

THE FOLK CLUB OF RESTON - HERNDON

Volume 20, Issue 1

January 2004

Preserving the traditions of
Folk Music, Folklore and Gentle Folk ways

January 12 - Laura Schier Showcase

by Dan Grove

Laura Schier sings – she was in the Herndon Chorale and Show Choir. She dances – fifteen years of lessons have included tap, ballet, jazz, lyrical, and Irish. She acts – theater gigs include *Crazy For You*, *Damn Yankees*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *Anything Goes*. She's learning guitar. She has a degree in Human Services from Virginia Tech, and is planning graduate school and a career in Arts Management. She's a well-adjusted, productive member of society.

Any one of these accomplishments would be considered remarkable under the circumstances, but the fact that she's accomplished all of them constitutes a minor miracle!

The difficulties Laura faced in early childhood are well known to most club members – her mother, of course, is **Sue Schier** of the **Zen Gospel Trio**. Their history, particularly their formation at the Illinois Correctional Facility for Wayward Girls, had a profound impact on Laura's youth. Her Mom was in for "entrepreneurship and serial delinquency," and her father **Jim** was an engineer refurbishing the Facility's plumbing infrastructure (OK, he was really removing the toilet seats, so the inmates couldn't hit themselves over the head and drown). It was in this capacity that Jim had a brief encounter with Sue in the handicapped stall. Indeed, this same stall is where Laura was later delivered, with the other Zen Gospels, **Diane Lafleur** and **Kathleen Abbott**, adding "practicing midwifery without a license" to the long list of their crimes.

To keep her out of foster care, Laura was smuggled out of the Facility in an empty guitar case by



an old friend of Sue's, a musician, back-up singer, and fake-ID artist from California named Kitty. Thus began Laura's itinerant childhood, more at Kitty's home in Torrance than anywhere else, but mostly on the road with a wide range of roots musicians. Six years later, Kitty was playing Dobro on tour with Pete Seeger & Arlo Guthrie when Sue's debt to society was finally repaid. Still blinking because she hadn't seen the sun in so long, Sue caught up to them at Wolf Trap, was reunited with Laura, and rekindled the "stalled" relationship with Jim. They settled down to what passes for a normal life here in suburban Virginia, and Laura has blossomed as her roots could finally take hold.

Laura didn't survive this childhood completely unscathed, of course. She has a recurring amphibian affinity, for example, and currently has about 25 frogs at home. This has nothing to do with kissing them, or an early Kermit fixation, or whatever else you're thinking right now, it's just the way things are. Considering her formative years, a little eccentricity is to be expected, and if frogs are the nepenthe to assuage the mental borborygmus of her youth, so be it!

For her showcase, Laura will be joined by a stellar band, including **Harry, Fang, Mark Casale, Tom Shabala**, her Mom, and perhaps the other Zen Gospels. She'll be crooning and wailing songs from Donovan, Patience & Prudence, Bonnie Raitt, and Patsy Cline. Gonna be way cool, folks, don't miss the totally awesome radical dudette's showcase!



**Verlette Simon
&
David Alberding**

**The Folk Club Proudly Presents
- 7:30 PM -
Tuesday, January 20, 2004
at the Tortilla Factory
648 Elden Street, Herndon, VA**

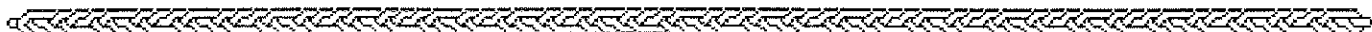
Tickets \$10 (\$9 Members)



Take a little bit of Gladys Knight, and a drop of Mavis Staples, throw in some James Taylor, a little Emily Saliers and a pinch of Jackson Brown, and you'll come out with the acoustic soul fusion of **Verlette Simon**.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York Verlette Simon has been a part of the music industry for almost two decades. She began her career touring with a church choir, performing in musical theater troops, and writing pop songs for her seventh grade choral group. At 17 she was songwriter and vocal director for the popular musical "I'm Growing As Fast As I Can". She attended both Brooklyn College of the Performing Arts and Lehman Performing Arts College, and has studied with a variety of voice teachers. Former lead singer and songwriter for Columbia Records band Buddah, Verlette has recorded with major label artists like Fine Young Cannibals, and Mony Love. Verlette has worked in both the A&R and Promotion departments of Atlantic Records. She has shared the stage with Castleberry Dupre, Milo Z, Rachel Cross, and Patty Labelle, Salt 'N Pepper, and Toshi Regan just to name a few. Her performances are full of inspirational anecdotes, introspective moments and an outpouring of soulful energy. She has performed at Venues such as, The Kennedy Center, The Washington Club, Kensington Coffee House, Metro Café, Jammin Java, Berwyn Café, Woodstock at Chief Ike's Mambo Room, Madame's Organ, and a variety house concerts and folk festivals. **Verlette** is currently releasing a new cd, "Elements" with former partner Michael Willis on Twisted Folk records, and her most requested song "Sorry" was chosen by the Woody Guthrie foundation to be included in their 2002 compilation cd. Verlette is the founder and director of Ubervox, a women's music networking, education organization and concert series based in the Washington DC area.

