

Keepin' Tabs

The Newsletter of the Paint Creek Folklore Society
December 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)

Saturday, January 6, 2024

Fellowship Hall, University Presbyterian Church

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/EKzGbBSqrkePUfUa9>

2 pm: Meet & Greet

2:30 pm: Presentation

Michigan Women - Stephanie Arwady

3:30 pm: Break

4:00 pm: Song Swap

Theme - *Your Favorite Songwriter*

5:30 pm-dusk: Circles & Jams

Instrumental, vocal and others
to be announced at the Gathering

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The President's Post

Dear Members and Friends,

As we approach the New Year of 2024, I hope Paint Creekers near and far will take time to rest, and consider the message carried within the hymn, *Count Your Blessings*. Today, after services, while the cats napped, I did just that. May I share a few, from a presidential perspective?

I reported last month that Paint Creek is financially healthy, that is a blessing. We enjoy a positive relationship with University Presbyterian, and I whisper hallelujah every time we set up a new, lighter, easier on the back, table.

The Holiday Gathering was well attended. The kitchen coordinators and decoration volunteer's prepared a wonderful buffet. Bravo! The music was grand. Our membership is strong and I'm grateful to watch new members participating, growing

into volunteer roles and pulling those instruments off the walls and learning new melodies. I smile to see the examples set by seasoned Paint Creekers. They make this organization the blessing it is to so many. Jerry Stephens and Mary St.Clair would be proud.

Lastly, we share the blessed comradery of knowing one another. The hymn I referenced suggests there is value in naming your blessings, one by one. Here's a holiday thought; pick up your Paint Creek Directory, read the names, take note of those that providence most impresses upon you.

Then give them a call, let them know what a blessing it will be to meet again at the January gathering.

Jack

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Future Gatherings

Jeff D, Vice President

January 6th: *Michigan Women* - Stephanie Arwady, from the Troy Historical Village. Michigan women have rocked the boat and cradle for centuries. Learn about fur trader Magdelaine LaFromboise, suffragist Ann Howard Shaw, artist Gwen Frostic and more.

February 3rd: *Brazil and Beyond* – Rich Kowalewski and friends return for a fun and informative program featuring the sweet and melodic sounds of the Brazilian Cavaquinho (Ukulele), Brazilian 7 string guitar accompaniment styles, and the exotic rhythms of world percussion. And they will be performing some classic Brazilian Choros from their CD "Tico-Tico!"

More information on presentations to come – keep watching the next issues of *Keepin' Tabs*.

Our regular Gathering program: 2 pm, Meet & Greet; 2:30 pm, Presentation; 4 pm, Song Swap; 5:30 pm, Circles & Jams.

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Snack Time!

Will the January volunteers please contact either Kathy Thornton or Sharon Hall to coordinate plans.

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PLAN NOW FOR AN EVENING OF DANCE REVELRY AND MUSIC FUN!

Paint Creek Folklore Society is cohosting another grand *Starry Night for a Ramble* Dance on Saturday February 10, 2024, and for sure you'll want to be there. The planning energy from both *Oakland County Traditional Dance Society* and PCFS, our hosts, has been unleashed. Join the fun at First United Methodist Church, 6363 Livernois Road, Troy, Michigan 48098 (located between Square Lake Road and South Boulevard...REALLY CLOSE to PCFS headquarters), yay!! Point your friends and neighbors in our direction too. A flyer with all the details is up on the Paint Creek web and attached to the KT email.

Glen Morningstar from Paint Creek and Tom Allen from the Oakland County Traditional Dance Society will do the SQUARE DANCE and CONTRA DANCE calling honors. Judi Morningstar is leading the famous Paint Creek Country Dance Orchestra again this year, and is seeking PCCDO Alumni, and new and upcoming dance band musicians from the membership of Paint Creek. Please phone Judi at 248-318-5300 or drop her an email at JudithMstar@aol.com if you are comfortable playing jigs and reels at a goodly pace, and interested in joining the band. Band practices will be scheduled soon and there will be three or four held at the Morningstar home in Highland before February 10.

Of special note, this is a benefit dance, where proceeds go to OCTDS and PCFS for their many great monthly music and dance programs. Please show your support by joining in the fun. \$10 General Admission, kids 12 and under free. Bring a big snack and get another \$1 off. Bring your silent auction items too, and put them up for bid. Proceeds again split by the two organizations. All dances are taught with walk-throughs. Partners are available from the crowd that gathers there.

We're seeking volunteers to help out with decorating the dance hall, and setting up the silent auction, and pitching in a few minutes to wrap it up at the end of the dance. Grab the sign-up sheet at the upcoming PCFS meetings and jot your name down... THANKS. Any questions can be directed to Glen Morningstar Jr. at 248-330-0832 or gmorning@aol.com.

