



NEWS & VIEWS



Please visit us on the Internet at www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING

by Mary Ann Love

NOMINATIONS

Election of officers of the Gateway Harmonica Club will be held at the December 1, 2009 business meeting. Nominations are as follows:

President:	Ron Beer Bill Dulin (incumbent)
Vice President:	Louise Cook
Treasurer:	Jessie Hirsch
Corresponding & Recording Secretary:	Mary Ann Love

Officers are eligible to serve two consecutive terms (of two years each).

Chris Pondo has served two terms as Secretary. Other current officers have each served one term in their designated capacity.

Nominations are still open and other names may be accepted from the floor at the December 1 meeting before the vote is cast.

If not possible to be at the election meeting, you may cast your vote by mail for one of the above, or another as a write-in, but that must be received prior to December 1. Send to: Chris Pondo, Secretary, 1166 Waldorf Dr., St. Louis, MO 63137

CHARITY FUND DISTRIBUTION

Distribution of the charity funds earned by the club throughout the year will be discussed at the December meeting.

SEASONAL CHANGE OF UNIFORM

The red vest, long sleeve white shirt, black pants uniform is now in effect. If anyone requires a vest, there are several used ones available, or a new one may be purchased. Contact Jessie Hirsch.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Remember to bring your Christmas music to practice. The season is fast approaching!

CHRISTMAS PARTY - TUESDAY, DEC. 1, 2009

Mark your calendars for a fun evening at the Gateway Harmonica Club. Gentlemen, be sure to tell your wives. This will be the only notice – no postcards, no phone calls. It's an annual party where the ladies revisit friendships and learn what is going on in the club. We welcome meeting new members and their spouses. Bring a \$5 wrapped gift if you wish to take part in the gift exchange and also bring a dish of party foodstuff to share.

GARDEN STATE HARMONICA FESTIVAL

November 19, 20 and 21, 2009

Fall brings the Annual Garden State Harmonica Festival. Every day of the Festival includes Sing and Play Along sessions, open microphone opportunities (a sort of Harmonica Karaoke), jam and blues sessions, seminars on playing techniques, and how-to repairs, and music, music and more music. Each day builds up to the Grand Finale and Banquet on Saturday night.

For info:

email gardenstateharmonicaclub@hotmail.com

or call Chairman Phil Caltabellotta 914-263-1591 or visit www.gardenstateharmonicaclub.org

KUDOS TO MIKE LARUE

Mike LaRue is an independent rep with My Tv ads and can post free video ads. He gave the band a nice plug.

Check it out at http://69.63.152.220/classified/reveal_post.php?postid=1427

(continued on page 2)

THE GHC NEWS AND VIEWS 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 Church, 9125 Manchester, Brentwood, MO.

Inquiries about membership should be directed to:

Jessie Hirsch, Treasurer
 47 Orchard Lane
 Kirkwood, MO 63122
 (314) 821-8651
 e-mail: lov24get@aol.com

For information about club activities, contact:

Bill Dulin, President
 4985 Seibert Ave.
 St. Louis, MO 63123
 (314) 752-9909
 e-mail: imafosi@att.net

To schedule a club performance, contact:

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

All other correspondence should be directed to:

Chris Pondo
 Recording & Corresponding Secretary
 1166 Waldorf Dr.
 St. Louis, MO 63137
 (314) 868-9557

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

www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org

Happy Birthday!!!

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



NOVEMBER

Woody Woodring 11/11
 Arpad deKallos 11/12
 Leo Kluesner 11/16
 Neil Schneider 11/21
 Stan Musial 11/21
 Dan Welsch 11/24
 Faye Anders 11/25
 Wendy Wilbraham 11/29

DECEMBER

Bill Mann 12/8
 Audria Gebhardt 12/9
 Rosemary Hardy 12/9
 Ed Cenatiempo 12/10
 Rudy Michelin 12/11
 Melba Lackey 12/13
 Shirley Perez 12/17
 Jean Markivee 12/21
 Joe Fey 12/24
 Mary Carol Kluesner 12/26
 Ernst Hackmann 12/27
 Chris Pondo 12/29
 Elva Bottchen 12/31

Editor's Note: Please notify us if your or your spouse's birthday is missing or incorrect. We welcome publication of any members special highlight dates!

