

Folk Forum Newsletter

Archive

[Oak Center General Store-Folk Forum Newsletter September 2004](#)

[Oak Center General Store-Folk Forum Newsletter January 2004](#)

[Oak Center General Store-Folk Forum Newsletter September 2003](#)

[Oak Center General Store Folk Forum Newsletter January 2003](#)

[Oak Center General Store-Folk Forum Newsletter September 2002](#)

Folk Forum Newsletter

January, 2005

Hello Fellow Travelers,

Psychologically, beginning the New Year would be easier if we could start with a clean slate, put the past behind us and begin anew. Starting the new year chained to the specter of planetary crisis and the increasing threats to global well-being makes it hard to harness that symbolic rejuvenation of spirit and commitments. When feelings of hopelessness or futility creep in, it is difficult to throw oneself enthusiastically into the work of making life more whole, more satisfying, and on a higher plane, better for all. And yet, that is what we must do. As Bill Moyers stated in the title of his address to NYU in June of 2004, "This is the Fight of Our Lives." If we don't rise to the occasion, we will endure the pain of watching what we and many generations of our forbearers have dreamed and struggled for, be dismantled, overwhelmed and left in smoldering ruin. We, our children, and subsequent generations, will suffer the consequences. In a sense, the

recent tsunami is a metaphor for what is happening to us globally. There was the roar, the white line off in the distance, no one knowing the full extent of the danger that was rapidly approaching. Some climbed to rooftops to get a better look and shouted the alarm. Many began to run. Some took shelter in their hotel rooms or huts. Some were sleeping. They were crushed or drowned by what crashed down upon them. Along coastlines, racing several hundreds of yards from shore drastically improved chances of survival. A mile inland people were unaware that anything was happening at all. Today, globally we stand in front of an approaching wave that threatens to dwarf the devastation of the tsunami, the hurricanes, the earthquakes, floods, droughts and other natural disasters that seem to be occurring at increasing intensity and rates. Perhaps these natural disasters are connected to the pumping of millions of barrels of oil per day from beneath the earth's crust--where it might provide some as yet not discussed role toward buoying up, cushioning, or thermally insulating the earth's crust--then burning it and releasing tons of its waste products into the atmosphere. God's Punishment or mankind's disruption of the balance, choose your interpretation. It is only the beginning of mankind's worries if we don't reconcile on some big issues.

There is another tidal wave approaching as the chasm between the increasingly select halves and the rapidly expanding population of have-nots; grows within the human family. Hunger stemming from economic exploitation or lack of political access leads to desperation and anger. It can turn to hatred. Viewing one's wealth as self-made and disregarding good fortune and the many other lives that may have contributed to it, is Arrogant. In the midst of the less fortunate, it can lead to all kinds of strategies to defend and keep that wealth away from the less fortunate. It seems that often excess wealth, instead of being more justly distributed, leads to devious plans to acquire even more. Throw religious rationales and/or nationalism into the mix and you have conflict that escapes reason. Denying one group access to political power while giving it to the other can only inevitably lead

to violent repercussions.

Today we watch with disbelief as human created fault-lines begin to shatter and destroy our commonwealth and our institutions, all the while catalyzing disasters throughout the globe. The plot to reverse and dismantle the gains of the New Deal rather than to fine tune and further improve them, telling Americans that the government was their enemy rather than a tool to improve the well-being of all, that democracy means people must not decide what is just and fair in the economy, did not increase our freedoms. It opened up the majority to the ravages of the greedy. It pushed us backwards towards the eras of robber barons, kings, queens, lords and dukes. Telling us that use of free speech to question or protest misguided policies is unpatriotic. It is contrary to democracy and the spirit of our constitution and Bill of Rights. The plot to loot and destroy our nation by pushing it into debt, (vocalized by a leading right wing political strategist, Grover Norquist when he stated the goal is to “starve the beast” with trillions of dollars in deficits resulting from trillions of dollars in tax cuts, until the US government is so anemic and anorexic it can be drowned in the bathtub), is nothing short of treason. It is not patriotic, and it is not a moral act. It exposes such groups as the Heritage Foundation and The American Enterprise Institute with their project for a New Century for what they are, traitors and conquistadors. They have clothed themselves in flags and religion and sadly gotten some people to vote for them. Combined with their control of media and the voting process itself, they have been able to claim a marginal victory declaring it a mandate for this disastrous agenda.

History has shown that humans have the capacity to create peaceful, productive communities through the acceptance of a social contract that realizes individual well-being comes from cooperation toward overall well-being. Or humans have the capacity to view themselves or their select group as being apart from other peoples, more

righteous, more deserving, more holy or even just flat out superior. When the latter is manifested by conquest, plundering, colonialism, or other forms of exploitation, it inevitably leads to strife. We get wars, revolutions, and the most recent incarnation, terrorism. Thomas Jefferson went so far as to call crime low-level revolution.

