

folk forum

Winter/ Spring 2018

Frodo: I wish the ring had never come to me. I wish none of this this had happened.

Gandalf: So do all who live to see such times but that is not for them to decide. All you have to decide is what to do with the time that is given you.

Steven in random mutterings about Tea Party “Patriots”: what were you people thinking? Put teabags in your mugs not dirt bags in the White House. (Regular mutterings occur these days about fake news, fake science, fake patriotism, fake Christianity, fake hair, fake principles, and something about resistance).

Hello fellow Earthlings, Travelers, Hobbits, Elves, Dwarves, and Sojourners,

Each time I begin to write to you from this newsletter platform, I feel pressure from a sense of urgency, responsibility, to come up with words that will make a difference in the larger scheme of nurturing the human spirit in its quest to find higher meaning, understanding, and truth. The spirit that generates this yearning came to dwell in the souls of a few human creatures from early times in THE GARDEN and passed like light thru the ages all the way up to NOW. “BE HERE NOW” said Baba Ram Dass. Be present. And we should strive to be. (In actual practice **striving** may not be the best technique to transition to the present. Breathe, clear your head of agendas, become aware of the world around you). Then...Be good. As we make plans for the future, we must not forget where we have been. What brought the human herd to the brink again? Are we just lost and going in endless circles? Spirals up and spirals down? How do we free ourselves from the dysfunctions of selfish agendas, egos, lust for power, material things and money, and take our places in the long unfolding story that called ancient prophets, healers, and teachers to confront our dysfunctions and nurture that spirit, promising **HOPE** for Peace, Justice, Shalom, Salvation, Agape, The Beloved Community, Nirvana and Enlightenment. Let’s not forget to be gracious for the generations of humble servants of the Earth that toiled to feed, clothe, and comfort thru time to keep the story going! Let Justice flow down like Mighty Waters and righteousness flow like a mighty stream...(and hydro-power **Universal Health Care, Renewable infrastructures, mass public transit, community redesign into action**...and lead us to take better care of each other). We are all part of a bigger story, but we must not diminish the importance of the role each of us has in our own ephemeral existences. We must be voices of heart and reason in these cyclical marches of the human lemmings to the precipice. Do not pass Go, don’t stop to shop for more stuff on along the way as the human herd is driven to the

brink. Some things change very fast, and some things never seem to change.

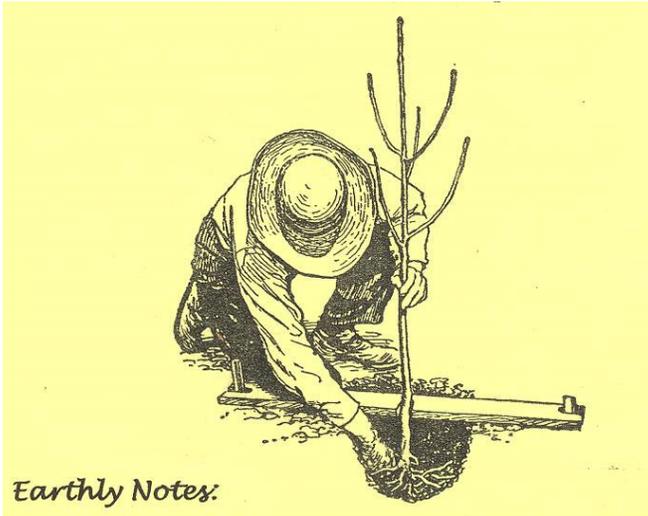
Just last week, when it was clear and cold, the sun was shining brightly thru all our south windows and warming up our greenhouses. The radio was spewing news that wasn’t new. It was more of the same, and maybe worse. I turned the radio off and pulled out seed catalogues. Farming/gardening is my “church” during the week and gives me peace similar to old gospel songs sung in harmony with brethren...(and sister-en!) It is both an offering and an affirmation of my love for Creation. It is the first round in my preparation to “do unto the least of these” and “store up riches in heaven”... and in the pantry!

