

FOLK CLUB OF SOUTH FLORIDA

FOLK NOTES

Contemporary, traditional, roots and alternative music September 2009

ACOUSTIC UNDERGROUND

CONCERT SERIES *PRESENTS:*

Coffee House Gypsies

Saturday, Sept. 5, at 8 p.m.

The Coffee House Gypsies. Great name, great band, great story. This homegrown group started out in 1997 in the coffee houses of Miami. Albert Damian Mata and Alexandra Norris are the core members. They joined forces in 2001, creating a unique sound of vocal harmonies that has been compared to The Indigo Girls, Simon & Garfunkel, and The Mamas & The Papas; tonight we will hear the whole band.

Although they cover many musical genres and experiment with various sounds, the Gypsies always seem to return to their acoustic folksy roots.

CHG started out with an acoustic guitar and beer bottles for percussion instruments layered under vocal harmonies. Their music is more listenable and inclusive than in your face and ears. This popular group band appears regularly in clubs, coffee houses, festivals and at benefits. In 12 years, their work has taken them beyond Florida to national venues and they have produced several award-winning albums. In 2008 they won the Status Quo South Florida Live Music Award.

The band members are Albert Mata, vocals; daytime finds him in a law office; loves discovering new talent and hosting jam parties, surprise. Alexandra Norris, guitar, vocals; teaches Italian, Spanish and German in high school, avid music collector. Eric Valdes, guitar, vocals; award winning film maker, film actor. John Segovia, percussion; insurance, married, two kids who look like Gerber babies. Fred Napolitano, sax, flute; Realtor, active school volunteer.

Tonight, their first set will be original music. For the second set they have asked that audience members bring their axes and play or sing along on familiar covers. For the break, they have invited some fellow



Albert Mata, Alex Norris and Fred Napolitano are three of the Coffee House Gypsies. Carmen Tauler of Pretty on Paper, rear, sometimes joins them. Photo by Valerie Valdes.

musicians to sit in. As we said, this group is always reaching out, gathering the audience in; they have a loyal following. Come for the music, join the fun.

—BJW

<http://www.myspace.com/coffeehousegypsies>

Saturday, Sept. 5, at 8 p.m.

LUNA STAR CAFE
775 NE 125th St., North Miami, phone 305-799-7123.

Requested contribution is \$7 for member of any folk club; \$10 for non-member.

PREZ SEZ

B'Shert (fated)

By Barry J. White

Funny how things happen. Ten years ago, Theodora (Theo) Long, director of the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas Nature Center at Crandon Park on Key Biscayne, bought 10 benches. Well, as you can imagine, after all that time about 300 feet from the Atlantic Ocean, the benches did not look like new. Frequently, people would say, "Why don't you scrap those benches," or, "Why don't you let me take them off of your hands?" Theo would always say, "No, thanks," carefully preserving every piece of the benches.



Then, last spring, the Folk Club of South Florida held its annual meeting at the Nature Center. After the meeting, we asked Theo if, to thank her for the use of the center, we could help restore those sorry-looking benches. Although she did not say so at the time – she is a very reserved lady – her heart skipped a beat, maybe several.

Working with Shell Lumber staff, whose president it turned out is on the Center board, we selected ipe (ee-pay) wood, a very dense Brazilian hardwood used by New York City for its park benches. Shell's mill shop cut, drilled and routed the wood and yours truly replaced the wood on the benches.

Interestingly, what were first were thought to be brass bolts turned out to be bronze. We were able to re-use the old bolts on seven benches and bought new bronze bolts, washers and nuts from Hopkins-Carter Marine Supply for the others. Even the end and back parts of the benches are bronze.



So Theo has her benches and the Folk Club was able to help the Center look even more beautiful. All in Marjorie's honor and memory.

Song swap for September

The next open house and song swap of the Folk Club of South Florida will be held on Sunday, Sept. 13, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the home of Diane Landsberg, 460 Sunset Road, Coral Gables. Contact info: 305-975-7521.

