Volume 54 Edition 11 November 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



On October 19th, we had a nice day at the FFS Potluck Picnic at the Sumner-Peck property along the San Joaquin River. The weather was great with lots of

good food and music.

With the cooler weather the **Basque Jam** is at it again on Wednesdays



from 5-7 p.m. Mark Poschman also has a Honkey Tonk Jam there every Monday from 5-7 p.m. These get-togethers are good opportunities to sit in and learn tunes. I recall back around 2012, I started going to the Basque Jam. I was nervous. I'd been to a bunch of Evo Bluestein's Slow Jams, but Kenny Hall's Basque jams were a step up. I said to Evo, "What if I make a mistake?" He replied, "Don't worry. Nobody can hear you anyway." Well, there was some truth to that. I realized the notes I played could hide in the midst of everyone else's.

There is safety in numbers. So show up and you can even sit in the second row if that makes you feel more comfortable.

Sue Wirt gives our board a monthly report on memberships. THANKS to each of you for paying your dues. Also, **THANK YOU to Lynn Ross** for her additional donation to FFS. Of course, if you can't remember if you've done your dues, check out the list on the newsletter for those who are up-to-date on membership. We try to keep this list current so if you've been dropped off and you've paid, let us know.

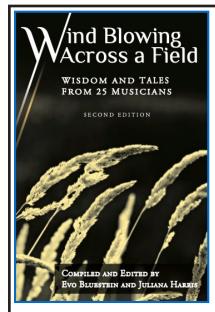
Keep an eye on our calendar. We've got some great concerts coming up. Thank you.

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

FFS P.O. Box 4617 Fresno, CA 93744

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Bluegrass Singing

In the book <u>Wind Blowing Across a Field</u> musician Jody Stecher discusses the vocal styles of American bluegrass music.

Musician Jody Stecher is a self-made world music scholar, specializing in oldtime, bluegrass, and Indian music. (Evo Bluestein)

'Bluegrass terminology is different than normal choral terminology. The typical bluegrass harmony stack had the melody in the middle. They called the part below



Jody Stecher

baritone, and above was the tenor. I had heard the term bluegrass, but the bands didn't use it yet. Eventually, the bluegrass festivals started in the 1960s. It was advantageous to say you played bluegrass—whatever would get you hired. They didn't really change how they sang and played. In the fifties,

you could hear that each band had their own sound. They each wanted to distinguish themselves from everybody else. All these bands had bluegrass-style banjo, but they wanted to distinguish themselves from Bill Monroe's Bluegrass Boys, so they developed various individual vocal styles. The Osborne Brothers were introduced as 'That Distinctive Sound.' To sound different, they had the melody on top. Bluegrass musicians called the low part low tenor, an octave below the normal tenor part. Early on, the Stanley Brothers established the idea of having the melody on the bottom, no baritone below, tenor above, and what was called high baritone above that—two parts above the melody. That was their sound.'

Note from John McCutcheon

My increased time at home now gives me the opportunity to co-write with my Zoom pals around the world. Tom Paxton (who writes with a half dozen people every week) recently said, "I'm writing so much,

I don't have time to write!" I've found time to squeeze in some solo composition, though. And, as I review these new pieces, I realize that many of them are meant to draw us back into the source from which we've strayed. We forget the basic principles we grew up learning...be kind, be brave, welcome the newcomer, love your enemies, y'all means all. There's enough ugliness out there, so let's not add to the pot. Instead, let's follow the examples of those folks who have been ever-recurring characters in the stories I've always found inspirational: the cellist of Sarajevo, that first German out the trenches back on Christmas Eve, Malory Holtman & Liz Wallace who carried Sara Tucholsky around the bases, SuAnne Big Crow. These were people who chose to respond to ugliness and violence with an act of beauty. And they wielded a weapon that their opponents did not understand. That, my friends, is power.



https://youtu.be/ iuQJtVWS6GI?si=40uLaOpCn_X8dRnY

"The arc of the moral universe," as Martin reminded us, "is long, but bends toward justice." And the empirical evidence will always be on the side of the pessimist, but that's a terrible way to live. Be brave, be kind, be strong, be helpful. See you in January.

