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A Non-Profit Corporation for Traditional Arts

Notes from Board President, Ron Bohigian



Yesterday I picked up my twelve-year-old grandson for a visit to grandma and grandpa. As soon as he got into the car, he stuck a Bluetooth in his ear. I asked him what he was listening to. No response. I asked again, louder this time. "Oh", he replied, "Just some music". It was loud enough that I could hear what I considered an excess of percussion, that continuous bashing of cymbals and drums paired, might I say dubiously, with the artist's vocal which seemed to be the repeated singing (?) of the same phrase over and over and over again.

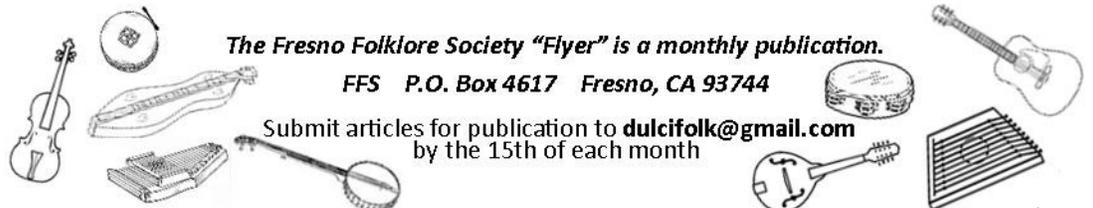
I realized that I'm the grandpa now. I've gotten old(er). I remember back clearly to when I was fourteen, listening to the Beatles and my grandfather walked into the room and spoke loudly, "Yeah, Yeah, Yeah!". And shook his head. And left the room.

Thank God, I've been saved by old-time music. I may be guilty of that *yeah, yeah, yeah* attitude, but I'm different. I'm listening and playing the music of my great-grandfather's generation. And furthermore, I've never turned my nose up at contemporary music of the 50's and 60's. I'm talking about Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett. Yeah.

Maybe what it all comes down to is **tolerance**. I'm not fond of hard, heavy-metal rock but at least I acknowledge my hypocrisies. Maybe next time I pick up my grandson, I'll ask him to link his phone to my car so we can both listen.



I was saddened to hear of the passing of **Mable Parnell**, wife of fiddler **Carl Parnell**. I met Mable and Carl at some of the Old Time Fiddler jams over a year ago. They have both been wonderful people in our community. Mable was born in Snowball, Arkansas and is survived by husband Carl, her sons Carl Edward and Jimmy Wayne, and daughter Debbie Rogers.



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FFS P.O. Box 4617 Fresno, CA 93744

Submit articles for publication to dulcifolk@gmail.com
by the 15th of each month

President's Notes continued:

With an increasing number of us getting our vaccinations, it's time to hold our **Sixth Annual Kings River Jamcamp** which will be held again at Kirch Flat Campground on May 6-9 (Thursday through Sunday). Campsites are spread out and participants can distance themselves as they feel appropriate. Outdoors is a better place to gather. Check out the article elsewhere in our newsletter.

Now, let me check and see if my FFS dues are due. Stay healthy.

Sixth Annual Kings River Jamcamp May 6-9, 2021

On the long road back to normal, let's come on up to the Kings River Jamcamp!! Bring your guitar, fiddle, mandolin, autoharp, harmonica, banjo, percussion instruments, etc. to Kirch Flat Campground on the Kings River above Pine Flat Reservoir. Bring your tent or RV, folding chairs, food and whatever else you want to bring.



Details: Kirch Flat Campground (elevation 1000') has picnic tables, a campfire ring, toilets, plenty of space to pitch your tent, and a large parking area. There is no tap water, but the Kings River is about 50 yards from the campsite (treatment advised prior to drinking). If you are not jamming, there are lots of places to walk, fish, birdwatch, and a sandy beach on the river just a few steps from

the campsites.

Directions: Take Hiway 180 east from Fresno to Piedra Road exit (left), to Piedra (30 miles). Stay on Trimmer Springs Road all the way around Pine Flat Lake (27 miles) to Kirch Flat Campground.

RSVP to Ron Bohigian at rjbohig@gmail.com or phone (559)593-3949. Provide your full name, number in your group, phone number or e-mail address, and expected day of arrival (Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday).



BILL LEHR



Linda Guerrero, Bill Lehr, Dean Lloyd

Banjo, mandolin, guitar, slide guitar, mountain dulcimer, harmonica, bass guitar, congas, doumbek

I originated from Connecticut. Having played the trumpet during 5th grade, I seemed to have developed an attraction to guitar music I'd hear on the radio. My folks started me with lessons and by mid teens I ended up in a couple of little combos playing small gigs: dance music, Westside Story, etc. and...the Ventures...yes! Who remembers Duane Eddy? Santo and Johnny? Doc Watson really "knocked my socks off," though.