We thank Diane for offering to be our host. Her home is located within the first block west of Cocoplum Circle on Sunset Road (which becomes Sunset Drive further west). Musicians, singers, folkies, and friends are invited to attend. Please bring your contribution for a pot luck dinner, musical instruments (Diane has a piano, so you can leave yours at home), and songs. It's worth the drive just to meet Diane.

Dave and I thoroughly enjoyed hosting the August song swap. Thanks to everyone who came and made it a beautiful night.

We thank Jeff Tucker and the Eco Center for hosting July's song swap in North Miami. Our evening may become part of a documentary film about the EcoCenter that was being made when we were there.

If you would like to host a song swap, please call me at 305-667-4386 or e-mail lcs_folk@bellsouth.net.

– Linda Singer

OLD-TIME AND BLUES

The last traditional black fiddler

By Tony Thomas

I spent an afternoon and evening during August outside Mebane, N.C., visiting and playing banjo behind Joe Thompson, the last traditional African-



American old-time fiddler in the country. He was born Dec. 9, 1918, in Orange County, N.C., where his father and uncle played fiddle and banjo for local whites and blacks.

Joe played fiddle with his brother Nate and his cousin Odell, who both played five-string banjo.

Since the 1970s, Joe has played

fiddle with his cousin and brother and old-time musicians like Bob Carlin and Alice Gerard across the country and beyond. Joe has performed at Carnegie Hall, at the Festival of American Fiddle Tunes, at the National Folk Festival, the Tennessee Banjo Institute, and as far away as the International Music Festival in Brisbane, Australia.

While I met Joe Thompson at the Black Banjo Gathering I organized in Boone, N.C., in April 2005, and I have listened to his music for years, playing behind him was a challenge. Revivalist old-time



Tony Thomas found old-time fiddler Joe Thompson's rhythms a unique challenge. Photo by Larry Valleni.

fiddling tends to be homogenized, but Joe plays a style unique to his family. His bowing looks like regular strokes, and his fingering seems light, but he creates intricate rhythmic and melodic variations on standard tunes we played like *Georgie Buck*, *Going Down the Road Feeling Bad*, and *John Henry*. Playing with Joe was like learning to dance to Joe's tunes, making new steps that fit his rhythm. Since I am working on the relationship of black fiddle and banjo music to West African rhythmic systems, getting to the bottom of Joe's rhythm will be a focus for my research.

Joe wasn't the only musician I got to pick for up there. I was treated to a house party by Dr. Cece Conway, banjo scholar, folklorist, and filmmaker, who has documented black banjo and fiddle tradition in the Piedmont and mountain South. There I got to play with one of my favorite banjo players, Gail Gillespie, former editor of the *Old Time Herald*, and several local musicians—all of whom seemed equally hot on fiddle, banjo, or guitar.

Click this link – [Kennedy Center](#) – to see and hear Thompson playing with Bob Carlin and Wayne Martin on Sept. 21, 2007, when he received honors at the Kennedy Center in Washington. Thompson recordings include *Family Tradition* on Rounder Records, and *Carolina Chocolate Drops & Joe Thompson* on Music Maker. He appears with his cousin Odell on *Black Banjo Songsters of North and South Carolina* on Smithsonian Folkways and on a number of anthologies of old-time and fiddle music.

Contra dancing

The second-Saturday dance continues on Sept. 12 with Loose Shoes playing and Brian Kushner calling.

The dance runs from 8 to 11 p.m., with a half-hour of instruction for beginners at 7:30 p.m.

The suggested donation is \$10, plus a snack to share at intermission.

The location is the Davie Woman's Club, 6551 Orange Drive, Davie. From I-95, take I-595 west to Davie Road (not boulevard), then go south about a mile to Orange Drive and west one block. If parking isn't immediately visible, turn right and use the rodeo lots. From I-75 or the Sawgrass Expressway, go east

on I-595 to Davie Road, etc.

To arrange a carpool ride, you may consult groups.google.com/group/soflacontradance_rides_etc.

