

Keepin' Tabs

The Newsletter of the Paint Creek Folklore Society

April 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 (pcfs.kt@gmail.com)

Next Meeting Saturday, April 1, 2023

NOTE SCHEDULE:

2:00 pm: Meet 'n' Greet

2:30 pm: Presentation

Bandura, the national instrument of Ukraine

3:30 pm: Break

4:00 pm: Song Swap

Theme: *Here Comes The Sun*

5:30 pm: Circles and Jams

Autoharp Circle led by Pete H

Beginners Finger Style Guitar led by Kevin T

Native American Flute Circle led by Sharon H

Instrumental Jam led by Glen M

Vocal Jam led by Jack E

Fellowship Hall of University Presbyterian Church

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

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The President's Post

Dear Members and Friends,

I am happy to report that the board enjoyed a profitable meeting last week. Here are a few topics we covered.

We have a Fiftieth Tin Whistle Coffeehouse Concert to prepare for.

The board voted for a modest increase toward reimbursement amounts for snacks and presenters' fees to reflect the current economy. Snack hosts will be allotted \$100.00 for snacks.

Speaking of economics, our Treasurer, Margie Watson, reported that Paint Creek is fiscally healthy. One reason for that blessing is due to meeting out-of-doors during the public health crisis. The money saved by gathering outside drastically reduced the cost of our regular gatherings.

Part of our discussion was spent determining if we, the membership, want to be inside or out for the months that make sense to be outside. If you have an opinion regarding this, please speak with a board member and share your thoughts. Currently, we are contracted with UPC to remain inside through the June gathering.

Frequency of board meetings also came up and going forward, the PCFS board is considering establishing a regular monthly meeting schedule.

To conclude, please take note: Election of officers occurs in June, with installation taking place in September. Please be open to serving on the Board. Duty is light, and your thoughts, suggestions and opinions are valued. Thanks!

Your President, Jack F

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Our April Presentation: Bandura, the national instrument of Ukraine

Andrij Birko will discuss and demonstrate this lovely, multi-stringed instrument, from its rich past to present, and offer a few Ukrainian folk songs. Andrij is a member of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America, based in Metro Detroit, with members from across North America. In its long history, the chorus has performed throughout the world including the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall.

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Circle Closing

The Banjo Circle is being discontinued at this time. We will consider restarting it in the Fall if there is enough membership interest.

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Snacks in April...

Thanks to Julie S. and Adarsa for organizing snacks for April. Please note, as Jack mentions in this President's Post above, that the allowance for snacks has been raised to \$100. Please contact Sharon H or Kathy T if you'd like to add to the fun.

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2022-23 Song Swap Themes

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

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Membership

As always, if you are not yet a member but would like to be, please bring your check to a gathering and fill out a membership form there - \$50 for single membership, \$90 for family membership Sustaining Memberships \$100 (single) or \$150 (family).

Jeff D and Dan D, Membership Co-chairs

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Covid Thoughts

Former Paint Creeker Vikki Appleton Fielden posted her thoughts and experiences of Covid on Facebook, and gave us permission to share it here.

Three years since our (and *everyone's*) lives changed...

With 20/20 hindsight, we now know [my husband] Iain definitely had Covid, and developed Long Covid -- from which he STILL has not entirely recovered. Three years later, he still has "brain fog", his memory is shot, he has joint and muscle aches, can't

stand for long periods of time, gets out of breath easily and I can hear the effort it costs him to go up/down a flight of stairs.

He has had Covid three times now, and each time ends up with fun new Long Covid symptoms.

The statistics I've seen say that your chances of getting Long Covid increase to 70% by the time you've had Covid three times. And the current thinking is that Covid is similar to AIDS in that they're finding it stays in your body and quietly does damage in the background (to organs, joints, muscles, etc).

Meanwhile, Iain's mum has almost completely lost her senses of smell and taste (she can taste salty and sweet, but that's pretty much it). We think she must have caught Covid (without other symptoms) a couple of months ago -- even though she and Dad don't go anywhere besides shopping and doctor appointments, and wear cloth masks...

The other day I went into a shop (wearing a proper respirator, not a cloth mask, as always), and an acquaintance who happened to be there immediately said, "You know, they've proved that masks don't do any good!"

