

# Friends of the Ocean City Pops Newsletter

Fall 2010

Edited by George Ingram / Layout by Ralph Cooper

Vol. 16 No. 3

## Pops Orchestra Ocean City's "Unique Gem" ... **Mayor Gillian, music lover**

"It's a gem, it's unique, and I love it."

That's how Jay Gillian, the new Mayor of Ocean City, feels about the Ocean City Pops.

And it didn't take long for this sentiment



**Mayor Jay Gillian**

to surface during an interview with the tall, 46-year-old chief executive as he sat at his conference table across from a full-sized carousel horse that somehow looked right at home in the Mayor's third-



**Bonnie Smith at Pops fundraiser hosted by the Cellucci's to kickoff season. See photo feature on page - 3.**

floor office in City Hall.

A music lover with tastes that run the gamut from Elton John to Beethoven, Gillian has strong, positive feelings about the quality of the Pops orchestra - and about the need to spread the gospel of its excellence to a broader audience.

As the Mayor sees it, all of us - especially the Friends of the Ocean City Pops - have a responsibility to get more acquaintances, neighbors, relatives, and visitors out to Pops and Friends concerts. He also promised to do his best to garner more funding to promote our concerts.

Even in tough economic times like these, Gillian would like an infusion of greenbacks for advertising and public relations - money that could benefit not only the Pops and the Friends but all of the arts in town. The Mayor's hopes are nearly as high as the 140-foot Ferris wheel that dominates his Wonderland Pier.

"We need fresh ideas and fresh minds," he said. "I think we all have to work in harmony and we need more p.r. and more education to get the right stuff out there. What's always held us back is the funding. Hopefully, with the Tourism Commission, we'll be able to carve out some more money in the budget for the Pops and our other cultural programs. At the end of the day, you really need funding to get the word out. And once you're there, word-of-mouth spreads the message."

Sounding like a missionary, he said the city needs to attract more people to Pops' performances. "You just go a couple of times to realize how cool it is, and then you're hooked. No matter

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**Friends Fall Festival Fundraiser - See Page - 11**



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**Help the Friends Support the Orchestra**  
*Volunteers Needed for 2011 Committees*

# New Trustees Join Friends Board for 2011

Two well-known Ocean City residents who share a strong belief in the importance of community service - Roberta G. DeVries and James C. Andrews--will join the Board of Trustees of the Friends of the Ocean City Pops, Inc., (FOCP) as of January 1, 2011.

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Roberta G. DeVries has an enviable track record as a volunteer for many non-profit organizations. A former member of the Philadelphia Zoo's Board of Directors, she currently serves as co-chair of its Volunteer Coordinating Committee. Among her other non-profit affiliations are such diverse organizations as the Jenkintown Day Nursery Board, Old York Road Committee for the Philadelphia Orchestra, Cornell University Class Fund, and the International Association of Zoo and Aquarium Docents.

Closer to home, she is a trustee of the Wetlands Institute in Stone Harbor, as well as a board member of the Ocean City Yacht Club. DeVries has also been active as a judge in the Ocean City Baby Parade, as vice president of the Ocean City Married Couples Club, and as a member of the Ocean City Women's Research Club.

Known as "Bert" to friends, DeVries is a former teacher in the Centennial School District of lower Bucks County and at the private Meadowbrook School in eastern Montgomery County. She has a bachelor's degree from Cornell University and a Master's Equivalency from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

For many years, she and her husband John have been subscribers to the Ocean City Pops orchestra and have supported FOCP's many fundraising activities. "I want to see the Pops continue to develop and grow," DeVries said, "and I hope that I can bring my diverse experience and skills to help out."

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James C. Andrews was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, and graduated from the State University of New York's Maritime College in Throgs Neck with a degree in Economics and Marine Transportation.

After graduation, he served four years in the U.S. Coast Guard, eventually attaining the rank of lieutenant commander.

