

folk forum

Fall/ Winter/ 2018

“Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people?”

Jeremiah, (the one who wasn't a bullfrog) 8:22

“A people in the throes of national prosperity, who breathe poisoned air, drink poisoned water, eat poisoned food...who take poisoned medicines to heal them of the poisons that they breathe, drink, and eat...such a people crave the further poison of OFFICIAL REASSURANCE. It is not logical but it is understandable...perhaps...that they ADORE their president who tells them that all is WELL, all is BETTER THAN EVER.”

Wendell Berry in “The Reassurer”

“Last rush in Babylon, voices catching up, voices catching up. Watch out child, watch out child, Babylon falling down, falling down. Society of BROKEN PROMISE; economies wars citizen whores...political pimps leaving us FLAT ON OUR BACKS, craving today, waiting for the promised land.”

John Trudell in “Voices Catching Up”

Hello again Friends and Sojourners,

There have been times when brighter lights shined inspiring hopes that lift us up and nurture belief that WE can live intentional and purposeful lives of principle leading to healing the ills of the world. The 60's thru the 70's were such times for my generation. There have been many homologous times for other generations throughout mankind's journey. That journey led some to plant themselves on some land, seeking alternative relationships with humans experimenting in intentional community, co-operative economics, and alternative relationships with nature that avoided synthetic poisons, medicines, and industrial approaches to growing food. Some of those seeds germinated in the hearts and minds of countless others of those times, bore fruit and passed on to new generations who plant those seeds again today. There lays a path that is at the same time old and new. Resisting the internet, corporate America and upward mobility (to a degree), looking back AND forward, some did what they could to nurture the growth of communities, cooperative economics, holistic lifestyles, and deepening relationships between work and the Earth. The 90's were predicted to be the “Decade of the Environment” and the “NEW” spirituality was going to be one of Environmentalism. The Beast rose up and brought us the “Reagan Revolution”, which dismantled the New Deal and handed the reins of the nation to a new generation of Robber Barons. Earlier “Robber Barons” in the 1880's-1920's harnessed democracy and trampled farmers and workers into the dustbowl of the Great Depression. De-regulated, the Beast was loose again. Democracy again became a tool for those with money and the influence. We acquired the best politicians money could buy. After “Glasnost”, a Peace Dividend should have followed.

Instead, in the vacuum, the “Military Industrial complex seized the opportunity, using up old weapons and making new hi-tech weaponry. In the unbalance of power, surprise Blitzkrieg style attacks tested the waters with the American people and the international community. Granada largely went unchallenged, then Panama, then “Desert Storm” and the “Masters of War” were back in business. Dismantling the farm programs instead of fixing them, Agri-biz jumped back in the tractor seats and small farmers began looking for jobs in town. Union busting and GATT created economic disruption for all but the wealthy. From farm crisis to moral crisis, choking on “Yellow Ribbons”, America acquiesced to the Clinton years of faked environmentalism and pseudo progressive politics to do BUSINESS AS USUAL. Playing with us like a cat plays with a mouse, the Beast has bats us back and forth. From Clinton to W and Cheney, saddling Obama with a GOP determined to leave him with a failed presidency, compromised by Hillary the Hawk as Sec. of State, reviving the cold war, doing the bidding of Israel in the Mid-East... jump to 2016. We arrive, many of us in shock, at Donald Trump. If there ever were times to ponder how Jesus felt when, nailed to the cross, crying out “Father, why hast Thou forsaken me?” these are such times.

