



# THE REED

May, 2006

## Newsletter of The Garden State Harmonica Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 122, Ridgewood, NJ 07451

"For the Elevation and Advancement of the Harmonica"

We usually meet on the second Friday of each month, at 7:30 p.m., at

The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Maywood and Taplin Aves., Maywood, NJ ● email: jbgbndlb @ aol.com

**Next meeting: Friday, May 5, '06**

*Deadline For Reed Articles...23rd of each month*

### Board of Directors

**President**.....Bob Hibler  
**Vice President**.....Charlie Toker  
**Treasurer**.....Tom Scerbo  
**Recording Secretary**.....Dottie Kuchar  
**Trustees**.....Joe Dobish, Vinny Cupo,  
 Henry Young, Andrew Menasian, and Victor Fabano  
**Reed Editor**.....Dan Bauch

**Sergeant at Arms**.....Ellen Singer  
**Bookings**.....Henry Young

### Committees

**Membership**.....Andrew Menasian  
**Hospitality**.....Judy Toker  
**Sunshine**.....  
**Publicity**.....  
**Festival Chairman**.....Shelly Lulov

### My Confession

By Robert B. Hibler, the GSHC's new President

My name is Bob and I am a Harp Head [you *did* mean "harp", not "hop", right, Bob?]. I sneak in practice sessions when I should be doing chores. The Ensemble Weekly Practice Program is helping me get through this with a 20 song step program for gigs. I feel better now. My playing is better too. I am getting control of my life.



Bob Hibler

My addiction for the harmonica started innocently enough after an on-again off-again series of brief stands with clarinets and flutes. That started back in grammar school when everyone had to take Band. Then there were the drums, just snares, which I played as a Boy Scout for parades and marches. Over the years, that baggage and the instruments got to be cumbersome and I began to collect fake books of songs so I could sing instead. Mitch Miller was one of my favorites. That never went anywhere since I really am a lousy singer but then, one day about 20 years ago, I was at O. DiBella's and I picked up a Pocket Pal. Small, cheap, easily concealed and carried, I bought one in C with some how-to-play instruction books. A

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👉 **Next Meeting...note the date!** 👈

Because the Church has other commitments for our usual meeting day, this month's meeting will be on May 5th.

### Club Web Site



Very soon, maybe even by the time you read this, the GSHC will have its own web site. Above is the opening page, which visitors will see, in glorious color, when they go to:  
**[www.gardenstateharmonicaclub.org](http://www.gardenstateharmonicaclub.org)**

# The Garden State Harmonica Club Festival 2006

## 4- DAY HARMONICA FESTIVAL

To Commemorate our Club's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday

October 25, 26, 27 & 28, 2006

At the CROWNE PLAZA AT PARAMUS PARK

601 From Road, Paramus, New Jersey 07652

(Formally the RADISSON INN)

Hotel Reservations: (201) 262-6900 or (800) 227-6963

Mention the GSHC for reduced room rate of \$95 plus 6% sales tax per night

**Featuring the World Class Harmonica Sounds of:**

Jazz great CHARLES SPRANKLIN

The smooth sounds of SANDY GERMAN

DADDY "T" & THE TWO HARPS Charles Toker, Shelly Lulov, Tom Scerbo

Jazz Stylist ENRICO GRANAFEI and his guitar

TOM STRYKER with special guest TONY LUISI

(Musical arranger of the famed STAGG McMANN TRIO)

