

# PERFORMERS AT BAYFEST 2001

l opening day at Coney  
the Parks Dept., the NY  
Z. His songs include the  
Opens Up Today," "The  
lar Bear." Wengler has  
ew York, Let's Clean Up  
one of Mayor Giuliani's  
cond year Amos will be  
ad Bay.

## son

t, accordionist and gui-  
(music and lyrics). Born  
ormed with many well-  
ssical musicians. They  
ca Bodega Simonseven  
ed in the film council in  
tisements for IKEA and  
y times on various eth-  
unctions including per-  
e Inc., Music under NY  
an be contacted at 718-

isation, DEEP, features  
been friends since their  
Today School, in Park  
ough they each partici-  
together until they were  
of local attention from  
hey approached produc-  
of the Kid's Music  
y rehearsed a song dili-  
at grew into the record-  
ntire life. From the choir  
choir at M.S.51, he has

## Gene T. Ritter

Gene T. Ritter is a commercial and historical diver, who, for the past thirty years, has been studying marine life, environmental conditions, and changes—while discovering historical artifacts of our country's past. A proud member of his union, Local 1456 (divers, pile drivers, and dock builders), he contributes to the building and rebuilding of the infrastructures and foundations of New York's shorelines. Working the New York waterfront often involves diving into the brackish waters of the Hudson and East Rivers. When asked what it's like to work under such harsh conditions, Gene simply laughs, "Someone's gotta do it." Still, it's obvious that he loves what he does. While Gene is passionate about his work, he's also passionate about history, and has been featured in prime time newscasts such as NBC, CBS, and ABC, for his historical dives and underwater findings. He's often appeared in Brooklyn's Bay News, and has been the subject of featured articles in the New York Times, and trade magazines. Among his underwater discoveries are the remnants of Fort Lafayette, a civil war confederate prison. Gene found the sunken island with the fort, built by Robert E. Lee, underneath the Verrazano Bridge. Exploring a different area, he found a lost submarine, originally built to dive the ill-fated Andrea Doria. Another find, the remains of the 150-year-old Dreamland Pier in Coney Island, has provided many fascinating links to our past: the pilings that exist from the original structure, surrounded by various artifacts from the elegant dining room, including silverware, plates, and beer mugs. On many occasions, Gene has brought these and other artifacts into schools, in an effort to impart his passion for history to students. Brooklyn Borough President Howard Golden awarded him with a citation for his Outstanding Contributions to the Preservation of Brooklyn's History.

For Bayfest 2001, Gene will do the traditional plunge into the bay. Using high-tech cameras made by Sartek Industries, that can "see" in the dark, he'll record his live exploration, and broadcast it to the surface. Veteran diver

Lenny Speregen will be participating in surface air supply operations and communications. Come by and meet Lenny. He'll tell you about his career in diving, safety diving, stunt diving, and stunt acting. He has a wealth of knowledge, and is always very happy to share it. Special guests Bob Rusnak and Jim Boyd, of the Historical Diving Society, will be bringing historical diving equipment to view and photograph. Get a close look at some "Men of Honor" Mark V Navy diving suits, and other fascinating, vintage diving equipment. Gene can be contacted at 718-454-1617.



Gene Ritter dives the "Men of Honor" U.S. Navy Mark V