



Island Songwriters Showcase

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

June 2000

Newsletter

## ISS IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

### Sandy Chapin Attends An ISS Workshop

We were extremely lucky to have **Sandy Chapin**, our founder **Harry Chapin's** wife, come to our May workshop! Sandy is the co-founder of the organization **Long Island Cares** and brought her friends from this group **Lynn Needleman** and **Maureen Fox** along to check out local original music in preparation for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of LI Cares. Sandy also got to see how far the group has come and grown since its inception in the early 1980's. She stated how impressed she was with the way we provide feedback to one another, a good sense of community and was pleased to know that the group has approximately 250 members! And it all started on the front porch of Harry Chapin's house! Sandy felt recharged after attending the workshop. I know we all felt her presence was a tremendous inspiration to us. We hope to hear from Sandy in the near future. - *Shari*

**Sandy Chapin and ISS Director Sonny Speed**

### Shari Diamond Hits The Air Waves!

Your editor and publisher **Shari Diamond** was the feature artist on **Janice Buckner's** Learn-Along Children's Radio Show on May 27<sup>th</sup>. It's a one-hour show and many of the songs from my CD "**10 Big Pancakes**" were played. Many names were dropped as well as I had a lot of help making this CD. The show was broadcasted on **Hofstra University's** station **WRHU 88.7 FM**. If you are into listening to children's radio programs, check this one out. It airs every Saturday morning from 9 -10AM. Of course I have it on tape if anyone is interested.

### Martha Trachtenberg / Marc Clayton Get Rave Reviews In Newsday's NightBeat

**Martha Trachtenberg's** CD "*It's About Time*" and **Marc Clayton's** CD "*Just Passin' Through*" got outstanding ratings and reviews in **Newsday's NightBeat** section. These are both very talented people and their CD's truly reflect it. If you haven't listened to these CD's, get it and do something wonderful for your ears. You can get more info or buy it from Martha at [www.momandpoprecords.com](http://www.momandpoprecords.com), [www.cyber-songs.com](http://www.cyber-songs.com), and for Marc's CD, email Marc at [marclayton@zdnetwork.com](mailto:marclayton@zdnetwork.com).

### The ISS Showcase Is Back For The Summer!

We were looking for a new home and The Wrong Way Inn's club's owner **Jim** supports original music so be sure to come down and support our new showcase. Jim promises to have beer specials and BBQ for us as well as advertising on the radio. **Sonny Speed** will be our host and **George Trapani** will be on sound. The June date is also the CD release party of the long awaited compilation from **George Trapani Productions** recorded live at the Pepp'r'd Owl. Here are the details:



#### **The Wrong Way Inn**

**198 Broadway (Rt 110), Amityville, (631) 798-9132**  
**on Route 110 just south of the train station.**

**The third Monday of the month**

**Dates: June 19<sup>th</sup> (CD Release party), July 17th, August 21st**

Start time 8:00pm

## The ISS Compilation CD Is Here!

Thanks to the wonders of CD-R technology, the long-promised ISS compilation CD will be available for \$12 at the recently announced ISS Showcase scheduled for June 19th. (All the artists involved will get free copies). This is the first volume of what will hopefully be a series. It consists of recordings made from 6/96 thru 12/96. There are 14 tunes; the lineup is as follows:

*Breakout* - **Sonny Speed**  
*A Train Song* - **Bob Westcott**  
*Stand Alone* - **Sue Renner**  
*Me And My Guitar* - **Cousin Steve**  
*Marvin The Marvelous Moose* - **Shari Cerini (now Shari Diamond)**  
*Under The Weather* - **James Yarsky**  
*When I See My Way Clear* - **Martha Trachtenberg**  
*Riding That Train* - **Judith Zweiman**  
*The Blue Robe* - **Stuart Markus**  
*Change The World* - **Turtlehead**  
*No God* - **Don Bracken**  
*Bottom Of The Blue* - **Eve Willow**  
*I Call Into The Night* - **Bill Mehan**  
*Your Love* - **The Tone**