Our national history has been a mix. We have been a melting pot of those who came for freedoms and a chance for a better life, and those who came seeking wealth and conquest. We have struggled to build a commonwealth where all have equal access, and we have witnessed genocide against the indigenous native peoples and enslavement of African captives. We have seen economic conquest by the robber barons met by the struggle of populist movements and their partial victory in the New Deal. Regulation of banks and railroads, farm parity, minimum wage, progressive income tax and anti-trust, anti-monopoly laws corrected some of the excesses of a free-for-all economy where the economically advantaged could increase their advantage without conscience while the bulk of the population was left powerless. America developed a middle class. The suffrage movement, the civil rights movement, the American Indian movement, the anti-war movement, the environmental movement, and the anti-WTO movement have all largely worked within the framework of this republic and its democratic institutions but gone beyond the mere act of voting. The “commonwealth” has grown (schools, infrastructure, legal and human rights, “safety net,” etc.), toward securing and preserving the rights and well-being of a larger group of humanity. This worthy goal, in spite of the struggles and strife, brought us to a better place. As monied interests and other regressives attack the gains of the last 3 ½ decades, we must rise up to defend and repair them. The issues we must face in the year to come?

- 1) The immoral and delusional war taking place in our name to “install democracy” in Iraq via the gun, killing perhaps 100,000 innocent civilians in the latest assault and laying waste to the land,

perhaps permanently contaminating it with toxic uranium residues from the Depleted Uranium weaponry.

- 2) The increasing hatred and hostility growing worldwide toward the US because we have allowed an immoral, profit driven foreign policy to be perpetrated with our silent acquiescence standing in place of a genuine altruistic foreign policy that understands global peace and well-being stems from promoting those same for all. Can we continue to support coups in Venezuela, Haiti and elsewhere to perpetuate class inequity and increase our economic advantage through “cheap labor,” resources or manufactured goods? What is the real source of terrorism? Is it only individuals or groups lacking an air force and tanks?
- 3) The increasing threat from mass consumption and addiction to excessive use of non-renewable resources. We must look not only at the environmental impact but also at the social and political effects, and thus at...
- 4) The fair and just allocation of resources.
- 5) The destruction of our “commonwealth”, our schools, healthcare, civil infrastructure, physical infrastructure, and programs to boost the less fortunate. We must recognize this move toward “privatization” and consolidation for what it is: an attempt to move us back into a feudal state where access has all to do with money. A thief is he who steals the goose from the commons, but a greater criminal is he who steals the commons from the goose.
- 6) A free and independent press.
- 7) The electoral process; is it all about money and access through money? Are the vote tallies being counted fairly and accurately? Does everyone have equal access to the voting process? How do

we get good candidates?

- 8) Safe and democratic food system; local, family-owned, ecological. We must end the patenting of genes, and the introduction of dangerous gene combinations into the environment. We must remove Monsanto employees from the FDA, EPA and the Justice System.
- 9) No nation, corporation or individual is above the law. The International Criminal Court must be upheld. The US is not the policeman of the world if it does not obey international law. It is an Outlaw State. Those who use civil disobedience to enforce international law over state sponsored terrorism are making citizens arrests of Outlaw States and Corporation.
- 10) The issues relating to religion, and tolerance of differing views. What are moral values? Here in America we need to have some frank public discussion about whether Jesus who threw the money changers out of the temple, stood between the stone throwing executioners and the prostitute, taught love, mercy and forgiveness, identified with the poor and marginalized, really is leading this war-mongering, money worshipping, judgmental, letter of the law (and if the laws don't fit your present needs just rewrite or reinterpret), crowd, or if they are blatantly using religion to manipulate and paralyze resistance to their self-interested agenda. Are family values sending families into poverty and forcing both parents to work outside the home?

If you don't believe God can have more than one name, that the Holy Spirit can fill us, and that peace and goodwill can reign on Earth, if you feel that this earth and all the sinners on it must be destroyed so you can be ruptured, I would like to offer you an alternative. Let us believe in the power of love, let us work for peace and justice, let us feed the hungry, clothe the naked, comfort the sick, and visit those in prisons. Let the meek have the earth... and we will

pray for your rapture.

Love and Peace,

Maintenance and Repair



Thanks folks,

We are grateful for all of you who have made donations so that we may continue keeping folkforum going; wood gets purchased, repair happens, bills get paid... THANK YOU! Joe, Jess, Josh, Kathi, Kerry, Simone, Courtney and the gang, Sherry, Lisa, Jerry, Mark, Susan, Henry, David, Paul, Trudi, Jessie, Andrew, Meesh and Rob, Rich, Mary, Bill, Dawn, Dale, Marshall, Moms and Dads, brothers and sisters, everyone--we love you and we thank you all for your continual support.

NOTES AND SISTER EVENTS.....

we look forward

to the time when the

POWER of LOVE

will replace the love of power

then will our world know

the blessings of

PEACE

wm. ellery

channing

We remember. . . David Langworthy, Doug Hall, Dick Broeker and Mike Rhyner, and we miss you.

- ◆ Learn more about peacemaking and conflict outcome in an Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) workshop and increase your job skills, people skills, and able-to-make-a-difference skills. Conflicts may always be around, but we have the power to transform how we resolve them. Experiential exercises, games, discussions, and role-plays give opportunities to instill new and creative ways to be peacemakers. The Alternatives to Violence Project in Minnesota builds community with workshops in state and county correctional facilities, local high schools, and in the neighborhoods. Please join us at our next AVP Basic Level Community Workshop March 11th -13th, 2005. Hosted by the Friends for a Non-Violent World, 1050 Selby Ave., St. Paul, MN. Phone: 651-644-5851 Fax: 651-917-0379 or avp@fnvw.org <mailto:avp@fnvw.org>. Registration deadline of March 4.

