

THE SONOMA COUNTY FOLK SOCIETY

March -
April 2013
Volume 18 No. 2



<http://www.socofoso.com>

13th ANNUAL SONOMA COUNTY BLUEGRASS & FOLK FESTIVAL

SUNDAY • March 10, 2013

1PM to 8PM • Doors open at noon til 8pm

Sebastopol Community Ctr • 390 Morris Street • Sebastopol, CA



SOURCEPAINTING: Michelangelo, "The Creation of Adam", Sistine Chapel, Vatican, Rome, 1504-12

♥ LAURIE LEWIS & THE RIGHT HANDS ♥
♥ CHRIS WEBSTER & NINA GERBER ♥
♥ JAMES REAMS & THE BARNSTORMERS ♥
♥ THE CENTRAL VALLEY BOYS ♥
♥ NELL ROBINSON & JIM NUNALLY ♥

WORKSHOPS
RAIN OR SHINE

- BRING YOUR INSTRUMENT TO JAM •
- FOOD & BEVERAGE CONCESSION ON SITE •

Sonoma County Bluegrass & Folk Festival – Sunday, March 10th, 2013

**By Mark Hogan, VP
Sonoma County Folk Society**

The road to the 13th Annual Sonoma County Bluegrass & Folk Festival has been a rather circuitous one this year. However, surviving date and line-up changes, we are all set to go on SUNDAY March 10, at the Sebastopol Community Cultural Center, located at 390 Morris Street in Sebastopol. The doors open at noon, shows start at 1pm. Check our web site at www.socofoso.com for directions and detailed information. I'm happy to say that one of our new sponsors, KOWS 107.3 FM, will broadcast the first half of the festival. On the web, you can go to www.kows.fm or <http://kows107-3.org/>.

We've had some last minute changes in the lineup but are pleased to announce that **Laurie Lewis & the Right Hands** will headline the festival. Called "one of the preeminent bluegrass and Americana artists of our time", Laurie is literally one of the hardest working women in bluegrass. She maintains a vigorous touring schedule with her partner, mandolinist Tom Rozum, as well as her band The Right Hands and still finds time to write and produce. Besides Tom and Laurie, the new band includes Sharon Gilchrist on bass, Patrick Sauber on banjo and Chad Manning on fiddle.

Hometown favorite **Nina Gerber** teams up with singer **Chris Webster**, who my favorite Americana trade publication "No Depression" describes as having "An authoritative voice that manages to make existential angst, romantic confusion and spiritual longing uncommonly appealing." The ever-tasteful guitar playing of Nina Gerber combined with the vocals of Chris Webster promises to be a performance you will long remember.

Interspersed among bluegrass bands **The Central Valley Boys** and **James Reams & The Barnstormers** are performances by **Nell Robinson & Jim Nunally**, and **Melody Walker & Jacob Groopman**. Nell Robinson, known for her performances with John Reichman & the Jaybirds and her benefit show for veterans "Soldiers Stories", has teamed up with Jaybirds award winning guitarist Jim Nunally for a harmony driven performance of originals and country duets. This is her first appearance at the SCB&FF.

Melody Walker and Jacob Groopman, who make up two fifths of San Francisco Bay Area band, Front Country will perform as a duo. Melody and Jacob describe their music as "Americali", or Americana music with a California accent. Expect them to perform material from

their new CD Gold Rush Goddess, which is a blend of their own material as well as memorable country covers.

In addition to the main stage performances, there will be workshops by esteemed bassist Bill Amatneek who will entertain patrons with stories about his adventures playing with some of the greats of American folk and bluegrass. You won't want to miss these funny and interesting tales told by a veteran storyteller who has been called the "Homer of folk music." In addition, local fiddlers Mike Drayton, Chris Carney & Gus Garelick will conduct a workshop focused on the contrasting styles of old time fiddling including "crooked" tunes and "Improv 101".

Jamming happens throughout the day with an Instrument Check service available onsite, so pack your instrument if you're so inclined. Indoor seating is "festival style" in the main building of the community center and Youth Annex. Great food is available onsite including beverages from Lagunitas Brewery and local wineries.

