

# folk forum

winter/spring 2009

don't worry... 'bout a thing, every little thing, gonna be alright...

Bob Marley

Hello friends,

As we enter a new year, and the sun's path in the sky begins to move northwards...what are you feeling? Phil, a friend of mine and member of my Mennonite Fellowship, replied when I asked him last Sunday how things were going, "I'm feeling hopeful. I'm just real hopeful." He went on to explain that his greenhouse was nearly done and that looking at seed catalogues was leaving him feeling hopeful. We both joked about how great the pictures in the seed catalogues and in our dreamy heads looked at this time of year... always beautiful, bountiful and weed-free. There are many reasons today to have hope.

My son Joe and his wife Rebecca have been working to fix up the house on the land they are buying down towards Hammond. People call it the Darcy place but I first visited it when Wes Thompson was milking cows there. I'm not sure who homesteaded that place first and imagine Dakota camped or hunted there at one time or another. I share Joe and Becca's excitement as they plant the seeds of their hopes and dreams on this land and in this house. God willing and mortgage manageable, it will become in time a portrait of their lives. I would like to make them a poster to hang in the bathroom or somewhere that will remind them daily **"It is not the years in a life that make life worthwhile...but the life in the years."** I imagine that is a discovery we each make on the journey. I do not have regrets about jumping wholeheartedly into my dreams although I do have regrets about not taking more time to savor. I look at the portrait of the years on my own place and see their prints on it too...and the prints of my other children, friends, and family. In places there are tears, (pronounced either way!), and evidence where the brush strayed or the paints spilled. Some portions look like a Van Gogh or a Munch, but there are always birds on the horizon or the promise of a new sun arising.

There is powerful energy in the hope and promise of coming spring. Heck even my chickens are hopeful with incremental increases of daylight and have started laying more eggs again. The ducks play in the water we put out, splashing it all over the snow and then running around in circles on the slippery snow, heads bobbing up and down, quacking like crazy in animated displays of duck flirtation. Yes, spring is powerful even when it exists in the middle of winter only as a promise. This sense of being hopeful is what Phil, and I, and many across the earth are feeling right now as our nation has chosen a new navigation crew to steer us out of a very dark age in our history. The hope and promise of light are as welcome to many as the light to trapped miners as rescue crews break through..

We live on a continent the native peoples called Turtle Island. This rich land provided for its people long before there was a United States or an "Economy." We live in its heart, the spiritual center of the universe according to Dale Childs, our loved and sorely missed Dakota brother from Prairie Island. He and his family grew great melons down on "the Island" and shared meals with us made from gathered roots, berries, and choke cherries. On a sunny, winter day 8

years ago, as the medicine sticks were parted to open the gates at his burial on that hilltop, we watched as his spirit was lifted and carried by an eagle. I had this uncanny feeling as I looked into that eagle's eyes that Dale's spirit was looking back at me, watching over us. We were there grieving and saying goodbye to this friend and storyteller, but in that time of passing, the new was beginning. The buffalo robe passed to Mikhail as did the story-telling tradition, and parts of Dale's generous spirit passed to each of us that knew him.

Umtomi the Trickster sometimes plays tricks on us, but also gives us clues and chances for new beginnings. He is but one manifestation of the Creator with lessons to teach and slates to clean. Out of the ashes of the fire comes the Phoenix, blinking and looking around at the world as if it were brand new. Thru the eyes of a child, unbound by chains of dogma or routines grown calcified and stiff, windows in walls built of compounded fears and grievances can open. The Universe offers times of healing and forgiveness, a time for reconciliation and commitment toward sweeping up the rubble of these wars and walls. This is such a time; a time to plant trees and gardens that will bear fruit, feed us, shelter us, nurture us with fragrances of blossoms on spring breezes, and calm us with the rustle of leaves and the sound of the pines in the wind. It is two different worlds, these worlds of gardens and woods where children can laugh and play, where elders can find solace... and that world that comes in the newspapers and radio-waves, that world driven by Wall St., Exxon, Carlyle Group and Halliburton.

