

folk forum

Fall/ Winter 2014

*"Don't it always seem to go, you don't know
what you got 'til it's gone, tear down a forest
put up a parkin' lot"*

Joni Mitchell

Hello again fellow Travelers, Hobbits, and Elves,

How was summer 2014 for you? At this writing it isn't over yet but a few of us are crossing our fingers hoping the return of the polar vortex this week doesn't bring an untimely end to gardens and crops that got a late start. After the long winter and cold spring, we had a relatively cool and rainy growing season. This year it requires more than the usual gardener's optimism to hope that those multitudes of green tomatoes and peppers will mature in the decreasing temps and daylight. Hope and optimism are necessary tools in a gardener's storehouse of tools and supplies.

Hope and optimism are great companions when our journeys come to rocky and slippery portages. Sometimes when journeys get tough we need to believe that glimpses of sunlight shining thru the trees are coming from lakes just ahead, lakes with great campsites and nice big, flat, rock landings overlooking the lake. Maybe there will be a cedar swamp on one end with dead cedar branches that can be collected in the canoe for smokeless campfires. Perhaps we will find some wintergreen, Labrador tea, and chaga for tea, and blueberries and thimbleberries for breakfast pancakes. What if there are some of those amazingly beautiful, only slightly poisonous, orange mushrooms that left a crew of Nebraska cowboys and me laughing into the night as we told stories and watched the fire's smoke wind upward between the cathedral towers of the pines into the stars. The best chances of finding clean campsites are to take tougher portages to lakes that are visited only by people who appreciate and love nature. Lakes along the beaten path are frequented by more reckless, noisy tourists who carry a lot of stuff. Those lakes usually have more bears grown accustomed to raiding food packs and living off the garbage left behind. I have a sense of how indigenous people felt as an increasingly industrialized culture spilled over into their pristine lands. Sometimes the lands were bought with beads and steel knives churned out in bulk in the industrial process. We watch similar processes corrupt our wildernesses with tourist traps and our rural communities with strip malls, all for the price of a few cell phones and widescreen TV's. If indigenous lands couldn't be purchased with the dazzling products of "civilization", the belief in 'Manifest Destiny' gave the invading culture the rationale for taking the land and resources by force. Too frequently a people get this idea that God gave them a special right to take land and resources from other people, killing them if they don't give it up.

My knowledge of history isn't strong enough to know where this 'chosen people' concept originated, but thru history, many have claimed this notion and rationalized their way to perpetrating horrific deeds. God chooses everyone thru creating them. We only hope they will choose God back, quit fighting each other, and quit wrecking the planet. When Moses led the Hebrew people out of Egypt into the wilderness, he told them that God would provide. And God did provide. They lived in the desert for 40 years. There was complaining and bickering from some who thought life was

better back in Egypt. Moses asked for patience and enticed them to continue on with promises of "a land of milk and honey" just up ahead. The complaining and bickering continued until he escaped to a mountaintop where he sat in front of a burning bush and wrote God's rules in stone. (Actually he probably inscribed them in clay and fired them in the heat of the burning bush.) After 40 years in the desert, folks were really impatient for that land of "milk and honey". They were also pretty lean and tough by then, and forgot about "thou shalt not kill" and "thou shalt not covet" thy neighbors stuff. Or perhaps they simply took a very racist view and decided it was only the rule when relating to fellow Jews. Coming to "a land of milk and honey" that God was letting some of his other children live on...they killed 'em, burnt their houses, killed their animals, and moved in. Very similar to modern day Zionists who started doing it all over again in 1948 and presently covet Gaza, the West Bank, the water, the seaports, the olive groves and grazing lands of God's other children. They actively repress their own citizens and peacefully protesting palestinians who want to live peacefully AND inclusively. Those who advocate peace and inclusiveness are viewed as threats. They are beaten, and imprisoned just as Jesus was 2000+ years ago. This "God is on OUR side" mentality lets people delude themselves into a 'self-righteousness' and subsequently they choose the devil (force and swindle) to acquire what they want or to gain dominance. From Moses, to Constantine, the Crusades, Conquistadores, Manifest Destiny, Hitler, Bush's "God Bless AMERICA", or radical Jihadists...this narrow perverted version of God has left a history of misery and a continuous cycle of violence and destruction. This perverted version carries over into our view of nature and man's "dominion over the earth and all living things". If we don't learn to LOVE each other AND the Earth, to live in peace and in balance with nature...there will be no "land of milk and honey" left. Again, this is where hope is beneficial. If we don't hold onto our visions and dreams of a millennium, a world at peace, and Earth once again a Garden of Eden...we may lose heart to finish that portage to some pristine lake just a little further thru the trees. *"We are Stardust, we are golden...and we've got to get ourselves back to the garden".*

Joni Mitchell

So all you Hobbits, Elves, homesteaders, homemakers, peacemakers, tree-huggers, poets, lovers, and healers... we have some great music for ya! In the meantime, keep cannin' those tomatoes, pickling those beans, ridin' those bicycles, conserving energy and water, standin' in front of the stone throwers and bulldozers, and kickin' the money changers out of the temple AND out of politics!!!

