

# Folk Talk

A Newsletter for Columbia, Snake, and Yakima River Folk

Vol. 34 Issue 4

January 2023

## Kay Miracle and the Desert Moondogs with Kaylie Dawes opening

Saturday, January 21, 7:30 PM  
All Saints' Episcopal Church

Our Three Rivers Folklife Concert Series will kick off 2023 with a concert by Kay Miracle and The Desert Moondogs, a new Tri-Cities' band, on Saturday January 21, in the sanctuary of All Saints' Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Avenue in Richland. The concert will be opened by Kaylie Dawes. Kaylie was featured at December's coffeehouse, but falling snow and icy road conditions led to a very small audience and so we're giving her a chance to play for more people. She is a 17 year-old guitar player and songwriter who performed at Tumbleweed 2022 and was one of the finalists in the Jane Titland Memorial Songwriting Contest. She is a delightful performer who plays both acoustic and bass guitar as well as being a creative songwriter. After Kaylie's opener, Kay Miracle will perform a short solo set. Following the intermission Kay will be joined by The Desert Moondogs for the second half of the show.

[Kay Miracle](#) grew up in Benton City in a musical family. Her grandfather Claude Wood was a guitar player who backed up both Hank Williams and Doris Day. He gave Kay her first guitar, and when she was in college she played in rock, folk, and bluegrass bands. After college she toured with Pacific Air Force and USO bands for 7 years before settling in Syracuse, New York. She was lead singer, guitarist, and songwriter for the alternative country band Reckless Driver, and had her own band Kay and the Miracle Cure, and was also in the duo Ghost Town Ramblers. She was a part of the TeXchromosome Music Series at South by Southwest in Austin, Texas, and is still involved with that supportive group of female songwriters who have their own radio broadcasts, showcases, and fundraisers. She has been certified as a Creative Facilitator using music and art

for healing, and founded the "Blood for Ink" program to encourage veterans to write songs that tell their personal stories. She has won many songwriting awards for her original songs including being a finalist several times at Tumbleweed. She has returned to her roots in Benton City, and is making her home here now.

The Desert Moondogs are a four-piece Americana roots band born in 2022 when a group of seasoned musicians banded together to merge their passions for creating music into a project from the heart. Together the Desert Moondogs combined each member's own unique musical sound over lyrics born from a collection of their life stories and experiences. From the first chord played on one of Kay's original tunes it was clear that the vocals and guitar work of singer songwriter Michael Torres, combined with the rhythmic backbone of bassist Paul Inerra and Buddy Bentz on drums, was a magic combination. They have released a live original video for the holidays, and are busy recording with a release scheduled for 2023.

Tickets for the show can be purchased online at [3rfs.org](http://3rfs.org) and also at the door. They are \$20 for general admission and \$15 for members of 3RFS. Enter at the back door by the parking lot and go upstairs for the concert.

## President's Pen - by Gene Carbaugh

### Recipe for a New Year

Many years ago, my mother received this "recipe" in a Christmas card. I found it while sorting cards for this year. It certainly fits our world's needs for today: A heaping cup of happiness, 2 of love and caring, 1 of understanding, 1 of joyful sharing, a level cup of wisdom, 1 of artful living, 1 of thoughtful insight, and 1 of selfless giving. Mix ingredients together, toss in a little flair, and serve to everyone you know topped with a tiny prayer. May every measure of happiness be yours this holiday season and in the coming year.

3RFS runs on volunteers, and there is always a need for more. Now that we are again holding in-person concerts on a

monthly basis, we have a pressing need for a refreshments coordinator who would schedule and remind people who have offered to provide snacks for concert. The reminder should be about a week before the concerts. This is an important but relatively simple task that contributes to our concert-goers enjoyment. Please contact me at 509-946-0504 or [president@3rfs.net](mailto:president@3rfs.net) to express your interest.

### Performing Members List

Occasionally 3RFS receives inquiries seeking musician(s) to perform for a special event, a retirement home, or even an established venue gig. Requests have ranged from very informal to "a paid gig for St. Patrick's Day." In the interest of promoting our musician members and making sure we are aware of those interested in such opportunities, we are compiling a list of potential performers who might like to be contacted for gigs. We're envisioning a page on our 3RFS website listing performers, their contact info and a simple statement of their interest. Those inquiring for a performer would then be referred to that page or access it from the 3RFS home page. Listings will be limited to 3RFS members-in-good-standing. If you would like to be listed, send a message to [president@3rfs.net](mailto:president@3rfs.net) with your name, contact info, and performance interests.

