

Armingtons honored for help behind the scenes at Music Festival

Couple a force behind the festival

By **PATRICK WEBB**
For The Daily Astorian

Two of the foremost supporters of the Astoria Music Festival were honored recently.

Bill and Deborah Armington were highlighted at an evening gathering at the Astoria Golf and Country Club.

"We love the festival," Bill Armington said. "I am thrilled that it's continuing, and happy and humbled to be able to play a part in its continuation."

The 100-plus musicians who come from around the country — and some from overseas — are housed in private homes on the North Coast. As well as saving thousands of dollars on hotels, the practice allows hosts to forge friendships while their visitors enjoy home cooking and a place to relax between performances.

The Armingtons have long been home-stay hosts, and contributed financially to the support of the three-week festival since they moved to the North Coast in 2007.

Finding Astoria

Armington is a neuroradiolo-



Submitted Photo

Bill and Deborah Armington have been longtime supporters of the Astoria Music Festival since they moved to Astoria in 2007.

gist, specializing in brain and spinal chord conditions. He is a co-owner of Pacific Coast Imaging based at Columbia Memorial Hospital.

His medical career led them to New Orleans where they enjoyed living in a village-type conclave

of 5,000 within the French Quarter. When Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005, they moved to San Antonio, Texas. Working at a large practice serving 20 hospitals was not his preferred choice, so they began researching communities to combine professional opportunities with quality of life.

"We found Astoria — and the time was right," he said, doing the math and realizing that was nine years ago.

"We live in an incredible place. What other town of 10,000 people has world-class music for three weekends and then moves on to something different but equally rewarding?"

Stepping forward

Armington joined the management team of the festival last year, having previously served on the board of the Liberty Theater, including two years as president.

"I absolutely loved that," he said. "It was a great experience. It was a time when things were crucial for raising money for the second floor."

After administrative differences last year prompted a significant change in the festival's volunteer leadership, Armington was among

those who stepped forward.

"I absolutely love the festival and feel that it's a crucial 'piece of the puzzle' that's the exquisite part of the town of Astoria," he said.

"We were successful in retiring \$65,000 debt left from the previous year. That was done prior to the end of the year and helped get us into a good position."

Keith Clark, artistic director, said the Armingtons have been valuable supporters. "Bill Armington is extremely active on our board, and not just showing up for meetings," said Clark. Even while Armington was away on a family vacation in Hawaii, they spoke on the phone several times about key decisions as the festival opening neared, Clark added.

"He is very committed to the community, sustaining the Liberty Theater and also keeping people healthy through his work at the hospital."

Festival heroes

As a festival host, Deborah Armington has provided a home-away-from-home for several musicians, notably Sergey Antonov, the Russian-born cellist. A shared interest in hiking and mountain climbing has taken Antonov and Bill Armington

to the summits off Mount Hood and Mount Shasta in California.

"We just hit it off — we like some of the same things, and we have got to be good friends with him, his wife and their son, Noah," he said. They have even traveled to Moscow to hear Antonov play.

The talented cellist cherishes the relationship, too.

"I am lucky to know such amazing people in my life and honored to call them my great friends," he said, as he flew back to New York Monday. Antonov noted that the 2016 festival theme was "heroes." "In fact, the real heroes are in the Liberty seats, among them Bill and Deborah — and without them it wouldn't be the same."

Bill Armington admires musicians and jokes that his links with the festival allow him to "experience their lives vicariously," as well as continuing a lifetime passion.

"I have loved classical music since I was a toddler," he said. "My parents started me on piano lessons when I was four or five. I heard Beethoven's Fifth, I was 5 or so, and I was taken to some place deep inside me."

"Later, I spent more time learning to be a doctor than I was spending at piano practices!"

OBITUARIES

Howard Raymond 'Barney' Barnard Warrenton

Aug. 21, 1938 — June 21, 2016

Chief Petty Officer (retired) Howard Raymond "Barney" Barnard died peacefully at his home in Warrenton surrounded by family after a long battle with multiple myeloma. He was 77.