Someone recently told me that The Donald makes W look like a progressive. Perhaps W’s condemnation of Donald’s crass inflammatory nature was a potential sign of W’s own personal repentance. Maybe he had a change of heart? True repentance needs be followed by restitution. We’ll all happily embrace some restitution if it comes. For those who claim Jesus as their guiding light, as W did, one only needs to remember Zachariah or the rich young ruler to figure out what that restitution would look like. In review, we watched Michael Moore’s *Fahrenheit 911*. Americans were played like marionettes at our own expense via tax dollars utilizing an immense amount of conjured up fear. In gratitude for OUR contributions we were awarded the Patriot Act. The Saudi Royal family’s gigantic influence buying went into Bush family coffers and businesses. Perhaps the Bush-Trump antimony has more to do with disturbing the Saudi/Bush business relationship and DT’s deals with Israeli Zionist factions. Influence peddling? Whether Russian, Zionist, or repressive Saudi “royal” family...no human rights violators...or corporate money...should be wagging this puppy by the tail. One thing for certain, DT’s own self interest and ego hold the upper hand and his “showmanship” is waning. HIS ELEPHANTS CAN’T DANCE, and the clowns in this circus are NOT funny. As John Goodman commented on SNL, “you’re out of your element Donny”. (P. T. Barnum you were a much better showman!) And...Here comes the Sun!...take a big breath...just say **WOW**, shine some light...blow kisses to God.

Let’s hear some music!

**LOVE AND PEACE,
Maintenance and repair**

p.s. God, if you are not TOO busy...we could use lots of help! (just good measures of sunshine, enough rain, and a few well directed lightening strikes?)



Thank you

- Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help us keep folk forum alive with your time or donations. A HUGE thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Lynn, Austin and Sierra, to Mariposa, (a.k.a. Kathy), Todd, Matt L. and Matt B, Ryan, Doug, Mandy, Margaret, Mary Emma, Laurie, Kylie, Rick, and Hope, and on occasion when he is home from school, Gus, Thanks M.L.K., Ghandi, Dorothy Day, Michael Moore, Oliver Stone, Edward Snowden, Thoreau, Amos/Isaiah/and Jeremiah (the one who wasn't a bullfrog) and all the multitudes thru time who gave their lives in service to earth, God, and humanity.
- If anyone would like to sign up as a regular volunteer to help us keep hosting these events, WE NEED YOU! A special thanks to Lawrence and Mary Schwanke for their repeated regular support **and for hearing our appeal for help on the solar loan!**, Thanks Alan and Judy Hoffman for your constant moral support and your time hanging posters. To: Ron and Carolyn Drude, Theresa and Sam Hurne, Michael Perry, Cy Champa, Nate U., Stephen B., Gayla G., Marsha S., Amanda D. Mary S., and to all who sent in donations for mailing costs or donated unused tickets. Your support for this magical shared journey is vital and appreciated. And a big thanks to you God for the magical times we share here! Altho we constantly ask for a little more display of your mercy and love...we know that "what doesn't kill us will make us stronger?"

Building needs/Volunteers/SOLAR PROJECT —to up-date everyone on the solar we installed to help Oak Center renewably produce the energy required to continue running these programs. The bill is still being paid and lots still due. During times when the sun normally shines brightly, (lots' of rain, clouds, and snow/ice sticking to collectors doesn't help), it helps reduce bills.

Folk forum has always been run on a lean budget utilizing generous help from volunteers and subsidies from our farm. We have kept the admission costs affordable and provide some great food with only a donation bowl. We depend on people's generosity. We appreciate those that are generous enough to meet food costs. It was never a goal with folk forum to make a lot of money...and we didn't. We still are short of cash to do repairs and begin necessary upgrades. It is a steady battle with "cool" older (105yr) buildings, aye? Like Sisyphus and the rock up the hill? Without your help it wouldn't continue. Please consider donating

time or \$ to help sustain the future of the folk forum. It is an unending challenge and donations will go into these projects to sustain and improve!

IF you would like to make a donation, checks can be made out to folk forum and mailed in or dropped off. (507)753-2080, e-mail: folkforum@riverland.org. Thanks for being part of this.

***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!!

THE MENU

PUSHING CHAIN

Saturday, Jan. 27th, 8PM

Guitar & Fiddle Duo

Pushing Chain was formed in 2012 by Boyd Blomberg and Adam Moe. The duo, which has been performing together in various manifestations since 1997, plays Folky-Tonk music featuring Boyd on guitar and vocals and Adam on the fiddle and vocals. Strong songwriting, tight harmonies, and a gonzo approach have been winning fans for Pushing Chain across the Midwest and beyond. We're delighted to have them at Oak Center.

THE FEDERALES

Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 8PM

Bluegrass Fusion

Gritty Classic Americana Country - think Flying Burrito Brothers, The Grateful Dead, Doug Sahm, Willie, Waylon and the boys... Their name comes from the tune *Pancho & Lefty* by the late great Townes Van Zant. Timeless music that flows across the great American landscape and through the rivers of your soul. They're pickers, fiddlers, groovers and harmonizers; Ready to make you sing along, get up and dance, or just sit and tap your toes. They're The Federales: Andres Crovetti on drums, James Gould on electric guitar, Ben Miller on acoustic guitar, mandolin and vocals, Jay Scabich on fiddle, Andy Schuster on upright bass and Karl Wahoske on banjo, guitar and vocals. Don't miss their Oak Center debut.

