

# folk forum

January 2007

## Hello Friends...

New Years day has come with a light covering of new white snow. It feels like normalcy, a welcome feeling. I don't want to turn on the radio. I hope the paper doesn't come today. It is quiet and peaceful. The teapot is doing a gentle hiss on the cook stove. I want to savor this, to fantasize the snow as a metaphor on how the New Year will be, that such a blanket, clean and crystalline white, will erase the year past. I hope the sun will continue to return as it has today, in contrast to past weeks of gray and drizzle, to raise spirits and give light to our world. But there are ghosts in the corner waiting, watching, making ready their return. The haunting image of Saddam Hussein, his neck twisted to one-side makes me try to imagine what we Americans would feel like if some foreign army invaded us, killed the sons or brothers of our president... and untold innocent bystanders in the process.. and then had him hanged. I wondered at the hastiness of this execution and if this might be another one of George W's "missions accomplished," speeded up to get it done before the changing of the guard on Capitol Hill or before the retreat begins. I dread what the rest of the world thinks of us and how this may have hardened their hearts even more.

Haunting images of drowning polar bears and huge ice shelves cracking off of the North Pole invaded my dreams as I was awakened last week by rain in the middle of the night. It was a winter night in Minnesota and it was unsettling even in my sleep. Incredibly I picked mushrooms in one of my mushroom gardens for the last 2 weeks of December. It was a nice treat to be sure, but I worry about trees breaking dormancy and becoming damaged when it does get cold. Assessing my own life's experience thru the past year, I have been feeling "Beneath The Wheel" if I might borrow a concept from the Herman Hesse's novel. It's a feeling I've had before. I didn't like it then and not wanting it to run me over from the back side pushing my face down in the mud, I stood fast and confronted it, facing this wheel with defiance and idealism in my heart. At times lately, it seems as if the wheel is going to run over us anyway and our only choice being whether to get run over on the back side or, facing it, on the front. But, in this moment as the wheel seems to pause at the changing of the year, and as drivers shift positions in their seats on this wagon... we have a chance to catch our breaths, pull some courage and inspiration from somewhere deep inside, and take the reins. Whoa. Can we stop the wagon for a moment and turn it in the right direction? Or do we need to find shelter in the storm?

The time between Christmas and New Years was peaceful and reflective. My youngest children were off from school and at "my house" this week. We had time to learn to live and work together as a family. We got their rooms cleaned. We cooked together and hung laundry. We did the farm chores together, collected eggs, washed them and candled them. We sat on ponies. We cut and stacked wood. We stoked the furnace and the cook stoves. I watched a transformation from begrudging duty to a sense of pride and satisfaction in learning new skills or honing old ones, and being

able to participate in life processes that make sense... discovering that it can be fun. They can quickly become mesmerized and captured by this materialistic, technology worshipping, consumer culture. I am not completely anti-technology. I am caught in the uncomfortable position of being a Luddite at heart and feeling ecstatic about running saws and roto-tillers on solar energy. One of my older children and I have finished framing the walls for a workspace, seed storage and wash room attached to our off the grid, year round green house. All the electricity is derived from the sun and runs thru some pretty hi-tech electronics before being stored in humongous batteries. Life is an ongoing science experiment. Life can be, and was meant to be... like this. It makes sense in such quiet and obvious ways. Solutions to overwhelming and complex global disasters begin with us. The battle against global warming will be waged in our homes and on our farms as well as in the political sphere. Wars for oil and other resources will not end until we personally begin to end our addictions to oil. And end profiteering from war. Profiting from war is immoral and we must stop the merchandizing of death. On April 14<sup>th</sup> we have a play that features 5 lifelong Minnesota war resisters. "The Jewish Mohammed Ali and the 4 Singing Nuns", will be both comedy and serious inspiration. The kind of humor and inspiration we need to turn the war machine into what could be the greatest peace machine the world has seen...and so desperately needs.

