

November 2008

www.islandsongwriters.org



Next Workshop
December 1

**Borders
Open Mic**
November 7

Open Mic

Monday Nights in Lindenhurst

BY PEDRO PEREIRA

Participation at Kenn Machin's open mic at the Village Lanterne in Lindenhurst has been sporadic, so I thought I would remind everyone that this Monday night gig is still on. Located at 143 N. Wellwood Ave., this venue offers a pleasant, comfortable setting for performers.

This is typically a slow time of year for open mics, but it would be a shame to see this particular gig be cancelled as a result of poor attendance, so I urge everyone to get out there as often as you can. The open mic starts at 8 p.m.

Village Lanterne has a great menu of light fare on Monday nights, and the beer selection is great, so you won't go hungry or thirsty.

Also remember that there is an open mic on Wednesdays at Cool Beanz, 554 North Country Road, St. James. Performers are encouraged to sign up around 7:30, and the music starts at 8.

And, of course, don't forget the ISS-sponsored open mic on the first Friday of every month at Borders, 425 Jericho Tpke, Syosset.

Writer's Choice: Meadows' '59 Cadillac'

BY GERRY DANTONE

The October meeting brought us a number of serious tunes that took different paths on the way to different goals. Sometimes the goals and paths were clear, but sometimes the path and/or goal were hard to figure out. You knew this, though – that wherever they were going, they were on their way! Did the listener want to come along for the ride?

John Finnerty's road in "On My Way" may have included the LIE as he drove to his lover's home in search of a lusty "paradise." Ken Krumenacker sought to find a better environment by advising wise use of resources on "Positive Effect." Phil Kennelty-Cohen asked "What Have You Done Today?" in support of making others feel better.

In "Surfer's Lament," Jerry Ahern took a trip to the past in search of the perfect waves of his memory. In "I Can Take You There," Mike Svezia offered to take someone to a very bizarre and decadent-sounding place. Mark Hussey was on "The Detours That You Take" that then turn out to be the most important things in life. Vincent Gangi, in "The End Has Long Begun," was on the road to the apocalypse and seemed to be happy about it.

None of these tunes took enough listeners along with them, however, to earn the

Continued on page 2

iss

Director

Sonny Speed

Webmaster

Walter Sargent

Writing Coach

Mel Glazer

Newsletter

Editor

Pedro Pereira

Contributors

Dave Cook

Gerry Dantone

Suzanne Ernst

Frank Gambino

Sonny Meadows

Steve Robinson

Walter Sargent

Hank Stone

Mike Svezia

Tony Tedeschi

We're on the Web!

See us at

www.islandsongwriters.org

Writer's Choice: Sonny Meadows' '59 Cadillac'

Continued from page 1

Writer's Choice. For that we need a "'59 Cadillac" driven by Sonny Meadows. The reason was evident: In this song, the storyteller is the owner of a giant-finned Caddy that is still in the restoration stage. We then learn that he is a severely injured Iraq War veteran and that he subconsciously equates restoring this old car with restoring his own damaged life.

Without ever preaching, Sonny takes us on the road to understanding the horrors and pointlessness of so many wars; and hating the war while loving the warrior. The goal was to drive the reality of war home to those who are disconnected from it; the path was taken in a '59 Cadillac.

Runner-up for the Writer's Choice was this writer's "Your Son." This is the third song in a 16-song rock opera, titled "Birth, love, hate, death," and the songs at this point are still introducing the characters. This obviously is the son of the woman introduced in last month's tune, "I Wish I Could Tell You This." If there is a goal to this rock opera, it would be to explore love and life in a way that is rarely done in popular music. The tunes are hopefully true-to-life and emotionally powerful. More is on the way.

Gerry Dantone dared himself to write love songs for this project and is ready to face the Love Song Police.

ISS Open Mic

The next open mic at **Borders Cafe**, Route 25, Syosset, is Nov. 7. 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:

Mark Hussey: The detours that You take; Phil Kennelty: What have You Done Today; Frank Gambino: Charlie Chaplin; John Finnerty: On My Way; Ken Krumenacker: Positive Effect; Mike Svezia: I Can Take You There; Sonny Meadows: '59 Cadillac; Hank Stone: Brighter Day; Andrew Kirschner: Special; Jerry Ahern: Surfer's Lament; Gerry Dantone: Your Son; Mike Wells: Hold Me Till Tomorrow; Estelle Henrich: The Walnut Table; Sal Weeks: Sunday; Vince Gangi : The End Has Long Begun.

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.