Love and peace,
Maintenance and repair

This message was drafted with a wooden, lead pencil and eraser on reused paper in natural light by a window.

p.s. we can always use some help! (Cleaning, hanging posters, cutting wood, cutting flowers, cooking, computer stuff, carpentry, etc.)



Earthly Notes:

Thank you

- Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help us keep folk forum alive with your time or donations. Thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Lynn, Sierra & Austin, for your dedicated support and “in the nick of time” help. To Mariposa, (Kathy), Mandy, Margaret, Mary Emma, Laurie, Grace, Hope, and all others who help putting together the great food and jumping in wherever needed. You are angels of mercy. To Dr. Todd “Oz”, the dedicated and capable ticket taker extraordinaire, you are a blessing. May you and Kathy always find mushrooms. To help us face the coming cold months, let us know you care lend us a few backs, muscles, and time to help get wood in. It warms the heart AND helps keep the building warm for everyone’s toes. If anyone would like to sign up as a regular volunteer to help us keep hosting these events, WE STILL NEED YOU! A special thanks to everyone else who sent in donations of any amount to cover mailings and other costs. We know from all the thank you-s we receive 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 and Betty in Rochester for all your help in hanging posters. And 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. 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!!

Concerts: \$5-\$15 pay what you’re able; kids freewill donation

THE MENU

THE MARY JANE ALM BAND

Saturday, Oct. 4th, 8PM

Americana

Mary Jane Alm is one of today’s most remarkable and best-known performers on the Midwest music scene. Honored with fifteen MN Music Awards including “Best Female Vocalist” and “Artist of the Year”, her performances have been called “music for singers”. Her

artistry has won her a celebrated reputation among musicians, critics and public alike and she was inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame in 2013. When she was recently voted best female vocalist in the Twin Cities by two different entertainment magazines, the Rochester Post Bulletin said, “After listening to her sing, one could wonder why they bothered to count the votes.”

PAUL MAYASICH AND RAMM

Saturday, Oct. 11th, 8PM

Blues, Roots music, Mo-town, R&B

Paul Mayasich brings his sweet blues vocals, awesome guitar playing, and his outstanding trio. John Iden is still on bass and Hye Pockets on the trap set. All three of these guys contribute to vocals. They have shared the stage with many greats. Always a great show.

TREVOR MARTY and DEDRICK BENZ

Saturday, Oct. 18th, 8PM

Folk/ Americana

Trevor Marty is a fourth generation gigging musician.

For the last 80 years someone in his family has been entertaining people, and now it's his turn at bat.

Whether he's playing a resonator or a flattop guitar, his joy for playing is palpable and addictive.

In 2009 Marty played a folk festival in Cleveland, toured in Nova Scotia, played house concerts across the country, and released his third CD, 'Troubled Times.'

In 2003 he released a live album “Red Hot Daisy Juice” with the band “Mot Mot” (much to the delight of the bands fans).

'Beneath the Tree's' was released in 2005 and has garnered exceptional

response, positive reviews, and internet and college radio play.

'Troubled Times' his latest released in 2009 is doing just as well and gathering quite a following.

He has collaborated with several emerging artists in the US and Canada and continues playing out on a regular basis in Minnesota and Wisconsin. His fan base is growing and as it does he is forming a warm inviting bond with his live audiences, often taking time to engage fans after shows in one to one conversations about instruments

and music. Of this relaxed relationship with listeners Marty says, “Music is, was and ever shall be all about bringing people together.”

BARBARA MEYER BAND WITH STAN KIPPER & THE GUYS

Saturday, Oct. 25th 8PM

Roots Music Woman & A Bit of Reggae

Connection. Commitment. Community. Meyer’s deep, soulful, yet highly accessible lyrics create these things, and so much more.

