

# Folk Talk

A Newsletter for Columbia, Snake, and Yakima River Folk

Vol. 37 Issue 6

February 2026

## Trillium-239 Offers Tumbleweed Benefit Concert

Saturday, February 21, 7:30 PM  
All Saints' Episcopal Church

Local divas [Trillium-239](#) are well known to Three Rivers Folklife Society members. They have performed concerts of mostly original music around the area for years, including performing at Tumbleweed Music Festival. They've also done presentation-concerts for our local Community Lecture Series and Humanities Washington. In February, they'll be giving a Humanities WA presentation at 7:00 pm on Thursday, February 19th at the Kennewick Library. In addition, they will also perform the February 3RFS concert, which will be a benefit for Tumbleweed. The concert takes place on Saturday, February 21st, 7:30 pm at All Saints' Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Ave, in Richland. Enter the church from the parking lot in the basement. The concert will be in the sanctuary. Tickets are \$20 general admission/\$15 for members and can be purchased at the door or online at <https://3rfs.org/concerts-2>

Humphrey and Hartman, both performers in their own right, joined forces in the mid '90s. Cellist Michelle Cameron joined them in 2003. The name "Trillium-239" is the fusion of the lovely 3-petaled woodland flower and the atomic mass of a plutonium isotope. The latter is a nod to the Hanford nuclear site, which directly or indirectly drew all three members of Trillium-239 to Richland. Mary Hartman and Janet Humphrey are both prolific and award-winning songwriters and accomplished guitar players. Mary also plays banjo and banjovi. and Janet also plays percussion including spoons. Janet now lives in Sequim so she is not exactly local, but she is still a local diva. Michelle, whose cello is the third voice in the band, also sometimes plays in the symphony, hangs out with shanty singers, and often accompanies folksinger Hank Cramer. The trio were

featured singing Linda Allen's "Termination Winds" in "[Richland](#)," a documentary directed by Irene Lusztag, so they are also movie stars too! Trillium-239 has been described as the harmonic equivalent of peanut butter and jelly; distinctly different and perfectly complementary. Their original songs and intricate harmonies have enticed audiences across the Northwest. Strong vocals and tight harmonies continue to be the signature of their high energy performances.

The free presentation, entitled "[Women Who Step Up, Not Aside](#)," shares songs and stories of trail-breaking women like Marie Curie, Harriet Tubman, Malala Yousafzai, Annie Oakley, and others. What drove them to step out of their expected roles to forge more difficult paths, knowing they'd face many challenges and barriers? What can we learn from them? With their voices, hands, pens, and guns, they persisted, and Trillium-239 will examine the lives and motivations of these fascinating women and celebrate them in song.

Don't miss either of your chances to catch this trio perform. They will be completely different shows.

## Tumbleweed News by Katrina Knight

Preparations for our 30th Tumbleweed Music Festival continue. I've been working on an exciting addition for this year - online streaming of some of the festival. I applied to get some grant money to help pay for it. I'm still waiting for the answer on that, but hopefully I'll hear about that soon. The biggest barrier for streaming has been getting reliable internet access of sufficient quality outdoors in the park. To that end, we have received a donation of the equipment necessary to connect to Starlink, from the [Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust](#) in Seattle. Thanks to them, and to Chris Glanister who facilitated the donation.

We've been getting a steady flow of performer applications along with a few

song-writing contest entries. The deadline for the logo contest is coming up on February 15, so if you know any artists or graphic designers who might be interested, remind them to get their entries in. The winner gets \$150, one of each item we put the logo on, and name recognition in our program and on our website. In recent years we've had entries come in from local artists as well as from artists around the world.

We still need more people to help make Tumbleweed happen. We have not been kidding when we've told you that Tumbleweed can not continue unless more people step forward to step into positions of leadership. The people who've been doing this for 30 years are getting older and slowing down. In recent years we've lost people who've done important jobs. Now is the time for YOU to consider whether you have the time and ability to help. We need people to help run the info booth, handle volunteers, deal with our social media accounts, as well as do all the numerous smaller jobs that volunteers do at the festival. We'd also like someone willing to learn how to deal with the various application submissions. Dave Carson has been doing a wonderful job, but we'd like him to have some backup and someone to take over eventually. Contact me if you're interested.

