

THE FOLK CLUB OF RESTON - HERNDON

Volume 20, Issue 2

February, 2004

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

February 17 Showcase – Kathy Martin (note: Showcase will be at 9:00 PM)

by Dan Grove

Kathy Martin has a lovely voice and a remarkable range. She first sang on stage at the age of ten, and has been gracing the world with her talent ever since.

An Air Force brat, Kathy lived in New Jersey, New Mexico, Okinawa, Montana, California, and Bangkok before settling in the DC area. She sang choir solos and folk mass at her church, and then ventured out to open mikes in the 1970s, at places like Gallagher's Pub and Eskimo Nell's.

These turned into paying gigs, and for a dozen years she was a solo act in the DC area, doing demo and commercial vocals as well as performing live. She then teamed up with Holly Garber and Lou Pfrang as a trio for another five years.

In 1990, Kathy skipped out to Las Vegas, where she found fewer live performance venues than in DC. Karaoke was a big thing, though, so she made money winning contests, and recorded background vocals for Vegas acts by Madonna and Michael Jackson impersonators. She also started her own open mike at the Glass Pool, a location featured in a ZZ Top video.



After returning to this area, Kathy reunited with Lou Pfrang, and along with Bobby Flurie on guitar they perform as *The River*. They have a semi-regular gig at O'Donnell's in Gaithersburg, and play at the Tarara Vineyard outside Leesburg during the summer. They have a private performance early in the evening on the 17th, which is why Kathy's showcase will start a bit later than normal.

By day, Kathy is an administrative assistant in SAIC's environmental unit. Six years ago she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, which was probably present for several years earlier, as well. This has slowed her down some, but hasn't affected her voice.

Early influences on Kathy's singing were Linda Ronstadt and Carly Simon. In Junior High School she sang along with Barbra Streisand recordings, and learned guitar watching Glen Campbell's TV show. She now does an eclectic range of music, including Bonnie Raitt, Patsy Cline, Cheryl Crow, and Melissa Etheridge material, plus show tunes, blues and jazz. Don't miss it!



Sparky & Rhonda Rucker

Tickets \$10 (\$9 Members)

The Folk Club
Proudly Presents ...
7:30 PM
February 10, 2004
at the Tortilla Factory
648 Elden Street
Herndon, VA



Internationally acclaimed **JAMES "SPARKY" RUCKER** is recognized as a leading folklorist, historian, musician, storyteller, and author. He has been singing songs and telling stories from the American tradition for over forty years. Sparky accompanies himself on guitar, banjo, and spoons, has released over eleven recordings. He has received numerous awards including the Storytelling World Award 2001, the Hurston-Hughes Award, John Henry awards in 1976 and 1982, and a nomination for the **W.C. Handy Award for Best Traditional Artist**.

RHONDA RUCKER, from Louisville, Kentucky, has played piano since the age of four, but it is on harmonica where she really shines. She began studying the techniques of Sonny Terry, the renowned blues harp player. She then branched out to other styles of playing. She has also studied with harmonica wizard Phil Wiggins. She began performing with Sparky in 1989. She has taught harmonica workshops and classes at numerous music camps and festivals. Her performing credits include the **Kerrville Folk Festival**, the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, Kansas, the Mississippi Valley Blues Festival, the Clearwater Folk Festival, the Vancouver Folk Festival, and the **Robert Johnson Memorial Blues Festival**.

The Ruckers contributed music to the syndicated television miniseries **The Wild West** (directed by Kieth Merrill). Sparky's unique renditions of John Henry and Jesse James were used in the **National Geographic Society's** 1994 video entitled *Storytelling in North America*. The Ruckers' passion for the American Civil War has inspired the development of **The Blue & Gray in Black & White**, a special historical program that tells stories from the war in music and narrative. "More songs came out of the Civil War than any other war in history," Sparky says. He is also currently researching Confederate General James Edward Rains, who had a promising political career before the war as editor of the Nashville Banner and Davidson County's attorney general. "Rains died gloriously leading a charge at the Battle of Stones River," he says. Another special historical program, *The Buffalo, Eagle, and Silver Spur*, tells the hidden history of the minorities in the American West. Sparky tells of the black soldiers who were nicknamed the "Buffalo Soldiers" by the Native Americans because of their resemblance to the highly regarded buffalo. His musical narrative also tells of the Ghost Dance warriors and the Mexican vaqueros. Sparky was given the "**Spirit of the Buffalo Soldier**" award for his research and presentation of this show in Arizona.

