



The Folk Club



Of Reston – Herndon
Preserving Folk Traditions

Volume 15 Issue 2

February 2000

Ellen James Showcase – February 8

by Dan Grove

Piano at eight, clarinet at ten, cello at twelve, oboe and English horn in high school, and then harpsichord in college. Ellen James explored all of these instruments, growing up in a home where her father played trombone in a big band, her mother sang folk music, and her two older brothers were blasting Blue Oyster Cult. With all these influences, Ellen today is drawn to an intersection of the classical and folk traditions, and appreciates those who can merge the two in a way that avoids both the snobbery of some classical aficionados and the reverse snobbery of some folkies. She cites Richard Dyer-Bennett and Bartok as prime examples of artists who have succeeded at this.

For the last ten years, Ellen's instruments of choice have been the harp and the most difficult instrument of all she's undertaken, the voice. She has arranged her own versions of songs, and created original harp instrumentals. Specializing in traditional Celtic music has gotten invitations to appear with local groups MoonFire and Ceoltoiri, as well. Outside of music, Ellen currently studies Tae Kwon Do, and has a husband and a five-year-old son (who sings, of course!).

Ellen's life has another theme that's almost as strong as music, and that's a love of animals. She got a B.S. in Agriculture from Rutgers, studying sow maternal behavior (and, coincidentally, observing that sleeping newborn piglets wiggle their ears when their researcher hits a high E). She spent a year working with horses at an organic farm on the Scottish Isle of Mull, and also did a stint cleaning stalls for the U.S. Equestrian Team at Diamond Jim Brady's stables (which have great acoustics). Ellen then spent two years training seeing eye dogs, but the constant pavement pounding made her look for work where she could get off her feet.

That led to a couple of years as an artist's model. It turned out the artists were very happy to draw Ellen while she was playing her harp, so she is probably the only musician on earth who has gotten paid to practice. Of the experience, she says that as a result she would feel, oh, *natural*, performing at the Avalon Folk Festival...

Don't miss Ellen's fluid harp and clear soprano!

Inside this issue:

Bios of Libby Dunton & David Alberding
Who are the new volunteers?
Past and new club Presidents.
Which volunteers do what.
Classifieds and concerts not to miss.
Guest Artists for 2000.

February Folk Club Schedule

February 1	Newsletter available Open Mike
February 8	Ellen James Showcase Open Mike
February 15	Open Mike
February 22	Libby Dunton w/ Frank Coleman & David Alberding \$10 non-members, \$9 members.
February 29	Open Mike

(The shortest month has 5 Tuesdays this year!!)

Libby Dunton
with Frank Coleman
&
David Alberding

Tickets \$10 (\$9 Members)



Libby Dunton grabbed the attention of several Folk Club members with her sterling vocal performances at Lisner Auditorium World Folk Music Association concerts several years ago. Libby has been singing in Richmond for the past 22 years, half of that involved in management of the Crossroads Coffeehouse. In her ventures outside Richmond, Libby was a frequent performer at Dick Cerri's Showcase Americana in the 1980s at the original Birchmere. One of Libby's many music associations is with George Turman on the *Among Friends* where she met Frank Coleman and found they shared many musical tastes. Frank's original songs are a wonderful addition to their acoustic and traditional repertoire.

Frank Coleman has been writing and performing acoustic music in and around Richmond for over 15 years, much of that time partnered with Chris Fuller, one of Virginia's hottest mandolin and guitar pickers. As Coleman and Fuller they recorded a CD "*Party at Mama's*". While first meeting Libby at a Coleman/Fuller concert at Crossroads Coffeehouse, their collaboration on *Among Friends* found Libby and Frank sharing the stage on several songs which formed the catalyst to subsequent duo performances. What resulted is an intimate folk sound that accentuates lush vocals and accomplished finger-style guitars.

The Folk Club Proudly
Presents - 7:30 PM - Tuesday,
February 22, 2000
at the Tortilla Factory
648 Elden Street
Herndon, VA

If you asked singer-songwriter David Alberding what he would be doing if not performing, the answer wouldn't come quickly. Music has always been an important part of this Maryland native's life, culminating in his 1995 decision to pursue music full time. Blending together elements of folk, rock, jazz and blues, David creates characters with his words and his voice that share an insight into the human condition. This style and uniqueness have yielded recognition for David as a major contributor to the Washington area music scene, including 2 consecutive nominations for Best Male Vocalist in Contemporary Folk by the Washington Area Music Association, and two awards in the Mid Atlantic Song Contest sponsored by the Songwriters Association of Washington for his songs "*Heavy*" and "*Circle of Three*". David donates his talent every summer to the Carol Jean Cancer Foundation, providing music for the families of children with cancer at their Camp Friendship campfires. His composition "*Friendship*" is the adopted theme song of Camp Friendship.



