

## Jack Niedermeyer

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**From:** Vanessa Jump Nelson <vanessa@duelinsopranos.com>  
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Good evening,

It has come to my attention that The Lake House is undergoing a bit of a review. I am not quite certain what features are under scrutiny here, or what merits are being weighed, but I wish to speak up and share my input.

I just want you to know that from my home in Washington County I have seen the birth and growth of The Lake House to maturity as a vital jewel for Columbia County. I know of nothing like it there in the Scappoose, Warren, or St Helens metro area.

I was a public school educator there in the district in the 80's. Almost 40 years ago I married into family who have been residing there for 50+ years. So I have been commuting, interacting, pouring a bit of my heart, soul, and money into the community for 40 years in the way of shopping, services, volunteering, and more.

The Lake House, I believe, is the only venue of its kind anywhere near there, unless you go into Portland. I have been at a number of non-profit events at The Lake House and at other venues such as the Armory, Elks Club, Warren Country Inn, Village Inn, and Camp Wilkerson, among others. While the others have their own unique offerings, nothing brings together so many features to make an event run smoothly and fun, and does it with class.

The Lake House utilizes and braids together local service companies, culminating in an experience those local companies can be proud to participate in, and in which everyone comes away smiling, not just the guests or attendees.

The Lake House gives back to the community that raised it, and it's a family run venue of home grown Columbia County citizenry. For that reason, I feel its connections to the community groups it serves cannot help but run deeper than those of finance. At the events I've attended, I felt an undercurrent reflecting respect and love among all who worked to provide the best experience for the guests and beneficiaries of the funds that were raised. Giving back is a strong community ethic in the Hafeman family.

Bart Hafeman grew up in Scappoose, has vigorously volunteered his time and talent as an individual since he was a child volunteering as one of the first drummers in the pit orchestra of the Shoestring Community Theatre which met in St. Helens.

With his extraordinary musical talents he could have moved from the community, and most who knew him throughout his teen years fully expected he would. Instead, he chose to stay local and "bloom where he was planted," creating a true community business model, honoring his past while looking to the future.

Please allow Columbia County to recognize and support its "artist in residence" for what he has built: a beautiful and elegant venue the community can enjoy, be proud of, make memories in, and derive business from.

Sincerely,  
Vanessa Jump Nelson (she/her)  
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