## President's Pen by Gene Carbaugh

Love is in the air... or at least that's what's claimed about St. Valentine's Day. The story of St. Valentine dates to around 270 AD, when a priest in Rome conducted secret marriages for Christian couples despite the emperor's prohibition of such marriages. Arrested for his actions, he was sentenced to execution. While imprisoned, he developed a friendship with the jailer's daughter, reportedly even healing her blindness through prayer. A note left for her at the time of his February 14 execution was signed "from your Valentine," hence the origin of the modern phrase, "Will you be my Valentine?" Historical facts about Valentine (and the note) are minimal,

and the Roman Catholic Church records are not clear on his identity. But church traditions grew and, by 500 AD, Pope Galasius had established the Feast of St. Valentine as February 14, and he also noted that Valentine was a man "whose acts are known only to God." The modern custom of Valentine cards dates to the 1700s when inexpensive printing allowed mass production of cards. Here in the USA, Esther Howland, the "Mother of the American Valentine," began making fancy Valentine cards in the 1840s. Newspaper ads and department stores promoted cards, bringing new commercialism to the event, while poets provided sentimental verses for cards and publications. One could say the folk process has taken limited historical data and given us a major commercial and romantic celebration. Well, we do need all the celebrations of love and caring that we can muster in these challenging times of division, so be my Valentine and show others you care about them, especially the ones you find challenging.

In ongoing 3RFS business, we are once again seeking a volunteer to edit our Folk Talk newsletter – see the notice elsewhere in this issue. I sometimes start to feel like a broken record emphasizing the need for new volunteers for various tasks. But the need continues. Our organization is in remarkable fiscal health, thanks to some major financial contributions, but like so

many other organizations, we are short on volunteers stepping into various roles. Special thanks to Ray Puigh for joining the concert sound support crew, to Deb Burke and Barb Puigh for joining the Tumbleweed Planning Committee, to Lona Hammer for joining the rotation in hosting the First Friday Folkie Free For Alls, and to Scott Woodside for facilitating the labeling and mailing of our newsletter. We are still seeking folks interested in helping with publicity, coordinating volunteers, and serving as board members. Many hands make light labor! And I have to chuckle at the metaphor of a broken record: how many of the younger generation can identify with that comparison?

**THANKS AND ADIEU TO OUR FOLK TALK EDITOR**

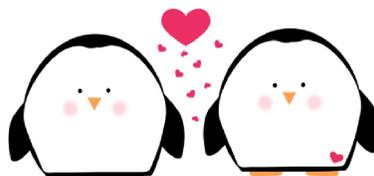
We were surprised to learn in early January that our Folk Talk newsletter editor, Jacob Keffer, is resigning his position because he is moving to Sweden the first of March to pursue a PhD program. We will miss him greatly but certainly wish him well in his studies and pray that his transition will be smooth.

**February Coffeehouse to feature Jacob Corsiga**

**Friday, February 13, 7 PM  
All Saints' Episcopal Church**

Jacob Corsiga is a 16 year old musician from Richland. He's a Junior at Hanford High School. He started playing guitar at 6 years old and his love for music and his craft has grown through the years as he has discovered the genre and artists he connects with. Jacob enjoys playing both folk music standards and original compositions on his guitar and harmonica. His first Tumbleweed Music Festival performance this past summer was received favorably.

Coffeehouse admission is \$8 for 3RFS members/\$10 for non-members and the show starts at 7 PM with an open mic. Come early if you would like to sign up for a performance slot. The coffeehouse is hosted at the All Saints' Episcopal Church at 1322 Kimball Avenue in Richland.



**Two Years Plus of "Good Road"  
by David M. Carson**

Anyone who was tuned in to Northwest Public Broadcasting starting in the late 1980's likely remembers how nice it was to tune to 89.1 on Saturday morning at 10:00am, and hear Dan Maher's resonant voice saying "Inland Folk is a production of Northwest Public Radio, on the campus of Washington State University in Pullman, Washington." You knew then that the next three hours were going to bring you some fine, fine music, programmed in a wonderful order, with hefty doses of Dan's deep knowledge to salt the content with wonderful background information.

