

November 2021

Submit articles to:  
dulcifolk@gmail.com  
By the 15th of each month

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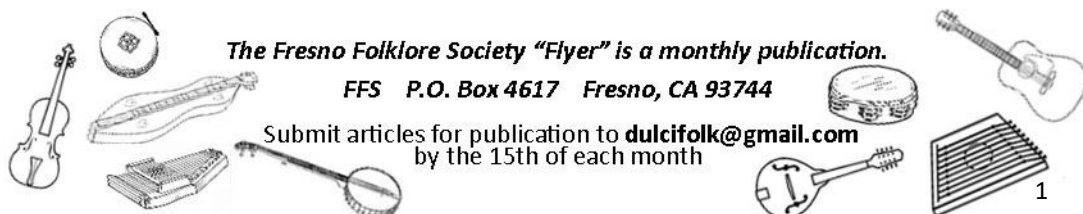
## Notes from Board President, Ron Bohigian



It's right about November 1st now. We were visiting our new grandson in Georgia the first two weeks of October. Got back for one day and then I was off to Arizona for my Men's Senior Baseball League Tournament. What an education. It's the first time I've stood at home plate and been pitched to since I tried out for the high school baseball team (which I didn't make). That was in 1968. On day two in Arizona, I got my first hit which was very much like catching my first fish and very much like playing that first tune on my fiddle in a jam session several years ago.

And the season has changed from summer to fall. That first half inch of rain fell while we were o-o-t so we missed that blessed event. Rain falling in Georgia is no big deal, but we got back in time for the atmospheric river event in late October. We got nearly a whole inch of rain. That's big for Fresno while Sacramento got five inches and Mount Tam near SF got twelve. Let's hope for more.

Sorry to say, we were off to a great start for FFS concerts then the delta strain hit and set us back. Hang in there. We'll get past it and the music will return soon. Thank you to Pat Wolk for her persistence in scheduling (and reluctantly cancelling) great musicians. In the meantime, Sherron Brown has been in contact with the Basque Restaurant and we're about ready to resume patio jams there on Wednesday evenings. I miss those jams. We'll send out an FFS blast and have details in our newsletter when we get the ok. Looking forward to seeing you all soon. Stay healthy.



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

FFS P.O. Box 4617 Fresno, CA 93744

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## A long note from Pat Wolk--

These past months have been frustrating...and heart breaking. This week Jerry Sussman, my favorite Seattle brother in law died--the father of David who had the wee hus built for me. He was 93. David phoned and said: "We have seen the end of an era." I replied: "NOPE! I'm still here. And I intend to be around for a while yet. I may be 87 but I have things to do." However, I look around and realize not many of my contemporaries are still standing. There are still a few tough old birds who show up at protests on Blackstone and to fundraisers in my garden. Who knows how much longer I'll be around. I admit I'm more careful of where I step and my exuberant dancing has become minimal dancing—pretty much keeping the beat in one place with subtle hip and knee movements. No fancy spinning, no more clogging, fast swing or Bulgarian Cacaks or Rachenitzas. Oh yes. Those were the days! San Francisco in the Fifties with Anatol Joukowsky our Slavic dance director. Good memories.

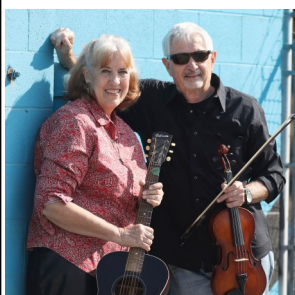
Voltaren and Naproxen keep me upright on two feet, but you all, with your music and your commitment to peace and the environment, you keep me happy and alive. My concern for the survival of our species, on this beautiful blue-green planet, keeps me politically active. And the promise of live music in the garden keeps me composting and pulling weeds. And young friends—you young 'uns in the Folk Society--you energize me with your music and joy of life.

I was so looking forward to music in the garden this past Spring and Fall. I hate to cancel events and rarely have had to do so. Not since 2007 when **Utah Phillips** phoned and canceled his concert because of heart failure. We lost him in May the following year. **John McCutcheon** had to cancel but discovered a way to perform to an online audience. We're hoping he can perform alive and in person for us January 13 of 2022. Covid has put a damper on our bookings of out-of-town performers. I've talked with **Laurie Lewis**. She's on the mend and we're looking to April of 2022. It's possible.

