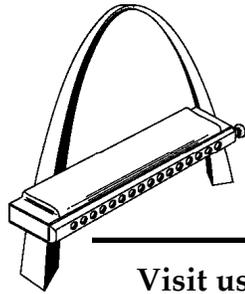


March—April 2004



# The GHC REEDER

Visit us on the Internet at [www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org](http://www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org)

## NEWS & VIEWS *by Mary Ann Love*

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Health Report: Jackie Pratte suffered a trip and fall at the Honduras airport while attending the wedding of a grandchild. Fortunately she did not fall on the same arm where she is recovering from bone replacement surgery. Rosemary Nessler is recovering from foot surgery. Andy Cassimatis is reported to be in Missouri-Baptist Hospital. Guy Vaccaro had a heart health scare. Teresa Stieven has been hospitalized with blood clots in her legs. Peg Davis is fighting a valiant battle with her health conditions and, as always, has a positive attitude and good spirits. Please keep them all in your thoughts and prayers

Doreen Scurlock enclosed a note with her dues: "Hi to all - Am looking forward to SPAH! Wheelchair and all!" Doreen later wrote more explanation that she was diagnosed with Transverse Myelitis - which is caused by inflammation of the spinal cord. She sends her best to all the members. We all send our best wishes to Doreen and look forward to seeing her again!

Geza Dombi is taking therapy following hip replacement. Geza reports he is very much relieved from severe pain. Geza values his membership in the club and enjoys the camaraderie of friends. He sends a friendly "hello" to all along with the following Legal Facts he found in Reader's Digest:

Question: What is the difference between a dry cleaner and a lawyer?

Answer: The cleaner pays if he loses your suit. A lawyer can lose your suit and still take you to the cleaners.

\* \* \* \* \*

We are sad to report the passing of Vi Karides on December 30, 2003. She was married to Tas Karides, one of our

founding fathers and a professional harmonicaist. The GHC sent a memorial donation to her family's preference of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church on Forest Park Blvd.

Stan the Man: St. Louis Baseball Cardinal, Hall of Famer, GHC member, Stan Musial, was seen on St. Louis television news stations at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new stadium. Stan played "Take Me Out To The Ball Game" (what else?) on his harmonica. Stan is a lifetime member of the club and we are proud to claim him as one of our own!

Making A Joyful Noise: Recent telecasts of the Gateway Harmonica Club were on the Larry Rice telethon on Channel 24 on Sunday, January 4th and the Living St. Louis on Monday, January 5th on Channel 9.

The Channel 24 Larry Rice telethon was a fundraiser for the Christian ministry to provide food and shelter for the community's homeless and unfortunate. Stalwart members Henry Gerfen, Joe Fey, Jim Melchers, Guy Vaccaro, Bill Dulin, Bob Provart and Frank Davis were each briefly interviewed about their harmonica experience and played *When The Saints Go Marching In*, *How Great Thou Art*, *Just A Closer Walk*, *Amazing Grace*, and *In The Garden*.

"Living St. Louis" was well received and viewed on Public Television Channel 9 at least three times during the month of January. There were informal interviews at a practice session, as well as a portion of a gig at the St. Ann Senior Community Center. Channel 9 repeats their shows and is well worth watching. It was disappointing that Channel 9 had not informed any of the members of the

*(Continued on p. 2)*

THE GHC REEDER is a bimonthly publication of the Gateway Harmonica Club, Inc. of St. Louis, Missouri, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and advancement of the harmonica. The club meets weekly on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM at the Rock Hill Baptist Church, 9125 Manchester, Brentwood, MO.