Advance tickets are available at People's Music in Sebastopol, the Last Record Store in Santa Rosa, and online at www.cbaontheweb.org. Save \$5 by purchasing your tickets in advance! Folk Society & CBA members pay just \$25 for advance tickets, \$30 at the door. General admission is \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. We accept cash or checks at the gate...one low price for the entire day!

Because the Festival has moved from a Saturday to a Sunday, we decided to kick start the event with an appearance by **The Central Valley Boys** at the **Tap Room of Lagunitas Brewery** at 3 PM to 6 PM Saturday March 9th. Lagunitas Brewery is located at 1280 North McDowell Boulevard in Petaluma. For those of you planning to make a weekend of it, there is a Best Western Hotel a block from the Brewery. Take the Petaluma Blvd/Penngrove exit and go one block East and make a right on N. McDowell. The brewery is about a quarter mile on the left.

For more information about the Festival or Tap Room event, please contact Mark or Colleen Hogan at 707-829-8012, or email hogiemoon@comcast.net or c.arroyomoon@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

FOLK NOTES

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707-861-9446 -- www.socofoso.com

Banjo, 2-finger style by Nick Hornbuckle and Ingrid Noyes



When Earl Scruggs made his debut on WSM with Bill Monroe's Bluegrass Boys in the mid 40's, he codified and set the standard for banjo playing in 20th century acoustic music. However, unbeknownst to many, Mr. Scruggs was building on the traditions that he was surrounded with as a boy...traditional fingerpicking styles that included 2-finger up-picking and an early form of his famous three-finger style.

These styles of banjo picking are carried on today by such artists as Will Keys, Tony Ellis, and Chip Arnold. The 2-finger style is similar in sound and feel to clawhammer, yet has a unique 'groove' of its own. The old time 3-finger styles are typically not as 'fancy' as Earl Scruggs' style but are clear in their simplicity and directness.

Nick Hornbuckle, banjo player for John Reischman and the Jaybirds band, will be teaching a class featuring this style of banjo playing at the upcoming Walker Creek Music Camp in Marin County, April 5-8. Nick began playing the banjo at the age of 11, and has been teaching since he was 13. He was recently featured on the cover of Banjo Newsletter, and has published three banjo instruction books.

About this style of playing, Nick says, "I have found that these older picking styles, along with tunings that are used by clawhammer players, bring out the 'Ancient Tones' found in the best Old Time music. These arrangements sound great in a band or jam, but really shine in a solo setting."

To hear and see examples of the 2-finger picking style, you can go to these links on the internet: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ja8HX_nZd4I

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uf8satjBta0>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilnWU4uBsbI>



www.walkercreekmusiccamp.org
director Ingrid Noyes 415-663-1342
PO Box 840, Marshall, CA 94940

Spring camp: April 5th - 8th, register now!



Memories of Chris Caswell From Steve DeLap



On Monday, February 4th, some 284 of us gathered at the Freight and Salvage in Berkeley, to bid Chris Caswell a fond farewell. Songs were sung, and harps and many other instruments were played, wielded by some of the many musicians who'd played with Chris over the years. All in all, it was a fitting tribute to one who'd given so much music to so many people during his 60 years of life.

One of the things that long-time Sonoma County Folk Society people remembered was Chris's participation in the series of folk festivals that SoCoFoSo put on at the Luther Burbank Center (now the Wells Fargo Center) from 1988 until 1998. Chris became involved in this endeavor early on, being the "Official Piper" of the festival. Among his duties was to draw everyone together, officially open activities by "piping" the opening acts and audience into the main auditorium, at the start of each festival.

In 1993 Chris also created and brought an eclectic group, the Celtic Light Orchestra, to the festival, helping to bring a decidedly Scottish/Irish influence to the proceedings. Skilled and consummate musician that he was, Chris always brought a special flavor to the Sonoma County Folk Festival, as well as to the many other Bay Area musical activities he graced with his presence. He is missed.

We know that there are still both benefits and memorials being planned for Chris's legacy, and also to help with his substantial medical expenses. There are also rumors of a Kickstarter or Indiegogo fund for a posthumous CD of some of Chris's music. We'll put information on our website as we find it, to help this Piper, Harp maker, Singer and raconteur go on his way, with our assistance and our blessing.