(From Pat Wolk)

The Music-In-Schools Program is off to

a good start this academic year. This is a fun way to share folk music for the generations to come. Thirteen schools and dozens of kids have already been exposed to folk music this school year. If you think you would like to join our group of presenters either solo or as a small group or duo, please contact me and I'll explain what's expected. It is necessary to be able to use a computer and especially be able to use Google pages as this is how we coordinate our presentations. You can contact me at bwhoneyman@gmail.com or at 559-260-0971. (Bruce Honeyman)



Bill and Lou at Phoenix Elementary

Fresno Community Dance

November 9, 2025 Sunday, 1:00–4:00 PM (New Time!) Pete and Carmen's Salsa Dance Studio 4774 N. Blackstone Ave. Fresno, CA 93725 \$10 door, \$40 family maximum

EVO'S DANCES

North Fork Community Dance

November 28, 2025 6:00–9:00 PM North Fork Town Hall 33060 Road 228, North Fork, CA 93643 \$10 door, \$40 family maximum



TRAVELING ABOUT

Okay, how about traveling in Central Oregon? You know, some areas on both sides of the Of the Cascade Range (which starts at the South end, in California). I-5 is going to be our first destination. Rather than fight the trucks going



Upper Klamath Wildlifr Refuge

through Sacramento on Hwy 99, you can either go West to I-5 via Avenue 7 (just across the San Joaquin Bridge on Hwy 99 or drive on Hwy 99 as far as Hwy 120 just South of Manteca. I prefer going across on Avenue 7, but it would depend upon the time of year as you still have to watch out for produce trucks. Keep to I-5 as you run up the length of California, enjoying the views and towns and other stuff along the way. When you reach the town of Weed, just North of Mt Shasta, take a right onto US Hwy 97 and cross the border into Oregon. The width and breadth of **Upper Klamath Lake** will greet you. There is a **National Wildlife Refuge** at the North end, so take a

left onto State Hwy 62 for a stop along the way.

Ahead of you will be **Crater Lake National Park**. Crater Lake is the deepest lake in the U.S. And one of the six deepest lakes in the world. I remember going there and camping with my family as a child on our way to somewhere else and have been back a few times since as an adult. Crater Lake was formed when Mt Mazama (a volcano) erupted and collapsed into its crater. There are several hikes in the park. I've done the Watchman Trail which is just



Crater Lake National Park

.8 miles but has a fabulous view. You can take the Rim Drive which circles the lake. In the winter, the road is plowed and you can do cross country skiing on its 33-mile length. At the North end of the park, you can get back to Hwy 97 by turning East onto State Hwy 138. Of course, you can always go the other way for a different adventure.



Lava Butte

Head North on Hwy 97 through La Pine and the high desert of Eastern Orgon—very volcanic. One side of the highway has the Deschutes National Forest, and the other has the Newberry National Volcanic Monument. The Newberry Volcano is the largest (by volume) of the volcanos in the Cascade

Range (bigger than Lassen, Shasta, Hood, Jefferson, St Helens, Ranier, etc.) and is still considered active. The Monument contains Lava Butte, Lava River Cave, and the Lava Cast Forest that can be accessed from U.S. Hwy 97. Newberry Caldera is East of La

Pine via the Paulina-East Lake Road. When my Mother and I stayed at the Oregon State Park at La Pine, it was June and very cold so be prepared. There is a High Desert Museum South of Bend that you might like to visit that will give you all kinds of information about the area, the early inhabitants and the settlers.



The movie version of "Paint Your Wagon" was filmed in the Deschutes National Forest. The town in the movie was built and then dismantled after filming.



Lava Cast Forest

You can hang out in Bend for a day or two and sample its activities and

restaurants. Leaving Bend and going North on Hwy 97, you will come across Smith Rock State Park which is known for its "rocks". The volcanic scenery is

considered the "birthplace of sport climbing in the U.S." with several thousand climbs for all skill levels as well just being a cool place to visit and take pictures.



Smith Rock State Park

The area just East of the Cascade Range is also a Dark Skies area and has several places with observatories as well as free stargazing permits at Pineville Reservoir State Park.



Pineville Reservoir Dark Sky Preserve

At Madras, turn onto U.S. Hwy 26 to Warm Springs in the Warm Springs Indian Reservation which is a confederated tribes reservation (Wasco, Warm Springs, and Paiute). The museum there is excellent.

Go back South on U.S. 26 to Redmond and take State Hwy 126 West and check out the Mckenzie Pass-Santiam Pass Scenic Byway. It is a loop that will take you around and back to Sisters and includes lava flows, deep forests, views of



Mckenzie-Santiam Scenic Byway

Next, take Hwy 126 West out of Sisters again and go West on U.S. 22 at



several Cascade Mtns, lakes, and waterfalls.

