



Quarter Notes

Volume 23 Issue 3

Summer 2005

Plank Road's

Regular Events:

- **SING-A-ROUND** (Two Way Street Coffee House) 1st & 3rd Saturdays: June 4 & 18, July 2 * 16, August 6 & 20, September 3 & 17
- **Plank Road All Volunteer String Band** resumes in September.
- **BLUEGRASS JAM** (Paul Vander Woude's house: 708-354-3417) 4th Saturday. (June is canceled due to Heritage Festival) July 23, August 27, September 24
- **LAST THURSDAY: "It's Our Turn!"** (Two Way Street Coffee House) Last Thursdays. June 30, July 28, August 25, September 29
- Go to www.plankroad.org for full details!

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*Help us celebrate
over 23 years of
Acoustic music in
the Western Sub-
urbs!*

Heritage Festival

Downer's Grove's Heritage Festival is set to go the weekend of Saturday, June 25th with Plank Roaders' and Two Way Street Volunteers gearing up to make the Heritage Festival's Folk Music Stage the best ever. The stage opens at 10am and closes at 5pm with free admission!

The annual outdoor concerts present some of the Two Way Street's favorites on the Folk Stage in Fishel Park, just behind the coffee house. This is the 22nd year that the Two Way Street Coffee House has produced a folk stage at Downers Grove's popular Heritage Festival. In addition to the

FOLK STAGE (Saturday at Fishel Park)

Garage Folk Reunion	10:00 a.m. & 1:20 p.m. Rollicking fun and nostalgia
Tricia Alexander	10:20 a.m. & 1:40 p.m. Jazz, blues, folk, joy
The Jones Family	10:40 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. Our first family of folk
Heather Styka	11:00 a.m. & 2:20 p.m. Evocative folk/pop original
Small Potatoes	11:20 a.m. & 2:40 p.m. Smart, funny, wistful, hip
Lee Murdock	11:40 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. Songs of the Great Lakes
Yonatan's Axel	12:00 p.m. & 3:20 p.m. Original alternative folk/rock
Tom & Chris Kastle	12:20 p.m. & 3:40 p.m. Singers, sailors, songwriters
Paul Kaye	12:40 p.m. & 4:00 p.m. Deep rooted blues & ragtime
The Choirboys	1:00 p.m. & 4:20 p.m. Folk revival, Irish, doo-wop

folk stage, Heritage Festival runs Friday through Sunday, June 24-26 in downtown Downers Grove, and features six music stages, a street fair, amusement rides, car show, beer garden, more than 70 food booths, & more. (See <http://visitor.vil.downers-grove.il.us/fest/> on the web.)

Fonnmor, a Celtic band from Michigan, which Plank Road presented in a concert last year, appears on the Beer Garden Stage on Sunday June 26 at 1:00 pm.

The folk stage lineup includes two acts selected from "LAST THURSDAY: It's OUR Turn," the monthly high-school/college open mike co-sponsored by Plank Road. They are **Heather Styka** and **Yonatan's Axel**.

Plank Road volunteers will be operating the CD sales and information table at the folk stage.



A Plank Road Folk Music Society Workshop:

Jack Williams - Making Better Music Through The Creative Process

When: 6:30p.m. Sunday, July 10, 2005

Where: Downers Grove, IL

Limited to 20 attendees - \$30.00 per person

Call (630) 637-2303 or (630) 852-1799 for reservations (required) and directions

Open creative doors

Break old habits in playing, writing, accompanying, and improvising

Expand ear-training to help you play the music you 'hear in your head'

Learn how to hear and "find" what YOU want to play, instead of what

YOUR FINGERS want you to play

Discuss the relevance of music theory - devil or angel?

Explain the role of Melody and Bass in music and how they can help your playing



From The PRFMS President

Goin' Down The Old Plank Road

Summer is finally here and there's absolutely no reason for you to stay at home. We'll be taking advantage of the warm weather to take our music outside. I invite you to peruse this issue and take note of the many Plank Road activities we'll be offering.

Music by the Yard is back. These informal events provide a time to eat, drink, talk and play in a relaxed atmosphere. We are also cosponsoring an event for the first time in Lisle called Rural Heritage Festival featuring Norman and Nancy Blake and an impressive roster of fine guitarists on June 18th. We'll be back at the Heritage Festival in Downers Grove in June and returning to the Wolf Road Prairie in August. If you need some inspiration for your music you might want to attend our workshop with Jack Williams in July. The regularly scheduled Sing-a-rounds and jam will continue with their usual abandon.

