

THE FOLK CLUB OF RESTON—HERNDON

Volume 21, Issue 1

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

January 2005

January 11 Showcase – Greg Vickers w/Olney Reston

By Dan Grove(?)

Dan Grove: Greg, you've been selected to perform the Folk Club's monthly showcase on January 11. What do you want the newsletter blurb to say about you and your music?

Greg Vickers: Can we talk about women and cars and drinking?

DG: Uh, yeah sure, but the newsletter article . . .

GV: Or skiing or golf or travel to far off places. I like to talk about those things, too. . .

DG: Do you have an ADHD problem?

GV: Oh . . . sorry 'bout that, Dan. You know, they really didn't use the ADHD acronym when I was a kid, but . . . can you believe how bad the Redskins sucked this year?

DG: Hmmm. Let's try again. You've seen our newsletter showcase blurbs before, Greg. Do you want yours to be direct and factual or one of those silly gonzo journalism pieces?

GV: Let's go with the lies, Dan. All three kinds: lies, damned lies and statistics!

DG: I've always liked that line. Who was it that said that?

GV: In his autobiography, Mark Twain attributed that statement to Benjamin Disraeli.

DG: Impressive! Do you see yourself as some sort of closet highbrow intellectual type?

GV: No, I see myself as some sort of bull**** artist. Remember, this interview is completely contrived. So if I wanted to look up something on the Internet in an effort to make myself look smart to the readers, well, I've had hours and hours to do so.

DG: Wow. We're just not getting anywhere at all. How about you just tell me a little about yourself?

GV: Okay. I was born in Georgetown Hospital in 1958. I'm the seventh of nine very energetic kids. My parents were very loving and, obviously, quite resilient. I was raised in McLean, and have lived in Fairfax County all



my life. I went to school, but mostly in the '60s and '70s, so I don't remember much about it. I speak Spanish, and I think school has something to do with that, but I could have just picked it up somehow during the tequila binge of the summer of '81. For 25 years I've earned a living doing one job or another in the concrete industry. I'm married to a lovely, adventuress woman, Gillian, and we have two fine children: James is 24 and Melissa is almost 20. Is that the sort of stuff you're looking for?

DG: Yes, thank you. We just might get this done after all. How about your music life?

GV: Can we take a break to get something to eat?

DG: (Silence)

GV: Can we?

DG: This interview isn't even real! You can do anything you want or do nothing at all, dammit!

GV (returning from lunch): Where were we? Oh yeah, music. I love rock 'n roll, folk, bluegrass, jazz . . . just about every genre but opera, hip hop and cabaret singing, really. I'm a sucker for most any song with good lyrics, well-played guitar, nice vocal harmonies or a pretty female voice.

DG: Who do you feel influenced you musically?

GV: Hundreds of artists have influenced me one way or another, but my all time music heroes are Frank Zappa, John Prine and Leo Kottke. I love the musicianship of all three, but I really admire them most for their irreverent attitudes and keen humor. I got my coarse sense of humor from my dad and my five crazy brothers. I got my passionate, opinionated side from my mom. Listening to and, maybe, emulating artists like Zappa, Prine and Kottke have helped me channel these attributes into my own songs.

(continued on page 3)

Sheryl Warner

And The

Southside Homewreckers

Tickets \$10 (\$9 Members)

The Folk Club Proudly Presents -
7:30 PM – January 18th, 2005
at the Tortilla Factory
648 Elden Street
Herndon, VA



"Dynamic"--"expressive"--"soulfully powerful"-- that's how national blues and roots publications describe vocalist Sheryl Warner. Add the gritty yet lyrical harmonica lines of Rick Manson and the propulsive guitar picking of Gregg Kimball, and you have a trio that delivers straight-up blues and ragtime tunes with a modern edge. The Southside Homewreckers has entertained audiences at premier venues such as the Washington D.C. Blues Festival, The Theater at Lime Kiln, the Taste of the Blue Ridge Jazz and Blues Fest, and the Blues Foundation international Memphis event.

Singer Sheryl Warner was one of the first few women to attend the Virginia Commonwealth University Jazz Studies Program. Her rich, expressive voice has developed over twenty years of singing in the blues tradition, described by *Dirty Linen* as "One of the most expressive and powerful voices in blues today." Sheryl draws on the extensive repertoire of early women blues singers, including country blues standards and songs from the classic blues and tent-show traditions. She brings her own unique style to the music of blueswomen such as Bessie Smith and Memphis Minnie, and reinterprets the lyrics, while retaining the spirit, of the great bluesmen.

Guitarist **Gregg Kimball** supports Sheryl on the six-string, twelve-string, and National steel guitars. His fluency in a wide range of early blues styles makes him a perfect complement to her powerful vocals.