For contra dancing schedules upstate, see http://www.contradancelinks.com/schedule_FL.html

September folk calendar

All events start at 8 p.m. unless a time is given. Our club events are in **bold**. Later details may be found at www.gotfolk.com.

To add, change, or remove a listing, write to Tony Thomas at writerrad@aol.com before Sept. 18.

Concerts and shows

Sept. 2

Donna MacDonald and Brian Murphy, Luna Star Café, 775 NE 125th St., North Miami. Phone 305-799-7123.

Sept. 4

Bob Ingram and Jack Stamates in the Barnacle under Moonlight series at Barnacle State Park, Coconut Grove; \$3 for ages 3-9, \$7 for 10 and up. No pets, no alcohol. Phone 305-442-6866.

Sept. 5

Coffee House Gypsies in the Acoustic Underground Concert Series at Luna Star Café, 775 NE 125th St., North Miami. Phone 305-799-7123 (details, page 1).

Sept. 8

Alejandra Czarny, Luna Star Café.

Sept. 11

Matthew Sabatella and the Rambling String Band in Celebration of America, 7 p.m., Sunrise Civic Center, 10610 W. Oakland Park Blvd.; phone 954-747-4646.

Sept. 16

Donna MacDonald and Brian Murphy, Luna Star Café.

Sept. 25

Raiford Starke, Luna Star Café.

Monthly regular events

Sept. 4

Broward Folk Club open mic 7:30 p.m., featuring [Andy Wahlberg](#), harp guitar guy, at 9 p.m. Fresh Aroma

Coffee Bar, 3656 W. Hillsboro Blvd., Deerfield Beach, 954-463-7374.

Sept. 13

Folk Club of South Florida song swap, 5 p.m. (details, page 2).

[South Florida Bluegrass Association Festival](#), 12:30-5 p.m., Greynolds Park, Miami Gardens Drive and NE 22nd Avenue.

Sept. 15

Irish music session, [Luna Star Café](#), 775 NE 125th St., North Miami.

Sept. 21

Broward Folk Club song circle and open house, 7 p.m., home of Susan Moss. Write OzWoman321@aol.com for more information.

Sept. 24

[Bluegrass Gospel sing & jam](#), 2400 South Pine Island Dr., Davie, 954-578-1359 or 954-663-3568.

Sept. 25

Sept. 27

[Broward Folk Club Jamming in the Park](#), Julia Assembly Hall, Secret Woods Nature Center, 2701 W. State Road 84, Dania Beach, 954-791-1030. Donald Rappaport hosts.

Weekly Events

Sundays

Michael Stock's *Folk & Acoustic Music*, 2 to 5 p.m. over WLRN-FM, 91.3 MHz. You can call Michael at 305-995-2220 or write him at mstock@wlrn.org.

John Brown's acoustic showcase, 7:30 p.m., [JohnMartin's](#), 253 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables.

Open mic hosted by [Paul T](#), 6 p.m. at Tom's NFL, 5001 NW 36th St., Miami Springs (for info call Paul at 786-970-8021).

Mondays

Acoustic night hosted by Gene Merola, 8:30 p.m., Mangos, 904 E Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale. Call Gene at 954-829-6085 or write genesshow@aol.co.

Tuesdays

Lou's jam, 5 p.m., [Luna Star Café](#), 775 NE 125th St., North Miami,

[Old-time jam](#), 7 p.m., Elks Club, 700 NE 10th St., Pompano Beach.

Acoustic open mic, 9 p.m., [Chocolate Moose](#) 9118 State Road 84, Davie.

[Shauna Sweeney](#), Kingshead Pub, 2692 N. University Dr., Sunrise.

[Blues jam](#), 9 p.m., Nitecap Lounge, 15455 W. Dixie Hwy., North Miami Beach.

Wednesdays

Open mic after midnight, Churchill's Pub, 5501 NE 2nd Ave., Miami.

Thursdays

Open mic, [Elks Club](#), 6304 SW 78th St., South Miami. Phone Frost Walker, 305-669-4488 or e-mail jfrosty@bellsouth.net.

