



NEWS & VIEWS



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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

by Mary Ann Love

CHANGE OF UNIFORM

The club has changed over to the summer polo shirt uniform for gigs and other public performances.

HEALTH MATTERS

So great to see some old faces (pardon if the shoe fits!) return to club meetings.

Ernie Roberts is back! Ernie and Marie have attended practice sessions and they report that Ernie is almost back to normal after very extensive recovery. Ernie says he still has a long way to go and Marie still has back problems, but they are back 'on the go' and thank everyone for their prayers and encouragement.

Woody Woodring is recovering from cataract surgery on both eyes and doing well.

Sesto Stieven had cataract surgery & will be coming back to club meetings soon.

Michael LaRue has been hospitalized for problems with his legs.

Simon Abcouver fell near a curb and hurt his hand. He ended up in the hospital for an operation & transferred to rehab. Also had eye surgery (cataract) as well as retina operation. Many other health issues but seems ok now.

Simon paid a visit to the club on March 16 and shared that he celebrated his 91st birthday last week. Simon played a nice tune and showed his usual sense of humor.

SID WOLFF MEMORIAL

Fifteen GHC members entertained the veterans and friends at a memorial concert for Sidney Wolff on Sunday, March 28, 2010 at the Missouri Veterans Home in North St. Louis. Ralph Shower, VFW Commander Post 346, told how Sid would visit the home to play The Star Spangled Banner prior to the Sunday bingos. Again it was reiterated how Sid was always friendly and willing to tell stories and play a happy tune on his harmonica. Sidney was a founding father of the Gateway Harmonica Club in 1987 and the 1st President of the club as well as a loyal member.

GHC PICNIC JUNE 5

Plan to attend the GHC picnic on Saturday, June 5, 2010 at Shady Springs Park in St. Peters. We have had several picnics there and it is a lovely private setting with great accommodations



including pavilion and barbeque pits. Bring your own picnic lunch and drinks along with family and friends. Everyone is welcome. We always have a good time and play our harmonicas to our hearts content. Anyone who wants to play additional instruments – this is your opportunity. Starts at 12 noon. Come for awhile or all day.

Directions: Take Hwy. 70 West to Cave Springs Exit 225, continue west on I-70 North Outer Service Road until you pass Baue Funeral Home and turn right after U-Haul on Shady Springs Rd. Continue several blocks until you reach the park. See you there!!

Remember to bring your harmonica!!

DAN WELSCH

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Daniel J. Welsch on April 15, 2010.

Dan was a loyal member for many years and we had received a note from him lately with his current dues that he had been on kidney dialysis for the last several years. We offer his wife, Dorothy, and family our sincere condolences. A memorial gift in his honor has been made to the Kidney Foundation. May he rest in peace.

HARMONICAS FOR HEALTH

The 'Harmonicas for Health' seminars and Breathing Therapy sessions conducted by Ron Beer with supporting GHC club members at the Memorial Belleville Hospitals in

(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:

Mary Ann Love
 Recording & Corresponding Secretary
 1162 Villa Flora Dr.
 O'Fallon, MO 63366
 (636) 379-7707

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 May and June:



MAY

Sarah Muriel 5/1
 Michael LaRue 5/3
 Robert Scurlock 5/8
 Sharon Davis 5/11
 Donn Hornberger 5/12
 Bob Pangilinan 5/13
 Dan Kellermann 5/22
 Doris Rassman 5/27
 Louise Cook 5/28
 Wally DeShon 5/29

JUNE

Carole Hackmann 6/1
 Joyce Barber 6/4
 George Garrett 6/5
 Lynn Garrett 6/6
 Jean Gerfen 6/6
 Guy Vaccaro 6/7
 Doris Michelin 6/9
 Theon Heisserer 6/19
 Alice Asbury 6/15
 Mary Kellerman 6/16
 Waunetta Perry 6/17
 Pamela Hartig 6/21
 Doreen Scurlock 6/25
 Mike Maschek 6/26
 Bill Nesslein 6/27
 Laurie Hayduk 6/27
 Bob Winston 6/28
 Bill Davis 6/29
 Rose Schmidt 6/29

*Happy Birthday
 and
 Congratulations
 to all!*

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)

Springfield, IL and O'Fallon, IL during the past year were very much appreciated.