Classical virtuoso JIA-YI HE with SHELLY LULOV on chord harmonica

The Phenomenal CAROLBETH TRUE on keyboard

The dynamic HOTSHOTS Al & Judy Smith

The World of Blues CARLOS COLINA

Fabulous Blues Artist DENNIS GRUENLING with Vocalist GINA FOX

THE HARMONITONES John Savas, Dave Denkers & Mike Irace

The Country Music of HARPERS BIZARRE

HARMONICA JUNCTION Al & Judy Smith,

Gene Hansen, Rudy Michelin & Doris Michelin

THE GARDEN STATE HARMONICA CLUB ENSEMBLE

Chromatic Artist DAN BAUCH

Group sing-a-longs with MARV & ROGER MONROE

Charlie McDermott as Master of Ceremonies

**FOUR - DAY FESTIVAL TICKET: \$100 per person\***

\*If paid AFTER August 30, 2006 – 4-Day Ticket: \$125

**RATES ON A DAILY BASIS:**

**Wednesday \$10 - Thursday \$30 - Friday \$35 - Saturday \$75**

SPECIAL SHOWS THURSDAY & FRIDAY NIGHTS, Stimulating Seminars,

Ole Tyme Harmonica Movie Classics

Open Mic Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday

MAKE YOUR OWN SUNDAE BAR – FRIDAY EVENING PRIOR TO THE SHOW

BIG CELEBRATION BANQUET & SHOW SATURDAY EVENING

Including Cocktail Hour with Hors d'Oeuvres and Cash Bar

MAIN COURSE Chateaubriand & Capon Wellington combination

Vegetarian and Fish dinners available with prior notice

TO PURCHASE FESTIVAL TICKETS: Make check payable to: GSHC, INC.

Mail payment to: Shelly Lulov, 5 Schenck Avenue, Great Neck, NY 11021

Include: name, address, phone #, email address

Your ticket(s) will be waiting for you at the hotel lobby registration desk

**ORDER TICKETS WELL IN ADVANCE – WE EXPECT TO BE  
SOLD OUT FOR THIS FESTIVAL**

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CALL

SHELLY LULOV, Festival Chairman: (516) 829-5808

Email: [slulov@aol.com](mailto:slulov@aol.com)



## Pete Pedersen...Episode 4

The tension mounts as Pete Pedersen steps to the mike. We eagerly await the first notes from this star of the harmonica firmament. But does he play? He does not. He makes a pun...a bit of an inside joke, but the "Ha! Ha!" tells us that the kids get it.

Well, gang, we're only one-third of the way through the series, and there's still hope. Stay tuned.

### Confession, cont'd

few toots later and I was trapped into the downward spiral of Harping.

Back then and for a long time after, I played just for myself. Not having had any formal instruction, I found that I accidentally could play chords and even found they sounded pretty good. My wife did not object to my practicing as long as I kept it to the garage. The Pocket Pal drove me on. I needed more and more music. Finally I broke down and bought a chromatic three octave Suzuki from my pushers at O. DiBella. Why? Because it had a piece of black plastic that looked drool proof when compared to the Hohner wood inserts ["combs" to you, Bob]. It came in a sleek black case and looked sharp, except that for about \$80 it did not play well, in my opinion. Now the folks at O. DiBella knew of my amateur status and previous sole association with a Pocket Pal. They did not consider me to be a well qualified judge of fine instruments. When I complained to them about the Suzuki being hard to draw and blow they were righteously skeptical about my analytical prowess and politely gave me the usual mantra of, "Not Returnable, sorry, it isn't us but them's are the rules. Harmonicas that touch lips shall never touch ours", or some such. I would have that Suzuki chromatic still except that it turned out that I was right, and Suzuki recalled them all. I used my refund to buy a new wood-insert ["comb" again!] Hohner Chromatic 270 that has been drool proof too, and I learned to play individual notes in several ranges. When I could not find the note I wanted, I found that pushing the slide would pop it out. In one of the self help books on playing keys, I found the statement, "It's in there!". How true.

Along the way, a couple of summer harmonica concerts in Westwood's Veterans' Park kept me wanting to play better. A few times I got a Garden State Harmonica Club business card from O. DiBella's message board but did nothing, remaining a closet player. Then nearly two years ago, there was a notice in the paper about the Club giving lessons and I went.

Monroe Heide did the teaching and I became a much more proficient Johnny One Note, thanks to his ministrations. I started playing with the Ensemble, got more active and am now truly addicted, and badly.

*Now that Bob has gotten that off his chest, we can add that he was born in Teaneck, Graduate of Teaneck High School, and went on to get a BS in Business Administration and Minor in Marketing at The University of South Carolina. Bob was married on July 15, 1967 to Joan Irene Eagen, and now lives in Westwood. He also holds a NJ Real Estate License, and has studied both Arabic and Spanish. We must ask him how to say "harmonica" in Arabic.*

*As anyone who has observed Bob's red shirt can tell, he's Director of Marketing with Gamka Sales Co., Inc.*

*Being a pro-active president of the GSHC may keep Bob out of trouble for a while. However, until now, he has found time to make many civic contributions to Westwood and other local organizations. He is a current member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment; Chairman*  
*Continued on page 5.*

**Our reliable expert, Stan Harper, recently wrote of an intriguing Japanese harmonica...**

*Stan writes:* In the 1950's, a German, whose name I forget, came to me with a Japanese harmonica he was importing. He wanted me to play and promote it. I had two or three which I eventually gave to Andy Paskas [a passionate and eccentric harmonica collector of Canadian background, well known to many of us, including your editor].

