mold problem in the complex and questioned the condition of the building as well as the foundation's capacity to open the theater in October while there are evident mold and leaking problems.

"Franks has neglected the building," Masciarella said.

"We pledge that we want a theater that will be a great experience even if we must delay opening," Jackson said.

Residents expressed their concern with the develop-

ment of condos proposed by Frank Investments and approved by the Historical Preservation Committee earlier this month.

"Regardless of whether it becomes a theater I just don't want it to be condos. I think the building should be used for cultural venues," resident Hope Gaines said.

"We are a preservation town and we need culture. Older people don't want to drive to Rio Grande to see a movie," resident Marie Lawrence said.

The foundation urged public attendance at the City Council meeting Sept. 4.

Bust

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rants at the residences of Steven, Albert Sr. and Steven's mother, Karen Grasch with court authorized search warrants.

Approximately \$26,000 cash, four and a half ounces of cocaine estimated at a street value of \$13,000, over 600 prescription pills includ-

ing Zanax, hydrocodone and anabolic steroids estimated at a street value of \$3,500 and four motor vehicles were among the items seized during the searches.

Those convicted of being a leader or "kingpin" of a nar-

cotics distribution network, a first degree crime, may be sentenced up to life imprisonment in the New Jersey State Prison where the person must serve 25 years before being eligible for parole.

Those convicted of a second-degree crime may be sentenced between five and ten years in the state prison.

Those convicted of a third degree crime may be sentenced between three to five

years in prison.

Civil forfeiture actions were filed last week by the Prosecutors office in the Superior Court of New Jersey seeking forfeiture of the real property of 506 Washington Boulevard, North Cape May, owned by Albert and Karen Grasch and 900 Route 47, Green Creek, owned by Steven Grasch.

Forfeiture actions are also anticipated on the four seized

vehicles.

The prosecutors Office will also seek forfeiture of \$57,300 in cash that includes \$31,300 in cash funds seized by search warrant from a safe box rented in the name of Albert Grasch.

Prosecutor Taylor said the investigation is continuing and additional arrests are pending in another phase of investigation.

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Dance

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band each week," Hall said.

Al Raymond was director before he retired and moved to Arizona last year. Hall said

this would have been Raymond's forty-first year.

"I don't know when the dances started, it could have been going before Al retired," Hall said, "I know it's been going on at least 41 years."

Fred Hall encourages

dancers of all levels and ages to come participate.

The band also plays at the Queen Maysea Pageant and during the West Cape May Christmas Parade and are available for weddings and other events.

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600 Park Blvd. #28, West Cape May, NJ 08204
PHONE: (609) 884-3466 FAX: (609) 884-2893
Entered at Post Office in Cape May, NJ 08204 as a periodical

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES: By mail in Cape May County: \$22; East of Mississippi, \$25; West of Mississippi: \$29, Mail subscriptions paid in advance. Newsstand price .50 per copy.

PUBLICATIONS SCHEDULE: Weekly, every Thursday.

POSTMASTER: Send address change to Cape May Star and Wave, 600 Park Blvd. #28, West Cape May, NJ 08204.

ASSISTANCE: For information on starting mail home delivery of the Cape May Star and Wave, call (609) 884-3466 weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.