

folk forum

September 2005

"Kind Friends...All gather 'round, there's something I would say. That what brings us together here has blessed us all today. Love has made a circle, that holds us all inside. Where strangers are as family and loneliness can't hide. You must give yourself to love, if love is what you're after. Open up your hearts to tears and laughter. Give yourself to love, give yourself to love."

I've been listening to Kate Wolf a lot lately. Pondering the meaning of love as I struggle with grief and the whole gamut of other emotions that come when a marriage comes apart. When the love you have built your life around disappears, it leaves one struggling to understand. With wars raging in Iraq, Darfur and all over the world, I wasn't ready to have it raging in the middle of my family. I took it all for granted, those commitments made long ago, and those legal bondages. It seems life and love can turn on you. You find yourself immersed in a world of blossoms, birds and romance that sweeps you away... and the next moment a storm you faintly heard rumbling in the distance blows in and takes your house away, the signs may have been there for a while but the distractions were many. Perhaps the work of life and projects were too overwhelming to pay attention to the fact that the love part was disappearing. Do you become too bogged down in your daily battles to do the maintenance and repair in your own personal relationship(s)? For us the Berlin Wall was being built brick by brick and we couldn't see each other over it. It happened here. We became East and West Germany, Pakistan and India.

Whether it is in personal relationships or in the way cultures and peoples relate to each other, we must recognize if love is dwindling and being replaced by anger, resentment, hostility, and other destructive emotions and actions. We can't correct the problems by building walls, imprisoning or punishing each other. Instead of withholding love, we need to give MORE. John Lennon asked, "How can I give love if I don't know what it is I'm giving?" Is love eternal? Is it in the moment? We hear about unconditional love, is there such a thing? There seem to be as many ways of defining love as there are poets and lovers. And what are the costs of giving love? Kate Wolf's lyrics again – "Love can make you happy, or love can rob you blind." Love is something we all need to give, and get. It is more important to most of us than money, sometimes more important than food or even life. It has the power to heal us. When it is threatened or gone it leaves us wounded in the realm of the personal or collective consciousness as a culture. Or is it insecurity and confusion from threatened love or missing love that causes us to wound? What is the place of love in keeping our sanity and keeping peace in our world? Can we define sanity or normalcy? Is it how efficiently we run the machinery, or how much we martyr ourselves by becoming cogs in the wheel. How neatly we keep the house and yard or how well we follow the rules? Or is it

by how much we allow creative energy to flow and expression of thoughts and feelings to take place? Is it how much we nurture communication and work for understanding? It is reality that there must be a balance of the two with some fluidity of that balance point. There must be real communication about where that balance point is. Love expresses itself both in the logic and the creative, the masculine and the feminine, the yin and the yang. If we have wars over where that balance point is, whether between liberals and conservatives, fundamentalists and the non-religious or between husband and wife.... we are missing the point. Life is much too short and we are missing out on that light that shines in us all when we are filled with love. The past is always behind us- we must not cling to it. Yet we must look at it, taking the lessons and the memories that will help us to become, in the present, foundations of the love and understanding so needed on this sweet little planet. We must be willing to forgive and move on from those things that will drag us back from being able to move upward towards the greater purpose for us as God's children and being a loving family. We must recognize and embrace those unique characteristics in each other that make us distinct from each other. We must embrace them and welcome them knowing that difference can make balance. You might worry about being wounded or taken advantage of if you really give yourself to love. I mean, look what happened to Jesus. Yet if we don't give love, we are like stoppered bottles and our love-light is trapped inside us. The world is too dark as it is. The world needs more love from each of us. I can't tell you that the world will become transformed by our love. It may not. But we will. By giving love we become transformed and healed. And it will come around again. Love is a circle that holds us all inside. Thank you to each who have given love to Susan, my family and me as we try to sort things out and, at least for the time being, take separate paths. Thanks to those who have put in time and given moral support to keep the *folk forum* and Oak Center General Store a place where we can gather, share and become inspired. There is light...and love has survived darkness. We are each on a journey and we must charge forth with torches of love lighting our banners of justice, with music playing to illuminate our little part of this earth.