(from page 1)

Mike included the overview of the club, photographs of members, and the segment by Jim Kirchherr seen occasionally on Channel 9. Thanks, Mike!

IN MEMORIAM

LOUIS DRINEN. passed away on August 31 in Herculaneum, MO. He was a long-time club member who joined us when he could. He was well-known in his hometown area for singing, playing guitar and harmonica and entertaining at nursing homes. GHC sent a memorial donation to the Jefferson County Rescue Mission. We offer his family our sympathy and condolences.

BILL SCHUESSLER passed away in March in New Mexico. Several years ago, Bill was made an Honorary Member of GHC in recognition for contributing to the

club a beautiful chord harmonica and a number of his harmonica ensemble arrangements. He had been a member of The Harmaniacs trio, which performed in the St. Louis area in the 1940s and '50s. He also offered us a large number of archival copies of harmonica LP albums, which became the start of GHC's music library.

HEALTH REPORT

Arpad de Kallos has undergone hernia surgery. His neighbors, friends, and church family are helping him during recovery.

Paul Babb has serious leg problems and tests are being run to determine the causes.

Carroll Markivee has had hand surgery and communicates with club members occasionally. He sent a CD of his version of "I Cover The Waterfront" several weeks ago.

Ralph Barber's wife, Joyce, had cataract surgery.

We Get Letters . . .

From: Jefferson County Rescue Mission, Inc.
Pevely, MO

To: Gateway Harmonica Club,

We were honored that the Drinen family chose the Jefferson County Rescue Mission to receive memorial gifts in honor of Rev. Louie Drinen. A letter was sent to Keith Drinen acknowledging your gift to the mission.

We were very grateful for your donation of \$50.00 to the Jefferson County Rescue Mission. Our vision is to bring help, hope and a future to hurting people who come to us daily. That vision includes providing household goods, large and small appliances, clothing, food, shelter, personal care products, in addition to spiritual support and referrals to churches and agencies as needed. We thank you for sharing this vision with us. Your support is very encouraging to this ministry.

One of our many outreaches to the hurting people of our community is our food pantry. We would like to

share with you the following information. Since January of 2009, the Jefferson County Rescue Mission has given out 2,161 food baskets. From these food baskets, we were able to feed 6,829 family members of which 3,225 were children. During this same time, the mission sheltered, fed and assisted 35 homeless men in our Men's Encouragement Center.

Sincerely,

Mike and Louise Sardo

Executive Directors

Jefferson County Rescue Mission

Our newsletter "Loaves and Fishes" is a great way to keep current on the latest news about the mission. We are now also on-line at www.jeffersoncountyrscuemission.org

Established in 1997, the Jefferson County Rescue Mission is a non-profit organization, meeting the needs of men, women and children without regard to race, religion or national origin.

"A friend is a present you give yourself."

Robert Louis Stevenson.

CHRIS PONDO RECITAL AT STEINWAY GALLERY



Chris Pondo prepared a very ambitious program for her Polish Recital at the Steinway Gallery on Sunday afternoon, September 20, 2009. Dressed in Polish costume and beginning with playing and singing Happy Birthday in English and Polish for a dear friend who was present and had turned 92. Following the William Tell Overture and several other songs on the harmonica, several poems were read and some sung. Chris got in a couple Polish dance steps. On the Steinway concert

grand piano, Chris was at her best playing several Chopin nocturnes, mazurkas and opus. The words of "So Deep Is the Night" was adapted to the Chopin Etude, Op. 10 No 3. Chris ended the recital with a Polish patriotic song. Some of her relatives and friends from the Polish community were on hand as well as friends from the Gateway Harmonica Club. Refreshments and visiting with guests followed the program. Congratulations to Chris on quite a nice presentation.

Chris shared with the club that she enjoyed the privilege of attending the Phantom of the Opera at the Fox Theatre. Coincidentally, that performance occurred near the Halloween season. Chris has been in costume at the club every week in October. She added a bit of drama wearing blue jeans, blue shirt, straw hat when she played Arkansas Traveler.

