

folk forum

September 2007

"Remember the sun, remember the sun..."

It's always goin' 'round,

Always comes up...after it's been down." Pieta Brown

Hello Friends,

How are you faring these days? It has been a long, and at times, difficult summer for many. It has been no different for us on this farm. It seems there was a lot of that going around. Growing organic veggies is a challenging vocation in the best of years and frequently at the end of the season we find ourselves exhausted and yearning for winter. This year was perhaps more difficult given the extremes of weather. Being caught up in the day to day battles on the home-front and farmstead all season leaves me feeling a little out of touch with all of you and makes it difficult to know where to begin a greeting and my usual state of the universe as seen from the hill in Oak Center.

I hope most of you came thru the year with some positive, happy images dominating your memories. I try to focus on those magical moments that visited and not lament that they passed too soon. Give thanks while they are there...and savor them.

Given the state of things in our nation and across the planet, coupled with all the impending disasters and crises that hang in the shadows...it would be easy to launch into a rant and rave about how the sky is falling...along with all the bridges, the economy, the Holy American Empire, the value of the dollar, and our national reputation...but you know that already, and have most likely been trying to come to grips with it as you battle on your own turf for your daily bread and sanctity of mind. I decided to "put myself in a good way" as our Dakota friend, the late Dale Childs, used to say when he faced the 4 directions, gave thanks to each of those directions for their gifts and asked the Creator for blessings and wisdom. As I faced each direction and opened myself to the gifts the creator sends each day and each season, I also opened myself to the people who live in each of these directions. I listened with the ears in my heart to those nearby and those far away, those in my community and those across continents in other lands. I tried to listen with my heart to what struggles they face, what their joys may be and what sorts of things await them in the paths ahead. It is a good exercise, a good way to pray. It helped put me in a good way. It gave me a sense of my inter-connectedness with all things and all beings...how we all journey together, how we are spokes of the wheel, connected to the creator at the center. I felt a sense of peace... for several minutes.

And then I got angry again. I couldn't help it. I thought of all the suffering and the wars that should not be happening, of excess consumption and the destruction of our environment, of the disparity between the ultra-wealthy and the poor, the have's and the have-nots. How far we could have come and how much better off we could be if the lives and the money spent on destruction had instead been dedicated to responsibly and constructively finding solutions to hunger, poverty, disease and our growing environmental problems. I reflected on the 1967 Summer of Love

celebration in San Francisco forty years ago when the hippies dreamed we could all live as brothers and sisters, giving love, sharing things, sharing the work, living in harmony with the Earth. We dreamed Love, Peace, Flowers...and the dream was going to transform the planet. It wasn't a new dream. Jesus and his followers dreamed it a couple of thousand years ago. Why hasn't it happened?

It is hard not to just let that anger fly at George Bush Jr., Cheney, Rove, Rumsfeld, Ashcroft, Haliburton, Blackwater, the establishment press and all the rest of the co-conspirators and profiteers who put our nation and the world into such a predicament, recklessly taking us down the war-path and avoiding taking the necessary responsibility for turning industry, science and the will of the people toward finding a just, sustainable way we can all live on this planet without trashing it and each other. They **should** get much of the blame. For the sake of the world, for history, for the resurrection and empowerment of democracy in America, these criminals should be removed from office and tried for crimes committed. There need to be consequences for profiteering from war, the flagrant theft from the public domain, and from future generations. The consequences need to make way for these ill-begotten gains to be re-paid into programs for public good and restitution for damage caused. It won't happen without some courageous public servants in positions of power. We need to put them there, support them and give them the courage and the power they need thru our vocal and active presence in the streets, offices, schools, and public places of America.

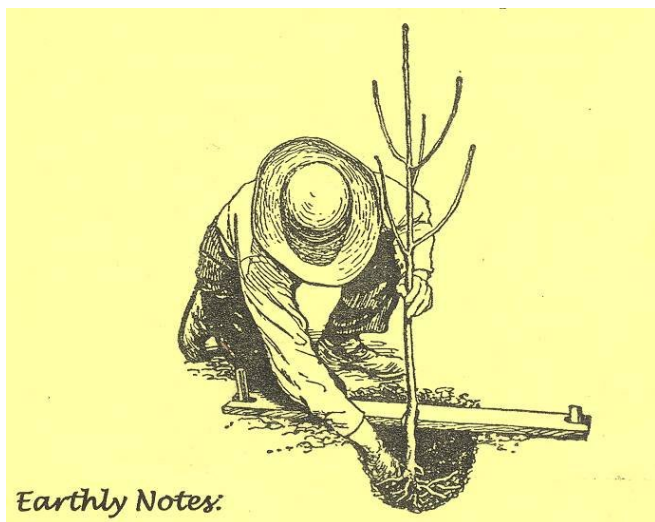
But **we need to talk about us too.** We need to ask why we have waited so long and allowed it to go so far. Why have we protested so quietly and made so few changes in our own lives. We need to not be silent in the unending stream of war glorification that happens in our press and from the state pulpit each time one of our soldiers is killed. The constant cliché propaganda, "doing their duty for their country", "giving the ultimate sacrifice so we can enjoy our freedom" has gone unchallenged because we have been paralyzed by the 'support the troops' ploy. We failed to have the courage to challenge that premise of "my country right or wrong". The military is not in Iraq fighting for our freedoms. Most of the soldiers there have been victims as well. We need to encourage conscience and discrimination in our youth and protect them from the predations of military adventurers, modern day Napoleons or Hitlers, who would ask them to kill or be killed for questionable or immoral causes. A realistic history will show the defenders of our freedom as those who have had the courage to speak the truth and their consciences in the face of power, intimidation and ridicule... and then confront that power.

