

Jennifer Long Morehart:

Good afternoon and welcome to the William T. Jerome Library at Bowling Green State University. My name is Jennifer Long Morehart, and I'm the university archivist here. Thank you for coming to the Center for Archival Collections Local History Publication Award Lecture Series. We are so pleased to be back this year.

Jennifer Long Morehart:

The Local History Publication Award is an outreach initiative of the Center for Archival Collections that encourages and recognizes outstanding publications in the field of Northwest Ohio local history. The Local History Publication Award Lecture Series celebrates the winning authors and publications. Today's publication, *Sam Szor, Toledo's Mr. Music*, may be purchased from Yarko Kuk, managing editor at the University of Toledo Press book table.

Jennifer Long Morehart:

Our first presenter of this year's Local History Publication Award Lecture Series is Judy Harris Szor. Judy Harris Szor, in addition to being Sam's right-hand person, had a 49-year wonderful and rewarding career in nursing. She has degrees from the University of Michigan, University of Toledo, and the Medical College of Ohio. She taught nursing for many years and also worked as an advanced practice RN, specializing in wound and ostomy care. Another proud accomplishment was co-authoring, along with four colleagues, another BGSU Center for Archival Collections Local History Publication Award-winning book, *Caps, Capes, and Caring, the Legacy of Diploma Nursing Schools in Toledo*. This publication is also available in the back there.

Jennifer Long Morehart:

Just like to invite you upfront here. On behalf of the Center for Archival Collections, I would like to present you with a plaque honoring your achievement as a 2020 Local History Publication Award winner in the Independent Scholar Division. Congratulations.

Jennifer Long Morehart:

And now, please join me in welcoming Judy Harris Szor as she presents on Sam, Szor, Toledo's Mr. Music.

Judy Szor:

Thank you, Jennifer. When groups used to ask Sam to speak, he used to start by saying, "Before I speak, I'd like to say a few words," meant as a joke, of course, but today, before I speak, I'd like to say a few words and thank the Bowling Green Archives for this wonderful award. It's just a great recognition of the book and was a very, very nice surprise. So, thank you very much.

Judy Szor:

I would like to also thank all of you for coming today to hear about the book. My guess is that many of you have already read the book, so what I thought I would like to do today was really talk about my journey in getting this book written.

Judy Szor:

So, I can't really remember when I first thought about documenting Sam's life because it always seemed that he had just done so much, and we had so many things. We had his awards, the proclamations, all of the programs from all of the concerts that he had done. It just seemed to me, I had this inner urge to know that it was all recorded somewhere all together in one place because he had done so much. It would've been really easy for things to have gotten lost.

Judy Szor:

So, after he retired from teaching, I said to him several times, "Gosh, why don't you write a book about your life? You've done so much, and you have so many wonderful stories. It would be a great project." but he really wasn't interested in doing that. So, after he passed, I knew that I wanted to do it, and I knew that the sooner I could do it, the better because it's amazing how quickly people forget and how quickly times change and things just move on.

Judy Szor:

So, up here, I knew that, but somehow it just wasn't the right time. I just couldn't get going on it. So, after he passed, it was a difficult adjustment, I think, as it is for anybody who loses a spouse. At the time, I was still working part-time, and I went back to work way too soon after his death, which is probably part of the reason that I ended up retiring six months later. So, I retired in the spring of 2015, and shortly after that, Keith McWatters, from the Toledo Symphony, came to see me.

Judy Szor:

He said, "Judy, we would like to present something about Sam at the Music Under the Stars Concerts this summer." He said, "Do you have any ideas how we could go about doing that?" So, we talked for a while, and the outcome was that I would write something to be presented at the concerts. I said, "Well, I know I can write something, but I'm not sure that I can deliver it. I'm not sure I can get through reading it." and he said, "Well, that's not a problem. If you write it, somebody else can read it."

Judy Szor:

So, I set about searching the history of Music Under the Stars, and I put together four stories because there were only four. Four concerts that summer was all that were planned. Interestingly, after I got those four stories written, I knew that I had to deliver them because nobody else could do it the way they were intended. So, I did.