Anyone with questions regarding this project should contact me at [gtrapani@optonline.net](mailto:gtrapani@optonline.net)

## ISS Members Form New Open Mike In Huntington for June and July

**Sonny Meadows** has informed me that there will be an open mike on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of June and July and will be hosted by himself, **Phil & Vanesa Jimenez, Dave Cook** and **Michelle Firmer**. Now your Monday nights are all booked. Please support this event as well. Call Sonny Meadows for more info at 631-673-3605. Here are the details:

**The Conklin Barn in Huntington Village**  
**New York Ave & High Street**  
**8 – 11 PM**  
**June 12 and 26 / July 10 and 24**

### **ISS WORKSHOP MEETING**

*Five Towns College*  
*05/01/02000*

**By Shari Diamond**

**Frank Gambino** was up first with “*Qoheleth At The Bar*”. Some liked the biblical reference in the title but suggested a title change to be the hook line. Andrew disagreed and liked that it was cryptic. Vinnie liked the song but didn’t take to the melodic turn from the end of bridge back to verse. He also suggested slowing down the delivery of the last line. Sonny S. agreed and added the opening line was not strong enough. Sonny M. loved it and felt there were some phrasing issues and he agreed about the opening line. A great beginning to our meeting.

Next on tape was **Bill Anacker** with “*Broken Clown*”. Charlie and Sarah felt it was a great song and Sarah added that the guitar complimented his voice very well. Sonny S. liked it but wanted more info and a bridge. Sonny M. thought it needed something more in the chorus. Vinnie agreed it was a great song and suggested not having the title in the first verse. Some had mixed feelings on the one-line chorus. There were many good suggestions for a fine song.

Up next on guitar was **Stuart Markus** with a brand new song “*Battle Tested*”. Charlie felt it was a great song. Shari liked the pop feel of the song but added to limit the use of the word battle. Vinnie liked it and suggested switching the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> lines in the chorus. Some comments on rhyme changes but otherwise a great song.

**Sarah Haddock** was up next on piano with a tentative title for her song “*Always Time*”. She admitted that the song was only one day old! Andrew suggested the title be “tentative” – not bad. This song went over really big with everyone. Minor suggestions on playing to match the mood more and bringing out the chorus. Otherwise, a very well received song.

**Sonny Meadows** brought on tape “*Call It An Accident*”. Vinnie said it was perfect and don’t touch it. Many echoed this. Although Giuliani wouldn’t think it was too funny. It had a great funky groove. Some comments on the references to Disney not belonging and some minor phrasing issues. This was a very good strong song.

**Bill Ryan**, our Borders guy, brought an old *favorite* “*I’m Not Stephen King*”. He even had photos to prove it. Most loved this classic Ryan tune and didn’t have many changes. Sonny S. did suggest getting a capo so the delivery is toned down. An absolute killer tune.

**Vincent Crici** brought on CD "*Boiling Point*". This was a strong country tune that Rick C. would be proud of. Some comments on certain wording and suggestions having the solo become a bridge, and having the chorus come sooner but overall this song was a real hit.

**Rick Crawford** played on guitar "*Tomorrow Will Tell*", a condensed version he stated. Most felt he was getting better with the melody and chords and noted the variety in chords kept the listener. Some comments on changing the rhythm and not repeating the last line of each verse/ bridge but most heard a big improvement.

Bill Ryan took over for my review.

Wow, **Shari Diamond** had us all "*Flying*" with her fast paced jazzy instrumental. Stu picked up on the Michael Hedges influence but found Shari's piece more melodic than Hedges. Sonny S. thought she needed to find the right altitude (an appropriate comment considering the song title). I thought it had a Dave Brubeck feel to it so Shari gets my vote for stretching out.

Back to me again.

