

folk forum

fall/ winter 2015

“My life flows on in endless stream above earth’s lamentations. I hear the real tho’ far off hymn that hails a new creation. Thru all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing. It sounds an echo in my soul, how can I keep from singing?”

Traditional/hymn

Hello again Travelers, Hobbits, Elves, and music lovers,

We are 2015 years into the 21st century and on the verge of fall. The pope has come for a visit stirring hearts with his message of love, simplicity, justice, humanitarian action, and ecology. He visited Cuba on his way here. US relations with Cuba have “improved” after 50 years of blockades, embargos, travel prohibitions, and occasional US support of invasions. We are on the verge of a “nuclear deal” with Iran and perhaps improved relations will improve attitudes in the MidEast. There are many things to sing about **above the lamentations, tumult and strife**. But, it’s hard to get TOO excited. We are still waiting, (as is the Nobel Peace Prize selection committee), for significant efforts toward peace in the MidEast and elsewhere. Perhaps the Iran nuclear deal is a first step. Perhaps the American people will have enough courage to elect a president who has the integrity and courage to act independently of the War industry, Oil industry, Agri-biz, Wall Street/banking, and Israel. Perhaps our nation will stop nurturing coups, tyrants, despots, and corporations who put profits and power over humanitarian values and ecology.

Hopefully the climate hasn’t gotten so out of whack that it screws up our beautiful Minnesota falls. (Of course it’s not the climate screwing things up, it’s the human element that has shifted the balancing act that took earth a couple billion years to reach.) The voices inside tell me to assume Fall will come again in all its glory. I love fall. It’s a time to focus on finishing the harvest, putting up food and cutting firewood. Preparing for winter in the fall is a rhythm that has become familiar. Joining in with all living things in the natural world to prepare for winter is dancing to the music of life. It feels really sane in the midst of all the craziness... We belong in this Creation, an integral part of it. This is what God intended. In Creation we are extensions of God, God’s children. No exceptions. One can argue that some take their leave of God to pursue selfish or destructive interests. We hope they will come back. God did not intend for people to make war machines and weapons with which to kill each other, destroying the earth in the process. OR to rip up the earth for more strip malls, freeways, skyscrapers and starter mansions. We came up with that on our own and sometimes created religions to help us claim the right. Political or religious doctrines, if not based on love, and love of God’s creation, easily diverge and become idolatrous tools for power and personal gain at the expense of some of God’s other children.

My refuge is most often found in nature. In my fields, gardens, orchard, and homestead, I feel more whole when I put my mind, body, and soul to the tasks there. It is much more interesting taking care of the homestead than getting caught up in presidential wannabe races!!! The current GOP (Greedy One-Percent) circus and

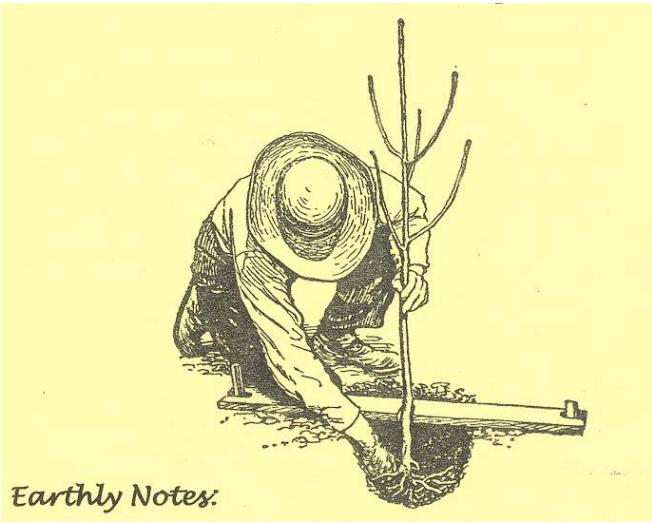
the re-make of Hillary Clinton...how do they get people to vote at all. I have to admit I do take heart when I hear news of Bernie Sanders rising in the polls. It gives me some hope that people are waking up and want some action on the REAL PROBLEMS in America, OIL-igarchy and doing way too much KOCH to name 2.

