

Folk Forum Newsletter

January, 2003

This issue of the folk forum newsletter is dedicated to

Paul and Sheila Wellstone, their daughter Marcia,

and Dave Ray, a gentleman, a progressive and extraordinary musician and master of the blues.

All of you gave to us. Inspired by your gifts, we give back. May you live on in our work and may it do justice to your memories.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As this coming year unfolds, we sit on the edge of a knife. Will we have war, economic collapse, escalating waves of terror (from all sides in this global struggle) and rapid degradation of the environment...or will in this moment of crisis the people of the world experience an enlightenment, a sense of the common bonds of humanity, our shared experience in this awesome dance of life on the thin fragile crust of a small planet? We orbit at the right distance from the sun to allow us the experiences of love and laughter and joy, seeing them repeated over and over in the laughter of children, and then grandchildren, perhaps great-grandchildren. Life exists on this thin crust, a zone of complex biological activity, a vast synthesis finding balance through millions of years of creation and evolution. The climate, a complex balance of shade, solar gain, evaporation and condensation returned to us once seasons we could prepare for. Will the spring continue to renew us with new leaves, fresh flowers, and infant creatures, or will our earth be embroiled in World War III, global climate disaster and the descent into moral and societal chaos, or perhaps fascism? We look down from this perch and we see signs of many possibilities. Humans have the potential to upset the balance more than at any other time since their beginnings here.

Those of us who have believed in the power of love, conscience and positive action in working to help direct our world toward peace and sustainability have received some terrible blows and severe shocks in recent times. The failures of the electoral process to field and elect courageous candidates who could remain faithful enough to ideals and principles to be able to address the issues of peace, of justice, and of good stewardship of our planet have been overwhelmingly disappointing. The tragic death of friend and champion Paul Wellstone

was devastating to the hopes of progressives, liberals, environmentalists, small farms, working people, and the disenfranchised. Though Jewish by heritage, Paul embodied, (more than the self-proclaimed Christian right), the teachings of Jesus (“when you do unto the least of these, you do unto me.”) We may never know the truth about the circumstances of this plane crash and our suspicions may plague us forever, but the deaths of these loved ones must not end our struggle for what is just and what is good. They must live on in us. We must seek the truth and ask the difficult questions. And we must act. As the forces of money, of military power and political manipulation continue to ravage our environment, our communities, the poor and indigenous people all over the globe, there is again a rising up of conscience, parallel to the rising up of anger and hatred by those that feel threatened by American Empire. It is this conscience that must prevail. This conscience rose up and stood behind Martin Luther King, Jr. and black America, marching arm in arm and compelling politicians to enact civil rights legislation. It rose up and ended an immoral and unjust war in Vietnam. It launched an environmental movement and global consciousness about a wide range of issues from environment to human rights. Love was the most talked about human act and spiritual search was the ultimate journey. Music and art reached new heights and embodied the rising up of Spirit.

Today our nation makes war not love and spiritual journey ended in religiosity and self-righteous dogma used as weapons to further political and economic agendas. Like the phoenix rising up from the ashes, people are gathering together to take up the work we have neglectfully left to experts and politicians. They are establishing bonds beyond the borders of race, gender, ethnicity, religion, nation, politics or class, even as the forces darkness seek to divide. Is this possibly our last chance? The Armageddon? The Jihad? Will this be an internal spiritual war for our souls, for light against darkness...or will we find ourselves trying to rise from the toxic radio-active ashes of another but larger failed attempt at empire through a physical earthly war scripted by those tempted by power and profit?

We are glad we have you to journey with through these times. The emotions and love we feel as we see the fruits of this sojourn are the stuff of life. The dreams and causes we share transcend the set-backs and the suffering that are also part of this life. In the next few days we will seek renewal as we immerse ourselves in Martin Luther King day events and journey to Washington to protest the impending war. Taking our Wellstone signs, our protest signs, our voices and our bodies, we will say, we are not going away. We have not been defeated. MAKE LOVE NOT WAR. SAVE OUR PLANET. SAVE THE FAMILY FARM or FARMS NOT ARMS. We will join with a sea of people all raising their voices expressing vital issues. And then we will come home and continue the work of building a just sustainable world, rebuilding our local economies and communities, weaning ourselves from plastic and oil, making music, and... making LOVE.

Love and peace,

Maintenance and Repair

P.S. to young George: ssshhhhh! You're waking up the sleeper cells.

Earthly notes:



◆ **Thanks folks,**

Steeped in keeping the home fires burning and peacekeeping, we are fueled by the community—by you—to keep things going. We are blessed by all the gentle souls who have come forward to dedicate time, a visit, kind words, hugs, on this journey. We are grateful for all of you who have made donations so that we may continue keeping folkforum going. JoeDan, Henry, Kerry, Dave, Andrew, Kathi, Tera, Pam, Anne, Alan, Sherry, Todd, Catherine, Mary, Bill, Dawn, Susan, Carolyn, James, Rob, Meesh, Mic, Dave, Joanne, Bill, Janet, Candace, Alice, David, Liz, Moms and Dads, brothers and sisters, everyone--we love you and we thank you all for your continual support.

