

The REEDER



2005 BANQUET

The banquet dinner held at Garavelli's Restaurant on February 12 was another fun-filled success. Thanks to all who attended. It was not possible to give advance notice in the newsletter to members who do not usually attend the practice and meetings, since the available date was confirmed after the last issue. Effort was made to contact interested members and if you were missed – Sorry!

Ernie Roberts video-taped the event and copies of the VHS may be ordered from him. Ernie is preparing individual snapshots for ordering as he has done in previous events. Thanks again, Ernie! Here are some photos taken by Bill Dulin. (more on page 5).

NEWS & VIEWS by Mary Ann Love

HEALTH REPORT

Henry Gerfen, Buddy Hirsch, Bob Pangilinan and Jackie Pratte are all recovering from successful eye surgery. Peg Davis had good news about successful radiation treatments.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Leo Kluesner
Theon (T.S.) Heissener
Stanley O. Swoboda
Pauline Guelbert
Jessie Hirsch

DUES ARE PAST DUE FOR 2005

Did you forget something? According to our records, eighteen GHC members have not yet paid their 2005 dues. If you are among them, please send your check to Buddy Hirsch (47 Orchard Lane, Kirkwood, MO 63122) right away. We will be updating our membership roster very soon and we want to include YOU in it.

TV CELEBRITIES

KNLC-TV/Channel 24 invited the Gateway Harmonica Club to participate in a Larry Rice fund-raiser telethon on January 9, 2005. The charity benefits the homeless and unfortunate, providing food, shelter, clothing and spiritual support. The following members gave about a one-half hour performance playing "When The Saints Go Marching In," "Amazing Grace," "Just A Closer Walk," and "Let There Be Peace on Earth." The telecast was well presented. Thanks to Joe Fey, Buddy Hirsch, Henry Gerfen, Bob Provart, Ed Heininger, Frank Davis, Charlie Pratte, Bill Dulin, Ron Beer, Jim Melchers, Tom Sutterfield, and Bob Reynolds.

Thanks, boys, you did us proud!

Subsequent to the event, Jim Melchers (GHC Coordinator) received the following note from Channel 24 (We love to be appreciated! See "We Get Letters.")

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: maryannlove@charter.net

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

www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org



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

March

Sesto Steiven	3/2
Elizabeth Ampleman	3/6
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

April

Henry Gerfen	4/13
Marie Roberts	4/19
Elizabeth Atkison	4/30

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

SHIRTS

Spring is fast approaching and we will soon be changing to the summer polo shirt uniform. The shirt is no longer available (but we found a near substitute). If anyone is interested in a used shirt with the GHC logo there are a couple (one medium & one large) available for \$10. Call Mary Ann.

VOLUME II CD

Shipment has arrived of the Volume II CD of the Gateway Harmonica Club. These are now available at a cost of \$7.00. Mighty fine listening & practice tool!

FANCY MEETING YOU HERE!

During their annual Florida Bike Tour, Bill and Rosemary Nesslein met Louise Cook (snow-birding at a Panama City Beach condo) at a yard sale! They looked at each other (away from their usual elements) and hesitated a moment before recognition. What a small world! The Blues

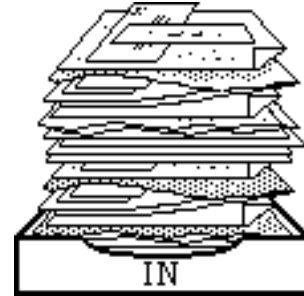
Group misses Louise and is anxiously awaiting her return to lead the sessions again.

Bill Dulin related his Florida trip experience. Bill said he often stops in to visit a Florida harmonica group when he travels that direction and is so happy that he belongs to the Gateway Club where there are so many youthful members. (!?) The president of that Florida club is 92 - - and he's not even the oldest.

REEDER ONLINE

Thus far, eight GHC members have notified us that they would like to get their copies of the newsletter via email. We will also be posting the REEDER on our website. If you would like to be added to our list of email "subscribers", or if you have questions, please email Joe Fey at joefey@earthlink.net.

WE GET LETTERS . . .



