

LOCAL¹⁰⁰⁰

welcomes these NEW MEMBERS

Frank Cassidy
Jeff McClintock
James Whittall
Carlos Hernandez
Felicia Douglass
Siheun Song
Alexander Smith
Nathan Tomkins
Kerri Ough
Caroline Brooks
Sue Passmore
Tina Stone
Scott Berwick
Jessica Stuart

REINSTATED

Ray Bonneville
James "Doc" MacLean
David Bernz
Tammy Fassaert
Freebo
Kim Barlow



1000 in 2010, *continued from page 1*

er in order to conserve resources, the Board has made it clear that in-person meetings are vital to an effective union.

Our Secretary-Treasurer, John O'Connor, was just elected Vice-President of Local 802, the New York City local and the biggest local in the Federation. This is a full time office and it goes without saying that the relationship between Local 1000 and Local 802 will benefit greatly by the connection. Organizing is one of the priorities of the new Local 802 administration and there will be discussion

of some partnerships not only between these 2 locals but other AFM Locals throughout the country who see organizing as a priority. O'Connor will continue as Secretary-Treasurer of Local 1000 at least until his current term expires at the end of this year.

The Executive Board looks forward to talking to all of you and to hearing from you how to make our union work better. With new challenges come opportunities. We want to make sure we take advantage of everyone that comes our way.

Healthcare news

Local 1000 is pleased to announce new health care options for our membership. SoundHealthCare has worked for years with the Country Music Association, the Gospel Music Association, and more recently our friends at Local 257 (Nashville) and the International Bluegrass Music Association developing discounted, customized health care plans for music professionals. Simply go to the Benefits page of the www site (<http://local1000.com/benefits>) to get the details.

Along with our previous health care plan, via AFM Local 802, we now offer a broad set of options for our membership, covering per-existing conditions, customizable coverage, and affordable pricing."



SOUND HEALTHCARE



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LOCAL 1000

North American
Traveling Musicians Union



NEW DEAL

WINTER 2010

1000 in 2010

As we head toward Folk Alliance in 2010, we face many challenges professionally as traveling musical artists on the acoustic music scene. Indeed, even those artists who command much larger audiences than our under-the-radar world of what some loosely call folk music are facing difficult times marked by constant changes in the technology of electronic music and a seemingly tenacious recession. For Local 1000, the times are equally challenging. Less work for our members. Less work dues. Fewer resources.

Nevertheless, it's a good time to take stock in our mission and what we can do as a most unusual trade union to help each other forge on into the unsure future. When we look back to the first Folk Alliance we attended in Boston as a newly chartered union in 1993 our challenges were of a different kind. We had not much more than 50 members and a tenuous board, as our leadership was still developing. Our main challenge was to find members in a very skeptical grouping of musicians. It took us a good 8 to 10 years to make musicians understand that Local 1000 was here to stay and could provide something tangible in the way of benefits, not the least of which was the security of a pension that few other performing artists had available, and unity among folk musicians and performing songwriters.

Our greatest success has been providing our members with contractual

tools to facilitate benefits such as pension and health insurance. For the most part, this has been done through single engagement contracts like the LS-1 and through artist corporations and LLCs, signing agreements with the Local in order to bring benefit contributions on a regular basis. Of course, the camaraderie is something the union provides us all. That is something that many will agree is invaluable.

Where we have been not so successful, and where we continue to strive, is forging collective bargaining agreements with presenters such as folk festivals, concert producers, folk music societies and house concerts. We have had a modicum of success. A few folk festivals and small concert series. But we have much to do before we come near to achieving the task we have set out before us, which we have named *Fair Folk*. Our current Executive Board remains committed to picking up the pace here, despite the belt-tightening the organizations who host our shows have had to face in this recession and in the face of a changing industry.

The good news is that we are reaching out to people who are connected to different sorts of venues who have expressed interest in becoming part of *Fair Folk*. Other good news is that the Local 1000 Executive Board has taken on the task of calling every Local 1000 member to better understand how the union can

be of service. As this issue of *New Deal* goes to press, we have already talked to many members. We want to know how you are doing, how we can help you in your professional life and what kinds of issues Local 1000 should be tackling in the coming months and years. We're a union. Our strength is in working together collectively to make ours a better profession with dignity, respect and fairness. We are especially interested in what you think are the issues (that affect us all) that Local 1000 should be undertaking.

At our Fall meeting in November in conjunction with the Northeast Regional Folk Alliance our members re-elected Debra Cowan as our Eastern Executive Board Member and Steve Eulberg as our Western Executive Board Member. Also, Tret Fure was elected as the third Delegate to the AFM Convention in June. In addition, Local 1000 leadership continued its discussion of what makes best sense as far as meetings are concerned in relation to Folk Alliance and regional Folk Alliance gatherings. We are open to input and suggestions on this score. How do we best solve the challenge of fulfilling the sense of true unionism in a non-geographic local? The Executive Board has committed to meeting once every 6 weeks via internet conference calls. But although some have suggested that we stop meeting in person altogether

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New Deal is the official organ of Local 1000. Please read it carefully.

