



Island Songwriters  
Showcase Newsletter

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

2001

July

## ISS'ers PERFORM AT THE HECKSCHER PARK SUMMER SERIES

By Shari Diamond

The summer time is a great for catching lots of outdoor venues and Huntington makes this happen with their FREE concerts in the park. There are all kinds of different events ranging from musical to theatrical and all kinds of music can be heard. On June 22, the opening night to kick off the season, ISS'er **Cathy Kreger** opened up for the infamous **Janis Ian**. The reviews were outstanding! This summer will also feature **Long Island's Very Own** on **August 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:30pm** (yes- this is the same night as the H.O.M.E. series, But we may get a new H.O.M.E. date for August). It will feature ISS singer-songwriters **Paulette Boucher, Jim Dexter, Jane Ross and James Yarsky**, presented in the round. Luthier and magazine columnist **Scott MacDonald** will host the evening. They will be performing on the Chapin Rainbow Stage so bring a blanket or a chair and relax to some awesome music. Call the summer festival hotline at 631-271-8423x5 or go check out the web site at [www.huntingtonarts.org](http://www.huntingtonarts.org) for more info.

### OPEN MIKE AT THE CONKLIN BARN IS BACK

**Huntington Open Music Evenings (H.O.M.E.)** is back in the groove with getting the open mike scene at the **Conklin Barn** in **Huntington**. Don't miss the last night to catch awesome original music here. The events are run by **Bob Westcott, Sonny Speed** and **Sonny Meadows**, and featuring their new band, **The Defibrillators** with **Mark Loeb** on bass, **Jon Forman** on guitar and **John Robillard** on drums. The Barn is located on New York Avenue and High Street. Come down at 8pm on **August 3**. Call **Sonny Meadows** for more info at 631-673-3605.

### UPCOMING ISS EVENTS

WORKSHOP MEETING: **August 6**

OPEN MIKE @ BORDERS SYOSSET: **August 2**

CONKLIN BARN: **August 3**

SONGWRITERS IN THE ROUND:

@ BARNES & NOBLE, COMMACK: **August 9**

@ BORDERS, WESTBURY: **August 17**

### ISS WORKSHOP MEETING

*Five Towns College*

06/04/2001

By **Shari Diamond**

I decided to be very brave this evening and go first! Considering I had to write up the reviews for this night, I thought it would be a good idea to get "it" over with. I handed the paper and pen over to **Sonny Meadows** so he can do the honors for me. So, I, **Shari**

**Diamond** began the evening with one of my children's songs "Who Am I?" This is what Sonny wrote (bless his kind soul): Shari delighted us with another wonderful children's tune, that we all wanted to get up and tap dance to. This song has an important message about a child's self-image and self-esteem. It would be a valuable tool for any early childhood classroom. And I didn't even have to pay him! Being an honest person, I felt I needed to add that there were some comments on shortening the song a bit and getting to the chorus faster. Thank you Mr. Meadows for your help and very generous review.

Now it's back to me again. Many of you might think it wise to have someone else write the reviews as I am not so colorful. If ANYBODY would like to give it a go, let me know.

Following me was **Andrew Kirschner** with "Broken", a sad heartfelt song. Nolan felt this was a beginning of a great song and needed more info about the character. He really liked the melody. Sonny S. commented on some very cool lines in the song and noted a slight change on the end line of one verse. Rick agreed with Sonny and also suggested a different melody line for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> lines of the verse. He also suggested playing it with a blues feel. Sonny M. felt stylistically, this piece stands out and felt it was real good.

**Paul Val**, a newbie, brought on CD, "Waitin' For the Right One". This song had a strong 0's techno backbeat. Many of else felt that each line in the song should be song quicker together. Also, Sonny S. noted it needed more musical hooks. One line in particular needed to be brought out more in the vocals. He actually wrote this song as a country-western tune, which we all were curious to hear. Then discussions went on to decide which musical genre is more popular, and many black eyes and nosebleeds occurred. The meetings have become dangerous!

**Ralph Tilleli** followed the brawl with "Dreams Do Come True". If this song were about fighting, it would have been scary. But instead, this song was a sweet love song that had a real pretty melody. Andrew noted that the bridge was good but didn't very as much melodically. Vinnie agreed. Frank noted that the last line in the chorus had too many words. Even with a cliché title and tag line, Ralph was successful in making the song work and work nicely.

