

The Reeder

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

NEWS AND VIEWS – by Jay Hotze

Richard Krueger



Rich passed away May 16, 2019. He was a man of music, loved his family, and tried to help others.

At eight years old he got his first harmonica from his father. There was always music in his house as both his brother

and father played the accordion. He learned to play his harmonica by ear and was self-taught. Soon his friends were also picking up the harmonica, and they could all be found playing on the street corners in south Chicago. The special thing about the harmonica was that it fit in his pocket. It was the beginning of a life of performing for others.

Years later he married his high school sweetheart, Lillian, and began raising a family of five, three boys and two girls. Early on he was working full time, being a family man, and also traveling evenings by train to attend Northwestern University in order to earn his degree in accounting/finance. As I said music was always in his life and at one time or another all of their children played the harmonica.

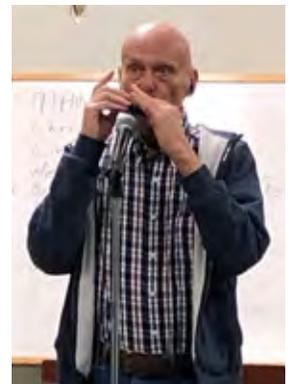
While living in Chicago, he and Lillian enjoyed dinner often at a restaurant which played zither music while dining. He enjoyed it so much that he decided he would learn to play that instrument as well. He joined the Chicago Zither Club and found it a very difficult instrument to play, but he kept at it.

Later, he and his family moved to St Louis. He joined the Gateway Harmonica Club which turned

out to be a very long association. He also discovered that Washington, Missouri had been the home of the Schwarzer Zither Manufacturing Company, a company that had won awards and accolades internationally for their fine zithers. Today there is an excellent zither collection at the Washington Historical Society. Rich felt that a zither ensemble should exist in Washington as it did in Chicago and was determined to make it happen one day.

Years later he would move to Pittsfield, Illinois where he was the chief financial officer of a cheese company. While there he joined the zither group in Davenport, Iowa. It meant attending weekly practice, and Rich would often drive the three hours up and back to practice for performances they put on twice yearly. After many unsuccessful attempts to get a group started in Washington, we learned of a performance that was going to take place in Washington by a woman he knew as an excellent zither performer. We showed up but found that she was ill and would not be performing. The good thing was there were many patrons also hoping to hear her. Rich took the opportunity to talk to them and offer to teach the zither plus loan a zither to anyone that would be interested in forming a zither ensemble. Today his dream has come true. The Washington Schwarzer Ensemble is an independent, functioning group that also has yearly performances.

His main love was always the harmonica. Driving from Pittsfield, a two hour drive to St Louis, to attend the meetings was always in his plans. He enjoyed the music and the special friends he had made there. Open mic was a weekly event for him. He never wanted



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 Rd., Brentwood, MO.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

SEPTEMBER

Roger Lemons	2
Anita Sandefur	4
Rosemary Nesslein	7
Terry A. Smith	9
Pauline Guelbert	10
Edward Moore	10
Jim Melchers	17
Shirley Perez	17
Rainey Fahey	24
Frank Davis	25
Julie Melchers	29
Linda Jacobs	30

OCTOBER

Sharon Rothnel	18
Ron Schneider	24
Margaret Gustafson	25
Bill Dulin	30

Inquiries about membership should be directed to:

Jessie Hirsch, Treasurer
email: treasurer@gatewayharmonicaclub.org

For information about club activities or additions or corrections to the *Reeder*, contact:

Jay Hotze, President and *Reeder* Editor
email: president@gatewayharmonicaclub.org
or editor@gatewayharmonicaclub.org

For information about club activities or music, contact:

Bill Dulin, Vice President
email: vicepresident@gatewayharmonicaclub.org

To schedule a club performance, contact:

Jim Melchers
email: booking@gatewayharmonicaclub.org

All other correspondence should be directed to:

Audria Gebhardt,
Recording & Corresponding Secretary
email: secretary@gatewayharmonicaclub.org

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

www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org

Song Name: Amazing Grace in C Diatonic

Posted By: watcher111

Key: C

Harp Type: Diatonic

Created: 2010-01-04 20:01:09

Song: 6 7 87 8 -8 7 -6 6
A maz ing grace how sweet the sound

6 7 8 7 8 -8 9
that saved a wretch like me

8 9 87 8 -8 7 -6 6
I once was lost but now I'm found

6 7 87 8 -8 7
Twas blind but now I see



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 member's special highlight dates!