[Open mic](#), D.P.'s, 200 N. Hollywood Broadwalk, 954-922-7993, Hollywood.

Fridays

[Bluegrass jam](#), ElksClub, 87190 Davie Road Extension, Hollywood. Call 954 374-2464.

Saturdays

[Bluegrass jam](#), 3 p.m., Lake Forest fire station, SW 39th Street and 41st Avenue, Hollywood.

Open mic for spoken word and acoustic music, 6 p.m. Glenn Allen, the Space Hippie, presides at [The Little Bakery](#), 2033 Harrison St., Hollywood.

Open mic (except Sept. 5 and 25), [Luna Star Café](#), 775 NE 125th St., North Miami. Call 305-799-7123 or write lunastarcafe@aol.com

To add, change, or remove a listing, write to Tony Thomas at writerrad@aol.com before Sept. 18.

Help keep our listings improving

In a quiet but important contribution to the Folk Club, Tony Thomas, and before him Danny Aaronson, patiently assembled the calendar that you read each month in Folk Notes. Danny extended the reach of the calendar and Tony began rounding up photos to accompany the listings. Now Tony and I need the help of another contributor. If you are willing – and comfortable with a computer – please talk to one of us about it. Tony is writerrad@aol.com and I am jdh-miami@att.net.

–John Hopkins

FOLK CLUB OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Purpose: To foster and promote traditional, contemporary and multicultural folk music and other folk arts in South Florida by supporting and encouraging local talent and showcasing local and national folk performers. To increase public understanding of the rich variety, artistic value, cultural and historical significance, and continuing relevance of folk music. The club is a non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status and a member of The North American Folk Music and Dance Alliance. We proudly support Friends of Florida Folk and Miami radio station WLRN.

President and director **Barry J. White**, 305-251-1960, bwtamia@bellsouth.net
Vice-President and director **Valerie Caracappa**, 305-891-3528
Secretary and director **Karen Goldstein**, kargol47@yahoo.com
Treasurer and director **Jane Matthews**, mommamatt@aol.com
Director Carol Foster, Mangomum2@aol.com
Director Tony Thomas, writerrad@aol.com
Director Bob Ingram, ringram42@bellsouth.net
Director Charlie Rathburn, CRatMiami@aol.com
Director Michael Stock, 305-995-2264 or mstock@wlrn.org
Members-At-Large: Nellie Lee, Win Lippert, Grant Livingston, Linda Singer, Andrew Susman and Frost Walker

Newsletter: John Hopkins, 786-242-0766 or jdj-miami@att.net

Barker House Concert Series: www.floridamusic.org
Broward Folk Club: www.browardfolkclub.com
Local folk music resources: www.gotfolk.com
North American Folk Music and Dance Alliance: www.folk.org
South Florida Folk Festival: www.southfloridafolkfest.com
Palm Beach Folk Club: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pbfcchat>

WEBSITE LINKS

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE FILL OUT MEMBERSHIP INFO AND
MAIL YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CHECK
made out to:

FOLK CLUB OF SOUTH FLORIDA
10001 SW 129 Terrace
Miami, FL 33176

Annual membership entitles you to a special rate on concerts, a monthly newsletter and admission to our annual party featuring complimentary food and music. Please choose the membership that is best suited for you and your family:

**Individual \$20 – Family \$25 –
Supporting \$35 – Sustaining \$75 –
Sponsor \$125 – Benefactor \$250 –
Pete Seeger Endowment Fund, above \$250**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

THE FOLK CLUB OF SOUTH FLORIDA
10001 SW 129th Terr.
Miami, FL 33176

First Class Mail
Address Correction Requested

DON'T MISS:

- **COFFEE HOUSE GYPSIES** at the Luna Star Café, 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 5
- **SONG SWAP** in Coral Gables, 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13, phone 305-975-7521
- **OPEN MIC**, Elk's Lodge, South Miami, 8 p.m. Thursdays, phone 305-666-2495
- **FOLK & ACOUSTIC MUSIC** with MICHAEL STOCK, Sundays 2-5 PM, WLRN 91.3 MHz