

March 2020

# the REED

*Official Newsletter of The Garden State Harmonica Club*

Read about the Hohner  
Chromonica II Deluxe  
in this issue

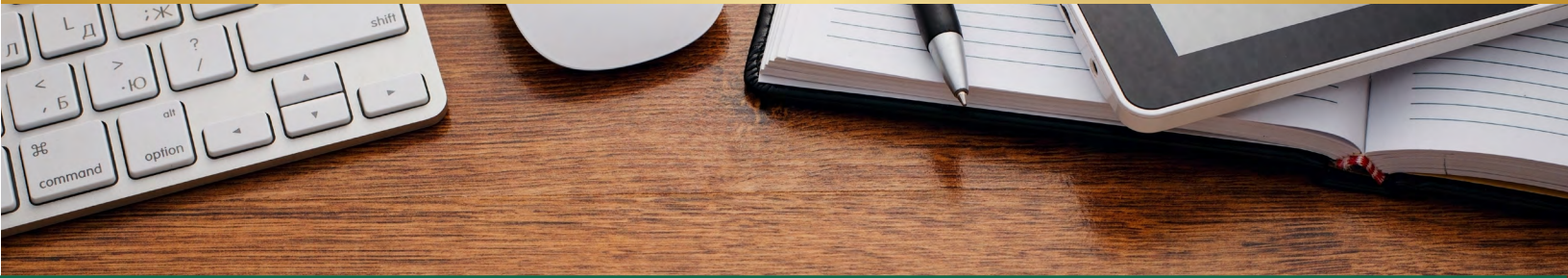
## **In this Issue:**

A Letter from the President  
Re-Branding &  
Social Media News  
The Ensemble  
Join Our Team  
Guess Who?  
Harmonica Spotlight  
Photo Gallery  
Reminders  
Words of Wisdom  
Harp Humor  
Harmonica Repair  
Featured Song  
Calendar of Events  
Credits  
Membership Form

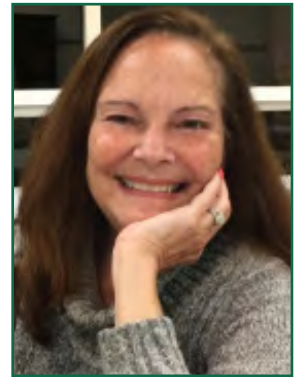
**March Issue:  
Introducing  
Our New Look!**



# A Letter from the President



**W**elcome to our new and wondrous March issue of *The REED*! We are thrilled to announce that John McNamara has offered to create the entire layout for the issue you are now reading. We are so grateful to him for assuming this responsibility. At the moment, the plan is to publish it quarterly, subject to change. This issue is full of our activities and photos from December of 2019 through March 2020. Kudos go out to Gail, who has been doing this job faithfully for years. We greatly appreciate her and her talent, but having someone in-house is just so special we couldn't resist! John is a top graphic designer, with twenty years of experience and know-how and we are so delighted to have him - and his family - in the club.



Another change has to do with the position of treasurer - we need a new treasurer ASAP! This position has been held by Annie for what seems like forever! Annie will "graduate, with honors" and will assist in transitioning a new treasurer; the duties and responsibilities are listed within this issue, entailing perhaps a few (precious) hours per month. We deeply appreciate your volunteering or referring someone you trust to handle these important tasks, and Annie will be excellent in sharing her knowledge to that special person. Thank you also to Judy for many years of dedication and shopping for those marvelous desserts - we love you!

As you know, the backbone of the club rests mainly on dues-paying members and monies earned from our performances. Bonnie and Bill will return from Florida at the end of March, which is when we will see a transition back to more gigs and meeting twice monthly.

Enjoy yourselves a late Happy New Year and stay tuned for our refurbished website, more work from John, with details to follow. While you're at it, let's say goodbye to a not too terribly cold winter as we welcome the always-beautiful springtime.

Thanks again to Gail and Annie and our entire crew!

Sue Fallon, *President of the GSHC*



# Re-branding and Social Media News



**A**s a follow up to Sue's introduction...  
You might be asking "What's up with  
the new look and feel of *The REED*?"



I have taken on the role of Graphic Designer and Social Media Manager; everything from the club logo, to the newsletter, to the website is getting a makeover. We're also going to advertise club activities on such social media platforms as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube, so the word will spread about some of the great activities we participate in as a club.

For starters, here's the new Garden State Harmonica Club logo - something familiar to most New Jerseyians with our own musical touch! You'll also notice the new logo for *The REED* on the cover. For those of you who are technically savvy, this issue is also an interactive PDF, with clickable links on the cover and throughout the newsletter. Even the Membership Form on the last page is now editable in any PDF reader.

I hope you like the changes in this issue as well as the new social media advertising. Links can be found on the Credits page of this newsletter as well as on our [website](#).



