

folk forum

fall 2013

Just as a bee gathers honey without harming the smell, color or appearance of a flower, so lives a sage in his/her village.

Guatama Sakyamuni

Hello again Folks,

The golden-orange hues of the fall sun and leaves feel pretty nice after a spring and summer of extremes that tested one's endurance. The unending rains that prevented many of us that farm from being able to plant crops until the end of June or early July, followed by stifling heat and drought leave me looking forward to bringing this growing season to a close, hoping for a better "next year". Part of my family, extended family, and friends came together this past Sunday afternoon to pick apples in my neglected orchard and press apple cider for our winter stores. 3 generations from toddlers to doddlers and several dogs enjoyed the beautiful fall weather while working together in what has become, over the years, a family ritual perhaps as sacred as Thanksgiving or Christmas. It inspires those of us who remember the days before cell phones and facebook to see youngsters and teenagers working with parents and grandparents, un-interrupted by electronic entertainment and social media, having fun climbing ladders and turning the crank on the old cider press. This is an age-neutral experience as everyone waits with anxious anticipation to taste the next batch of juice as it pours thru the wooden slats of the baskets. All of the many heirloom varieties of apples impart their own special gift to the mix. Some are sweet, some tart, some rich complex flavors, and some just a lot of juice. Much like each one of us imparting our own unique, eccentric, bubbly, or tart gifts to enrich the lives of our companions. In the midst of it all, the dark shadows of our increasingly unstable world seem distant and irrelevant. It feels real, enduring, and significant!

For 40+ years I have hoped that people getting back to the land, working to create co-ops, "green" lifestyles, etc...would fix the planet in my lifetime. There has been some positive change and moments of celebrating victories, but at times, looking at where our planet has gone in the last few decades and where it seems to be going, there has been some serious backsliding. In the past decade I have frequently felt like a butterfly or dragonfly flapping its wings against the glass in a greenhouse. Am I a human form of that butterfly hoping to create a hurricane somewhere on the other side of the world by flapping my wings? Am I hopelessly trying to turn the Titanic from its collision course by hanging my leg over the side and dragging my foot in the water? I wonder how many of you have that feeling. I wonder how many times I have heard people say "there's nothing I can do about it. Life goes on." There are as many different life choices as there are people and as many levels of commitment. Each apple has its own flavor. Some really make the mix sweeter and some just add to the juice. Life is full of choices, contradictions, and compromises. Somehow we have to make sense of it. It would be worthy to come up with a plan to make a positive contribution in gratitude for the chance to experience this journey...as opposed to acting like a messy tourist who is just along for the ride. Leave the campsite better than you found it I always say. If you look at the big picture, it is easy to

become overwhelmed, but to really experience life it helps to understand how our small, sometimes seemingly insignificant acts are connected to that picture. The point of the Zen butterfly flapping its wings in one place and creating a hurricane on the other side of the world is that everything is intimately connected and of significance. When the universe, or grace of God is aligned, small acts can make things happen.

This corrupt world is ruled by a Beast so large and pervasive, it is hard to imagine being able to turn it around or slow it down; let alone drive it back into the shadows. The more it devours and destroys, the stronger it seems to become. The "Defense" industry has left defense in favor of offense. Has made trillions in the last few wars alone, and guaranteed that, without miracles, war will continue and expand well into the future. Agri-biz, Big Oil, Gas, and Nukes, Big Pharma, Insurance, Big Banking and Wall St. have all spun their impenetrable, interconnected webs to trap body and soul of our people in a game called jobs and patriotism that leaves most on a treadmill running the machinery while a few sip champagne poolside far from the fray. It is time to stop feeding the beast. The beast needs people to feed it or it will weaken and die. Butterflies are very low carb food for the beast who prefers blood and flesh. This is a time for butterflies and bees to find strength and keep on pollinating, adding beauty and sweetness. We must continue on as those butterflies making cider, putting food up from our gardens, knitting and spinning, making clothes, riding bicycles and walking instead of driving, visiting instead of emailing and texting, foraging herbs, berries, nuts, and mushrooms, making maple syrup, pottery, and furniture...and staying out of the spiders' webs. We must turn our skills and talents to life giving tasks that don't feed the Beasts of war and profiteering. Earn less, spend less, need less, have more. We must create Off-The-Beast families and communities for the generations ahead. Teach your children well. Enough butterflies quietly flapping their wings could just blow the big bad Beastie back into the Dark Techno Age that it came from.