*"They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. And nations shall not take up war against nations, they shall never know war again! Isaiah 2:4."*

There is nothing Holy about war. There can be no Holy War. God, if you believe in God, loves all His/Her children and didn't send a son or daughter for that matter, to get everyone fighting with each other. If you're fighting, you're not hearing the message right. It is about love. It is about sharing: sharing the resources and sharing the load. It should not be a 90/10 split where the poor are poor because they do 90% of the work and get 10% of the rewards. It is about responsibility: responsibility for each other, responsibility to God and responsibility for ourselves. Our national policy must become to wage war against hunger, not against the hungry, against global warming, against disease, against poverty.

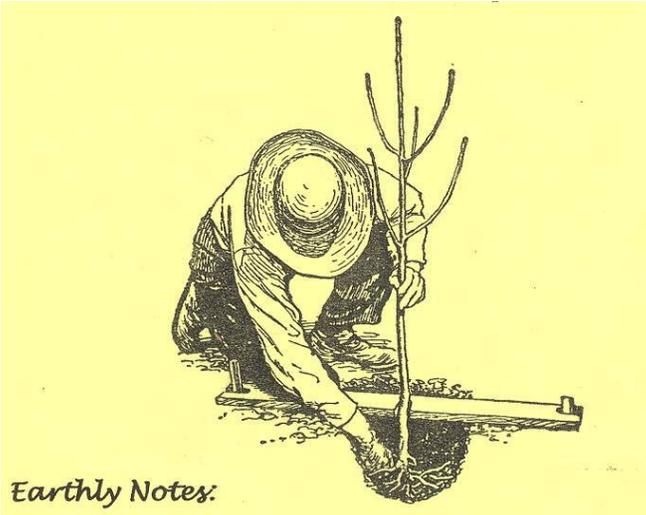
We have some great programs coming up to help inspire and to help shed some light on issues. As always, they are mixed in with the great concerts on the schedule. Phil Steger from Friends For a Non-Violent World will be leading an afternoon talk/discussion on strategies for ending/withdrawing from the Iraq Conflict. Check out the energy workshops coming up in April, and as has already been mentioned, there will be the fun stories, songs and antics of Marv Davidov and the McDonald sisters as they perform their play, and show us how to battle the dragons. Hey... it's all about Peace. Blessed are the Peacemakers. Make a joyful noise. Shine the light.

Love and Peace,

maintenance and repair

*Oh Mother Earth, your fields of grain  
Once more laid down by the hungry hand,  
How long can you give and not receive  
And feed this hungry world ruled by greed?*

*Oh ball of fire in the summer sky  
Your healing light, the parade of days...  
Are they betrayed by the men of power  
Who hold this world in their changing hands?  
Neil Young*



### *Earthly Notes:*

#### **The continuing... 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 would not have been 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. 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 always welcome. There are many repairs to do and help needed with cleaning, fixing, construction, computer work, 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 legal or grant writing skills and can help us form a Community Trust and be part of the Historic Register—we still need your help!**

#### **Thank you**

Thank you Carol R., Lawrence and Mary S., Donna and Neil, Alice L, Bietz's, the Hilsgens, Willards, Jannetta's, Liz K, Michael, Pam, Ann, Joe, Laurie, Rich, Lynn and Lynn, Norm and Lori, Kim, Kerry, Hope, Kathy, Rick, Rebecca... to everyone who has helped out or contributed. 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 more info call (651) 917-0383. [info@fnvw.org](mailto:info@fnvw.org)
- ◆ The SE Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers ([www.semnap.org](http://www.semnap.org)) is still meeting the 2nd Thursday of each month and has continued supporting and sponsoring events since its formation 6 years ago.
- ◆ 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 ¼ or 1/2 of pasture raised beef, buffalo, or pork, or get individual cuts here at the store. Organically raised chickens, ducks, and goat, from our farm, Earthen Path Organic Farm, are in the freezer and available now, as well as a selection of cuts of beef, bison, and pork from our neighbors 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
- ◆ The Oak Center Store needs your support to continue operating. I 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 and the Red Wing Alliance for Peace are doing great work. For more info contact David Harris, VFP Ch 115, (651) 388-5863, [tuvecino@redwing.net](mailto:tuvecino@redwing.net) , or Hank Brummer, (651) 385-8208, [ekstrand@redwing.net](mailto:ekstrand@redwing.net).
- ◆ Jan. 25-28 at Winona State U, Frozen River Film Festival, and the Native Voices Film Festival, in collaboration with the Winona /Dakota Unity Alliance is showing the film "Trudell" and hosting a Dakota Veterans Honoring to honor Chief Wabasha and welcome the Dakota people back into the community. John Trudell will be present. [www.frff.org](http://www.frff.org), or (608) 687-3603 for more info.
- ◆ CSA subscriptions/memberships for Earthen Path Organic Farm's summer produce are now available. 20 weeks of seasonal organic veggies, berries, and herbs. Eggs as an option. \$350 basic, \$20/season delivery charge for offsite