The following week Chris wore her Polish costume and played Polish dances and Oberek. During the Halloween season, Chris featured Phantom of the Opera spooky atmosphere and played several selections on the piano from that show. Nearest the Halloween date, she wore a purple wizard gown and hat, read from Harry Potter and played "That Old Black Magic."

HARMONICAS FOR HEALTH

Pulmonary Seminar in Springfield on September 12, 2009

Ron Beer conducted the “Harmonica Breathing Therapy” portion of the Pulmonary and Lung Seminar in Springfield, Illinois on September 12. He outlined some of Dr. Victor Yun’s theories on Deep Breathing and the benefits of the blow and draw of the harmonica. Victor Yun is chairman of the SPAH committee, Harmonicas and Health. Ron referenced a bit from one of Tom Stryker’s Harmonica Happenings presidential pages.

Tom had visited Victor in California and was taken to a rehearsal of about 30 harpers in their 80's through 100 plus years. Ron spoke of this as an indicator that no one is too old to play according to Dr. John Schaman as he alone seems to have tackled the business of testing scientifically the process of change by using the harmonica in lung exercises. Ron attended his session in Columbus Ohio, and he emphasized that based on actual patient measurements before and after exercising, found that the exercises showed improvement while melodic playing did not. He pointed out that to have improvement, the participants need to push themselves. This is why holding the lungs full of air for three seconds before exhaling is important. Much of our playing does not stretch us too physically due to the reciprocating of air flow. Holding a note bridged for a 16 or 17 beat count does cause a stress but we do not have enough of that type of stress to qualify as repeat exercise.

Hohner BluesBand harps with instructional handouts were provided to the many therapy patients as well as nursing students and others in the audience. Following some breath holding exercises, Ron led the participants through the basic elements of the harp and ended the class with directing the group in playing simple tunes. Ernie Roberts, Rich Krueger and Mary Ann Love attended as supporters. In conclusion Ron, Rich and Mary Ann played a couple numbers to demonstrate the capabilities of chord, bass, and Little Lady. The



Gateway Harmonica Club segment of the seminar was well anticipated we were made very welcome

Harmonicas for Health Seminar in O’Fallon, IL on October 28, 2009

Ron Beer conducted a follow-up seminar for “Harmonica Breathing Therapy” portion of the Pulmonary Rehab Seminar in O’Fallon, Illinois on October 28. In conjunction with Shirley Schultz, Coordinator at Belleville Memorial Hospital, Ron moderated a brief review of his April presentation and led the patients and attendants through some breathing exercises before attempting several simple tunes. Louise Cook and Mary Ann Love were on hand to help with the instructions. Shirley Schultz said she intended to include a harmonica session at their monthly Pulmonary meetings and will remind the patients to bring their harmonicas and music. The Gateway Harmonica Club’s efforts were very much appreciated and invited back for a picnic next May.

We did a bit of blow and draw which some were a bit confused by, but Louise and Mary Ann jumped into the fray and helped get them sorted out. After this rough beginning we worked on the "C" major scale, followed by a breathing exercise. It was a bit disappointing to learn that the attendees from the earlier program had not devoted any time to playing or doing the exercises. As they meet once a month, Shirley will have them bring their harmonicas in the future to take advantage of the program.

Venturing into songs, the GHC team went over several from before, and added three new pieces. Ron commented:

“The patients are fun. They try pretty hard to catch on, but it is a bunch of new ideas to sort out. I felt that they were having a good time, but without incentive may not progress too well.

“Shirley will, I hope, get behind the process and push a little.

“Many thanks to Mary Ann and Louise for their very beneficial support.”

ANNIE RAINES WORKSHOP

By Audria Gebhardt.

I first learned about Annie Raines about 16 years ago when I read an interview she did for the Post Dispatch while she was in St. Louis for a Harp Attack. Most diatonic Blues players are men, so I was impressed to know of a woman who was a professional Blues player. I was not able to attend the Harp Attack, but I kept that Post Dispatch article for a long time.

Jeff Winders (of JJ's Blues Jammers, the other Blues group that meets once per month.), met Annie Raines a few years ago at the Augusta Blues Festival where she was an instructor. Jeff contacted her and arranged for her to teach a workshop

for us here in St. Louis. Annie also performed at BB's, downtown, the Thursday night before our workshop.

