

May 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 for Our Next Gathering
Saturday, May 2nd, 2026
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	Presentation: From Wood to Music - Explore the Craft of the Violin with local luthier Rob Wilson. If you have an instrument at home you'd like Rob take a quick look at, feel free to bring it along.
3:30 – 4:00 pm	Snack Time The Snack Hosts will be Lynn Cottrill and Sharon Ferman.
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Song Swap: Theme – Sad Songs and Disasters
5:00 – 9:00 pm	Vocal Jam led by Jack E., Instrumental Jam led by Suzanne and Dulcimer teaching session led by Jack F.

Future Gatherings and Song Swap Themes:

June 6th

Fellowship Hall from 2:00 to 9:00 pm

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

Song Swap Theme: "Old Timey Americana" songs

July 11th

Seyburn Pavilion Picnic from 2:00 to 7:00

(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

“When rosy May comes in wi' flowers
Tae deck her gay, green spreading bowers,
'Tis then comes the happy hours
A-wandrin' wi' my Davie!”

Robert Burns' “Dainty Davie.” But true to form, Burns wrote a couple of versions of “Dainty Davie.” A bawdy version, a “nice” version for polite society, and other versions to suit whatever he was thinking at the time. The verse I quote above is from one of the “nice” songs.

I apologize again for having to slip out of the April meeting, there was a “Tartan Day” event in which we were playing at the Kilgour Center. But I was able to hear the Oakland students' presentation about their Ghanaian musical experience. It was great to see and hear their enthusiasm. Music is truly a universal language!

Thank you again to all the people who set up the room, and to Elaine and Kathy for providing the snacks. Thank you to Larry for the sound system.

At the May gathering you will hear the first collaboration of a song arranged and played by “The Hat Band.” Jack Ferguson, Dave Belferman, and I will perform “The Streets of London” in keeping with the theme of Sad Songs and Disasters. We've had one rehearsal and we think it's shaping up to be a respectable version of the song! We ran through it five times and Maggie didn't throw us out of the house—so that was a good sign! The “Hat Band” idea is a good one. I urge everyone to participate as it tests your ability to adapt and adjust your musical techniques to other songs and styles.

Our presentation for the May gathering will be given by Rob Wilson, owner of Wilson Violins in Birmingham. He will discuss “From Wood to Music” about violin making.

I'm looking forward to hearing some “Sad Songs and Disasters” at the May meeting. Remember, in every good folk song, there is at least one death!

Tom D, President

Ridin' Drag

Mark is making Kalyn's day.

Like me, they are volunteers at the Great Lakes Depression Glass Collectors Club's annual sale. It's a big deal. Folks are up from the Carolinas. Sharon and Pat drive I-80 through torrential Midwestern rain from sixty miles west of Chicago to sell and celebrate glassware produced during the Depression era. Think 1920s to World War Two, roughly. It depends on who you're asking.

But you're asking, “*How did Mark make Kalyn's day?*” Well, I'm learning that at these shows, glass sellers are also buyers, albeit reluctantly. You often hear a show attendee say, “*If it's still there at the end of the show I'll grab it.*” Those words were falling from Kalyn's lips while, at the same time, Mark began to unwrap a vase. A most handsome vase.

I'm not a glass person, but my wife is. That's how I find myself with Mark and Kalyn to begin with. My wife has items in the sale. She volunteers, so I do too. My role is to watch the back door and remind folks that it's for dealers only. But even so, despite my untrained eye, Mark's vase impresses me. It's a Cambridge Cascade Flared Vase. Kalyn is agog. Believe me people, her end of show resolve is enduring a terrible trial. And Mark wants her to have the vase. With an impartial manner I mention,

“If the vase was mine, I believe a passel of marigolds would suit its flair nicely.”

Kalyn stares through the vase, takes Marks measure, then queries slowly, “Which variety?”

I'm no more knowledgeable about plants than I am period glass. But I have seen some blooms, and I like them so, my vision for the vase spills forth:

“Kalyn, if you and Mark agree on an equitable price, I’ll suggest a vertical element of four to six Pom Poms. Orange. A background rising from a foreground bed of multi-colors—reds and yellows—will complement the Poms and accent the vase’s flair. Add a few Marsh blooms and they’ll turn that glass into a veritable riot of marigold merriment all summer long.”

Then Mark set the price, Kalyn’s day was complete, and Sharon, listening from the coffee room, smiled.

John’s a volunteer. He tells me my shift is over and I’m free to go. He wants to know if I enjoyed myself. I point toward Kalyn, cradling her vase, and say,

“Made my day!”

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 or a member-at-large. The current vice president, treasurer and secretary as well as two of the current members-at-large are willing to serve for the next season. I have one potential candidate for one of the member-at-large positions.

Board elections will be held at the June 6th gathering. Nominations may also be made from the floor during the June gathering.

President: Tom D.*

Vice President: Suzanne B.*

Secretary: Tom B.*

Treasurer: Dave B.*

Members-at-Large: Mike A.*, Kathy R.*

Member-at-large to be voted upon: Terry N.

Other Member-at-Large inquiries are pending at this time.

*incumbents

The following positions are appointed by the Board. Current appointees are:

President Emeritus: Paul J.

Co-Membership Chairpersons: JR F. and Jack E.

Historian: Glen M.

Webmaster/Social Media Editor: Michele F., Melinda, JR F. (to be confirmed)

Snack Coordinators: Sharon H. and Kathy T.

Keepin’ Tabs Editor: Art P.

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

YOUR STARRY NIGHT FOR A RAMBLE FUN AWAITS YOU! All roads lead to the dance hall at First United Methodist Church, 6363 Livernois Road in Troy, Michigan 48098 on May 16th for joyous music, feel good dancing, a fun Silent Auction, and tasty snacks and beverages. Glen Morningstar and Ed Vincent have their dance program of contras, a square and waltzes ready to go. This program is for all levels of dancers from newcomer to experienced. The Paint Creek Country Dance Orchestra, dulcimers, guitars, accordion, fiddle, flute, bass and piano (WOW) led by Judi Morningstar, has their music selected and arrangements complete. Not a dancer? The music alone is worth the visit. So WE ARE READY for you. Each dance is walked-through before the music begins. Bring a dance partner or tap someone who’s there to join you for the dancing session. Comfortable clothing and casual, comfortable shoes will fit the bill. Bring your lightly-used music, song books, dance clothing, crafts, services and potted plants for the Silent Auction. All proceeds support Oakland County Traditional Dance and Paint Creek Folklore Society projects. \$10 General Admission (children under 12 free). Bring a dessert/snack and get \$1 off admission. Newcomers’ warm-up at 6:30 pm. Dancing fun from 7-10 pm. YAY!!

For any questions, please call Glen Morningstar PCFS at 248.330.0832 or John Newsome OCTDS at 248.642.3306. Flyer attached with link to a view of the music and dancing SNFAR 2020.

See you there!
Glen Morningstar

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!

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

May 16th - Final Show of Mama's 2026 Season - the *Yellow Room Gang*

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](https://www.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

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>

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

Ten Pound Fiddle Concerts and Dances: facebook.com/TenPoundFiddle tenpoundfiddle.org

Attachments

- May 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.