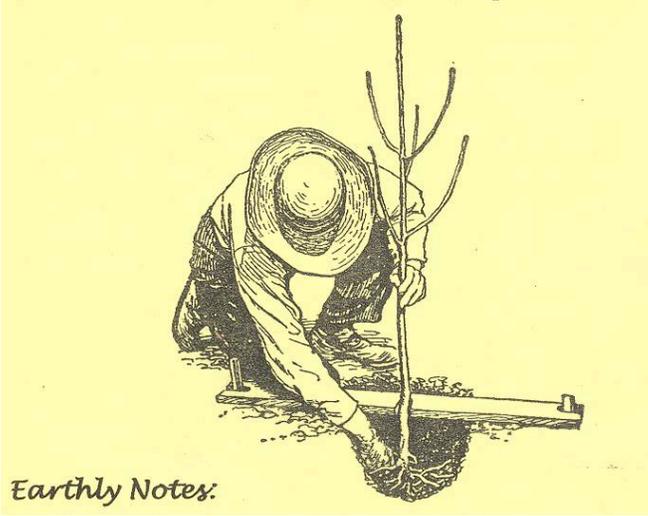
Continuously manufactured and re-manufactured religions serve political and economic interests. Serving the Beast in the name of “Christianity” has given Christianity a bad name. Nationalism and “Constitutionalism” have joined “Free Market” in the themes steering America today. The Creator did not CHOOSE one people over another, or sanctify killing or swindling God's other children. In this day we witness a battle for the whole of humanity and Creation. As we witness what may be one of the final stages of this battle, (waged in court rooms today by the Generals of Finance and War against voices of conscience and the care of Mother Nature), let's remember that the Constitution was written by 21 to 25 yr old Brit's 250 years ago. They were not Supreme beings who wrote the next “Old Testament” for the American Chosen People...and they knew it! It was their first attempt. They left it up to future generations of EDUCATED people to discern their intent, and with conscience adjust it. It is our challenge, GUIDED BY love, a sense of fairness and justice, to protect and heal this American experiment, to keep it safe from racism, class-ism, sexism, religious extremism, and other sorts of malevolence. We need to seek global cooperation in ending unsustainable consumerism, military AND economic warfare, and to protect Earth and Seas...

Technology and burgeoning populations have brought Earth and its inhabitants to a “critical mass”. LOVING GOD involves LOVING GOD'S CREATION, and treating all Creation with **LOVE and respect**. It is a distorted view of Christianity that puts a dishonest ego-driven billionaire in an office with such power. “Even as you do to the LEAST of these, you do unto me.”

Want some GREAT MUSIC, GOOD COMPANY, and GOOD FOOD? See you in the Big Room!

Love and peace,
Maintenance and Repair

P.S. If we keep America beautiful, and get people smiling at each other, America **WILL BE GREAT AGAIN!** And the whole world will breathe a sigh of relief! BE HAPPY, SHINE YOUR LIGHTS!



Earthly Notes:

Thank you

- To everyone who helps to keep folk forum going with their time or donations. There have been many challenges over the years, and as many now as ever. An older building, and older bodies make the challenges great. Economics and technologies have not always been friendly to this small town and business. Commercialism and industrialization constantly change the landscape around us and in our cities and towns. The market, many times lacking conscience, replaces culture and the past with a “Big Box/Corporate” culture and teases us into selling ourselves and our communities for newer, cheaper, and MORE. OUR TURF is the low-tech, people to people communication and production, where human beings can exercise conscience and creativeness. Our core of volunteers and donors have sacrificed time, gas money, and donations because they understand the value of the art and camaraderie that happens in this place as artists create music, people make food together, and eat food together, while getting to know each other. We owe a debt of gratitude to all of you who help.
- We will miss Lynn Richter, (Mr. Lynn). He passed on this summer after a long battle with cancer. Lynn documented many of our gatherings with his camera and occasionally jumped in to help where needed. He was also a great aid in scouting out potential shows and regularly assisted in evaluating requests to play at Oak Center. We will miss his presence and are thankful for the continuing presence of Lynn DeVault (Mrs. Lynn), his life long partner who shared(s) his love of music and a commitment to keeping live music alive. Our thoughts are with Lynn, Sierra, and Austin as they cope with this void in their lives.

Building needs/Volunteers/SOLAR

PROJECT — We head into fall and enter winter this year without a furnace. The 20 yr. old wood boiler we have been using as the main heat source outlived its predicted lifespan and gave up near the end of last winter. We lack funds to replace it. There are a few other issues we face as well...a few increasing leaks in the roof, an obsolete computer, and printer that, according to repair people, can't be repaired, and the remaining balance on the solar mortgage. Any help facing these financial challenges will help us keep going and take some of the pressure off. It's a continuing battle, aye? Like Sisyphus? Without help, it is a difficult act to continue all these fine programs. Without the generosity of others it can't be sustained. Please consider donating money and/or time to help sustain folk forum. Paying off the solar mortgage, replacing the wood boiler, leaking roofs, LOTS of weatherization, ad infinitum... are the

reasons for the whimpering and begging. It is a challenge worth doing! **IF you would** like to make a donation, checks can be made out to folk forum and mailed in or dropped off.