For 34 years, Andrews worked at Janney Montgomery Scott LLC, where he was a senior vice president and partner. During his time at the full-service finan-



**Roberta G. DeVries**

cial services firm, he started and ran the Investment Trading Department and was responsible for the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

A former commodore of the Ocean City Marlin & Tuna Club, Andrews also has served on the executive board of the Ocean City Yacht Club, and he has been active in the Knights of Columbus in Ocean City.



**James C. Andrews**

He and his wife, Joan, have lived in Ocean City for the past 26 years.

DeVries and Andrews were both elected as new trustees at a recent meeting of the FOCP board. The Friends of the Ocean City Pops is a group of volunteer supporters organized to promote excellence in the programming, performance, and continuing development of the Ocean City Pops Orchestra.

## Mayor Gillian

### From Page - 1

where they play - the Music Pier, the High School, elsewhere--they are very talented and they love what they do and they work hard at it. It's a group of musicians who really take pride in what they do."

At the same time, he is quick to say that there's another, more parochial, dimension to the Pops: generating community spirit. "The Pops gives something to our local residents," Gillian said. "In the summer, we are geared to our out-of-town guests and second homeowners. The Pops is one thing that unites the local community. I remember going to concerts and seeing all the friends and the people I grew up with. I always thought that was so unique. To me, the Music Pier was a community place where we could all get together."

Gillian waxes sentimental at the mention of the Music Pier. "When I was younger - and I mean way back - I thought the Music Pier was the Pops. That's what I thought it was there for. I didn't really know they used the Music Pier for anything other than that," he said. "The more I got involved in

community services the more I realized how important the Pops is to Ocean City."

For the Mayor, "getting involved" is a classic understatement. In addition to the hefty mantle of elected public service he donned this past July, he's the third-generation owner of amusement businesses in Ocean City and Sea Isle City. He is also chairman of Shore Memorial Hospital's Board of Trustees. A past president of the city's Board of Education, Gillian is very active in such civic activities as First Night and the Walk For Children in Foster Care.

When Gillian talks about the sterling musicians of the Pops orchestra and music director Bill Scheible, you can almost sense a tinge of envy in him. Possibly it's a feeling that harks back to something that happened many years when his father, Roy Gillian--who served as Mayor from 1986 to 1990--arranged for him to take piano lessons.

"After awhile I wanted to quit," the Mayor recalled. "My dad said, 'I'll let you quit, but you're going to regret it.' And now I do. I still play a little. But I'm sorry that I walked away from it."

Fortunately for us, Jay Gillian has no intention of walking away from the Pops.

-- George Ingram

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# Chez Cellucci's Extravaganza Kicked Off Friends Banner Year

Trust us: No one went home hungry after the Friends' spring fundraiser at the Avalon home of John and Edna Cellucci last May.

The dinner, limited to the first 100 people, was a symphony of delicious food, most of it "composed" by that talented epicurean, John Cellucci.

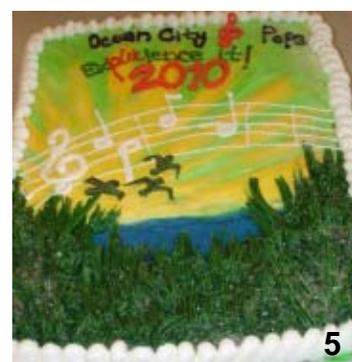
On view in hot plates and colorful crock pots was a seemingly endless array of victuals, including penne marinara, Italian chicken, roast beef, pasta with meat sauce, and much more.

During appetizers before the meal began, bartender Tom Hobson worked skillfully from a well-stocked bar. Afterwards, out came a cake decorated with the 2010 Pops banner and other scrumptious desserts.

There was also great entertainment, with Edna displaying her prowess on the piano, accompanied by Joe Smith, principal clarinet with the Opera Company of Philadelphia, the Academy of Vocal Arts Orchestra, and the Philly Pops.