Hey! There's some fine music coming up soon! We look forward to sharing music, camaraderie, and good food with you once again in the Big Room.

Love and peace,
Maintenance and repair

p.s. we can use some help!



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, to Mariposa, a.k.a. Kathy, you are angels of mercy. The folk forum and Oak Center would not be the same without your frequent rescues! Thank you Mandy, Laurie and the girls for making all the great food, selling concessions, and taking tickets. It's nice having you become part of this. Thank you Robert for all your weekly help and good company this spring. Thank you Blanca for all those days you came up to do my chores while I was at the farmers' market or delivering produce in the Twin Cities. Thanks Liz, Garret, Anne, Pam, Doug, and everyone else who pitches in. Thanks to Lawrence Schwanke, Ron and Carolyn Drude, Michael Perry, Alan and Judy Hoffman, Joel and Teresa Swan and everyone else who sent in donations of any amount to cover mailings and other costs...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 can use more volunteers to hang posters in Rochester, Red Wing, Plainview and other surrounding communities. Thanks to Claire and Jim in Wabasha, and Frank in Rochester for all your help in hanging posters. 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. Call (507) 753-2080 email: 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

BARBARA MEYER, STANLEY & THEIR RASTA BAND
Saturday, Oct 5th, 8PM

Dub/ Reggae grooves

The Barbara Meyer Band is thrilled to be opening Oak Center's Music Season!!! Rockabilly balladeer Barbara Meyer shines the light with strong vocals and fine songwriting, and plays a tasty rhythm guitar to boot. Joining her is long-time friend and mystical musical compatriot, Stan Kipper (New Primitives). Their days together in Minneapolis' seminal ensemble One World, coupled with their individual world traveling rock & roll voodoo, help to carve out an extremely beautiful sound. Also huge parts of the magic: Bill Hulett on bass (One World), Park Evans on guitar (Parker Paisley), and Andy Shaffer on saxophone (Midnight Moxy). Full of soul and total love, if you enjoy genuine, homegrown artistry, you will love this show.

THE BARLEY JACKS

Saturday, Oct. 12th, 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 DITCH LILIES

Saturday, Oct. 19th, 8PM

Bluegrass/ Americana

Kari Larson and Lisa Schultz have loved and performed what has now come to be named "Americana". A great melting pot of swing, blues, jazz, and old-time country where all manner of musicians would simply play popular music, seemingly without apology or without being hemmed in by commercial restriction. Together, The DitchLilies have been turning back in time, again and again, to dust off the rare and forgotten tunes or to hone the familiar, tried and true melodies with the aim of carrying them forward to share with their audiences of today.

MOTHER BANJO

Saturday, Oct. 26th, 8PM

Bluegrass/ Americana/ Gospel

Featuring Ellen Stanley on banjo and vocals, Mother Banjo is a New England-raised, Minneapolis-based songwriter. Her highly anticipated new album *The Devil Hasn't Won* is an Americana gospel collection produced by Steve Kaul (The Brass Kings), it showcases her all-star 5-piece band that includes guitarist Dan Gaarder, bassist Eric Paulson, mandolin player Jim Parker and pianist/drummer Ben Cook-Feltz. Featuring lively originals and unique covers of songs that she calls "pub gospel," the new album shows why Mother Banjo has been hailed for her poetic songwriting and powerful vocals. An engaging live performer, Mother Banjo weaves humorous stories with fun covers and her own original material.

THE CHRIS SILVER BAND

Saturday, Nov. 2nd, 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 Rait, 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, Nov. 9th, 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.

CURTIS AND LORETTA**Saturday, Nov. 16th, 8PM****Celtic, Eclectic, folk and originals**

Favorite Minneapolis folkies Curtis & Loretta return to Oak Center for an evening of poignant original songs and carefully chosen traditional pieces. Curtis' down-home sense of humor and Loretta's theater background engage the audience in an experience that runs the gamut of rolling with laughter to holding back tears, with plenty of side-trips in between. The husband and wife duo have been acclaimed across the U.S. for their extraordinary harmonies and proficiency on a parade of instruments including Celtic harp, mandocello, mandolin, guitars, clawhammer banjo, and National steel ukulele, plus a bit of kazoo, harmonica, and shakers. City Pages named them "Best Acoustic Performers of the Twin Cities."

