

# folk forum

January 2006

Hello friends,

The new year is here. I have hopes that this is THE year that the light will shine and all the world will leave the dark, evil energy behind; snuff it out like the wasted cigarette butt that it is. The sky is grey, I turn on the computer and check out the e-mails to see if there are any fun, inspiring, uplifting messages from friends and get hit with a zillion ads for rolex watch imitations, Viagra, patches to enlarge parts of your anatomy, investment opportunities...I think the smart investor would buy stock in the clothing industry to accommodate the expansion that is promised to occur if the guys all start using this stuff. Oh man...what a crazy and mixed up world we are swimming around in. At times it seems like the beaches in paradise, and sometimes it feels like someone threw all the garbage in and flushed us...bobbing and going 'round and 'round. But this is a new year after all, and right now is the beginning of the rest of our lives. Where are we going to end up...and more important...what kind of travelers will we be on this journey? We have many companions. The road may get rough, but what is important is how we get wherever we end up...and how we treat each other along the way.

A friend's grandma used to tell him in her later years, "Michael, in the end it's not what that's important...it's who." I heard a story once about a family out on the porch in the front yard during a gathering, and mom hollers at the boys, "quit playin' so rough, you're wreckin' the grass." Dad says, "it's O.K. mom, we're raisin' boys, not grass." What is this journey thru life all about after all? Is it about the civilizations we build and the piles of stuff we accumulate, or is it about the poetry we write and the smiles we feel deep down inside and share with others? I'm learning to stop my "important stuff that I got-to-get-done-right-now" and squat down to look my kids right in the eyes...to listen...and watch their expressions and emotions. Being up so high, you miss so much and by the time they get tall enough to look you in the eyes, they can be strangers.

In the world we live in someone has stolen our quiet places and the time we need to communicate with each other. They've replaced it with a treadmill that trickles food and goodies to us while turning the gears of a war machine and industrial beast that depletes our resources and our life energy while despoiling the land, air, and water. It's time we little hamsters chewed a hole in the cage and took care of our own food needs.

As we take up this new year, as the days turn toward the light, and the winter turns to spring, let us gather all the power within us, and gather friends around to herald the new time coming. Love is going to rule. Venus is in power now. It is that beautiful star that stands all alone in the southern sky in the early evening, so quietly serene and so strong, gradually joined by a million more bright shining stars. Mars is in recession. Venus reminds me of that star the wise men followed in search of the Christ. Jesus was the prophet of LOVE after all...not affiliated with war mongering PROFITeers who chant his name and pass judgement on those who see love in a little different way, spy on them, pull the safety net away and push the weak or unFORTUNE-ate into free-fall by dismantling infrastructures put into place by our loving grandparents, wrecking

an economy built by our fore-mothers and fore-fathers with sweat and toil and made fair by putting limitations on Attila the Hun-style conquest by the carnivorous greedy and their sheriffs of Nottingham in this corporate feudal system. (WHEW!! that was a long winded mouthful!) Let's see if by the end of 2006 we can see Bush/Cheney/Rummy/and Company go to jail, (do not pass Go, do not collect \$200), pay reparations for the damage they've done, bring the climate back into balance and get this beautiful little planet spinnin' in the right direction again. So gather all your Hobbit and Elf friends, let's get that ring to the crack of doom and chuck it in! Oh...and Jesus...if you hear us now...could you toss the money changers out again? We could sure use the help!

Enjoy the great music coming up everyone...check out the discussions and pot-lucks. Lets have fun on this journey and work some magic!

Love and Peace,  
Maintenance and Repair



**An Appeal;** It has been a blessing to be a part of this great community and to see the hard work and efforts of so many dedicated people contribute to this glorious happening that is folk forum. Many have given time and many have given money. It's overwhelming to see how much people deeply care about and love these gatherings and musical happenings. It is a worthy cause and needs continuous support. There are times when there are gaps, however, and it can be too much to take care of on this end. Please use your creative thoughts, spare time and resources to help keep those gaps to a minimum. We could use many different talents and skills and can always put financial support toward many of the incurred costs, unfinished building improvement projects, printing and mailing costs, and the myriad of other costs connected with keeping a great old place like this going..

