

January 2026

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 version of this KT is attached for those who still prefer a hard copy.

Come and Join Us Saturday, January 3rd, 2026 at Fellowship Hall at the University Presbyterian Church, 2:00 until 9:00 pm

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

[Click Here for Directions](#)

Schedule

2:00 – 2:30 pm	Meet and Greet
2:30 – 3:30 pm	Ernie May presents “My Life with the Banjo,” its history, and key performers who have shaped it’s sound.
3:30 – 4:00	snack time
4:00 – 5:00	Song Swap. Theme: Humorous and Children’s songs
5:00 –onwards	Vocal Jam (which will need a leader as Jack E. will be doing something frivolous that day!) Please feel free to step up! Instrumental Jam led by Jeff D. Mountain (lap) dulcimer circle led by Jack F.

Future Gatherings and Song Swap Themes:

February 7th

Fellowship Hall from 2:00 to 9:00 pm

Song Swap Theme: Love, Longing and Heartbreak

Reverend Robert revrobert.com, (This is NOT the Reverend Robert Jones of Detroit), takes us on a journey through classic blues, featuring the timeless artistry of greats like Delta blues legend Charley Patton.

March 7th

Fellowship Hall from 2:00 to 9:00 pm

Song Swap Theme: Irish Songs (what else!?)

April 11th

Fellowship Hall from 2:00 to 9:00 pm

(Please note the gathering is the second Saturday in April!)

Song Swap Theme: Rain, Springtime and Nature

May 2nd

Fellowship Hall from 2:00 to 9:00 pm

Song Swap Theme: Sad Songs, Disasters

June 6th

Seyburn Pavilion (to be finalized) 2:00 to 9:00 pm

Song Swap Theme: "Old Timey" Songs

July

Location and date to be determined - Picnic

Song Swap Theme: America

Mountain (Lap) Dulcimer Circle

We are starting a new circle for Mountain/lap dulcimers in January 2026. It will be geared to beginners. Dust off that old dulcimer or borrow one from a friend. Contact circle leader Jack Ferguson, thunderisle@yahoo.com with any questions.

The President's Post

Happy New Year to all Paint Creek Folklore Society members and their families! May this year be Happy, Healthy and Safe for all of you!

First off, I'd like to thank Maggie and Susan for coordinating the December Potluck Gathering, and a big "Thank You" to everyone who helped out and/or contributed the great food we all enjoyed! I have to admit, it was the first December Potluck I've ever attended, and I was impressed with the quality and quantity on offer.

But even though I suggested it, I did NOT see any of "last year's fruitcake" on the dessert table! If properly prepared, fruitcake can almost last forever. For example, Queen Victoria married Prince Albert in February 1840. Their wedding cake was a fruitcake that stood 14 inches high, 10 feet wide and weighed 300 pounds. Gallons of brandy were used in its preparation. A piece of it sold at auction in 2016 for 1500 pounds Sterling. It's probably still edible!

There was a very healthy Song Swap – 17 participants! And thank you to Jack E. for providing the hardware and program for the Christmas carol sing-along!

"Should auld acquaintance be forgot, an' never brought tae mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot, an' auld lang syne?"

Robert Burns collected an older poem from 1711 entitled "Old Long Syne" and added a few more verses to create the song known today as "Auld Lang Syne." (Literally "old long since") The first line basically asks, "Should old friends be forgotten, and never brought to mind? Should old friends be forgotten, and days of old long since?" Burns's answer would be a resounding No! He was quite a "bon vivant" in his short life and certainly believed in enjoying himself – especially with the ladies!

He published the song in 1788, but set it to a tune from 1700 that he considered "mediocre." Around 1799, the lyrics were set to the tune that we're familiar with today. This "new" tune was originally a strathspey entitled "The Miller's Daughter" or "The Miller's Wedding." (As with most Scottish songs and tunes, there are multiple theories as to origin and even the lyrics.)

The tune has traveled around the world and isn't always just used at New Year. It was the Korean national anthem from 1919 until 1948. There are French, Danish, Japanese, Pakistani, Netherlander, West Bengal songs all using the tune. Many organizations, including the Boy Scouts, use the tune – and sometimes Burns's lyrics, for their ceremonies.

I'll sing it for the group using both the original tune and the "modern" tune sometime soon! Both are quite singable and convey the same wishes – Remember the past and celebrate the present!

Tom D, President

Ridin' Drag

The wind refuses to let the heavy wet snow fall straight. It prefers to set the scene like unto a freshly shaken snow globe. Two thirty in the morning, I close The Discourses of Epictetus. Rubbing sleepy eyes, and walking to our front window, I muttered about meteorologists being right as a doe approaches. Twenty minutes pass before she makes her way east through the soft deep silence that only a snowfall provides, then disappears among the swirl of white, moments before two bucks step into view, heads down, keen to catch up. The snow keeps pace, I sleep, and by the time my wife pours morning coffee, six inches or so has settled.

The wind stiffens. I have an appointment. "Are you going?" my wife asks. I remind her that I paid the mortgage driving in such conditions. If the event was cancelled, it would be my pleasure to remain home, but that was not to be. I arrived early, learning that many of my colleagues could not make it. I was glad I did.

The event involved a tour of the Stellantis building in Auburn Hills. Someone told me it is the second largest building in the country, next to the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. The place is impressive, but what impressed me most was not a building, not the skilled workforce, but a wash of memories.

