

# The Folk Song Society of Greater Boston

## FSSGB FOLK LETTER

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

Volume 53 Number 2

April/May/June 2025

### FSSGB Song Swap at NEFFA

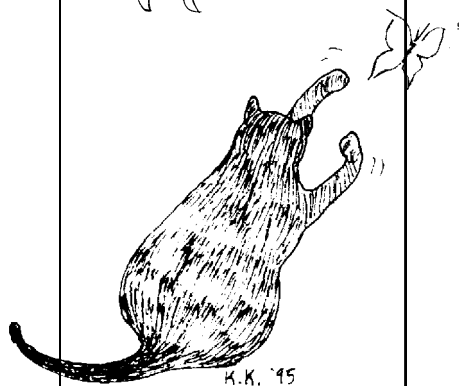
Janie Meneely and  
Rob van Sante  
House Concert

"Bound for Glory"

Annual Election and  
Singing Party

Mid-Day Singing  
Parties

Nominations for Board  
of Directors



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!

### Janie Meneely and Rob van Sante House Concert

Thursday, June 19, 2025, 7pm  
Waltham, MA

General admission: \$20  
\$5 for students

Reservations required: email  
[HouseConcerts@fssgb.org](mailto:HouseConcerts@fssgb.org) for reservations and directions.



Meneely & van Sante present an evening of music as lively as it is eclectic, with songs culled from maritime traditions old and new mixed with contemporary ballads about the ways of today's world.

Janie Meneely and Rob van Sante began coalescing as a duo in 2015, with Rob offering support on Janie's solo gigs whenever he was in the Washington, D.C. area, where she was living at the time. As a prolific songwriter of all things Chesapeake, Janie was a well-known figure around the mid-Atlantic waterfront, but it was Rob's brilliant guitar work and harmony singing that really pushed her work into the greater realm of the traditional folk world where Rob had already made his mark.

*continued on page 3*

### Annual Election and Singing Party

Saturday, June 21, 2025 – 1-4pm

At the home of Lori Fassman

101 Charter Rd, Acton, MA

LEFT branch of shared driveway

978-621-5814, [lori.fassman@gmail.com](mailto:lori.fassman@gmail.com)

Everyone is welcome to the annual singing party! (The election only takes a few minutes at the very start, so don't let that scare you away.) All FSSGB members are welcome to vote for the proposed Board of Directors (which remains unchanged from last year.)

There'll be copies of *Rise Up Singing!* and the sequel, *Rise Again*, to borrow or purchase (at a discounted price) or come prepared to lead a song from memory, or just sing along or listen. Folky instruments are welcome.

Feel free (but not obliged) to bring snacks for the snack table!



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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.

## 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-2:30pm in Malden unless otherwise noted):

- April 4 and 10
- May 2 and 16
- June 13 and 27

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:

### June 10 for the Jul-Aug-Sept issue

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

Thanks for helping us by observing the publication deadlines.

## Nominations for Board of Directors

Nominations for FSSGB's Board of Directors, which will be voted upon at the annual singing party/election meeting in June, should be sent to the nominating committee, c/o [info@fssgb.org](mailto:info@fssgb.org) or call Lori at (978) 264-9710.

Please send nominations as soon as possible. The meeting will be held at the beginning of the June singing party (more details will be printed in the June/July Folk Letter).

The slate of candidates for the board (as of this writing) is: Ed Council, Lori Fassman, Lynn Feingold, Peter Hamlin, Mark Katz, Bill Lehrman, Suzanne Mrozak, Merle Roesler, and John Shockey.

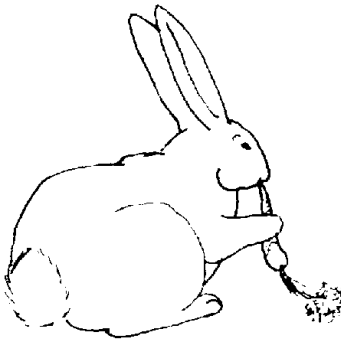
If you're interested in serving on the board, but need more information on what kind of commitment is involved, you may contact any Board member listed on the back of the Folk Letter.

