



Focus on JHG News and Issues

Janet Gohring — JHG Executive Director

Hello Jew's harp friends,

2003 looks like it will be a very good year for the Jew's harp, lots of exciting things happening. I'm so glad YOU are part of making it happen.

GUILD MEMBERSHIP

New Guild members are signing up in greater numbers than ever before. I'm sure this is due, in part, to the Norway Congress last fall ... plus we're getting quite a few new members from our website.. So, a great big welcome to all those who are just joining us. Please share with us your Jew's harp experiences, techniques, photos or ideas. We're always looking for newsletter contributions and would welcome your input.

I also want to give a big thanks to all of you who have renewed your Guild membership for this year. Your continuing enthusiasm is wonderful!

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, there will be a renewal form enclosed with this newsletter. You will not receive any further notices.

Through your interest and support, the Guild can continue to be effective at spreading the word about our favorite little instrument!

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NAJHF 2003

We WILL be having a festival this summer. Tentative dates are August 16 & 17. Remember, the festival will be for Jew's harp players (and their families & friends). The format will be a casual music camp- out with impromptu jamming and performances.

We need to decide on the location and we'd like to have some input from those who plan to attend. [see 2003 NAJH FESTIVAL LOCATION article in this newsletter]. Once a final decision has been made, we'll mail out a flyer with all the details. This flyer will go to all Guild members, recent past festival Jew's harp performers, and any new people who write for information.

NAJHF 1998-2000 Highlights CD

Have you listened to the new festival CD yet? We've shipped out quite a few lately and are getting lots of good input. Guild member, Adam Schutzman from Maine, had this to say, "I just received [the CD] in the mail and I'm blown away by the beauty of these recordings! Its so exciting to hear others rocking out on the harp! Thanks for all the amazing music/ inspiration!" And thank you, Adam, for sharing your enthusiasm with us.

2003 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following officers were re-elected: Janet Gohring, Executive Director; Kathi Vinson, Secretary/Treasurer; Board Members: Bill Gohring, Gordon Frazier, Larry Hanks, Denise Harrington, Mike Stiles. (Curtis Chamberlain received one write-in vote.)

If you are interested in becoming a board member, or would like to nominate someone as board member, please let me know before November 15th so we can be sure the name is on the ballot for next year.

Thanks to everyone who sent in their ballots. It was nice to see the ballot included with most of the membership renewal forms I received.



**ANNOUNCING THE
INTERNATIONAL
JEW'S HARP
SOCIETY**

A note from
Janet Gohring

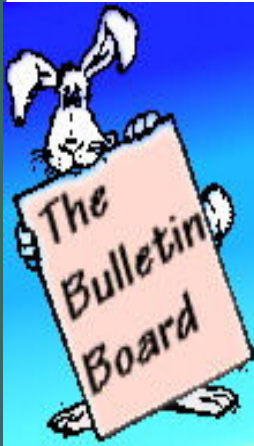
INTERNATIONAL JEW'S HARP SOCIETY

We're very happy to announce the formation of the IJHS. They are now accepting membership. I encourage all of you to join and help support this world-wide effort to "bring together people with any kind of interest in the Jew's harp, to exchange and disseminate information on the instrument in past and present, to support national activities, to coordinate global activities, and to generally promote the instrument."

For a membership application, write or email us (here at the Guild) and we'll send you a copy of their first official newsletter and a membership application form.

I am very honored to be elected as one of the Board members.

Officers are Franz Kumpl (Austria), President; Fred Crane (USA), Honorary President; Tadagawa Leo (Japan), Secretary/Treasurer and the following members at large: Gerd Conradt (Germany), Janet Gohring (USA); Yedil Khuseinov (Kazakhstan); Spiridon Shishigin (Sakha); Valentina Suzukei (Tuva); Tran Quang Hai (Vietnam/ France); Ivan Alexeyev (Sakha); Manfred Russman (Austria); Rimma Madvarova (Kyrgyzstan); Svein Westad (Norway); Robert Zagretdinov (Bashkortostan); Phons Bakx (The Netherlands); Anton Bruhin (Switzerland); and Anon Egeland (Norway).



