

# folk forum

Fall 2011

*We need to understand the so-called “Christian” underpinnings of the anti-tax, anti-govmt, anti-the-poor, “let him die” approach to economics and public policy today as completely un-Christian, as well as un-American.*

Susan Brooks in the Washington Post; “It’s not ‘class warfare’, it’s Christianity”

*Hello earth people,*

The more news I hear, the more it appears that the tapestry of America is unraveling. It is unsettling, but not unexpected. Since my teens, I’ve had more faith in Mother Nature than in modern civilization. Even this past summer when one of those space alien flesh eating bacteria tried to eat me and my arm, I kept that faith. During a begrudgingly voluntary incarceration in hospitals, hooked up to machines pumping multitudes of antibiotics into my body to dislodge this “superbug”, my deepest instincts told me my survival depended on healthy food and herbs from organic fields and some fresh air and sunshine. It is ironic that I had to rely on ultra-strong antibiotics produced in laboratories to dislodge this “superbug” that may have its origins in one of these hyper-sterile environments where the only “good bug” is a dead bug. Family and friends brought in food and love...and kefir, yoghurt, and cultured veggies. It was as much part of the healing process as the kind and capable staff in the hospitals. The escape home to untended fields and greenhouses was difficult. But nature is constant and forgiving. I was able to jump back in. The pears were great and I got some to market. The basil, tomatoes, cukes, peppers, and eggplants in the greenhouses came back with a little water. Some of the kale, collards, broccoli, and cauliflower in the fields produced crops in spite of the weeds. And the apples did great. The trees are loaded. I was able to jump back into the routines of harvesting, going to market, and supplying my food co-op and restaurant customers with organic produce. I feel whole again being connected to land and my labor. It is a lifeboat in a wildly crazy sea.

This past Sunday, a friend (Mariposa), who has been lending a hand quite frequently over the past year, brought friends down to pick apples and press cider. We dragged out the cider press and did the needed repairs. The afternoon was, as cider-pressing days usually are, a beautiful time among friends. The multi-dimensional jazz band “Mother Nature” deepened the experience by supplying colored leaves on fall breezes, astonishing hues of sunshine, dramatic clouds, deep blue sky, and multiple choruses from flocks of gathering birds. As evening approached we took time to forage shiitakes from inoculated logs, and veggies from the fields for supper. The quiche with fresh eggs, shiitake mushrooms, broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, tomatoes, sweet peppers, onions, garlic, and goat milk cheese, cooked in a warm kitchen over a wood cook-stove was better than could be bought. The hot apple cider and rhubarb wine gave cause to wonder why we even considered getting back on that economic treadmill again at all!!! Mariposa, who grew up in a working class family that ate

out of the garden and from game and fish they caught, told how her dad used to say when they were feasting like this, “I wonder what the poor people are eating tonight!” they would answer by listing what was on their plates. Maybe the collapse of the “Holy American Empire” would be a good thing.

**FIGHT THE BEAST!!! Don’t feed it.**

When I am working outside on my farm there is a natural honesty in the relationships of things, a natural order that makes sense. It can sometimes be cold and raw but it is also forgiving and generous. Leave me alone in the garden and I find sanctuary from the craziness and turmoil of this human realm. We have set the world of humans apart from the natural order. Calling it “civilization”, we claim it to be some kind of higher order. Looking out across the fields and roads from the top of my picking ladder, swaying with the branches in the wind and stretching for nice apples looking in the tops, I wonder if this might be the best vantage point for watching the slow motion collapse of this faltering empire. For decades it has been on a course driven by materialism and greed. It has been market driven instead of conscience driven. It serves mammon instead of God, it runs on greed instead of love. And greed may be its undoing. This “Holy American Empire” has been sacked and looted not by Atilla the Hun, but by capitalists masquerading as Christians and Patriots. And yes, we all dreamed and believed once that this nation was going to be the best yet with “justice and freedom for all”. Many generations have hoped their votes and their voices would get this ship on course. Things have moved far adrift from that dream. Our image is tarnished in the eyes of much of the world and our own peoples lack a common enough vision to be civil and productive. America has become a rogue among nations. Its drones, smart bombs, and modern day conquistadors have alienated our friends, made multitudes of enemies, and undermined our security and freedom. Modern day “robber barons” and Wall St. have swindled the national and world economies into collapse. Maybe in the natural order of things there is a climax, decay, and a fall built into civilizations. Can we act in time to prevent this new “feudalism”, and accompanying fascist tendencies from grabbing the rudder of this boat, a boat that has unsettling similarities to the Titanic. The Wall Street guys, the war-makers, the industrial earth wreckers, and swindlers of all sizes and shapes have run this unyielding behemoth full steam against a huge iceberg in cold water. It is not equipped with enough lifeboats for a disaster of this magnitude. The poor sit exposed down below in steerage while those in expensive fur coats line up on the upper decks for rescue. Whatever happens to this sinking ship, our future is dependent on this planet. Kiss her and act like you love her. In these times...we each need to ready our homes, our farms, and our lands to be lifeboats. Come drink some hot cider and listen to great music with us...