- ◆ Rochester folks vigil at the corner of 2nd and Broadway on **Tuesdays from 4:30 to 5:15 PM**.
- ◆ Red Wing folks vigil on **Fridays from 4:30 to 4:45 PM** at Rich Park.
- ◆ **People for Peace and Goodwill** in Northfield, MN meet **Thursday nights** 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** has been formed to facilitate and network peace and justice efforts in our part of the state. A lot of work to do and much need for support either as members or active volunteers. Membership is \$5/year. Contact:

SEMINNAP@aol.com

- ◆ **Earthen Path Organic Farm CSA** –join up with our farm and receive weekly boxes of our organically grown fresh veggies all summer long and into the fall! Support a local farm and treat yourself to the best food for your health and the health of the community. Pick up one of our farm brochures at a concert or check out our website at www.oakcentergeneralstore.com, email at info@oakcentergeneralstore.com or call us for more information at (507) 753-2080.
- ◆ Order a portion of organic lamb, beef, buffalo, poultry or pork from your neighbors and help build homeland security by rebuilding a strong local economy. No hormones, antibiotics or GMOs. Order here at the Oak Center General Store. (507) 753-2080 info@oakcentergeneralstore.com

- ◆ “Be the change you wish to see in the world.” Ghandi
- ◆ Depleted uranium from nuclear reactors and the nuclear weapons program, typically a waste liability for those who profit from nuclear programs is now being incorporated into bombs, missiles, and machine gun bullets for warfare. Three hundred tons of it was disposed of in the first Gulf War creating huge zones that are classified by the UN as radioactive contamination zones. The spent uranium ignites and burns on impact sending micronized particles of radioactive material into air, soil and water. These weapons were also used in Bosnia and Kosovo and most probably Afghanistan. The radioactive contamination spreads in dust and water movement. It has caused widespread cancers as well as other radiation related diseases. Combined with the sanctions against Iraq and the destruction of medical and municipal facilities during the first Gulf War, 1.2 million Iraqis have died since the war. The U235 contamination may have links to the Gulf war syndrome and will be exacerbated by continuation of this conflict with more bombings and larger scale troop deployment.

The Hiroshima Alliance for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, The Nagasaki Testimonial Society and Global Peacemakers Association have gone to Iraq and produced a pictorial documentation that is both shocking in its depiction of the ongoing horror of that war and compelling in its capture of the humanity and resilience of the Iraqi people at work or play in this devastated nation. This photographic collection entitled, *A Different Nuclear War—Children of the Gulf* by Takashi Marizumi and accompanying facts are available from Global Peacemakers Association in Atlanta (404) 898-0586 or leeps@mindspring.com for \$5 or will be available at Oak Center in the near future.

- ◆ “Why is there always money for war but not for education?”
- ◆ The Oak Center General Store, a small local store in disappearing rural America, has been a general store since 1913. Because of the influx of mega-strip malls and one-stop shop convenience stores, it closed from 1970 to 1975. Thru tenacity and will, we have attempted to revive it and make it relevant, serving the needs of the community it exists in. We need you to take a look and choose to support this work. You will find ‘green’ products like unbleached toilet paper, plastic bag driers, bulk foods and spices, organic produce and locally raised meats, a stellar collection of CD’s, and unique items both pragmatic and gifty. Check out our selection of superb quality Swiss made gardening tools or the relevant message films, life enhancing videos from our 500+ collection. Juicers, pottery, books that teach or provoke thought on everything from life and food to current events. Minimal packaging, maximum conscience items. We’re open daily 9-6 Mon.-Sat., and at all folk forum programs. Thanks for your support!

◆ **American Crossroads**, an exquisite pastel drawing that captures the emotive vibrations and energy of the folk forum community by local artist, Greg Wimmer, is available here for a sliding fee of \$35-50 as a fundraiser for folk forum and Greg’s art pursuits. Relive some of those folk forum memories and support the community you are a part of. Beautify any wall in your home, office, bathroom, tree fort...

◆ **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 good spirits similar to your own, hear inspiring music, and have fun, because we are.... all one. Contact us if you are moved to help (507)753-2080 or folkforum@lakes.com Thanks!

music and more...

Wind Energy in Motion with Sig Anderson and Carl Nelson

Saturday, February 8th, 4PM

Freewill donation, potluck follows at 6PM

Curious about wind power? Want to know the facts about types of generators, cost-effectiveness, funding sources, and payback? Want to hear about programs being implemented today? This is the program for you. Join Sig Anderson, President of Engineering Laboratory Design, Inc. who will describe the newly formed task force and its objectives for developing the area's wind resource and hydrogen demonstration projects. Carl Nelson from the MN Project, a non-profit organization that studies rural, environmental and energy issues in MN will also be present for an informative discussion on the topic.

Peter Mayer

Saturday, February 8th, 8 PM

\$5-10 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation; \$10 at the door

Acoustic folk

Peter Mayer is to us like hot fudge is on a sundae. He embodies the full spectrum as a folk singer/songwriter through inviting, whimsical, telling lyrics, inventive and extraordinary guitar work, and smooth and earthy vocals. Subjects like mountains, motorcycles, pigs, pubs, planets infused with insight, hope and humor—become new discoveries in the songs of Peter Mayer. His last two performances here were musically flawless. Having worked with percussionist, Marc Anderson to produce Peter's last two albums, Million Year Mind and the new Earth Town Square, Peter is fast becoming a national folk hero. Come on down to begin the second half of our folkforum season. Tickets are going...

KELPIE—Celtic-Scandinavian Roots Music

Friday, Feb. 14th, 8 PM

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

Celtic-Scandinavian Acoustic

Get ready for a doubly fantastic weekend of Celtic music. Friday the 14th—Valentine's Day—we'll get down to business with a dynamic duo who hail currently from Berlin, Germany. Ian Melrose from Ayr in the southwest of Scotland and Kerstin Blodig from Bergen, Norway are **KELPIE**. A Kelpie is a spirit in Scottish mythology who appears at the waterside disguised as a beautiful white horse. Once mounted the unsuspecting rider is taken to the bottom of the loch never to be seen again. In Norway it is the water troll, Nokken who lives in a lake or river, occasionally surfacing to lure people to their doom. He, too, is said to appear in human shape or as a white horse. The Nokk is said to be very musical, being a master of fiddle-playing and plays the most beautiful melodies to attract human beings. As this creature is to be found in both Celtic and Scandinavian mythology, it is a fitting symbol for the music, combining material from these two cultures with Kerstin's and Ian's musical backgrounds and arrangements. When Kerstin's crystal-clear vocals mix with Ian's haunting low whistle, they evoke a whole gamut of images, from the serenely majestic Norwegian fjords to the magnificence of the Scottish highlands. These qualities coupled with their virtuoso guitar playing—Kerstin's groovy plectrum guitar together with Ian's exquisite fingerstyle technique—are the basis of the special Kelpie sound. Kerstin Blodig studied musicology and Scandinavian languages and cultures in Berlin Germany with a special emphasis in Norwegian folk music. Ian Melrose belongs to the cream of Europe's acoustic guitarists. He is an internationally acclaimed composer and arranger. A major aspect of his work is solo guitar: based on Celtic finger-picking style, his compositions blend Irish dances, Scottish ballads and classical formats with Brazilian samba and Argentine tango to create real world-music on the guitar. Truly a Valentine treat, not to mention an honor to have international talent, join us for a sure-to-be exquisite night of song and story.