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Local 1000 Membership Meeting-February 20-4PM-Memphis Downtown Marriot Hotel-Memphis, TN.(See inside for more details.)

LOCAL 1000

Membership Meeting Notice

The next Local 1000 Membership meeting will take place at the Memphis Downtown Marriot in Memphis, TN on Saturday, Feb. 20, 2010 at 4pm.

The meeting will take place in the Concierge Lounge on the 19th Floor. The Local 1000 Executive Board will meet at 1pm on Feb. 19. The Executive Board meeting is open to all members in good standing who would like to observe.

You must be a member in good standing (paid up) in order to attend a Local 1000 meeting.

Call the Local 1000 for more details.

Local 1000 on Facebook—
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=4645867157&ref=ts>

Local 1000 on Myspace.com— <http://www.myspace.com/afmtravelingmusicians>

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NEW DEAL is the official organ of the North American Traveling Musicians Union, Local 1000, AFM

On the Road...

The long haul

by Bob Franke

Next October will be the 45th anniversary of my first professional gig, as the first act to play a little club called the Ark in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Over the years I've discovered a few things that might be helpful to my union brothers and sisters, and perhaps to other colleagues as well. If I focus on a larger perspective than the day to day, it's because I can: venues bloom and fade, organic restaurants open and close, but no matter where you go, there you are, and you need to be there.

I think I've made it this far down the highway not only because of my persistence (admittedly important), but also because of my adaptability, and because I've learned to look for what I share with my audience. Songs (like columns) about the highway become narrow industrial work ballads unless you look for the connections between your journeys and the journeys of the people who come to see and hear you.

A young colleague nearly broke my heart last summer with a song about wanting to "sell out." Because she's not only talented but good-looking, I suspect she'll get the opportunity. We all get hungry, and we all need to make a living. We all create personae on stage, and your audience will probably expect that you live offstage as that persona. But very practically speaking, the more you tailor your persona to what you think the audience wants, the

better the chance that it diverges significantly from the person you are and want to be, and the more energy you will have to expend to maintain that persona. It's a recipe for bad mental health. Part of our leadership as artists is to make the best music we can, and if we're songwriters,

to write truthfully about what it's like to be human at this point in history. If we're singers of old songs, it's to find and celebrate the songs that ring truest about what it was like to be human at other points in history, because we and our audience can learn from that. Tell the truth, as best you can. In the long run it will support you as well as your audience.

This is a tough way to make a living, but technology has made it easier to maintain those friendships we discover on the road as well as those relationships that give us meaning when we're at

home. You need to value both those sets of relationships. If you're fortunate enough to have a home and family, be mindful of their needs. Being a part of a family involves a whole other set of skills from the ones we use on the road, but learning those skills will energize your music, and struggling to live with those you love will give you a strong link to the struggles your audience is going through.

In the end, all you may have is the work itself. If that thought doesn't scare you to death, keep at it. It's good work.

— PHOTO BY SUSAN WILSON



MEMBER NEWS

Do you want to announce New Releases, Projects, Events, Births, Deaths, Marriages etc.? Please send information to Joe Jencks via joejencks@hotmail.com. Please specify in the title that the message pertains to: Local 1000 Member News. Thanks.

New Releases

John O'Connor—They say he was famous in France... The popular French Folk-Rock artist, Renaud released his latest CD: Molly Malone in the fall of 2009. The opening song, "Vagabonds" is a French language adaption of John O'Connor's song, *North by North*, which was recorded in 1987 on the Shays Rebellion album: *Daniel Shays Highway*. In early December the song, which was also released as a single, went to #1 on the charts in France.

Visit www.johnpauloconnor.com to hear North by North or <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VUCSF-tVsGk&NR=1> to hear Renaud's hit song, Vagabonds.

Scott Ainslie—Musicians For Healthcare. Producer and Blues singer/guitarist Scott Ainslie pulled together nine other musicians, and a Grammy award-winning engineer and studio, for a music compilation in support of a Vermont campaign to establish healthcare as a human right rather than a commercial commodity, a public good rather than an economic privilege. Vermont's Independent Senator Bernie Sanders even turns up in a track. ainslie@musician.org or <http://cattailmusic.com>.

Si Kahn— Real People's Music is proud to report that Si Kahn has been featured as Southern Master musician with a two-page article and "The Spinning Mills of Home" (From *Home* issued in 1979 by Flying Fish, no longer available) in the CD of southern musicians in the current issue of the Oxford American, the 11th Annual Southern Music issue. http://www.oxfordamerican.org/articles/issues/lates_issue or www.sikahn.com.