Shirley Schultz, Coordinator, has extended an invitation to a picnic at noon on May 26th in Belleville, IL, near the main hospital campus at an indoor venue. It is the hope of Shirley Schultz and staff that we may share lunch and perform for some of the patients to promote interest of new participants at later meetings. The staff is very outgoing and they promise this to be a fun event. The address is Hope Church, 200 Dapron Drive across the street from the hospital. Ron Beer will have directions available when the date draws near.

NOTE: Because of budget constraints, we are requested to limit the number of lunch participants to 12.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, RICHARD!

Richard Hayman is celebrating his 90th birthday at Powell Symphony Hall on Sunday, June 27 at 2:00 p.m. We have

requested that GHC be included in the celebration by playing a pre-concert performance in the lobby area.

SOME FOLKS WE HAVE SEEN LATELY:

Simon Abcouver, Geza & Thelma Dombi, Leo Kluesner, Betty Ford, Louise Cook, Donn Hornberger, Terry Smith, Woody Woodring, Frank Muriel, Paul Babb.

Scott Paulding from Denver was in town to visit family and stopped by the club. He performed three very lively tunes on his diatonic: Big Sandy River, Kansas City Reel and an Irish Jig Dance. We love to see visitors and appreciate their involvement.

Great to see you and come back as often as possible! See you on Tuesdays evenings -- and keep on harping!

SUGGESTIONS FOR GIGS?

The depressed economy has affected the scheduled bookings this year and we appreciate any efforts on your part to promote our performances.

WORDS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Many thanks to all our members who have submitted articles. Here are the most recent contributions:

THE MILLERS

by Richard Krueger

After reading a notice about the Millers presentation at John Wood Community College in Quincy, Illinois, my interest was piqued to see this performance on March 26, 2010. L.D. Miller at the age of 12 was touted as being the world's greatest living harmonica player by major artists and has received many accolades. He has worked with Stevie Wonder, Alicia Keys, Blues Traveler, BB King, Jamie Fox, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Buddy Guy, Kanye West and many others.

He is now age 17 and the four brothers have headlined at the Sahara in Las Vegas for a year. L.D. was named the youngest person to ever headline a show on the strip. The other brothers play acoustic guitar, bass guitar, drums. L.D. also plays the guitar and sings vocals. He was the focal point of the group. The two younger brothers were also the winners of second place on NBC's first season of "America's Got Talent."

I was surprised to find that even though the performance was held at the college, the crowd was middle-age or older. The first number was L.D. Miller playing harmonica. He put forth so much energy and played so hard, even bending down to the floor to bend out some notes. A person couldn't help but be impressed. He played diatonic harmonica, using more than one instrument, changing for different songs. They played blues with a heavy rock beat; very loud, very amplified. At the end of the show the Millers received a 100% standing ovation and received a second one equally as good for the second encore.

After the show I talked with them and they autographed a CD I had purchased. I asked him if he played cross harp in different positions and whether he did overblows and overdraws and he answered "I do all of those." I asked him what kind of harmonicas he played and he said a diatonic Seidel, which is a German harmonica company that had previously been behind the iron curtain but was now available.

I was very glad that I attended.

BLUES NOTES:

SANDY WELTMAN VISITS CLUB ON MARCH 9

by Christine Pondo

Sandy Weltman, the finest harmonicist in St. Louis, visited the GHC Blues Group on March 9. His enthusiasm and love for the instrument flowed into each of us and inspired us to learn more, practice more, and really master improvisation. Sandy said there are thirty-six notes on a ten hole diatonic and he fluidly played them all precisely and performed a virtuoso blues solo.

As a great educator, he gave us four worksheets to study and learn. Most important, he demonstrated the drawbend, blowbend, overdraw and overblow and we all practiced. Jim, Rich, Fred, Ed, Mike and Audria do it well; however, some like Charlesetta, Pam and myself are still learning the technique.

Sandy uses Band in the Box for great background music and played "Peg of My Heart" and "Danny Boy" on diatonic with bending to get all the right notes. Of course, he does this playing concerts with his own "Hot Jazz Caravan Band" on a multitude of blues, jazz, swing and pop tunes. We were all amazed!

Sandy explained how a chromatic player can get a blues sound without bends. His brilliant smile, energy and determination made this teaching session not only worthwhile but touched all of our hearts with beautiful music.

