

The Folk Club

Volume 10 Issue 6

of Reston-Herndon
Preserving Folk Traditions

June, 1996

June Showcase - Ray Kaminsky

The June Showcase will feature **Ray Kaminsky**, the Folk Club's resident gourmet chef, computer whiz, ace bowler, and booking agent. Ray just finished his second recording project, *Barker Hill Blues*, which features his finger-style acoustic and bottleneck steel guitar work and vocals, with **Ralph Gordon** on string bass, **Paul Watson** on harmonica, **Sandy Mitchell** on violin, and a ragtag chorus of Folk Club regulars on backing vocals - **Ellen Kaminsky**, **Bev** and **Jack Osburn** of Hickory Grove, **Larry Mediate**, **Cathryne Stein**, **Judith Fox**, **David Grossman**, and **Ken Eaton**. A pre-release tape of the project sounded spectacular! The title refers to the cemetery at Barker Hill in Herndon, identified in Ray's CD liner note as "within a stone's throw of ...home [and] one of the primary sites where Smithsonian National Treasure and W. C. Handy award winner [and Folk Club member] **John Jackson** dug graves between playing blues guitar and singing for Presidents.... This CD is in your hands thanks to the inspiration and encouragement John gave me over the years."

The songs on the CD are by artists such as Robert Johnson, Blind Blake, W. C. Handy, Brownie McGhee, and Blind Boy Fuller, with adaptations and arrangements by John Jackson, Mississippi John Hurt, John Cephas, Dave Van Ronk, and Ray's own arrangement of Sippie Wallace's "Woman Be Wise." The song selection for the album was inspired by the set list of an impromptu blues band Ray formed with three Folk Club members who have now left the area - **Ray Hillman**, who's in Colorado, **Don Twist**, in the Ozarks, and **Joe Kolankiewicz**, in the northern New England woods.

You may have seen Ray, along with most of his session band, performing at the Herndon Festival the first week in June, or perhaps caught his wife, Ellen, emceeding the main stage. They're very involved in the community, and helped create the Herndon Folk Festival, which draws national acts and rave reviews to town every fall. In fact, a sense of community is found in everything Ray does, whether it's the Folk Club community, the Herndon community, or the broader musical community.

Enjoy his showcase!



The Listener's Corner - John McConnell By Todd Crowley

What Ernest Hemingway was to bull fighting, John McConnell is to folk music, a true aficionado. John is the distinguished looking gentleman who arrives at the folk club early every Tuesday evening to help set up the sound system and stays until the last piece of equipment is securely put away. In between he may be the most intent and appreciative listener in a club that prides itself on listening. John has been a member of the Reston-Herndon Folk Club since its earliest days.

A resident of the Washington area since the early '40's, John has enjoyed a lifelong love of music, ranging from the big band era of his youth to opera to his present fascination with folk music. John remembers going to bed listening to big band crooners on the headset of his crystal radio during the war years. In 1982, John was scanning his FM radio dial when he came across Dick Cerri's Music Americana program. That first night he responded to one of Cerri's folk quizzes and won two tickets to a showcase at the Birchmere. John and his wife Jean decided to take a chance, and were delighted by an evening of acoustic music that featured a young Mary Chapin Carpenter. They were hooked. They continued to follow Chapin's career as it soared, and soon became devoted fans of other folk performers as well, including Canada's Eileen McGann and Garnet Rogers and local favorite Maddie McNeil.

Jean passed away in 1989, but John has continued to make folk music a major focus in his life. In addition to his regular seat at the Tortilla Factory, John travels the circuit to the House of Musical Traditions concerts on Monday evenings, the Dick Cerri showcases at Bad Habits, the Folkal Point, and more nights at the Birchmere than he can remember. He also has an extensive collection of recordings, some rare, and is a willing resource to anyone seeking information on the folk genre. John McConnell is every folk performer's ideal audience, a true aficionado.

Inside: Ari Eisinger



House Concert Series
Oatlands Celtic festival
Memorial Day Campout
wrapup (wringout?)
the Calendar
...and more!

Ari Eisinger

7:30 PM June 25, 1996 - Tickets \$8 (\$7 members)



Ari Eisinger is a solo performer specializing in blues and ragtime from the 1920s and 1930s. A guitarist and singer inspired by reissues of the old 78s, he is generally regarded as one of the best young blues players in the country.

