

**December 17<sup>th</sup> – Annual Holiday Party**

Come and share in the holiday songs and carols, and share the spirit of the season with all your friends.  
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## December 10 Showcase – Bill Stejskal



My relationship with music has been discontinuous. I first picked up a guitar early in high school. I found my way without any formal instruction, aside from childhood piano lessons and a brief stint with a trombone. Those were the days when we bought all our sheet music and songbooks at Central Music in North Phoenix, and kept re-placing the needle at the beginning of whatever track we were trying to learn.

In those early years, I hunted and pecked through various song circles, jams, and 5:00 folk masses, first at my parish, and later as an undergrad at Notre Dame. The folk music of the day, and all the usual suspects - John Denver, Gordon Lightfoot, Bob Dylan, John Stewart, et al. - populated my wheel house.

Then came grad school, my first job as a forensic psychologist, and a young family. My guitars sat in their cases for a time, but were eventually sold when times got tight. 30 years passed. I finally renewed my acquaintance with the guitar - and with singing and collaborating musically with others - beginning in 2019.

The onset of COVID followed on the heels of my re-engagement with music. Thank heavens for the inter-

webs, and for virtual song-circles! Kelly Muzzin's weekly Salón, and Al Hobson's bi-weekly RHFC virtual open mic were great places to perform and to take chances with new material.

I am grateful to Danny Dean, guitarist extraordinaire and one-half of the duo, The Watch, for being willing to hang in there through COVID as my teacher and role model. He taught me how to practice and how to get a piece performance-ready. He reinforced the importance of respecting the music, and your audience, by doing everything you can to avoid delivering a half- baked, or under-prepped performance. Thanks as well to Jamie Stillway, a fabulous teacher and finger-style guitarist in Seattle, for our on-going work together since meeting at Swannanoa in 2023. She reminds me, always, of the importance of using one's fingers deliberately, and with a clear objective.

At the showcase on December 10, I will be joined by my bandmates, Kelly Muzzin (keys and vocals) and Dave Hamilton (Neuro-bassist and telepathic "vocalist"). We will perform a mix of covers and originals. I hope that you enjoy us even half as much as we will enjoy performing them.

# THE FOLK CLUB

*of Reston & Herndon*



John Haskell, the husband of our founder Rose Haskell, passed away peacefully in November at the age of 80.

After high school John enlisted in the Air Force where the military discovered his talent for language acquisition. After his honorable discharge he attended the University of Massachusetts from which he graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Russian Language and Literature, and where he met his wife of 57 years, Rose (Chiasson). He spent the 26 years working as a Russian linguist, senior analyst, and manager with the CIA.

He was known by everyone for his situational wit, humorous storytelling, and infectious laugh. That being said, those who knew John also had deep conversations with him about politics, history, and world events. They also probably learned something about his many hobbies and passions: sailing, motorcycles, building and flying model airplanes, playing banjo and guitar, making stained glass windows, painting and drawing, skeet shooting, and reading many books. Those who knew him also knew how much he loved his wife, how proud he was of his two daughters, and how much he delighted in his three grandchildren. He was kind to all he encountered, whether human or animal.

Note: There might not be a Folk Club if it was not for John. One night, when John and Rose lived in England, John was thirsty and stopped in a pub where everyone was singing folk songs. John told Rose about it, and she loved the music and became a regular at folk song circles. She missed them when they returned to America and started our club - which has lasted for 39 years. Thanks John!

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Dearest Folk Club friends,

I am deeply touched by the thoughtfulness and generosity of all of you. In addition to the significant contribution from the Folk Club, many of you contributed individually as well. I hope you all realize how helpful and spirit-lifting this has been for us.

Unfortunately, we have had a setback. In the chaos following the catastrophe, the vultures swept in. I contracted with someone who, to my surprise, was not licensed. In addition he was not qualified. I am now forced to gut everything that has been done so far (drywall, AC, and hot water heater) and start over. I was advised to report him to the attorney general, as this is very common after a disaster and the county is coming down hard on offenders. I have now found someone I can trust and he is making sure all the permits are in place and the work is done to code. But it has been a heartbreaking and expensive lesson.

Hopefully the worst is over and we will soon be back on the road to recovery. Although there have been vultures, we have also been blessed with angels like you all, who have gone above and beyond.

I always used to say, in regard to my grandson, Jackson, "It takes a village, and the Folk Club is our village." This sentiment is especially meaningful now, for both of us. So, thank you so much from the bottom of my heart.

