

April 2026

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

Come and Join Us for Our Next Gathering Saturday, April 11th, 2026

(Please note: This is the second Saturday in April)

Fellowship Hall - University Presbyterian Church

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	Oakland University music students Donovan Marlin, Bella Barba, Markwon Blocker, and Wil Angliss will share their recent experiences studying at the Dagara Music Center (DMC) and travelling to Ghana, West Africa. Through Oakland University's Global Arts Study Abroad program at the DMC, they studied Ghanaian drumming, dance, songs, and xylophone music.
3:30 – 4:00 pm	Snack Time
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Song Swap: Theme – Rain, Springtime, and Nature
5:00 – 9:00 pm	Vocal Jam led by Jack E., Instrumental Jam led by Jeff D., and a Lap Dulcimer teaching session led by Jack F.

Future Gatherings and Song Swap Themes:

May 2nd

Fellowship Hall from 2:00 to 9:00 pm

Song Swap Theme: Sad Songs, Disasters

Presentation: From Wood to Music - Explore the Craft of the Violin with local luthier ROB WILSON

June 6th

Fellowship Hall from 2:00 to 9:00 pm

Song Swap Theme: "Old Timey Americana" Songs

Presentation: Exploring the Dodge Legacy with **Dr. Graeme Harper** from Oakland University

July 11th

Seyburn Pavilion Picnic

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

Song Swap Theme: America

September 12th:

Fellowship Hall from 2:00 to 9:00 pm

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

Song Swap Theme: Anything you want or Limericks! Everyone recite a couple of limericks. Nothing dirty though!

The President's Post

Thank you to all the members who attended Cliff Monear's March Gathering presentation at Lawnridge Hall and then moved over to Fellowship Hall. The transition from one venue to the other went smoothly.

I thought Cliff's presentation and piano playing were quite impressive. His talent and lecture were second to none. Trying to stuff years of knowledge into one hour is not easy, especially to a "folk" audience not especially used to all the nuances of jazz piano.

Thanks to Jeff D. and Glen M. for the setup at Lawnridge. (There were others, and I apologize for not getting their names.) Also, a big thank you to Mike A. for providing the keyboard, and Glen M. for having the back-up sound system.

And thank you to Larry for providing the sound system for the song swap, and to Anna, Susan, and Kathy (I hope I didn't omit anyone from the "snack crew") for refreshments. JR did a fine job manning the membership desk.

I appreciate the effort everyone put into finding and performing Irish songs. Very well done! (But now I'm going to have to find the additional verses Maggie sang in "McNamara's Band.")

We all mourn the loss of our friend and colleague Dan DeGasperis. There was a good showing of members and music at his wake held on Friday, March 13. He will be missed and remembered by the PCFS membership.

By now, we're all wondering just when spring will make a permanent entrance and "drive cold winter away." Enough of cold and snow already!

But historically, April has a darker side. It was when armies traditionally started to campaign again: the American Civil War started and ended, the American Revolutionary War started, the Confederate Capital of Richmond fell, Bonnie Prince Charlie lost the Stuart crown of England for good, ANZACS went ashore at Gallipoli, the Irish Rebellion started, Hitler ended himself, and many other dark events.

There were also other notable tragedies such as the assassination of Lincoln, the sinking of the Titanic, the Chernobyl disaster, and of course, Tax Day!

But despite all these man-made disasters, it is also the beginning of spring and nature's renewal as visions of life return to the earth. Trees will bud, birds will return, flowers will bloom, weather will warm, days will lengthen. Let's look ahead to better days and find some songs to celebrate Rain, Springtime and Nature!

Tom D, President

Ridin' Drag

The vernal equinox delivers again. I'm always confident that it will, when the signs appear. Like the juvenile groundhog, wobbling about above ground on a chilly morning. His confusion is not going to arrest his enthusiasm for exploring my neighbor's culvert. I expect that when the temperature gets to him, and he hears mama woodchuck whistling him home, he'll be ready. Leave it to a flirtatious spring to lure him out.

A similar scenario enticed Milan, Susie and me to toss an eighteen-foot, 120-lb Sears canoe into the Clinton River on March 3rd, a long, long time ago. A decision I do not regret but would approach with a higher degree of wisdom given a redo. We became highly acquainted with paddling backward. We did not dump--for spring can be forgiving.