Daughter Kate Cellucci, her brother John, and Chef John also entertained the guests, prompting Chair Barbara Fasy to call them "our answer to the Von Trapp family." And a first-time attendee, Vince Mento, proved that he can belt out a song as well.

Helping out during the event were members of the Friends as well as relatives and friends of the Celluccis. It was a truly memorable evening.





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Sign up for our mailing list or contribute online @ [www.oceancitypops.org](http://www.oceancitypops.org)

Photos. identified clockwise, from the top left: 1 - Edna Cellucci with sax player Joe Smith; 2 - guests; 3 - guests; 4 - drummer John Cellucci, Jr.; 5 - the cake; 6 - hostess greets guests seated from left, Phyllis and Ken Hoover, Sally and Bill Scheible and John Stauffer; 7 - Ginny Cooper, Pat Staub and Sonya Bertini; 8 - Edna's final kitchen checkoff before dinner.

(Photos by George Ingram)



Community outreach for the Friends of the Ocean City Pops includes participation in the Spring Block Party. Ralph Cooper, left, and Ken Hoover, Friends Trustees, provide information. Volunteers staff the table on 2-hour shifts for both the Spring and Fall Block Party on Asbury Avenue in downtown Ocean City.

*(Photo courtesy of Josephine Carroll)*

For And About Us ....

## POPS 'n FRIENDS

**Wedding Bells:** Principal violist **Marka Kasker** married **Martin Stepper** this past spring, and is now going by **Marka Gwynn Stepper**...and in August principal French hornist **Lauren Robinson** married **Jeffrey White**, a bass player.

**Taking Notice:** The August issue of Opera News magazine highlighted lyric tenor **Michael Fabiano**, who has sung with the Pops in a number of summer concerts. The Philadelphia-based artist was also featured this past year in an acclaimed documentary, "The Audition," about the finals of the Metropolitan Opera National Council.

**Meet the Press:** Maestro **Bill Scheible**, Chair **Barbara Fasy**, and concertmaster **Olga Konopelsky** met with the Editorial Board of The Press of Atlantic City in Pleasantville late last spring. The trio told the newspaper's top editors about the importance of the Ocean City orchestra and the good work of the Friends of the Ocean City Pops.

*(Other items - Page 12.)*

## Friends In Memoriam

### ***Passing of Walt Camenisch, Former Board Member***

The Friends lost a dedicated member and a valued mentor with the passing last July of Walter Camenisch, Jr., a fundraising consultant with a gift for encouraging people to donate to good causes. He was 87 and lived at Brittany Pointe Estates near Lansdale, PA.

A former member of the Friends Board of Trustees, Mr. Camenisch chaired the Fund Development Committee, which developed the Esther Weil Legacy Society. In later years he became chair of the FOCP's Advisory Council.

A man who devoted more than four decades to a career in philanthropy, he once told a Philadelphia Inquirer reporter his prescription for a successful fund drive: "Motivate people, give them a reasonable goal, develop leadership and volunteers, and solicit major donors because they are the key to a campaign."

Attending Mr. Camenisch's memorial service in Lansdale, were former FOCP chairs Bill Sundermeir and Ceil Turkington, and Maestro Bill Scheible.

"He was a great help to me when I was



**Walter Camenisch, Jr**

chair," Sundermeir said of Mr. Camenisch. "In anything related to fundraising, I would seek his advice. When I would write a draft of a solicitation letter, I'd send it to Walt for comments. He was always able to improve what I had done."

Sundermeir added that Mr. Camenisch was a great help to trustee Edna Cellucci in developing the Pops program books.

Scheible said he and the Friends will

miss Mr. Camenisch's "guidance and good advice."

"He was helpful in instituting the Ruggieri Society, and he worked diligently in preparing a long-range plan for the Friends in its early years," Scheible recalled. "I will especially miss his upbeat personality and good comments regarding our programming."

