

May 2021

Submit articles to:
dulcifolk@gmail.com
By the 15th of each month



A Non-Profit Corporation for Traditional Arts

Notes from Board President, Ron Bohigian



April 22nd, Earth Day, and Megan and my twentieth anniversary brought the added honor of **Megan** being named the fifth **Poet Laureate of Fresno**. Megan has long been an inspiration to me. As with music, I've learned a lot by listening to the many writers sharing their poetry over the years. I was the tag-along husband at many Fresno poetry events, but I was never bored. The similarity between poetry and our folk music is strong in that we learn by listening and reflecting. Again, the question I ask is:

What would I be doing if I were not actively involved in our music scene and writing, too? The immense pleasure of "doing" music is obvious. The value of writing becomes more evident as you grow older—you finally have something to say about your life and the world around you.

Saturday, April 17th was **Tower Porchfest**. As it turned out, there were about forty venues in the Tower, here in Fresno, where musicians performed throughout the day, including in our front yard. When Megan began setting up a bunch of chairs in the driveway, for our audience, I said, "Dear, I don't think there are going to be THAT many people showing up." Was I wrong? I was wrong. For the four hours that we played, there was a continuous stream of people taking a seat, standing in the middle of the street and chatting as they enjoyed our old time music. We're looking forward to next year's Porchfest.

We're looking forward to the Kings River Jamcamp, May 6-9. This is a low-key event where you can do anything you want as long as it's legal.

We are saddened to hear of the passing of **Paulette Harron**. I met Paulette several years back when we both attended **Evo Bluestein's** numerous monthly workshops. Paulette was a sweet and wonderful person. I'll miss seeing her at the Wednesday night Basque jams. Bless you, Paulette.

Stay healthy and keep being creative even if you have to make it all up.

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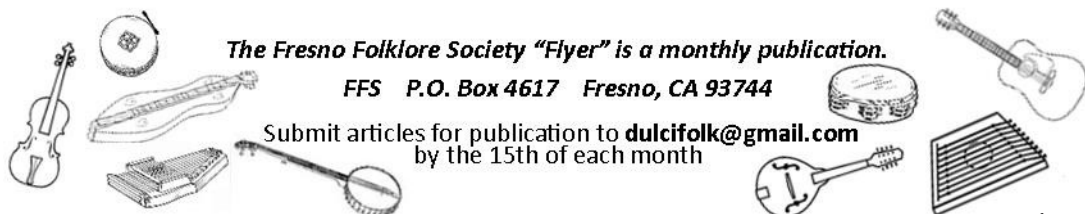
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The Fresno Folklore Society "Flyer" is a monthly publication.

FFS P.O. Box 4617 Fresno, CA 93744

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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).



Harvest Home: A Festival of Traditional Americana Music ——— Save the Date!

The River Center's American roots music festival is back again at the historic Riverview Ranch

Saturday, October 2nd noon-6:30 with a line-up of local and regional bands, The outdoor festival is one of the Parties for the Parkway and is a fundraiser for the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust.



The event features the best in (mostly) acoustic traditional music with performers not often featured in local venues: The Sharecroppers (bluegrass), Lark (American and Celtic trad), Los Peripherals (Latin American) Arkansas Sheiks reunion (old-time), Red Dog Ash (original bluegrass), and Glen Delpit and the Subterraneans (bluesy

Americana dance music). Larry Cusick will call a family square dance. Food trucks will be on site. Sound by Kinney Live Audio.

Tickets are \$25 and are available on-line through: www.riverparkway.org. Fresno Folklore Society and California Bluegrass Association members may purchase discounted tickets at \$20 by entering FFS or CBA in the code during check out. Kids 12 and under are free when accompanied by a ticketed adult. A limited number of tickets will also be available at the door. As with the first two festivals volunteers are needed and receive free entry. Please contact Karana Hattersley-Drayton at karanadrayton@comcast.net if you are interested in helping out this year.

Bluegrass In The Park



Blue and Lonesome

The 2021 series of concerts in the Veteran's Memorial Park (Clovis) is still on hold. Event organizers and sponsors are waiting for direction as to what kind of public outdoor events will be allowed this summer. The most current information is posted as available on the Bluegrass in the Park Facebook page; facebook.com/Bluegrass-in-the-Park-Clovis.