If you have driven thru Oak Center recently, you have probably noticed some changes going on up here with this beautiful old iconic building. You who have been coming for music or programs over the years, have probably looked with anticipation (as I have) for that big old building to loom out of the sky as you round the bend. I apologize for altering that solid old look that connected this place to the past. In explanation, this is a reaction to the serious climate issues we face. Not many deniers of that left. Although my goal has always been to first minimize and lower energy use, the commitment was made to work toward producing the energy we use from renewables. The early wind machines were the beginning of that process. If we find more funds, someone who can fix the electronics/inverter and someone who can work on top to replace the machine with a newer, more functional version, we will get that working again. In the meantime, the store building had surfaces that could hold collectors for both heat and electricity, and on our limited budget, it was the best choice. I took meager savings and signed on to a loan (a scary thing for me!!!) Here’s hoping it will take some of the load off of the pretty large electric bill and will inspire others to think a little more on energy issues, perhaps inspiring them to do something on their own places. Maybe someday we will have some electric automobile charging ports here, after all...**the BEASST** feeds on oil. One look at the chaos in the world, and the chain of connections to oil goes deep...and those connections go on to \$\$\$ and power. Why did the US spend trillions and set the stage for the ongoing disaster in the Middle East? OIL. What is the greatest threat to life on this planet in the future? BURNING OIL, making chemicals from oil, using huge fossil fuel machines to spread it...Why are we still drilling in oceans and other fragile environments? FOR OIL, (and remember, plastic comes from oil.) Let’s learn to leave the oil in the earth where it belongs. Convert from the religions of oil and money and LIVE WITHIN THE CIRCLE OF LIFE. God didn’t make religions, people did. God sent Jesus and prophets to tell us when we were going astray, to teach us mercy and love, to share, to be good stewards, and how to be joyous celebrating the gifts of creation.

Hey, the music we listen to here is renewable...and REAL! Come celebrate and be joyous with us in the BIG WOODEN ROOM...with real homegrown food, peace loving people, and no plastic flowers!

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 Mr. and Mrs. Lynn, Sierra and Austin, for your dedicated support and “in the nick of time” help. And to Mariposa, (a.k.a. Kathy), Mandy, Margaret, Mary Emma, Laurie, Grace, Hope, and all others who help put together the great food, then jumping in wherever needed. Double thanks to Kathy for helping on many other things including this newsletter. You are angels of mercy. And to Dr. Todd “Oz”, the dedicated and capable ticket taker extraordinaire, who also came out to help harvest for market between teaching classes at UWL, you are a blessing. May you and Kathy always find mushrooms. A big thanks to Matt Bruzek for coming out at the end of his workdays to help clean up for the coming shows. Without your help it is just TOO overwhelming.
- To help us face the coming cold months, let us know you care and lend us a few backs, muscles, and time to help get wood in. It warms the heart AND helps keep the building warm. 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 Lawrence and Mary Schwanke, and Alan and Judy Hoffman for your constant and very generous support. And to Ron and Carolyn Drude, Nancy Moltaji, Peggy Menzel, Cy Champa, Jenni Doyle, Betty Oudahl, Jim Perry, and 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 from our patrons and visitors to the community that your support for this magical shared journey is appreciated.
- The solar project has been engineered and is being installed by **Common Sense Development** of Plainview. They are a pleasure to work with. If you would like to help on this project by making a contribution to help us pay for it...well... it would take a bunch of stress off!!!

Volunteers for folk forum—it is a difficult act to do all these fine programs without the generous help from you. **We especially need volunteers to hang posters in Rochester, Red Wing, Plainview, Mazzeppa and other surrounding communities. To Alan and Judy Hoffman for hanging posters in Rochester, and Claire and Jim Abbot in Wabasha. THANKS!! We always need regular volunteers as well to help clean up before and after shows and someone with computer skills to help update/ maintain the mailing list and work on press releases, etc..** 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 to: folk forum, c/o the oak center general store, 67011 hwy 63, Lake City, MN 55041, or dropped off. Phone-(507)753-2080, e-mail: folkforum@riverland.org.