A combat veteran of World War II, during which he received a Purple Heart while fighting in the Apennine Mountains in Italy, Mr. Camenisch was a past president of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Society of Fund-Raising Executives. In 1989 the organization designated him as "Executive of the Year."

In addition to his volunteer work with the Friends, he served on the boards of the Montgomery County Foundation, the Lutheran Home of Germantown, the Historical Society of Fort Washington, and the Better Business Bureau of Philadelphia.

Mr. Camenisch had been married to his wife, Marie, for 46 years until her death in 2009.

**ORCHESTRA PROFILE**

# Arne Running, Clarinet

Ocean City Pops clarinetist Arne Running received a Bachelor of Music degree from Boston's New England Conservatory of Music and a Master of Music from Temple University. A native of Moorhead, Minnesota, he has had a busy career as principal clarinetist with the Pennsylvania Ballet, the Concerto Soloists Chamber Orchestra, and the Philly Pops, as well as substituting with the Philadelphia Orchestra. Arne has also made his mark as a composer, with works commissioned by a variety of ensembles, including the Minnesota Orchestra. In 2003, the Ocean City Pops commissioned him to arrange Zequinha Abreu's Tico Tico for Solo Clarinet, Solo Bassoon, and Small Orchestra. He lives in Hatboro, PA.



**Arne Running**

netists are very fortunate to have it in our repertoire.

**Q.** *When did you know that you wanted to devote your life to music?*

**Arne:** I was very fortunate to know my true path early in life. I began piano lessons at age 7, but like many kids, I did not enjoy practicing. But when I was 11, I saw the movie "The Glenn Miller Story," and my life changed forever. There is a scene where the lead trumpet player broke his teeth, and the clarinet had to take over. When I heard and saw the clarinet, it was love at first sight. I knew right then and there what I wanted to do with my life.

**Q.** *As a teenager, you performed Mozart's haunting Clarinet Concerto with the Minnesota Orchestra. How has your appreciation of this masterwork evolved over the years?*

**Arne:** Let me tell you a story about that performance. It was a requirement that I perform the piece from memory. I had no problem playing it from memory in my practice room or when I rehearsed with the Orchestra. But on concert day, when I walked out in front of 3,000 audience members, I was so nervous that I could not remember the first note I had to play. Fortunately, when the moment came for my entrance, I somehow did remember, and it all went perfectly. As you can imagine, every performance of the piece since then has been more relaxing, and my appreciation of the music has grown immeasurably. It was Mozart's last major piece he completed before his untimely death, and we clari-

**Arne:** I'm afraid it's a complete mystery! Most composers, writers, and artists of all kinds speak of the mystery of creative efforts. That is why we can be so afraid when we begin a new work: where is the first idea going to come from? Will it come at all? When will it come? Very mysterious...

**Q.** What do you enjoy about being a part of the Ocean City Pops?

**Arne:** I love working with my great fellow musicians. And I've enjoyed getting to know so many of our wonderful regular audience members. Without their support, we wouldn't be here.

**Q.** In addition to what we call "serious" or "classical" music, what do you enjoy listening to when relaxing?

**Arne:** My first love was Big Band music - Artie Shaw, Benny Goodman, and Glenn Miller, who started it all for me. I have also been a lifelong fan of pop music of all kinds, starting with people like Patti Page and Doris Day. Then later it was rock and roll music. (I was lucky to see the Beatles perform live.) Also jazz. Even country music sometimes. Duke Ellington said, "There are only two kinds of music—good and bad." And there are great musicians working in all genres.

**Q.** You are also a renowned composer of music. A number of your pieces, such as Aria and Quodlibet for Woodwind Quintet, have a puckish quality. What role does humor play in your compositions?

**Arne:** I have always believed that too much of "modern" music is humorless. Music should reflect all human qualities. Without humor in our lives, things can get a bit unbearable at times. Wouldn't you agree?