It would be great to find 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 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!\*\***

In February we will be needing help in greenhouses and on the organic farm that has been the backbone of this place. Volunteers, or people who would like to do regular work in trade for share boxes of organic produce are welcome. If you are interested in a live-in farm apprenticeship or a catholic worker style farm relationship, please, please, let Steven know soon. Or if you know someone who might be a good candidate for this invigorating, challenging lifestyle, let them know.

#### *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, dusted off the the janitor, and thrust us forward. It's been a great year so far – 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 and Lynn, Ann, Pam, Amy, Kim, Kerry, Norm and Lorie, Norrie, Sandy & Tom, Kevin, Richard, Deah, the whole Mennonite Fellowship—especially Kurt and Betty for their continuing trips out to help in the store and to clean and oil floors, to Megan, to Kathi, to Siri for your help, inspiration and company, and to Joe & Rebecca for your patience and for filling in the gaps 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). Special thanks to Lawrence, Signe, Carol, Michael and everyone who donated so generously helping to keep us afloat. Last, but not least, I want to thank Jacob who is now living here and without any need to coax takes on many of the daily winter tasks like feeding fires and hungry animals. Your quiet presence and warm grin are welcome company in an Oak Center winter. 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 is dedicated to bringing peaceful non-violent conflict resolution to bear on many of our most critical national and international issues. They are doing great work and need your support. Thanks for all you're doing up there folks and special thanks to you Phil. For more info call (651)989-5151
- ◆ The Rochester Diversity Council and our local YMCA's and YWCA's are doing some great work building community. It's important to do the work of breaking down barriers and building relationships now more than ever. Please support them. Actualize your own good intentions and get over to the neighbors to introduce yourself, especially those who are new to this land. Invite them to dinner. Learn a new language or two.
- ◆ The SE Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers (SEMNAPE.com) invites you to it's regular meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thur. of each month at the govt. center at 7:00 pm. Contact SEMNAPE for more info. Thanks Elaine and Joe, Darlene, James, Rich, Hank, Bob and Joy, Sr. Irea, and all the other folks who keep this work alive.
- ◆ Thanks MPR for all the great programming you do. Special thanks to Mike Pengra, Dale and Jim Ed on the morning show for helping us get the word out about all the great music that happens here and elsewhere around the state. Thanks to Ellen Stanley of KFAI and the Womenfolk Show on Sunday afternoon for her constant support. Thanks to Blue Monday, Inside Bluegrass and all the other great publications who report on music events and keep the music scene alive and well.
- ◆ 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](mailto: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. Check out The Brickyard for their open stage on Wed. night. Meghan is doing a great job keeping that scene organized and lively.
- ◆ Hey! All you lost poets! We are looking for poets to share and discuss each other's poetry. We will workshop at Oak Center General Store. Eventually we hope to move on to public readings, poetry raids etc. etc. There will be a sign up contact sheet at all the concerts or you can contact Norm at 507-529-0048 or via e-mail at [stormn11@charter.net](mailto:stormn11@charter.net).

- ◆ A note from Suzie: Happy New Year folk forum supporters! I miss the folk forum community! I miss the music, the dancing and talking with all of you! I miss the amazing and unbelievably fantastic sound and magical vibe of the hall above the store. You make Oak center live on...keep on supporting the music and mission if the spirit moves you. Stop by Hope's Harvest Community Foods at 220 E. Chestnut in Lake City...I'm there all the time. May 2006 be fantastic for you and yours. Love and peace, Susan Draves (We miss you too Suzie!)
- ◆ The Oak Center Store needs your help to continue operating as well. I hope you will support us both. Please check out the many great organic and fair trade selections of food and other useful items. Save some of your purchasing needs for concert days and ensure we will be here in time to come. Thanks.
- ◆ Bob Ciernia sends us e-mails once in a while. A recent one was particularly encouraging. It seems that though the media and our political leaders would like to have us believe that the world is descending into war and chaos, that studies show the opposite. Armed conflict and political violence outside of those areas where the US is restoring or implementing democracy...has actually decreased, and the UN peace-building operations had a two-thirds success rate. They were also surprisingly cost effective. In fact, the United Nations spends less running 17 peace operations around the world for an entire year than the U.S. spends in a single month in Iraq. For more on this see Andrew Mack's op-ed piece in the Washington Post, Wed. Dec. 28, 2005.
- ◆ Thanks to Rick and Robbi out on Standing Rock Res for your regular checking up on me and all the humor and encouragement. The kids and I are coming out there for the next rodeo...let us know when it comes around.
- ◆ Red Wing Vets for Peace, the Red Wing Peace Alliance, and the River Alliance are all doing great work. They are putting together some excellent events, and maintaining 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](mailto: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!!