Judy Szor:

That whole process of writing those stories and then delivering them at Music Under the Stars was really pretty therapeutic for me, but what I didn't realize at the time was that those stories would become the first part of what would become this book eventually.

Judy Szor:

Another thing that happened that summer that totally distracted me from documenting Sam's life was that I found out that I really needed to move much more quickly than I intended to. I thought at some point I wanted to move into a smaller house, but I wasn't planning to do it right away. I learned that the city of Toledo was planning to widen the street in front of our house, and so I thought, "Really, can that be true?" So, I called the Engineering Office and the city of Toledo, and they said, "Oh, yes. It's not a matter of if. It's a matter of when."

Judy Szor:

So, I said, "Okay, I have to do this now. The sooner I can get this house on the market, the better." So, the rest of 2015 was really pretty much taken with looking for a new place to live and then packing up 38 years of history that we had been in that house. So, we had the usual accumulation. In addition to that, we had all of Sam's stuff. By Sam's stuff, I mean all of his music and all of his records.

Judy Szor:

Just to give you an idea of what I'm talking about, in our house, we had a room on the back of the house that had a big closet, and in that room, we had floor-to-ceiling shelves all around the closet, except for one space where we fit in a file cabinet. So, that space housed all of the concert band music, and it was always pretty much my job to maintain the music libraries.

Judy Szor:

So, for instance, in the summer for Music Under the Stars, I would pull out the tunes that were programmed for that week, and then Sam would stuff them in the books for rehearsals in the concert. Then, after the concert, I would break them all down, put the music back in, and then put the folders back into the library so that we could keep track of it all. So, that was the downstairs.

Judy Szor:

Then upstairs, we had in another room, we had another big shelving unit that housed all of the orchestral music that he owned and a lot of orchestral scores, and the clothes closet was supposed to be in that room. There were two big, long shelves. One of those shelves housed all of the choral music, just the choral scores for the masses and the oratorios and all of that kind of thing that we had done. Then the top shelf housed a lot of manuscript music, meaning handwritten music arrangements that people had done, transcribing, for instance, orchestral accompaniments to band accompaniments. So, that was on the top shelf.

Judy Szor:

Then we on another wall, we had three more shelves that housed a lot of church music and below those, we had three big file cabinets. In those file cabinets were more manuscript music, mostly for church and then lots of other things, like we had a file for Music Under the Stars, a file for the Choral Society, a file for Woodward High School, all the things that he had done.

Judy Szor:

In amongst all of that music and the file cabinets, we had lots of newspaper articles, letters, notes, programs from the concerts, and all of his personal notes because he used to keep a daily running of everything he did. So, for years, he had a stenographer's pad. So, each day would be a new page, and he would put the date and write down all the things he had to do and then add in any of the additional things that he did that day. So, there were just lots and lots of things.

Judy Szor:

All of that music went to son Tom's house. Tom's here today. Most of the non-music information came to my house. So, in early 2016 then I moved, and in 2016 and '17 I did some traveling, and I was also working on that nursing history book that was mentioned in my introduction with four of my colleagues and friends. Two of whom are here today, Patty and Beth. So, participating in the writing of that book was really a wonderful experience for me because that really helped me to get going on the creation of this book.

Judy Szor:

So, I started sorting through all of the information that I had in 2017 because most of our writing for the other book was done by then. So, I started looking at all of the information that I had, and then I started feeling some urgency about needing to get this book done. It was already almost four years since Sam had passed, and time was fleeting. So, I promised myself that this was the time that I was going to write the book in 2018. My plan was to self-publish it and have it ready to give to the children and grandchildren by Christmas of 2019. So, that was the plan.

Judy Szor:

I knew I had a lot of information, but I also knew that I wanted input from other people in the book. We had done a lot of interviews for our nursing book, and those interviews just made the stories so much better to hear it told in the words of other people who had lived those situations. So, I knew I wanted to do that with Sam's book as well, number one, because I knew it would make it more interesting and number two, because I thought it would add credibility because this was, after all, a biography being written by a wife. So, I thought if there were other people giving their perceptions of things, that that would be a very good thing.

