



DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF CLASSIC POPULAR MUSIC

Make Someone Happy: Paul & Rochelle Chamlin Celebrating the Music of Jule Styne

By Jerry Osterberg



Photo by Rose Billings

Should you need convincing that it's not only today's young rock stars who burn up the sky, study the career of Jule Styne and marvel. Styne played concert music at the age of ten, and in a pop band at thirteen, began to write songs at sixteen, and wrote his first successful tune at the tender age of twenty-one. The classic, "Sunday," which sold 500,000 pieces of sheet music in 1926, was quickly recorded by Clift Edwards aka Ukulele Ike & His Hot Combination, and charted at Number 3. And who can forget the Keller Sisters, who, backed by the Jean Goldkette Orchestra, similarly scored big in 1927?

For close to seven decades, Jule Styne built a catalog of over 1,500 songs, including "Limpy Dimp" from the film Hold That Co-Ed, which featured John Barrymore and George Murphy in 1938, to "When It Happens to You" from The Red Shoes, Styne's last Broadway outing in 1993. His tunes have been heard in more than 150

movies, among them It Happened in Brooklyn, which introduced us to "Time After Time," which was recorded by many, most notably Frank Sinatra and Margaret Whiting. He contributed music to the Ice Capades of 1942 and 1943, and with Sammy Cahn, wrote Glad to See You, his first full-fledged musical in 1944. Despite being directed by Busby Berkeley and starring Eddie Foy, Jr, the show closed during tryouts in Philadelphia. But, not all was not lost. From that largely forgotten musical emerged "Guess I'll Have to Hang My Tears Out to Dry."

In all, Styne's musicals reached the Broadway boards over twenty times, making a number of stars along the way – Nanette Fabray, Carol Channing, Judy Holliday, Carol Lawrence, and Barbra Streisand among them. Several of his productions had long runs: High Button Shoes, Bells Are Ringing, Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, Sugar, Do Re Mi, and Gypsy, but the real blockbuster was Funny Girl. Directed by Garson Kanin, with lyrics by Bob Merrill, choreography by Carol Haney, and supervised by Jerome Robbins, it ran for 1,348 performances at the Winter Garden, having opened on March 26, 1964. Besides Streisand, Funny Girl starred Sydney Chaplin, Kay Medford, and Jean Stapleton. In the score was "Don't Rain on My Parade," which became an iconic standard for Streisand, but it was "People" which brought her to the attention of the public, providing the foundation for a brilliant recording career.

As with other performers who discovered Jule Styne over the years, Paul and Rochelle Chamlin have chosen well. Married seven years, each brings a lot of talent to the match. Paul, a long-time member of the NYSMS, is an accomplished musician who has been an integral part of the music scene in the New York metropolitan

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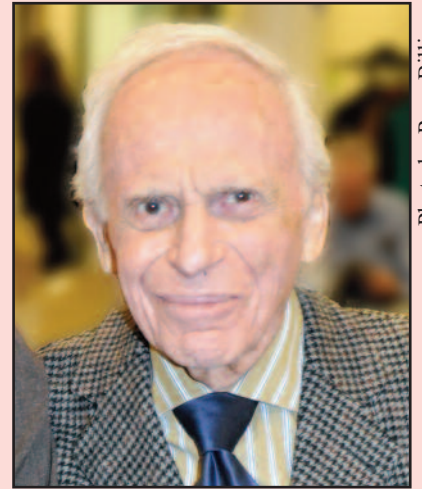


Photo by Rose Billings

ERVIN DRAKE – THE MAN, THE MUSIC & LOVES

By Linda Amiel Burns &
Sandi Durell

Cabaret aficionados are aware of the continued presence of Ervin Drake and his beautiful wife, Edith, and their ongoing support of the American popular song. They are devoted, inseparable and enjoy a relationship as long and uninterrupted as Ervin's successful career. But there's so much more to the story.

"When I was seventeen, it was a very good year....." And it was because that's when Ervin Drake met his soul mate, Edith Bein. She was 17, he was 20. However, it was an ill-fated time for love. Ervin, a young man with dreams of becoming a great songwriter; Edith a gorgeous model and show girl, with dreams of pursuing a career and higher lifestyle which, at the time, didn't seem to be with Ervin! Although they had a steamy affair, by the time Ervin was 23 the beautiful and sexy showgirl left him. Ah, the torturous pangs of love lost. How Ervin suffered! The loss so great that in 1946 he wrote one of his most famous

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President's Message...

