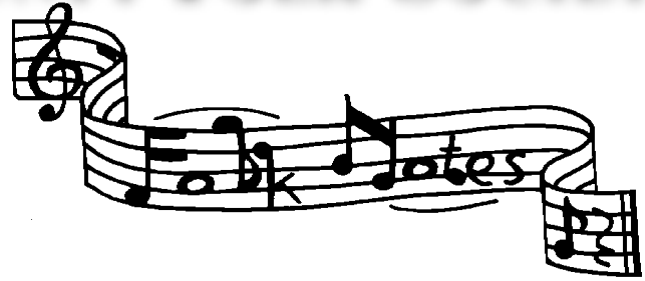


# THE SONOMA COUNTY FOLK SOCIETY

January -  
February 2010  
Volume 15 No. 1



<http://www.socofoso.com>

## Saturday, March 13th is our 10th annual Folk and Bluegrass Festival

### Here's the line-up for this year

Featured performers will be:

Dr. Elmo and Wild Blue, Ed Neff and Blue & Lonesome, The Kathy Kallick Band, 49 Special, Rita Hosking, Evo Bluestein and the cowboy band, Lone Prairie.

Advance tickets are available starting JANUARY 1, 2010. On-line at: [www.cbaontheweb.org](http://www.cbaontheweb.org), and by mail. For tickets by mail send a self addressed stamped envelope to SCB&FF, 3980 Monika Ct., Sebastopol, Ca. 95472.

General admission is \$27 advance, \$32 at the door. For members of the Sonoma County Folk Society and the California Bluegrass Association, \$25 advance, \$30 at the door. Children 11 years old and younger are free when accompanied by an adult admission.

As has been the case in the past, food and beverage vendors will be available on site.

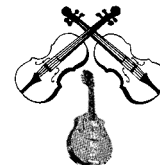
The Sebastopol Community Center is located at 390 Morris St. in Sebastopol. For further information call 707-829-8012, 707-542-3798 or go to [www.socofoso.com](http://www.socofoso.com)

Come out and help us celebrate 10 years of great bluegrass and folk music in Sonoma County.



### Pete Seeger is asking for our help with, SING OUT! MAGAZINE!

Pete Seeger is asking us to join together to help a folk music institution! Since 1950, Sing Out! Magazine has been one of the most effective and respected ways for musicians to share and learn. As Sing Out! heads towards its 60th anniversary, spring 2010, its non-profit parent which also produces "Rise Up Singing," Sing Out! Radio Magazine, and Pete's newly revised autobiography "Where Have All the Flowers Gone" is fighting for survival. Throughout its existence, Sing Out! has always operated close to the bone financially, but recent economic conditions, along with the current state of the print trade and periodicals, have come together to put the very existence of the magazine and organization in real danger. If you care about folk music, and want one of its community's strongest voices and allies to survive, Check out Pete's message at: <<http://www.singout.org/donate.html>>. (You can help by passing this message on to others you think should know about this too!)



## What's Inside

<b>10th Folk and Bluegrass Fest ...</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Sing Out! needs our help .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Presidents Message .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Interview, Evo Bluestein (1) ...</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Upcoming Events.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Ukulele Undercurrents .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Acoustic Music Jams .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Dance Dance Dance .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>On the Air KRCB .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>On the Air KRSH .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Lessons • Lessons • Lessons</b>	<b>6</b>



## Notes from our President, Steve DeLap

### 2009, local artists on disc! CDs releases from Sonoma County

So another year is past and gone and it seems like a great time to review a bunch of CD's made by some of our talented and prolific local artists. These new releases include Bluegrass, Old time, Celtic, Singer/Songwriter, Traditional Blues and even Italian music.

In the Celtic arena, the major release in Sonoma County is "Dreams and High Hopes" by local Celtic rock group, Greenhouse. This is the third CD for this band and as often happens, the music just gets better with each new release. Lead vocal work is done both by Michael Rofkar, with occasional outstanding duets by Michael Rofkar and by Patricia Casey. The album includes a number of traditional songs such as Broom of the Cowdenknowes and MacPherson's Rant as well as some great original songs exemplified by the title cut "Dreams and High Hopes" written and performed by Michael Rofkar.