Inquiries about membership should be directed to:

Buddy Hirsch, Treasurer  
47 Orchard Lane  
Kirkwood, MO 63122  
(314) 821-8651  
e-mail: BuddyHarmonica@aol.com

For information about club activities and performances, contact:

Charles Pratte, President  
1547 Azalea Dr.  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
(314) 961-7764  
email: CAPJR68@aol.com

All other correspondence should be directed to:

Mary Ann Love  
Recording & Corresponding Secretary  
1162 Villa Flora Dr.  
O'Fallon, MO 63366-4443  
(636)-379-7707  
e-mail: malove@mindspring.com

Information about the club's activities is also available on the World Wide Web at:

[www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org](http://www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org)



Birthday greetings are extended to the following members of the GHC family who are celebrating birthdays in March and April:

<u>March</u>		<u>April</u>	
Sesto Stieven	3/2	Juanita Vaeth	4/8
Glenda Warren	3/3	Henry Gerfen	4/13
Elizabeth Ampleman	3/6	Tom Quargnenti	4/18
Danny Perez	3/7	Marie Roberts	4/19
Norman Raeber	3/8		
Simon Abcouwer	3/10		
Bob Provart	3/15		
Jerry Standley	3/18		
Dorris Badalamenti	3/20		
Judy Beer	3/25		
Leta Provart	3/28		

If we have missed a member's or spouse's birthday, please let us know so we can correct our records. Thanks.

## NEWS & VIEWS *(from p. 1)*

scheduling as promised, but several tapes were duplicated and they are presently being passed around. If you have not seen the program and wish to do so, please contact one of the club officers.

Dues: Dues for new year now past due. Dues also due for SPAH. We have a group form available. We want to get this mailed by April.

### New Members:

James Bouchaert (Spouse Joanne)  
4807 Oakbrier Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63128  
(314) 487-1703  
Birthday 10/27  
JimDandy1@charter.net

Edward Cenatiempo  
500 Tuxedo Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63119  
(314) 961-1109  
Birthday: 12/10

Tom Komadina (Spouse: Donna)  
756 Grandpa's Ln.  
St. Paul, MO 63366  
(636) 240-6889  
Birthday: 01/24

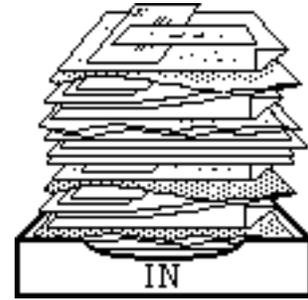
Chris Pondo  
1166 Waldorf Dr.  
St. Louis, MO 63137  
(314) 868-9557  
Birthday: 12/29

Welcome our new members. Everyone brings their own personality and talents to the club.

\* \* \* \* \*

Sid Wolff featured composer Stephen Foster at open mic playing a medley of *My Old Kentucky Home*, *Jeannie With the Light Brown Hair*, *Camptown Races*, *Old Folks at Home*, *Swanee River*, and *Beautiful Dreamer*.

# WE GET LETTERS . . .



From: Shriners Hospital for Children  
December 22, 2003

To: Gateway Harmonica Club, Inc.

Dear Friends:

We feel very fortunate to have many friends like you nationwide, who share in our concern for treating and rehabilitating children with special orthopedic needs.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, staff and patients of Shriners Hospitals for Children - St. Louis, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for your generous contribution of \$500.00. Your name will be listed in our Gold Book Program located in our hospital lobby. In addition, you will be receiving a Gold Book Certificate.

Sincerely,

Gene McNary  
Chairman, Board of Governors

Enclosed: A Gold Book Certificate

\* \* \* \* \*

From: Cardinal Glennon Hospital  
December 29, 2003

To: Gateway Harmonica Club, Inc.

To Whom It May Concern:

The entire Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital family joins me in thanking you for your recent gift of \$500.00. For your records a receipt is enclosed.

This year will be remembered as one of the most eventful in Cardinal Glennon's 47-year history. Construction was completed on a new patient care wing as well as an expanded emergency and trauma department, the most recent phase of a project that began six years ago, to remake our campus into the nation's most child-and family-friendly hospital.

Cardinal Glennon, as well as its sister hospitals, was awarded the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, becoming the first health care organization to be so honored. This came as no surprise to the over 250,000 children and their families whose lives have been touched this year alone by the hospital. However, it does give tangible evidence to those who are

our friends and strangers alike of the quality and compassionate care that the health care professionals of Glennon dispense.

