

Keepin' Tabs

The Newsletter of the Paint Creek Folklore Society

January 2023

Distributed via email to members and friends of PCFS.

A PDF file is attached to the message for those who wish to print it out.

Shirley Worth – Editor (pdfs.kt@gmail.com)

Next Meeting

Saturday, January 7, 2023

2:00 pm: Instrumental Jam led by Jeff D

3-4 pm: Circles

Autoharp Circle led by Pete H

Clawhammer Banjo Circle led by Larry M

Beginners Finger Style Guitar led by Kevin T

Native American Flute Circle led by Sharon H

Songwriting Circle led by Dave B

4:00 pm: Meet 'n' Greet

4:30 pm: Presentation

“High Times in Dry Times,” Lois Sprengnether Keel

5:30 pm: Break

6:00 pm: Song Swap

Fellowship Hall of University Presbyterian Church

<https://goo.gl/maps/sbcBeiD1xFoKagdq8>

Song Swap Theme - *In The Bleak Mid-Winter*

###

The President's Post

Here at the president's residence our two cats are fed and napping. They are taking long winters respites while Maggie paints. I'll soon be back to mandolin cross-picking exercises but first, let me remind **Board Members that there is a PCFS Board meeting scheduled via Zoom on Wednesday, January 4 at 7:00 pm.** A portion of our agenda will be devoted to how we schedule the gatherings and whether or not we would benefit from any changes. If members communicate their thoughts to board members that would be appreciated.

If snacks are an important aspect of the gatherings, please contact Sharon Hall and volunteer to be a host. You will be reimbursed up to \$75.00 for whatever tasty tidbits you buy so all you have to do is stop at the store on the way to the gathering. Let Sharon know which month you would like to host. She can also provide food suggestions so you know just what to get.

With that said, where's my mandolin? Hey, who told those cats they could sleep there?

Let 2023 begin!

Your President, Jack F.

###

Presentations are Back!

With the advent of the New Year presentations are back.

Our January presenter is professional Storyteller Lois Keel. “High Times in Dry Times” will bring to life the history of Prohibition in Oakland County. Did you know that Michigan provided 75% of the smuggled alcohol into the country? Sorry, due to church requirements, no alcohol is allowed, but feel free to bring your own mocktails — and your own mugs, please! The presentation begins at 4:30 PM.

###

Next Gathering – 2:00 pm, February 4

Doors of Fellowship Hall will open at 2:00 pm for Circles and Jams, followed by Presentation, Song Swap and light refreshments. Stay tuned!

###

Scientist drums up way of using bodhrán in surgical procedures

A French scientist living in Ireland has helped develop a groundbreaking method of measuring stress on human skin and organs by studying the bodhrán in an advance that could help surgeons treat everything from cuts to cancer.

Professor Michel Destrade, chair of applied mathematics at University of Galway, had been working with cling film in his experiments when his Dublin-born wife Joyce suggested he examine the quintessentially Irish drum. He immediately told his Harvard University counterpart to go out and buy a bodhrán and record the sound waves it creates, leading to a way to measure forces and stresses on the bodhrán skin — and potentially on body membranes. Surgeons, for example, could know how much skin is being stretched before they make an incision.

For more details, see <https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/2022/11/24/scientist-develops-method-of-measuring-stress-on-human-skin-and-organs-by-studying-the-bodhran/>

###

2022-23 Song Swap Themes	
January—In The Bleak Mid-Winter	February—The Devil Made Me Do It
March—Hark, 'Tis The Wind	April—Here Comes The Sun
May—Green, Green, It's Green They Say	June—Wedding Bells
July—For Patriots' Dreams	August—Summer's Nigh Over

###

Ridin' Drag

by Jack F.

I know my way around bomb cyclones. Long before the meteorological term became common language, my time on the farm and as a Teamster prepared me for high wind, deep shifting snow and low temperatures. So, when a friend phoned last night, asking what I was doing during the storm I replied, *Celebrating!*

How could he know that his question took me back to the time when I used to wield a short handled, three-pound sledge hammer? Why a three-pound sledge? Because anything heavier would be

clumsy and a long handle, unwieldy and because my hammer of choice was specifically chosen for de-icing frozen brakes under semi-trailers.

Hopefully, you have never found the need to crawl beneath an ice-encrusted axle and those tandem rear tires that drip petrochemical-laden salt solution into your eyes. Even if a creeper board was available, icy ruts and mounded snow wouldn't permit it to roll. At times, you may also find it necessary to do a bit of rolling. Whichever way you enter, either from behind the DOT bar at the rear of the trailer or in front of the tandems, you need to watch your head!

Even in daylight it will be hard to see, what with the drips dripping and snow swirling. Did you know that sub-zero temperatures combined with a fifty mile an hour wind can cause your eyes to tear up and freeze? And that makes it challenging to find the ice-bound brake shoes that you need to pound into submission with your hammer.

Be advised that this scenario rarely occurs in daylight. It is more apt to happen at four in the morning with an impatient driver in the cab, cussing your efforts as you lie in the frozen mush banging away with your sledge, bungling your flashlight and banging some more. When the driver activates air to the brake system, you need to bust off the ice that holds the brake shoes against the drum. With enough ice removed, the shoes will move and the wheels turn. You pray that when they do, that driver (who may or may not have fallen asleep in the warm cab) remembers that you are down under the truck.

Today I keep that three-pound sledge in the garden shed because it has formed new passions. And my friend on the phone understands why I celebrate the bomb cyclone...because rather than clasping the handle of a frigid hammer, my hand gladly embraces the neck of a 1924 Gibson mandolin and my fingers are warm.

