

# folk forum

Fall/ Winter 2016

*“We aren’t passengers on spaceship Earth...we’re the crew!”*

*Shuttle astronaut Rusty Schweikart (thanks Joel!)*

*“The meek shall inherit the landfill”*

*Bill McGrath*

## **Attention crew of Planet Earth, we are entering an asteroid field...prepare for damage control!**

Please wash my mouth out with an herbal, essential oil soap. I apologize for the above intentional misspelling of the assorted chunks of lifeless fragments in space. If only politicians would stop and gaze at the stars as shepherds did in ancient times, maybe they would hear angels sing instead of jingling coins and Wall St. buzzers. It has been a tough year on the farm with all the heavy duty rains for much of the growing season and lack of helpers that want to do physical work in heat, mud, and MOSQUITOES! This translates into reduced income with more work. My Angst over home economics is much compounded whenever I listen to the news on the radio or read it in the papers. Usually I have found solace in the rhythm of the seasons: enough sunshine, just enough rain, clear night skies, and healthy gardens. It helps to have the hope that on the whole, humanity is heading in a GOOD direction. Given the above, you will understand the difficulty I have had over the past 3 days trying to write a note to you in the hopes of inspiring, encouraging, and possibly making you laugh, before inviting you to our fall season of music at Oak Center’s folk forum. I started 3 times, filling 2 pages each time with scribblings and notes about climate change, mass extinction, environmental destruction, pollution, war mongering, rampant profiteering, unbridled capitalism, economic injustice, racism, intransigent political machinery, corrupt politics, corrupt politicians, and the **TOXIC** mix of **POLITICS** and **RELIGION**.

Many, many years ago, imagining with John, “imagine all the people, living life in peace”, I found my way around dogmatic “Lithonized” religion and began to hear again the love/forgiveness message Jesus tried to get across. I joined a Mennonite church because it’s a “Peace” church that hears the messages of love and forgiveness in the “Sermon on the Mount” and tries to live it out in the world. I am **STILL** trying to find the capacity for unlimited understanding and forgiveness. I am making more progress on learning to sing, but I have a long way to go there too. It is my Angst, and anger, and fears of what **MAY** happen that make it so hard to come up with words of wisdom and inspiration, appeals for patience, watchful readiness, and a forgiving tone...yet, it is what we need to do to prepare for the coming storms. I don’t have to remind everyone of the level of

division and hostility throughout the world that exists in a volatile sea of weapons.

Sometimes it feels like the Maestro/Composer of the Cosmic Symphony is playing some pretty discordant jazz that is both confusing, hard to dance to, and painful to listen to. If we are patient and can quiet the fear and anger for a moment, we can hear strains of melody that make sense, and feel good. The Pope has been playing some sweet tunes and much of the world was humming along. Sitting Bull’s descendants have struck up a rousing fight song up at Standing Rock Rez over that Tar Sands pipeline. (Now there’s some serious discord-sucking the grease out of sand in Canada to keep gasoline way too cheap, fracking the gas out of the earth to accelerate the economy so billionaires can fiddle while the planet burns.)

Bernie was singing some pretty excellent lyrics until he got cut off before his song could come to conclusion. Hopefully there will be a D.C. al Coda and we will hear some of those lines again. Some exciting new possibilities have opened up allowing folks to hear real Cuban music in Cuba and see first-hand health care and agricultural systems for the people instead of for profiteering corporations... we’ll see what transpires after November.

We have some great artists lined up for the season ahead, and we are **REALLY** looking forward to gathering with you for some great music and relaxed time together in a warm room sharing the journey. Let’s not worry so much about **MAKING AMERICA GREAT AGAIN**...if we keep America beautiful, and get people smiling at each other, it **WILL BE GREAT AGAIN!**

**LOVE AND PEACE,  
Maintenance and repair**

p.s. we still need some help!