It was the most powerful 12-holer I'd ever played. It had no conventional mouthpiece and slide. Instead, the airflow was directed by a [rocking] damper, controlled by a pair of springs, which normally prevented air from flowing through the Db reeds, thus allowing only the C reeds to sound. When the damper was rocked, by a tab [on the back of the harmonica] it covered the C openings and allowed the Db reeds to sound.

It was the best harmonica I've played to this day. It had one major drawback: the damper had to be worked up and down with the index finger. This motion is contrary to how the hand works. I could never play accurate rapid technique or cup it properly. Here we have to disagree with Stan. We heard him play this harmonica, and his technique was quite rapid enough to suit most of us!

The system is 100% superior to the mouthpiece and slide setup. It never gummed up or needed any care. I told the importer that if they could make some sort of arrangement whereby an operating lever could be placed on the right side like the slide button, it would be the best harmonica in the world. As it was, however, it was a loser.

(There were many wonderful harmonicas, but bigger companies either bought them out or put them out of business by preventing stores from handling them.)

*Well, Stan, we don't remember the German importer's name either, but his company was "Worldwide Musical Instrument Co."*

*He had been seeking someone to write and design a small sales brochure for him. This was not long after we had written an instruction book for Hohner and someone at Hohner recommended us. We got the assignment, but probably forgot him deliberately, because he stiffed us on some of the money he owed...quite different from Hohner, who always treated us right; we still have some spare*

*reeds and springs and other odds and ends they gave us years ago.*

*The name of the harmonica was "Machino Tone". This had nothing to do with machinery; the inventor's name was T. Machino. Here are pictures of both the "Machino Tone" and the brochure we created for it.*

*As Stan says, it was a terrific concept...easy to blow, and quite loud. Also, as he says, there was*



*no slide to stick, or get "gummed up". Despite a preference for a 16-holer, your editor played the Machino for quite a while (using his middle finger on the lever), but it eventually sort of fell apart (the Machino, not the finger). It needed three combs...one between the reed plates, one above, and another below. The above and below combs were not made well, in our opinion, and they were very hard to repair--to make airtight—once they*

Below, two sides of the brochure



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## Confession, concluded

*of the Westwood Historical Society Scholarship Committee; Trustee of the Ramapo Motorcycle Club; Trustee of the James Picarella Educational Scholarship Trust since 1992; President of the Washington Township Columbian Club; Chair Officer, Trustee and Past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus since 1990; Former President of the Westwood Board of Health (nine years); Former Recording Secretary of the Westwood Republican Organization (three years); Former Financial Minister of St. Andrew's RC Church (twelve years); Former Trustee of the Thomas J. Riley Senior Center; Director and Former Vice President of the Ramapo Motorcycle Club; Former President of the Roxbury Condominium Association.*

*Somewhere between vocation and avocation, Bob also finds time for travel photography and*

*writing; his work has appeared as a Free Lance Writer and Photographer of Travel Articles for American Motorcyclist, Backroads, City Cycle Motorcycle News, Motorcycle Consumer News, Motorcycle Tour and Cruiser, Connecticut Rider, Northeast Rider, Road Rider, RoadBike, etc. And he has more awards, citations, and civic achievements than we can possibly detail here. But give us your email address, and we'll send you the whole thing in a plain wrapper.*

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## Lulov to teach

Shelly Lulov has agreed to write a quarterly column for Richard Martin's publication *Harmonica Educator*. This column will be structured as a series of seminars on "HOW TO PLAY THE CHORD HARMONICA". It will comprise a Basic Information course, an Intermediate course, an Advanced course, and a special course on Chord Solos.

