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

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A Non-Profit Corporation for Traditional Arts
Notes from Board President, Ron Bohigian

UNFORTUNATELY, Marley's Ghost had to cancel, but our wonderful Patsy Wolk found us an incredible substitution for the December 7th concert. We'll have John Chookasian's Armenian Ensemble and Cerro Negro performing on that date at the University Presbyterian Church. Wow! On the stage, in one concert we'll see and hear John and Barbara Chookasian (clarinet and percussion), Peter Dorian (oud), John Martin III

(percussion), Frank Giordano (guitar),

Brian Garcia (guitar). Hope you don't miss it.

A big Thank You to our Music in the Schools team: Larry Cusick, Susan Heidebrecht, Bruce Honeyman, Bill Johnson, Lou Paradise, Lucy Crary, Mike Mueller, and Megan and I have presented to several hundred elementary students already! When we ask the students how many of them are already

students already! When we ask the students how many of them are already
learning to play an instrument, it's encouraging to see so many hands going up:

violin, trumpet, trombone, flute, voice, percussion, piano!

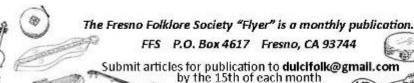
Our board is studying up on the availability of Measure P cultural arts grants.

Measure P will soon be a source of funding to promote a diverse range of arts activities within the city of Fresno. FFS endeavors to be a part of that work. More

Check out the new pocket park at the corner of Echo and Weldon (catty-corner to Fresno High School). It's in the final stages of construction and promises to be a great venue for music jams and concerts in the near future.

Ah! Fresno! What a Cultural-Wonder-of-the-World!





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LET'S CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR WITH SOUP!

January 1, 2024 1-4 PM Wolk Garden, 6661 N. Forkner



Annual FFS New Year's Day Soup Party Returns --with a few changes. Wear your woolie undies, your down jacket, warm scarf, whatever will keep you warm and comfortable because...

...Soup will be served on the patio. This will take some organizing. Does anyone have a large food warmer that will accommodate three to four pots of soup? I can keep some warm on my kitchen stove then bring them to the porch table. We have lots of bowls and spoons.



And bring your favorite soup and munchies to share.And your instruments, of course. **HELP needed to set up and plan.**

Email suewirt@comcast.net or patsywolk@gmail.com



Do you have a pop-up tent? A patio heater? A food warmer?

Musicians can play indoors, outdoors, or in the teak house. (Masks Optional)

Let's welcome the New year with love and respect for one another

"Let's Get Together and Be All Right...."

Think friendship and community! Blessings. (Pat Wolk)



FFS Board Position Opening

Our board has an opening. If beggars can be choosy, we're looking for a person with some social media experience. Age is not a requirement although we are trying to lower the board's average age a bit. Please contact FFS President Ron Bohigian at rjbohig@gmail.com.



Pipe On The Hob Holiday Concerts

All we want for Christmas is you... and for our folklore society friends to join us at one or both of our holiday concerts: **Saturday, December 9th, Woodward Park Library, 2 pm or Saturday, December 16th at the Politi Branch Library, 2 pm**. The program will include fiddle tunes and carols from Ireland, England, France, Sweden and the US, with several sing-alongs, so bring your voice! Library performances are always free. For more information Karanadrayton@comcast.net.



This beautiful concertina, like new, is up for sale to the highest bidder. Make an offer. Proceeds go to FFS. Starting bid \$700. New Year's Resolution: Learn to play the concertina!

Email your bids to Larry Cusick at larrywcusick@gmail.com

Sue Beevers Memorial Scholarships

Children and teens are invited to apply for scholarships through the Sue Beevers Memorial Fund. Money can be used to partially support music lessons and attendance at music camps in the traditional folk music forms. To apply for a scholarship, go to the website https://www.fresnofolklore.net/beevers-scholarship.



CHANGE IN WINTER CONCERTS

Musical adventures are on the horizon for Fresno Folklore Society. On Thursday, December 7 at 7:30 pm at the University Presbyterian Church, we will visit Spain and Armenia. Our previously scheduled concert by Marley's Ghost has been cancelled for the time being. However, the show will go on but we have for our viewing and listening pleasure our own Cerro Negro Flamenco Group and The Chookasian Ensemble. Cerro Negro Flamenco Group has John Martin III on percussion and vocals, Frank Giordano on guitar and Brian Garcia on guitar. The Chookasian Ensemble has John Chookasian on clarinet, Barbara Chookasian with vocals, Peter Dorian on the oud, John Martin III on percussion, and Frank Giordano on guitar. A couple of years ago Cerro Negro did a concert with Peter Dorian at the Flamenco Studio and everyone there was moving their feet and wanting to get up and dance. Tickets will be \$20.00 in advance (through online purchase) and \$25.00 at the door. Online tickets at fresnofolklore.net will be available starting November 15. Lynn's Jam will be there so you can purchase Christmas presents or just because you like the jam. Please bring donations of non-perishable food items or cash/check for UPC to assist with their outreach food pantry.