New Millennium Brings New Volunteers

By Ellen Kaminsky

The Board of Directors of The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon is pleased to welcome two new members to the Board and recognize several current members as they assume new responsibilities for the coming year.

As most of you know, the success of The Folk Club over the years is directly linked to the efforts of volunteers. The club's existence is a result of their work and its reputation as a fine, listening club is defined by their contributions. In essence, almost every one of you has contributed some amount of volunteer effort to The Folk Club even if it were simply being a member of the audience. Other efforts readily recognized include volunteering at the mike as the emcee or taking a turn at the soundboard as the sound engineer for the evening. But are there other, larger efforts?

Indeed there are and they go on behind the scenes with little fanfare. Recently, some of our long-term stalwarts decided to take a break from these tasks and give someone else a chance to step up and fill these important positions. Those of you who attended the Holiday Party in December will remember the flyers that were passed out seeking volunteers for these open positions. The response was tremendous as many folks stepped forward to take up the tasks. They have been patiently awaiting the decision of the Board and now that wait is over.

The Board held its first meeting of the Millennium on January 29th and conducted elections for the open positions. The results of those elections are (drum roll, please):

President:	Ray Kaminsky
Secretary:	Chris Kramer-Harnage ("Fang")
Publicity Chair:	Sue Schier
Phone Contact:	Mary King

Selections were based on current and past contributions made by the individuals and we believe they will serve The Folk Club well in their new positions. These individuals will also become members of the Board of Directors since each of these positions represents the potential for official contact with the public on behalf of The Folk Club.

Since there were so many fine individuals from which to choose, settling on these folks was not an easy task. Even though we couldn't select everyone who volunteered, we'd like to encourage each of them to continue contributing in other ways to the success of their Folk Club. We'd also like to recognize each of them and ask all of you to say "thank you for volunteering" to: Sue Beffel, Irene Boyer, Tom Brahms, Bill Davis, Liberte Donato, T.M. Hanna, Ken "Harney" Harnage, Marty Jenkins, and Jane Tatum.

We'd like to point out that two of our selectees (Ray Kaminsky and Sue Schier) were already members of the Board. We'd also like to note that several other current Board members also volunteered to fill the open slots. Even though they were not selected they did win a wonderful second prize: they get to keep working on the Board and contributing to the success of The Club. Alas, no rest for the weary.

If you'd like to be considered for membership to the Board, please see a current Board member for details. And for the rest of you volunteers out there: keep up the great work and we'll see you next Tuesday.



Larry Mediate,
outgoing President of the Reston Herndon Folk Club. Larry was an original board member, elected 12 years ago. He and other "Original Board Members" wrote the by-laws that govern The Folk Club as a legal corporation in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Ray Kaminsky,
incoming President of The Folk Club. Ray was also on the original Board of Directors and currently books all of the monthly concert artists. Ray and the board will be discussing future priorities and directions for the club. Share your ideas with board members and Ray on Tuesday evenings.



Hey, Who Does That?

by Ellen Kamiński

Come to The Folk Club on any Tuesday night and you'll hear the emcee say, "we are an all volunteer organization." And you can look around and see different folks volunteering in different capacities. Perhaps it's the emcee at the microphone or the person behind the soundboard. Maybe it's the crew that takes the system down at the end of the evening. But did you ever suspect there is other stuff that gets done behind the scenes? Like who puts that marquee in the lobby of the restaurant or how does the public find out about our concerts? We think you'd be surprised at how much does get done and we'd like to take the opportunity to introduce you to some of those folks who work so hard to keep The Folk Club running. Although we don't have room to list every single person who has ever volunteered, we would like to highlight those we fondly refer to as "the usual suspects."

We're going to introduce you first to those very special individuals who make the effort to arrive early every Tuesday night, rearrange the room and then drag out the sound and lighting equipment. **John McConnel** and **Bill Farrar**, please take a bow! John has been doing this for so long that we're not sure when he started; and Bill has been helping John long enough now that when he doesn't show up we worry he's been in an accident or something else truly awful. Gentlemen, our hats are off to you both. We'd also like to recognize **Jim Rosenkrans** who, for years, provided this support (we know John misses him).

