

## Red Mill Jazz Jam

by Rich Regent

Jazz vocalist **Sharon Schmidt** keeps music alive at Aliota's Red Mill on Elm Grove Road in Brookfield each Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m. On a recent Thursday, Sharon started the music, along with **Jeff Stoll** on keyboard plus vocals and **Joe Zarcone** on drums, to entertain folks browsing food menus or just unwinding from a day at the office sipping a cool beverage.

Sharon creates a weekly opportunity for her musician friends to bring their instruments, sit-in to provide harmony or play an occasional solo. Talented singers like **Floyd Dorsey**, **Rick D'Amore**, **Carol Trout** and newbie **Robin Sexton** joined in with their favorite tunes or exchange of clever lyrics to funny songs. **Rich Regent**, clarinet, blends into the music and adds to the suspense. Bassist Jim Gerard keeps the rhythm going and later plays his alto saxophone while **Don Eliot** sits in. **Dan Albrechtson** gives Jeff a brief relief on keyboard with his great jazz renditions. Other drummers arrive to take turns, **Don Porter**, **Dan Dietrich**, **John Rueth** and **Cliff Gundersen**. **Mike Heinrich**'s fingers never leave his hands while playing lightning fast guitar riffs. He sits on a stool and concentrates on the tune. His feet leave the floor but he never loses balance.

The lights may be low but the music is high energy. Waitresses balancing platters of delicious great food or carrying trays of refreshments through the audience add to the excitement of the fun evening. If you like live music, give it a listen. Find more at Sharon's web site: [www.sharonschmidt.com](http://www.sharonschmidt.com)