John McNamara, *GSHC Graphic Designer,  
Communications & Social Media Director*

# The Ensemble of The Garden State Harmonica Club

**O**ur Ensemble, consisting of unusually talented, enthusiastic professionals, dedicated to providing enjoyment for groups of people of all ages and backgrounds through our wonderful music, delights in performing musical programs tailored to varied venues, with a special focus on senior clubs and centers, in and outpatient facilities, schools and places of worship.



*Bonnie, Dottie, Ralph, Ann, Bill, Sue, and Maggie Lu*

The GSHC was established in 1971 by some of the most revered players in the country, several currently in their eighties and nineties and playing and teaching and so youthful! We delight in performing our hour-long programs, tailored to varied venues, with a special focus on senior clubs and centers, in and outpatient facilities, schools and places of worship. Sue is our MC/vocalist and encourages audience participation through singing, foot-tapping and even dancing! We distribute lyric sheets that add immeasurably to the shows. The majority of the songs are taken from “The American Songbook Standards”, including such memorable and familiar tunes as “Mr. Sandman”, “Ain’t She Sweet” and “Spanish Eyes”.

The instrument itself is most unusual: explaining the extraordinary range of the different types of harmonicas adds to the fascination of our listeners/participants. Each song is introduced and described - and guaranteed to spark memories and leave everyone smiling!

The Ensemble performs in the Bergen County area and beyond, for a nominal fee. We bring our own sound equipment when appropriate and can be booked by emailing us at: [gardenstateharmonicaclub@gmail.com](mailto:gardenstateharmonicaclub@gmail.com). Please visit our website at [www.gardenstateharmonicaclub.org](http://www.gardenstateharmonicaclub.org), where you can see and listen to our artful music.

**Don't just take our word for it – comments from our audiences:**

“We can't wait for your return engagement! You spread such cheer through your engaging and talented musicians.”

- The Ridgefield Park Senior Club

“There is no one like you! The group is so entertaining and the shows bring out the best in everyone.”

- Christian Health Care Facilities

“We are thrilled every year with your performances. Our membership so appreciates all of you.”

- St. John Vianney

Here are some photos from June 6, 2019 at Van Dyk/ Goffle Rd. in North Haledon, NJ.





# JOIN OUR TEAM

**T**he Garden State Harmonica Club has a position that needs to be filled. See the job listing below, and please contact us if you have interest in fulfilling this very important role for the club.

### **Treasurer**

Role includes:

- Bi-monthly visit to Post Office (Paramus)
- Reconcile the account & deposit checks
- Pay bills and expenses
- Collect and record payments



We are also always looking for newsletter content for the members, by the members. Photos from events you've attended, personal stories about harmonica players you've known, or even harmonica artwork.

If you have anything harmonica related that you'd like to share, please send it to [gardenstateharmonicaclub@gmail.com](mailto:gardenstateharmonicaclub@gmail.com)

# Guess Who?

**C**an you name the people in the photos below?  
Correctly fill-in the blanks below and bring it to a meeting for a chance at a prize. Good luck!



1.



2.



3.



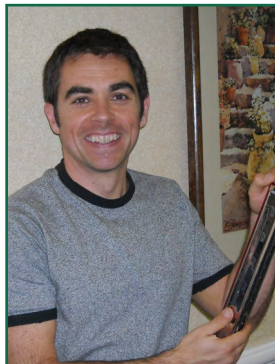
4.



5.



6.



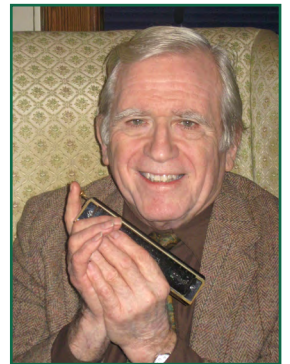
7.



8.



9.



10.

## Guess Who for March 2020

1. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_



## Harmonica Spotlight - Hohner Chromonica Deluxe by Mark Weber

At the beginning of the 1950s, Hohner came out with two new models, a 10-hole Chromonica I De Luxe and a 12-hole Chromonica II De Luxe. The patent# 853853 was issued to Walter Hohner in 1952. More info can be found on Pat Missin's website. As Pat mentions, the US Design Patent# 166750 was also issued to Walter Hohner the same year.



*Chromonica I and II De Luxe from my collection*

I've recently read an interesting article about John Vassos. Especially this part got my attention: In the late 1940s, John Vassos was hired by Hohner to design harmonicas and accordions with his signature modernist and streamlined aesthetic, primarily aimed toward the American market. Vassos' design drawings feature marks resembling air whooshing past his harmonicas—musical spacecraft traveling through the galaxy of his imagination.