Oh Great Spirit, Creator of the Universe, God, Allah, Wakan... whatever name we call you by is not important. Please help us through these wars. Let us put down the weapons- whatever form they may take. And let us pick up the tools to build a world and communities and families, where enough is enough, and more is too much. We only need what is given. Let us labor, not just for ourselves, but for all, and for future generations. Let us share not just the rewards and gifts, but the burdens and the loads, each to the best of our abilities. Fill us with love, and forgiveness. Let this be the age of New Understanding - lighted with love that burns like the sun by day and glows softly like the moon and stars at night...

Love and Peace, Maintenance and Repair

Earthly Notes:

An Appeal:

It has been a struggle here over the past few months and Oak Center has 'faced the fire'. The support from the community has been remarkable with some very dedicated folks coming out on Wednesday eves to brainstorm, plan, clean and put both Oak Center General Store and *folk forum* in order. There is much to do yet and this is an appeal for help.

Folk forum finds itself in the predicament of not having any start up funds. We are extremely cash short and welcome any financial support to cover our start-up costs and some of the accumulated phone/utility bills. The farm is taxed to the max right now and this season's lean income can't be stretched too much more to carry costs related to building costs and *folk forum*. We are also very short-handed and desperately in need of help with whole variety of tasks. Everything from cookie baking, tending the store and fix-up projects. Let us know your skills and ability to help us out. We are also looking for someone to live full-time and work here helping tend the store, answering the phone, taking reservations, helping clean/set up for concerts, prepare press releases, and a whole myriad of other fun and exciting things. It is your opportunity to learn new skills and meet lots of good people. A small stipend is available with your room and board.

**** If you have any legal or grant writing skills and are interested in helping us become a Community Trust and placed on the Historic Register – We need your help!****

Thank you ~

Here at Oak Center, I can't begin to do justice with the meager praise that can come in printed word for those dedicated heroes who have come forward to pick up the slack (and the fallen janitor) and thrust us forward. It's going to be a great year – the year of finding Love and letting it shine! I dedicate this folk forum year to all of you with love from the bottom of my heart. Thanks to Tracey & Cam, Lynn, Ann, Pam, Norrie, Sandy & Tom, Kevin, Richard, Deah, Mari, the whole Mennonite Fellowship and Roz, to Fred Sternberg and the Hampden Park Coop, to Megan, to Joe & Rebecca for taking on all the farm field work and much more as I try to adapt to the multiple roles of parent, store-keep & purchaser, folk-forum coordinator, and my continuing roles with our farm and growers' co-op (Full Circle). Thanks to all of you who have helped in many different ways and those who have sent in donations of money. God is not dead! God lives in this community and is the love that lights our way. Thanks, thanks, thanks.

Compassionate Conservatives in Perspective~

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).

Sister Events

- ◆ Friends for a Non-Violent World has brought in Jonathan Schell, author of *The Fate of the Earth* and *The Unconquerable World*, for a talk titled "Will Peace Win? The Will of the People and the End of War." Saturday, September 17 at 8:00 p.m. This event is a benefit for FNVW. Tickets range from \$15 to \$50. For more info call (651)989-5151
- ◆ The Rochester Civitan Club, an organization supporting programs benefiting citizens with developmental disabilities, is hosting a concert by 5-time Grammy nominee John McCutcheon. John has some very potent lyrics. A must see. John McCutcheon – Thursday, Oct. 20, 7pm. Bethel Lutheran Church. General, \$15, Students, \$10, 12 & under \$5 – Ticket Info: Gil Wilkins @ (507) 282-5306
- ◆ The SE Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers (SEMNA.com) invites you to some Rochester Peacemaker Events: Sept 24th, 1pm – Rochester Public Library is Showing the film "The Good War and Those Who Refused to Fight" and leading a discussion afterwards. The topic is conscience, war, and conscientious objection. Sept. 29-Oct 1, 10am-7pm – "Eyes Wide Open" exhibit of the Iraq war at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul. Sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee. Oct. 16th – Walk/Fast for interfaith understanding and tolerance will begin at the Rochester Mosque, walk to the Synagogue, Calvary Episcopal, and on to St. John's Catholic Church for a shared meal at sundown. Contact David Brunner of the Rochester Mennonite Fellowship or SEMNAP for more info.
- ◆ Thanks MPR for live coverage and promotion of Storm Aid for victims of the hurricane. There's a lot of work to be done and people that need help. (All the more reason to have your National Guard and Reserves at home to "protect and serve" where they belong.) If you want more info on how to help go to MPR.org – Storm Aid or call (651)989-GIVE
- ◆ 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. Now here at the Oak Center General Store. (507) 753-2080 folkforum@lakes.com
- ◆ We've got a lot of great venues in our region for music and the arts. Check them out and give them your support. Marie is doin' an incredible job at the Crossings at Carnegie in Zumbrota and there is a fairly new music venue in Red Wing at Hobgoblin Music. You can find their posters and flyers in the front of the Oak Center General Store.