All of our accomplishments are only made possible by those like you who share your strength with us. You can be assured of our intent to be worthy of your continuing support.

Best wishes for the holiday season.

Sincerely,

Jim Orsund, Executive Vice President

\* \* \* \* \*

From: The Salvation Army - Tree of Lights  
January 5, 2004

To: Gateway Harmonica Club

Dear Friends:

Your wonderful gift of \$500.00 from Gateway Harmonica Club signals your commitment to putting your "Compassion into Action." We are honored and grateful that you chose to trust and support the work of The Salvation Army as the means to carry out that commitment for you.

The Tree of Lights Campaign receives its brightness from the community of the Greater St. Louis region shining their light on what they care about - the hopes and dreams of their fellow citizens who need a helping hand.

The mothers and fathers in our shelters want safe homes where their children can grow to fullest potential. The mothers and fathers in our shelters want to be able to partner with their children's teachers. The mothers and fathers in our shelters want the opportunity for secure employment, for learning and implementing good sound money and budget issues for their families, for becoming contributing members of society. Families and individuals in crisis are served, not only in the various shelters, but through The Salvation Army Corps Community Centers located in the greater area. It is in your name and through your generosity that The Salvation Army is able to offer help with food, utility

(Continued on page 4)

**LETTERS** (from page 3)

bills, prescriptions, lodging, and many other resources available to our clients.

Thank you for your gift. Thank you for your continued support of The Salvation Army. May you all experience a special sense of joy during this holiday season from this compassionate sharing. An official receipt for your records is attached.

May God bless you.

Sincerely yours,

Robert E. Thomson, Major  
Divisional Commander

\* \* \* \* \*

From: Mike Maschek  
December 31, 2003

To: Jim Melchers, Treasurer of Gateway Harmonica Club

Hi Jim,

Until I find out who the new secretary/dues collector is, I'm submitting these dues to you before I forget. Thank you for your work for the club. That goes for all the officers and others who do so much for the club. Yours is a wonderful club and reading the newsletters is sheer delight as it makes me feel like I am still a member.

Recently our moving to a new residence (small condo) has been preventing me from practicing very much. Prior to relocating I had been going to Arkana, AR, not far from here, to play at the old Arkana School House jam sessions. Through the Ole Fashioned Barber Shop in Bull Shoals, I met a fellow by the name of Tom Rensing who has a suitcase full of chromatics in different keys. We would go together to the jam sessions for awhile, but he also belongs to a barbershop music club in Bull Shoals. Although playing by ear, also playing the guitar, he insists he can't read and will never be able to read music. I've shared my music with him in the hope of getting him to play our kind of music, but he just likes to dub in, around the melodies that the country folks play here.

I gave a copy of one of my practice tapes "Mike's Practice" to Dave, the owner of the Ole Fashioned Barber Shop and he thinks it's great. The fellas there get together on certain days to strum their guitars and fiddle out tunes and he's invited me to come and play anytime. I'll be there some time soon since things have calmed down a lot after the move.

A lot of work had to be done to this domicile and we are having a sun porch finished off so I can have an

art/music room to practice in. Should be finished in February. This Christmas I noticed the great sound of the bass part to the Drummer Boy Song. If you haven't already played it as a club Christmas song, I thought it would be great to hear the sound of Henry's bass as showcase of that sound. The melody isn't difficult but the harmony would make the song so it shouldn't be hard to learn. At any rate I hope to be at the SPAH convention in St. Louis but I need info about the packages offered. If you have info could you please mail it to our new address: 3833 Highway 178 West, #92 Leisure Hills, Lakeview, AR 72642. Please make this change to my club listing.

Have a Great New Year with the best of health and music,

Sincerely,

Mike Maschek

\* \* \* \* \*

From: Louis L Drinen  
December 29, 2003

To: Jim Melchers, Treasurer of Gateway Harmonica Club

Dear Jim!

Thank you for all your work for our club!!

I miss you all, but proud to be a member. I wear my red vest at my gigs, 16 nursing homes a month. Thank God for the energy - I turned 72 in November.

Keep up the good work and God bless!!

