

SO MUCH TO DO

New Open Mics in Huntington and St. James

November 2006

Who Played What

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

John Marranzini

Traveling On

Andy Ross

A New Day

Vicent Gangi

That Ain't Right

David Baily

I Just Live Small

Steve Bregman

Palm Springs Song

Bill Goldsmith

Fight Song

Mike Svezia

Conservative Cats

Mark Hussey

Lake Superior Inferiority Complex

Estelle Henrich

King of Hearts

Guy Pezzullo

Go With Your Instincts

Mark Virgilio

We Just Might Last

Lois Morton

Cell Phone Song

Tim Dillon

A Little Red & White

Going to the Workshop

The next songwriting workshop is at 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 6 at Five Towns

College in Dix Hills.

Find It Online

Visit our web site,
www.islandsongwriters.org

By Pedro Pereira

Starting Nov. 8, a monthly open mic will be taking place at a new wine-and-cheese bar in Huntington, Asta Wine and Art Gallery. The open mic is scheduled for the second week of every month. Sign-up is at 7 p.m. and performances start at 7:30 sharp.

I will be hosting the open mic and ISS member **Bob Krummenacker** will be running the sound. Asta owner Stephanie Yovino expressed great interest in the idea when I approached her with an open mic proposal. In addition to being an entrepreneur, Stephanie has great appreciation for the arts. Her wine bar doubles as an art gallery exhibiting works by local artists. Keeping with the Long Island theme, the menu at Asta features many wines from the island's vineyards.

Asta is located at 335 Main St. (Route 25A) in Huntington. Check out the web site at <http://www.asta1.com>.

Taking it to St. James

The Pereira/Krummenacker duo is keeping busy these days. Another open mic, at which I will be doing hosting duties and Bob the sound, is kicking off on the first Saturday of December at Cool Beanz Coffee House, 556 North Country Road (Route 25A), St. James. Sign-up is at 7:30 p.m. and performances start at 8 p.m.

Bob has secured the establishment for every Saturday evening in December and January, though we might take a break around the Holidays. In January, Bob will evaluate with the Cool Beanz owners how well the gig is doing and whether it's worth keeping weekly.

Sonnies on the Radio

ISS Director **Sonny Speed** and longtime member Sonny Meadows last month were at the WNYH-AM 740 studios in Jericho for two public affairs shows that aired on Oct. 27 and Nov. 3. The Sonnies met with the owner, Dr. Yoon, and longtime DJ "Mickey B," who did the interview.

"I was invited to do the interview by media agent Nancy Millito (of WPLJ & WABC fame) and to bring a guest," said Sonny Speed. "Nancy invited me to do the show 'Public Affairs' on WNYH because she heard me talk about the ISS on WBAB a few years back and thought I would make a good guest."

"Mickey B, as it turns out, worked with Paul Simon and still talks to Carol King and Eli Greenwich. He's a nice guy with a lot of heart for the business."

The shows were about 15 minute each, according to Sonny. "In Part One we talked about the ISS in general, and in Part Two we got into more songwriting stuff. I took Sonny Meadows because he has 11 Writer's Choice awards and has a good feel from the writer's view about what our meetings are about. We spoke about our workshops, events, our writing experience and put out a general call for new members and donations that can help the ISS grow."

Wanted: New Editor

The ISS Newsletter is looking for a new editor. Contact Editor Pedro Pereira at pedropereira@verizon.net or ISS Director Sonny Speed at mcspeed@optonline.net. But, for goodness' sake, please hurry; this offer won't last forever!



Writer's Choice: Lois Morton Wins

by Walter Sargent

The Song of the Month award for October goes to Lois Morton for "Cell Phone Song." The song is reminiscent of Tom Lehrer and Gilbert & Sullivan, and Lois demonstrated complete mastery of the form. In other words, she nailed it. What a great juxtaposition of modern life and nostalgia! Several ballots had write-in praises for her wonderful lyrics:

"It was only yesterday/They'd have carted you away/If you spoke loudly to folks who were not there!"

Hot on her heels were newcomers A.J. Ross and Tim Dillon. Where have these guys been? They write and sing like pros. The voting could hardly have been closer. One member wrote, "Too many good ones tonight. Couldn't choose."

Therefore, in recognition of individual accomplishments, the following categories were created for October:

- Runner-up for the Song of the Month: **A.J. Ross**, "A New Day"
- Contender for the Song of the Month: **Tim Dillon**, "A Little Red & White"
- Radio Ready Award: **Steve Bregman**, "Palm Springs Song"
- Best Concept: **David Bailey**, "I Just Live Small"
- Best Hook Award: **Vince Gangi**, "That Ain't Right"
- Most Original Song Title: **Mark Hussey**, "Lake Superior Inferiority Complex"
- Best Movie Soundtrack: **Bill Goldsmith**, "Fight Song"
- Most Potential for a Hit Musical: **Mike Svezia**, "Conservative Cats"
- Traditional Music Award: **Estelle Henrich**, "King of Hearts"
- Popular/Folk Music Award: **Mark Virgilio**, "We Just Might Make It"
- Wicked Guitar Solo Award (tie): **Vince Gangi** and **Guy Pezzullo**
- Most Original Music, Sound or Style (tie): **Mike Svezia** and **John Marrantzini**

A word about the voting process: I counted the votes a little differently from the usual. Since we had a several split votes (people writing in more than one name), rather than weighing the votes equally, I weighed the voters equally. The goal is to have everyone, in effect, cast the same number of votes. This allows us to nominate as many songwriters as we like without increasing the weight of our respective opinions.

I think it's a more accurate expression of the will of the membership. I sincerely hope this will be seen as a victory for democracy, and a stunning defeat for the lobbyists. Any objections should be taken up with the ISS Board of Elections. Oooops. The ISS doesn't have a Board of Elections. Sorry!

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, Nov. 3*
- Bartini Bar**, 124 Carl Ave., Babylon, 8:30 p.m. Mondays
- Asta Wine and Art Gallery**, 335 Main Street, Huntington, 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., second Wednesday of the month. *Next gig: Nov. 8*
- Trinity Restaurant and Bar**, 190 Jericho Turnpike, Floral Park, 8 p.m. Mondays. *This gig is on hiatus.* 180
- Cool Beanz.**, 25A St. James, 8 p.m. Wednesdays

ISS Staff

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- Webmaster:** Walter Sargent
- Writing Coach:** Mel Glazer

Newsletter

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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: Dec. 4*

