

# The Folk Song Society of Greater Boston

# FSSGB

# FOLK LETTER

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

Volume 52 Number 4

October/November/December 2024

## FSSGB Fall Folk Gathering

Lorraine and Bennett Hammond house concert

Annual FSSGB Holiday Singing Party (Zoom)

“Singing for Justice” (Viewing of Faith Petric documentary, and singalong) - *date changed*

Mid-Day Singing Parties



Look for more info on our website:

[www.fssgb.org](http://www.fssgb.org)

Email [info@fssgb.org](mailto:info@fssgb.org)



Join us on Facebook!



## FSSGB Fall Folk Gathering

Saturday, October 26, 2024, 10am-5pm

(Registration and continental breakfast at 9:30am)

First Parish of Waltham, 50 Church St, Waltham

See [fssgb.org](http://fssgb.org) for registration form and [parking guidance!](#)



### Registration:

- General admission: \$75
- FSSGB members through Oct 11: \$60
- FSSGB members after Oct 11: \$70
- Ages 9 through 17: \$40
- Ages 8 and under free, no ticket required

*Tentative schedule on page 3!*

This one-day event is taking the place of our long-time Fall Getaway Weekend. We'll start the day with a continental breakfast and registration at 9:30am, and then kick off a full day of workshops, jams and a staff concert. Lunch will be provided, and special diets can be accommodated. (Please send email with questions or requests to [info@fssgb.org](mailto:info@fssgb.org).)

The **Vox Hunters** (Flannery Brown, Benedict Gagliardi and Armand Aromin) are on staff for this event. Flannery Brown, Armand Aromin and Benedict Gagliardi are musical symbionts that sprouted from a mutual loam. Soon after, they began to hum in sympathy, eventually buzz in synchrony, and now whomp with full-lunged abandon. Like a lively fungus on the branches of tradition, they nourish themselves on its ancient heartwood and burgeoning boughs-to-be. They are the Pope's frown, a wagon of porcupines, that cup of tea next to the worm bin. They sing for you and each other. As for the birds? Especially so.

*continued on p. 3*

## Date Changes

A couple of events we had publicized previously have been rescheduled—apologies for any confusion this may cause.

- “Singing for Justice” (Faith Petric documentary viewing and singalong) has moved to Sunday, March 16, 11am.
- The old-time music event with Jane Rothfield and Allan Carr is moving to Sunday, April 6.



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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.

## FSSGB Annual Holiday Sing—on Zoom

Sunday, December 15, 2024, 7pm

You can either:

- [Join us on Zoom](#)
- or watch on [Facebook Live](#) (you don't have to have a Facebook account to watch).



*If the links in this PDF don't work for you, go to [www.fssgb.org](http://www.fssgb.org), to the Concerts and Events page, and you'll find the links there.*

Join us for a holiday themed singing party on Zoom! Some FSSGB song leaders will get us started, and then we'll open up the floor for anyone to do a song.

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## Daytime Music Parties

FSSGB offers daytime music parties to sing, play accompaniment, socialize and have fun making music with others at private homes or other locations in eastern Massachusetts. Daytime Music Parties are hosted two Fridays a month from 11:30am until roughly 2:30pm (scheduled to help those who travel avoid heavy traffic and nighttime driving.)

Interested folks should contact our sing coordinator (Don MacLeod - phone/text 617-283-8532) for singing party dates, locations and other pertinent information.

Folks planning to attend are asked to please RSVP at the earliest to help our hosts plan. Those providing contact information to our coordinator will receive music party invitations a week in advance of the scheduled date.

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

- Oct 4 - Malden
- Oct 18 - Malden
- Nov 1 - Cambridge
- Nov 15 - Malden
- Dec 6 - Malden
- Dec 20 - Malden

There is no charge for singing parties. Small snacks to share would be appreciated, but are optional.

Please contact Don if you would like to host in the future. Keep an eye on the website ([www.fssgb.org](http://www.fssgb.org)) for updates as music parties occasionally get rescheduled or cancelled.

## 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.

## FSSGB Fall Music Gathering *(continued from cover)*

Below is a tentative program for the Fall Music Gathering (Saturday, October 26). It's still being fine-tuned, so if you have an idea for a workshop that you'd like to lead or attend, please send email to [info@fssgb.org](mailto:info@fssgb.org) and we'll see what we can do!

