

From Occoquan to the WAMMIES

Duo Hits it Big

The Coffeehouse of Occoquan has the reputation of being one of the best listening rooms in the area and host of a wide array of local talent. Its owner, Linda Cauldwell, is equally welcoming to both seasoned and fledgling talent and it appears that one of the dynamic duos has taken flight.

On a Sunday night last month at the State Theater in Falls Church, VA, The Braeded Chord was awarded a Washington Area Musicians Association Award for Best Gospel/Inspirational Group of 2006. This marks the second year in a row that local duo, has been nominated for a WAMMIE honor by its music peers. The WAMMIES are the Washington Area Music Association's local version of the GRAMMYS. Bob Schieffer, CBS newsman, who calls himself a "fledgling songwriter," hosted this year's ceremonies.

The Braeded Chord, consisting of Sharon Dennis, guitarist, and Doris Au MacDonald, keyboardist, is a performing songwriting duo whose compositions are a mixture of folk-rock-gospel-blues. They are both mothers of teen-agers and young adults, married to men with successful careers, and had their own careers before becoming full-time moms turned musicians.

"This is indeed a great honor to be recognized by our fellow musicians," says Doris Au MacDonald, keyboardist of The Braeded Chord. "We were surrounded by all of these great musicians, and we couldn't believe it when they called our names!"

"They won, not only for what they do, but how they do it," remarked Ron Goad, long-time Songwriters Association



of Washington board member. "I am so happy to know that judges do make good decisions!" Ron first heard Sharon Dennis and Doris Au MacDonald performing at The Coffeehouse of Occoquan in 2003, early in the duo's history, and says, "I feel lucky to have met (them) that night. I was struck by their personal demeanor, so relaxed and charming." He was particularly impressed with their original songs that "displayed their creative and expressive essence... (and) how strong (their) values are despite the hardships of life."

Their latest CD release is "Radio Lane," which followed two other recordings, "Dream and Dare" and "Beyond What I Can See." They serve as the worship leaders for Church of the Word in Gainesville, and perform in local coffee houses, churches, festivals and benefits, as well as touring out of state.

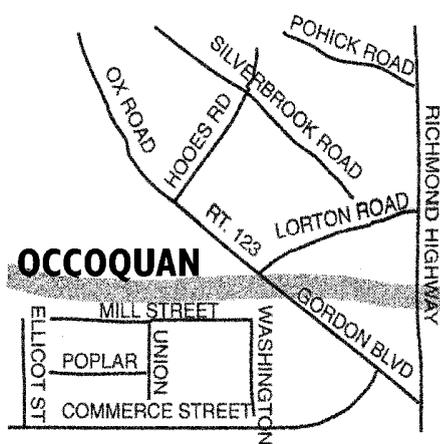
The WAMMIES began 21 years ago, with the first awards going to such notables as Emmylou Harris, Chuck Brown, Marvin Gaye, Patsy Cline and Duke Ellington.

Traditionally held to a standing room only crowd in the famed State Theater in Falls Church, the ceremony represents the coming together of many different musical styles and the greater Washington DC community's support of its local musicians.

All of the Braeded Chord's CDs are available at their website (www.thebraededchord.com) as well as at www.amazon.com, www.cdbaby.com, and www.indieheaven.com.



Color Book Gallery
 Multicultural Children's Bookstore
 Books, Educational, Cultural & Bilingual Games, Toys, Gifts & More
 Activity Hours Saturday 11:30
 308 D Poplar Alley in Historic Occoquan
 703-494-1994
 Winter Hours Thursday-Saturday 11-5, Sunday 12-5
www.colorbookgallery.com



The Coffee House of Occoquan
 Green Mountain Coffee, Espresso, Teas, Pastries, Sandwiches
 Friday night music resumes March. Open Mic. Saturday evenings Closing at 5:00 Sunday-Friday
 Gifts, Gourmet Foods, Baskets, Teas, Parties, Meetings
 703-492-8976
 202 Commerce St

Mon.-Sat 10:-4:30 p.m.
 204 Washington St.
 Occoquan, VA
 703-490-1536

SINGER

This top SINGER® automatically winds it's own bobbin, and threads itself changing colors for hands free embroidery turning days into minutes.

See the full line of SINGER® and babylock® sewing machines perform at **Attic Treasures & SEW EASY Sewing School** in historic Occoquan