



# A Different Strummer

## CFMS 20th Anniversary – November Coffeehouse with A Different Twist

Please read the article to find out what is going to be slightly different this year at the November Coffeehouse.

**Make a special effort to come out to the November coffeehouse on Saturday, November 30. We're celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the CFMS!\***

Our Open Stage session will have a special emphasis by featuring some local young people who love the world of folk music (after all – someone's got to take over one of these days)!

Don't worry: there are still some open mic spots open for our members (please sign up at the event). But, on the occasion of our 20th, let's give the younger generation a special chance to show us how much they love the music we do.

**However, you need not leave your musical instruments at home! Following the Open Stage (scheduled from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.) we will have an all inclusive jam (approx. 8:30 - 10:00 p.m.) and it will also be a time for socializing, celebrating with a "20th Anniversary cake", and reliving memories by looking over various memorabilia, including photos, on a back table.** Surely this will bring back many memories to some and to others, be an occasion to be immersed in the history of the CFMS.

Oh, and there will also be our traditional November bake sale and our 2014 CFMS Calendar will be available.

Let's have a wonderful celebration together and warmly welcome (we always do) our newly visiting guests!

**\*Note:** Technically speaking, the CFMS is a couple of years older than 20. However, our Articles of Incorporation have a 1993 date, so we're using that date from which to base the "20 Years." Besides, this is 2013, and we didn't celebrate back in 2011!

### What do some of our young November Open Stage performers have to say about their music?

Josh Wydick says, "I have been drawn to music since I was young . . . . I started in the old-time music earlier this year when I joined Canned Goods. I had played folk for years; I love the sound of acoustic guitar and vocals. Upright Bass has



<b>WHAT'S INSIDE:</b>	
HISTORICAL RECOLLECTIONS - THE CFMS AND ITS BEGINNINGS	PG. 3
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	PG. 5
FOLK MUSIC MAKES NEW FRIENDS FOR CFMS	PG. 6
THOUSANDS HEAR CFMS MAKE MUSIC	PG. 7

## FRED BAILEY – CFMS HISTORY REMEMBERED

*Interview by Bill Cohen*



Bill Cohen interviews one of CFMS' founding members - Fred Bailey. A delightful read, and it will give you a good glimpse of CFMS' start-up.

**Bill Cohen:** How did the idea of forming a Columbus Folk Music Society get started in the first place?

**Fred Bailey:** In July, 1991 Nancy and I got married and moved to Columbus. Pretty quickly I found WCBE on the radio and heard music host Bill Munger announce an organizational meeting of a folk music club at a bar down on High Street called Staches. So that's my first inkling of a folk club, but my memory is fallible -- and not altogether favorable. A few folkies were swarming around the bar, Bill Munger didn't show, Joe Prater sang Southern Star and told me about James Keelaghan. Somebody called Adam seemed to be in charge and assured me that the dues certainly were deductible from my taxes since "we don't have a source of funds and are totally dependent on donations". (The IRS knows this fallacy as the "my brother-in-law is a Charitable Organization" heresy.) Driving home, I assured Nancy that this was a bunch of loose nuts in desperate need of either a wrench or a squirrel, and she

*See CFMS Early History - page 2*

*From CFMS Early History - page 1*

assured me that she would never again enter the Ladies Restroom at Staches.

**Bill:** What happened after that very first organization meeting?

**Fred:** Shortly after that meeting, we were contacted by Erik Fralick and his wife, Nikki Bado, who assured us that a coup de reorganization was about to occur. I agreed to try to get the treasury into some kind of order so Nancy and I attended a few meetings at their home and at WCBE. Erik became President and introduced me to Betty Simmeral who held the checkbook and the official shoebox of receipts and odd papers. I started setting up records for the State charter and for the IRS. Names that I recall are Victoria Parks and Larry Drake, but there must have been 8 or 10 regulars. Meetings were pretty affable except for some nasty push-back when Bill Munger left WCBE.

**Bill:** At the very start, how did you original organizers communicate with each other and how did you spread the word to others? After all, you didn't have Face book. E-mail wasn't widespread. Fewer people even had basic home computers.