Sparky is a natural storyteller, having grown up hearing his father, uncles, and other family members endlessly telling tales. His storytelling is featured on *Tall Tales of the Blue Ridge: Stories from the Heart of Appalachia*, a video produced by the Eastern National Park & Monument Association in 1992. He has appeared at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesboro, Tennessee, the Festival of Storytelling on Martha's Vineyard, Motlow State Community College's Storytelling Festival, and the Texas Storytelling Festival. In 2000, he contributed to *More Ready-To-Tell Tales*, an anthology of stories from many of the nation's best professional storytellers. As a keynote speaker and a performer, Sparky Rucker has performed at such venues as the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. and the Chicago Cultural Center. He has also performed at major folk festivals, including Philadelphia, Smithsonian, Piccolo Spoleto (South Carolina), Vancouver, Winnepeg, Clearwater, Walnut Valley, Grten-Bern (Switzerland), and the International Children's Festival at Wolf-Trap Farm Park..



MUSICAL NOTES

For those of you out there who love **John Hartford**, **bluegrass** and **old time** music, here is a lovely web site that will let you hear old John Hartford concerts and shows; <http://www.bluegrassbox.com/jhradio.php> . It may take a few minutes to figure out how to use the web site, but I did it, so you can too. I have always believed in using the "let's see what happens if I push this button" method of computer learning, so give it a chance or just ask the nearest 10 year old to explain it to you.

WAMMIES

Our very own Ray Kaminsky has been nominated for a 2003 WAMMIE for his latest CD, "Roadhouse Blues". You can hear cuts from the recording at his web site: <http://www.earBuzz.com/raykaminsky/> . The WAMMIES ceremony will be held again at the State Theatre on Feb. 15, 2004. Congratulations Ray, and good luck!

Ralph Lee Smith has been very busy lately. He has just released a new book called Folk Songs of Old Kentucky, which can be purchased from Mel Bay Publications, ISBN 0786649267. The book is Ralph's special distillation of songs that were field-collected by two remarkable real-life "song catchers," Josephine McGill and Loraine Wyman, in the Cumberland Mountains of Kentucky in 1914 and 1916. Additionally, Jean Ritchie has a new instructional book and CD out called "Traditional Mountain Dulcimer, Taught by Jean Ritchie.

Ralph and Lea Coryell are doing a performance at the Reston Museum, on Sat., Feb 21, with the theme "Groundhogs, Valentines and Presidents:Folk Music for Feb. It sounds like fun. Ralph will also be leading a Reston Community Center trip to Winchester and "Patsy Cline Country" on Feb 14. Bring along your sweetie for a lovely Valentine's Day excursion.

New Open Mike

TM Hana is hosting a new Open Mike on Thursday nights 9 PM to 1 AM, at the Inn Zone. The Inn Zone is at 7395-A Lee Highway, in Falls Church, VA 22043, 703.876.6716. It starts a bit late in the evening for most working folk, but I'm gonna give it a try soon.

And if TM and his friends are going to be there, the music will surely be first rate. So go on out and support another local open mike!



ALL AROUND THE TOWN

You'll find Folk Club members in every joint in town!

RAY KAMINSKY

2/1/04-noon to 4pm, Jack Fretwell and Ray at Tarara Vineyard, Leesburg <http://www.tarara.com/>
2/13/04 - 6:30pm, Fine Wine, 20 Grand Corner Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 301.987.5933
2/17/04 - 8:30pm, Centreville H.S., 6001 Union Mill Road.Clifton, VA 703.802.5400

PETE DURGAN

2/22/04, 9 pm, Soulbender, Luna Park Grille, 5866 Washington Blvd, Arlington, VA 22205, 703-237-"LUNA"

RALPH and LEA CORYELL

2/21/04 - Reston Museum, "Groundhogs, Valentines and Presidents.

SOMOS EL MAR www.schoolshows.com

2/3, 2:00 p.m. Herndon Center, Herndon, VA
2/8, 2:30 p.m. Hebrew Home Smith Kogad, 2:30 pm
2/9, 7: 30 p.m. Vantage House, Columbia, MD
2/10, 7:00 p.m. Burke Health Center, Burke VA
2/12, 2:00 p.m. Arden Court, Potomac, VA
2/14, 7:15 p.m. Somerset Retirement, Sterling, VA
2/15 2:30 p.m.Georgetown Retirement, Washington DC
2/17, 3:00p.m. Methodist Manor, Seaford, DE
2/18, 7:00 p.m. Levandale, Baltimore, MD
2/20, 2:30 p.m. Cameron Glen, Reston, VA
2/21, 10:00 a.m. Johnson Center, Sterling, VA
2/22, 2:00 p.m. Potomac Valley, Rockville, MD
2/23, 6:30 p.m. Lakewood Manor, Richmond VA,
2/24, 2:00 p.m. Spring House, Silver Spring, MD
2/25 25, 2:00 p.m. Wakefield Senior Center, Annandale, VA

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>

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 dlafleur2@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 dlafleur2@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: dlafleur2@yahoo.com



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