Linda Amiel Burns, President

Thank you all for such a great turn out for our January Program. It seems that the NYSMS members are like the postal workers in that "neither snow, nor sleet nor cold weather can keep us from our monthly meetings." Paul and Rochelle Chamlin's terrific program, "Gems By Jule" was certainly worth the trip, and we have received many nice comments on the afternoon. You can read all about it in our feature article by Editor Jerry Osterberg. Recently, I went to our website: www.NYSMS.org and looked at our archives and read many of the past Newsletters. It is amazing to see all the great entertainers, composers, authors, articles and programs we have enjoyed over the years. No wonder we won a MAC Award!

It is with great sadness I must tell you of the loss of our esteemed member and great composer Ervin Drake at age 95. He and Edith have always been such an integral part of our organization, and no meeting would have been complete without some great joke or comment from Ervin. The NYSMS honored him many times, and each event was well deserved. I always saved Edith and Ervin their seats in the front row; our meetings will not be the same without him. However, Edith will need our love and support, and we all want to make sure that she gets out and about. I hope that we can celebrate her birthday (February 7th) at our Valentine's Day Meeting on February 14th. I went to the moving funeral in Great Neck; the chapel was absolutely packed, despite the pouring rain. A tribute event is being planned for the spring, and I will let you all know about it, when details are finalized.

Birthday congratulations to Sondra Gorney. It is hard to believe that this beautiful woman is 97! I have known her for many years, as her daughter Karen (Saturday Night Fever) was once married to my cousin. Sondra is an inspiration to us all, and we want to wish her many, many more happy birthdays!

We have many great programs planned for the rest of the season. On Feb. 14th, don't miss Karen Oberlin & Steve Ross in their acclaimed show which even was presented in London: "Cheek to Cheek – The Songs of Astaire and Rodgers!" On March 14th, the marvelous Ronny Whyte will be bringing his "Jazz @ Noon Series" to us, with surprise guests, On April 11th we are hoping to celebrate Marilyn Maye's 87th birthday with her, but if she has a paying gig, another wonderful show is standing by. On May 9th – Tom Toce will be presenting our annual Songwriter Series, which is always a must-see. Our June program is now TBA, as Steve Ross got an exciting paying gig, so his terrific Johnny Mercer Program will be rescheduled.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Valentine's Day!

Best,

Linda

New York Sheet Music Society

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Photo by Rose Billings

**MEETING LOCATION - Local 802 - Musicians' Hall at 322 West 48th Street.
Program: 1:45 - 3:30PM.**



Member News...

If you have any member news, or other items you would like to have considered for this newsletter, please send it by e-mail to the co-editor, Jerry Osterberg: osterbergg@AOL.com. It will be subject to editing, depending on size and content, and please remember that we try to go to press two weeks before each monthly meeting. We often get very good items that get to us after the newsletter has been printed and mailed.

Linda Amiel Burns, NYSMS President, is celebrating the 37th year of The Singing Experience. She would love to have more of our Society's members join the cast in joyful song. Talk to those who have – Joan Adams, Lynn DiMenna, Jerry Osterberg and Carol Shedlin. Call Linda at 212-315-3500 to sign up. The Singing Experience Cable TV show continues on MNN Time Warner: Channel 56 or RCN: Channel 111. The program broadcasts are every Sunday at 5:00 PM. You can also see your fellow NYSMS members on YouTube at any time.

After taking a well-deserved vacation, Linda Amiel Burns is primed to celebrate the 38th Anniversary of The Singing Experience! The first workshop of the 2015 season, *Pick Yourself Up*, begins on **Tuesday, February 10** at 6:30 PM. All rehearsals take place at Studio 353, located at 353 West 48th Street, between Eighth and Ninth Avenues, and run until 9:30 PM. Additional rehearsals are: February 17 and 24, and March 3. A gala performance on **March 10** @ 7:30 PM at Stage 72 at the Triad will showcase the talents of the current graduates, who now number over 5,000. For additional information, call 212-315-3500 or e-mail: linda@singingexperience.com.

The latest edition of Will Friedwald's *Clip Joint* is *Clip Joint for Lovers*, just in time for Valentine's Day – **Thursday, February 12 @ 7:00 PM** at Zeb's Place, 223 West 28th Street, second floor. Guaranteed to be a fun evening, the movie and TV clips feature Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, Peggy Lee, Dinah Shore, Judy Garland, Elvis Presley, Billy Eckstine, Johnny Hartman, Margaret Whiting, Stan Getz, Chet Baker, and the legendary Mickey Mouse! All of this for \$10! RSVP: levis44@yahoo.com.

