



NASSOONS

The Newsletter of the Princeton Nassoons Alumni Association
Volume 46, Spring 2012

Welcoming our newest Honorary Nassoon...

Tori Jueds

By Chris Brownell '13

In the classic setting of New York City's historic Racquet and Tennis Club this past March, the undergrads looked on with the customary mix of envy and sadness as our three seniors—Kevin Zhu, Matt Walsh, and Vijay Ramani—received their ties from Sandy McAdoo '71 and Scott Watson '74, the first sign that they will be leaving us this June. But among all the usual festivities, an especially joyful occasion presented itself. As we began waving goodbye to the class of 2012, we also welcomed our newest member, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Students, **Victoria ("Tori") Jueds**, who was inducted into the brotherhood of SFC as an Honorary Nassoon.



Those of you who have listened to *Nassoons 2010* or *Christmas with the Princeton Nassoons* will know that Dean Jueds is a very talented soprano and, to date, she and Honorary Nassoon *Jamie Rankin* are the only two non-members of the undergrad group to perform on a Nassoons album (Jamie sings a tag on "Carol of the Bells"). Dean Jueds has also performed with us live a number of times, including her stunning rendition of *Summertime* at the 70th reunion dinner in Prospect House last April. She can even be seen performing *Summertime* in the "uni" (that ratty old tiger suit) on YouTube.

In addition to her musical contributions to the Nassoons, Dean Jueds has also been a great friend to all of us. She has welcomed many of us into the yoga studio at Wilson College where she has helped us search for our inner rhythm and flex our bodies in ways that many of us cannot. She has been a lovely dinner companion on campus and off, and her door is always open to any of us who might need a friend to talk to regarding one of her more important roles at the university, disciplining the undergraduates.

We are so pleased to formally welcome Dean Jueds into the Nassoons as an honorary member, but if you ask any of the undergrads, they'll tell you that she has been a Nassoon for years.

Undergraduate Nassoons Reunions Show Schedule

Friday, June 1st

- 3:40 pm: 40th Reunion show, Dodd Courtyard
- 6:30 pm: 15th Reunion Dinner
- 7:30 pm: 45th Reunion Dinner
- 8:00 pm: 50th Reunion show next to Blair Arch
- 10:00 pm: Nassoons show at Colonial Club
- 12:00 pm: Midnight Arch Sing in Blair

Saturday, June 2nd

- 10:30 am: 50th Reunion Memorial Service, University Chapel
- 12:50 pm: Old Guard Performance at Forbes
- 5:15 pm: APGA performance at Icahn Lab
- Evening: Probable 35th Reunion dinner show

Annual Reunion

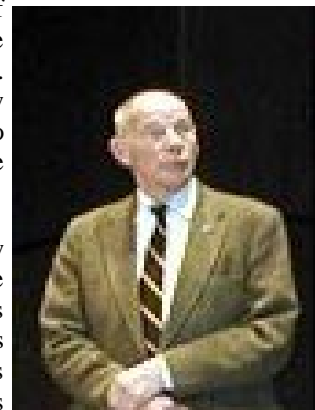
The **Annual Reunion** of the Princeton Nassoons will be held on **Friday, June 1st**, at **Colonial Club** (again hosted by *Lew Ross '58 — Thanks, Lew!*) starting at **9:00 pm** and will be followed by the traditional **Blair Arch Sing** at **12:00 midnight**. For those of you in Princeton for the weekend, please join us for another terrific evening of Nassoon camaraderie and song.

Remembering...

William R. Soons '44

*(One of our revered early Nassoons, **Bill Soons '44**, passed away on November 3, 2011. A Lawrenceville graduate, Bill received a minor "P" in football at Princeton, played in the band, was in Tiger Inn, sang in the Glee Club, and, of course, was a stalwart member of the Nassoons. Rich McGlynn '60 wrote the following tribute to Bill for Nassoon Notes. Thanks, Gloo.)*

For most of us from classes in the mid-50s to early 60s, our first and enduring recollection of Bill Soons is at Reunions. When we went to Blair Arch for the Friday night Nassoon sing, there was always a huge galvanized tub in the center of the Arch, filled with ice and cans of beer. Sitting on the tub, wearing his '44 Reunion lederhosen, was Bill Soons, with his flat top crew cut, wielding what we then called a "church key," which was, of course, the device needed to open a can of beer. Bill performed the function of opening the can for all who wanted one. He was the beer impresario.



Bill Soons at the 65th Reunion

Bill was a very successful trusts and estates attorney, with offices in NYC and northern New Jersey, but singing was at the very heart of his being. A bass who joined the Nassoons in the spring of 1942, shortly after the group was founded in the fall of 1941, his nickname was "DaBoom." Many people speculated that the Nassoons were named after Bill because of his surname and his having sung with many of the originals. Of course, we all now know that was not so. But I never recall anyone being disabused of the notion that he gave the 'Soons his name by Bill himself. When someone said that to him, Bill would simply smile.