- ◆ Thanks to Deah Kinion L.Ac. who like manna from heaven dropped in at a critical time to help pull the newsletter and calendar together. Newly relocated in the area with her husband, she will be plugging in regularly in various capacities. As a licensed acupuncturist she will be setting up shop. Chinese medicine is gentle, effective, and affordable. Contact her @ 753-3094
- ◆ Thanks to Fred Sternberg who took a day off of work to come down and pitch in. He jumped on the newsletter, dipped ice cream cones and did some support therapy over lunch.
- ◆ Thanks to Rick and Robbi out on Standing Rock Res for giving the kids and me refuge and diversion during a particularly hard week this summer. Thanks for taking us to the rodeo and getting us un horseback in that beautiful country out there in the Dakotas.
- ◆ Wabasha/Goodhue County Greens are having their next meeting Oct. 8 from 10am-noon, location to be determined. Dag Knudsen is doing a superb job of getting a mighty fine newsletter out each month. Tell Dag how much we appreciate all his efforts and find out where that meeting is going to be!
- ◆ Red Wing Vets for Peace, the Red Wing Peace Alliance, and the River Alliance are all doing great work and putting together some excellent events, and maintain vigils. Give them the support they need. Thanks Sherry, Paul & Trudi, Lenny, Hank, Charles, Gloria & Jim, Claire and everyone else doing this important work.

◆ **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...the change we want to see in this world. Contact us if you are able to help. (507)753-2080 or folkforum@lakes.com Thanks!

***Mailing List**: there has been some disorganization this past year. If you should be on it, please let us know. Our apologies!!

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

Andy White with Radoslav Lorkovic, CD release concert
Saturday, September 24, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation
Original Irish-flavored contemporary acoustic music

We start this harvest season off hosting an artist who will certainly set this season's record for traveling the farthest to get here. Belfast singer-songwriter Andy White returns to the U.S. this fall from his new home in Melbourne, Australia to release their new Live at Oak Center CD, recorded *here at Oak Center*

last fall with Radoslav! Andy has released 11 other internationally distributed albums and has won Ireland's top songwriting award, beating Bono and Van Morrison (!) to win the prize. He has been quick to win over Aussie music writers, who have been falling over themselves trying to come up with adequate praise for Andy's lyrical skills and acoustic pop sensibilities. Andy will of course be joined by our friend mainstay musical wonder Radoslav Lorkovic on piano and accordion. Rad & Andy have been touring Europe getting rave reviews everywhere including a concert for 20,000 people in London. The CD is hot! This show will be a blast wide open opener for the season. *** All volunteers and supporters are invited to the CD Release party starting at 5:00PM with snacks and h'ourdeurs. Bring something to share in this celebration.**

Thanks For The Good Times, Suzie ... a benefit party for Susan's new store and Oak Center
Sunday, October 2, 2PM

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

A variety of some of our favorite performers

This is a good-bye kiss Suzie. Still love ya, miss ya - be happy, find peace, and remember some of the good times. Peter Ostroushko, Dean Magraw, Cam Waters, Joe Schwen, and other guests to be announced will be playin' and jammin' for this party. Could be the gig of the year! For some it will be a time to gather good medicine for the roads ahead.

Jerry Rau Band, live CD recording

Saturday, October 8, 8PM

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

Original folk music

Last year when Jerry and his band came down and played with Joel Rafael at Oak Center, all of us who saw and heard felt we were watching Jerry at the pinnacle of his long musical career. He has pulled together some very good musical partners. The depth and musicality of what we witnessed was a moving tribute to a man who became the MN minstrel and dedicated his life to waging peace and struggling for justice. It became an obvious imperative that we needed to get them back on stage, fill the room, and record a live CD as a tribute album to this amazing man and the mark he has made on our hearts and souls, and the contributions he has made to this journey we are taking here. Mark, Pete and Denise make up the rest of the band, each one a performer you'll dig.