Midday Jazz Midtown continues on Wednesdays (1:00 PM to 2:00 PM) at Saint Peter's Church (East 54 Street (entrance) @ Lexington Ave), NYC, Hosted by Ronny Whyte. Programs: **February 4**, Sweet Megg & The Wayfarers, jazz of the '20's & '30's, Megg Farrell – singer, Ryan Weisheit – reeds, Brandon Vetrano – Gypsy guitar, Abe Pollack – bass, Garrett Manley- guitar; **February 11**, Daryl Sherman – singer/pianist, Art Baron – trombone; **February 25**, Eugene Marlow's Heritage Ensemble; **March 4**, Junior Mance Trio, Junior Mance – piano, Hide Tanaka – bass, Michi Fuji – Violin, **March 11**, Russ Kasoff Big Band; **March 18**, Harvie S – bass, Alan Broadbent – piano; **March 25**, Stan Rubin's Tigertown Five. Suggested donation: \$10. Parking: Icon Parking, East 51 St, between Third and Lexington Ave. \$15 including tax for five hours with validation @ Saint Peter's reception desk. www.ronnywhyte.com/ www.saintpeters.org/jazz/midtownjazz.htm.

The Redheads, aka Corky Romash & Alicia Lazansky, will be appearing at the Metropolitan Room, 34 West 22nd Street @ 7:00 PM on **Tuesday, March 3**. Barry Levitt will be the Musical Director. Cover charge \$22.50 plus a two drink minimum. Reservations: 212-206-0440.

Ronny Whyte has a new CD: *Nevertheless, the Kalmar & Ruby Songbook*, featuring Warren Vache, Lou Caputo, Ben Sher, Boots Maleson & David Silliman. The brilliant album includes: "Nevertheless," "Give Me the Simple Life," "Who's Sorry Now," "Three Little Words," "A Kiss to Build a Dream On," and "I Wanna Be Loved By You." Why not contact Santa at www.ronnywhyte.com/?

Karen Oberlin & Sean Harkness have just released a new CD *A Wish* on Miranda Music. If you never had the opportunity to see their fantastic show, here's a chance to hear what you missed. The album incorporates a mix of standards, as well as some lesser known tunes, but those with staying power: "More Than You Know," "A Wish," "Train in the Distance," "Remind Me."

The Mabel Mercer Foundation presents *Cabaret at Sea* with Eric Yves Garcia, Marilyn Maye, Billy Stritch, KT Sullivan, **May 4-14**, Silversea Silver Shadow luxurious cruise along the majestic Inside Passage to Alaska. Begins in San Francisco and ends in Vancouver, B.C.

MEMBERS: SELL YOUR CDS AT MEETINGS! You've seen Kitty Skrobela at a table full of CDS against the wall. Those represent the recordings of members of the NYSMS. Bring two of yours to any meeting and receive \$15 for each one sold. You can leave one with Kitty for the next time or bring more if both are sold. People check every month to see what's new. Don't lose out! Don't be shy! Bring in those CDS of yours and walk out with hard money!

Do you seek an elusive song? If you do, write NYSMS Board member Sandy Marrone @ smusandy@aol.com or call 856-829-6104. You can also visit Sandy in New Jersey to see thousands and thousands of sheets of music, most of which can be yours very reasonably. She is a marvelous resource and a super-great lady!

Tom Toce has released his CD *Hopelessly in Love: The Lyrics of Tom Toce*. It features Carole J. Bufford, Jack Donahue and Jennifer Sheehan, as well as Matthew Martin Ward on piano, Boots Maleson on bass, and guest vocalist Jane Monheit. You'll find it at Amazon, AllMusic, Barnes & Noble and iTunes. www.tomtocemusic.com.

Sandi Durell is Publisher-Editor of TheaterPizzazz.com, a vital website that presents up to date theater reviews, news, interviews and previews, along with cabaret reviews and videos. There is a large contributing group of writers who offer discerning and professional reviews and information. Sandi is a Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards Voter, member of the American Theatre Critics Association, League of Professional Theatre Women, The Lambs, and The Dutch Treat Club. Visit: www.theaterpizzazz.com.

