



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Richard Travers Swings into the Senior Center

Westwood, MA, October 6, 2013 – Toes were tapping when Richard Travers came to the Senior Center for the first lecture of a three-part series on the Swing Era. Giving his audience a full history of the influences behind swing, Travers first explored the development of jazz in the early 1900's, the beginnings of ragtime, and the influence of radio, ending his first lecture with discussion of the greats Louis Armstrong and Billie Holiday. Travers kept the discussion lively, engaging an enthusiastic audience in challenges of “name that musician” and “name that tune” while playing snippets from recordings and jumping to play the piano himself.

The audience enjoyed the dynamic session, recalling favorites from a past era and learning more about the cultural and technical influences behind them. Travers, who holds a Master's degree in Choral Conducting from the Boston Conservatory and a degree in Music Education from Berklee College of Music, is a retired high school music teacher who resides in Westwood. Recently, he expanded from teaching piano, guitar and voice to sharing his extensive expertise on the history of jazz, classical and pop music with adult audiences, and his animated style was clearly a hit with his fellow Westwood residents. Travers was set to continue with the second of the Swing Era lectures on October 9th. The final session will be held on October 16th, at 10:00 at the Senior Center (no registration is necessary).

The Swing Era lecture series was made possible by the Foundation for Westwood Education. The Foundation will also be sponsoring a second pair of lectures at the Senior Center. These lectures will be given by historian Dr. Gary Hylander, with a holiday theme. On November 5th Dr. Hylander will speak about what is actually known about the first Thanksgiving feast while on December 3rd he will delve into the artistry of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." All lectures at the Senior Center begin at 10:00. For more information visit www.foundationforwestwoofeducation.org, or watch for details in the Council on Aging newsletter.

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