Rounds Party on Oct 18 2019 to honor our Founder, Sol Weber (1933-2019)
Audio recording located at http://youtu.be/b4po_NFZ220

- [0:21] **START**: Make New Friends

- [1:30] Tonight it's our honor & privilege to pay tribute to our dear friend Sol Weber
We'll recount his humor, inclusivity, generosity, musicality, as Ambassador of Music par excellence.

Will share stories (many provided by you and others who've sung with our group), jokes and of course lots of singing.
We have rounds arranged by Sol, parodied by Sol, loved by Sol, and most specially, written to honor Sol. We've planned a lot for this evening. Our hope is to get to most of it, so I'll try to move each section along efficiently.

- [2:29] **FIRST** parody:
Make new bread, but keep the old
You can always cut away the mold

- [2:55] **BEGIN**: [SHOWN] Sol often started with this simple round

- **INTRO**: How many from NY / NJ / PA / elsewhere [where]
Who is new? Who come for <1 yr, abt 5 yrs, 10 yrs, 20, 30 more ...

* **Many have sugg'd other songs** to honor Sol - hope to use those also

- [7:11] **ORGANIZED** this evening to illustrate Sol's
* Cleverness and originality
* Humor
* Accomplishments
* Compassion

* **Plus, your tributes** and stories
Had accolades from CA and AZ to VT, ME, VA and FL ...
Will distributed these throughout evening [Just extracts]

- **SING ROUNDs COMPOSED TO HONOR SOL**

- [26:42] **CLEVERNESS**
* **Puzzles**
Loved puzzles: hardware (bent nail), logic (lightswitches), graphic (what do these figures mean, what's the next in seq), math, magic squares: In RG, [SHOWN] square for Seeger's 75th, games & flip books (gave away in past sings)

* **Story to solve nail puzzle**
Clever descriptions: illuminated solutions creating a clever narrative; To describe solution for nail puzzle:
turn the Enterprise towards the rest of the universe, sink into the wormhole, come up the other side.

* **Unique notations**
[SHOWN] Posterized GPS parody (up a whole or half step, down a minor 3rd, etc)

* [37:14] **Silent night -> Amazing Grace**
Christine Lavin organized evening to support the Bottom Line. We sang with her and a grp called the Accidentals.
Christine charged everyone: create song based on Silent Night. Sol: Silent Night doesn't work; he realizes
you can turn Amazing Grace into a round. We were astounded.

- **HUMOR**

* [41:13] **T-shirts**

Clever humor, famous for his t-shirts:
I am in shape: Round is a shape
Singing a round is safer than sleeping around
Sadist: a Masochist who follows the Golden Rule
You are the product of 4 million years of evolutionary success. ACT LIKE IT!
OY! To the world
Memory is the second thing to go. I forget what the first thing is.
HARVARD. Now that I have your attention, I went to CCNY (City College)
Cohen the Barbarian: Available for Pillage and Bar Mitzvahs
My Body Is Not A Temple. It's An Amusement Park
Einstein's theory for musicians: E=Fb
This sentense contains three erors

Several (at the ones about rounds) he made up himself

* [57:04] **License plate**

Roundman - wish we had a picture

* [57:16] **Witty/Wry humor**

"Bills aren't souvenirs, they're for making change"
"Hold the paper up, it's very light"
"We've been singing for 25 years. We'll keep doing it until we learn to like it."

Humor, even in nursing home:
After his stroke, couldn't open his eyes, couldn't speak. But able to write a little: even without opening his eyes, soon after stroke he very clearly wrote the word BEER.

Button missing on the remote: The one that would Fast Forward through the rest of the election process.

At the nursing home, the recreation leaders loved him and he enjoyed telling wisecracks to the nurses and other staff he interacts with.

Paul Kaplan was watching TV with Sol, there was a reference to "leading us into nuclear war." Sol asked abt that; Paul explained war of words with North Korea. Later got to talking abt the confederate statues coming down. Sol asked where they are being taken. Paul said no one knows, once they're removed is a problem. Sol said "We should shoot them at North Korea."