There is much in this latter world to fear today and much pain to share. The continuing wars, the chaos and disregard for life as Israel bombs and sends tanks into Gaza, all weigh heavily in our hearts. The increasing ferocity and frequency of the storms of climate change lay siege the whole world over. In our own communities we see people losing jobs, life savings, and homes in an economic storm. Hunger, homelessness, and lack of medical care are raising a clatter in this nation that has claimed prosperity as proof of the legitimacy of rampant capitalism in a moral society. The fire from the most recent burning Bush has spread to the tinder dry chaparrals in the gullies between the mansions. The state is spending hundreds of billions to save some of the mansions caught in the blaze. If the fire retardant doesn't poison the earth and we apply simple earth-keeping solutions, things will become green again and blossom. We must learn our lessons and choose a soft-path built on cooperation, simple living and a seven-generation mindfulness.

It is **hope and promise** that can give us strength, but we must **Do**. We must commit ourselves to it. Not with a pledge of allegiance to a flag, a nation, a political party, or a religion, but with a pledge of allegiance to the promise that all God's children live in peace, in harmony with creation, sharing the toils, and the bounty of those toils. Nationalism and dogma will only divide us further, apathy can mean lost opportunities. There is a Commonwealth For All to build...

Love and peace,

Maintenance and Repair



*Earthly Notes:*

**Thank you**

Heartfelt thanks to Brian Schmidt, Lawrence Schwank, Donna and Neil Berglund, Alan and Judy Hoffman, Betty Pfeiffer, Collette Sweeney and Kay Anderson, Joe Yennie, and everyone else who has contributed to help us keep these programs going. A special thanks to all of you who volunteer to help pull off the programs. We all owe a big debt of gratitude to Joe and Elaine Mayer, Darlene and all the peacemakers in Rochester, Bill McGrath in Northfield and Bill & David at Vets for Peace in Red Wing, for their constant struggles on our behalf for a more humane world. The list of thanks due is long...may we all help shoulder the load.

**Volunteers for folk forum**—we can't do all these fine programs without the generous help from the community that is *folk forum*. Volunteers who lend a hand are truly the lifeblood of folk forum.

**We could really use some volunteers to hang posters in Rochester, Red Wing, Wabasha, Plainview and other surrounding communities. We still need some regular volunteers to clean up before and after shows, make food, etc.** (507)753-2080 or [folkforum@riverland.org](mailto:folkforum@riverland.org). Thanks!

**\*Mailing List:** If you would like to be on it, please make a small donation of ~\$5/yr or more and fill out the form on the insert in this newsletter. If you have donated recently and didn't get on it, please let us know. Our apologies!!

**THE MENU**

*All concerts are \$5-\$15, pay what you are able; kids freewill donation*

**BOURBON BROTHERS**

*Saturday, Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>, 8PM*

*Blues, jazz, and funk quartet*

Introducing the Bourbon Brothers: Ben Peterson (saxophone), Folko Landvogt (slide guitar), Dave Orr (drums) and Chris Hand (Bass). The Bourbon Brothers Band performs original compositions ranging from blues and jazz to funk. They focus on obscure songs and arrangements, including covers that range from traditional delta blues like "Kokomo Blues" by Mississippi Fred McDowell to songs like "Walking Cane" by Leon Redbone.

**BOB BOVEE & GAIL HEIL**

*Saturday, Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, 8PM*

**Old-time country music duo**

Bovee and Heil have been performing together since 1980, singing and playing fiddle, banjo, guitar and harmonica. Along with a repertoire including dance tunes, ballads, cowboy songs, blues and rags, Bob and Gail spice their shows with stories, history and folklore. They draw their music from family, old-time singers and fiddlers they have met over the years, and 78 rpm recordings from the "Golden Age of Country Music" in the 1920's and 30's. This is a show to set your feet tapping, tug your heartstrings, and give you a few chuckles along the way.

**LEHTO & WRIGHT**

*Saturday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, 8PM*

*Folk/folk rock, traditional/modern duo*

Lehto and Wright have a sound that is a unique blend of traditional and modern styles. By taking cues from the Irish, English and American folk traditions and interpreting them with contemporary guitar-based arrangements, Lehto and Wright have taken a fresh approach to the world of folk and folk rock. From American spirituals to Irish tune sets, John Wright and Steve Lehto offer an exciting live performance of traditional and contemporary folk music with an eclectic twist.

**DOUGH BROS: PAUL MAYASICH & ANDY DEE**

*Friday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, 8PM*

*Blues and roots rock*

Slide guitar masters Paul Mayasich & Andy Dee have teamed up (finally!) to play music that will feed your soul, tickle your funny bone, and get your toes a tappin'. Their music includes originals as well as old school blues and roots music. Featuring dueling dobros, slide and lap steel guitars, from soulful acoustic to mind-blowing electric slide, these guys were meant to play together.