delivery. Eggs \$50 extra. Deluxe share \$500/season. Please sign up before April 1. thanks!

◆ **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. We invite you to plug in prior to, during, or following programs and concerts with a variety of tasks or during the week helping with maintenance and repair, or cutting and stacking firewood. Be adventurous, meet interesting people with values and ideals similar to your own, hear inspiring music, and have fun, because we are....the change we want to see in this world. Contact us if you are able to help. (507)753-2080 or [folkforum@lakes.com](mailto:folkforum@lakes.com) 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 and should be on it, please let us know. Our apologies!!

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

**Bob Franke**  
*Sun. Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2PM*

*\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation*  
*folk music's singer/ songwriter on guitar and vocals*

Bob Franke in his 40 year career has gained the respect of many other musicians, many have recorded his songs. From Folk Roots magazine, "A standard of songs that most writers can only dream about and admire in dropped jaw silence..." Or Tom Paxton..."It's his integrity. I always think of Bob as if Emerson and Thoreau had picked up acoustic guitars and gotten into songwriting. There's touches of Mark Twain and Buddy Holly in there too." Bob hails from Massachusetts these days and brings with him some pretty good guitar playing and vocals to go with premier lyrics. Come feel like "the Great Storm is Over, lift up your wings to fly".

**Dave Moore; opening act by Bruce Holmes**  
*Saturday, Jan.20, 8PM*

*\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation*  
*guitar, harmonica, accordion; folk, blues, Tex-Mex cantina*

Dave hails from Iowa City where many of the contemporary folk music greats seem to have been spawned in some magic event of time and place. Dave began in the music scene that Greg Brown was finding his way in. He left that scene for a bit and ended up in the southwest with a grant to study and perform music of that region. He looks and sounds strikingly like Johnny Cash doing a wide range of folk, blues and Tex-Mex cantina music. Dave is a performer and a musician putting some pretty powerful energy behind some great lyrics. He plays excellent guitar, frequently with harmonica, and revs up his show when he pulls out his accordion. If you have seen Dave Moore before, you know what we're saying here. This is a great performer. Check him out.

**Opening act: Bruce Holmes** from Evanston, Ill., performing folk/rock and originals on guitar and vocals.

**Joe and Vicki Price; opening by Anne and Al**  
*Saturday, Jan. 27, 8PM*

*\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation*  
*blues; steel, electric, and acoustic guitars with great vocals*

Joe and Vicki Price are a husband and wife team coming out of that same SE Iowa music scene we've been talking about. They do some dynamite blues in the old traditions as well as a good measure of high powered originals. They have a well earned following who come again and again to see the incredible energy that comes alive on stage in this quiet, likeable guy that Greg Brown has at times called the "Buddha". His amazing guitar playing wife Vicki's smooth vocals and exemplary guitar playing perfectly complement Joe's raspy voice and slide guitar. It's a very live show...and it's a guarantee. Come feel the music and shake them bones...

*opening by Ann Koschemeder and partner Al*

**The Miles Johnston Quartet**  
*Friday, Feb. 2, 8PM*

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

*Jazz quartet: sax, flute, piano, drums, upright bass, and vocals*

Miles Johnston is an academic and a professional performer when it comes to jazz standards. He has performed in our region for 20+ years with many well known local musicians. He knows his stuff and his performance of old standards is right on. He is not only a fine drummer but a top shelf jazz vocalist in the understated Nat King Cole/Chet Baker vein. You'll hear some Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington as well as some other icons of the era. He brings 3 other great musicians, with John Paulson on sax and flute, Larry Price on piano, and Mike Sloane on upright bass. This is a great place to see and appreciate this band. Great music, great acoustics, warm atmosphere, and good company make this one a winner.

