



The Reeder



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

NEWS AND VIEWS -by Mary Ann Love

SHELDON HALL

GHC club has been invited to perform as hometown musicians in the "Notes from Home" series on **March 27**, a Tuesday evening. On that date the club will play at the Sheldon Hall instead of at the usual Rock Church facility. The program will include two 45-minute sessions with a 15-minute intermission. The tickets cost \$10 each and our club will earn half the ticket sales. We have prepared a variety of types of songs: Golden Oldies, Big Band, nationality tributes, some solo numbers, and some of our usual performance pleasers. Please join in supporting this endeavor. We encourage you to invite friends and family to attend. It is quite an honor to perform at the Sheldon!

The Sheldon Concert Hall in St. Louis, Missouri was designed by noted 1904 World's Fair architect **Louis C. Spiering** and built in 1912 as the home of the Ethical Society of St. Louis. Musicians and public speakers throughout the years have enjoyed the perfect acoustics of the Sheldon Concert Hall, earning The Sheldon its reputation as "The Carnegie Hall of St. Louis."

Well-known singers and ensembles have performed at The Sheldon, and speakers such as Albert Einstein, Dwight Eisenhower and Ernest Hemingway have spoken from its stage. The St. Louis Chapter of the League of Women Voters was founded in The Sheldon's Green Room.

When the Ethical Society relocated to St. Louis County in 1964, The Sheldon became primarily a music venue. Then, in 1974, a former singer with the Duke Ellington Orchestra purchased the facility, transforming The Sheldon into a church and the site for many jazz and gospel concerts. A California attorney with a love for chamber music purchased the building in 1984 at the urging of the Paganini String Quartet. He engaged Walter F. Gunn to restore the building and upon completion Gunn began operating The Sheldon in 1986 as a venue for concerts and community events.

Determined to preserve and establish The Sheldon as one of St. Louis' greatest cultural resources, Gunn founded the non-profit Sheldon Arts Foundation in 1988. The Foundation purchased the building in 1991, and today the Sheldon Arts Foundation is governed by a 45-member Board of Directors. The Sheldon Concert Hall is the site of over 300 events each year, including jazz, folk and classical music concerts, featuring artists such as Dave Brubeck, Wynton Marsalis, José Carreras, Herbie Hancock, Doc Watson, Joan Baez, Willie Nelson, Julian Bream, Itzhak Perlman, B.B. King, and Jessye Norman. In addition,

The Sheldon presents Family Concerts, educational programs for schools and Coffee Concerts. The "Notes From Home" series, featuring St. Louis musicians, is presented weekday evenings. The Sheldon Ballroom, Spiering Room and Art Galleries host workshops and master classes, post-concert receptions, fundraising events, corporate presentations and community meetings.

The Sheldon's renovations continued in 2001 with the installation of five new stained-glass windows designed by Rodney Winfield. His designs, called "Theme and Variation", are designed to be seen both during the day and at night. The Sheldon is located in the Grand Center arts district at 3648 Washington Blvd. of St. Louis.

-History submitted by Mike LaRue

GOODBYE TO A GREAT GUY

On January 21, 2012 about 12 club members were honored to perform at the service for **Guy J. Vaccaro** by playing some of his favorite tunes. Guy was a lifetime member of the Gateway Harmonica Club and had been an active member until the last year. Guy and his special friend, **Pauline Guelbert**, were always helpful at club events. Guy was 88, physically fit and always had a smile for everyone. His interests were quite varied and the best word to describe him was that he was a true Gentleman. It was our pleasure to share some of his lifetime.

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 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, contact:

Frank Davis, President
 125 Braewood Circle
 St. Charles, MO 63301
 (636) 477-0354
 e-mail: fdavis0354@charter.net

To schedule a club performance, contact:

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

All other correspondence should be directed to:

MaryAnn Love
 Recording & Corresponding Secretary
 1162 Villa Flora Dr.
 O'Fallon, MO 63366
 (636) 379-7707
 e-mail: malove123@msn.com

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

www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org

Happy Birthday!!!

MARCH

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Sesto Steiven | 3/2 |
| Glenda Warren | 3/3 |
| Chittina-Joy | 3/9 |
| Simon Abcouwer | 3/10 |
| Pat Hotze | 3/17 |
| Judy Beer | 3/25 |
| Leta Provart | 3/25 |

APRIL

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Sal Miano | 4/4 |
| Henry Gerfen | 4/13 |
| Marie Roberts | 4/19 |
| Ralph Barber | 4/24 |
| Scott Campbell | 4/24 |
| Elizabeth Atkison | 4/30 |



Happy Birthday & 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!

