



Delaware Friends of Folk

December 2009 Newsletter

Delaware Friends of Folk

877-DEL-FOLK

www.delfolk.org

December Coffeehouse -Annual Membership Meeting and Open Mic Night

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Delaware Friends of Folk, will be at 6:30 PM, December 12, 2009, followed by an Open Mic Night at 7:30 PM. Both events will be held at Wesley College Chapel (located at the intersection of Division and N. Bradford Streets, Dover, Delaware). Admission is free, but please bring a dessert to share.

Everyone is invited to share some food, perform some music, listen, or (we hope) all of the above!

CHARITABLE COLLECTION:

Attendees are encouraged to bring nonperishable food items for the Food Bank of Delaware and used musical instruments for Delaware Charitable Music, Inc.

Delaware Friends of Folk Night

The Golden Fleece Tavern wants to make Mondays Friends of Folk nights at the Golden Fleece. They can't pay a lot, but it is a fun venue and they would love to see new faces. It sounds like a great idea. If you like the sounds of that too, be sure to visit the Golden Fleece Tavern and show your support. Find out more at www.GoldenFleece.com

Folk Festival

Can you help with the 2010 Delmarva Folk Festival? Email Kae at kaejohnson1@comcast.net to find out how. The first festival meeting will be on March 3, 2010, at Sheridan's in Smyrna.

--Kae Mason, Festival Co-chair

***Crabmeat Thompson
returned to our stage
for the December
Coffeehouse- here's his
review:***

**Concert Review of Wesley
Coffeehouse Hi-Brow Series
Last Saturday Night**

As I watched Bill McAvoy, the opening act, go through a bagful of old-timey musical instruments, including a handmade banjo and the jawbone of a deer, I was reminded of Taj Mahal and his ability to use whatever objects come to hand to express the music within himself. Bill, in addition, had the wavering, nasal head voice of the old timers down. Sounded like a Folkways recording from the Thirties labor camps.

I thanked him profusely when it came my turn to headline; and mentioned that I envied him that ability—to use found objects and home-mades, that is. I rambled on a bit much, mentioning I was trying to target a “niche,” as well as use whatever came to hand as he had. My niche, or one of them, had jumped up and reported for duty Friday, as I drove up Rt. 13 to pick up my van from the body shop. I turned on the radio to hear...ME! Scott Birney of WVUD FM was giving our upcoming Gibby show with Jakob Hollow <http://www.jakobshollow.com/> a big buildup, and he was playing my song about O'Wasserman in Punta Gorda.

O'Wasserman vs., the Punta Gorda JAPS is the (true) story of my NYC pal Alan Wasserman's battle of wills with a gaggle of JAPS from New Joisy who insisted we play

“Hava Nagila” on St. Patrick's Day. Wassy insisted on sticking to Irish and I, the Celt of the duo, was stuck playing “Hava Nagila.” Wassy—and Florrie his mom—love the song, and he bought ten copies.

Then when I got home I had an email from a lady who had heard Scott's show.

Hi:I just heard the tail end of your song about Punta Gorda and Wasserman,as Scott Birney played it on WVUD.My parents moved to Punta Gorda in 1978, and my widowed mom lives there still. My own late husband was a Jew- his Orthodox grandfather having taken him to Synagogue where the Rabbis used to give him snuff. And I sing and play a self-taught flute for an Irish American Folk band. I don't think we've ever met and yet I feel like you wrote that song just for me! Any Shot I could get a copy of the lyrics to mail to a deaf hard-headed Mom, who just won't learn how to use the gizmos I buy her (including a DVD player she could listen to your CD on?) I'll get a copy of your CD for myself and my band buddy Davy, I think. I'm going to be nervy, and say THANK YOU in advance.

Yours, (name withheld to protect the innocent)

Omigod! As they say, this tore me up—a niche consisting of the heirs of snuff-dipping Jews. Must be a dozen of 'em! Ha! I forwarded the email to O'Wassy, and I introduced the song Saturday night with a garbled recantation, and then, of course, was unable to get past the first two stanzas since the niche indeed is so tiny that I never play it. SO - I “threw away my notes,” went to plan B. and ended up using a) a beautiful old Steinway piano to play *Robert and my Mom*, a tear-jerker which opened up and drew power from that big

grand piano and the natural acoustics of the Wesley College chapel.