One reviewer called him "an accomplished guitarist with a studied approach . . . one can almost hear the scratches on the Blind Lemon records." Gregg's interest in blues comes from his research and writing in African-American and Southern history and life. Currently a historian with the Library of Virginia he previously developed three NEH-funded projects on African-American history with the Valentine Museum in Richmond and frequently organizes programs to accompany musical performances. **Rick Manson** has been playing harmonica for more than twenty years. He was a student and protégé of Richmond blues legend Nat Riddles. Rick has played with several area bands, including the Detonators, the Smokin' Section, and the Brian Doherty Trio. His influences range from Little Walter to Charlie McCoy to Sonny Terry. Rick appears on Scott Perry's 2003 CD "Hero Worship." **Sheryl, Gregg, and Rick** also offer historical and educational programs on early blues music, including "**BluesWomen**" and "**Old Dominion Songsters: Traditional Blues in Virginia**" and has presented programs and workshops for libraries, museums, universities, high schools, and blues and historical organizations.



Upcoming Performers

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

Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer - Feb 15, 7:30pm \$12/\$11 – Grammy-winning folk & children's music artists
Bruce Davies – Mar 29, 7:30pm \$10/\$9 – Terrific British balladeer and showman

MUSICAL NOTES



WFMA Benefit Weekend – January 14 & 15

The World Folk Music Association will be holding its 20th annual benefit weekend at the Birchmere, in Alexandria, VA. This weekend of music brings together nationally and regionally known folk artists in one of the finest listening environments in the DC area. Featured artists will include the likes of Noel Paul Stookey, Oscar Brand, Bill Danoff, The Highwaymen, The Limelighters, and many others. You can get more info online at the WFMA website at <http://wfma.net>

ALL AROUND THE TOWN

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

Dave LaFleur

Thurs. & Fridays at Potbellys in Reston, 12-2PM

Ray Kaminsky

1/8: 7:00pm, Robinettes Coffee, 20693 Ashburn Rd., Ashburn, VA, 703-729-1050

1/15: 12:00pm, Tarara Winery, Leesburg, VA (w/Fast Eddie Galvin), 703-771-7100

<http://www.musi-cal.com/search?key=performers&value=Ray+Kaminsky>

Len Jaffe

1/13: 8:00pm, Ashland Coffee&Tea, 100 N. Railroad Ave., Ashland, VA 804-798-1702 (opening for David Mallett)

Pretty Ugly

1/15: 9:00pm, Mark's Pub, Falls Church, VA

T.M. Hanna

EVERY Thursday night 9 - 1 AM hosting Acoustic Open Mic at the The Inn Zone Restaurant & Sports Lounge Falls Church, VA.

Somos El Mar, www.schoolshows.com/somoselmar

Don Bridges, www.donbridgesongs.com

Steve Key Music Showcases www.stevekey.com

Mondays: 7-10pm, The Frederick Coffee Company, 100 N. East St. @Church, Frederick MD 301.698.0039

Wednesdays: 7-10pm, Stella's, 1725 Duke St., Alexandria VA, 703-519-1946

Sundays: 7-10pm, Austin Grill, 919 Ellsworth Dr. @Georgia Ave., Silver Spring MD, 240-247-8969

MONTHLY MILESTONES

Born This Month:

1/2/1936 – Roger Miller

1/3/1945 – Stephen Stills

1/6/1924 – Earl Scruggs

1/9/1942 – Joan Baez

1/10/1943 – Jim Croce

1/12/1905 – Woodrow Maurice "Tex" Ritter

1/15/1915 – Alan Lomax

1/19/1939 – Phil Everly

1/20/1889 – Huddie Ledbetter a.k.a. "Leadbelly"

1/21/1941 – Richie Havens

1/27/1930 – Bobbie "Blue" Bland

1/31/1796 – Christian Frederick Martin

And In Passing:

1/1/1953 – Hank Williams

1/2/1974 – Woodrow Maurice "Tex" Ritter

1/13/1864 – Stephen Foster

1/20/2002 – John Jackson

Quote for The Month

"Ah, music. A magic beyond all we do here!"

J.K. Rowling, from "Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone"

Greg Vickers Interview (continued from page 1)

DG: When did you start playing and writing?

GV: I started writing songs almost immediately after getting my first guitar when I was 17. I'm pretty sure I've been "writing" lyrics in my head since I was a little kid. So I disagree with fundamentalists who believe songwriting is a sinful lifestyle from which one can somehow be deprogrammed, because I'm quite certain I never had a choice in the matter.

DG: How would you describe your experience with the Folk Club of Reston-Herndon?