Perhaps nothing tests a guitar fingerpicker's mettle faster than the fiendishly tricky array of runs, slides, pinches, bends, double-stops, and turnarounds that distinguish **Blind Blake's** repertoire. The Washington Post has called Ari's playing "swift, precise, and rhythmically vigorous." Eisinger is intimately familiar with the work of **Reverend Gary Davis, Blind Lemon Jefferson, Memphis Minnie,** and other legendary blues and ragtime fretters. The Cleveland Plain Dealer reports, "Contrary to the rumors, blues and ragtime guitarist Ari Eisinger...has only 10 fingers."

Ari has an affinity for the tunes recorded by **Fats Waller** (*I've Got My Fingers Crossed*), **Jelly Roll Morton** (*Buddy Borders Blues*), **Bessie Smith** (*They'll Be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight*), and **Billy Holiday** (*Getting Some Fun Out of Life*). His music sweeps you to another era, a dusty speakeasy of the depression like the Newman/Redford set for *The Sting*. Come catch the magic at the Folk Club!

Memorial Day Folk Club Campout

(or, How could I possibly have had a more uplifting experience?) - by Dave Hurd

Once again it was Memorial Day weekend, and for the umpteenth time (actually about 5) the faithful gathered at the Massanutten Mountain near New Market, Va., for a fulfillment opportunity. It all began with a solemn ceremony designed to drive away the sun god (which worked remarkably well - maybe we'll try it the other way on Labor Day) and then proceeded on into a weekend filled with musical sessions such as I have only experienced in this hallowed place before.

The careful reader will recall that after many visits to the mountain the practitioners devised a "theme format" for the weekend when we explored the ancient and honored art of "string changing" and beginning "tuning." In keeping with that newly formed tradition (and in finding yet still more tiny pieces of metal in the carpeting), this weekend's activities were marked with song sessions each with its own "mini-theme." Sessions included:

- Every possible drinking related song we could think of until we got tired.
- Incredibly long songs that none of us knows all the way through, but together can make a plausible stab at.
- Sunday morning gospel because the rain keeps us from the golf course (or hiking).
- Obligatory bawdy songs (or who can outgross whom? or is that whom can outgross who?, whatever!)
- Round and round and round and...
- Just how loud can you play and sing? (rumors abound that we can't be heard in either Page or Rockingham Counties - yet.)
- Transitions (moving through lyrics, melodies, and rhythms without regard to what went with what as originally written).

When taken in total, it was a very relaxing weekend of friendship and sharing - looking forward to Labor Day - information to follow in the summer.

Oatlands Celtic Festival

June 15-16, 10:00 am - 6:00 PM

Oatlands Plantation, 260 acres located
6 miles south of Leesburg on US Route 15
\$10/adult/day, under 12 free
Free souvenir program and parking
Rain or shine - under tents!



Partial listing of events:

Andy M. Stewart (legendary Scottish band *Silly Wizard*) with **Gerry O'Beirne** (Irish supergroup *Patrick Street*) performing TOGETHER both days; **Johnny Cunningham** on Saturday; **Club Espana** (Galician Dancers) and **Anao Atao** (from Cornwall) both days; **Iona** on Sunday.
Four stages of live ethnic dance and music, crafts, ethnic food, pub tent, much more!

For sale, Takamine 12-string guitar, \$900 new, sell for \$550 - Ray (703) 689-0444

Voice lessons are available from
Barbara Ryan - (703) 451-4492

Sound system and engineer, reasonable rates
Richard Flinchbaugh - (703) 255-0112

Club Acoustic Productions

House Concert Series

Sunday evenings

6:30 PM Socializing, 7:00 PM Showtime

Refreshments Available

\$10 Admission, by Advance Reservation Only
(703) 689-0444

Limited Seating! Reserve Early!!

