
folknik

www.sffmc.org

Volume LVI number 3

newsletter of the San Francisco Folk Music Club
friends and families making home-grown music together

May/June 2020

Folknik Going Online - please read!

Starting with the next issue, we plan to stop mailing paper copies of the *folknik*. Instead, we will continue to post a digital file of each new issue (PDF format) on the *folknik* page of the SFFMC website sffmc.org/folknik. We will use an 8½" x 11" format to make it easier to print at home for those who still wish to have a paper copy. We'll send email notices to all members to let them know when each new issue is published, so if you think we may not have your current email address on file, please email us at membership@sffmc.org to let us know. We may be able to print and mail a limited number of copies for members who do not have email or do not have a computer or internet access. If that is your situation, you can let us know by email at membership@sffmc.org, by postal mail at SFFMC Membership, 149 Santa Maria Ave., San Bruno, CA 94066, or by phone at 510-473-6651. If you have other concerns about this decision, please contact *folknik* editor-in-chief Donna Scarlett at sffmc.folknik.editor@gmail.com.

Please note that the mailing label of the *folknik* has always been a good way to find out when your SFFMC membership expires, so remember to take a look at the mailing label that's on the issue in your hand! We will use other ways to notify members of expirations in the future. To renew your membership, use the membership form in this issue or try out our new online membership form at sffmc.org/membership.

SFFMC and Coronavirus

by Daniel Hersh, SFFMC Board Member

Like all organizations that bring people together, SFFMC has been dealing with the implications of the new coronavirus. As of this writing (April 25), we have cancelled several of our Friday musical meetings, and our 2020 Memorial Day campout, and the April *folknik* fold-in, and have postponed our Camp Harmony benefit concert to a date to be set later. We may decide to cancel the 2020 SF Free Folk Festival too. Our board of directors has been meeting online. For up-to-date information, look at sffmc.org, our website, facebook.com/groups/sffmc, our Facebook page, or subscribe to SFFMC's Harmony email list at: lists.sffmc.org/mailman/listinfo/harmony

We have removed the calendar page and all announcements of events from this issue of the *folknik* because the situation is changing too quickly for a bi-monthly calendar to make sense right now. As an alternative, we're hoping to have an online community folk calendar on our website soon.

Unfortunately, we don't know when we'll be able to put on in-person events again, or under what restrictions, especially with six Bay Area counties now extending sheltering-in-place through the end of May. However, we're now having our Friday musical meetings online (see page 7) and may have additional online events.

This is a rough situation for everyone. Let's look forward together to a time when we can sing and play together again. Whenever that will be, SFFMC will be here when the time comes.

Notes from the General Meeting, Dec. 30, 2019

[with important updates since the meeting in italics]

The annual meeting of the members of the San Francisco Folk Music Club was held at Camp Harmony, in the Maple Room at Walker Creek Ranch. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by Club President Ed Hilton. About 50 people were in attendance.

Thanks & recognitions. Thanks were extended to the members of the Camp Harmony Committee who have done such an excellent job of organizing and carrying out the camp logistics and programming. Those present were recognized; the committee included Ellen Eagan, Charlie Fenton, Amelia Hogan, Nick Holbrook, Mary Luckhardt, David Luckhardt, Margaret Miles, Joe Offer, Robert Reed, Katie Riemer, Scott Rowe, Will Wheeler, and Patience Young.

Members of the SFFMC Board of Directors present were identified and thanked, including Thad Binkley, Charlie Fenton, Hali Hammer, Amelia Hogan, Daniel Hersh, Phyllis Jardine, Ed Hilton, Jerry Michaels, and Dave Sahn.

New Website. SFFMC has a new website with the same URL: www.sffmc.org. Thanks to Daniel Hersh and Valerie Rose for its development. Daniel will continue as website administrator and Valerie will continue as developer as needed. And many, many thanks to David Luckhardt for running the site for many years.