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***LOTS of new music and the good ol' stuff, too ...Jumpstart the new season activities at Folk Forum***

***Joe and Vicki Price***

***Saturday, January 21, 8PM***

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

***Foot-Stompin' Good Time Blues***

Joe Price has been tearing it up down in Iowa and beyond for over thirty years. He is the Gold Standard of the Blues according to anyone who is in touch with the Southeastern Iowa roots music scene that has spawned General Store regulars like Greg Brown, Bo Ramsey, Radoslav Lorkovic, Dave Moore, and Cam Waters. Joe is the guy they all speak of in hushed tones. Greg Brown calls him "The Buddha." 'Nuff said. Joe uses more energy during one performance than the city of Rochester uses in a weekend, and last time he was here he nearly stomped our stage into kindling. He is a virtual one-man blues band, and when joined by wife Vicki, a fine blues singer and guitarist in her own right it's an awesome experience. Don't miss this legendary one-of-a-kind event.

***Leslie Ball with Dean Magraw, and Anthony Cox***

***Friday, January 27, 8PM***

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

***Cabaret***

Leslie Ball is a proud native of Duluth, Minnesota and currently resides in Minneapolis where she works as a writer, performer, director and producer. She is founder/curator of "BALLS", a long-running weekly midnight cabaret for experimental work held at the Southern Theater. She has performed solo on major stages across the country including The Guthrie Theater, the Walker Art Center, Intermediary Arts, The Dakota, and Chautauqua. Her first solo recording "Loring Park" received critical raves and earned her the 1995 Minnesota Music Academy Award for Female Songwriter of the year. Leslie has a voice as smooth as Billie Holiday and is backed by musicians extraordinaire Dean Magraw on guitar and Anthony Cox on bass.

***Curtis and Loretta***

***Saturday, February 4, 8PM***

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

***Folk***

Twin Cities acoustic folk mainstays Curtis & Loretta have been acclaimed across the country for their exquisite harmonies, incisive songwriting, and skill on an array of stringed instruments, including Celtic harp, mandocello, mandolin, guitar, clawhammer banjo, and ukulele. They were named "Best Acoustic Performers of the Twin Cities" for 2002 by City Pages (Minneapolis/ St. Paul) which stated that their harmonies "represent one of the purest and most accessible pleasures in Celtic or Folk music." All this plus two warm and genuine personalities equals one memorable evening.

***Paul Mayasich and the Benderheads***

***Saturday, February 11, 8PM***

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

***Electric Blues***



Electric slide guitarist Paul Mayasich and his quartet are so hot they can light our old woodstove without using matches. Twin Cities music writer Dick Houff calls Paul and the boys' music "Delta Blues meets Post-Modernism". We and most of the rest of the blues crowd call it some of the best homegrown blues in years. The editorial staff have claimed that these guys are a sure-fire remedy for Seasonal Affective Disorder, the only side effects of which are heavy perspiration and an uncontrollable urge to shove the furniture out of the way and dance with total strangers. Don't miss this guaranteed Winter Warmer!

**Prudence Johnson with Dan Chouinard**  
**Sunday, February 12, 3PM**  
**\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation**  
**Jazz vocals and piano**

Steven needed to find something steamy and romantic to celebrate Valentine's Day (yes, we know it's really Tuesday, but humor us), and darned if he didn't find the best possible combination. Pulse Magazine calls Prudence a "national treasure," and we're inclined to agree. Whether jazz, country, pop, folk or Broadway, Prudence Johnson has spent more than 25 years masterfully giving each song its due. Bring a date, and after the show pick up a copy of her latest CD "Moon Country," an exquisite collection of songs by iconic American composer Hoagy Carmichael. Master accompanist Dan Chouinard joins Prudence on piano and accordion. If you've never seen her, it's about time you did, and if you have, then you know better than to miss her in this intimate setting.

**Tina and Lena**  
**Saturday, February 18, 8PM**  
**\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation**  
**Musical Comedy**

TADAAA!!!! Let Tina & Lena sweep you into a world of uncontrollable laughter and FUN! These two loony ladies from Minnesota go full blast in high gear from start to finish. Their outlandish musical comedy routine is a lot like life, from the wild and crazy moments to the tender time-outs. Tina has promised a special icing on the Valentine cake...or was that pie? Come on out, and let the laughter be with you!