Dennis Livingston's debut CD *The Stories in My Mind: The Songs of Dennis Livingston*, is the subject of a one-hour interview hosted by Jim Farley at the *Musical/World Podcast* website. The program includes a conversation about the songs and his life as a cabaret/jazz songwriter, along with anecdotes about his songwriting father Jerry Livingston. The podcast can be heard at www.musicalworld.us or the iTunes Store (write musicalworld in the search window).

CD can be purchased from *CD Baby*: <http://cdbaby.com/cd/dennislivingston>.

Dennis Livingston was one of four finalists for the 2014 Dottie Berman Award, given annually by MAC to cabaret songwriters over forty. The songs which captured the judges' attention were: "Every Time I Look at You" (Christina Connors & Kenneth Gartman), "Such a Curious Feeling" (David McMullen & George Fulginiti-Shakar), and "The Storyteller" Ashley Lieberman & Doug Hammer). All but the last were recorded live. Well done Dennis!

Dennis Livingston and Bob Levy report that their brand new song "Bless Our Home at Hanukkah" is now available in a demo recording and in sheet music form as a piano vocal and soon to be in choral form. Please contact Dennis for more information: dennis@dennislivingston.com.

"Dr. Sue" Horowitz (Singer-Songwriter-Author- *Queens of Comedy*) is becoming a media personality. Her photo-video blog (www.drue.com) is now syndicated on *JCT Multimedia* and *Local Talent Connect* as a Thursday column: *ETC: Entertainment, Travel & Creative Living*. Recent radio appearances include WBAB and WBLI (Dr. Sue shares life tips, songs, and funny banter). Sue has also been singing jazz standards with the world-renowned Rick Bogart Trio at the elegant Broadway Thai Restaurant, 241 West 51 St. between Broadway & Eight Avenue. Recently, Sue sang her original song "A Jewish Girl Named Tex" with the *Tomatoes Got Talent* show at the Triad. Call 212-732-0487 or write drsue@drsue.com.

Chamlin...

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area for over thirty years as a musical director, accompanist, vocal coach and singer. Rochelle is a classically trained vocalist who has performed in opera, oratorio and musical theater. Together they have created seven shows, one for every year of wedded bliss, including Let's Get Away From It All and From Hollywood to Haymarket, both of which received rave notices from Cabaret Scenes, Bistro Awards and others.

NYSMS spent a grand afternoon with the Chamlins, who charmed us with more than two dozen songs, not all of them iconic, but all worthy of being heard. Close to half of the set was written by Styne with Sammy Cahn, a collaboration that introduced the world to



many of the most enduring standards, including "I Fall in Love Too Easily" (Anchors Away), "I've Heard That Song Before" (Youth on Parade), "I'll Walk Alone" (Follow the Boys), "It's Been a Long, Long Time,"

and "Three Coins in the Fountain," which won an Oscar in 1955. Some of their tunes were not as familiar – "Can't You Just See Yourself" (High Button Shoes), "Blame My Absent Minded Heart" and "There's Nothing Rougher Than Love" (It's a Great Feeling).

The Chamlin team included a pair of songs written for the film *Sweater Girl*, with Frank Loesser: "I Don't Want to Walk Without You Baby" and "I Said No," about a gullible housewife who is persuaded by a presumably handsome salesman to purchase a subscription to Liberty Magazine, perhaps the edition containing the essay by Al Capone. Although everyone in the room seemed to anticipate the punchline, the clever lyrics produced the desired chuckle nevertheless. In spite of all the firepower that Jule Styne devoted to musical theater, working with

lyricists such as Bob Merrill, Betty Comden, Adolf Green, Leo Robin, and Stephen Sondheim, he won just one Tony Award, for *Hallelujah, Baby* in 1968, written with Comden & Green, and starring Leslie Uggams, who shared a Tony with Patricia Routledge.

Although not all of Jule Styne's efforts produced such stellar results, his batting average was certainly impressive and competitive with other giants of the Golden Age of Broadway musicals. That Paul and Rochelle selected one of the most prolific composers of the period was fortunate for them and very fortunate for the members of the NYSMS. The Chamlins are delightfully warm and engaged performers, and the audience responded accordingly. For those keeping track, their batting average is 1,000.



Drake...

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songs, "Good Morning Heartache," recorded by singing legend Billie Holiday and many, many others.