— Continued on page 2

The San Francisco Folk Music Club is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to the enjoyment, preservation and promotion of acoustic music in individual, family, and community life.

"I believe 100 percent in the power and importance of music." – James Taylor

Board Members

President: Ed Hilton ♦ Vice President: Hali Hammer
Thad Binkley ♦ Charlie Fenton ♦ Bob Helliesen ♦ Daniel Hersh
Amelia Hogan ♦ Phyllis Jardine ♦ Jerry Michaels ♦ Dave Sahn

SFFMC Events Summary

- Friday night musical meetings at Cyprian's ARC are suspended. We'll notify members on the website when they resume. In the meantime, for info re: virtual musical meetings via Zoom, contact Ed Hilton ed_hilton@yahoo.com.
- Memorial Day campout has been cancelled.
- Board meetings are being held virtually rather than in person, on the second Tuesday of each month. If you would like to attend a board meeting, please contact Ed Hilton ed_hilton@yahoo.com.
- Since there will be no more paper *folkniks*, there will be no more fold-ins.
- Status of San Francisco and El Cerrito Free Folk Festivals are unknown at this time. We'll notify members of their status on the website when known.
- Status of July 4th and Labor Day weekends are unknown at this time. We will notify members of their status on the website when known.

Notes from the General Meeting, Dec. 30, 2019

[continued from page 1]

San Francisco Free Folk Festival (Daniel Hersh), held annually on a Saturday in June, draws about 1,000 participants each year. Last year's festival, on June 19, celebrated the 100th anniversary of Pete Seeger's birth. The committee tried to diversify the offerings in terms of type of music, its national origins, and in other ways. Members of the Festival Committee were recognized. Festival Directors tend to do the job for about 4 or 5 years before turning it over to someone else, and it is always best to have interested and experienced people ready to step up. The 2020 festival will be held some Saturday in June, preferably the 13th. Online applications for performers and workshop leaders will open in January. *[Note: the 2020 festival may be cancelled due to the coronavirus situation. Check the web site (sffmc.org) for current info.]*

El Cerrito Free Folk Festival (Hali Hammer) is held at El Cerrito High School in October. The exact date for 2020 will not be known until late summer. About 300

people attended the 2019 festival. The committee could use more members.

Camp Harmony. Attendance is down slightly from last year. All campership requests were able to be filled – many thanks to donors! There will, again this year, be a concert to raise money for camperships, Amelia Hogan reported. It will be held on April 18, 2020, at the Unitarian Fellowship in Berkeley. Performers and other would-be participants are invited to contact Amelia by January 15. Amelia and Scott Rowe will, again, provide good food and drink as well as handling programming. *[Note: the April concert was cancelled due to the coronavirus situation. It may be re-scheduled for a later date. Check the website (sffmc.org) for current info.]* Charlie Fenton reported that 2020's Camp Harmony will be held Tuesday, Dec. 29 to Monday, Jan. 3, 2021, to include a weekend, as usual. And he commended Margaret Miles for her wonderful job in responding to emergencies that have occurred at camp this year (e.g. no heat in rooms, moving people...).

Summer Camps (Thad Binkley and Phyllis Jardine) The three summer camps – Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day, will all be held at a new location: Camp Herms, a Scout Camp in El Cerrito. Phyllis described the facilities and provided photos of the large gathering building with a huge kitchen. RVs are welcome, although there are no hook-ups. Savings will be \$500 a day over what Boulder Creek Scout Reservation has been charging. *[Note: the Memorial Day campout was cancelled due to the coronavirus situation. Decisions have not yet been made about the July 4 and Labor Day campouts. Check the web site (sffmc.org) for current info.]*

Treasurer's Report (Marlene McCall, treasurer) presented an operating statement for the 2018-2019 fiscal year that ended 8/31/19. Club accounts include six different events plus a general fund for income that's not event-related (such as membership dues and general donations) and for expenses that are not event-related (such as *folknik*, the website, some insurance costs). Marlene presented the income and expense figures for each event and for the general fund. Bottom line is that the Club was \$11,000 in the black at the end of the fiscal year. Financial details on any of the specific events, or info regarding balance sheet

accounts, such as assets, are available to any member. Write to marlenepersonal@officeservices911.com.

