Joel Schneider MD, FACR, FACNM

Life After Retirement: ALL THAT JAZZ*
Joel Schneider MD, FACR, FACNM

My initial desire was to become a jazz guitarist, but I had a definite lack of talent. I decided to become a physician and developed a love for radiology. I was in private practice for 40 years, with a specialty in women’s imaging, before I retired. My professional life included teaching and being elected president of the Florida Radiological Society. I diagnosed over 3,000 breast cancers and published the first article on papillary breast cancer. Yet, music was my passion outside of medicine, and 28 years ago, while still in practice, I founded a non-profit organization to bring to Broward County live jazz performed by the giants of this American music genre. South Florida Jazz was born. Our first venture was the production of the Hollywood Jazz Festival, which was a three-day event held in an outdoor venue at Young Circle in Hollywood, FL. The city of Hollywood funded the event for several years, drawing 20,000 attendees. (When it became necessary to charge for admission, attendance fell to 9,000 people.) Due to the unpredictable weather in South Florida, we moved to an indoor concert series, and the South Florida Jazz concert series has since featured Dizzy Gillespie, Sonny Rollins, Milt Jackson, and Pat Metheny, to mention a few who have performed. We developed a great rapport with the many agents who represented the performers, and those who played for us enjoyed our hospitality, so word spread quickly. South Florida Jazz was soon deluged with offers to appear. The world’s most famous vibraphonist, Gary Burton, actually joined our board of directors. He and Chick Corea played to a sold-out audience for us, and Burton refused to take his fee. When Gerry Mulligan appeared, he was suffering from liver cancer, and we had to administer intravenous medication before the performance. He was spectacular. The greatest thrill for me were the friendships I established with these amazing people. Jazz musicians have been associated with drug use in the past, but our performers were basically clean. At this time, South Florida Jazz presents six concerts a year at the Miniacci Performing Arts Center at Nova Southeastern University that draws enthusiastic audiences. However, faced with the COVID-19 pandemic, we decided to produce four online concerts in 2021, which attracted music lovers from all over the United States, Canada, and Europe. Partially funded by the Broward County Cultural Arts Commission, as well as through private donations, concerts can be viewed on our website: southflorida-jazz.org. It is interesting that many physicians have a love for music, and our board has been composed of practicing doctors. I was president and artistic director of South Florida Jazz for 14 years, and now these positions are held by a former neurologist.

Bio: Joel Schneider is a long-time resident of South Florida, now retired from a busy, successful private practice which included a subspecialty in breast imaging. He is a graduate of Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

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An active member of the Florida Radiological Society, he served as its president from 1986–87. Joel has also been very active in local civic organizations, and as he writes, he founded and continues to help lead South Florida Jazz.

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**SRS Birthdays**

We wish these SRS members a very happy birthday.

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