**Fred:** I remember working through phone trees – Nancy and a few others did have E-mail. It really seems to me that intercommunications were subject to about the same level of confusions and dropped messages as today, but the postage was cheaper.

**Bill:** What did these first organizers hope to accomplish? Did they envision a monthly coffeehouse, weekly jams, a yearly festival, and more ?

**Fred:** Small jams were joined with meetings. Our organized efforts were toward bringing in touring acts (Steve Gillette, Dave Crossland, Utah Phillips, et. al.) for local venues such as Dels Tapas Bar, Staches, and the Firehouse. All too often, we lost money. A few regular open stages were emceed by our members. I ran an open stage for awhile at Dels, so I must accept blame for uncovering the Schombergs with

their Pit Bull String Band. There was often talk about finding a venue for a regular coffeehouse, and several of us were doing guest sets at local bars and coffeehouses (e.g. Milos, where Nancy and I would often participate with her poetry and my songs). Then suddenly, the UU Church dropped their stumbling monthly coffeehouse into our laps. Erik and Nikki handled it so I don't remember how or why. And that was The Other Side, which really got us off the ground.

**Bill:** During the first year or 2 of the CFMS, what activities did it sponsor ?

**Fred:** With the monthly Other Side as a catalytic base for operations, we could

“We [CFMS] are recording and preserving folk culture for injection into the stream of our social history. There's nothing the organization can do for future generations that's more important.”

Fred Bailey

pull off occasional bigger concerts on the UU main stage and concurrently develop the kind of human resources and financial authority that enabled us to tackle the next windfall. The Columbus Dulcimer Club was winding down and made an offer to the Stage Manager of their annual festival (Nancy) to combine it with CFMS. All they asked was a bookkeeper and a solemn promise that we'd continue to support dulcimer music. That became the COFF, the jewel of the crown, and got us such members as Jerry Rockwell, Keith Irish, Sandi Vitek and more good people than I'll ever remember.

**Bill:** What are some of the most notable differences between the CFMS at age 1 year, compared with today's CFMS at age 20 ?

**Fred:** I'm not one to claim that our individual members are better today, but there are sure as hell more of them and it's the people power that keeps us moving. When our working memberships go up, it allows expansion of all our activities. At the same time,

it amounts to a higher prospect from which we can keep a weather eye out for the next opportunity. It is out there somewhere.

**Bill:** What is your most vivid memory about an early CFMS event?

**Fred:** Maybe not so early, but count me with the many of us who felt that we had finally arrived when we brought Jean Ritchie in for a sell-out 1999 COFF concert at the UU Church. It was a lot of hard work and sweat that began with Nancy winning our first financial grant. It turned into a full house and a fat profit for distribution to the local musicians as well as praise from Jean herself for our professional production. And we all went home humming sweet Kentucky melodies.

**Bill:** Looking back, after 20 years, what's your assessment of how well the CFMS has accomplished its original goals?

**Fred:** We are recording and preserving folk culture for injection into the stream of our social history. There's nothing the organization can do for future generations that's more important. At least twice in our short history, we've been standing there ready to take up the slack when other organizations faltered, and we accomplished explosive growth by both of those windfalls. Sometimes it got rough, but we grew and we endured. It is especially satisfying to me that we're able to operate the Festival on a sound financial basis as a “musician's Co-op”. I've often asked the traveling artists passing through if they knew of any other folk community that was able to do that; and, so far, none have been named. Guess what gang -- we just might be a unique organization in that we feed support back to the local musicians in the form of hard cash -- to the best of our ability and for the best of their ability. CFMS means that the Central Ohio base of grass-roots folk artists, the unwashed amateurs, get a little water each spring – that they might also endure through succeeding generations. In the long run, that's all that counts.

/ / /

From Nov. Coffeehouse - page 1

been my main instrument for about 8 years.”

When playing music, Josh mostly enjoys the social aspect. “I’m in a band that gigs out once or twice a month. We usually play at cafes or in a similar setting and talking with the audience members, along with horsing around with my band mates, is the most fun a senior in high-school could ask for. I’ve found that the people I’ve met who play the more old-time traditional music are incredibly welcoming.”