Judy Szor:

So, in order to do that, to make that happen, I had some face-to-face interviews, but mostly I used email and social media. Facebook was great because, especially the Woodward Alumni Group, they have a very active Facebook page. Waite has one as well, not quite as active, but I could communicate with people all over the country, and they responded. I mean, I put things out on the Facebook pages, and I would get information back from people all over the country. It was really amazing. So, those platforms were extremely helpful.

Judy Szor:

As that information was coming in, I started to think about how I was going to organize the book. So, I thought, "What am I going to do?" because he did so many things all at the same time. I thought if I tried to write that chronologically, it would have been a nightmare for one thing and it would've been very redundant. So, I thought, "That's not going to work." So, I tried making myself an outline, and I thought, "Maybe if I did educator and then professional musician, community, something like that, maybe that would work."

Judy Szor:

So, I made myself an outline, and I thought, "I'm just going to start writing, and maybe it will become clearer later on." So, I knew I had the Music Under the Stars information that just needed to be reworked and added to, but I thought, "I really don't want to start there. I think I want to start with his childhood at the beginning because that's going to be pretty straightforward and maybe really get me going on the writing of this book." So, that's what I did.

Judy Szor:

I had heard Sam talk quite a bit about his childhood, obviously, being together for 40 years. So, I had that information, and then I did a little more research on the Birmingham neighborhood where he grew up. Where I had holes in the family history, I always talked to Tom because Tom has all the family history right up here, and he could fill in all the pieces that I needed.

Judy Szor:

The Hungarian culture was still very much alive in his parents' house, of course, from the vegetable gardens and the rose gardens to the food, the Hungarian Chicken Soup, and all the pastries that Grandma Szor used to make every holiday and in between. I always say that I am Hungarian by osmosis because I was exposed to that culture for so long. We also had some great trips to Hungary to meet the family there and delve more deeply into the culture.

Judy Szor:

I put pictures of Sam's parents, a picture, his favorite picture of his parents in the book. So, today, I thought I would add, because this is not in the book, these are his four

children. Tom and Megan are both here today. They're on the right and Terry and Martha are on the left. Terry is in New York, and Martha is in Europe, and Tom and Megan live here. So, I'm really happy to have the two of them here today.

Judy Szor:

Then I did put on the book Facebook page, so some of you may have seen a picture of Sam's sisters. He had his sister Liz next to him, and then the twins, Joyce and Joann, all of whom ended up living in California. So, there's the four Szor siblings and then, I also included this picture because I think it's just really interesting. So, this is from our first trip to Hungary. I think it was 1980, and we arrived maybe on a Friday night or Saturday morning, something like that. And we stayed in Miskolc with an uncle, Uncle Steve, Pista Bácsi, and he's right here.

Judy Szor:

He lived in Miskolc in an apartment with his wife, and he actually had a car because he was not a member of the Communist Party, but he cooperated with the Communist Party. So, he had a much better life than the rest of the family. So, he said we're going to drive to the village where everybody else lived and they all grew up, and we're going to church with the family on Sunday morning.

Judy Szor:

So, we went, and I remember walking down the lane to the church, arm-in-arm with one of Sam's aunts. These are his uncles right here, Pista Bácsi and Pali Bácsi, and his aunts, Erze Néni and Zsuzsi Néni, and this is one of his first cousins from Hungary.

Judy Szor:

So, I was walking, arm-in-arm with Zsuzsi Néni down the lane. She spoke no English. I knew very few Hungarian words at the time, but it was also comfortable. It was just really nice. We got to the church, which was 300 and however many years old, a beautiful church. We walked inside, and it was like stepping back in time because the men sat on one side and the women sat on the other side. In front of the pulpit was a pew for honored guests. So, that's where we sat along with his aunts and uncles, and, unbeknownst to Sam, the minister called him up to speak.

