



# The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon

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

Volume 23, Issue 2

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## February 20 Showcase – Sue Schier

by Dan Grove

Sue was born in Lafayette, Indiana, the youngest of four children. She first picked up a violin at age eight, and gave it up at age twelve when a shiny guitar and a love of folk music lured her away (she didn't forget about the fiddle, though!). She took a guitar with her to Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, where she earned her BS, spent a lot of time listening to Bob Dylan, Pete Seeger, John Denver, PP&M, the Eagles, Dan Fogleberg, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Arlo Guthrie, and other artists' recordings, majored in Art, and was active in the Friends of Folk Music club. After graduation in 1975, she married Jim, who was a Purdue student she'd met after her sophomore year. After Jim graduated, they moved to Indianapolis, where son Kevin was born in 1978, and to the Los Angeles area, where daughter Laura debuted in 1981. During those years, the guitar mostly took up space under a bed, and Sue was doing a lot of handweaving and fiber arts while raising babies.

In 1987, the family moved to Herndon, and looms and spinning wheels gradually gave way to Martin guitars, autoharps, fiddles, and the Folk Club. She's enjoyed playing guitar and autoharp and singing with the Zen Gospel Trio, and she loves playing Irish fiddle, too. Ten years ago, she started taking lessons from Philippe Varlet, of Silver Spring. She's still got the old Hopf fiddle she played when she was a child, too!

While living in California, and with Laura finally in school, Sue took a year-long course that taught all aspects of floral design, another somewhat esoteric skill that she's picked up and become quite proficient at.

One of Sue's favorite things to do is play and sing with other people, so she's asked a few to join her in this performance. The Zen Gospel Trio (with **Kathleen Farrar** and **Diane LaFleur**) will be resurrected for a couple of songs, and then Nina Anmahian Lantis and Sue's daughter **Laura** will join her on vocals. **TM Hanna's** mandolin, **Bob Hampton's** guitar, and **Nina's** recorders will round out the instruments. The gang will do traditional and gospel songs, plus contemporary pieces ranging from Utah Phillips to Guy Davis. See you there!



*Happy Valentine's Day*



# Sparky & Rhonda Rucker

Tickets \$12 (\$11 Members)

The Folk Club  
Proudly Presents ...  
7:15 PM – February 13, 2007  
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, Gärten-Bern (Switzerland), and the International Children's Festival at Wolf-Trap Farm Park.



## *Upcoming Performers*

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

**Chuck Pyle** – March 27, 2007, \$12/\$11 – Pyle's songs have been recorded by John Denver, The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and Suzy Bogguss

**Iona** – April 17, 2007m \$12/\$11 – Iona's music is a unique, acoustic weave of the traditional music of Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall, Brittany (France), the Isle of Man and Galicia (Spain)

## MUSICAL NOTES



### AtLantis House Concerts

The last AtLantis house concert of the season will be on Saturday, February 17, featuring Nancy Moran & Fett - an evening of "contemporary folk with a rock-n-roll edge" with one of the Four Bitchin' Babes, and her very talented husband, Fett. The show begins at 7:30, unless otherwise noted. Reservations are required and a suggested minimum donation of \$15 is requested. Seating is limited, so contact them at: [HouseConcerts@Lantis.us](mailto:HouseConcerts@Lantis.us) or call 571-333-7222

### SAW West Market Concert Series

The upcoming performances for the SAW West Market Concert Series are as follows:

Feb. 11, 2007: Daniel Lee & David Kitchen  
Mar. 4, 2007: Susan Greenbaum and Andrew McKnight  
Apr. 1, 2007: Greg Vickers and Greg Trafidlo

Concerts are the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month, 7:30pm, at the West Market Clubhouse. Donations of up to \$10 per person are encouraged, to help support the functions of SAW and the West Market Association. Contact Greg Vickers or Ron Goad for further info.