Laurie Lewis and the Right Hands

By Kevin Russell



The west coast has always had its own take on bluegrass music, and during the past four decades, Laurie Lewis has always been at the forefront of our particular version of bluegrass. She began with the Phantoms of the Opry in the mid-seventies, then as a founding member of the Good 'Ol Persons, and later as the leader of Grant Street. Along with mandolinist & life partner Tom Rozum, she eventually put together a succession of stellar bands that included her Bluegrass Pals, Guest House and, most recently, The Right Hands. Everyone of these bands has been fun, entertaining, grounded in traditional bluegrass, and, like Laurie herself, musically adventurous.

Having followed Laurie's musical exploits and shifting band transitions for about thirty-five years, I have to say that the current incarnation of the Right Hands is the best band she's ever had. Why? Every one of the members in this band are top tier players on their respective instruments. Tom Rozum, one of the tastiest yet under-appreciated mandolinists around, continues to bring his unique musical stylings, and even more unique sense of humor to the band. His off the cuff remarks and playful banter lends an immediate air of fun and friendliness to the show. Chad Manning is a versatile, contest-winning fiddle player who splits his time, when not teaching, between this band and the David Grisman Bluegrass Experience. In the bluegrass world, Patrick Sauber may be everyone's favorite utility player. While his primary instrument in the Right Hands is the five-string banjo, he is also a fabulous mandolin player, and he sings spot-on harmony parts. The newest band member, Sharon Gilchrist, started playing bass when she was about twelve years old. And though she plays with all the tone and timing you'd want from a world class bluegrass musician, you might not guess that her primary instrument is the mandolin.

This collection of players provides Laurie with the perfect support for her gorgeous vocals and fine songwriting. The spontaneity and musicianship of the band means that no two shows are alike. Even if you were lucky enough to have seen them recently, you can be assured that this show will be different. After all, this is no Nashvegas-scripted show. It will simply be five of the most original, creative west coast bluegrass musicians alive doing what they do best—playing music steeped in tradition, but brimming with that west coast sensibility of openness and fun. And to that end, you can count on a rollicking good time.



THE NORTH BAY HOOTENANNY: INTRODUCTION

Hi, my name is Josh Windmiller and I am the director of The North Bay Hootenanny, a music promotions group based out of Santa Rosa. For the past three years, the Hootenanny has produced music events in Sonoma County and advocated for a strong local music scene. We want to support the growth of a community that "gives a hoot" about music!

Primarily, we book local and traveling musicians for shows at local venues, private events, and big fairs and festivals. The project is driven by my personal passion to see people playing music together in our community, and to see our up-and-coming musicians succeed professionally. I was raised in the North Bay and I want to see the area that I love become a hub for live and recorded music!

"Hello" to everyone in the Sonoma County Folk Society, on behalf of the North Bay Hootenanny! I would love to work with you all to build connections between your organization and the artists and fans out there in the Hootenanny community. My project is based on the essential qualities of folk music, and I think that our performers and audience members can really benefit from frequent and fun interactions with SoCoFoSo!

Please check out the North Bay Hootenanny website to find out more about the project, and to sign up for monthly e-mails:

www.northbayhootenanny.com

I am grateful for the opportunity to write in the Folk Notes newsletter, and I am looking forward to contributing more columns in the future. Please feel free to drop me a line if you have any comments or questions about our ever-growing, dynamic, and multi-generational music scene!

- Josh Windmiller and the North Bay Hootenanny
n.b.hootenanny@gmail.com

Editor's Eye
essays correspondence books
scholastic & newsletters

Laurie Reaume
(707)869-9230
lauriereame@pon.net



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“Music is the most generous art, for it gives freely to all who hear.”

Chris Caswell passed on January 21, 2013 and is deeply mourned. We, his friends, can't let him go. We want to collect his wide-ranging recordings, re-mastering them to produce a double CD album, complete with liner notes filled with Chris' stories, historical and musicological lore. We want the CD to retain the richness of a live concert and the humor of his conversations with his audiences.

To that end, we have put up a page on IndieGoGo, a fundraising site. Any amount, \$15 to \$1000, or even more, will help preserve Chris's genius for future listeners. We have but two months to reach our goal for the CD set, and also to republish "Holy Wood" and "Celtic Tidings". (The manufacturer has gone out of business.) We have an experienced team of publicity, marketing, sound engineering and music business people who will volunteer in preserving the music to allow it to live on. Later, the sales of the CD will provide continuing funds to defray Chris's remaining medical expenses and harp shop costs. Visit <http://igg.me/p/chris-caswell-legacy-cd-project/x/2008456> to see information about the project. Help us preserve and care for Chris's legacy of great Celtic and World Music.