Richard Krueger, continued

to play the same song twice and would never perform if he hadn't had time to practice. When he performed he would often dress the part—tuxedo, cowboy shirt, French beret, and even lederhosen. Rich was instrumental in having Sandy Weltman come and teach us all to play the diatonic. Unfortunately, his illness kept him away from several of the lessons. The most common comment I have heard from our members about Rich is he was always so encouraging.

I got to see him perform in many places. He played with an old saxophone performer in the square in Prague—not once but again a year later when we returned. At a small hotel in the breakfast room, we discovered a family there from Germany. He played a German song especially for them. The next day he was asked to play "Happy Birthday" for their mother. In Paris, we were waiting in line for a bus from the train station when we noticed some young people with instruments. Of course, interaction began. They were to perform at a venue there. They asked Rich to play something; he responded with "St Louis Blues". His harmonica was always in his pocket. We shall always remember, "Was that the key of B flat?" a question he would often ask after someone played a song. But most of all we shall miss that tall, bald headed man who was bigger than life and such an important part of our club. He left us at 81.

Too soon!

Louise Georgia



Read All About It—In the GHC Archive

Who could have imagined, at its founding thirty-two years ago, that the GHC would develop into a group that would perform with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra at Queeny Park, perform a preprogram concert at Powell Symphony Hall celebrating Director Richard Hayman’s 80th birthday, perform at Sheldon Concert Hall, entertain Ozzy Osbourne on his reality television show, provide the inspiration for a storyline and panel in a graphic novel, host SPAH multiple times, and contribute tens of thousands of dollars to dozens of organizations that depend on donations.

But that’s not all.

Since these performances are but a small portion of the GHC’s engagements over their more than three-decade-long history, at the business meeting on Tuesday, 7 May 2019, the organization voted to establish the position of Archivist/Historian in order to better organize and preserve materials that document the illustrious and unique history of the group.

Important documents to gather for the archive include:

- Photographs
- Newspaper/magazine articles
- GHC directories
- Correspondence
- Meeting minutes
- The Reeder
- Harmonica Happenings
- Programs from past performances including:
 - 1993 Queeny Pops
 - Sheldon Concert Hall
 - Mr. Hayman’s 80th Birthday Bash at Powell Symphony Hall

And this is where we very much need your help.

If you have any of these materials or other documents of historic interest that you would donate to the group or could let us copy—or if you know of anyone who might have historic documents—please contact the archivist or Jay Hotze.

Thank you for your support as we work together to preserve the distinguished history of the GHC, celebrating more than three decades of fine music and fellowship.

Margie Kindt: 314-825-6823

margiekindt@earthlink.net

Jay Hotze: 314-488-8875

jay@gcfrog.com or qualprint@sbcglobal.net

Song Name: How Great Thou Art By: Carl Boberg
 Posted By: djlactose Difficulty: Beginner
 Key: C Genre: Religious
 Harp Type: Diatonic
 Created: 2004-09-15 21:09:35 Modified: 2004-12-08 03:12:42

Song: 6 6 6 5
 O Lord my God!

6 6 6 -6 -6 -5 -6
 When I in awe-some won-der

-6 -6 -6 6
 Con-sid-er all

5 6 6 -5 -5 5
 the worlds Thy hands have made,

6 6 6 5
 I see the stars,

6 6 6 -6 -6 -5 -6
 I hear the roll-ing thun-der,

-6 -6 -6 6
 Thy pow'r through-out

5 6 6 -5 -5 5
 the u-ni-verse dis-played,

chorus

6 6 7 8
 Then sings my soul,

-8 7 -7 7 -6 6
 my Sav-iour God to Thee;

7 7 -7 -4
 How great Thou art,

-5 -6 6 5
 how great Thou art!

6 6 7 8
 Then sings my soul,

-8 7 -7 7 -6 6
 my Sav-iour God to Thee;

7 -7 7 -8
 How great Thou art,

8 -9 -7 7

Song Name: Amazing Grace (low and easy)
 Posted By: rwhite3
 Key: Any
 Harp Type: Any
 Created: 2005-12-04 21:12:01
 By: John Newton
 Difficulty: Beginner
 Genre: Religious

Song: -1 2 3 -3 3 -3
 A maz ing Grace

-3 3 2 -1
 how sweet the sound

-1 2 3 -3 3 -3 -4 4
 That saved a wretch like me

-3 -4 3 -3 3
 I once was lost

-3 3 -3 2 -1
 but now am found

-1 2 3 -3 3 -3 -3 3
 was blind but now I see

SPAHS 2019 CONVENTION IN TULSA, OK

Reflection on SPAH 2019 Tulsa, Oklahoma

Something old, something new, something borrowed as in our straw boaters, something blue(sy)—not an out-of-town wedding but the annual coming together of harmonica players, this year in Tulsa.