The rest of "the usual suspects" are now presented in alphabetical order.

Sue Beffel:

Board Member; support to the publicity chair; unofficial photographer for special events; keeper of The Folk Club memory books (photo album/scrap books).

Bill Davis:

Original* and current Board Member; frequent emcee; periodic organizer for outreach gigs and frequent equipment schlepper for outreach gigs. Is currently spearheading the search for a new Club logo (and perhaps heading the effort to produce a new line of Club tee shirts?). Frequent host of unofficial, open to everyone, 4th of July Folk Club picking parties at his home.

Carol Deakin:

Current Board Member; and Newsletter Editor, folder, stamper, and all round "get that darn thing out" stuckee.

Richard Flinchbaugh:

Current Board Member; Officer of the corporation; serves as Treasurer and is responsible for all financial aspects of the corporation; sound engineer for most concerts and a great many of the open mike nights. Serves as sound equipment manager for The Club with Ray Kaminsky. Other periodic behind-the-scenes support when the need arises.

Dan Grove:

Former Board Member (retired); served as Newsletter Editor after Dave retired and still writes the cover story for Showcase winners.

T.M. Hanna:

Current Board Member; served as Newsletter Editor for several years and periodically fills in for the current Editor when required. Also an occasional emcee.

Dave Hurd:

Original and current Board Member; serves as Membership chairman, producing and selling the concert tickets; is the usual emcee on concert nights. Former Officer of the Corporation (as Treasurer for over a decade!) and former Newsletter Editor (also for over ten years). Frequent host of unofficial, open to everyone, Folk Club get-a-ways at his mountain retreat on Labor Day and Memorial Day.

Lynn Jordan:

Original and current Board Member; produces Folk Club information brochure; serves as periodic outreach coordinator. Past Publicity Chair (handled all publicity, community contact, and various contacts with the media and local community organizations for over a decade!).

Ellen Kaminsky:

Original and current Board Member; frequent emcee; creates and hangs the concert marquee in the restaurant lobby; produces special events flyers; usually the 'product salesperson' for visiting performing artists; sometimes media and Internet contact. Serves as local representative for The Folk Club in Herndon town events and performs other behind-the-scenes support when the need arises. Former outreach and festival organizer and Folk Club tee shirt production/sales.

Ray Kaminsky:

Original and current Board Member; President and Officer of the Corporation; Club Booking Agent; sound engineer for concerts and a great many of the open mike nights as needed. Serves as sound equipment manager for The Club with Richard Flinchbaugh. Responsible for making sure THE CAKE is present at the Club's birthday, anniversary, and holiday parties. Is the local representative for The Folk Club in Herndon town events and performs other behind-the-scenes support when the need arises.

Chris ("Fang") Kramer-Harnage:

Current Board member and Secretary; produced the lettering for the sign-up board and does periodic flyers and handouts supporting the Club.

Ken("Harney")Harnage:

Serves as periodic sound engineer for the open mike nights; occasional emcee.

Mary King:

Current Board member and official keeper of the Folk Club phone number (fields all calls for information regarding the Club's activities).

Susan Schier:

Current Board member; Current Publicity chair responsible for getting all information out to the media regarding Folk Club activities.

* Those listed as "Original Board Members" were elected 12 years ago and chartered with the responsibility of writing the by-laws that govern The Folk Club as a legal corporation in the state of Virginia. Former Original Board Members of the Club also included **Tim Davis, Bev & Jack Osburn, Joe Navarrette,** and past Presidents **Rose Haskell** and **Larry Mediate**. Although these folks have scattered to the wind over the years, their contributions to The Club will always be appreciated.

Membership Address Changes Renewals

To join The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon, send or hand your check for \$12, payable to The Folk Club, to Dave Hurd at the return address on this newsletter.

If you are already a member, your membership expiration date, in year-month-day format (YYYYMMDD), is on the mailing label on your newsletter. It is your responsibility to renew each year. If you move, send Dave your new address so you don't miss an issue.