Fast forward to Fresno State in 1969 ... with all the protests and political excitement of that year. Who cares if my degree major is sociology rather than biology? My wife, Donna, met

Sue Lyon (Beevers) and we were introduced to Sweets Mill and ...Kenny Hall who was such an engaging character as well as great musician. His Old Time Style resembled Doc Watson's. Virgil Byxbe was so graciously accommodating to us. What a fabulous New Year's weekend!

I met a group of people who played Old Time music every Wednesday evening. Included were individuals from the Millbrook Free School project as follows: Don and Cynthia Loweberg, Sue Beevers, Lang Russel, Caroline Capalbi, Surrei Levin, Ray Tsang, Chris Dunkel, Don Landers and others. Most were members of and/or participants with the Fresno Folklore Society. We played at various functions and parties such as 251 N. Blackstone Ave. Who remembers "Our Store," Fresno Food Co-Op? Those were some days, huh?...and some nights 'till wee hours.



Mike Reilly, Bill Lehr, Linda Guerrero

Thanks to Frank Hicks, Kenny Hall and I ended up playing a weekly gig for a summer at the Water Tree

Inn. I played with Small Time String Band including Jim and Lynn Ross, John Pickering, Liz Potter, Dave Tilley and Maggie Ginet. Old Time music seemed so satisfying. Frank also introduced me to the Old Time Fiddler's Association and King's River Bluegrass Association...really nice folks.

Well life progresses and here we are. I have had the pleasure of participating in projects with Kenny and Marta Hall, Evo Bluestein, Linda Guerrero and others.

Bill Currently plays with the following:

Heartland Harvest, Wawona Philharmonic (square dance band), Wild Mountain Time (Thyme) Kenny Hall and the Santa Fe Ramblers, The Great Danes (for Fresno Danish Dancers.)

He also participates as an Interpretive Volunteer at Wawona in Yosemite National Park and plays at the barn dances there every other Saturday during the summer season.

Oldtime Zoom Jam with Terry Barrett and Evo Bluestein continues!



Terry Barrett & Evo Bluestein Oldtime Jam

Sundays at 4 pm, PST is the time. The jam lasts one and a half hours. We share music sheets on screen. Some people are reading the notation, some are reading just the chords, and some are probably just using their ears. It's all good. A recording of the session is later posted on YouTube and I'm glad to say, people are really using it during the week. Terry and I have made music together since the 1970s and both of us have had lots of other music experience since. We're having a great time putting together each program with music from Kenny Hall's repertoire and much more. We are asking for tips on a sliding scale, \$5-\$20 (Venmo, PayPal, or checks, for those who don't like exchanging currency on the Internet).

NOW THE REALLY GOOD NEWS! FFS is paying for the first Sunday of the month. Be sure and tune in April 4 for the next free session. **Send your email request and we'll send you the link.** <https://www.evobluestein.com/>



Patreon continues to be an exciting platform for my archives: Gene Bluestein research, and programs, Bluestein Family, Evo Bluestein, never before presented audio and video of Bessie Jones, Jean Ritchie, Lydia Mendoza, Kenny Hall, Sweet's Mill Mountain Boys, more folk music legends. There's



already a lot of stuff to peruse at <https://www.patreon.com/evobluestein> and Kenny Hall in his 1987 CSUF class more going up all the time! **(Evo Bluestein)**



Every Tuesday, 7-9pm, there is a Fresno Irish session on Zoom. We play Irish session tunes and songs. Every participant gets a turn. If you are interested in participating, or just listening, contact me, Larry Cusick, for the zoom link. **(Larry Cusick)**
larrywcusick@gmail.com

Where Were You March 11, 2020?



Before Covid

Last month it was one year since the mass realization of the pandemic. I know where I was. The dance residency at this Walnut Creek school had been going on for more than twenty-five years! I saw a half dozen principals come and go and teachers reach their retirement. Some school communities understand that folk dance connects students to each other and to our history in significant, healthy ways. I am in awe of such communities and honored to be a respected part of their annual curriculum.

It was going well, as it tends to do at this school, that is, until Wednesday morning, as the first group of third graders were filing into the multi-use room. The principal came in to talk to me. It seems some concerned parents had already contacted the superintendent about the students touching during the dance class. The principal said, “Is there any way we can do this without holding hands?”