It is not often reported in the "official" news of the mainstream press, but there are many fighting for our freedoms and for justice in communities all across our country. There were protests this past week in Washington organized by Veterans for Peace and Iraq Veterans Against the War. Soldiers are facing court martial and prison time for their protests and refusal to continue to participate in the war. These troops need our support so that others may follow. They must know we understand and support them in their acts of courage and conscience. There have been demonstrations and

protests most of this month. An encampment in Washington from September 22-29, will have happened by the time you read this. The media coverage will most likely be sparse, or will minimize the importance of the protests. The peace movement in America has largely been ignored by the press and the powers that be, but none the less it is present and searching for ways to be effective. What will it take? Time is running out. People are dying. What can we do?

Realistically our resistance and non-compliance with the war and its corporate bed-fellows must increase a couple of notches. We need to be more outspoken and visible as well and if the press won't carry the story maybe the press needs to become part of the story. Aside from the war there are critical domestic battles that need to be won. We need to look at infrastructure and domestic needs, but maybe rather than throwing all the money we can at a new I-35 bridge with 10 lanes to handle more cars, we need to rethink that old out-dated mindset and start asking if there aren't maybe too many cars and trucks? Oil is running out. Let's redesign our communities and public transport for less cars and less miles. Health care costs? Decent paying jobs, sound local economies... and hey, how about more (non-digital) art, music, and public markets with local vendors, There is a long list that will improve our lives and fully employ us all for many decades. In a perfect world, our collective will would be expressed thru the democratic structures our ancestors have built. When reality sets in we see that collective will is sometime elusive and that our democratic structures are not infallible. They are subject to undue influences by money, intimidation, and propaganda. Many of those structures have been dismantled, or rendered ineffective in the last several decades. It will require a lot of hands-on help from all of us to become an effective tool in the nation-saving and planet-saving we need to do. In the meantime...eat local, eat healthy, leave a small footprint, make music, give love and be happy! I miss anything? See you in the big room...

Love and Peace,
Maintenance and Repair



An Appeal

Folk Forum can always use your help. Folk Forum has touched many lives over the years. The magic that has been happening at

Oak Center has created many fond memories for all ages, inspired many friendships, and helped many find direction in a complex and often chaotic world. It is not possible without the contributions of time and money by many dedicated volunteers and supporters. We have a full schedule planned with some exciting performers and presenters coming. We are counting on you, the Folk Forum community, to once again help make this a great season. There is a lot that needs to get done and money needed for projects. Please do what you can do to help us make a great thing better. Donations may be made out to Folk Forum. Offers of time and skills are needed now! and throughout the fall and winter. There are many repairs to do and help needed with cleaning, fixing, building, setting up chairs, making posters and hanging them. There is something for everyone. Please list your skills and what times you are available in the volunteer section on the insert in this newsletter.

**** If you have any legal or grant writing skills and can help us become a Community Trust and part of the Historic Register— we still need your help!**

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has helped out or contributed in the past. May your lives be blessed for the gifts you have given to the community by making the Folk Forum what it is.

Sister Events

- ◆ Friends for a Non-Violent World is dedicated to bringing peaceful non-violent conflict resolution to bear on many of our most critical national and international issues. They are doing great work and need your support. Thanks for all you're doing up there folks and special thanks to you Phil Steger for all the years you helped guide FNVW. Good luck in your new position joining Jack Nelson-Palmeyer and Marv Davidov on the faculty in St. Thomas' Peace Studies Department. For more info on FNVW call (651) 917-0383. info@fnvw.org
- ◆ The SE Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers working out of Rochester and surrounding communities, www.semnap.org, is still meeting the 2nd Thursday of each month and has continued supporting and sponsoring events since its formation 7 years ago. They regularly sponsor public events, vigils, and protests. Thanks Elaine and Joe, Darlene, Bob M., Bob and Joy, Sister Irea, Brian, and all the other active members of this group for continuing your work in this long and difficult. SEMNAP needs your support in presence at events and vigils, in time committed toward organizing and publicity, and/or financial support for events. Democracy is an active process, let's get involved.
- ◆ **STRIKE/BOYCOTT AGAINST THE IRAQ WAR.** The Iraq Moratorium Committee and the General Strike for Peace call for making the 3rd Friday of every month a national day of activity against the war. They recommend -
- ◆ Don't spend

- ◆ Don't go to work or school if at all possible
- ◆ Pressure politicians and the media
- ◆ Attend or organize a vigil, rally, film showing or special religious service against the occupation
- ◆ Oppose the war through music, art and culture
- ◆ Discuss the issue with friends, family and others; plan your own creative local actions!