**The Jerry Rau Band**

*Sat. Feb. 3, 8PM*

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

*folk rock originals*

Jerry started playing guitar in Viet Nam in the mid 60's. When he came home he was a committed peace activist. He marched on Washington to help stop that war and took his guitar with him. When he came back to Minnesota, he became a street musician and coffeehouse regular on the West Bank. I first saw him while Nan and I were scouting Bill Staines for our first folk forum season. He opened for Bill at the old Coffeehouse Extempore' and did Stan Rogers' Field Behind the Plow. It moved my soul. Over the years he deservedly earned the title "Minnesota Minstrel." The years have brought him depth, maturity, and the clarity of fine wine. He's in his prime and has an awesome band with him. Pete Matheson on upright bass, Mark Hornbeek on lead guitar and Denise on fiddle. Well worth seeing.

**Paul Mayasich and the Benderheads**

*Saturday, Feb. 10, 8 PM*

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

*electric blues quartet*

This is the hottest blues band in the state right now. Paul is an iron ranger and brings with him 3 guys who could belong in the who's who of the Twin Cities music scene. Paul plays slide guitar and sings with a voice smooth as honey. Scotty Miller, pulls some incredible music out of the piano and trades on vocals. John Wright of Lehto and Wright fame, plays bass and contributes on vocals. Jeff

on percussion...here's a great blues band in the middle of winter when we need them most. If you dig the blues, don't miss this one.

**Phil Steger: The Iraq War and How to Get Out**

**Saturday, Feb. 17, 4:30PM**

**freewill donation**

**discussion and pot-luck**

Phil Steger is executive director of Friends For a Non-Violent World. He has a B.A. in theology from St. John's University and was 3x a delegate to Iraq on humanitarian and peacemaking missions in the years 2000, 2001, and 2002. **This presentation has 4 parts:** 1) outline major plot-lines of why the admin. invaded Iraq in the first place, why this policy was a disaster from start. 2) will explain what is happening on the ground and why no military strategy, (i.e. stay the course, train and advise, maintain "over the horizon" forces, or send in more troops), can achieve "victory" or save Iraq from total civil war. 3) present a peacemaking and withdrawal policy to remove troops and give Iraqis the best possible chance to stabilize, unify and govern their country. 4) describe the political situation in the U.S. and what interventions citizens will need to make on the U.S. government to end the war immediately.

**6 pm potluck-** bring a dish to share + utensils/plates

**Monroe Crossing**

**Saturday, Feb.17, 8PM**

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

**bluegrass and gospel**

Monroe Crossing is the Midwest's premier bluegrass and gospel quintet. They combine talent, experience, and hard work to put on one of the best bluegrass shows you will see this season. Named in honor of Bill Monroe, "the father of bluegrass," they play an upbeat blend of classic and traditional bluegrass, bluegrass gospel, and some heart-moving originals. The only bluegrass band EVER nominated as "Artist of the Year" (2004) by the Minnesota Music Academy, they won the MMA's "Bluegrass Album of the Year" in '03, as well as a bunch of other awards. Don't miss them this time around, Art has promised an exceptional show.

**Jumbo Ya Ya**

**Friday, Feb. 23, 8PM**

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

**New Orleans Cajun, Jazz and Zydeco Swamp Music**

Jumbo Ya Ya means BIG FUN! Accordionmeister Dan "Daddy Squeeze" Newton, (yeah, you've heard him on Garrison Keillor), and this talented crew play the music that was born and raised near the lower Mississippi and in the Delta. They play music reminiscent of the dance halls of Louisiana and Mississippi in the early 60's from legends like Muddy Waters, Clifton Chenier, Cookie and the Cupcakes, Howlin' Wolf, Clarence "Bon Ton" Garlow, Boozoo Chavis, and Professor Longhair. Bring some dancing shoes if you can't sit still...laissez les bon temps rouler!

**Eighthhead**

**Saturday, Feb. 24, 8PM**

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

**interplanetary jazz trio**

These four guys are from other planets. If you have heard Dean Magraw play guitar before...you will definitely be hip to what I'm saying. Incredible and edible...actually delicious. Some of the best guitar playing you will ever honestly hear, he also does some pretty good imitations of someone whose shrink quit and went on sabbatical. Jimmy Anton on bass...way cool. He slings himself back

in his chair, pulls other-worldly bass notes up like taffy out of that long-necked fretless bass, stretches and twists those sweet things...and lets 'em hang there suspended. Then there are the 2 drummers. Yes...2 drummers. Most likely the 2 best drummers in the U.S. Marc Anderson and JT Bates are awesome. They keep this rocket ship moving at light speed and bring it down for a safe blissful landing...which is good. You just might wake up and find yourself on another planet...a very nice planet to be sure.

**Bill Staines**

**Sunday, Feb.25, 2PM**

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

**the folk icon: songs of people and places, love and friendships**

Bill Staines has written some of the best and most loved folksongs of the last 31/2 decades. Back in the 70's with Whistle of the Jay, All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir, and Oh Jack, got all of us homesteading back-to-the-landers hooked. River, North Country Fair, the list is long of the great songs this troubadour word-craftsman has written and recorded. He was one of the first folk musicians to play on this stage, and has earned a permanent spot in our schedule. He hails from New Hampshire, sings songs that stretch the breadth of the land. They are a legacy of his travels, the people and places he has encountered. His gentle wit and humor are good seasoning for accomplished guitar playing and perfect vocals. Sunday afternoon, good music, good stories, good company...bring the whole family.

**The Mike and Amy Finders Band**

**Saturday Mar. 3, 8PM**

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

**Original refreshing brand of frontier prairie blues**

This band started in Illinois and relocated to Iowa City where they picked up on some of those music vibes that have been going around down there for the last couple of decades. Amy has a voice described as "a sexy mic bustin' powerhouse" and a "jug-band era Maria Muldaur" in one publication, and as "the prettiest voice in Iowa" by a local radio personality. Mike's songwriting has won numerous awards in both bluegrass and gospel categories. He splits vocal leads with Amy. Their mandolin, guitar and harmonica are joined by Liz Kennedy on stand-up bass and Charlie Formaro on banjo and dobro. The combined effect is a special home-cooked acoustic Americana blend of new songs and styles with traditional bluegrass, folk and acoustic blues.

**Michael Young and Ben Woolman... plus some poetry**

**Friday, Mar. 9, 8PM**

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

**Two shows in one; great fingerpicking/ slide guitar instrumentals**

**Michael Young** plays both 6 and 12 string guitars with driving rhythm and energetic groove. In displays of innovative and very proficient fret-work, Michael takes advantage of the guitars' many possibilities by combining standard and alternate tunings with a mix of slide guitar. Michael's dexterity, depth and tone will make you think you're hearing an entire string section instead of a 12 string. **Ben Woolman** has joined the ranks of Minnesota's best finger-style guitarists. He has learned and borrowed from the best of the region's legendary greats. Drawing on every musical influence he has had over the years, he merges it into what he calls "instrumental story songs" which often depict clear or sometimes impressionistic images in the listener's mind.

**Norm O. and Lori B.** will recite poetry thru-out the evening.

**Tangled Roots**

**Saturday, Mar. 10, 8PM**

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

**Bluegrass, gospel, and contemporary**

Tangled Roots are some of the best known bluegrass performers in the upper Midwest. They perform a wide range of music ranging from bluegrass classics by Bill Monroe and the Stanley Bros. to contemporary tunes of John Prine, Kevin Welch, Bruce Cockburn and Elvis Presley delivered in a most tasteful bluegrass style. Chris Silver plays mandolin and fiddle, with Marty Marrone sharing lead vocals and playing guitar. Doug Lohman, (the fine up-right bass player you saw here with the Buffalo Gals), plays bass while veteran Barry St. Mane plays banjo. They are one of the most exciting bands to appear on the Minnesota bluegrass scene in years. They have developed a devoted following here. A don't miss.

**Barra**

**Friday, Mar. 16, 8PM**

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

**authentic traditional Irish music**

It's one day early for St. Patty's Day but we lined up Minnesota's best loved Ceili band for the occasion. Come ready to hear some of the best Irish traditionals and dance an Irish jig or 2. With Deborah Martin playing fiddle (sometimes pulling out a hurdy gurdy), John McCormick on accordion, Amy Shaw on Irish flute, and Paul Garding on guitar, octave mandolin, and vocals, you will get to hear authentic traditional Irish tunes, some of which are 100's of years old. This isn't standard pub fare says Deborah who has also promised that their new CD is coming along. Not as authentic as hearing the band live, but then you can't take the whole band home with you either. Come have a good time St. Patrick, would approve.

**Curtis and Loretta**

**Sunday, Mar. 25, 2PM**

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

**Celtic, Eclectic, folk and originals**

Exquisite harmonies, moving and incisive songwriting feeding conscience, heart, and your love chakra, acoustic mainstays Curtis and Loretta play the kind of music that earned them the honor of being named the "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, claw-hammer dulcimer, banjo, and ukulele. Loretta has even graced us with virtuoso kazoo when the occasion required it. As City Pages described, Curtis and Loretta "represent one of the purest and most accessible pleasures in Celtic or Folk music." All this plus two warm, genuine personalities equals one memorable evening.

**Boiled In Lead**

**Saturday, Mar. 31, 8PM**

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

**Rockin' Celtic influenced World-Beat**

The Onion Magazine says that this Minneapolis (and Ely) five-some is "...the prime purveyor of a style of Celtic music infused with punk-rock attitude, developing over the years a hard-driving combination of Irish folk with heavy rock and elements of styles from all over the world...one of the best bands Minnesota has ever produced." Whoosh...you thought I had trouble keeping a lid on my sentence length...but there is a lot to say about these guys. Dean

Magraw on guitar, Todd Menton on guitar and vocals, David on fiddle, Drew Miller on bass and vocals, and Robin Anders on hand drums...it would take a book to give the kudos they deserve. When you hear some of Todd's fine songwriting- try Micro-Organism or Thank God for the Gattling Gun for starters-backed by this collection of musicians, you'll know in an instant what I mean. They do a pretty decent version of Hendrix's All Along the Watchtower as well. It was full last year...get your tickets early.

**Garnet Rogers**

**Sunday, April 1, 2PM**

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

**folk music; singer/songwriter exemplar**

Garnet Rogers was characterized by the Boston Globe as "A brilliant songwriter. One of the major talents of our time." Sing Out magazine called him "The greatest interpreter and vocalist performing in the contemporary folk scene." When you hear Garnet's powerful baritone voice singing ballads about the power of nature and the victories and struggles of ordinary people you will see why they feel that way. Garnet is a singer-songwriter with a style and vision all his own. He is a formidable instrumentalist and highly literate balladeer whose music exposes the ills of human nature while offering a hopeful and healing message that celebrates the power of love and life.

**The Play: the Jewish Mohammed Ali and the 4 Singin' Nuns**

**The Music: Larry Long and the MacDonald Sisters**

**Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup>,**

**5PM: reception and pot-luck; (bring food!!) 8PM: the Play**

The famous MacDonald Sisters, (and they are not only sisters...they are Sisters!) and the famous Marv Davidov will perform music, stories and real life accounts of battling the Dragons of War.

Humor, clowning, profound seriousness, and good music-"these nuns can sing! In harmony!" says Marv. Barbara Carlson called Marv the Jewish Mohammed Ali while he was being interviewed by phone in his jail cell. He responded by telling her "I float like a butterfly, and sting like a Gefilte fish...and "this is the only cell phone I have ever had." The MacDonalds are well known for their courage and commitment to peace. Being octogenarians and septarians hasn't slowed them down.

**the Music: the MacDonald Sisters and Larry Long**

Larry Long is well known to this stage and across the country as a crusading troubadour who brings music to the people, of struggles and victories won in the great cause...and in the process he finds music in the people. A powerful and high energy performer, he is a Smithsonian Folkways recording artist and has won the prestigious Bush Artists Fellowship, the Pope John XXIII Award, and In the Spirit of Crazy Horse Award for his work.

**Ruth MacKenzie**

**Sunday, April. 15, 2PM**

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

**A tapestry of folk originals**

Ruth MacKenzie dubbed the "Janis Joplin of folk" by the Berkeley Express, is sought after for her exquisite interpretation of lyrics and the many textures of her rich alto voice. Recently she has been a featured performer with Garrison Keillor's *Prairie Home Companion*, Peter Ostroushko's *Hearland Band*, Minnesota Dance Theater in *Shadows and Light*, Joe Chvala's Flying Foot Forum in *Fire and Ice*, and with MPR's *Gales of November*. She is best

known for her theatrical works including composer/playwright of *The Snow Queen*, presented at the Children's Theater Co. and listed as No. 1 pick for theater in 2002 by the St. Paul Pioneer Press, composer for Children's Theater's *Hansel and Gretel*, and composer/performer of *Bhakti* with Ragamala Music and Dance Theater. Her dramatic concert creation, *Kalevala: Dream of the Salmon Maiden*, produced at the Southern Theater, the Guthrie and O'Shaughnessy, won several awards including No.1 Pick for '97 by City Pages and Artist of the Year by the Star and Tribune. Pianist extraordinaire George Maurer will accompany as they explore that ecstatic meeting place of the human spirit and nature.

**Renewable Energy Day Workshops and tour**

**Saturday April 21, 2PM call for admission info and price**

More on this event soon. We are lining up presenters for the most feasible and practical renewable energy options for home and farm.

**Switchback**

**Saturday, April 21, 8 PM**

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

**Acoustic Irish-American**

Irish that rocks is the best way to describe this music. Brian Fitzgerald and Marty McCormack have been playing R&B, rock, Celtic, jazz and classical folk together for almost 20 years. They have been doing non-stop shows and performances all over the country and have built a dedicated and loyal following. They synthesize all these different types of music into a high powered mix that won't leave anyone sitting still. If Brian's wife Maggie comes I'm sure we'll see her get up and add her beautiful voice to this dynamite combination.

**have a great summer...see you at the farmers market?**

**folk forum**

c/o Oak Center General Store  
Route 1, Box 52BB  
Lake City, MN 55041



**winter/ spring2007—CALENDAR IN BRIEF**

**January 2007, on the 7<sup>th</sup>, Sun., 2 PM Bob Franke**

20<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Dave Moore; opening by Bruce Holmes

27<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Joe and Vicki Price; opening by Ann and Al

**February**

2<sup>nd</sup>, Fri. 8 PM the Miles Johnston Quartet

3<sup>rd</sup>, Sat. 8PM the Jerry Rau Band

10<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Paul Mayasich and the Benderheads

17<sup>th</sup> Sat. 4:30 PM Phil Steger: The Iraq War and How to Get Out

6PM pot-luck: bring dish to share and plates/utensils

!7<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Monroe Crossing

23<sup>rd</sup>, Fri. 8PM Jumbo Ya Ya

24<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Eighthead

25<sup>th</sup>, Sun. 2PM Bill Staines

**March**

3<sup>rd</sup>, Sat. 8PM Mike and Amy Finders Band

9<sup>th</sup>, Fri. 8PM Michael Young and Ben Woolman + POETRY

10<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Tangled Roots

16<sup>th</sup>, Fri. 8PM Barra

25<sup>th</sup>, Sun. 2PM Curtis and Loretta

31<sup>st</sup>, Sat. 8PM Boiled in Lead

**April**

1<sup>st</sup>, Sun. 2PM Garnet Rogers

14<sup>th</sup> Sat. 5PM reception/potluck,

14<sup>th</sup> at 8PM the Jewish Mohammed Ali/McDonald Srs. /Larry Long

15<sup>th</sup>, Sun. 2PM Ruth MacKenzie

21<sup>st</sup>, Sat. 2PM Earthday Tour and Renewable Energy Workshops.

21<sup>st</sup>, Sat. 8PM Switchback

**For further information, please call: The Oak Center General Store, (507) 753-2080 or email at [folkforum@lakes.com](mailto:folkforum@lakes.com)**

**[www.oakcentergeneralstore.com](http://www.oakcentergeneralstore.com)**

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