



## 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) - MP3LL

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 516 628-1163.

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

conversation. He expressed the difficulties in collaborating so if you don't feel the need to meld with someone, his advice was don't do it and try to find yourself. If you do collaborate, you need a relationship of equality. If there are differences, you keep on changing the song until it is agreed upon. He stressed having patience and knowing your right time and not to rush it. He added to try to improve yourself and become better and better. He is very inspirational and has lots of wisdom. We were able to ask some questions at the end - one about Napster and downloading ability, and the future of music. He really didn't know the answer. We asked about marketing and how you get a break through. He believes in doing it himself and sending the records to the record companies directly. He writes a letter and tries to send it to a person who he has spoken to. He doesn't know the person but he takes a chance. You need to know who takes solicited material and that info is readily available at the library. He added that you shouldn't limit yourself to just the United States. Mel teaches a course at Hofstra University and is also teaching a course "Structuring Poetry Into Song", Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 7pm to 9pm at Queensborough Community College. He is also available for private consultation. Call him at 516-829-2474 or email at [melvinglzer@hotmail.com](mailto:melvinglzer@hotmail.com) for more info.

### The ISS Showcase Continues For The Summer!

We are back and back strong at the open mike scene on June 19<sup>th</sup> at **The Wrong Way Inn** in Amityville. **Sonny Speed** joined by our soundman **George Trapani** hosted the night of some of the best L.I. original music. This night was extra special as this was also the CD release of the ISS compilation CD "Breakout", which contains live recordings of our 1996 showcases at the Peppr'd Owl in Huntington. Sonny opened the night appropriately with the song "Breakout", which is the title track of the ISS CD, and so we did! He got us all revved up with a night of great performances from **Bill Anacker, Andrew Kirschner, Jonathan Ames, Rick Crawford, Carl Ferrara, Erik Herz, Guy Pezzullo, Vincent Crici, Sarah Hadock, Mike Clark, Mike Mattel, Dominique, and Asevirmo (Stephanie Regis from WGBB)**. There was a lot of teaming up of talent also. **The Tone** was joined by drummer **John Robillard, Mark Loeble** on bass and **Sonny Meadows** on harmonica. **Geraldine Brockwell** was accompanied by **John** on drums. **Vitamin D (Mark and Dee Loeble)** were joined by that drumming guy **John**. **Sonny Meadows** was accompanied by **John** and **Mark**. We closed with a song from **Sonny Speed** ending on a perfect note. The club's owner **Jim** believes in promoting original music so be sure to come down and support our new showcase. See the back page for details.

### The Saga is complete: Mike Morrison interviews Sonny Speed

Part 2 of the interview between **Mike Morrison** and **Sonny Speed** is complete and can be enjoyed online. You can check out the interview online by going to our website first and then clicking on Songwriter Spotlight. This part of the interview concentrates on the songwriting side of Sonny and has lots of interesting tidbits about his past experiences and his songwriting style. The site also contains music clips so go to it and LISTEN!

### Jane Ross' Songbox

**Martha Trachtenberg** sent me an email about this wonderful night of music at Jane Ross' house. She stated that if you haven't been to the **Song Box** (which she admits she still thinks of as **Jane's Barn**), then you just plain have to come. That's all. It's a large barn-shaped garage that **Jane Ross** has converted into an enchanted performance space. She uses her experience as a theater designer and creates a new and lovely environment for each show and it's like entering a magical space. Honest. Martha shared the night of June 17<sup>th</sup>, yes it is a Saturday, with the glorious **Judith Zweiman**. Before the show, there is a potluck cookout, with a grill available for hotdogs, hamburgers, corn, . . . whatever. As with the other shows there, Jane will be collecting canned food for **Island Harvest**, so bring something if you can. At the first showthere, 250 pounds (yes, 250) of food were gathered. The cookout will run from 6-8 pm, then the performances start. The admission is \$10, all of which goes to the performers. The Song Box is located at **14 Barkers Lane (NOT Bankers)**, which intersects with Jericho Turnpike in **Huntington Station**. It's on the south side of Jericho, east of Rte. 110, and there's an Enterprise Rental Car place and a Chinese food place opposite one another at the intersection with Jericho. After you turn off Jericho, the house is almost immediately on your left, set back from the road a bit. To find out more info about upcoming dates and performances, please call Jane at 631-385-7545.