Then this morning, Friday, with these memories and future deadlines happily circling my head, a trio of whitetail does burst onto our lawn. Instantaneous. My attention held their gaze through the front window. Motionless, they remained frozen and a little bewildered. Not one soft ear twitched, but they all seemed to be wondering: *whoa, what the, what are we doing here?*

Cat people will recognize this behavior. Our torty cat, Grizz, succumbs to the ZOOMs often. After lapping the house a few times she pulls up, stares awhile, shakes herself back into sensible decorum and appeals for a treat. But deer are not cats. And though I've seen many a whitetail on the run, in the main they live circumspect lives. Still, even the most circumspect of characters is subject to spring.

Consequently, despite rising prices at the pump, even frugal, sober-minded, economically sound capitalists are prey to the bewitching spell of open windows, tops down, cheeseburgers in paradise, and the spirit of another spring singing:

Cruising and playing the radio... with no particular place to go.

Jack F

CALL FOR OFFICERS

For the 2026 - 2027 season of the Paint Creek Folklore Society, we would welcome any members who would like to run for the following positions: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and 4 Member-at-Large positions. Elections will be held at the June 6th Gathering.

A Nomination Committee will be established soon to solicit any candidates.

A Starry Night for a Ramble Benefit Contra & Square Dance on May 16th

STARRY NIGHT FOR A RAMBLE 2026 DRAWS NEAR. Social media is all abuzz with our upcoming SNFAR Benefit Contra & Square Dance. Yay! Glen Morningstar from Paint Creek Folklore Society and Ed Vincent 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 the orchestra practices begin the afternoon of April 3rd at the Morningstar home in Highland, and continue most of the Sundays that follow. What a glorious sound.

This is a benefit dance, where proceeds go to OCTDS and PCFS for their many great monthly music, song and dance programs. A flyer is attached with all the details for the May 16th fun, 6:30-10 pm in Troy. Show your support by joining in the listening and dancing fun. \$10 General Admission, kids 12 and under free. Bring a big snack and get another \$1 off. Bring your folky Silent Auction items too and put them up for bid. Proceeds again split by the two orgs.

We're seeking volunteers to help with decorating the dance hall with Starry Night regalia, and set up the Silent Auction, and pitch for a few minutes to wrap things up at the end of the dance. Grab the sign-up sheet at the upcoming PCFS meetings and jot your name down...THANK YOU. Any questions can be directed to Glen Morningstar at 248-330-0832 (text/phone) or gmorning@aol.com.

2026 Tin Whistle Concert - Many hands make light work!

It's never too early to look ahead and start thinking of the 2026 Tin Whistle Concert - our 53rd! Many hands make light work, and there are plenty of functions to be filled: Tin Whistle Chair; TW Assistant Chair/Booking Agent; Set Up Crew; Clean Up Crew; Sound (You're in, Phil!); Stage Manager/Backstage; CD Sales Table; Ticket Sales; Ticket Table/Door; Kitchen; Publicity; and Program Advertising Sales. Sounds and looks like a daunting task, but if we pull together, we can make it happen! Thank you!

Membership Highlights

As most of you have heard, our Membership co-chairperson, Dan DeGasperi, passed away on March 4 after a long battle with cancer. He was dearly loved and will be greatly missed.

At Paint Creek's board meeting March 25, the board appointed JR Falls to the position of Membership Co-chair, and he graciously accepted the appointment. We on the board are grateful to him for taking on this important responsibility.

ALL MEMBERS: PLEASE EMAIL ANY CHANGES IN YOUR CONTACT INFO TO ME, SO THAT WE CAN UPDATE OUR DIRECTORY. Thank you. <mailto:jackofallstrings@gmail.com>

Jack Erickson
Membership Co-chair

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

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

April 18th - Co-billing of *Jenny & Robin Bienemann* and *The Dangling Participles*

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

The North American International Banjo

The North American International Banjo Celebration is coming up on the last weekend in April this year at the Double Tree Hotel located on Ford Road and Southfield Fwy.

Check the web page at NAIBC.org

Oakland County Traditional Dance Society

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

Facebook: <facebook.com/OCTDS>

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY STUDENT PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

<https://www.oakland.edu/smt/performances-and-events/>

Let's support these talented students!

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](https://www.facebook.com/groups/DetroitIMA)

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

Huber Breese Music Online Concerts: [facebook.com/watch/HuberBreeseMusic/](https://www.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](https://www.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>

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

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

Attachments

- April KT pdf
- 2025-2026 PCFS Membership Form
- Starry Night for a Ramble Flyer - May 16 2026

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.