Whistle Pigs

Saturday, October 15, 8PM

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

Bluegrass and Irish music

The foursome known as the Whistle Pigs pride themselves on tight three and four part harmonies and hot instrumentals. They uphold the bluegrass tradition by breaking conventions, playing everything from Flatt and Scruggs to Lennon and McCartney, old Appalachian and Irish tunes to newly-penned originals. They use the old-style single microphone setup, which takes not only musical talent but death-defying choreography, which is a show in itself.

Peter Ostroushko

Sunday, October 16, 2PM

***\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation
Mandolin and fiddle music beyond category***

Putting a genre tag on Peter's music is pointless; it would take up less space to tell what kinds of music he doesn't play (there aren't any). Peter has been a regular guest on *A Prairie Home Companion* for as long as there's been such a thing. He has worked with a Who's Who of country, bluegrass, and traditional music: Chet Atkins, Willie Nelson, Emmylou Harris, Taj Mahal ... you get the idea. Simply put, he is one of the best on the planet at what he does, a fact noted by not only the acoustic music community but by the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and other classical music outfits as well. A must-see. This one will sell out, so please call ahead.

Monroe Crossing

Saturday, October 22, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids free will donation

Traditional Bluegrass

We warmly welcome back to our stage the Midwest's Premier Bluegrass and Gospel Quintet, Monroe Crossing. Named in honor of Bill Monroe, "The Father of Bluegrass," they play an upbeat blend of classic & traditional bluegrass, bluegrass gospel and heartfelt originals. The only bluegrass band EVER nominated as "Artist of the Year" (2004) by the Minnesota Music Academy, they won the MMA's "Bluegrass Album of the Year" award in (2003), as well as other individual awards. You're thinking by now that they must be pretty darn good, and you're right.

Claudia Schmidt

Sunday, October 23, 2PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids free will donation

Original well-sung music with acoustic guitar

It's rare when we get to host someone who runs our newsletter editorial staff plum out of superlative adjectives. A musician who has always hated categories, she describes herself as a "creative noisemaker," which has irritated some critics but delighted many audiences, who learn to expect anything at a Schmidt concert, hymn, poem, bawdy verse, torch song, satire, and the gamut of emotions. Her live performances are not to be missed, her musicality is astonishing, and her joy and love of performing are contagious. Garrison Keillor once said of her: "when she sings a song, it stays sung." We couldn't agree more. Another likely sellout, so ... well, you know what to do.

Note: a Paul Wellstone memorial gathering and potluck will follow the concert, and the film "Z" will be shown after the potluck.

Pete Morton

Friday, October 28, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids free will donation

Original folk music

Folk singer Pete Morton is a songwriter and performer from Nottingham, England with a wealth of great songs and stage presence. His show is dynamic and intense as well as approachable and fun-loving. Starting out as a busker on the streets of Europe, he has entertained all over the globe with his unique and involving style of songwriting and traditional singing. *The Guardian* tells us that Pete is "... not only impressive but a revelation ... totally original." He has released five CDs of original material and one project of traditional tunes, and we

eagerly look forward to hearing samples from all of them.

Jack Norton and the Mullet River Boys

Saturday, October 29, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids free will donation

Hipster Vaudeville

Jack Norton and the Mullet River Boys are musical purveyors of vaudeville, bluegrass, gospel and old-time comedy. The boys have been called, "one of the most entertaining acoustic groups in the Midwest" by the Minneapolis Star Tribune. During the past decade or so, Norton has produced some 60 albums, countless songs, poems, short stories and has played countless shows in the United States, Mexico and Europe. The Mullet River Boys have been called "The World's Smallest Orchestra" playing: guitar, ukulele, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, pedal steel, string bass, whizbang, duck call, slide whistle, and trumpet. The group was named "Artists of the Year" by the Minneapolis Star Tribune in 2000. After seeing a Jack Norton appearance, oddball crooner Tiny Tim hailed, "he is the greatest entertainer I have ever seen."

Chuck Suchy

Friday, November 4, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids free will donation

Folksinger/Farmer/Storyteller

A year has passed and we get to welcome our favorite farmer/folksinger (farmsinger?) Chuck Suchy back to our stage. Chuck will gift us with articulate expressions of rural and deeper 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 a 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 out for a feel good evening of song and story.