Alas, when Dan retired from WSU, "Inland Folk" was closed down suddenly, after over 38 years. Right away, it became a priority project for 3RFS to help find a way for Dan to get back on the air. After a few false starts, and with 3RFS Board approval and ongoing financial support and the heroic efforts of Katrina Knight, on Saturday, December 23rd, 2023 (via <https://FolkMusicNotebook.com>), Dan's voice, and his skills and knowledge came back to us in the form of "Dan Maher's Good Road!"

For a year and a half, we had the pleasure of having Dan in our ears and lives again. Unfortunately, during this time he was struggling with the cancer that would take his life; he left us in May of 2025.

At that time, Katrina, the show's Executive Producer, stepped up to take over the hosting and production of the show, which now is titled just "Good Road." Although she does not have the full depth of Dan's knowledge and experience, she does have a lot of experience with folk music of all kinds, having helped run several festivals in the east where she lived, eventually coming to us as a virtual Tumbleweed Planning Committee member in a virtual capacity during the pandemic, and then, was able to join us in real life!

Katrina's song choices, and especially (IMO) her facility at building wonderfully cohesive themed sets of songs for her show has bloomed during her months of running the show. Every week (we listen on Sunday mornings at <https://www.mixcloud.com/goodroad/>, where that week's archived show drops at 5:00 am Pacific each Sunday, and all 300+ hours of past shows are permanently available), I look forward with great anticipation to seeing how the show is structured, and what

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**Send memberships to:**  
 3RFS Membership  
 P.O. Box1098, Richland, WA 99352

**3RFS 2025-2026 Board of Directors**

Gene Carbaugh, President	509-946-0504
Jim Kelly, Vice President	509 521-8368
Frank Cuta, Secretary	509-967-2658
Steve Ghan, Treasurer	509-308-9023

Tumbleweed Coordinator -  
 Katrina Knight 509-587-3060

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Scott Woodside	509-205-1125

3RFS Info: [www.3rfs.org](http://www.3rfs.org) 509-946-0504  
 (Gene Carbaugh)

wonderful, new-to-me pieces of music will land exactly right. It's exhilarating, enriching, and quite fulfilling.

If you haven't yet taken advantage of Katrina's skills of weaving coherent strands into a luminescent whole each week, I can't urge you strongly enough to try it now!

[www.folkmusicnotebook.com](http://www.folkmusicnotebook.com) - 7 -10 pm Saturdays

<https://www.mixcloud.com/goodroad/> - archives

## First Friday Folkie Free For All

Friday, February 13, 7 PM  
Gene Carbaugh's home

Friday, March 6, 7 pm  
Niel & Cheryle Kierulff's home

February is the month for romance and romantic songs. Guess what songs might be requested at the Feb 6 First Friday Folkie Free For All, which will be at Gene Carbaugh's home, 803 Birch Ave., in Richland, beginning at 7 PM. Our usual format allows everyone at least two or even three chances to pick a song for the group to sing, or do a solo, or ask someone to do a specific song. Also, put the FFFFFA for March 6 on your calendar at Niel and Cheryle Kierulff's home, 4101 Maple Lane in West Richland.

## SECOND SATURDAY SINGALONG

Saturday, February 14, 6 PM  
Round Table Pizza, Richland

Romance or the high seas? No need to choose! Join us on Valentine's Evening, February 14 at Round Table Pizza for our monthly Second Saturday Sea Song Singalong, otherwise known as "SSSSS." Nautical music is the focus, but our songs will stretch from the high seas to the Highlands and from mermaids to sweet colleens. Bring your sweeties, voices, and instruments. Food begins at 6 PM with singing about 6:45. No nautical or music experience required, just a desire to make and enjoy music.

