

Friends of the Ocean City Pops Newsletter

Spring 2011

Edited by George Ingram / Layout by Ralph Cooper

Vol. 17 No. 1

Marking 25-Year Milestone

Scheible - Keeps Music Fresh & New

It was only a quarter century ago.

A gallon of unleaded gasoline cost an average of 93 cents. You could buy a first-class stamp for 22 cents. The Phantom of the Opera opened in London.

And, with baton in hand, 30-year-old William Scheible mounted the stage of the Music Pier to conduct his first concert as maestro of the Ocean City Pops orchestra.

"I had a combination of feelings that first night and throughout the first week of our concerts," Scheible explained in an interview. "I realized that I was following in the footsteps of some pretty impressive and talented people like Clarence Fuhrman, Frank Ruggieri and John Warrington."

The new man at the podium was also grateful to then-Mayor Roy Gillian, City Council, and public relations maven Mark Soifer for "placing a great deal of confidence in someone so young and untested

in leading a professional orchestra."

During that first year in Ocean City, Scheible said he benefited from developing close friendships with loyal members of the Pops audience as well as critic Ed Wismer and people like music patron Esther Weil.

"Knowing that I could count on their support and encouragement helped me tremendously," he recalled.

But it was one thing to lead an orchestra. There was much to be done to make it a better orchestra. In those early years, he worked hard to add nine key musicians for the full season, expanding the group from 16 to 25.

"Conducting was not really my main concern," Scheible confided. "It was building a vital ensemble, one with balanced instruments that produced a sonorous and vibrant sound. We expanded the strings and brass. Another priority was raising funds so that we



Maestro Bill Scheible

could hire the very best singers."
He set out to impress upon Pops sup-

Continued on Page - 2

Help for Young Musicians In National Spotlight

Gift to The Friends of OC Pops Sets a Record

With help from part of a generous gift of more than \$50,000, The Friends of the Ocean City Pops, Inc., and Pops Music Director William Scheible will open the Music Pier late this summer to a National Public Radio broadcast and give young musicians in the region a chance to be heard by music lovers throughout the United States.

The donor is Flora Baker, a remarkable, silver-haired benefactor who divides her time between Ocean City, NJ, and Oahu, Hawaii.

Her gift to the Friends is the largest in the history of the all-volunteer organization that supports the Pops orchestra, and a portion of it will defray costs associated with bringing NPR's popular "From the Top" program to Ocean City on Wednesday, August 31.

Now in its 11th year, "From the Top" is a weekly show that spot-

lights the talents of outstanding young musicians in local communities. Hosted by acclaimed pianist Christopher O'Riley, it is taped before a live audience and heard on nearly 250 radio stations with a total average weekly listenership of 700,000 people. (Locally, it is broadcast on Temple University's

WRTI-FM (91.3) Sundays from 2-3 p.m.)

This August's Music Pier performances are scheduled to be broadcast nationally this October.

The gift from Mrs. Baker will also be used to augment the Friends' endowment and benefit The Frank Ruggieri Society, a fund named in honor of the Pops' former conductor.

"The Ocean City Pops is a wonderful organization that I enjoy year after year," said Mrs. Baker, who is a very active 91 years of age. "Back in the 1960s, my mother, Elizabeth Ulrich, also loved it night after night. She and her friends would never miss a concert," she reminisced. "The

Continued on Page - 7



Flora Baker with Pops Artistic Director Bill Scheible, right, and Ken Hoover, Chairperson of the Friends.

FOCP Photo by George Ingram



Lucie Arnaz

Opening Night for the 2011 concert season will be Sunday, June 26, featuring entertainer/singer Lucie Arnaz. This “dynamic talent” and “one woman phenomenon” will take the stage by storm, but with the warmth and authority that has made her an engaging part of the Ball-Arnaz legacy. See Story - Page 4

As Romeo and Juliet, Friends Relish Stephen & Ailyn

Fourteen members of the Friends of the Ocean City Pops enjoyed an exquisite Valentine treat on Sunday afternoon, February 13, 2011. The event was Charles Gounod’s opera “Romeo and Juliet” at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, with Ocean City’s favorite husband and wife duo, Stephen Costello and Ailyn Perez, performing the lead roles. The opera was preceded by a delicious Valentine-themed buffet and live music at the historic Union League.