***Mailing List:** If you would like newsletters mailed, please make a donation to cover costs, and fill out the form on the insert in this newsletter. If you donated recently and didn't receive mailings, let us know and we will lick stamps and send them to you. If you want to be on our e-mail list and would like periodic updates and press releases, please send an e-mail request. If you have computer and press release skills and want to help, SIGN UP! Our apologies for current ineptness!!! Thank you Doug for helping us keep the website updated. You can always check there for the music schedule, ticket purchasing instructions, and admission prices for shows. Thank you Kathy for putting this text into form to print.

Concerts: \$15 in advance/ \$18 at the door

Inquire if you are low income

Kids freewill donation for shows not sold out.

THE MENU

THE DEAD PIGEONS

Saturday, Oct. 6th, 8PM

Foot stomping barroom bluegrass

The Dead Pigeons have come to be known for their infectious, foot stomping sound - an original mix of upbeat barroom bluegrass and lyrically driven ballads. One day they excel at corralling a rowdy festival crowd and the next they are captivating a discerning theater audience. Born on the West Bank of Minneapolis, The Dead Pigeons have been touring, picking, and perfecting their sound for the past 6 years. Constantly evolving, The Pigeons remain steady at the core - a group of dedicated homegrown musicians with a unique brand that has captivated fans throughout the country. Their debut album, “Even if I Knew,” has been a great success, going on its third pressing. A great group to open the fall music season!

CHRIS KOZA

Saturday, Oct. 13th, 8PM

Americana/ Folk

Chris Koza is a singer-songwriter living and working in Minneapolis. Born in rain-soaked Portland, Oregon, he discovered Minnesota by way of Northfield; earning degrees in Studio Art and Philosophy while at St. Olaf College. Since then, Koza has focused on music: writing, recording and self-releasing over a dozen albums both solo and with his band Rogue Valley. His sound is firmly rooted in Americana music with influences drawing from folk, acoustic, classic rock, experimental electroinc-pop and traditional. His song The Wolves and the Ravens was featured in Ben Stiller's film The Secret Life of Walter Mitty and Koza composed/produced the soundtrack to the 2014 documentary Beyond the Divide.

BOILED IN LEAD

Saturday, Oct 20th, 8PM

Celtic music infused with punk-rock attitude

Since 1983, BiL have been innovators in bridging traditional music from many cultures with the sound and attitude of a rock band. A Boiled In Lead concert is a combination of darkly-tinged folk ballads and originals alongside instrumental dance music from Ireland and elsewhere. Enthusiastic, powerful, technically brilliant, playing a wealth of instruments with extreme dynamics, Boiled In Lead routinely demolishes genres with its highly-identifiable sound. An Onion A&E quote describes the band's approach well: "...the prime purveyor of a style of Celtic music infused with punk-rock attitude, developing over the years with a hard-driving swirl that

combined Irish folk with heavy rock and elements of styles from all over the world...even without amplification, Boiled In Lead can summon up furious punk-folk energy.”

MONROE CROSSING

Saturday, Oct 27th, 8PM

Classic Bluegrass, Bluegrass Gospel

Named in honor of Bill Monroe, Monroe Crossing dazzles audiences with an electrifying blend of classic bluegrass, bluegrass gospel, and heartfelt originals. Their airtight harmonies, razor sharp arrangements, and on-stage rapport make them audience favorites across the United States and Canada. Since the year 2000, Monroe Crossing has released 13 CDs and a live concert DVD and has made more than 1500 concert appearances throughout the United States, Canada and Europe. In 2007, they were selected as an Official Showcase Band at the International Bluegrass Music Association’s World of Bluegrass Convention in Nashville, and later that year, they were inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame. Buy tickets early!

MACHINERY HILL

Saturday, Nov. 3rd, 8PM

Americana with Rock, Ska, Blues, Rockabilly, Irish & Irony

This Minneapolis-based band takes their name from the Minnesota State Fair’s large display of farm equipment. Their original style mixes Americana with Rock, Ska, Blues, Rockabilly, Irish and touches of irony. Machinery Hill features a variety of songwriters who delve into topics from building combines to the end of the world, all solidly delivered with an upbeat attitude and 3-part harmonies. If you look up “diverse” in the dictionary, it says “see Machinery Hill.” Winner of 2 Minnesota Awards and featured in episode #226 of the Twin Cities Public TV series MN Original, the band has been active since 1985! OK. Maybe not as active as 1985, but still remarkably spry!