CHUCK SUCHY**Saturday, Nov. 23rd, 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

SCOTTIE MILLER BLUES BAND**Saturday, Nov. 30th, 8PM****Southern Soul, Slow Blues, Dramatic Ballads, and Greasy Funk**

Mr. Miller knocks the keys right out off the piano as he feeds you music for the soul. He has a natural feel for gospel music that is not copied or studied but just oozes out on uplifting songs like "Sweet Babe". Scottie calls Minnesota home and left to study music in Boston in the renowned Berklee College of Music. He has toured the USA with the late Bo Diddley. He is a distinguished performer both in the local scene and nationally, bringing his own brand of funk. He is a world-class lyricist with working class sensibilities.

JASPAR LEPAK**Saturday, Dec. 7th, 8PM****Folk /Americana**

Jaspar Lepak is a songstress whose remarkable gift for melody is only surpassed by her poetry. Playful, intimate, heartfelt, and intense, her lyrics expose a brave vulnerability as well as an art for storytelling while her clear, strong voice penetrates the heart. "Singing with the kind of Americana, lullaby ghost of a voice that listeners search for in roots music" (Twin Cities A.V. Club), Lepak charms as she stirs, and her performances pull your heart onto your sleeve and make you want to keep it there.

MONROE CROSSING'S CHRISTMAS MATINEE**Sunday, Dec. 8th, 3PM****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...

EDDIE JEFF CAHILL, LONNY KNIGHT, TERRY FOY & JOHN ASHTON**Friday, Dec. 13th, 8PM****Folk/Americana**

Eddie Jeff Cahill is a true wandering minstrel. Songs, stories, tall tales tumble from his lips like barrels over a waterfall, shattering ring and stave on the rocks of our complacency. As a bonus, Eddie Jeff's discourse is filtered through a thick Minnesota accent, redolent of Vikings and lutefisk. Joined by Lonny Knight, Terry Foy and John Aston, their last performance at Oak Center was a night filled with music, jokes, and stories that provoked uncontrollable laughter.

BARBARA JEAN MEYER, ERIK KOSKINEN & FRIENDS**Saturday, Dec. 14th, 8PM****Blues/folk/country/fusion**

Calling Minnesota's North Shore her home for the better part of the last decade Barbara Jean crafted her debut record, *The Great Escape*, with rich imagery from Lake Superior's rugged banks and reflections on difficult choices in matters of the heart. A masterful musician on violin, banjo fiddle and viola, she returns to Oak Center with Erik Koskinen. Best known as an ace guitarist and Producer/Engineer (*Trampled By Turtles*), Erik 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.

THE DL CAJUN BAND**Friday, Dec. 20th, 8PM****Dance, Acoustic, Swing, Folk**

The DL Cajun Band plays Cajun music from the prairies and bayous of SW Louisiana. Two steps, waltzes, blues with Cajun accordion, fiddle, guitar and French vocals. The group brings back memories of when the Saturday night dance was the community's main form of entertainment and socialization. Before electricity and amplification, the acoustic instruments and voice were the only way of making music. This band seeks to reenact that time and feeling in its music.

CHARLIE PARR**Saturday, Dec. 21st 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.

folk forum CALENDAR IN BRIEF Fall 2011

October

5th, Sat. 8PM Barbara Meyer, Stanley & their Rasta Band

12th, Sat. 8PM The Barley Jacks

19th, Sat. 8PM The Ditch Lilies

26th, Sat. 8PM Mother Banjo

November

2nd, Sat. 8PM The Chris Silver Band

9th, Sat. 8PM Tangled Roots

16th, Sat. 8PM Curtis and Loretta

23rd, Sat. 8PM Chuck Suchy

30th, Sat. 8PM The Scottie Miller Blues Band

December

7th, Sat. 8PM Jaspar Lepak

8th, Sat. 3PM Monroe Crossing's Christmas Matinee

13th, Fri. 8PM Eddie Jeff Cahill and friends

14th, Sat. 8PM Barbara Jean Meyer, Erik Koskinen & Friends

20th, Fri. 8PM The DL Cajun Band

21st, Sat. 8PM Charlie Parr

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

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