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Last Call for Dance Band Musicians...

...to rehearse for "A Starry Night for a Ramble" February 10, 2024 (see flyer in this issue Keepin' Tabs)

From last month's Keepin' Tabs ...

Call for Experienced Musicians for Paint Creek Country Orchestra

After a sleep of ... 3 years ... the Paint Creek Country Dance Orchestra will be gathering up their favorite tunes to play for the 2024 Starry Night for a Ramble Valentine's Dance in February. Here's where you come in.

- 1- Are you a Member of Paint Creek Folklore Society?
- 2- Are you proficient on your instrument ie. Able to play reels at between 112 - 128; Jigs 116 - 124; Waltzes 110 & under?
- 3- Can you dedicate your Sundays in January and the first half of February to rehearsals (typically in Highland MI where all my music resides) The rehearsal day/ times/location are subject to change. (required) PS - We MAY also be able to coordinate rehearsals at Fellowship Hall on Meeting Afternoons.
- 4-Are you able to laugh while eating great snacks? (or, as we refer to them - Band Treats)
- 5-Do you have an empty email box that's itching to be over-populated with music & 'stuff'?
- 6-And finally, are you able to schlep your instruments & pitch in with band/sound set up/take down at the Starry Night for a Ramble (SNFAR) Dance on a Saturday evening

in February, 2024? The dance usually starts at 8 (sometimes 7 or 7:30) but we'll need to arrive quite a bit earlier.

Then we may have an opportunity for you. The Starry Night for a Ramble Dance will, most probably be February 10 OR 17, 2024 at the First United Methodist Church in Troy. We have a dedicated core of veteran musicians who are more than willing to give advice and show you 'stuff' to help you transition into the wild & wonderful world of Dance Band Musician ☺

About Starry Night for a Ramble: This dance for the past 30 or so years has been co-hosted by Paint Creek Folklore Society and Oakland County Traditional Dance Society. OCTDS provides the facility and one of the two callers for the evening. PCFS provides the Paint Creek Country Dance Orchestra and one of the two callers for the evening, and decorating the hall. All are invited to provide snacks for the break & a Silent Auction item or two. Proceeds benefit both Paint Creek Folklore Society and Oakland County Traditional Dance Society, and the proceeds from the Silent Auction normally go to a good cause related to either or both organizations. [See Glen call a contra dance in this YouTube video (sorry for the ads): <https://bit.ly/3uvsmdr>]

If you've read this far and are truly interested, please send me an email or call with your intent and/or questions. judithmstar@aol.com or 248-318-5300

If you don't feel you are up to playing 'up to speed' but still are interested in helping out, we will need some willing bodies to help with the decorations, set-up of the hall, and so on. More information will come later, or send an email to Glen Morningstar, this year's co-chair from Paint Creek, to gmorning@aol.com

We'll have a GRAND time!

Judi Morningstar

judithmstar@aol.com or 248-318-5300

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Membership Highlights

First of all, Jack E and I wish all a very safe and Happy Holidays!

At the Annual Pot Luck Gathering, we signed up 4 new members. Please welcome Art P., Elizabeth A., Sharon F., and Harvey N.

We are ending the year with a total of 71 members: 33 Single memberships and 19 Family memberships. We continue to add more younger members which is important to the growth and continuation of the group.

When you attend a gathering, please stop by and sign in and get your badge. It may be the only way we know you attended.

Let's all plan to bring a music-minded friend or relative to the January Gathering. They just might be pleasantly surprised by what we offer as group. Make sure you tell them we are a fun group! Their first visit will be free. We have snacks and plenty of conversation, music and camaraderie.

I apologize for being late with the directory but I hope to have it formatted and readable before the end of the year.

See you soon!

Dan D & Jack E, Membership Co-chairs

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Dr. Peter Stephenson Benefit Concert for PSP

Dr. Peter Stephenson and special guests will be presenting the Second Annual Concert for PSP Research as part of the ITNS Radio network's virtual concert series, December 28 at 8 pm. PSP is a deadly disease that took my wife last April and it suffers from lack of research money due to its rarity. Each year I am doing a fund raiser for the research and net proceeds from ticket sales go to the CBD & PSP Research Fund. Tickets available at <https://hopin.com/events/the-doc-stephenson-holiday-concert-for-psp-research>.

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2023-24 Song Swap Themes

January - Your Favorite Songwriter

February - Share Your Romantic Side

March - Songs From The Frontier

April - The American Civil War

May - Songs About Trees

June - Revolution

July - Revival

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Ridin' Drag

by Jack F

If you sell your saddle, you are no longer a cowboy.