Ervin was born Ervin Maurice Druckman, attended the Townsend Harris School on Lexington Avenue in New York City, then entered City College where he studied graphic arts and social sciences. He studied music formally, first with Tibor Serley, a great classicist, and later at Julliard, by which time he had already written several hits. At Julliard, his instructor was Jacob Druckman, who won a Pulitzer Prize for his full orchestral work, "Windows." His older brother, Milton, also a songwriter, was famous in his own right for his novelty songs such as "Mairzy Doats", "Fuzzy Wuzzy", "Java Jive" and "I'm a Big Girl Now". His younger brother Arnold wrote text for *Batman*, *Superman*, *Deadman*, *Doom Patrol*, and *Jerry Lewis* comic books.

Although songwriting was Ervin's first love, he needed money to support his family. It was the early days of television and Ervin was practical; he realized television was the vehicle that would afford him the opportunity to earn a very good

living. And so Ervin spent a good portion of his life as a television producer, producing over 700 primetime network programs and forty specials. Some of the star-studded shows he produced/wrote included *Yves Montand on Broadway*, *Accent on Love*, co-written with Mel Brooks), *Ethel Merman Special*, *To Our First Lady With Music*, and *The Bachelor* (Jayne Mansfield, Julie Wilson, Carol Haney).

Ervin conquered Broadway in the 1964/65 season with *What Makes Sammy Run*, adapted from Budd Shulberg's novel and starring Steve Lawrence, Robert Alda and Sally Ann Howes. The show included hit songs "A Room Without Windows" and "The Friendliest Thing". When asked on whom he based the character Sammy Glick he said, "My brother, Milton." This was followed by *Her First Roman*, adapted from George Bernard Shaw's *Caesar & Cleopatra*, starring Richard Kiley and Leslie Uggams, for which he wrote music, lyrics and book.

His reputation was established in 1953 when he wrote "I Believe" with Irvin Graham, Jimmy Shirl and Al Stillman. Songstress Jane Froman, troubled by the uprising of the Korean conflict in 1952, asked Ervin to compose a song that would offer hope and faith to the American people.



Ervin has a large catalog of songs, some translated from other languages such as "Tico Tico", "Perdido", "Al Di La" and "Quando, Quando, Quando," and he supplied lyrics for hundreds of other songs. He had his first real financial success when Eddy Howard's band recorded "The Rickety Rickshaw Man." Although it was the B side, it took off and sold over a million copies. His most famous song, however, was not an immediate hit. "It Was A Very Good Year" was written in 1961 and originally recorded as a folk song by the Kingston Trio. One day Frank Sinatra was driving along, listening to the radio and heard the song. He called

Gordon Jenkins, his arranger, and said “I want to record this song on my ‘September of My Years’ album (1965)”. Although Sinatra was not musically educated, his



Photo by Rose Billings

instincts were impeccable and he would invariably tell the arranger what instruments he wanted in any recording. For this one he asked for reeds and strings to predominate. Gordon Jenkins won a Grammy Award for Best Instrumental Arrangement Accompanying Vocalist(s) and Sinatra a Best Vocal Performance, Male in 1966.

Ervin was President of the Songwriters Guild of America from 1973 to 1982 and is a current Executive Board member. As President of the Songwriters Guild of America, he led the successful campaign for the passage of the US Copyright Act of 1976 which, among other things, extended the life of copyrighted works giving songwriters a larger share in earnings, resulting in millions of dollars for songwriters over the years. Just recently, Ervin received correspondence from a young woman, politically active, who discovered that Ervin was a leader in the fight for a new copyright law in 1976. Ervin responded by saying that when he went to congress to fight for these rights, “*the most effective composer was Eubie Blake, then 91 years old. When this slender black man stood up and said, ‘I Have performed for presidents, kings and queens all over this world but this is the first time I’ve ever had stage-fright’, he ‘killed’ them and added ‘the song that feeds and shelters me is ‘I’m Just Wild About Harry’ which goes into the public domain...unless you representatives see fit to grant an extension to the copyright law. If it goes into the public domain, I will have to go back, at my age, to playing piano*

in sporting houses and bordellos!’ Eubie clinched it! Ervin was inducted into the Songwriter Hall of Fame in 1983.

