

House concert to feature award-winning pianists



COURTESY PHOTOS

Lisa Downing and Starr Parodi

On Friday, Aug. 12, Kathy Parsons' house concert series will feature Lisa Downing and Starr Parodi, two award-winning composers and pianists with some very impressive credentials.

Downing is a classically trained pianist who was nominated for two Emmy Awards this year for a benefit concert she performed for the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame.

She has performed in concert all over the world both solo and with other notable artists, including Liz Story and Suzanne Ciani.

Parodi has scored the music for hundreds of movies, television programs and live orchestral works. A classically-

trained artist, she played piano and keyboards with various gospel and soul bands, catching the attention of Arsenio Hall, who invited her to play keyboards for his dynamic house band, The Posse.

Parodi was also invited to play at The Kennedy Center for Bill Clinton's Presidential Inauguration and was a featured artist for Keyboard Magazine's 20th Anniversary Concert.

Come for a very special evening of piano music.

Reservations are required by calling Kathy Parsons at 541-999-9720 or email her at kathyphiano@gmail.com.

The address and directions will be furnished when reservations are made.

CAR CHRONICLES —

The Marquee Years — Volkswagen



BY CAL APPLEBEE
Special to the Siuslaw News

I was first introduced to Volkswagens by my foster sister who purchased a 1958 bug to go off to college. I was still in high school so stayed home, but her college was close enough that she returned home quite often and I'd get to borrow the bug. She had painted it blue with a brush, so it really looked like a hick's farm car — which it sort of was. Reverse didn't work so we always had to park it so you could pull straight out.

It would be a decade before VWs came back to my attention. When I married my second wife she had two extreme-

ly straight Karman Ghia models. Her brother had a Baja bug and soon I came down with bug fever. I can't recall the entire sequence but over the years I owned a variety of VW models myself: two nearly-identical Things — as long as you didn't consider one was very original and in great shape, the other was a rust-bucket.

Along the way at one point I also acquired a movie prop car that was a pretty poor replica of the WWII VW Kubelwagen that the Thing was based on. It was really rough though!

Despite the condition of the Kubelwagen, I really had a blast driving it around the perimeter of our country acreage. One time I pulled up in front of the barn and turned off the key, but it kept running. So, being the bright guy I thought I was, I pulled the battery cable — first one, then the other, figuring it would die without the power from the battery.

Wrong. I finally just put it in fourth gear and popped the clutch, killing the engine. Later, as my

real-mechanic brother-in-law fixed the problem, he gave me a lesson in automotive electronics to demonstrate where my resolution was flawed.

Other VWs would come and go over the years, including a variety of old bugs, a 21-window bus and two super beetle convertibles. The second of those soured me on VW's for the time. Its computerized brain-box kept failing,, leaving us stranded from time to time. I tried three different shops with European expertise and none of them could solve it. After the third time out of the shop at a cost of \$700, it got traded in the next day on a Ford pick up.

I had another bug just in the last couple years; it was one of those deals I couldn't pass up. It was a 1966 standard bug with low miles and all original. It needed a little refurbishing, but with its six-volt system on the Oregon coast, and gas mileage less than anticipated, it was soon on its way to a collector in California who contacted me. After receiving delivery, he was so impressed with its original condition, he was

leaving it un-restored.

Of course, the value of VWs has changed considerably over the years. In some cases, I paid just a couple hundred bucks for some of the vehicles that passed through my hands decades ago; those same cars are now bringing several thousands of dollars.

That 1966 bug brought back a lot of memories, even to the escapades in my sister's '58 bug... Like the time I was on a date with the preacher's daughter out at Lake Lowell enjoying the submarine races (we always read scriptures first: "And in the beginning - Amen"). A car-load of college guys started hassling us so I sped out, forward of course, and they took chase.

Fortunately, I was very familiar with the back roads, there was a full moon, and the bug had a great hand-brake.

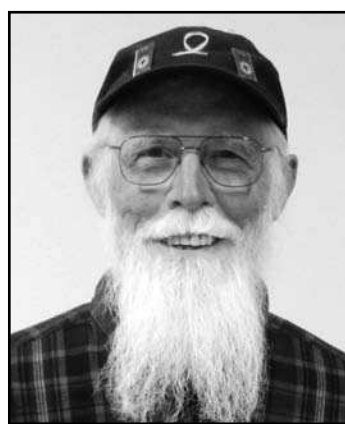
After gaining a little distance, I cut the lights and relied on moon-light vision and the hand brake to eventually lose them completely.

You 'gotta love old VW bugs.

Travel safe.

Us TOO Florence

Behind the headlines



BY BOB HORNEY
US TOO FLORENCE FACILITATOR
PROSTATE CANCER SURVIVOR

This month, I want to address prostate cancer post-treatment life. There is a big difference between a high or rising pre-diagnosis PSA and a post-treatment PSA that remains high or drops but rises.

