

May 2008

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Next Workshop
July 7

**Borders
Open Mic**
June 6

Pedro Pereira
at Cool Beanz June 6

Talent Wanted

Volunteers to Play Group Homes

By PEDRO PEREIRA

Longtime ISS member Jamie Yarsky is looking for volunteers to perform in group homes for mentally retarded adults and other venues.

Band membership will consist of volunteer musicians and residents of the group homes, which are run by Jamie's employer, AHRC Nassau, an organization that manages 70 group homes in Nassau County and runs a variety of programs for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Jamie said the bands will be modeled on one called "Underwear," of which he is a member.

"There is no other experience in my life to which I could compare my work with Underwear," he said. "When we first got together to play, the music was so awful that the volunteers and I could hardly believe it. As time went on, though, the sound got a little better and the enthusiasm, camaraderie and mission of the band kicked in. Eventually, we performed at school events for students, faculty, and parents. It was amazing every time."

The commitment for playing in the bands will likely consist of a weekly rehearsal and occasional performances. Jamie said there will be opportunities to play at local libraries, so preparation will be important.

"The regularity of the performances depends on the level of excitement," Jamie said. "If the band loves it, they will perform more often."

The bands will likely play a combination of cover tunes and originals, he said. "We're wide open to original work."

Jamie planned to make a direct pitch to ISS members during the organization's May 5 workshop. ISS meets monthly, usually on the first Monday, at Five Towns College.

Writer's Choice: Looks Like Love

BY PEDRO PEREIRA

Love came out on top last month in the voting for Writers' Choice. Sonny Meadows took top honors with his witty "Looked for Love," while David Bailey came in a close second with "Love Is a Mystery."

The two songs were decidedly different in tone and approach, despite the universality of the theme. Sonny had fun with his song, which related the author's quest for love in just about any place he could think of: "I've looked for love on a passenger train/Miles in the sky in a JetBlue plane/Riding in the taxi and the limousine/Tween

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Pedro Pereira to Play Birthday Show at Cool Beanz

It's ISS Newsletter Editor Pedro Pereira's birthday on Friday June 6, but he won't get into how old he will be. However, Pedro will celebrate the occasion with a show at Cool Beanz in St. James, during which plenty of his musician friends will make an appearance to play a song or two. The show starts at 8 p.m., and will wrap up by 11. If you're not doing anything else, come to Cool Beanz.

Writer's Choice: Sonny Meadows Goes Looking for Love

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the pages of Playboy magazine." The tune was a typically witty and well-crafted piece, as we have come to expect from Sonny.

David's song was a more somber look at the trials that come with being in relationship. In "Love Is a Mystery," David delves into themes such as commitment and forgiveness, with a catchy rhythm and memorable melody.

Standout lines include: "Now you're coming up behind me/You put your hands inside my coat/I try to say some words to you/But they burn inside my throat."

Other songs that were contenders for the top spot were Phil Kennelty's "There Must Be a Leak (in the Clear Blue Sky)" and "Angels in the Halls" by newcomer Frank Imburgio.

ISS Open Mic

The next open mic at **Borders Cafe**, Route 25, Syosset, is June 6. 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:

Michele Frimmer and David Cook: Friends; David Bailey: Love Is a Mystery; Robb Patterson: If You Get There; Mark Hussey: Roses; Jeff Jacobs: That's Reality; Frank Gambino: Way Downstream; Frank Imburgio: Angels in the Halls; Sonny Meadows: Looked for Love; Estelle Henrich: Reptile Expo; Susan Cohen: Wasted Time; Mike Svezia: Constant Aggravation; Hank Stone: The Telling; Andrew Kirschner: Thank You for the Dream; Lois Morton: Come to Suburbia; Phil Kennelty: Clear Blue Sky; Josh Solomon: Better Days; Guy Pezzullo: We-ekend Be Together

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 or 631- 462-3300. To submit items for publication in the newsletter, contact Pedro Pereira at pedropereira@verizon.net. Visit our web site at www.islandsongwriters.org.