Volunteer personnel. David Sahn is now assisting Marlene in handling our accounts and may take on more of the treasurer's role in coming months. Position for summer camp coordinators is open. Thad Binkley and Phyllis Jardine have performed those functions for many years and now would like to turn them over to someone else. They will provide detailed information on "how to run X camp" as well as forms, signs, etc. [Note: Hali Hammer and Randy Berge have now agreed to take over from Thad and Phyllis.]

Donna Hyatt Scarlett has taken on the job of editing the *folknik*, but would like to have an assistant editor to work with her. The newsletter also needs two page editors. Phyllis offered special thanks to those who have edited *folknik* pages for many years, including Marlene McCall (several pages), Barbara Millikan (songs), and Shelby Solomon (calendar). Other volunteer positions are available. If you wish to volunteer for the Club but are not quite sure in what capacity, contact Volunteer Coordinator Alan Ackerman volunteer@sffmc.org.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.

Minutes submitted by Marian Gade, acting scribe.

Camp Herms Closed – No SFFMC Memorial Day Campout

By Hali Hammer

On March 31, the Contra Costa County Health Officer issued an order stating that public shared recreational facilities in the county be closed. No one has any idea when this order will be lifted. On April 14 we discussed the summer campouts at our board meeting. We voted to formally cancel the Memorial Day event, as it is unlikely that the ordinance would be lifted by then. Even if it is, we do not feel that it is safe for our members to congregate at this point in time, as the health and safety of our membership is our prime concern. We are not yet sure whether or not there will be a July 4 campout. If you are planning to come in July, please check the following sources to get further information:

1. our website: sffmc.org
2. our facebook summer campout page: facebook.com/SF-Folk-Music-Club-Summer-Campouts-104573391140313
3. our SFFMC facebook page: facebook.com/groups/SFFMC/
4. the club's "Harmony" email list - subscribe at: lists.sffmc.org/mailman/listinfo/harmony harmony@sffmc.org
5. send an email to the club at info@sffmc.org
6. if you do not have access to the internet, call the club phone #: (510) 473-6651

Please stay safe and healthy. The Bay Area is doing great compared to other places because of the Shelter-In-Place ordinance. We will post information as soon as we get it on the above sources or give us a call.



SAN FRANCISCO FOLK MUSIC CLUB

Yearly membership levels (please check only one box):

☐ \$40 Standard

☐ \$20 Economy

☐ \$10 Low Income: or pay what you can

I enclose \$____ cash \$____ check for ____ years membership in the San Francisco Folk Music Club.

Additional donation to the SFFMC: \$10____ other amount \$____.

Total enclosed: \$____. This entire amount may be tax-deductible. The SFFMC is a 501(c)(3) organization.

☐ New member ☐ Renew or Extend ☐ Rejoin

Be sure you have checked a box for membership level and filled in the amount paid and the number of years.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: () _____ - _____

Email (print clearly): _____

Web site: _____

I want to know more about volunteer opportunities:

☐ Please call me

☐ Please send me information by email

The Club produces a membership directory every few years for Club members only. If you wish that all or part of your information not be included in the directory, please specify below.

Please do not include the following information in the Club directory:

☐ Name ☐ Address ☐ Phone ☐ Email

Make checks payable to "SFFMC" and mail to: SFFMC – Dues, c/o Ellen Eagan, 149 Santa Maria Ave., San Bruno, CA 94066
For further information, email <membership@sffmc.org or phone (650) 274-6413 **4/24/2020**

FOLKS - -Because coronavirus has affected us all in profound ways, coming to grips with it is indeed a challenge. We know that folk songs, combining stories, poetry and music, are an especially powerful means of conveying the essence of what we experience. So if you do create a song of any sort about this unprecedented time, please share it by sending a copy to the song editors for potential inclusion in *the folknik*. In the meantime, we have found for you four songs that are clever parodies yet deeply poignant, touching on our human commonality.

