

PROGRESSIONS

Official publication of the Reno Musicians' Union, Local 368

Fall 2015



UNITY • HARMONY • ARTISTRY

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY DECEMBER 8, AT 6PM

Music will be provided by

THE RED TANGO

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS SHORT MEETING AND GREAT MUSIC.

Our fall 2015 General Membership meeting will be held at:

Wild River Grill "River Room"

**17 S Virginia St, Reno, NV 89501
(775) 284-7455**

6 to 8pm on Tuesday December 8th. Please put it in your calendar!

The Red Tango is a Reno/Tahoe based ensemble of outstanding classically-trained string players who bring artistry and passion to their performances.

The Red Tango is: Olga Archdekin and Bruce McBeth on violin, Catherine Matovich on viola and Charles Taggart on cello. They will be performing Tango music including "Por Una Cabeza" and works of Piazzolla.

Website: www.theredtango.com

YOUR LOCAL 368 BOARD MEMBERS

President-Sec./Treas.: John Shipley **Vice President:** John Beckman

Board Members: Paul January, Peter Supersano, Catherine Matovich

We are currently one member short, let me know if you are interested in serving on the Local 368. Meetings are 4 times a year and about 1 hour long.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We would like to acknowledge these new members to Local 368:

Olga Archdekin: Violin

Alfred (Hank) Currey: Trombone

James Jacobson: Electric Bass

Cherie Shipley - Vocals, Guitar, Keyboards and Percussion

And these returning members:

Paul Lenz - Trumpet

Caryn Neidhold - Viola, Violin

Leonard Neidhold - Trombone



PROGRESSIONS

The State of Our Union

Reno Musicians' Union lost two long time members this past quarter. Violinist and conductor Vahe Khochayan and guitarist Bob Olson.

Born to Armenian parents and raised in Tehran, Vahe displayed a great talent and a love for music at an early age. Vahe was a first rate violinist and traveled around the world eventually coming to Reno to visit his brother. He found the lifestyle to his liking and plenty of work in the casino showbands of the 60s and 70s.

In 1974 he co-founded the Reno Chamber Orchestra. He would go on to serve as its music direc-

tor and conductor for nearly 30 years. His complete and tireless devotion to the orchestra is why the RCO exists today.

All of Reno's musicians mourn his passing and as said in his obituary, "We celebrate his extraordinary life and the impact it will continue to have through the artistry, humility, intelligence, talent, humor, patience, loyalty, generosity, wisdom, and kindness that flowed through him out to all the lives he touched."

We at the 368 office can tell you about Vahe's artistic ability as a calligrapher. Paul and I often said that it was a shame to cash his checks. So we stated scanning

them to keep a record of their beauty.

After coming to Reno in 1950 Bob Olsen joined AFM Local 368. He was a Country/Western guitarist and an avid union supporter. His main career in life was as an electrician, as a young man living in Los Angeles he did electrical projects for several movie stars including Gene Autry, Dick Powell, June Allyson, Judy Garland and Vincent Minnelli. He wired the nursery for Judy Garland so it would be ready when Liza Minnelli was born. In the late 70s Bob worked for Jensen Electric, wiring what would be the MGM Grand Hotel and Circus Circus Hotel.

Paul January Retires

For many years Paul has been the face and the voice of Local 368. He has worked tirelessly for our local and for the past several years he has done so without pay. In doing so he has kept our local afloat. If not for his efforts we would have been folded into Las Vegas Local 369 or Sacramento Local 12. I want to publicly thank Paul for our long friendship and for his tireless service to Local 368. We had a going away party and a short Membership meeting at the 3rd Street Bar in Reno on May 26th. Then we were serenaded by Dave Gupton's "Little Big Band" all of whom are members of Local 368 AFM. I provided some finger food and we even had a cake which we shared with our members and other patrons at the bar.



Spotlight on your President, John Shipley

In past newsletters I have done Spotlights on one or two of our members but I have overlooked someone that many of you really don't know very well, ME! What many of you might not know is that I am a 3rd generation Northern Nevadan. I was born in the old St. Mary's Hospital and I went to school here in Reno, eventually graduating from UNR with a B.A. in Music in December of 2014. My parents were some of the first members of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on California St. and I grew up listening to Iris Maytan play the organ for services and watching and listening to Steve Maytan conduct the church's choir. Good Shepherd is where I would meet and hear all the wonderful musicians from the Lenz family, with Doc Lenz being the physician that I would see every year for my physical exam to play sports. I began my musical studies at the original site of Maytans Music on Center Street studying with local accordionist Dick Renko and quickly moved to piano when my talents were defined.

My first piano teacher was Margaret Sampson, wife of V&T railroad manager Maj. Gordon Sampson. From her I learned about the grandeur and beauty of music and much of who I am comes from those early days of wonder and excitement that playing piano brought to me. When she retired, my next teacher was Kellene Gallagher who had been a student of Mrs. Sampson's. The two for them would be lifelong friends, instilling in me a work ethic that I am still working on and cultivating. At age 12 it was decided that I should study with Dr. Ronald Williams, the head of the piano department at UNR. I would take lessons from him until I left college to pursue dreams of being a rock star in Hollywood.

Now comes the fun part. I joke that I went to Los Angeles to be a Rock Star but I got mixed up with jazz musicians and that ruined it for me. What I really did was become a better musician. Here is where I met and played with Dan & June Kuramoto becoming a founding member of the Jazz/Fusion group Hiroshima. I practiced and learned from them and other musicians in LA, playing every moment of the day if I could. I learned about the music biz and also learned that the AFM was there to support musicians, at least

most of the time. I remember one recording session where a business agent from Local 47 came in and accused me of taking jobs away from symphonic musicians by using synthesizers to play string parts (his words not mine). Because of that incident I never did join Local 47. Instead I remained a member of Local 368 here in Reno. Did I mention that I join Local 368 in 1974? To join I had to audition for Ed McGoldrick and Merle Snider so that I could work at Harrahs Reno playing with the John Carlton Orchestra behind the likes of Don Rickles and Gladys Knight. I also remember performing in the old Union Hall on Stewart St. playing and learning from people like Gerry Genario, Russ Vines, Joe Cadena, Dickie Mills, Eddy Evans, Mickey Laverine and many others.

I spent the 1980's in Las Vegas playing every downtown and strip hotel showroom and lounge belonging to AFM Local 369 while I lived there. In the 1990's I spent 7 years in the Palm Springs, CA area playing casuals and learning to become a fairly good recording engineer. This is where I fell in love with my bride of 18 years. Many of you know her from performing in Reno/Tahoe area, Cherie Shipley. She is also one of our newest members of Local 368.

In 1997 Cherie and I decided we missed our family in Reno and came back to stay. Since coming home I have rekindled my old friendships and made a lot of new ones. I hope if you aren't my friend yet that you will get to know me by this article and become one! Since being in Reno I have released two CDs getting airplay in Reno and nationally and in many parts of Europe. There's a radio station in Greece that plays one of my songs frequently and I get a check from ASCAP every quarter showing occasional royalty monies from there.

If we aren't friends yet, come by the office on Fridays and meet me. — John