Pertaining to music, Josh says “jamming is by far my favorite pastime. Jamming has helped develop my ear and improvisation skills along with providing connections to other musicians whom have showed me all sorts of tricks – along with giving pointers on different instruments.”

Viktor Lillard says, “when it comes to older music – I became a big fan of swing music when I took up swing dancing this summer. . . in a group I find it [folk music] pretty easy to pick up and jam to and that makes it quite fun. . . I [also] love the moments when I’m writing music and I’m not even thinking about it. It’s a great feeling when ideas just flow through me without having to break them down or figure them out.”

Somer relays “my favorite thing to do is to write songs because it helps clear my mind and release my emotions that otherwise would remain bottled up. . . I play only what I can connect with; this is because without connection, a song is just words but with connection it is a story.”

**How can I find out more about the Columbus Folk Music Society and/or it’s events?** Visit our website at:

[www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](http://www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org). Or you can join us as a member. Benefits include: Camaraderie with the folkies in town, discounts on certain admissions, this monthly newsletter and the comfort of knowing that all events are family friendly!

## HISTORICAL RECOLLECTIONS – THE CFMS AND ITS BEGINNINGS *Article by D. Boston*

There are CFMS members who date back to the founding years and some have offered to share with us some of their memories. (See also “Fred Bailey – CFMS History Remembered” on page 1). The goal of this article is to present a piece that would bring back fond memories for many, be a quasi-documentation of CFMS’ early history and be a reminder to all of the many, many hours of service given to the CFMS over the years by so many people. Also, it is hoped this article will be an incentive to preserve and continue all the good work that has been begun – for the preservation of folk music (and other folk arts) and the community it results in. This article is just a beginning. We cannot hope to capture all that has gone on over the years, but we can offer some of the highlights that have been shared by some of our members. We hope you enjoy the article.



### The Beginnings

Long time member, *Marji Hazen*, recalls that “the organizational meeting of the actual folk music society as such was held at WCBE radio” probably around 1989 or 1990. She also recalls that around the same time there had been a meeting between the Columbus Parks & Recreation and Nancy Bailey, Eric Fralick, Marji Hazen and some others, as well as a woman from Columbus Parks & Recreation who was the leader of the Marion Square Dulcimers and Singers. Marji states, “I requested that the Columbus Parks & Recreation funding be diverted to the CFMS [a folk club/group at the time] because it would be a more inclusive organization than a dulcimer group would be. . . I was the one Columbus Parks & Recreation first approached with their all-city dulcimer event idea. Columbus Parks & Recreation offered to fund mountain dulcimer activities to be

open to anyone in the city. . . We were told that to receive Parks & Recreation funding we would need to be a 501(c)3. I do remember most clearly that the Baileys were the ones who did all the paperwork for CFMS to become a 501(c)3.” [The CFMS was indeed awarded with a not-for-profit 501(c)3 status in 1993].

Marji, who hosted a regular radio program on WCBE, explains “besides my program – *Marji’s Ballad Book*, there were a number of other programs put together by volunteers featuring whatever music was their passion: German, Slavic, Scottish, English, Gypsy, Mexican, several different eras of American music, etc. . . all fun to listen to and, I thought, great treats because they were broadcast by individuals who really loved and had made themselves expert in their particular areas.

“A lot of those programs were live performances, or a mix of recordings from private collections and live performances with explanations about the instruments and traditions, presented in a way that invited the listeners to participate in some way, either by learning to make that music for themselves or appreciate it on a personal level rather than as something they could only relate to as ‘hands-in-lap’ audience. My program was all live homemade music: songwriters, musicians whose instrumental styles were easily accessible to the ordinary player. . . WCBE was a wonderful smorgasbord of folk and traditional musics and had a huge following, especially considering that WCBE was a pretty low-wattage station that could hardly be heard beyond I-270, the outer belt.”

*Fred Bailey* recalls that one day in the latter half of 1991, WCBE radio host Bill Munger announced over the airwaves an organizational meeting of a folk music club “at a bar down on High Street called Staches.” Erik Fralick

*See CFMS History - page 4*

*CFMS History – from page 3*

became President shortly after and Fred became involved in getting the finances in order as well as setting up records for the State charter.