Saturday, November 5, 4:30PM

Bill McGrath presentation: "Common Threads Unraveling America's Middle Class"

Activist Bill McGrath believes that a common thread runs through tax cuts, outsourcing of jobs, prescription drugs, health insurance, Social Security, pensions, new laws regarding bankruptcy and class action lawsuits, and recent developments in labor unions. Join us for a one-hour presentation, then stick around for the concert.

6:00PM – Pot-luck. Bring something to share, plates and utensils.

Saturday, November 5, 8PM

Café Accordion Orchestra

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids free will donation

French musette, vintage swing, Euro-Latino dance music

Café Accordion Orchestra performs music that was heard in Parisian cafes and dance halls in the 1920s and other music that will make you want to shove the chairs up against the walls, don a beret, and grab somebody to fling across the hardwood. Fueled by Dan Newton's accordion and encyclopedic musical knowledge and stoked by Brian Barnes on guitar, Eric Mohring on the

mandolin, Erik Lillestol on the upright bass, and Joe Stenger on the drums, this band is as hot as it will get around here this month. Fend off the cold for another night and join us.

Saturday, November 12, 8PM

Scotty Miller Band

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

Folk/Blues/very impressive blues piano

Barrelhouse boogie and blues coming together. New Orleans influence. Taking the classical sound and doing something extra with it... "Miller has certainly achieved this... and has the vocal and piano playing talents to back it all up". These bytes from reviews on Scottie Miller hold up what we've seen from Scottie with his own band or Paul Mayasich and the Benders. It's a blues show you don't want to miss. Check out his CD "The Other Side" to see for yourself what a great show this is going to be.

Friday, November 18, 8 PM

Stacey Earle and Mark Stuart

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

Guitarist/singer/songwriter Stacey Earle said it was "magical" when she first played and toured with brother Steve Earle and the Dukes in 1990. Her solo career in Nashville included the country/folk circuit, before meeting Mark Stuart when they explored together a wide range of influences such as blues and rockabilly. They married in 1992 and in 1998 created their own label Gearle Records. Each of them has multiple recordings and a duo release in 2001, *Must Be Live* (Double Live CD).

Saturday, November 26, 8PM

Open Stage

Sign up and show us your musical skills, comedy, poetry, storytelling, dance routines, etc. Always a great chance to see the neighborhood talent or try some of your own.

Friday, December 2, 8PM

Charlie Parr

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

Footstomping traditional and original blues

Please help us welcome our new buddy from Duluth on his first visit here. Charlie writes songs that sound like the vintage good stuff, and brings freshness and vitality to the vintage good stuff with his 78 rpm guitar style, gutsy singing, and deep understanding of and respect for American roots music. He has played on *Prairie Home Companion* and is touring like a maniac to receptive crowds here and in Great Britain. He'll have a new CD out by then, so come out, buy a few for holiday gifts so you can turn your friends on to your fantastic new musical discovery, and hear why everyone from the British and U.S. independent music press to Greg Brown and Dakota Dave Hull are raving about him.

Sunday, December 4, 2PM

Dean Magraw and John Williams

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

Celtic/Eclectic

Dean Magraw is phenomenal – (guitarist Steve Tibbets describes Dean Magraw's playing: "It's guitar, but it's so liquid, fluid, lyrical, and effortless, that it's like listening to a dancer.") His third album entitled *Heavy Meadow*, a collection of solo

compositions, is strongly fluid and perhaps the best summation of Dean's creative processes to date. John Williams is a bottom accordion and concertina player of enormous integrity and innate empathy with the music. His playing has absorbed all the heart and vitality of Clare, together with Irish American influences like Johnny McGreevy, Seamus Cooley, and Joe Shannon. The result is a fluent style, full of maturity, vitality, and tunefulness... John is as virtuosic as they get on accordion. When Dean and John are gathered and placed before us, a synergistic melding of time, space, and musical idioms merge and a cosmic celtic/jazz/folky funk burst forth and fill us all with unbelievable peace, love, and joy. And these guys are funny, too. Need we say more? This show is always packed. Get tix in advance.