I was thrown a bit when the sound guy Paul Gummerman requested "The Scotsman" for his daughter Kayla, before I was ready. Worked out, though, as I grabbed the mic off the stand and rambled around telling the tale of the drunken fellow with the nocturnal erection. Then, at the moment when the girls pull his kilt up I noticed that the corner post of the little fence in front the chancel steps where I was playing, was draped with a blanket. So when the girls lifted the kilt, I whipped away the blanket, to reveal a large, sturdy and very erect wooden post. An inspired improv, and a hoot.

Later on, when Jim McGiffin mounted the stage to play bass on a few tunes, we had a "chicken-off," with me singing *Fly Toward the Light* and McGiffin his song *Love Chicken*. I had suggested a coin flip to see who would go first, but when I did flip it, it rolled under a big heavy table and McGiffin ended up crawling around under it as I of course protested the call and accused him of using his political power, etc etc. Wish I had a video; but THEN Real LIFE is what we get and we damn well better enjoy it! and I sure had a good time and was happy to share it with ol' Giffo the best dang bass player in ... ??? Not to mention Queenie and Jeff Dickey, Friends of Folk and my little HoneyBunny Janice, and of course Paul Gummerman on sound and Jan Crumpley who announced the winners of the Chicken-Off, John Kidd, etc. Amen.

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--Kae Mason, Festival Co-chair

Dues are due

It's that time of year again. It's time to renew your membership, if you haven't done so already. Membership dues provide a critical source of funds to help support Delaware Friends of Folks programs. You can renew your membership in person at December Annual Meeting and Open Mic night, or use PayPal on the Delaware Friends of Folk website.

New Music Spot

You may have heard about a new music locale in Dover. Be sure to check out The Golden Fleece in downtown Dover. They're doing their part to support live, local music in Dover and they deserve our support. The Golden Fleece is located right in the heart of Dover at 132 Loockerman Street- it's a great venue to showcase local talent. More info online at www.GoldenFleece.com. Or find them on Facebook.

President's Corner

As the year end approaches, I thought I would share with my friends of the Delaware Friends of Folk some of my reflections on New Year's resolutions:

Enjoy More Live Entertainment. Kent County in General, and Dover in particular, offer a wide variety of high quality, live entertainment. Some of the offerings are home grown, and some are brought in from other parts of the country and the world. I will certainly continue to attend our own monthly Coffee House concert series and I never have missed the Delmarva Folk Festival in the Fall, but I will commit to visiting other venues for music, theater, and other forms of creative expression. The several community theater groups, the Schwartz Center for the Arts, the Smyrna Opera House, Clear Space Productions, the high schools (just to name a few sponsors), all are busy with great stuff. I will get out more, and watch TV less.

Play More Music. I play music weekly with my own band, and that is a great joy for me, but I am aware of more opportunities to commune with fellow musicians to which I should avail myself. Of course there is the DEFF pick-in program, happening the second Saturday of the month at the Dover News Stand at noon. And there are some Irish traditional sessions (or seisiuns, if you like) in the area that take place on a regular basis. There is nothing more fun than that. But I need to find a place to play the congas to which I have recently devoted

myself. So I will be on the look-out for that opportunity.

Change My Strings More Often. If I'm going to play more, I want to sound better. Of course, congas don't have strings.....

-Jim McGiffin

Find us on Facebook

If you're on Facebook, you can find us there too. It's a little more interactive than our DFF website. You can upload pictures or videos of events, or post comments, start a discussion and more. We'd like your input on the work we've been doing, and Facebook offers the opportunity to find out what's important to you. Plus, it's a fun way to interact with people.

Just search for Delaware Friends of Folk.

Upcoming Coffeehouses

Coffeehouses are held at the Wesley College Chapel, at on Division Street, between Bradford and State Streets. Very reasonably priced soft drinks, coffee, tea and snacks (fresh baked cookies!!) are available for sale, and the music starts at 7:30pm.

Of course, we're always looking for volunteers to help us out: set-up, clean-up, and sales.

