

The Folk Club of Reston & Herndon

Preserving the traditions of Folk Music, Folk Lore, and Gentle Folk Ways

FolkClubOfRestonHerndon.org



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Theme Night April 21: Songs Against the Storm

See page 2 for more.

April 14 Showcase – Richard Thornburgh & Newfound Friends

by Richard

Richard was first inspired to play guitar listening to his future brother-in-law, Joe Klockenkemper, play and sing in the Thornburgh family living room on Missionary Ridge, Chattanooga, Tennessee. Joe provided live entertainment at Richard's 8th birthday party, a feat that no other kid in school could brag about. His mother insisted on piano lessons first, and after a delightful detour playing trumpet in his high school jazz band at variety shows and on a European tour, he finally took up guitar while in college at Notre Dame in the late 80s, swapping songs with dorm mates and playing at Club 23 in South Bend on quarter beer night.



His Guild D-40 journeyed with him to teach high school in the Palau islands of Micronesia, and, not unlike Jimmy Buffet, he played the school picnic circuit for rice and sashimi. Law school Friday nights in Knoxville in the 1990s were often spent blowing off steam in a bluegrass jam that evolved into the renowned law-grass ensemble Learned Hand, named after a famous New York jurist who had received this cruel but astute name from his parents. The name seemed to fit just as well for aspiring musicians and law students who probably should have been studying instead.

During his career in the USDA Forest Service, Richard formed two string bands to represent the agency at National Forest and community events: The Ramblin' Rangers in the San Bernardino mountains of Southern California, and Leave No Trace in the sylvan foothills and high country around Asheville, North Carolina. Throughout his life, Richard has loved jamming with The Family Band whenever his family gathers in homes, barns, and meadows across the United States. Most recently, he has performed with District Line in Rockville and Takoma Park, and is attempting to fill the big shoes of John Werntz in the Folk-Americana ensemble [Shenandoah Run](#) on upright acoustic bass. After retiring from the Forest Service in 2025, Richard is devoting more time to songwriting and exploring the vibrant DC area music scene, and is excited to have found a new musical home in The Folk Club.

For the April showcase, Richard will feature several of his own bluegrass and Americana songs as well as some bluegrass standards. He will be joined by his newfound musician friends: Mike Riedman (guitar) and Emily Day (mandolin, vocals) of [Seneca Creek Bluegrass Band](#), Evan Sands (banjo) of [Pictrola](#) and [Old Town Tradition](#), and John Werntz (bass) and Ron Goad (percussion) of too many bands to list.

Photo L to R: Mike Riedman, Evan Sands, Emily Day, Richard Thornburgh. Absent: John Werntz & Ron Goad

Next Arts Barn Song Circle Event

RESERVE YOUR SEAT(S) NOW! Hey music fans, join us **Sunday, May 3, 6:30pm**, for host Jennifer Katt's 7th Song Circle at Al Hobson's Arts Barn Music venue in Herndon — a beautiful listening space on the upper floor of a converted barn. Featured performers are **Kevin Whalen, Sherry Stewart, Marilyn Leeseberg, and Greg Vickers**. Read more about these talented artists and reserve your seats here: <https://artsbarnmusic.org/events>. Admission is complimentary; a \$20 donation is suggested. Food and drinks will be provided.



April 21 Theme Night: Songs Against the Storm

By AI Claude & Cindy

Folk music has always been the music of the people, and wherever people have suffered under the boots of war and oppression, folk songs have risen in answer. Woody Guthrie's anthems for the dispossessed, Pete Seeger's calls for unity, Joan Baez's songs of wartime sadness, and Bob Dylan's early protest ballads did not simply describe injustice — they named it, shamed it, and dared listeners to imagine something better. "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?" asks a simple question and lands mournfully. "Blowin' in the Wind" turns rhetorical questions into a kind of prayer.

Joni Mitchell often blended political critique with counterculture ideals, such as in "Woodstock," celebrating peace. And Bruce Springsteen has a long history of integrating folk music traditions with anti-war protest, spanning from his 2006 Pete Seeger tribute album to contemporary protests against U.S. involvement in foreign conflicts.

What unites these efforts is a belief that music is not decoration, rather, it is testimony. Peace, love, and understanding are not soft ideals in folk songs; they are radical demands made in the plainest language possible.

Today, with conflict still rewriting maps and cruelty being sold as policy, folk music endures. As long as there are wars to mourn and freedoms to defend, there will be folk singers to insist, vocally and stubbornly, that peace is not weakness, rather, it is the hardest, bravest work of all.

We look forward to hearing our Folk Club performers' songs!