Marji recounts that some of those at CFMS's early meetings were “Victoria Parks, Fred Bailey, Eric Fralick, Andy Beyer, Bill Cohen, Steve Smith, Harold Kohn, Dave Gordon & other staffers from WCBE, and a number of other people I didn't know at the time. The room was crowded.”

Fred remembers that small jams were joined with the meetings. Activities involved getting touring [folk] acts for local venues (Dels Tapas Bar, Staches and The Firehouse).



Fred also ran an open stage. “There was often talk about finding a venue for a regular coffeehouse.”

Marji tells that this is about the time the WCBE folks and CFMS went their separate ways. She relates “PBS stations can lose their licenses if it even seems like they might be using their airtime for profit, even if the profit is not their own. So the WCBE board, to protect its vulnerable little radio station from federal censure, divested itself of its association with CFMS, cancelled the volunteer and even their own station-produced folk music shows because they couldn't or wouldn't stop mentioning where folkies could buy tickets, tee shirts, and tapes and went back to a classical/educational format which didn't offend anybody.”

She adds, “That last. . . meeting with 'CBE executives [circa. early 1990s] only spurred CFMS to more creative ways to enjoy its passion, inclusive of both the folk music revival repertoire and traditional music wherever it became available, and resulted in the vital, active community CFMS still appears to be. . . So I'm up here in Ashland giggling delightedly to myself at what a few of us caused back in the day and am so pleased at what the CFMS has accomplished in the last nearly [25] years.”

**Khryso LeFey** first found out about the CFMS in 1992 from Marji Hazen. He

recounts, “at the time, the best ways to get involved in CFMS were to attend the Society's major events: monthly general meetings; open mics at The Dell downtown and Stache's, which was, at the time, in the North Campus area close to Clintonville; Board meetings; concerts; and The Other Side Coffeehouse, which was sponsored by First Unitarian Universalist Church in Beechwood.”

**The Coffeehouse**

**Chuck Lynd** recalls that “the original Other Side Coffeehouse was founded at the 1st UU church by poet Jennifer Bosveld and musician (the assistant minister at the time) Don Rollins. That would have been in the mid 1980s. Around 1987-88 there was a hiatus and the coffeehouse was closed for a few months. I picked it up at that time and managed the coffeehouse for 3-4 years until CFMS took over the bookings and management. That was in 1991.”

Shortly after our formation in 1991, the CFMS was invited to take over booking and management for the Coffeehouse. Marji Hazen recalls the early years of CFMS running of the Other Side Coffeehouse (she subsequently moved to Grandview in 1992-93 and didn't attend many of them after that). She states,



“mostly I remember that the UUs were very generous about letting us use their facilities; that actual ways

of doing things didn't change much from when Jennifer Bosveld had been the manager of what they called ‘The Other Side Coffeehouse’ with Don Rollins as MC. The UU crew laid down their jobs and our folks picked up the responsibilities pretty seamlessly, mostly due to the already established nature of the venue and Nancy Bailey's ability to get folks to actually carry through with helping out.

“It was a LOT more work than anyone had realized, but it got done – usually with enough help. The hardest part was always getting people to stay to help with cleanup and putting away the candles and red-checked tablecloths, and the tables and

*See CFMS History - page 5*

**COMMENTS FROM SOME OF OUR CFMS MEMBERS:**

“Since prehistoric times music has been an essential form of communication among humans, a spiritually and emotionally charged mathematical language that belongs to all of us, and perhaps other creatures as well. The Columbus Folk Music Society facilitates music through affiliations and friendships at coffee houses, jams, concerts, solo endeavors and education. Inasmuch as music belongs to everyone, and everyone is welcome to participate in CFMS, its 20th anniversary is big cause for celebration!”