I do a LOT of reading about Covid, and I know there was a big study that concluded masks don't work -- and I also know there were *huge* flaws in that study (like deciding that if you sometimes mask and sometimes don't, and get Covid, that "proves that masks don't work"). I can provide links, for anyone interested...

Anyway, I'll keep wearing my respirator, even though it feels a bit lonely at times, and avoiding restaurants and in-person singing sessions, even though I miss them like crazy -- but I think that in 10-20 years (maybe less), people will realise that most western governments didn't take Covid seriously enough, and that many millions of people who've had "mild" Covid a bunch of times will be struggling to deal with premature aging, and serious conditions including early dementia, heart damage, organ damage, debilitating joint and/or muscle pain, difficulty breathing, and more. It makes me sad... and angry.

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Ridin' Drag

by Jack F

On St. Patrick's Day we stepped out into cool air and overcast skies. The conditions of which gave me pause and a Shel Silverstein poem came to mind that references "a sky so grey." The title of the poem is *Strange Wind*, and despite blustery gusts, the hardwood trees along our path asked for quiet and the trail approved.

Despite the date, we spotted nary a leprechaun, and it's certain that four-leaf clovers shan't make an appearance for at least another thirty days. So we put our trekking poles to work with no pretense that they're shillelaghs. They pose no threat but do keep us moving along.

Beneath scudding clouds and the fullness of the river, we converse on subjects such as cabbage soup and an upcoming board meeting of the religious variety. After all, the good saint's celebrity is born on theology, is it not?

Amid the rustle of cattails, our discussion shifts to Irish-themed movies. We decide on a love story. *Leap Year*, or *The Quiet Man*? Which would you prefer?

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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

Tri-City Times published an article about our Jack and Maggie, <https://tricitytimes-online.com/2020/02/18/season-of-garden-dreams/>. The byline says Iris Lee Underwood, but the voice sure sounds like Jack!

Tara

April 4 & 11, 6-8 pm - the Irish Tavern, Madison Hts
April 7, 5:30-9:30 pm - Ancient Order of Hibernians, \$\$
April 16, 5-8 pm - O'Connor's Public House, Rochester

Lois Sprengnether Keel

April 20, 11:00 am-2:00 pm - "Speakeasy Tea Luncheon" StoryTime Guild's annual FUNdraiser, catered by Victoria's Tea Salon. Lois entertains with "High Times in Dry Times" at Birmingham Unitarian Church. <https://storytimeguild.weebly.com/> Eileen Britsky (248)709-3991. \$\$

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Jams, Concerts, Events, and more...

America at the Crossroads: The GUITAR and a changing nation

Now through May 28: Touring exhibition from National GUITAR Museum displays forty guitars connected with American history and culture, supplemented with video, photos, and illustrations. Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, Grand Rapids fordlibrarymuseum.gov

MAMA's CoffeeHouse

April 15, 8 pm: Cobill: Ruth & Max Bloomquist and Shari Kane & Dave Steele. \$17/15 student/senior. <https://bucmi.org/music-choir/mamas-coffeehouse/>

OCTDS Dance Schedule

April 22, 7:30-10:30 pm: Contra and Square Dance, music by Pittsfield Open Band, calls by Drake Meadow. 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

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. Contact Nan at nan.drinkard@gmail.com

The Baseline Folk Society

Third Saturday of each month between September and May, 7-9:30 pm, Plymouth. Open mike plus featured presentation. \$5 suggested. <https://www.plymoutharts.com/baseline-folk-society.html>

Michigan Storytelling

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

Ten Pound Fiddle Performer's Workshop

April 5, 6-9 pm: "The Art of Performance" Learn about effective strategies for presenting music to an audience from award-winning Canadian singer/songwriter James Keelaghan \$20 Public; \$18 Fiddle Members; \$5 Students. Details, and the Fiddle's 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. Some of the events are virtual. cdss.org/community/events

Facebook Links

Lois Sprengnether Keel often posts stories in the "Keeping the Public in Public Domain" category, facebook.com/lois.sez

Huber Breese Music Online Concerts: Look for videos on their Facebook page, 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. 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. 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): facebook.com/OCTDS

Detroit Irish Music Association-CCE: facebook.com/groups/DetroitIMA

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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.

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