“Winning Without War: Alternatives in Iraq” with Phil Steger of Friends for a Nonviolent World

Saturday, Feb. 15th 4PM

Freewill donation; potluck follows at 6PM

Come and get the most recent updates of the Iraqi situation from Phil Steger, Executive Director of Friends for a Nonviolent World located in Minneapolis. Having traveled to Iraq three times in the last two years, Phil is continually updated with the facts. Listen to the alternatives to war. Keep yourself informed. Bring a friend. Join us for a thought-provoking and motivating discussion and potluck at 6PM.

John Williams and John Doyle

Saturday, Feb. 15th, 8 PM

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

Celtic Accordion-Concertina-Guitar

The double weekend continues with a duo that raised the roof off the hall here at Oak Center when they played back in December 2001. Both are former band members of the Irish group, Solas. John Williams, first generation American born Irishman, from Chicago is internationally known as one of the premiere button accordion and concertina players performing around the world. Humble as all get out, John Williams was the musical teacher for Paul Newman and Tom Hanks in the current cinematic release, "Road to Perdition." You may remember John's past December performance here with Dean Magraw that many claimed was the best live show they had ever seen. John Doyle, from Dublin who now resides in North Carolina is undeniably an Irish guitar phenom! Known primarily as an incredibly powerful rhythm player, John is talented beyond his years. Compiler and arranger of traditional songs and tunes, composer, solo and harmony singer with unforgettably rich vocals, producer and finger-style player, John has made a name for himself as one of the finest examples of tradition and innovation combined in Irish music today. Not to be missed!

The Granary Girls

Friday, February 21st, 8 PM

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

Acoustic folk

The Granary Girls, a great folk music duo consisting of two singer/songwriters, Patty Kakac and Jodi Ritter, return to Oak Center for a night of poignant folk music. With Patty on guitar, autoharp, harmonica, penny whistle, upright bass, and vocals, her Joan Baez/Kate Wolf/Judy Collins-like voice speaks to social issues that run the gamut from farm activism to AIDS. Jodi Ritter has been singing all her life and writes eloquently of life experiences, social justice issues, and love of the land and its inhabitants. Her solid bass playing and great harmonies add depth and soul to complete the duo's magic. Journey to the prairie and linger with us for a fun, footstomping, warm- the- soul good time! They'll be recording this concert for a live CD.

Bill Staines

Sunday, February 23rd, 2 PM

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

Folk

“Any new song that can live comfortably beside the well-worn songs of folk tradition has a good chance of surviving the test of time. Such, we believe, are the songs of Bill Staines.” claims Folk-Legacy Records. Bill Staines is without a doubt our folkforum mainstay, havin’ rolled through to do an annual Sunday afternoon concert for over twenty years. We are lifted repeatedly by his poetic songs and classic folk singing. We love his stories, his yodels, his gentle sense of humor....Come hear Bill doing what he does best. Sing along with him. Bring the whole family, a special friend, or just deep down your own true self and enjoy a anti-cabin fever Sunday afternoon concert.

Openstage

Sunday, February 23rd, 7PM

Freewill Donation

Hear ye, hear ye. We seek thee to come and show us your talent be you folksingers, duos, trios, pianists, poets or any other performance art configuration. Let us gather together to create a friendly space for your talent come alive. Call ahead for available spots on the docket.

Farm Policy and the Decline of Family Farms: The Minnesota Connection

Saturday, March 1st, 4:30PM

Freewill Donation, potluck follows at 6PM

Dr. Richard Levins from the University of Minnesota has been teaching and researching on the rural farm economy as well as authoring the book, Willard Cochrane and the American Family Farm (University of Nebraska Press 2000) For the past half century, MN names such as Hubert Humphrey, Orville Freeman and Willard Cochrane have left their mark on liberal farm policy. Still, family farm numbers have fallen dramatically. WHAT WENT WRONG? And what can we do about it? Come prepared to learn, discuss and debate. Be prepared to strategize for a family farm renewal, farmers and interested citizens alike!

Radoslav Lorkovic

Saturday, March 1st, 8PM

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

Originals, blues, boogie-woogie piano

Our venerable piano playing guru is back to get-down, mixing the masters with boogie-woogie magic. The stories, the vocals, the dazzling performance of Radoslav always breath-taking runs, and contemplative originals. Classically trained, turned blues/jazz master, Rad will not fail to please—join in fun!

Chuck Suchy

Sunday, March 2nd, 2PM

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

Folksinger/Farmer/Storyteller

It's time once again to welcome our favorite farmer/folksinger, Chuck Suchy back to the folk forum stage. Chuck will shower us with articulate expressions of rural and ultimately, human values through song, fancy guitar licks and an occasional accordion tune. The fact that Chuck operates a 1000-acre beef and grain farm in North Dakota brings credibility and integrity to his engaging performance style of original songs and stories of the land, family and community. His mission to bring about sense of the significance of rural life transcends any borders we may imagine. Chuck speaks to all of us about the things that really matter in life. Come on down for a wonderful afternoon of song and story.