Christmas Love,

Louie

\* \* \* \* \*

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church wishes to acknowledge with heartfelt gratitude and appreciation your expression of true Christian spirit through your donation in memory of

Viola Karides

The family of the deceased will be notified of your Christian Act of Sympathy.

*"The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Job 1, 21 O.T.*

\* \* \* \* \*

At this time the GHC officers would like to again extend sincere appreciation and thanks to all members who made our 2003 charitable donations possible by their interest in club matters and participation in scheduled events.

March 2004

## HARMONICA BIOGRAPHY: SI ABCOUWER

On March 10, 1919, in Amsterdam, Holland, Johanna and Simon Abcouwer became parents of a bouncing baby boy. He is still bouncing – also added a wiggle. My dad had immigrated to the U.S.A. When I was seven my mother, younger sister and I joined him in Chicago, Illinois, where I grew up. As a youngster I managed to save twenty-five cents to buy a Marine Band and did learn to play several tunes. I also became a student in the Conservatory of Music to learn to sing and dance. As a student body we did stage shows at a local cinema. For several years we did two shows per day for three days, four times each year.

In June of 1942 I enlisted and was assigned to the Army Air Force. I flew in B17 bombers as a tail gunner and toggelier. As such, I did thirty-five missions over Europe from a base in Foggia, Italy. I was discharged in 1945 with the rank of Tech Sergeant.

Because I had quit high school in my junior year, my first goal after being discharged from the Air Force was to obtain a high school diploma. That was accomplished by passing the GED test taken at the University of Chicago. I also passed their entrance exam, so I decided to try for a college degree. I was accepted by and matriculated to Augustana College in June of 1946. During my years there, I was privileged to be a member of the Chapel Choir. I was graduated in 1949 with Bachelor of Arts with majors in Business Administration and Psychology, and a minor in Christianity. It was at "Augie" that I met and married a pretty coed from St. Louis. Naturally, we made our home there. We were blessed with three children: James (MBA), Steven (PhD) and a daughter, Jo Anne, who passed away in January of 2003 at age 52.

Our home was in Kirkwood until 1982 at which time our marriage ended legally. Since I owned a shoe store in

Downtown St. Louis, I decided to become a resident of the Jefferson Arms Retirement complex located at Tucker and Locust. The "Arms" had a piano bar lounge, where there was music every night by a different pianist. There was open mike, so I started singing again (not too good). It was there that I met Adele Farell, one of the pianists. She had over thirty years of professional playing at various piano bars. Our first date was to celebrate my birthday on March 10, 1984. She finally succumbed to my proposals and we were married in April 1985. We then made our home in Dogtown (a section next to the famous 'Hill'). Although Adele passed away in November 1995 I still live there. From the time we met until her illness, she, a tenor and myself got together to do gigs at nursery and retirement homes, and other venues. We did at least three hundred and fifty performances.

I had bought a Marine Band and tried playing again. When GHC was about two years old, I saw an ad that invited players to visit. Although I was out of my element, I was invited to become a member, which I have been for at least fifteen years. Adele pointed out to me that I wasn't playing sharps and flats. Only one thing to do – go to Boots and get a chromatic. You know the rest –

Bouncingly yours truly,

Simon

*Editors Note: Simon puts his heart (and body) into the tunes he plays. He sometimes gets carried away by the momentum and is very good-natured and gracious in accepting the jokes about his choreography. We appreciate his loyal membership. Thanks, Simon, for your delightful story.*

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### DINNER PARTY AT GARAVELLI'S ON MARCH 27

Reservations have been finalized for a dinner party for members, their family and friends at Garavelli's, 6600 Chippewa, on Saturday, March 27, 2004 from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Buffet dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. - program and entertainment to follow. Price of buffet meal is \$19.00 per person, including tax and gratuity.

Menu includes Hand Carved Choice Sirloin of Beef, Fried Filet of Sole, Baked Lasagna, Choice of Potato, Vegetable Medley, Tossed Garden Salad, rolls and butter, assorted desserts, and coffee or tea. There is plenty of parking and handicap accessibility.