**RADOSLAV LORKOVIC**

*Saturday, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, 8PM*

*Solo piano, accordion and vocals for Valentine's Day*

Pianist and accordion player Rad Lorkovic has been performing at Oak Center for more than twenty years, and with this concert he will let his love light shine with a solo Valentine's show. With a versatility that ranges from elegant classical and jazz styles to the rawest, most basic blues, zydeco and soul, Rad will nurture our romantic sides.

**CAM WATERS**

*Saturday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>, 8PM*

*Solo folk-blues*

Cam Waters has spent the last twenty-odd years on the stages of coffeehouses, clubs, concert halls, and festivals across the country, honing his understated, expressive singing, wry humor, and simple yet inventive finger style and slide guitar playing. Waters' most recent CD, *Central Standard*, is the best studio representation of what he does on stage: part original material, part vintage blues, and part traditional music, with a jug band version of Sam The Sham and the Pharaohs' 1966 gem "Little Red Riding Hood" playfully thrown in.

**BOILED IN LEAD**

*Saturday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, 8PM*

*Special acoustic quartet concert*

For 25 years, Boiled In Lead has been an innovator in bringing "folk music" to contemporary ears, incorporating global influences, rhythms, and melodies that are guaranteed to keep the feet moving. It's a simmering stew of original and traditional material that sounds

both fresh and highly identifiable. Tonight will be a special “acoustic quartet” concert with Dean Magraw on guitars, Todd Menton singing, guitar, mandolin, bodhran, Drew Miller on bass, and David Stenshoel on fiddle.

**BILL STAINES**

*Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2PM*

**Traditional and original folk and country**

With “a sense of timing to match the best stand-up comic,” Bill Staines’ music is a slice of Americana, reflecting with the same ease on the prairie people of the Midwest and the adventurers of the Yukon. Between original songs, Bill includes traditional folk tunes and more contemporary country ballads. Bill delights in having the audience participate in many numbers and never fails to please.

**MIKE MANGIONE AND BAND**

*Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 8PM*

**Soulful, warm and rootsy soul and folk rock**

Mike Mangione and Band bring a range of subtle, organic, yet dynamic and expressive soundscape to all their performances. Named *New York Magazine*’s “Band of the Week” in September 2007, the band continues to entice critics and fans alike. With a keyboardist, upright bassist, cellist, violinist, and Mike’s vocals and guitar, this is a night not to be missed!

**MILES JOHNSTON QUARTET**

*Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 8PM*

**Jazz quartet for all music lovers**

Miles Johnston grew up listening to 60’s rock and Tony Bennett and started playing the drums when he was 10. Frank Zappa got him interested in straight-ahead jazz and now he just loves to play, period. Now he has a quartet with three other very fine players: John Paulson on tenor sax and flute, Larry Price on piano, and Michael Sloane on double bass. Their song list runs the gamut from burning sambas to laid-back ballads and everything in between. This quartet is not just for jazz lovers but for anyone who loves music.

**CURTIS & LORETTA**

*Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 8PM*

**Original and traditional folk and Celtic**

Curtis & Loretta’s music is a tapestry of poignant original songs and carefully chosen traditional pieces from the British Isles, America and beyond. The husband and wife duo’s repertory currently includes Celtic harp, mandocello, mandolin, guitars, clawhammer banjo, and National steel ukulele, plus a bit of kazoo, harmonica, and shakers. Extraordinary harmonies make for an alluring night of music that makes traditional folk tunes shimmer with fresh vitality.

**TANGLED ROOTS**

*Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 8PM*

**Bluegrass quartet**

Tangled Roots is one of the most energetic, entertaining bands to hit the bustling Minnesota bluegrass music scene, with Chris Silver on mandolin and fiddle, Marty Marrone sharing lead vocals and playing guitar, Doug Lohman on bass and Barry St. Mane on banjo. Their shows range from bluegrass classics by Bill Monroe and the Stanley Brothers to tunes of John Prine, Kevin Welch, Bruce Cockburn and Elvis Presley delivered in a tasteful bluegrass style.