### Membership Renewal

Are you aware of your membership status? This past year we modified our membership status to allow for a rolling 12-month membership instead of the traditional calendar year membership. If you renewed your membership prior to May 2022, it is probably on a calendar year basis meaning it expires January 1, 2023. So now is the time to renew. You can conveniently do so directly online or by mailing in your membership form. Member dues are only \$20 (Individual) and \$25 (family). Members pay discounted admission prices to events and have the satisfaction of knowing they are supporting local folklife events. If you're not sure of your membership status or expiration, send an email to [communications@3rfs.net](mailto:communications@3rfs.net).

## Doing Concert Sound Without Sight by Frank Cuta

I have always loved operating sound equipment. It has been a big part of my life to be the principle sound man for the Three Rivers Folklife Society here in the Tri-Cities. It is enjoyable and rewarding, supporting some of the best folk musicians in the country, and my blindness has never been much of a problem.

It is not hard to do concert sound without vision. You should have some understanding of the technical requirements, a love and appreciation of the music, and a respect for the needs of the performer. Blind or sighted you depend mostly on your ears to maintain audio balance, to preserve the tone of the acoustic instruments, and to keep the vocals clear. Sometimes when the act includes a lot of instrument sharing between the performers I ask someone to sit with me and warn me about surprising changes on the stage.

I started out with a couple of old Shure microphones and a Vocalmaster mixer that I picked up in college and I used the amp and speakers from my living room stereo system. Over the years I have updated and put together a pretty decent system but it is mostly older technology.

All of the new professional sound consoles utilize rotary encoders, menu displays and touch screens. These modern controls are either very challenging to use, or more often the case, totally inaccessible to a person who is blind. Apple with their iPhone has proven that the touch screen on a product can be very accessible if you design it from the ground up with these concerns in mind. But the manufacturers of Pro audio gear have a lot of catching up to do.

When we started 3RFS in the late eighties we paid our folk acts about \$100 and we were paying a local audio business about the same amount to provide them with concert sound. This was a bit crazy. By the third or fourth concert I had volunteered to do this same job for free and I have never looked back. Everyone benefitted from this arrangement. It allowed us to significantly increase the amount that we were paying our acts and it insured that I always had a ride to the concerts.

Putting on concerts is much more than just running the sound board. I am tremendously grateful to all of my many Folklife friends. A producer takes care of booking the performers, reserving the venue, advertising concerts, and managing ticketing. Someone else helps transport me and my equipment to the concerts. This leaves me free to concentrate on working with the performers and operating the sound console during the concert.

Thinking back, it seems that when I was thirty years younger, I did help a lot more with the lifting and carrying. Also, in those days most of the performers were about my age. Now younger people do all of the loading and unloading, and I find myself 2 or 3 generations older than some of the performers.

Over the years I have had the pleasure of doing sound for such nationally known personalities as Tom Paxton, Bill Staines, Utah Phillips, Chuck Pyle and Robin & Linda Williams, as well as celebrities from the Northwest such as Dan Maher, Linda Waterfall, Brian Bowers, Heidi Muller, and Hank Cramer. My favorite place of all time to do concerts was a wonderful old venue at work called the Battelle Auditorium. It was here that I did sound for such great artists as Reilly & Maloney, David Roth, Christine Lavin, David Mallet, and Hawkeye Herman.

We continue to hold concerts on the third Saturday of each month and it is great to see our audiences steadily coming back as we recover from the pandemic. 3RFS is a completely volunteer based operation. I hope to be able to continue my volunteer contributions for many more years and I

encourage you to each consider pitching in even if its just to hang up a poster or bring cookies.

## Online Folk Event Calendar

Do you want to find more music locally? Are you traveling around the region and want to check out some out-of-town music or dance? Maybe you'd like to attend a music camp or another festival? A monthly calendar of folk music and dance events throughout the Northwest is now available at our website <https://www.3rfs.org/info-nw.htm>. You can view it there or download it as a PDF. An even bigger (and possibly more up-to-date) list of events for the next several months can be downloaded in [spreadsheet form](#). If you know of events that should be added, let me know at [newsletter@3rfs.net](mailto:newsletter@3rfs.net).

## January Coffeehouse features The Plush Buffers

Friday, January 13, 7:00 PM  
All Saints' Episcopal Church

Steve Devine, John Harder, and Alan Page, collectively known as The Plush Buffers, will play the Coffeehouse on Friday, January 13, 2023.