Judy Szor:

So, there we were, jet-lagged, and he hadn't really spoken a lot of Hungarian for a long time, but he got up and spoke to the congregation, and I think he did well. I didn't understand it, but everybody else seemed to be pleased with what he said. So, that was a good thing.

Judy Szor:

So, Sam didn't talk too much about his grade school years. The one story that I partially put in the book was when he started studying saxophone, having private lessons for saxophone. He told me that his teacher used to go from house to house on Saturdays.

He was at the very end of the day. The teacher had a little flask in his pocket and between every house he would have a nip.

Judy Szor:

So, by the time he got to Sam at the end of the day, he was a little tipsy, apparently. Still, Sam got his lessons then, and he progressed on the saxophone. He did talk more about his high school years at Waite High School, and everybody that I've ever met from his class and those years talked about what a wonderful education they received at Waite High School. Actually, I think all of the public schools in Toledo during those years were really good.

Judy Szor:

These people, some of the guys when they would get together, they talked about their physics class in particular. There were quite a few of them who actually saved their notes from their physics class well into adulthood because they were just so good. Then, they also talked about an English teacher. I wish I could remember names, but I don't anymore. They said this woman was such a good English teacher and then somebody would always say, "Yes, and she gallantly fought the battle of lie and lay for many years."

Judy Szor:

So, and then, of course, the band director, Cecil Vashaw, was so, so influential in Sam's life and had a huge impact. It really was pretty amazing, I think, what these kids did. I put this in here. This is a picture of Sam, and he is a kid. This is him in high school with his high school bandmates, and these kids were- they were kids and they had fun like kids, but they were good students. They were really serious about what they were doing.

Judy Szor:

So, I think it's just quite amazing what they accomplished with their big band and also that group that became the forerunners to the Toledo Youth Orchestra. I said in the book that their big band broke up as people graduated and moved on, but just a couple months ago I got some information from George Hartman, who was another member of the big band that they had. There are just a couple things that I want to share with you.

Judy Szor:

He said, "I don't know the total number of jobs we played. It was quite a few, but several stand out for various reasons. The first was we were booked for the Riverside Park Teen Town Dance." He said, "We got through it, and when we were leaving, we were paid. We each earned the grand total of \$1.27 back then."

Judy Szor:

Then this one was really interesting. He said, "A very notable gig was a dance in the tower room of the Hillcrest Hotel. The room had a low ceiling, and we had a full 13 members of the band playing with three trumpets and two trombones, so it was loud,

and some people went out onto the roof of the hotel to dance. Partway through the gig, a union rep approached us and said he was going to shut down the hotel because we were non-union. He backed off after we, or some of us, agreed to join the union. That basically was the end of the band because our normal clientele could not afford paying a large band union wages." So, that may be a more accurate accounting of what happened to the big band at the time.

Judy Szor:

Chapter two, that's all in chapter one, finally. Chapter two then talks about his experience at University of Michigan. Sam talked a lot about his years at University of Michigan, and they were just incredible years. You think about this kid who had hardly ever been out of Toledo before, and leaving home to go to U of M, and meeting people from all over the world, students who came there. He was very involved, very busy because he not only carried his full student load, but he had his job working in the band library, which was a lot of hours.

Judy Szor:

So, he worked very hard while he was there, and he took his studies very seriously. I remember him talking about the Shakespeare course that he took that he really, really liked when he was there. I put this picture of Sam. This is Sam. This is on the Facebook page too. This is Sam when we went back a time or two for alumni day. Here he was marching with the alumni band. He's with the twirlers upfront because he was a twirler. Here he is, I call it, jumping for joy. That's how I think of him, how he must have been. I didn't know him then, but how he must have been during those years at U of M because they were such wonderful years and happy years for him.

Judy Szor:

So, after the U of M then, I was moving on to his working years. I want to tell you, I had so much information that I sometimes drove myself crazy. I tried to organize it. I sorted it, of course, all the Woodward information together, and the UT, and the Waite, and Choral Society, and Music Under Stars. I tried to put it in chronological order. So, next, I was going to work on the Woodward chapter.