### Guitars not Guns

GnG's mission is to provide opportunity, encouragement and empowerment to at-risk youth with modest means; to help instill in them the confidence and character necessary for them to grow into productive members of society and responsible adults. We engage their creative potential with a structured music program, taught by caring adults in a safe environment, and then coupled that with our mentoring in music related career opportunities. We are an all-volunteer, community based 501 (c) 3 non-profit that provides at risk youth a positive alternative to the self-destructive behaviors of drugs, alcohol, crime, and gang activity. GnG accepts up to 10 students per class, generally 10-13 years old, and are always looking for new enrollments. Currently, they have three class locations in Fairfax County, Alexandria and Herndon, and will soon be adding new class locations in Vienna and Alexandria.

GnG is also looking for volunteers to assist at current locations, and to expand into other communities. You can learn more about the available opportunities and about GnG in general by visiting their website at [www.guitarsnotguns.org/Virginia.html](http://www.guitarsnotguns.org/Virginia.html). Questions or requests for addition information should be directed to Skip Chaples, President, Guitars Not Guns Virginia at [skipchaples@cox.net](mailto:skipchaples@cox.net) or (703) 644-1311

## ALL AROUND THE TOWN

*That's right - they don't just play at The Folk Club!*

### Ray Kaminsky

**3/1** - Featured act (w/Fast Eddie) at the SAW Firehouse Grill event.

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

**Somos El Mar**, [www.schoolshows.com/somoselmar](http://www.schoolshows.com/somoselmar)

### Demetrios Liadis

Contact Demetrios on line:

[www.myspace.com/demetriosjam](http://www.myspace.com/demetriosjam) or call him at 571-247-8969

### Ron Goad - hosting the following SAW events:

- Every Monday 8pm, showcase at The Westside Café, Frederick, MD. <http://www.westside-cafe.com>
- First Sunday each month 7:30pm, West Market Concert Series, West Market Clubhouse, 1901 Logan Manor Drive, Reston, VA.
- First Thursday each month, The Firehouse Grill, Fairfax, VA. 6-7pm open mike, 7-10pm showcases & featured act. <http://www.theFirehouseGrill.com>
- Third Thursday each month 6-10pm, open mike and showcase at Bangkok Blues, Falls Church, VA. <http://www.bangkokblues.com>
- Last Saturday each month 12:30-4:30pm, theme shows at Red Rocks Café, Centreville, VA. <http://www.restaurant.com/redrocks>

Contact Ron directly for info on attending and/or signing up for any events: [MisterGoad@aol.com](mailto:MisterGoad@aol.com), 703.266-7060

## MONTHLY MILESTONES

### Born This Month:

2/2/1942 - Graham Nash  
2/3/1916 - Rabon Delmore  
2/7/1920 - Oscar Brand  
2/8/1941 - Tom Rush  
2/10/1937 - Don Everly  
2/13/1919 - "Tennessee" Ernie Ford  
2/14/1943 - Eric Andersen  
2/21/1958 - Mary Chapin Carpenter  
2/24/1927 - Ralph Stanley  
2/25/1913 - Mel Bay  
2/25/1924 - John Jackson  
2/25/1943 - George Harrison  
2/26/1932 - Johnny Cash

### And In Passing:

2/2/1983 - Sam Chatmon (1/2 brother of Charlie Patton)  
2/7/2001 - Dale Evans  
2/13/1941 - Fulton Allen a.k.a. "Blind Boy" Fuller  
2/15/1968 - Marion "Little Walter" Jacobs  
2/19/1998 - Louis Marshall "Grandpa" Jones  
2/26/1977 - Booker T. "Bukka" White

### Quote for The Month

*"Do I listen to pop music because I'm miserable or am I miserable because I listen to pop music?" ~ John Cuzak*

## 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 Porter, 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:** Armen Karimian

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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 \$15 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. Just go to: <http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/FolkClubofRestonHerndon/>

### WEBSITE

The Folk Club has its own website at:

[www.RestonHerndonFolkClub.com](http://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



### Folk Club Members: Advertise Here!

**SEEKING MUSICIANS:** Cornet and harmonica player, experienced, seeks working performer, group, or band based in NoVA (Vienna). Jazz, rock, blues, folk, pop, country. [david@savageheart.com](mailto:david@savageheart.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 Devil's Backbone Overlook  
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