The other Celtic release came from Christa Burch. This CD, "Love of the Land" was actually two or three years in the making as both Christa and the album's producer Dennis Cahill (yes, Martin Hayes' guitarist and partner) were frequently interrupted by touring and other musical activities. The wait was well worth it however as Christa's beautiful voice and Dennis' incredible guitar work make this a wonderful listening experience.

Ed Neff and his band, Blue and Lonesome released another long-awaited CD, "Some Old Day" in '09. This CD too includes many old bluegrass favorites all played in traditional style and done with that sense of joy and rhythmic precision that marks a great Bluegrass band. Blue and Lonesome is one of the best and it shows in this album. If you want to hear some live bluegrass and, (I'm guessing) pick up a copy of "Some Old Day", Ed and his fellow bluegrassers hold forth at the Willowbrook Ale House in Petaluma every Thursday Evening from about 6:30 to 9:30.

Certainly a more eclectic album comes from Riggy Rackin's fertile and creative mind. This CD, "Somewhere in Between" also demonstrates Riggy's musical depth of knowledge in his broad selection of tunes and songs. You'll find English traditional tunes to select from, pop tunes and relatively obscure dance tunes as well as some written by Riggy himself. All the numbers reflect Riggy's excellent musicianship as well as contributions by some really good back-up musicians. Riggy's website, [riggy.com](http://riggy.com), makes getting this worthwhile CD easy.

The Old-Time music folks were represented by Laura

Lind's great new band, "The West County Professional Tea Sippers". Their first studio release, "The Kettle is On" amply demonstrates the band's traditional Old-Time chops while adding Laura's unique autoharp and vocal arrangements. Incidentally, it is a very pleasant surprise to hear how a well played autoharp fills in and smoothes out the sound. It's an effect you don't know is missing until you hear it. This CD is available on cdBaby.

Another most interesting recent CD features Gus Garelick, Don Coffin, Dennis Hadley, and Sam Page as "The Hot Frittatas". This is the Band's third CD endeavor and while they are thought of as an Italian band, this CD branches out into songs and tunes of many other nationalities and show up as mainly Romance cultures, though Klezmer and Bluegrass influences are detectable. This CD is a great introduction to well played Italian style music. It's available on cdBaby or through [The Hot Frittatas.com](http://TheHotFrittatas.com) website.

The Singer/songwriter arena was well represented by a new and different release by Moss Henry. His "Roll The Bones" features something of a departure from the topical protest oriented focus of earlier albums. The social and political commentary is here but there is also a love song or two and even a psychologically insightful focus on why certain guys feel they need a "Real Big Car". On this CD, Moss has assembled a quality supporting cast of musicians and the resulting sound is very rich and listenable. This and earlier CD's by Moss Henry are available on cdBaby too.

We've just touched on the highlights of CD releases in Sonoma County in 2009. I will continue to showcase these new releases throughout the new year on KRCB on "Our Roots Are Showing", Saturdays 1:00 to 5:00. We will be able to check out more of the '09 CD releases before we're overwhelmed with 2010's upcoming debuts.

Meanwhile, we're losing one of the last local CD stores, Back Door Disc and Tape in Cotati, apparently to downloading technology and corporate multifocused stores like Borders and Best Buy. **Please continue to support The Last Record Store in Santa Rosa; they are great supporters of the Folk Society and they have the music you want!**

CD's by independent folks still have a place at concerts and festivals where we can listen to live performers and buy their CD's that they've made on their own and toted along. Still the best way to buy folk music.

#### FOLK NOTES

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P O Box 9659 Santa Rosa CA 95405-9659  
For information, call 707-542-3798  
<http://www.socofoso.com>

## An interview with Evo Bluestein...

### By Mark Hogan. Part 1 of 2.

As many of you who have attended the Sonoma County Bluegrass & Folk Festival in the past know, we try to make sure that Old Time Music is represented in our annual presentation. In the past we have featured The Road Oilers, the Orpheus Supertones, Mac Benford, the Any Old Time String Band, and featured Old Time banjoists, Dan Levenson, Bob Carlin, and Jon Peterson, to name a few. This year we are proud to present the very talented singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, dancer and consummate entertainer Evo Bluestein. For those California Bluegrass Association members with a long memory, you may remember Evo performing on the main stage at the Fathers Day festival with his brother Jemmy and dancer Ira Bernstein in the late 1980's.