Walker Creek Music Camp

April 5th-8th, 2013

At the beautiful Walker Creek Ranch, west of Petaluma, (walkercreekranch.org) An hour from the metropolitan Bay Area.

Instruction on all major bluegrass and old-time instruments, elective classes, dancing, concerts, special program for young children.

Scholarships, accommodations and meals available.

Registration opens November 1st!

For details: www.walkercreekmusiccamp.org/ or Ingrid Noyes at 415-663-1342 after 9:00 a.m.



Interest in Play-Outs to Seniors?

It has been my experience that patients/residents at rehabilitation facilities, assisted living residences, low-income residences and senior centers enjoy having live, one-hour performances brought to them.

These folks appreciate the live connection, the interaction, and just hearing and singing different types of music (Old Time, Bluegrass, Celtic, Scandinavian, Jazz, Swing, Popular, etc.) It's a feel-good situation for everyone involved in playing out to this population, and the need for it is only going to grow.

Let me hear from you if you would be interested in being part of a group or groups bringing music to them on a regular basis. You don't have to be a "performer" to volunteer to do this. The group can be as few as 3 or 4 musicians, and we can develop a tune list. My idea is that the musicians AND the audience have a good time, and the performance is low-key and fun.

Please contact me if you are interested in this opportunity to entertain and improve the lives of our elders.

Ginny Matheson (707) 483-3266. Ginny.duncan@gmail.com



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Other Upcoming events...

PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDARS!

THE NEXT SoCoFoSo PICKIN' POTLUCK

is Sunday March 31st

**SUBUD HALL
234 HUTCHINS AVE
SEBASTOPOL**

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

For details call: 707-861-9446

**MUCH PICKIN'
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MUCH FUN!**



Blue & Lonesome, aka Ed Neff & Friends

Bluegrass with some of the Bay Area's finest musicians:

Ed Neff on mandolin, Paul Shelasky on fiddle,
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and Jeff King on bass.

Thursdays, 6:30 - 10:00 pm

Willowbrook Ale House, 3600 Petaluma Blvd. North
Petaluma 707-775-4232



Ukulele Undercurrents-Gary Sugiyama

Coming Events...

The Northern California Ukulele Festival

Chabot College, Hayward, CA

April 7

www.ukulelefestivalnorcal.org

The Sebastopol Ukulele Festival

Sebastopol Community Center

Sebastopol, CA

May 25

www.seb.org Details coming soon.



Ukes in your own backyard

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Healdsburg Jam

Every Friday from 12:45-2PM+

12:45 pm - 2:15 pm

Healdsburg Senior Center- 133 Mattheson St.

All levels welcome.

West County Ukulele Club

3rd Thursdays 6-9pm

Union Hotel in Occidental

<http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/westcountyukeclub/>

also, check their Facebook page

Petalukes

1st Thursdays

<http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/Petaluke/>

Sebastopol Singing Ukulele Cooperative

4th Thursdays

<http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/sebastopolsingingukuleles/>

Santa Cruz Ukulele Club

www.ukuleleclub.com



Kevin Russell Presents:

The Rhythm Rangers

Saturday March 23rd, 8pm

Gaia's Garden 1899 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa

There is no cover charge, though we would ask that you help support the venue by purchasing some food and goodies.

The Rhythm Rangers play their unique blend of western swing, country rock & blues.

Jack Tempchin

opening with Ray Bierl

Saturday April 13th, doors 7:30, show 8:00

The Sebastopol Community Center Annex

425 Morris St., Sebastopol, California

This'll be a good 'un folks. Tickets through Kevin at

krussellmft@aol.com or 707-824-1858.

\$22 in advance (\$20 for SoCoFoSo members) & \$25 at the door.

