

Northern Valley

NORTH EDITION

SUBURBANITE

www.nvsuburbanite.com

Your best community news source since 1958

CLOSTER ♦ DEMAREST ♦ HARRINGTON PARK ♦ HAWORTH ♦ NORTHVALE ♦ NORWOOD ♦ OLD TAPPAN ♦ ROCKLEIGH

JULY 22, 2010

Zelnik's music gets 'miracle' rebirth

It is not often when lightning strikes twice in one lifetime, but that is exactly what happened to Closter's Joel Zelnik.

Zelnik is best known for his musical partnering with wife, Francine Evans, New Jersey's popular performing duo. But this story began long before he even met Evans, back when he was only 23.

At 23, Zelnik was riding high with the "J.ZELNIK TRIO" and a newly minted jazz recording called "MOVE." The album garnered the support of jazz great Billy Taylor, who played cuts frequently on his jazz radio program. However, life would take many unforeseen roads and the group eventually disbanded, although still remaining friends.

Years passed. Zelnik possessed what he felt was the one remaining frayed copy of "MOVE" on his living room shelf, its ambitions and

friendships long forgotten. On a tragic note, some years later and much too soon (at age 39), the band's drummer David Rosenberg, passed away. The trio, now permanently splintered, forever dashed any hope of the future of "MOVE" and the long ago, J ZELNIK TRIO.

However, here is where the miracle began to happen.

Not too long ago at age 63, Zelnik was contacted by a young man who had found his name on a internet blog. He was the son of the deceased drummer, searching for any shreds of his father's long gone, legendary playing style. This search was motivated by the juvenile 'drummings' of his own son (David Rosenberg's grandson). Jay knew about "MOVE," although he had no copy.

Through the internet, they met again and Zelnick made a copy for

him. Little did he know that Jay was out there, promoting "MOVE" on the internet, which garnered the attention of a music lover and businessman from Japan, Keisuke Taniguchi.

To his astonishment, Zelnik was contacted by Keisuke, who was interested in promoting this long, forgotten recording. He said that he loved it and believed that there would be marketing interest in Japan.

Zelnik was given a contract and his beloved recording made when he was only 23, was given new life at age 64.

Not only was album released in Japan, but it became a major jazz hit and a new CD was commissioned ("JOEL ZELNIK TRIO LIVE AT STEINWAY PIANO GALLERY"). The two album are now available at dustygroove.com.