I've observed that many of the most successful musicians like Mike Seeger, Carlos Santana, Rhonda Vincent and Sam Bush have come from families that not only encouraged their children to enjoy and play music but valued and supported the pursuit of music as a career choice. With the exception of Mike Seeger, whose parents were musicologists, all played with family members or more formally in family bands in their youth. In speaking with Evo, I realized that his was another case in which the family played a huge role in his subsequent development as a musician and performer. The following is part of a conversation with Evo on this experience and his music today:

**Mark:** I was aware that your parents were musical. Tell me a little bit about them and then something about your earliest memories of music in your household.

**Evo:** As a young man, my father was inspired by Pete Seeger and got a banjo soon after. He had been learning to play drums before that, inspired by jazz in New York City where he is from. His cousin was one of the most famous Jewish cantors and Yiddish actors in America—Moishe Oysher. Music was definitely on my father's side of the family. Choosing to get his PhD in American Studies, he got very involved in American folk music, folklore and American literature. During his first teaching job at Michigan State, he was a principal member of a hot Trinidadian steel band with a number of college students from Trinidad. They used to rehearse in our basement while I was napping after kindergarten. They tune those steel drums (oil barrels) by banging them with a hammer, so it was quite a racket! Good training for raising kids. The band would play for huge parties in our back yard. They actually had an album on Folkways records, one of several my father made before he started performing with us kids.

**Mark:** When did you begin to play music yourself and what was your first musical instrument?

**Evo:** My first real instrument I took formally was piano—still the best choice, no matter what else you might do in music. The right teacher is important as with anything,

however. My dad asked a young classical music student from CSU, Fresno (his next position after Michigan) to teach me. I remember him saying "I want you to teach him theory." I remember the response. I think my teacher was a bit surprised as that isn't done too often, even today, with ten-year old kids. It was a smart thing to do.

We always had folk instruments of various kinds around the house and because of my constant exposure to the folk artists that came to visit, perform and sometimes live with us, all four kids eventually gravitated to folk, trying everything that was around at one time or another. Mississippi Fred McDowell almost burned down our garage once, showing me how to make bottle-necks for slide guitar. I still have one we made together.

**Mark:** How old were you when you moved to France? How did the idea of a family band emerge?

**Evo:** My father had a number of overseas teaching positions and he always took us kids with him until we were out of the house, in which case we often went over to visit him and perform with him (Finland, France, Japan, China and a music tour in Israel). France involved a six-month stay in Paris at the end of my high school years (1975). It was a fine way to finish off the alternative school I had been attending. I was very involved with Appalachian fiddle. We started performing in the Parisian folk clubs (Gene with the three sons Joel, Evo and Jemmy). When we returned to Fresno, my sister, still in high school, joined in singing and soon after on guitar.

**Mark:** How long did you perform together as a group? Where did this take you in terms of performing around the world?

**Evo:** We did tour in California as a family group and in the countries I mentioned, largely as a result of my father's academic activities. I especially did a lot of lecture concerts with my father who routinely incorporated folk music and culture into his work. It was a kind of apprenticeship that served me well in the long term. We recorded numerous albums from 1979 to 1985. Later I toured in the U.S. and Europe with my brother Jemmy and sometimes with Clogger Ira Bernstein.

### Part 2 continued next issue...

#### The Last Record Store

1899-A Mendocino Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401



Phone (707) 525-1963

WWW.THE-LAST-RECORD-STORE.COM

## Other

### Upcoming events...

**PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDARS!**

## **THE NEXT SoCoFoSo PICKIN' POTLUCK SUNDAY January 31st**

**SUBUD HALL  
234 HUTCHINS AVE,  
SEBASTOPOL**

**1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.**

**For details call: 542-3798**

**MUCH PICKIN'  
MUCH POTLUCKIN'  
MUCH FUN!**

### **House Concert with Sylvia Harold and Euphonia**

**Saturday, January 16,**

For details and reservations, call: (707) 433-5274

### **Blue & Lonesome**

Bluegrass with some of the Bay Area's finest musicians:  
Ed Neff on mandolin, Paul Shelasky on fiddle,  
Mike Wilhoyte on guitar, Larry Cohea on banjo  
and Jeff King on bass.

