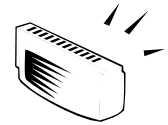


# The Reeder



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

## NEWS AND VIEWS -by Mary Ann Love

### THE SHELDON HALL CONCERT

GHC club was honored to perform as hometown musicians in the „Notes from Home” series at the Sheldon Hall on Tuesday, March 27. The program was titled “Harmonica Memories” and the tunes were an assortment of nationality song titles, big band, golden oldies and other favorites.

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Thanks to all members who made this event an outstanding success! **Frank Davis**, as director, generated a “fun and feel good” tone for the crowd. **Richard Krueger** received a standing ovation for his solo performance of *Rhapsody in Blue*, as did **Jim Melchers** for his rendition of *Summertime*!

Thanks especially to those who showed up to practice twice a week for the last couple months. Some members went the extra mile by making contact with TV, newspaper and radio communications to maximize publicity and sell tickets. Others made proper connections to have the performance recorded or took whatever steps necessary to present this successful program. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to **Joe Fey**, who attended practice twice each week and made program even more professional by playing the chord and describing background of each song. Thanks to all members, contributors and supporters. CONGRATULATIONS for a job well done!



Left to right -- Charlie Pratte, Rich Krueger, Bob Norton, Christine Pondo, Julie Melchers, Audria Gebhardt, Mary Ann Love, Sam Hardy, Frank Davis, Bill Dulin, Bill Davis, Herb Huebner, Jim Melchers, Arpad de Kallos, Jessie Hirsch, Ernie Roberts, Buddy Hirsch, Joe Fey

Not on Photo ~ Sales Ladies: Pauline Guelbert, Beth Paszkiewicz, Sharon Davis, Alice Asbury

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### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

★ John K Rutledge, Wife: Ann

★ Charles L. Hudson, Wife: Peggie

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.

*Happy Birthday !!!*

Inquiries about membership should be directed to:

Buddy Hirsch, Treasurer  
 47 Orchard Lane  
 Kirkwood, MO 63122  
 (314) 821-8651  
 e-mail: [buddyharmonica@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:malove123@msn.com)

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

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

**MAY**

Michael LaRue	5/3
Robert Scurlock	5/8
Sharon Davis	5/11
Bob Pangilinan	5/11
Doris Rassman	5/27
Louise Cook	5/28

**JUNE**

Carole Hackmann	6/1
Joyce Barber	6/4
Jean Gerfen	6/6
Doris Michelin	6/9
Theon Heisserer	6/19
Alice Asbury	6/15
Mary Kellerman	6/16
Pamela Hartig	6/21
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 & Congratulations to all!

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*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!*  
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**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:**

May there always be work for your hands to do;  
 May your purse always hold a coin or two;  
 May the sun always shine on your windowpane;  
 May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;  
 May the hand of a friend always be near you;  
 May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

“Always do right. This will gratify some people, and astonish the rest.”

- Mark Twain

**SPA H CONVENTION 2012**

*Society for the Preservation and Advancement of the Harmonica*

**August 14-18, 2012**

Westin Dallas Fort Worth Airport Hotel

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

Current SPAH members have received their package mailings. Detailed information and registration may also be made on line. See: [www.spah.org](http://www.spah.org)

**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](mailto:imafosi@att.net)**

**LETTERS:fromRichard Hayman**

“CONGRATULATIONS” To all the members of the GHC Club on your performance at the beautiful Sheldon Hall Theatre on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Wish I could be there and sit in with you all, because that happens to be right on my birthday (#92)!!! I’ve played at the Sheldon many times and it has always been a delightful experience (especially with Carol Beth True at the piano!!!) Have a great time and a very, very successful performance.

Sincerely,

*Richard Hayman*

*It was the delight of the club members to sign and send a Birthday greeting to Richard with our best regards.*

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Dear Gateway Harmonica Club                    3/ 23/ 2012  
Subject: March 22 Meeting 50+ St. Bernadette

I want to thank all members of the Club for an outstanding performance last night. All enjoyed and have asked that you be invited again.Thank You,  
Irene Kornmeier

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A letter was received from Eugene Schneider with an enclosed donation in honor of Francis and Mary Ann Love. Gene was appreciative of some of the club’s CD’s and was a cousin to Francis and friend to both.

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Dear Gateway Harmonica Club                    4/ 23/2012

Just wanted to thank you for a great performance at Thurtene Carnival on Sunday at Washington U. The crowd really enjoyed it, and we would love to have you back next year to perform again.

Best, Julia Lindon

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Thank You Note From: Bob Scurlock (Doreen)  
During times like this we appreciate and realize how much friends and relatives mean. We always did love your group.

**APRIL ADVENTURES – by Christine Pondo**

I heard harmonica music in two unique venues this April. At Cavalia, the huge horse-circus show under the white tent downtown, there were six musicians and one played harmonica for genuine atmosphere during the fabulous trick, western riding. As the horses sped across the stage their riders were upside down, backwards, standing, double and performing so many more stunts. The whole show was great!