Bill was a good friend of J. Wesley Mapletoft '28, a fellow a cappella music fan and loyal Princetonian. They became acquaintances of mine even when I was an undergraduate. "Wek" and Bill were stalwart members of the University Glee Club of New York City, both serving a Club Presidents in their time. Bill and another lawyer friend here in NJ recruited me to join the Glee Club, which I did in the spring of 1965, and continued to sing with Bill and Wek in the club, where I'm still a member. The UGC has an annual quartet contest, called the Hambone Cup, and Bill, Wek and I joined a first rate baritone to win the cup shortly after I joined the club. We rehearsed in Bill's beautiful home in Englewood, and the men and their wives became close friends. Bill was a member of Knickerbocker Club in Tenafly, NJ, and would host a Christmas party at the club where he'd invite the quartet and other members of the UGC to sing for the Club membership after a gala dinner, just before the holidays. That tradition continued for many years, up to Bill's death.

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Remembering...

James Mahlon (" Jim ") Buck Jr. '46

One of our most musically talented and enthusiastic early Nassoons, **Jim Buck '46**, passed away in his sleep on March 16, 2011. Jim was raised in Wynnewood and later Bryn Mawr, PA. Jim graduated from The Haverford School in 1942 and never drifted far from home, living the last 44 years of his life in Haverford, PA. He entered Princeton University in 1942 with the Class of 1946 as an ROTC candidate and later served in World War II as a member of the 92nd Division Field Artillery in the European Theatre, where he fought in the Battle of the Bulge.



Jim Buck

At the conclusion of the war, he returned to Princeton to complete his degree in Economics. There he sang with the Nassoons, performed on tour with The Triangle Club, and was a member of Colonial Club. After college he continued his love for music performance as a co-founder of The Suburban Squires, an all-male a cappella group. He served as its Music Director and chief arranger for over 25 years. Throughout his life, Jim was a fixture at the piano, encouraging all to sing along to show tunes and Christmas Carols.

After graduating from Princeton in 1948, Jim embarked on a remarkably successful career in the wholesale drug distribution business. Upon selling his company in 1977, he and his brothers founded TDH Capital Corporation, a venture capital holding company. TDH had a large impact on the regional venture capital scene, investing founding capital in such companies as ESPN, Airgas, Staples, Intelligent Electronics, and Animas to name a few.

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Nassoon Ski Trip



Pictured above are **Howie Baetjer '74**, **Jeff Shaw '73** and **Scott Watson '74** on the slopes for a fun day of spring skiing at Alta, near Salt Lake City, back in late March. The trip, originally proposed by Jeff, allowed the boys the chance to rehash some old Nassoon stories and enjoy each other's company in one of North America's most beautiful settings, while getting some good exercise on Alta's excellent terrain. Joined on their trip by Howie's wife, Susan, and Scott's friend, Margot, they skied on successive days at Alta, the Canyons, and Park City, then finished up with a snowy half-day at Deer Valley before returning home that afternoon.

The get together inspired the idea of reprising the event next year, and perhaps opening it up to a larger contingent of Nassoon skiing aficionados. More participants means more fun, renewed friendships and perhaps the chance to sing for unsuspecting, but potentially adoring fans at the local restaurants.

You'll be hearing more as plans unfold for next year. In the meantime, if there are any other of you Nassoon skiers out there who'd like to join them, please contact Jeff (jwdjshaw@rkymtnhi.com) or Scott (smw.scott@starpower.net). They'd really like to hear from you. To coin a phrase, this could be the start of something big!

Etcetera...

Angus Worthing '97 has agreed to step to the plate and help your editor with future issues of *Nassoon Notes*, providing a younger voice for our newsletter and facilitating networking among younger Nassoons. Should you have anything you'd like to share in *Notes*, you can reach Angus at angusworthing@gmail.com. Thanks, boyz.

In case you missed it ... **Hud Stoddard '44** has just written a book, *New Canaan Meets the Cuban Missile Crisis: How One Connecticut Community Confronted the Prospect of Nuclear Disaster*, a very interesting study of the times published by the New Canaan Historical Society. Hud has included so much history of this period, including Fidel Castro's visit to Princeton just after he became head of Cuba!

From PAW, February 8, 2012

It's A Tough Job, But...

(This begins what hopefully will become a regular feature of Nassoon Notes—a column featuring Nassoons with particularly interesting and unusual vocations or avocations. Hopefully, our fellow 'Soons will tip off your editor when they hear of an item of potential interest.)

After winding down for several years, **Lew Markle '72** is now fully retired from his former life as an executive for a big construction company though he continues to do some consulting work for a few companies to pay for what he calls his "canoe habit." His main business these days is building and restoring traditional wood-canvas canoes. His little company is called *Lew's Canoes*. Lew writes, "I have been at this for about 10 years now, first as a hobby and now a small business. I do five or six boats a year, either new builds or restorations of old canoes, and I am having a blast! I am also teaching canoe building at a local Maritime Center and giving private lessons in my shop – just finished a four month project with a father & son team, building a canoe as a graduation present for the son."

Letters, We Get Letters...

