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Plans Made for 2008 North American Jew's Harp Festival

The 16th. Annual North American Jew's Harp Festival (NAJHF) will be held the weekend of August 1 at the Bay City Arts Center in Bay City Oregon (near Tillamook).

Many activities have been scheduled (see inside) including workshops on "Beginning Ukulele," "How To Make Your Own Washtub Bass," "How To Make Your Own Mouthbow," "Playing Jew's Harp With Other Instruments," "How to Play the Mouthbow" and "Electrifying Your Jew's Harp." On Saturday, a kids table will be in full swing with instruction and materials to make shakers, fridge magnets and Jew's harps.

Besides performances by well known Jew's harpists, we'll encourage audience participation with "Harp Circles" and jams. We'll even "take the show on the road" to a few local businesses within walking distance. The fine chefs from the Arts Center will provide dinner on Friday, and breakfast and dinner on Saturday.

We hope you will all make time to attend the Jew's Harp Guild meeting on Sunday morning.

Washtub Bass & Ukulele Workshop Needs

The prospective **washtub bass students should bring their own tub of choice**, Broom Handle of choice and an old sewing thread spool preferably wood and empty. I will supply the rest of the hardware and ask for \$10 donations to defray the costs if possible.

The ideal tub would be a new galvanized wash tub available at most hardware stores. They come in three sizes: No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3. No.1. being the smallest and No.3 the largest. Your choice, the larger the louder, the smaller easier to pack around. A five gallon plastic bucket will work, if that's what you want. Broomsticks are also available at the hardware store and are fairly inexpensive. Get one that feels good in your hand and is at least chin high. A shop broomstick is what I use. Your total cost should be less than \$40.00 (not including gas to get to Bay City).

We will have a few extra ukuleles with us, but it would be better if you brought your own. - Curtis 



**NAJHF 2008 Information Phone
503-322-9607**

**Lodging and Food Information:
Tillamook Chamber of Commerce
(503) 842-7525.**

Bay City has a campground across the street from the Arts Center, available on a first come first served basis. Contact the City of Bay City regarding this option.

A Word from the Executive Director



Velma Bilyeu at NAJHF 1997

JANET GOHRING
interim executive director

As we reported in the last PNP, Wayland Harman has been going through some rough times of late. Since he cannot actively keep up with the duties of Executive Director he has resigned this position. Janet Gohring has graciously stepped in until elections can be held later this year. We wish Wayland all the best. {ed.}

A Tribute to Velma Bilyeu

I recently received a note from Barbara Edmonds daughter of Tom and Velma Bilyeu: "This notice appeared in the Molalla paper. Mama had been having heart problems the last month or so. Her wish was granted and she died peacefully in her sleep when I was with her. I want to thank you for your friendship with my folks. They always loved seeing you and hearing about news of the Jew's Harp. Best to you ... Barbara"

< Bilyeu Jew's Harp



Velma was born on 5/12/15 and passed away 4/19/08 at the age of 92. For the past 25 years she has lived in Molalla on a few acres outside of town. When her husband, Tom, died in 1996, she moved to a mobile home park in town.

She worked almost all of her life, starting as a hired girl at age 12. After she graduated from High School in 1933, she married Tom Bilyeu.

In 1942 they moved to Milwaukee, where she worked in a tool factory, a plywood mill and finally at Precision Cast Parts. Her goal at Precision was to get as much overtime as possible so she could buy six acres on Feyrer Park Road. After they moved there, she helped Tom make and sell mouth harps. She loved baby sitting, greyhound racing, her cats, the Trailblazers and bluegrass festivals.

She is survived by her daughter Barbara, three granddaughters, seven great-grandchildren and two nephews.

We all will cherish our memories of Velma ... and Tom. They were certainly one-of-a-kind folks and both played a huge part in the promotion of the Jew's harp in America from the 1950's to present.

