

Keepin' Tabs

The Newsletter of the Paint Creek Folklore Society

January 2025

Distributed monthly via email to members and friends of PCFS. To unsubscribe from this mailing list, reply to this email address with the word **unsubscribe**.

A pdf file of this KT is attached for those who still like a hard copy.

We wish you joy, whatever your tradition for this season!

Next Gathering: Saturday, January 4, 2025

Fellowship Hall, University Presbyterian Church, 1385 S. Adams Rd., Rochester Hills, MI 48309.

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

Schedule

2:00 to 2:30: Meet and Greet

2:30 to 3:30: Presentation: Nick Schillace will discuss the guitar style of Maybelle Carter. Bring your guitars! Nick says he will attempt to teach the "Carter Scratch"!

3:30 to 4:00: Snackin' and Yackin' hosted by Phyllis I and Theresa E

4:00 to 5:30: Song Swap: Criminals, Outlaws and Thugs.

5:30: Circles and Jams. Instrumental Jam led by Suzanne R, Vocal Jam by Jack E, and Native American Flutes led by Sharon H.

Future Gatherings, Presentations, and Song Swap Themes

Mark your calendar!

February 1 Larry Stevens Presents "Major Label, Baby Boomer, Hippie-Dippie, Fairytale Blues," or (more or less) how the hippie generation brought the blues into our music. Song Swap Theme: Most Disturbing Ballads.

February 15 Starry Night for a Ramble Dance! See the article below.

March 1 Larry Everhart presents some harmonica history, styles and techniques. Song Swap Theme: Folktales About Animals.

April 5 Song Swap Theme: Michigan History.

May 3 Song Swap Theme: Redemption.
June 7 Song Swap Theme: Coming of Age/Life Changes.
July 5 Picnic, No Song Swap.

Jeff Despard, Vice President

President's Post

For many of us, the New Year is a time for reflection, a moment to look back on the joys, challenges and lessons learned, and to be thankful for our folklore community. New Years is also a time of storytelling, and these stories are captured in the ballads of love and loss to songs of hope and renewal. Looking forward to a great year ahead for sharing songs and stories.

A reminder to Board Members that there is a PCFS Board meeting scheduled via Zoom on January 21 beginning at 7:00 PM. The Agenda will include the 2024 Tin Whistle summary and ways to improve it for next year. All members are welcome to attend; please email pjacques134962@comcast.net beforehand to receive the Zoom invitation.

Snacks are an important aspect of all our Gatherings. Please contact snack coordinator Sharon Hall at sharonkhall@comcast.net and volunteer to be a host. You will be reimbursed up to \$100. Let Sharon know which month you would like to host. She can also provide food suggestions, so you know just what to get.

Paul Jacques, PCFS President

Ridin' Drag

Ridin' Drag

Snow began a timorous descent yesterday afternoon and continued to fall well past dawn. If temperatures don't spike, we might enjoy a White Christmas. Surely tonight's solstice eve Lantern Walk in Hawk Woods will be brighter and calmer for that quiet covering.

Up top in our winter garden, fall-planted garlic rests. Gathering energy, it grows strong for the coming spring and early summer harvest. Clematis are grateful for the moisture and a measure of insulation from the stinging air. They attend to the voices of cardinals, chickadees, and jays, secure in the knowing that their blooms will return.

This knowledge is shared across seasons and generations. It is the truth that led Nicholas Herman, a wounded seventeenth century soldier from the region of Lorraine to join a Parisian monastery and take the name Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection. In his eighteenth year, while out on a winters saunter, Nicholas observed a solitary leafless tree, and realized with certainty, that within a few months, new life would emerge. This experience gently transformed Nicolas and became foundational to his spiritual life. This resulted in an informal collection of writings his friends posthumously titled, *The Practice of the Presence of God*.

But relax, you need not become monastic to practice this presence because the critters around our place do it all the time. For example, on the day after Thanksgiving we were setting out straw bales for next year's tomato plantings, which is something we do every year. We hook the

trailer to the Ford and forage our area for discarded straw bales. We don't have to drive far as these bales are used for autumnal decorations and as soon as Thanksgiving has given up the ghost folks put them to the curb, and we are blessed to gather them up.