- ◆ Inauguration Day, Thursday, January 20th, 2005 has been declared “**Not One Damn Dime Day**” in America. On “**Not One Damn Dime Day,**” those who oppose what is happening in our name in Iraq can speak up with a 24-hour national boycott of all forms of consumer spending.

The object is simple. We are reminding the people in power that the war in Iraq is immoral, illegal and a complete failure. There have been too many lives lost or ruined, too much money spent or promised. They are responsible for starting it and it is their responsibility to stop it. We open our mouths by keeping our wallets closed. We can visit our favorite stores and coffee shops the day before or the day after. For 24 hours, nothing gets spent, to remind our religious leaders and our politicians of their moral responsibility to end the war in Iraq. **So on Inauguration Day, don't spend any money. Not one dime for gasoline. Not one dime for coffee, or for impulse purchases. Nothing for 24 hours.** The people are showing their power, and democracy is still at work.

- ◆ The gap between rich and poor is greater than it has been for 50 years, the worst inequality among all western nations. 44 million Americans—8 out of 10 working families lack health insurance and cannot afford basic medical care. Elections today are an “influence peddling scheme in which both parties compete to stay in office by selling the country to the highest bidder” (John McCain). We have “government for the few at the expense of the many” (Time Magazine). “The rich have the ability to buy more homes, cars, clothes, vacations and gizmos than anyone else, but they do not have the right to buy more democracy than anyone else.” (Bill Moyer) “Some people will obviously have to do with less...it will be a bitter pill for many Americans to swallow the idea of doing

with less so that big business can have more” (Businessweek).

- ◆ Rochester folks vigil at the corner of 2nd and Broadway on **Tuesdays from 4:30 to 5:15 PM**, two days/month.
- ◆ Red Wing folks vigil on **Fridays from 4:30 to 4:45 PM** at Rich Park. Check out the **CARP**, a great local newspaper-pick up a copy here at Oak Center!
- ◆ **People for Peace and Goodwill** in Northfield, MN meet **Thursday nites** at the Village School (1100 Bollenbacher Ct.) for conversation/education and **every Saturday at noon** at Bridge Square for a 15 silent peace vigil. 130 people attended the vigil one fine and chilly Saturday in January.
- ◆ **Southeast MN Alliance of Peacemakers** needs your help. Get involved again. A lot of work to do and much need for support either as members or active volunteers. Vigil downtown on Tuesdays. Membership is \$5/year. Contact: SEMINNAP@aol.com
- ◆ Yes, we’re looking for clean plastic bags with handles for the next Farmer’s Market season. We have enough egg cartons at this time...thanks for reusing, recycling, renewing~!
- ◆ We love volunteers to help out with concerts—before or after clean-up, wood-cutting, running the store, etc.—join us and help build community...call Susan at (507) 753-2080 or email at folkforum@lakes.com .
- ◆ Join Earthen Path Organic Farm CSA for the 2005 season—community supported agriculture, agriculture for and about community and receive weekly boxes of veggies with optional eggs for 18-20 weeks—pick up a brochure at a concert or check out www.oakcentergeneralstore.com

- ◆ Buy a few pounds or order a portion of organic lamb, pasture raised beef, buffalo, poultry or pork from your neighbors and help build homeland security by rebuilding a strong local economy. No hormones, antibiotics or GMOs. Here at the Oak Center General Store in our lovely upright display freezer. (507) 753-2080
info@oakcentergeneralstore.com

- ◆ “Be the change you wish to see in the world.”
Ghandi

- ◆ The 60th anniversary of Hiroshima is 2005, and in May the UN will be reviewing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The Bush gang is considering backing out. As early as January '06 the proposal will be presented in Congress for a cabinet Department of Peace.

- ◆ International Criminal Court world delegates voted overwhelmingly that the US represented the greatest threat worldwide to human rights.

- ◆ A Direct Action out of Conscience is being planned for March 14th at Alliant Tech. Hoping for a presence of at least 400 people.

◆ **Volunteers**—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....community. Contact us if you are moved to help. We also have farm apprenticeship positions available for the upcoming season, contact us at (507)753-2080 or folkforum@lakes.com Thanks!

LOTS of new music and the good ol' stuff, too, ...

Paul Mayasich with the Benderheads

Saturday, January 22nd, 8PM

\$5-10 pay what you can; kids freewill donation

\$10 at the door

BLUES

We loved these guys last January. They asked for a return gig at Oak Center. We agreed. So, come on down for a CABIN FEVER blues show without the smokey bar atmosphere. Let **Paul Mayasich with the Benderheads**, shake off your chill January blahs while they launch their CD release party here at Oak Center with their second CD, *Times is Hard*. Paul Mayasich, a native of Cloquet, MN stretches a mean set of licks on lead acoustic guitar and vocals and cracks a heck of a lot of knee-slapping jokes to boot. The Benderheads consist of Scotty Miller (of the Scotty Miller Band) on piano, Jeff Rodgers (Lamont Cranston) on drums, and John Wright (Lehto and Wright) on bass. NOT TO Be MISSED. Join us for the opening show of the second half of the folk forum season!