On Thursday, January 12, we have the return of favorite, John McCutcheon, at the Universal Unitarian Church on Alluvial. The concert starts at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$25.00. Singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and storyteller, John McCutcheon has been doing his annual West Coast Tour for many years and always includes Fresno. He visits with his long time friend who lives here, and we get the honor of hosting a concert. He engages us with songs and stories, humorous and not, and always provides chances to sing-a-long as well. Tickets on line and at outlets will be available December 1. Purchase some as Christmas presents for friends and relations. They will thank you. An experience not to be missed. (Sue Wirt)

Come with Fresno Folklore Society on a Musical Journey

December 7, 2023 7:30 PM University Presbyterian Church 1776 E. Roberts, Fresno



Spain Cerro Negro Flamenco Group

John Martin III Frank Giordano Brian Garcia

https://youtu.be/DQif15xjSH4? si=pB7DupmlbU2xQoR5-¶

Armenia Chookasian Ensemble

John Chookasian
Barbara Chookasian - vocals
Peter Dorian - oud
John Martin III - percussion
Frank Giordano - guitar



Peter Dorian Oud solo https://youtu.bekfvWF4Sg0WMsi=XzvEe_phqwU5BAs9

TICKETS

\$20 Advance & FFS members Available online www.fresnofolklore.net \$25 at the door

I hope to see you at one these dances! -Evo

FRESNO CONTRA DANCE DECEMBER 16, 6-9 PM

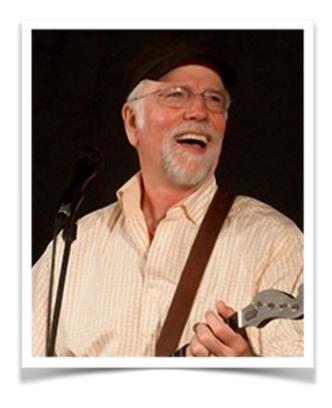
with Evo Bluestein
Guest Musicians: Lucy Crary & Daniel Thompson
Pete and Carmen's Dance Studio
4774 N. Blackstone Ave (between Shaw and Gettysburg)
Fresno CA 93726
\$8 advance tickets, \$10 door



NORTH FORK CONTRA DANCE DECEMBER 22, 6-9 PM

with Evo Bluestein
North Fork Town Hall
33060 Road 228 In North Fork
Contras, Squares, Reels and more
with Evo Bluestein
\$8 advance, \$10 door





John McCutcheon January 11, 2024 7:30 PM

Folk music's renaissance manmaster instrumentalist, powerful anger-songwriter, storyteller, activist, and author.

Unitarian Church of Fresno

2672 E Alluvial Ave Fresno 93720 Tickets: \$25

https://www.fresnofolklore.net/events-1

Mickie Zekely died October 28, 2022. He was the founder of the Lark In the Morning instrument catalogue and the music camp of the same name. This is my tribute to Mickie Zekely, read at his memorial October 8, 2023. (Evo Bluestein)

I'd like to start with a quote from Mickie:

"My parents didn't know what to make of me. They did not know what music was. My incredible passion and devotion to music was a whimsical mystery to them."

Mickie was one of my early role models. He was someone who chose his own path in music.

In my twenties, when I was performing and teaching oldtime music, I heard about a music gathering called Lark Camp. I contacted the founder, Mickie Zekely, who suggested that I attend a February camp. It was 1984, the year of the infamous Mud Lark—we all experienced the wet and foggy Mendocino Woodlands. We played and danced and, thereafter, I worked for many years at Lark.

Years before Lark Camp though, Mickie was well known for the music parties he threw at his house. In his words:



Mickie (far left) playing flute at the Renaissance Fair in Northern California

"There's lots of woods behind our house where people could camp. The parties grew to be around a hundred people by the late 1970s—using our one bathroom. Word spread and we'd get incredible touring musicians who would come stay with us.