## Rob van Sante and Janie Meneely House Concert *(continued from cover)*

While Janie had stayed “local” throughout her musical career, Rob had traveled the world, first as a touring artist in his own right, and then as back-up musician/sideman for, primarily, Alan Reid (co-founder and chief songwriter of the Battlefield Band from Scotland) and John Conolly (beloved raconteur of songs and stories pertaining to Grimsby, among them the now-classic Fiddler’s Green). He played for festivals, concert halls, private living rooms and pubs in Britain, Ireland, China, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the United States, Germany, Russia, Japan . . . this list goes on. Known for his trademark guitar style—primarily using alternate tunings—Rob remains a sought-after accompanist and session musician.

Probably the most exciting element of the duo is the collaborative aspect of their latest compositions. Janie’s lyrics buoyed by Rob’s arrangements reflect a sensitive and compelling grasp of contemporary concerns, whether it be anti-immigration policies (Lady Liberty) or the simple reminder that we set an example for future generations (For the Love of It All). But just as often, their songs—and their on-stage banter, for that matter—are laced with humor (sometimes bawdy!) and spill out with galvanizing energy (Whitby Ale).

Whether they sing of long-ago tragedy, retell a campfire ghost story or offer up a song of social justice, their music invites audience participation, and that, to their mind, remains the most gratifying aspect of any given performance.



## Bound for Glory (Woody Guthrie Tribute)



Sunday, June 1, 2025, 4-6pm  
First Parish in Waltham  
50 Church Street, Waltham, MA  
Admission: \$10  
17 and under free  
*(see website for a parking map)*

FSSGB is pleased to present "Bound for Glory", our annual Woody Guthrie tribute show! The show features many FSSGB members and friends, many of whom have performed in past Woody shows going way back to the 60's.

"Bound for Glory" is a performance of songs and stories about the life of Woodrow Wilson ("Woody") Guthrie, considered by many to be the founder of modern American folk music. Many wonderful songs written by Woody and performed by members of FSSGB are interspersed with short recitations from his autobiography. It is a funny, cynical, earthy and tragic account of his life in an Oklahoma oil-boom town, of the Depression that followed, and of his subsequent travels in, on, and under trains, in stolen cars and on his feet, round an America going rotten from the top downwards.

Chorus sheets are made available and the audience is encouraged to sing along.

**Refreshments** will be served at intermission.

**Parking:** there are small lots on either side of the church, and there's some on-street parking in the neighborhood. We're allowed to park at the middle school next door (75 Church St), and there's a municipal lot at the intersection of Church St and Rt 20 (one block south of the church). There's a detailed map on the website (in the Bound for Glory concert listing.)

## Josée Vachon House Concert

Saturday, September 27, 2025, 7pm

Location TBD

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

Born in Québec and raised in Maine, Josée Vachon shares her Franco-American upbringing through traditional and contemporary folksongs from Québec and Acadia and through her own compositions.



Though she often entertained at family gatherings, she began singing publicly with the support of the Franco-American Center at the University of Maine, where she discovered others who shared her rich heritage. After receiving her BA in Romance Languages in 1984, she continued to perform, quickly gaining recognition as a new Franco-American voice through early performances at state festivals in Maine and at schools and parish soirées.

In July 1993, she co-founded the folk group Chanterelle with award-winning fiddler Donna Hébert and singer/guitarist Liza Constable, often joined by bass and cajun accordion player Alan Bradbury. The group released the CDs *French in America* (1994) and *Soirée Chez Nous* (1996).

Ms Vachon has 12 solo recordings to her credit, and continues to perform and record the music that best represents her love of Franco-American culture.

## Folk Americana Roots Hall of Fame Presents JOAN BAEZ: A LIFE OF MUSIC, ART, AND ACTIVISM

Exhibit run from March 6—July 27, 2025, at the Boch Center Wang Theatre

The creative genius and passionate determination of one of America's musical icons comes to life inside the Folk Americana Roots Hall of Fame with Joan Baez: A Life of Music, Art, and Activism.