Whether on a festival stage, or in a quiet listening room, **David A. Alberding** creates an intimate setting. Using a dynamic, percussive guitar style, along with a rich, distinctive baritone, this Maryland native sets the stage for his cast of characters. Blending together elements of folk, rock, jazz and blues, David creates characters with his words and his voice that share an insight into the human condition. This style and uniqueness have yielded recognition for David as a major contributor to the Washington area music scene, including 2 consecutive nominations for Best Male Vocalist in Contemporary Folk by the Washington Area Music Association, and two awards in the Mid Atlantic Song Contest sponsored by the Songwriters Association of Washington for his songs "**Heavy**" and "**Circle of Three**", and 1999 runner up in the John Lennon Songwriting contest for "**The Waiting Room**". David donates his talent every summer to the Carol Jean Cancer Foundation, providing music for the families of children with cancer at their Camp Friendship campfires. His composition "**Friendship**" is the adopted theme song of Camp Friendship.



MUSICAL NOTES

CONGRATULATIONS TO RAY KAMINSKY!

The 2003 WAMMIE Award ballot came out yesterday, and Roadhouse Blues is on the ballot for Blues Recording of the Year! It's always a tough battle for acoustic blues to win when its stacked against electric blues bands, but if we all pull together...The songs on this recording were those most requested by audiences that had ot been previously recorded by Ray, so you will find many comfortable old favorites and some new surprises on arrangements. The voting ends January 16. Find out more about the Washington Area Music Association at: <http://www.wamadc.com/wama/> You can hear cuts from the album at his website: <http://www.earBuzz.com/raykaminsky/>

PAM COULTER BLEHERT - ART SHOW

The Council for the Arts of Herndon and it's Art in Public Places Program is pleased to announce a reception for artist Pamela Coulter Blehert on January 10, 2004 at the Jasmine Cafe, 1633-A Washington Plaza, Lake Anne, Reston, VA, from 3:30 to 5PM. The reception is to celebrate her show of oil paintings, on display at the restaurant through the end of January. **Please RSVP to the artist if you will be coming so we can plan the refreshments!**

Coulter/Blehert, paints primarily in oil and acrylic, and has over 300 paintings in private collections and corporate/government collections. Her paintings have been featured in the American Artist magazine (Feb. 1995), the North Light Book of Acrylic Painting Techniques, Art League shows at the Torpedo Factory, as well as League of Reston Artist shows. She works as a technical writer and computer graphics artist for a local company and conducts an oil/acrylic workshop Wednesday evenings at the Reston Community Center. She will do commissions and portraits from photos and sittings. Her work can be seen on the web at <http://www.blehert.com>. For more information, please contact the Council for the Arts of Herndon at 703.689.9535 or visit <http://www.herndonarts.org>.

ALL AROUND THE TOWN

You'll find us in every joint in town!

RAY KAMINSKY

1/03 & 04, 12-4:00 pm, w/ Jack Fretwell, Tarara Winery, Leesburg 703-771-7100
1/17 & 18, 12-4:00 pm, w/ Jack Fretwell, Tarara Winery, Leesburg 703-771-7100
1/31 & 2/1, 12 pm - 4pm w/ Jack Fretwell, Tarara Winery, Leesburg 703-771-7100 <http://www.tarara.com/>

PETE DURGAN

1/29/04, 9 pm, Luna Park Grille, Arlington

DAVID LAFLEUR

1/23, 7:30-9:30pm, Caribou Coffee House, 5562 Norbeck Rd, Rockville, MD, info: 301-460-0047.