I could actually imagine that John Vassos is the father of the Chromonica Deluxe design.

Besides, Hohner initially planned to release a Chromonica III De Luxe (four octave model), IV (chord harmonica) and a mini version. This never materialized. The model



*1953 Chromonica III De Luxe special edition from the harmonica museum*



*Anniversary Chromonica II: "Ernst Hohner, der Förderer der Chromonika zu seinem 60. Geburtstag" (Ernst Hohner, patron of the Chromonika to his 60th birthday), special edition from the harmonica museum*



III was later produced in 1953 as a special edition for long-serving Hohner employees. In addition, Chromonica III De Luxe prototypes were produced later.

The Chromonica IV De Luxe was also patented. Patent #49146 was granted in 1947. Interestingly enough, it comes with three levers. Two on the right and one on the left. This principle reminds me of Brendan Power's twin chromatics.

*"I could actually imagine that John Vassos is the father of the Chromonica Deluxe design."*

Special thanks to **Mark Weber** for giving permission to use his article in our newsletter. The online version can be found at: <https://chromhistory.wordpress.com/2019/04/29/hohner-chromonica-deluxe/>

Make sure to check out his blog on the history of the chromatic harmonica at <https://chromhistory.wordpress.com>



*Chromonica III De Luxe, from my collection*



*Chromonica De Lux illustration from the 1950 Hohner catalogue*



*Chromonica IV De Luxe and mini from the harmonica museum*



# Photos - Our meetings in October/November, 2019

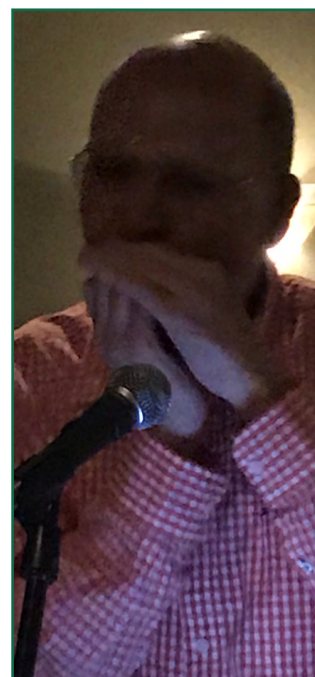


October 21st and November 4, 2019



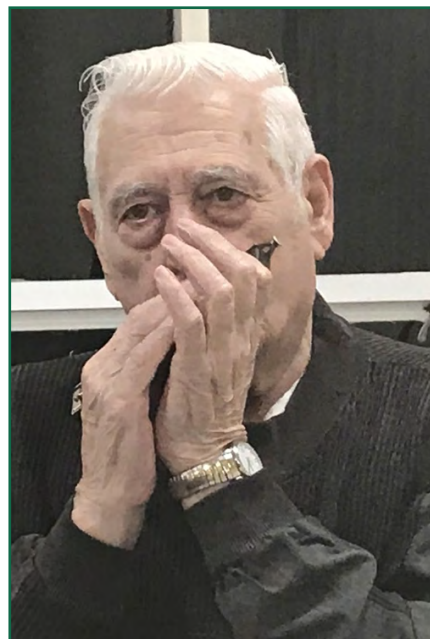


# Our Annual Dinner - November 11, 2019





# Club meeting - February 3, 2020





# Reminders



## REMINDER!

Membership Dues are due! Please use the form on the last page of this newsletter to renew your membership as soon as possible.

### Upcoming Meetings

#### March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

#### April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

### Harmonica for Sale



Hohner Super Chromonica 270, key of C, brand new, never played, includes case for just \$105!  
Contact Bob at [robert\\_hibler@hotmail.com](mailto:robert_hibler@hotmail.com) (Disclaimer: Photo for reference only)

# Rob Fletcher's Words of Wisdom

"This isn't music!" I said to myself in frustration. Clearing out file after file of song charts and show notes, I thought, "what a waste!"

All that time over the last decades I thought I was working on music. I wasn't. I was 'preparing to work on music'. Preparing for a future that is never going to come. Bag after bag into the recycling bin.

I had to go through that process – preparing instead of doing, then finally purging. It's what brought me here to this moment. And it's no big deal in the grand scheme of things.

But when a core realization – "this isn't music, actually playing music is music!" – lands it's vital to pay attention.

We can prepare for something until the end of our days, but the next, scary step is what actually makes our dreams come true – actually doing it. Time to make music.



Winter in Massachusetts by Rob Fletcher



## Harp Humor



**A** newly married sailor was informed by the Navy that he was going to be stationed a long way from home on a remote island in the Pacific for a year.

A few weeks after he got there, he began to miss his new wife, so he wrote her a letter. "My love," he wrote, "we are going to be apart for a very long time. Already I'm starting to miss you and there's really not much to do here in the evenings. Besides that, we're constantly surrounded by young attractive native girls. A hobby of some sort would certainly help me resist temptation."