Elise Witt—Singing Darwin. Elise was involved in an historic multi-media celebration of the 150th anniversary of Charles Darwin's, *On the Origin of Species*, Nov. 23-24th. The 24-hour Celebration at the Virginia Tech School of Visual Arts, included vocal improvisation and dance using Darwin text, digital video and animation, audience participation, live and recorded readings of *Origin of Species*, as well as footage of Darwin locations in the Andes, the Amazon, the Galapagos and the U.K.. www.elisewitt.com

Tim Readman—Run Geordie Run. In support of Mark Allison's up and coming 3,100 mile run across the USA in 100 days in 2011, The Exiles (Tim Readman and Alan Millen) have written and recorded 2 songs. Mark ran the length of Great Britain in 2007 — 874 miles in 37 days. He then contacted Tim last year and asked if we would write and record 2 songs for his US run. 'Runner on a Lonely Road' and 'Beneath the Angel's Wings' are available to download as a pair at <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/exiles2>. All proceeds go to charity. tim@timreadman.com, <http://markallisonjogtole.blogspot.com>.

Awards

Steve Brogden—received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Folk Alliance International FAR-West region at its Annual Conference Nov. 6-8 in Irvine, CA. Past recipients include Local 1000 members Bruce (Utah) Phillips, Rosalie Sorrels and Faith Petric. Criteria for the award include excellence in one's craft, enduring presence in the geographical FAR-Western folk community, and embodiment of Folk values and traditions. brogdenbay@yahoo.com.

Bucky Hawker— was inducted into the Illinois Labor History Society's Hall of Honor. Hawker insisted that the presenters also include members of the (now defunct) Black Local 208 as honorees. There were segregated locals in Chicago (and other AFM locals) until the mid-60s. The hosts were very responsive to Hawker's request to honor Local 208 members in addition to the now merged 10-208. Inductees from the old Local 208, included the great jazz pianist Willie Pickens. Hawker is a performer, activist and labor historian. www.buckyhawker.com.

Tom Neilson— was nominated for an Independent Music Award in the category of Social Action for his song Heroes of the Cold War. tomnielsonmusic@yahoo.com.

Grammys

A host of Local 1000 members have been nominated for Grammys this year. Congrats to one and all for your hard work and pursuit of musical excellence. We will be rooting for you on Grammy night!

- **Best Traditional Folk Album—** Cutting Loose: David Holt and Josh Goforth
- **Best Traditional Folk Album—** *Singing Through The Hard Times ~ A Tribute to Utah Phillips:* (Includes Local 1000 Members) Magpie, Emma's Revolution (Pat Humphries & Sandy O), John McCutcheon, Pete Seeger, Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer, Si Kahn, Larry Penn, Faith Petric, Ric Palieri, Ani DiFranco, Pop Wagner, Tom Paxton, Rosalie Sorrels, Gordon Bok, and Finest Kind
- **Best Zydeco or Cajun Music Album—** *Alligator Purse:* Beausoleil Avec Michael Doucet
- **Best Musical Album for Children—** *Banjo To Beatbox:* Cathy & Marcy with Special Guest Christylez Bacon

Local 1000 Office manager Amy Fix gave birth to Zachary Blue on December 30th.

She will be home with him until March 15th.



Member Profile: Kristin Lems

Looking through Kristin Lems' history as a musician and activist is like reading a "who's-who" of political and musical luminaries. She has worked with scores of artists and musicians of every stripe, including Malvina Reynolds, Gil Scott Heron (who coined the phrase "The revolution will not be televised!") Dan Fogelberg, Laura Love, Koko Taylor, Peter Paul and Mary, Country Joe McDonald, Michele Shocked, and Simon Townshend (brother of Pete). As a social and environmental activist she has worked with such renowned individuals as Maya Angelou, Captain Jacques Cousteau, Gloria Steinem, Helen Caldicott, Arun Gandhi, Greg Palast, Dolores Huerta, and Alan Alda.



New Yorker magazine called Kristin "a charmer in the most literal and least artificial sense of the word." And author and activist Gloria Steinem referred to Kristin as "a one woman argument against the notion that the women's movement doesn't have a sense of humor."

And Kristin has done remarkable work, with amazing people. She was an active part of the ERA movement, and was the

founder of the National Women's Music Festival, which is now based in Madison, WI and in its 37th year! Though Kristin is no longer involved in the festival except as an occasional performer, she is rightfully proud of its role as a catalyst for many other events, businesses, and publications. Kristin was a founder of the mid-west branch of the People's Music Network and the Children's Music Network, and is still active in both organizations.