Barney was born on Aug. 21, 1938 to Albert and Bonnie (Payne) Barnard in Marlow, Oklahoma.

He later moved with his family to New Orleans, where in 1955 at the age of 17, he joined the U.S. Navy. During his 20 years of service, he was stationed in Guam; Astoria, Oregon; Bremerton, Washington; New Orleans, Louisiana; San Diego, California; Vietnam; Honolulu, Hawaii; and San Francisco, California. During his career, he served on the USS Bon Homme Richard (CVA-31); USS Huse (DE-143); USS Oriskany (CV-34); USS Garrett County (LST-786); USS Hornet (CVA-12); and USS Coral Sea (CVA-43); and participated in the quarantine of Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis, numerous West-Pac cruises in support of the Cold War, the Vietnam War, and the Mayaguez Incident.

He earned a Combat Action Ribbon during his service in the "Brown Water Navy" along the Mekong River following the Tet Offensive. It was during this tour that he was exposed to Agent Orange.

After his military service, Barney moved back to Clatsop County and took a job with the Warrenton Lumber Mill to raise his family. He was very active in the community as a coach and volunteer for various activities involving his children. He retired from the mill in 2005.

Barney is survived by his loving wife of nearly 56 years, the former Marilyn Marsh; his son Michael Barnard, daughter-in-law Lori Barnard; his daughter Patti Rhodes and son-in-law James Rhodes; son Steven Barnard and daughter-in-law Jane Jean-Barnard; grandson Colton Harper; granddaughter Lauren Harper; grandson Joshua Barnard; granddaughter Andrea Jean-Barnard; great-grandson Caden Barnard; great-grand-



Howard Raymond "Barney" Barnard

daughter Cassidy Barnard; sister Wanda Tassin; sister Carolyn Crabtree; sister Artis Strunk; sister-in-law Betty Marsh; brother-in-law Tommy Rowe; brother-in-law Jim Strunk, numerous nephews and nieces, and friends. He is preceded in

death by his father, mother, sister Linda Rowe, brother-in-law Ronald Marsh, brother-in-law Lloyd Tassin and brother-in-law Dwain Crabtree.

A graveside interment with military honors will be held at Ocean View Cemetery at 11 a.m. July 9 followed by a memorial service potluck at 1 p.m. at Warrenton First Baptist Church to celebrate his life. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Lower Columbia Hospice, 2111 Exchange St., Astoria, OR 97103, who took amazing care to comfort him and his family in his final days.

Please sign our online guest book at www.caldwellsmortuary.com.

Thornton Massie Tice II Astoria

1945 — 2016

The Dock Of The Bay."

On Christmas Eve in 1967, Massie became a born-again Christian and a lifelong follower of Yeshua the Messiah.

Between 1967 and 1969 he lived on a hippy commune in Novato, California. Many beautiful stories survive from this time of his life and will surface in the coming years in a biography currently being written by his children.

In 1970, Massie moved to Florence, Alabama, where he opened a Christian bookstore called Gloryland Books. This would be his first of many entrepreneurial ventures ranging from sailboat rentals in Florida, and real estate in Santa Cruz, California, to starting a free press newspaper on Maui in Hawaii in the late 1980s called the Kama'aina News.



Thornton Massie Tice II

For his education, Massie studied journalism and art history at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

In 1986, Massie met his wife, Maria, in Houston, Texas. They married, moved to Hawaii, and had six children together before moving to Astoria, Oregon, in the winter of 2004.

Among Massie's many interests were Christianity, the Constitution of the United States, music, photography, chess, writing political essays and spending time with his children.

He was a true American son and will be greatly missed.

Massie is survived by his wife, Maria, and their six children, Manasseh, Cabell, Thornton, Thomas, Jireh and Ephraim. And by his daughters, Meg, Angie, Roxanne, Christian, Jennifer and Brandy.

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