(Karana Hattersley– Drayton)

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 May 2 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)**

PATREON



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

My Favorite Postcard: Tóg é go bog é by Kevin Hall

When we first started booking concerts at the Bonner Auditorium back in the early '80s, I started receiving CDs from booking agents looking for that off-night gig for acts travelling between the Bay Area, Central Coast and Southern California. Most never came further inland than I-5. There just weren't enough gigs given the tight budgets of time and money in folk music.

FFS elder Virgil Byxbe counseled me one evening, relaxing on grass in his backyard, bamboo rustling in a summer night's breeze, to give musicians the highest guarantee possible. Our goal, he said, was to put money in their pockets and show them a great time while they were here. Before the club had officially formed, Virgil and friends would each guarantee \$50 to \$100 to ensure the artist would make that \$250 to \$500 guarantee regardless of ticket sales.

More often than not the concerts were followed by house parties where the travelling musicians jammed with locals. I found myself trying to keep up on *Farewell to Ireland* with half of Clannad one night in Virgil and Lore's lowered living room with Virgil in the circle; he slid in there like a mechanic rolling under a car, lying flat on his back on that thick, bright carpeting, knees up, hands crossed behind his head, eyes closed, smiling blissfully. I still see him there whenever we jam at parties.

The Folklore Society had long since formed by then, but we hadn't hit our groove yet as consistent concert promoters. Pat had yet to emerge as the impresario nonpareil we all know and love her to be. To get it rolling, we built on Virgil's model but through the formal pooling of funds through our membership dues. We shifted about a thousand dollars from printing expenses to concert underwriting and over the course of a year and three "seasons" of concerts -- including a summer one for kids -- of nine shows in all we averaged a dollar a ticket in subsidy. It worked quite well.

One CD that came across my desk was from a large Irish band, Kila, that we simply couldn't afford, particularly mid-week in a season we had already booked out. But when I heard that CD -- and all of their subsequent releases, which I've purchased -- I knew we were missing a rising talent in their early stage.

So some years later when I heard my young friends Anselm and Josh Engle were planning a teenagers' trip to Ireland, I shared that promotional CD with them and the band's website with concert dates. Off they went to old Eire where they found Kila's new sound at a summer festival. The island is rife with them in normal times as the music and dance scene explodes with activity in the nice weather.

The day after they heard -- and watched the stage show that comes with Kila's innovative approach to traditional music, a tradition of experimentation with the traditional found throughout Irish culture (see Celtic knots) -- the band on the big stage one night, the intrepid twin brothers found them the next day signing CDs at a local record store.

I've kept it for nearly two decades now, folded and creased in one of those big old CD binders, jammed in behind the liner notes. I look at it every now and then, my postcard with autographs of Kila's band members (with the exception of a still sleeping lead singer, very understandable given the amazing energy expended and good times shared by all), sent home to me from a pair of young adventurers and again appreciate all the wonderful connections a cultural society affords us all in ways we can't possibly see coming and enjoy deeply when they hit.

Postscript: Here are the lyrics that Josh stumped me with one day when he said in Irish to me, "Tóg é go bog é," the title track of that CD, the band's second after Handel's Fantasy.