Saturday, December 10, 8PM

Cousin Dad

\$5-\$15, pay what you are able; kids free will donation

When you first hear *Cousin Dad* play you'll see what at first appears to be a typical bluegrass band, but when the music begins you'll be greeted with a very atypical joy and animation in performing. Here are no stiff-jointed, glazed-eyed bluegrass purists, but a loose and limber romp into Latin country blues, jazz, fiddle tunes, bluegrass, Motown, and old-timey. They play the songs they love and they love to play together: that is the great fun of a *Cousin Dad* performance. You will hear great originals and clever arrangements of familiar tunes that will set your ear on its ear. They will rock out; they will pick a driving bluegrass song with soulful harmonics or fiddle a sweet waltz. Finally, a *Cousin Dad* performance has an easy warmth like a late night jam session after all the music prudes have gone to bed - the joyful music that erupts from a group of friends at 4am around the camp fire.

Saturday, December 17, 4:30PM

Paul Schaeffer presentation and discussion: "Sugar Blues"

Paul Schaefer has a PhD in cultural anthropology and has a longstanding interest in the impact of Western elite culture on native peoples in the West and elsewhere. "Sugar Blues" traces the history of sugar, the first international agricultural commodity, from ancient New Guinea through the British and French colonial empires and the establishment of the African slave trade. Sugar has made a few people rich and powerful while making many more fat, sick, and unhappy. Due to the nature of this discussion, please leave your Twinkies and Coca-Cola at home.

6:00PM Pot-luck. Bring some goodies, plates and utensils.

Saturday, December 17, 8PM

Buffalo Gals

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

Cowgirl Swing

The ever popular Buffalo Gals are back to put on a winter concert of fun, swingin' cowgirl stomps once again! They swing, they have fiddlin' duels, they yodel, they do the old stuff with pizzazz and charm, and they even take us down to Louisiana for a touch of Cajun Bayou. Maureen Mullen, Cathy Mosher, Betsy Neil, and Dough Lohman make up the Gals. You'll have no regrets attending this show and stompin' your feet to their dazzling cowgirl swing!

ADMISSION AND TICKET INFORMATION:

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT AND READ THIS BLURB ON TICKET 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—\$15 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 CONCERT 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 REALLY 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— If you have filled out one of these and made a donation for mailing cost, but somehow didn't make the list please notify us. We can put you on. Sorry for any confusion. 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.

I can contribute time (please specify):

_____ at concerts _____ during the show
_____ other _____

I can contribute the following skills:

_____ legal _____ PR _____ sound
_____ carpentry, electric _____ cleaning
_____ artwork _____ making cookies
_____ other _____

COMMENTS/FEEDBACK:

folk forum **CALENDAR IN BRIEF 2005**

September

24th, Sat., 8PM Andy White and Radoslav Lorkovic Oak Center
CD Release Party

October

2nd, Sun. 2PM Thanks for the good times Suzie Benefit, including
Dean Magraw, Peter Ostroushko, Joe Schwen, Cam Waters, and
more surprises.

8th, Sat., 8PM Jerry Rau Band—Live Recording

15th, Sat., 8PM Whistle Pigs

16th, Sun. 2PM Peter Ostroushko

22nd, Sat., 8PM Monroe Crossing

23rd, Sun. 2PM Claudia Schmidt

Paul Wellstone memorial gathering and potluck will follow
the concert, and the film “Z” will be shown after the potluck.

28th, Fri. 8PM Pete Morton

29th, Sat. 8PM Jack Norton and the Mullet River Boys

November

4th, Fri., 8PM Chuck Suchy

5th, Sat., 4:30PM Bill McGrath presentation:

“Common Threads Unraveling America’s
Middle Class.”

8PM Café Accordion Orchestra

12th, Sat., 8PM Scotty Miller Band

18th, Fri., 8PM Stacey Earle and Mark Stuart

26th, Sat., 8PM Open Stage

December

2nd, Fri., 8PM Charlie Parr

4th, Sun. 2PM Dean Magraw and John Williams

10th, Sat. 8PM Cousin Dad

17th, Sat. 2PM Paul Schaeffer presentation and discussion:
“Sugar Blues”

8PM Buffalo Gals

January-spring 2006 events preview:

Joe Price 1/21, Paul Mayasich and The Benders 1/28, Curtis and
Loretta 2/4, Bill Staines 2/26, Tangled Roots 3/25, Bill Geezy and
The Promisebreakers 4/8, Switchback. Watch for next newsletter.

*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

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