

Keepin' Tabs

The Newsletter of the Paint Creek Folklore Society
March 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, March 4, 2023

NOTE SCHEDULE:

2:00 pm: Meet 'n' Greet

2:30 pm: Presentation

Larry Kaufman: Broadway Show Tune Parodies

3:30 pm: Break

4:00 pm: Song Swap

Theme: *Hark, 'Tis The Wind*

5:30 pm: Circles and Jams

Autoharp Circle led by Pete H

Beginners Clawhammer Banjo Circle led by Larry M

Beginners Finger Style Guitar led by Kevin T

Native American Flute Circle led by Sharon H

Instrumental Jam led by Jeff D

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

As we move into the March Gathering, the board is eager to evaluate our new schedule. While we aren't hunkered down around computer monitors with slide rules, white boards, and charts that interpret algorithms we are trying to listen and learn how to create a Gathering that serves everyone well.

With that in mind, feel free to provide gentle feedback to any one or more board members on ways we can improve the Paint Creek experience. The next board

meeting is scheduled for March 21st where we plan to review both the February and March Gatherings. Your thoughts and opinions will help guide that discussion.

One topic is whether in June to meet outside or inside as our contract with the church runs only through May. Another question comes in regards to the September Gathering and whether we want to hold that meeting inside or out as well.

Give it some thought while you enjoy the admission-free ice show, courtesy of the Creator.

Your President, Jack F

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Our March Presenter: Larry Kaufman

Larry Kaufman is known for his parodies of popular songs, many of them based on Broadway show tunes. An amateur critic who has attended 170 Broadway shows, numerous Broadway cruises and cast parties, he has sung with Tony award winning stars. He will share personal anecdotes and one-of-a-kind videos.

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Snacks in March...

Jenni C and Sharon H volunteered to coordinate snacks in March. Anyone willing to feed us in future? You'll get some \$ to cover expenses, and a 'How-To' sheet to help make it easy for you. Please contact Sharon or Kathy T if you'd like to add to the fun.

###

2022-23 Song Swap Themes

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

###

Membership

Once again we had many new visitors, and some repeats at the February Gathering and a new member! And one of our visitors stepped right up and joined us in the Song Swap – that’s terrific!

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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Update from February presentation

For those who missed his phenomenal presentation, Leonardo has sent the following handout used for his country blues narrative.

Leonardo - A Country Blues Narrative with Songs

This will be a journey from the beginning of Blues music told with a timeline narrative and songs. There will be examples of some of the first recorded Blues songs all the way through the late 1930’s. Also covered is how these songs influenced post-war music. Leonardo has been performing and giving workshops in the Detroit area for 20 years. He is endorsed by the National Reso-Phonic Guitar Company. He plays his guitars in open tunings. His primary musical focus is solo, acoustic country blues.

The Songs:

- "No More" - "Early In The Morning" - 1947 - Prison Songs - Vol 1
- "Murderous Home". Recorded by Alan Lomax at Parchman Farm Prison.
- "Pony Blues" - Charley Patton - 1929 - One of Charley’s first recorded songs. I play the Son House version. Charley re-recorded this song in 1934 calling it "Stone Pony Blues". Linda Ronstadt named her band The Stone Ponies as a nod to Charley.
- "Dark Was The Night, Cold Was The Ground" - "Blind" Willie Johnson - 1927. A melodic moaning depicting laying Jesus’ body down. This song was selected to be on the Golden Record that is on the Voyager Spacecraft.
- "Trouble Soon Be Over" - "Blind" Willie Johnson - 1930. A traditional Gospel Blues song. Chris Thomas King does a great pantomime of this in character on YouTube.
- "Boogie Woogie Dance" - Tampa Red - 1927 - A Blues instrumental. Red was one of the first players to use a National Tricone resonator guitar.