Combining guitar, vocals, and percussion, The Plush Buffers have cultivated their signature, low-fi approach to rock, pop and folk, through years of singing along to their favorite songs on the radio and watching countless YouTube videos on "how to play guitar". Their vision and commitment to the trade has garnered them tens of fans who have turned out to support them including most family members and neighbors, and an occasional deaf dog who once lived on the streets of Hood River, Oregon. You can expect to hear a Rolling Stones song followed up by a number by Townes Van Zandt.

Plush Buffer member John Harder recently returned from a successful Open Mic tour of Scotland and is an occasional brewer of beer. Steve Devine and his band The Mojos were inducted into the Iowa Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame in 2010 and he is an avid cat collector and personal trainer. Alan Page is a freelance whiskey drinker and the only working member of the group, and is looking to pad his retirement income through tonight's performance (so give generously).

Our coffeehouses take place at All Saints Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Avenue,

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**Editing and Production:** Katrina Knight  
**Original Design:** Theresa Grate  
**Send items of interest to:**  
[newsletter@3rfs.net](mailto:newsletter@3rfs.net)

**Send memberships to:**  
3RFS Membership  
P.O. Box1098, Richland, WA 99352

**3RFS 2021-2022 Board of Directors**  
Gene Carbaugh, President 509-946-0504  
Micki Perry, Vice President 509-947-6735  
Frank Cuta, Secretary 509-967-2658  
Steve Ghan, Treasurer 509-308-9023

Tumbleweed Coordinator -  
Katrina Knight

Members at Large:  
Jim Honeyman 509-438-1856  
Bob Lewis 509-374-7520  
David Carson 509-539-8090  
Katrina Knight 509-587-3060

3RFS Info: [www.3rfs.org](http://www.3rfs.org) 509-947-6735  
(Micki Perry)

Richland. Admission is \$10 or \$8 for 3RFS members. The show starts at 7 pm with an open mic - come early if you would like to sign up for a performance slot.

### John April 1954-2022

The Three Rivers Folklife Community lost a great acoustic musician on November 23, 2022, when John April passed away unexpectedly at his home in Richland, Washington.

John was an accomplished acoustic guitar, bluegrass banjo, and mandolin player. John also dabbled with the Dobro for a time, before returning his focus to guitar and banjo. John played music in a wide variety of styles, beginning with Leo Kotke, James Taylor, and popular 60's and 70's pop tunes. John began focusing on bluegrass music when he took up the banjo. He became very proficient and was adept at adapting music from a wide range of genres into the bluegrass style that was the trademark of the Badger Mountain Dry Band. John continued to hone his skills throughout his life, even up to his death; taking Zoom guitar lessons from current phenom, Jake Workman, and banjo lessons from the Italian master, Claudio Parvucci. His lessons included both bluegrass standards, jazz and new acoustic music stylings, and even classical Bach works on the banjo.

John and his wife Heidi moved to Walla Walla in 1991 and to Kennewick in 1992. John began performing in local events and coffeehouses; and met Jim Honeyman in 1991. They began playing together and soon were joined by fellow musician Doug Slagle. This began an over 31-year collaboration between John and Jim known as the Badger Mountain Dry Band. Over the years over 31 other musicians performed with the BMDB, and the band continues to move forward without John. John was generous with his time and talent, and freely donated his skills to various community fund-raising and benefit events. With the Badger Mountain Dry Band, we began the tradition of early spring fund-raising concerts to support the Tumbleweed Music Festival, with the band presenting at least 12 fund-raising concerts over the years.

He also formed a new acoustic music trio with friends Tim Moody, and Tim Sedgewick called the Johnny Midweek Trio. He was active in recording music with several self-produced titles on cassette and CD, two CDs with the Badger Mountain Dry Band, and one with the Johnny Midweek Trio. He appeared on numerous other recordings by many artists here in the Tri-Cities. John also performed with worship teams at the