We will also be preparing our fall schedule during the summer which already includes a concert with Garnet Rogers on September 18th and a cosponsored concert with Weavermania on September 10th.

We will be giving away various forms of literature at all of our events. I want to encourage you to pick up those extra newsletters and posters to give to that neighbor or friend that could use the advice of an over enthusiastic Plank Road member.

See you along the Plank Road,
-Dave Reynolds



Coming Events

⇒ **Music By The Yard**- Dates and details will be posted on the PRFMS website at: http://www.plankroad.org/music_by_the_yard_static.htm- check it often— First one is Saturday June 11th at Scot & Peggy Witt's House!!!

- ⇒ [Arts on The Prairie](#) - grab your instrument, sun block and a lawn chair and join us August 13 and 14. Music starts at 10am and ends around 4pm. The prairie is located at 31rst & Wolf Road in Westchester- take 31rst Street to Wolf, Wolf Road north to first left turn to the prairie house. All welcome to sing and enjoy the music.
- ⇒ [Garnet Rogers](#) in concert at Ballydoyle on September 18th.
- ⇒ [Weavermania](#) at the Westmont Library, September 10th.

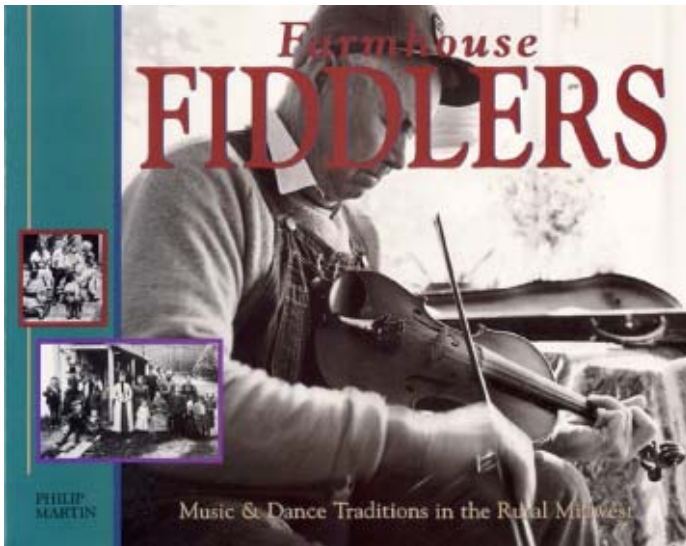
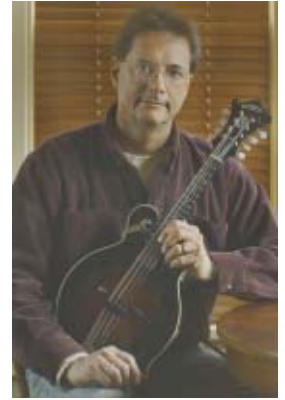
What's Playin'?

Farmhouse Fiddlers

Music and Dance Traditions in the Rural Midwest

by Philip Martin

I first saw this book at the Jones' home when I started fiddle lessons with Cathy last fall. Farmhouse Fiddlers is a sort of documentary and collection of anecdotes about how fiddling and traditional music was a vital part of our daily life in the 19th and early 20th centuries. It records the history and traditions of rural life in northern Illinois and southwest Wisconsin and how music was involved in every facet of the work and play of the farming communities before radio and the automobile changed their lives forever.



The photographs and personal stories portray fiddle playing as everything from a healing device and a right of passage to adulthood to the work of the devil himself. A man might leave his horse and plow in the field to run home and play a new tune when it popped into his head. Other folks would carefully enter the house of a deceased fiddle player, tie some twine around his fiddle's strings and then throw the whole instrument into a fire to cast off his 'evil spirits.'

Their entire social life revolved around the music. These stories are so touching, (and often humorous), that I've reread this book several times. It reminds me why I cherish Traditional American music and all that it encompasses. This book can be purchased on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) for just a few bucks, and it would make a great instructional tool for anyone interested in learning about early life and music in the Midwest.



The Plank Road Folk Music Society is a proud co-sponsor of the first Rural Heritage Festival!

