



Special Edition Newsletter



Tribute to

Hello JNFC Members. This newsletter is a special edition to honor Mr. Otha Young one year later.

When a person passes on, we are overwhelmed with our sadness and grief. Otha was such a gentle and considerate and talented man that I felt this special newsletter was the correct thing to do and relish on some special memories.

Some of Paul's Memories

I knew Otha Young for quite a long time. Listening to Juice's hits and songs on albums, I had noticed a name on songs that were my favorites. Then I saw the credits and attached a name to the music. The name was the same on all the songs that I really enjoyed. That name was Otha Young.

I had become a fan of Otha's music and his ability to touch the heart of so many strangers by placing words to music. His talent for music was not the only part that people cherished.

Otha's mother the late Maxine Young was the original Fan Club President for many years. One day, I had written a poem about Otha's music and sent it to Maxine. I still have the letter. Her letter read..

"Paul,

Thank you for the lovely poem about Otha and telling me how much you adore his music. That warms a mother's heart, Otha is my son."

All the best,

Maxine Young

President-Juice Newton Fan Club

The hits were piling up for Juice and the band and whenever you saw Juice on television, there was Otha to her right singing back up and playing in the band. I attended two concerts in 1983-1984. Although at that time, I didn't meet Juice or Otha, I was so thrilled to have attended the shows, I knew there would be more.

Years have a way of moving quickly. I found myself in Southern California in 1990. There was a venue called the "Crazy Horse." One day a friend drove by and called me as soon as he was able to. He said, "Paul, Juice Newton will be at the Crazy Horse, I know you're going." Well, he was correct, I did go every time Juice performed there.

I wanted to meet Juice so badly. So, I contacted Maxine Young and she sent me a letter permitting me to meet Juice. However, I had to find Otha first as he was the one to arrange the meeting.

I knew what Otha looked like by following Juice's career for so long. As I sat in my seat, I saw Otha come out of the backstage doorway. I called his name, he stopped and walked back towards me. He was so kind and so willing to take me to see Juice.

At the end of the concert, Otha came looking for me. He and I didn't know, nor could we, that we would have many more such meetings in the future at so many venues.

Special is the best adjective to use to describe how Otha made every person feel that he came into contact with. We are all human and will have good and bad days but Otha always seemed so even keeled.

Then a few years later, Otha's mother, Maxine Young retired from the JNFC. Otha sent me an email and asked me if I wanted to work on the fan club. I graciously accepted and I have been President since. I cannot convey the many times he was there to help me get the website off the ground and help with some fan questions. Otha was tireless when it came to helping people.

I think perhaps, the most wonderful memory I have is one of Otha telling me to hang in there with my newly diagnosed case of Spasmodic Dysphonia. He had agreed to do a concert in 2006 to benefit dystonia.

However, when he agreed to do another for 2009, he would not be with us to enjoy this second show. Otha's cancer had progressed and he passed on to a better place.

I attended Otha's service and was taken aback by the many, many people who were there to honor this person that never thought of himself. I became very emotional during and after the service. Otha was not just a great writer, singer, musical icon and manager of Juice career, he was a friend.

To honor Otha the night of the second show, I would do something I hadn't done in five years. I sang a song. The song I sang was "For Believers" and I was so glad that my voice allowed me to do this.

I have so many memories of Otha and the JNFC that I could spend hours talking about them all. I believe that Otha wants us all to think of him in a positive and happy light.

Otha's wife Brenda was a special addition to the JNFC Family and she too is amazing woman. Brenda in her own right is a very talented person. She co-wrote the song "Keepers of The Peace" that Juice recorded on her "American Girl Volume 2" CD.

Brenda has had an incredibly hard and difficult year since losing Otha. She displays the ability to move forward and always think positively.

Recently, on the Dr. Pat Show (link is at the JNFC website), Brenda shared a memory about Otha that was very special. I feel it's only fitting that that memory be in this newsletter.

The topic at that moment that was being discussed was Juice's hit "The Sweetest Thing (I've Ever Known)." Dr. Pat asked Brenda her feelings of the song.

Brenda said that she was a fan of Juice's and Otha's long before she ever met them. She was watching television and saw Otha playing this song. She thought to herself, "Dear God, if only to have a man like that in my life." She thought this because of the genuine warmth she felt from Otha. Then a couple of years later, they met and married. God heard the request loud and clear!

The Young family now had started. Which brings up the next talented person in the Young Family, that is Makena. Makena is Otha's and Brenda's daughter. Talent is a given if you're from the Young family.

The person who knew Otha the longest was Juice. Juice and Otha had worked together for over 40 years. They shared many life experiences and joys and sorrows together.

Juice's devotion to music was apparent to her. Otha's devotion to pursue this as a career came a bit later but once he decided to take it on, he and Juice were a super combination.

Otha was Juice's best friend. They shared many, many memories and supported one another as friends do. When Otha wrote a song, he and Juice had such a rapport that the sound and flow of the music was flawless.

Juice was once asked what role does Otha play in her life. Juice didn't hesitate to answer the question. She said...

1) Confidante

2) Band Leader

Juice and Brenda and myself have discussed the wonderful memories of Otha and what he has brought and left us with. Juice described it perfectly at a concert in 2009.

Juice was giving the audience a synopsis of who Otha was. She said that knowing Otha was just "SPECIAL" and I feel that is the best way to sum up this newsletter tribute.

UNTIL NEXT TIME:

Let's keep happy positive thoughts about Otha Young and what he has brought to Juice, his family and fans alike.

I leave you with this thought and I dedicate this to all of you along with Brenda, Juice and Makena.

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."

All the best,

Paul Fowler-JNFC President