**Nolan Myerson** performed his song "Killing Time", the closest he said specifically to Rick C., that he'd get to darkness and religion! It's actually a lovesick song (and I didn't think it was that dark – don't go near my mind!). Some clever perspectives in lyrics. Andrew liked the structure. Sonny M. noted the chorus was very hooky but felt the religion parts were out of place. Frank thought it was more a philosophy-type song than a love song and felt there may be some confusion. Vinnie liked it but thought the chorus could still be more hooky melodically. He commented that the lyric style shifts between verses and chorus. Most agreed it was a killer tune!

**Vincent Crici** was up next but who cares because he finally finished his most awesome and well-awaited wonderful CD, "**Against The Moonlight**"! I was sooo happy for him knowing what it takes to finally get one done. And since it was his turn up front, he treated us to a listen to one of his tracks titled "Long, Long Time". He made a lot of changes we suggested at a previous meeting and wanted us to hear it. Cool! This song has such a great feel and a great hook. Some wanted to hear the hook even more! He asked for production feedback and we had some minor comments to make (because we can) but overall, we were wowed! Congrats Vinnie!

**Sonny Meadows** followed and told us about his upcoming class reunion and how the school wanted a plaque for all those who served in the war. Sonny didn't feel that it was appropriate and it inspired him to write this powerful song "Hangin' In The High School". With a title like this, I have to admit I thought the song was going to be him reminiscing about his days careening the halls of his school. But, he was referring to being a plaque hanging in the school, being viewed and the message it would leave on future students (hopefully). Some comments on his delivery so that it was smoothed out. This song was very moving.

After our schmooze break, we started up again with **Frank Gambino** with the funky song "The Last Time I Saw Dionysius He Bought Me A Drink". He's got such a hip groove to his songs. Some comments on chord changes and vocals matching better. Also some comments on narrowing the lyrics. Most thought this was a fun song about a man talking to himself. (I find it amazing that the word schmooze is accepted by Word!)

**Bill Goldsmith** was up next with a song on CD called "Anyone Can Snap". This song is simple yet catchy and haunting. Some wanted more definition in the chords. Rick noted about the hang time, which seemed a bit too long before getting into the chorus. The opening was very intriguing about a clown. I found it most inviting and wanted more but would still be happy with the song as

it stands.

Our last performer was **Rick Crawford**, who in my opinion should not be allowed to go last, as most of his songs are deep and thought provoking and my brain didn't come with big enough batteries. Anyhow, he played "Maiden Of The Crescent Moon", which he had played at a previous meeting and incorporated some of our comments. Nolan felt it was a good song and one of his best-structured songs. He suggested changing the phrasing in the tag line in the chorus. He also suggested going higher in vocal tone in the last chorus. Sonny S. had some changes in the chord progressions, which he demonstrated on Rick's guitar. His thought was less guitar chord changes, which allows your vocals to go around the music! That's why he's the director.

*And that's all folks...*

**Next meetings are August 6 and September 10.**

## **BORDERS RECAP**

*June 7, 2001 Borders, Syosset*

The open mike scene at Borders hosted by **Bill Ryan** is still going strong. This night is dedicated to showcasing ISS members. So this is your night and your opportunity to come down and play so bring a song and support your fellow ISSer's. *Next event is July 5.*

## **SONGWRITERS IN THE ROUND - COMMACK**

*June 14, 2001 Barnes & Noble, Commack*

This month featured the outstanding songwriting and performing talents of **Briand Sendrowitz, Larry Nacht, Seth Davis** and **host Sonny Meadows**. Next round is July – schedule to be announced. See Sonny Meadows for more info or call him at 673-3605. Support L.I. music. *Next event is July 12.*

### *Songwriter's Choice*

*By Shari Diamond*

**Shari Diamond for "Who Am I?"**  
**Sonny Meadows for "Hangin' In The High School"**

I know what you are all thinking again. She collects the votes and wins, or ties in this case. You can ask my husband Matt to verify as I unfolded the votes in front of him. So, the song I wrote, "**Who Am I?**" was quoted as being a very catchy, very complete, great kids tune. I am glad many of you enjoyed it and sincerely appreciate the feedback I received that night!

**Sonny Meadows' "Hanging' In The High School"** song was very powerful and as one ISS'er put it, "An excellent song which makes its point very well by the end. Very moving." Another stated "Few people have mastered this style of song writing – Mr. Meadows is one of them!" He never ceases to amaze me with the varied topics he can write about and how he can phrase his thoughts whether it is humorous or serious.

Honorable mention should be made to **Vincent Crici** for his song "**Long, Long Time**" and to **Frank Gambino** for "**The Last Time I Saw Dionysius He Bought Me A Drink**".