POST
YOUR

Send Notes to:

The Jew's Harp Guild
508 2nd St.
Cove, OR 97824

email:
info@jewsharguild.org

Use the
Feedback Form:
www.jewsharguild.org

(1) I am the author of a book scheduled for Fall 2004 publication, about radio and TV creator, film maker, book author, Jean Shepherd, who often played the jew's harp on his radio program (1955-1977). Sometimes he would refer to it as his "hagantwanger." I am interested in finding out if he made up this word, or got it from somewhere. A West Coast performer named Hagan played a "HAGANTWANGER" but it looks nothing like a jew's harp in the photos, is about the size of a football, and seems to be strummed by holding it at the waist. I'd appreciate any information you might have.

Eugene Bergmann — ebbergmann@aol.com

(2) I'm hoping to find someone who collects old jew's harps. I have a small collection that I've acquired over the past 16 years. There are 22 jew's harps ranging in size from 2¼" long X 1½" wide to 4d" long X 3d" wide. 15 are stamped either ENGLAND or MADE IN ENGLAND, one is stamped RICH U.S.A., and 6 have no apparent markings. They come in a variety of shapes. I can send photocopies if someone is interested in purchasing the entire collection. I'm asking \$450 postpaid. I have been playing the jew's harp for over 30 years as a historical interpreter with the National Park Service. As a participant in many archeological projects at NPS historic sites, we found remains of jew's harps at frontier military forts, fur trading posts and mining towns. Bill Henry, 14872 Fine Drive—Grass Valley, CA 95949

(3) Congratulations with this interesting web site! My name is Martin Smith and I am working as a research assistant at the University of Trondheim, Norway. These days I am trying to construct a comprehensive bibliography including literature/sources on Jew's harps, as part of a preparatory research project on Jew's harps initiated by Professor Ola Kai Ledang. I therefore wonder if the Jew's harp Guild might have a literature list that you would be willing to share with me. If so, please send it by e-mail to: marsmi@online.no . Thank you.

(4) Hello all Friends of this little Thing! In Order to give you a new, comfortable "home" I just made a Forum for Jewsharps - www.jewsharpforum.de.vu - Please have a look at this and let me know what kind of Areas you want and what else you may miss. Please support me and subscribe to Jewsharpforum!
Thanks Frank Kolb www.khomus.de



6 J-Harpist — NAJHF 2000

2003 NAJH FESTIVAL LOCATION?

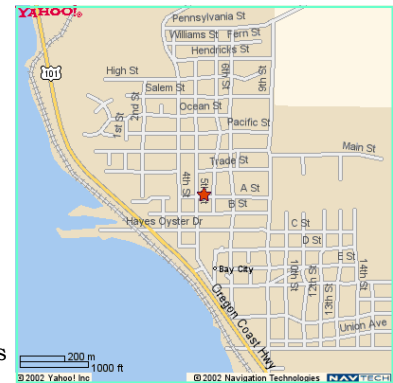
Janet Gohring — JHG Executive Director

In the last newsletter I asked for suggestions on a festival site for this year. I have received only one other suggestion in addition to my original thought of using one of the three State Parks here in eastern Oregon. I would like to ask for input from those who plan to attend ... where would YOU like to have it? I'm enclosing a questionnaire with this newsletter and ask you to send it back to me as soon as possible. We will have a Guild meeting in mid-April to make a final decision and I'd like to have your comments by that time.

The Thought

Eastern Oregon State Parks: The Jew's Harp Guild would pay for all camping fees. All three of these have "primitive" camp sites with water nearby. None have public shower facilities so we'd have to bring our "solar showers". If the festival is held at one of the State Parks, we will not have a main stage or sound system.