PISTOL WHIPPIN' PARTY PENGUINS

Saturday, Feb. 10th, 8PM

Midwest-stylized, blues/country/rock/bluegrass

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

POP WAGNER and THE HAMPDEN ROUNDERS

Saturday, Feb 17^h, 8PM

Old Time, bluegrass, folk, Americana

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, often rowdy 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.

BILL STAINES

Sunday, Feb. 25th, 3PM

Americana & Folk

With “a sense of timing to match the best stand-up comic,” Bill is a troubadour and wordsmith. Between original songs, he includes traditional folk tunes and more contemporary country ballads. Bill's music is a slice of Americana, reflecting with the same ease his feelings about the prairie people of the Midwest or the adventurers of the Yukon, the on-the-road truckers, or the everyday workers that make up this land. Bill delights in having the audience participate in many numbers and never fails to please.

THE SAWTOOTH BROS

Saturday March 3rd, 8PM

Bluegrass/Americana

Dazzling audiences with precision picking and sharp harmonies developed over 8 years of playing, performing, and growing up together, the Sawtooth Brothers have created a strong musical rapport with one another, which is channeled through their infectious original material. Their sound is rooted in traditional bluegrass instrumental and harmony work and is influenced by modern acoustic sounds, blending pop and indie rock sensibilities with heartfelt Americana. During a live performance audiences can expect creative original songs, hard driving bluegrass, classic country, gospel, and classic rock. Tying it all together is the band's ability to put on a good show. Don't miss them at Oak Center.

CURTIS and LORETTA

Saturday March 10th, 8PM

Original folk, multi-instrumental with exquisite harmonies

Curtis & Loretta's music comes straight from the heart. The husband and wife duo's extraordinary harmonies and proficiency on a parade of stringed instruments create an alluring frame for their poignant original songs, and traditional pieces from America and the British Isles. The current menagerie includes mandocello, folk harp, guitars, clawhammer banjo, ukulele, and mandolin, plus a bit of kazoo, harmonica, and shakers. Curtis' down-home sense of humor and Loretta's theater background engage the audience in an experience that runs the gamut of rolling with laughter to holding back tears, with plenty of side-trips in between. Their heartfelt originals explore timeless issues such as love and longing, and they also boldly tackle tough subjects such as Alzheimer's and war. Rick Mason wrote in the Minneapolis City Pages, “Curtis and Loretta are in many ways the quintessential folk duo: finely honed vocal harmonies of multidimensional intrigue, abundant talent on an array of stringed instruments, deep traditional roots, great originals, and equally strong strains of gravity and playful irreverence.”

CHRIS SILVER AND THE GOOD INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 17th, 8PM

Traditional Bluegrass with Roots, Jazz and Blues

Led by Chris Silver, The Good Intentions are inspired by the sounds of Hot Rize, Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver, Tony Rice, and JD. Crowe. They deliver traditional bluegrass with polish and drive and play songs from the bluegrass masters to material penned by Silver.

Silver plays fiddle and mandolin with a deep appreciation for traditional bluegrass music, but it doesn't stop there. His solos stretch beyond the boundaries of bluegrass including hints of jazz, blues, and roots music. Soulful original arrangements of their songs have already established the band in the hearts of the Midwest bluegrass community. Their success is based on the complimentary

picking and singing skills of some of the best-known names in the area's bluegrass scene. Always an Oak Center favorite.

KATEY BELLVILLE

Saturday, March 24th, 8PM

Americana/ Bluegrass

Katey grew up with a bluegrass and old-time music soundtrack playing in the background. Singing has always been very natural to her and she sings all day long about everything from putting on her socks, to what she's going to eat for breakfast. She won her first music competition singing at the Boyceville, WI 'Pickle Festival' when she was five years old. Soon she began singing harmony with her dad Rod Bellville, a popular fixture in the Westbank Old Time Music Scene, and eventually performing on her own. She still loves the old tunes, but now mixes them up with her originals, and those of contemporary songwriters like Gillian Welch. She released her first full-length album in 2013. It was partially recorded in Nashville, finished in Minneapolis, and has received countless amazing reviews by listeners. Fans frequently describe her songs as 'unforgettable' tunes, blending modern pop sensibilities with fundamental bluegrass instrumentation.