### Sonny Speed and Rich Stein Hit The Airwaves

**Rich Stein** was the feature artist of Stephanie Regis' radio show on **WGBB, (1240 AM on your dial)** June 21<sup>st</sup>. Coming up on Wednesday **July 19<sup>th</sup>**, at **6:30pm** our fearless leader **Sonny Speed** will be the guest artist and ISS spokesperson on her show so please make sure to catch it.

### UPCOMING ISS EVENTS

WORKSHOP MEETING: **July 3 August 7**

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

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

OPEN MIKE @ CONKLIN BARN: **July 10 July 24**

SONGWRITERS IN THE ROUND:

@ BARNES & NOBLE, COMMACK **July 13 August 10**

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

### **ISS WORKSHOP MEETING**

*Five Towns College*

*06/05/02000*

#### **Part 1 by Shari Diamond**

**Bill Anacker** was our first performer for the evening. His song "*September Sky*" was a great start to our night of music. Most of us agreed that this song was fantastic. It had a very nice feel; excellent lyrics and we found it hard to give some feedback. Some suggestions on getting the title phrase stated earlier in the song and making the instrumental bridge a little shorter. Bill agreed that he played the instrumental part twice just to get practice! This song wowed us!

**Charlie Ward** brought CD "*Textbook*" (a friend Paul Edwards did the lyrics, Charlie wrote the music). Most liked this song but some felt the music had a different personality than the lyrics. Some wanted part of the song to be repeated so it can be remembered (adding a hook). Some noted that it had a free-form jazz feel and wanted more breath between verses to create more of a pause. Most liked the music a whole lot but found confusion with the lyrics even though most thought it was a cool subject idea!

**Frank Buddine**, with his trusty guitar played "*Open Your Arms*". Most liked the structure of the song and some minor comments on phrasing were noted. This was a spiritual religious song that can work on a lot of levels. Some wanted to hear more specific images in the song. Minor comments on creating more breath after the chorus and having the last chorus end higher first time around. Some found one line too graphic and detailed. Overall, a well liked song and a good job by Frank.

**Tim Huss** up next with "*Roy Rogers And Me*". This was a short but very sweet song. Most liked this song a lot and wanted more verses or a bridge or both. Some minor notes on tense in verses and chorus, and on the song title. It made for interesting conversation among us. Most liked this song very much and enjoyed the beautiful melody.

**Jane Ross** followed with the song "*Peggy's Freedom*". She has such an awesome affect on anyone who listens to her. Most agreed it was perfect and loved it. Some comments on not going so high with the vocals. Some suggested repeating one verse and maybe making it a chorus. Some liked that it didn't have a center and took the listener on an adventure in the song. Most loved the construction of the song. This song was dedicated to her friend who passed away and hence, the title. This was a very poignant and excellent song!

A newcomer to the group, **Geraldine Brockwell** performed "*An Imperfect Man*". Mane loved the music, her voice, and the rhythm of the song and thought it matched the title. Some comments on balancing her voice with the guitar (make her voice stronger). Some confusion on the man really being imperfect even though he didn't seem to do anything wrong. The song had a very interesting angle. Comments on less time between verse and chorus. Some felt the chorus should be stronger and the last two lines should vary. A great song for a newbie and she has a CD too!

We took a break from songs and heard from our guest speaker, **Mel Glazer**. I unfortunately had to leave right after he spoke. Here's the rest of the review.

#### **Part 2 by Mike Clark**

After a very inspirational talk by **Mel Glazer** and **George Trapani's** introduction of the first ISS compilation CD we got back into the songs with **The Tone's** "*Back To The Roots*". The Tone's rich voice really brought out the melodic nuances of the song. Members suggested there may be too many syllables in the chorus hook and the hook may be overused.

**Bill Ryan** came out with another one of his wonderfully humorous songs "*Just a Song*". He even had a bridge that was just him saying "bridge". We all thought he had a winner here with some minor ideas for first chorus changes.