- (1) Denise Harrington, JHG Board Member, has offered the **Bay City Arts Center in Tillamook, Oregon** (on the Oregon Coast). She says, "The Arts Center has offered this for free. It's a two story old Masonic Lodge with bathrooms and a large kitchen. There is a stage and we would probably have some sort of limited sound system (depending on volunteers). There is a city-run campground across the street and we could probably get it reserved for us to use that weekend. The building also has an adjacent lot we could use for camping. Some people could sleep or play all night indoors. The only limits are keeping the noise down after 10:00 pm. They also have a pancake breakfast the 3rd Sunday of every month, so that might work out well for us.
- (2) **Catherine Creek State Park** - 8 miles SE of Union, Oregon on highway 203. A pleasantly scenic area with the Wallowa Mountain peaks of the Eagle Cap Wilderness area forming a backdrop. Sparkling Catherine Creek offers a refreshing, peaceful setting. Parking at all sites (can accommodate self-contained RV's). Restrooms with flush toilets. Firewood for sale. Horse-shoe pits. 1.5 mile hiking trail. (continued on page 4)



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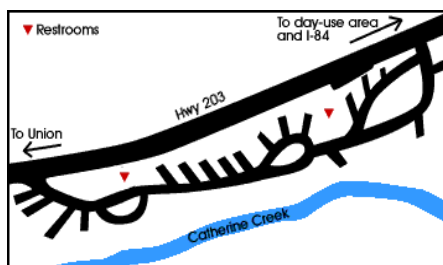
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North American Jew's Harp Festival 1998-2000 Highlights CD

22 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.—Crane, PNP2003

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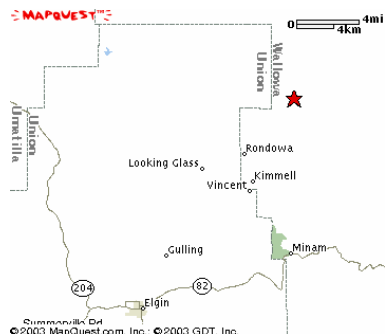
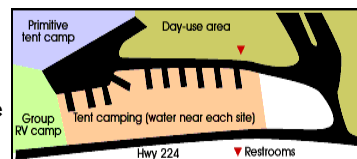
Catherine Creek State Park



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- (3) **Red Bridge State Wayside** - 16 miles SW of LaGrande, Oregon on highway 244. Has a forested river setting and is nice and shady. The river runs through the park so there's good fishing. This is about 5 miles west of the junction of Hwy. 244 and I-84 (easy access from the freeway). This also has sites for self-contained RV's as well as a group RV camp. Firewood for sale. Restrooms with flush toilets. Horseshoe pits.

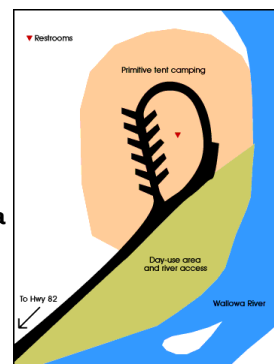
Red Bridge State Wayside



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- (4) **Minam State Recreation Area** - off Hwy 82, 15 miles NE of Elgin, Oregon. On the Wallowa River State Scenic Waterway between the Blue and Wallowa Mountains. Picnic area with fire pits. Vault toilet facilities. River rafting access. Trails for fishermen.

Minam State Recreation Area



I look forward to receiving your comments and thank you in advance for your input. - Janet Gohring

Pictorial Archive—Harps by Holland's Steven Stoop Oct. '02



CD Reviews by Frederick Crane

Crystal Records CIRD 1052-2 (1995). Lifok, Fancilay Sa'aniwan-Datok. It really pleases me to see a record of this kind. The player is Lifok, a man of the Amis minority of Taiwan, who live mostly in the eastern lowlands. He plays 26 short pieces on the datok, a traditional bamboo trumpet with a bamboo tongue lashed to its frame. A cord runs from the end of the datok through its protective bamboo case; the player's left hand holds the case, while the right hand pulls on a cord on the other end to set the tongue in vibration. This compilation appears to represent a precious legacy; Tadagawa Leo thinks Lifok may be "the last keeper of the Jew's harp tradition of the Amis." I take the tunes to be traditional. Leo translated their mostly programmatic titles for me: "Practicing Tune," "Amis Dance Tune," "He Has Come," "Sea Wave," "Moonlit Night," etc. The lively music has for me a distinct charm. Its pentatonic scale is a bit unexpected from a trumpet. The notes are in Amis and Taiwan Chinese. Probably out of print.