Chun imeacht i dtreo na bóithre gan cosán le mo thaobh atá mé

I am going to go to where the roads have no pavements

Chun taisteal thair as thall aris ar bhrollach an domhan atá mé

I am traveling back and forth on the breast of the world

Chun díriú i dtreo an dúchais in ar tógadh mé atá mé

I am arriving to the heritage within which I was reared

N'fheadar conas ach is cinnte go shroichfidh mé é

Don't know how, but for sure, I'll get there

Slán agaibh, slán agaibh Uilig, slán agaibh

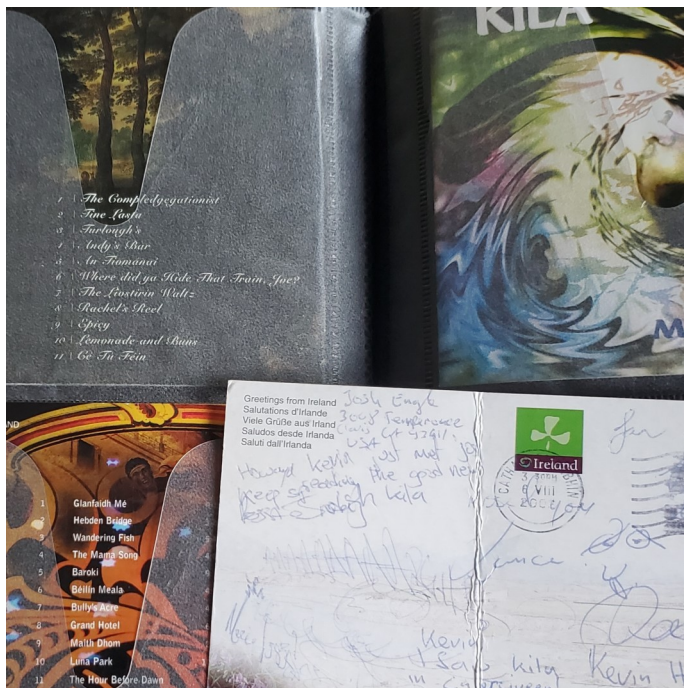
So good-bye, good-bye, good-bye

Agus buailfidh libh arís ar ball

I'll see you soon

Tóg é go bog é, glac é go réidh

Take it easy, steady on there now



BRUCE HONEYMAN AND HIS COVID SONGS



Bruce Honeyman has not let this “idle” time go by. He has been composing new musical works in his basement, some instrumental and some songs with lyrics, including one that was a sing-a-long. Pat Wolk had sent out a note to see if anyone wanted to do a small concert in the Garden and Bruce called. It needed to be limited because of the gathering restrictions. About twenty people showed up on Sunday afternoon, April 11, and were treated to Bruce's music and wit. Part of the performance involved the many hats that he brought with him to distinguish styles

of song, changing them as he went along. He performed on a variety of instruments including mandolin, banjo, guitar and octave mandolin. He had also recorded the songs



so that he could play and sing with himself, all of the instruments on the recordings also being done by Bruce. Quite an undertaking and well worth it as far as the small audience was concerned. There was a wide variety of music which is always appreciated when coming from a singer/songwriter as some of them

tend to go toward sameness (usually the same tune with different

words). The camaraderie we have been missing for so long was definitely there. **Brad Polzin** and **Karana Hattersley-Drayton** took some pictures



to commemorate the occasion. There will be more small concerts and jams now that we have our feet wet. Larger events will be planned for the Fall according to the Fresno Folklore Society. Thank you, Bruce and Pat for getting us started. **(Sue Wirt)**

CALLING ALL JAM LOVERS

I happened to visit with Lynn Ross to buy some jam and she told me that her fig connection was no longer available. Sad Face. If you have access to or actually have a jam-worthy fig tree, please contact Lynn Ross at (559) 439-7534 to let her know. The jams are sold to benefit the musicians' Fund. Some things that have been helped through this fund are assistance with funeral arrangements, transportation for instructors to the California Autoharp Gathering, musical instruments, etc. Most of us like fig jam and the combinations that Lynn thinks up are quite tasty. **(Sue Wirt)**



THOUGHTS ON A SLIP OF PAPER

Recently, I came across a slip of paper that had been in one of my mother's boxes. It was an excerpt cut from one of her teacher's retirement bulletins: "Dear Lord, So Far Today, Am I Doing Alright?"

"I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent. I have not whined, complained, cursed, or eaten any chocolate. I have charged nothing on my credit card. But I will be getting out of bed in a minute, and I think that I will really need your help then."

I suppose we all have day when each or all of these things happen to us, but my comment is. "There is no reason on earth why you cannot take your chocolate to bed with you," except for smears; but you can do the laundry and take care of that small issue. **(Sue Wirt)**