As we walked along the street from the Union League to the Academy of Music, banners with images of Stephen and Ailyn mounted on poles above us blew in the breeze. Most of us attended a pre-opera presentation, which included details about the history of this opera as well as its mod-

ern adaptation. The lecturer provided interesting tidbits to look for such as the smoker who never “lights up” due to building fire regulations, the magazine photo shoots, and the competition which chose the winning fashions featured in this production. The masked ball becomes a fashion show and Juliet’s confidante is her trainer.

This updated production was conceived and directed by Manfred Schweigkofler, as his American directorial debut. The artistic director of Italy’s Bolzano City Theater, Schweigkofler chose as his venue two rival Italian fashion houses--the House of Capulet and the House of Montague--for his contemporary setting of this doomed romance. In addition to costumes by established designers, fash-

Continued on Page - 3

The Maestro looks back over 25 years of Music Pier concerts

Continued From Page - 1

porters the need to raise monies in order to attract the best talent to the Music Pier.

“So we started fundraisers and luncheons to pay for hotel rooms for our guest singers. In my first season I realized we could not attract quality artists if they had to pay for their hotel rooms out of a meager week’s salary.”

Over the past 25 years, there have been many memorable moments for Scheible. But there’s one that he’d rather forget.

“It was the summer that the Music Pier was renovated. The fire alarms had been placed too low to the floor around the perimeter. As a wonderful soloist was performing a very grueling last movement of a Beethoven piano concerto—and with a full complement of New Jersey Ballet dancers on stage for a choreographed accompaniment—a small child pulled the alarm outside the women’s restroom. We had to evacuate the Pier and wait for the fire company to send a truck to the Boardwalk and turn it off. I had nightmares that the audience would not return, and the dancers were not too happy about starting from the beginning.”

If you ask Bill Scheible about the great times he cherishes, you’ll be engulfed in a tsunami of memories about collaborating with wonderful violinists, brass play-

ers, pianists, and singers.

“Some of my most gratifying and electrifying musical moments have been with singers—tenor Stephen Costello and soprano Ailyn Perez; mezzo Barbara Dever; bass Kevin Short; tenors Stuart Neil, Michael Fabiano, Christopher Hux; baritone Todd Thomas and his wife, soprano Lisa Thomas; baritones Markus Beam and Steven LaBrie; and soprano Michelle Johnson, who by the way recently won the Met Opera finals.” (Michelle Johnson, Steven LaBrie, and Todd and Lisa Thomas will all appear at Scheible’s Anniversary Concert on July 24.)

“It’s been a real blast for me to make music with some great young talents. I’ll never forget violinist Shunsuke Sato and his technically remarkable Paganini; Robyn Bollinger [who will also perform at the July 24th concert] and her sense of sweeping musical phrases and a great bow arm; cellist Chris Gauthier; and pianists Kristi Johnston and Wu Di, whose unforgettable Yellow River Concerto was just all-powerful and encompassing in breadth and scope.”

Above all, the maestro added, watching his friend Stephen Costello’s rise to stardom and his mastery of his

vocal instrument has been “most exciting and gratifying” to him. For seven years, from high school through college, Costello was a trumpet student of Scheible’s.

“I also encouraged him continuously to study and find the best vocal teachers available, and we featured him at the Pier for 13 years. He has become a sought-after performer throughout the world, and I hope we will have the opportunity to see and hear him again at the Pier in the next few years,” he said.

Speaking of the future, the maestro was asked to peek into his crystal ball.

“I would like the Pops to reach out more to younger audiences. I also want music lovers in the region to be more aware of the excellence of our orchestra, which is one of the objectives of the new Scheible Encore Society.

“I’d also like to record a new CD with the orchestra members and take them on the road to other communities. When I started with the Pops, we had several concerts arranged in surrounding communities. I would like to expand on this and even go out-of-state as well. There is nothing like the sheer joy and excitement of hearing an ensemble like ours for the first time.