###

Gig opportunity at All Seasons Rochester Hills

If you are interested in playing at All Seasons Rochester Hills Senior Living, please contact Mark, the Life Enrichment Director, at 248-299-0700.

###

Wanted: A Don Hays Native American Flute

Don was a long-time member of PCFS and a master at these flutes, both in playing them and making them. Since we lost him a few years ago, his flutes have become highly desirable and valuable. If you have one that is not getting played as much as it should and would be willing to sell it, I would be delighted to give it a good home. Please contact Andy M. Many thanks!

###

Events and Links

*If you know of events or links that may interest PCFS members – or if **you** are appearing somewhere, send information to pcfs.kt@gmail.com*

Member Showcase

Lois Sprengnether Keel Presents Live Storytelling Events

January 7, 4:30 pm: "High Times in Dry Times," Fellowship Hall, UPC

January 19, 6:00 pm: "High Times in Dry Times," Warren, 586-75175377

January 26, 12:00 noon: "High Times in Dry Times," Clarkston, \$12. 248-264-8231

Tara

January 3 & 17, 6-8 pm: The Irish Tavern, Madison Heights
January 15 & 29, 5-8 pm: O'Connor's Public House, Rochester
January 21, 5-9 pm: St. Andrew's Society Burns' Night Dinner, Kilgour Center, Troy \$65
<https://detroitscots.com/tickets/>

###

Jams, Concerts, Events, and more...

46th Ann Arbor Folk Festival Tickets

December 16, 10 am: Public ticket sale opens for the Ann Arbor FolkFest, featuring Ani DiFranco, Patty Griffin, St. Paul & The Broken Bones, and more. <https://theark.org/folk-festival>

OCTDS Dance Schedule

January 28, 7:30-11:00 pm: Special Birthday Contra and Square Dance, music by the Corn Potato String Band, calls by Ed Vincent and Lindsay McCall. Lesson for beginners at 7:00 pm. Masking and vaccination recommended but not required. Suggested donation \$10. More information: www.octds.org

Detroit Ukulele Club

See <https://www.meetup.com/detroit-ukulele-club/> for information, links to music, and RSVPs. They also have a [Facebook](#) page. All are welcome to join the Detroit Ukulele Club Meetup group and participate. Questions? Contact Jack Erickson jackofallstrings@gmail.com

MOO Music (Virtual)

Saturday weekly MOO Folk Jam (Wisconsin), 4-5 pm on Zoom. moomusic.org Contact Tony, info@moomusic.org.

Open Mic Night, Starkweather Arts Center, Romeo

Fourth Friday of each month. 7PM, \$4, \$3 Starkweather members. Open to all, come to perform, come to enjoy! 219 N. Main, Romeo, MI 48065 starkweatherarts.com

Open Mic Night, Shelby Township Community Center

Second Saturday of each month. 7:00 pm (doors open at 6:30), Instrumental music, singing, or listening. \$3 at door, drinks and snacks provided. 14975 21 Mile Rd, Shelby Township. August theme: Seashore & Sumer. Contact Nan at nan.drinkard@gmail.com

Michigan Storytelling

MI Story newsletter posted monthly, listing storytelling events around Michigan and virtual storytelling events around the world. michiganstorytelling.org

Ten Pound Fiddle Concerts

View the full schedule at tenpoundfiddle.org

ACTMAAD Calendar

The Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance online opportunities: aactmad.org/calendar

The Ark

The Ark is now open for in-person events, requiring proof of full vaccination and masking. See the full schedule at theark.org

CDSS: Online Events Calendar

This is a fantastic place to learn about traditional dance, music, song, and storytelling activities happening every week throughout North America...and beyond. Nearly all of the events that are listed are currently virtual. cdss.org/community/events

Folk Alliance Livestream Concerts

Calendar of online concerts: folk.org/livestreams/, more on their main page.

Facebook Links

Huber Breese Music Online Concerts: Look for videos on their Facebook page, [facebook.com/watch/HuberBreeseMusic/](https://www.facebook.com/watch/HuberBreeseMusic/)

Jay Ungar and Molly Mason: The Quiet Room is a live online music series that has been running each Wednesday at 8pm EDT since March of 2020. <https://www.facebook.com/jayandmolly/live>

Meredith Axelrod & Craig Ventresco: Jazz, blues and ragtime. Live every night at 8 pm Pacific time, 11 pm EDT, and videos are posted on their Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/meredithaxelrod>

Michigan Folk music love: Photos, videos, anything of MI folk music interest. bit.ly/3r65V7G.

Country Dance and Song Society: facebook.com/cdss.org

Ten Pound Fiddle Concerts and Dances: facebook.com/TenPoundFiddle

The Ark: facebook.com/TheArkAnnArbor

AACTMAD: facebook.com/AACTMAD

Oakland County Traditional Dance Society (OCTDS): <https://www.facebook.com/OCTDS>

###

Fine Print:

Keepin' Tabs (KT) is the monthly newsletter for, by, and about the Paint Creek Folklore Society. Paint Creek Folklore Society is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, an affiliate of The Country Dance and Song Society of America (CDSS), and a supporter of folklore, folksong and folkdance societies, groups and individuals whose interest is in the preservation of and education in traditional music and dance. Circulation: about 200 people on PCFS mailing list, which is not published or shared except for members. Commercial use of mailing list is not permitted.

To submit articles, gigs, or other information for publication, please contact Shirley Worth, Editor (pcfs.kt@gmail.com). Deadline for the next issue is the 15th – extended deadline possible on request.

Our website at paintcreekfolkloresociety.org is live, but we're still working on it. We're sorry to say our Facebook pages are not currently functioning.

To unsubscribe from this mailing list, reply to pcfs.kt@gmail.com with the word unsubscribe in the subject line.