- ◆ **Thanks MPR** for all the great programming you do. Special thanks to Mike Pengra, Dale and Jim Ed on the morning show, and Jeryl and Chris at KLSE for helping us get the word out about all the great music that happens here and elsewhere around the state. Thanks to Ellen Stanley of KFAI and the Womenfolk Show on Sunday afternoon for her constant support. Thanks to Blue Monday, Inside Bluegrass and all the other great publications who report on music events and keep the music scene alive and well. Many thanks to Tom Weber at the Roch.Post Bulletin for excellent coverage of events. Thanks Ruth, thanks Rich for helping get the word out to your communities. And thanks to all you poster hangers!
- ◆ Build the local economy and support your farm neighbors. Order a 1/4 or 1/2 of organic lamb, goat, pasture raised beef, buffalo, or pork, or get individual cuts here at the store. Help build homeland security by rebuilding a strong local economy. No hormones or antibiotics. Available regularly at the Oak Center General Store. (507) 753-2080
- ◆ People for Peace and Goodwill in Northfield, the Redwing Alliance for Peace, and the River Alliance working in the communities along the river from Lake City, Wabasha to Winona...your local organizations for active democracy to stop the war and build lasting peace...GET INVOLVED!!!
- ◆ The Oak Center Store appreciates your support. We hope you find some useful and beautiful items among our seemingly random collection of organic food and other cool and interesting stuff, (much of which is downright useful). Save some of your purchasing needs for concert days and encourage us to keep doing this! Thanks!
- ◆ Red Wing Vets for Peace (as well as active chapters across the country) are very active, courageously confronting evil. They are veterans who firsthand know the critical battles for freedom are being fought here at home. Their work has a powerful message and we all are invited to join with them whether we are veterans or not. For more info contact David Harris, VFP Ch 115, (651) 388-5863, tuvecino@redwing.net, or Hank Brummer, (651) 385-8208, ekstrand@redwing.net.

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 and keep things going smoothly. Our deepest thanks to Joe Y. his mother Pat and sister Sue for help on the farm in a pinch this summer. Thanks to Jesse, Corinne, and Daniel for their hard work holding the farm together this summer. Thanks to Miles and Rebecca, Sequoiah and Azure, Sherry, Lisa, and everyone else who lent a hand in times of need. Thank you Linda for taking time to

come up after work and help get this newsletter started. Philip and Michael, you are heroes for rescuing me from computer woes. A huge thank you to Kathi for being so dedicated in keeping the store alive...and for your steady moral support. To Lawrence S, Carol R, Michael P., Signe, Lynn P., Doug D, Donna B, the Willards, the Drudes, Lonnie, and everyone else who has helped keep us financially afloat. We all owe these gatherings to your dedication. If you are able to help or make a contribution, please contact us at (507)753-2080 or 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 are one of those incredibly generous and conscientious folk forum friends who regularly sends in \$5-10 each year, our heartfelt thanks. Our costs are a constant whether for paper mailings or phone/internet fees and time. If you have donated and should be on it but somehow aren't, please let us know. Our apologies for our ineptness!! If you can volunteer time to help us get things a little better organized and up-dated....

Some great new music and lot's of our old favorites coming up...feast on this menu!

Mary Cutrufello

Sun. Oct. 7th, 2PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Blues/folk/rock trio; Guitar and vocals

Songwriter, singer/guitarist Mary Cutrufello brings her Texas based "power trio" to kick off our season with some thoughtful songwriting, strong vocals and a powerful brand of rock with its own Midwestern flavors. Think John Cougar meets Johnny Lang. Currently living in Austin, Texas, Cutrufello enjoyed major label success on Mercury Records in the late 90's, performing on The Tonight Show and touring with the Allman Brothers Band. 7 years in the Twin Cities yielded her newest album "35" released Sept. 21st. It was during her stay in the Twin Cities, while working a job with FedEx that she stopped in the store and left a CD for us to listen to. She reminds me vocally of a mix of Lucinda Wm's, Tracy Chapman, and Mary Gautier. We're GLAD she's stopping in this time with her band. Look for this to be a great opening show.