Those who bring SUNSHINE to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.

- Sir James Barrie

MEMBERS HEALTH CONCERNS

Judy reports that **RonBeer** is doing well at home with less nursing care but continues to have a mobility challenge. Ron would enjoy telephone calls and visits.

Elva Bottchen sends word that she very much appreciated the club members playing at **John's** service. Their daughter had previously written a thank you note and forwarded a generous contribution to the club.

Vince Manno, a Founding Father of the GHC passed away on January 17. Vince had been unwell for several years. The club extends our sympathy.

Bill Dulin has been appointed SPAH Coordinator for the SPAH convention to be held in St. Louis in August 2013.

If you have any questions or suggestions about this event, please contact Bill at imafosi@att.net

DUES ARE PAST DUE!

Regrettably, any membership that is not renewed before the next issue of the Reeder (May 1) will be dropped from distribution as we conclude this is a sign of disinterest.

DOREEN SCURLOCK

Sadly, we have received word that Doreen Scurlock passed away on February 25 at her home in Dublin, Ohio. Doreen was a lifetime member of the club and paid many visits to our meetings. She and her husband, Bob, were regular attendees at the SPAH conventions. Doreen had a lovely singing voice and will be missed.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ★ ★ ★ ★

Beth Paszkiewicz is shown playing the hammered dulcimer. Beth joins husband, Ed, in the club.

Alice Asbury– joins husband, Mike, in the club.

Julie Melchers– joins husband, Jim, in the club.

Robert Anderson

Adam Andrews

Sylvester (Jay) Hotze



LETTERS: from **Ralph Barber**

Jessie & Buddy Hirsch received a note from Ralph Barber wishing all a happy and prosperous New Year. "I am not wont to make charitable contributions to the many deserving organizations that are constantly soliciting. I do, however, try to contribute a pittance, now and then, to a few which are near and dear to me. None are nearer and dearer than GHC. I hope that this wee bit will help keep the wheels rolling."

Love, Ralph

(Enclosed: A very generous check!

Ralph is a lifetime member - Thanks, Ralph)

Dear Gateway Harmonica Club 1/ 27/ 2012

I attempted to do a hand-written thank you note, but I found that the size of the card was way too small for the amount of gratitude I have for all of you in support of our family and in celebrating my dad's passing.

Everyone who has commented on the memorial service would say, "Oh, the harmonica players! That was the most wonderful part." How can my brother and I ever thank you enough for playing at our dad's memorial service. This small donation cannot express what is in our hearts.

I knew my dad absolutely loved being part of the club. When I believe he was beyond servicing the club by storing and maneuvering all the equipment and I told him he might rethink this activity, he would simply not hear of it. And so he continued his amazing part in the club until it was simply time for you to help him "give up his post."

So many of you showed up for the service. It was so very meaningful to Pauline too. She was so proud of my dad and her love for him also included her involvement in the club which she has enjoyed so much. And I am grateful to Jim Melchers, Jessie and Buddy for visiting my dad at Sunrise. Maybe there were also others.

Your second to final gift to my dad was playing at Sunrise on November 21. I have no words and I am a woman of many words. Thank you.

My dad told me he would be "leaving." He started telling me that in September. He was not a fit for the lifestyle he was subject to there. I'm glad he could stay a club member until the end.

Your loving-kindness is a positive memory among some difficult ones during this last year. I can cherish what you've done forever. Thank you.

Gratefully,

Pam Vaccaro

Guy P. Vaccaro

(Enclosed: A very generous donation)

LETTERS: from Mike Maschek

This past year was fairly busy for me, playing mostly as a soloist at 2 locations, sometimes 3, each week. I think I have developed a little more in the presentation of the music getting the feel of a song and in using drama in execution of the notes, bending slightly here and there as the song progresses. Often on the second time thru the melody, I will play double stops or chords with tongue rhythm. Along with the guitars this works well, for instance, in my version of *Spanish Eyes*. In addition, I have a couple good friends who control the sound boards at various locations, and they provide me with a Harmonicats style echo and it makes me sound like a million dollars. I love it! *Blue Bayou*, *Harbor Lights*, *Twilight Time* and even polkas, to my pleasure, are enhanced. It seems that the echo can cover some of the glitches I force through those chambers. I practice about 4 or 5 times a week, sometimes more, so I can execute songs with a professional air. We use no sound tracks, it's all live.