Plank Road will staff a daylong jam (noon to 5pm) in the Blacksmith Shop, so bring your instruments and join us! In addition, this FREE festival features a fabulous Main Stage:

11am Chris Valillo
 Noon John Hasbrouck
 1pm John Dee Holman
 2pm Peter Lang

3:30pm Alvin Youngblood Hart
 5pm Kelly Joe Phelps

6:30pm Norman and Nancy Blake

The Depot Museum is located on School Street between Main and Spencer Avenue & Ogden Burlington in Downtown, Lisle, IL

PLANK ROAD MEMBERSHIP & ORDER FORM

Cut out the order form and send to address below. Please make checks payable to the
Plank Road Folk Music Society
 Post Office Box 386, Downers Grove, IL 60515

***Please include \$1.50 shipping/handling for t-shirt**

Memberships

I'm interested in helping with:

- \$10 for 1 year/Individual
- \$20 for 1 year/Family
- Other: _____

- Events (ticket sales, concessions, set-up, take down, hosting, etc)
- Workshops, Community Appearances, Sing A Rounds
- Nitty Gritty: Promotion, Publicity, Finance, Archive

PRFMS T-shirt: \$12 each
 (Yellow/Orange Logo)

PRFMS T-shirt: \$12 each
 (Blue/Purple Logo)

- M** Yellow/Orange
- L** Yellow/Orange
- XL** Yellow/Orange

- M** Blue/Purple
- L** Blue/Purple
- XL** Blue/Purple

- I would like my Quarter Notes sent to me:**
- By regular mail
 - Email and regular mail
 - Don't bother, I'll take it off the website
 - By e-mail

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'Puter Resources You Can Use

The UseNet: Chat Rooms for Folkies

Can't remember the lyrics or chord progression to a song? Headed to New York and want some tips on some good listening rooms? Want to vent about Dylan's electric guitar at Newport? Interested in driving people nuts by asking 'What exactly is 'folk music?'' And get a really penetrating answer from Arlo Guthrie?

Well, there's a fabulous resource you can use called the Use Net. Others called it News Groups. Whatever you call it, it's a sort of electronic bulletin board allowing you to access (uh-oh, here he goes) a virtual community of similarly minded folks. Think of it as sending an e-mail that everyone on the internet can read. You're already connected to it if you have Internet access. Just call your Internet Service Provider or check out your provider's home page — look for FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions), News Groups or Use Net. What you need to know is the address for the news server, if you need a password to get access to the server and whether there download limits (just so you don't wind up paying extra)

Write down the answers. Then launch your program of choice (Outlook Express and Thunderbird have readers and there are plenty of free ones available for download). You simply add a new 'account' for News with the news server id, and password (if required). Once you connect, your reader will then download a large file of thousands of newsgroups. It may take a little while for this file to download. Once it's on your machine you can then begin looking around and 'read the mail' on groups that appear interesting. Some of the more popular folk groups you may want to take a look at are:

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| alt.music.folk | alt.music.bluegrass | alt.music.blues | alt.guitar.tab | alt.banjo |
| alt.music.mandolin | rec.music.country.old-time | bit.listserv.folk_music | rec.music.folk | Rec.music.folk.tablature |

Your reader will let you hunt for key words. After you decide which ones you figure you'll actually read regularly, you simply *subscribe* to them and they'll stay active in your reader. You can always *unsubscribe* later and subscribe to new ones that catch your interest. If you want ask a question or comment, click POST, but be careful—the spammers and other evil doers can and will capture your e-mail address! You can change your account to show your e-mail address as (for example) scotwitt@nospam.wittweb.com. Human readers will know enough to delete the *nospam* stuff if they want to contact you... but the web-crawlers and bots are pretty stupid, so you shouldn't see any more financial or mortgage advice than usual.

Happy reading! -[Scot Witt](#)



The Unreconstructed Folksinger

Horsing Around in the Good Old Days

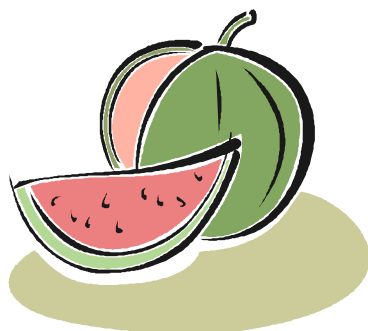
Some folks loved horse-melons; others said they hated the heavenly-sweet taste of this near-perfect fruit, although many of these very same people (F.D.'s, or 'Fruit Detractors' as they came to be known locally) could be seen sneaking off alone with a ripe melon under their arms. (Later, they were the butt of many a joke when juice stains were discovered all over their clothing.)