BACK BEAT

Editor's Notes

A New Format for Pluck-N-Post

Beginning with this issue of the Pluck-N-Post we will be experimenting with an all new PDF format, both in print and on the website. I hope this will facilitate the distribution of the newsletter to a larger group of enthusiasts.

This issue is lacking some of the regular features. We hope to continue with these in the future. The next issue will be the annual Festival double-issue.

You may not know that all past issues from January 1998 to the present are available on the JHG newsletter index page at:

<http://www.jewsharpguild.org/jhgnewsI.html>

I invite you to revisit these issues as well as print and distribute the new PDF format issues to come. As always we're looking for submissions for upcoming newsletters so PLEASE send me your articles, pictures, cartoons and any other items of interest. Email me at:

Newsletter@jewsharpguild.org

Thank you all for your participation.

Mark D. Poss - JHG Editor & Webmaster

PLUCK - N - POST

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Janet Gohring - Executive Director Pro-Tem, Secretary
Mark D. Poss - Editor, Pluck-N-Post & Webmaster

The Jew's Harp Guild is a non-profit organization under section 501C(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code of 1954.

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We're on the Web
www.jewsharpguild.org



ORGANICA EVAN FRASER

NEW CD

A Short Review by Mark D. Poss

ORIGANICA – Evan Fraser -
Evandronix Sonix (837101380966) 2007

To quote Evan's CD Baby notes:

"Evan Fraser is a multi-instrumentalist based in the United States. He received his BFA in World Music from California Institute of the Arts (CALARTS).

He is a teacher, composer, performer and recording artist. Evan believes in the power of cross cultural musical exchange to bring global peace and unity."

As the name implies this is a very organic instrumental CD in the World Music vein. Evan employs some natural sounds as backdrops for several of his compositions. Most of the prominent instruments are Jew's harp or Jew's harp- related (Kalimba, Mbira, Mouthbow). At least seven of the sixteen songs feature Jew's harps.

Evan is a skilled J-harpist and his use of multi-track recording yields layers of sound that in most cases does not cross the line of being too busy. The CD case features photos of his Jew's harp collection. All in all the "feel" of the CD is indeed organic, and quite relaxing.

As of this writing, only available via
cdbaby.com – US\$ 15.⁰⁰

<http://www.cdbaby.com/evanfraser>

Check out Evan's MySpace page:

<http://www.myspace.com/evanfraser>



Bulletin Board

From: J. Smith in Dillsburg, PA

My Dad is 81 years old and plays a Jew's harp with a group from his church. They go many different places in the area. He has over 20 Jew's harps. Several have the Smith imprint, and we just found out the first 2 initials, and was able to find this site. He loves playing, and many of the people in the nursing homes look forward to hearing him play. I have gotten quite an education lately on this instrument. I don't know how to play it, so he may be the last in the family. But he does enjoy it. He also plays the harmonica. I was able to get several Jew's harps on ebay, and he is thrilled.



Question? Answers? Write to:
Mark D. Poss – 33044 Gypsum St.
Menifee, CA 92584-8274 – or use
the JHG feedback form or Email
me: newsletter@jewsharpguild.org

Please help me to identify this Jew's harp & its age

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Hello,

Any information you may know on this Jew's harp would mean a lot to our family. Please reply: angelo.diaz@juno.com
Angel & Bonnie Diaz



Identify this Jew's harp

IJHS NEWSLETTER NEEDS

June 2008

I now need items for the next [IJHS] newsletter, which I suspect will be mainly up & coming events, though if you have any news, comments, travels or guests passing through, let me know – and you know I like pictures. I'm also getting notice of new CDs, so am interested in any recently or about to be released or, even, about to be recorded.

I would like to think I can turn the next issue around in a few weeks, but it really depends on what you send, so please give it a few minutes thought and send your items to michael.wright@wiley.com or michael@jewsharper.info.

