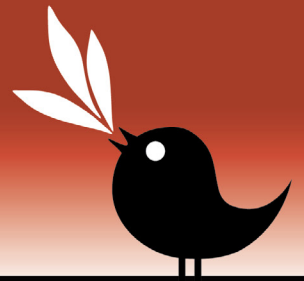




# Local 1000

® North American Traveling Musicians  
New Deal Summer-Fall 2015



## Selma and Beyond

by Reggie Harris

This year of 2015 has been both historic and horrific, as communities across the nation have continued to erupt in reaction to rampant ongoing civil rights abuses. In the wake of this stark reminder that our national struggle for justice is very much a “work in progress,” and as these soul-challenging events inspire marches and protests around the country, the need for a response that helps people to communicate, find voice, educate and

lament, has risen.

It is in these moments that we recall the examples of inspirational song leaders like Fanny Lou Hamer and Matt Jones and our Local 1000 icons Guy Carawan, Bernice Johnson and Pete Seeger.

These human rights pioneers have all helped us to understand that music carries a special power for delivering messages and cohesion in troubled times.

In March 2015, in the spirit of their legacy, Local 1000 members Dr. Kim

Harris, Brother Sun (Greg Greenway, Joe Jencks and Pat Wictor) and myself, traveled to Birmingham, AL, to provide music for a conference entitled “Marching in the Arc of Justice.”

This conference, sponsored by the UU Living Legacy Project, ([www.UUlivinglegacy.org](http://www.UUlivinglegacy.org)) was held in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary Jubilee Celebration in Selma, on the weekend of March 5th– 8th. It was an extension of the organization’s mission “to re-imagine social possibility

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

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North American Traveling Musicians Union,  
Local 1000, AFM**

## Selma and Beyond (continued)

by actively experiencing the depth of lessons of the Civil Rights Movement.”

In sessions with movement veterans, historians, activists, artists and some family members of those who were martyred, participants engaged in a reexamination of the events that changed America 50 years ago.

Included throughout were opportunities to consider present day solutions on issues such as mass incarceration, voting rights, immigration and educational inequities and to leave for home with strategies to share.

By providing skillful musical leadership and with a shared concert on Saturday night, Kim and Reggie and Brother Sun helped to emphasize and illustrate the conference themes.

Kim Harris also took time to reach out to the leaders of “Black Lives Matter MN”, who attended the conference, to encourage them to use more music in their protests and to think more clearly

about the ways that movements can flow on a river of song.

On Sunday, joined by Local 1000 VP Deb Cowan, we led singing as more than 70,000 people marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The principles and roots of Local 1000 were very much in evidence throughout.

In our role this past year, as Artists in Residence for the People’s Music Network Kim and I set out a challenge for those who “know the power of song” to once again, step up and lead the way.

As we continue to miss him, in all of these moments, we find ourselves echoing the words of our friend Pete Seeger, who said, “I keep reminding people that an editorial in rhyme is not a song. A good song makes you laugh, it makes you cry, it makes you think! A good song reminds us what we’re fighting for.”

True then...truer now!

## How I made it to the Ashokan Gathering from Georgia

*by Elise Witt*

When I saw the announcement about our Local 1000 gathering happening in upstate NY, my immediate reaction was, “Oh well, no way I’m going to be able to make that all the way from Georgia.” But then I got intrigued and decided to explore possibilities. I emailed everyone on my email list in the NY area and asked for ideas and suggestions of venues to host my Impromptu Glorious Chorus™ community singing workshop and/or a concert of my Global, Local & Homemade Songs™. To my surprise, I received a lot of enthusiastic and helpful ideas, and upon pursuing several of them, was able to create a 10-day tour, including a workshop and concert in Brooklyn, a jazz concert on Long Island, and a place on the Pete Seeger sing-along for the Peoples’ Voice Cafe. I even led a workshop upstate in Rosendale, just minutes from Ashokan. I am encouraged and thrilled by the power of electronic communication, and the way my extended community helped me to attend the gathering of my local. Hope you can join us next May for the next gathering at the beautiful Ashokan Center!

**[www.EliseWitt.com](http://www.EliseWitt.com)    Video on YouTube**



# Us *PLUS* Them

by Steve Eulberg

Whenever we gather the membership of our local, Local 1000, I am awakened, encouraged and come away filled with renewed hope. This time I also came away with an important question that came to the surface in our Visioning Process: “How do we influence the larger conversation in our wider communities to include and reflect our vision?”