**Andrew Kirschner** woke us up with "*One Date Wonder*". Sonny S. wanted something between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> verses – he just wanted more. Many liked this fast paced song with a surprise twist. Mostly we were speechless. A damn good song.

**Charlie Ward** played on CD "Long Shot Cue". This song rocked. Most liked it very much though some felt he sang the title line too much. Some comments on some wording and the reference to Bambi. Most liked the feel and some felt the words were not as important in this kind of song.

**Tom Tjetjan**, our last month's tie-winner, brought in tape "*Silly Leads To Trouble*". Frank liked it and commented on the last line in the bridge. Stu commented that the silliness wasn't brought out more and suggested changing the story. Shari suggested repeating the bridge back-to-back. Mike C. suggested making the first two lines of the bridge the chorus. A very catchy song.

**The Tone** played on guitar "*Cry Out In The Rain*". Sonny S. loved the delivery. Bill A. liked it but found the 2<sup>nd</sup> verse vague lyrically. Rick understood the abstract but wanted a more definite. Mike C. suggested dropping the reference to "He". Frank suggested switching two lines in the chorus. Most thought it was a fine song.

**Michael Blaymore** performed on piano collaboration between himself and **Frank Buddine**, called "*You Are My Rainbow*". Charlie found it moving and magnificent. Sonny S. commented on some tense issues in lyrics. Rick didn't like the ending both musically and lyrically and had some comments on some phrases. Bill A. felt if he dramatized the ending and put a rhyme scheme back at the end it would help. Most thought the music accompanied the lyrics very well.

Our last performer for the night was **Guy Pezzulo** on tape with "*The Decision*". Frank liked the general idea of the song but commented on some conflicting lines in the song. He suggested telling the female perspective. Stu had a total conflict with the song stating that the song starts from one perspective and ending on another. Mike C. disagreed and liked the back stabbing change at the end. He added that the rhyme with the word "decision" wasn't appealing. Sonny S. agreed. Mike C. also suggested starting with the verse not the chorus. Some other line changes including making the chorus stronger and having the title line in background in the chorus. Overall, many liked the change in melody.

We had a big night here with **Sandy Chapin** and lots of great quality original music. Remember that our June meeting will include guest speaker-songwriter **Mel Glazer** so get here early.

*Next meetings are June 5 and July 3.*

#### UPCOMING ISS EVENTS

WORKSHOP MEETING: **June 5**

OPEN MIKE @ BORDERS SYOSSET: **June 1 July 6 August 3**

OPEN MIKE @ WRONG WAY INN: **June 19 July 17 August 17**

OPEN MIKE @ CONKLIN BARN: **June 12 June 26**

SONGWRITERS IN THE ROUND:

@ BARNES & NOBLE, COMMACK: **June 8 July 13 August 10**

@ BORDERS, WESTBURY: **June 16 July 21 August 18**

#### **SONGWRITER'S CHOICE**

**Sarah Haddock**

**"Always Time"**

*By Shari Diamond*

We had a full night of great songs but **Sarah Haddock's** song "*Always Time*" really stood out. This relationship song hit home with many of us. The song had many exceptionally phrased lines, which is not unusual for Sarah. She is a wonderful songwriter and her piano playing compliments her voice and lyrics. I would

put money that she will win many more in the near future.

We had a lot of runner-ups this night with many good songs picked. The votes were for: **Bill Ryan** for “*I’m Not Stephen King*”, **Vincent Crici** for “*Boiling Point*”, **The Tone** for “*Cry Out In The Rain*”, **Michael Blaymore** and **Frank Buddine** for “*You Are My Rainbow*”, **Shari Diamond** for “*Flying*”, **Sonny Meadows** for “*Call It An Accident*”, and **Bill Anacker** for “*Broken Clown*”.

This was a tough night to chose from but believe me all the songs tonight were winners.