GV: I've been spending more time than ever writing and playing in the year and a half since I joined the Folk Club. My Folk Club and SAW friends have supported me through the 2004 recording of my first CD, *Not Quite There*, and through all my subsequent musical projects. I started gigging at wineries, restaurants and coffee shops on weekends recently, which for me is the fulfillment of a lifelong dream. The local music organizations I've joined have brought me some of the finest friendships I've ever had. I hate it whenever I'm out of town on a Tuesday night and have to miss the music and camaraderie at the Tortilla Factory.

DG: Are you going to have any guest artists join you for your showcase?

GV: I'm excited to be introducing the talented singer/songwriter **Michelle Murray** to the Folk Club at my showcase. Michelle and I have been trying to put something together musically for a couple months, but it's been hard because she lives in Olney, Maryland, and I live in Reston. Hence the name: Olney Reston. We're separated by 35 miles of awful traffic. And we have to get our passports stamped at Checkpoint Charlie every time we pass through a red state/blue state border just to get together and practice. Anyway, Michelle's quite a vocal and songwriting talent, and her strong rhythm guitar work frees me to do more banjo stuff, which I like. Folk Club regulars **Ron Goad**, on percussion, and **T.M. Hanna**, on mandolin, are likely to join me, too, and I may get a surprise guest or two to provide backing vocals.

DG: Thanks, Greg. I think we've made it through the interview after all. Let's finish up by having you tell us something interesting about yourself that we didn't already know.

GV: Cool! Here's a good one, Dan: once when I was in college I was playing the part of a slave in a medieval reenactment, when this bizarre, exotic-looking older woman with Rocky Horror makeup approached me and asked if I'd like to come back to her . . .

DG: Okay, okay, we're out of space. Have a good showcase, Greg.

GV: Thanks, Dan, I'm looking forward to it. And check my website calendar anytime for live appearances at :

www.gregvickersmusic.com

THE FOLK CLUB OF RESTON-HERNDON

Meets Tuesday nights, 7:30pm at The Tortilla Factory
648 Eldon 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

Newsletter: Bob Hampton, Dan Grove, Ray Kaminsky, Dave Hurd

Newsgroup: Dianne Lafleur

Website: Tom Shabala

FOLK CLUB FORMAT

Most Tuesday nights the Folk Club is an open-mike format with a signup board. Each performer has 12 minutes, which includes setup time. On the 2nd 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; and 4) be prepared to be featured in the next newsletter!

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION

Folk Club members are encouraged to submit performance calendars, classified ads, articles, reviews, artwork and other music-related items to Bob Hampton at bhampton@ossva.com. Information should be received 1 week prior to the end of the month for the next month's newsletter. Items will be published on the basis of music-related interest, timeliness, and available space.

GET YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE

Advance ticket purchases for Guest Artist concert performances can be made on Tuesdays at the Folk Club or by prepaid mail. Contact Dave Hurd, 110 Devil's Backbone Overlook, Stephenson, VA 22656, (540) 722-0146

TUNE-IN TO THE FOLK CLUB

If you enjoy the music and company, become a member! The cost is nominal, just \$12 per year. Along with the opportunity to participate in Showcase drawings, you get a \$1 discount on the ticket price of guest artist concerts (up to 2 tickets per show). Buy 2 tickets to every show and you've

saved a bundle! Join up on Folk Club Tuesdays, or call a board member for info.

NEWSGROUP

The Folk Club newsgroup is a great way of keeping in touch with what's happening around town and beyond. Find it at www.groups.yahoo.com by doing a search for **FolkClubofRestonHerndon**

WEBSITE

The Folk Club has its own website at:

www.RestonHerndonFolkClub.com

Hop online and keep up with the latest happenings!

INFO LINE

For general folk club information contact Sue Schier at (703) 435-2402



Classifieds



FOR SALE: Keith Young custom concert Appalachian dulcimer. Walnut & butternut, ebony fretboard, pearl inlay, planetary tuners. Excellent condition. Many extras. \$540. Email ibstrumin@earthlink.net

WANTED: Acoustic 6-string guitar with pre-amp, good tone, pleasant action, and reasonable price. Call Inni at 540-323-4444

FOR SALE: 1975 Guild G-37 guitar. Beautiful blonde with spruce top, rosewood neck, and a curvy backside. Crisp, big sound. Excellent condition. Always had medium strings, only one owner. Only played on Blue Mondays. \$750. Email lafleur22@hotmail.com

WANTED: Your old guitar strings! The Second Strings Project has distributed over 10,000 sets to the world's most depressed regions. Send complete sets only to Kevin Deame, 28 Ladd, Ellington, CT 06029.



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c/o Dave Hurd
110 Devils Backbone Overlook
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