Mustard's Retreat

Sunday, January 23rd, 2PM

\$5-10; pay what you can; kids freewill donation

American Folk

For more than 30 years, Mustard's Retreat (David Tamulevich and Michael Hough) has been entertaining audiences with its special brand of folk music. Highly acclaimed as not only songwriters, but as interpreters of traditional and contemporary songs and stories, their show is full of enthusiasm, good humor and fine musicianship. Multi-instrumentalists (guitar, electric bass, dulcimer, mandolin, harmonica, penny whistle), their large repertoire draws on the dual influences they both experienced when growing up: the folk revival of the '60s as well as the explosive singer-songwriter movement. Traditional to pop and all points in between, their show moves effortlessly along with equal doses of humor, history, insight and emotion. This will be a lovely Sunday afternoon show—especially for families. Join us!

Pieta Brown with Bo Ramsey

Friday, January 28th, 8PM

\$10; kids freewill donation

Bluesy folk

Spellbound is the word that best describes last season's Pieta Brown and Bo Ramsey concert. Pieta's magical, smokey vocals, and mystically graced lyrics combined with Bo's esteemed backwoods and rootsy guitar chops make for a sky and earth balance that is hypnotic. As the eldest daughter of Greg Brown, Pieta Brown displays a distinctive, charismatic voice and a familial gift for creating precise, crisp images. She has effectively established herself with a unique style having written poetry all of her life. On this fine wintry evening, come out for some of the Midwest's best.

Joe Price with Vicky Price

Saturday, January 29th 8PM

\$5-10 pay what you can; kids freewill donation

BLUES

Blues in January seems to be the order of the day and this blues weekend continues with a nite of blues featuring Iowa natives Joe Price, Mississippi Delta bluesmaster for 30 years and his wife, Vicky Price on guitar and vocals...Joe's music is flavored more to the juke joint end of the blues: a bit rough and tons of fun with workin' class roots hollering out in the empty musical spaces. He is a great example of how one learns to do stuff right—slide technique, studying the masters—and then learns to break all the rules to make his music truly unique and all his own. Vicki's music reflects her influences: gospel from her mother, folk from growing up in the '60's and blues from over 20 years with Joe. She can play sweet ballads or rock it out. Together, they blend and balance so well, you would think you were living in a perfect world. Get out of the cold, sit by the warm stove and groove to these blues greats!

Direct Action Out of Conscience: Marv Davidov, Mike Miles, Steve Clemens Saturday, February 5th, 4PM. Potluck Follows at 6PM

Discussion of the 30 year history of civil disobedience and the direct actions occurring at the Honeywell Project and Alliant Tech in the metro area. Information on the upcoming direct action on March 14th will also be outlined. Mike Miles will give eyewitness accounts of his experiences in Iraq over the past year and the human casualties of Depleted Uranium weapons produced at Alliant Tech. Steve Clemens will talk about international law and how it has led to successful defense for direct actions out of conscience.

The Granary Girls

Saturday, February 5th, 8PM

\$5-10, pay what you can; kids freewill donation

Folk

Those Granary Girls return with their upbeat brand of folksy blues and their

uncanny ability to bring the issues home. Patty Kakac & Jodi Ritter deliver a collection of stories gathered by a stream flowing through the prairie. Sometimes wide and flowing with harmony, other times narrow, swift and bubbling at play. In true folk tradition, the music & personalities of the Granary Girls have a strong influence on their audiences. Listeners become part of the experience; laughing & crying, singing & tappin' their toes. The Granary Girls are community builders through lyrics & music. Their shared belief about the power of music connects them in all their endeavors & keeps them true to their own spirits. Their latest CD, Wild Roses, has been an overnight sensation, regionally, nationally and has had airtime overseas as well.

The Granary Girl's witty banter, funny and/or heartfelt stories leaves audiences full. We love 'em, and we think you will, too.

Paddy Keenan

Friday, February 11th, 8PM

\$10 pay what you can; kids freewill donations

Celtic Improvisational Piper

Paddy Keenan is an Irishman and a piper. His virtuosity on the pipes combined with the ferocity of his playing made him, in the opinion of many, the driving force of the former Bothy Band. Former band-mate Donal Lunny once described Paddy as "the Jimi Hendrix of the pipes"; more recently, due to his genius for improvisation and counter-melody, he has been compared to jazz great John Coltrane. Paddy's flowing, open-fingered style of playing can be traced directly from the style of such great Travelling pipers as Johnny Doran; both Paddy's father and grandfather played in the same style. "**Keenan's** wild and free style of piping is at its unfettered best," **Steve Winick** - *Dirty Linen* Truly a piper not to be missed, join us for a fabulous nite of eclectic, upbeat piping. Oh yeah!

Democracy Can't Function Without a Fair Vote

Saturday, February 12th, 4:30 PM, Potluck follows at 6PM

Freewill donation

Bush claimed victory. Kerry conceded defeat. Does that mean the 2004 election was conducted fairly? Maybe not. A group of Minnesotans travelled to Ohio in December to serve as observers during the election recount. On Saturday, February 12th, some of them will speak at Oak Center about their experiences. They will talk about electronic voting machines, software tampering, provisional ballots that were not counted, long lines at inner city polling places but no

lines in suburbs, and allegations regarding possible conflicts of interest. They will NOT be arguing that Kerry was the winner, but rather that democracy was the loser. Join us for a discussion that also will consider the future of elections. A potluck dinner will follow, and then an excellent musical show by *Bill Geezy and the Promise Breakers*.