Classifieds

In Concert

Local performances by members of
The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon

Ray Kaminsky

- 2/03 7:30pm Seasons Coffee Gallery,
Front Royal, VA (540) 636-7181
2/19 8pm St. Elmo's Coffee Pub,
Alexandria, VA (703) 739-9268
3/02 7pm Borders Books, 11301
Rockville Pike, Kensington, MD
(301)816-1067
3/25 8pm St. Elmo's Coffee Pub,
Alexandria, VA (703) 739-9268

T. Michael Hanna

- 2/05 Bennigans, Tysons Corner 6-10pm
2/07 Zigs, Alexandria 8-11pm
2/18 Bennigans, Tysons Corner 6-10pm
2/25 Zigs, Alexandria 7-9pm

James Houch & Friends

Brianna Chapman will skate to a new song,
"Never Give Up," in Annapolis in March.

ACOUSTIC JAM 3rd Sunday of the month
from 1 - 4 P.M. at Frying Pan Park Country
Store in Herndon. Call Yvonne Johnson at
703-437-9101 for details.

Email your performance dates for the next
newsletter to cd7158@erols.com.

Acoustic Bass For Sale: Rarely used, like
new \$1000 include stand & cover. Jim
Rosenkrans at 301-695-2733,
jimr@rosedalesoftware.com

Photos at

www.rosedalesoftware.com/4sale/bass.html

Come Spring Enterprises: Professional
sound reinforcement by Richard W.
Flinchbaugh. Specializing in Folk, Celtic,
Traditional and Contemporary Acoustic
Music. 703-255-0112

Julia Rose: all-original, alternative folk artist.
Her debut CD, "Suspended in Air." 410-
237-0899, website: www.erols.com/julia.rose

**Stringfellow's Beautiful Handcrafted from
Around the World:** Sponsors of a summer
concert series. Folk Music, Cds, Tapes and
they accept instruments and original Cds for
consignment. 201 Union St., PO Box 502,
Occoquan, VA 22125, 703-494-3755,
stfellow@doubled.com

Sandy's Greatest Hits: Jim Sandy is looking
for country/folk artists to help with CD...yes,
finally!! Male vocal/guitar, bass, fiddle,
harmonica. Female vocal/guitar, flute. Call
Jim at 301-481-7645.

Still Available through Birdphluph Music:
Good Things Take Time by TM Hanna and
Bare Facts, recorded live at Avalon Folk

Festival, by Bill Davis. Contact Birdphluph Music, PO Box 131, Sterling, VA 20167 or
www.birdbhluph@pressroom.com

The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon

Tuesday nights, 7:30 P.M.

The Tortilla Factory

648 Elden Street

Herndon, VA

703-471-1156

President: Ray Kaminsky

Treasurer: Richard Flinchbaugh

Board of Directors: Ellen Kaminsky, Lynn Jordan, Bill Davis, T.M. Hanna, Sue Beffel, Dave Hurd, Mary King, Sue Schier, Carol Deakin, Chris Kramer-Harnage,

Publicity: Sue Schier **Telephone:** Mary King

Bookings: Ray Kaminsky 703-689-0444

2000 Guest Artists

And Special Events

Most tickets for Guest Artists are

\$10 Non-member, \$9 Members

It pays to be a Folk Club member!

02/22/00	Libby Dunton and David Alberding - Split Bill
03/21/00	Sparky Rucker
04/25/00	Chuck Pyle
05/23/00	Michael Smith
05/16/00	Folk Club's 15 th Birthday Party
06/13/00	Bill Staines
07/xx/00	TBA
08/xx/00	Folk Club's 13 th Anniversary at the Tortilla Factory Restaurant
08/29/00	Dana Robinson

Folk Club Format

On most Tuesday evenings, the Folk Club is an open mike format with a sign-up board. **Each performer has 12 minutes, including setup time.** This allows three songs if you set up FAST and the songs are of moderate length.

Showcase Performances

On the second Tuesday of each month, we feature a Folk Club member in a two set (25-minute) "Showcase" performance. To be in a showcase you have to:

- be a Folk Club member who has not done a showcase in 6 months.
- fill out a lottery slip any time in the month before the drawing
- win the drawing on the night of the current month's showcase
- prepare to be featured in the next newsletter!

Newsletter Publication

Folk Club members are encouraged to submit performance calendars, classified advertisements, articles, reviews, artwork and other items to Carol Deakin at cd7158@erols.com. All items must relate to music and be emailed in WordPerfect. Information must be received one week before the first day of the month in which you want it published. Items will be printed on the basis of music related interest, timeliness and space available with club information being the first priority.

The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon

c/o Dave Hurd

110 Devil's Backbone Overlook

Stephenson, VA 22656

Expires 20000301

Mr Richard Flinchbaugh

9712 Cymbal Dr
Vienna, VA 22182