There were ten people in Annie's two-hour workshop; members from both GHC and JJ's Blues Jammers. Those in attendance ran the gamut from advanced



beginners to intermediate level harmonica players. Annie taught a variety of techniques ranging from chording with the chord changes, bending, riffs and some chugging and train sounds. She also had half of the group do a chording round with the other half of the group. I was having trouble bending hole three and she told me to say the word "go" as I was drawing. Bending is an important of the Blues sound and can be challenging. However, I was surprised at how easily I was able to bend after she taught me to use the word "go." What a nice surprise, as I have struggled off and on trying to bend certain holes.

Annie was a good teacher, very personable and down to earth. If possible, we will try to have Annie teach another workshop the next time she can be in the St. Louis area.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Annie Raines is an American musician, best known as a [harmonica](#) player.

Born near [Boston, Massachusetts](#), [July 3, 1969](#), she took up [harmonica](#) at age 17. As a freshman, she left [Antioch College](#) to pursue a musical career. Fascinated by the sounds of [Muddy Waters](#), [Little Walter Jacobs](#), [Big Walter](#) and [Sonny Boy Williamson](#), she spent countless hours listening to and absorbing the music of the [Chicago blues](#) masters. She began to [busk](#) locally and played gigs at local Boston clubs, and later traveled to Chicago where she met and played with [Pinetop Perkins](#), [Louis Meyers](#), and [James Cotton](#). While working regularly on the regional blues circuit, Annie taught harmonica and began developing her own style within the blues tradition.

Fast becoming one of the most sought-after harmonica players in [New England](#), she had earned a reputation for playing with energy, soulfulness and taste, but she was ready to take her musical education to a deeper level. Then she met and began working with country blues master [Paul Rishell](#), who lent musical support to her considerable harmonica, piano, singing and songwriting skills. This gave her the perfect opportunity to study [country blues](#) innovators such as [Noah Lewis](#) and [Sonny Terry](#), and, more recently, to take up the [mandolin](#).

"Money and women are the most sought after and the least known about of any two things we have."

Will Rogers

ELEPHANT LEARNS TO PLAY THE HARMONICA

A music-loving elephant called Five has been serenading its keepers at West Midlands (England) Safari Park, after learning to play the harmonica.



*Five the elephant plays the harmonica
Photo: CATERS*

The African elephant already loves music, but has found a new passion after a silver harmonica was accidentally left on the side of the enclosure. She eventually got the hang of puffing out at the right time to produce a song, and now regularly places the instrument into her trunk and whiles away the afternoon playing a few tunes.

Wendy Jackson, spokeswoman from the park, said the elephants were extremely intelligent and Five was becoming better at playing as time went on. She said: "It is very unusual for animals to actually get a sense of playing a tune."

"Five was really curious about it when it was left on the side - but everyone just thought she would lose interest after a few minutes. "But she kept going with it, hitting a few notes before realizing what it did. "Five was making tunes within a few weeks- it really is amazing."

West Midland Safari Park has three African elephants, all of which were rescued from an elephant orphanage in 1998. They boast a host of skills - with 17-year-old Five shooting to fame after picking up a paintbrush with her trunk producing a number of masterpieces.

The other female elephant at the park, Latabe, 16, loves nothing more than to kick a football around her and have fun. Director of Wildlife at the Park Bob Lawrence said he had never seen anything like it. He said the animals were always coming up with quirky ways to impress the keepers. He added: "They love to spend time eating, strolling around and investigating their surroundings."

"It was amazing when Five picked up the harmonica and started to play it - both female elephants really love music. "The keepers play rock music to them to soothe them when they are being groomed. "They all seem to have a number of talents - it is quite extraordinary. "Five keeps the other elephants amused with the tunes and she plays it for a few minutes or so before going off to do something else."

"I just can't wait to see what they are going to come up with next."

Submitted by Tony Wilbrabam.

WORDS OF WISDOM -

Submitted by Bob Norton.