**Vinnie Crici** collaborated with Rick Miles on "*The Love We Gave Away*" which he played on piano. Some thought that melody was too strong in comparison to the lyric while others thought that with such a strong melody the lyric doesn't really matter.

**Rick Crawford** added some interesting dynamics to "*When Darkness Falls*." This was a song with a wonderfully poetic lyric. Rick's stuff always conjures up thoughts of something bigger like an epic tale. There were a couple of awkward words and some suggested bringing the love interest in earlier. Rick's been getting the opposite criticism of Vinnie that maybe his lyrics are much stronger than the music. Hmmm, maybe Rick and Vinnie should try collaborating.

"*Can't Find My Way Home*" is **Stuart Markus'** latest. A thoughtful and moving song. There was some discussion on rephrasing the melody line that gets

repeated but everyone had different suggestions on how to do it. Should it be changed the first time it's stated? Second time? Third time? One of those situations Stuart will have to figure out what works best for him.

**Andrew Kirschner** was up next with a pleasing instrumental called "Glass of Snow". It gave some a nice feeling like driving down a country road in the sunshine. Others felt it could be developed more.

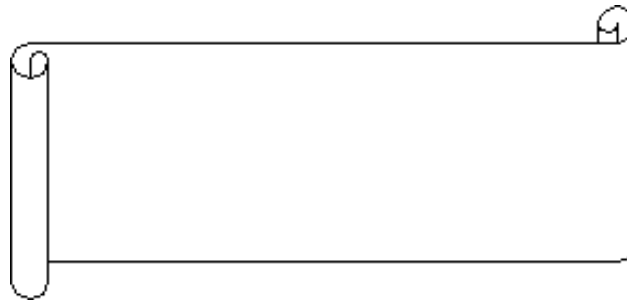
Brittany Spears or **Mike Mattel** (I always get them confused) played "On The Beach (If I Didn't Ask)". A song Mike wrote with Brittany in mind filled with detailed imagery but seemingly containing an unclear question at the end.

Wrapping up the night was **Frank Gambino** with "Johnny Don't Go". A good story and some ambitious changes went into the making of this song. Frank always has an interesting perspective he brings to his lyric writing but some felt this song had some vague images and could use a little musical tightening. A great way to end the evening!

*Next meetings are July 3 and August 7.*

## OPEN MIKE – CONKLIN BARN

**Sonny Meadows** and co-hosts **Phil & Vanesa Jiminez**, **Dave Cook** and **Michelle Firmer** are continuing with the very relaxed open mike on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of July at the **Conklin Barn**. It's an acoustic adventure as one performer told me. You can play two songs and get to see a lot of familiar faces and maybe meet some new ones. We had a great turnout for the June 12<sup>th</sup> and June 26<sup>th</sup> events. All are welcome so please support this event as well. It's a really cool summer thing to do. Call Sonny Meadows for more info at 631-673-3605. See back page for details.



### SONGWRITER'S CHOICE

Jane Ross  
"Peggy's Freedom"

by Gerry Dantone

Not only does **Jane Ross** throw a mean Pot Luck cookout, build great song venues out of barns, and have great taste in selecting artists for her "Song Box" concerts, she writes and sings up a storm as well! The woman who can do everything gave us "Peggy's Freedom," a dreamlike song that celebrated personal emancipation. As would be expected, the beautiful melody was a perfect compliment to the magical lyrics that made us believe in the value of independence and the "joy of truly knowing all the freedom ... I have found." When is that CD coming out already?

Right behind Jane, by 1/2 a vote, is **Bill Anacker** for "September Sky." Bill has been busy perfecting the art of writing heartbreaking love songs from the point of view of a man who had his chance but blew it. The simple melodies Bill employs are always appropriate, and his tunes never fail to contain at least one memorable moment of shining truth. Good job, Bill!