More Upcoming Music Events

2nd Thursdays each month, 7:30-9:30pm: Joe Shade performs at MacKenzie's Tunes and Tonics.
<https://mackenziesffx.com>

Rick Landers has multiple gigs beginning April 2; learn more at www.ricklanders.com

Saturday, April 11, 7:30pm: Speidel, Goodrich Goggin Lille (SGGL), Birchmere, Alexandria VA
www.birchmere.com

Saturday April 18, 6pm: Kipyn Martin and Heather Aubrey Lloyd cover Joni Mitchell.
The Pool Concerts, Sykesville, MD
RSVP: thepoolconcerts@yahoo.com

Saturday, April 18, 7pm: James Kirby performs at Al's Arts Barn. Learn more/reserve your spot:
<https://artsbarnmusic.org>

Sunday, April 19, 2pm: Kevin Whalen performs his own & other humorous songs at Theatre Shenandoah, Edinburg, VA. \$10 tickets available at theatreshenandoah.org

Sunday, April 19, 6pm: Pictrola performs at Desert 5 Spot, WDC. Learn more:
pictrolaband@gmail.com

Thursday, April 23, 8pm: Shanna in a Dress Moore Music House Concerts, Rockville, MD
RSVP: scott@mooremusic.org

Friday-Sunday, April 24, 25, 26: Some of our Folk Club friends will perform at the Fairfax Folk Festival:
<https://saw.org/event-6586883>

Saturday, April 25, 3-6pm: The Two Peas will perform at Woody and Linda's Backyard Concert & Potluck in Fredericksburg, VA. Call/text Linda Pemberton @ 540-903-9112 to RSVP.

Sunday, May 3, 1pm: Seneca Creek Bluegrass performs at Brookville Beer Farm, MD. Learn more:
senecacreekbluegrass@gmail.com

Folk Club Zoom & Videos

Zoom Open Mics: Every other Monday night at 7:30 pm Al Hobson hosts bi-weekly virtual Folk Club open mics on Zoom. April dates are April 13 & 27. If you'd like to watch or share some songs, send an email to Al Hobson at alhobson@verizon.net by Sunday evening. Let him know if you plan to listen in or perform; he'll send you the Zoom link.

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

Folk Music Websites & Contacts

Folk Club Members

Audrey Adair: AudreyJAdair.com

Chris Anderson: ChrisAndersonSongs.com

Chasing Magic: <https://chasingmagic-theband.com>

Steven Cutts: ThePrimeCutts.com

Bill Davis: bil-davis@outlook.com

Jim Fowler: www.shoutmusicjim.com

Jan Gillies: www.jangilliesmusic.com

Ron Goad: MisterGoad@aol.com

Hickory Grove (Bev & Jack Osburn):
www.hickoryg.com

Pete Hill: www.petethefolksinger.com

Jim Johnson: www.jimjohnsonmusic.com

George Katsos: www.submithub.com/link/follow-george-on-social-media

Jennifer Cooke Katt: www.jenkattmusic.com

Rick Landers & Heartland: <https://ricklanders.com>

Shenandoah Run: www.shenandoahrun.com

The Two Peas, Ann Granger and Larry Rice:
www.thetwopeasmusic.com

Others

The Arts Barn: <https://artsbarnmusic.org>

Focus Music: www.focusmusic.org

Institute of Musical Traditions: www.imtfolk.org



Meets Tuesday Nights @ 7pm
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, John
Cantrell
Publicity: Dan Telfer, Kevin Nordlie
Bookings: John Cantrell
Newsletter: Cindy McConnell
Website: Al Hobson, Ben Hamblin
Facebook: Ben Hamblin
Lifetime Members: Rose Haskell, Ray & Ellen
Kaminsky, Dave Hurd (in memoriam) & Beth
Drumheller

Keep in Touch!

Find out more about The Folk Club:

Website: folkclubofrestonherndon.org

Musicians Wanted

Seeking volunteer instrumentalists for English
Country Dance practice in Sterling VA. Fridays, 7-
9pm. Must read music and keep a steady tempo. Huge
fun, great opportunity to learn a new style. Email
chelle@keltish.com to learn more.

Newsletter Content

Folk Club members are encouraged to submit
upcoming performances, classified ads, reviews,
articles, and other music-related items. Send your
ideas and content for consideration to
cindy.mcconnell@comcast.net

Folk Club Format

Most Tuesday nights The Folk Club is an open-mic format
with a sign-up board. Each performer is allowed 8 minutes.

Folk Club Membership

Become a member today! The process is the same if your
membership has expired. Write a check to "The Folk
Club" in the amount of \$15 for one year or \$60 for 5
years. *Please DO NOT write 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 (mobile or landline), and residential address. You
may also Venmo your dues to @Jennifer-Katt-1. Sorry,
but we cannot accept payments through the website.

Showcase Performances

On the 2nd Tuesday of the month (usually), we feature a
"Showcase" of a Folk Club member in a 24-minute
performance. To perform one, you must: 1) be a paid-up
Folk Club member who has not performed 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!

May 22-25: 2026 Memorial Day Campout and Music Event!



Hosted by Barbara & Craig Keeler at Blue Bayou, 72
Point Pleasant Rd, Kilmarnock, VA, this is a Folk Club
tradition to keep alive in your hearts and minds! Not a
camper? There are plenty of local accommodations and
activity options nearby.

Please share this invitation with friends new and older!
RSVP to Barbara at bkeeler30@gmail.com or call 804-
435-1927 (home) or 703-203-8743 (cell).

For more details, visit <https://folkclubofrestonherndon.org>
and scroll down.