Michael Monroe

Saturday, Oct.13, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Acoustic folk, reggae, and jazz

Michael Monroe lives and records in harmony with nature in his solar-powered log cabin near Grand Marais. Performing original music since the 70's, blending rich vocals, guitar, bamboo flute, and some creative technology, Michael delivers a powerful style of acoustic folk, reggae, and jazz. Michael collaborated with Jim Brandenburg at the Guthrie in their production, "In Concert With Nature", and also created the music for the national PBS documentary, "Chased By The Light". It was nominated for a regional Emmy and won 6 national "Awards of Excellence" including 2 for music. Michael always does great performances...we hope you can make this one.

Anne Feeney

Sunday, Oct. 14, 2PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Unionmaid, hell-raiser, labor singer, musician par excellence

Anne Feeney began a career as a trial lawyer until... "I couldn't stand it, and that didn't take long!" She began to see her vocal and guitar playing talents as a perfect vehicle for her passions as a labor advocate, and an organizer for peace and justice. She was front-stage at the WTO protests in Seattle and featured in the film "This Is How Democracy Looks". Her passionate lyrics, full rich vocals and primo guitar playing inspire, provoke thought and feelings, stir anger and compassion, and give the strength to face the world with courage. Anne brings with her Evan Greer, an extremely talented and dynamic multi-instrumentalist, harmony singer, and songwriter. Excellent stories, superb musicianship, a beautiful person full of passion that is contagious...it'll be a great Sunday afternoon rain or shine. Come get awakened, aroused, and inspired.

Gary Holthaus

**Saturday, Oct. 20, 4:30 PM with a pot-luck at 6pm
freewill donation**

Author: "From the Farm to the Table: What All Americans Need to Know About Agriculture"

Please join us for readings out of "From Farm To Table". The book records stories from over forty farm families from America's heartland. Their stories detail the values and practices that relate to their land, work and communities. "This began as a book about farming in southeast Minnesota," Holthaus says, "but it became a story of agriculture not only here, but globally." A resident of Red Wing, MN since 1995, Holthaus recently accepted the position of Director of the Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society. He holds an endowed chair at the U of M's School of Agriculture managed by the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture. **Pot-luck and discussion following.** Bring dish to share and utensils.

Cliff Eberhardt: with opening by Eric Peltoniemi

Saturday, Oct. 20, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Bluesy guitar and vocals/New Folk

Cliff Eberhardt has been a driving force of the Greenwich Village New Folk Movement. He was voted one of the top 100 folk musicians of the last 20 years. He is a superb singer and approaches the guitar with stylistic eloquence that easily ranks him among guitar virtuosos. His lyrics cover a vast credible range of emotions and he articulates them with stunning clarity. His bluesy guitar and Ray Charles-like vocals, his passion and his wit have received superior reviews in cities across the country. This concert is opened by **Eric Peltoniemi** who collaborated with Kevin Kling and wrote the music for MPR's production "The Gales of November". Eric is a great songwriter and musician. His guest appearance with Cliff is an exciting opportunity to view Eric's immense talents.

Claudia Schmidt

Sunday, Oct. 28, 2PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Folk/Jazz/Blues/Spokenword/Poetry.

Claudia hails from Michigan. She has been performing folk, blues, jazz, and Dixieland gospel for 3 decades. She has 14 albums to her credit and has performed in several recognized theatre productions

including the MPR production "The Gales of November". She is a musician/performer who has always hated and never fit into categories. Audiences learn to expect anything at one of Claudia's performances whether hymns, poems, bawdy verse, torch song, satire and a full gamut of emotion. Her musicality is astonishing. Her joy and love of performing are contagious. She weaves all of these diverse elements into a program so unified and full of life it is impossible to not be moved and changed. Don't miss...

Gypso Mania: opening by Jacob Mcknite

Saturday, Nov. 3, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Hot Club Jazz and Gypsy music

Gypsy Swing "Hot Club" Jazz describes the genre of music these guys perform. Played by 4 of the Twin Cities "most jammin" hot club artists, Gypso Mania captures the Hot Club sound that has become very popular with audiences across the USA and Europa. The music of Gypso Mania is based on the Hot Club of France sound featuring the music of Gypsy Swing artists Django Reinhart and Stephane Grappelli. Master world-beat guitarist Glen Helgeson, jazz violinist and Prairie Home Companion veteran Gary Schulte, jazz guitar virtuoso Reynold Philipsek, and jazz bassist extraordinaire Jeff Brueske make this group cook. An irresistible night of fun...opening by **Jacob Mcknite**, with original vocals, tasteful, moving selections and great guitar.