**Q.** Where does the idea for a composition come from?

**Lots of Owls:**

Friends Trustee **Amelia Bastastini** and her entire family were featured in a photo session in the Spring 2010 Temple Review alumni magazine.

As this newsletter pointed out last year, Amelia, her husband and their children all have professional degrees from Temple University. (See photo to right)



**From left to right: Bottom row, Lyn Batastini Vizzi, Amelia Batastini, Paul, Jr., and Lisa Batastini Krusinski. Top row: Paul, Frank, Jon.**

*Photo courtesy - Temple University / Ryan S. Brandenburg*



**Katy Ambrose**



**Arne Running**

## Pops Musicians Share Their Knowledge And Talent With Area School Students

At the front of the classroom, Katy Ambrose cradled the French horn in her arms so that the 110 students who had gathered in the Band Room of Ocean City's Intermediate School could have a better view of the hefty instrument.

"This is what it sounds like," she said, just before blowing a few notes, which the students recognized immediately as the theme from "Star Wars."

Ambrose and the four musicians who were with her make up the Ocean City Pops' Woodwind Quintet, and they were at the school one recent afternoon as part of an ambitious outreach program featuring members of the Pops orchestra.

Earlier that day, the French horn player and the rest of her quintet - clarinetist Arne Running, flutist Pam Whitman, oboist Stephen Labiner, and bassoonist Andrea Herr - had thrilled



**Steve Labiner**

students at the Dennis Township Middle School.

Now they were in Ocean City, meeting with kids from the fifth to the eighth grades, to explain how their chosen

instruments worked and to perform snippets of music as diverse as classical, jazz, and pop.

Without naming the title of a work the quintet was preparing to play, flutist Whitman asked the students to think about what animal they thought the music was trying to portray. Afterwards, Whitman explained that there really was no correct answer, because it was an "imaginary" piece of music: "Ballet of the Chickens in Their Shells," one of the presumed canvases from Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition.

In a question-and-answer session, a soon-to-be 14-year-old, Pierce Shellhorn, of Ocean City, momentarily stumped the performers when he asked if anyone in the Pops orchestra specialized in the instrument he studies - soprano sax.

They didn't think so, but they encour-

**Continued on Page - 7**



From left: Pamela Whitman; Steve Labiner; Marcia Dunlap, Dennis Twp. Schools; Katy Ambrose; Carlos Morales, Dennis Twp. Schools; Andrea Herr and Arne Running.

# Pops Musicians

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aged the young man to "come around when you graduate."

At the end of the session, the group put in a plug for the Pops' Christmas Concert in December with a selection from The Nutcracker. Then the students marched out under the watchful eye of the band director, Bob Snodgrass.

Last month, the Pops' outreach program took pianist Jeffrey Uhlig and percussionist Mark O'Kain to the Dennis Township Middle School and the Cumberland Christian School.

How important is the outreach? Let's eavesdrop on a letter to Maestro Scheible from Marcia Dunlap, the Band and Choral Director of Dennis Township Middle School, in the wake of Uhlig's and O'Kain's visit:

"Programs such as yours are so valuable in working with school children," she wrote. "Recorded performances do not accurately convey the essence of music... Seeing and hearing a live performance with professionals of the highest caliber is, for most of my students, something new."

Another endorsement: Calvin Cobb, Jr., Student Activities Director of the Cumberland Christian School in Vineland, wrote that his students were "simply amazed and thrilled" by the Uhlig and O'Kain performance.

Both schools heaped praise on the funding for the programs, which are made possible by the Ocean City Home Charitable Foundation and the Ocean City Pops' Ruggieri Society.



Email addresses were collected during the 2010 concert season. If you have not registered, visit [www.oceancitypops.org](http://www.oceancitypops.org) or email [ocpops@gmail.com](mailto:ocpops@gmail.com) and sign-up soon.