“Finally, it’s a challenge to keep the music fresh and new, and that is really going to be my mission in the coming years!” - By George Ingram

Follow the Pops & FOCP > www.facebook.com/OceanCityPops

A Message from the Chair

Get Ready for Exciting Ocean City Pops Season

The snow is gone, spring is here, and the 83rd Pops season is just around the corner. We will also be celebrating the 25th anniversary of Maestro William Scheible's brilliant leadership of the Ocean City Pops Orchestra.

In recognition of the 25th anniversary of the maestro's sterling accomplishments, we have scheduled several special events:

SAY (Scheible Anniversary Year) – This is an opportunity for you to congratulate Maestro Scheible by making a \$25 donation to "SAY Congratulations to Maestro Scheible." for a job well done. Your name will be in a special Anniversary Book for the July 24th Anniversary Concert and it will also appear on our web site. Your contribution will also provide orchestra enhancement.

The 25th Anniversary Concert with Maestro Scheible and the Pops is on Sunday, July 24. This event will feature special guest artists, including violinist Robyn Bollinger and singers Michelle Johnson, Steven LaBrie, and Lisa and Todd Thomas.

25th Anniversary Dinner - This will be a tribute to the maestro at Greate Bay Country Club on Monday, July 25. Save the date and come help us celebrate.

Scheible Encore Society - Here is a way to honor Maestro Scheible by joining the "Scheible Encore Society." Funds will be used to build our endowment, increase awareness and exposure of the Pops, provide for youth outreach and for new music. Details will be forthcoming this summer

The opening night concert on Sunday, June 26, features entertainer/singer Lucie Arnaz. Don't miss this "dynamic talent" and "one woman phenomenon"



Ken Hoover

as she takes the stage by storm. With warmth and authority, she has proven to be an engaging part of the Ball-Arnaz legacy.

Meet Ms. Arnaz at an After-the- Concert Champagne/Dessert Reception at the Flanders Hotel. \$25 per person.

You can view all of the concerts for this season on our web site www.oceancitypops.org.

In addition, The Friends are sponsoring two special concerts without the POPS: the DePue Brothers on August 14 and Barbone Street Jazz Band at the end of August.

A special thanks to all our season ticket subscribers. A portion (\$85) of the ticket costs that comes to the Friends goes a long way in supporting the orchestra. The money raised from season ticket sales and our various fundraisers supports the musicians, the music library, the production of programs and brochures, housing of guest artists, and our youth outreach. This year, in addition to our concerts and student workshops, we are adding a student competition and a scholarship program for high school seniors.

The Friends' annual summer luncheon will be held at Greate Bay Country Club on Thursday August 18. It is always an enjoyable afternoon of fun, fellowship, and good music.

The Friends also need your help. We are an all-volunteer group with no paid staff. We need more volunteers in all skill levels, including marketing, finance, accounting, computers, graphics and layout, website, social media, and many other areas. If you have the time and want to have some fun, we

will find a job for you. Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Melinda Mayne at 609-398-2055.

Finally, remember that you play a big part in the success of our concert season. All performers receive inspiration and appreciation from large turnouts and enthusiastic responses from an audience. I will thank you in advance for attending this season's concerts, and I urge each one of you to help spread the word about what a jewel we have in the Ocean City Pops. Encourage your friends to attend, and especially the younger generation. - By Ken Hoover

Stephen & Ailyn

Continued From Page - 2

ions were selected from competing student designers studying at Drexel, Moore College of Art & Design, and Philadelphia University. The winning designs were modeled on the stage "runway" which enhanced the concept of a fashion empire. Billboards and magazine covers featuring Juliet in various fashion poses, including an especially eye-catching shot with sunglasses, also adorned the stage. The youthful cast added to the image of a contemporary house of fashion. At one point, magazine hawkers descended down the aisles of the theater to further enhance the director's vision of a current setting in the fashion industry. English subtitles made it easy to follow the story while enjoying Gounod's music sung in French.

A full chorus with thick and lush harmonies opened the opera to provide us with the background of the drama. Juliet is the top model and the daughter of the house of Capulet. Romeo is the heir apparent of the House of Montague. Romeo and Juliet's singing was spell-binding, and the chemistry between them was apparent in their duets. They maintained a riveting intensity through Gounod's musical lines, making one wish there were no intermissions to interrupt the flow. At the end of the performance, the two great stars received a well-deserved standing ovation.