**Mark Halvorson**  
**Saturday, February 25, 4:30PM**  
**Fixing Broken Elections: Film and Discussion**

Excerpts from the documentary "Invisible Ballots: A Temptation for Electronic Vote Fraud" will be shown. A representative from Citizens for Electric Integrity-MN (CEI) will also provide comments and lead a discussion. CEI is a grassroots, non-partisan statewide group that advocates for fair and accurate elections.

([www.electionintegritymn.org](http://www.electionintegritymn.org))

"Invisible Ballots' shakes the foundation of any thinking American who is dedicated to the perpetuation of the 200 year-old experiment we call democracy. It is a must watch! "Warren Slocum, registrar of voters, San Mateo County, CA.

**6 PM Potluck. Bring some goodies, plates and utensils.**

**Eight Head**  
**Saturday, February 25, 8PM**  
**\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation**  
**World Beat Improvisation Beyond Category**

This foursome made up of guitarist Dean Magraw, drummers and percussionists Marc Anderson and J.T. Bates, and bassist Jim Anton will take us on a polyrhythmic journey to all corners of the musical universe. Trying to describe the music is like trying to take a photograph of a soul. Better to tell you what it isn't: it isn't in any particular genre, it isn't easily translated into English, and it isn't like anything else you're likely to hear this year. Join us for this rare treat. If you can come up with a better description, you can write this blurb the next time they visit us and receive credit for describing the indescribable.

**Bill Staines**  
**Sunday, February 26, 2PM**  
**\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation**  
**Folk Singer/Songwriter**

As dependable as the rhythm of the seasons, Bill Staines has been a mainstay of the Oak Center folk scene. For the two or three of you not familiar with Bill, he has been a staple of the folk music menu thirty five years, and for good reason. His material has been sung and recorded by a Who's Who of folk music. His well-crafted songs and gentle wit and humor are guaranteed to pull you in and compel you to sing along. Hey folks, it's a Sunday afternoon! No better way to spend this time than in a peaceful gathering with friends.

**Peak Oil, Population Crunch & You: with Norm Erickson**  
**Saturday, March 4, 4PM**

It is pretty certain that the energy orgy the planet has been on for the last hundred years is about to wind down. Ignored by the media it is becoming omnipresent in public consciousness. Net: we are in big trouble and in denial. Modern industrial/financial/agricultural systems are dependent on cheap energy. When petroleum goes into decline, and it already has, everything dependent on it will also go into decline or collapse. Decline is likely to become very painfully problematic within this decade. Norm Erickson is one of the regions students and expert on this critical problem. Thirty-two years with IBM, an educator, a researcher, a practitioner and an activist. He has put together an impressive program and help direct individuals into ways we may participate in the rescue of our great planet earth and the species to which we belong.

**6 PM Potluck. Bring some goodies, plates and utensils.**

**Tangled Roots**  
**Saturday, March 4, 8PM**  
**\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation**  
**Bluegrass**

The members of Tangled Roots consist of some of the best known Bluegrass performers in the upper Midwest. They perform a broad spectrum of material ranging from Bluegrass Classics by Bill Monroe and The Stanley Brothers to more contemporary tunes of John Prine, Kevin Welch, Bruce Cockburn & Elvis Presley, all delivered in a most tasteful bluegrass style. The bands own mandolin player/fiddler, Chris Silver, contributes some extremely fine originals with Marty Marrone sharing lead vocals and guitar,

Doug Lohmann on bass and Barry St. Mane on banjo. They bring to the stage more than 100 years of combined experience. Tangled Roots is one of the most exciting bands to appear on the Minnesota Bluegrass scene in years.

**Peter Mayer**

**Sunday, March 5, 2PM**

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

**A Thinking Person's Singer/Songwriter/Guitarist**

Those of you who were in the standing-room-only audience last time Peter visited us will be happy to know that Peter's hands have recovered and he is once again able to accompany himself with his singular "rhythm-lyric" guitar style. You also might remember that his soulful singing/whimsically profound original songs stood sturdily on their own and that his humor and personality alternately charmed us and had us on the floor laughing. You weren't here? Oh. Well, lucky for you, here comes another chance. A likely sellout, so call ahead.