*(No one who was there will ever forget the ebullient presence of **Jack Huyler '42**, and his wonderful rendition of Teasin', at our 70th Reunion last year. The Association generously agreed to defray some of Jack's costs in making the trip from California. Shortly thereafter he sent Mac McMorris a warm thank you letter, excerpted below.)*

Wow! Your generosity caps a weekend unforgettable for me. Ten 'Soons singing *Perfidia* under umbrellas at the Dinky Station Thursday evening...Being allowed to solo *Squeezin'* though I know—and you heard—that old age has taken my voice...Singing *Old Nassau* en masse, raising the hairs on my arms...What a sound! A couple of hundred disciplined male voices--all of whom know their parts...The sentimental (for me) transferring of the ownership of the silver box, with its proof of who were the Original Eight. No one can doubt again.

You guys cannot guess how much it means that the Alumni Association helped with our tab at the Nass. After trying to help in Japan [the tsunami aftermath], then with Uncle Sam hitting me harder than I had anticipated, I was even thinking that I should have stayed home. Then came your e-mail with the news of the Association's generosity. As I said at the beginning, WOW!!!

What a weekend! What voices! What arrangements! What a welcome! What fun!

Gratefully,

Jack

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Remembering Bill Soons, *continued...*

Bill began to develop dementia a few years ago, which was very difficult for him, his wife, Joan, and for all of The Ten. Gradually, it became clear that Bill would no longer be able to sing with us. But we would do our best, when Bill was in the audience, to bring him up with us to sing our signature encore song, "I'll Be Seeing You". Even in his condition, Bill would be able to sing the bass part, particularly the last very low note, on key. He often would be moved to tears as we were singing.

Like so many 'Soons of the original generation, Bill and his first wife were married shortly after the war, during which Bill saw action with an artillery unit in France and received the Bronze Star (though he would never talk about it, like so many of the Greatest Generation). As a gift to the new bride and groom, the other 'Soons with whom Bill had sung gave a silver cigarette tray with all of the signatures of the members engraved on top. *Jack Huyler's '42* box is now a part of the Nassoon archive. Bill was cremated and, at his second wife's wish, his ashes were interred in and with the cigarette box in the cemetery in Englewood. So, even in death, Bill's membership in the Nassoons is honored. Surely he was one of a kind, and one of the most generous men I've ever known.

No friend in need every went away from Bill without some support, generous indeed. And, in addition to a loan of funds, there was good advice given. His friends loved him, and all who knew him respected him as a true gentleman. Bill endowed a rehearsal room in Woolworth Hall, the music building at Princeton. He was a founding member of the Nassoon Alumni Association who served on the Board for many years. Fortunately, we have Bill's recollections of his time as a Soon in digital form. He also was one of the pre-war Nassoons who returned to Princeton after the war, held auditions and re-constituted the group with such great men as *Jim Buck, Ed Knetzger, Dick Armstrong, Og Tanner* and *Don Finnie*. So, Bill is truly a father of the Nassoons and the group continues today because of his efforts.

* * * * *

Buzz Kelsey '62 offered this fond remembrance: "Having become acquainted with Bill Soons during my undergraduate years, his presence at the Midnight Blair Arch Sing was a standing appointment. My widowed mother—then 52 years old—arrived at the arch in 1962 dressed in her finest silk dress! As President of the group that year, I had the pleasure of

Remembering Jim Buck, *continued...*

One of Jim's lifelong passions was The Philadelphia Phillies baseball club, the team that he followed faithfully from his earliest years. In 1981, he and his brothers joined in a partnership in the purchase of the team. From that moment until the time of his death, the Phillies were an integral part of Jim's life, becoming an activity in which family and friends would join him in the rooting section from the beginning of Spring Training until the "final pitch". In 2008, his staunch commitment and loyalty were rewarded, culminating in the first Phillies World Series Championship in 30 years (and second in the history of the ball club).

In addition to all of his business activities, Jim was a tireless and valued civic leader. Among the many organizations that he and his wife Elia supported and helped to lead were his two alma maters, Haverford and Princeton; The Philadelphia Orchestra (where he was an Emeritus Trustee at the time of his death); The Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church; The Bryn Mawr Hospital (as Trustee, Emeritus Trustee, and a founding Trustee of The Main Line Health System); and The Church Farm School to which he committed over 40 years of his life. To every organization he brought his clear sighted business acumen, and his quiet passion and unwavering generosity.

(Excerpted from an obituary in the Philadelphia Inquirer.)

introducing her to Bill and other stalwarts gathered. As always in those days, there was a 'tub' of ice and beer in the center of the circle. As Rich mentioned, the most important piece of equipment at the event—other than the pitch pipe—was the 'church key' with which to open the brew. Bill summoned Elizabeth to the center of the circle, handed her the key and insisted she should stay put so as to hear the singing from the best position. Mother cheerfully accepted her assignment, sat on the ice and opened beer for one and all for a long time. Her favorite silk dress became thoroughly soaked with suds and she became the happiest observer in the crowd! Until the end of her life, she recalled that night and her new found friendship with the charming Mr. Soons as a true highlight. And right she was! Bill was ever a gentleman and unfailingly accepting of new guys in the group. For me, I shall always remember him as the Spirit of the Nassoons."