I'm writing this on Saturday October 23<sup>rd</sup>. I was anticipating a joyous garden concert with **Misner and Smith** tonight, but we had to cancel for the usual Covid reasons. Grrrr. I've listened to their music and have heard their praises from other performers I respect. We emailed back and forth, considered an alternate venue, then decided we'd wait until April 2022 when they can also visit Yosemite. Let's hope this Covid dilemma is a distant memory by then. In the meantime, I recommend you become familiar with their music so you can have a special request or maybe sing along. Listen to their music at their website: <https://misnerandsmith.com> They are also on Facebook and YouTube. I think you'll be as impressed as I am. I'm not the only person who's been frustrated. John Martin III had his elaborate event for October 30 become unraveled because of Covid fears and bad weather. He scaled down the **Cerro Negro & Lars in Charge** event and has decided to go ahead with less elaborate plans. Because October 30 is his mother's birthday, he wants to celebrate and perform for her. A smaller crowd is anticipated; and if everyone wears a mask, we can have a jolly good time at the Flamenco Academy. Pay at the door what you can afford. Bring something for the table: refreshments or snacks. It will be a party.

Traditionally Fresno Folklore has had a **New Year's Day Soup Party**. I'm hoping and praying we can do it again this year. Keep posted. (Pat Wolk)

### Brain Cloudy Blues: Two For The Road November 4th



All folks sing the blues, whether in a typical 12-bar format or as a lament in the Irish and Scottish tradition. This performance/talk includes songs and tunes from the American blues tradition as well as lyrical songs from Ireland, Scotland and French Canada on fiddle/viola and keyboard. No charge, family friendly. **Fresno County Library Caruthers Branch 13382 S. Henderson Road, Caruthers, Thursday, November 4th, 6:30-7:30 PM**



## Harvest Home Festival: A Sincere Thanks



LARK by Kirsten Honeyman

Thanks to all the Fresno Folklore Society Members who volunteered and/or performed at Harvest Home: A Festival of Traditional Americana Music on October 2nd at the River

Center. Hopefully we won't have fires, excessive heat, hurricanes or natural disasters at next year's

event on October 29th! Thanks again!

(Karana Hattersley-Drayton)



Sharecroppers by Karana



Katzi and David Engle at the Beer Booth  
by Karana

**Mark your calendar  
now for 2022**



Sheiks On Stage by Bruce Honeyman

## EV/KEV • EVO BLUESTEIN & KEVIN HILL

## TOCA MADERA WINERY, NOV. 28, 2021

Original Music 1-4 pm, Free!

Bring your picnic. Try the wines! Beautiful setting!

Toca Madera Winery  
36140 Avenue 9, Madera, California 93636



## CALIFORNIA AUTOHARP GATHERING 2021 AND 1/2



CAG did not happen in May, 2020 nor in May 2021. However, Mike Mueller decided to try a small one in October, 2021, at St Nicholas Ranch, with fewer adults and no children. As I am writing this, I am in Dunlap at the St Nicholas Ranch Conference Center, on a cold and dampish day. CAG started on Tuesday, the 19th and people started arriving fairly early in the day so they could put their stuff away and check the class schedule to see what they wanted to do. There

are three days of Early Bird and three days of regular Gathering when the rest of the folks arrive. A smaller crowd means smaller classes. Colder weather means jams in fewer places with more people joining in each one. I had the good fortune to be the only one in the beginner classes for Early Bird so had three private lessons which were very helpful to me for confidence-building. I had some trips up and down the hill for airport runs but certainly not as many as usual—Mike Mueller did most of them this year. The weather went from chilly to gorgeous and fairly mild for the elevation (2,030 ft) until the clouds starting moving in on Friday evening. Awoke to the mist of clouds hanging just a few hundred feet up the mountain, so classes went from outside to inside and people starting to put on their warm layers.

Meeting with friends you haven't seen for 2 ½ years and making new ones who are attending for the first time seems to be something everyone appreciates. Playing music and singing with those old and new friends is the big payoff. The staff at St. Nicolas Ranch are friendly and helpful and seem to like to see us each time we come. I have talked to some people who have been to other gatherings around the country who tell me that the food here is great compared to some they have attended and the smaller size of the Gathering (pre-Covid or now) is one of the things that makes them come back each time. It certainly is one of the reasons that we continue to volunteer.