Judy Szor:

So, I would start writing, and I had read all of this stuff. I would be writing, and I would think, "Oh, that one story that I read would be perfect right here." Then, I would go try and find it and it took me forever sometimes to be able to find that information. So, if I ever write another book like this, I really have to figure out a better system for keeping that information more at hand. I didn't use footnotes, but I did try to cite sources as much as possible.

Judy Szor:

So, I had lots of information from Woodward. I got responses from Woodward students from all over, some Woodward teachers, some people who lived in the neighborhood. It was really incredible how much information I got. I also had a lot of photographs

because a professional photographer, Bill Hartough, who may have been ... Was he the photographer at UT, Tom, or ...?

Tom Szor:

Yes.

Judy Szor:

Yes, okay. He was always at Woodward because of all the things that were going on there. The football halftime shows and the extravaganzas that they did were really incredible. And so, he was always there taking pictures. So, I had lots of pictures. Then, as I started going through the newspapers, I found more pictures that I really wanted to use in the book.

Judy Szor:

So, I went down to The Blade, and I went through the archives thinking that they had all the original pictures, right? Well, they didn't have any of them from the 1950s and 60s. I don't know if they ever had, and they just were clearing their files, but they were not there. I was also looking for a story pertaining to the Waite years, when he was teaching at Waite. I spent, I can't tell you how many hours going through the microfiche that it's all on, which is kind of tedious, trying to find that story. I finally gave up. Some of it just was not going to happen.

Judy Szor:

It was that way a few places. Bend of The River Magazine had a great picture, and I tried to find it there and they didn't have the original. East Side Paper had a great picture I wanted to use, and they were no longer in existence. So, I just had to go with what I had. I did try to find, because I really wanted to document all the extravaganzas from Woodward, and I had a few holes. So, I thought, "Maybe I can find those." So, I went over to Woodward, and I went through all the yearbooks, but I guess it was because the extravaganzas occurred in the springtime, and all the yearbook stuff had to be in so it could get printed and published before the kids graduated. So, they weren't in the yearbook, and the next year they didn't come back and pick it up.

Judy Szor:

So, I thought, "Well, they had this wonderful newsletter called The Tattler," right, John?

John:

Yep.

Judy Szor:

Yes. So, a man from the alumni association came, and he brought a lot of information with him. He had a lot of Tattlers. So, as we're looking through it, the years that were missing were the 1950s and 60s. So, that did not work out either. Woodward years were

great. Part of what made them so special were these other two men here with Sam, and that's Bud Kerwin, the first one here, and Tom Bollin sitting down.

Judy Szor:

Bud said that it was like a performance art school within a public school, and it wasn't happening anyplace else in the country. And it really was amazing what they accomplished. But Bud taught dance and did all the choreography, and Tom was the director of all the theater productions. So, the three of them worked together for quite some time, even into his years at UT.

Judy Szor:

I just wanted to show you a couple more pictures. These were on the Facebook page, but, just, for instance, this picture was from the newspaper. That's why it's not very sharp. Just to give you an idea of what they did, these were the costumes for a football halftime show on the King and I. They had a student for a number of years who was really interested in costume design and very talented. She used to design the costumes, and then the students and their mothers would make these. They did a different show for every home game. So, it really, I think it's just amazingly impressive.

Judy Szor:

This is the one, the Steven Foster show where the majorettes not only did they had to learn to play banjo, but they were dancing when they were playing the banjo. The majorettes always had to play an instrument. They had another instrument besides the banjo, but in this show, they were doing that.

Judy Szor:

So, Sam was really riding high at Woodward. He had so much support from all of the students, from all of the faculty, from the administration, from the community. I didn't really know him when he made the decision to leave Woodward and go to University of Toledo, but I'm sure that he thought it was a step up and would be a new challenge. So, he did leave and move to University of Toledo.