This year we brought home seven. While arranging the bales, we were spied on by Homer, one of our neighborhood's beloved feral cats. My gloved fingers tugged at the baling twine as the cat stealthily approached, for Homer anticipates this event every fall. He delights in lounging upon the bales after January's noon sun warms them. Homer meditates there until a vole appears. Then he gets busy, just like Brother Lawrence when stirring the soup or repairing his brethren's shoes.

I suppose some folk might find a comparison between a feral cat and a celebrated Carmelite monk to be sacrilegious. If you are one among these, I recommend a study of Brother Lawrence. Then get to know Homer and you will soon see what I mean.

Despite Homer's anticipation, we can't release the bales to his ministrations until the bales are secured against the arched trellis. When the job is done, we hug each other, all the while surveying the hibernating beds of brown, and the dangling, overlooked scarlet runner beans all the while pronouncing a wordless Benediction of the Bales. Adding in a silent Thank You for Homer, Brother Lawrence, and our gardens' resurrected bounty to come.

Jack F.

Membership Highlights

Happy New Year! Thanks to all of you members who helped make 2024 a great year! Last January we had 71 members: we're now at 66 members and growing. Our current Membership Directory is completed and available to members.

As we enter a new calendar year full of uncertainty, invite your friends to come to a warm, safe place where there is certainty of having fun singing, playing, visiting, listening, snacking, and helping with friends who are accepting, caring, and appreciative of one another. The first visit is free, and membership is a good investment, considering all that Paint Creek offers. Remember that we now accept credit cards for payments and purchases.

Be sure to stop in at the Welcome Desk to say hello, sign in, get your badge and maybe sign up for the song swap. Let's make the Paint Creek Folklore Society a place where we'll always find harmony in our sometimes-dissonant world! Have a happy and healthy 2025!

Membership Co-chairs Dan D and Jack E

PCFS Board Members

- Paul J, President
- Jeff D, Vice President
- Tom B, Secretary
- Dave B, Treasurer
- Mike A, Kathy T, Kathy R, Elaine G, Members at Large
- Jack F, President Emeritus
- Dan D, Jack E, Membership Co-chairs

- Glen M, Historian
- Dan D, Webmaster, Social Media Editor
- Andy M, Keepin' Tabs Editor

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

Visit Us Online

Want to know more? Well, here's the link: paintcreekfolkloresociety.org.

Jams, Concerts, Events, and More

Oakland County Traditional Dance Society

Calendar at: <https://www.octds.org>

Mama's Coffeehouse

Mama's Coffeehouse, Birmingham

January 18, featuring Amy Petty and Bill Edwards.

<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 at the Costick Center

On the 2nd Monday of every month, there is an open mike at Costick Center, 28600 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills (not far from Middlebelt Rd.). It lasts from 11:00 until about 2:00 p.m. There are some really great musicians that are there each time and it's lots of fun.

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

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

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>

Michigan Storytelling

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

Ten Pound Fiddle

tenpoundfiddle.org

ACTMAAD Calendar

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

The Ark

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.

Dr. Peter Stephenson

Every Monday, 8-10 pm - Open Mic, Dessert Oasis, Rochester

Every Friday, 7-10 pm Live Music Fridays - Bean & Benny, Oxford

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](https://www.facebook.com/AACTMAD)

Oakland County Traditional Dance Society (OCTDS): [facebook.com/OCTDS](https://www.facebook.com/OCTDS)

Detroit Irish Music Association-CCE: [facebook.com/groups/DetroitIMA](https://www.facebook.com/groups/DetroitIMA)

Original Dulcimer Players Club: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064673560484>

[Really Old Martin Guitars](#) Andy M's group about pre-1900 Martin guitars.

Attachments

- January KT pdf
- 2024-25 Membership Form

The Fine Print

Keepin' Tabs (KT) is the monthly newsletter for, by, and about the Paint Creek Folklore Society. Paint Creek Folklore Society (PCFS) 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 this mailing list is not permitted.

To submit articles, gigs, or other information for publication, please contact your most humble editor, Andy Mather (pcfs.kt@gmail.com). Deadline for the next issue is the 15th – extended deadline possible on request.

Our website: [paintcreekfolkloresociety.org](https://www.paintcreekfolkloresociety.org)

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