THE HIGH 48’s

Saturday, Nov 10th, 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.” The band takes its name from railroad slang for the boxcars originally used to transport troops on the front lines in WWI that could carry 40 soldiers or 8 horses, and were later used in the US on fast-moving “hot shot” freight trains by train hoppers looking for work during the Great Depression.

They return to Oak Center for an entertaining, high-energy show.

CHUCK SUCHY

Saturday, Nov 17th, 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.

BECKY KAPELL & THE FAT 6

Saturday, Nov 24th, 8PM

Country/ Americana

Raised in small town Minnesota, Becky moved to Portland Oregon on a whim as a young adult and began singing back-up vocals in various bands, eventually fronting her own country cover band. Along came a husband, two kids and a move back to Minnesota. “I worked full-time, raised my kids and basically forgot about music until my son started playing guitar as a teenager. After my divorce I found myself with a little more time on my hands so I picked up one of my sons guitars and began teaching myself to play for fun.” She knew only a few chords, which she played repeatedly in different combinations and rhythms until much to her surprise, melodies began to emerge and then somewhat magically, lyrics attached themselves to the melodies. She eventually met and started playing with local guitar stalwart Paul Bergen and her song writing morphed from the folksier sound of her first record to a more guitar-driven country sound. She says, “I love the earnestness of the words and the deceptively simple melodies and the songs I’m writing now reflect that love. Plus I’m a sucker for the kick-ass guitar playing on so many of those old records and it’s fun to be able to hear Paul add that on my own songs.” Her second record *That Certain Ache* was recorded and produced by Bergen. It features his signature guitar work as well as guitar and drums by Erik Koskinen, who mixed the record. She plays with her band The Fat 6 across the Midwest.

ERIK KOSKINEN

Saturday, Dec 1st, 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.

CORPSE REVIVER

Saturday, Dec 8th, 8PM

Americana/ Folk

Maybe you need the Corpse Reviver classic cocktail, but it’s most likely you need a shot of the group that plays music from the classic Harry Smith Anthology of Folk Music. It’s especially noteworthy that today’s edition of Corpse Reviver includes: Mikkel Beckmen on percussion, Jillian Rae on fiddle and vocals and Adam Kiesling on guitar, banjo and vocals. We’re usually down at the 331 Club on the first and third Sundays of the month, but are making a special appearance in the big room at Oak Center.

T BRUCE BOWERS AND YAZMIN

Saturday Dec 15th, 8PM

Folk/ Americana/ Rock

Yazmin has lived a life of music from day one, having grown up with musician parents, T. Bruce Bowers and Hope McLeod. Her latest album *The Nautilus* was recorded in Havana, Cuba with producers she met while living and studying music there. Whether pounding out Cuban tumbaos or singing a soft, heart-wrenching ballad, Yazmin’s music comes straight from the soul. Her newest album *The Nautilus* highlights her very unique Folk-Rock sound with a mix of Latin influences. **T Bruce** was born in San Antonio Texas, and has been playing professionally since 1968. He has written over 20 film and television scores. Five of his scores have won awards, including “Beneath the North Atlantic,” which was nominated for an Emmy. Bruce has performed with well-known musicians of many different styles, including the main stage at the Winnipeg Folk Festival with Queen Ida. He has done great shows with Rad Lorkovic at Oak Center the past three seasons.

CHARLIE PARR ** TWO SHOWS! ** Ticket Price \$18 Advance

***Saturday Evening, Dec 22nd, 8PM - Show #1**

****Sunday Matinee, Dec 23rd, 3PM – Show #2**

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!

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 CALENDAR IN BRIEF Fall/ Winter 2018

October

- 6th, Sat. 8PM The Dead Pigeons
- 13th, Sat. 8PM Chris Koza
- 20th, Sat. 8PM Boiled in Lead
- 27th, Sat. 8PM Monroe Crossing

November

- 3rd, Sat. 8PM Machinery Hill
- 10th, Sat. 8PM The High 48s
- 17th, Sat. 8PM Chuck Suchy
- 24th, Sat. 8PM Becky Kapell & The Fat 6

December

- 1st, Sat. 8PM Erik Koskinen
- 8th, Sat. 8PM Corpse Reviver
- 15th, Sat. 8PM T Bruce Bowers and Yazmin
- 22nd, Sat. 8PM Charlie Parr: \$18 in advance, reference Show 1
- 23rd, Sun. 3PM Charlie Parr: \$18 in advance, reference Show 2

folk forum

c/o Oak Center General Store

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