LOST LAKE REDUX: DISGRUNTLED GEESE AND FUN WITH FLOATING DEVICES



Another trip to Lost Lake for a walk and a picnic, enjoying the many birds, soaking up the sun and shade, and people-watching. Ann Lamb and I made a run out there with our lunch and hiking poles, parked by the cascades, and set out. I walked about a mile and Ann about half of that. When I arrived back at the picnic table, she told me about two of the geese that had taken a thrill ride down a couple of the cascades and then returned up-river. There are five tables just north of this parking area with a view of the river and the quiet portions between the river running over the rocks, a small beach which will get larger as the summer goes along (scene-setting). We had Table Two. At Table One, a woman and her ten-year-old son, and their dog, Louie, had set up shop. The boy had some small toy trucks, playing with them on the rocks, while she sat in a chair with her feet in the water. After lunch, he skipped rocks and had one that managed six skips. There was a group of four twenty-something Sikh men at Table Five. They started singing happy birthday to one of their number. The woman at Table One, Ann, and I all joined in and soon were presented with pieces of very good birthday cake. A little later, we were also invited to share their barbecued chicken, ribs, and sausages which they brought to us. Two of them had their bathing suits on under their jeans and proceeded to get in the water, screeching like little girls as they splashed water at each other. We watched a family arrive north of the cascades where they managed to blow up a unicorn, an orca, a dolphin, three good sized tube rings, and one double tube ring with netting in the bottom. The parents tied them together (except for the unicorn which was abandoned on the shore), then everyone boarded and tried to head down the first fall together, managed to get caught on the rocks due to lack of clearance, abandoned that plan, and paddled around a bit, leaving shortly thereafter having flattened their water vehicles and stuffed them in the trunk. We imagined the unicorn banging its horn on the inside of the trunk lid and yelling "But I didn't get to go in!" While this was going on, a large, but not noisy family arrived behind us at Table Four with their dog, Rosie, who needed to greet all the neighbors, including Louie. That family had three tube rings and some of the children played in the water for awhile. Along came another family of parents and three little girls, aged about 3-5 years old who took Table Three, closest to the water. Dad then dragged two inflatable two-person boats and a large sea turtle from the car. Two of the little girls took the turtle down to the water and got on it. Then they took all of the inflatables up to the area above the cascades to play. He tied the boats together but didn't try to navigate down the falls. Meanwhile, back at the ranch, the two geese that Ann had observed earlier, came back three times to take another run, only to find all the pesky people. They looked sort of disgruntled each time as they turned and paddled back up the river to wait and try again. A very pleasant 3 ½ hours with lots of entertainment. Maybe the geese were able to come back at dusk and have their ride. **(Sue Wirt)**



Best Things About the Pandemic Year, My List

An original poem by *FRESNO'S NEW POET LAUREATE*

Megan Anderson Bohigian

My husband Ron, bless him, cedes
his Scottish fiddle to me
(possession, 9/10ths of the law).

In our bubble, Barry. Bless him
and his patient teaching.
Bless unending practice time

without children's visits,
or grandchildren, errands
to run or meetings to take.

Bless how
the curse of tenacity
takes hold, that

isolation's long silence
insulates tortured-donkey stage.
That I can unclench my teeth,

enjoy how much I suck
at this, most difficult thing
I've ever tried to learn.

Simplest things—so hard.
Blessing of finding
that practice lessens

fear, loneliness and loss.
No audience all year—
no embarrassment

or excuses. Blessing of work:
of frustrated days, of not
getting the sound,

of neck gripped too tightly,
of overcorrecting,
of fingers' disobedience,

of holding the bow—
of thumb's position,
of hairs' proximity to bridge,

angle to strings, of pressure
or lightness, and of the pulse,
oh geez, *the pulse*.


Blessing of *watch and listen, hear,*
repeat, of sing it first.
That stroke by stroke,

bit by bit, I come
to cherish a fiddle's company
in an empty time,

raise the bar, suck again,
play, and celebrate days
I wake from a tune-dream

so real that I find
my left hand fingering
its shape on the air.



**Board Meeting**

Do You Know Your Twelve
Fresno Folklore Society
Board Members?

Fill in first and last names to complete the
puzzle- one name uses the first name
initial only!
All answers can be found in past Flyers.

Across

1. Legal protector of defendant's rights
2. Recently got a new fiddle from his poetic wife.
6. Finegold Music campout promoter
9. Makes Tiny Houses that chirp
11. Flyer Wisdom Maker- first name initial only
12. Sang in shows at the Wild Blue Yonder

Down

3. Founding member of FFS Board
4. Inspired most by the Library of Congress
5. Danced with Croatians
7. Slush pump operator
8. Ate "Stone Soup" at the Music Farm in 1989
10. Fiddles around with mathematics

Solutions on front page of this Flyer.

