Dick Marsho

How do we know you?
I'm president of the Central Illinois Jazz Society, an all-volunteer organization that helps to further the appreciation of jazz among residents of central Illinois.

Best part of your job
To meet a lot of very interesting people and to hear many great musicians. The central Illinois area is blessed with many talented musicians.

Something about you few people know
I was behind the Berlin Wall within a few weeks after it was blocked off in August of 1961. It was only for a few hours as part of a European tour by the University of Illinois Men's Glee Club.

How did you find these local jazz musicians and get them to play in the CEFCU Jazz Series?
That was easy. Our Jazz Society Board is very involved in determining which groups will be asked to perform. The difficult thing is to try to rotate the opportunity among the various groups from year to year. It is such a great venue that the groups love to perform there.

Why did you get involved in the society?
I have always liked music and have loved jazz since I was in college. I went to a Jazz Society program in the mid 1980s and joined.

What is it about jazz that makes it different from other types of music?
The same group will never play the same song in the same way. Improvisation and syncopation create an interest in the music for the listener, and also create surprises even for the musicians who are performing the music.

Accomplishment of yours worth noting
Having a role in raising two sons who were able to attend Peoria public schools, graduate from college and become self-sufficient and successful in their chosen fields.

Most daring thing you've done
I don't do daring things.

One thing you'd change about your community
Train people who say there is nothing to do in Peoria. I would like for them to spend one week with me. I will show them some things to do.

Meet Your Neighbor is a weekly feature. To nominate someone, call 686-3263 or email news@star.com.