Jay Ungar and Molly Mason pointed us in an important direction when they told us the remarkable story of the Ashokan Center. The Ashokan Center had been the site of music and dance camps for several years and it was at the end of one of these that Jay composed the now-famous tune Ashokan Farewell.

Situated as it is, below the Ashokan Reservoir, this camp stood below the dam, along the periodic water release path that helps the system work for its New York City customers. (Hundreds of millions of gallons of water a day flow at different times throughout the year.) Their location created a conflict situation that Jay said was only resolved by patient and constant attention and relationship building.

At first they were offered a modest settlement to leave the camp and rebuild it elsewhere. However this amount was inadequate for keeping the programs alive. “For two years we had weekly, face-to-face meetings where what we did was keep focus on what we had in common,” Jay remembers. “We didn’t have power, we didn’t have money, but we had our commitment to find a way to make this work for everyone. ... We started with a small

amount in common and worked to grow the part upon which we could all agree.”

The end result was the creation of something that is simply amazing:

In 2008, an historic and forward-looking partnership was established between the Open Space Institute, New York City Department of Environmental Protection and the Ashokan Foundation that transferred the 374-acre Ashokan Field Campus, its programs and its facilities from SUNY New Paltz to the Ashokan Foundation, a New York State 501(c)3 not-for-profit. This partnership resulted in the construction of a brand-new campus that is located above the watershed, is composed of sustainably-designed buildings and is host to year-round environmental education for the children of New York, as well as hosting the music and dance camps for which it has come to be known.

Vi Wickam, my fiddling buddy in Fiddle Whamdiddle, joined Local 1000 this past year and this gathering was the first event that he attended with other members. With fresh eyes and the perspective of another generation (read “younger”), he commented in our small visioning group: “I don’t think that the Us vs. Them traditional adversarial posture of unions is useful at this time.”

When we asked him what he meant, he mentioned the sociological theory of the pendulum swing between extreme-Me to extreme-We postures that is a cogent explanation of the context in which we find ourselves. (*Pendulum* by Roy H Williams and Michael Drew)

At the current time, according to this theory, our culture is moving toward an extreme We posture. In this context

people tend to define themselves as much by what they are against as by what they are for.

Ironically in the extreme end of a We cycle, there is an even stronger tendency for people to become polarized and divided.

If a union is about creating unity, then division is what a union really needs to be against.

Instead of defining ourselves primarily by “who” we are against, we can be more effective in building our local by defining ourselves based on the principles we are for; defining ourselves “in the midst” or “in the context” of the web of relationships to which we all belong.

That raises this question: “How do we be true to our values but still speak accurately and effectively to the broader culture when what we say will be heard with very different ears because of the context?”

We concluded that, when faced with conflict and potential division, instead of talking only about “Us vs. Them” we need to be talking about “Us + Them”.

How do we exhibit our commitment to fight everything that tries to divide Us from Them? How do we strengthen those relationships, venues, and institutions that are working to bridge every divide? How can we remind ourselves that our opponents are not the people, but the forces and ideas that try to separate people from each other? Pete Seeger had a deft way of not letting himself be pinned to the categories of the questions which sought to bait him, always reaching deeper to the common humanity and unseen common sense that is the fuel of that hope.

[ashokancenter.org/](http://ashokancenter.org/)



#### *Upcoming Meetings...*

**Executive Board Meeting**  
Sept. 8 – 9, 2015  
Local 1000 Office  
New York City, NY

**Membership Meeting & Elections**  
Nov. 12, 2015, 4pm  
NERFA  
Kerhonkson, NY

**Executive Board Meeting**  
Feb. 16 – 17, 2016,  
Folk Alliance International  
Kansas City, MO

**Membership Meeting**  
Feb. 17, 2016,  
Folk Alliance International  
Kansas City, MO

**Member Gathering,**  
May 2 – 4, 2016  
Ashokan Centre  
Olivebridge, NY

## Elise Witt Receives Creative Arts Award

Elise Witt is the recipient of the William L. Womack Creative Arts Award, which acknowledges artistic expression of a person or group that is using their talent to build bridges of understanding between diverse communities.

The award recognizes Elise's work traveling around the world using music and song to create harmony among people of different cultures and ethnicities, and also recognizes her work at the Global Village Project, a school for teenage refugee girls, using singing to learn English and to stimulate creativity, inspire self confidence, and create community.