"It's a sin to waste prune juice. Think of all the constipated children in Africa."

* **Corny humor**

[1:18:52] Spanking nuns story

- **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

[2:08:29]* **RG, Unoff, Sightsinging**, …
RG: Thousands of ppl around the world
Wrote "Unified Field Theory" a humorous micro-oratorio in gospel style.

* **Accomplished** dancer ECD (Eng Country Dance), even choreo'd a few; Active participant for many years in NY's Christmas Revels. A natural performer

* **Neffa sessions**

Description:
"Johnny Appleseed' of round singing (plus gospel). Collecting/singing/leading. .... more on next page ...

Sessions led:
Easy 4 part Gospel, Gospel Jam, Shape Note singing, Elegant Rounds, Rounds Swap, Rounds Singing Jam

* **Festivals** / [SHOWN] Posterboard / Started this group late 70s
Led singing workshops at festivals and clubs all over the East Coast: [NY unless noted]
Country Dance and Song Society weekends, Clearwater Revival, Old Songs, Neffa (MA) [virtually every yr since 1990], Nomad (CT), Pinewoods (MA), Heritage Festival (PA), Dance Flurry, People's Music Network (NY,CT,MA), Long Isl Univ Folkfest, Victoria's Revenge Dancefest (NJ), Beacon Sloop Club, Fast Folk Cafe, People's Voice Cafe, Cornelia St Cafe, Swarthmore College (PA), and many more. Even several years at Seattle's Northwest Folklife Festival (WA).

[SHOWN] Of course, made huge posterboards for words at festivals.

This group: In late 70s, started tradition of rounds sing parties "in living rooms across NYC" as one article put it.
Written up in *New York Magazine* and filmed by *CNN*.

* **Inspirations**: Nursery rhymes to G&S and classical music. Will see that many times tonight.

* **Connection with famous folk**
Connections with famous singers: Pete Seeger, Christine Lavin, Issachar Miron ("Tzena"), Jean Ritchie, Peter Schickele, Emily Kingsley, many many others. He put us 4 in contact with so many ppl we could never have imagined knowing.

- **COMPASSION**
* **Generosity & promotion**
Credits everyone on his slips ("XYZ Learned from ...")
Bought people's CDs and promoted them to others. Krumm's books, Joanne Hammil's CDs, Pass It Around, Sing Out ...
Of course CDs that Evy produced. But not just rounds: My 300 Ways book, multiple copies of other CDs and books that he'd encourage people to buy.

- **CONTRIB's/FINAL RESTING SPOT/TIMELINE**
* Sol was a regular at CDSS events, we are suggesting contribution in his memory to Country Dance and Song Society, 116 Pleasant St., Suite 345, Easthampton, MA 01027, or another cause of your choice.

* "There's a place on the property of where the cremation took place. They put Sol's ashes in the ground and will plant a tree and put a plank on the ground with Sol's name." This was done the day after he died.

* Sol had a serious stroke on Aug 12, 2015, was in a nursing home in Greenfield MA. (He was visiting his girlfriend, Martha Davey, at the time. She set up him in a home there, and a year later [sometime in 2016] she died of cancer.)
Sol died June 27, 2019 [one day after his 85½ birthday].

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From American Center for Elemental Music and Movement (ACEMM) article about Sol (July 10, 2018):
acemm.us/2018/07/summer-spotlight-sol-weber

A Bronx High School of Science grad, Sol Weber's early career was in electronics engineering, but everyone who now knows him thinks only of singing workshops.

He's been called the "Johnny Appleseed of round singing", the "World's foremost collector of Rounds", and "Roundman". He had a steady correspondence with rounds creators and collectors all over the world. At rounds sessions, Sol always brought a huge sack of manila envelopes, each stuffed with dozens of copies of rounds, one round per slip of paper. One rounds session was featured on a short segment on CNN.