What? You've never heard of horse-melons? Well, it was my great-grandfather who first discovered them. They were growing on Jenny, his favorite plow-horse. At first, he thought they were tumors of some sort; they seemed to be growing along the top of her head (a few dangled right between her ears) to the start of her tail. Only after he tried to sever them from her body did he realize the fruit-like quality of these strange growths. As he cut their stems at the root, a few melons fell to the ground and split open, revealing the blue and orange polka-dot innards. The beautiful iridescent purple seeds spilled out all over the ground. The aroma was fantastic, and he just had to try a taste. From that moment on, he was hooked on horse-melons.

The next day, he planted an acre of the seeds, but nothing grew. Try as he might, he couldn't raise a crop. As a last resort, he put a few seeds back on Jenny — and a fine crop of horse-melons came up in no time, Success! Ecstasy!

That year, my great grandfather gave up corn and bought horses. He rigged hitching posts and water troughs. Soon he had 100,000 horses grazing contentedly and ripening in the sun. The seeds needed the horse sweat to germinate, and the roots would only attach to the bony spinal column of this noble beast. There the young plants could obtain the precious spinal fluids they needed in order to thrive. Replanting was a simple matter; it was only necessary to spread the seeds on the ground and let the horses wallow in them. Planting time was truly a joy to watch.

In a year or so, Great-Grandfather was the hit of the country. Horse-melons caught on quickly, and others tried to grow them — with quite limited results. Oh, the melons themselves grew fine; but when it came to harvest them, the problems came in. Whenever conventional methods were used to sever horse-melons from the backs of horses, it caused irreparable damage to their neurological systems. The horses dropped like rocks; they were deader than Clancy's cow after the lightning hit. My great-grandfather was the only man with the harvesting secret, and that secret went with him to his grave. In some ways, he did try to help his neighbors; but he was a truly cantankerous sort who enjoyed having a monopoly on horse-melons. It was a side of him I'd never seen before. The old man grew more and more protective about his great secret.



For many years, a sign stood out by the road in front of his farm-house, proclaiming in huge letters, WE WILL DE-MELON YOUR HORSE — CHEAP. For a while, folks did come to him from far and wide to have this service performed, just so they might have a few horse-melons around the house in case of an emergency like snakebite or leprosy or something like that. Actually, there was a very real addictive quality to horse-melons that we didn't talk about very much in the family. Withdrawal from horse-melons produced violent cramps in your earlobes and sneezing that went on for weeks. One fellow I remember got the cramps so bad that he had to have his earlobes surgically removed. This procedure became known in our part of the Midwest as an 'Illinois Lobotomy.' Another fellow tried to sue Great-Grandfather. It seems he played guitar by ear, and after his operation he couldn't play a lick. Quite frustrating, I should think.

-Art Thieme

Editor's Note: Read the rest of veteran performer [Art Thieme's column](#) on the Plank Road Folk Music Society's website at www.plankroad.org with his observations in his regular Unreconstructed Folksinger Column.





**Post Office Box 386
Downers Grove, IL
60515**

PRFMS Contacts:

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e-mail: info@plankroad.org

PRFMS Communications Questions:

Scot Witt, (630) 717-8226
e-mail: webmaster@plankroad

Plank Road Folk Music Society

Dave Reynolds, President
Cathy Jones, Immediate Past President
Troy LeValley, Vice President
Scot Witt, Secretary, publicity, website
Carol Sommer, Treasurer
Jeanne Halama, Board Member
Dave Humphreys, Board Member
Bob Smith, Board Member
Marianne Mohrhusen, Board Member
Jennifer Shilt, Board Member
Denise Davis, Volunteer Coordinator
George Mattson, Singarounds
Paul Vander Woude, Bluegrass Jams

Folk Resources Next Door:

Plank Road Folk Music Society, PO Box 386, Downers Grove, IL 60515. (630)889-9121 or (708)442-0823 Web: www.plankroad.org

Two Way Street Coffee House 1047 Curtiss St., Downers Grove, IL 60515. (630)969-9720 Website: www.twowaystreet.org

Jones Family Music Studio, Lombard. (630)916-1356. Web: www.jonesfamilymusic.com

Maple Street Chapel, Main & Maple, Lombard, 60148. (630)629-2630 or (630)964-4871 Web: www.tccafe.com/msc