Bill Geezy and the Promise Breakers

Saturday, February 12th, 8 PM

\$5-10 pay what you can; kids freewill donation

Acoustic folk rock

Great songs, virtuoso musicianship and beautifully blended harmony vocals—**Bill Geezy and the Promise Breakers** is the real deal! Bill Geezy on guitar and vocals backed by the the leading master of the Diatonic and Chromatic Harmonicas on this or any other planet, Clint Hoover (the Sugar Kings) on harmonica and back up vocals, Craig Dallas on drums and back up vocals and David Bille on lead guitar and back up vocals. All these guys sing! Bill Geezy's style of songwriting is fashioned around the age-old premise: moving stories and great melodies touch your heart and stay on your mind He has been blessed with the good fortune of having great singers such as Kate MacKenzie and Emmylou Harris sing his songs. This will be fun. A band good for a dead of winter pre-Valentine's Day party. Join us.

Anne Feeney and Chris Chandler

Sunday, February 13th, 8PM

\$5-10, pay what you can; kids freewill donation

Folk/Political Satire

It has been more than a spell since the progressive singer/songwriter, Anne Feeney has performed at Oak Center. She brings with her spoken word performer, Chris Chandler. Their metaphoric high wire act loads its big top full of folk music, poetry, and humor. Chandler (who has worked with everyone from Allen Ginsberg to Ani Di Franco) presents a dynamic concoction of poems and folk songs designed to rouse the slumbering subconscious of the Starbucks culture.. He's probaby the only performance poet in North America to have represented four different cities over the years at National Poetry Slams. Anne Feeney is no stranger to trouble. She's been on the frontlines most her life... starting with the anti-war movement during the Vietnam war, the women's movement, and the environmental movements. But Feeney's heart belongs to the labor movement and comes by her activism honestly. Her fiddle-playing grandfather organized for the UMWA at the

beginning of the 20th century. Her riveting performance of "Have You Been to Jail for Justice?" during Seattle's WTO protests is featured in the Big Noise film "*This is What Democracy Looks Like*." Feeney's award-winning songs have made it into the repertoire of many activists and performers, including Peter, Paul and Mary. Not to be missed on a fine Sunday afternoon, a potluck presentation offered by Phil Steger from Friends for a Nonviolent World follows at 4:30 PM.

Bring a dish to pass.

Phil Steger, Friends For a NonViolent World

Sunday, February 13th, 4:30 PM, Freewill Donation, Potluck follows

Building a Peacetime world. Reframing the discussion. The charismatic, Phil Steger, Quaker activist, scholar and peace-builder will give this dynamic presentation.

Donohue, Newton and Raynor

Sunday, February 20th 2PM

\$5-10, pay what you can; kids freewill donation

Bluesy/folk

How can we be so lucky? Two regular members and one frequent guest of the **Guy's All-Star Show Band** on Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion" radio show are roadtripping down to Oak Center on a Sunday afternoon to do it up! Famed blues/folk guitarist, Pat Donohue, premier accordionist Dan Newton (**Café Accordion Orchestra**) and Gary Raynor on bass play traditional Delta blues, rags, jug-band music, and 20th century popular songs. An adventuresome ensemble that thrives on interplay and spontaneity, these talented musicians draw on a deep repertoire ranging from Robert Johnson to the Beatles, from Tin Pan Alley to Tangos. Years of experience and rich musical backgrounds allow the trio to infuse their selections with jazz, rock, soul, eclectic, and ethnic influences. If the combination of guitar, bass and accordion isn't unique enough in itself, layer in good-natured chestnuts, obscurities, and originals (both sincere and tongue-in-cheek), drench it all in great musical skill and showmanship, and you have an unforgettable afternoon's-worth of entertainment....come on down!

Cam Waters and Kari Larson

Friday, February 25th, 8PM

\$5-10, pay what you can; kids freewill donation

\$10 at the door

Folk

It is with great vim and vigor, we welcome back to the Oak Center stage, old friends Cam Waters and Kari Larson. Cam has spent the last twenty-odd years crisscrossing the country and honing his unique style on the stages of coffeehouses, clubs, concert halls and festivals. His literate, tradition-based songwriting mixes seamlessly with his arrangements of rural blues, jug band songs, and American folk music. His understated, expressive singing and his simple yet inventive fingerstyle and slide guitar playing make Cam Waters a favorite among local folks as well as across the country and in Europe. His dry humor will get your goat going guaranteed! Mandolin virtuoso Kari Larson comes out of the San Francisco Bay-area acoustic music scene. She has also performed in rockabilly bands, Jewish and Italian groups, and Baroque ensembles. Her technical expertise and soulful playing is incomparable. Both Waters and Larson are skilled National metal-bodied guitarists as well. Look for great songs, superb musicianship, good stories and humor with these two!

Bill Staines

Sunday, February 27th, 2PM

\$5-10, pay what you can; kids freewill donation

Folk

The annual pilgrimage continues for Bill Staines. Twenty-some years of performing at Oak Center, this traditional folk singer/ story teller holds the record here and humbly returns yearly to do a fine Sunday afternoon show. His folk career spans nearly 40 years and he has traveled back and forth across North America, singing his songs and delighting audiences with his quick wit, occasional poem, and humorous stories. He may even go for a yodeling session at some point during his performance, having won the National Yodeling Championship in 1975 at the Kerryville Folk Festival in Texas. You can't go wrong with Bill, bring the whole family down for this one or your special friends or just you!