SOMOS EL MAR www.schoolshows.com

1/1, 3:30 pm, Brookgrove, Olney, MD
1/2, 2:30 pm Asbury Methodist Village HC, Gaithersburg, MD
1/4, 2 pm, Potomac Valley, Rockville, MD
1/5, 2 pm, Asbury Methodist Village AL, Gaithersburg, MD
1/6, 3 pm, Seaford Retirement, Seaford, DE
1/8, 2:30 pm, Annaburg Manor, Manassas, VA
1/9, 3:30 pm, Arden Court, Annandale, VA
1/11, 2 pm, Bartholomew House, Bethesda, MD
1/13, 7 pm, Philadelphia Protestant Home, Philadelphia, PA
1/14, 1:45 pm, Rockville Senior Center, Rockville,
1/15, 2 pm, Caton Merchants, Manassass, VA
1/16 7 pm, Reeds Landing, Springfield, MA
1/17, 2:30 pm, Brighton Gardens, Danvers MA
1/19, 7 pm, Bandermill Woods Health Care, Mithodian, VA
1/20, 7 pm, Burke Health Care, Burke , VA
1/22, 3 pm, Capitol Heath, Dover, DE
1/23, 7 pm, Brighton Gardens Tuckerman Lane, Bethesda., MD
1/24, 10 am, Johnson Center, Sterling, VA
1/27, 2:30 pm, Cameron Glen, Reston, VA
1/30, 3:30 pm, Heritage House Liberty Ct., Phila., PA
1/31, 2 pm, Sterling Glen of Center Circle, Phila., PA
Please submit gig info in MS word format: date, time, w/whomever, town, info number or email.

UPCOMING PERFORMERS

<http://www.musi-cal.com/search?key=venue&value=Folk+Club+of+Reston+Herndon>

David Alberding and Verlette Simon - January 20, 7:30 \$10/\$9, Folk Contemporary singer-songwriters, gospel and jazz influences.

Sparky and Rhonda Rucker - February 10, 7:30, \$10/\$9, Folk, roots, Appalachian, folklore and blues.

Maggie Sansone & Co. - March 23, 7:30, \$10/\$9, Celtic CD Release of "Mystic Dance" w/ Sue Richards and others.

Oscar Brand - April 27, 7:30, A true Folk Legend. on 12/16.

Amilia Spicer - Jul 27, 2004, 7:30pm \$10/\$9, Wonderful vocalist, pianist with story songs that rival Carole King

Tim Harrison - Sep 21, 2004, 7:30pm \$10/\$9, One of Canada's foremost folk artists

THE FOLK CLUB OF RESTON-HERNDON

Meets Tuesday nights, 7:30 p.m. at The Tortilla Factory
648 Elden Street, Herndon, VA

President: Ray Kaminsky

Treasurer: Dave Hurd

Board of Directors: Sue Beffel, Bill Davis, TM Hanna,
Lynn Jordan, Ellen Kaminsky, Chris Kramer-Harnage,
Sue Schier.

Publicity: Sue Schier

Bookings: Ray Kaminsky 703-689-0444

Newsletter and Newsgroup: Dianne Lafleur

Web Site: Tom Shabala

FOLK CLUB FORMAT

Most Tuesday nights, the Folk Club is an open mike format with a sign-up board. Each performer has 12 minutes, which included set-up time. On the second Tuesday of the month, we feature a "Showcase" of a Folk Club member in a 25-minute performance.

SHOWCASE PERFORMANCES

To be in the Showcase, you must: 1) be a Folk Club member who has not done a showcase in the last 6 months. 2) Fill out a lottery slip and place it in the "drawing bucket". 3) Win the drawing on the night of the current month's showcase. 4) Be prepared to be featured in the next newsletter!

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION

Folk Club members are encouraged to submit performance calendars, classified advertisements, articles, reviews, artwork and other music related items to Dianne Lafleur at dlaflleur2@yahoo.com. Information should be received one week before the last day of the month in which you want it published. Items will be published on the basis of music related interest, timeliness, and space available.

GET YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE!

Advance Purchase of tickets to concerts by Guest Artists can be made at the Folk Club or by prepaid mail. Contact Dave Hurd, 110 Devil's Backbone Overlook, Stephenson, VA 22656, 540-722-0146

TUNE INTO THE FOLK CLUB

You enjoy the music and the fun. Become a member! The cost is minimal, just \$12 per year. Along with the opportunities to participate in showcase drawings, you get a \$1 discount on the ticket price of visiting artists (up to two tickets per show). If you buy two tickets every show, you've saved the membership fee two times. Join up at the Folk Club, or call a Board member for information.

NEWSGROUP

The Folk Club now has a chatty little newsgroup. Its great for finding out what is going on around town and beyond. Find it at www.groups.yahoo.com by doing a search for: **FolkClubofRestonHerndon**

Yes Virginia, the Folk Club does have our very
own **WEB SITE!**
www.RestonHerndonFolkClub.com
Many thanks to Tom Shabala

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads and performance listings will be published if received the 3rd week of the month before publication from members whose dues are current.

Email your ad to dlaflleur2@yahoo.com

For Sale: G-37 Guild. Spruce top, Rosewood neck, 26 years old, Beautiful blond with a great sound. Good condition. Always had medium strings, only one owner. Only played on Blue Mondays. \$650. Contact: dlaflleur2@yahoo.com



The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon
c/o Dave Hurd
110 Devil's Backbone Overlook
Stephenson, VA 22656

Expires 03/01/04



Mr David Hurd
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Stephenson, VA 22656-1900