Love to you all,  
Cheryl Hennessy and Jackson

## **CLUB INFO, ETC.**

### **Annual Holiday Party**

Get ready for our annual holiday party, on Tuesday December 17<sup>th</sup> this year. Wrap up your unused CDs (remember them?) for the raffle, put on some holiday attire, and slide over to Herndon's Amphora Diner for musical joy and humor, with tuneful reflections on the holiday season. We'll be handing out raffle tickets at the door, and dessert is provided – all for free. Hope to see you there! Remember, this is a round-robin night (each act on the sign-up board gets one song, so everyone can add to the merriment).

### **Open Mic on Monday Dec 23 and Monday Dec 30**

Since Christmas Eve and New Years' Eve are on Tuesday this year, we are meeting on these Monday dates. Also, Dec 30 is a Fifth Tuesday (on a Monday), so we will be unplugged – no sound system.

### **Zoom Open Mics**

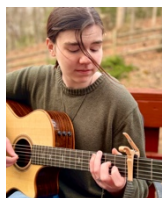
Every other Monday night at 7:30 pm Al Hobson hosts bi-weekly virtual Folk Club open mics on Zoom. The only date this month is Monday December 9<sup>th</sup>. If you'd like to watch or share some songs send an email to Al Hobson at [alhobson@verizon.net](mailto:alhobson@verizon.net) by Sunday evening. Let him know if you plan to listen or perform and he'll send you the Zoom link.

### **Tuesday Night Open Mic Videos**

To see a video recording of the Tuesday night open mic, go to the [folkclubofrestonherndon.org](http://folkclubofrestonherndon.org) [Event Calendar](#). Select the link below the date, then the YouTube link. If YouTube says the link is blocked, right-click the link, then choose the option to open it in a new tab or window.

### **Save The Date**

The Third Song Circle featuring Reston-Herndon Folk Club members will take place on January 26, at 6:30 pm. Come and hear some of our Folk Club members in a more in-depth way in a beautiful listening venue. Four performers will be featured and will alternate sharing their songs. Jennifer Katt will host. Performers include John Druitt, Barbara Keeler, Ron Goad, and Avery Anderson. When: Sunday, January 26 at 6:30 pm - Where: Al's Art Barn - Why: Because you love music! And variety!



## **MUSICAL NOTES**



### **Focus Music**

- Go to [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org) for more information.

### **Arts Barn Music**

- Fri Dec 13 at 7 PM – Al is hosting Hiroya Tsukamoto, a one-of-a-kind composer, guitarist and singer-songwriter from Kyoto, Japan. Unfortunately, Al has a full house and it's waitlist only, but you can hope for an early Xmas gift.

- Go to [artsbarnmusic.org](http://artsbarnmusic.org) for more information.

### **World Folk Music Association (WFMA)**

- Go to [www.wfma.net/index.htm](http://www.wfma.net/index.htm) for more information.

### **Folklore Society of Greater Washington (FSGW).**

- Fri Dec 20 at 8 PM - Celtic Holiday House Concert with KA/PO and Eileen Estes (hammered dulcimer, Irish flute, harp guitar, accordion, and cittern)

- Go to [fsgw.org](http://fsgw.org) for more information.

### **Institute of Musical Traditions**

- Fri Dec 6 Institute of Musical Traditions presents "Music of Midwinter" with Windborne at 7:30 pm – St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Rockville, MD

- Mon Dec 16 at 7:30 pm - Annual Celtic Holiday Show w Robin Bullock, Ken Kolodner & Elke Baker – St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Rockville, MD

- Fri Dec 27 at 7:30 pm - Hank Williams Tribute Concert – St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Rockville, MD

- Go to [www.imtfolk.org](http://www.imtfolk.org) for more information.

## **MEMBER PERFORMANCES & INFO**

**Bill Davis** – email: [bil-davis@outlook.com](mailto:bil-davis@outlook.com)

**Chris Anderson** [ChrisAndersonSongs.com](http://ChrisAndersonSongs.com)

**Ron Goad** – email: [MisterGoad@aol.com](mailto:MisterGoad@aol.com)

**Jan Gillies** [www.jangilliesmusic.com](http://www.jangilliesmusic.com)

**Hickory Grove** (Bev & Jack Osburn)  
[www.hickoryg.com](http://www.hickoryg.com)

**Sherry Stewart (Sunny@Midnight)**  
[www.facebook.com/SunnyatMidnightMusic](http://www.facebook.com/SunnyatMidnightMusic)

**Steven Cutts** [ThePrimeCutts.com](http://ThePrimeCutts.com) and Spotify, Apple Music, and Soundcloud

**Audrey Adair** [AudreyJAdair.com](http://AudreyJAdair.com)

**Shenandoah Run** (including Bob Melissinos, Ben Hamblin, Jim Johnson) [www.shenandoahrun.com](http://www.shenandoahrun.com)