**Pamela Whitman**

## Friends And The Audience "Meet And Greet" Pops Orchestra

More than 80 people attended the Friends' first "Meet the Orchestra" event at the Inlet Room of 500 Bay Condo in August.

Hosted by Marie and Bud Knight, the two-hour session was a unique opportunity for music lovers and orchestra members to socialize in a casual setting.

"The intent of the gathering was to have the orchestra and the public interact and become acquainted, giving the musicians a

better idea of who their audience is, and allowing the public to meet personally the artists they see on the stage," explained Marie Knight.

Among the attendees were Mayor Jay Gillian and his wife, Michele. The event ended at 7 p.m., allowing the audience and orchestra members ample time to head to the Music Pier.

### End of Season Volunteer Reception



**1 - From left: Dave and Joan Phillips, Joy Cogle, Kay and Bill Sundermeir**



**2 - From left: Bob and Barb Parsons, Paige Propp (kettle drummer performer), Mary Ann and Jack Gabel**



**3 - From left: John and Bert DeVries, James Andrews, Phyllis and Ken Hoover**



**4 - From left: Melinda Mayne, Barb Fasy, Judy Perkins, Tom McGrath, Ginny Coco**

(Photos courtesy of Cathy Finnigan, Ocean City Gazette)

# *Medallions of Beef and a Romantic Serenade ...* **Highlight Friends Summer Luncheon**

By any reckoning, it was a tremendous success. More than 230 guests turned out August 19th for the Friends' 21st Annual Summer Luncheon at Greate Bay Country Club in Somers Point.

The "Magical Melodies" motif for this event - brainchild of luncheon co-chairs Judy Perkins, Marie Knight, and Gail Damone - included a color scheme of red, black, and white table

settings, a matching program by PrintArt, Inc., and top hat centerpieces by Spinning Wheel florists.

In the raffle were some 40 gift baskets and original art and crafts by Ed Wismer, Marie Shafron, and Ginny Cooper. There were also 10 silent-auction items and a very lucrative 50/50.

Following a welcome by FOCF chair Barbara Fasy, speakers were former Ocean City Mayor Roy Gillian and his



**Soloist Cody Austin was accompanied by Jeffrey Uhlig at the August luncheon.**

*(See photo feature on page 9.)*

## ***Friends Chairperson*** **Friends Spotlight Building Blocks**

How do you spell Friends of the Ocean City Pops? I spell it using countless superlatives and making it plural ..... **FOCPS.**

**F** is for the **Friends** of the Ocean City Pops Board of Trustees and Advisory Council who are the *most* wonderful friends any organization can have. They work tirelessly to find the means to support the Pops orchestra from fund raising to advocating for them. This Board is entirely made up of dedicated volunteers who are unsurpassed and irreplaceable.

**O** is for the **Orchestra** with the *most* talented musicians and *finest* Maestro, Bill Scheible. Their performances are of the *highest* degree and quality. Ocean City is the *luckiest* and *proudest* city of all to have them here in its midst.

**C** is for the **Concerts** that thrill our audiences. They range from the *most* unique and *most* spectacular such as the Cirque de le Symphony, Patti Page, the Broadway shows, Three Tenors to each and every one of the other *most* enjoyable 2010 concerts.

**P** is for the **Pier Crew** and the **Personnel** that keep the Pops (Friends and Orchestra) running smoothly. These city employees collect tickets, hand out our marketing materials, set up our tables for merchandising or events, provide and set up the means for our Power Point presentation and carry heavy items for us. Superlatives cannot tell the full story but they are the *Greatest!*

**S** is for our **Supporters** who are the *most* generous and *most* wonderful of all and our *sincerest* and heartfelt thanks goes to each and every one of them. We could not accomplish our mission to support and enhance our orchestra without the Ruggieri Society and other special benefactors. Along with them are the sponsors and program advertisers plus other contributors of money and gifts to our events and solicitations. They are really the *finest* and *truest* friends that the Friends could have and we could not leave out our *most* loyal audiences and our hard working volunteers. Without these two groups of matchless supporters the show could not go on.