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## A message from President Bob

A quick look at the mast head of this May *Reed* summarizes everything I planned to say. We needed volunteers to fill chair positions and step forward they did. It is particularly gratifying to me to have Tom Scerbo and Dottie Kuchar as Treasurer and Recording Secretary respectively. In the many organizations of which I am a part, finding qualified individuals for those two slots has always been the most difficult. Both require real work, unlike the President's job, who just has to show up and talk. Charlie Toker has agreed to backstop me as VP and he not only knows his way around the Club, he plays incredibly well, setting an example for me to shoot for.

On other fronts, the Monroe Heide and Lorraine Dienno Ensemble group mailings bore fruit and Henry Young has been busy with a flurry of bookings, thanks folks!

Tech Head and Audiologist Joe Dobish sets up and operates all the amplification equipment we need to be heard at meetings and Ensemble bookings. Thanks Joe; with your help the entire audience can hear my missed notes.

Steady Andy Menasian continues to get our issues of *The REED* into our hands in a timely fashion,

and of course, without Editor Dan Bauch Andy would have nothing to mail.

Shelly Lulov has the 2006 Festival arrangements down to a science, something he told me was helped by his years (20+?) in the catering business, so we are just waiting for the reservations to arrive and the Early Birds have already begun to mail in their checks! Don't procrastinate; we can only handle so many for the banquet at our 35<sup>th</sup> Festival.

Judy Toker, our reigning Hospitality Queen, has the refreshments for the meeting out like clockwork. Dora Bell and Isabelle Kool get gold stars for their baked goods too. And, as a reminder, broken cookies have no calories, so if you knock off a corner before you nosh, there is no waistline penalty.

The trouble with saying "Thank You" is that there is not enough room to mention everyone as generously as the assistance rendered. I did not mean to leave anyone out... but if I did, Blame Dan for limiting my space. He does have other articles to publish!

Bring a friend to the meetings! See you May 5<sup>th</sup>.

## May Birthdays

Monroe Heide  
Richard Davala  
Ellen Singer

Blossom Heide  
William Schmitter  
Joanne Bauch

Gerald Vanderpoel  
John Wehner  
Hank Graham

Mary Viola  
Ann Duffy  
Lisa Awad

## April Meeting Minutes

The April 7 meeting was opened by Victor Fabano installing Robert Hibler as president. The club played "God Bless America" and then observed a few minutes of silence to think about and honor our sick and deceased friends.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as written and our new president asked for a volunteer to be Treasurer.

Andrew Menasian reported that the club has 68 paid-up members. One new member is 11 years old.

It was reported that the club sent out flyers and that Bob Hibler talked to Maywood's mayor. There were two calls from eastern Bergen County in response to the flyer.

Judy Toker was thanked for her nice work, taking care of refreshments.

The president talked about a web site, now being set up, which will include a history and information

about the club. Henry Young, who handles bookings, said that there is a June gig in Lyndhurst. In May, the Ensemble will play in a Paramus church for some nursing home residents.

Shelly Lulov reported that the Festival plans are coming along. All entertainers are lined up. There will be the same number of entertainers as last year. Joe Dobish will take care of the sound system. The committee was given a projection of expenses.

REED editor Dan Bauch said there will be more about the club's new president in the next issue.\* He thanked Monroe Heide for getting the Harmonica Editor Rick Martin, and said that he appreciates news from members.

Victor Fabano suggested putting a note in *The REED*, reporting the names of those who might be sick or incapacitated and need a ride, to let the club know.

\*this issue, May

## Stan concluded

*disintegrated. Of course, Stan's point about the somewhat awkward button or lever is well taken, too. It was a whole new learning experience. But, as we stated above, Stan flew over it pretty darn well, no matter what he says now.*

*Today, with molded plastic combs and such, it might be possible to make such an instrument that would be really durable. With a button in the right place, it would be fantastic!*

*Incidentally, the Worldwide Musical Instrument Co. was located at 404 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., New York 16, New York, across the street from Hohner's old location at 351 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. (Note the nostalgic two-digit postal zone, dear REEDers. Today it's zip 10016, and real estate values on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. have been boosted by simply renaming it Park Ave. South.)*

The "Machino-Tone" with back housing removed, to show the "damper" and finger lever. Two springs (one is visible) hold the damper against the upper air outlets, thus letting the lower (C) row of reeds sound. Pressing the lever closes the lower outlets and opens the upper (Db) outlets.