We have had all sorts of weather for these, 100 degrees one year, hail another; snow just a few hundred feet higher than the ranch, or sweltering humidity—take your pick, both May and October are too changeable to predict. The rain managed to hold off until Monday morning. It was pretty wet for my last airport run but the rain stopped just before we reached the airport so my passengers, including George McCoy's guide dog, Lulu had a dry off-load.





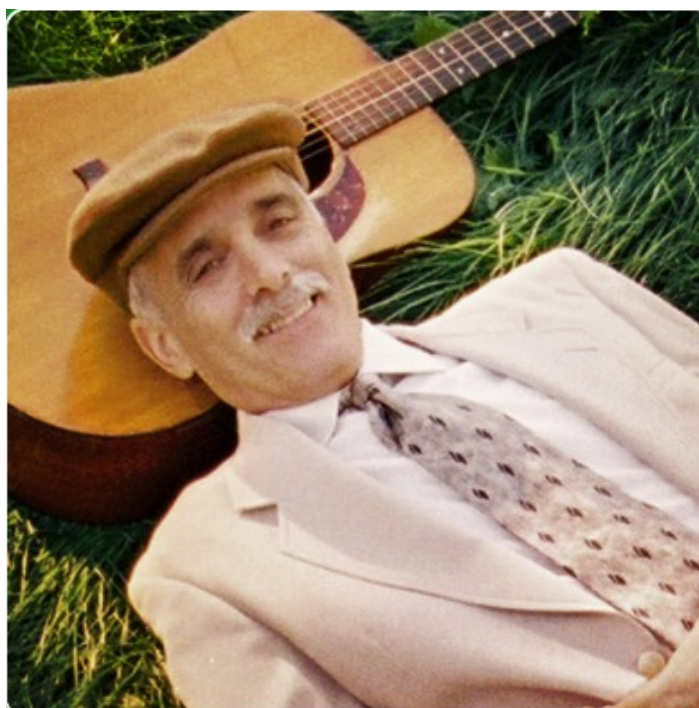


Meredith Axelrod

musician from Alabama (now—previously Ohio) who specializes in “songs of hilarity and mischief” and can also teach Bluegrass autoharp. Check out the song about the Werecow. It is probably out there somewhere on YouTube. There were sessions on storytelling, song writing, how music and stories can fit together, tips on joining a jam when you don't know the tunes, etc. Of course there were concerts from all

*CAG continued:*

There were some new instructors this time as well. All of them gave their own individual concerts and were ready and willing to help with attendees who wanted to try their wings in the open mic sessions. A revelation for us all is a young woman from the Bay area named **Meredith Axelrod** who does a lot of songs from 1890 to 1930 and often performs with **Jim Kweskin**, who is an old hand with jug bands. We need to get her down here for a concert for FFS. Another joy from the stage is **George McCoy**, a



Jim Kweskin

of the instructors. Jams on the porch where Sherron Brown holds sway as the registrar, enables her to join in the music—she and three of the jammers worked up a tune for the open mic. As we wandered through the week of music and friends old and new, we were all so glad that Mike had decided to do this event.

Now we are all looking forward to (hopefully) a full California Autoharp Gathering in May, 2022, with the kids, like it is supposed to be. **(Sue Wirt)**



George McCoy

## NOVEMBER, 2021, EVENTS

**Thurs., Nov. 4 Brain Cloudy Blues, Two For The Road, 6:30-7:30 PM,** Fresno County Library Caruthers Branch  
13382 S. Henderson Road, Caruthers . **FREE.**

**Sun., Nov. 28 EV/KEV, Evo Bluestein and Kevin Hill, 1-4 PM,** Toca Madera Winery 36140 Avenue 9, Madera,  
California 93636

### FUTURE EVENTS

**Thurs., Jan. 13, John McCutcheon** at the UU Church.

**Thurs., Feb. 10, Bruce Molsky and Allison De Groot** at University Presbyterian Church.

### THOUGHTS ON SONG WRITING



Do you wake up from a dream where music was playing or you were humming or singing and it was “your” song, not someone else’s? Do you find that, after you wake up, you are still humming it? And then, it goes away, never to return. It was a good song and you wanted to remember it. Well, there is an app for that.