A truly memorable afternoon ended with the opportunity to walk across the famous Academy of Music stage and be warmly greeted by Stephen and Ailyn in the Ormandy Room.

- Article provided by Pat Angarano



Support the Friends & Our Pops Orchestra

Become a Fan on Facebook @ [Facebook.com/OceanCityPops](https://www.facebook.com/OceanCityPops)

Follow the Pops and Friends on Twitter @ [Twitter.com/FOCP](https://twitter.com/FOCP)

Sign up for our mailing list or contribute online @

www.oceancitypops.org

Volunteers Needed - Year Around ...

Friends / POPS Want Your Help Supporting the Orchestra

Have you ever volunteered your time for a good cause?

According to the Corporation for National Community Service, more than 63 million Americans contributed 8.1 billion hours of volunteer service in 2009, the most recent year in which data are avail-

able.

Some of those people worked on behalf of the Friends of the Ocean City Pops, Inc.--and now you have an opportunity to join them in support of a great orchestra.

You might be a year-round "local," a

summer resident, or someone who comes to our resort town for a week or on weekends. It doesn't matter: you can still make a difference and have a good time working with a wonderful group of people!

For instance, Mary Ramoski and her friend, Jerry DeLapp, who are residents of Ocean City and Florida, have been FOCP volunteers for the past decade. Why do they do it?

"I think it's wonderful," explained Mary, a volunteer for the Pops Annual Summer Luncheon. "Everyone should get involved in their communities. You learn a lot, you meet people, and it makes you feel good."

Your gift of time can be as little as helping with one event...or as much as serving on one of the many year-round standing committees.

Some of our volunteers assist with the Friends Information Table at the Pops concerts on the Music Pier. Occasionally they help serve refreshments after the concerts.

The FOCP provides appropriate orientation and training to ensure that you'll have the necessary information and resources to accomplish your task. We're also interested in folks with these skills:

- Event Planning for fundraiser activities, special concert receptions, Ocean City's Block Parties, and the annual FOCP Summer Luncheon;
- Technology Expertise to work on the Friends' database, website, email, and social media like Facebook and Twitter;
- Sales Experience to help obtain concert sponsors and advertising for program books;
- Development Work to assist in grant applications for orchestra community/student outreach proposals and presentations.

Isn't it time you joined the Friends of the Ocean City Pops as a volunteer?

Email Melinda Mayne, our Volunteer Coordinator, at mmminoc2@aol.com. Or give her a call at 609-398-2055.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Pops Celebration Season

The Pops' 83rd season and Maestro Scheible's 25th year add up to a celebration of great music--Broadway, classical, jazz, opera, and popular. The box office is open now! For a peek at the entire season, go to www.oceancitypops.org.



Long-time FOCP volunteers Jerry DeLapp and Mary Ramoski update their contact information for Melinda Mayne, right, volunteer coordinator for The Friends.

FOCP Photo by George Ingram

Lucie Arnaz - talent extraordinaire

Let me 'splain something, as Ricky Ricardo used to say: Lucie Arnaz is an amazing talent—singer, dancer, actress, and producer.

You have a rare opportunity to meet this incredibly gifted woman when she opens the 83rd season of the Ocean City Pops orchestra and Bill Scheible's 25th year as maestro on Sunday, June 26.

Arnaz, of course, is the daughter of Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz and got off to an early professional career in show business on television's "The Lucy Show."

But she has far more going for her than famous parents. Her resume, which stretches several pages long, includes acting in many movies and made-for TV films; appearing in nightclub acts through the United States and Europe (not to mention Atlantic City!), starring on Broadway; and producing her own award-winning shows.

She received a Golden Globe nomination for playing opposite Neil Diamond and Sir Laurence Olivier in "The Jazz Singer," for example. Among her frequent acting successes for television was "Who

Killed The Black Dahlia."

Theater? How about her winning the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle award for her performance in the Neil Simon/Marvin Hamlisch/Carole Bayer Sager musical, "They're Playing Our Song"?

In January 2010 she was artistic director for "Babalu," a celebration of the Latin American musical craze of the 40s and 50s as seen through the music of her father's orchestra.