**Miles Johnston Quartet**

**Saturday, March 11, 8PM**

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

**Jazz**

What better first name for a jazz musician than Miles! When anyone in the Rochester area needs the best drummer around for a gig or project, one guy's name seems to be programmed into everyone's speed dial—Miles Johnston! He has been playing with a wide variety of the finest in regional talent for twenty or so years (Wigglefoot, Two O'Clock Jump) but has recently chosen to focus on his *One True Love*, the vocal standards book. You see, Miles is not only a fine drummer but a top shelf jazz vocalist in the understated Nat King Cole/Chet Baker vein. Tonight's quartet will also include Larry Price on piano, David Townsend on tenor sax and clarinet, and Michael Sloane on upright bass. Convinced? If not, check this out: Miles is also a very good jazz trumpeter, so for your special treat for the evening, we are going to make him take it out. Come help us welcome a new (at least to us) performer to our stage.

**Barra**

**Saturday, March 18, 8PM**

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

**Traditional Irish Music**

Saint Patrick's weekend mandates a traditional Irish outfit just as Valentine's did the romantic jazz, so we're just following orders. Barra plays Irish and Scottish dance music with some Cape Breton and Appalachian tunes thrown in for good measure. The band features Amy Shaw (Irish flute), Karie Oberg (vocals), John McCormick (accordion/vocals), Deborah Martin (fiddle) and Paul Garding (guitar/octave mandolin/vocals). This is a jig ... er, gig you won't want to miss, so reel in some friends and waltz on out for a stout evening of something good for what ails you. Either yer with us, or yer a Guinness!

**Mastadons**

**Sunday March 19, 2PM**

**Square Dance**

It has been years since we have done a square dance at the store. It's always a great time, & our good neighbor Rebecca Johnston says "It's about time". Lee Guthrie, the fiddler, writes, "The Mastadons formed as a band in the Neogene period of the Cenozoic Era. They began playing for dances at the Maiden Rock school house back in 1991 have played there, and at other dances and festivals around the upper Midwest. They play old-time Southern dance tunes". Corey Mahan is the caller, Lee Guthrie on fiddle, Dave Furmiss on guitar, and Eric Lind on banjo. These veterans of the Monday Night Square Dance Collective and the regional square dance scene are guaranteeing we're all going to have fun! **Get your tickets early; we've got to limit admission on this one.**

**Cam Waters**

**Saturday, March 25, 8PM**

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

**Original and traditional blues and Americana**

Cam is no stranger to the General Store stage or to anyone who's been a regular listener of MPR's Morning Show over the last twelve years. A guitarist's guitarist, Waters developed his style around good ideas and tone rather than hot licks, a combination that has not gone unnoticed by Those Who Know: Dakota Dave Hull recently called him "the best slide guitarist in the state". Music writers across the country and in Europe consistently commend his literate, tradition-based songwriting and his understated but expressive singing. He also has interesting takes on some pretty obscure blues and folk gems, and he's funny as hell. This one sold out last year, so, call ahead.

**Boiled In Lead**

**Saturday, April 1, 8PM**

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

**Rockin' Celtic-Influenced World Beat**

Onion Magazine says that this Minneapolis five some is "...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. ... one of the best bands Minnesota's ever produced." Even when BIL plays all-acoustic (which they'll do at the General Store), this band will still summon up furious energy.

**Bill Geezy and the Promise Breakers**

**Saturday, April 8, 8PM**

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

**Roots-Influenced Singer/Songwriter with band**

Great songs, virtuoso musicianship and beautifully blended harmony vocals: Bill Geezy and the Promise Breakers is the real deal! Bill Geezy, backed by a stellar group of musicians (Clint Hoover, Craig Gallas, and David Bille) perform Bill's critically acclaimed original works. Bill's style of songwriting is fashioned around the age-old premise: Moving stories and great melodies touch your heart and stay on your mind. Bill Geezy and the Promise Breakers perform original songs, a handful of classic covers, and an occasional spontaneous song about whatever pops into Bill's head. Leaving no time to think, Bill's handmade "on the

spot" songs keep the band on its toes and are guaranteed to delight their audience. You will laugh and you may cry; occasionally you'll scratch your head, and ask, "Did he really say that?" Trust yourself--he probably did.

