

Local talent jazzes up Chandler music scene

By Lynda Exley

There is a good chance one of Chandler's most unassuming, albeit talented, semi-professional jazz pianists, Dave Henning, has in some way touched your life or that of someone you know.

During the week Henning, a south Tempe/west Chandler neighbor, is a typical Motorola engineer. On weekends, he's a volunteer lacrosse coach for Chandler schools.

In the evening, you might just run into him at Pita Jungle (see related story on Page 12) or one of the area's other hot music spots, cutting it up on the piano.

Henning's in good company. Jeannette Woods, a Chandler attorney, often performs vocals at Pita Jungle.

If you're lucky, this beautiful and talented singer/lawyer will belt out a song for you. Listening to her rendition of *Fever* will make your spine tingle.

Backing up Henning, Woods and other amateur performers is the Pita Jungle house band, with Sam Marshall on guitar, Peter Gitlin on bass and Gerry Reynolds on drums.

Each Thursday from 7-10 p.m., the Pita Jungle house band is ready to give the spotlight to both budding and experienced musicians.

It's all part of the Pita Jungle Jazz Jam Session, a brainchild of Bart Salzman, that rocks the Pita Jungle restaurant at 1949 W. Ray Road, Chandler.

"People can just show up, bring their horns, (or any other jazz instrument) sign in and sit in," says Salzman. "Everyone gets a chance to play regardless of how good they are."

Salzman, East Valley coordinator for the non-profit organization Jazz in Arizona, has dedicated a great deal of his personal and professional time to promoting Jazz in the area.



Above: Dave Henning breaks a sweat playing hot jazz tunes

Right: Attorney Jeannette Woods gives her fans 'Fever' at Pita Jungle

—Wrangler News photos by Mark Moorehead

No music slouch himself, Salzman plays the trumpet and flugelhorn. He's also bandleader for Sun Lakes Big Band, Bart and Friends Jazz Combo and Sun Lakes "Little" Band.

In addition, he is chairman of the Motorola Chandler Jazz Festival Committee, which is currently looking for volunteers to coordinate year-round jazz clinics in local schools, and event day operations volunteers.

So, whether you're in the mood to exercise your vocal cords, perform a few tunes on an instrument or just sit back and listen to some fun music, you'll appreciate all Salzman has done for the area in the name of jazz.

Information: (480) 786-4424.