**RAD LORKOVIC AND ANDY WHITE**

*Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 8PM*

**Two phenomenal soloists performing together**

Rad Lorkovic is a Croatian-born, US-based blues and boogie-woogie pianist and accordion player; Andy White is an Irish-born,

Melbourne-based singer and songwriter who carries a 12-string guitar under his arm and wears his particular brand of Irish magic and charm on his sleeve. Together they present a night of world-healing music you won’t find anywhere else!

**CAFÉ ACCORDION**

*Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 8PM*

**Accordion and string band**

It’s April in Paris, and Café Accordion wants to take you there. The “quietly dazzling” Dan Newton leads the band with his understated accordion playing and charming vocals. His band-mates are some of the finest, most in-demand musicians in the Twin Cities. Eric Mohring swings effortlessly on mandolin or violin and sings in a rich baritone voice. Erik Lillestol plays upright and electric basses with groove and creativity. Joe Steinger, the area’s most subtle drummer, broadens the band’s sound with hand percussion and trap kit. For this show, the group will be joined by Jocko MacNelly, a veteran of the Twin Cities guitar scene for over 12 years.

**JOE AND VICKI PRICE**

*Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 8PM*

**Husband-and-wife blues duo**

Insistent, driving rhythm chops, taproot boot-stomps, splintering, thrilling slide runs up the fret board; country, blues, and R&B-influenced gospel; it all adds up to Joe and Vicki Price. The creative musical impact of this most fortuitous of romantic pairings remains a bustling two-way street in nearly every way imaginable.

**SWITCHBACK**

*Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 8PM*

**Eclectic mix of oldies, blues, and country**

Switchback is made up of musicians who come from diverse musical backgrounds. By combining the styles of their former bands they’ve developed a sound that incorporates some of the greatest hits of the 50’s, 60’s and 70’s along with some blues and country. The older generation like hearing the songs they all remember, and the younger folks enjoy dancing to this high-energy duo. Switchback captures that “special something” in every song and then adds their own unique Switchback flavor. Their fans are devoted, and when you hear them you will be too.

**STACEY EARLE AND MARK STUART**

*Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2PM*

**Folk-Americana duo**

Two songwriters, two singers adjoined into a folk-Americana duo that entertains world audiences with heartfelt lyrics, wonderful harmonies and crafty guitar workouts. Stacey Earle and Mark Stuart reach back and grab songs of the past, then fast-forward to the present and into the future. Stacey and Mark are both accomplished solo performers, and their group sound allows each individual to shine through: just two voices, two guitars, and a heartwarming show.

**GREG BROWN**

*Saturday, May 2, 8PM*

**Solo folk guitar, harmonica, and singing**

Greg Brown’s mother played electric guitar, his grandfather played banjo, and his father was a Holy Roller preacher in the Hacklebarney section of Iowa, where the Gospel and music are a way of life. Brown’s songs have been performed by Willie Nelson, Carlos Santana, Michael Johnson, Shawn Colvin, and Mary Chapin Carpenter. This one will sell out months ahead of time, so call now to reserve your tickets!

**folk forum CALENDAR IN BRIEF 2009**

**January**

24<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM The Bourbon Brothers  
31<sup>st</sup>, Sat. 8PM Bob Bovee and Gail Heil

**February**

7<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Lehto & Wright  
13<sup>th</sup>, Fri. 8PM Paul Mayasich  
14<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Rad Lorkovic - solo Valentine's show  
21<sup>st</sup>, Sat. 8PM Cam Waters  
28<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Boiled in Lead

**March**

1<sup>st</sup>, Sun. 2PM Bill Staines  
7<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Mike Mangione Band  
14<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Miles Johnston Quartet  
21<sup>st</sup>, Sat. 8PM Curtis & Loretta  
28<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Tangled Roots

**April**

4<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Radoslav Lorkovic and Andy White  
17<sup>th</sup>, Fri. 8PM Café Accordion  
24<sup>th</sup>, Fri. 8PM Joe and Vicki Price  
25<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Switchback  
26<sup>th</sup>, Sun. 2PM Stacey Earle & Mark Stuart

**May**

2<sup>nd</sup>, Sat. 8PM Greg Brown

**Thank you for your friendship and participation. New ideas are welcome; please contact us with your thoughts.**

*For further information, please call The Oak Center General Store, (507) 753-2080 or email [folkforum@riverland.org](mailto:folkforum@riverland.org).  
[www.oakcentergeneralstore.com](http://www.oakcentergeneralstore.com)*

**folk forum**

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