

The Folk Song Society of Greater Boston

FSSGB FOLK LETTER

Dedicated to providing opportunities for everyone to make, enjoy & support folk music

Volume 51 Number 4

Oct/Nov/Dec 2023

First electronic-only newsletter!

Martha Burns House Concert (*rescheduled*)

FSSGB Holiday Singing Party (*rescheduled, online*)

Mike Agranoff House Concert

Bound for Glory 2024

Mid-Day Singing Parties

New Monthly Round Sings in Boston Area!



Look for more info on our website:

www.fssgb.org

Email info@fssgb.org



Join us on Facebook!

Martha Burns House Concert

Sunday, December 3, 3pm ET (*note early time!*)

Cambridge, MA

General admission: \$20

\$5 for students

Reservations required: email

HouseConcerts@fssgb.org for reservations and directions.



Martha grew up in Greenwich Village in the 1950s and sixties, during the height of the Folk Revival. The New Lost City Ramblers and the Friends of Old-Time Music were first bringing the greats of early country music to national attention. Harry Smith's pioneering *Anthology of American Folk Music*, the first major re-issue of early folk music 78s, came out the year she was born—the *New Lost City Ramblers Songbook*, when Martha was twelve. Martha gained much of her education in folk music on Sunday afternoons in Washington Square Park. When Doc Watson played at the tiny Gaslight Café on Macdougall Street, Martha was there—with her mother.

Martha has since lived in many parts of the U.S.—Ann Arbor, Seattle, Philadelphia, Boston, Providence, and on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, where she's presently based. Her first move was in 1970 to Ann Arbor, Michigan, where she went for college and stayed for a decade. Some of the songs on her 2014 album *Old-Time Songs*, she first began singing at the Ark Coffeehouse, then a celebrated hub for traditional music in the Midwest, and her own musical home through those years. During that period, she also played in the Argo Pond String Band. Others in the group included David Cahn and Bill Meyer, now both prominent west-coast musicians, and Craig Johnson, later revered for songs like “New Harmony,” that he wrote in Ann Arbor.

She began performing in the early 1970s, first regionally and then nationally. By the mid-eighties, she had played the Philadelphia Folk Festival, Pinewoods Folk Music Camp, and myriad folk clubs. In 1984 she completed a six-week British tour, which included a memorable concert on the Island of Guernsey.

In 1985 she paired up with fiddler Allan Block, now remembered for the Allan Block Sandal Shop in Greenwich Village, where he hosted legendary jam sessions throughout the 1960s. When Allan and she began performing together, she was living in Boston. Allan had since moved to New Hampshire and was a

continued on p. 4



The Folk Song Society of Greater Boston is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization of people who are actively interested in folk music: its traditional origins and sources, as well as its current expression. We are dedicated to providing opportunities for everyone to make, enjoy, and support this music. Membership in the Folk Song Society entitles you to reduced admission to FSSGB concerts, attendance to singing parties and special events, a free subscription to the Folk Letter, and regular announcements of FSSGB events.

To join or renew: send your name, address and phone number along with a check for \$10 student, \$20 single, \$30 double, \$35 family membership, or \$25 for organizations to FSSGB at PO Box 2941, Acton MA 01720. **You can also join or renew online** via our website. You can join or renew for up to 3 years at a time.



Folk Letter Deadlines

The deadline for getting articles and ads into the Folk Letter is always the 10th of the month preceding the month of publication:

Dec 10 for the Jan-Feb-March issue

We will continue to have combined issues for the foreseeable future.

Thanks for helping us by observing the publication deadlines.

Bound for Glory 2024

Sunday, March 3, 2024, 7:30pm (**note non-standard time!**)
Parish Center for the Arts
10 Lincoln Street, Westford, MA

After a 5 year hiatus (thanks, COVID!) we're ready to put on another Bound for Glory show, featuring songs and stories from the life and writings of Woody Guthrie.

The 2024 show will be dedicated to the memory of long-time FSSGB member, BFG cast member, and former FSSGB President Richard Taylor, who passed away unexpectedly last year.

Also, as a celebration of our long-awaited return, we'll be reaching back across the years and bringing back some songs that were featured in older shows, dating back to the 1970s.

More details to follow—keep an eye on the Folk Letter, FSSGB email and our website for more details as we get closer to the date.

Mid-day Singing Parties

The sings are all on Fridays, begin at 11:30am and run to roughly 3pm to help those who travel avoid heavy traffic and nighttime driving.

We ask that attendees be vaccinated (honor system). Acoustic instruments are welcome. RSVPs are appreciated but not necessary. To RSVP or ask questions contact the party coordinator (by phone or text) at 617-283-8532.