Letter from KNLC-TV/Channel 24

Dear Jim,

Thanks so much for the time you gave as a musician at Channel 24 on KNLC's live New Year's Telethon. The telethon was a good one, and we had great comments about the musicians who performed. The fact that so many of your friends called in showed the commitment you have to Christian family TV.

We enjoyed working with you, and appreciate your coming downtown to help. Thanks for working so hard to help make the telethon a success. Please continue to keep KNLC in your prayers as it tries to serve this community with the message of the Gospel.

Peace in Christ,

Judy Redlich

* * * * *

Card and note from Norma Uhl

A simple act of thoughtfulness can brighten many days,
That's why the kindness you have shown deserves a word of praise . . .
So here's a very special "thanks" to warmly let you know
Your thoughtfulness means so much more than any words could show.

It was so nice of all of you to play for Joe. I know some of you don't feel well, but I really appreciated it.

Thanks to all sincerely,

Norma Uhl

* * * * *

From: Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital Foundation

December 21, 2004

To: Gateway Harmonica Club, Inc.

Happy Holidays from the entire Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital family and thank you for your recent gift of \$400.00. For your records a receipt is enclosed.

As you would expect, this is an exciting time of the year at our children's hospital. The Christmas decorations have been hung and Santa and his helpers have already made more than one visit to our young patients. It is a sad reality that over this holiday season children will be hospitalized and their families and siblings will be with them at Cardinal Glennon and not at home. Fortunately, thanks to the generosity of our many friends, their stay will be made a little more pleasant than it might otherwise be. I know that they join me in thanking you for your generosity and efforts on their behalf.

Thank you for adding your strength to ours. You can be assured of our intent to be worthy of your continued support.

Sincerely,

Jim Orsund

Executive Vice President

* * * * *

From: 100 Neediest Cases

January 1, 2005

Co-sponsored by St. Louis Post-Dispatch and United Way of Greater St. Louis

To: Friends at Gateway Harmonica Club

Thank you for your generous gift of \$400 which was earned by performing for St. Louis audiences. You cannot imagine what good you have done nor what hope you have given with your gift. As you know, some holiday traditions get more meaningful as time goes by. So it is with 100 Neediest Cases. For 82 years our volunteers have worked to match up needy families with willing donors to make December a joyful season.

What started in 1922 as a small project to give holiday gifts to some local people has grown into our huge program that coordinates the distribution of cash and gifts to about 10,000 clients and their families in Missouri and Illinois through over 100 Social Service Agencies in our program. Our staff is made up entirely of volunteers who feel as you do that there is much to be done. Greater St. Louis area students compete in our Art Contest and winners are published in the Post-Dispatch to promote our program. The United Way and Post-Dispatch partner with us to provide office space, computer support, telephones, postage and publicity so that every penny of your charitable dollars go to the people in need.

But it truly is you who make the difference. It is you who make the choice to fund our program with your charitable dollars. On behalf of all the people we have helped this year, please accept our deepest appreciation and thanks.

Sincerely,

Betty Sievert

Director

Thanks for a great group effort!

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(continued on Page 4)

LETTERS *(from page 3)*

From: The Salvation Army Tree of Lights

December 23, 2004

To: Gateway Harmonica Club, Inc.

On behalf of The Salvation Army Advisory Board, staff, and more importantly, the clients we serve, thank you for your generous gift of \$400.00. We are grateful to the Gateway Harmonica Club for partnering with us to support our work through the 2004 Tree of Lights Campaign.

I would like to share with you what Shirley and David recently said about their experiences:

"I would be out on the streets now if it was not for The Salvation Army.

Now I foresee a chance at a good future."

"I believe that coming to Harbor Light was fate. It not only gave me the tools and knowledge to stop drinking, but it brought God back to me and made me thankful for life."

For nearly 125 years, generous individuals like you in the St. Louis community have invested their resources in Army programs that shelter the homeless by providing a warm blanket and bed at night, feed the hungry with hot meals,

clothe the unclothed, heal the abused and addicted, comfort the sorrowful, and encourage those facing depression.

Your gift helps others like Shirley and David and the increasing number of people in need each day. Your support is a wonderful testimony to your reaching out to help others and to bring hope into their lives. Thank you!

You are saving lives...and, strengthening families! May God continue to bless you keeping the true spirit of Christmas alive this season and always!