BOOK REVIEW:

by Christine Pondo

My Antonia – A novel by Willa Cather about immigrants helping each other on Nebraska prairie through joys and sorrows. One of the characters, Peter (a Russian), brought out a gaudily painted **harmonica**, sat down on a bench and played tunes that were very lively or very doleful and he sang to some of them (probably a Hohner echo harp).

I'm re-reading all her wonderful descriptive novels.

MORE ON THAT LITTLE WORD "UP" . . .

(This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is 'UP.' It is listed in the dictionary as an [adv], [prep], [adj], [n] or [v].) This is PART of the list submitted by Jessie Hirsch.

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP, and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report?

We call UP our friends, brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and fix UP the old car.

We Get Letters . . .

3/02/10

Dearest Gateway Harmonica Club

On behalf of Dr. Carroll Markivee & family and the Robert Perkins family, we wish to extend our thanks for your gracious gift to the PEO Educational Loan Fund in memory of Jean. Thank you, also, for your wonderful musical 'harmonica' tribute at her memorial service. It meant a lot to all of us.

The sudden death of Carroll on February 20th was a shock to all of us. There will be a memorial service at a later date in St. Louis. Your prayers will be appreciated, especially for Pam, Cindy and David. It is hard to lose both parents in such a short time. God's timing is always perfect and we rejoice that they are now together with the Lord. Thank you for all that you have meant to them over the years, and again, we thank you for your great harmonica tribute at Jean's memorial.

Lovingly in Christ,

Bob and Marilyn (Brother-in-law and Sister to Jean Markivee)

* * * * *

To: The Gateway Harmonica Club

From: St. Louis County Library
Weber Road Branch

Thank you for the wonderful kick-off of the Spring Potpourri Series at Weber Road Library. Everyone enjoyed the sounds of the many types of harmonicas.

We will try and play the mini ones we have now. We all love them!

Thank you again. The Gateway Harmonica Club is a real gem for St. Louis.

Looking forward to next year.

Keep playing!

Laura Thomas

* * * * *

Hi! This is Albie Robles. I'm the editor for the newsletter and blog for HOOT

Harmonica Organization of Texas. We recently changed the name of our newsletter.

I took suggestions and ended up with The HOOT Reeder. Then I found your newsletter in a web search.

Your newsletter is great! Very well done!

I just wanted to send this e-mail to let you know that I hadn't seen your newsletter before the name change. I hope it doesn't bother you.

If you are interested, I'd like to provide a link to your website on our blog.

It's great to find other harmonica organizations out there. I love to find other people with the same interest. People who respect the harmonica as an instrument. If any Gateway Harmonica Club members are ever visiting Dallas, we would love to have them at one of our monthly meetings!

A.

We Send Letters . . .

47 Orchard Lane
Kirkwood, MO 63122
(314) 821-8651

March 17, 2010

Suzanne Appleyard
14 Queen Mary Drive
Queensbury, NY 12804

Dear Ms. Appleyard:

The Gateway Harmonica Club wishes to thank you for your donation in honor of Dr. Carroll Markivee.

Carroll, and his wife Jean, were members of the Gateway Harmonica Club. We will miss both of them. Carroll provided musical arrangements and Jean would accompany him vocally. Many summers we enjoyed their hospitality hosting our yearly picnic at their home.

The Gateway Harmonica Club performs at senior events around the City of St. Louis, MO. At the end of the year, we donate our funds to a variety of local charitable organizations.

Again, bless you for your kindness and donation honoring Dr. Markivee.

Sincerely,

Jessie Hirsch, Treasurer

CC: Pam Tiemorzadeh

"Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every New Year find you a better person." -

Benjamin Franklin from Poor Richard's Almanac

* * * * *

"Three daily reminders: Have the courage to say no. Have the courage to face the truth.
Have the courage to do the right thing because it is right."

- Mark Twain via Apple Seeds

BEER BARREL POLKA

Beer Barrel Polka, also known as Roll Out the Barrel, is a song which became popular worldwide during World War II. The music was originally composed by the Czech musician Jaromír Vejvoda in 1927. Eduard Ingriš wrote the first arrangement of the piece, after Vejvoda came upon the melody and sought Ingriš' help in refining it. At that time, it was played without lyrics as Modřanská polka ("Polka of Modřany"). Its first text was written later (in 1934) by Václav Zeman – in this way come into existence original Czech song with the title Škoda Lásky ("Wasted Love").

