#### Volume 54 Edition 4 April 2025

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

So, have you heard any good political jokes lately?

Neither have I.

Over the past few months I've noticed at the Basque Wednesday night jams that we have new people joining in with their

instruments. Some are very accomplished musicians, others are in the earlier learning stages. It's good to see that many are younger people engaging in the fun. As time has progressed I seem to notice that more and more people are younger than I am. That's rather amusing, perhaps.

Our FFS Concert Committee has been diligently planning future concerts and it's good that Pat Wolk is getting lots of help. She's been shouldering a lot of this for



years and we all appreciate her continuing dedication. We get a lot of groups or their agents asking to come to Fresno and perform. The Committee does the initial screening and our board finalizes the schedule.

Laurie Lewis is here on April 19; Kevin Burke is here on May 16 and our treasurer board

member Larry

Cusick is planning World Fiddle Day on May 10 at the Big Red Church.

If you like camping, music, birds, wildflowers alongside the Kings River come to the **Kings River Jam Camp on May 1-4**.

Take a look at our Events List and see what's coming up for our FFS community. Stay healthy.

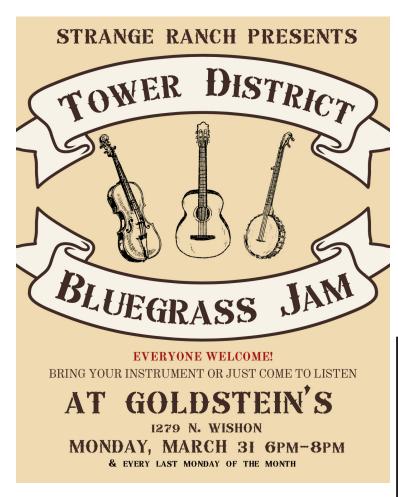


What a pleasure it was to talk to all the musicians in my books. Here is more from the great fiddler **Kevin Burke**. What a musical journey he has had! I hope you have tickets to his show on May 16! **(Evo Bluestein)** 



"The western half of the country is where the Irish traditions survived more strongly. It's partly economic, partly political, geographical, and historical. The eastern part of the country is nearer to England. It's quite easy to get from England to Dublin. It's another day's work to get to Galway, Sligo, or Kerry. In modern times, those difficult things have become smaller. Fifty or a hundred years ago, the west of Ireland was quite a remote place. There was very little communication. Most people didn't have phones. The roads were not good. It was local village life. Most of the traditional arts stayed alive much longer in the west of Ireland.

When I was a boy, you would often see thatched cottages, but you wouldn't see them much in the east. If you did see one in the east, it was almost like a reference. It would be like seeing a teepee in downtown Los Angeles. It was out there almost like an exhibition. It isn't what normal people in L.A. live in. In the west of Ireland, most of the houses were thatched cottages. Most people cut their own turf for fuel—burning peat. The coastal people lived by fishing. The land was bad—a poor farming area. Historically, Oliver Cromwell is famous for coming from England with a plan to push the Catholic, nationalistic population to the west because that was where all the bad land is. They would keep the eastern half and make them assimilate more. In the west of Ireland, in Donegal, the northwest of Ireland and Galway, in the Midwest, and Kerry in the southwest of Ireland, there are still strong 28 pockets of people speaking the Irish language. In the eastern half there are hardly any such pockets. Those regional styles of music seem to live longer in the west of Ireland—Donegal, Sligo, Galway, Clare, and Kerry. They all have a distinctive way of playing."



On Monday, February 24th, our board member Nick Kennedy launched the first-ever Tower District Bluegrass & Old-Time Jam at Goldstein's, and it was a resounding success! A fantastic group of pickers came out to swap tunes, while unsuspecting bar patrons found themselves drawn into the lively, impromptu hoedown. While we originally envisioned blending bluegrass and old-time, the jam leaned heavily toward bluegrass—though we're open to seeing how both styles might find their place. Goldstein's had a busier-than-usual Monday and is excited to keep this going, so we're making it a regular event on the last Monday of each month. Whether you play or just love to listen, come join us next time for great tunes, good company, and a welcoming community of bluegrass lovers! Next one is Monday, March 31 6pm - 8pm!