Always at the Willowbrook Ale House,  
Thursdays, 6:30 - 10:00 pm  
3600 Petaluma Blvd North, Petaluma



### **Mike Dowling in concert! Saturday, January 23rd, 7:30PM SEBASTOPOL CENTER for the ARTS**

6780 Depot St, Sebastopol

Bottleneck blues, vintage swing, ragtime & more played  
with grace, wit & dazzling dexterity.

**Sunday, January 24th, time: TBD,**  
Acoustic Guitar Workshop with Mike Dowling

Individual hour-long lessons can also be arranged.

### **Jim Hurst**

**Friday, February 19th**

Subud Hall

234 Hutchins Ave. Sebastopol

For details on all of these events, contact Kevin Russell  
707-824-1858

or [krussellmft@aol.com](mailto:krussellmft@aol.com)

## **Ukulele Undercurrents...**

The New Year brings a wealth of shows to the area...

Lil' Rev

Friday, February 12

Petaluma Community Center

320 North McDowell Boulevard

Petaluma CA 94954

707-778-4380

Workshop, 6:30, Concert at 8:15



Continuing our love affair with Jake Shimabukuro

<http://www.jakeshimabukuro.com/?t=tour>

Wednesday, March 17, 7:30PM

Bankhead Theatre

2400 First Street

Livermore, CA

Phone: (925) 373-6800 or <http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org>

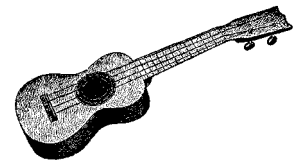
Friday, March 19, 8:00PM

Napa Valley Opera House

1000 Main Street #150

Napa, CA 94559

Phone: 707-603-23450 or <http://www.nvoh.org>



Saturday, March 20, 8:00PM

John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel & Casino

1100 Nugget Ave

Sparks, NV 89431

Phone: 775-356-3464 or <http://www.janugget.com>

Sunday & Monday, March 21-22, 8:00PM & 10:00PM

Yoshi's San Francisco

1330 Fillmore St

San Francisco, CA 94115

Phone: 415-655-5600 or <http://www.yoshis.com>

Jake will perform two shows each night.

First show starts at 8:00PM.

Second show starts at 10:00PM.

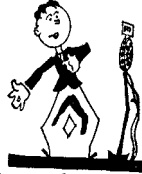
**... And be sure to make music of your own!**

## **Guitar For Sale**

**12 string guitar, needs strings, \$95  
contact [nastche@sonic.net](mailto:nastche@sonic.net)**

# Acoustic Music Jams :

**it's always fun to make your own music!**



• **THE BLACK ROSE PUB**

(formally the Rose Pub)

2074 Armory Drive, Santa Rosa.

All JAM SESSIONS are now being conducted on Wednesday nights, starting at 8:00.

◇ French and European jam, first Wednesday

◇ Slow Celtic jam, second Wednesday

◇ Traditional Irish jam, third Wednesday

◇ Old Timey Bluegrass jam, fourth Wednesday

For more details, please call Don Coffin at: 707-995-0658

• **THE REDWOOD CAFE**

8240 Old Redwood Hwy, Cotati

◇ The Celtic Sessions, led by Janette Duncan and Roxanne Oliva

Second Sunday of the month from 4 to 6 pm.

For details call: 585-3138

• **MAIN ST. STATION RESTAURANT**

16280 Main, Guerneville

◇ Slow Celtic Sessions

1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7 to 9 PM,

For details call: 869-0501

• **COFFEE CATZ**

6761 Sebastopol Ave, Sebastopol,

On Hwy 12 at the Train Station, east end of town.

Check it out every Saturday afternoon from 2 to 5 pm.

Everyone is welcome at this CBA hosted event!

Mark Hogan is a great host.

◇ Old-time, bluegrass, old country.

For more information, contact Mark Hogan at:

hogiemoon@comcast.net or call 829-8012

• **ACE IN THE HOLE CIDER PUB**

Corner of Hwy 116 at Graton Road.

◇ Open Mic on Monday night, hosted by Steve Wharton

For more information call 829-1223

• **MURPHY'S IRISH PUB**

464 First St Sonoma

◇ First Sunday of the month, celtic jam

For details call 935-0660

• **GOSPEL MUSIC JAM**

Bluegrass & Old Time Music

The 4th Sunday of each month, 2:00 p.m.- 5:00 pm.