The Bull Shoals Theater season goes from April to November, every Monday, including a Christmas Show. Unfortunately the last two jams in November were cancelled as well as the Christmas show. I would have partnered with my accordion friend, Bob Burazin. He runs the Theater and is often too busy doing that and he also works for a Wal-Mart.

During the entire 2011 year I had no opportunity to have the accordion support. In the jam groups there are numerous guitar players of various skill but only one, Ted Hobbs, is willing and capable of working with me. A very generous and kind man we usually go over a song just before the beginning of the jams. I have very few chord sheets to show him, but the few that I have come in handy when Ted can't figure out what I'm doing. One song I was fortunate to have written out in chords is, *Somewhere My Love*. It goes quite well as long as no one else drowns Ted out. Very often someone who thinks they know how a song goes will get over enthused and overwhelm my support. This happens when I play *Darktown Strutters Ball*. Most of the time I really don't know exactly what the audience hears even though we have monitors. After

the session I usually ask the sound man what the audience heard. If he says it sounded great, I'm satisfied and leave it at that.

The Mountain Home Senior Center is the second location I play, every Friday night, all year. It's a jam type thing again. When you consistently go to these places the other players often hear certain songs from previous sessions, so the jamming improves. Nearly every one of the regular players can play with me, with authority, in the *Military Medley*. Admission is free but it's just a hall where the sound gets crashing and voices mix in.

The Flippin Senior Center is yet another location. The hall is somewhat smaller and attitude is very informal. The polkas I play, accompanied by one, Diane's Stump Fiddle, bouncing and dancing, goes over real well. With her, I'll play tunes like *Tic Toc*, *Beer Barrel*, and half of the GHC's *Polka Medley*, *Too Fat* and *Tzena* also.

Finally, there's a restaurant, Reelem' In Catsfish, in Mountain Home where Ted and Tim Hobbs, his son on bass, John Neighbors on Banjo and a 15 year old genius, Alex Hilliker on fiddle, play one after another Country and Blue Grass tunes. Using Ted's invitation, I'll drop in 2 or so times a month, on Thursdays to play a couple tunes. Last time there, we played *Blue Bayou*, *Twilight Time* and *Tic Toc Polka*. It provides a variety for his audience and they seem to like it very much. I can do some tunes that are considered country and can help out in playing harmony, depending on the key. I use only a C harp so I guess what I'm doing is called cross harp. I find that I could harmonize on many of their songs but it's safe for me to work in the keys of G, F, D and A. These keys are used most often. I still have a lot to learn.

I would like to wish everyone the best,

Mike Maschek
Mountain Home, Arkansas



The Entertainers



Chris Pondo & Rich Krueger

A couple of musical stuffed animals paid a visit to the club and played some tunes – one a love song for Valentine’s Day and the other was a Christmas song. The pet owners were very proud.

All are invited to share their noteworthy experiences or other subject matters of general interest.

FIVE GENERATIONS – A Rare Photo



Charlie Pratte introduces his new great grandson, Connor Matthew Noakes. Also pictured is Charlie’s daughter, Donna Wessel; grandson, Jason Noakes; and mother Helené Pratte Blake, who will be celebrating her 110th (correct) birthday in June! Connor is Helené’s great-great grandson. Congratulations to all!



Springtime! The birds are singing and playing harmony on their Little Lady Harmonicas

 - Submitted by Arprad de Kallos 

Oren W. Black

Oren W Black, age 95, known as the ‘Harmonica Man’ lost his home and most of his possessions during a tornado in the Bridgeton section of St. Louis County last spring. Oren and his wife, Lois, were playing dominos at the time, but neither was hurt. The cleanup crew discovered his favorite Little Lady harp among the debris. He began playing the harmonica at age 5, toured several countries and won a harmonica championship at Kiel Auditorium in 1939. Mr. Black died on Feb. 2 and had left most of his collection to his granddaughter, Dawn Cross.

– Submitted by Christine Pondo

Life is what happens to you while you’re busy making other plans . .



Donna, Connor, Jason, Helené, Charlie

**Live simply. . . Love generously. . .
Care deeply. . . Speak kindly. .**

LETTERS: Dec. 19, 2011

From: **Shriners Hospitals for Children®**

Please allow me to personally thank you for your most generous gift of \$300.00 to Shriners Hospitals for Children®-St. Louis. Your gift helps ensure expert medical care, cutting-edge research and up-to-date physician education will be provided to help each child we care for, today and in the future.