June 23 Martin Sexton

July 7 Mary Flower

July 28 Ellis Paul

Aug 4 Richard Shindell

Oct 27 Will Hoppey

Nov 17 Jim Henry


Dec 1 Justina & Joyce



Folk Club of Reston-Herndon



June 2 - July 13, 1996

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June 2 12:00 Washington Folk Festival, Glen Echo (202) 546-2228 12:00 Herndon Festival (see May issue)	June 3	June 4	June 5	June 6 6:30-8:00 Acoustic Showcase, Starbucks Coffee, Cascades (free) (703) 421-0932	June 7	June 8 8:00 Del Ray Cfls, 100 E. Windsor Ave. Alex. (703) 549-2088
June 9	June 10	June 11 <i>Ray Kaminsky Showcase and Lottery Drawing</i>	June 12	June 13 6:30-8:00 Andrew McKnight @ Acoustic Showcase, Starbucks Coffee, Cascades (free) (703) 421-0932	June 14 8:00 Andrew McKnight @ Cfls at Mays Chapel, Timonium, MD (410) 922-5210	June 15 10:00-6:00 Oatlands Celtic Festival (703) 777-3174
June 16 10:00-6:00 Oatlands Celtic Festival (703) 777-3174	June 17	June 18	June 19 8:00 Andrew McKnight @ Music Americana Shwcase, Bad Habits, Arlington, VA (202) 362-2225	June 20 6:30-8:00 Acoustic Showcase, Starbucks Coffee, Cascades (free) (703) 421-0932	June 21	June 22
June 23 6:30 House Concert Martin Sexton Reservations Only (703) 689-0444	June 24	June 25 <i>Ari Eisinger (\$8/7)</i>	June 26	June 27 6:30-8:00 Acoustic Showcase, Starbucks Coffee, Cascades (free) (703) 421-0932	June 28	June 29
Folklife Festival, on the Mall in DC (202) 357-2700						
June 30 Festival	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4	July 5	July 6
Folklife Festival on the Mall						
						8:00 Open Door Cfls, Fairlington UM Church, I-395 & Rt. 7, Alex. (703) 299-8332
July 7 Festival 6:30 House Concert Mary Flower Reservations Only (703) 689-044	July 8	July 9 <i>Showcase and Lottery Drawing</i>	July 10	July 11 6:30-8:00 Acoustic Showcase, Starbucks Coffee, Cascades (free) (703) 421-0932	July 12	July 13

Folk Club Guest Artists

and Special Events

prices are for nonmembers/members - it pays to join!
all times are 7:30 PM

June 25	Ari Eisinger	\$8/7
July 23	Bill Staines	\$10/9
Aug. 20	9th Anniv. @ Tortilla Factory!	Free
Aug. 27	Bernice Lewis	\$9/8
Sep. 24	Blues Works	\$8/8
Oct. 29	Laurie Rose Griffith & Peter Mealy	\$8/7

Folk Club Format

On most nights, the Folk Club is an open mike format with a sign-up board. Each performer gets 12 minutes (or 3 songs, whichever comes first). A \$1 donation is requested.

Showcase Performances

On the second Tuesday of each month, we feature a Folk Club member in a two set (25-minute) "Showcase" performance. To be in a showcase all you have to do is:

- be a Folk Club member (who hasn't done a showcase in 6 months)
- fill out a lottery slip any time in the month before the drawing
- win the drawing (held on the night of the previous month's showcase); and
- practice, practice, practice!

Newsletter Submissions

Club members' performances will be listed in the club calendar, and members' music-related notices (instruction, equipment for sale, etc.) will be listed free of charge.

Articles, reviews, artwork, and other items related to music are welcome, although publication can't be guaranteed.

Contact the editor, Dan Grove, at (703) 742-7993 with submissions or for more information.

The Folk Club

Tuesday nights, 7:30 PM
at The Tortilla Factory
648 Elden St., Herndon, VA
471-1156

President: Larry Mediate
Treasurer: Richard Flinchbaugh
Newsletter Editor: Dan Grove

Board Members:

Ray Kaminsky, Ellen Kaminsky, Lynn Jordan, Bill Davis, Dave Hurd, Jim Rosenkrans, T.M. Hanna

Publicity & Information:

Lynn Jordan (703) 437-7766
Dave Hurd (703) 573-6855

Bookings:

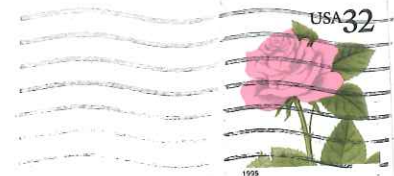
Ray Kaminsky (703) 689-0444

MEMBERSHIP · ADDRESS CHANGES · RENEWAL

Check your mail label - your membership expiration date (in Year-Month-Day format, YYYYMMDD) is there. To renew, or to join for the first time, please send your check for \$12, payable to The Folk Club, to membership chair Dave Hurd at the return address below.

He's the one to send any address changes to as well.

The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon



c/o Dave Hurd

1405 Cottage Street SW

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Expires 19970301

Mr Richard Flinchbaugh
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