*photo by Mary Lou McCloskey*

## Local 1000 at the Great Labor Arts Exchange

*by Debra Cowan*

"Come on down and join the celebration!" exclaimed the many voices in attendance at the first session of the GLAE. We were all asked to introduce ourselves and to call on someone from the past that we would like to honor. With this, the 2015 GLAE was officially underway at the Rosa Parks/Tommy Douglas Training and Education Center in Silver Spring, MD that ran from June 25-27. The event was sponsored by the Labor Heritage Foundation.

In that first session, we were also treated to a showing of "Pride" in honor of Gay Pride month. The film is a 2014 BBC production detailing how gay rights activists in London, UK helped a group of Welsh miners during the Miner's Strike in 1984. The film, based on a true story, demonstrated how two very different groups of people can find common ground in the

struggle for dignity.

The theme of this year's GLAE was "Black Lives Matter" and the first panel of the event was titled #BlackLivesMatter2Labor2 presented by the quartet "Fruit of Labor" who were also the recipients of the 2015 Joe Hill Award. The following day, I attended a workshop on how the Moral Monday movement in Raleigh, NC evolved and how the strong ties between civil rights and labor helped to build this monthly event into quite a force for change, not only in North Carolina but throughout the southeastern US. My Fair Trade Music 1000 workshop was nicely attended and Brothers Charlie King, George Mann and Sister Anne Feeney presented a workshop titled "Remembering Joe Hill". There was what some might call an Open Mike that was THE Arts Exchange. This was time set aside throughout the

conference for any individuals to get up and share a song or a story and Local 1000 was well-represented. In the song contest, Brothers Tom Neilson, Professor Louie and Charlie King were all winners in separate categories. This should come as no surprise since Local 1000 was born at the GLAE in 1990.

This is a yearly event in which Local 1000 has participated for many years. Sister Elise Bryant, Executive Director of the Labor Heritage Foundation and also a proud Local 1000 member, says "AFM Local 1000 members are family and we always make room for family!" This was my first time in attendance and not only did I meet many other passionate Union members and supporters, but I learned quite a lot. You can find out more about GLAE, including next year's dates and the Labor Heritage Foundation at [www.laborheritage.org](http://www.laborheritage.org).



# Upcoming Elections to Take Place at NERFA

By Scott Berwick

Elections for Vice President U.S., Eastern Regional Representative and Western Regional Representative will be held during our upcoming Fall Membership Meeting, for three-year terms beginning in January 2016.

The Fall Membership Meeting will take place at 4 PM EST on November 12th, 2015 at NERFA in Kerhonkson, NY.

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Steve Eulberg, Charlie King and Amber Rogers, has proposed the following slate for election: Aaron Fowler for Vice President U.S.; Charlie Pilzer (incumbent) for Eastern Regional Representative; and Gary Paul Hermus for Western Regional Representative. See their bios and photos below.

If there are other nominations for office, please contact:

[nominations@local1000.org](mailto:nominations@local1000.org)

In addition to holding our membership meeting on Nov. 12th, Local 1000 will once again have a strong presence at NERFA and host Showcase Free Zones (SFZs) where anyone can come and share a song or a conversation.

There is a 10% discount on registration available for Local 1000 members.

Please contact the office at [together@local1000.org](mailto:together@local1000.org) for more information.



## Aaron Fowler

*Statement: "I have enjoyed my time on the board as the Midwestern Rep. Our members are doing some very important work in a time when music is needed to move our country along. Anything that I can do as a board member to make our organization stronger is my goal. I would be honored to serve the members in the role of U.S. Vice President."*

Aaron Fowler is a native Kansan who grew up in Topeka and moved to Wichita, Kansas to attend Friends University where he received a degree in Music Education. He then went on to Wichita State University where he earned a Masters in Music Education (Conducting). Aaron taught in the Wichita district for 11 years before setting out as a full time musician.

A member of the Kansas Arts on Tour Roster with the Kansas Arts Commission, he is also a Wolf Trap Early Education Teaching Artist and a Baby ArtsPlay Teaching Artist with Kansas Wolf Trap. In addition, he is a founding Artist with Arts Partners Wichita where he is a roster Artist as well as serving as the Artist Coordinator for the organization.

In 1990, Aaron co-founded Hope Street Youth Development and served for 19 years as Executive Director, working with middle and high school students. Aaron has served on the Executive Board of Local 1000 since 2012.



## Charlie Pilzer

be attributed to his broad base of experience and musical knowledge. Charlie's attention to detail is well known and is best exemplified in the audio restoration of vintage recordings. He received a Grammy for mastering and restoration on the Anthology of American Folk Music (1997).