The Back Porch Band

Saturday, March 15th, 8PM

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

Celtic folk

To kick off St. Patrick's weekend or to celebrate the 'Ides of March', the Back Porch Band returns. This local area three piece who recently placed third (out of 65) in a Treasure Island regional band contest, consists of Jane Bowman Nigon of Zumbrota as lead vocalist and jane-of-all-instruments playing fiddle, tin whistle, percussion, dulcimer, accordion, mandolin and guitar. Dave Hazelton of Cannon Falls plays solid rhythm guitar, djembe and vocals. And Mary Vanorny formally of Red Wing now of Burnsville is on lead fiddle. Together this high energy band take us to Celtic Heaven, bluesgrass mountains, and American folk/country

honkytonk streams and rivers. They love to have fun playing and it shows! Come and celebrate St Patty's with us. The 'Sunday Nighters' open.

Curtis and Loretta

Sunday, March 16th, 2 PM

\$5-10 pay what you are able; freewill donation

Celtic, folk and originals

Curtis and Loretta return after the one and only snowstorm last winter left them unable to reach Oak Center safely. So, it is with great pleasure we welcome back for St. Patty's, the 2002 BEST OF THE TWIN CITIES ACOUSTIC PERFORMERS (**City Pages**, the News and Arts Weekly Newspaper). The perfect, ringing Celtic harmonies of Loretta Simonet (it is said Loretta has the best voice in the metro area) and Curtis Teague represent one of the purest and most accessible pleasures in live music today. And the duos' latest album **Sit Down Beside Me** provides a perfect showcase for the lyricism that a longtime couple can discover with vintage traditional instruments—Teague on mandocello, clawhammer banjo, guitar, and mandolin and Simonet on Celtic harp, tin whistle and kazoo. They so effortlessly blend original, traditional folk, and Celtic music from the 16th century to the present into soothing and soulful, thought provoking music for all ages!

Dean Magraw and Friends

Saturday, March 22nd, 8PM

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

Eclectic World Beat

“Dean Magraw reveals his virtuosity with an introspective approach. The listener is pulled into the music as if strolling down a path, being pleasantly surprised by the sights and sounds along the way. Listening on, you are drawn into the artist's strengths, and his ability to adapt to all styles of music convincingly...” writes Anthony Cox. Dean is one of the world's finest improvisational guitarists and for this concert brings with him, former Eighthhead bandmember and current bassist of the jazz fusion group, Our Mine, Jim Anton on five string, fretless bass, and JT Bates on percussion. Any configuration of musicians Dean brings forth are creative and cosmic and well worth experiencing. Together, they fuse culture and sound to connect us on a transcendental level. Megan Flood, modern dancer extraordinaire from St. Paul will perfect the magic and be performing along with several of their pieces. Expect a phenomenal evening.

Prudence Johnson

Saturday, March 29th , 8 PM

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

Jazzy blues

Simply put, Prudence Johnson has the voice of a the best sounding bird (fill in the blank) at midwinter on the lake. Minnesota has yet another gifted and talented vocalist who has for nearly three decades immersed herself in the art of many musical genres including jazz, folk, country, blues and most recently, the songs of Hoagy Charmichael and George Gershwin. She can often be heard on the MPR Morning Show. Backed up by a stunning pianist, Dan Chouinard, Prudence will deliver a fantastic night of tunes. Dish up a big plate of times when life was good, served in style by Prudence.

Tangled Roots

Saturday, April 5th, 8PM

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

Bluegrass

We were pleasantly surprised last season when after expecting too much testosterone on stage, **Tangled Roots**, proved they are balanced guys with their Midwest bluegrass hearts and heads in the right place. All are brilliant and accomplished musicians on their own, with decades of experience. When they come together, clear and rich harmonies and phenomenal instrumentation song after song, time and time again, prove a deeper level of quality and skill than you might expect on the surface. Oh no, this is not just another bunch of boys playing bluegrass. The whole is the sum of its parts and more! **Tangled Roots** is a band that is mastered the craft. Chris Silver plays mandolin, guitar and lead vocals, Barry St. Mane on banjo, Marty Marrone on guitar, lead and tenor vocals, and Doug Lohman on bass and baritone vocals. It is another of God's graces that these guys got together and are playing bluegrass for those of us who need and deserve a lift!

Salamat

Saturday, April 12th, 8 PM

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

Middle Eastern Folk Music Ensemble

Salamat, whose name in Arabic refers to a greeting and contains the word peace or ‘salam’ within it, is a wonderful seven-piece ensemble based out of the metro area. Not only is the band devoted to sharing music of the Mid East with all those who appreciate great beauty, but they hope to open windows into a part of Middle Eastern culture. They are dedicated to the study, transmission, and preservation of the classical musical traditions and all members have studied extensively with master musicians of the genre. Members are Salah Abdel Fattah on violin, Nicolas Chbat on frame drum, dabkeh and vocals, Dawn Doering on nay, flute and piccolo, Miriam Gerberg on qanun and accordion, Laura Harada on violin, and Tim O’Keefe on riqq, tabla and oud. After an outstanding performance last year which included Lebanese circle dancing , stories and descriptions about all the unique instruments. It was obvious a return performance was in order, especially during these turbulent times in our nation and throughout the Mid East. Join us for what will lend itself to a fine intercultural experience. Belly dancing practice in the back is allowed!

Switchback

Saturday, April 26th, 8PM

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

Energy. Emotion. Excitement. A couple of guys who have played together for over sixteen years, this Chicago based duo has musical roots in celtic, jazz, classical, rock, blues styles. Their relentless unpredictability keeps them from being pigeonholed in any specific genre. Their musical depth is as much a result of what they are as what they are not! Brian FitzGerald is one of the most acclaimed mandolin players and guitar players in the Midwest. He has classical training and sessions spent developing the “Freddy Green” rhythm style with jazzmen on Chicago’s Hubbard Street. He also studied bluegrass and jazz standards with Jethro Burns. Marty McCormack on bass and percussion learned his Irish music and dance traditions first hand from his grandfather who came from Claremorris, County Mayo, Ireland. He began his career at age four, wrote his first song at age five, followed by years of classical vocal training. Switchback is a high energy band with a huge Midwest following. This is one last time to gather in the big room and have fun together before we switch back to the fields for another season of agrarian duty.