So, the story goes. Psychologists might be able to explain what ever emotional or mental condition brings this sort of belief on. Maybe there is a clinical term such as, Loss of Identity Syndrome. But the symptoms were evident in me.

Which is why, for years my old saddle was stuck under the bench in the garage. There were some bridles, reins, and bits there too. And they were miserable. As in suffering. They longed for a working tack room, scented with saddle soap; a proper stable and the people who care for them.

Of course, the issue was me. If I sold my saddle, a saddle I hadn't been on in twenty years, who would I be? Can a man with no saddle, in good conscience, pen an installment of Ridin' Drag? I wondered.

Meanwhile, for many a summer, Maggie, I and now Larry Miller, have ridden out to 4920 Groveland Rd. in Ortonville. We volunteer with O.A.T.S. summer camp and play music. O.A.T.S. stands for Offering Alternative Therapies with Smiles. Horses are a huge part of that therapy. Friends, you can't have much more fun than playing Dolly

Parton's *Applejack* while the summer campers give their mounts a treat from a freshly sliced Granny Smith.

The important work O.A.T.S. provides can always use a hand, and this July the notion struck me; nothing supports the cowboy spirit like sharing with another buckaroo. I figured that if I made a gift of my saddle, I was not selling, and maybe I could retain a little cowboy for me in the bargain. So, I checked with my favorite O.A.T.S. volunteer, Judy Insley. She made sure it was ok to donate my saddle.

Judy arranges the music for the summer camps at O.A.T.S. She is a fine instrumentalist, songwriter and music teacher on guitar, banjo, and mandolin. It's always a treat to be in her company, but when we arrived in July, my first order of business was to introduce that old saddle to his new stablemates. Then we went to pickin'. By the time we finished an hour of tunes my saddle was right at home, swapping saddle yarns and grinning from ear to ear.

They call this a season of giving, but you needn't wait for Christmas time. One of the nicest gifts I have this year is the knowledge that secure in a moonlit, quiet tack room a faithful saddle calls back, *thanks cowboy, I feel like a saddle again.*

[Learn more at judyinsley.com and www.oatshrh.org]

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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

Dr. Peter Stephenson

Every Monday, 8-10 PM - Open Mic, Dessert Oasis, Rochester
Every Friday - 7-10 pm Live Music Fridays - Bean & Benny, Oxford

Jams, Concerts, Events, and more...

OCTDS New Years Eve Contra Dance, “Bubbly - Bubbly”

December 30, 7pm beginners lesson, 7:30-10:30pm dancing. Live music, Ed Vincent calling. Refreshments provided, snacks/deserts welcome. \$10 suggested donation. First United Methodist Church of Troy, 6363 Livernois <https://bit.ly/3TrQ2dc>

Mama's Coffeehouse, Birmingham

January 20, 7:30 pm - **Wilson Thicket**. \$17, \$15 student/senior. <https://bucmi.org/music-choir/mamas-coffeehouse> or <https://www.facebook.com/MAMAsCoffeehouse>

Endless Strummers Ukulele Club

The Endless Strummers Ukulele Club meets Monday evenings 7:00-8:30 at Spirit of Christ Lutheran Church, 749 W. 14 mile Road, Clawson, for a little instruction and a lot of strumming. Beginners are welcome. For more info, contact Jack Erickson. jackofallstrings@gmail.com

Open Mic Night, Starkweather Arts Center, Romeo

Fourth Friday of each month. 7 pm, \$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

Open Mic at Dessert Oasis Coffee Roasters

Every Monday, 8-10 pm at The Dessert Oasis Coffee Roasters, 115 S. Main Street, Royal Oak. docr.coffee

BaseLine Folk Society

Third Saturdays, 7 pm at Plymouth Community Arts, 774 Sheldon Rd., Plymouth. Open mic and a featured performer. \$7 donation requested at door. Facebook: <https://bit.ly/BaseLineFolk>

Open Mic Night, Plymouth Coffee Bean Co

First Monday of each month, 6:00 pm signup, 6:30 pm start. 884 Penniman Ave., Plymouth plymouthcoffeebean.com

Michigan Storytelling

MI Story newsletter posted monthly: storytelling events around Michigan michiganstorytelling.org

Ten Pound Fiddle

Find the schedule at tenpoundfiddle.org

ACTMAAD Calendar

The Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance 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. To find virtual events, click "Event Category and check "Online Event". cdss.org/events

Facebook Links

Lois Sprengnether Keel: "Keeping the Public in Public Domain", facebook.com/lois.sez

Huber Breese Music Online Concerts: 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. 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: paintcreekfolkloresociety.org

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086482332379>

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