Drawing on her playful humor and intrinsic spirituality, Barbara pens songs that are totally relevant now as well as steeped in ancient wisdoms. Meyer’s second record, simply titled *Barbara Meyer II*, shows a strong move toward her world beat aesthetic; it shows many colors yet remains as cohesive as a rainbow. Her wildly talented band, anchored by local luminary Stan Kipper, joins her to create a truly magical sound.

MOTHER BANJO

Saturday, Nov. 1st, 8PM

Bluegrass/ Americana/ Gospel

Featuring Ellen Stanley on banjo and vocals, Mother Banjo is a New England-raised, Minneapolis-based songwriter. Called “an outstanding poet” (*Inside Bluegrass*), she was a Midwest Finalist for the prestigious Mountain Stage New Song Contest. She released her new album *The Devil Hasn't Won* with a sold-out release show at the world-renowned Dakota Jazz Club, where legends like Prince, Lucinda Williams, and her banjo hero Bela Fleck have performed. Produced by Steve Kaul (The Brass Kings), the album is a “tasty excursion into rootsy gospel” (*City Pages*) and showcases

her all-star 5-piece band, which she will be bringing to Oak Center for this special CD release show.

JASPER LEPAK

Friday, Nov. 7th, 8PM

Folk/ Americana

Jaspar Lepak is a folk/Americana songstress whose remarkable gift for melody is only surpassed by her poetry. Best known for her bell-like voice and introspective storytelling, she sings with “the kind of Americana, lullaby ghost of a voice that listeners search for in roots music” (*Twin Cities A.V. Club*). A child of Arizona’s Sonoran Desert, Lepak began writing songs in 2002 while living in Minneapolis. Between 2004 and 2008, she recorded five CDs but left in 2009 for Durban, South Africa. Performing on some of the country’s premier stages, she gained an enthusiastic following, and in 2011 she recorded her sixth CD “Forgiving Wind” which *Rolling Stone South Africa* hailed as an album full of “beauty and original charm.” Lepak currently lives in Seattle and just released her seventh CD “Wide World”. She is joined tonight by her husband Kale Lepak on accordion and harmonies.

TANGLED ROOTS

Saturday, Nov. 8th, 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, N. 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 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.

CHASTITY BROWWN

Saturday, Nov. 15th, 8PM

Americana/ Folk/ Roots/ Soul

Throw all the genres and hyphenates together you want to describe Chastity Brown - gospel, roots & soul, jazz, blues & country - they are all right, and also not enough. She channels songs that are carried deep in the American psyche, the hunger, desperation and confidence that run through our times. On this special night she will be joined by DeVon Gray on keys, and Robert Mulrennan on guitar.

CURTIS AND LORETTA

Sunday, Nov. 16th, 3PM

Celtic, Eclectic, folk and originals

Exquisite harmonies, moving and incisive songwriting –feeding conscience, heart and your love chakra; acoustic mainstays Curtis & Loretta play the kind of music that earned them the honor “Best Acoustic Performers of the Twin Cities” by City Pages. They are skilled musicians playing a huge array of stringed instruments including Celtic Harp, mandocello, mandolin, guitar, banjo, claw-hammer dulcimer & ukulele. Loretta has even graced us with virtuoso kazoo when the occasion required it. As City Pages described, Curtis & Loretta “represent one of the purest and most accessible pleasures in Celtic or Folk music.” All this plus two warm, genuine personalities is a recipe for a memorable show.

CHUCK SUCHY

Sunday, Nov. 22nd, 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 BAND

Saturday Nov 29th, 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.

THE ERICKSONS

Saturday, Dec. 6th, 8PM

Atmospheric acoustic folk arrangements

The Ericksons are sisters Bethany Valentini and Jenny Kapernick, who grew up speaking each others’ thoughts, knowing each others’ hearts. But their name and sound had grown out of the pain of loss – losing their father as teenagers, losing Bethany’s first husband, Lee Erickson, to cancer in 2006. Their music has been the telling of that life journey, out of darkness to find light unimagined. Their new album, *Bring Me Home*, is the best and brightest yet, an evocation of the love of family. These songs express what the two sisters embody: joy, survival, heart and ethereal beauty.

RAD LORKOVIK & T BRUCE BOWERS

Sunday, Dec. 7th, 3PM

Blues, Cajun, Jazz, Zydeco & Folk

Radoslav comes again to do his amazingly diverse and artistically performed collection of originals in all the musical genres of the planet. Great voice, incredible piano, and other worldly accordion, it just gets better every time. He is joined tonight by native Texan, T Bruce Bowers. An amazingly versatile violinist, he and Rad stepped out as a duo at Woodyfest to a tremendous reception.