*Earthly Notes.*

## Thank you

· Thanks to everyone who volunteers to help us keep folk forum alive with your time or donations. Thanks to the Lynn's for your dedicated support, "in the nick of time" help at concerts, and for procuring supplies, cleaning, washing table cloths, and running the concessions. Thank you Mariposa, (a.k.a. Kathy), Mandy, Margaret, Mary Emma, Laurie, Grace, Hope, Nikki and Val, Hiromi, and all others who help put together the great food, then jump in wherever needed. Double thanks to Kathy for helping on many other things including this newsletter. You are all beautiful!!! And to Dr. (Todd) "Oz", the dedicated and capable ticket taker extraordinaire, who cleans up after shows. It is true dedication to regularly drive up after teaching classes at UWL all week. You are a blessing. May you and Kathy always find fungi. And a very heartfelt thanks to Matt Bruzek and Doug Duncan for computer and website help. You have been the rescue crew after folk forum's fateful cyber crash. Without your quick action there would have been some serious paralysis indeed. Thanks to Allen for hanging posters, may we see your smiling face at music this year!!!

· To help us face the coming cold months, let us know you care and lend us a few backs, muscles, and time to help get wood in. It warms the heart AND helps keep the building warm. If anyone would like to sign up as a regular volunteer to help us keep hosting these events, WE STILL NEED YOU! A special thanks to Lawrence and Mary Schwanke for their long-time generous support. And to Nate Underwood, Mike Perry, Alan and Sophie Knaeble and Alan's uncle Jerry, Cy Champa, Ron and Carolyn Drude, Nancy Moltaji, Peggy Menzel, Amanda Deischer, Stacy Chinander, Jenni Doyle, Betty Oudahl, Jim Perry, and everyone else who sent in donations of any amount to cover mailings and other costs. We know from all the thank you-s we receive from our patrons and visitors to the community that your support for this magical shared journey is appreciated.

· The solar project engineered and installed by Common Sense Development of Plainview, has been on-line for a year now. We have seen some good reductions in our monthly utility bill, however it was a super rainy and cloudy summer and we are moving into shorter days. The utility savings are have not yet caught up with the interest on our loan... and won't until we get the principle paid down further. If you can contribute any amount toward this end, it would take some of the pressure off of our limited finances.

**Volunteers for folk forum**—it is a difficult act to do all these fine programs without the generous help from you. We especially need volunteers to hang posters in Rochester, Red Wing, Plainview, Mazzeppa and other surrounding communities. To Alan and Judy Hoffman for hanging posters in Rochester, and Claire and Jim Abbot in Wabasha. THANKS!! We always need regular volunteers as well to help clean up before and after shows and someone with computer skills to help update/ maintain the mailing list and work on press releases, etc... If you can help, please let us know when you are available. If you would like to make a monetary gift, checks can be made out to folk forum and mailed in to: folk forum, c/o the oak center general store, 67011 hwy 63, Lake City, MN 55041, or dropped off during a concert or at the store. Call (507) 753-2080, email: [folkforum@riverland.org](mailto:folkforum@riverland.org).

**\*Mailing List:** If you would like to be on it, please make a small donation of ~\$5/yr or more and fill out the form on the insert in this newsletter. If you have donated recently and didn't get on it, please let us know. Our apologies!!

**Concerts: \$15 regular (inquire if you are low income)**

**Kids freewill donation for shows not sold out.**

## THE MENU

### THE FATTENIN' FROGS

**Saturday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, 8PM**

#### Blues and Roots/ Rock & Roll

The Fattenin' Frogs are a six member roots rock & roll band from Minneapolis. Founding members Chris Holm and Mark Larson (both formerly of 4onthefloor) formed the band in 2009, driven by the determination to dive into the roots of 1960's rock & roll. The Fattenin' Frogs play rock & roll music in its original spirit by turning up the intensity on traditional American music. With a style developed by electrifying a mix of early blues, country, folk, gospel, and jazz, they aim to bring rock music back to its roots.

They play a mix of original songs and interpretations of classics by likes of Robert Johnson, Son House, Etta James, Blind Willie Johnson and Muddy Waters. Known for their energetic live shows and creative mixing of musical styles the band puts their heart and soul into every song so come on out, sing, dance, and clap along!

### BAREFOOT WONDER: T BRUCE BOWERS & RIC GILLMAN

**Saturday, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>, 8PM**

#### Folk/ Americana/ Rock

T Bruce Bowers and Ric Gillman are quite a pair. With almost a century of musical experience between them, they bring a wide variety of flavors to the table. From Doc Watson guitar picking, to blazing Led Zeppelin electric violin, it's a banquet every night.