“Of course.” I said, as I tried to think fast how I would modify my program to exclude touching. The first thing we did was clogging. The students get a little distance from each other and face the stage, where I demonstrate the steps—rhythm, aerobic exercise, coordination and fun. For the rest of the week I modified our group dances to exclude the holding of hands.

We had only just started hearing about droplets traveling through the air and what safe distance means. Masks were not even a thing yet. By Friday, when the kids performed



After Covid

for the parents, more information had been revealed. As I watched the students enjoying themselves with the modified dances, I noticed they were still right in each other’s faces. I said to myself, “As much as I hate to admit it, I should have been sent home Wednesday!” We didn’t know how serious it was at first.

I have not been to a school since.

(Evo Bluestein)

Ed. Note:

Maybe others have had similar Covid Cancelling Experiences such as Evo’s. Send your experiences to the Flyer for share with all.

PROJECTS AND STINGING NETTLES

As the world continues to progress through this unusual series of months, I see that the reduced demands on my time (both for pleasure and need) have spawned some interesting fish. When we went into lock down in March 2020, I assume a lot of us used the unexpected downtime to do projects at home that had been neglected. I started out that way, too. As time has gone on, I have experienced a phenomenon that I had not expected but actually welcome. I certainly have not had a problem with being “stir crazy” as I do treasure my alone time. What was new is the cavalier attitude I have developed regarding the projects that

abound in my corner of the world. Starting out like gangbusters, the closets and shelves were getting cleaned and cleaned out on a nearly daily basis. This has devolved into: put the project on the dining room table or the washing machine, write it on my “to do” list, walk past it often as I go from room to room in the normal course of daily life and then, one day (possibly a month or so later), take care of it. My calendar is not full of

activities, so I do stuff when I feel like it, not because it is in front of me. I don't want to call it procrastination because I am not actively avoiding it. It just doesn't have immediate relevance anymore. I can do it tomorrow or next week. I would rather read a book or go on a hike.



One project I have done faithfully every year is to pull the weeds in my yard before they have a chance to flower and set seed, usually accomplished by mid-March. Not so this year. I will not, however, wait until April.

Speaking of weeds, three years ago a small patch of new weeds made an appearance in a corner of my back yard and I bent over to pull one up to look at it. No gloves on at the time. MISTAKE. I was grasping a stinging nettle and said, “Well, that hurts.”

Washing my hands and putting on leather gloves, I pulled the rest of them. They hadn't flowered but, lo, and behold, they showed up again last year and again this year. Fewer of them but still there. One of my friends said. “You can eat them, you know.” My response is, “Okay, but I don't want to.” Once nettled, twice shy, I say. **(Sue Wirt)**



NETTLE ACADEMY
H
FRESH

Nettle Soup

- 3 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- ½ cup uncooked rice (wild rice is great)
- Several large handfuls stinging nettle tops
- 3-4 cloves chopped garlic
- 8 cups chicken or vegetable broth
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt, or to taste
- Mixed vegetables
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- Potatoes and leeks

World Nettle Eating Contest



<https://youtu.be/HwQRMxXyO6w>

The Bottle Inn hosts the annual World Nettle Eating Championships as part of a charity beer festival. Competitors are served 2-foot (0.61 m) long stalks of stinging nettles from which they pluck and eat the leaves. After an hour the bare stalks are measured and the winner is the competitor with the greatest accumulated length of nettles. The contest began in the late 1980s when two farmers argued over who had the longest stinging nettles in their field and evolved into the World Nettle Eating Championships when one of the farmers promised to eat any nettle which was longer than his. The championship has separate men's and women's sections and attracts competitors from as far afield as Canada and Australia.

In June 2010 Sam Cunningham, a fishmonger from Somerset won the contest, after eating 74 feet (23 m) of nettles. In June 2014 Phillip Thorne, a chef from Colyton, Devon won the contest, after eating 80 feet (24 m) of nettles. In 2017 the Overall Champion was Jonathan Searle from Solihull who munched his way through 70 feet of nettles whilst the Women's Prize went to Kate Ribton of Stoke St Gregory, in Somerset, who got through 28 feet (8.5 m) of the stinging beauties. **(Wikipedia)**