## SONGWriters IN THE ROUND - COMMACK

*Barnes & Noble - Commack*

This month, we had performances from host **Sonny Meadows**, **Martha Trachtenberg**, **Judith Zweiman**, and **James O’Malley**. You can catch some of the best L.I. original music the second Thursday of the month here. See Sonny Meadows for more info or call him at 673-3605. In June, there will be performances from **Sonny Meadows**, **Sonny Speed**, **Marc Clayton**, and **Erik Herz**. Support L.I. music.

*Next B&N roundtable events are June 8 and July 13.*

## BORDERS RECAP

*Borders, Syosset*

*By Shari Diamond*

Our host **Bill Ryan** continues to do an excellent job of bringing original Long Island music to Borders. Listeners heard songs from Bill Ryan and many other ISS members. It’s a great place to practice playing out at a very informal and relaxed environment. And they have yummy coffee and cookies too so come on down and join the fun.

*Next Borders events are June 1 and July 6. Support the ISS and original L.I. music.*

## SONGWriters IN THE ROUND - WESTBURY

*Borders - Westbury*

The host **Rich Stein** makes an effort to bring quality music and performers to his Friday night gig at Borders. This month, the round table was **Jackalope Junction**, a country rock outfit, played the entire night. If you perform, there’s a large welcoming audience to play to. If you are a listener, you won’t hear better music. This night was no exception. In June, there will be performances from **Rich Stein**, **Sonny Speed**, **Martha Trachtenberg**, **Tom Griffith**, and **Jane Ross**. What a line up so mark your calendars. See Rich Stein at meetings or gigs for more info or call him at 742-2817 or e-mail him at [clearsteer@aol.com](mailto:clearsteer@aol.com).

*Next Borders roundtable events are June 16 and July 21.*



## Scoop's Link O' the Month

The ISS Web Site News

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

### Check it out - ISS artists are being broadcasted on the Web as we speak (or read) - MP3LI.

Go to the Island Songwriter site - [www.islandsongwriters.org](http://www.islandsongwriters.org), click on the MP3LI link, this will take you to Live365.com. You'll need an MP3 player, such as RealAudio's Realplayer or Winamp. If you already have one the broadcast begins automatically. If not you can go to the Live365 help page - <http://www.live365.com/help/index.html>. There you'll hear ISS members - **James Yarsky, UniversalDice.com (Gerry Dantone), dunderhead (Walt Sargent), and OverSoul 7 (yours truly)**. Help us out - click on the "Rate this Broadcast" to move the station up in the charts. Click on the "Tell A Friend" link to spread the word. Oh and, if you'd like to get your songs up on internet radio or converted to MP3 for other sites, email me at [scoop@optonline.net](mailto:scoop@optonline.net) or call me 516628-1163.

That's the scoop for this month. – *Bill Ryan*

## MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS at FIVE TOWNS COLLEGE

(Dix Hills) ~ The Island Songwriters Showcase (ISS) is a no fee organization. Group efforts include monthly meetings at Five Towns College, located on Burr's Lane in Dix Hills, Huntington, NY, generally on the first Monday of the month. **IT'S FREE**. Songs are often premiered at the meetings, and so much material is presented that there is limit of one song per writer. Writers may bring an acoustic guitar, CD, or cassette tape (no Dolby n/r reduction is best), and a piano is available for keyboardists. Lyric sheets are encouraged and ensuing discussions regarding presented songs can range from passionate to hilarious to instructive. To become a member, simply come to a meeting. That's it! Really!

**Come join us on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 P.M. on the following dates:**      **June 5**                      **July 3**                      **August 7**

Becoming an ISS member also entitles you to participate in our open mike night at any of our showcases (see highlighted below). Sign ups are at 7:30 P.M. All artists are able to play 2 original songs. Also, you can become eligible to be invited to perform at one of our Songwriters in the Round. No critiquing – just fun! Original bands are also welcome – please call Sonny in advance. Make friends. Make contacts. Get heard!

For more information call our director Sonny Speed at (631) 462-3300 or email him at [mcspeed@aol.com](mailto:mcspeed@aol.com).