We heard about a state park down the road that had an area called The Mendocino Woodlands. The Woodlands had cabins, and a big kitchen, so we decided to move the party down the road.

I think it was in June, in 1980, and I rented it for four days and invited everybody I'd ever met who played music. We all chipped in a few bucks and had potluck food, and 250 people showed up. I couldn't believe it!

I walked down to the dance hall and there were a dozen people playing music for people dancing. They were doing something called contra dance, which I'd never even heard of. It was so beautiful . . . I just started crying. I didn't know anything about dance, just music.

All this spontaneous stuff was happening that far exceeded the parties that I'd hosted at my house. It was an amazing experience. I think we rented it again in the fall, and then for a summer event, and then for Mud Lark. That's where Lark Camp came from. It was just moving the party down the road, a little further into the woods."

Years later, when the Woodlands Camp One got overcrowded, Mickie rented Camp Two for the overflow. Eventually, Lark grew to include all 3 camps within The Woodlands. Mickie liked to accommodate growth and hired shuttle busses to transport campers from one camp to another. This did not please everyone, but it allowed more people to participate in the magical world of Lark.

Lark Camp was just one facet of Mickie. Cathie Whitesides once asked me, "Have you seen what Mickie has created? It's quite something." She was not talking about camp, but rather the world instrument catalogue Lark in the Morning, which was a novel enterprise that employed Mickie's friends and musicians.

When I first saw it, he was already starting to computerize his business—direct from the pygmy forest. This was so foreign to me. Who among us knew, at that time, how important computers would be in our lives? He was way ahead of the game in many ways and not afraid to learn—an autodidact from the day he was born. He told me:

"I had to learn to program html by hand with no real manual. All the things you could find out about it kept changing every day. I put up the first music store on the internet in 1992 or 1993. We had a 28K dial up connection and we were able to make it happen. The business grew from there. We eventually had three stores, a huge warehouse and 32 employees. Meanwhile, Lark Camp grew, and I kept playing music."

At the end of one Lark camp Mickie said to everyone, "You've had a great week, take it with you and show it to the rest of the world."

Like good ambassadors, that's what we've been doing ever since.

*(full Zekely interview in the book Road to Sweet's Mill)

WAWONA AND RIVER CENTER HIKES

I recently enjoyed the company of my wandering pals, the REFCO Ramblers, although we should probably be



called the REFCO Amblers instead. Or Meanderers. In October, we spent a lovely day at Wawona, walking the road that goes around the golf course. It is a favorite late Spring walk when the dogwoods are blooming and, then, in the Fall, it is a good return walk to see those same dogwoods turning pink and purple along with the leaves of

other deciduous trees and ferns that get their yellow and orange tints. I think there were eleven of us on this trip, some from Fresno, Mariposa, Sanger,



and Clovis. After our wander along the road, we returned to the picnic grounds at Wawona near the Merced River and had a picnic lunch. Some people went over to cross the covered bridge and take pictures. A fine day.

Our November hike was less well-attended, with only five of us able

to make the date. Starting at the trailhead at Copper Avenue and Friant Road, we parked and crossed the road to join the Lewis Eaton Trail that tilts down to the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust headquarters at the Coke Hallowell River Center. Going down was fine. We rested on the benches in the breezeway, wandered around the grounds and talked with various people who were there. There was a third

grade class from Hamilton Elementary getting an introduction to the plants and



animals that live in the area. As we arrived, we noticed a woman riding a recumbent trike. As our illustrious newsletter editor is the owner and operator of more than one of those and goes out on long forays into the countryside, I asked her if she knew Bill Johnson. She said, "yes" and "he should be here in about five minutes." So, of course, when he arrived, the talk turned to the trikes and one of our hikers decided he would like to try it out. Bill let him get into his trike, gave him instructions, and away he went. Claudia



Readwright, the other trike rider, took some pictures of him with his camera as he zoomed up and down the road by the store and office

space. He was having so much fun.