Acoustic Renaissance Concerts Unitarian Church of Hinsdale. (708) 802-0236 Web: www.acousticren.com

Folk Lore Center & Acorn Coffee Bar, 29W140 Butterfield Rd, POB 762, Warrenville, IL 60555. (630)393-1247

Woodstock Folk Music/Festival (815)338-4245 Website: www.woodstockfolkmusic.com

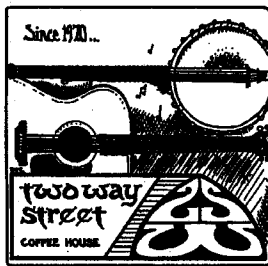
Fox Valley Folklore Society, 755 N Evanslawn Ave, Aurora, IL 60506 (630)897-3655. Web: www.FoxValleyFolk.com

Warrenville Folk Music Society, POB 248, Warrenville IL 60555 (630)717-8495 e-mail: Warrenvillefolk@aol.com
Lake County Folk Club, Box 847, Mundelein, IL 60060, (847)949-5355

HANDS (Hammers & Noters Dulcimer Society), Box 181, Morris, IL 60450(708)331-6875 Web: www.gwdf.org

South Suburban Dulcimer & Folk Music Society, P.O. Box 455, Park Forest, IL 60466. (708)756-3857

"Folk Festival" with George Brown Tuesdays 7 to 9 PM and "Strictly Bluegrass" with Larry Robinson Wednesdays 7 to 9 PM on WDCB, Public Radio from College of DuPage. For a program guide, call (630) 942-4200.



TWO WAY STREET COFFEE HOUSE

1047 Curtiss Street • Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

www.twowaystreet.org • 630-969-9720

(Across from the Public Library)

Folk Music Every Week since 1970!

ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

Friday	June 10	8:15pm	\$5	SAM BYERLY a.k.a. Sammy from Miami — Country, blues, and general craziness from this talented and energetic songwriter and performer. Heard on <i>Midnight Special</i> (WFMT), <i>Mountain Stage</i> and <i>Folk Festival</i> (WDCB). (Note: Michael Troy, originally scheduled, has canceled due to illness.)
Note Change!				
Friday	June 17	8:15pm	\$5	BILL CAMPLIN — Outstanding original songs, vocals, guitar. Also, exquisite Bob Dylan covers. Co-owner of the legendary Wisconsin music venue Café Carpe. "Rich, deeply felt musical portraits." (Andrew Calhoun) Terrific CDS!
Friday	June 24			HERITAGE FESTIVAL — (see Page 1 — coffee house closed)
Friday	July 1	8:15pm	\$5	*DANNY BAKAN with Tom Leighton (of Haines & Leighton) — Canadian singer/songwriter and clawhammer banjo master, Bakan's charismatic roots-based songs are funny, smart and touching. Leighton adds accordion and fun!
Friday	July 8	8:15pm	\$5	*BRIAN JOSEPH — Since leaving an award-winning acting career, this Los Angeles-based singer/songwriter brings his intelligent urban-folk songs to enthusiastic audiences across the US and Cuba. Soulful, extemporaneous, fun! *Also hear these artists the next night on WFMT's live Folkstage broadcast.
Friday	July 15	8:15pm	\$5	LINDA M. SMITH with Eugenia Elliott & Robert Arendt — Popular and insightful folk/pop singer/songwriter who's compared to Lucinda Williams, Shawn Colvin and Sarah McLachlan. Guitar, flute, piano, percussion, vocal harmonies.
Friday	July 22	8:15pm	\$5	DAVE MARTIN — Good-humored traditional and contemporary songs and singalongs in the spirit of Si Kahn and Pete Seeger. He'll make you laugh & sing, and he'll make you think, too! Guitar, banjo, and a few bad jokes!
Friday	July 29	8:15pm	\$5	CAT CATALANI — Popular singer/songwriter/guitarist whose songs are witty, imaginative and fun! Also, standards of the 1930-40's. A published poet and former college teacher. "Catchy — charming — original imagery." (Rich Warren)
Friday	August 5	8:15pm	\$5	CURTIS & LORETTA — They're known all across the country for their exquisite harmonies, incisive songwriting, and skill on numerous instruments including Celtic harp, mandocello, guitar, mandolin, banjo and ukulele.
Friday	August 12	8:15pm	\$5	JIM WEARNE — Songs, stories and singalongs, mostly traditional, specializing in the lore of the Celtic land of Cornwall. Some serious, some hilariously funny! A unique and entertaining show. New CD, too! Guitar.
Friday	August 19	8:15pm	\$5	JAN KRIST — Acclaimed Michigan singer/songwriter, her songs have literate lyrics and expert guitar (including amazing open tunings.) "Social satire, spiritual longing, stark truthfulness and mischievous fun." (<i>Image Magazine</i>)
Friday	August 26	8:00pm	\$5	OPEN MIKE — Anyone is welcome to perform, and we always have a great variety of acoustic performers. So popular we must limit the number of acts. 1-2 songs, 10 minutes max. Open at 7:30 for signups — first come, first served. Show starts 8:00. For more information, phone 630-968-5526.
Friday	September 2	8:15pm	\$5	CALICO — Singer/songwriter/guitarists Dave VanDelinder and Dennis Graf have collaborated since the 70s. Great songs and musicianship, and with Kirk Brauch on bass and vocals, great 3-part harmony! A CD Release show!
Friday	September 9	8:15pm	\$5	SONNY MILLET BAND — Exciting new bluegrass project comprising the lyric-based folk duo Eric & Beth Carlson plus Chuck Bilskey, Russ Wheeler & Spencer Savoie (Firehouse String Band.) Guitar, banjo, bass, bodhran, more!
Friday	September 16	8:15pm	\$5	ANDI AND I — Funked-up folk duo continues to push the boundaries of what can (tastefully) be done with guitar and two voices. Tight harmonies and intricate arrangements in many styles. Thoughtful, lighthearted, and fun!
Friday	September 23	8:15pm	\$5	KATE MACLEOD & KAT EGGLESTON — Two great songwriters with beautiful voices! Original and traditional songs and instrumentals, many from their Wind River CD, <i>Drawn from the Well</i> . Guitars, hammer dulcimer, fiddle.
Friday	September 30	8:15pm	\$5	LEONARDO — A modern troubadour, he tours the US and Europe singing songs of everyday people in extraordinary moments. Each song is an engaging story propelled by individual rhythms and subtle textures of guitar and vocals.

