

Women's **WORLD**

## Meet modern-day Renaissance woman: Stephanie Rearick

■ *By Debra Illingworth Greene for Neighbors*  
After spending some time with Stephanie



Rearick, the phrase "Renaissance woman" comes to mind. I met Stephanie at her funky coffeehouse, Mother Fool's, on Madison's near east side. And while I

enjoyed the coffeehouse vibe and the strong cup of coffee she offered, there was much more to cover than coffee.

Stephanie, who bought Mother Fool's with her husband, Jon Hain, in 1995, is also the founder and director of the Dane County Timebank. And when she's not running the timebank – or working her shifts at the coffeehouse – Stephanie plays in two local bands and as a solo musician.

Stephanie grew up in Akron, Ohio, and started playing piano at age six. With a degree from Miami University in Oxford,

Ohio, she moved to Madison in 1990. In 1993, she helped start the band Your Mom.

"My husband wanted to form a band and we started one with two good friends and by default I was responsible for writing the songs," Stephanie explains. "I found it extremely fulfilling."

After a few years Your Mom dissolved, but Stephanie and Jon continued to play together.

Recently, the original drummer from Your Mom started playing with them again, and now three-fourths of Your Mom is a new band: The There Was a Mans. Stephanie plays keyboard and trumpet and sings. With her newest instrument, the drums, she plays for another band, Ladyscissors.

She admits that neither band is performing much – mostly because she is too busy to book any gigs. "For performance I play solo more than anything these days," Stephanie says. "My solo music is more clas-



Stephanie Rearick crams 48 hours in to every day – as owner of Mother Fool's, member of several bands and founder and director of the Dane County Timebank. PHOTO BY KIM KEYES

Stephanie's newest endeavor is the Dane County Timebank, which she launched in 2005. "I realized that every major problem that I worry about in the world is tied to our economic system," she says. After reading about timebanking, Stephanie decided it might be the solution.

"The timebank has no money attached to it," she explains. "Everyone's hours are equal. You just exchange time. You can walk someone's dog for an hour and then when you need it, you can have someone spend an hour fixing your computer."

The Dane County Timebank has 1,600 members and about 50,000 hours have been exchanged so far. The membership is diverse, Stephanie says, both economically and racially. Many members have disabilities, and some have been homeless.

"It's cool to see how it actually works for people," she says. "It's one hour for one hour. You're connecting as equals."

Stephanie is co-chair of TimeBanks USA, a national umbrella organization, and she has done some traveling. "My goal is to play music in whatever locations I get to go to for work," she says.

If three jobs sound like a lot to juggle, Stephanie puts a positive spin on it. "When I feel frazzled I think about people who are working three shitty jobs to get food on the table. I work three stimulating, challenging, rewarding jobs. That's lucky."

*Debra Illingworth Greene is a freelance writer and editor in Madison. ■*

sically influenced because I can focus on piano."

She describes the music that The There Was a Mans plays as psychedelic-cabaret-rock. And whether it's with the band or solo, Stephanie's lyrics tend to be political – "whatever I'm thinking about at the time."

With seven albums under her belt – four of them solo – Stephanie is anxious to get to work on another one, hopefully this fall. She'll release it on the record label that she and Jon own: Uvulittle Records.



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