***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 FATTENIN' FROGS

Saturday, Oct. 3rd, 8PM

Blues and Roots Rock & Roll

The Fattenin' Frogs are a six member roots rock & roll band from Minneapolis, Minnesota. Known for their energetic live shows and creative mixing of musical styles, they play rock & roll music in its original spirit by turning up the intensity on traditional American music. With a style developed by electrifying a mix of early blues, country, folk, gospel, and jazz, they aim to bring rock music back to its roots. You'll hear a mix of original songs and interpretations of classics by the likes of Robert Johnson, Son House, Etta James, Blind Willie Johnson and Muddy Waters. Don't miss their Oak Center debut just one week before the release of their 3rd album "Ribbit Rhythms"

THE SUDDEN LOVELY'S

Saturday, Oct. 10th, 8PM

Aggressive Folk Duo

The Sudden Lovelies are Daniel and Paige Ferraro from Northeast Minneapolis. They describe their unique and earnest sound as "Aggressive Folk." Daniel writes, plays guitar and sings while kicking 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 their audience. There is a humble passion and honesty in their live show that cannot be denied. Their debut at Oak Center last year had folks dancing in the aisles. Don't miss them this year!

MOTHER BANJO

Saturday, Oct. 17th, 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. An engaging live performer, Mother Banjo weaves humorous stories with fun covers and her own original material. There is no better place to see them than the big room at Oak Center.

SARAH MORRIS

Saturday, Oct. 24th 8PM

Alt Country, Pop and Rock

With her soothing, yet captivating voice, Sarah Morris has established herself as one of the best-kept secret singer/songwriting talents in the Twin Cities. With the release of “Ordinary Things,” Morris doesn't plan on being secret any longer. One week after the release of this album Sarah and her talented band of Thomas Nordlund on guitar, Andrew Foreman on bass, Zachary Schmidt on drums, will take the stage at Oak Center. Together, they will bring the songs of “Ordinary Things” to life, with edges of rock and pop scattered over an alt-country foundation.

BARBARA JEAN MEYER, STAN & THE REGGAE BAND**Saturday, Oct. 31st, 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 for this special Halloween show.

THE HIGH 48s**Saturday, Nov. 7th, 8PM****Modern Bluegrass**

Since forming in 2006, The High 48s have been making music that combines the soulful sound of classic bluegrass with a modern attitude, original songs and a wide range of influences far beyond Bill Monroe, the Stanley Brothers, and Flatt and Scruggs. The band takes their name from railroad slang for the boxcars originally used to transport troops on the front lines in WWI that could carry 40 soldiers or 8 horses. In the winter of 2014, The High 48s honored their namesake by recording an album of train songs in Nashville with Grammy-winning engineer and producer Randy Kohrs (Jim Lauderdale). The album features songs from the likes of Greg Brown, Robin and Linda Williams, Becky Schlegel, Darrell Scott, Muddy Waters and the 48s' own Anthony Ihrig and Eric Christopher. Don't miss their debut at Oak Center!

CHUCK SUCHY**Saturday, Nov. 14th 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 21st, 8PM****Southern Soul, Slow Blues, Dramatic Ballads, and Greasy Funk**

Scottie "Bones" Miller is an American pianist and singer-songwriter born in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His musical style is a combination of blues, soul, funk and jazz. "Sounds like Dr. John meets The Band at Bruce Springsteen's house." wrote Tom Hyslop - Blues Revue Magazine. Quite the comparison, and he backs it up with high energy performance, creative song writing, dramatic lyrics and impeccable piano playing. He performs worldwide with the incredibly funky Scottie Miller Band, which features drummer Mark O'Day, guitarist Joe Cruz, and bassist Kevin Rowe. Scottie knocks the keys right out off the piano as he feeds you music for the soul.

ERIK KOSKINEN, PAUL BERGEN & J.T. BATES**Saturday, Nov. 28th 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 returns this year with guitarist/ vocalist Paul Bergen and drummer J. T. Bates. Come experience their original brand of American music at Oak Center.