**Evernote** app <https://evernote.com/> works on tablets, smartphones, and computers. Put it on there before it disappears.

Then, there are the words that could trigger a song idea; it might be a word or phrase that you hear or read or think. Get out the notepads and pencils and put them around the house, especially next to your bed, or record it on your smartphone. Ideas can come out of dreams, too.



Why is it important to you? Singing can often provide more emotion than saying. Simpler is often better. The complexity of a song is in the music and words and



emotions that come from those sounds and words as well as the structure of the song (placement of high and low notes, soft or loud, verses and refrains, the bridge, if you choose to have one).

There are some excellent songwriting books out there for those of us who are not natural songwriters (although they can also help “real” songwriters). Check out books by Pat Pattison, Sheila Davis, or Elizabeth Gilbert. There are also online courses you can take as well, such as **Coursera Songwriting** (which is free online) <https://www.coursera.org/learn/songwriting-lyrics>.



Well, that is just a snippet of stuff on the art form (I am certainly not a songwriter). Think about it as a possible way to enhance your life. **(Sue Wirt)**

## **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](http://fresnofolklore.net). When you do your dues, you'll be at least as famous as these people shown below.

Allen & Debra Church	George & Linda Sward	Linda Guerrero & Bill Lehr
Allen Lintvedt	Georgia Porcella	Linda & George Sward
Andrea DeZubria	Gordon & Linda Renfro	Lorenzo Bassman
Ann Lamb	Greg & Bette Merrill	Lou & Christi Paradise
Ann Lewis	Greg & Roberta Lane	Lynda Emanuels
Ann & Bill Flayer	Gerry Bill	Lynette Bassman & John Reed
Anne Betancourt	Glen Delpit	Maia Ballis
Anne Merrill & Mike Stepanyan	Howard Ono	Margaret Rivers
Anne Mosgrove & Kevin Hall	Heather Taylor	Margaret Tynan
Anne Whitehurst	Hugh & Jennifer Williamson	Maria Glover & Billie Harris
Barbara Boynton & Kelli Dackawich	J. Linder & P. Remple	Maria Wortham
Barbara Hollinger & Jim Reblan	Janet Horder	Mark Eaton
Bea Berrattinni	Janet Hubner & Howard Hurrt	Mary Alice Meuel
Becky Richardson	Jeff Adolph	Melissa Marosy
Betsy Hill	Jeff Hallock & Deb Symes	Mike Newton
Bill & Ceci Johnson	Jennifer Jones & Tony Rendon	Mike Reilly
Bill Lulay	Jim & Elaine Salvatore	Nancy Hatcher
Bob Garcia	Lynn Ross	Nancy Waidtlow
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Bruce Honeyman	John & Amelia Ryan	Patrick O'Sullivan
Carl & Kathryn Johnsen	John & Andrea McDaniel	Pat Wolk
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Christy Bardon	John & Maureen Hayes	Penny Smith
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Fran Saunders & Paul Indman	Laura Silberman	Vicki Cheney
Frank Gibson	Lee Liddle	Wes Beal
Fresno Music Academy & Arts	Leo Michon	
Gabriele Case	Leo Pedretti & Ellen Lipp	
Gary Morrison	Linda Foster	



A Non-Profit Corporation for Traditional Arts

P.O. Box 4617

Fresno, CA 93744

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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:** \$20.00 individual; \$30.00 family; \$50.00 corporate sponsor

Membership information: 559-222-9801

NEW MEMBER? Yes ☐ No ☐

RENEWING? Yes ☐ No ☐

RENEWING AFTER LAPSE? Yes ☐ No ☐

Number of family Members: \_\_\_\_\_ The monthly copy of the Society Flyer is delivered only by email to the address below.

Current e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual: \_\_\_\_\_ Family: \_\_\_\_\_ Corporate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliated member: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to provide volunteer help with Fresno Folklore Society events? Yes ☐ No ☐

What are your special folklore interests? \_\_\_\_\_

For more information visit our website at [www.fresnofolklore.net](http://www.fresnofolklore.net)

Membership payments and donations can be mailed to: FFS P.O. Box 4617 Fresno, CA 93744