Upcoming dates (these are all Fridays at 11:30am):

- October 6 Randall Grometstein, 368 Pleasant St., Malden
- October 20 John Whitfield, 80 Woodside Ave., Arlington
- November 3 Randall Grometstein, 368 Pleasant St., Malden
- November 17 Chris Farrow-Noble, 34 Mount Vernon St., Cambridge
- December 1, Randall Grometstein, 368 Pleasant St., Malden
- December 15 Chris Farrow-Noble, 34 Mount Vernon St., Cambridge

Please reach out to the party coordinator (617-283-8532) if you're willing to host in the future.

Keep an eye on the website (www.fssgb.org) for updated dates and locations, as individual sings occasionally get rescheduled or cancelled.

Our First Electronic-Only Newsletter!

The FSSGB Board decided it was finally time to catch up with the times and stop printing and mailing our newsletter. This issue, Oct-Dec 2023, is our very first electronic-only issue!

The plan is to post the PDFs on the FSSGB website (there's a new "Folk Letters" entry on the website menu) and also attach them, plus send a link, to an email message which will be sent to active members (and folks whose memberships have expired recently). If you have a printer, you can easily print them on 8.5x11" paper.

We are very open to feedback—please let us know what you like and dislike about this change, if you haven't already. Send email to folkletter@fssgb.org.

Membership renewal reminders will still be sent out via paper mail for the foreseeable future.



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THE MARY ELLEN CARTER: YOU KNOW THE SONG! YOU'RE GONNA LOVE THE BOOK !!!

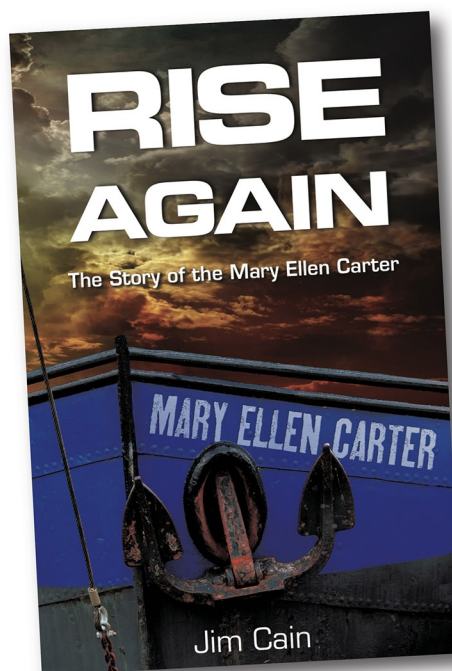
Announcing a new book

based on the epic Canadian folk song *The Mary Ellen Carter* by Stan Rogers.

With Ariel Rogers' permission, author **Jim Cain** has taken Stan Rogers' four-minute song and turned it into a forty-four-chapter novel, filled with hardship, friendship, tragedy, triumph, music, love and most of all...hope!

It takes an epic song, sung by an epic folk singer to create such a powerful story, and Jim Cain once again brings the story to life with a cast of characters, set in Cow Head, Newfoundland. You already know the song, now read the amazing story.

ISBN 978-0-9882046-4-5



available at
amazon

Use search command
Rise Again - Jim Cain
or scan this QR Code



Mike Agranoff House Concert

Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024, 7pm

Location: TBD

Admission: \$20 cash at the door
(\$5 for students)



If you've been around the folk scene, you couldn't miss seeing Mike. Tall, ginger beard, and always around where the music is. He's been on the scene for many many years, listening to the fine details of what makes this genre of music so special to the soul, so able to make us laugh and cry and think. And lucky for us all, he got serious about having fun at it.

Less a singer-songwriter than a singer-song*finder*, Mike takes great delight in discovering the little-known hidden gems, polishing them with his own distinctive style, and bringing them to the light of day where they sparkle. He will shift from beautifully contemplative, to uproariously funny, to instrumentally brilliant, to powerfully emotional in the space of a few minutes. Equally at home in the contemporary and traditional camps of the Folk world, he is a fine musician and storyteller. His prime instrument is the guitar, upon which he shines with intricate fingerstyle arrangements of anything from Tin Pan Alley tunes of the '20s to fiddle tunes to his own music. He also plays concertina, piano, banjo, or sings acapella. The man will capture your attention, and then your heart.

Not only a performer, Mike is involved in presenting folk music as well. He is one of the prime movers of The Folk Project, New Jersey's oldest and strongest folk music organization. For over two decades he has been chairman of that organization's Minstrel Coffeehouse, one of the longest lived and most respected folk venues in the country.

Martha Burns House Concert (*continued from cover*)

central figure in the New England folk music scene. Together Allan and she recorded an album on the Marimac label. Sadly, the unexpected death of Marimac's president prevented its release.

Allan and she continued to play together through the early 1990s. Toward the end of that time, she scaled back on performing for a two-decades-long foray into academia.

Her return to music was consummated in 2014 with the release of "Old-Time Songs". Her first solo album, it was funded through a highly successful Kickstarter campaign—Kickstarter made the project a "Staff Pick" and featured it on the Kickstarter Blog.