The Pines—Benson Ramsey and David Huckfelt

Saturday, March 5th, 8PM

\$5-10 pay what you can; kids freewill donation

Blues

The Pines, the latest entry from Iowa City based Trailer records, work on and

around the familiar, rootsy turf staked out by the label's Bo Ramsey, Pieta Brown, Dave Zollo, Greg Brown and even Brother Trucker. But if the "cones haven't fallen too far from the tree", there's ample reason, because the duo is electric guitarist Benson Ramsey (son of Bo) and singer/acoustic guitarist David Huckfelt, whose songwriting draws heavily upon the Midwestern folk rockers like Dylan and John Prine, who have dominated the form. The aptly-named Pines are by turns lonesome, whispering and knotty, crafting a distinctly autumnal sound. Huckfelt's voice evokes a young, less-wheezy Dylan, and Ben Ramsey's loping, belltoned six-string work is a ringer for his dad's, yet they still manage to carve out their own niche. Join us for the second generation of Iowa City's finest. The roots tradition continues.

Deidre McCalla

Sunday, March 6th, 2PM

\$5-10 pay what you can; kids freewill donation

Singer/songwriter

Deidre McCalla. Singer. Songwriter. Modern day troubadour. An engaging performer with a voice that delicately conveys both strength and vulnerability, Deidre's eclectic blend of folk, rock, country, and pop has reached into the hearts and minds of audiences from Maui to Maine, college coffeehouses to Carnegie Hall. With five critically acclaimed albums to her credit, including the recent MaidenRock release, *Playing for Keeps*, Deidre McCalla remains the indefatigable road warrior. Deidre's words and music traverse the inner and outer landscapes of our lives, chronicling our strengths and weaknesses and celebrating the power and diversity of the human spirit. A fine artist, a fine Sunday afternoon. Don't miss.

Barra

Saturday, March 12th, 8PM

\$5-10;pay what you can; kids freewill donation

Celtic Band

Wow, just in time for St. Patty's Day. **Barra**, a premiere Minneapolis-based celtic band is making the trip down to dazzle us with exquisite and danceable music from the British Isles. **Barra** (Gaelic for summit or top of) has a focus on performing traditional Irish dance music as well as ballads, songs, and listening tunes with the design of carrying on the ceilidh band tradition.. They successfully keep the music traditional as supported in Irish and Scottish communities. They also perform in the traditions of Appalachian and Cape Breton. The band features John McCormick (accordion, bagpipes, vocals), Karie Oberg (vocals), Deborah Martin (fiddle), Paul Garding (guitar, vocals), and Dave Cammack (bodhran, tin whistle, accordion, step dancing). Fun, fun, fun. Join us!

Dean Magraw, Jim Anton, and JT Bates

Saturday, March 19th, 8PM

\$5-10, pay what you can; kids freewill donation

Eclectic Jazz

Once again, we welcome back guitar wizard, Dean Magraw, bassist, Jim Anton, and JT Bates on drums. All musicians are virtuosos and versatile in many genres of music. Expect an eloquent mix of fluid, improvisational worldbeat tunes mixed with mystical ballads and sweet jazz standards. A synergistic energy exchange happens between audience and the performers in this trio that carries us beyond earthly borders and connects us to universal peace and love energy. On the two year anniversary of the start of the Iraqi war (which in fact was the first time this trio played Oak Center), take a safe trip to another galaxy in the company of friends.

Johnsmith and Ariane Lydon

Saturday, April 2nd, 8PM

\$5-10, pay what you can; kids freewill donation

Singer/songwriters

We're happy to host a Wisconsinite folk double-billing show with **Johnsmith and Ariane Lydon**—we love featuring folks from regions close by! Johnsmith is one performer who doesn't wear hype well. His artistry speaks for itself. In fact, the idea of 'just being real' is a prominent theme throughout his music. Johnsmith was born in Dewitt, Iowa, where he shared his small town mid-western life (and house) with his two parents, and nine brothers and sisters. The experience of growing up in such a large family nurtured within him a keen awareness of the value of community, and, at the same time, the absolute necessity of solitude. Music is simply his gift, and he feels compelled to share it. That means more than all the hype, any day.

Every once in a rare while comes a singer with such an extraordinary voice and uncommon musical gift that it touches deeply the souls of all who hear her. Ariane Lydon is such a discovery. Lydon's virtuosic touch on 12- and 6-string guitar, keyboards, Celtic harp, and bodhran come from a long apprenticeship in music across three continents. Born in Sussex, England, to a British civil servant and a New York artist, Lydon lived in Santiago, Chile, until she was 10. Her mother, a daughter of a jazz and ragtime pianist, immersed Ariane in classical piano music from age 7. Both parents, ethnomusicologists at heart, introduced her to an extensive range of classical and ethnic music from countries they had lived in and visited all over the world. Driven by an innate need to create and collect music, Ariane taught herself steel-stringed guitar to accompany her singing. There you have it. A wonderful singer/songwriter evening

Middle-aged White Guys--A Play

Friday, April 8th, 8PM

\$5-10, pay what you can; kids freewill donation

Middle-aged White Guys is a comedy about three brothers who meet in the town dump to honor the memory of a former love. These guys are smarmy middle-aged white guys who have sinned against nature and others. God is angry with them (and all white men) and so she sends down messengers to get them to change their ways. Performed by the esteemed and talented Red Wing Players and directed by Julie Martin. Join us for a hilarious play with a message. Great acting, too!