On April 12 at the cabaret on the top floor of the Sheldon I heard Kai Welch play harmonica and drums, guitar, keyboard, trumpet and sing with Abigail Washburn a variety of eclectic, original music. She is the wife of Bela Fleck, who was at the Sheldon two days after GHC performance, playing banjo with his quartet, which included Howard Levy on harmonica and piano. Harmonica was well represented at the Sheldon.

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Joe Fey brought this delightful old tune back to life lately at open mic and sing/sanged the words—what fun!

**AREN’T YOU GLAD YOU’RE YOU**

Songwriters: Johnny Burke, Jimmy Van Heusen

Every time you’re near a rose  
Aren’t you glad you’ve got a nose  
And if the dawn is fresh with dew  
Aren’t you glad you’re you

When a meadowlark appears  
Aren’t you glad you’ve got two ears  
And if your heart is singin’ too  
Aren’t you glad you’re you

You can see a summer sky  
Or touch a friendly hand  
O taste an apple pie  
Pardon the grammar, but ain’t life grand

And when you wake up each morn  
Aren’t you glad that you were born  
Think what you’ve got the whole day through  
Aren’t you glad you’re you

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MURPHY'S LAW – *by Richard Krueger*

I was asked to do a harmonica performance at what I would call a "megachurch" in Springfield, Illinois. I had played for the people of this congregation twice before at dinner parties, but this was the first time that I was asked to perform during one of the services in the church sanctuary. In fact - not one service, but three.

The plan was for me to play along with a guitarist/vocalist, on a song entitled "On the Blue", a song totally unfamiliar to me. The sermon for the weekend was regarding "walking on water" and this made the song "On the Blue" very appropriate. I had ten days to compose my own part to go along with a CD recording of the guitar and vocal part, which was done in the key of D. D is not the easiest key for me, but I felt that it was workable. No written music, just the CD.

I was able to work out what I considered to be a nice addition to the song and, when the ten days were up, I felt ready. I called this church a "megachurch" because of what it consists of. The altar area (stage), is about sixty feet wide. It can hold a large choir and a full symphony orchestra, and frequently does. It is staffed by three ministers, two of which are PhDs. It has a full time choir director, a full time music director, plus a full time youth choir director. And there are several other full time people employed by the church. A real professional operation.

The congregational capacity is quite sizable with a very large balcony. And here I am entering this arena with humble harmonica in hand.

Alongside the staging area near the ceiling are two very large projection screens. The thought of me being projected onto these screens on either side of the altar intimidated me a bit, a whole bit, I am losing my nerve.

So now it is the Thursday evening before the weekend performances, time for the first practice session with the live guitar/vocalist. When walking into the church, I find him already on the stage, ready to go. I introduce myself to him, and I am given a wireless mic, a set of earphones, and a volume control pack to hang on the back of my belt, just like the pros on television. Now I am really intimidated.

After learning how to use all of this apparatus, we are ready to begin our practice. The guitarist begins and I try to play my part along with him. I quickly realize that it is not working. I ask, "Are you in D?" he replies "No, Eb." I now have a real sinking feeling. The music director that gave me the CD and the guitarist now go into an exchange of "you said," "I said", and it is determined that the song cannot be done in D, because it is out of the falsetto range of the vocalist. I tell them, fine, let's try it in Eb and that I will relearn my part by the weekend.

I played along with the guitarist's perfect rendition while making plenty of bloopers. I am already aware that the guitarist, who is quite good and also an employee of the church, is dubious of performing with a harmonica player. This does not help me with my nervous intimidation. We agree to practice again just before the actual service on Saturday evening.

It is now 45 minutes before the first service is to begin and we give another practice a try, this time in Eb. We begin and I find that I can hear the guitarist thru the earphones, but really cannot hear myself very well. Not good. Even though I have learned my part well in this key, it is not going well. I am having trouble because of not hearing myself well and get out of time with the guitar. I look to the fellow controlling the sound at the rear of the church, but nothing improves. Time is up, the show must go on.

When it is time for our part of the service, I am a bundle of nerves and have very little confidence. We do the song and I am not proud of it. The

**Murphy's Law (continued)**

Saturday evening service is called a contemporary service and the attendance is not heavy. I am thankful for that. The audience was polite in their applause.

The early Sunday service is another contemporary service and another light attendance. Once again we agree to practice before the service. This time I cannot hear anything thru my earphones, no matter how far I turn up the volume. The guitarist looks at me trying to play and I am certain that he feels that I am even worse than the night before.

I mention the problem to him and he checks my earphone system and tells me that I probably have a dead battery. I go to the sound people at the back of the church (there are three fellows there) and they replace the battery on my unit. I am now ready to go back to the practice, but there is no time to practice. People are already being seated for the service.

We play the song and it turns out better than the night before. I begin to feel more confident and less intimidated. We do a presentable performance. The audience seems to like what we have done.

Now, on to the major service, which is called the "traditional" service. No time in between for any more practicing.