CALENDAR IN BRIEF

February

8 Sat. 2:30 PM “Wind Energy in Motion” by Sig Anderson and Carl Nelson, potluck follows at 6PM

- 8 Sat. 8:00 PM Peter Mayer
- 14 Fri. 8:00 PM KELPIE—Celtic/Scandinavian Roots Music
- 15 Sat. 4:00 PM “Winning Without War: Alternatives in Iraq” with Phil Steger of Friends for a
Nonviolent World; potluck follows at 6PM
- 15 Sat. 8:00PM John Williams/John Doyle
- 21 Fri. 8:00 PM The Granary Girls
- 23 Sun. 2:00 PM Bill Staines
- 23 Sun. 7:00 PM OPENSTAGE

March

- 1 Sat. 4:30 PM “Farm Policy and the Decline of Family Farms: The Minnesota Connection”
- 1 Sat. 8:00 PM Radoslav Lorkovic
- 2 Sun. 2:00 PM Chuck Suchy
- 15 Sat. 8:00 PM The Back Porch Band
- 16 Sun. 2:00 PM Curtis and Loretta
- 22 Sat. 8:00 PM Dean Magraw and Friends
- 29 Sat. 8:00 PM Prudence Johnson

April

- 5 Sat. 8:00 PM Tangled Roots
- 12 Sat. 4:00 PM “Depleted Uranium Update”, led by representative from WAMM (Women Against
Military Madness); potluck follows at 6PM
- 12 Sat. 8:00 PM Salamat
- 26 Sat. 8:00 PM Switchback

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Those of us who have believed in the power of love, conscience and positive action in working to help direct our world toward peace and sustainability have received some terrible blows and severe shocks in recent times. The failures of the electoral process to field and elect courageous candidates who could remain faithful enough to ideals and principles to be able to address the issues of peace, of justice, and of good stewardship of our planet have been overwhelmingly disappointing. The tragic death of friend and champion Paul Wellstone was devastating to the hopes of progressives, liberals, environmentalists, small farms, working people, and the disenfranchised. Though Jewish by heritage, Paul embodied, (more than the self-proclaimed Christian right), the teachings of Jesus ("when you do unto the least of these, you do unto me.") We may never know the truth about the circumstances of this plane crash and our suspicions may plague us forever, but the deaths of these loved ones must not end our struggle for what is just and what is good. They must live on in us. We must seek the truth and ask the difficult questions. And we must act. As the forces of money, of military power and political manipulation continue to ravage our environment, our communities, the poor and indigenous people all over the globe, there is again a rising up of conscience, parallel to the rising up of anger and hatred by those that feel threatened by American Empire. It is this conscience that must prevail. This conscience rose up and stood behind Martin Luther King, Jr. and black America, marching arm in arm and compelling politicians to enact civil rights legislation. It rose up and ended an immoral and unjust war in Vietnam. It

launched an environmental movement and global consciousness about a wide range of issues from environment to human rights. Love was the most talked about human act and spiritual search was the ultimate journey. Music and art reached new heights and embodied the rising up of Spirit.

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Love and peace,

Maintenance and Repair

P.S. to young George: sssshhhhh! You're waking up the sleeper cells.

Earthly notes:



◆ **Thanks folks,**

Steeped in keeping the home fires burning and peacekeeping, we are fueled by the community—by you—to keep things going. We are blessed by all the gentle souls who have come forward to dedicate time, a visit, kind words, hugs, on this journey. We are grateful for all of you who have made donations so that we may continue keeping folkforum going. JoeDan, Henry, Kerry, Dave, Andrew, Kathi, Tera, Pam, Anne, Alan, Sherry, Todd, Catherine, Mary, Bill, Dawn, Susan, Carolyn, James, Rob, Meesh, Mic, Dave, Joanne, Bill, Janet, Candace, Alice, David, Liz, Moms and Dads, brothers and sisters, everyone--we love you and we thank you all for your continual support.

- ◆ Rochester folks vigil at the corner of 2nd and Broadway on **Tuesdays from 4:30 to 5:15 PM.**
- ◆ Red Wing folks vigil on **Fridays from 4:30 to 4:45 PM** at Rich Park.
- ◆ **People for Peace and Goodwill** in Northfield, MN meet **Thursday nights** 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** has been formed to facilitate and network peace and justice efforts in our part of the state. A lot of work to do and much need for support either as members or active volunteers. Membership is \$5/year. Contact:

SEMINNAP@aol.com

- ◆ **Earthen Path Organic Farm CSA** –join up with our farm and receive weekly boxes of our organically grown fresh veggies all summer long and into the fall! Support a local farm and treat yourself to the best food for your health and the health of the community. Pick up one of our farm brochures at a concert or check out our website at www.oakcentergeneralstore.com, email at info@oakcentergeneralstore.com or call us for more information at (507) 753-2080.
- ◆ Order a portion of organic lamb, beef, buffalo, poultry or pork from your neighbors and help build homeland security by rebuilding a strong local economy. No hormones, antibiotics or GMOs. Order here at the Oak Center General Store. (507) 753-2080 info@oakcentergeneralstore.com
- ◆ “Be the change you wish to see in the world.” Ghandi
- ◆ Depleted uranium from nuclear reactors and the nuclear weapons program, typically a waste liability for those who profit from nuclear programs is now being incorporated into bombs, missiles, and machine gun bullets for warfare. Three hundred tons of it was disposed of in the first Gulf War creating huge zones that are classified by the UN as radioactive contamination zones. The spent uranium ignites and burns on impact sending micronized particles of radioactive material into air, soil and water. These weapons were also used in Bosnia and Kosovo and most probably Afghanistan. The radioactive contamination spreads in dust and water movement. It has caused widespread cancers as well as other radiation related diseases. Combined with the sanctions against Iraq and the destruction

of medical and municipal facilities during the first Gulf War, 1.2 million Iraqis have died since the war. The U235 contamination may have links to the Gulf war syndrome and will be exacerbated by continuation of this conflict with more bombings and larger scale troop deployment.

