

the Great Depression. Word is, many of their grandchildren are doing a good job of reversing that heritage. Would they support a renaming of Lane County? Those most supportive of one's courage to change are often equally willing.

The Southern Poverty Law Center (www.splcenter.org) tracks hate groups nationwide and has found 15 such groups that are now active in Oregon. Hate crimes have occurred here.

Given that those consumed with racial hate are often equally misogynistic, is it surprising Lane County has high rates of domestic abuse, that its number of children placed in protective foster care is among the very highest, proportionate to population, in the U.S.?

Eugene is very much a part of Lane County. There is much terra-firma available for planting the seeds of healing. Would an effort to give this county a more apt name bring together a large and diverse circle

of citizens, who could then underline their commitment by helping to solve the many other problems affecting this county? O, look, there are scads of dedicated volunteers already accomplishing good works here! And they sure could use your help.

Charles F. Thielman
Eugene

BEYOND JAZZ

As we all know, jazz musicians do not make a lot of money at it. Virtually all jazz musicians are forced to hold day jobs, maintain non-artistic careers, or give tons of lessons in order to supplement an art form that struggles to sell itself to wide enough audiences. The idea of health care is even more of a stretch for these performing artists, and many musicians are caught without this essential protection.

When I heard this week about one such instance of a musician needing financial support for a health issue, this idea was

born in me. I want to "pass a hat" to provide one beloved musician-member of our community with a little assistance in a time of great need and worry.

It's clearly one thing to pay the cover price to hear music, and certainly quite another to consider the needs of these gifted, hard-working artists in their real lives. Unfortunately, real life sometimes rears its unforgiving head, and we are forced to take extraordinary means to "help a brother out."

So I am setting up this little fund called "Beyond Jazz" as "the hat," and I am asking supportive people I know to toss a bill into the hat.

While the medical bills for the needed procedures can reach into the thousands of dollars, I'm hoping the hundreds we may raise will act to help in the healing on some palpable level. I have found that one of the hardest things about getting sick is feeling completely alone with the struggle,

isolated. Who knows, perhaps whatever gift we can amass can alleviate a great deal of the pain and anxiety that hopefully will be for a very temporary period. I know our community will benefit from the caring and the giving.

I will set up an account at Oregon Community Credit Union this week. You can write checks to "Beyond Jazz." All collections and all payments will be fully disclosed to those who participate without being asked. Names of donors will be fully protected unless otherwise stipulated. On behalf of our worthy friend and the entire jazz community. Thanks for your consideration.

Robert Sposato
Eugene

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