-- *The folknik* song editors

USE ZOOM

(á la Blue Moon)

Use Zoom; you see me standing alone!
Without a song in my heart
Without a tune of my own.

Use Zoom! You know just what it is
there for.

You heard me conference a prayer for
the friends I really do care for.

And then there suddenly appeared
before me

Ev'ryone my arms cannot now hold.
Everybody Zooming "don't ignore me"
And when I looked they all had joined
the fold.

Used Zoom,
Now I'm no longer alone
Without a song in my heart
Without a tune of my own

-- Mark Levy

MARK LEVY is a Bay Area singer-songwriter specializing in older Judaic folk music; he also performs for labor groups and has released several albums of his own satirical songs.

JOHN MCKINLEY, singer-songwriter & ace guitarist, came to Ontario from New Mexico; he has a blues-rock album, *Window on the World*.

50 WAYS TO BEAT CORONA

(á la Paul Simon)

For nearly a fortnight I've been under quarantine
Hoping that I'll wake to find it's all been a bad dream
I guess I might as well confront COVID-19
There must be 50 ways to beat Corona
50 ways to beat Corona

Don't hop on the bus, Gus
Stay away from the pack, Jack
Sneeze into your sleeve, Steve
to stay virus free

Keep washing your hands, Stan
Don't get greedy, man
Take home what you can, Dan
But leave some TP

Stop touching your face, Grace
Wipe down every toy, Roy
Don't horde all the food, dude
Just buy sensibly

It ain't spring break, Jake
Stay home if you're sick, Dick
Just follow the rules, fools
And stay virus free

-- John McKinley

FROM A DISTANCE

(á la Julie Gold)

From a distance you look blue and tired,
and your face is pale and white.
From a distance you look a bit too lean.
eat, and sleep, and get sun light!

From a distance, there is harmony,
and it echoes through the land.
It's the sound of hope, it's the sound of health.
It's the sound of washing hands.
We are washing ours. You are washing yours.

We are greeting you from a distance.
From a distance we've all had enough,
of selfishness and greed.
There are no more wipes, no more TP,
other items we all need.

From a distance we hear instruments
from across the empty street.
Playing songs of hope, playing songs of peace.
that we'll sing next time we meet.
We are singing ours. You are singing yours.
We are hearing you from a distance.

From a distance you look like my friend,
Yes, you look just fine from there.
From a distance I can't comprehend
why some people still don't care.

From a distance there is harmony,
And it echoes through the land.
And it's the hope of soaps, it's the love of gloves,
It's the sound of washing hands.

We are washing ours, you are washing yours.
We are greeting you from a distance.
We are singing yours, you are singing ours
We are hearing you from a distance.

-- Mark Levy

HELP ME MAKE IT THRU THE NIGHT

(á la Kris Kristofferson)

Leave the ribbon over there
Take your shoes and socks and all
Stay away, dear, from my skin
Leave your suitcase by the wall

Do NOT lay down by my side
Til the early mornin' light
Go away -- it's way past time --
I wanna make it through the night

I don't care what's right or wrong
Do not try to understand
No, you can't come back tomorrow
Go away tonight, my friend

If you stay, I'm dead and gone
And tomorrow's out of sight
I am glad to be alone --
I wanna make it through the night.

-- Galen Brandt

Singer-songwriter Galen Brandt says:
"Stay well, beloved SFFMC friends!"