Tangled Roots

Saturday, April 9th, 8PM

\$5-10, pay what you can; kids freewill donation

Bluegrass

Bluegrass yes, but not just the same old stuff. **Tangled Roots** is an accomplished and energetic ensemble with over 40 years of combined musical experience. This fabulous foursome has separately traveled the world playing bluegrass music to audiences of all ages and ethnic backgrounds. Chris Siver is one of the premier mandolin, fiddle and guitar players in the upper Midwest who also sings lead and harmony, and masterfully composes riveting original songs and instrumentals. Barry St. Mane has been a stalwart in the local scene for decades. Marty Malone brings his flat-picking, strong rhythm playing and soulful lead and tenor vocals to the group. Pete Mathison expertly holds the bottom end on upright bass. These guys play traditional, original, progressive all at the same time. Check them out...a fun time for all!

Radoslav Lorkovic

Saturday, April 16th, 8PM

\$5-10, pay what you can; kids freewill donation

Blues piano and harmonica

Radoslav can play piano and accordion with his eyes closed...and he does! Rad on stage is Rad! Master of boogie woogie/blues piano, he plays festivals and venues around the globe with many talented musicians. He comes solo tonite after too long of a hiatus from Oak Center. Join us!

Karen Savoca and Pete Heitzman

Friday, April 22nd, 8PM

\$5-10, pay what you can; kids freewill donation

Folk rock

We are happy to bring back Karen Savoca and Pete Heitzman. Karen and Pete met on a stage, and they've been making music together ever since. Their style is an elusive blend of blues, soul, rock, country, folk, world, pop, jazz and everything in between. When you hear them you'll agree, they don't sound like anyone else. They live and record in a renovated old church tucked away in the hills of Upstate New York. A soulful and engaging performer, Karen draws you into her world like she's inviting you to the table for supper. Pete bends, plucks, and wrings captivating textures and soundscapes from the guitar or six-string bass and has been aptly described as "the aurora borealis of guitar players. These guys are phenomenal—don't short-change yourself. Come and have a listen!

Switchback

Saturday, April 23rd, 8PM

\$5-10, pay what you can; kids freewill donation

Rockabilly/Celtic Folk

Energy. Emotion. Excitement. A couple of downhome guys who have for nearly 20 years played the region. Their relentless unpredictability keeps them from being pigeonholed in any specific genre. Brian Fitzgerald picks mandolin like a driven seamstress might quilt: effortless stitches, driving pace, skill obvious, and plenty of stories still to sew while the fingers are nimble and the needle is sharp. Bassist and vocalist Marty McCormack carries the color for the duo. Whether he's bellowing out a **Switchback** original or a bawdy Irish bar tune, McCormack's bit of brogue, gift of gab, and generally wandering way of being has proven productive. It takes a couple of dreamy optimists to call a score of clubs their living room and the entire Midwest, running like one long train track from Chicago to Oak Center, their rambling home. Indefinable, irreverent, and inescapably American, Switchback songs are known to make even the most sedentary acknowledge their feet. Again we end the folk forum season with the mighty **Switchback** leaving for the growing season to steer the plough in the field.

ADMISSION AND TICKET INFORMATION:

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT AND READ THIS BLARB ON TICKETS SALES IN ORDER TO SAVE US ALL A LOT OF TIME ON THE PHONE, (AND TO SAVE OUR LITTLE FEETS FROM GETTIN' WORN OFF THE ENDS OF OUR TIRED LEGS AS WE RUN BACK AND FORTH FROM OUR WORK TO THE TELEPHONE.)

TICKETS ARE \$5--10 PER TICKET PER SHOW—PAY WHAT YOU ARE ABLE. IT IS UP TO YOU—THE TICKET PURCHASERS—TO DECIDE WHAT YOU CAN ECONOMICALLY AFFORD FOR EACH CONCERT. WE

DON'T ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS AT THIS TIME. JUST MAIL A CHECK IN OR STOP BY. ON YOUR CHECK IN THE MEMO PART, INDICATE THE NUMBER OF TICKETS AT WHAT PRICE YOU'LL BE PAYING. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THIS SYSTEM WILL BE FAIR AND THAT YOU WILL BE CONTRIBUTING WHAT YOU'RE ECONOMICALLY ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO folk forum. NO ONE WILL BE TURNED AWAY BECAUSE OF LACK OF FUNDS—ONLY LACK OF SEATING. THE BULK OF ADMISSIONS GOES TO THE PERFORMERS AND THE REMAINING AMOUNT IS USED FOR OTHER PROGRAM EXPENSES, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR, PRINTING AND MAILING COSTS, AND FIREWOOD.