HURRICANE HAROLD, JEFF RAY & THE STAKES

Saturday, April 7th, 8PM

Roots & Blues

A “roots and blues oddity” is a very deserving description for the Minnesota-based acoustic roots and blues musician Jeff Ray. His quartet materialized in the Minneapolis area over the past 6+ years with no formal rehearsals and no pre-determined musical ideas. Their first gig together was on MPR's Radio Heartland. The gig was quickly followed by a string of shows that started out as “get-togethers on stage” and quickly turned into full-throttle improvisations. Their music developed naturally and unforced, something that is rare and hard to find these days. Mikkel Beckmen's one-of-a-kind syncopated washboard foot-stomp combo, joined with Nick Salisbury's homemade foot shaker contraption and 60's soul-style bass, Hurricane Harold Tremblay's pulsing train style harmonica, joined with Jeff Ray's thumb thumping alternate-tuning east-meets-west fingerstyle resonator slide-guitar. The band is definitely an earful and a true musical oddity; but they are strangely fun, sometimes confusing, and always inspiring.

PETER OSTROUSHKO & DEAN MAGRAW

Saturday, April 14th, 8PM

Down home Extra-terrestrial folk- jazz

This team was one of the early duos that started folk forum off in this fabulous musical journey. Peter was well known as the best fiddle mandolin player in the country as a regular on Prairie Home Companion. He brought Dean Magraw with him for his first appearance at folk forum. Not only did Dean's skill on guitar match and compliment the exquisite instrumentals of Peter, the combination of their two personalities and senses of humor infected all of us with unbridled laughter that still rings in memory. They still do an exceptional show, and last time I checked, they were still gut-rippin' funny. I think their voices have only improved with age.

DUSTY HEART

Saturday April 21, 8PM

Folk/Americana

Rich vocal harmonies merge with intimate layers of guitar, fiddle and banjo to define the lush sound of Dusty Heart. Barbara Jean and Molly Dean are two songwriters recognized in their own right for their poetic lyrics and distinct vocal styles that when combined create a powerful and haunting sound that takes on a life of its own. Through their shared wanderlust and love of adventure, a passion for the open road, vast landscapes, and mutual love for musical

harmony, the two decided to join forces and craft a sound that bridges together the diverse musical worlds of roots, indie, and folk.

JOE AND VICKI PRICE

Saturday, April 28th, 8PM

Homegrown, Get-down Blues

Vicki and Joe Price are a husband and wife blues duo from SE Iowa. They do some dynamite blues in the old traditions as well as a good measure of high-powered originals. Vicki's exemplary guitar playing and smooth vocals perfectly compliment Joe's raspy voice and mean slide guitar. They have a well earned following who come again & again to see the incredible energy that comes alive on the stage in this quiet like-able guy that Greg Brown at times has called the "Buddha". Scene Magazine says " Vicki's powerful bluesy voice evokes an image of a woman in a 1920's speakeasy singing her heart out. If you like upbeat, straightforward blues, you can't go wrong with what the Prices are laying down." Come feel the music and shake them bones...

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

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

www.oakcentergeneralstore.com

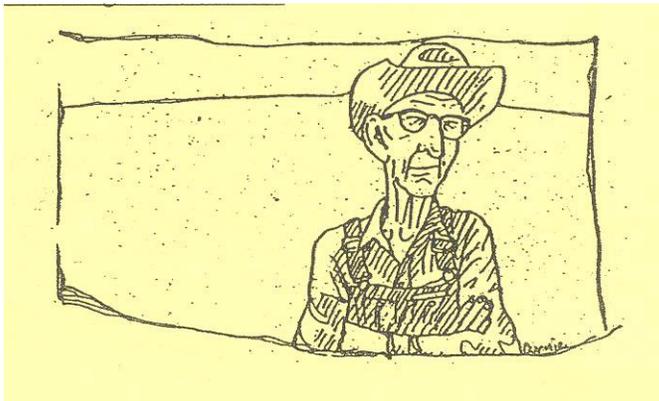
Folk Forum

folk forum

c/o Oak Center General Store

67011 hwy 63

Lake City, MN 55041



CALENDAR IN BRIEF - Winter/ Spring 2018

January

27th, Sat. 8PM Pushing Chain

February

3rd, Sat. 8PM The Federales

10th, Sat. 8PM Pistol Whippin' Party Penguins

17th, Sat. 8PM Pop Wagner and the Hampden Rounders

25th, **Sun. 3PM** Bill Staines

March

3rd, Sat. 8PM The Sawtooth Bros

10th, Sat. 8PM Curtis and Loretta

17th, Sat. 8PM Chris Silver and the Good Intentions

24th, Sat. 8PM Katey Bellville

31st, Sat. Easter Weekend – NO Shows

April

7th, Sat. 8PM Jeff Ray, Hurricane Harold, and the Stakes

14th, Sat. 8PM Peter Ostroushko and Dean Magraw

21st, Sat. 8PM Dusty Heart

28th, Sat. 8PM Joe and Vicky Price