With T Bruce Bowers on electric and acoustic violin, acoustic mandolin and Ric Gillman and Acoustic 6 and 12 string guitar

It is always interesting, and sometimes down right unpredictable, each performance is an adventure.

### POP WAGNER & THE HAMPDEN ROUNDERS

**Saturday, Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>, 8PM**

#### Bluegrass, Folk and Swing

The three members of the Hampden Rounders have been playing music for a total of 140 years. That's almost 3500 chipmunk years. Pop Wagner, Anni Spring and Adam Granger, who have been friends for about as long, started playing informally at St Paul's Hampden Park Coop and, after a couple of years, decided they'd better give themselves a proper name and actually be a band. The Rounders guarantee a fun, easygoing show chock-full of old-timey fiddle tunes and swing, bluegrass and folk songs, with a few originals thrown in for good measure. WARNING: The Hampden Rounders cannot guarantee that silliness and frivolity will not ensue.

### THE HIGH 48's

**Saturday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, 8PM**

#### Bluegrass

Since forming in 2006, The High 48s have been making music that combines the soulful sound of classic bluegrass with a modern attitude, original songs and a wide range of influences far beyond Bill Monroe, the Stanley Brothers, and Flatt and Scruggs. In a genre created and dominated by artists from the South, The High 48s were born and raised in the Upper Midwest. And in a music scene where playing standards is the norm, The High 48s are a band of songwriters who perform their own material in addition to the "festival favorites." They return to Oak Center for another entertaining, high-energy show.

**BARBARA JEAN & MOLLY DEAN – DUSTY HEART****Saturday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, 8PM****Roots, Indie, and Folk**

Rich vocal harmonies merge with intimate layers of guitar, fiddle and banjo to define the lush sound of the recently formed duo, *Dusty Heart*. Barbara Jean & Molly Dean are two songwriters recognized in their own right for their poetic lyrics and distinct vocal styles that when combined, fuse to create a powerful and haunting sound that takes on a life of its own. With a shared wanderlust and love of adventure, a passion for the open road, vast landscapes, and a mutual love for musical harmony, they join forces crafting a sound that bridges together the diverse musical worlds of roots, indie, and folk. As soon as they embarked on their collaborative journey, *Dusty Heart* was off to a running start, receiving an invitation to open a series of sold-out shows supporting Dave Simonett and Dave Carroll of *Trampled by Turtles* across Colorado.

**CHUCK SUCHY****Saturday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, 8PM****Original and provocative folk and storytelling**

Singer/songwriter/farmer Chuck Suchy returns to the Oak Center General Store to perform his special original songs and stories. Suchy has been heralded as “One of the great American songwriters” by Rod Kennedy, founder of the Kerrville (TX) Folk Festival – the premiere songwriting festival in America. *Dirty Linen Folk Magazine* says of Suchy: “Ya gotta love this guy, he writes a fine song, plays steady guitar, sings with rare confidence and lives his material!” He is the recipient of the 2015 North Dakota Governor’s Award for the Arts. Suchy raises grass fed beef on the farm he grew up on near Mandan, ND.

**ERIK KOSKINEN AND FRIENDS****Saturday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, 8PM****Blues /folk/ country/ fusion**

Best known as an ace guitarist and Producer/Engineer of *Trampled By Turtles*, Erik Koskinen should also be recognized as a masterful songwriter and rousing country singer. His dulcet tone and demeanor rival artists like Sting and Bon Jovi. Come experience his original brand of American music at Oak Center.

**JILLIAN RAE & BAND****Saturday, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>, 8PM****Alt-Country**

Jillian Rae hails from the Iron Range of Northern Minnesota and has been a singer and violinist since the age of 7. She has been a heavy hitter on the Minneapolis music scene, playing in as many bands as she humanly can. Jillian formed her own band in 2013 and immediately began writing and recording. Her first album, *Heartbeat* was released in December 2013 and in February 2014 she was a finalist in Vita.mn's Are You Local Contest (best new bands). The band continues to tour extensively regionally and nationally and is showing no signs of slowing. One of the favorite shows each year at the OC General Store, expect a new album from Jillian Rae in the spring of 2016.