The Hiroshima Alliance for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, The Nagasaki Testimonial Society and Global Peacemakers Association have gone to Iraq and produced a pictorial documentation that is both shocking in its depiction of the ongoing horror of that war and compelling in its capture of the humanity and resilience of the Iraqi people at work or play in this devastated nation. This photographic collection entitled, *A Different Nuclear War—Children of the Gulf* by Takashi Marizumi and accompanying facts are available from Global Peacemakers Association in Atlanta (404) 898-0586 or leeps@mindspring.com for \$5 or will be available at Oak Center in the near future.

- ◆ “Why is there always money for war but not for education?”
- ◆ The Oak Center General Store, a small local store in disappearing rural America, has been a general store since 1913. Because of the influx of mega-strip malls and one-stop shop convenience stores, it closed from 1970 to 1975. Thru tenacity and will, we have attempted to revive it and make it relevant, serving the needs of the community it exists in. We need you to take a look and choose to support this work. You will find ‘green’ products like unbleached toilet paper, plastic bag driers, bulk foods and spices, organic produce and locally raised meats, a stellar collection of CD’s, and unique items both pragmatic and gifty. Check out our selection of superb quality Swiss made gardening tools or the relevant message films, life enhancing videos from our 500+ collection. Juicers, pottery, books that teach or provoke thought on everything from life and food to current events. Minimal packaging, maximum conscience items. We’re open daily 9-6 Mon.-Sat., and at all folk forum programs. Thanks for your support!

◆ **American Crossroads**, an exquisite pastel drawing that captures the emotive vibrations and energy of the folk forum community by local artist, Greg Wimmer, is available here for a sliding fee of \$35-50 as a fundraiser for folk forum and Greg’s art pursuits. Relive some of those folk forum memories and support the community you are a part of. Beautify any wall in your home, office, bathroom, tree fort...

◆ **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 good spirits similar to your own, hear inspiring music, and have fun, because we are.... all one. Contact us if you are moved to help (507)753-2080 or folkforum@lakes.com Thanks!

music and more...

Wind Energy in Motion with Sig Anderson and Carl Nelson

Saturday, February 8th, 4PM

Freewill donation, potluck follows at 6PM

Curious about wind power? Want to know the facts about types of generators, cost-effectiveness, funding sources, and payback? Want to hear about programs being implemented today? This is the program for you. Join Sig Anderson, President of Engineering Laboratory Design, Inc. who will describe the newly formed task force and its objectives for developing the area's wind resource and hydrogen demonstration projects. Carl Nelson from the MN Project, a non-profit organization that studies rural, environmental and energy issues in MN will also be present for an informative discussion on the topic.

Peter Mayer

Saturday, February 8th, 8 PM

\$5-10 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation; \$10 at the door

Acoustic folk

Peter Mayer is to us like hot fudge is on a sundae. He embodies the full spectrum as a folk singer/songwriter through inviting, whimsical, telling lyrics, inventive and extraordinary guitar work, and smooth and earthy vocals. Subjects like mountains, motorcycles, pigs, pubs, planets infused with insight, hope and humor—become new discoveries in the songs of Peter Mayer. His last two performances here were musically flawless. Having worked with percussionist, Marc Anderson to produce Peter's last two albums, Million Year Mind and the new Earth Town Square, Peter is fast becoming a national folk hero. Come on down to begin the second half of our folkforum season. Tickets are going...

KELPIE—Celtic-Scandinavian Roots Music

Friday, Feb.14th, 8 PM

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

Celtic-Scandinavian Acoustic

Get ready for a doubly fantastic weekend of Celtic music. Friday the 14th—Valentine's Day—we'll get down to business with a dynamic duo who hail currently from Berlin, Germany. Ian Melrose from Ayr in the southwest of Scotland and Kerstin Blodig from Bergen, Norway are **KELPIE**. A Kelpie is a spirit in Scottish

mythology who appears at the waterside disguised as a beautiful white horse. Once mounted the unsuspecting rider is taken to the bottom of the loch never to be seen again. In Norway it is the water troll, Nokken who lives in a lake or river, occasionally surfacing to lure people to their doom. He, too, is said to appear in human shape or as a white horse. The Nokk is said to be very musical, being a master of fiddle-playing and plays the most beautiful melodies to attract human beings. As this creature is to be found in both Celtic and Scandinavian mythology, it is a fitting symbol for the music, combining material from these two cultures with Kerstin's and Ian's musical backgrounds and arrangements. When Kerstin's crystal-clear vocals mix with Ian's haunting low whistle, they evoke a whole gamut of images, from the serenely majestic Norwegian fjords to the magnificence of the Scottish highlands. These qualities coupled with their virtuoso guitar playing—Kerstin's groovy plectrum guitar together with Ian's exquisite fingerstyle technique—are the basis of the special Kelpie sound. Kerstin Blodig studied musicology and Scandinavian languages and cultures in Berlin Germany with a special emphasis in Norwegian folk music. Ian Melrose belongs to the cream of Europe's acoustic guitarists. He is an internationally acclaimed composer and arranger. A major aspect of his work is solo guitar: based on Celtic finger-picking style, his compositions blend Irish dances, Scottish ballads and classical formats with Brazilian samba and Argentine tango to create real world-music on the guitar. Truly a Valentine treat, not to mention an honor to have international talent, join us for a sure-to-be exquisite night of song and story.

“Winning Without War: Alternatives in Iraq” with Phil Steger of Friends for a Nonviolent World

Saturday, Feb. 15th 4PM

Freewill donation; potluck follows at 6PM

Come and get the most recent updates of the Iraqi situation from Phil Steger, Executive Director of Friends for a Nonviolent World located in Minneapolis. Having traveled to Iraq three times in the last two years, Phil is continually updated with the facts. Listen to the alternatives to war. Keep yourself informed. Bring a friend. Join us for a thought-provoking and motivating discussion and potluck at 6PM.