Leslie Ball, Dean Magraw, and Anthony Cox

Sunday, Nov. 4, 2pm

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Jazz vocals, fabulous guitar, incredible bass

Leslie Ball is a proud native of Duluth, Minnesota and currently resides in Minneapolis where she works as a writer, performer, director and producer. She is founder/curator of "BALLS", a long-running weekly midnight cabaret for experimental work held at the Southern Theater. She has performed solo on major stages across the country including The Guthrie Theater, the Walker Art Center, Intermediary Arts, The Dakota, and Chautauqua. Her first solo recording "Loring Park" received critical raves and earned her the 1995 Minnesota Music Academy Award for Female Songwriter of the year. Leslie has a voice as smooth as Billie Holiday and is backed by musicians extraordinaire Dean Magraw on guitar and Anthony Cox on bass.

Johnsmith: Barbara Piper and Bill Hammond open

Friday, Nov. 9, 8pm

\$15 reg. to \$5 low income; kids freewill donation

Folksinger/songwriter

To simply say that Johnsmith is a great singer/songwriter would not be enough. In addition to his exceptional musical abilities and finely tuned songwriting skills, Johnsmith possesses the even rarer gift of being able to share his soul. That gift is the foundation on which everything else about him is built, and it comes shining thru in every song he sings. He was born in Dewitt, IA in a family with 9 brothers and sisters. Growing up in a large family in a small town nurtured in him a keen awareness of the value of community. His songs have a richness and depth of feeling that is genuine. They can lead one to believe in human triumph over adversity wherever it may come from. Come get inspired. **Barbara Piper and Bill Hammond** open with some Phoebe Snow quality vocals and great guitar.

Screening of Sofia Smallstorm's film "9/11 Mystery3s Part One: Demolitions"

Saturday, Nov. 10, 4:30pm

Suggested donation \$5-\$10 (to help the investigations proceed)

Photographic and material evidence coupled with many personal testimonies shows that the official story on 9/11 may very well be contrived for the purpose of hi-jacking the U.S. of A and getting permission from the people to: a) suspend the constitution, b) commit murder and torture, and as a distraction to prevent people from paying attention as the conspirators make immense profits. There will be a discussion after the film.

The Chris Silver Band

Saturday, Nov. 10, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Acoustic folk in overdrive: bluegrass, jazz, blues, and folk

Chris' selection of covers is transcendent and his originals travel a huge landscape of experience and place. He has created a new sound with traditional roots music at the core. As a musical risk taker he has added layers not usually found in traditional music, providing a rich texture to his songs, including slide guitar and intricate global rhythms. He is backed up by some great musicians you have seen here in other forms, ie Tangled Roots, Cousin Dad, and others. They are Pete Mathison on bass, Wayne Beezley on mandolin and mandocello, and Lance Richard on banjo and dobro. Chris plays mandolin and guitar and is an excellent vocalist. The combination is dynamite. This show will get your energy flowin' and open up some blocked chakras.

Pete Morton: opening by Bill Isles and Kate

Friday Nov. 16, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Original folk with great messages

Folk singer Pete Morton is a songwriter and performer from Nottingham, England with a wealth of great songs and stage presence. His show is dynamic and intense as well as approachable and fun-loving. Starting out as a busker on the streets of Europe, he has entertained all over the globe with his unique and involving style of songwriting and traditional singing. *The Guardian* tells us that Pete is not only impressive but a revelation totally original. He has released five CDs of original material and one project of traditional tunes, and we eagerly look forward to hearing samples from all of them.

Charlie Parr

Saturday, Nov. 17, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Authentic Blues

The word authentic gets used like some other words...way too much. When you hear Charlie you'll understand the meaning of the word. Charlie shows up with a lived-in rasp of a voice, a National Resonator guitar, a 12 string acoustic, a banjo, a batch of his own songs, and well traveled numbers by Mississippi John Hurt, Charlie Patton, and other bluesmen from another time. He executes his music the way it should be with his self-taught mix of slide, finger pickin' and quasi-frailing techniques, and a voice that says this is the blues. Charlie hails from Duluth, the harbor on that big cold, rocky-shored, fresh water ocean that opens the door to the iron range. There is something clear and solid about this guy. You just gotta hear it.

Bill McGrath: 28 Days in Palestine; eyewitness stories

Saturday, Nov. 24th 4:30pm

Freewill donation

Activist and journalist

Join us for a slide show of photographs taken by Bill McGrath of Northfield who recently lived for a month with a Palestinian family. He learned some Arabic, worked as a journalist at the International Middle East Media Center, and walked around Bethlehem, Jenin, Ramallah, Jerusalem, Nablus, Jericho, Hebron, and the Negev Desert of southern Israel observing and interviewing people.

Paddy Keenan

Saturday, Nov. 24, 8pm

\$15 reg. to \$5 low income; kids freewill donation

Irish Music and uilleann pipes

In the mid-1970's the Bothy Band forever changed the face of Irish Traditional music. One of the band's founding members, and one of its driving forces, was uilleann piper Paddy Keenan. The virtuosity and ferocity of his playing led to his being described as "the Jimi Hendrix of the pipes". His style has continued to mature in the intervening years as he has pursued a solo career. Generally acknowledged as the most accomplished uilleann piper performing today, he is certainly one of the most brilliant musicians of his generation. Appearing with Paddy will be singer/guitarist John Walsh. John has been playing guitar since childhood in County Kilkenny, and has recently released his debut album, "Aon Do Tri". This will be a great show and Paddy is a great performer.