The credits just go on and on. But Lucie Arnaz says her greatest credits are her three children, two step-children, and husband Larry Luckinbill.

You'll adore her appearance with the Pops. Even more, you'll love meeting her after the show at a Champagne/Dessert Reception at the Flanders Hotel.

The cost is only \$25, and payment should be made in advance.

For more information about this wonderful "Meet and Greet" opportunity, call Sonya Bertini at (609) 399-2566 or email her at stb582000@yahoo.com.

ORCHESTRA PROFILE

Barry McCommon, trombonist

Pops trombonist Barry McCommon is the quintessential "crossover" musician. A list of the artists he has appeared with and the venues which he has played in—from Lincoln Center to the House of Blues--would more than fill this page. A graduate of Curtis Institute of Music, he also teaches, records, and serves as assistant conductor of Bravo Brass. It's an understatement to say that Barry McCommon, like the Nu Directions Chamber Brass he belongs to, "defies categorization."

Q. Jazz trombonist J.J. Johnson, when asked why he chose such a difficult instrument, said "because it was somewhat of a challenge." Why did you choose it?

A. Well, there's no terribly profound thought behind it. My father was a trombonist and my older brother was playing trombone (and still does), so it was almost decided for me. The funny thing was that I was thinking about playing trumpet but my brother sort of shamed me into choosing trombone. You could say that playing trombone was my going into the family business.

Q. Which trombonists have influenced you?

A. I've actually been much more influenced by non-trombone players, but I had some heroes when I was young. The biggest musical impact came from the late Glenn Dodson with whom I studied when I was in college. Things that I do regularly make me smile because it's clear as day that they come from the seeds he planted years ago. The guy who inspired me more than anyone to want to play bass trombone was George Roberts. He played with Stan Kenton and Nelson Riddle (backing Sinatra) as well as doing a lot of recording work in L.A. The work he did with Riddle inspired and influenced pretty much all bass trombonists to come.

Q. Although often associated with jazz, the trombone is also important in classical music. Could you list several of your favorite classical music works in which the trombone is used as a virtuoso instrument?

A. I have trouble with the accepted definition of "virtuosic." I feel that if you play appropriately, it is virtuosic whether



Barry McCommon

it be soft whole notes or loud and "flashy". I also have trouble picking favorites. I love the subtle and colorful way that Brahms wrote for trombones. The choral works of Mozart and Beethoven make such good use of trombones--they double the vocal parts. It's an awesome sound and very rewarding to play. But having mentioned a few composers, I feel I've slighted so many others.

Q. What was it like to work with Luciano Pavarotti?

A. It wasn't as if I had a close working relationship with him. I backed him on two different occasions. More than anything it was awesome to hear him not just live but from such close proximity on the stage--awesome in the truest sense of the word.

Q. You are masterful in so many music genres, from classical to rock, jazz to minimalism, New Age to funk. When you're relaxing at home, what music do you usually listen to?

A. That's a really good question. I really don't listen to a lot of music mostly because I don't have time. Between work and five kids (ages 19 months to 16), there's no time to just relax at home and listen or watch a movie or anything. And on the occasion that I'm alone I generally prefer quiet. In my formative years I listened mostly to classical music, as this was my focus at that time. On the occasion that I do listen, it's generally jazz or older r&b.

Q. What do you like best about appearing with the Ocean City Pops?

A. When I was 14 years old, my parents took me to see the Harlem Globetrotters. At the end of the show (their word, not "game"), one of the players told the audience that, regardless of what worries and stresses you may have in life, it was their hope that for a couple of hours they took your mind away from those stresses. As much as music is an art form, it is also entertainment and I never lose sight that what musicians do is the same as the Harlem Globetrotters--we take peoples' minds away from their stresses and worries if only for a couple hours. That is extremely rewarding for me, and I feel the Pops does that on a daily basis. Some musicians would scoff at what I'm saying, but I believe that the best music is made by those who maintain a healthy balance of art and entertainment.