- **BEFORE BREAK**

* **Many suggestions** - will do Seeger's To My Old Brown Earth [3:15:27], Mick Ryan's "The Song Goes On" [3:19:55] and more after break
* [1:38:43] Corny humor (a couple items from his jokes file)
* [SHOWN] Danny Boy
* [1:41:38] Halloween Rounds: Pumpkin Pumpkin on the Ground/Ghost & Goblins/3 Black Cats
* [1:45:59] Dean Koga tributes – Dean, a restoration architect and long-time rounds singer, died suddenly at the end of August
* Next rounds date: Nov 8
* One more "nice" round (was a goofy one)

- **TO END BREAK (RETURNING)**

* [1:50:17] Parody of The Gypsy Davey (about Sol and Martha) by Amherst's Paul Kaplan paulkaplanmusic@gmail.com
  Martha really loved him. Kept him company entire day in nursing home, even while battling her own cancer; her posts were always filled with love, appreciation and kindness
* [1:52:30] Sol's singing tribute to a newly married couple at Pinewoods: youtu.be/aP-dfIA284s
* [1:53:46] Sol at Neffa funny song swap 2007 snippet: (old macdonald/ myrtle the turtle)

- **SILLY PARODIES AND SING ALONGS**

[1:56:40] Parody of "They tried to tell us we're too young":
They tried to sell us egg foo yung.
Sunrise sunset:
This is the little boy I carried. That is the little girl I dropped.
[SHOWN] Somewhere:
There's a Ponzi scheme, a get-rich-quickly dream. Give me 5 and I'll make it 10, BUT you'll never see it again.
No how. No way. No where.

- Stay to end of evening: will play vids of Sol at NEFFA song swap and more

* **Mention**: Sol often used Frere Jacques (major/minor), 3 blind mice for his parodies. Example:
Watermelon (2x), See how it drips, Up and down your elbows, Spit out the pits.
Pay your taxes ...

- **REMAINING ROUNDS & TRIBUTES**

- **NEAR END**

* [1:53:46] Sol at Neffa funny song swap 2007 [Joel Landy]
  youtu.be/WUVtrraJipA?t=788 (old macdonald/Ponzi scheme/sunrise sunset/myrtle the turtle)
  youtu.be/dvwxoC455C0 (dog named stay/the bear missed the train)
* [3:00:27] Bec of close connection to Seeger: Seeger's "To my old brown earth" [suggested by Kristin Bergfeld]
  youtu.be/H4YwKPOgz5o
* [3:04:55] Mick Ryan's "The Song Goes On," honoring Cyril Tawney [suggested by Larry Denenberg]

youtu.be/wNCR6NR00pU

- **ORDER**

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- **ROUNDS WRITTEN TO HONOR SOL** [underline=Led by]

2 [9:23] Sol (Joanne Hammill)
3 [13:30] Solar Round (Martha Sullivan)
4 [17:46] For Sol - John Hetland
5 [30:11] A Round For Sol Weber (Elliot Levine)
6 [59:57] Sol – John Krumm
7 [1:07:00] Sol Weber (Bob Blue)
8 [1:11:20] Sun is round - Barbara Rosen
9 [1:26:19] To Sol - John Hetland
10 [1:31:53] We Will Remember Sol - Nancy Silber
11 [2:08:04] Song Weaver (John Krumm)
12 [2:28:28] I'm a cake - John Hetland [from notes on Sol's B'day cake]

- **ROUNDS ARRANGED or LOVED BY SOL**

#1 [38:27] Clearwater Round/Good Pizza Pie - Evy Mayer
#1 [42:59] Little Jack Horner - David Tarlo
#1 [46:11] Night Winds Blow
#1 [52:38] Rose Rose/ [54:55] Music Appreciation/Packrat's Lament [Sara Ruderman]
#2 [1:20:45] Bizet's Canon
#1 [1:47:29] Benji/Lucy - Evy
#3 [1:59:00] Tallis Round - Sara
#2 [2:04:08] R2D2 - Evy
#2 [2:22:33] French Cathedrals - Evy
#3 [2:34:08] Visions of Children (Sol's Beethoven round)

ALPHA LIST

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