John Williams and John Doyle

Saturday, Feb. 15th, 8 PM

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

Celtic Accordion-Concertina-Guitar

The double weekend continues with a duo that raised the roof off the hall here at Oak Center when they played back in December 2001. Both are former band members of the Irish group, Solas. John Williams, first generation American born Irishman, from Chicago is internationally known as one of the premiere button

accordion and concertina players performing around the world. Humble as all get out, John Williams was the musical teacher for Paul Newman and Tom Hanks in the current cinematic release, "Road to Perdition." You may remember John's past December performance here with Dean Magraw that many claimed was the best live show they had ever seen. John Doyle, from Dublin who now resides in North Carolina is undeniably an Irish guitar phenom! Known primarily as an incredibly powerful rhythm player, John is talented beyond his years. Compiler and arranger of traditional songs and tunes, composer, solo and harmony singer with unforgettably rich vocals, producer and finger-style player, John has made a name for himself as one of the finest examples of tradition and innovation combined in Irish music today. Not to be missed!

The Granary Girls

Friday, February 21st, 8 PM

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

Acoustic folk

The Granary Girls, a great folk music duo consisting of two singer/songwriters, Patty Kakac and Jodi Ritter, return to Oak Center for a night of poignant folk music. With Patty on guitar, autoharp, harmonica, penny whistle, upright bass, and vocals, her Joan Baez/Kate Wolf/Judy Collins-like voice speaks to social issues that run the gamut from farm activism to AIDS. Jodi Ritter has been singing all her life and writes eloquently of life experiences, social justice issues, and love of the land and its inhabitants. Her solid bass playing and great harmonies add depth and soul to complete the duo's magic. Journey to the prairie and linger with us for a fun, footstomping, warm- the- soul good time! They'll be recording this concert for a live CD.

Bill Staines

Sunday, February 23rd, 2 PM

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

Folk

"Any new song that can live comfortably beside the well-worn songs of folk tradition has a good chance of surviving the test of time. Such, we believe, are the songs of Bill Staines." claims Folk-Legacy Records. Bill Staines is without a doubt our folkforum mainstay, havin' rolled through to do an annual Sunday afternoon concert for over twenty years. We are lifted repeatedly by his poetic songs and classic folk singing. We love his stories, his yodels, his gentle sense of humor....Come hear Bill doing what he does best. Sing along with him. Bring the whole family, a special friend, or just deep down your own true self and enjoy a anti-cabin

fever Sunday afternoon concert.

Openstage

Sunday, February 23rd, 7PM

Freewill Donation

Hear ye, hear ye. We seek thee to come and show us your talent be you folksingers, duos, trios, pianists, poets or any other performance art configuration. Let us gather together to create a friendly space for your talent come alive. Call ahead for available spots on the docket.

Farm Policy and the Decline of Family Farms: The Minnesota Connection

Saturday, March 1st, 4:30PM

Freewill Donation, potluck follows at 6PM

Dr. Richard Levins from the University of Minnesota has been teaching and researching on the rural farm economy as well as authoring the book, Willard Cochrane and the American Family Farm (University of Nebraska Press 2000) For the past half century, MN names such as Hubert Humphrey, Orville Freeman and Willard Cochrane have left their mark on liberal farm policy. Still, family farm numbers have fallen dramatically. WHAT WENT WRONG? And what can we do about it? Come prepared to learn, discuss and debate. Be prepared to strategize for a family farm renewal, farmers and interested citizens alike!

Radoslav Lorkovic

Saturday, March 1st, 8PM

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

Originals, blues, boogie-woogie piano

Our venerable piano playing guru is back to get-down, mixing the masters with boogie-woogie magic. The stories, the vocals, the dazzling performance of Radoslav always breath-taking runs, and contemplative originals. Classically trained, turned blues/jazz master, Rad will not fail to please—join in fun!

Chuck Suchy

Sunday, March 2nd, 2PM

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

Folksinger/Farmer/Storyteller

It's time once again to welcome our favorite farmer/folksinger, Chuck Suchy back to the folk forum stage. Chuck will shower us with articulate expressions of rural and ultimately, human values through song, fancy guitar licks and an occasional accordion tune. The fact that Chuck operates a 1000-acre beef and grain farm in North Dakota brings credibility and integrity to his engaging performance style of original songs and stories of the land, family and community. His mission to bring about sense of the significance of rural life transcends any borders we may imagine. Chuck speaks to all of us about the things that really matter in life. Come on down for a wonderful afternoon of song and story.

The Back Porch Band

Saturday, March 15th, 8PM

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

Celtic folk

To kick off St. Patrick's weekend or to celebrate the 'Ides of March', the Back Porch Band returns. This local area three piece who recently placed third (out of 65) in a Treasure Island regional band contest, consists of Jane Bowman Nigon of Zumbrota as lead vocalist and jane-of-all-instruments playing fiddle, tin whistle, percussion, dulcimer, accordion, mandolin and guitar. Dave Hazelton of Cannon Falls plays solid rhythm guitar, djembe and vocals. And Mary Vanorny formally of Red Wing now of Burnsville is on lead fiddle. Together this high energy band take us to Celtic Heaven, bluesgrass mountains, and American folk/country honkytonk streams and rivers. They love to have fun playing and it shows! Come and celebrate St Patty's with us. The 'Sunday Nighters' open.

Curtis and Loretta

Sunday, March 16th, 2 PM

\$5-10 pay what you are able; freewill donation

Celtic, folk and originals

Curtis and Loretta return after the one and only snowstorm last winter left them unable to reach Oak Center safely. So, it is with great pleasure we welcome back for St. Patty's, the 2002 BEST OF THE TWIN CITIES ACOUSTIC PERFORMERS (**City Pages**, the News and Arts Weekly Newspaper). The perfect, ringing Celtic harmonies of Loretta Simonet (it is said Loretta has the best voice in the metro area) and Curtis Teague represent one of the purest and most accessible pleasures in live music today. And the duos' latest album **Sit Down Beside Me** provides a perfect showcase for the lyricism that a longtime couple can discover with vintage traditional instruments—Teague on mandocello, clawhammer banjo, guitar, and mandolin and Simonet on Celtic harp, tin whistle and kazoo. They so effortlessly blend original, traditional folk, and Celtic music from the 16th century to the present into soothing and soulful, thought provoking music for all ages!