*Gerry Dantone is back after a short hiatus hunting for Bigfoot at the Loch Ness and being abducted by the alligators in the sewers.*

## BORDERS RECAP

*Borders, Syosset*

*June 1, 2000*

**By Carl J Ferrara**

You know, we acoustic players have been forced to conform to the electric, amplified world for too long. We are constantly encouraged to go out and buy pickups, patch cords, amplifiers, etc. just so that we can be heard. But the

soul of acoustic playing is that campfire feel; the fact that the music is being shared with the people directly around the performer.

That's what we had on June 1<sup>st</sup> at Borders, Syosset. First of all, our fearless leader, **Bill Ryan**, had an emergency to attend to and called in for us to take over ourselves. After asking the manager if we could use the sound system, (you know, the one that's usually unavailable?) we got the speakers, mixer, cords, and microphone, but no mike stand. It seems a trifle really, but oh, lord it's hard to play without a mike stand. So, the four of us; **Carl J Ferrara**, **Bill Anacker**, **Andrew Kirschner**, and **Shelley Shields**; agreed that it would be easier to just go truly unplugged. The end result, we had a lovely intimate evening with the Borders customers. It occasionally seemed like we were traveling musicians playing at the tables, or sing-along leaders around a campfire. All in all it was a testament to the versatility of our songwriters. And, we learned two important lessons tonight: 1) If you want to use the Borders sound system, get a teenaged manager who doesn't know any better than to lie about its availability; and 2) ALWAYS bring a mike stand to an open mike gig. See ya next month, on July 6th.

*Next Borders events are July 6 and August 3. Support the ISS and original L.I. music.*

## SONGWRITERS IN THE ROUND - COMMACK

*Barnes & Noble – Commack  
June 8, 2000*

On June 8<sup>th</sup> at Barnes & Noble, Commack we had performances from host **Sonny Meadows**, **Sonny Speed**, **Marc Clayton**, and **Erik Herz**. It was standing room only this night with lots of participation from the audience. The summer seems to draw out more crowds. Come on down on Thursdays on **July 13 and August 11**. See Sonny Meadows for more info or call him at 673-3605. Support L.I. music.

## SONGWRITERS IN THE ROUND - WESTBURY

*Borders - Westbury  
June 16, 2000*

**By Vincent Crici**

Amazing! What a line up of talent! The ISS cream of the crop...well, except for the author of this article...but never mind that now. You really missed out on a great night if you didn't make it down to Borders. Host **Rich Stein** performed new songs as well as some old favorites backed by his fantastic flying fingers. A great gem of a moment occurred when all joined in on "The Family Song", which seemed to delight Mr. Stein as he grinned from ear to ear. Our fearless leader **Sonny Speed** gave us the best of his acoustic work, along with pulsating percussion and moving melodic licks from his melodica – if that's what it's called – a little keyboard attached to a pipe which he blew into...a truly 'unplugged' event! Little Speeds were racing around the CD isles during daddy's performance. **Jane Ross** performed beautifully, despite a bout with a disagreeable mike stand and a well-needed battery change in her guitar (thank you Sonny!). The audience listened intently as Jane's lyrics and mesmerizing vocals soared through the still air – a silence summoned for a gift from God. Masterful **Martha Trachtenberg** performed songs from her new CD with an audience at the edge of their seats. A personal favorite (tears had to be held back for fear that a man would be caught crying...can you imagine!) was "Touch of Your Hand". At one point, she questioned her decision to make a CD at 44. The world will do well to have her music on disc at 64. If you haven't bought her CD yet, it is an empty and foolish life you lead. At least to us, this was not just another face in the diner! **Tom Griffith** captured his audience with his fine delivery and gift for telling a story, as in his song about Vietnam – an audience favorite. In addition to his well-crafted songs, Tom complimented his fellow songsters with awesome guitar licks, especially on Martha's songs...and the circle started over again and again. What a line up of talent! Amazing!

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 July 21 and August 18.*

## 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:**

**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> Mondays of July, call Sonny for more info @ (631) 673-3605
- **The Stephen Talkhouse** - 8:30 P.M. Amagansett. 267-3117, hosted by Gene 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

#### Thursdays

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

### 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

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### ISS Staff

- Ø **Director:** Sonny Speed
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- 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 (summer slummin')

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).