We have been providing this care regardless of the family’s ability to pay for over 88 years because of friends like you. We feel very fortunate that you believe in our family centered mission as much as we do.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, staff and patients, thank you again. If you have any questions about the hospital or would like a tour, feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Miller,
Senior Director of Development

Enclosed: Gold Book Certificate for total amounts contributions to Shriners Hospitals

Dec. 22, 2011

From: **Cardinal Glennon Children’s Foundation**

Thank you so very much for your generous gift of \$300.00. Please know that all of us at SSM Cardinal Glennon are humbled by the generosity of donors like you. Your gift helps us deliver healing care to children who face life threatening injuries and disease.

In these tough economic times, some of our supporters have been forced to reduce or discontinue their charitable giving. The value and importance of your support is greater than ever! God tells us that we will receive in even greater measure than we give. Those gifts from

God include the love of family and friends, the good fortune of quality education and success in business and, of course, good health and a sound mind. All the things we hope and pray our Glennon kids will grow-up to enjoy!

For your concern and commitment to helping sick children at Cardinal Glennon, our prayer for you in 2012 is that you and your family will enjoy the full measure of His blessings!

Sincerely,
Dan Buck
Executive Director

From: **The Salvation Army Dec. 16, 2011**

Your recent gift of \$300.00 has arrived, and I am so grateful you’ve chosen to support The Salvation Army’s life-changing work.

We’ve had the privilege of caring for people overlooked by society ever since 1865. That’s when our founder, William Booth, began sharing God’s love with needy souls living in alleys and shanties. The tradition has continued, thanks to generous friends like you, people with a heart for helping those who are suffering.

Many are the stories of God miraculously changing the lives of neighbors in need, right here in our area – folks who had given up hope . . . the hungry . . . the homeless . . . the addicted. But one by one they have found new hope, through the generosity of caring friends like you who support The Salvation Army.

So I thank you for standing with us. And I pray that God will bless you as you continue such a life of compassion.

With gratitude,
Major Louneal Richardson
Divisional Commander

O Lord, make my words sweet and tender, for tomorrow I may have to eat them!

From: **100 Neediest Cases** **January 4, 2012**

Thank you for your generous gift of \$300.00 to the 100 Neediest Cases. Your donation is at work helping people receive life-saving medication, a warm coat, food staples, children’s toys or as you specifically directed.

The 100 Neediest Cases tradition began in 1922 when the Christmas festival provided dinner and toys for the poor. Today, the United Way of Greater St. Louis and the St. Louis Post Dispatch, with the help of social service agencies, high school students and thousands of generous readers, proudly carry on the tradition.

Each year, thousands of families in need receive help from the 100 Neediest Cases program. All administrative and fund raising costs are absorbed by United Way of Greater St Louis, the St. Louis Post Dispatch, and more than 100 area social service agencies. Every dollar raised for the 100 Neediest Cases program goes directly to help people. An effort is made to assist every case in some way. With your help and big heart, we can make the holiday season a joyous one for thousands of people in the St. Louis region.

On behalf of all the people we have helped this year, please accept our deepest appreciation and thanks.

Sincerely,
Vanessa Wayne, Director

From: **Rock Church of St. Louis**

Thank you for your contributions to The Rock Church of Saint Louis. It is through your care and generosity that we are able to carry out this ministry.

Sincerely,
Lois D Eggers, Contributions Secretary

The Rock Church provides the central meeting hall and nice facilities for our club.

From: **Cornerstone United Methodist Church, O’Fallon, MO**

Dear Frank and Group,

Thanks for giving the Men’s Club a great night of great music and fun in December! You all are a group of talented people.

(signed) Care Committee

From: **Tony Wilbraham**

Hello GHC folks:

I keep up with all the GHC happenings - and was saddened to hear about the loss of Guy. He was such a thoughtful and hardworking gentleman - and will be missed. Great job Charlie – (for handling Scheduling)

Keep harping.

Tony

From **Pauline Guelbert:**

Dear Members and Spouses,

Thank you for playing and attending Guy’s wake, and for the many donations, and sympathy cards.

I’m overwhelmed by your generosity!’ To have one True Friend is lucky. To have so many friends is like a miracle!! Thank you for your friendship.

My “Thank You” seems so small compared to all you’ve done, it comes from my heart. My thoughts, my Heart, and my Love are with you all,

Pauline

(Enclosed: A very generous donation)
Thank you Pauline for your loyal friendship!

We have also received notes with dues from Simon Abcouwer, Louise Cook & Laurie Hayduk. Thanks to Laurie for the extra \$\$!

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
47 Orchard Lane
Kirkwood, MO 63122