Speaking about the National Women's Music Festival, Kristin said, "This fest was structured to be open to men. I subscribed to the belief that all comers were welcome. If we don't have new cultural experiences, we don't grow. And I believed that having male allies in the audience could only help that happen. In my mind, it's not only great for women to learn to be powerful, run the show, and do it well, but it's also good for men. Women staff the stage and organize the festival, but interested men are welcome as supporters. I'm happy to say that a number of future members of Local 1000 got their professional beginnings at that festival."

Kristin has found humor to be one of the best tools in striving for social change. Her songs often serve as witty commentary on complex social issues. One of her signature songs, "Talkin' Gender Neutral Blues," appears in *A Feminist Dictionary* (Kramerae, 1984). The song addresses the usage of the masculine pronoun to refer to all humanity. The lighthearted piece invites people to reconsider gender and language:

*"It don't make a difference to us," they said,
"If you wanna use woman, go right ahead.
" I said, thanks, that's real sisterly of you
Glad to see you believe in sportswomanship!
"Now hold your horses," they started to cry.
I think I'll hold my mares, said I.
"You're leavin' all of us guys behind."
Why no, we're all part of womankind!
So don't fret friends, take it like a woman
You'll get used to it, just like we all did!*

In addition to her performance and cultural work, Kristin is a professor of ESL (English As A Second Language) in Chicago, where she teaches bilingual education, and writes books about ESL and reading. She spent a couple years working in Algeria on a Fulbright Scholarship and also taught ESL in Iran, where she learned Farsi and sang with a Persian rock band. Somehow,



MEMBER PROFILE, continued from page 3

in between all that, she raised two children as a single parent, and maintains a deep sense of compassion and humor.

Kristin joined the AFM in the mid 1970's (Local 62, Champaign Urbana). She was asked to play a tri-state trade union conference, and was told that she would need to be a union musician to do so. Ironically, as many of you may have experienced in your own careers, she was then asked to play for free for that union event! This is one of reasons why Local 1000 was formed: to create a branch of the AFM that would support Cultural Workers and help them advocate for union wages when doing work with labor and social justice organizations. As a result, Kristin jumped on the Local 1000 bandwagon early on, and has been a proud member ever since.

In 2007, Kristin released Equality Road, a remarkable two-disc anthology of songs sung during the campaign for the Equal Rights Amendment and women's rights. Kristin has released several other recordings and published two books on her own label, Carolsdatter Productions. Amongst her other albums and collaborations are *Born a Woman* (Flying Fish/Rounder), and the Grammy-nominated anthology *The Best of Broadside* (Smithsonian/Folkways). Kristin's songs have been sung and recorded by many artists including Local 1000's own Anne Feeney, who recently recorded "Days of the Theocracy."

"You need to do it your way. You need to be you, in your own cultural idiom and use the means and media that allow you to commune together and share the message..."

— Kristin Lems

I asked Kristin what advice she had for younger musicians and artists coming up through the ranks. She was immediate and enthusiastic in her reply. "You need to do it your way. You need to be you, in your own cultural idiom and use the means and media that allow you to commune together and share the message. You can

do it your own way. You don't have to sound like us.

Don't idealize my day or generation. Make your generation as memorable as we made our generation.

Folk music will always exist. So go make the music in your heart. Build your own great movements and create your own great sounds. Don't look back with envy, look forward with hope!"

Kristin continued by quoting the poet Kahlil Gibran, whose words clearly resonate for her as an artist, parent, and organizer: "Your children are not

your children. They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself. They come through you but not from you. You may give them your love but not your thoughts, For they have their own thoughts. You may strive to be like them, but you cannot make them like you!"

For more information on Kristin please visit: <http://www.kristinlems.com>.

— Joe Jencks

Membership Services Committee

Emergency Relief Fund

Several years ago, the Local 1000 Executive Board implemented an Emergency Relief Fund for Local 1000 members in need. Recently the policy of the fund was reviewed and new policy procedures were put in place. Here is how it works:

A Local 1000 member in good standing may apply for a no-interest loan of up to \$1000 from the Emergency Relief Fund so long as the Fund has enough money to make the loan. There is no timetable on repayment of the loan, however no one may apply for another loan if a previous loan has not been repaid. Borrowers are reminded that other members may be dependent on this fund when considering a repayment time schedule.

To apply, a member must show need by verification, e.g., doctor bills or other documentation of hardship. Though an emergency

is not specifically defined, the applicant should state what the emergency need is. Requests can be made by contacting the Local 1000 office or any Local 1000 officer or executive board member.

Under no circumstances will a loan be made to someone who is not a member in good standing. In other words, your dues must be current at the time of application. Loans will not be made to suspended or expelled members.

Obviously, the fund requires resources, so we ask members to make donations to the fund when they pay their dues or anytime they feel the spirit. Hard times are upon us. Please think of your brothers and sisters.