**RADOSLAV LORKOVIC & BAREFOOT WONDER****Saturday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8PM****Blues, Cajun, Jazz, Zydeco & Folk**

Drawing from a multitude of influences ranging from elegant classical and jazz styles to the rawest, most basic blues, country and soul, Radoslav Lorković has taken on an unusually broad musical spectrum and refined it into his distinctive piano style. With his great voice, incredible piano, and other worldly accordion, it just gets better every time. He is joined tonight by T. Bruce Bowers of Barefoot Wonder on electric and acoustic violin and acoustic mandolin. Together, they’ll perform an amazingly diverse and

artistically performed collection of originals in all the musical genres of the planet.

**MOTHER BANJO with BEN COOK-FELTZ****Saturday Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, 8PM****Traditional folk & bluegrass sounds with poetic lyrics**

Featuring Ellen Stanley on banjo and vocals, Mother Banjo is a New England-raised, Minneapolis-based songwriter. Called “an outstanding poet” (*Inside Bluegrass*), she was a Midwest Finalist for the prestigious Mountain Stage New Song Contest and has been featured nationally on SiriusXM Radio and CMT.com. Uber-talented pianist Ben Cook Feltz opens the show and will join Ellen on stage to share songs from their recently released holiday EP.

**CHARLIE PARR****Saturday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, 8PM****Authentic, Northshore Blues**

Authentic gets used way too much, but when you hear Charlie you’ll understand its meaning. Charlie shows up with his lived-in rasp of a voice, a National Resonator guitar, a twelve string acoustic, a banjo, a batch of his own songs, and well-traveled numbers by revered bluesmen from other times. He executes his music the way it should be with a self-taught mix of slide, finger-picking, quasi-frailing techniques, and a voice that says, “this is the blues”. Charlie Parr is the real deal. We’re not pulling your leg. But don’t take our word for it... listen to his music. You’ll be glad you did. Always a sold out show at Oak Center, get your tickets early!

**THE PINES****Saturday, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, 8PM****Alt Country/ Indie-rock/ Americana**

Iowa-born/Minneapolis-based folk rock artists the The Pines have created a loyal following for their lush, layered sound and poetic lyrics inspired by the land and folklore of the American Midwest. Bridging the folk, roots and indie worlds with their modern take on American music, frontmen/songwriters Benson Ramsey and David Huckfelt share a common musical language rooted in the songs and songwriters of their native Iowa. The Pines' sound balance Ramsey's ethereal, somberly beautiful songs with Huckfelt's darkly romantic, cinematic tales for a sweeping sound that evokes the vastness and loneliness of the Great Plains. The intricate guitar interplay between Benson and David is layered over the atmospheric keyboard work and vocal harmonies of Alex Ramsey (Benson's brother) to form the core of The Pines' instantly recognizable sound. The Pines' sound captivates and elevates with rare intimacy – especially in the big room at Oak Center. Get tickets early!

**REINA DEL CID****Saturday, Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, 8PM****Blues, Folk and Rock**

Part singer songwriter group, part rock band you can find Reina del Cid and company at the intersection of lyrical storytelling, catchy riffs, and scorching solos. They return to the Oak Center General Store for an acoustic trio performance. The band's blend of folk, blues, and rock draws a mixed crowd from jam heads to college students to white-haired intelligentsia. Their latest album, *The Cooling*, has been featured by Paste Magazine, NPR, and 89.3 the Current.

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

Thank you for your friendship and participation. New ideas are welcome; please contact us with your thoughts.

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



**folk forum CALENDAR IN BRIEF Fall/ Winter 2016**

**October**

- 8<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM The Fattenin' Frogs
- 15<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM T Bruce Bowers and Ric Gillman
- 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sat. 8PM Pop Wagner and the Hampden Rounders
- 29<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM The High 48's

**November**

- 5<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Dusty Heart - Barbara Jean and Molly Dean
- 12<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Chuck Suchy
- 19<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Erik Koskinen and friends
- 26<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Jillian Rae and band

**December**

- 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sat. 8PM Radoslav Lorkovic and T. Bruce Bowers
- 10<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Mother Banjo with Ben Cook-Feltz
- 17<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Charlie Parr

**January**

- 21<sup>st</sup>, Sat. 8PM The Pines
- 28<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Reina del Cid

**folk forum**

c/o Oak Center General Store  
67011 hwy 63  
Lake City, MN 55041