# Auberry: Kids Concert with Evo Bluestein Saturday, March 29, 2-3 pm Auberry Library



Bring the whole family to enjoy the Kids Concert performed by Evo Bluestein, a folk musician, producer, educator, and writer who is a rare treasure in the world of traditional American music.

#### TRAVELING ABOUT

The places we'll go, the things we will do and see. This month's installment is going to the Northern California Coast, a favorite of many favorite trips. There is more than one way to get there and I choose (again) my favorite. It would all depend upon how much traffic you want to endure, how much time you have and how far you want to go. As for the ways to go, this is fairly easy at the start. Take Ave 7 off US 99 just north of the San Joaquin Bridge and wander off across the fields through Firebaugh to I-5 until you arrive at Hwy 12 just West of Lodi (or you can go 99 to Lodi). This road will take you off across the delta with some cool views and bridges that go sideways or up and down to allow boats

to travel on the Mokolumne and Sacramento Rivers. You will end up in Fairfield, where you can take I-80 a little way to where you can cut to the city of Napa and the Napa Valley area. Here both Hwy 12 and 116 trade who is in charge and eventually will take you to the ocean at Bodega Bay. Remember the Hitchcock movie, "The Birds"? That was filmed in this coastal town. The West side of the Bay is **Bodega Head** and deserves a visit with sweeping views of the Pacific. Pick up a couple of kites while you are in town as you will be seeing a lot of beaches. A stop at Goats Head Beach at Jenner (where the Russian River meets the sea) is worth it. My friend, Patty, collected so





Fort Ross

many pretty rocks here that she had to stuff them in her socks when she ran out of pocket room. Up the coast is Fort Ross State Historic Park, where the Russians of old had their southernmost outpost prior to the purchase of Alaska by the U.S. Worth a wander around. Beach after beach after beach, with little coastal towns that, in some instances, had no bridges across the creeks and rivers that came into the ocean and had to have ferries for people to cross right into the 40s and 50s before Hwy 1 was completed. At point Arena, you can climb the lighthouse (many steps) and also rent the former Coast Guard housing for a vacation stay.

Thank you, State of California, for saving the many beaches for public use (go fly your kites on them). The town of

Mendocino is a little touristy but worth the visit because of the architecture. Parts of "Murder She Wrote" were filmed here. Further up the coast, there is a Botanical Garden at Fort Bragg. About 50 miles north of Fort Bragg, the highway will go inland over the mountains to Leggett where it joins US 101. Side story here. Several years ago, Ann Lamb, my mother, Marie Wirt, and I went on this trip and on to Oregon. We stopped in Leggett at a restaurant with outdoor seating (Mom's dog was with us). We ordered our hamburgers and fries. They were out of catsup. However, as they also served Chinese food, they did have sweet and sour sauce, so we



Mendocino Botanic Garden

had that for our fries. Weird. The bulge of the Mendocino Coast (called The Lost Coast) has very few access roads into the interior. However, you will be occupied with visits to the coastal redwoods of Northern California. There is a plan to widen the road going through Richardson Grove (it is narrow and winding) which is a shame as it will take out some of



Avenue of the Giants

the redwoods. Make sure you take the bypass through The Avenue of the Giants. No disappointment here. Further along, you will break out into the open spaces as the Eel River makes its run to the ocean. Lots of cows (dairy country). There is a cider mill and cheese making near the turnoff to Ferndale. I highly recommend taking the turnoff to Ferndale, a town with lots of Victorian

buildings, worth a visit. This is also one of the ways you can reach "The Lost Coast" from the road that continues toward the Pacific (little side jaunt). Going