The folknik song pages are produced by song page co-editors Barbara Millikan and Jas. Adams. Please email or text us with any comments and your song suggestions. To submit your song for consideration for publication in the folknik, send words, chords & melody and an audio file to: Barbara Millikan, (503)434-8003, barbara.millikan@gmail.com; and to Jas. Adams, (503)349-0840, jadams@teleport.com. Songwriters/composers/lyricists retain all copyright privileges.

No Calendar Pages This Issue

Due to the ongoing “shelter-in-place” orders in California, to reduce the amount of people being infected by the COVID-19 virus, all live music events at venues have been cancelled and the date when they can resume is unknown. Therefore this issue of *the folknik* does not contain the “Regularly Scheduled Events” (page 9) and page 10 calendar.

Musicians are scheduling broadcast events over the Internet. However, generally these events are being announced only a couple of weeks before the performances, which is not enough lead time to collect into a bi-monthly calendar. Some of these concerts are being announced on the Harmony email group. Information on subscribing to the Harmony group is listed on the club web site at sffmc.org/contact-us/

Thanks to the February Fold-in Elves! Thad Binkley, Jeff Furman, Marian Gade, Ed Hilton, Phyllis Jardine, Frances Lee, Shary Levy, Jerry Michaels, Bob Semple, Marv Sternberg, and Margie Wade.

Most Musicians to be Exempted From CA AB5

California Assembly Bill 5 (AB5), which took effect January 1 and implemented rules from the California Supreme Court’s *Dynamex* decision, specified that a lot of workers who currently are treated as independent contractors by their employers should be classified as employees instead. This would mean that the workers will be on the payroll, subject to all the taxes and eligible for the benefits that employees have.

This law threatened to destroy much of the music industry, as shown by the following examples. Every small music venue (e.g., a coffee house or house concert) would have to take on the burden of payroll processing for every musician they hired. When a musician recorded a song, all the other musicians and vocalists on the recording would have to be treated as employees.

On April 17th, the author of AB5, California Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez, announced pending amendments that were negotiated with the music industry. These amendments will mostly revert to the pre-2020 rules for musicians. Per her announcement:

“**With respect to the music production process**, the amendments will preserve the ability for the following industry professionals to collaborate and contract with one another to produce sound recordings and musical compositions ... Musicians, vocalists, and other recording artists, Composers, Songwriters, Lyricists, Musical engineers, Sound mixers, Record producers, Others involved in the creating, marketing, promoting or distributing of the sound recording or musical composition”.

“**With respect to standalone live performances**, the amendments will also specify that unless a musical group specifically falls into one of groups below, the musicians will be subject to the less strict pre-*Dynamex* test to determine classification. This allows most independent musicians to collaborate with one another in their live performances, without becoming each other’s employees.” The exceptions are 1)

“The main featured act headlining at a concert venue with more than 1,500 attendees or;” 2) “Musical group performing at a large festival with more than 18,000 attendees per day.”

~~Musicians who play in a symphony, musical theatre production, theme park, or “tour of live performances” will be~~
Submissions for next folknik: Deadline: Friday June 5. Send items by email to appropriate page editor and Editor-in-Chief.

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SFFMC Friday Night Folk Jam – Online During the Shutdown!

Dear SFFMC Members,

For many decades, Faith Petric held SFFMC gatherings at her home in San Francisco. When Faith died, we continued these meetings at Cyprian's ARC at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church in San Francisco. These gatherings continued until about a month ago when all events there stopped due to the novel coronavirus.

On Friday, April 24, we had SFFMC's first online song swap via Zoom. It was based on the song swap that Faith, our leader and president for many decades, usually presided over with the assistance and leadership of a "finger pointer". We will continue having it from 8:00 - 12:00pm on the second and fourth Friday of each month via Zoom until such time as we can return to Cyprian's ARC. The next online song swap will be on May 8. Thanks are due to Greg B., Glen V. L. and others for helping me get through the uncertainties of the first one and making it a success. We averaged 20 participants for most of the four hours. It was great to see some faces we don't usually see, since it is possible to attend from a distance. We hope you'll join us on an upcoming Friday evening!