Pick'n Pot Luck recipe

Colleen's Banana Bread

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 TB sour milk*
- 2 eggs
- 3-4 VERY ripe bananas (past eating stage is best)
- 2 cups flour
- 1 teas. baking soda
- 1/4 teas. salt
- 1/2 cup or more of chopped walnuts (optional)



Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees. Cream together butter and sugar. Add eggs and sour milk. (*Tip: if you don't have sour milk, mix 2TB milk with 1TB white vinegar to "sour" it.) Mash ripe bananas and add, blending thoroughly. Sift together dry ingredients and beat into mixture. Add chopped walnuts if you want. Pour into a greased, floured loaf pan. Bake for about an hour until an inserted toothpick comes out cleanly. Makes one large loaf.

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

◇ Kay Eskenazi loves to teach guitar, Folk, Blues, Jazz, Bossa Nova, Fingerstyle, Celtic and Classical styles. 707/869-9642 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 For details, 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

◇ Mandolin lessons with Phil Lawrence in Sebastopol
All Styles--All Levels (707) 824-1198 or email: phlawrence53@yahoo.com

◇ Beging banjo lessons with Mark Hogan at Peoples Music.
707-823-7664 or 829-8012

◇ Fiddle/Mandolin Lessons with Gus Garelick. All levels, Old Time, Bluegrass, Cajun, Western Swing, Italian and Brazilian mandolin, Klezmer. In Santa Rosa, 526-7763, or email: fiddler@sonic.net



Turn Your Radio On 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.

• **Shaken, Not Stirred**, hosted by Chris Olson, An eclectic music program and some... 2nd and 4th.

◇ Tuesdays 10:00 to Midnight

• **Crossing Borders**, hosted by Amy Contardi, World music

◇ Wednesdays: 8:00 to 10:00 PM

• **Connections**, hosted by Doug Jayne and alternating host, Allegra Broughton, Folk, Rock, Blues and Americana
◇ Thursdays: 8:00 to 10:00 PM

• **Freight Train Boogie**, hosted by Bill Frater, Roots, Country, Folk, Blues, Rock, *alternating with*

• **On The Road Again**, hosted by Linda Seabright

◇ 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



Turn Your Radio On 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

A great opportunity for stardom! Would some of our members please share some of their favorite recipes for the Pick'n Pot Luck column.

They can be simple and easy, please email em to steves32@sonic.net, Many thanks, Steve H



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Sonoma County Folk Society Membership Application

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Membership begins and ends in the month you join or renew

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Note:

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

Acoustic Music Jams :

• THE REDWOOD CAFE

8240 Old Redwood Hwy, Cotati

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

2nd Sunday of the month from 3 to 5 PM.

For details call: 585-3138

◇ Old Time Jam

Hosted by Janette, Steve and Chris

4th Sunday of the month, 3 to 5 PM. Details, 570-2745

• 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.

◇ Old-time, bluegrass, old country.

• MURPHY'S IRISH PUB

464 First St Sonoma

◇ First Sunday of the month, 3:30 - 5:30, celtic jam

For details call 935-0660

• MOUNTAIN HIGH COFFEE & BOOKS

16295 Hwy 175, Cobb, CA 95426

Old Time Jam - 2nd Saturday of every month - 4-6pm

• BLUEGRASS AND OLD-TIME JAM

◇ The 4th Wednesday of every month, 7-9pm at Aquas Café in Petaluma

For info and details: 415-706-1997 or murphyjohn2008@yahoo.com



• BLUEGRASS JAM.

◇ 1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month, 7pm - 9pm,

Subud Hall 234 Hutchins Ave, Sebastopol. Intermediate to advanced jam.

Hosted by "Uncle" Dave Carlson. 707-843-5181

• SANTA ROSA TRADITIONAL FRENCH SESSION.

◇ 2nd Wednesdays, 7-9 PM, Gaia's Garden Restaurant Traditional folk music of central France on unusual folk instruments (such as the hurdy-gurdy).

For details, www.santarosafrenchsession.com.

SANTA ROSA SLOW CELTIC SESSION

◇ 3rd Wednesdays, 7-9 PM, Gaia's Garden Restaurant, Santa Rosa.

Trad celtic players of all levels welcome. www.srslowcelticsession.com.

Singer's Circle...

◇ Meets 4th Friday of most months.

For information call Dennis Drury at 829-0883.

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◇ 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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• NEXT DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES •
April 10th
To Steve: steves32@sonic.net
Sonoma County Folk Society
PO Box 9659
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