Wendy Jorgensen

“Having moved back to my boyhood home in Worthington, finding CFMS has been a highlight of my year. What a joy to be making good music with newfound friends at the Farmers Market, and here and there around Central Ohio, with such warm and talented people. Thank you all! Love and peace and *do re mi. . .*”

Hal Pepinsky

“I have always been proud of my membership in the Columbus Folk Music Society. I initially came for the music, and became a member in about 1993. There were years when I only attended one or two events, but I was greeted warmly and made to feel welcome. I stayed with the group, because of this wonderful feeling of belonging and acceptance. The members are like ‘family.’ Oh, and nobody cares if I sometimes sing out of tune.”

Steve Hopkins

*CFMS History – from page 4*

chairs. The audience, of course, was already established. Many people had been in the audience and/or offering their latest musical or poetical creations on a regular basis for years and continued to do so after the transition. [One of the]. . . biggest problems, as I remember it, was. . . the sound system. For a long while individual members volunteered their personal sound equipment, audio and stage skills. There were discussions at board meetings about purchasing sound equipment, but nothing was actually done about it while I was around. The last CFMS event I attended was held in a banquet room at Ruby Tuesday's. . . maybe 1995. CFMS was still borrowing sound equipment.

“Some local pros, at times when they did not already have paying gigs elsewhere, often joined the regulars at

the already thriving UU coffeehouse. By then I had become acquainted with many other folk musicians through the coffeehouse, by attending other Columbus venues, and through some of the more well-known performers of that time generously offering to be guests on my radio show. It was a simple matter to give those people information about CFMS and try to lure them into our [CFMS] network.”

**Sandi Vitek** recalls “shortly after CFMS took over management of the coffeehouse, I was at my first coffeehouse as a patron and there wasn’t a sound person. Either Khryss or I volunteered that I had done radio work in college and could run a sound board. Next thing I knew, I became the regular sound person for the coffeehouse, a task I continued until Dave Silver took over.”

Khryss remembers, “At first it was more about gathering just to hear and

play music than about big volunteer projects. Among the highlights of my early years were the music parties that the Bailey's would host, typically after Coffeeshouses. They'd go so long that I couldn't stay awake any longer, but I couldn't bear to leave. I'd lie down on the floor surrounded by the music and take a nap. . . . Then I'd wake up ready for more and everybody else would be ready to go home. Those gatherings were the essence, to me, of life as a CFMS member.”

#### **Board Meetings and such. . .**

**Cathy Sheets** tells “I was there in the beginning. My then husband and I took over membership in the Spring of 1991 and I remained Membership Chair until June of 2012.” She continues “I joined up way before [the] incorporation. It was quite disorganized in the beginning. Meetings lasted h-o-u-r-s in Eric and

*See CFMS History - page 6*

## SAVE THE DATE . . .

 The **Saturday Music Jam** at the **Worthington Farmers' Market** is relocating to The Shops at Worthington for the winter months. **9:30 - 11:30 a.m.** All are welcome to come play. Every Saturday at the Winter Market. You might want to bring a chair.

 **Saturday, November 30 – FolkSide Coffeehouse (Special Schedule)**  
**7:00 - 8:30 p.m.** Open Stage  
**8:30 - 10 p.m. Open Jam.** *Columbus Mennonite Church, 35 Oakland Park Avenue (just East of High St. & one*

block North of E.N. Broadway), Cols, OH. \$7.00 donation; CFMS members \$5.00; students \$5.00; under 12 free.

**CFMS Announcements: Please consider contributing some baked goods for the bake sale at the Nov. Coffeehouse. Also CFMS memorabilia items needed for our display (they will be returned)!**

## FOLLOWING OUR OWN. . .

**Friday, Nov. 1: Whinestopper – Tara Hall,** 274 East Inns Ave. South side of Columbus, at the corner of 8th Street in the heart of Hungarian Village. **8-11 pm.** [http://www.patrickpearse.com/tara\\_hall/](http://www.patrickpearse.com/tara_hall/) There will be a wine check at the door. No cover!