Love and peace,  
Maintenance and repair



*Earthly Notes.*

### *Thank you*

- Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help us keep folk forum alive with your time or donations. Thanks to the Lynn's for all of your constant and "in the nick of time" help, and to Dana, Jordan, Kathy, Trish, Gerry, Pam, Strider, and in advance to all who will (hopefully) sign up as regular volunteers to help us keep hosting these events. **WE NEED YOU!** Thanks to Lawrence Schwanke, Michael Perry, Alan and Judy Hoffman, Betty Oudal and everyone else who sent in donations of any amount...and **to those who WILL be sending in donations.** We know from all the **thank you's** we receive from our patrons and visitors to the community that your support for this magical shared journey is appreciated.

***Volunteers for folk forum***—it is a difficult act to do all these fine programs without the generous help from you. **We could sure use some volunteers to hang posters in Rochester, Red Wing, Wabasha, Plainview and other surrounding communities. We always need regular volunteers to help clean up before and after shows, make food, and someone with computer skills to help update/ maintain the mailing list.** If you can help, please let us know when you are available. If you would like to make a donation, checks can be made out to folk forum and mailed in or dropped off. (507)753-2080, e-mail: [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 Concerts: \$5-\$15, pay what you're able; kids freewill donation***

### ***BINGHAM AND THORNE***

***Saturday, Oct 8<sup>th</sup>, 8PM***

***Traditional, fingerstyle blues***

Former Lamont Cranston Band guitarist and founding member Bob Bingham has teamed up with northwoods fingerstyle wizard and pre-war music freak Gordon Thorne to form what Tom Surowitz of the Mpls Star Tribune hails as "one of the best

acoustic duos in the country - a double shot of fingerstyle blues at its finest". Combining masterful guitar work with soulful vocals and a comfortable command of the stage, Bingham & Thorne performances are a raucous romp through an American musical landscape inspired by country bluesers, early jazzers, oldtime fiddlers, shouters, crooners, devil worshipers, rock n' rollers, boomers, roustabouts, and revelators. Don't miss this opportunity to take in an evening of classic American music.

### ***MIKE MANGIONE***

***Saturday, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>, 8PM***

***Folk-rock & orchestrated string section with soulful vocals***

Mike Mangione & The Union is a touring group that combines a folk-rock sound with an orchestrated string section, soulful vocals and literate sensibility. The band's previous album, *Tenebrae*, has received favorable press from all corners of the country, including the honor of being an All Music Guide Album Pick, while Blurt refers to their "tearstained folk, Memphis-styled gospel and bluesy-flavored pop" as "luminous".

### ***THE CHRIS SILVER BAND***

***Saturday, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 8PM***

***Bluegrass with global rhythms and contemporary themes***

Chris Silver plays roots music, but it doesn't stop there. Chris' music 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 has pulled together some very fine musicians and was one of our best shows last year. Erin Govrik, new to the band, has been performing folk and bluegrass music to audiences across America and Mexico for two decades. Her vocal style can be described as sweet, raw, and full of energy, (1 part Lucinda Williams, 1 part Bonnie Raitt, and 1 part Bill Monroe). The band: Pete Mathison, bass; Wayne Beezley, mandolin; Lance Richard, banjo; and Jeff Rogers, percussion. One thing is for sure, their energy is infectious and they'll leave you wanting more.

### ***MARTY MARRONE & TANGLED ROOTS***

***Saturday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, 8PM***

***Bluegrass quartet***

Tangled Roots is one of the most energetic and entertaining bands to hit the bustling Minnesota Bluegrass music scene. They've been performing for over half a decade throughout Minnesota, North Dakota, Michigan and Wisconsin. With a broad spectrum of material ranging from songs and tunes by Bill Monroe and Elvis Presley to more recent songs penned by Bruce Hornsby, John Prine, Kevin Welch and Bruce Cockburn, Tangled Roots has become a favorite with bluegrass music fans. The members of Tangled Roots consist of some of the best known bluegrass performers in the upper Midwest and combined, they bring to the stage over 100 years of musical experience.