I feel in control of the electronics that I am using and go forth with confidence, hoping to show this next very large audience what the harmonica can do. I feel good also, because I have made friends with the sound crew during the battery replacement. They were harmonica fans and encouraged me.

The last performance really goes well and I play my heart out. The skeptical guitar/vocalist is all smiles. The drummer that assisted us has been smiling since the second performance. His approval helped a lot.

The audience applauds very generously. Many of them came up to me after the service with compliments and thanks. One of the PhD ministers asks me if I will teach him to play the harmonica.

**A great experience. All's well that ends well.**

**YouTube and The Harmonica**

– by *Herb Huebner*

3/28/2012

I've found YouTube to be very helpful for learning and enjoying both the diatonic and chromatic harmonica. All you do is point your web browser to YouTube at: <http://www.youtube.com/>. Then enter what you want in the search box at the top. Maybe you would enter "Harmonica Lessons" and there for free are excellent lessons by many player such as Adam Gussow and Jason Ricci. Want to hear harmonica renditions of St. Louis Blues? Just type that in and among others, you get Brazilian Marianna Borssato playing a superb, bluesy version.

Maybe you want to put a song in your head that you haven't heard for a long time. Type in the song, let's say Basin Street Blues, and you get old TV and film renditions from the liked of Louis Armstrong and the Mills Brothers (very mellow.) I find it very helpful to listen to both the Gateway HC CD recording of a song I want to play, and also listening to what the original players of the song sounded like. Where else are you going to find videos of the Harmonicats playing "Peg O' My Heart"?

Or perhaps listening to harmonica legends is more to your liking. Type in Sonny Terry, Toots Thielman or Charlie Musselwhite (Christo Redeptor has a great live version) and you get video or recorded versions of many of their hits. Local talents are there also, from the Gateway Harmonica Club to local pro Sandy Weltman to Blues City Deli performances by Rough Grooves.

Our club's repertoire spans many generations, and YouTube surprisingly has a lot of heritage recordings to help you get the feel of a song. If you haven't tried it, I recommend it.

Some harmonica website Google search terms include: SPAH (Society for the Preservation and Advancement of the Harmonica)

Gateway Harmonica Club

Harptabs (great source for harmonica tablatures on many popular songs)

Harmonica Country (harmonica tablatures)

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

**CHANGE OF UNIFORM**

As of May 1 the club has changed over to the summer polo shirt uniform for gigs and other public performances.

**GHC PICNIC JUNE 23**

Plan to attend the GHC picnic on Saturday, June 23, 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 as a group and individually. 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!!*

**ANOTHER PARTY!**

Yes, it's early to be reminded, but **Christmas-in-July** will again be celebrated after the business meeting on July 3. This is the last chance to get the written message to our readers - - -

**MEMBERS HEALTH CONCERNS**

**Ria Meagher** has suffered a compression fracture in her back and is in rehabilitation at Mari De Villa on 13900 Clayton Rd.

**Betty Ford** and her sister, **Mary Louise**, have moved from the home they shared into Autumn View Gardens, located near Schuetz & Lindbergh. Betty would love to hear from her harmonica friends and you may call at 314-262-4902.

**Ed Heininger** misses friends in the club, and it would be good to give him a telephone greeting.

**The best vitamin for making friends ... B1**

**Elva Bottchen**, wife for 70 years to the late **John Bottchen**, passed on Saturday, March 24, 2012 at the age of 93. John passed about a year ago and was a long-time member of the club.

**Ron Beer** passed away on April 12, 2012. Ron was a Past President and Instructor of the harmonica at the club, at several area colleges, and at several medical facilities to teach courses on breathing techniques for lung and emphysema patients. He was well respected and he and wife, Judy, attended many SPAH conventions and they were most active in all club events. A memorial service in his honor will be held Sunday, May 20, at 3:00 PM at Parkway United Church, 2841 N. Ballas Rd. (between Clayton Rd. and Hwy. 40) A memorial donation from GHC was sent in Ron's honor to Tender Care at Home located in Chesterfield, MO.

**A Few Words About Ron Beer**

*– by Bill & Rosemary Nesslein*

Ron Beer was just a very good person, always helpful, cheerful, thoughtful, sharing, effective, compassionate: a man of continuous Faith. His music, quiet way and subtle humor endeared him to us. We are all fortunate to have the experience of his company. He is missed.

*Yesterday is History*

*Tomorrow is a Mystery*

*Today is your Present*

*Each day comes bearing its own gifts.*

*Untie the ribbons.*

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*OF ALL THE THINGS YOU WEAR, YOUR EXPRESSION IS THE MOST IMPORTANT.*

**Regular Players at GHC Open Mic**



*Frank Davis*



*Jim Melchers*



*Bob Norton*



*Bill Dulin*



*Stan Baldwin*



*Sam Hardy*



*Charlie Pratte*



*Geza Dombi*



*Bill Davis*

*Mike Asbury*



*Audria Gebhardt*



*Christine Pondo*

### **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](http://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**