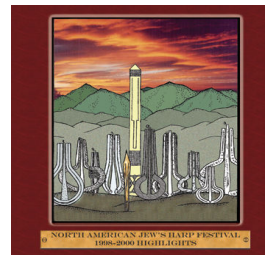
Dandelion Records DL-101 (2002). Larry Hanks, Tying a Knot in the Devil's Tail. It's nice to have Larry's 1982 LP reissued on CD. It has only two trumpet tracks, with four traditional tunes, but they already show his technical and expressive mastery of the instrument. Larry has a voice

that cuts right through to the listener; his other ten tracks feature his singing and his classical-style guitar. The whole is a microcosm of American history, as Larry says, "with the feeling and spirit alive and intact, still fresh for us to relive and understand." Order from Dandelion Records, 2740 Prince St., Berkeley, CA 94705, or from larry@larryhanks.net.

Wergo Spectrum SM 1608-2/281608-2 (1995). Masters of Raga: L. Subramanian, Shree Priya. The solo violinist is accompanied by the drum mridangam and the string drone tanpura, and in addition by the tambourine kanjeera and the trumpet morsingh, the last two played alternately by R. Yogaraj. The performance is a complete 69-minute Karnataka ragam-tanam-pallavi. The initial rhythmically free section, and the second, which introduces a rhythmic pulse, lack the rhythm instruments. But the morsingh is prominent throughout most of the third section. Notable are: an interesting 2 1/2-minute morsingh solo, an extensive "question-and-answer" between the mridangam and morsingh, and a following duet; and more. An excellent example of South Indian trumpeting. Order from Postma/Paclax, Breestraat 16, NL-4381HX Vlissingen, The Netherlands (e-mail: paclax@zeelandnet.nl).

The Jew's Harp Guild/Mouth Music Press DBS-2707 (2002). North American Jew's Harp Festival 1998-2000 Highlights.

Buy this one! Diversity has characterized all the trumpet festivals, as if to prove over and over that this supersimple instrument has quasiinfinite possibilities. And these 22 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. Order from The Jew's Harp Guild, 508 2nd Street, Cove, OR 97824, U.S.A. (www.jewsharpguild.org), or Mouth Music Press, PO Box 6444, Boise, ID 83707, U.S.A. (www.mouthmusic.com).



Sylvartun Folkemusikk SYLVCD 4 (1990). Torleiv H. Bjørgum and Hallvard T. Bjørgum, Fire of the Amazons (Skjoldmøyslaget): Legendary Music of Norway. Norwegian-language version: SYLVCD 2 (1990). Skjoldmøyslaget. 29 tracks, 16 of them played on the Hardanger fiddle by Hallvard T. Bjørgum, six on the munnharpe by Torleiv H. Bjørgum, two by the latter on the Hardanger fiddle, and four on the ordinary fiddle (there is also a six-second track on which Torleiv sings the first phrase of the following munnharpe tune). Torleiv H. Bjørgum (1921-1990) devoted his life to maintaining the musical and other traditions of Setesdal, Norway. His son Hallvard T. Bjørgum (b. 1956) carries on the work. This CD is an entertainment, but also a work of scholarship, with detailed notes on the sources of each tune, in the 36-page booklet. Hallvard is a noted performer on the Hardanger fiddle; his selections on this record are memorable. Torleiv's 7 1/2 minutes of munnharpe make the record a valuable addition to the collection of any faithful fan of the trumpet. Most of the tunes feature those rhythms so elusively contradicting the stomped beat as to bewilder the non-Norwegian ear. Order from Sylvartun Folkemusikk, Nomeland, N-4748 Rysstad, Norway (e-mail: hal-bjoe@online.no), or Postma/Paclax.

Sylvartun Folkemusikk SYLVCD 8 (2002). Torleiv H. Bjørgum, Bjørgumspel Vol 1: Farkadden (2002). 42 tracks performed by Torleiv H. Bjørgum, mostly on the Hardanger fiddle, ordinary fiddle, and voice, but including ten munnharpe tracks with a total duration of ten minutes. The munnharpe performances are comparable to those on SYLVCD 4. With a much-illustrated 36-page booklet. I have not seen SYLVCD 1, Klunkaren, or SYLVCD 2, Dolkaren, but both feature Torleiv H. Bjørgum, and may well have more trumpeting. Order from Sylvartun Folkemusikk.

PLUCK-N-POST

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