- “Aberdeen, Mississippi Blues” - Booker “Bukka” White - early '30's. A first cousin of B. B. King's mother. A letter by John Fahey addressed to “Bukka White, Blues Musician, Aberdeen, MS” is how he was rediscovered in the 60's and can be found performing on YouTube.
- “Big Road Blues” - Tommy Johnson - 1928 - This song influenced the Canned Heat song “Going Up The Country”. They took their name from his song “Canned Heat Blues”. The whole “devil at the crossroads” myth was about Tommy Johnson, not Robert Johnson.
- “I'm So Glad” - “Cypress Grove” - “Illinois Blues” - Skip James - 1931 - Recorded 18 songs on guitar and piano and disappeared until being rediscovered in 1964. My favorite Country Blues player!
- “Police Dog Blues” - Arthur “Blind” Blake - 1929. A blues/ragtime style song that is a good example of the Piedmont Blues style.
- “That's No Way To Get Along” - Rev. Robert Wilkins - 1929. The secular version of one of Jesus' parables. A Gospel version, “Prodigal Son”, was recorded by The Rolling Stones in 1968.
- “High Sheriff Blues” - Charley Patton - 1934 - A song about getting drunk and thrown in jail in Belzoni, MS. Mr. Purvis was the High Sheriff and Mr. Wells was the turnkey.
- “Country/Walking Blues” - Son House/Robert Johnson/Muddy Waters - 1930's. One of the most performed and covered country blues songs.
- “Crossroad Blues” - 1937 - Robert Johnson. A good example of how the Blues has developed by the time of Robert Johnson. Cream's cover of this song introduced many people to the Blues.
- “Love In Vain” - Robert Johnson - 1937. A copy of Leroy Carr's “In The Evening” on piano. Back then, you could copy someone else's song, change the lyrics, and no one would know. This was the first Robert Johnson song recorded by The Rolling Stones.
- “Cigarette Blues” - Armenter Chatmon a.k.a. Bo Carter - 1936. A hokum-type song that has nothing to do with cigarettes. He was also a member of The Mississippi Sheiks.
- “Wild Ox Moan” - Vera Ward Hall - 1948. Alan Lomax said that she had the sweetest voice that he had ever heard. Many examples of her singing can be found on YouTube. She sang a cappella.

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Ridin' Drag

by Jack F

One of my favorite neighborhood trees is the white pine that grows next door. I admire its stature, scent, and its annual dump of needles.

During last night's storm, icy precipitation beat against the window next to my desk. With one eye on the weather, I worked on several writing assignments then decided to stir up a cup of hot cocoa. No sooner had I stepped into the kitchen than I heard a massive groan and a sharp crack that seemed to permeate the walls of the house.

Hot footing it back to my desk, I looked out the window but could see nothing in the dark. Curiosity drove me on so I layered up in outdoor gear, grabbed a flashlight and went out the door and onto the ice-crusting lawn. Just then came another pair of rifle-

like cracks, and as I leveled my torch, watched a huge pine bow come down on top of our neighbor's cars.

Pointing the flashlight in the direction of the commotion emanating from the vicinity of our neighbor's front door I hollered, "Are you guys alright?"

They weren't.... emotionally at least.

Well, it's morning now and both our houses are fine. So is my favorite tree. Sure, it lost some limbs, but a little natural pruning never hurts.

Just to ensure that *you* don't get hurt, be reminded, there are plenty of weakened limbs aloft damaged by the storm that are called *widow makers*. If you decide to walk out and capture images of this winter wonder, it's best to look up and listen; and should the breeze freshen, give the timber a wide berth. You might not meet a Wendigo, that dread winter wanderer of Algonquin lore, but there will be plenty of dangerous widow makers to keep an eye out for this spring.

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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 will be publishing columns by our own Jack Ferguson - go to <https://tricitytimes-online.com/> and search his name.

Tara

March 5 & 19, 5-8 pm - O'Connor's Public House, Rochester
March 7 & 21, 6-8 pm - the Irish Tavern, Madison Hts
March 12, 10:30 am - Parade Sunday Mass, Holy Trinity, Detroit
March 12, 2:30-9 pm - Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall, Redford
March 14, 2-3 pm - American House, St. Clair Shores
March 15, 5-8 pm - O'Connor's St. Patrick's Week, Rochester
March 16, 5-9 pm - Sportsman's Club Dinner, Clarkston, \$\$
March 17, 5:30-10 am - WJR Radio
March 17, 11-3pm - Irish Tavern
March 17, 5-9 pm - Ancient Order of Hibernians, \$\$

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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

March 18, 8 pm: Heywood Banks with Lauren Crane. \$22 / \$20 student/senior

OCTDS Dance Schedule

March 25, 7:30-10:30 pm: Contra and Square Dance, music by Dawn's Early Light, 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 Concerts

Including Matt Watroba and Claudia Schmidt, March 3 — 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. 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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