Judy Szor:

And the University of Toledo turned out to be some of his worst years in his career. The chapter, I thought, "Well, how am I going to write this?" because even though I wasn't there, we had talked about it a lot and what those years were like for him. So, fortunately for me, he had kept a lot of records. So, I had all of the articles that had been published in the Collegian, [AG1] their newspaper. I had the letters that had been written by staff, administration, students. I had memos that had been sent all of that information, so I could just make the chapter as factual as possible, and that's what I did.

Judy Szor:

But just today, I would like to say that I think a huge part of the problem in those UT years really was jealousy because he got so much attention his first couple of years at UT in creating a band where there hadn't been one for a while. All of the things he was

doing with the band, the orchestra, recruiting kids, he had more bassoon majors than they had clarinet majors, for Heaven's sakes.

Judy Szor:

It was in the newspaper. It was on the front page of the Sunday section, big articles. It was on the sports page. I mean, it was everywhere. I think there were a lot of people in the music department who just had a really difficult time with that. So, he left UT and went to start teaching at Waite High School, his alma mater. We were a couple by then. So, for those years, I observed, and I was a part of that time at Waite.

Judy Szor:

So, I attended football games, went to some of the other activities, and I knew a lot of kids who were in the band. I actually got to see how magical Sam was with these high school-age kids. I think part of his secret was that he really cared, and he knew these kids. Individually, he knew these kids. He knew their strengths. He knew their weaknesses, and he built them up. He made them believe that they could do things that they never thought they could do. They did it. I mean, it was really amazing.

Judy Szor:

So, occasionally, I got pulled into participating. I put this on the Facebook page too. He was doing a Disney show one year, and he came home, and he said, "I need a Donald Duck costume. I don't have a Donald Duck costume. Do you think you can make one?" I said, "Yeah, I can make it." I said, "What size do you want it to be in?" He said, "I don't know who's going to wear it yet. So, just make it sort of around your size, and then I'll find somebody."

Judy Szor:

So, time came close to the show, and he said, "I don't have anybody to wear that uniform that Donald Duck costume. Would you do it?" and so, I ended up doing it, and it was fun. Then another thing that was funny was after we got married, for some reason, he decided he was done going to the barber and that I should cut his hair. My mom had always cut my dad's hair and so, I thought, "Well, I can do that." So I learned how to cut his hair, and forever after, I cut his hair.

Judy Szor:

On occasion, when he had that band student or two who couldn't afford to get their hair cut, and he was afraid the other kids were going to start teasing them because long hair was not in back then, he would call me up and say, "Could you come over after work and give so and so a haircut?" So, I would do that, and it was fun.

Judy Szor:

This is another one of the pictures from a newspaper that I couldn't find the original of, but this is how he captured the students at Waite, and that was to get them where they were, in the music that they were interested in doing. So, this was their KISS show that they did for a football halftime, and each kid picked out what kind of face they wanted to

do. They did all their own music. They researched the KISS group and the music that they were going to play and that's what they did, and that's how they learned.

Judy Szor:

As Sam used to say, the rhythms in some of this new music that they were doing were more challenging than some of the classical stuff. And he got a lot of criticism for doing that, but he really was about educating the children, and that's what he needed to do. So, he did it, and it worked because a lot of those kids went on to do music for a long, long time.

Judy Szor:

From here, in the book, then I moved into his professional activities, and I did have to do a little more research in some areas. I spent some time at the Toledo Symphony office going through records, so I had more accurate dates of when he actually played bassoon with them. I came here to the archives a couple different times because all of our archival information for the Choral Society is here. So, I came here to get that information. Then, I searched online for some more information about the Perrysburg Orchestra. Otherwise, I had most of the information I needed.

Judy Szor:

This is a picture that I wanted to put in the book, but again, it was in the newspaper. I couldn't find one good enough to reprint. This is Sam with Mary Willing. Mary Willing was the woman who started the Toledo Choral Society in 1919. And she was another musical icon in Toledo. She was a force to be reckoned with and I hope that she doesn't get forgotten.