### Schedule of Local Open Mikes:

#### Mondays

- **The Wrong Way Inn - 198 Broadway (Rt. 110), Amityville, (631) 798-9132, 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month hosted by Sonny Speed, 7:30 p.m. sign-up.**
- **The Conklin Barn - New York Ave. and High Street, Huntington, hosted by Sonny Meadows and friends, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of June and July, call Sonny for more info @ (631) 673-3605**
- **The Stephen Talkhouse - 8:30 P.M. Amagansett. 267-3117, hosted by George Hamilton**

#### Wednesdays

- **The Broadway Beanery - 9:00 P.M. 2 Broadway, Lynbrook. 596-0028, hosted by Stuart Markus**
- **The Cup Café - 9:00pm. Railroad Street, 3268 Railroad Ave., Wantagh. 826-9533**
- **J.P Murphy's (formerly Sonny's Place), 3603 Merrick Road, Seaford 826-0973, hosted by Dave Isaacs**
- **JP's Long Island Grill, 354 Main Street, Farmingdale, 845-9300, hosted by Frank Walker**

#### Thursdays

- **Moonstruck - 8:00 P.M. 225 Smithtown Blvd, Nesconset, 724-0185, hosted by Michele Monté.**

### ISS Postcard Mailer

If you didn't receive the postcard mailer that was sent out recently, or want to receive future updates on ISS events via mail or email, please provide Sonny Speed with a completed membership form available at meetings or gigs.

### Director's Blurb

ISS workshops have become increasingly popular and we want to ensure that all members get enough time for comments. If you want your song heard but you're not looking for critique, please save the debut for the showcase. If you want feedback, **please remember to bring 25 copies of the lyric sheet** (or be prepared to pay a hefty fine – just kidding!)

### ISS Address

**ISS**  
**P.O. Box 430**  
**East Northport, N.Y. 11731-0430**  
**Phone: 631-462-3300 (Sonny Speed)**  
**E-mail: [mcspeed@aol.com](mailto:mcspeed@aol.com)**

### ISS Staff

Ø **Director:** Sonny Speed

- **BORDERS Syosset - 425 Jericho Tpk, Syosset, 7:00 p.m. sign-up, 7:30 p.m. start on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, ISS exclusive showcase hosted by Bill Ryan.**
- **Bunnery Pub - 9pm. 3120 Hempstead Tpk, Levittown, 735-0105, hosted by Frank Walker**

### Weekly Venue:

- **Sundays at Seven Series - Northport Historical Society. 7 PM. Contact hosted by Kate Kelly at 757-1111 for listing of scheduled performers. Admission is generally \$2.**

### Songwriters In The Round:

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month @ Barnes & Noble, Commack, hosted by Sonny Meadows**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month @ Borders, Westbury, hosted by Rich Stein.**

- Ø **Press Secretary:** Bob Caltrano
- Ø **Newsletter Writing Staff:** Gerry Dantone, Bill "Scoop" Ryan, Walter Sargent, Michael Clark, Sonny Meadows, Mike Mattel, Martha Trachtenberg, Vince Crici, Rich Stein, Andrew Kirschner and James Yarsky
- Ø **Website Coordinator:** Bill "Scoop" Ryan
- Ø **Newsletter Editor/Publisher:** Shari Diamond (holiday bound)

You can email Shari at: [shari@kidtestedtunes.com](mailto:shari@kidtestedtunes.com) or call her at (631) 427-7074.

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, call me at the above number or email me. **It's your newsletter!**

Please make sure you check out our website [www.islandsongwriters.org](http://www.islandsongwriters.org) for info about the ISS, past newsletters, and member performances. If you would like to have a newsletter emailed to you, please send your request to Shari Diamond at [shari@kidtestedtunes.com](mailto:shari@kidtestedtunes.com).

**\*\*Please note that my old email address to Erols will be expiring so use the address above \*\***