ERIK KOSKINEN & MOLLY MAHER

Friday, Dec. 12th, 8PM

Blues /folk/ country/ fusion

Best known as an ace guitarist and Producer/Engineer of Trampled By Turtles, Erik Koskinen should also be recognized as a masterful songwriter and rousing country singer. His dulcet tone and demeanor rival artists like Sting and Bon Jovi. Erik will return with The Minnesota Queen of Americana, Molly Maher. Come experience their original brand of American music at Oak Center.

MARK STUART

Saturday, Dec. 13th, 8PM

Blues /folk/ country/ fusion

After growing up in Nashville, TN and playing professionally from age 15 on, Mark Stuart set his sights on being a recording/touring artist. The rock, blues, country, and folk mixture that poured from his vocals/guitar/piano/songwriting defined him as being more versatile than most artists, musically speaking. □His performances are littered with great guitar pieces, self-penned songs from his solo records and duo records with wife Stacey Earle. He also does “tribute” songs to those notable artists he used to work for, and, includes fascinating stories about the experiences along the way.

CHARLIE PARR

Saturday, Dec. 20th, 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.

THE PINES

Saturday, Jan. 17th, 8PM

Alt Country/ Indie-rock/ Americana

Rising out of the prairies of the Midwest, The Pines are one of the most distinct and powerful indie-rock/Americana groups to hit the national scene in years. Frontmen Benson Ramsey and David Huckfelt share a common musical language rooted in the songs and songwriters of their native Iowa, while each bringing a distinct voice and sensibility to the sound that Rolling Stone senior writer David Fricke called "quietly gripping" stark-country. Masterful guitar work, beautiful vocals and the graceful keyboard and vocal additions of Benson's brother Alex Ramsey, the core of The Pines' sound captivates and elevates with rare intimacy.

JOE & VICKI PRICE

Saturday, Jan. 24th, 8PM

Homegrown, Get-down Blues

Vicki and Joe Price are a husband and wife blues duo from SE Iowa. They do some dynamite blues in the old traditions and a good measure of high-powered originals. Vicki's exemplary guitar playing and smooth vocals perfectly compliment Joe's raspy voice and mean slide guitar. They have a well earned following who come again & again to see the incredible energy that comes alive on the stage in this quiet like-able guy that Greg Brown at times has called the "Buddha". Scene Magazine says " Vicki's powerful bluesy voice evokes an image of a woman in a 1920's speakeasy singing her heart out. If you like upbeat, straightforward blues, you can't go wrong with what the Prices are laying down."

THE SUDDEN LOVELY'S

Saturday, Jan. 31st, 8PM

Aggressive Folk Duo

The Sudden Lovelies are Daniel and Paige Ferraro from Nordeast Minneapolis. They describe their unique and earnest sound as

"Aggressive Folk." Daniel writes and plays guitar, sings, and kicks a vintage red suitcase like a bass drum. Paige also sings, slaps a cymbal with a tambourine, and plays a slew of funky hand percussion. While performing, their biggest joy is the connection shared with a responsive audience. There is a humble passion and honesty in their live show that cannot be denied.

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

folk forum **CALENDAR IN BRIEF** Fall/ Winter 2014

October

- 4th, Sat. 8PM Mary Jane Alm Band
- 11th, Sat. 8PM Paul Mayasich and RAMM
- 18th, Sat. 8PM Trevor Marty and Dedrick Benz
- 25th, Sat. 8PM Barbara Meyer Band w/ Stan Kipper & Guys

November

- 1st, Sat. 8PM Mother Banjo
- 7th, Fri. 8PM Jasper Lepak
- 8th, Sat. 8PM Tangled Roots
- 15th, Sat. 8PM Chastity Brown
- 16th, Sun. 3PM Curtis and Loretta
- 22nd, Sat. 8PM Chuck Suchy
- 29th, Sat. 8PM Scottie Miller Band

December

- 6th, Sat. 8PM The Ericksons
- 7th, Sun. 3PM Rad Lorkovik & T Bruce Bowers
- 12th, Fri. 8PM Erik Koskinen and Molly Maher
- 13th, Sat. 8PM Mark Stuart
- 20th, Sat. 8PM Charlie Parr

January

- 17th, Sat. 8PM The Pines
- 24th, Sat. 8PM Joe and Vicki Price
- 31st, Sat. 8PM The Sudden Lovely's

folk forum

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