FRESNO FOLKLORE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION 2021-2022

OFFICIAL BALLOT

Please vote for five	Member	2 nd Member
Bill Johnson	_____	_____
Ron Bohigian	_____	_____
Ann Lamb	_____	_____
Jim Ross	_____	_____
Sue Wirt	_____	_____

The second voting member space is for family memberships with two adults.

If you are receiving the newsletter by email, you may print the ballot and mail or contact Sue Wirt at sue-wirt@comcast.net to vote if you do not care if your ballot is “secret”.

OR

Mail your ballot to:

Fresno Folklore Society
P.O. Box 4617
Fresno, CA 93744

If mailing your ballot, please fold it in half and secure it with clear tape at the right and left to edges. Please do not staple as the mailing machines at the post office are not staple-friendly. Ballots are due by May 22, 2021.

FRESNO FOLKLORE SOCIETY
P.O.BOX 4617
FRESNO, CA 93744

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 Hubbart	Jim & Lynn Ross	Jim & Lynn Ross
Allen & Debra Church	Joan Rubenstein	Joan Rubenstein
Allen Lintvedt	Joel Patrick	Joel Patrick
Ann Lamb	John & Amelia Ryan	John & Amelia Ryan
Ann Lewis	John & Andrea McDaniel	Shelley Fetterman
Ann & Bill Flayer	John & Barbara Chookasian	Sherron Brown & Michael Hill
Anne Betancourt	John & Debi Alden	Stan Allen
Anne Merrill & Mike Stepanyan	John & Maureen Hayes	Stephen Fretz & Lynn Moss
Anne Mosgrove & Kevin Hall	John LaLonde & Joyce Burel	Sue Wirt
Anne Whitehurst	John Crawford & Carole Bailey	Susan Coberly
Barbara Boynton & Kelli Dackawich	Jolien Mason	Susan Tellier
Barbara Hollinger & Jim Reblan	Jon Adams	Susana Peckinpah
Bea Berratinni	Judi Redmond	Thomas Zimoski
Becky Richardson	Judy Bezzerides	Tim & Janet Johnson
Betsy Hill	Karana Hattersley-Drayton	Toni Eames & James van Eseltine
Bill & Ceci Johnson	Kathryn Long-Pence	Vicki Cheney
Bill Lulay	Kathy Wosika & David Fox	
Bonnie Douglas & Tom Kramer	Kay Pitts	
Bruce Honeyman	Kelly & Anastasia O'Neill	
Carl & Kathryn Johnsen	Kent & Susan Kinney	
Christoph Bahne	Kevin Campbell	
Christy Bardon	LaDonna Rowe	
Craig & Lisa Poole	Larry Cusick Susan Heidebrecht	
Daniel & Sharon Baradat	Linda Dryden	
David & Katzi Engel	Laura Silberman	
David Kuehl & D.J. Peters	Lee Liddle	
Debbie Jo Wagner	Linda Foster	
Dennis & Harriett Pollock	Linda Guerrero & Bill Lehr	
Devin & Clair Carroll	Linda & George Sward	
Diane Hanson-Barnes	Lorenzo Bassman	
Dick Estel	Lou & Christi Paradise	
Dolores Torres	Lynda Emanuels	
Don Lowebug	Lynette Bassman & John Reed	
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Ed & Alice Hawke	Margaret Tynan	
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Elecia Johansson	Maria Wortham	
Finegold Trust	Mark Eaton	
Fran Saunders & Paul Indman	Mary Alice Meuel	
Frank Gibson	Mike Newton	
Fresno Music Academy & Arts	Mike Reilly	
Gary Morrison	Nancy Hatcher	
George & Linda Sward	Nancy Waidtlow	
Greg & Bette Merrill	Pam & Paul Schramm	
Gerry Bill	Patrick O'Sullivan	
Howard Ono	Pat Wolk	
Heather Taylor	Paul & Karen Starcevich	
Hugh & Jennifer Williamson	Penny Critchlow & Mark Olson	
Janet Horder	Penny Smith	
Jeff Adolph	Randy & Anita Morris	
Jeff Hallock & Deb Symes	Renata Ley	
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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: 559-222-9801

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