***Backwater Revue: Comedy, Spoken Poetry, and Relevant Social Justice Commentary in Musical form***

***Sunday, April 9, 2PM***

Award winning poet, Timothy Young, reads spare, lucid poems that hunger for justice, and dive into the muck of everyday life; to surface with the chewy roots of meaning. He is accompanied with some irristable guitar and vocal harmony by Yata who incorporates strains of jazz, rock, gospel, country, reggae, and blues into his strikingly original compositions. Yata has performed on a Prairie Home Companion and was a member of the trio, Artisan Dreams, which received Minnesota Music Association's Award "Best Folk Band". Rounding out the revue is singer/songwriter, Bryce Black, whose songs range from wickedly witty satire and whimsical odes, to heartfelt prayers for peace. Please join us on this day as we celebrate Jesus throwing the moneychangers out of the temple.

***Betsy Barnum***

***Sunday, April 9, 4:30 PM***

***Personhood is for people: Corporations, Democracy, and Our Sustainable Future***

The Supreme Court granted corporations the status of legal person in 1886 enabling them to claim individual rights and protections guaranteed to persons in the Constitution and Bill of Rights. While human beings have had to struggle to have to keep these rights, corporations have used their power to dominate governing decisions about society, politics, economics and culture. This workshop provides a history of this domination and contrasts it with social movements and peoples' struggles. It will draw on the wisdom and imagination of participants to envision the restoration of decision making authority to "we the people".

Betsy Barnum is founder of the Great River Earth Institute, a non-profit doing values-based environmental education for adults in workplaces, communities of faith, and neighborhoods and works as a freelance environmental and political writer. A member of the Alliance for Democracy-Minnesota, the Woman's International League for Peace and Freedom and the Minnesota Bill of Rights Defense Committee, she has been doing public education about corporate rule for five years and is currently co-authoring a book on the topic due out in 2007.

***6 PM Potluck. Bring some goodies, plates and utensils.***

***Switchback***

***Saturday, April 22, 8PM***

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

***Acoustic Irish-Americana Duo***

Perhaps bluegrass that rocks seems like an oxymoron. But when Brian FitzGerald (guitar, mandolin, vocals) and Martin McCormack (bass, vocals) blend the two, the end product is as smooth as peanut butter and jelly. The glue that holds the two sounds together is the strong Celtic sound that runs throughout the course of Switchback's music. They have six albums to their credit and have shared the stage with the likes of Kansas, Leon Russell and Willie Porter.

Their largest following is in the Illinois and Iowa area, where the two hail from, but the secret is getting out.

***Jumbo Ya-Ya***

***Sunday, April 23, 2PM***

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

***Cajun/Zydeco Swamp Music***

Jumbo Ya Ya means Big Fun! Accordionmeister Dan "Daddy Squeeze" Newton and his worthy crew play the music that was born and raised in and around the Mississippi River and Delta. The idea behind the band's repertoire is to play the kind of music one might have heard at a high school prom in Louisiana or Mississippi in the early 60's: groove-heavy covers of such legends as Clifton Chenier, Muddy Waters, Cookie and the Cupcakes, Howlin' Wolf, Clarence "Bon Ton" Garlow, Boozoo Chavis, and Professor Longhair, to name but a few. Bring your dancing shoes and laissez les bon temps rouler!

***Karen Savoca and Pete Heitzman***

***Friday, April 28, 8PM***

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

***BluesRockFolkPopSoulJazz***

Karen Savoca is an extraordinary singer, a fine song writer and a soulful and engaging performer. Pete Heitzman is a versatile guitarist with a distinctive and personal style that is reminiscent of some of the greatest guitarists of the 60's and 70's. Since meeting on stage, Karen and Pete's performance style has included an elusive blend of blues, soul, rock, country, folk, world, pop, jazz, and everything in between. When you hear them you'll agree, they don't sound like anyone else. They have appeared on A Prairie Home Companion, Mountain Stage, The Today Show, and many of the finest festival stages across North America, and have several CDs to their credit as well as appearing on Greg Brown's most recent effort. We love these guys. You will too, it's a fact.