St. Patrick's Day 2021



In the last few years (until 2020), Sal and Denise Sciandra, Ann Lamb, and I have met at Sierra Nut House on St. Patrick's Day evening for some yummy corned beef and cabbage with carrots and potatoes, followed by their quite fabulous apple bread pudding (with raisins, caramel sauce and other things). We would gather, purchase our meals and sit at one of the patio tables to enjoy the music of Wild Mountain Time (or Thyme, as the song goes), consisting of Linda Guerrero, Bill Lehr, and Bob McCleod. The band would entertain us with a repertoire of songs both Irish and not,

songs you can sing a long with when your mouth isn't full and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Passers by sit around on the fountain parapet and listen as well. In 2020, no seating, no music, but take-out was available so we had to be content with that. In 2021, no music but you could eat on the patio (we actually had the next to last servings of the entree). Ann Lamb and I put our leftovers in the cooler in the back of the car and drove out to



Lark



Fresno State to the grass area across from the Maya Cinema, set up our chairs, and relaxed into the music of Larry Cusick, Donn Beedle, and Karana Hattersley-Drayton (thank you, Karana, for getting the notice into the March Fresno Flyer). Hannah Anderson Sutherland was there to provide the Irish dancing, changing from hard sole to slippers and back again several times, providing the audience with the movement of dance to accompany the music. Hannah invited some children and a couple of her friends to come up and dance with her (there was even a tallish pointy-eared leprechaun who tried it too, although he lost one of his ears in the

process). The weather was mild enough for the crowd to enjoy the afternoon. There were several FFS members in attendance that I had not seen for over a year—hooray!! The dancing and music ended at 6:30 with a short hiatus, to be followed by Lark, playing for another two hours. As it was getting dark and a little chilly, and the fact that we had been out since 2:00 pm in order to get our Sierra Nut House dinner, we left before Lark began their set. Meanwhile, Sal and Denise Sciandra had been able to get their corned beef and cabbage at Fig Garden Swim and Racket Club. Next year, music and food and friends will be back together. **(Sue Wirt)**



O'Carolan's Favorite

Grateful for Your Support of Our Fresno Folklore Society

A HUGE THANK YOU to all of our paid members below. Your dues promote music in our community. Folklore Society membership runs from July 1 to the end of June. You can mail us a check or pay through PayPal on our website at fresnofolklore.org. When you do your dues, you'll be at least as famous as these people shown below.

Alan Hubbard	John & Andrea McDaniel	Shelley Fetterman
Allen & Debra Church	John & Barbara Chookasian	Sherron Brown & Michael Hill
Allen Lintvedt	John & Debi Alden	Stan Allen
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Bea Berrattinni	Kathy Wosika & David Fox	
Becky Richardson	Kay Pitts	
Betsy Hill	Kelly & Anastasia O'Neill	
Bill & Ceci Johnson	Kent & Susan Kinney	
Bill Lulay	Kevin Campbell	
Bonnie Douglas & Tom Kramer	LaDonna Rowe	
Bruce Honeyman	Larry Cusick Susan Heidebrecht	
Carl & Kathryn Johnsen	Linda Dryden	
Christoph Bahne	Laura Silberman	
Christy Bardon	Lee Liddle	
Craig & Lisa Poole	Linda Foster	
Daniel & Sharon Baradat	Linda Guerrero & Bill Lehr	
David & Katzi Engel	Linda & George Sward	
David Kuehl & D.J. Peters	Lorenzo Bassman	
Debbie Jo Wagner	Lou & Christi Paradise	
Dennis & Harriett Pollock	Lynda Emanuels	
Diane Hanson-Barnes	Lynette Bassman & John Reed	
Dick Estel	Margaret Rivers	
Dolores Torres	Margaret Tynan	
Don Lowebug	Maria Glover & Billie Harris	
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Would you like to become a member of the Fresno Folklore Society?

The Fresno Folklore Society (FFS) is a non-profit community-based organization. It sponsors traditional music, dancing, and other traditional art forms. FFS hosts potlucks and jam sessions; it encourages and promotes new musicians through classes, recording opportunities and other support. FFS members share visions and concerns for a peaceful and just world and actively support efforts to create an eco-friendly environment.

Membership Levels: \$20.00 individual; \$30.00 family; \$50.00 corporate sponsor

Membership information: 559-225-9511

NEW MEMBER? Yes No

RENEWING? Yes No

RENEWING AFTER LAPSE? Yes No

Number of family Members: _____ The monthly copy of the Society Flyer is delivered only by email to the address below.

Current e-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Individual: _____ Family: _____ Corporate Sponsor: _____ Affiliated member: _____

What are your special folklore interests? _____

For more information visit our website at www.fresnofolklore.org

Membership payments and donations can be mailed to: FFS P.O. Box 4617 Fresno, CA 93744