Sincerely,

Lonneal Richardson
Major, St. Louis City Commander

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From GHC Member Von Rhey Ford:

Enclosed find my check for dues for 05. I can't drive at night any more and so cannot attend the meetings, much as I would love to. Give my regards to all my friends and tell them I said "Hi."

Thank you,

Von Rhey Ford
8125 Parkwood Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63123
314-638-5160

A TIP O' THE HAT

Thanks to Charlie Pratte, Ron Beer, and Ernie Roberts for conducting beginner diatonic harmonica classes at Mera-mec College. Thanks also to Joe Fey, with assistance from Ron Beer and Ernie Roberts, who are teaching the current beginner diatonic class sessions prior to our meetings on Tuesday evenings (photo at right). Others who have been involved in our teaching efforts include Frank Davis, Bob Provart, and Henry Gerfen.

We must not overlook (our 4-leaf Clover Irish lass) Louise Cook and Greg Hommert for sharing their skills in the Blues Group.

And a Tip of the Fedora to Guy Vaccaro for his craftsmanship in building a new storage container for supplies! Thanks to all!



FANCY MEETING YOU HERE!

During their annual Florida Bike Tour, Bill and Rosemary Nesselin met Louise Cook (snow-birding at a Panama City Beach condo) at a yard sale! They looked at each other (away from their usual elements) and hesitated a moment before recognition. What a small world! The Blues Group misses Louise and is anxiously awaiting her return to lead the sessions again.

Bill Dulin related his Florida trip experience. Bill said he often stops in to visit a Florida harmonica group when he travels that direction and is so happy that he belongs to the Gateway Club where there are so many youthful members. (!?!). The president of that Florida club is 92 - - - and he's not even the oldest.

HARMONICA HAPPENINGS

The official SPAH publication Vol. 38 No. 3 & 4 (combined) recently mailed, contains extensive coverage and photos of the convention held in St. Louis last summer and hosted by the Gateway Harmonica Club. It also features articles by familiar (and unfamiliar) names in the business. Other harmonica talk items, learning tips plus a SPAH membership listing and even a 'centerfold' (a French Waltz musical score) can be enjoyed. This magazine is one of the benefits of being a SPAH member. If you haven't mailed in your renewal, time to do so! Thanks to Doug Tate for his dedication to the harmonica world and all his work for the SPAH organization!

... AND A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!!!



HARMONICA BIOGRAPHY - CHRISTINE PONDO

What a wonderful first year I had with the Gateway Harmonica Club. Learning to play has been so much fun – I laugh at my mistakes and wonder why I blow instead of draw and why I can't play faster! Last year I had a fantastic 4 days at the SPAH convention and I bought a sixteen-hole chromatic – things I never dreamed about before – all due to the wonderful club members who are so supportive!

I was born in St. Louis and have lived in Bellefontaine Neighbors for forty-seven years. I attended Riverview Gardens schools, got my AND from Forest Park Community College and my BSN from UMSL. I have always worked at various hospitals such as Jewish, Regional and St. Mary's as a registered nurse. Last year I worked at Mo. Veterans Home and enjoyed playing for the residents there.

My parents bought a Gullbransen spinet for me at age eight and I took eight years of lessons. I played piano, Dad played violin and Mom sang. We had many wonderful musical evenings together.

I am a member of the Polish National Church and always sang Polish hymns and folk songs. I was also a Polka teen and our dance group performed at festivals and banquets here and in Chicago. I also belong to the Polish American Cultural Society and played harmonica and sang with the choir at our Christmas banquet.

Besides the Polish choirs, I sang tenor part with Sweet Adelines Valle de Fleurs Chorus and with them I was in five shows at the Florissant Civic Center and twice on stage at the V.P. Fair. In December of 2003 I sang the Vivaldi Gloria Latin mass at the Touhill Theater with the UMSL Community Chorus. Singing solo at the mic is new for me, but I hope it adds another dimension of interest to the band.

I love to read – especially biographies, write poems, cross stitch, crochet, origami and collect dolls – I have about one hundred! My favorites are the ones in ethnic costumes.