Chuck Suchy

Friday, Nov. 30, 8pm

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

A feeling person's singer/songwriter/storyteller- farm direct!

Chuck is our favorite farmer/ folk singer and it is always great to have him back. Chuck pours out articulate expressions of rural and deeper human values through his songs and stories. He is a super guitar player, singer, and story teller. His ability to inspire a sense of the significance of rural life transcends any borders between city and country folks and gives it a sense of holiness. His performances always leave you feeling good inside and bonded to all in the room. Seeing Chuck when he gets off the farm and comes to visit is like seeing a great sunrise and sunset in the space of one evening.

Veterans For Peace: meet the local chapter, hear about their work

Saturday, Dec. 1, 4:30pm pot-luck to follow at 6pm

Veterans For Peace was formed during the Viet Nam war. They are in the front lines of the movement to end this war. They counsel active duty troops as well as returned veterans and tell young potential recruits the real story. They have endorsed the need in dire times for non-violent civil disobedience. Come to learn and discuss.

The Scottie Miller Band

Saturday, Dec. 1, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Blues like you like it!

Scottie Miller and the Re-Uptake Inhibitors, with drummer Mark O'Day, bassist John Iden, Brian "Zoot" Simonds on saxophones, and Scott Sansby on percussion, are taking the Midwest by storm. Of course Scotty Miller on piano is a key ingredient to this dynamic, high power blues band. The band exhibits strong Mpls to New Orleans funk flavors, reflective soulful ballads, slow blues, and R&B cuts that wander back and forth somewhere between Ray

Charles, John Hiatt, Dr. John and "The Meters". This is always a heck of a blues show with some of the best blues-men in the region. These guys rock.

Dean Magraw and John Williams

Friday, Dec. 7, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Celtic/Eclectic/Stratospheric

Dean and John performed one of the most memorable shows ever performed here. Mix one of the all-time best guitar players on the planet with the best Irish musician in North America, and then have them love to play together, put them in a place they love to play in...they will carry you waaaay over the rainbow to some place in outer space you never heard of. Some Irish place. Waaay up there. Dean on guitar, John with his virtuoso accordion and button accordion, occasionally pulling out his penny whistle, always smiling, it's a good thing the music is so good. It helps cure those gut-splitting bouts of laughter that happen when these guys cut loose with the jokes. This show will sell out. Don't be late getting tickets...

Becky Schlegel with Brian Fesler

Sunday, Dec. 9, 2PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Guitar, vocals and mandolin/Bluegrass

Becky Schlegel's professional music career started in her teens, performing at VFW's and American Legion Halls across South Dakota. By the late 90's she had entered the bluegrass scene and begun writing. Her first solo release, "Red Leaf" in 2002 added a contemporary flair to her bluegrassy sound and was named "Bluegrass Recording of the Year" by the Minnesota Music Academy. In the years since, Becky has released another award-winning record and performed several times on Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion". She is touring now in support of her latest album, "For All The World To See". We're anxious to have Becky and Brian bring their great talent to our stage.

Willie Murphy and Rad Lorkovic

Friday, Dec. 14, 8 PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Blues, Jazz, Folk; Willie and Rad style

This show has been done once before...and it was awesome to see and hear. These two extraordinary piano playing musicians do it at the same time or trade leads. Two different pianos, two different musicians. And then there is Rad and his incredible accordion adding into the mix. It was during their last joint appearance that we recorded that great version of "People Get Ready" sung and played on the baby grand by Willie, for our 1st Oak Center compilation CD. Willie Murphy of Willie and the Bees fame, (they were the back-up band on Bonnie Raitt's 1st album), and Rad Lorkovic, trained in classical piano and moving thru that amazing music scene that came out of Iowa City and surrounding territory over the last 25 years. This night will be memorable...you should probably get tickets early for this one too.

The Rochester Mennonite Fellowship Singers

Saturday, Dec. 15, 6PM sharing food... ~7pm music sharing

freewill donation for charitable causes

4 part harmonies: Christmas/Gospel/non-American

There is nothing more beautiful than the acapella harmonies of Mennonites singing the spiritual music they grew up with in 4 part harmonies. (I think it might be 5 when Gordon gets inspired). But their love of music and love of others has led them to learn the music of other lands where they do relief work and act out God's love in service to others. This evening will begin with a sharing of food and Christmas cookies, (bring a dish or cookies to share also if you like), and will finish by a sharing of music in 3 segments: Gospel, songs from other lands/ songs of peace, and a Christmas segment. All God's children are welcome, Christian and non-Christian alike. We invite you to bring friends and neighbors. There will be some familiar songs you will be invited to sing along with.

