

The Reeder



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

NEWS AND VIEWS - by *Mary Ann Love*



Joe Fey

On September 22, 2013 a celebration of the life of Joe Fey was held at the Salem Evangelical Free Church in Florissant, MO. Joe was called to eternal rest on September 6th after complications following surgery.

Joe Fey was a steadfast figure in the success of the Gateway Harmonica Club from its earliest beginnings. He served as band director, music arranger, booking agent, chord player, teacher, and also editor and publisher of the newsletter for many years. Joe accepted major responsibilities at the SPAH conventions held in St. Louis. He shared advanced technical musical knowledge, showed wisdom and tact with any organizational issues, was always kind and thoughtful, as well as humble and spiritual. He had a talent for a quick wit and an abundant sense of humor. Joe was skilled on many different types of harmonicas and it was always a pleasure to hear his mellow tones on any one of them. We all loved and miss him. It has been a blessing to have known and shared a part in his life.

The members of the Gateway Harmonica Club extend our sincere condolences to the family.

End of The Year Business

Bring your Christmas music to practice – it's beginning to look like that time of the year again. The December gig calendar is filling up nicely. If you are able to attend these gigs, it is appreciated.

A holiday party is scheduled for December 3rd following the business meeting. Plan to attend and bring a food item to share if you wish. Family and friends are invited.

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

Seasonal Change of Uniforms now in effect – long sleeve white dress shirts and red vests, black pants. If you need a vest, please contact a club officer,

Election of Officers: Officers are eligible to serve two consecutive terms (of two years each). The incumbent President, Vice President, and Treasurer have served one term and are eligible for re-election. A recent change to the by-laws permits the Secretary and Treasurer to retain their offices indefinitely, as it is difficult to fill these positions with skilled or willing candidates. Nominations for any office will be accepted from the floor before the vote is taken. Plan to participate.

Election will be held at the December 3rd meeting to become effective January 1, 2014.

Current Positions:

President:	Frank Davis
Vice President:	Bill Dulin
Treasurer:	Buddy Hirsch
Secretary:	Mary Ann Love

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:

Herb Huebner
 (314) 873-6633
 e-mail: info@gatewayharmonicaclub.org

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

SPAH CONVENTION 2014

Society for the Preservation and Advancement of the Harmonica

It has been announced that the SPAH Convention will again be held in St. Louis in August 2014

Kindly submit your constructive criticisms of the 2013 SPAH convention to Bill Dulin, the St. Louis SPAH Coordinator, for the next SPAH convention to be held again in St. Louis - August 2014.

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

- The editor and officers reserve the right to edit texts received. Only substantial changes will be made in consultation with authors. The editors also reserve the right not to publish material submitted.

Happy Birthday!

NOVEMBER

Woody Woodring	11 Nov.
Arpad de Kallos	12 Nov
Faye Anders	25 Nov
Wendy Wilbraham	29 Nov

DECEMBER

Audria Gebhardt	9 Dec
Ed Cenatiempo	10 Dec
Rudy Michelin	11 Dec
Melba Lackey	13 Dec
Shirley Perez	17 Dec.
Tom Wright	22 Dec
Ernie Hackman	27 Dec
Christine Pondo	29 Dec
Robert Anderson	30 Dec



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!

"Age is strictly a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter..."

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Ideas Invited! Since the GHC is again slated to host the SPAH convention in St. Louis in 2014, our ladies auxiliary is looking for entertainment ideas for the Ladies Breakfast or the Hospitality Room. If you have any suggestions, please contact Sharon Davis. We had great feedback from this year.

Ideas for games or craft items are most welcome!

ALWAYS NEAR

- *By Roy Gerdel*

When I was six a special blessing came my way,
 A special friend for life, one Joseph Fey,
 I didn't know how this special friend,
 Would always be there, with no end.

The boyhood adventures we shared every day,
 As we bonded and grew in our very own way,
 Activities agreed on, impromptu or planned,
 Were valuable lessons for the future ahead:

Movies, Magic, Music and More,
 Trips Downtown and Midtown,
 On the streetcar,
 Fishing poles and swimming holes,
 Playground fun and summer sun,
 Poker games and shooting pool with expertise,
 Amusement parks and girls to tease,
 Baseball games in Penrose Park.
 Early morning till evening dark,
 The Hornet, Lone Ranger and Tom Mix,
 Were there, as well as Gene and Roy,
 Hero to every boy.
 Throughout these years my friend Joe Fey,
 Was there, never distant, always near.

As our boyhood days evolved into the teenage
 years,
 New activities and challenges appeared,
 Family, friends, and church helped us through the
 maze,
 Of awkwardness and high school days.
 New found priorities, pleasing parents and
 teachers,
 New high school fashions accepted with great
 passion.

Football games and drive in movies,
 Cruising nights through the neighborhood,
 Rock and roll music sounding good,
 Pizza pie arrived on the scene,
 Parkmoor meetings to see and be seen,
 Part time jobs to teach us to work,
 Drug store clerk and soda jerk,
 Ushering at the Fox and Missouri too,

Getting paid to watch movies,
 Too good to be true.