## **SONGWRITERS IN THE ROUND - WESTBURY**

June 15, 2001 Borders, Westbury

This month featured performances from two of Long Island's hottest new bands! Host **Rich Stein as well Tom Falco and Jon Ehlers** teamed up to form "**Answered Unquestioned**". Following them, **The Defibrillators** (featuring **Sonny Meadows, Bob Westcott and Sonny Speed**) performed. What a night! Come by at 8pm for an unforgettable evening! See Rich Stein for more info or visit [Clearsteer Music](#). [Next round is July 20.](#)

## [LT1 CABLE SHOW LOOKING FOR ARTISTS](#)

[Bruce Figarsky](#) at LT1 TV is still looking for original Long Island artists for his show. If you want to be considered for a performance on LT1 send a press kit, bio, recordings – audio and/or video, and other pertinent information to:

[Bruce Figarsky c/o](#)

[Community Media Network, Inc. Dept. -A](#)

[P. O. B. 2801](#)

[Lake Ronkonkoma, NY 11779](#)

[Sonny Meadows, Jeff Curtis and DeStefano & McLeod](#) have been on this show recently. The show's theme song was written and performed by [Jeff Curtis](#), and was produced and engineered by [Sonny Speed](#) at his [Son Spot Studios!](#)

## [WGBB LOOKING FOR LOCAL ARTISTS](#)

[This email came to Sonny Speed.](#)

[I am a radio show host on 21st Century Music Radio, WGBB-1240 AM. We air live every Monday night from 8-9 pm and webcast the show simultaneously with the broadcast. I just saw your website \(islandsongwriters.org\). Please have your artists send me their CD's and press kits/bio. My show is mainly devoted to giving airtime and exposure to the local artists in our communities and giving them the airtime and exposure that is so sorely needed.](#)

[My address is P.O. Box 0301, Baldwin, NY 11510 or you can go to http://21stcenturymusicradio.com](#)

[\\*\\*Also, check out our radio show's songwriting contest. You can go to the homepage at www.21stcenturymusicradio.com.](#)

[\\*\\*](#)

Thanks

**Diane Corrado**

**\*\*\*\* Tania was on the radio show in April and Stuart Markus was the guest in May. It's a great experience and opportunity if you have never been on radio. What are you waiting for?! \*\*\*\***

## [R&B MUSIC WANTED](#)

[This email came to Sonny Speed.](#)

**Joseph Cuccia** of Music Publisher is seeking [Top 10 Quality R&B hits](#) for new female artist. Major labels are interested in her. She has major management in place. Songs must be fully produced, and available for immediate contract consideration! If interested we will need an instrumental track as well. [Unpublished songs only.](#) Visit the website for more info at [www.coochmusic](#).

com Make us say "WOW!" and feel the groove! Please submit songs in this style only! We need songs ASAP! Send Songs to:

**J. Cooch Music (BMI)**

22 Williams Way South  
Baiting Hollow, NY 11933  
Attn.: Ron White A&R dir.

## OPEN MIKE AT STARBUCKS

Since to Broadway Beanery has discontinued their open mike, this is the only game on this side of town on Wednesdays, & it's been said old that it's unique in performers & in vibe. Also, also, this happens to be the largest **Starbucks** on Long Island (the largest cafe as well) and its 4 blocks to the boardwalk & to the beach!

**Seth Davis** has been proudly hosting this event for over 2 years. So come on down to **Starbucks Long Beach** (at National Blvd & W. Park Ave), **Wednesday nights 7:30-10**. It's free...open to all acoustic musicians & poets...Seth hosts & performs weekly. Email Seth at [sethdavis99@hotmail.com](mailto:sethdavis99@hotmail.com) for more info.

## RADIO PROGRAM

*The Saturday Light Brigade* is a radio program featuring acoustic music and family fun. Broadcast since 1978, it is one of the longest-running public radio programs in the U.S. Quality music, on-air telephone calls from kids and adults, innovative participatory puzzles and games, and interesting guests have made *The Saturday Light Brigade* a family radio tradition for tens of thousands of people. Kids listen with adults, adults listen with kids, and everyone has fun listening to the radio together! *The Saturday Light Brigade* is broadcast live from 6 to 10 a.m. EST on Saturday mornings and originates live from [WYEP-Pittsburgh](http://WYEP-Pittsburgh) whose signal can be heard in southwestern Pennsylvania as well as parts of Maryland, West Virginia, and Ohio. You can also hear live broadcasts, encore broadcasts and a 24/7 "best of" stream at [www.slbradio.com](http://www.slbradio.com).