Dean Magraw and Friends

Saturday, March 22nd, 8PM

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

Eclectic World Beat

“Dean Magraw reveals his virtuosity with an introspective approach. The listener is pulled into the music as if strolling down a path, being pleasantly surprised by the sights and sounds along the way. Listening on, you are drawn into the artist's strengths, and his ability to adapt to all styles of music convincingly...” writes Anthony Cox. Dean is one of the world's finest improvisational guitarists and for this concert brings with him, former Eighthhead bandmember and current bassist of the jazz fusion group, Our Mine, Jim Anton on five string, fretless bass, and JT Bates on percussion. Any configuration of musicians Dean brings forth are creative and cosmic and well worth experiencing. Together, they fuse culture and sound to connect us on a transcendental level. Megan Flood, modern dancer extraordinaire from St. Paul will perfect the magic and be performing along with several of their pieces. Expect a phenomenal evening.

Prudence Johnson

Saturday, March 29th , 8 PM

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

Jazzy blues

Simply put, Prudence Johnson has the voice of a the best sounding bird (fill in the blank) at midwinter on the lake. Minnesota has yet another gifted and talented vocalist who has for nearly three decades immersed herself in the art of many musical genres including jazz, folk, country, blues and most recently, the songs of Hoagy Charmichael and George Gershwin. She can often be heard on the MPR Morning Show. Backed up by a stunning pianist, Dan Chouinard, Prudence will deliver a fantastic night of tunes. Dish up a big plate of times when life was good, served in style by Prudence.

Tangled Roots

Saturday, April 5th, 8PM

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

Bluegrass

We were pleasantly surprised last season when after expecting too much testosterone on stage, **Tangled Roots**, proved they are balanced guys with their Midwest bluegrass hearts and heads in the right place. All are brilliant and accomplished musicians on their own, with decades of experience. When they come together, clear and rich harmonies and phenomenal instrumentation song after song, time and time again, prove a deeper level of quality and skill than you might expect on the surface. Oh no, this is not just another bunch of boys playing bluegrass. The whole is the sum of its parts and more! **Tangled Roots** is a band that is mastered the craft. Chris Silver plays mandolin, guitar and lead vocals, Barry St. Mane on banjo, Marty Marrone on guitar, lead and tenor vocals, and Doug Lohman on bass and baritone vocals. It is another of God's graces that these guys got together and are playing bluegrass for those of us who need and deserve a lift!

Salamat

Saturday, April 12th, 8 PM

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

Middle Eastern Folk Music Ensemble

Salamat, whose name in Arabic refers to a greeting and contains the word peace or 'salam' within it, is a wonderful seven-piece ensemble based out of the metro area. Not only is the band devoted to sharing music of the Mid East with all those who appreciate great beauty, but they hope to open windows into a part of Middle Eastern culture. They are dedicated to the study, transmission, and preservation of the classical musical traditions and all members have studied extensively with master musicians of the genre. Members are Salah Abdel Fattah on violin, Nicolas Chbat on frame drum, dabkeh and vocals, Dawn Doering on nay, flute and piccolo, Miriam Gerberg on qanun and accordion, Laura Harada on violin, and Tim O'Keefe on riqq,

tabla and oud. After an outstanding performance last year which included Lebanese circle dancing , stories and descriptions about all the unique instruments. It was obvious a return performance was in order, especially during these turbulent times in our nation and throughout the Mid East. Join us for what will lend itself to a fine intercultural experience. Belly dancing practice in the back is allowed!

Switchback

Saturday, April 26th, 8PM

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

Energy. Emotion. Excitement. A couple of guys who have played together for over sixteen years, this Chicago based duo has musical roots in celtic, jazz, classical, rock, blues styles. Their relentless unpredictability keeps them from being pigeonholed in any specific genre. Their musical depth is as much a result of what they are as what they are not! Brian FitzGerald is one of the most acclaimed mandolin players and guitar players in the Midwest. He has classical training and sessions spent developing the “Freddy Green” rhythm style with jazzmen on Chicago’s Hubbard Street. He also studied bluegrass and jazz standards with Jethro Burns. Marty McCormack on bass and percussion learned his Irish music and dance traditions first hand from his grandfather who came from Claremorris, County Mayo, Ireland. He began his career at age four, wrote his first song at age five, followed by years of classical vocal training. Switchback is a high energy band with a huge Midwest following. This is one last time to gather in the big room and have fun together before we switch back to the fields for another season of agrarian duty.

CALENDAR IN BRIEF

February

8 Sat. 2:30 PM “Wind Energy in Motion” by Sig Anderson and Carl Nelson, potluck follows at 6PM

8 Sat. 8:00 PM Peter Mayer

14 Fri. 8:00 PM KELPIE—Celtic/Scandinavian Roots Music

15 Sat. 4:00 PM “Winning Without War: Alternatives in Iraq” with Phil Steger of Friends for a Nonviolent World; potluck follows at 6PM

15 Sat. 8:00PM John Williams/John Doyle

21 Fri. 8:00 PM The Granary Girls

23 Sun. 2:00 PM Bill Staines

23 Sun. 7:00 PM OPENSTAGE

March

1 Sat. 4:30 PM “Farm Policy and the Decline of Family Farms: The Minnesota Connection”

1 Sat. 8:00 PM Radoslav Lorkovic

2 Sun. 2:00 PM Chuck Suchy

15 Sat. 8:00 PM The Back Porch Band

16 Sun. 2:00 PM Curtis and Loretta

22 Sat. 8:00 PM Dean Magraw and Friends

29 Sat. 8:00 PM Prudence Johnson

April

5 Sat. 8:00 PM Tangled Roots

12 Sat. 4:00 PM “Depleted Uranium Update”, led by representative from WAMM (Women Against
Military Madness); potluck follows at 6PM

12 Sat. 8:00 PM Salamat

26 Sat. 8:00 PM Switchback

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

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