

Bluegrass By The Bay Online Band News – January 2006

by Deirdre Donovan

Music Makes The World Go ‘Round: In the last days of 2005, it was good to look back and remember all the ways that music has brightened our lives in the past year...and in the first days of 2006, it’s good to look ahead at what’s coming up on the bluegrass and acoustic music scene in the SF Bay Area for the next few months...got your calendars ready?

Music for the Electronic Masses: Since you’re reading the online version of this column, you’ll be happy to know that you will not only get bluegrass news for the upcoming month, but also for the last days of the previous month...that means all the last minute info that folks sent us after the deadline, because they found out, er, at the last minute. This time around, those dates include New Year’s Eve...ain’t that grand? So, for the biggest party day and night of the year, that even falls on a Saturday this year, you can find bluegrass music all around San Francisco to the East, West, North and South!

Let’s see – in the East Bay on New Year’s Eve, you can mark tradition at the Freight and Salvage with High Country, Dix Bruce



and Jim Nunally, or you can go, er, a really long cool way beyond tradition with Extended Roots, an all

female 13 piece Celtic, Bluegrass and Roots band at McGrath's Irish Pub, 1539 Lincoln Avenue, 510-522-6263, at the corner of Lincoln and

Stanton...and best of all, there’s no cover charge, BUT there will be pot luck and free champagne – although you have to wait until midnight for that...you can also say a big hello to Peter Barnato, the proprietor, and wonderful supporter of all things musical, especially bluegrass – check out his calendar at

<http://www.mcgrathspub.com/html/calendar.html>

Up in the North on the 31st at hosts local at the Iron Springs



Bay, yours truly will be whiling away the afternoon David Thom’s Pickin’ Parlor. Every Saturday, David bluegrass and old time musicians jamming with him Brewery, 765A Center Boulevard in beautiful



downtown Fairfax, CA 94930 (415) 485-1005, and New Year’s Eve is no exception. I’ll be picking with David, my good pal, Gary Bauman (guitar player for The Sons Of Emperor Norton and the Jeb Brady Band) and some very special guests. A week earlier, on Christmas Eve, Saturday the 24th,

David hosts a Christmas sing-along with Bill Houston. The Pickin’ Parlor series and other David Thom band information can be found at

<http://thedtb.com>.



For more North Bay New Year's Eve happenings, you can check out Larry Carlin's Carlton's Corner online newsletter for all kinds of happenings, bluegrass and other, at <http://www.carlton.com/carltonscorner.I.html> - And, by the way, it's happening a while after New Year's Eve, but keep an eye on his column for news of the upcoming winter 2006 *North Bay Bluegrass Festival*

In my home town, San Francisco, I'll be listening to Belle Monroe & Her Brewglass Boys on New Year's Eve, picking bluegrass along and headliners Red Meat, playing honky-tonk country Nord, 2170 Market Street, San Francisco(415) 861- at 8pm, all the work of Shelby Ash Presents.. Hey, you - Bluegrass + Country Music + Champagne = Hoedown Spectacular!" Daisy Mae says, "Don't miss it!" You can learn more about these local artists at <http://www.RedMeat.net> , <http://www.EarlBrothers.com> , and <http://www.BrewglassBoys.com>



with The Earl Brothers, music at the Cafe Du 5016. The doors open here's an equation for "Super Hillbilly

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Be All That You Can Be: While you're dealing with the winter rains, you can see the major motion picture Walk The Line, the new movie about the life of Johnny Cash...my favorite scene in the whole film is in Sam Phillips' studio in Nashville...but you have to go see the movie to find out what Sam tells him...I'll just say it's good advice for any musician.

Doing Well By Doing Good: Patty Garber is still training for her marathon with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society...that little dog of hers that she takes with her on those training trips is becoming positively svelte! For all the info, check Patty's web presence at <http://www.active.com/donate/tntsvmb/tntsvmbPGarber>.

SF Bay Area Bluegrass Bands & Venues: Get a good start on bluegrass in 2006 with Belle Monroe and Her Brewglass Boys at The Atlas Café's Thursday Bluegrass Series, on January 12th, from 8PM - 10PM. The Atlas is located at 3049 20th Street, in San Francisco's Potrero District, 415 648-1047. Also at the Atlas, the fourth Thursday acoustic jam session will happen in January on Thursday the 26th, from 8PM-10PM...fun for all to sing, play or just listen... Well, in January, you can look forward to a whole variety of events, including the Mike Stadler and Mary Gibbons band on Saturday, January 7th, 8:00 - 11:00 PM at McGrath's Pub, Alameda. This is a full band with Mary Gibbons on vocals and guitar (of Laurie Lewis and Her Bluegrass Pals, All Girl Boys and The Fog City Ramblers), Jon Mitgard (of Rose Maddox, David Nelson)on pedal steel and dobro, and Paul Knight (of Peter Rowan, Laurie Lewis, Perfect Strangers,

Due West, David Thom, and Earl E. Graves) on bass.

http://www.angelfire.com/folk/stadler/stadler_gibbons-band_bio.html McGrath's is the East Bay's most acoustically oriented pub with a dedicated listening crowd. But no food, so arrive fed.

Other Acoustic Music The following week on Saturday, January 14th, from 7:00-10:30 PM, Richard Rice presents the SF Folk Music Club Hootenanny, at Café International, Haight & Fillmore, S.F., with Richard Brandenburg (Cash Magnets), Jeanie & Chuck Poling (Country Roundup), Denise Funari (Yard Sale) and Mike Stadler (solo) The San Francisco Folk Music Club has sponsored this monthly event for several years now. This evening should be pretty country oriented. And this is one venue where you needn't arrive pre-fed...in February, of course the San Francisco Bluegrass and Old Time Festival...in March, the Brookdale Lodge will ring with the sound of banjos, mandolins, and other instruments of acoustic derivation...in April, along with the cherry blossoms, the Santa Cruz Bluegrass Faire will fill the air with sweet, sweet, music...well, you get the idea...just keep your eye on the pages of Bluegrass By The Bay as the weather changes.....My favorite shows in January at the Freight and Salvage are the Secret Life of Banjos with Jody Stecher and Bill Evans on January 14 and Eliza Gilkyson, folk music for the 21st century, on January 25th. And, for other bands, gigs, and venues, find out more at the NCBS web site, <http://www.scbs.org/calendrix>. That certainly isn't all for 2006...but you'll just have to read next month's column to find out!!!

Send your bluegrass and other forms of acoustic music news to bbb@deirdre-cassandra.com.

Keep the wire's hummin'! We'll see you 'round campus.