Ferndale

which has a number of historic Victorian buildings. The old downtown area is worth a stop (great bookstore, restaurants, just general walking around spaces). Across the bridge at the north end of town, is a barrier island called Samoa. The historic Samoa Cookhouse (think lumberjacks) is located there, and you can chow down on

enormous amounts of food if you are so inclined. Arcata, home of Humboldt State, is next on the route, also with Victorian buildings and lots of college students. Wandering on, take

a breath at Trinidad with a wonderful harbor view, an historic lighthouse (that has been moved from its original spot) and an accessible beach at the North end of town that is a walk-through heaven. Patrick's Point is worth a visit, but a real treat is to take a side road near Orick that goes out to the ocean and a lovely place called Fern Canyon. Check out

back to Hwy 101, you will be meeting the ocean at Humboldt Bay and the city of Eureka



pictures on the internet. Up the highway, there are Redwood National and State Parks that include Prairie Redwoods (home of an elk herd that hangs around to be seen and admired). (continued next page)



Crescent City Lighthouse

At **Crescent City**, there is another lighthouse that you can access at low tide. A new one was built just off St George Point north of town. Crescent City suffered a lot of damage from the tidal wave cause by the 1964 Alaskan Earthquake near Anchorage. Okay, you are almost out

of California. There is no quick trip home from here. You can take US199 from Crescent City through Oregon and I-5 at Grants Pass. Or backtrack to take US299 near Arcata that will take you through the **Trinity Alps** to Redding and



**Trinity Alps** 

I-5. Best time to go? Anytime, Spring through Fall, but, of course, there is much more traffic from vacationers in the Summer. You will run into morning fog along the coast during most of the Summer, but not every day and it usually burns off by noon. I hope you have time to take this jaunt sometime. (Sue Wirt)

#### Free Folk Dancing Classes at Woodward Park Library

There is another opportunity to dance in Fresno!

Ellen Lipp is teaching Scandinavian and Nordic dancing, and Gary Hughes is teaching International dances at **Woodward Park Library**. I really enjoyed my first class. Both teachers are good about leading beginners, and the more

advanced members of the group are happy to assist. This is a great chance to learn dances for the Greek, Armenian, and Serbian festivals. It is free and fun. Upcoming classes this year are **April 14 and 28**. The class meets from 6pm-8pm. Hope to see you there! **(Kathryn Johnsen)** 



#### **RESPITE BY THE RIVER**

We are pleased to announce that Long Forgotten, a wonderful band (which includes our board member Nick Kennedy) will be playing for this season's first Respite by the River. Long Forgotten is an energetic old-time string band hailing from Fresno, California. Infusing a vibrant mix of old-time, bluegrass, honky-tonk, and country melodies, this dynamic trio crafts a mesmerizing musical journey with their tight two-and-three-part harmonies and traditional instrumentation. Respite will be Thursday, April 10 at the River Center Barn at 11605 Old Friant Road.

The band will play at 6pm while you eat your picnic dinner. At 7 we will hear Catherine Abbey Hodges read. This is a free event and you will enjoy it.

(Kathryn Johnsen)



#### **LAURIE LEWIS & NINA GERBER**

**Saturday April 19, 7:00 pm in the Wolk Garden**. Laurie Lewis with "guitar goddess" **Nina Gerber** will perform together in Fresno for the first time.

#### \$25 advance & FFS members; \$30 at the gate.

Not only has the International Bluegrass Music Association twice named Laurie the Female Vocalist of the Year, she won a Grammy for her contribution to True Life Blues: The Songs of Bill Monroe.

Fresno folks are familiar with *Laurie Lewis*, guitarist, fiddler, singer and songwriter extraordinaire. The



concert committee first introduced her to Fresno's Bonner Auditorium in 1991 as lead singer of the Grant Street band. She has performed here with Tom Rozum, and most recently with Laurie Lewis and the Right Hands Bluegrass band. Now for the first time in Fresno, she will perform as a duo with Bay Area guitar legend Nina Gerber.