Ervin and Edith have been devoted members of The New York Sheet Music Society, attending monthly meetings, and where Ervin has presented several musical programs receiving honors and many ovations. In 2006, entertainment phenomenon Mark Nadler performed a tribute evening to and with Ervin as part of Flushing Town Hall’s *Broadway’s Café Series*, in which Ervin, accompanied by Mark on piano, had the opportunity to perform his own songs solo and some with Mark, talk about his life, as only he can, and regale the audience in his usual witty and articulate style. Mark Nadler says, “Ervin Drake has given us a treasure trove of songs over his long career. What’s equally astounding about him is his ability to never



Art by Ken Fallin

age. Decade after decade he continues to show up with wit and style!”

Ervin’s awards include an ASCAP Award, American Eagle Award from the National Music Council 2006, and the most recent tribute in February 2008 by *Musical Mondays Theatre Lab* when he was honored at a benefit (co-chaired by Sandi Durell & Pat Addiss) at a sold out luncheon at Sardi’s Restaurant in New York City and presented with the Songwriters Guild Foundation Award. The plaque read ‘*Presented to Ervin Drake for his bountiful gifts of song, his lifelong fight for songwriter rights, and his unflagging social conscience*’ Karen Saunders was quick to say “*When I think of Ervin, a smile comes to my face...as I see swirls of energy (he’s) always on the move and blessed with an ageless spirit.*” Edith and Ervin were also presented with the well-

deserved “Love Couple” Award for their inspiring love and devotion to each other and the entertainment community. Ervin is most proud of a recent song he has written “Who Are These Strangers” recorded by Michael Feinstein that speaks to and about the gay community. Ervin says, “This is the most important song of my career.”

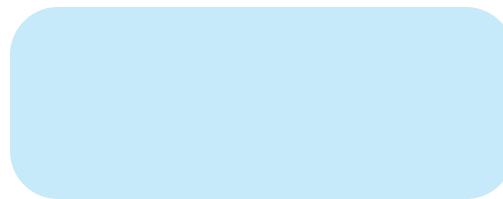
And what about love and romance? After Edith left, life continued to happen and Ervin met and married Ada Sax, five years his senior. They adopted two infants. Edith says that by the time she and Ervin got married she had already lived a full life. She went on to have three children and was eventually widowed in 1974. Each have grandchildren. Edith was, and still is, a successful business woman running a cosmetics and wig business under the name of *Bermaine*. Reading the papers one day in 1975, she spotted the obit for Ada Drake. She was reluctant to contact Ervin but her friends insisted that she call him to offer her condolences. When he picked up the phone and heard ‘hello’, he immediately answered ‘*Hello, Edith*’. They hadn’t spoken to, or seen, each other in about 35 years. Ironically, they lived in the same town!

The years melted away as their love affair revived. It was as though time had stood still. And so, the beautiful showgirl and handsome songwriter picked up where they left off. Their ‘first date’ was at *Elaine’s*. They lived together several years and, at Ervin’s insistence in 1982, he married ‘*the greatest person I’ve ever known*’.



Editor’s note: An abbreviated version of this article appeared in the June 2008 edition of *Cabaret Scenes Magazine*, and has been re-printed with permission.





Did you know every issue of this newsletter
is in **CO**LO**R** online at www.NYSMS.org

Our 2014-15 Season...

October 11, 2014- Dennis Livingston/Stories of My Mind - revue with great cast of singers, including Scott Coulter, Julie Reyburn and others. It was at the Laurie Beechman Theater in 2011 - he is the son of songwriter Jerry Livingston.

November 8, 2014- Three For a Song - "Great Songs You've Never Heard Of." Mark Walter recommended this program which will be coming in from Washington DC. Heard great things and a lot of research has been done for this program.

December 13, 2014- Will Friedwald - Clip Joints - great film shorts of legendary singers & bands - Will is so knowledgeable and writes for the WSJ aside from his many books. He narrates the clips and will be putting together a special program for us.

January 10, 2015- See next column....

February 14, 2015- Karen Oberlin & Steve Ross in their acclaimed show, "Cheek to Cheek – The Songs of Astaire and Rodgers!", which was even presented in London.

March 14, 2015- Ronny Whyte - Jazz at Noon - new CD. Ronny has done an amazing job for the past several years gathering the greats of the jazz world to Saint Peter's. He has agreed to put a show together for us and it will be sensational.

April 11, 2015- TBA (Marilyn Maye ?) (if not available – John Fricke's Tribute to Judy Garland.)

May 9, 2015- Tom Toce - Songwriter Showcase.

June 13, 2015- LaTanya Hall - Tribute to Sarah Vaughn



In Memoriam - Joe Franklin
March 9, 1926 - January 24, 2015