Date	Performers	Price *
Nov. 21	Crabmeat Thompson	\$5/\$7
Dec 12	Annual Membership meeting, Holiday Party, and Open Mic	FREE

*Pricing is for Members / Non Members. Half price for ages 13-18; Free for Wesley students and children 12 and under.

**Coffeehouses are made possible with the help of the Delaware Division of the Arts.

Please remember to bring a non-perishable food item to benefit the Delaware Food Bank..

Also note that proceeds from the refreshments that we sell go to the Maurice Shockley Acoustic Stringed instrument Scholarship Fund.

Pick-Ins are Back!

What do you call it when folks get together and music just happens? That's called a Pick-In!

The Friends of Folk have arranged to meet on (usually) the 2nd Saturday of the month at the Dover Newsstand in Downtown Dover.

Everyone is invited to bring an instrument, or their voices, or just their ears, to join in the fun. The food is good (homemade soups, sandwiches, salads and desserts), the folks are friendly and the music is great!

They've even got free Wi-Fi if you need a digital fix while you're there.

Everybody sits in a big circle and trades songs. All ability levels are welcome - the leaders will give you a hint on chords beforehand if you need it, and you can join in or just fake it!

Time: 1pm to 4pm

Admission: FREE

Place: Dover Newsstand, 25 W. Loockerman St, Dover




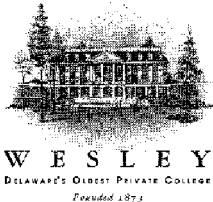

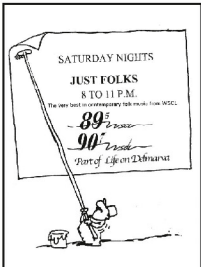
For the menu:

<http://www.dovernewsstand.com/>

Board Members & Officers

Who	Positions / Committees
John Kidd	Booking, Development
Clarence Brackin	
Kelly Crumpley	Activities chair
Pat Mcgee	
Kae Mason	Festival Chair, Vice Chair
Kristin Hamilton	Membership Chair
Rob Fox	Treasurer
Jim McGiffin	Chairman of the Board
Storm Longhauser	Newsletter
Non-Board Officers	
Jan Crumpley	Web Site

Thanks to our sponsors:

<p>Delaware Division of the Arts</p> 	<p>This program is made possible, in part, by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency committed to promoting and supporting the arts in Delaware.</p>
	<p>Fordham Brewery, located right in Dover, Delaware, has generously been supporting our festival through donations-in-kind and promotional support.</p>
	<p>Delaware Friends of Folk are members of the North American Folk Music & Dance Alliance.</p>
	<p>Wesley College, which generously donates the space for our coffeehouses.</p>
	<p>WVUD 91.3 – the voice of the U of Delaware</p>
	<p>John Kalb – WSCL Radio – Supports our many events on his Just Folks radio show Saturday nights 8-11pm in Salisbury</p>

Delaware Friend of Folk Membership

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Are you a musician? _____ Instrument(s) you play _____

Would you consider volunteering for the organization? _____

Check	Type	Includes	Dues
	Individual Membership	Discounted Admission for you at all Friends of Folk events Voting privileges for 1 adult at membership meeting in December	\$10
	Family Membership	Discounted Admission for your family at all Friends of Folk events Voting privileges for up to 2 adults at membership meeting in Dec.	\$15
	Friend of Friends of Folk	Family Membership Dues \$50 Charitable Donation \$35 Value \$15	\$50
	Bronze Supporter of Friends of Folk	Family Membership + 1 ticket to next Delmarva Folk Festival Dues \$100 Charitable Donation \$70 Value \$30	\$100
	Silver Supporter of Friends of Folk	Family Membership + 2 tickets to next Delmarva Folk Festival + 2 admissions to any one coffeehouse (may pick) Dues \$250 Charitable Donation \$195 Value \$55	\$250
	Gold Supporter of Friends of Folk	Family Membership + 4 tickets to next Delmarva Folk Festival + 2 admissions to all of this year's coffeehouses Dues \$500 Charitable Donation \$370 Value \$130	\$500

Delaware Friends of Folk is supported by you, the members, and made possible, in part, by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Delaware Division of the Arts. Show your support and keep music and entertainment happening in Kent County.

Mail to: Delaware Friends of Folk, P.O. Box 1006, Dover, DE 19903-1006