Here's Laurie Lewis & Nina Gerber performing to raise funds for Santa Cruz Fire Relief. Don't Get Too Close

https://youtu.be/mjqIHVzq6AE?si=AkJ07CF-xJTMbNsZ

Nina Gerber receives rave reviews wherever she performs. From the Oakland Tribune: "The evening's real star...Gerber usually says little and lets her guitar do the talking. She is a not-so-underground legend. Her wide-ranging folk-country-jazz-blues stylings have backed dozens of performers on stage and record." Pasadena Weekly: "Amongst acoustic guitarists, Gerber is held in near universal high regard, not least for how she distills strength from subtlety. Her melodic fretwork warmly complements and never overwhelms..."

Read more about her at <a href="http://ninagerber.com">http://ninagerber.com</a> then come on out and hear Laurie and Nina in person in the Wolk Garden. 6661 N. Forkner Ave, Fresno

Here's a sample: Imagine <a href="https://youtu.be/7He7zwdZvHg?si=0ZNHFQ1N6jjRD">https://youtu.be/7He7zwdZvHg?si=0ZNHFQ1N6jjRD</a>

Together, Laurie and Nina weave a rich tapestry interwoven with insightful stories, a good measure of humor, rocking headbangers and a shared musical sensibility.

Fresno folklore Society is honored to bring them to Fresno's Wolk Garden Saturday April 19. Tickets are available NOW ONLINE at fresnofolklore.net

Take a listen on youtube then come on out and hear them in person. (Pat Wolk)

#### **MUSICIANS' RELIEF FUND FUNDRAISER**

Shelley Buckley has established a non-profit for the assistance of musicians who are having difficulty in our times. Along with donations, she has organized a fundraiser, scheduled for Sunday, April 27, from 11 am to 9 pm. The event will include a potluck (byods), mingling and live music from Richie Blue, Roger Perry, Steve Ono, and more, with open mic between sets as well. The emcee is Kevin Campbell. Bring your instruments and some dollars to fund this worthwhile venture. There will also be time to discuss this new non-profit so people are aware of its goals. The location is: 568 W Mesa, 101, Clovis. Call Shelley at: 1 (559) 269-3538 for information and directions. (Sue Wirt)

#### Kings River Jam Camp—May 1-4

Once again we'll be camping at Kirch Flat Campground alongside the wild Kings River. There is no charge but we ask that you RSVP if you plan on coming. Bring your camping gear, food, and whatever you want. Bring water although the river has lots of water in it for non-drinking purposes. Not a musician? Not a problem. You can listen. You can take walks to see the wildflowers, the birds, even fish the river. Cold, rainy weather usually cancels our plans BUT the weather is usually really nice up there. Elevation is 1000 feet so the weather is about the same as Fresno. Don't forget: RSVP and any questions to Ron Bohigian (rjbohig@gmail.com) so if plans change we can contact you. (Ron Bohigian)

#### **BITS AND PIECES**

Okay, Rogue Festival is over. Unfortunately for me, I have strained thigh muscles that kept me from seeing a lot of the shows (only went to 8 instead of the usual 20). As usual, S'Will, a send up of Shakespeare by the local Fools Collaborative was a hoot as they performed Hamlet with a cast of five. I was able to get to two magic shows and Emil Amok Guerrero (who used to be an NPR host). And, of course, we also had the obligatory huge cloudburst. Coming up, **Hearts On Fire Rock and Roll Choir** will be at the Tower Theatre on April 5, **Long Forgotten** will be playing at Respite by the River at the River Center on April 10, **Laurie Lewis and Nina Gerber** in the Wolk Garden on April 19, and **Tower Porchfest** all day on April 26. **Musicians Relief Fund Fundraiser** is scheduled for April 27, **Kings River Jam Camp** at the beginning of May, **World Fiddle Day** on May 10, **California Autoharp Gathering** at St Nicholas Ranch May 13 through 17, and **Kevin Burke** at the Wolk Garden on May 16. Check the listings for events in your newsletter for a full accounting of the many activities coming up. Mucho musica. How are you all doing on your Goal Setting? **(Sue Wirt)** 