This era was a dash and when it came to an end,
 So much had changed but I still had my friend.
 The future uncertain, but nothing to fear,
 Our friendship endured and,
 Joe was sometimes distant, but always near.

Somehow we made it to our adult life,
 Another blessing to find a good wife,
 Marriage, children, and grandchildren, In the fold
 New generations to influence and mold,
 Our lives became hectic, many decisions to make,
 Paths crossed less frequent, but make no mistake,

My gentle friend Joe was there, sometimes distant
 Always near.

Children raised, grandchildrewn to love,
 Time to reflect on the blessings received from
 above,
 But then the cycle goes astray,
 My friend is suddenly called away,
 Like a menacing fog, despair appeared at my door,
 But wait that is false, and it soon became clear,
 That my lifetime friend will be distant
 but always near.

A tribute to a gentle, kind and thoughtful man,
 My Lifelong friend, Joe Fey
 - *By Roy Gerdel*



Joe Fey 1934 – 2013

The Harmonica Women Mystery

- Norman Davis

As a DJ playing a lot of blues, Norman Davis wondered why there are so few women harmonica players. The instrument is easy to carry, easy to play and women are not known for having less wind power than men. Davis started some intensive research on the subject and discovered that there are indeed some women who play the mouth harp around the world. He has launched a new website to promote harp gals www.hermonicas.com

"It was Big Mama Thornton who got me thinking about it. I played a track on my show which featured her playing the harmonica, and I started wondering why more women don't play the "Mississippi Saxophone". After half a century as a DJ, I could only name three or four. And when I asked my friends, most of them couldn't name any! I got more curious and started looking on line. Lo and behold, indeed there are some harmonica-playing gals around the world! Not many, when compared with women who play other instruments, but enough to whet my appetite further. I tried different word combinations in Google; women-harmonica, harp-girls, female-mouth harp—you get the idea. I started finding some gems; Christelle Berthon, a French woman with an exquisite style, Octavia in Pennsylvania—as good as any man I've ever heard, Kat Baloun and Beata Kossowska in Germany, Big Nancy in New Jersey. It was like a treasure hunt and I was finding jewels everywhere; Sandra Vazquez in South America, Rachel Plas in France, Tracy K in Canada, Stacy Jones in Seattle, and D J Gosper down under in Australia. It became apparent as I listened to the harmonica ladies that nearly all of them are also excellent singers.

Creating a website was the obvious next step, and while I was discussing possible domain names with a friend, he misspoke the word "harmonica," saying "hermonica." "Wait a minute!" I yelled, "That's it!" And so was born the website devoted to women who play the mouth harp www.hermonicas.com.

Even though the American Musicians Union refused to recognize the harmonica as a legitimate musical instrument for many years, these days it is quite popular around the world. In the Far East it is taught in many schools with harmonica orchestras and ensembles flourishing. It used to be that way in the U.S, too. Back in the 1930s and '40s the

harmonica was widely popular. Large numbers of students were enrolled in harmonica orchestras. The Los Angeles School District had 10,000 students enlisted one year.

Professional harmonica groups proliferated. The most popular group was the Harmonicats, a trio that hit it big with their recording of "Peg O' My Heart" in 1947. The group became so popular they were able to replicate themselves with four or five versions of the Harmonicats touring in different areas at the same time! Copycat bands started popping up. The Harmonica Rascals featured a midget, (Johnny Puleo), on the big bass harmonica. There was even an all-woman group known as the Harmonicuties, (and they had a midget too!)

But harmonicas lost a lot of their popularity during World War II, as almost all the instruments made then were produced by German companies and could not be imported. And the new amplified electric instruments began attracting many music students. When blues popularity brought the harmonica back, the women were left out. Very few Americans can name even one female harmonica player. Maybe that will change in 2013 when the very first compilation of harp women will be released as a double album on Ruf Records. Four record companies rejected the idea before Thomas Ruf, a forward looking label owner in Germany liked the idea, even though most of the artists are virtually unknown. Most people will be hearing them for the first time and are in for a nice surprise.

[Hermonicas.com](http://www.hermonicas.com) seems to be having some effect on the Internet, as several other harmonica sites have added or beefed up their pages on woman players recently. It's all good news for the gals who have been under-rated, under-recorded and under-publicized for too long. Now, who wants to produce the first all-woman harmonica concert?"

Norman Davis is a radio DJ and writer. His syndicated weekly radio show, [Midnight Flyer](http://www.midnightflyer.com), is now in its 18th year.

**Blues comes in all shapes and sizes.
There's blues for good times
and blues for hard times
Electric blues, acoustic blues,
city blues and country blues,
cold blues, hot blues,
pour yourself a shot blues**

You Know You Are Getting Older When:

– from the desk of Pauline M. Guelbert

Almost everything hurts, what doesn't hurt, doesn't work anymore.

It feels like the morning after the night before, and you haven't been anywhere.

All the names in your little black book end in M.D.

You get winded playing chess.