Q. What projects and ventures are you currently involved in?

A. One recent gig was a solo appearance with the Philadelphia Sinfonia. I've worked with young musicians as a teacher, coach, and conductor, but I always find a different kind of exhilaration performing with them. I'll be soloing with them again in May at the Kimmel Center's Perelman Theater. Then there is a group that I'm excited about--Nu Directions Chamber Brass. We released our first album, "Vox Nouveaux," in October (available on www.cdbaby.com, amazon.com, and iTunes) and toured New England. We have tours and residencies in the works for Chicago, Texas, and some work here on the East coast. I'm hoping that we'll be coming to the Music Pier at some point. You can check us out at www.ndcbrass.com

Q. You have a hectic schedule that includes teaching, performing, conducting, and recording. How do you juggle all this while being a husband and father of five children?

A. I don't sleep--sometimes it does feel like that! But honestly, it's my wife. She keeps everything running at home. I do a lot of day-to-day things, like watching the little ones when she's at work and driving the older kids to activities, but as far as the magic act of juggling, it's Trish. And she does it on top of her teaching and performing. So maybe your question should be for her.

Cape May / Atlantic High Schools

Student Music Competition May 17th on Ocean City Music Pier

The public is invited to attend the first Esther C. Weil Student Music Competition on Tuesday, May 17, at 4:30 PM

on the Ocean City Music Pier, Moorlyn Terrace and the Boardwalk. The program, sponsored by the Friends of the

Ocean City Pops, features 14 vocalists, seven instrumentalists, and two pianists. Admission is free. Parking lots on 8th and 9th Streets and Moorlyn Terrace will be open with no charge.

To qualify for the competition, 23 students in grades 9-12 from a dozen schools in Atlantic and Cape May counties submitted outstanding credentials and recommendations from their school and private music teachers. Three professional musicians will serve as judges and award cash prizes in the competition named in honor of Mrs. Weil, an avid patron of the performing arts in Ocean City and Philadelphia before her death in 2008.

The first-place winner will receive \$1000 and a guest appearance with the Ocean City Pops during the orchestra's 83rd season this summer. The second-place prize is \$500; third-place is \$250. William Scheible, Artistic Director and Pops Conductor, expects to announce

Continued on Page - 7



Members of the Ocean City Pops Brass Quintet performed a free concert at the Ocean City Library on April 11. From left to right: maestro Bill Scheible, trumpet; Brian Brown, tuba; Steven Heitzer, trumpet; Cathy Bridge, trombone; and Lauren Robinson, French horn. The concert was made possible by the Friends of Music/Ocean City Arts Center.

FOCP Photo by George Ingram

First FOCP Cruise Offers Relief From Winter's Icy Mantle

On a frigid Sunday in January, a group of 20 Pops supporters arrived in Fort Lauderdale, hoping to escape New Jersey's single-digit temperatures by embarking on the FOCP's first week-long cruise of the Caribbean. The Ruby Princess welcomed travelers with a buffet just in case they could not make it to dinner time without refreshments. After the obligatory informational drill about life preservers, our group enjoyed a great "Welcome Aboard" dinner and a show.

The first stop was Princess Cays, a private island beach where all varieties of water sports were available. We were served a barbeque under sunny skies and with a temperature in the mid-70s. On the water taxis back to the ship, everyone agreed that it had been a perfect way to spend our first day of vacation.

Our next stop was St. Martin. After a short ferry ride to the shopping district, some of us went looking for great bargains with so much zeal that our credit cards were in danger of melting down from overuse. For those not anxious to shop, there were beaches with a boardwalk and bars all along the harbor. One could sit and enjoy a favorite beverage while watching "our ship" on the other side of the harbor.

I hate to remind newsletter readers that, as the Ruby Princess traveled farther south and the temperatures rose well into the 80s, you were experiencing one of the many snow storms of last winter.

The next stop was St. Thomas. After either a short ride in an open trolley or a short walk along the harbor, we arrived in the shopping Mecca of the Caribbean. At dinner that night everyone discussed the great bargains they had purchased in the port.

The next day was a "sea day." Some passengers staked out spots around the many pools. Others preferred staying indoors where the casino was available all day.

There were also lectures, on-board shopping, and plenty of time to relax. In the evening it was "formal night," a time to dress-up and be seen.