Alas, it was eventually time to start back to our vehicles which meant hiking back up to Copper and Friant. I have done this walk several times and, for some reason, I just ran out of energy about half way back. We persisted; I stopped every 100 or so feet and huffed and puffed and

hung my head over my poles. My feet hurt, my hips hurt, my arms hurt and my neck hurt. People who were going down the trail passed us as they came back up the trail. Eventually, we topped out, sat at the seat provided for viewing of the river bottom with the hills and beautiful clouds in the back ground and

contemplated getting back up to walk to our cars. We usually stop somewhere for lunch but were so tired, we decided to just go home. I finally perked up about 6 pm that evening. Time to settle on a date and place for our next outing. (Sue Wirt)



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.net. When you do your dues, you'll be at least as famous as these people shown below.

people shown below.
Allan Fifield
Allen & Debra Church
Allen Lintvedt
Andrea DeZubiria
Andrew Potter
Anita Morris
Anita Schuneman
Ann Cehrs
Ann Lamb
Ann Lewis
Ann & Bill Flayer
Anna Lopez
Anne Betancourt
Anne Merrill & Mike Stepanyan

Anne Mosgrove & Kevin Hall
Anne Whitehurst

Barbara Boynton & Kelli Dackawich Barbara Hollinger & Jim Reblan

Bea Berratinni Becky Richardson Betsy Hill Betsy Temple Bill & Ceci Johnson

Bill Lulay Bob Garcia Bob Hudgens

Bob & Joan Schoettler Bonnie Douglas & Tom Kramer Brenda & Chuck Markham Brian Paulsen family Bruce & Carol Kalkowski Bruce Honeyman Burnis Tuck

Carl & Kathryn Johnsen Carol Cramer

Catherine Campbell Charles Swanson Christoph Bahne Christy Bardon Dan Kramer

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JUNE'S TREASURE TROVE



More recipies. Yum. How about **Chili Sauce**. This recipe looks as though it would make quite a lot. "Twenty-four large ripe tomatoes, chopped fine, six green peppers, four large onions, three tablespoons salt, eight tablespoons brown sugar, one tablespoon cinnamon, one-half tablespoon

allspice, one tablespoon ground mustard, and six teacups vinegar. Boil for three hours." I assume the green peppers and the onions need to be chopped, too. Looks like it would make a good barbecue sauce but not very chili-ish without cayenne or

jalapenos. We shall see.

How about **Baked Indian Pudding**? Seems as though that would be something for the Fall and Winter. "Stir boiling water thick with cornmeal (doesn't say how much), cook a few minutes, take from the stove and stir in sweet milk until it is thin like gruel, salt and sweeten to taste. For a two-quart basin full, three eggs well beaten and one-half nutmeg, a piece of butter the size of an egg. Bake one hour in a slow oven. This is an old-fashioned pudding, but very nice indeed." Maybe we should try it for a potluck some time and see how "very nice indeed" it is. **(Sue Wirt)**



December 2023 EVENTS

Every Wednesday: Kenny Hall Jam @ Santa Fe Basque Restaurant, 5-7 PM FREE

Second Sunday monthly: Irish Jam @ La Boulangerie in Fig Garden Village, 1-3 PM FREE

Every Monday: HonkyTonk Jam hosted by Marc Poschman and Miss Mikal Sandoval @ Santa Fe Basque Restaurant 4-6 PM south patio (Maroa and Simpson). Bring your instruments and play along. FREE

Second Saturday monthly: Old Time Fiddlers and Music Jam 2:00- 4:00 PM @ PM Santa Fe Basque (Maroa and Simpson). **FREE**

EVENTS

Thurs, Dec 7: Cerro Negro & Chookasian Ensemble @ University Presbyterian Church, 7:30 PM (see article)

Sat, Dec 9: Pipe On The Hob @ Woodward Park Library, 2 PM (see article)

Sat, Dec 16: Pipe On The Hob @ Politi Branch Library, 2 PM (see article)

Sat, Dec 16: Fresno Contra Dance @Pete and Carmen's Dance Studio, 6-9 PM (see ad)

Fri, Dec 22: Northfork Contra Dance @Northfork Town Hall, 6-9 PM (see ad)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thurs, Jan 11: John McCutcheon @ UU Church 7:30 PM (see article)

Mon, Jan 1: New Year's Day Soup Party @ Pat Wolk's 6661 N Forkner from 1 to 4 pm (see article)



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 LAPS	E? Yes□	No 🗆
Number of family Members:		The monthly copy of the Society Flyer is delivered by email to the address below.						
		Me	mbership paym	ents are	Due July 1st	each year		
Current e-mail address:			Phone:					
Name(s):								
Street Address:								
City:				\$	tate:		Zip:	
Individual:	Fa	mily:	Corporate	Sponsor: _		Affiliated member:		
Are your willing to provide volunteer help with Fresno Folklore Society events? Yes \square No \square								
What are your spe	ecial folkl	ore interests?_						