To all the FOCPS – thank you, you are the *BEST.*

Also thank you for the honor and privilege of being your chair for the past two years; you all made it so rewarding and worthwhile.

**- by Barbara Fasy, Chair**

son, Jay Gillian, the current mayor, and Maestro Bill Scheible. (Also in attendance was another former mayor, Henry "Bud" Knight.)

Jay Gillian assured the luncheon audience that he, like his dad, is a loyal supporter of Ocean City and its institutions, including the Pops, the oldest municipal orchestra in the United States.

Following a scrumptious repast that featured fork-tender beef medallions, tenor Cody Austin, accompanied by Pops pianist Jeffrey Uhlig, entertained guests with operatic selections and romantic songs such as "Be My Love." A former resident artist of Philadelphia's Academy of Vocal Arts, Austin captivated the audience.

After the luncheon, Pops Maestro Bill Scheible told Ms. Perkins that it was by far the best he has attended, and he thanked the Friends for their dedication and hard work.

Remember: funds realized by this luncheon support the orchestra and Friends' initiatives.

The event also provides an opportunity for guests to learn about the many activities offered by the Friends of the Ocean City Pops. So make sure you are part of the excitement next year!

# Annual Friends Luncheon ~ August 19, 2010



## 230 - Plus Attend Luncheon

Photos, identified clockwise, from the top left: 1 - Bill and Kay Sundermeir; 2 - Dolores Wilson, at right, laughs with attendees; 3 - Peggy Loyd; 4 - Table of Honored Guests; 5 - Melinda Mayne; 6 - Jeffrey Uhlig and Cody Austin; 7 - Cathy Finnegan, Maestro Bill Scheible and Gail Damone; 8 - Ocean City Mayor Jay Gillian with father and former Mayor Roy Gillian.

(Photos by George Ingram)



**Looking Back On Special Friends Concert ...**

**David Kim's Violin Generates Cheers & Praise**

One of the most memorable concerts in a great 2010 season was the recital by David Kim, concertmaster of The Philadelphia Orchestra, and pianist Jeffrey Uhlig.

Kim is not only a violin virtuoso. He is also an engaging raconteur.

If - God forbid - he should stop playing the violin, he would surely have a second career as a stand-up comic. That's because his sense of timing for one-liners is as unerring as his ear for music.

Dressed casually in a gray long-sleeved shirt and slacks, Kim had driven five hours after a concert with the Philadelphia Orchestra in Saratoga, NY, to be with us in Ocean City.

At the outset, this good friend of maestro Bill Scheible told the audience how much he loves to play at the Music Pier,



**David Kim**

and referred to a pre-concert interview he had given to The Press of Atlantic City. (A quote from the story: "My ego gets a huge kick. I'll be in flip-flops walking down the Boardwalk and I'll hear my

name announced over the town's public address system, as one of the local coming attractions. There are 40,000 people walking by who have no idea who I am, but I hear it, and I love it.")

Messers Kim and Uhlig began their performance with a sonata by Handel and a rarely heard three-movement sonata by Grieg. Following the intermission, Kim explained that he performs on a donated Italian violin made by J.B. Guadagnini, circa 1757, and that the venerable instrument responds to cold or heat like a living organism. "Right now," he quipped, amid the mid-August humidity and moisture from an incoming tide, "it's like playing a dead mackerel."

Don't believe it.

The duo then launched into two works from Kim's best-selling religious album, "The Lord Is My Shepherd": "Tis So Sweet/Amazing Grace" and "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind." These were followed by the hauntingly lovely "Meditation" from Massenet's opera *Thais* before the violinist electrified everyone by offering the supremely difficult *Carmen Fantasy* by Sarasate. During this breathtaking piece, with the fingers of Kim's left hand flitting feverishly across the strings and his right hand wielding the bow as deftly as d'Artagnan in a sword fight, it seemed like the violin could at any moment crackle and burst into flames.