Our last stop was Grand Turk. The beaches were great and just a short walk from the ship. With a warm tempera-

Continued on Page - 7



During the FOCP's Caribbean cruise last January, Captain Tony Yeomans of the Ruby Princess II, chatted with trustee MaryAnne McGrath, left, and her daughter, Stephanie McGrath.



Getting Down to Work: Co-chairs and advisors for the Friends' popular Summer Luncheon met in mid-April to begin planning for the annual gala event that's scheduled for Thursday, August 18, at Grete Bay Country Club in Somers Point. From left to right are Barbara Parsons, advisor; co-chairs Amelia Bastastini and Pat Staub; and advisor Judy Perkins. Volunteers are needed for this wonderful afternoon of good food, music, gifts, and fun.

FOCP Photo by George Ingram

In Memoriam

Margaret Whiting with POPS and Friends

The death of jazz and pop singer Margaret Whiting in January 2011 at age 86 prompted Maestro Bill Scheible and former FOCP trustee Ed Wismer to reminisce about her ties to the Ocean City Pops and the Friends.

"Margaret Whiting was a big hit at a

Student Competition

Continued From Page - 6

the winners by 8 PM.

High schools represented in the competition include Absegami, Atlantic Christian School, Atlantic City, Buena Regional, Charter-TECH High School for the Performing Arts, Egg Harbor Township, Holy Spirit, Mainland Regional, Middle Township, Oakcrest, Ocean City, and Saint Augustine Preparatory School. For more information, contact Judy Perkins at 609-391-1208, or Perkinsfocp@aol.com.

Beginning this year, the Friends will also award two \$500 scholarships to local graduating seniors and instrumentalists who intend to continue their study of music in college.

Dr. Dominick Potena, an FOCP trustee and retired superintendent of Margate City schools, will present each scholarship at the Awards Night ceremonies at Ocean City and Mainland Regional high schools in June.

FOCP trustee Judy Perkins is also coordinating this competition.

Friends' Summer Luncheon in the mid-1990s," Scheible recalled. "It was a sold-out crowd, and she sang a few nostalgic tunes."

In a column for The Sentinel of Ocean City, Wismer pointed out that, during Bill Scheible's first season as the Pops' music director in 1986, the conductor proposed a support group that later evolved into the Friends of the Ocean City Pops. Its first board chair was Abe Samuels.

"Abe was a close friend of Richard Whiting [her father and a well-known songwriter], and persuaded Margaret to perform with the Pops several times.

Samuels was also a friend of Johnny Mercer, who became a surrogate father to Ms. Whiting after Richard Whiting's death.

At all times," Wismer wrote, "she was a gracious, witty and approachable person who retained her inimitable voice for a long time, giving great pleasure to her listeners and regaling them with great show-biz stories.

"She will be fondly remembered by long-time Pops patrons," he concluded.

www.OceanCityPops.org

Baker Gift To Pops

Continued From Page - 1

Pops is one of the true highlights of Ocean City and a real bargain when you consider the exceptional quality of its musicians."

Flora Baker has had a passion for music since age eight when she took up the violin. She continued with the instrument into her 20s. Even though she eventually stopped playing, the violin became a treasured keepsake at the Bellevue Hotel which she and her late husband, Benjamin, owned at 8th Street and Ocean Avenue in Ocean City. But when they sold the hotel, "someone stole it," she recalled. "I was heartbroken."

Today, there's jubilation, not heartbreak, for those at the Pops orchestra and the Friends.

Director Scheible and Ken Hoover, chair of the Friends board of trustees, both expressed gratitude to Mrs. Baker for her generosity. "With this gift, Flora Baker has made a very strong statement about the importance of supporting the arts in our community," said Scheible, who is looking forward this summer to his 25th year as the orchestra's maestro and guiding light.

Added Hoover: "Mrs. Baker is a renowned philanthropist who cares deeply about her community. Her wonderful gift to the Friends will generate priceless dividends well into the future."

The Friends plan to honor Mrs. Baker at the South Jersey Cultural Alliance's 16th Annual Paul Aiken Encore Awards ceremony on May 19 in the Grand Ballroom of Bally's Atlantic City. The event recognizes patrons of the arts, history, and cultural community.

Baker's gift is also a harbinger of a major fundraising effort that will be announced later this spring in conjunction with the celebration of Scheible's quarter-century of leading the Pops orchestra.