- A day without sunshine is like night.
- On the other hand, you have different fingers.
- 42.7 percent of all statistics are made up on the spot.
- 99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
- Remember, half the people you know are below average.
- He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
- Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
- The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese in the trap.
- Support bacteria. They're the only culture most people have.
- A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- Change is inevitable, except from vending machines.
- If you think nobody cares, try missing a couple of payments.
- How many of you believe in psycho-kinesis? Raise my hand.
- OK, so what's the speed of dark?
- When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- Hard work pays off in the future. Laziness pays off now.
- How much deeper would the ocean be without sponges?
- Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.
- What happens if you get scared half to death, twice?
- Why do psychics have to ask you your name?
- Inside every older person is a younger person wondering, 'What the heck happened?'

MICKEY AND MINNIE'S GIFT OF THE MAGI

by Bruce Talkington

This Golden Book published by Grolier Inc. 2001 was reviewed by Chris Pondo and is an adaptation of O. Henry's traditional Christmas story, substituting Mickey and Minnie Mouse. Both are frustrated because they want to get the other a nice Christmas present and they don't have the money they need.

Mickey loses his job and sells his harmonica to buy a gold chain for Minnie.

She doesn't get her bonus from her boss so she sells her pendant and buys a harmonica case of leather for Mickey.

Minnie says: "I can't believe you gave up what means the most to you for me."

Mickey says: "You are all the music I'll ever need."



The story and illustrations are beautiful.

In the end, they both wind up doing something that neither wanted the other to do— just to be able to get that special present. A really good lesson learned.

MERGER MANIA

With all the turmoil in the market today and the collapse of Lehman Bros. and acquisition of Merrill Lynch by Bank of America, this might be some good advice. For all of you with any money left, be aware of the next expected mergers so that you can get in on the ground floor and make some BIG bucks!

Watch for these consolidations later this year:

Hale Business Systems, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Fuller Brush, and W. R. Grace Co. will merge and become: Hale, Mary, Fuller, Grace.

Polygram Records, Warner Bros., and Zesta Crackers join forces and become: Poly, Warner Cracker.

3M will merge with Goodyear and become: MMM Good.

Zippo Manufacturing, Audi Motors, Dofasco, and Dakota Mining will merge and become: ZipAudiDoDa.

FedEx is expected to join its competitor, UPS and become: FedUP.

Fairchild Electronics and Honeywell Computers will become: Fairwell Honeychild.

Grey Poupon and Docker Pants are expected to become: PouponPants.

Knott's Berry Farm and the National Organization of Women will become: Knott NOW!

This humorous and helpful stock market advice submitted by Bob Norton

THINGS FOUND ONLY IN AMERICA

From *Joke of the Day*

1. Only in America.....can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.
2. Only in America.....are there handicap parking places in front of a skating rink.
3. Only in America.....do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.
4. Only in America.....do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet Coke.
5. Only in America.....do banks leave both doors to the vault open and then chain the pens to the counters.
6. Only in America.....do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage.
7. Only in America.....do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have call waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place.
8. Only in America.....do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight.
9. Only in America.....do we use the word 'politics' to describe the process so well: Poli' in Latin meaning 'many' and 'tics' meaning 'bloodsucking creatures'.
10. Only in America.....do they have drive-up ATM machines with Braille lettering.

GHC GIGS, CLASSES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

6:00 PM - Blues Group, led by Louise Cook and Ed Cenatiempo — Everyone welcome

7:00 PM - First Tuesday of month: Business Meeting — Everyone welcome

All other Tuesdays: Band Rehearsal — Everyone welcome

8:00 PM - Open Mic — Everyone welcome

PERFORMANCES, CLASSES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

A list of the club's upcoming performances, classes and special events is distributed each month at the business meeting. For the most up-to-date calendar of all GHC performances, classes and special events, go to www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org/calendar, which takes you to our **online calendar**. You can view the calendar in Week, Month or Agenda (list) format by clicking on the tab of your choice. To move the display backward or forward in any view, click ◀ or ▶ in the upper left-hand corner of the calendar.

Gigs and special events are shown in RED, classes in BLUE. To the right of the tabs, there is a small ▼ symbol that you can click to open a drop-down checklist if you wish to display only a specific category or categories by checking selected boxes .



GATEWAY HARMONICA CLUB
14650 Baraton Drive
Florissant, MO 63034