**Saturday, Nov. 2: The Folk Ramblers** (Bill Cohen & Carl Yaffey) - at *The Columbus Winter's Farmer's Market,* Charity Newsies Building, 4300

Indianola. **10 a.m. - Noon.** <http://columbuswinterfarmersmarket.com>

**Sunday, Nov. 10: Joanie Calem -- Intergenerational Sing Along** at the Senior Residence, 120 Morse Rd., behind church. If you love singing & dancing & building community come out & join us. **2nd Sun. of every month. 4 - 5 p.m.**

**Friday, Nov. 15: “Spirit of the 1960’s Coffeehouse” with Bill Cohen – King Avenue Methodist Church, 299 W. King**

at Neil. **7:30 p.m. in the church basement.** Proceeds from the suggested \$10 donation (at the door) will go to the Mid-Ohio Food Bank. Refreshments available (no extra charge). Get there early for a good seat.

**Saturday, Nov. 16: Storytellers Of Central Ohio – “Tellabration 2013 For Grownups,”** Ohio History Center Auditorium, I-71 & 17th Ave., Cols. **7:30 p.m.** Doors will open at 7:00 p.m. <http://www.socotales.org>

*CFMS History – from page 5*

Nikki's living room. But slowly the dots got connected and things began to happen. Incorporation mandated a certain amount of structure."

Sandi continues "I do remember saying at the time I was elected treasurer that it was on the condition that I could submit written reports and not have to attend board meetings, a task I ranked in the same class as getting a root canal. Needless to say, not attending meetings didn't happen, but fortunately the meetings turned out not to be as long as those early meetings at Eric and Nikki's."

Khryso LeFey relates "During my tenure as an Executive on the Board, [1993-95] I was fairly obsessive about documentation with an eye toward future growth. . . . I continually lectured on the idea of running the small Society as though it were as large as we could ever hope, with infrastructure that would support a larger, more robust membership. . . . The achievements of which I am most proud during my



CFMS Presidency were that during my tenure, membership topped 100 and the bank account reached record balances [for that time]. During

those years in the Board's life, we decided to focus less on hosting concerts outside of the Other Side Coffehouse, and so we were able to bank our financial resources better. No longer did concert promoter Nikki Bado have to lament to the Board that we had 'taken a bath' because of high gate-guarantees and low attendance. The four Central Ohio Dulcimer Festivals and the ensuing Central Ohio Folk Festivals became our major venues for concerts outside of the monthly coffehouses."

### **The seeds of the Central Ohio Folk Festival**

Fred says that "With the monthly Other Side [Coffehouse] as a catalytic base for operations, we could pull off occasional bigger concerts on the UU main stage and concurrently develop the kind of human resources and financial authority that enabled us to tackle the

next windfall. The Columbus Dulcimer Club was winding down and made an offer to Nancy, the Stage Manager of their annual [Central Ohio Dulcimer] Festival, to combine it with CFMS. All they asked was a bookkeeper and a solemn promise that we'd continue to support dulcimer music. That became the Central Ohio Folk Festival, the jewel of the crown. . . ."

And so the Columbus Folk Music Society began hosting an annual festival. These occurred at various locations. Beginning in 1997, a one day event was held at the Immaculate Conception Church in Clintonville and from 1998 - 2002, the event was held at the 1st Unitarian Universalist Church. In 2003, the venue was moved to a larger location, the grounds of the Ohio Historical Society. However, due to various circumstances the CFMS was looking for a new venue for its festival.

The late Jan Staats, a long time volunteer at the Metro Parks, approached Tim Taylor at Battelle-Darby Creek Metro Park and inquired about the possibility of utilizing the outdoor space at the park. It was in 2004, that the Central Ohio Folk Festival began to be held at Battelle-Darby park and it has been held there ever since.

**Art and Sharon Mittenbergs** share that "In 1997. . . Nancy and Fred Bailey started the Central Ohio Folk Festival. Naturally we volunteered and have been a part of it since. We started out doing set up and helping at the store. The following year we were assigned for the first shift at the registration table which was an experience never to be forgotten.

"Being the first shift people was exciting since the participants were lined up outside the door until 8:30 AM when Fred unlocked the door." After the very first year, the festival was held at the 1st UU church. "Classes [workshops] began at 9:00 AM, so everyone wanted to get registered and find the classroom they needed. What a RUSH! Greeting our featured performers like Jean Ritchie, Maddie MacNeil, Jerry Rockwell, and so many others was a thrill, to say the least, to newcomers like us."

