

September 2008

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Next Workshop

Oct. 6

Borders Open Mic

Oct. 3

Stuck in Merrick

The release party for Tony Tedeschi's debut CD, "Stuck in the '60s, Vol. II," is Sept. 28 at Jessie's Roadhouse in Merrick

New releases

Tornado Alley, Tedeschi Drop CDs

By PEDRO PEREIRA

Two long-awaited debut CDs involving ISS members have been released in recent weeks – Tornado Alley's self-titled CD and Tony Tedeschi's "Stuck in the '60s, Vol. II"

Tornado Alley is the brainchild of ISS Director Sonny Speed, who three years ago gathered ISS members Tim Huss and Vincent Cricy, percussionist Robert Langley, and later, violinist Lora Kendall to form an Americana band. The band has blown through a number of venues around Long Island, setting feet a-tappin' and throats a-hummin' as it refined the original music featured on its debut CD.

Tracks on the CD include Tim's "It Ain't Easy" and "California," Sonny's "Cruisin'" and Vinny's "America Treasure." Check out Tornado Alley's web site, <http://tornadoalleyband.com>, for more details and upcoming shows.

Copies of Tony's CD are available at cdbaby.com or from Tony directly by e-mailing him at ntbooks@sprintmail.com. You can sample some of the tracks at his web site, www.myspace.com/stuckinthesixties.

Tony spent two years in the studio with producer Doug Kwartler for the 13-track CD, which features numbers he has played in venues around Long Island such as "Sci-Fi Movie Blues," "A Long, Long Way from Home" and "Blue."

Tony's CD release party is scheduled for 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 28 at Jessie's Roadhouse, 1810 Merrick Rd., Merrick. Accompanying Tony will be Doug Kwartler on lead guitar, Michael Leuci on drums and Deb Novak on bass. Doug will also be performing, as will ISS newsletter editor Pedro Pereira, the Treutlein-Novak Band and blues guitarist Joe Vicino.

Tony and his band, along with Pedro, will also be featured performers at a fundraiser for DES Action at the New York City Fire Museum, at 278 Spring Street in Manhattan, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20. Admission is by invitation, although Tony says he can probably secure an invitation for anyone willing to pony up the \$30 admission fee -- all of it going to support the work of this organization on behalf of DES-exposed women and men.

Writer's Choice: 'Tolerance' by Sonny Meadows

BY WALTER SARGENT

The Writer's Choice from the June workshop was "Tolerance" by Sonny Meadows.

"Tolerance," with its indelible punchline, "A**holes are people, too", was simply too funny not to win. The slice o' life in every verse kept the payoff fresh and funny even though you knew it was coming.

Members said: "Great lyrics," and "Great delivery." Compassion, Sonny style, is definitely not sentimental.

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iss

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Writer's Choice: Sonny Meadows' 'Tolerance'

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The runner-up song was "Sunny Day" by Suzanne Ernst. Members wrote, "A blast of fresh air from 35 years ago -- original, unpredictable and so interesting." The music walks briskly away from familiar territory and stretches the key for a twisted, playful effect.

Who Played What

Here is the list of players and songs from last month's workshop:

Walter Sargent: "Someday When My Work Is Done"

Steve Lieberman: "Get It, Get It, Get It (Shift, Shift, Shift)"

Hank Stone: "This Orchard"

Jason Flashner: "Liquid Blue"

Pedro Pereira: "Holding Pattern"

Sonny Meadows: "Tolerance"

Suzanne Ernst: "Sunny Day"

Marguerite Cassell: "My Own Storm"

John Finnerty: "Off My Mind"

Susan Davis: "Everyone's Changed But Me"

Gerry Dantone: "Welcome to the World"

ISS Open Mic

The next open mic at **Borders Cafe**, Route 25, Syosset, is Oct. 3. 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.

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.