### ***TALU'N: GARRY JONES WITH LAURA MACKENZIE***

***Sunday, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2PM***

***Irish/ Celtic music***

Talún (Taw'loon, an Irish word meaning earth or ground) is composer/guitarist Garry Jones' performance ensemble. For the 2011 tour, he is joined by renowned traditional musician Laura MacKenzie on an array of wind-powered instruments and voice. Together, they perform Garry's compositions along with select traditional pieces, mingled with story and myth. This musical pilgrimage is presented as a modern day call to rediscover the spirit of the land that sustains us.

**ROBBY VEE****Friday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, 8PM****Country / Rock / Rockabilly**

Robby Vee hails from one of popular music's most hallowed legacies- "the rock 'n' roll family". Named after his father Bobby Vee, and family friend, Brian Hyland, both legendary pop music icons, he's been steeped in rock's timeless tradition of pop, swing, rockabilly and bop. Robby's talent and perseverance as a recording Artist and Entertainer has captured the attention of audiences and respected industry professionals world wide for more than a decade.

**THE BARLEY JACKS****Saturday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, 8PM****Acoustic Alchemy and Fiddle Wizardry**

The Barley Jacks sing original vocals and play jaw-dropping instrumentals in a spirit of excitement and fun. They are masters of the fiddle, guitar, bass and drum who meld their divergent backgrounds of blues and bluegrass, classical and Celtic, R & B and bebop to inspire each other and create something entirely new. Frontman and fiddler Brian Wicklund is joined by Joe Cruz-guitar, Kevin Rowe-bass, and Joel Arpin-percussion. These Minnesota-based veterans of years in the musical trenches enjoy making music together so much that they sometimes giggle like little kids completely lost in a moment of play. Virtuosity, magic and a little danger combine to make every performance unique

**THE PISTOL WHIPPIN' PARTY PENGUINS****Friday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, 8PM****Midwest-stylized, blues/country/rock/bluegrass**

Straight from the great Mill City comes the Pistol Whippin' Party Penguins. Don't let the name fool you! This is not a violent group of flightless aquatic birds looking for a party, but rather 5 self proclaimed gentlemen, 2 guitars, a mandolin, a bucket of fiddles, an upright bass, a banjo, and a 4 part vocal harmony that will make angels cry. This quintet from Minneapolis strives to maintain the original spirit of the "string band" while continuing to play new original music and creative cover songs. The combination of folk, rock, blues, bluegrass, and the occasional stage banter will create an experience that anyone can enjoy! Don't miss this intimate night of music!!!

**CHUCK SUCHY****Friday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, 8PM****Folk music originals and storytelling**

Again we host our favorite farmer/folksinger Chuck Suchy. His music pours out articulate expressions of rural and deeper human values through song, fancy guitar licks, occasional accordion tunes, and great stories. 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. This is always a great evening

**GALACTIC COWBOY ORCHESTRA with opener Jaggedease****Sat. Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, 8PM****Newgrass Art-Rock**

The Galactic Cowboy Orchestra (GCO) is a unique and powerful musical ensemble that fuses an eclectic mix of original and traditional bluegrass-edged tunes with jazz and world/fusion elements. Their music is Chick Corea meets The Dixie Dregs meets A Prairie Home Companion. The mix ranges from highly accessible bluegrass tunes to extreme arrangements of East Indian ragas. GCO's instrumentation includes guitar, fiddle, bass and drums. The widely versatile instrumentals are accessible to music-lovers of all ages!

**SUSAN WERNER****Saturday, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>, 8PM****Folk, blues, jazz, songs of love and love lost**

There are few performers out there today that have the voice, musicianship and songwriting abilities that Susan Werner has. Playing both piano and very impressive blues guitar, this is a rare opportunity to see her in a smaller intimate setting with such great acoustics. The New Yorker writes: Werner brings literacy and wit back to popular song. Intelligent, engaging, one of a kind.

**CHARLIE PARR with opener The Sudden Lovelys****Saturday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8PM****Authentic Northshore Blues**

Authentic gets used way too much, but when you hear Charlie you'll understand its meaning. Charlie shows up with his lived-in rasp of a voice, a National Resonator guitar, a twelve string acoustic, a banjo, a batch of his own songs, and well traveled numbers by revered bluesmen from other times. He executes his music the way it should be with a self-taught mix of slide, finger-picking, quasi-frailing techniques, and a voice that says, "this is the blues". Charlie Parr is the real deal. We're not pulling your leg. But don't take our word for it... listen to his music. You'll be glad you did.