Northwind Crossing

Sunday, Dec. 16th, 2pm

\$15 reg. to \$5 low income; kids freewill donation

Traditional Celtic/Christmas themes

Northwind Crossing is a quintet of northern Minnesota musicians drawn together by their common love for performing traditional Celtic music. The bulk of Northwind Crossing's music comes from the past and is of some antiquity. Much of their repertory is known to have been current in the 18th and 19th centuries and some is of even earlier origin. Northwind Crossing consists of mostly self-taught musicians. Tamie Jensen is featured on tin whistles, recorders, accordion, mountain dulcimer, Celtic harp and vocals. Larry Kimble on 6 and 12 string guitar, and vocals, Elijah Jensen on bodhran, auto harp, Celtic harp, accordion and vocal, Jake Giese on fiddle and vocals and Willis Mattison playing base and acting as the narrator for the group. There is considerable story-telling that presents the historical context for many of the tunes. There will be a strong focus on the Christmas themes in this performance. Get in the spirit!!!

Lehto and Wright

Friday, Dec. 21, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Acoustic/ electric blend of Irish, English and American traditional

Lehto and Wright have created a sound that is a unique blend of traditional and modern styles and come up with a fresh approach to the world of folk and folk rock. From American spirituals to Irish tune sets, this duo's accomplished twin guitar/mandolin approach has all the intensity and power of a trio. Great songs, virtuoso musicianship and beautifully blended harmony vocals, Lehto and Wright offer exciting live performances of traditional and contemporary with an eclectic twist. Never a disappointment, these guys are an awesome and dynamic duo.

The Nuvo Buffalo

Saturday Dec. 22, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Old-time/Western Cowgirl Swing/and more

Out of the ashes of the Buffalo Gals comes a new band with a not so different musical direction. Nuvo Buffalo continues the eclectic music tradition of old-time, western cow-girl yodel, Irish, Cajun, Swing, folk, and early country music. Fiddle, guitars, percussion, bass, flute, and three part harmonies all contribute to the richness of the songs and tunes that they perform. As there are three former members of the Buffalo Gals, you will recognize many selections, but, also be treated to new songs that will soon become favorites. What a great solstice party!!!

ADMISSION AND TICKET INFORMATION:

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT AND READ THIS BLURB ON TICKET SALES IN ORDER TO SAVE US ALL A LOT OF TIME ON THE PHONE (AND TO SAVE OUR FEET FROM GETTIN' WORN OFF THE ENDS OF OUR TIRED LEGS AS WE RUN BACK AND FORTH FROM OUR WORK TO THE TELEPHONE.)

TICKETS ARE \$15REG. DOWN TO \$5 PER TICKET FOR LOW INCOME—PAY WHAT YOU ARE ABLE. IT IS UP TO YOU TO DECIDE WHAT YOU CAN ECONOMICALLY AFFORD. PLEASE BE FAIR. WE CAN'T ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS AT THIS TIME. JUST MAIL A CHECK IN OR STOP BY. THROUGH THE MAIL: SEND A CHECK PAYABLE TO folk forum WITH A NOTE STATING THE CONCERT(S) YOU WISH TO ATTEND, HOW MANY TICKETS, AND HOW MUCH YOU ARE PAYING FOR EACH TICKET. WE WILL THEN WRITE YOUR NAME IN THE BOOK. HAVE EVERYONE IN YOUR PARTY CHECK IN UNDER YOUR NAME. WE DON'T SEND OUT TICKETS UNLESS THERE IS SOME SPECIAL NEED.

MANY TIMES OUR CONCERTS ARE SOLD OUT AHEAD OF TIME AND WE HAVE HAD SOME "NO SHOWS" WITH THE RESERVATION PLAN WHICH LEAVES SOME EMPTY SPACES. WE SELL TICKETS IN ADVANCE UP UNTIL IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF TIME CONSTRAINTS TO GET THEM THROUGH THE MAIL. AT THAT POINT, IF THERE ARE TICKETS LEFT, WE WILL TAKE RESERVATIONS. PURCHASING TICKETS IN ADVANCE IS AS EASY AS PIE, AND MOST OF YOU ARE REALLY GREAT ABOUT THIS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO STOP IN AND GET YOUR TICKETS AT THE STORE OR THE ROCH. FARMERS MARKET, WE LOVE TO SEE YOU AND GET A CHANCE TO CHAT.

WHEN YOU GET HERE FOR A CONCERT, PLEASE CHECK IN AT THE FRONT COUNTER IN THE STORE. IT IS GOOD TO ARRIVE A HALF-HOUR EARLY. SOME CONCERTS WILL BE SOLD OUT SO IF IT IS DOWN TO THE WIRE ON SOME OF THE REALLY HOT SHOWS, THEN IT MAY BE GOOD TO CALL FIRST AND LET US KNOW YOU ARE SENDING FOR TICKETS.