With pre-diagnosis PSA, there can be a number of possibilities as to its meaning with prostate cancer being only one of them. With post-treatment PSA, its significance will bear heavily on the success or failure of our treatment — being cancer free, demanding continued scrutiny or needing additional therapy.

It is not unusual for those of us who have undergone prostate can-

cer treatment to deal with some PSA anxieties as we periodically check the success of our treatment with PSA tests. There often seems to be a "what if" lurking in the back of our minds as we await the results of each test.

I well remember a discussion of PSA anxiety with a man who had attended Us TOO Florence meetings following his diagnosis. His choice of treatment was external beam radiation. The periodic follow-up PSA tests were causing a high level of anxiety, enough so that he was about to stop the follow-up tests. As he said, "I'd rather stick my head in the sand."

That might seem like a strange comment from someone who, from his tests thus far, had been successfully treated for his prostate cancer. But, having been bitten once can play all sorts of tricks with the mind. I can fully understand what he is saying.

Some men simply want to put it out of their mind and go on with their lives. They don't want to attend Us TOO Florence meetings, get their PSA checked or talk about their experience; They just want to go on with their lives.

Even though the newly diagnosed men gain immeasurable information from talking with those who have taken the prostate

cancer journey, not every man is capable of sharing his story. To some, this is a very personal journey that they want to keep strictly to themselves.

This is not wrong and everyone needs to understand that. I am personally very thankful for the men who are open and willing to attend Us TOO Florence meetings and share their experiences, but it would be wrong to hold ill feelings toward those who are unable to do that.

I used to go through some of the same PSA anxieties with each six-month test, but mine were short-lived and are getting shorter. My surgery in 2002 was followed with unsettled PSA results which finally increased to the point, in 2007, that additional therapy — radiation — was recommended. Having been through both treatments, I fully appreciate the importance of my PSA test results.

I know they have helped extend my life considerably beyond what "could have been," so will doggedly continue to get them.

Do I, therefore, insist that every man who has been treated needs to follow my example?

Absolutely not.

We in Us TOO Florence have a common understanding: The correct decision for what a man does

is the decision that he makes for himself... and we do not question it.

Each man makes his own decision and owns the results of it. That applies to choice of treatment and follow-up to that treatment.

My experience is that those choices are made much easier by talking with men who have already worked through those decisions. But, some men are more comfortable making their choice in private — and that is ok, too.

That being said, I (and other survivors) will continue to attend Us TOO Florence meetings to share our experiences with those men who are reaching out for information.

As valuable as our experiences are for men beginning their prostate cancer journey, the icing on the cake for those who come to our Us TOO Florence meetings, is having our urologists in attendance.

Dr. Bryan Mehlhoff attends our evening group and our lunch group is attended by Dr. Roger McKimmy and his PA-C Cameron Derbyshire.

Whether it is pre-diagnosis PSA testing, choosing a treatment or life after treatment, their expertise is invaluable — and free.

FRAA to feature 'Three Glassy Ladies' in August

The public is invited to attend a three-women show titled: "Three Glassy Ladies."

This will be held at the Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) Gallery at 120 Maple St. A reception with refreshments will be held on Friday, Aug. 12, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Then on Saturday, Aug. 13, the three artists' beautiful glassworks can be viewed from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., including during the popular Second Saturday Gallery Tour, from 3 to 5 p.m.

The artists will be available

during these times to meet guests and answer questions about their art forms.

The three "Glassy Ladies" include Peggy Goodrow, who works with stained glass; Tina Shoys, who works with mosaic glass; and Kristin Anderson, who works with fused glass.

Goodrow has lived in the Pacific Northwest her entire life, and loves the natural beauty of the Florence area.

"After a long career in dental hygiene, I decided to make good use of the right side of my brain and started 14 years ago to take stained glass classes," said Goodrow.

Her favorite thing to do with glass is to "use lots of color and different textures of glass," she said.

In addition to being a member of FRAA, Goodrow is on

the art display committee at the Siuslaw Public Library.

Shoy started to do mosaic work after retiring from a career in corporate telecommunications management.

She sells her art on Etsy, at local arts and crafts events, and has sold work in several local Florence shops. She is also a member of FRAA.

Anderson said she began working with fused glass "as a counterbalance to my analytical daily work as an engineering director.

"I fell in love with the color and creativity that comes with creating glass art," added Anderson, who has an Etsy store and has sold work in galleries, including FRAA.

She serves as vice-president of FRAA, and enjoys "helping to promote the arts in Florence," said Anderson.

Starlight to host Stella Blue

Musician Stella Blue will perform at the Starlight Cabaret Wednesday, Aug. 17.

Blue has been performing music on the West Coast for more than 30 years. The music begins at 6:30 p.m. at Florence Unitarian Universalist

Fellowship, at Highway 101 and Heceta Beach Road.

Tea and coffee will be provided, or BYOB if over age 21. Finger foods are welcome.

The event is free to the public, but donations will be accepted.

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