Art (current CFMS President) and Sharon share how they first became

*See CFMS History - page 7*

## **FOLK MUSIC MAKES NEW FRIENDS FOR CFMS**

*By Bill Cohen*

When the CFMS agreed to once again provide an informal musical jam for the annual Darby Days celebration at the Battelle-Darby Metro Park October 13, we did it with 3 goals in mind: having fun ourselves, entertaining others, and spreading the word about the CFMS.

We accomplished all 3.

A half dozen CFMS members strummed, sang, and listened, so that was fun. Also, during the nearly 3 hour jam, dozens of adults and children wandered by, and many sat down to join us, sing along, and beat on Tom Nagel's percussion and drum rack. Perhaps most fun of all was the fact that a few folks we'd never met brought their own instruments and took center stage along with us. (See photo).



We passed out CFMS brochures and encouraged everyone who got involved to join us at one of our monthly coffehouses or weekly jams. Hopefully, we'll meet our new friends again sometime.

Art Mittenbergs adds that we got compliments from Tim Taylor, and all the staff of Battelle-Darby.

*CFMS History – from page 6*

involved with the CFMS. “We started attending the coffeehouse when we wanted to hear a dulcimer concert by Steven K. Smith. We came back the next month because we had met several people and were impressed by how friendly everyone was. As we continued to attend simply to enjoy the music, we decided one time to help clean up afterwards. That did it! As the Mustards Retreat song ‘Let’s Hear it for the Volunteers’ says – we were hooked when we started stacking chairs. (It wasn’t until much later that we met Mustards Retreat and heard the song). We started managing the stage and coffeehouse in 1999, which we continued to do for 8 years, never thinking we would still be involved to the extent we are after all these years.” Art and Sharon also serve as the Central Ohio Folk Festival Co-Directors.

In November of 2006, CFMS President John Locke announced that the Columbus Folk Music Society’s Board had decided to change the venue of its monthly Coffeehouse permanently from First Unitarian Universalist Church to Areopagitica Books.

Doug and Rebecca Rutledge invited CFMS to avail itself of the space at the Areopagitica Bookstore for its meetings, equipment, and events, which it did from 2006-2010. The article went on to say, “because the name ‘The Other Side Coffeehouse’ was Jennifer Bosveld’s invention as a program of the Church, where she remains active, the name will

stay with the Church. For now the CFMS Coffeehouse will simply be called ‘the CFMS Coffeehouse.’” Since that time, the CFMS Coffeehouse has formally adopted the name ‘The Folkside Coffeehouse.’

When the Areopagitica Bookstore had to close its doors in 2010, it was with great sadness. It was at this time that the Folkside Coffeehouse moved to its present location at the Columbus Mennonite Church on Oakland Park Avenue where it continues to thrive.

The Central Ohio Folk Festival continues to be a source of learning, enjoyment and lively participation for many in Central Ohio. Jams for the public draw new folks who have an appreciation for the music they hear. Other community outreach activities of the CFMS continue to be a part of its repertoire.

Over the years, CFMS has weathered some storms. At one point there was talk of disbanding the organization. There have also been those who have stepped up to the plate when needed and invested much time and talent to keep things moving. In other words, there have been a lot of heroes in the history of the CFMS who have loved the organization and seen its value in our modern world. As folk journalist Scott Alarik, says, in the “smaller, surer back roads. . . this real-life, human-sized music has always thrived, where it continues to plant the deep roots of community—and to sing the songs of that community.”

## THOUSANDS HEAR CFMS MAKE MUSIC

*By Bill Cohen*



*Photo by Randi Cohen*

The Columbus Folk Music Society got big positive publicity October 20<sup>th</sup>, as many of 18,000 runners in the Columbus Marathon passed by the CFMS stage and heard several of our members strum, pick, and sing.

Temperatures in the 40’s numbed the performers hands but they played and sang their hearts out anyway, and their efforts were applauded by many of the runners who smiled, gave a “thumbs up,” and sang along as they approached the CFMS banner on Lane Avenue near OSU’s St. John Arena. Hundreds of nearby on-lookers cheered not only the runners but also the CFMS folks.