The structure and format for the week were the same as past years—comfortable as an old shoe so we could hit the ground running—yet the products, presentations and performing artists were refreshingly new. Though a workshop description may have read like the same theme or title as previous years, the presenter or approach was updated. Or perhaps what was old was new again, like Buddy and Jessie Hirsch's presentation built around a tribute to iconic musician Al Smith.

Perhaps surprisingly, the business meeting on the last day—old-business new-business—was riveting and worthwhile. The dialogue provided members with a behind-the-scenes peek of what is involved for the board of directors to keep this sizeable, vibrant, organization thriving, though the board is spread across the country. The discussion also familiarized members with the staff and humanized them—we could imagine the bulk of organizational work piled on their desks, how diligently they wrestle with issues, how they weigh different perspectives, and then how they thoughtfully reach resolution.

The beauty and rich cultural heritage of Tulsa—including many spontaneous, hallway renditions of Take Me Back to Tulsa—were old-home for some but wonderfully new to others. We are indeed taken back to Tulsa as we think back on the Gilcrease and Philbrook museums, the amazing talent of the Ozark Highballers, the Rosebush Youth, Jiayi He who starred on banquet night, the marvelous Sgro brothers casually sitting and playing along with the impromptu hallway groups, Tulsa sunshine reflecting off art deco buildings as we explored the neighborhood, joining our hometown buddies in a cozy hotel dining room for a well-earned late, warm and tasty breakfast, or for dinner at the local Rib Crib where we licked clean our sweet-sauce fingers.

A few of us brought back previously-played harps or vintage vinyl albums from the swap meet and caught up with old friends, players, and vendors; others headed home with the latest Easttop harmonica or photos of new-found soul mates from Elmira and Guadalajara.

Everyone packed for home and came back with new learning and inspiration, valuable to ourselves and to the spirit of the group—fresh ideas to mix with the old, tried and true.

It is hard to imagine the privileged attendees leaving Tulsa without thinking that they were so, so fortunate and happy that they found a way to fold this enriching, inspiring experience into their lives.



Now it is out with the old, in with the new—next year in St. Louie.

—Margie Kraft Kindt

MORE SPAH 2019



WEEKLY EVENTS

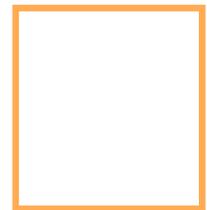
- Tuesday evening meetings at The Rock Church, 9125 Manchester Rd., St. Louis, MO 63144:
- 6:00 PM – Blues Group, led by Ed Cenatiempo and Audria Gebhardt – Everyone welcome
- 6:00 PM – Beginner/Intermediate Practice, led by Buddy Hirsch – Open to anyone
- 7:00 PM – First Tuesday of month: Business Meeting – Everyone welcome
- 7:00 PM – All other Tuesdays: Band Rehearsal – Everyone welcome
- 8:00 PM – Open Mic – Everyone Welcome

PERFORMANCES, CLASSES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

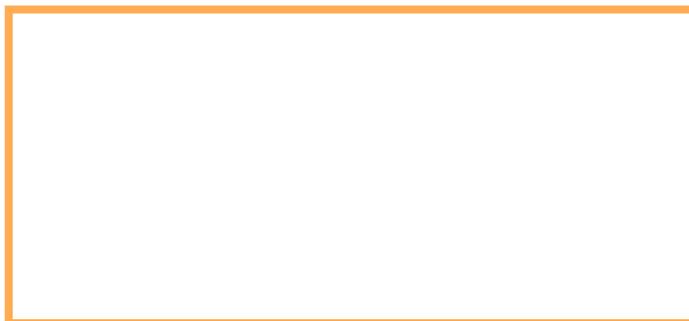
A list of the club’s upcoming performances, classes and special events is distributed each month at the business meeting. For the most up-to-date calendar of all GHC performances, classes and special events, go to www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org/calendar.htm, which takes you to our online calendar. You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



SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER

