

folk forum

Winter/ Spring 2014

May the long time sun shine upon you, all love surround you, and the pure light within you...guide your way home.

from the Incredible String Band's album 'The Hangman's Beautiful Daughter'.

Hello again fellow Travelers, Hobbits, and Elves

According to the Julian calendar we're into the 6,727th year since they started that calendar. I imagine the early calendars were not something you hung on a wall...probably written on the wall of a cave in Africa or France. At any rate, the first one, and the last Mayan calendar would be real collector's items by now. With "The Last Whole Earth Catalogue" they would complete a display on a coffee table in some survivalist biosphere/Armageddon subterranean bunker. A copy of the Keira Knightley/ Steve Carell DVD "Seeking A Friend For The End Of The World" would add ambience to the display and a polar-bearskin rug would really tie the room together.

Well, who decides when the year starts and ends anyway? I mostly follow the sun... you know... get up when the sun rises and slow down when it sets. Seasonally I wind down a bit when the days begin to shorten and the sunlight wanes. It is a time for moderate semi-hibernation to fix things, hold back the cold, and repair and rest bodies while preparing to spring forth in full force when the spring solstice gets here. The turning point for new pages of life more logically and naturally is the winter solstice.

So the Mayan calendar ended and the world didn't end, and now the year has ended. We reflect and resolve to do better in the year ahead. As we reflect in these times we are painfully aware that we may be at the end of the "Era of Relative Climatic Balance". It should not come as a surprise considering what humans have done to this planet, most notably in the last 100 years since the industrial revolution and since humans \$scashed\$\$ in on oil. The balance that was billions of years in coming has been traded in a mere 100 years for obscenely large bank balances.

What a shame that having had a million years to ask questions and ponder meaning, humans have failed to grasp the complexity and scope of the story of this earth and the delicate balance that brought life and brought us into being. Much of humanity fails to appreciate the beauty of living within that balance. Perhaps as described in Genesis, Adam and Eve did believe the fruit of knowledge would make them powerful like God, and Pandora did open that box. Humans, having made God in their own image, dressed God up in unmercifully restrictive clothing. Believing they could do a better job than the old Creator, they remodeled the earth with their machines, sucked out the oil, split the atoms, split the genes, created new species, new viruses, and new nightmares. They threw out conscience and created a religion called Free Market Economics to supersede moral codes based on mutual aid, community, and fairness. The priests of this new religion said excess and greed were the engines that would keep things rolling. Disparity and inequality were to be ignored, as they were natural consequences of this Darwinian survival-of-the-fittest economics. More like predators and parasites they be, than the transcendent creatures we have held ourselves up to be.

Somehow we got over the myths that the earth was flat, and that Earth was the center of the universe. Perhaps it's time we get over the idea that all the oil under us was once plants and dinosaurs on top and that we can just take it all out, burn it, and then rescue our climate by planting more trees to capture the carbon again. It is not plausible that all that carbon, all those hydrocarbons once existed as life on the surface and by some extraordinary shift of tectonic plates slid under the oceans and rock where heat and compression transformed this anaerobic compost pile into huge underground seas of oil, (from which we have pumped billions of barrels/day and the "habit" is increasing). It is more likely that those hydrocarbons were created, in the fusion process that takes place in every star in the universe, just as every other element on our planet was created. It is more likely that after our planet was formed in a "big bang" supernova, the hydrocarbons that got stuck on our flaming ball of molten space debris burned and created the CO2 and H2O that became the precursors of life. It is also more believable that these hydrocarbons became trapped below the surface by molten minerals that bubbled and spewed to the top and were cooled by condensing H2O raining down. This subterranean oil most likely plays an important role in the balance of surface temperatures between a molten core, (our inner constant heat source), and the intermittent warming rays of sunshine that hit earth as it magically spins on the cosmic rotisserie in cold, cold space. Did anyone remember to do an environmental impact statement on what would happen if we deleted all the oil from our subterranean structures? Could it possibly be a problem more irreversible and devastating than global warming from greenhouse gases?

Sometimes being stuck in human form can be stressful. Too much brain maybe. I am envious of the cat laying in the sun on the rug by the warm stove, or the dog asleep on the couch chasing rabbits in its dreams. I didn't always believe DR. SCIENCE, each answer spawning more questions. When the GREAT and POWERFUL OZ speaks, we MUST ponder the man behind the curtain.

Yes, let's make some New Year's resolutions while we still have the luxury of making lifestyle choices. Embrace these bodies we were given, don't let oil do our work for us. Vow to live a low impact lifestyle. "Teach your children well". Teach by example. Honor simplicity and living in moderation while measuring success as those who create comfortable lives of quality with modest means. Teach love, patience, respect for others, and a wholistic spirituality that emanates from love of the Creator, love of our human and animal sojourners. Live in awe and with respect for creation itself. THEN let's teach math and science, (not forgetting agriculture, philosophy, and the arts), to enable our children to express this love and respect. Poverty will end when money and excessive amounts of things are not considered riches and labor is FAIRLY rewarded. Health will follow when we live within the circles of community and nature with clean food, clean air, clean water, good work, and celebration of our shared gifts in this common journey called life. Speaking of celebration... we've got some great music to celebrate during the rest of this winter and the coming spring.

Love and peace,
Maintenance and repair

p.s. we can always 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 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, Isaiah, Nikki, Devon, and Ross for putting together the great food and 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, you are a blessing. May you and Kathy always find mushrooms. In the face of a few challenging cold months, thank you Joe and Becca, Sam, Jack, Duane, Dana, and Fred for lending backs, muscles, and time to help get wood in. It warms the heart to know you care and helps keep the building warm for everyone. If anyone would like to sign up as a regular volunteer to help us keep hosting these events, WE 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, Michael Perry, Stephen and Shari Brumm, Cy Champa, Shelley and David Nielsen, Bob and Helen Schroeder, Joel and Teresa Swan, Betty, 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.

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. 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 PINES

Saturday, Jan. 18th, 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. With 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. 25th, 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 as well as 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.” Come feel the music and shake them bones...

ANDRA SUCHY with TREVOR MARTY OPENING

Saturday, Feb. 1st, 8PM

Country, rock, folk and blues

Raised on a beef and wheat farm in North Dakota by folk musicians, Andra Suchy began touring and performing at festivals at a young age. Classically trained and a veteran of musical theater, the guitar-playing singer moved to Minneapolis in 1996, where she has gone on to make a name for herself as one of the finest vocalists around. A regular performer on A Prairie Home Companion, Andra has performed around the world, singing with such artists as Brad Paisley, Mindy Smith, Emmylou Harris, Chris Thile and soprano Renee Fleming. Although mainly known as a vocalist, Andra has been quietly honing her songwriting craft, self-releasing a solo album in 2006 called Patchwork Story. Signed to Grammy-winning label Red House Records, she released her album Little Heart in March, 2012. Full of infectious originals, the album is a twang-tinged mix of country, rock, folk and blues. She is joined tonight by Andrew Pierzina, Doug Otto, Bump Blomberg and Adam Mor.

THE PISTOL WHIPPIN' PARTY PENGUINS

Friday, Feb. 7th, 8PM

Midwest-stylized, blues/country/rock/bluegrass

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

SAWTOOTH BLUEGRASS BAND w/ TURPENTINE WINE open
Saturday, Feb. 8th, 8PM

Bluegrass

In the tradition of classic bluegrass brother harmonies, the Sawtooth Bluegrass Band, with two sets of musical brothers, melds the sounds of the original bluegrass masters with the fresh sounds of today.

Tight vocal harmonies and precision picking are getting them recognition, as well as numerous accolades & awards. Combining close harmony vocals, driving instrumentation, and a sense of fun and high energy, they have a stage show that has audiences wanting more. Lisa Rowland & Bronson Bergeson of **Turpentine Wine** open. They started writing music after getting tired of playing other peoples songs. Their broad tastes led them to write original songs, not conforming to a certain genre, but each for itself. Drawing from influences such as The Black Keys, Norah Jones, and Allison Kraus, their approach to music will keep you guessing and singing along.

RADOSLAV LORKOVIC w/ BARBARA JEAN MEYER open
Friday, Feb. 14th, 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. This Valentines Day show begins with Barbara Jean Meyer opening. A skilled multi-instrumentalist on banjo, fiddle and viola, she also has a sharp eye for songwriting. Her debut record, *The Great Escape*, brings together rich imagery from Lake Superior's rugged banks, reflections on difficult choices in matters of the heart, and masterful musicianship.

DANNY SCHMIDT & CARRIE ELKIN
Sunday, Feb. 16th, 3PM

Folk, Americana

No foolin', Danny & Carrie's joint shows are a revelation. Danny Schmidt is the real deal, an authentic timeless troubadour-poet in the tradition of Townes Van Zandt, Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, & Dave Carter, who delivers his craft with a quiet power, level of complexity, and underlying humanity that is truly rare. With the vocal fire of Patti Griffin and lyrical rawness of Rickie Lee Jones, Carrie Elkin's songs are intimate yet universal, naked yet richly adorned. Together on stage the chemistry is spectacular, don't miss them at this intimate venue!

RACHEL KILGOUR
Saturday, Feb. 22nd, 8PM

Original and provocative folk

Based out of Duluth, MN, Rachael Kilgour has built a devoted following over the last seven years, captivating audiences with a balance of provocative, topical lyrics, passionate musical delivery, and a charmingly innocent yet witty stage presence. She's shared the stage with such folk luminaries as Greg Brown, Ferron, Pat Humphries and Holly Near and earned a local reputation as "everyone's favorite, spirited folkster." Kilgour sings about love and family, but her most compelling songs are about human nature, societal shortfalls and our own potential to create change. There may be no place more fitting to see her than the Oak Center stage!

BILL STAINES
Sunday, Feb. 23rd, 3PM

Traditional and original folk

With "a sense of timing to match the best stand-up comic," Bill Staines' music is a slice of Americana, reflecting with the same ease on the prairie people of the Midwest and the adventures of the Yukon. Between original songs, Bill includes traditional folk tunes and more contemporary country ballads. Bill delights in having the audience participate in many numbers and never fails to please.

STEVE KAUL AND THE BRASS KINGS
Saturday Mar. 1st, 8PM

Blues and folk with international influences

Blending influences from African, Indian and Middle Eastern traditions - as well as good old Blues & Folk - Steve Kaul and The Brass Kings, bring quick finger picking acoustic and resonator guitar playing to new heights with extended sets incorporating washtub bass and washboard. The energy and drive of this homemade band is impossible to ignore. It is always a special night.

PAUL MAYASICH AND RAMM
Saturday, Mar. 8th, 8PM

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

Paul Mayasich brings his sweet blues vocals, awesome guitar playing, and outstanding trio: John Iden 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 and always put on a terrific show.

GALACTIC COWBOY ORCHESTRA
Saturday, Mar. 15th, 8PM

Newgrass Art-Rock

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

MARC ANDERSON AND FRIENDS
Saturday, Mar. 22nd, 8PM

Percussion, spoken word & storytelling

World class percussionist Marc Anderson returns to Oak Center with Michelle Kinney on cello and vocalist Carin Vagle who also plays shruti box – a small, wooden instrument that works on a system of bellows. The music is a hypnotic river of melodies and textures, spoken word and compelling rhythms that heal and transport the heart to the open field beyond. A seamless blend of original music, ancient chants, and contemporary pop songs, beautiful gems rediscovered for the first time. Marc has appeared on more than 250 recordings and has produced two solo recordings, *Time Fish* and *Ruby*. In his work with M2 and as a teacher in the Zen community, he leads retreats, workshops and classes in meditation, creativity, and sustaining healthy community.

ERIK KOSKINEN AND MOLLY MAHER
Friday, Mar. 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 will return with *The Minnesota Queen of Americana*, Molly Maher. Come experience their original brand of American music at Oak Center.

BOILED IN LEAD
Saturday, Mar. 29th, 8PM

Rock'n'reel, Punk folk, Country music

For over 30 years, BiL have been innovators in bringing "folk music" kicking and screaming to rock audiences (& rock music to screaming folk audiences)! A Boiled In Lead concert is a combination of darkly-tinged folk ballads and originals alongside instrumental dance music from Ireland and elsewhere. With the return of original lead singer Todd Menton and the addition of world-travelling eclectic instrumentalists Dean Magraw and Marc Anderson, they move forward with a fresh approach to a classic

style. Enthusiastic, powerful, technically brilliant, playing a wealth of instruments with extreme dynamics, Boiled In Lead routinely demolishes genres with its highly-identifiable sound.

DAN NEWTON AND CAFÉ ACCORDION ORCHESTRA

Saturday, April 5th, 8PM

French Musette, vintage swing, Euro-Latino dance music

Berets and Bongos describes the Cafe Accordion experience, an eclectic mix full of French flare, Latin heat and Bohemian attitude. The heart of the Café Accordion repertoire is the romantic, gypsy-influenced valse-musette. The group complements the musettes with swing, ballads, tangos, cha chas, rumbas, and cumbias to create a wonderfully varied show. They inject their music with good humor and expressive abandon. Their high level of musicianship and passion for performance makes them an entertaining concert act as well as a great dance band. Move some chairs and take a turn on the floor at Oak Center!

DEAN MAGRAW AND FRIENDS

Saturday, April 12th, 8PM

Extra-terrestrial folk- jazz

Celebrate Spring with an intimate performance kickin' out the the geetar jams and laughin' away your blues - Dean Magraw unveils soulful melodic grooves intricately designed to heal the broken dancer, confuse the boldest mathematician, and eradicate ennui in our lifetime. His musical passion transcends all boundaries, yet the vital essence of his distinctive style remains. Get tickets early!

SWITCHBACK

Saturday, April 26th 8PM

American Roots & Celtic Soul

For over two decades, Brian FitzGerald and Martin McCormack, known as Switchback, have entertained crowds with their unique blend of music. Brian and Martin play an exciting mix of mandolin, guitar, and bass. Their harmonies have won them comparisons to famous duos, such as the Louvin Brothers, the Everly Brothers, and Simon and Garfunkel. Music Connection Magazine writes: "The

words 'American Roots & Celtic Soul' only begin to describe this unusual act, whose vocal prowess is as pure as it is unique... there is no denying the stunning vocal blends that are achieved by this duo."

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 Winter/ Spring 2014

January

18th, Sat. 8PM The Pines

25th, Sat. 8PM Joe and Vicki Price

February

1st, Sat. 8PM Andra Suchy with Trevor Marty opening

7th, Fri. 8PM The Pistol Whippin' Party Penguins

8th, Sat. 8PM Sawtooth Bluegrass Band; Turpentine Wine opening

14th, Fri. 8PM Radoslav Lorkovic; Barbara Jean Meyer opening

16th, Sun. 3PM Danny Schmide and Carrie Elkin

22nd, Sat. 8PM Rachel Kilgour

23rd, Sun. 3PM Bill Staines

March

1st, Sat. 8PM Steve Kaul and the Brass Kings

8th, Sat. 8PM Paul Mayasich and RAMM

15th, Sat. 8PM Galactic Cowboy Orchestra

22nd, Sat. 8PM Marc Anderson and friends

28th, Fri. 8PM Erik Koskinen and Molly Maher

29th, Sat. 8PM Boiled in Lead

April

5th, Sat. 8PM Dan Newton & Café Accordion Orchestra

12th, Sat. 8PM Dean Magraw and friends

26th, Sat. 8PM Switchback

folk forum

c/o Oak Center General Store

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Lake City, MN 55041

