

September 2006

BACK TO BELLMORE

ISS Returns to Town Library for a Workshop

By Pedro Pereira

The next ISS songwriting workshop at the Bellmore Memorial Library is scheduled for 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sept. 21, and will have participation from three members of the organization.

Walter Sargent, Suzanne Ernst and **Frank Gambino**, three of ISS' most talented songwriters, will be on hand to critique work brought in by songwriters interested in perfecting the craft.

This will be the ISS' third workshop at the Bellmore library.

"In the past the Bellmore evenings have been well received," said ISS Director **Sonny Speed**, who also will be at the event providing guidance. "The room is generally full of eager writers. The feedback has been good both to the writers and to our organization as well."

Many of ISS' newer members who have been attending our monthly songwriting workshops at Five Towns College are people who decided to join after attending one of the Bellmore events, said Sonny, who added the room the ISS has used at the Bellmore library is perfect for the workshops. "It is a very nice setting with a piano and ample seating for all," he said.

Sonny said the plan is to have the Bellmore sessions about three or four times a year. The sessions are supplementary to the monthly workshop and are intended to boost membership in the organization.

Writer's Choice: It's a Long-Distance Affair

By Walter Sargent

The Writer's Choice award for August goes to **Steve Bregman** for "Long-Distance Love." Starting with a universal concept, Steve's lyrics function as narrative, which in this case is ingenious because the song could be sung as either a duet or a soliloquy.

Steve's command of the musical theatre idiom was evident throughout and, as a non-singer, Steve found a unique way of getting everyone to sing along. I'm not telling you how he did it. You'll just have to come to an ISS meeting to find out.

Very close runner-up, **Bob Campbell**, wowed us with his up-to-the-minute clarion song for peace and social justice:

*A kaleidoscope of seasons has streaked our hair with silver
Our heroes dead so early by drugs or the hail of guns
We've been asleep, seduced consumers, quelled into quiet riots
Now awaken to an urgent call, our lifework still undone"*

In four lines, Bob evokes four decades of the American experience for the

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Who Played What

Here's the list of songwriters and songs from last month's ISS workshop:

Steve Lieberman

Mid-Life Suicide

Joseph Ady

You're Not the One

John Pagliarulo

Reflections

Steve Bergman

Long-Distance Love

Suzanne Ernst

Pause

Bob Campbell

Stand Up and Be Counted

Pedro Pereira

Only Love

Denise Romas

Teacher

Andrew Kirschner

Walk Like the Moon

Bill Goldsmith

The Magic Words

Frank Gambino

Atlas Thugged

Sonny Meadows

To Deliver Democracy

Mark Hussey

Mother Earth's Horizon

Going to the Workshop

The next songwriting workshop is at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 2 at Five Towns College in Dix Hills.

Find It Online

Visit our web site,
www.islandsongwriters.org



What's Doin'

ISS members are always out and about. Check your local listings for appearances live, on the radio or even on TV. Go to

www.islandsongwriters.org for gigs and links to member sites with information about CD releases, shows and MP3s. Here's what's happening in the coming weeks. (*Check with the venue first because dates and times may change.*)

ISS Workshop

Test out your songs in front of fellow musicians, who provide constructive feedback. The workshop is on the first day of each month at **Five Towns College, Burrs Lane**, Dix Hills. Run by ISS Director **Sonny Speed**, It starts at 7:30 p.m. Bring a guitar to perform your song live, or you may choose to play a CD or tape. A piano is available for keyboardists. Be sure to bring 25 copies of your lyrics so other workshops attendees can follow along and provide feedback. *Next workshop: Oct. 2*

Writer's Choice

socially conscious. Recalling the youth of the sixties, he inspires without judging.

Following close on Bob's heels, **Denise Romas** scored again with "Teacher," a moving piece about an emotionally neglected child, treasuring every scrap of approval from her teacher. Vocally, Denise always knocks it out of the park.

We have several honorable mentions: **John Pagliarulo's** utterly infectious "Reflections," **Sonny Meadows'** witty-as-hell "To Deliver Democracy," **Bill Goldsmith's** engaging "The Magic Words" and **Frank Gambino's** re-write of "Atlas Thugged."

With so many fine songs each month and writers tying or winning by vapor-thin margins, I need to acknowledge the accomplishment and progress that is being realized here month after month. The Writer's Choice award does not do it justice. A number of writers have accumulated a large body of fine work, and gained confidence and command of their craft. Without taking anything away from the writers, I hope everyone can see that persistence pays off, and that ISS workshops are speeding the process.

Open Mics

Borders, Jericho Turnpike, Syosset, hosted by Bill Ryan or Vincent Crici, first Friday of the month. Sign-up at 7:30 p.m. *Next gig: Oct. 6*

Bartini Bar, 124 Carl Ave., Babylon, 8:30 p.m. Mondays

Trinity Restaurant and Bar, 190 Jericho Turnpike, Floral Park, 8 p.m. Mondays. *This gig is on hiatus.*

Cool Beanz., 25A St. James, 8 p.m. Wednesdays

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