<b>FSSGB Fall Music Gathering</b> <i>(subject to change)</i>		
	<b>Whitcomb Hall</b>	<b>Chapel</b>
9:30-10am	Registration Continental breakfast	—
10-11am	<b>Morning Songs</b>	<b>Old-time (and more) Jam</b> Fred Wersan
11am-12pm	<b>Songs from the Helen Hartness Flanders Collection</b> Vox Hunters	
12pm-1pm	Lunch	—
1-2pm	<b>Ballads</b> Lynn Feingold	<b>Guitar: Making the Most of Open Strings</b> Brian Cartwright
2-3pm	<b>Tiny Tunes Jam</b> Vox Hunters	—
3-4pm	—	<b>Songs from a Hat</b> Music game
4-5pm	<b>Concert with Vox Hunters</b>	—

### Patrick Tayluer: The Man Behind the Sea Shanties

Longtime FSSGB member Thomas Stern asked us to share this blog entry from the Library of Congress with you.

"These should rank with the best shanty and sea-song recordings ever made." So said the sea shanty expert William Main Doerflinger in May, 1942, describing the recordings he had recently made of the retired sailor Patrick Tayluer. Circumstances have conspired to keep those recordings under wraps, until this blog series. In this post, we'll hear one of his shanties ("Paddy Lay Back" or "Mainsail Haul") and one of his sea stories. Then, we'll use available evidence to create a new biography of Patrick Tayluer (1856-1948), a multifaceted sailor, soldier, singer, storyteller, model-builder, long-distance walker, and, of course, shantyman.

<https://blogs.loc.gov/folklife/2024/09/patrick-tayluer-the-man-behind-the-sea-shanties/?loclr=caftb>

A D V E R T I S E M E N T



## Lorraine and Bennett Hammond House Concert

Sunday, November 3, 12pm (11:30pm potluck brunch)

Cambridge, MA

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

Reservations required: send email to [HouseConcerts@fssgb.org](mailto:HouseConcerts@fssgb.org)

"Quite simply acoustic music at it's finest," says Dirty Linen Review.

Lorraine, renowned master of the Appalachian dulcimer, also plays banjo, mandolin and Celtic harp and is an expressive singer and songwriter. Bennett, a superb finger-style guitarist and recent convert to the five string banjo, names "the three Bs", Bach, the blues and Buddy Holly, as major influences.

Together, The Hammonds are versatile musicians and engaging entertainers. Their warm stage presence is punctuated with wry humor, and their command of their instruments and musical genres is without flaw. The Boston Globe calls them "a dazzling, witty, eclectic, delightful duo." The duo's repertoire ranges in style from classical through Celtic, blues and contemporary. They sing both traditional and original songs and can be heard on over thirty recordings as featured artists, or enhancing the work of performers including Archie Fisher, Lui Collins and Bob Franke. Christine Lavin and Heidi Mueller are among the artists who have covered Hammond originals.

The couple live in Brookline, Massachusetts and their most recent releases, all on the independent folk label Snowy Egret Music are *Jingalo Gypsy* featuring the duo, Bennett's *Rockafolky Banjo Tapes* and Lorraine's *Muddy River Suite*.

## "Singing for Justice"

Viewing of Faith Petric documentary and Singalong

Sunday, March 16, 2025, 11am—*date changed!!*

Community Church of Boston

565 Boylston St., Boston

Free! (Donations to FSSGB gratefully accepted)



*This event is co-sponsored by the Community Church of Boston and FSSGB*

Learn about the musical and political history of Faith Petric and the role of folk music in progressive politics in 20th and 21st-century America. Faith Petric (1915-2013) proudly called herself a radical, and she chose folk music as her vehicle for creating a more just world.

A student peace activist in her 20s, she continued to protest war as a Raging Granny in her 80s. She aided migrant workers in California during the Great Depression, built Liberty Ships during World War II, faced Cold War-era FBI surveillance, and marched for racial justice in Selma, AL. A single working mother, Faith retired in 1970 at age 55 and reinvented herself as a traveling folk singer, performing nationally and internationally into her 90s.

*Singing for Justice* is produced and directed by award-winning Stanford historian Estelle Freedman and award-winning documentary filmmaker Christie Herring. Singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist John McCutcheon is the Composer and Musical Supervisor.