***Saturday, May 6***

***Surprise....maybe a b-day bash if we can muster it. (Dana, can you come? We'll hit 56-over the speed limit-together.peace bro. Inquire to see.***

***John Gorka***

***Saturday, May 13, 8PM***

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

***Folk-Influenced Singer/Songwriter***

Well, folks, we close our 2005-2006 Folk Forum series the same way we opened it: with one of our All-Time Audience Favorites. Native New Jerseyite John Gorka has been a big man on the New Folk music campus since releasing his first record (yes, it was an actual record ...) for Saint Paul's Red House Records in 1987, and has released seven other CDs since, all to rave reviews and ever-growing audiences. John has played every festival and folk club in the country worth mentioning, and has been called "folk music's finest voice." He also writes some of the finest lyrics and fills the spaces with some great stories and gut-splitting humor. Needless to say, we are delighted to have him back. We have extended our season a bit this year; plan to join us for this Grand Finale.

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 \$15REG. DOWN TO \$5 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. THROUGH THE MAIL: SEND A CHECK PAYABLE TO folk forum FOR THE CORRECT AMOUNT WITH A NOTE STATING THE CONCERT(S) YOU WISH TO ATTEND, HOW MANY AND HOW MUCH YOU ARE PAYING FOR EACH TICKET. WE WILL THEN WRITE YOUR NAME IN THE BOOK. HAVE EVERYONE IN YOUR PARTY CHECK IN UNDER YOUR NAME. WE DON'T SEND OUT TICKETS UNLESS THERE IS SOME SPECIAL NEED. ON YOUR CHECK IN THE MEMO PART, INDICATE THE NUMBER OF TICKETS AT WHAT PRICE YOU LL BE PAYING.IF A CONCERT IS SOLD OUT, PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR PHONE NUMBER IS ON YOUR CHECK SO WE CAN CALL YOU FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THIS SYSTEM WILL BE FAIR AND THAT YOU WILL BE CONTRIBUTING WHAT YOU RE ECONOMICALLY ABLE. NO ONE WILL BE TURNED AWAY BECAUSE OF LACK OF FUNDS—ONLY LACK OF SEATING.

MANY TIMES 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 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. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO STOP IN AND GET YOUR TICKETS AT THE STORE OR THE ROCH. FARMERS MARKET, WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU AND CHAT.

WHEN YOU GET HERE FOR A CONCERT, PLEASE CHECK IN WITH THE ADMISSION PERSON AT THE FRONT COUNTER OF THE STORE. IT IS GOOD TO ARRIVE A HALF-HOUR EARLY. 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 2006

**January**

21<sup>st</sup>, Sat., 8PM Joe and Vicki Price  
27<sup>th</sup>, Fri., 8PM Leslie Ball, Dean Magraw and Anthony Cox

**February**

4<sup>th</sup>, Sat., 8PM Curtis and Loretta  
11<sup>th</sup>, Sat., 8PM Paul Mayasich and the Benderheads  
12<sup>th</sup>, Sun, 3PM Prudence Johnson and Dan Chouinard  
18<sup>th</sup>, Sat., 8PM Tina and Lena  
25<sup>th</sup>, Sat., 8PM Eighthhead  
26<sup>th</sup>, Sun., 2PM Bill Staines

**March**

4<sup>th</sup>, Sat., 4PM Peak Oil, Population Crunch & You  
6PM Potluck  
8PM Tangled Roots  
5<sup>th</sup>, Sun., 2PM Peter Mayer  
11<sup>th</sup>, Sat., 8PM Miles Johnston Quartet  
18<sup>th</sup>, Sat., 8PM Barra  
19<sup>th</sup>, Sun., 2PM Mastadons  
25<sup>th</sup>, Fri., 8PM Cam Waters

folk forum

c/o Oak Center General Store  
Route 1, Box 52BB  
Lake City, MN 55041



**April**

1<sup>st</sup>, Sat., 8PM Boiled in Lead  
8<sup>th</sup>, Sat., 8PM Bill Geezy and the Promise Breakers  
9<sup>th</sup>, Sun., 2PM Backwater Revue  
4:30PM Betsy Barnum  
6PM Potluck  
22<sup>nd</sup>, Sat., 8PM Switchback  
23<sup>rd</sup>, Sun., 2PM Jumbo Ya-Ya  
28<sup>th</sup>, Fri., 8PM Karen Savoca and Pete Heitzman

**May**

6<sup>th</sup>, Sat., TBA  
13<sup>th</sup>, Sat, 8PM John Gorka

**Thank you for your friendships and participation. New ideas are welcome please contact us with your thoughts.** Watch for the Fall newsletter.

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

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





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