Following his belief that one should give back to one's community, Charlie currently serves on the Board of Governors for the Washington, DC Chapter of NARAS and works on projects for the Folklore Society of Greater Washington. He is a proud member of Local 1000 of the American Federation of Musicians and a former board member of the Folk Alliance.

Charlie Pilzer is a musician, producer, sound engineer and event organizer, always devoting himself to creating award-winning Scandinavian, Celtic, folk, and acoustic music and sharing his love of the traditions with audiences, listeners, and other musicians around the world.

In addition to being a performer, Charlie is a strong supporter of promoting folk music and dance as part of everyday life. He has been on the staff at camps run by the Country Dance & Song Society and the Christmas Country Dance School at Berea College, and has served as program director for the CDSS Family Week program at Pinewoods Camp. Involved with the Washington Revels for years, Charlie is currently an Artistic Associate for Music.

When not performing, Charlie is chief engineer at Airshow Mastering in Springfield, VA. His success with mastering all the genres of music made in the mid-Atlantic region – from gospel to folk, world music to alternative – can





## Gary Hermus

NY/NJ area for a number of years before moving to Santa Fe New Mexico in 2010. He is a member of the Southwest Regional Folk Alliance (SWRFA), Folk Alliance Region West (chapters of Folk Alliance International) & is a founding member of the SWRFA New Mexico subcommittee. He still maintains his ties to the Northeast Regional Folk Alliance (NERFA) as well. He also teaches as part of Santa Fe Community College's Continuing Education faculty.

### *Statement:*

*"My previous AFM Local was most helpful with the club date end of things, but not as effective when it came to jazz, rock, and especially folk musicians and performing songwriters appearing at small venues. While at a NERFA conference I was thrilled to discover Local 1000. I found its pragmatic focus on the touring small artist to be very refreshing and switched my affiliation without hesitation. Since moving to the Southwest I've found Local 1000 to be an extremely important avenue by which unaffiliated musicians can find their way into the kind of supports and assistance that union membership affords. I also recognize how much work is needed in educating performing musicians (especially those whose formative years were those during which vested interests have worked to marginalize all unions) of the role the union can play as support and resource for them. It is my hope to be able to advocate for continued outreach to the unaffiliated and to be an information/support conduit for the Western Region's membership."*

# In Defense of Applying

by Erin Mae

As an independent folk artist, there are lots of opportunities to apply for things -- showcases, tours, performances, etc. I used to jump at every opportunity to apply for everything. And then I started to get discouraged. It seemed that every application came back without any results. I didn't get into the showcases or accepted for the tours or booked for the performances. It started to get

expensive too. A \$20 application fee doesn't feel like too much until you apply for a bunch of things, and then it starts to add up. I had almost given up on the application process completely UNTIL last weekend.

My duo, "Scenic Roots", got hired to play at the Vancouver Island MusicFest. Not only was it a really sweet folk festival, but it was our first ever international performance. At the end of the weekend, I asked festival

organizer Doug Cox how he had found out about Scenic Roots. His reply? "Oh, I was part of the jury for the showcases at Folk Alliance International. I reviewed your application and knew I wanted to have you at my festival someday." No, we did not get the showcase at Folk Alliance, but we did get a really neat gig out of it. Maybe applying reaps dividends in unexpected places! Take heart! Keep applying.



# SONiA and Terry's WoodyFest Caper



By SONiA

**M**any of you may know Terry Irons as my wife or as my manager but I just gotta say it loud, I'm so freakin' lucky to have this real woman behind the best of me. Here's my little story:

We just got to our Dallas home after doing the last night of Woody Fest in Okemah, OK.

Terry has been my partner vertically and horizontally for 18 amazin' blazin' years. But last night's adventure is just one glimpse into our world.

Back up to Friday night, we wander over to the CD booth and meet a volunteer named Greg, a festival first timer. The volunteers and most campers spent 2 days in a very lakey 6 inches of rain in "just one of those days." As we were exiting the tent Greg says, "Hey, did ya see that guitar in the raffle? It's gonna be mine 'cause I really

love it!" So I tell Greg that Terry and I will each fill out the ticket and if we win - it's his guitar. And then I say - "'Cause Terry is really lucky!"

So wouldn't ya know it... Terry's name gets called (but we didn't hear it.) So after a steller John Fullbright set and the traditional "This Land is Your Land" - around 1 AM we stop back to the hotel for the jam - and some folks come up to Terry and say "Congratulations" and she says, "For what?" "Winning the guitar!" Just then she looks and sees some unfamiliar phone calls that she missed. She calls them back and they say "Yes! You won the guitar" and she says "Thank you so much but we are giving it to a guy named Greg, but we don't have any other info on how to get him the guitar..." So we jump back in the car to race back to find Greg, but the CD booth and backstage staff are already

gone... So we drive on the campground and start whispering Greg's name to see if we can find him. NOBODY KNOWS HIM...