*MANY OF OUR CONCERTS ARE SOLD OUT AHEAD OF TIME AND WE HAVE HAD SOME "NO SHOWS" WITH THE RESERVATION PLAN WHICH LEFT SOME EMPTY SPACES, ETC. THEREFORE, WE HAVE FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW BEEN SELLING TICKETS IN ADVANCE ONLY UP UNTIL IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF TIME CONSTRAINTS. PURCHASING TICKETS IN ADVANCE IS AS EASY AS PIE, AND MOST OF YOU ARE REALLY GREAT ABOUT THIS. IT IS DONE THRU SNAIL MAIL OR BY STOPPING BY THE STORE WHEN YOU ARE GETTING SOME SUPPLIES OR SNACKS. **THROUGH THE MAIL:** SEND A CHECK PAYABLE TO folk forum FOR THE CORRECT AMOUNT WITH A NOTE STATING THE CORT YOU WILL BE ATTENDING AND NUMBER OF SEATS YOU WOULD LIKE. IF A CONCERT HAPPENS TO BE SOLD OUT, WE WILL RETURN YOUR CHECK TO YOU UNLESS YOU SPECIFY OTHERWISE. STICKING A SASE IN WITH YOUR REQUEST HELPS A LOT. GENERALLY, WE WRITE YOUR NAMES IN **THE BOOK** AND YOU CHECK IN WITH THE ADMISSION PERSON AT THE FRONT DOOR OF THE STORE PRIOR TO A CONCERT. IF, FOR SOME REASON YOU NEED ACTUAL PHYSICAL TICKETS (MULTIPLE PARTIES FROM DIFFERING LOCATIONS) THEN PLEASE ENCLOSE A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE. SOME CONCERTS WILL BE SOLD OUT SO, IF IT IS DOWN TO THE WIRE ON SOME OF THE REAL HOT SHOWS, THEN IT MAY BE GOOD TO CALL FIRST AND LET US KNOW YOU ARE SENDING FOR TICKETS. RESERVATIONS ARE ONLY TAKEN THE LAST DAY OR TWO BEFORE A CONCERT IF THERE ARE STILL SOME SEATS AVAILABLE.*

REGARDING CHILDREN AT SHOWS THAT ARE SOLD OUT:
FREE WILL DONATION APPLIES TO THOSE WHO SIT ON THE RUGS UP FRONT OR WHO ARE SMALL ENOUGH TO SIT ON YOUR LAP. WE HAVE SUCH A LIMITED NUMBER OF SEATS (150) AND OUR ADMISSION PRICE IS SO LOW THAT WE MUST RESERVE SEATS FOR THE FULL ADMISSION PRICE IN ORDER TO PAY PERFORMERS AND COVER COSTS. Questions: email them to folkforum@lakes.com. Thanks!

**WE ARE UPDATING OUR MAILING LIST
SO.....**

IF YOU HAVEN'T DONATED \$5.00 FOR MAILING COSTS IN THE LAST YEAR, PLEASE DO SO AS PRINTING COSTS and postage HAVE GONE UP AND EAT UP A HUGE AMOUNT OF OUR RESOURCES—want your newsletter emailed to you? Email us at folkforum@lakes.com and we'll put you on the list—we still would appreciate the \$5.00 per year even for emailed newsletters. Thank you!!!!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE REGULAR NOTICES

**OF folk forum EVENTS AND/OR YOU WOULD LIKE TO
CONTRIBUTE TO folk forum PROGRAMMING, PLEASE
FILL IN THE INFORMATION BELOW and return
with your \$5.00 mailing cost fee to folk forum, c/o The Oak
Center General Store, RR1 Box 52BB, Lake City, MN 55041**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ **CITY,**
STATE, ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ME MY NEWSLETTER _____

I AM DONATING _____ **FOR MAILING COSTS**

I AM MAKING A DONATION OF \$ _____ **TO**
SUPPORT ONGOING PROGRAMMING

COMMENTS/FEEDBACK:

folk forum CALENDAR IN BRIEF

January '05

22 Sat. 8:00 PM Paul Mayasich with the
Benders

23 Sun. 2:00 PM Mustard's Retreat

28 Fri. 8:00 PM Pieta Brown and Bo Ramsey

29 Sat. 8:00 PM Joe Price and Vicki Price

February '05

5 Sat. 4:00 PM Direct Action Out of Conscience:
Marv Davidov, Mike Miles, Steve Clemens

5 Sat. 8:00 PM The Granary Girls

- 11 Fri. 8:00 PM Paddy Keenan
- 12 Sat. 4:30 PM Bill McGrath: Democracy
Can't Happen Without a Fair Vote
- 12 Sat. 8:00 PM Bill Geezy and the
Promise Breakers
- 13 Sun. 2:00 PM Anne Feeney and Chris
Chandler
- 13 Sun. 4:30 PM Phil Steeger: Re-framing
the National Discussion
- 20 Sun. 2:00 PM Donohue, Newton and
Raynor
- 25 Fri. 8:00 PM Cam Waters and Kari Larson
- 27 Sun. 2:00 PM Bill Staines

March '05

- 5 Sat. 8:00 PM The Pines—Benson Ramsey and
David Huckfelt
- 6 Sun. 2:00 PM Deidre McCalla
- 12 Sat. 8:00 PM Barra
- 19 Sat. 8:00 PM Dean Magraw, Jim Anton,
JT Bates

April '05

- 2 Sat. 8:00 PM Johnsmith and Ariane Lydon
- 8 Fri. 8:00 PM Middle Aged White Guys—A
Play
- 9 Sat. 8:00 PM Tangled Roots
- 16 Sat. 8:00 PM Radoslav Lorkovic

22 Fri. 8:00 PM Karen Savoca and Pete
Heitzman

23 Sat. 8:00 PM Switchback

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

www.oakcentergeneralstore.com

folk forum

c/o Oak Center General Store

Route 1, Box 52BB

Lake City, MN 55041