## Hyacinth for the Soul

### Singing with JourneySongs -- a Hospice Choir

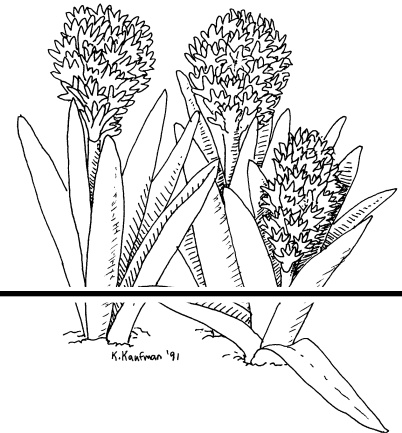
Singing with a hospice choir was a long time coming for me. In the 90s I'd heard about singing at the bedside of people in hospice care, but I had to wait until after the pandemic to audition and attend a JourneySongs rehearsal. The audition with the Music Director was primarily to be sure I could match a note with my voice and sing a simple melody line. Little did I know that many of the songs of my lifetime would emerge in our repertoire.

At Pinewoods Folk Music Camp, Helen Schneyer had invited us outside on a Sunday morning for a memorable full-voice circle of "Amazing Grace," as only Helen could do. John Krumm's poignant round "Onawa's Waltz" was another final night's song at Pinewoods. An early favorite from Girl Scout camp was "Peace I Ask of Thee, Oh River," and in 1974 I'd sung it around a lunch table in the Soviet Union. These songs and many more are woven into my heart and memory.

In early September, I sang for the first time at the bedside of people in a hospice residence. A small group of us from JourneySongs chose 2-3 songs to sing to the residents in their rooms with family members and/or caregivers. The staff gave some details: a specific faith; any relationship with singing or music; where they were in transition from life to death. We sang "Ose Shalom" to a Jewish resident, the round "Dona Nobis Pacem" in two parts, and concluded several room visits with "Amazing Grace."

Singing with JourneySongs is indeed a blossoming of a new Hyacinth for My Soul!

- Chris Farrow-Noble



*JourneySongs*

**The Most Meaningful Singing You Will Ever Do!**

**\*\*\*\*Seeking new members\*\*\*\***

*JourneySongs is an interfaith choir committed to singing for people with hospice services and their caregivers, as well as at memorial services and celebrations of life. We rehearse on Sundays, twice a month, in Newton, MA and sing in surrounding communities.*

JourneySongs uses the gift of song to provide both comfort and joy to patients and their families. Whether you are an experienced singer, or someone who simply loves to sing, your unique voice is welcome!

For more information, send an email to:

[info@journeysongs.org](mailto:info@journeysongs.org)

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

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**2024-2025 Officers & Coordinators**

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**FOLK LETTER DEADLINES** are the seventh of the month for the following quarter'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 ([folkletter@fssgb.org](mailto:folkletter@fssgb.org))

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

## In Case of Snow!

It's that time of year! In case of inclement weather, please check with the host or hostess of any event to see if it's still going on and check our website ([www.fssgb.org](http://www.fssgb.org)) for updates. We try hard to "have the show go on" under any circumstances, but sometimes have to cancel if there's a big storm. If you don't have access to the website or prefer a human confirmation, you can call (978) 621-5814 (mobile) for information.



**FSSGB Library:** FSSGB's entire collection of printed materials and resides at 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](http://www.fssgb.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

[www.fssgb.org](http://www.fssgb.org)

- Sat., Oct. 26    **FSSGB Fall Folk Gathering**, First Parish of Waltham, 10am-5pm  
(registration and breakfast at 9:30am), see [fssgb.org](http://fssgb.org) for details,  
staff: Vox Hunters
- Sun., Nov 3    **Lorraine and Bennett Hammond house concert**, location TBD,  
\$20 cash at the door (\$5 for students)
- Sun., Dec. 15    **FSSGB Holiday Singing Party** on Zoom, 7pm
- Sun., March 16    **“Singing for Justice”** (viewing of Faith Petric documentary, and  
singalong), 11am, Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St,  
Boston, free (*date changed!*)

*Note: the **old-time weekend** previously scheduled for December 7-8 has been  
moved to early April—stay tuned for more details!*

**See [www.fssgb.org](http://www.fssgb.org) for details about all events**