**MONROE CROSSING'S CHRISTMAS MATINEE****Sunday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2PM****Bluegrass**

Celebrating their 10th year in 2010, Monroe Crossing dazzles audiences with an electrifying blend of classic bluegrass, bluegrass gospel, and heartfelt originals. Their airtight harmonies, razor sharp arrangements, and on-stage rapport make them audiences' favorites across the continent. Get tickets early...

**LEHTO AND WRIGHT****Saturday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, 8PM****Folk/folk rock, traditional/modern duo**

The Minneapolis, MN based duo of Steven Lehto and John Wright have a wide array of influences, ranging anywhere from progressive folk pioneers to King Crimson, Miles Davis, and Richard Thompson. Collectively, their backgrounds include jazz, blues, fusion, pop, Latin and rock. Joining them is Matt Jacobs on drums and percussion, and his background is similar. Although you might expect such a band to have many members, in the case of Lehto & Wright, the band is simply a trio and they've crafted some fantastic pieces.

**THE ROE FAMILY SINGERS****Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2PM****American Folk**

From Kirkwood Hollow, MN, the Roe Family Singers are husband and wife Kim and Quillan Roe. Often joined by an ensemble of some of the Twin Cities finest pickers, the Roe Family play good-time, old-time hillbilly music. Whether playing songs of their own or from the deep tradition of American music, every performance raises a ruckus.

**THE REUNION BAND (formerly Willow Lane)****Friday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, 8PM****Classic Rock & Roll**

This five piece classic rock and roll band has just one mission: Give the people what they want in danceable, recognizable music from the 60's, 70's and 80's. Many of the former members of the extremely popular 70's Band Willow Lane are headed up by Larry Petit of the well known musical Petit Family Band. They don't have a website, so spread the word that these guys have gotten back together and are still playing some great music that brings

people to the dance floor or sets them to clapping and singing in their seats.

**THE DOLLY'S**

**Saturday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, 8PM**

**Traditional country**

If an epiphany in the form of Patsy Cline and Dolly Parton came to you through the dashboard of a muscle car on a hot summer day, would you listen? Kari Shaw did. She knew in that glorious moment that she needed to bring together a collective of musicians who could reanimate the soul, heartbreak and elation of traditional country music...with a twist. That realization was the first step in the evolution of The Dollys. Shaw, who finds her roots in the music of The Trio and other traditional female country artists, rounded out The Dollys with two of Minneapolis' most sought-after voices, Andra Suchy and Joanna Jahn. Had the Grand Old Opry started in Minnesota, The Dollys would be the house band.

**ERIK KOSKINEN & MOLLY MAHER**

**Friday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> 8PM**

**Blues/folk/country/fusion**

Best known as an ace guitarist and Producer/Engineer (Trampled By Turtles), Erik Koskinen should also be recognized as a masterful songwriter and rousing country singer. His dulcet tone and demeanor rival those artists like Sting and Bon Jovi. Erik is back this year with Molly Maher. Her guitar playing is rural and soulful. Breaking all conventions, she plays her guitar upside down and in different tunings. Elizabeth Cotton would be proud! Her voice? The apparent lovechild of Ricki Lee Jones and Bonnie Rait.

**folk forum CALENDAR IN BRIEF Fall 2011**

**October**

8<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Bingham and Thorne  
15<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Mike Mangione  
22<sup>nd</sup>, Sat. 8PM The Chris Silver Band  
26<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Susan Werner  
29<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Tangled Roots  
30<sup>th</sup>, Sun. 2PM Talu'n; Garry Jones with Laura MacKenzie

**November**

4<sup>th</sup>, Fri. 8PM Robby Vee  
5<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM The Barley Jacks  
11<sup>th</sup>, Fri. 8PM The Pistol Whippin' Party Penguins  
18<sup>th</sup>, Fri. 8PM Chuck Suchy  
19<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Galactic Cowboy Orchestra  
26<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Susan Werner

**December**

3<sup>rd</sup>, Sat. 8PM Charlie Parr  
4<sup>th</sup>, Sun. 2PM Monroe Crossing's Christmas Matinee  
10<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Lehto and Wright  
11<sup>th</sup>, Sun. 2PM The Roe Family singers  
16<sup>th</sup>, Fri. 8PM The Reunion Band (formerly Willow Lane)  
17<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM The Dolly's  
23<sup>rd</sup>, Fri. 8PM Erik Koskinen & Molly Maher

For further information, please call The Oak Center General Store, (507) 753-2080 or email [folkforum@riverland.org](mailto:folkforum@riverland.org). Thank you for your friendship and participation. New ideas are welcome; please contact us with your thoughts. [www.oakcentergeneralstore.com](http://www.oakcentergeneralstore.com)

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