Sebastopol Christian Church, the corner of Bodega

Avenue and Jewell Street across from fire station and Ives

Park. Hosted by Mike Davitz, mikedavitz@comcast.net or

(707) 527-9637 for details. Bring acoustic instruments

and your favorite Gospel songs to sing.

## Singer's Circle...

◇ Meets 4th Friday of most months. For information call Dennis Drury at 829-0883

## Dance Dance Dance...

• **DANCE AWAY**

◇ Contra and English dancing every weekend! Live music, lessons and callers. For detailed info contact: NBCDS

Dance Line (707) 527-9794 or

www.nbcds.org or email: info@nbcds.org

• **APPLE TREE MORRIS**

◇ Weekly in Sebastopol. Information: 829-3478 or

kalia@sbcglobal.net



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707-843-4068



## Sonoma County Folk Society Membership Application

Please fill out and mail: - \$10.00 Individual - \$15.00 Family Make checks payable to SoCoFoSo.

2 Year special membership \$17.50 Individual - \$25.00 Family

Mail to: SoCoFoSo, PO Box 9659 Santa Rosa CA 95405

(Please print)

Name

Address

City

State

ZIP

Phone

EMail

comments:

Contributions to the Sonoma County Folk Society are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

## On the Air KRCB:



### Our own NPR Station at 91.1 or 90.9 FM

Great programs, some of particular interest to folkies...

◇ Mondays: 8:00 to 10:00 PM

• **Your Average Abalone**, hosted by Johnny Bazzano, 1st and 3rd.

• **The Fiddling Zone**, hosted by Gus Garelick, Old Time fiddling, Bluegrass, Cajun, Swing, Klezmer and more 2nd and 4th.

◇ Tuesdays: 10:00 to Midnight

• **Crossing Borders**, World music

◇ Thursdays: 8:00 to 10:00 PM

• **Freight Train Boogie**, hosted by Bill Frater, Roots, Country, Folk, Blues, Rock etc.

◇ Saturdays: Noon to 1:00 PM

• **Thistle and Shamrock**, Celtic music

◇ Saturdays 1:00 to 5:00 PM

• **Our Roots Are Showing**, hosted by (*alternating hosts*) Robin Pressman and Steve DeLap. Folk, Acoustic, Singer-songwriter, Blues, Bluegrass

## On the Air KRSH:

### 95.9FM

◇ **"Krush Uncorked"** Sundays 8-11 AM. Singer-songwriter acoustic and unplugged music with Bob Sala

"Krush Americana" Monday evenings 7:00 to 10:00 PM. Old n' new twang, Country, Americana and Roots Music... with Bill Bowker



## Lessons • Lessons • Lessons

◇ **Fiddle Lessons:** Contra and Square dance styles, Celtic, Scandia and other International styles by ear and reading with music theory, Janette Duncan 707-570-2745

◇ **Lessons in guitar, old time banjo, piano and beginning accordion.** With Ingrid Noyes, in Marshall, on the shores of Tomales Bay. For details: 415-663-1342

or e-mail [ingrid10@sonic.net](mailto:ingrid10@sonic.net)

◇ **Kay Eskenazi** loves to teach guitar, Folk, Blues, Jazz, Bossa Nova, Fingerstyle, Celtic and Classical styles.

707/869-9642 [service@WomensHeartsAndHands.com](mailto:service@WomensHeartsAndHands.com)

◇ **Music lessons at your location:** note reading, theory, piano instruction for all ages. Laurie 707-869-9230

◇ **Steve Wharton** teaches Bluegrass: banjo, Old Time banjo, Dulcimer, and Autoharp 707-887-2518.

◇ **Learn to play Polish fiddle**

Nanette Fynan 707-569-0565

◇ **Play the String Bass:** lessons in Sebastopol

Bill Amatneek 707-824-8084



**Sonoma County Folk Society**  
**PO Box 9659**  
**Santa Rosa CA 95405-9659**

• **NEXT DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES** •  
February, 10th  
To Steve: [steves32@sonic.net](mailto:steves32@sonic.net)



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