- By George Ingram

FOCP Cruise

Continued From Page - 6

ture, a soft wind from the sea, and plenty of sunshine, it was a very enjoyable day. But the week ended too soon. Everyone was sorry when we arrived back in Fort Lauderdale for our trip home.

Well-rested, with beautiful memories and plans to do it again, everyone arrived back safely in New Jersey - where the temperatures were still below freezing.

- By MaryAnne McGrath



Friends of Ocean City Pops, Inc.
P.O. Box 931
Ocean City, New Jersey 08226
 RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 153
Pleasantville, NJ
08232

v1.0_04May2011

For And About Us ...

POPS 'n FRIENDS

- **Welcome Aboard:** After winning his audition for the Pops in March, violist **Russell Wilson** joins the orchestra this season. Russell has a Master of Music from The Hartt School at the University of Hartford in Connecticut and a Graduate Performance Diploma from the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He is presently Principal Viola with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra and Section Viola with both the Rhode Island Philharmonic and the Portland (Maine) Symphony Orchestra.



Russell Wilson

era Anna Bolena on September 26. The opera is set in England's Tudor period. Stephen also received a rave review in The Philadelphia Inquirer on March 22 for his song recital at the American Philosophical Society. He "sings with great intelligence and musicality," wrote critic **Daniel Webster**.

- **Jazzing It Up:** The Pops' principal flutist is **Pam Whitman**, is an internationally known musician who also happens to be a descendent of Walt



Pam Whitman

- **Restaurant Gala:** Maestro Bill Scheible and four Pops brass musicians performed for hundreds of guests at the Atlantic Cape Community College's 28th annual Restaurant Gala at Bally's Atlantic City on March 31st. Bill and **Steve Heitzer** played trumpet along with **Lauren Robinson**, French horn; **Cathy Bridge**, trombone; and **Brian Brown**, tuba. It was the second consecutive year that Pops artists have played at this event, which raises funds for the college and its Academy of Culinary Arts. Maestro Scheible and the group also performed in a free concert at the Ocean City Library on April 11.

- **On the Mend:** Over winter, Friends Trustee **Ginny Coco** had surgery in Mount Holly to replace her right knee. After spending time recuperating at her daughter's house in Mount Laurel, she returned home to Ocean City in March to begin therapy sessions at Bacharach's 34th Street location. She's had some setbacks, but the irrepressible Ginny declared, "I will be good as new as the weather warms and ready for another wonderful summer of music on the Pier!"

- **Big Night in the Big Apple:** Tenor **Stephen Costello** will sing in the Metropolitan Opera's opening night presentation of Gaetano Donizetti's two-act op-

Whitman. On May 22, she is scheduled to team up with pianist/organist **Scott Breiner**, bassist **Jack Hegyi**, and drummer **Ed Shea** for "A Classic Jazz Picnic" at Grace Lutheran Church in Somers Point.

- **Congratulations:** Pops violinist **Luigi Mazzocchi** won the concertmaster position with the Pennsylvania Ballet when **Olga Konopelsky**, the Pops' 1st violin, stepped down after three decades with the Ballet. Both Olga and Luigi will continue to play with the Ocean City Pops.

"SAY" Campaign

Scheible Anniversary

Bill Scheible is celebrating his 25th year as maestro of our Ocean City Pops orchestra.

Through the years the wonderful Pops has been heralded as one of the best in the country. Because of his extraordinary leadership and musical skills, audiences for a quarter century have enjoyed great concerts, performances, and talent night after night, year after year.

In honor of Bill, we have launched the SAY campaign - Scheible Anniversary Year.

We hope everyone will gladly say "Congratulations!" to Bill by saying "yes" and contributing \$25 for this worthwhile effort. The funds we receive will be used for orchestra enhancement.

Won't you join with us today? Please send a check or money order to Friends of the Ocean City Pops, PO Box 931, Ocean City, NJ 08226.

Your name(s) will be published in a special booklet and be listed on our website, www.OceanCityPops.org.

Help The Friends
Support The POPS
www.oceancitypops.org
 Click Page > **"Support Us"**
 and use PayPal or your credit card