So his wife sent him back a harmonica, saying, "Why don't you learn to play this?"

Eventually, his tour of duty came to an end and he rushed back to his wife. "Darling," he said, "I can't wait to get you into bed so that we can make passionate love!"

She kissed him and said, "First, let's see you play that harmonica."

## Repair Service



### Taking care of Harmonica Players since 1998

September 2020 marks the 22nd year as a registered harmonica repair and restoration business in PA. Oddly enough, most of my customer base has been the rest of the world. Only some minor changes have been made in order to streamline business this year. I purchased some new high tech tools for the workbench over the summer and hope to give them a serious workout in the coming months.

As it has always been, I'm in this as a craftsman and not a profiteer. It takes time to do things right. Getting your money into my hands as quick as possible isn't the objective nor motivation for serving the harmonica community. I enjoy staying in communication with you while I service your harmonicas whether you are a beginner, touring pro or someone that wants to have a family heirloom restored. You all matter equally to me and will receive the same service and attention

**Michael Easton**

385 Walton St., Lemoyne, PA. 17043

fatheadmi@comcast.net

<http://www.harmonicarepair.com>

## Featured Spring Song "It Might As Well Be Spring"

Music by Richard Rodgers and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein. It was in the film *State Fair* in 1945, and won the Academy Award for Best Original song that year.





**Board of Directors**

- President** - Sue Fallon
- Vice President** - Bonnie Farbstein
- Secretary** - Maggie Lu Nieshalla
- Treasurer** - Ann Van Wetering
- Trustees:** Judy Toker & Tim Henshall

**Committees**

- Music Director**.....Ralph Viola
- Music Producer**.....Bonnie Farbstein
- Sound Technician**..... Bill Farbstein
- Emcee/Vocalist**..... Sue Fallon
- Membership**..... Bill Farbstein
- Hospitality**.....Maggie Lu Nieshalla
- Gal Everyday**..... Dottie Piskecky
- REED Editor**.....Sue Fallon
- REED Distributor**.....Bill Farbstein
- Graphics, Communications & Social Media Director** .....John McNamara

**Meetings/Rehearsals/Open Mic**

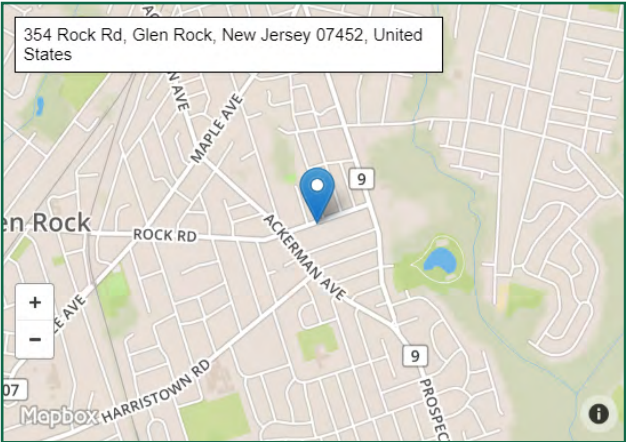
First and third Mondays of the month  
at 7:30 pm

**Upcoming meeting schedule:**

April 6th and 20th, 2020  
May 4th and 18th, 2020

**Meeting Location:**

Community Church of Glen Rock (Rm 103)  
354 Rock Road, Glen Rock, NJ



**On the Cover:** A Photo of a Hohner Chromonica II Deluxe by John McNamara

**The Garden State Harmonica Club**  
PO Box 344  
Leonora, NJ 07605  
E-mail: [gardenstateharmonicaclub@gmail.com](mailto:gardenstateharmonicaclub@gmail.com)  
[www.gardenstateharmonicaclub.org](http://www.gardenstateharmonicaclub.org)

Stay connected via our new social media.  
Click the logo below to visit each site.





# Garden State Harmonica Club

## Annual \$35.00 Dues Remittance Form

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Complete this interactive form in any PDF reader, then print. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal

New Membership

Check

Cash

Please make checks payable to GSHC.

**Send this form with payment to:**

Garden State Harmonica Club

Attn: Membership Department

P.O. Box 344, Leonia, NJ 07605



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (Month & Day): \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a Player

I am a Listener

I do BOTH!

I am interested in: (check all that apply)

Diatonic

Chromatic

Tremolo

Chord

Bass

I am interested in helping out (specify how): \_\_\_\_\_

I heard about the club from: (check all that apply)

Facebook

Instagram

Reddit

Friends

Other \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby grant the GSHC permission to use my likeness in a photograph, video, or other digital media (“photo”) in any and all of its publications, including web-based publications, without payment or other consideration.