You look forward to a dull evening.

You still chase women, but you forgot why.

You turn out the lights for economic, not romantic reasons.

Your knees buckle and your belt won't.

You are 17 around the neck, 42 around the waist and 126 around the golf course.

**New Members:**

Welcome to **Ken and Betty Luebbert**; and to **Roger Lemons**– the newest members to join the Gateway Harmonica Club.

Play Us a Song, Harmonica Man!

– reprinted from *DePaul News* August 2013

(A monthly publication for employees of SSM DePaul Health Center)

With his bright yellow polo shirt and khaki Bermuda shorts, heavily bearded Mike Asbury looks a little like Santa Claus on summer vacation. But instead of collecting wish-lists for Christmas presents, while waiting for his wife to finish her imaging test in the Cardiac Lab at SSM DePaul, Asbury entertained himself and other visitors by playing Gospel tunes on his harmonica.

“I’ve only been playing for six years,” he said. “I’m a failed guitar player but the harmonica is easier, and I can just throw my heart over the fence with the music.” Asbury tucks his harmonica in his pocket wherever he goes and plays whenever he can. He says people typically enjoy his music, and he was even invited to join the St. Louis harmonica group, who claimed

Health Report

Charlie Pratte has reported that he has begun radiation and chemo therapy. Jackie Pratte has recently finished her treatments.

Alice Asbury is recovering from a heart procedure and is getting stronger.

Ed Cenatiempo is also facing a heart valve procedure along with a stomach aneurism.

Arpad De Kallos has had surgery for a tumor removed near his eye.

Herb Huebner now has a new knee – We wish everyone good health and speedy recoveries.

Condolences:

We have received word that Bill Mann, former GHC member, has passed on October 2 at the age of 97 in Litchfield, IL.

Condolences go out to Ralph Barber and family on the loss of his wife of 61 years, Joyce, on Sept. 27.

Cardinal’s Baseball legend Stan Musial as a lifetime member.

“I’m a member of the Gateway Harmonica Club, and we played Busch Stadium for Musial’s memorial night on April 12. It was cold and miserable, but we handed out 40,000 harmonicas to the crowd, so it turned out pretty incredible,” Asbury said.

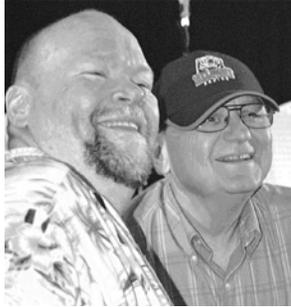
Asbury even shares his music with strangers when he’s at home. On hot summer days, the softspoken man sits on his front porch in University City, MO and plays his harmonica while handing out bottles of water to pedestrians, many of them students walking to and from Washington University. “I just keep playing ‘cause no one’s told me to stop. At least, not yet.”

**Relationships are like Algebra –
You look at your X and wonder Y**

Corrections of names from previous Reeder:



Jessie & Porter Cowan

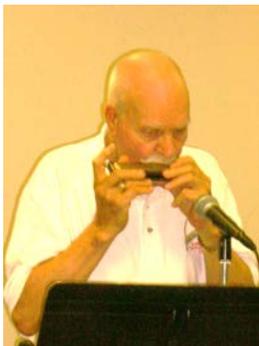


Mike Caldwell & Charlie McCoy



Pat McDulin

Linda & Kaleena Hutchins



WEEKLY EVENTS

Tuesday evening meetings at The Rock Church, 9125 Manchester, St. Louis, MO 63144:
6:00 PM – Blues Group, led by Ed Cenatiempo – Everyone welcome
7:00 PM – First Tuesday of month: Business Meeting – Everyone welcome
7:00 PM – All other Tuesdays: Band Rehearsal – Everyone welcome
8:00 PM – Open Mic – Everyone Welcome

PERFORMANCES, CLASSES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

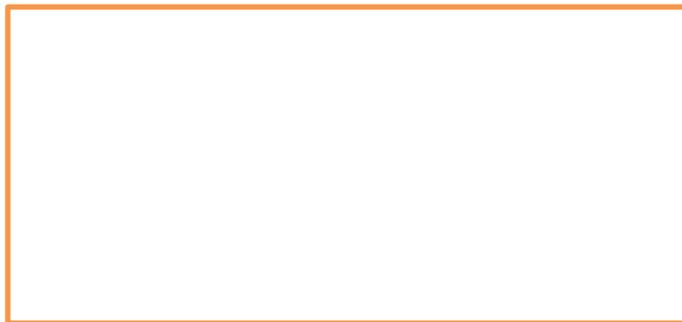
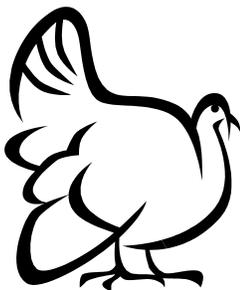
A list of the club’s upcoming performances, classes and special events is distributed each month at the business meeting. For the most up-to-date calendar of all GHC performances, classes and special events, go to www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org/calendar, which takes you to our online calendar. You can 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



November



December