Once upon a time I schooled horses, worked cows, cut up with barn cats, and enjoyed other curious critters on the ground where the Stellantis building stands. I cooled my horses' ankles in Galloway Creek. Round pens and training stations dotted the nearly one thousand acres. Tree lines blocked the wind. The mounts I shared time with were not bored or growing ring soured. Their minds were fresh and they looked forward to the corrals and campfires in those trees. Many a winter's eve we spent, satisfied, blessed with good effort and the privilege to be still, and spy on movement amongst corn stubble, swale, and hayfields: cottontails, raccoons, fox, deer, squirrels all traversed open ground beneath torn, tangled winter clouds that revealed a focused, cold moon above. It shone in snapshots through those clouds. As if through a camera's shutter, operating by the will of the almighty.

When the tour reached the fifteenth floor, there were photos taken; I shook the CEO's hand and stood in Lee Iacocca's office. The folks were most apologetic about the weather. They told us, "On a clear day you can see Detroit." But as the storm continued from the night before, obscuring sight of the I-75 corridor, compounding the congestion, obliterating the schedules of so many, I smiled, thought of the doe from just eight hours earlier, and gave thanks for my life, for the fifty years past. How many campfires remain? I wondered, then I whispered to our host,

"Thank you for the snow, this is just like I remember, this is perfect."

Jack F

Membership Highlights

We begin the new year 2026 similar to January 2025, rising toward 70 members, and looking forward to a full schedule of fun thru September 1. Stop by the Welcome Desk to check in and get your name tag or purchase your membership, sign in as a guest, join the song swap, or get a song or tune book.

We were honored to have several guests visit in 2025. Continue to invite friends to come and check out how fun our presentations, song swaps, circles, jams, snacks, and camaraderie are. First visits are free, and subsequent visits are only \$10 for visitors.

Happy New Year!

Dan D and Jack E
Membership co-chairs

Tom Allen Memorial Service

A memorial service for Tom Allen, who died December 3, will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2026, from 10:00 AM until time of service, 11:00 AM at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors, 705 W. Eleven Mile Rd, Royal Oak.

Tom was a founding member of the Oakland County Traditional Dance Society (OCTDS). He was a musician, a dance caller, and sang with several choirs. He played for dances, farmers' markets, cider mills, church services, and at Paint Creek gatherings. For many years, he was a member of the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, reviewing grant applications for the State of Michigan. He recently attended several Paint Creek gatherings and was a friend to many Paint Creek members.

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

Jams, Concerts, Events, and More

Saturday, January 17th at 6:30 pm there will be a Fingerstyle Guitar Workshop held at Pursell Lutherie 23430 Woodward Ave Ferndale, MI 48220. It will be hosted by the Michigan Fingerstyle Guitar Society. Cost is \$10. There will be 3 segments catering to Beginners, Advanced Beginner and Intermediate/Advanced players. The featured song will be "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald." Bring a capo! Advanced Beginners and Intermediates should be familiar with chords Asus2, D, Em, G, (plus G6, G6/A, D/A. RSVP and questions to : <mailto: Bear@AlbertoWhitmer.com>

ACTMAAD

The Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance opportunities: aactmad.org/calendar
[facebook.com/AACTMAD](https://www.facebook.com/AACTMAD)

The Ark

See the full schedule at theark.org
[facebook.com/TheArkAnnArbor](https://www.facebook.com/TheArkAnnArbor)

BaseLine Folk Society

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

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.com/cdss.org](https://www.facebook.com/cdss.org)

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

Hudson Valley Folk Guild

Monthly Online Open Mic Event

<https://hudsonvalleyfolkguild.org/event/open-mic-via-zoom-tom-bowes/>

MAMA's Coffeehouse

Billy King & Emily Slomovits will be at MAMA's Coffeehouse on **January 17th** - Beverly Meyer opens.

MAMA's Coffeehouse, Birmingham

<https://www.facebook.com/MAMAsCoffeehouse>

MAMA's Coffeehouse is located at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills.

Meredith Axelrod and 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 Storytelling

Posts about storytelling events around Michigan: michiganstorytelling.org

Oakland County Traditional Dance Society

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

Facebook: <facebook.com/OCTDS>

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 at Dessert Oasis Coffee Roasters

Every Wednesday, 8-10 pm, 115 S. Main Street, Royal Oak

Every Monday, 8-10 pm, 336 S. Main St, Rochester

<https://docr.coffee/>

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 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

Sons of the Never Wrong

"Deborah Lader of "Sons of the Never Wrong" wishes to invite everyone to enjoy their music at the 46th Annual Hiawatha Traditional Music Festival in July of 2026!"

Links

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

Elderly Instruments <https://www.elderly.com/>

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>

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

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

Paint Creek Folklore Society (PCFS):

- PCFS website: www.paintcreekfolkloresociety.org
- PCFS Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086482332379>

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

Ten Pound Fiddle Concerts and Dances: [facebook.com/TenPoundFiddle](https://www.facebook.com/TenPoundFiddle) tenpoundfiddle.org

Attachments

- January KT pdf
- 2025-2026 PCFS Membership Form

Privacy Notice

You may have noticed that in the Keepin' Tabs, members' last names are generally not included. This is done out of respect for members' privacy. Last names are found in the Membership Directory, which is distributed to members only. However, since our newsletter is accessible to the general public via the internet, our board feels that a little more discretion is prudent and respectful to members who may not want everybody knowing who they are and where they are at any given time.

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, events, links or other information for publication, please contact the editor, Art P (pcfs.kt@gmail.com). Deadline for the next issue is the 15th – extended deadline granted on request.