Thanks & regards,
Michael Wright

General Secretary IJHS



NAJHF 2008 Schedule of Events

Friday August 1st

10.00-12.00pm Festival set-up (Raffle tables, signs, sound, stage...)

1.00-2.00pm Meet and Greet - Beer, wine, snacks (maybe some big screen surprises)

1.30pm Harp circle - All harpers present create a big circle and call upon the energies of peace, love and spontaneous abandon

2.00-2.45pm Workshop: Beginning Ukelele by Nicki

2.45-3.30pm Workshop: How to make your own washtub bass by Curtis Chamberlain

Workshop: How to make your own mouthbow by John Palmes
Unusual instrument presentation and demonstration - Performers at this time in a casual setting demonstrate their instruments to the public and make connections for evenings performance.

5.00-7.00pm DINNER available from Bay City Arts.

7.00-8.00pm Harpists Hall of Fame - Individual harpist from the crowd will get up and give their testament and conversion to the Jew's Harp and briefly show their stuff

8.00-9.00pm Unusual instrument performances

9.00-10.00pm More performances
Dueling Jew's harps
"Specific jams" occur at this time like the [All wood, plastic, metal, bamboo, glass JAMS]

10.00pm+ Art Space Jamboree (at the local Artspace restaurant across town)



Saturday August 2nd

9.00-10.30am Breakfast by Bay City Arts Center

10.00am Harpers meet and greet at the Arts Center

10.15am Morning harp circle forms - The harp circle is a focused get together where all harpers available will create a large circle and play for 5 minutes as a group to start the Sat. Fest
Group photo

10.30am Toast and jam - Morning jam

Sign up for evening performances and band scramble

11.00-11.45am Workshop: Playing with other instruments by Gordon Frasier

Brown bag LUNCH

12.00pm Vending booth opens with a vengeance (don't miss this) This event preempts anything else
Kids table: Make your own shakers

1.00-1.45pm Workshop: Beginner Jew's harp
Kids table: Make fridge magnets with Jim Nelson

2.00-2.45pm Workshop: How to play the Mouthbow with John Palmes
Kids table: Make your own Jew's harps

2.45-3.30pm Workshop: Electrifying your Jew's harp by Ralph

3.30-4.30pm Band scramble groups posted and practice time

4.30-5.30pm Band scramble

6.00-7.30pm DINNER by Bay City Arts Center

7.30-10.00pm Headliners (each take a half an hour) and special guests - Best of the dueling Jew's harps
The frisky women jam session

10.00pm + Art Space (Restaurant open again for jamming)

Dance at the Landing Bar with Curtis Chamberlain and his band.



Mouthbow Workshops with John Palmes



Bay City Arts Center

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HARP
GUILD
MEETING

SUNDAY
10 AM



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For list and information:

**Lindsay Porteous
Tron House Culross, Fife,
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Phone: ++01383-880271**

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The Jew's Harp Guild

CLOTHING

Specify Style, size and quantity when ordering. Price plus shipping (within the United States: Add \$3; Canada add \$4; All other countries add \$6). All prices in US dollars.

5 - Original Guild T Shirts (no quote by Huey P. Long)
\$15

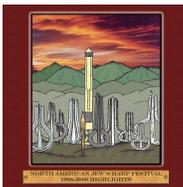
Festival T-Shirts Special \$10 each

2003 Fest T's (light blue with red octopus) - 5
2005 Fests T's (shell and harp) - 2tan Youth L,
3 M light green adult, 6 L light green adult
2006 Fest T's (beige with brown harp collection)
3 XL, 1M

RECORDINGS

Only \$12 plus shipping (within the United States: Add \$3; Outside the US add \$5). All prices in US dollars.

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Festival 1998 - 2000 Highlights**



"Twenty-two samples from three years of the NAJHF are as diverse as anyone could imagine. There are a passel of world-class players; wonderful solo improvisations; compelling duets; tradition; frivolity."

- Fred Crane, PNP 2003



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