Among the performers were 4/5 of Halfway Home: Brian Szuch, Mike Hale, Patti Ramsey, and Patrick Casey. Diane Boston accompanied Halfway Home on her drum. Later, Terry Keller channeled Elvis. Greg Hankins sang Celtic tunes. And the Folk Ramblers (Carl Yaffey and Bill Cohen) did hootenanny folk songs.

### THE COLUMBUS FOLK MUSIC SOCIETY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

#### OFFICERS

**President:** Art Mittenbergs –  
[president@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](mailto:president@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org) 614-491-0437

**Vice-President:** Joe Baringhaus –  
[joebaringhaus@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](mailto:joebaringhaus@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org)

**Treasurer:** Debbie Shaw –  
[treasurer@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](mailto:treasurer@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org)

**Secretary:** Diane Boston –  
[secretary@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](mailto:secretary@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org)

#### TRUSTEES

Linda Bolles – [lindabolles@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](mailto:lindabolles@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org)

Stan & Beth Bradley –  
[elizabethbradley@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](mailto:elizabethbradley@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org)  
[stanleybradley@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](mailto:stanleybradley@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org)

Bill Cohen – [billcohen@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](mailto:billcohen@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org)

Mike Hale – [mikehale@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](mailto:mikehale@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org)

Jackie LaMuth – [jackielamuth@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](mailto:jackielamuth@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org)

Jim Luckhaupt – [jimluckhaupt@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](mailto:jimluckhaupt@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org)

Linda McDonald – [lindamcdonald@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](mailto:lindamcdonald@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org)

Sharon Mittenbergs –  
[sharonmittenbergs@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](mailto:sharonmittenbergs@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org)

Tom Nagel – [tomnagel@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](mailto:tomnagel@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org)

Cindy Ramsey – [cindyramsey@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](mailto:cindyramsey@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org)

Cathy Sheets – [cathysheets@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](mailto:cathysheets@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org)

Chris Skudder – [chrisskudder@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](mailto:chrisskudder@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org)

**Central Ohio Folk Festival directors:** Art and Sharon Mittenbergs  
[artmittenbergs@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](mailto:artmittenbergs@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org)

**Membership Chair:** Larry Drake  
[membership@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](mailto:membership@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org)

**Newsletter Editor:** Diane Boston

**The Columbus Folk Music Society**

P.O. Box 20735  
Columbus, OH 43220



**POSTNET**  
CREATE • DUPLICATE • DELIVER

---

John J. Cummings  
PRESIDENT / STORE OWNER

PHONE: 614.430.3667      oh116@postnet.com  
FAX: 614.430.3669      www.postnet.com/OH116

**We can help. PostNet.**  
Your Neighborhood Business Center.

Drug Mart Plaza (S. Old State Rd. @ Polaris Pkwy.)  
8917 South Old State Rd.  
Lewis Center, OH 43035  
www.postnet.com/OH116

**DESIGN   PRINT   COPY   SHIP**

Next Issue in December

**We're on the web!**  
[www.columbusfolkmusic.com](http://www.columbusfolkmusic.com)  
[www.columbusfolkmusic.org](http://www.columbusfolkmusic.org)

**BECOME A MEMBER OF THE COLUMBUS FOLK MUSIC SOCIETY**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I am new to this     I'm back for more

**MEMBERSHIP LEVEL** (all memberships renew on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Feel free to pro-rate if you wish):

Individual \$20                       Household \$25                       Good Friend \$50                       Sponsor \$100

Patron \$200                       Silver \$250                       Gold (lifetime)\$500

Name(s) of member(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (eve) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes! Please contact me regarding volunteer opportunities within the organization

In an effort to be both fiscally and environmentally responsible, we will send a full-color, interactive newsletter via email in pdf format unless you request a hard copy to be mailed to you.

*Please send completed form and payment to:*  
**The Columbus Folk Music Society**  
P.O. Box 20735, Columbus, OH 43220

I enjoy the annual Central Ohio Folk Festival (early May):  
Lots 5 4 3 2 1 Not (please circle one)