In essence, they play a pretty broad range of acoustic-based traditional and contemporary folk, bluegrass, standards, novelty songs, and children's music that also can be enjoyed by adults. Highly-produced stuff (lots of overdubs, synthetic drum kits, formal children's choruses, etc.) usually won't fit well, even if it's of good quality.

They'd love to hear music from our group and actually \*do\* listen to what people send them! Their address is:

Larry Berger  
The Saturday Light Brigade  
P.O. Box 100092  
Pittsburgh, PA 15233



Scoop's Link O' the Month

The ISS Web Site News

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

Our web site is getting more and more state-of-the-art and we already have popular features such as Post-a-Gig, and

the on-line newsletter, up and running. Post-a-Gig lets you enter in your gig dates, no need to call, or fax anyone. If you can't get to a PC, you can leave the details on the cyber-songs phone line (516) 628-1163. So check out the site, and keep coming back as it grows. If you would like to purchase a CD from many of our talented ISS members, get it via the web from [www.cyber-songs.com](http://www.cyber-songs.com) where you can listen to songs and become eligible to win a free CD! What are you waiting for? Get with the music!

Due to the success of the Post-a-gig feature on the ISS site, we've added a discussion forum. Simply go to the Island Songwriter's site and click on the New ISS Discussion forum link on the home page. To add to the discussion forum, click on Post a new article. You can then choose a topic such as songwriting, and enter your comments, thoughts, experiences, pearls of wisdom, etc.

Any ideas on other topics let me know - [scoop@optonline.net](mailto:scoop@optonline.net).

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: August 6  
September 10\***

\* date change due to Labor Day holiday

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).

### Open Mikes:

#### Thursdays

- 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.

#### fridays

- H.O.M.E. (Huntington Open Music Evenings) - Conklin Barn, New Yor Ave. & High St. Huntington Village, 8 pm hosted by Sonny Meadows, Bob Westcott, and Sonny Speed – July 13 and August 10

### 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.

### Weekly Venue:

### 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 Blurp

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)**

- **Sundays at Seven Series** – The Northport Historical Society Museum, Main St., Northport on the north side of the street opposite the police station. 7 PM. Contact hosted by Kate Kelly at 757-1111 for listing of scheduled performers. The Sunday At Seven Arts in Concert Series is supported by funds from the NYC Council of the Arts, distributed in Suffolk County through the Huntington Arts Council. They request a \$2 donation for the evening.

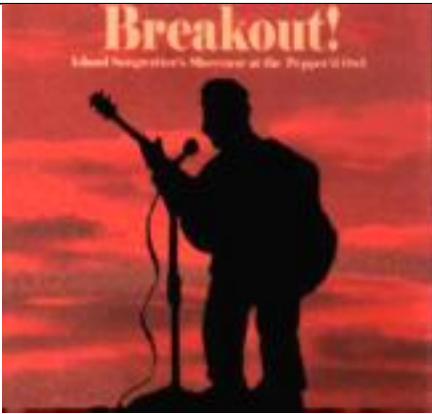
## HELP WANTED!

We know you can write songs! So how about helping out and writing about workshop reviews, articles, open mike scenes, whatever. They don't take much time and you get to have your name in print! Remember that the newsletter goes up on the web so your name will be out there. Talk to **Shari Diamond** or **Sonny Speed** at our meetings.

## ISS Staff

- Ø **Director:** Sonny Speed
  - Ø **Press Secretary:** Bob Catrano
  - Ø **Newsletter Writing Staff:** Gerry Dantone, Bill "Scoop" Ryan, Walter Sargent, Michael Clark, Sonny Meadows, Mike Mattel, Frank Gambino, Vince Crici, Andrew Kirschner, Rich Stein, and James Yarsky
  - Ø **Website Coordinator:** Bill "Scoop" Ryan
- Newsletter Editor/Publisher:** Shari Diamond

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).



Don't forget to get your copy of the first ISS compilation CD featuring 14 ISS members recorded Live at the ISS Showcase at the Pepper'd Owl in 1996. This is a lot of talent crammed into this one CD and this is only volume 1! George Trapani made this release possible and he continues to record performances at ISS events. The Cost is \$12 per CD and you can get yours from George when you see him at ISS events, via the web at [www.cyber-songs.com](http://www.cyber-songs.com) or email him at [gtrapani@optonline.net](mailto:gtrapani@optonline.net).