

March 2008

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### Next Workshop

April 7

### Borders Open Mic

April 4

### Dylan Contest

Phil Kennelty won second prize in the recent Ourtimes Coffeehouse Bob Dylan Song Contest.

## Live music

# ISS Performers at Folk Society

Six ISS members will be performing this month at the Folk Music Society of Huntington's Hard Luck Café. The show, scheduled for March 15, will feature Pedro Pereira, Denise Romas, Walter Sargent, Sonny Meadows, Tim Huss and Suzanne Ernst.

Hard Luck Café is a monthly gig at the Huntington Church of Huntington, 30 Washington Drive, Centerport. The show, costing \$10 to non-society members and \$7 for members, starts at 8:30 p.m. and is preceded by an open mic starting at 7:30 p.m. Typically the folk society features one performer but this month the group reserved the slot for the ISS.

Pereira is the editor of this newsletter and released his debut CD in August, "Last Man on the Planet," about which Harmony Central reviewer Ara Ajzian said, "Music like this deserves to be popular." Romas has become a regular at ISS events and recently released her first full-length CD, "Inspired," which also has won acclaim.

Sargent is the webmaster of the ISS site. In 2006 he released his second CD, "14 Fish, 2 Bottles and a Shoe," which includes the track "Beautiful," which took third place in the 2007 Dallas Songwriting Competition. Meadows is a mainstay of the local music scene, having released several solo CDs, two with the blues band Defibrillators and one with Blacklisted and the Band, Meadows is well known for his skillful song-craft and searing social commentary and political lyrics.

Huss released his debut CD "An Inner Voice" in 2005, and his singular, emotion-filled vocals and proficient songwriting will be featured in the upcoming debut of CD Tornado Alley, a band that also includes ISS Director Sonny Speed and ISS member Vinny Crici. Ernst's CD, "Little Things with Great Love," released in 2005, features some of the best folk songs written by a local artist. Ernst injects humor into social commentary in some tracks while in others she trackles philosophical and spiritual questions with integrity.

## Writer's Choice: 'Learning to Fall' by Bailey

BY WALTER SARGENT

The Writer's Choice from the February ISS workshop was David Bailey's "Learning to Fall," which was catchy, energetic and had a clear message that drew us in without saying too much. Members wrote, "great storytelling, "nice drive, start to finish," "well structured." David picked a great subject and made it both personal and universal. He strapped the story to his folk-rock musical sensibilities and the whole thing worked like a charm.

Coming in a very close second was Hank Stone's "Phases of the Moon," another

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## ISS

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## Phil Kennelty to Play Jessie's

ISSer Phil Kennelty will be doing a solo performance at 7 p.m. March 16 at Jessie's Roadhouse, 1810 Merrick Road, Merrick. He will play originals as well and interpretations of other songs.

Jessie's features a lot of singer-songwriters and Americana-style bands, and gigs there include open mics on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

## Bailey Wins Writer's Choice with 'Learning to Fall'

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example of masterful storytelling. Hank got numerous votes for his utterly authentic-sound, concept and delivery. Members wrote "great reflective piece," "a gift from heaven," "really nice, heart-catching," "great classic form."

Comments on other songs:

"Afterglow" (Tim Dillon): "just excellent," "sweet, sad," "fine melody, great chorus."

"Justice" (Phil Kennelty): "very moving," "powerful."

"Uptown Bus" (Jim Baron): "Very engaging music and lyrics."

"I am the Blind" (Walt Sargent): "Very good lyrics, nice melody."

"Song for My Father" (Bob Campbell): "Really good and different message."

"Cup of Life" (Mark Hussey): "Beautiful and unique."

## ISS Open Mic

The next open mic at **Borders Cafe**, Route 25, Syosset, is April 4. This gig is monthly, on the first Friday of the month, hosted by Vinny Crici. Signup is at 7:30 p.m. and the music starts at 8 p.m.

## Who Played What

Here is a list of the performers and songs from last month's ISS workshop:

Phil Kennelty: Justice; Estelle Henrich: Take the Crumbs and Be Happy; Cousin Steve: This Psycho Is Your Date; Jim Baron: Uptown Bus; Tim Dillon: Afterglow; Pedro Pereira: Baggage; Hank Stone: The Phases of the Moon; Mike Svezia: Easy Way; Walter Sargent: I'm the Blind; David Bailey: Learning to Fall; Bob Campbell: Song for my Father; Mark Hussey: Cup of Life

## Monthly Workshop

Test out your songs in front of a crowd by playing them for fellow musicians who will provide constructive feedback with the goal of helping you improve as a songwriter. The ISS workshop takes place the first Monday of every month, except if it falls on a holiday, at Five Towns College, off Burrs Lane in Dix Hills. Run by ISS Director Sonny Speed, the workshop starts at 7:30 p.m. Bring a guitar if you wish to perform your song live, or you may bring a recording on CD or tape. A piano is available for those who write their songs at the keys. Be sure to bring 25 copies of your lyric sheets so the other workshop attendees can follow along while listening to your song. It is much easier to provide constructive criticism when people can read the lyrics. The ISS workshop is at the center of the organization's mission to help songwriters perfect their craft. Many performers on Long Island got their start at ISS.

## General Information

For general information about ISS or how to join the organization, contact ISS Director Sonny Speed at [mcspeed@optonline.net](mailto:mcspeed@optonline.net) or 631-462-3300. To submit items for publication in the newsletter, contact Pedro Pereira at [pedropereira@verizon.net](mailto:pedropereira@verizon.net). Visit our web site at [www.islandsongwriters.org](http://www.islandsongwriters.org).