Sublimity, Oregon

Santiam Junction. Silver Falls State Park is in the Northeast part of the Willamette Valley and can be reached by turning North at the town of **Sublimity**. As you drive toward the area of the

State Park, you have no idea that such a place exists as it appears to be rolling hills of farms and ranches. AND THERE IT IS. The Trail of Ten

Falls, a nine-mile loop trail, takes you to ten waterfalls (and behind two of

them). You don't have to do the whole loop to enjoy it. Head East to Salem and we will go further afield next month. (Sue Wirt)



Trail of Ten Falls

2nd Annual FFS Potluck By The River

Palestine and Israel, Ukraine and Russia, Democrats and Republicans; the world is full of strife these days. But that was not the case at the **FFS Riparian Retreat** in October. At that event two great forces, **Singing Circle** and **Instrumental Jam**, united the divide using instrumental cakes and potluck to execute "Don't Fence Me In" and other favorites together for the first time on the banks of the San Joaquin River.



PICNICING AT SUMNER-PECK RANCH

Sunday, October 19, was the perfect day for a picnic along the San Joaquin River. This was our third annual Folklore Society Picnic at Sumner-Peck Ranch (part of the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Association) We feasted on a variety of tasty foodstuffs brought by members who attended. There was enchilada casserole, meatballs cooked in barbecue sauce and grape jelly, KFC original recipe chicken, a healthy green salad, French soup (made by Henry French), tomatoes, and celery sticks (more healthy stuff). Myriad desserts, of course, made their appearance. Clafouti (spelling?), pumpkin bread pudding with bourbon sauce, and devil's food cake with chocolate custard filling were just sampling of the goodies presented.

There was a table of singers and a circle of instrumentalists, both separately and together. Some attendees went for walks along the river for birding and just to feel the peace of a lovely afternoon. Goldilocks would have loved it. (Sue Wirt)

KELZMER TO COME TO FRESNO

Save the date for **Wednesday, December 10**. Michael Winegrad (clarinet) and Ira Temple (accordion) will be performing Klezmer music. Check them out on YouTube.

https://youtu.be/3sN5eFU1oZM?si=XcAENzn2pHNR6epp

Not all the information is available yet, so keep an eye out for it in the December Flyer. Bill Johnson will also send out emails regarding it as we know more (where, time, ticket price). (Sue Wirt)



The **free folk dance classes** at Woodward Library will be from 6-8pm on the following dates:

Monday November 10 & 24 Monday December 8 & 22

(Kathryn Johnsen)

50TH ANNIVERSARY FOR KFCF AT KFCF BANQUET IN NOVEMBER

KFCF 88.1 on your radio dial is celebrating their 50th anniversary at their annual banquet on Saturday, November 15th. KFCF was the recipient of an Horizon Award for Business of the Year for 2025. The banquet will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 2672 E Alluvial. The Church is East of Chestnut on the North side of the street. The speaker this year will be Ian Masters, host of "Background Briefing" which airs on KFCF weekdays at 5 am and Mondays and Tuesdays at 3 pm. There will be a buffet-style dinner catered by Hummus Republic. As usual, there will be a silent



auction and raffle. If you wish to donate items for the auction or raffle, you may drop them off at the station (Pine and Wishon) during business hours. They can use art, crafts, gift baskets, new clothing, gift certificates, books, CDs and DVDs, resort stays, event tickets, etc. Cost of attendance is \$80.00 for an individual through November 7 (tickets at the door are \$100.00). You may purchase advance tickets through ticketstripe.com/ KFCF Banquet or mail a check to KFCF at P. O. Box 4364, Fresno CA 93744. You can also get a group together and purchase a table for 8 at \$600 through November 7. Doors open at 5:30 pm and dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. That should give you time to wander through the auction items and put in your bids. (Sue Wirt)

NOVEMBER 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

First Tuesday monthly: Old Time Music Jam @ The Windham, 1100 E Spruce, 3:00 pm to 4:30 PM FREE

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 6-8 PM

EVENTS

Mon November 10: Folk Dance Classes @ Woodward Park Library, 6-8 PM FREE

Sun November 9: Fresno Community Dance @ Pete & Carmen's DanceStudio 1:00–4:00 PM (see notice)

Sat November 15: KFCF Banquet @ UU Church (see article)

Mon November 24: Folk Dance Classes @ Woodward Park Library, 6-8 PM FREE

Fri November 28: Nothfork CommunityDance @ Northfork Town Hall 6-9 PM (see notice)

FUTURE EVENTS

Mon December 8: Folk Dance Classes @ Woodward Park Library, 6-8 PM FREE

Wed December 10: Klezmer Duo Winograd and temple @ Wolk Garden

Mon December 22: Folk Dance Classes @ Woodward Park Library, 6-8 PM FREE

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

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