Outdoors, I love to garden, walk in the county parks and swim. Last year I took lessons at the YMCA and conquered my fear of deep water. Some days I am the only one in the pool at BFN Rec Center and the warm water really helps ease my arthritis pain in my legs.

I got interested in the diatonic harp about ten years ago and taught myself to play. Then I took a course through OASIS with Joe Fey and started playing chromatic. I saw the GHC perform a few times at St. Mary's Rehabilitation Institute and Tesson Heights and the band sounded so great I wanted to be a part of it.

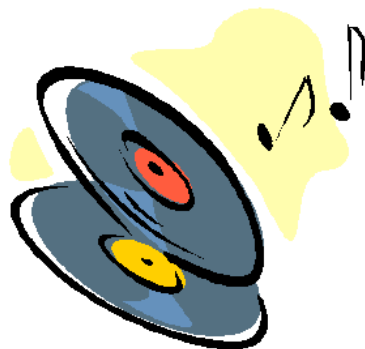
Editors Note: Thanks for sharing your story, Chris. Congratulations on all of your accomplishments! We appreciate your participation in the club. Chris is so enthusiastic that she has become a life-time member! Congratulations, again!

HARMONICA EXPRESS CDS IN CLUB LIBRARY

By Joe Fey

Six cassette albums by The Harmonica Express have been converted to CD format and added to our Music Library, available for borrowing by club members. In my opinion, these are among the finest harmonica ensemble recordings ever made. The original recordings were made in 1975 through 1984.

I never had the pleasure of hearing them play live. By the time I started attending SPAH Conventions in 1988 the group had disbanded. I have, however, become well acquainted with Al Smith and Tom Stryker, the two players who were members of The Harmonica Express



throughout its brilliant career. Many of our GHC members have also become acquainted with Al and his wife Judy, who now perform as The Harmonica Hotshots and who regularly lead workshops at SPAH Conventions. Judy also leads the ladies who entertain as The Hermonicas at the conventions.

The CDs in our library include all seventy of the tunes on the original recordings. I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to borrow them for a real dose of inspiration and just plain wonderful listening.

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

GIGS AND OTHER EVENTS

- 3/4/05 7:00 PM Aim Community Band Concert rehearsal:
- 3/6/05 3:00 PM AIM Community Band Concert: Kirkwood High School Auditorium, 801 West Essex Avenue, Kirkwood, MO 63122 (West on Essex from Lindbergh/Kirkwood Road past Geyer Road)
- 3/9/05 7:00 AM Beginner Class at Meramec CC:
- 3/16/05 7:00 AM Beginner Class at Meramec CC:
- 3/17/05 6:30 PM Hazelwood Baptist Church 50+ Club: 6161 Howdershell Rd., Hazelwood, MO 63042 (traveling North on I-270, exit at McDonnell Blvd; turn left on McDonnell, which turns into Howdershell Rd.)
- 3/23/05 7:00 PM Beginner Class at Meramec CC:
- 3/24/05 1:00 PM Gig rescheduled to 6/23/05:
- 3/31/05 2:00 PM St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley: Student Center Multipurpose Room, 3400 Pershall Rd., Florissant, MO 63135
- 4/1/05 7:00 PM Pres Club: 1st Presbyterian Church, 100 East Adams Ave, Kirkwood, MO 63122 (on the corner of Adams Ave. and Kirkwood Rd.)
- 4/7/05 1:00 PM Women's Fellowship -- Immanuel UCC: 221 Church St.--Ferguson, MO 63135 (Take either I-270 to Florissant RD. Go South on Florissant RD. until you see Church St. Take a left to 221 Church St. Or, take I-70 east to Florissant Rd.. Go North about 1/2 mile and turn right on Church St. Note: They have offered to serve lunch to the players)
- 4/10/05 7:00 PM Carondelet Y Service Club: 600 Loughborough -St. Louis, MO 63111 -- From Watson Rd. going East--Turn right on River Des Pere and go to Morganford. Turn left on Morganford and go to Loughborough It can also be reached from I-270 to I-55 East to Morganford.
- 4/26/05 12:30 PM New Beginnings: Viking Conference Center, Lindbergh Blvd and Watson Rd. (Hwy 366) If you are traveling South on I-270, exit on I-44 East, then exit on Watson going East. Go to door 5 to unload our equipment.
- 5/11/05 1:30 PM Weber Road Branch, St. Louis County Library: 4444 Weber Rd., Afton MO. 63123 (From I-270, go East on Gravois Rd. for about 3 miles; turn right on Weber Rd.)
- 5/15/05 2:30 PM Garden Villas South: 13457 Tesson Ferry (Hwy 21)--on Highway I-270 going South, get off to your right onto Tesson Ferry. Go right. At top of incline at stop sign go right (East) to the address.
- 5/18/05 7:30 PM Gatesworth Residents' Association: Traveling south on I-170 get off on Delmar Ave. going West. Shortly after turning onto Delmar turn into the hotel grounds on your left, go behind the Hotel and find # 1 Mc Knight Place.
- 5/26/05 7:00 PM Gambrell Gardens: #1 Strecker Rd. -- Ellisville, MO 63011 -- Take Manchester Rd. West from I-270 (or Hwy. 141 South to Manchester) about 1 mile beyond Clarkson Rd. (hwy 340) and it is the large Building on the corner of Strecker and Manchester.
- 6/5/05 2:00 PM Delmar Gardens North: 4401 Parker Rd.--Florissant, MO 63033 (This is a nursing home just behind the Garden Villas North at 4504 Parker Rd. --From I-270 go north on West Florissant Rd.--Turn left on New Halls Ferry Rd.--Turn right on Parker Rd.)
- 6/9/05 8:00 PM South County Shrine Club: Genesis: 2651 Telegraph Rd. St. Louis , MO 63125--If you are going South on I 270 (It May be East at this point) get off at Telegraph Rd. Go left toward Jefferson Memorial Cemetery until you reach 2651, on your left.