Old friends are always welcome to join in the fun.

Checks must be received before March 22 so that accommodations may be scheduled. Round tables will seat 8.

(PLEASE CLIP OR COPY THE RESERVATION FORM ON PAGE 7)

## BUCKEYE HARMONICA FESTIVAL

Dates: April 15 - 17, 2004

Place: Holiday Inn Worthington (Columbus). • 614-885-3334

(Same hotel as SPAH 2002)

Room Rate: \$69 plus tax / up to 4 occupancy.

Be sure to mention Buckeye Harmonica Festival

Please Print / clip / copy this form and mail to:

**Buckeye Harmonica Festival**

**PO Box 12316**

**Columbus, Ohio 43212-0316**

With check or MO (US funds) payable to Buckeye Harmonica Festival or BHF

**Registration: \$100.00 full festival package.**

Indicate meal choice:  Beef  Pork  Fish  Vegetarian

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PROVINCE/COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

### *ENTERTAINMENT LINEUP*

**THURSDAY – Virginia Harmonichords, Harmonica Junction,**

**Juke Joint Saints, John Costa**

**FRIDAY- Chris Bauer, Jia-Yi He, William Galison & Randy Weinstein**

**SATURDAY – Joe Filisko, Harmonica Hotshots, Douglas Tate**

**Frank Warner Trio, Frederic Yonnet.**

**DAILY – Seminars, Open Mic & Joe Filisko's Teaching Extravaganza.**

**\*\*\* NOTICE \*\*\***

**To sit together with friends/family please send all registrations together in one envelope. With names and meal choices for all. Maximum per table will be eight.**

Questions: Jack Ely 614-488-4629

or jely2@columbus.r.com

# GHC EVENTS CALENDAR

## WEEKLY EVENTS

Tuesday evening meetings at Rock Hill Baptist Church, 9125 Manchester, St. Louis, MO 63144:

- 6:30 PM - Blues Group, led by Louise Cook — Everyone welcome  
 7:00 PM - First Tuesday of month: Business Meeting — Everyone welcome  
 All other Tuesdays: Band Rehearsal — Everyone welcome  
 8:15 PM - Open Mic — Everyone welcome

## OTHER EVENTS

- 3/2 (Tue) 2:30 PM — Garden Villas South: 13457 Tesson Ferry, St. Louis, MO 63128  
 3/18 (Thu) 7:30 PM — St. Peter's 50 Plus Club: St. Peter's Church Cafeteria (On the Corner of Clay and Jefferson in Kirkwood, MO. Jefferson is off of Kirkwood RD. Go West one block to Clay)  
 3/23 (Tue) 1:00 PM — Temple Israel Retirees: Organization: Temple Israel Retirees #1 Rabbi Alvan D. Rubin Dr., St. Louis, MO 63141(Highway 40 to Lindbergh Blvd.--North to Ladue Rd--Left or West on Ladue Rd. to the Temple, which is before you reach Spoeede Rd.)  
 3/28 (Sun) 2:30 PM — Alexian Brothers: 4005 Ripa, St. Louis, MO 63125  
 4/7 (Wed) 1:30 PM — Weber Road Branch St. Louis County Library: 4444 Weber Road, Affton  
 4/13 (Tue) 12:30 PM — Retail Clerks Local 655 Retirees: 300 Weidman Rd., Ballwin MO--63011 (Take I-270 to Manchester RD. Go West about 3 miles. Turn right at the light onto Weidman RD. Take the next right into the area where you will find a Union Bldg.)  
 4/15 (Thu) — Buckeye Harmonica Festival: Holiday Inn Worthington, 175 Hutchinson Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43235  
 4/27 (Sat) 6:00 PM — Dinner Party at Garavelli's, 6600 Chippewa  
 4/29 (Thu) 8:30 PM — Child Center of Our Lady: Old Warson Country Club -- 9841 Old Warson Rd. St Louis, MO 63124  
 5/6 (Thu) 2:30 PM — Surrey Place: 14701 Olive Blvd., Chesterfield, MO 63017  
 5/20 (Thu) 12:15 PM — Greater St. Louis Suburban Educators: Heritage House, 2800 Olive (west of Jefferson)  
 6/5 (Sat) 2:30 PM — Meridian Village Nursing Home: M101 Evergreen Lane--Glen Carbon IL. 62034  
 7/8 (Thu) 1:00 PM — Columbia Senior Citizens: Turner Hall --211 E. Cherry St. Columbia IL.-- 62236 (Go over the Jefferson Barracks Bridge From St. Louis--Turn right when you reach RT. 3--Go to the first stop light.--Turn left--Follow this road until you see a Schnickel Fritz sign at City Hall.-- Turn left onto E. Cherry St. Go to 211)  
 7/18 (Sun) 2:30 PM — Garden Villas South: 13457 Tesson Ferry, St. Louis, MO 63128  
 8/8 (Sun) 2:00 PM — Delmar Gardens North: 4401 Parker Road, Florissant, MO (about 1/2 mile east of New Halls Ferry)  
 8/17 (Tue) — SPAH 2004 -- St. Louis, MO (thru Sat 8/21): Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet  
 9/16 (Thu) 1:00 PM — Santa Maria Apts.: 12565 Santa Maria Court, Hazelwood MO 63042 (from I-270 take Mc Donnell Blvd. North; go 4 stoplights to Dunn Rd.; take a left and go 1-1/2 miles--it will be on your right side)  
 10/7 (Thu) 7:30 PM — Golden Achievers 50+ Club: St. Matthis Church, 800 Buckley Rd., Mehlville, MO (near Lemay and Sappington Barracks)