JILLIAN RAE AND BAND**Saturday, Dec. 5th, 8PM****A rollicking mix of folk, rock and bluegrass**

Jillian Rae is a multi-talented performer with an assured stage presence. The Star Tribune calls her "A triple treat on vocals, fiddle, and composition, she also surprises by showcasing snarling guitars and rock 'n' roll rhythms, along with some country-western seasoning. The songs are so bright, and Rae's singing so hopeful, that it takes a few moments to realize her songs are mostly about the vicissitudes of love" A heavy hitter in the Minnesota music scene for years, she had been known to lend her fiddle chops in the Duluth-based band Two Many Banjos, and also spent some time fronting the local pop country staple, The Killer Hayseeds. She brings her own brand of Americana to Oak Center tonight with Eric Martin on guitar & backup vocals, Josh Kaplan on drums, Reed Pagal on bass and Justin Nellis on keys. Voted the favorite show last year by the Oak Center volunteers!

RAD LORKOVIK & T BRUCE BOWERS**Saturday, Dec. 12th, 8PM****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. They are a favorite at Oak Center General Store.

CHARLIE PARR**Saturday, Dec. 19th, 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. Always a sold out show at Oak Center, get your tickets early!

THE PINES**Saturday, Jan. 16th, 8PM****Alt Country/ Indie-rock/ Americana**

Iowa-born/Minneapolis-based folk rock artists the The Pines have created a loyal following for their lush, layered sound and poetic lyrics inspired by the land and folklore of the American Midwest. Bridging the folk, roots and indie worlds with their modern take on American music, frontmen/songwriters Benson Ramsey and David Huckfelt share a common musical language rooted in the songs and songwriters of their native Iowa. The Pines' sound balance Ramsey's ethereal, somberly beautiful songs with Huckfelt's darkly romantic, cinematic tales for a sweeping sound that evokes the vastness and loneliness of the Great Plains. The intricate guitar interplay between Benson and David is layered over the atmospheric keyboard work and vocal harmonies of Alex Ramsey (Benson's brother) to form the core of The Pines' instantly recognizable sound. The Pines' sound captivates and elevates with rare intimacy – especially in the big room at Oak Center. Get tickets early!

JOE & VICKI PRICE

Saturday, Jan. 23rd, 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."

JEFF RAY, HURRICANE TREMBLAY & THE STAKES

Saturday, Jan. 30th, 8PM

Roots, Rock and Deep Blues

Musicians from the Midwest have a knack for reinventing tradition. Jeff Ray is no exception. Go to any one of his performances and you'll hear his fans say, "his music sounds old and new at the same time". Born and raised in Minnesota, Ray left home at the age of 17 to cut his teeth in Memphis. It was through those travels that he developed his unmistakable "East-meets-West" Bluesy Americana sound. Watch closely and you'll see Jeff Ray's thumb keep the bass note thumping while he glides a glass slide seamlessly across the fret board. At the same time, his foot drives a heavy backbeat. He's joined by **Nick Salisbury** (bass), **Mikkel Beckmen** (washboard), and **Hurricane Harold Tremblay** (harmonica)

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 2015

Octobe

3rd, Sat. 8PM The Fattenin' Frogs

10th, Sat. 8PM The Sudden Lovely's

17th, Sat. 8PM Mother Banjo

24th, Sat. 8PM Sarah Morris

31st, Sat. 8PM Barbara Meyer Band w/ Stan Kipper & Guys

November

7th, Sat. 8PM The High 48's

14th, Sat. 8PM Chuck Suchy

21st, Sat. 8PM Scottie Miller Band

28th, Sat. 8PM Erik Koskinen, Paul Bergen & J. T. Bates

December

5th, Sat. 8PM Jillian Rae and Band

12th, Sat. 8PM Rad Lorkovik & T Bruce Bowers

19th, Sat. 8PM Charlie Parr

January

16^h, Sat. 8PM The Pines

23rd, Sat. 8PM Joe and Vicki Price

30th, Sat. 8PM Jeff Ray, Hurricane Tremblay and the Stakes

folk forum

c/o Oak Center General Store

67011 hwy 63

Lake City, MN 55041