Sunday	June 12	4:00 pm	\$10 Suggested	GRACE Concert — featuring Tricia Alexander plus Rich Prezioso, Alpha Stewart, Diana Laffey, Dave Humphreys, Jim Gary, Jeff Glenn, Kate Moretti, & Ellie Wallace in an acoustic concert in Memorial Chapel. Reception follows in Coffee House. Info: 773-478-8778.
Saturday	June 25	(see Page 1)		HERITAGE FESTIVAL Folk Music Fest — Presented in conjunction with Downers Grove's popular <i>Heritage Festival</i> . Saturday, 10:00-5:00 on the Folk Stage in beautiful Fishel Park.
Saturday	September 24	8:00 pm	\$10	CHRIS VALLILLO — CD Release Concert — Joined by mandolin wizard Don Stierberg and bassist Eric Norman, he celebrates his 5th recording, <i>The Dance</i> , on Gin Ridge Records. New and old songs with 6 & 12-string finger and flat picking and bottleneck slide guitar styles.
July 2 & 16	August 6 & 20	September 3 & 17		Sing-Arounds — Our popular song circles where beginners and experienced musicians can learn and/or share songs. Listeners and singers welcome too! Songbooks provided. Plank Road Folk Music Society co-sponsors. First and third Saturday afternoons of each month at 2:00 pm.
Thursdays	June 30, July 28	August 25, Sept 29	7:00-9:30 pm	LAST THURSDAY: It's OUR Turn! — A monthly unplugged open mike for high school and college age students on the last Thursday of every month. Music, poetry and other performance arts — 10 minutes max. Doors open 7:00 for signups — first come, first served. More info on our website (www.twowaystreet.org) or phone 630-968-5526. Free!
Live entertainment is featured every Friday night beginning at 8:15. Doors open 7:30. \$5.00 donation requested. Beverages and snacks available. The Two Way Street Coffee House is a not-for-profit community project of the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Downers Grove. Member: Plank Road Folk Music Society, Fox Valley Folklore Society, Old Town School of Folk Music, Aural Tradition, and North American Folk Alliance. Please call us at 630-969-9720 for current entertainment listings and updates, or visit us on the web at www.twowaystreet.org				
COME HOME DOWNERS GROVE				