There is a problem that all people attempting to have song swaps deal with online. Zoom, and as far as we can tell, other providers, allows for conversation nicely, but there is a slight delay between when a person speaks and when the listener hears. This works well enough for conversation, but creates a problem for playing music together. That split-second delay garbles things. The solution is to mute everybody except the person leading the song. The listeners are then free to sing and play along, but each listener can only hear her/himself and the leader. This is less satisfying, but it's what we have in this time of contagion. Sound reproduction is not always that good, and we are gathering experience and advice on how to improve it.

Each meeting has its own URL. To get the announcement of the URL for each meeting, subscribe to SFFMC's Harmony list at lists.sffmc.org/mailman/listinfo/harmony. An announcement will be posted there ahead of each meeting. It's a good idea to go to Zoom.us and get a free account ahead of the meeting if you don't already have one.

At the time of the meeting, open the email with that meeting's announcement and click on the phrase that says "Join our Cloud HD Meeting now." To participate via video, you will need to have a camera pointed at yourself from the computer or smart phone you are using. You will be taken to a waiting room. I will admit you to the event, at which time you will see me and others in our own small video. When it is your turn, please start your song right away. If you wish to say a few words about the song, do so, but please don't speak for long since others are waiting for their turn.

It's also possible to participate with audio only (without video) via phone. To do that, call 415-762-9988 or 646-568-7788, follow the audio prompts, and hit # after entering the meeting ID from the email announcement. You will be asked to enter your participant ID. If you do not know your participant ID or don't have one, simply press the # key.

Some Zoom tips for best results, from SFFMC member Pete Kronowitt:

- Make sure you have an updated version of Zoom (current release is 4.6.8)
- have a USB mic plugged into your computer
- test your lighting by starting your own Zoom session
- And make sure you enable "Original Sound" which is available in desktop, laptops and mobile devices (tablets, phones, etc.)

Like any performance, mic placement is very important. I suggest testing the sound by starting Zoom, record a song on your local computer, and adjust your mic until you can hear a quality sound from the guitar.

To enable "Original Sound"

For desktop or laptop:

- Go to >My Account, >Settings, >In Meeting (Advanced)
- Turn on "Allow users to select original sound in their client settings"
- When in the Zoom application, on the top left hand portion of the application window, You will see "Turn on Original Sound". Click this and make sure it now reads "Turn off Original Sound". It is counterintuitive but now Original Sound is on.

For mobile devices (tablets, phones, etc.)

- Click Settings at the bottom right hand corner of the application
- Click >Meetings and then "Use Original Sound"

If you need more help, there are plenty of videos. For example, follow the instructions in this video for desktops/laptops: youtu.be/50NoWHIYECA

Ed Hilton, SFFMC Board President



"I hate a song that makes you think that you are not any good. I hate a song that makes you think that you are just born to lose. Bound to lose. No good to nobody. No good for nothing. Because you are too old or too young or too fat or too slim or too ugly or too this or too that. Songs that run you down or poke fun at you on account of your bad luck or hard travelling. I am out to fight those songs to my very last breath of air and my last drop of blood. I am out to sing songs that will prove to you that this is your world and that if it has hit you pretty hard and knocked you for a dozen loops, no matter what color, what size you are, how you are built, I am out to sing the songs that make you take pride in yourself and in your work. And the songs that I sing are made up for the most part by all sorts of folks just about like you. I could hire out to the other side, the big money side, and get several dollars every week just to quit singing my own kind of songs and to sing the kind that knock you down still farther and the ones that poke fun at you even more and the ones that make you think that you've not got any sense at all. But I decided a long time ago that I'd starve to death before I'd sing any such songs as that. The radio waves and your movies and your jukeboxes and your songbooks are already loaded down and running over with such no good songs as that anyhow."

— Woody Guthrie

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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NOTE:

Here is your dues expiration date (above your name)