## Local Folk Events

### January

|           |                                       |             |                             |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>4</b>  | Tumbleweed Planning Meeting           | 7:00 pm Wed | Zoom                        |
| <b>6</b>  | FFFFFA                                | 7:00 pm Fri | Micki Perry's, Kennewick    |
| <b>9</b>  | 3RFS Board meeting                    | 7:00 pm Mon | Gene Carbaugh's, Richland   |
| <b>13</b> | 3RFS Coffeehouse w/ The Plush Buffers | 7:00 pm Fri | All Saints', Richland       |
| <b>14</b> | SSSSS                                 | 6:00 pm Sat | Round Table Pizza, Richland |
| <b>18</b> | Tumbleweed Planning Meeting           | 7:00 pm Wed | Zoom                        |
| <b>21</b> | Concert                               |             |                             |
|           | Kay Miracle & the Desert Moondogs     | 7:30 pm Sat | All Saints', Richland       |

### February

|           |                                     |             |                             |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>1</b>  | Tumbleweed Planning Meeting         | 7:00 pm Wed | Zoom                        |
| <b>3</b>  | FFFFFA                              | 7:00 pm Fri | Micki Perry's, Kennewick    |
| <b>10</b> | 3RFS Coffeehouse                    | 7:30 pm Fri | All Saints', Richland       |
| <b>11</b> | SSSSS                               | 6:00 pm Sat | Round Table Pizza, Richland |
| <b>13</b> | 3RFS Board meeting                  | 7:00 pm Mon | Gene Carbaugh's, Richland   |
| <b>15</b> | Tumbleweed Planning Meeting         | 7:00 pm Wed | Zoom                        |
| <b>18</b> | Concert - Performer to be announced | 7:30 pm Sat | All Saints', Richland       |

All Saints' = All Saints' Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Ave., Richland  
 Gene Carbaugh's = 803 Birch Ave., Richland  
 Micki Perry's = 1011 S. Dawes St., Kennewick  
 Round Table Pizza = Corner of George Washington Way and Torbett St., Richland  
 Lighthouse Church = 1007 Wright Ave, Richland

various churches in the area that he attended during his time here.

3RFS owes a debt of gratitude for John's ongoing support for 3RFS events and the Tumbleweed Music Festival. Fare thee well John, and Godspeed!

### Sing Away the Winter Blues

**Friday, January 6, 7:00 PM**  
**Micki Perry's House**

**Saturday, January 14, 6:00 PM**  
**Round Table Pizza**

Got the winter blues? Chase those blues away by coming to one of our monthly sing-alongs. Singing is a great way to feel brighten up your day and feel better.

The First Friday Folkie Free-For-All takes place at Micki Perry's House - 1011 S. Dawes Street in Kennewick.

The Second Saturday Sea Song Sing-along happens in the back room at Round Table Pizza on George Washington Way in Richland. We start with food at 6 pm, followed by music afterward.

### Off to a Good Start for 2023 by Katrina Knight, coordinator TMF 2023

Preparations for Tumbleweed 2023 are off to a good start. As I write this, we are a few days from the start of the year and already we have eight performer applications and three songwriting contest entries. We're soliciting entries for the logo contest as well. If you'd like a chance to have your artwork displayed on our promotional materials and t-shirts, you can find more info at <http://www.tumbleweedfest.com>.

The festival planning committee is hard at work already but we can always use more help. We are also in need of volunteers to work on our PR campaigns. If you have a few hours a week and would like to help us promote ourselves on social media and/or traditional media or you'd like to help us with other outreach efforts, let me know. [Tumbleweedchair@gmail.com](mailto:Tumbleweedchair@gmail.com) or 509 587-3060.

We'd like to thank the City of Richland for generously approving our grant application for \$5,000 to promote our festival.

# Yes!

## I want to help 3RFS and the Tumbleweed Music Festival Roll on!

I would like to contribute at this level:

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$250.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other

Please keep my gift anonymous (Donor names will be listed in next year's program unless you indicate you wish to remain anonymous.)

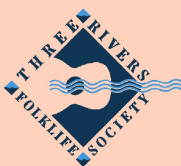
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## Membership Application

*Your membership gives you voting rights in Folklife elections, discounts on events, and is tax deductible! Plus it gives you the satisfaction of supporting 3RFS activities.*

\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$20) or \_\_\_\_ Family (\$25)    Renewal?   Y   N

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send Folk Talk (choose one) US Mail**  **Email**  **Both**

### I can help 3RFS with:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments at concerts    | <input type="checkbox"/> Setting up chairs   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Taking admission at events  | <input type="checkbox"/> Folding newsletters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on Board of Directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrating folk arts     | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tumbleweed Music Festival   | <input type="checkbox"/> Fund raising        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Song Circles                | <input type="checkbox"/> Coffeehouses        |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other               |

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