The 17th season of **Clovis Bluegrass in the Park** will kick off **May 9th in "Liberty Park" 901 5th Street in Clovis, 6:30 PM**. The free concerts are co-sponsored by the

California Bluegrass Association in collaboration with the Clovis Veteran's Memorial Park District. The twelve Fridays spread through May to September will feature some of the region's finest bluegrass and old-time bands. The concerts are free but bands are only compensated



through the generosity of audience tips, so please bring extra cash for the tip jar. The full schedule will be published in the May FFS newsletter. (Karana Hattersley-Drayton)

# An Intimate Evening with KEVIN BURKE One of the greatest fiddlers of this or any generation

FRIDAY, MAY 16, 7:30 PM WOLK GARDEN 6661 N. Forkner, Fresno \$25 Tickets available online now at fresnofolklore.net Students: \$15 Advance Tickets available at Patrick's Music & National Hardware one month prior.

Kevin Burke is a legend in traditional Irish music. His bow has driven the Bothy Band, Patrick Street, Open House and Celtic Fiddle Festival. He was awarded a National Heritage Fellowship in the US, and in Ireland the prestigious Graham Cecil Award. His solo performances of flawless unaccompanied fiddle, delivered

with humorous stories of the tunes and their makers, are an absolute delight. Kevin's easy and welcoming manner leaves the audience feeling like privileged guests, and with a richer understanding of this great tradition. In whatever context, be it guesting with Dervish or Lunasa, with Christy Moore, in a band, or solo, Kevin Burke's fiddle is a dynamic melodic force,

the voice of the master.

"A fiddle icon." Irish Music Magazine

"Solo fiddle really doesn't come much better than this." Alex Monaghan, Folk World

"A lyrical player of emotional electricity." The Washington Post

"Burke imparts a rhythmic intensity that is remarkably powerful...a superior instrumentalist in any idiom... impressively virtuosic." The New York Times

See, hear, read more about Burke at his website: www.kevinburke.com

Share this event with your friends on Facebook, Blue Sky, wherever you meet and greet friends. (Pat Wolk)



### VIV & RILEY

Date: Friday, May 9th
Time: Doors at 6pm // Show at 7pm
Venue: Tower Theatre Lounge at 1211 N. Wishon

(the old Daily Planet / Painted Table next door to the Tower Theatre)

Viv & Riley's sound is old-soul roots music to its core, elegantly combining a traditional backbone with the fresh iconic melodies of future-leaning indie-folk, and the tightly wound vocal harmonies of the old-time and classic country music they came from. Although they grew up on opposite sides of the country, Riley in Seattle, Washington, and Vivian in Lexington, Virginia, the two had an instant musical connection upon meeting in 2018.

#### Celtic Jam at the Scottish Games Musicians!

The Scottish Society is inviting the Fresno Folklore Society (and friends) to host a Celtic jam during the Scottish Games, **Saturday, September 20th** at Kearney Park. Participants would of course receive free admission to this annual event, which promotes traditional music and culture (and food, did we say food). If you are interested, please contact: **Robyn Gutierrez** (rgutierrez@mail.fresnostate.edu). **(Karana Hattersley-Drayton)** 

3 = = 2 LECHIOUS BLUE SUMMIT m o o r e TWO NIGHTS T W O MITCHUM VIV & RILEY 15MAY CRYING UNCLE BLUEGRASS BAND YOSEFF TUCKER & THE BOWTIES ethan Lawton & the Lottie Doddies LONG FORGOTTEN HENRY WARDE . SWEET SALLY SIERRAGRASS.COM **@SIERRAGRASSFESTIVAL** 

# **SIERRAGRASS Bluegrass Festival**

Dates: Friday, May 9 - Sunday, May 11, 2025 Venue: Sierra Meadows in Ahwahnee, CA

A new music festival in the Sierra Foothills, Sierragrass brings a world class folk centered lineup to Madera County over Mother's Day weekend. The venue will feature a 2-night intimate and exclusive experience for music lovers, including onsite camping, RV, and lodging options on a 1300-acre former golf course and nature reserve.