When he and Uhlig were finished, virtually the entire Music Pier audience was on its feet, cheering wildly and shouting "Bravo!"

And then David Kim put aside the priceless violin, came down from the stage with Jeffrey Uhlig, and graciously chatted with his many adoring fans. It was just another stellar evening at the Ocean City Music Pier. - George Ingram



**Melinda Mayne and Ralph Cooper, FOCP Board members**

**Friends At Ocean City Welcome Night**

Every year, on the last Wednesday in October, the Ocean City Chamber of Commerce sponsors a "Welcome Night" gathering at the Music Pier for organizations to have information tables.

Newcomers, as well as long-time residents have the chance to learn about the many services and non-profit groups, as well as general businesses.

This year, the Friends of the Ocean City Pops table was staffed by Melinda Mayne and Ralph Cooper, FOCP Board members.

Material was distributed about the or-

chestra and the Friends and a laptop computer displayed the slide presentation of the Pops' 2010 season. This slide show was used throughout the summer and shown on the Music Pier stage wall, prior to most Pops concerts.

The annual Pops Holiday Concert, set for Dec. 4th was a featured topic.

The familiar "email sign-up" post cards were used to collect attendee information. More than 50 cards were entered in a special give-away drawing for a Pops orchestra CD.

*Special Note: The Kim recital was made possible, in part, by funds from the NJ State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. The funds were administered by the Cape May County Cultural and Heritage Commission, for the Board of Chosen Freeholders. Also sponsoring the event were the Friends of the Ocean City Pops and Raymond N. Beebe, Esq.*

# Friends "Fall Festival" Fundraiser - Oct. 2010



## Special Ocean City Bayfront Event Hosted by Gail and Joe Damone

Photos, identified clockwise, from top left: 1 - Bayside sunset view; 2 - Hostess Gail Damone; 3 - Gene Hille and Ken Hoover; 4 - Marie Knight; 5 - the Table; 6 - the Cake; 7 - Pat Staub Ingram, Judy Perkins and Ina Herman; 8 - FOCP Chairperson Barb Fasy, right, with twin sister Connie O'Connor Izzo; 9 - Melinda Mayne and Tyra Paynet.

(Photos by George Ingram)





**Friends of Ocean City Pops, Inc.**  
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# Ocean City Theatre & Pops Summer Productions

## *Anything Goes!* *Oklahoma* (Photos by Brian Ewing)



### For And About Us ...continued

## POPS 'n FRIENDS

**Getting Around:** Ocean City Gazette columnist **Cathy Finnegan** devoted two pages of her popular "Around Our Town" column on September 16 to the 21st annual Friends of the Ocean City Pops luncheon at Greate Bay Country Club. Included in the article were eight photos Cathy took of the event.

**Smash in Yokohama:** The Philadelphia Inquirer's **David Patrick Stearns** reported in September that

soprano **Ailyn Perez** made a "triumphant last-minute debut" with the Royal Opera of London during a Japanese tour stop in Yokohama. It happened when diva **Angela Gheorghiu** bowed out of Madame Butterfly and replacement **Ermonela Jaho** could not continue after the first act, leaving Ailyn to finish the rest of the performance—to rave reviews. "I'm beyond words to express how special it was," she said afterwards.

**Ruggieri Recital:** Pianist **Jeffrey Uhlig** and violinist **Reina Inui** entertained members of the Ruggieri Society at the group's annual dinner at Greate Bay Country Club on September 20. **Reina Inui** is one of the recipients of the Ruggieri Fund Chair.

*(See other "For And About Us" items on pages 4.)*

### **Cirque de la Symphony & Pops Performance In August - A Sold-Out Success**



Sponsored by Mack and Manco

(Photos by Brian Ewing)