**The Two Peas** (Ann Granger and Larry Rice) - Harmony in Acoustic Music – [twopeasharmony@gmail.com](mailto:twopeasharmony@gmail.com)

**Chasing Magic** (including John Druitt, Al Hobson, Walt Lazear) [ChasingMagic-TheBand.com](http://ChasingMagic-TheBand.com)  
- Sat Dec 14 at Herndon Wintermarkt Festival

**George Katsos** [georgekatsos.com](http://georgekatsos.com)

- Sat Dec 14 at 2 PM – Nokesville Winery

- Tue Dec 31 at 4 PM – Lost Boy Cider, Alexandria



*of Reston & Herndon*

Meets Tuesday nights, at 7:15 PM ET at Amphora Diner Deluxe,  
1151 Elden Street, Herndon, VA

**President:** Al Hobson

**Treasurer:** Jen Katt

**Board of Directors:** Bill Davis, TM Hanna, Ron Goad, Sue Schier, Ben Hamblin, Bill Farrar, Connee Chandler, Jim Clark, Nancy Truax

**Publicity:** Dan Telfer, Kevin Nordlie

**Bookings:** Steve Potter

**Newsletter:** Ben Hamblin, Dan Grove, Steve Potter

**Website:** Al Hobson, Ben Hamblin

**Facebook:** Ben Hamblin

**Lifetime Members:** Rose Haskell, Ray & Ellen Kaminsky, Dave Hurd (in memoriam) & Beth Drumheller

#### **FOLK CLUB FORMAT**

Most Tuesday nights the Folk Club is an open-mike format with a signup board. Each performer has 8 minutes, which includes setup time.

#### **SHOWCASE PERFORMANCES**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month (usually), we feature a "Showcase" of a Folk Club member in a 24-minute performance. To do a Showcase you must: 1) be a paid-up Folk Club member who has not done a showcase in the last 12 months; 2) fill out a lottery slip and place it in the "drawing bucket"; 3) win the drawing on the night of the current month's showcase; and 4) be prepared to be featured in the next newsletter!

#### **NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION**

Folk Club members are encouraged to submit performance calendars, classified ads, articles, reviews, and other music-related items for the newsletter. Items will be published on the basis of music-related interest, timeliness, and available space. Send your input to newsletter editor Ben Hamblin at [FolkClubOfRestonHerndon@gmail.com](mailto:FolkClubOfRestonHerndon@gmail.com).

#### **RESERVE YOUR CONCERT SEATS**

Donations can be made in advance for concert performances on Tuesdays at the Folk Club or by prepaid mail. Contact Jen Katt, 13529 Wood St, Woodbridge, VA 22191-1338, [treasurer.jk.folkclub@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.jk.folkclub@gmail.com).

### The Folk Club of Reston & Herndon

c/o Jennifer Katt

13529 Wood St

Woodbridge, VA 22191-1338

#### **FOLK CLUB MEMBERSHIP**

If you enjoy the music and company, become a member! The process is the same if your membership has expired. Make out a check to "The Folk Club" in the amount of \$15 for one year or \$55 for 5 years. Please DO NOT make the check to Jen Katt. Send the check to: The Folk Club of Reston & Herndon; c/o Jen Katt; 13529 Wood St; Woodbridge, VA 22191-1338. Please provide your name, email address, phone # and type, and residential address. Sorry, we cannot accept online payments.

#### **KEEP IN TOUCH**

There are several ways you can keep in touch, or find out more about The Club: **Website:** [folkclubofrestonherndon.org/](http://folkclubofrestonherndon.org/)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/rhfolkclub](http://www.facebook.com/rhfolkclub)

**General Info:** Contact Sue Schier at (703) 435-2402

#### **CLASSIFIEDS**

#### **MUSIC GEAR**

- For sale: Behringer Q802USB 8-input 2-bus mixer with XENYX mic preamps and compressors, British EQ and a USB audio interface, and Roland KC-150 compact 65-watt keyboard amp with 4-channel capability including aux and mic inputs, which can be expanded with optional subwoofer for low-end boost - \$250 for both items – contact Gary West at 703-822-3778.

- For sale: Gold Star GF100HF \$1143.28. Cordoba 28T \$123.47. Matching Red Valley Mandolin and Mandola \$2231.53. For more info, etc. contact TM at [pressroom@birdphluph.com](mailto:pressroom@birdphluph.com).

- For sale: A signed Keith Young lap dulcimer made in November of 1980, #557. It is in excellent condition but has not been played in many years. Cloth case included. Selling for \$444 OBO. Please contact Shana Spiegel at [shana.spiegel@gmail.com](mailto:shana.spiegel@gmail.com) or 703-899-5144.