REGARDING CHILDREN AT SHOWS THAT ARE SOLD OUT: FREE WILL DONATION APPLIES TO KIDS WHO SIT ON THE RUGS UP FRONT OR WHO ARE SMALL ENOUGH TO SIT ON YOUR LAP. WE HAVE A LIMITED NUMBER OF SEATS (150) WE MUST RESERVE SEATS FOR THE FULL ADMISSION PRICE IN ORDER TO PAY PERFORMERS AND COVER COSTS. *Questions? email them to folkforum@lakes.com. Thanks!*

WE ARE UPDATING OUR MAILING LIST SO..... IF YOU HAVEN'T DONATED \$5.00 FOR MAILING COSTS IN THE LAST YEAR, PLEASE DO SO AS PRINTING COSTS AND POSTAGE HAVE GONE UP AND EAT UP A HUGE AMOUNT OF OUR RESOURCES— If you have filled out one of these and made a donation for mailing cost, but somehow didn't make the list please notify us. We can put you on. Sorry for any confusion. Want your newsletter emailed to you? Email us at folkforum@lakes.com and we'll put you on the list—we still would appreciate the \$5.00 per year even for emailed newsletters. Thank you!!!!

folk forum CALENDAR IN BRIEF 2007

October

7th, Sun., 2PM Mary Cutrufello
13th, Sat., 8PM Michael Monroe
14th, Sun., 2 PM Anne Feeney with Evan Greer
20th, Sat. 4:30pm Gary Holthaus:author reads; potluck at 6pm
20th, Sat., 8pm Cliff Eberhardt with opening by Eric Peltoniemi
28th, Sun., 2PM Claudia Schmidt

November

3rd, Sat., 8PM Gypso Mania: opening by Jacob Mcknite
4th, Sun, 2pm Leslie Ball, Dean Magraw, and Anthony Cox
9th, Fri., 8pm, Johnsmith; Barbara Piper/Bill Hammond opening
10th, Sat. 4:30pm 9/11 Mysteries:Demolitions? Pot-luck 6pm
10th, Sat, 8pm Chris Silver Band
16th, Fri., 8pm. Pete Morton: opening by Bill Isles and Kate
17th, Sat., 8pm Charlie Parr
24th Sat. 4:30 Bill McGrath/Palestine talk; 6:00 potluck
24th, Sat. 8pm Paddy Keenan with John Walsh
30th, Fri. 8pm Chuck Suchy

December

1st, Sat. 4:30 pm, meet the Veterans For Peace
1st, Sat., 8pm Scottie Miller and the Re-Uptake Inhibitors
7th, Fri., 8pm Dean Magraw and John Williams
9th, Sun., 2pm Becky Schlegel and Brian Fesler
14th, Fri., 8PM Willie Murphy and Rad Lorkovich
15th, Sat., 6pm Mennonite singers and Friends
16th, Sun., 2PM Northwind Crossing
21st, Fri., 8PM Lehto and Wright
22nd, Sat., 8PM Nuvo Buffalo

Coming next year: a partial listing...

January 2008

19th, Sat., 8pm The Bourbon Brothers
25th, Fri., 8pm Mike Mangione and band
26th, Sat., 8pm Curtis and Loretta

February

2nd, Sat., 8pm, Greg Herriges and Telluric Currents
8th, Fri., 8pm, Montana Skies
9th, Sat., 8pm, Paul Mayasich and the Benderheads
15th, Fri. 8pm, Rad Lorkovich, Joel Rafael, and John Inman
24th, Sun., 2pm, Bill Staines

March

1st, Sat., 8pm, Boiled In Lead

8th, Sat. 8pm, Bruce Holmes
15th, Sat., 8pm, 4 Schillings Short
16th, Sun., 2pm, Barra
29th, Sat., 8pm, Tangled Roots

April

5th, Sat. 8pm, Joe and Vicki Price
12th, Sat. 8pm, The Miles Johnston Quartet
18th, Fri. 8pm, Small Potatoes
19th, Sat. 8pm, Switchback
26th, Sat. 8pm, Eighthhead

May

3rd, Sat. 8pm, Carolyn Cruso

For further information, please call: The Oak Center General Store, (507) 753-2080 email at folkforum@riverland.org or go to: www.oakcentergeneralstore.com

folk forum

c/o Oak Center General Store
67011 Hwy 63
Lake City, MN 55041

Thank you for your friendships and participation. New ideas are welcome please contact us with your thoughts. Watch for the winter/spring 2008 newsletter.

For further information, please call: The Oak Center General Store, (507) 753-2080 email at folkforum@riverland.org or go to: www.oakcentergeneralstore.com



peace

begins
with us

after all...

we are the people

in...

“ we the people ”

... are we not?