Tickets and information at <u>sierragrass.com</u>
Presented by AJ Lee & Blue Summit + Sierra
Meadows in Ahwahnee, California

The Grove Bluegrass Festival at Hobbs Grove is starting up again after an 8 year hiatus. We need bands, audience, workshop leaders, volunteer hospitality, clean up etc.

May 30,31,June 1 Sept 12,13,14

If you are interested contact Linda Dryden
(artbysea@icloud.com) asap. (Linda Dryden)



Plan ahead for Fresno World Fiddle Day Saturday May 10, Noon - 4pm



From Pat's Archives
Can you identify these ladies?

#### **APRIL 2025 EVENTS**

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

Every Sunday: Turf in the Bog @ Yosemite Wine Tails, 40409 Hwy 41, Oakhurst, 1-5 PM, Irish flute & bodhran

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 5-7 PM south patio (Maroa and Simpson). Bring your instruments and play along. FREE

Third Tuesday monthly: Song Circle @ Unitarian Church, 2672 Alluvial, Fresno, 6 PM

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

Last Monday monthly: Tower District Bluegrass & Old Time Jam @ Goldstein's, 1279 N Wishon (see flyer)

#### **EVENTS**

Sat March 29: Evo Bluestein Kids Concert @ Auberry Library, 2-3 PM FREE

Sat April 5: Hearts On Fire Choir Concert @ Tower Theatre, Door 6:30, Concert 7:30 (see poster)

**Thurs April 10: Long Forgotten String Band** @ Respite By The River, 6PM **FREE** (see article)

Mon April 14 & 28: Folk Dance Lessons @ Woodward Park Library, 6-8 PM FREE (see article)

Sat April 19: Laurie Lewis and Nina Gerber @ Wolk Garden, 7:00 PM (see article & poster)

Sat April 26: Tower Porchfest all day <a href="https://towerporchfest.org/">https://towerporchfest.org/</a>

Sun April 27: Musicians Relief Fundraiser @ 568 W Mesa, 101, Clovis, 7-9 PM (see article)

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

May 1-4: Kings River Jam Camp @ Kirch Flat Campground (see article)

Fri May 9: Viv & Riley, Brother Luke @ Tower Theatre Lounge, 1211 N Wishon, 7PM (see poster)

Fri May 9: Bluegrass In The Park @ Liberty Park, Clovis (see article)

May 9-11: SierraGrass Music Festival, Long Forgotten @ Sierra Meadows, Ahwahnee, CA (see poster)

Sat May 10: World Fiddle Day @ Big Red Church, 12-4 PM (see poster)

May 13-17: California Autoharp Gathering @ at St Nicholas Ranch in Dunlap https://calautoharp.com/

Fri May 16: Kevin Burke @ Wolk Garden, 6661 N Forkner, Fresno, 7:30PM (See articles)

#### **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.

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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: \$25.00 individual; \$35.00 family; \$50.00 corporate sponsor

		Memb	ership informat	ion: 559-22	22-9801			
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 by email to the address below.						
Membership payments are Due July 1st each year								
Current e-mail address:			Phone:					
Name(s):								
Street Address:								
City:			State:			Zip:		
Individual:	Family: _	Corp	orate Sponsor:		Affiliated men	nber:		
Are your willing to provide volunteer help with Fresno Folklore Society events? Yes □ No □								
What are your spo	ecial folklore inte	erests?						