COVID-19 rules:

- All attendees must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. (We're using the honor system; no need to show vax card.)
- Mask wearing is optional.
- Please stay home if you feel unwell that day!

THE FOLK SONG SOCIETY OF GREATER BOSTON
P.O. Box 2941, Acton, MA 01720, fssgb@fssgb.org, info@fssgb.org

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2023-2024 Officers & Coordinators

President	Ed Council, (508) 904-4539, elc@timberfield.com
Treasurer	Lori Fassman, (978) 264-9710, lori@fassman.com
Secretary/Clerk	Lori Fassman, (978) 264-9710, lori@fassman.com
Folk Letter	Lori Fassman, (978) 264-9710, lori@fassman.com
Memb. Renewals	Sallie and Bill Satterthwaite, (978) 369-2365, salliesatt@comcast.net , billsatt@icloud.com
Concert Food	Lori Fassman, (978) 264-9710, lori@fassman.com
Concert Sound	sound@fssgb.org (Chair role vacant)
Fall Getaway	Lori Fassman, (978) 264-9710, lori@fassman.com
Publicity	Lynn Feingold, (781) 227-7500, lynnfeingold0@gmail.com
Membership	membership@fssgb.org
Singing Parties	Don MacLeod, (617) 283-8532, don@oceanjams.com
Recording Sec	Lori Fassman, (978) 264-9710, lori@fassman.com
Trad. Swaps	Lynn Feingold, (781) 227-7500, lynnfeingold0@gmail.com
Volunteers	volunteers@fssgb.org
Webmaster	webmaster@fssgb.org

SEND NEWSLETTER ITEMS TO:

Lori Fassman
101 Charter Road
Acton, MA 01720-4210
folkletter@fssgb.org

FOLK LETTER DEADLINES are the seventh of the month for the following month's issue. Advertisements are \$15 for 1/4 page, \$20 for 1/3 page, \$40 for 2/3 page, \$30 for 1/2 page, and \$60 for a full page. Email us for more information.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Ed Council, Lori Fassman, Lynn Feingold, Peter Hamlin, Mark Katz, Bill Lehrman, Suzanne Mrozak, Merle Roesler, John Shockey

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Mark Katz (617) 325-5147, markkatz@mac.com,
Lori Fassman, (978) 264-9710, lori@fssgb.org

PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

Chairs: Lynn Feingold, Ruth Perry, Lori Fassman.
Members: Isobel Abelson, Bill Lehrman, Suzanne Mrozak, Merle Roesler

*FSSGB is a 501c(3) non-profit organization.
Contributions are tax deductible to the extent
allowed by law.*

There is a new Rounds Sing in Town!

ADVERTISEMENT

This group plans to meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, **starting on October 10, 2023, from 7-9pm.** Where: The first meeting will be at Beth Kevles' house, **61 Hancock St, Somerville MA.** If it's warm enough and not raining, we'll sing outdoors.

After each sing, we will post, as much as possible, the words, music and a video of the rounds sung to a shared Google sheet.

Beth's home is within 1/4 mile of the Porter Square T station For those driving from outside of Somerville, She will obtain a "parking consideration" from the City of Somerville, so that non-resident cars may park in the vicinity of her home.

SPECIAL NOTE: My home has four resident cats.

Covid policy: If we'll be meeting indoors, please test before you come. If you are feeling unwell for any reason, please stay home. We will always meet outdoors if the weather cooperates. Masks are optional.

Questions? Email me at bethkevles@gmail.com. (Note: not a FSSGB event, but we're thrilled about it!)

FSSGB Library: FSSGB's entire collection of printed materials and recordings has been moved to the New England Conservatory Library at 255 St. Botolph St., Boston, where it is available to the public for perusing onsite. The collection is known as Folk Song Society of Greater Boston (FSSGB) Collection at New England Conservatory. See the FSSGB website for information on how to access the materials and make donations.

The Folk Song Society of Greater Boston



THE FOLK LETTER
c/o FSSGB, Inc.
P.O. Box 2941
Acton, MA 01720
www.fssgb.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

www.fssgb.org

2023

- Sun., Dec. 3 **Martha Burns House Concert*** (*rescheduled*), 3pm, Cambridge
Sun., Dec. 10 **FSSGB Holiday Singing Party on Zoom** (*rescheduled*), 7pm

2024

- Sat., Feb. 3 **Mike Agranoff House Concert***, 7pm, location TBD
Sun., March 3 **Bound for Glory (Woody Guthrie tribute)**, 7:30pm, Parish Center for the Arts, Westford (*back after a 5-year hiatus!!!*)

Admission for house concerts is \$20 (\$5 for students with advance notice).

* COVID rules for house concerts:

- Everyone must be fully vaccinated (honor system).
- Masks are optional.
- Stay home if not feeling well that day!

See www.fssgb.org for details about all events