## WANTED (NEEDED!!!): FOLK TALK EDITOR

With Jacob Keffer's move to Sweden, we have an immediate need for a new Folk Talk newsletter editor. This is a really important position in our organization

## Folk Events

### February

<b>6</b>	First Friday Folkie Free For All	7:00 pm Fri	Gene Carbaugh's, Richland
<b>9</b>	3RFS Board Meeting	7:00 pm Mon	Gene Carbaugh's, Richland
<b>13</b>	3RFS Coffeehouse with Jacob Corsiga	7:00 pm Fri	All Saints', Richland
<b>14</b>	Second Saturday Sea Song Singalong	6:00 pm Fri	Round Table Pizza, Richland
<b>16</b>	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	6:30 pm Mon	Zoom
<b>19</b>	Trillium-239 Presentation, (Humanities WA)	7:00 pm Thur	Kennewick Library, Kennewick
<b>21</b>	Trillium-239 Concert (Tumbleweed benefit)	7:30 pm Sat	All Saints', Richland

### March

<b>6</b>	FFFFFA	7:00 pm Fri	Niel Kierulff's, West Richland
<b>9</b>	3RFS Board Meeting	7:00 pm Mon	Gene Carbaugh's, Richland
<b>13</b>	3RFS Coffeehouse with Dorothy Sted	7:00 pm Fri	All Saints', Richland
<b>14</b>	SSSSS	6:00 pm Sat	Round Table Pizza, Richland
<b>16</b>	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	6:30 pm Mon	Zoom
<b>21</b>	Hank Cramer Concert	7:30 pm Sat	All Saints', Richland

All Saints' = All Saints' Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Ave., Richland

Gene Carbaugh's = 803 Birch Ave., Richland

Kennewick Library = 1620 S. Union St., Kennewick

Niel Kierulff's = 4191 Maple Lane in West Richland

Round Table Pizza = Corner of George Washington Way and Torbett St., Richland

because Folk Talk is our primary source of information and communication of our activities and events to our members, website, and public. The editor is not expected to be the article writer, but does need the skills to organize, compile, edit for grammar and appearance, and submit the computer files to our printer by the last week of the month. Please contact [Katrina Knight](mailto:Katrina.Knight@3rfs.net) (509-587-3060) for details. Katrina edited our newsletter for several years and has agreed fill in on a short-term basis. Our need is immediate.

## Membership Renewal

Are you aware of your membership status? Our membership runs for 12-months from when you paid. You can conveniently renew online (<https://3rfs.org/participate/>) or by mailing in your membership form. Member dues are only \$20 (Individual) or \$25 (Family). Members pay discounted admission prices to events and have the satisfaction of knowing

they are supporting local folklife events. If you're not sure of your membership status or expiration, send an email to [communications@3rfs.net](mailto:communications@3rfs.net).

## Events To Travel To

The **Wintergrass Music Festival** takes place February 19-22 in Bellevue. Some of the acts who will be there include Danny Paisley & The Southern Grass, John Reischman & The Jaybirds, The Paperboys, Missy Raines & Allegheny, and Bruce Molsky & Brittany Haas plus more. Go to <https://wintergrass.com> for more information.

**Singtime Frolics 2026** will be a weekend of singing and harmonies, of sing-alongs, and of shared songs. It takes place March 27-29 at Menucha Retreat and Conference Center in Corbett, Oregon, high above the Columbia River Gorge. To register or for additional information, go to: [Portlandfolkmusic.org/singtime](http://Portlandfolkmusic.org/singtime).

# Yes!

## I want to help 3RFS and the Tumbleweed Music Festival Roll on!

I would like to contribute at this level:

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$250.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other

Please keep my gift anonymous (Donor names will be listed in next year's program unless you indicate you wish to remain anonymous.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



## Membership Application

*Your membership gives you voting rights in Folklife elections, discounts on events, and is tax deductible!*

\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$20) or \_\_\_\_ Family (\$25)    Renewal?   Y   N

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send Folk Talk (choose one) US Mail**    **Email**    **Both**  

**I can help 3RFS with:**

- Refreshments at concerts
- Taking admission at events
- Serve on Board of Directors
- Demonstrating folk arts
- Setting up chairs
- Folding newsletters
- Publicity
- Membership
- Fund raising

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