The exhibit, curated by Museum Collective, will feature handwritten lyrics, rarely seen personal photos, original artwork and famous instruments that defined Baez's award-winning career. The new exhibit opens inside the Boch Center Wang Theatre, March 6, 2025. Tours of Joan Baez: A Life of Music, Art, and Activism and all of the Hall of Fame's exhibits can be booked at FARHOF.org.

“The Folk Americana Roots Hall of Fame is the perfect place to honor Joan's impact on music and American history. Her career started on the stage of Club 47 and others around Boston and Cambridge, and she was in the Hall of Fame's inaugural class of inductees,” **ADVERTISEMENT** said Casey Soward, President and CEO of the Boch Center. “We continue to celebrate her legacy, educating a new generation about the incredible life the iconic singer has led.”

# 81st New England Folk Festival

Friday, April 25 through Sunday, April 27, 2025

Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and Trade Center

181 Boston Post Road West, Marlborough, MA



The New England Folk Festival, widely known as NEFFA, is an annual folk festival that blends dance, music, crafts, and food from many places and cultures. This year is our 801st Festival and we hope that you will join us! The Festival is run by the New England Folk Festival Association, a cultural and educational, volunteer-run, non-profit organization. The talent of our performers is also provided on a volunteer basis.

## Festival Hours:

Session	Program	Doors Open
Friday April 25	7:00pm-11:30pm	6:00pm
Saturday April 26	10:00am-5:30pm	9:00am
	4:00pm-11:30pm	N/A
Sunday April 27	10:00am-5:30pm	9:00am

## \*\* Volunteers Needed! \*\*

Volunteer for 6 or more hours and get free admission to the Festival! You can earn admission for individual sessions in exchange for fewer hours. Visit [neffa.org/volunteer](https://neffa.org/volunteer) for more information.

## 2025 PRICES

CATEGORY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY AM, SATURDAY PM, or SUNDAY	ALL FESTIVAL
Adult (25-64)	\$25	\$45/\$40 Member	\$120/\$95 Member
Senior (65+)	\$20	\$40/\$30 Member	\$95/\$80 Member
Young Adult (18-24)	\$20	\$30	\$85
Youth (9-17)	\$13	\$13	\$30
Child (0-8)	Free	Free	Free
<b>New!</b> Festival Sampler	N/A	<b>Saturday 11am to 4pm ONLY</b> Only valid in the Trade Center (Marketplace, food trucks, dance performances and more!) \$10	N/A

Join us for the FSSGB Song Swap on Friday, April 27 at 7pm in the Trade Center tent! Admission is included in your Festival registration.

**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**

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 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)

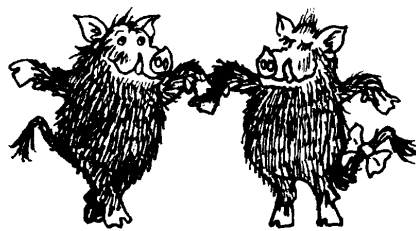
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

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

**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.*



KK '95

**WALTZING WITH BOARS**

**FSSGB Library:** FSSGB's entire collection of printed materials 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)

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Fri., April 25  | <b>FSSGB Song Swap at NEFFA</b> , 7pm, Marlborough MA (included in cost of Festival admission), <a href="http://neffa.org">neffa.org</a> |
| Sun., June 1    | <b>Bound for Glory</b> (Woody Guthrie tribute), 4-6pm, First Parish in Waltham, 50 Church St., Waltham, \$10 for all at the door         |
| Thurs., June 19 | <b>Janie Meneely and Rob van Sante House Concert</b> , 7pm, Waltham, \$20 at the door (\$5 for students)                                 |
| Sat., June 21   | <b>Annual FSSGB election and singing party</b> , 1-4pm, 101 Charter Rd, Acton MA (free!)   |
| Sat., Sept. 27  | <b>Josée Vachon house concert</b> , 7pm, location TBD, \$20 at the door (\$5 for students)   |
| Fri., Nov. 7    | <b>James Keelaghan with David Woodhouse</b> , 7pm, First Parish in Waltham, 50 Church St, Waltham, \$30 (17 and under free)              |

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