## GHC DINNER PARTY RESERVATION

Saturday, March 27, 2004 — 6:00 PM  
 Garavelli's Restaurant • 6600 Chippewa

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please make the following reservations for me for the Dinner Party at Garavelli's on Saturday, March 27

No. of Persons \_\_\_\_\_ X \$19.00 per person\* = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ total

No reduced price for children • No food may be taken out • No alcohol to be brought in to the building.  
 Please return this reservation form with check (Payable to: Gateway Harmonica Club) to meeting, or send to  
 Buddy Hirsch, Treasurer, at 47 Orchard Lane, Kirkwood, MO 63122, (314) 821-8651 . RESERVATION  
 DEADLINE IS MARCH 22.

**SONGS TO PONDER . . .**

Chris Pondo has joined the club and played a tune at open mic and then surprised everyone with her beautiful soprano voice in singing the following lyrics to "Simple Gifts," the popular Shaker song written in 1848:

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,  
 'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,  
 And when we find ourselves in the place just right,  
 'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.  
 When true simplicity is gain'd  
 To bow and to bend we shan't be asham'd,  
 To turn, turn will be our delight  
 'Till by turning, turning we come round right.

Following are the lyrics to "Lord of the Dance," an adaptation to "Simple Gifts" and written in 1963:

I danced in the morning - When the world was begun,  
 And I danced in the moon -And the stars and the sun,  
 And I came down from heaven - And I danced on the  
 earth,  
 At Bethlehem I had my birth.  
Chorus:  
 Dance, then, wherever you may be,  
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said He,

And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
 And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said He.

I danced for the scribe - And the Pharisee,  
 But they would not dance -And they wouldn't follow Me  
 I danced for the fishermen, For James and John --  
 They came with Me - And the dance went on.  
 (Chorus)

I danced on the Sabbath - And I cured the lame;  
 The holy people - Said it was a shame.  
 They whipped and they stripped - And they hung Me on  
 high,  
 And they left Me there - On a Cross to die.  
 (Chorus)

I danced on a Friday - When the sky turned black --  
 It's hard to dance - With the devil on your back.  
 They buried My body -And they thought I'd gone,  
 But I am the dance, And I still go on.  
 (Chorus)

They cut Me down - And I leapt up high;  
 I am the life - That'll never, never die;  
 I'll live in you - If you'll live in Me --  
 I am the Lord - Of the Dance, said He.