(Continued on page 8)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS *(from page 7)*

- 6/17/05 2:00 PM Lutheran Senior Service: 600 Breeze Park Drive--St Charles MO 63304 -- From I-270 go West on Hyw 40 (I-64) to Hwy 94. Get off to the right going North for about 2 miles. Turn right on Breeze Park Drive and go about 2 blocks to 600 Breeze--etc. The place can be reached from I-270 by going South on I-94.
- 6/23/05 12:45 PM Living Information for Today--LIFT: Salad Bowl--3949 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63074
- 7/13/05 7:00 PM Willows at Brooking: 211 South Woods Mill Rd. St. Louis, MO 63017 -- Take Hgw. 40 (I-61) West to Hwh 141. get off to the right. At stop sign turn right and to Conway Rd.-- turn left. Go to the light and turn right. Go about 1/4 mile and you will see a large Bldg. This is it. Please note: This is a small area and small group. She asked that we hold the group to a max of 10.8/18/05 7:30 PM
Garden Villas South: 13457 Tesson Ferry (Hwy 21)--on Highway I-270 going South, get off to your right onto Tesson Ferry. Go right. At top of incline at stop sign go right (East) to the address.
- 10/6/05 7:00 PM Gambrell Gardens: #1 Strecker Rd. -- Ellisville, MO 63011 -- Take Manchester Rd. West from I-270 (or Hwy. 141 South to Manchester) about 1 mile beyond Clarkson Rd. (Hwy 340) and it is the large Building on the corner of Strecker and Manchester.
- 10/27/05 7:30 PM St. Bernadette 50+ Club: 68 Sherman Rd., St. Louis, MO 63125 (Take I-270 South--Get off at Telegraph Rd. -- Go left toward the City--Turn right on Sherman Rd--Go about 2 miles to 68 Sherman Rd. and the church)
- 11/13/05 2:30 PM Garden Villas South: 13457 Tesson Ferry (Hwy 21)--on Highway I-270 going South, get off to your right onto Tesson Ferry. Go right. At top of incline at stop sign go right (East) to the address.
- 12/8/05 2:15 PM Florissant Valley Community College: 3400 Pershall Road -- Performing in Student Center -- Multipurpose room off of Highway I-270 at West Florissant Rd.
- 12/16/05 8:00 PM St. Albans Senior Golf: St. Albans Country Club--Go west on Manchester Rd. pass Clarkson Rd and pass Highway 109. Continue until you reach Highway T. At that point turn right and go about 2 miles. You will see the Club.