Judy Szor:

Then, this picture is just of Sam. This is his 50th year of Music Under the Stars, and we had a big party for him in our backyard. This was during the party. He went on to do Music Under the Stars for another 10 years. It's just an incredible story that he could keep that series going successfully for 60 years. I mean, that's just a phenomenal accomplishment, and it's gone already. I mean, it's been gone for a few years. They have a series that they call Music Under the Stars, but they bring groups in to play in the amphitheater and it's nothing like it was when he used to do it.

Judy Szor:

So, some people who have read the book ask me, "When did he ever sleep?" He did not sleep a lot, but one of the ways that he did relax was in water. He really liked to study in the bathtub. And the picture on the right, we had some good friends who had a pool. So, oftentimes, on Monday after the Music Under the Stars on Sunday night, we would go to their house, and he would soak in the pool and start studying the scores for the next week while the rest of us got dinner ready, et cetera. Then the other pictures, we had another friend who had a big pond. He would go out in the middle of the pond and have to hold his score up here so it wouldn't get wet while he was studying.

Judy Szor:

We did not have a lot of time off. We did have every year we would have a week or maybe two at the most after school got out and before Music Under the Stars started. So, for years, we went camping. So, we would drive to Indianapolis, and we would see Bud Kerwin, and then we would go to Brown County and camp. So, our tent on the left, that was our Michigan tent. That was our first tent, and it was a great tent. The only bad thing was that the window flaps were on the outside, and you had to go out and tie them down. So, if it was raining, you got wet.

Judy Szor:

So, one year when we were camping, it rained, and it rained, and it rained for days. Finally, one day we said, "You know what? Let's go into town and get some breakfast." and so we did, and we stayed in town for quite a while because it was still raining. When we finally came back to our campsite, our tent was gone. It had been stolen. Our air mattresses and our pillows were on the ground in the mud, and the tent was gone.

Judy Szor:

The one on the right is our new tent, and it was a good tent. It wasn't Michigan tent, but it was a good tent. The good thing was that the window zipped up from the inside because we went through a lot of storms and even a tornado in these tents while we were camping.

Judy Szor:

So, after all of the writing, then I just had to assemble the appendices of all of the repertoire, et cetera, his awards. My niece is here today who took pictures, took the photographs of all of his awards so, that was not difficult. It was just time-consuming.

Judy Szor:

As I was involved in writing this book then in 2018, our nursing book was published. What a great feeling it is to be able to hold a book in your hand that you have participated in creating. It was really wonderful. So, when that book came out, I thought, "Hm, I wonder if the UT Press might be interested in publishing this book." I recalled from our very first meeting with the UT Press about our nursing book that a comment had been made that said, "We don't do, and we never have done biographies."

Judy Szor:

I thought, "Mm, well, that's not a good sign, but the person in charge has changed since then, so what do I have to lose?" So, I went to the UT Press, and I talked to Yarko, who's here today. We talked a while, and then he said he would consider it and he finally said, yes, he would do it. I was so happy. Thank you, Yarko, for that because I just thought having a publisher really adds a little credibility to the book, and they were so helpful in the editing and the layout of the book, and finally determining the chapters and how that would all work. So, that was great.

Judy Szor:

So, I submitted everything in May or June, I think maybe May of 2019, for the editing to begin. It was to be published in the spring of 2020 because of UT Press's schedule. Then, of course, because of COVID, everything got pushed back, and it came out in September. So, I have had a lot of positive feedback since the book was published, but it's been challenging to get the word out because of COVID.

Judy Szor:

I did do a video launch of the book on Facebook, which was really nice, I thought, and at the encouragement of my nursing colleagues. I know that there are thousands of people out there yet who used to come to Music Under the Stars, and the Messiah, and the Perrysburg Symphony, all those places who have not yet heard about the book. So, help me spread the word out there.

Judy Szor:

I thought this was a fitting slide for the end. This was, I think, the first Halloween concert that Sam did, and we both went in costume because the audience was encouraged to come in costume also. So, Sam obviously was Dracula, and I was actually dressed in his mourning suit and went as a conductor. So, thank you again so much for coming today and help me spread the word. Thank you very much.