Finally, after walking around and asking folks and looking for a guy in plaid shorts, we stumble on a camp site and they say "Yeah that guy was just here he'll be back in a bit," so... about 20 minutes later the real Greg Price shows up and we tell him and he's jumping out of his pants. Well, not really, but you know, super-duper thrilled! And then, of course, we're all trading songs and by 3 AM we head back over to the Okemah Coffee Company and then back to the hotel... crazy awesome fun and she's schlepping me everywhere as usual and giving rides to folks... Anyway the bottom line of this is... the luckiest one here really is me, but because she's a member of your Local 1000, well, you are a bit lucky too.



# Letter from the President

**D**ear Brothers and Sisters,

This has been such an exciting year for Local 1000. Again we had a strong and productive presence at Folk Alliance International in Kansas City, a joyful and educational member gathering at the Ashokan Center in New York, and the promise of a strong membership meeting at NERFA in Kerhonkson, NY this fall.

Last November we initiated a monthly online newsletter “Local 1000 AFM Update” through the dedicated work and commitment of our office staff and our board members, Canadian VP Eve Goldberg, Midwestern Rep Aaron Fowler, and Office Co-manager Colin Dean. I hope you are reading and enjoying the news. They have done a wonderful job on this project to improve our union’s communication with our members. We are always looking for member news, so please send us yours.

This coming year we will once again hold our Member Gathering at the Ashokan Center in Olive Bridge, NY from May 2-4, 2016. Because we are spread out all over North America, this event is a great chance to connect with other members and get to know your union’s officers. We hope you will join us this year. Watch for details in the next New Deal and in our online newsletter.

And please know that if you have any questions about your membership and how you can take advantage of the many opportunities it affords, just call or email the office. We have a top-notch staff that is there to answer your questions and meet your needs.

In solidarity!

Tret Fure

*Tret*



## Secretary-Treasurer's Notes

by **Scott Berwick**

I am pleased to report that Local 1000 membership has passed the 500 mark, and now stands at 510 members. This is nice steady growth from our 472 members in 2013 and 479 members in 2014.

For those who are interested, you can find the minutes of Membership Meetings and Executive Board meetings posted in the Members Only

section of the Local 1000 website. Financial Statements are included as attachments to the minutes.

We are considering a By-Laws change affecting the make-up of the Executive Board. Currently the Board consists of a President, a Vice-president U.S., a Vice-president Canada, an Eastern U.S. Representative, a Midwestern U.S. Representative, and a Western U.S. Representative. We would like to open the Eastern, Midwestern, and

Western Representative positions to Canadian as well as U.S. Members. We plan to discuss this at the November Membership Meeting at NERFA, and if the members think it a good plan, propose a By-Laws change to be voted on at Folk Alliance International in February. We also invite comments from members who may not be in attendance at these meetings. You can submit comments at **together@local1000.org**.

# LOCAL 1000 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

## NEW MEMBERS

David Amram  
Robert Aube  
Gina Burgess  
Jonathan Carroll  
Shawna Caspi  
Darryl Cherney  
Leigh Cline  
Alana Cline  
Rob Clutton  
Vincent Cross  
Marc Doucet  
Ryan Driver  
Laura Dungan  
Neil Elsmore  
Sam Gleaves  
Adrian Gross  
Kevin Harvey  
Jesse Howard  
Dana Idlet

Avotcja Jiltonilro  
Kaia Kater-Hurst  
Ian Kehoe  
Jane Lewis  
Sharon Marshall  
Samantha Martin  
Sue Masek  
Dave McCann  
Michael McGeary  
Andrew McLaren  
Nancy Mike  
Rita-Claire Mike-Murphy  
Andrew Morrison  
David Myers  
Hannah Naiman  
Margaret Nelson  
Brian Oaks  
Karyn Oliver-Draillard  
James Preimel  
Steve Rigby

Carl Ruff  
Angenla Saini  
Dan Schatz  
Jennifer Smith  
Scott Smith  
Elliot Sowell  
Emilyn Stam  
Adam Stotland  
Stacie Tabb  
David Whyte  
Catherine Wilson  
Natalia Zukerman

## REINSTATED MEMBERS

Natalie Bohrn  
Morgan Doctor  
Francisco Herrera  
Sue Jeffers  
Daniel Stadnicki





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