The polka became famous around the world. In June 1939, "Beer Barrel Polka", as recorded by Will Glahé, with English lyrics, was #1 on the Hit Parade. This version was distributed by Shapiro Bernstein. Glahé's earlier 1934 recording sold many copies in its German version Rosamunde (it is possible the reason for the rapid spread

was due to the occupation of Czechoslovakia by Nazi Germany, and subsequent emigration of thousands of Czechs to other parts of the world, bringing this catchy tune with them). The authors of the English lyrics were Lew Brown and Wladimir Timm. Meanwhile, the song was played also by many others such as Andrews Sisters in 1939, Glenn Miller Orchestra, Benny Goodman, and Billie Holiday.

During World War II, versions in many other languages were created and the song was popular among soldiers, regardless of their alliances. It was claimed many times that the song was written in the country where it had just become a hit. Its actual composer was not widely known until after the war.

A former Foreign Minister of Germany Hans-Dietrich Genscher even made a bet that it was a German song. He lost



QUOTES FROM OLD AGE IS ALWAYS 15 YEARS OLDER THAN I AM

by Randy Voorhees

1. To get back your youth, I would do anything except eat healthy, exercise or act respectable – Oscar Wilde
2. The dead might as well try to speak to the living as the old to the young.— Willa Cather
3. Getting old is like riding a bicycle, If you don't keep pedaling, you'll fall. — Claude Pepper
4. I am as old as my tongue and older than my teeth — Jonathan Swift
5. Old people who shine from the inside always look ten years younger. – Dolly Parton
6. Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older it will avoid you. — Joey Adams
7. My advice on how to grow old is Keep Breathing – Sophie Tucker

Submitted by Christine Pondo

PERKS OF REACHING 50 OR BEING OVER 60 AND HEADING TOWARD 70! OR 80!

(Submitted by Mike LaRue)

1. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
2. In a hostage situation, you are likely to be released first.
3. No one expects you to run -- Anywhere.
4. People call at 9 PM and ask, 'Did I wake you?'
5. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
6. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
7. Things you buy now won't wear out..
8. You can eat supper at 4 PM..
9. You can live without sex but not your glasses.
10. You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
11. You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.
12. You sing along with elevator music.
13. Your eyes won't get much worse.
14. Your investment in health insurance Is finally beginning to pay off..
15. Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the National Weather Service.
16. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
17. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a manageable size.
18. You can't remember who sent you this list.. And you notice these are all in big print for your convenience.

Forward this to everyone you can remember right now! ONE MORE THING: Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night!

CAN MIND GAMES STAVE OFF DEMENTIA?

Excerpted from www.MayoClinic.com

A study conducted among nearly 500 seniors found that for every day each week that you engage in mentally stimulating leisure activities, you delay the onset of dementia by about two months. The activities that provided protection included reading, writing, doing crossword puzzles, playing board or card games, participating in group discussions and playing music.

Mentally stimulating activities at least twice a week, versus less than once weekly, can reduce your risk of developing dementia by 50 percent. Look for ways you can stay mentally active in your daily life. However, there's no need to spend money on "brain-building" computer games. These games provide no additional benefit beyond being socially and intellectually active in your daily life

THE SECRET OF LIFE (AUTHOR UNKNOWN)

Take time to Think. It is the source of Power.
 Take time to Play. It is the secret of perpetual Youth.
 Take time to be Friendly. It is the road to Happiness.
 Take time to Work. It is the price of Success.
 Take time to Pray. It is the greatest power on Earth.
 Take time to Love and be Loved. It is the way of God.

Submitted by Frank Davis from the Collection of Peg Davis

HISTORY

January 28, 1878

In New Haven, Connecticut, the first telephone switchboard was installed.

The phone company owning the switchboard had 21 subscribers.

**36TH ANNUAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
OLD-TIME PIANO PLAYING CONTEST
May 28 - 31, 2010**



**HOTEL PÈRE MARQUETTE, PEORIA, ILLINOIS
PROUDLY SPONSORED BY THE OLD-TIME MUSIC PRESERVATION
ASSOCIATION (OMPA)**

Frank Davis has attended this event in the past and thoroughly enjoyed every minute. Frank is looking for a travel buddy this year. If you are interested, call Frank or see:

www.OLDtimepiano.com

Geza and Thelma Dombi helped us capture the spirit of the Old West when they performed for Open Mic at an April meeting.



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