

Alaska Folk Festival, Inc.
P.O. Box 21748
Juneau, AK 99802

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January 2006
NEWSLETTER!
AFF 32 Dates:
April 3-9, 2006

Happy New Year Folk Festival Enthusiasts!

It is time to start the count down to AFF 32! We have an exciting guest artist scheduled (see page 2), poster art selected, Amory secured for another year of dance fun, and of course Centennial Hall crew resting up for our arrival. The next major task to accomplish is dependent on you who wish to share your talents. Now is the time to get your application in for 15 minutes of main stage fun, or provide exuberant dance music. Those of us who would rather watch or listen from afar are counting on your participation to once again make Juneau the musical center of the state.

Each year board seats expire and it is time for you to consider the possibility of running for the board. If this sounds like something you would like to do, contact one of the board members and let us know you're interested. We will be happy to put you on the ballot. If you want to see what happens at board meetings or are just looking for some way to get involved in the planning, please join us. Currently, the board meets on a monthly basis until the first of March when we will meet each Monday prior to the big event (see meeting dates on page 3). Voting takes place at the annual meeting on Friday, April 7 at the dance venue. Note: the annual membership meeting is open to all members. It is a time to share your constructive thoughts or just touch base with the board members. It is generally hard to compete with good weather, jams, or mixed up sleep schedules, but we do appreciate your participation, and provide gourmet pizzas.

So for now, keep picking those tunes, polish the new ones, make your reservations, and prepare to enjoy the 32nd Alaska Folk Festival. I know I eagerly await the musical migration that once again heralds springtime in Juneau! See you at Centennial Hall, April 2nd for set up, and 3rd through 9th for tons of fun.

Cheers!

Linda Frame
Board President



Thank you! A huge "thank you" goes out to Michael O'Callaghan and the O'Callaghan Family Foundation from Salem, Oregon. They have graciously and generously contributed to the Alaska Folk Festival. We greatly appreciate the donation and your support of our efforts.

We would also like to acknowledge the \$1000.00 mini-grant awarded by the CBJ to help defray costs at Centennial Hall. Thank you!

Alaska Folk Festival Membership Form

32nd Annual Alaska Folk Festival: April 3 - 9, 2006



Amount \$

- Member (\$15 - \$29)
 - Sustaining Member (\$30 - \$49)
 - Friend (\$50 - \$99)
 - Patron (\$100 - \$249)
 - Benefactor (\$250 and above)

Please do not list my name in the program.

All members receive the Festival newsletters. Benefactors, Patrons, Friends, and Sustaining Members will be listed in the Festival program (deadline: March 10, 2006). Please mail to: Alaska Folk Festival, P.O. Box 21748, Juneau, Alaska 99802.

Thank you!

The Alaska Folk Festival board of directors is pleased to announce **Nanci Griffith** as the Guest Artist for the 32nd Annual Alaska Folk Festival.

Nanci's musical journey has taken her from folk and country roots, to her own brand of folkabilly; from Austin's Hole In The Wall Bar to New York's Carnegie Hall, Nashville's Grand Ole Opry and London's Royal Albert Hall; from an eight-year-old girl in Texas learning to play guitar from a television instructor to a woman of the world, visiting and performing in Vietnam, Cambodia and Kosovo in support of the abolition of landmines. Today, the journey of one of the most admired and acclaimed of singer-songwriters—a career marked by a beautiful voice, brilliant songwriting and uncommon emotional commitment—continues.

The torchbearer of a music that brings together folk and country (she was hailed by Rolling Stone as the Queen of Folkabilly), the female sensibility of a new genre that embraced the likes of Lyle Lovett, Dwight Yoakam and Steve Earle, Griffith has penned such classics as Gulf Coast Highway, Love At The Five And Dime and Outbound Plane. She has been honored with five Grammy nominations, three as a solo artist (winning once) and twice for performing on albums by The Chieftains (winning once).



Born in 1953 in Seguin, near San Antonio, Griffith grew up in Austin. She learned to play the guitar from a Saturday morning public television series hosted by Laura Weber and began writing her own songs because she found that easier than learning how to play those of other people. Her first professional gig was at Austin's Red Lion club on a Thanksgiving holiday evening when she was 14. Later that year, singer-songwriter Tom Russell heard her singing around a campfire at the Kerrville Folk Festival and became her earliest champion.

She played the local club circuit, at first with her parents as chaperones, throughout high school and college and her first jobs as a teacher. Graduating from the University of Texas with an education degree, she taught kindergarten and first grade in Austin during the 70's even as she held a five-year Sunday night spot at the Hole In The Wall.

In 1978, she debuted an album with There's A Light Beyond These Woods, and 28 years and 21 albums later; Nanci Griffith is still going strong.

2004 brought the release of her new studio album, Hearts In Mind.

Gold Street Music News

Since August of 2005, Gold Street Music has been providing monthly concerts by local folk musicians. On January 21st at 7:30pm we're holding a mid-month concert in Holy Trinity Church sanctuary featuring Mike Truax and Don Drew. For more information, call Elva 586-9001 or Terry 586-2997.

AFF Contact & Info Sources

- Voice mail 907-463-3316
-- Snail-Mail: AFF, PO Box 21748, Juneau AK 99802
-- Web site www.alaskafolkfestival.org
-- AFF listserv <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/aff-l/>

Thinking about performing at the 32nd Alaska Folk Festival?

There are two pages on the Folk Festival's Web site that contain a LOT of useful information for prospective performers.

<http://www.juneau.com/aff/faq.htm>

This page is a lengthy Performer FAQ containing answers to just about every question performers ask. If you have any questions at all, the answers are probably there, including questions you might not know enough to ask, yet.

<http://www.juneau.com/aff/onstg.htm>

This page gives a few On Stage Tips for performers, how to use microphones, making sure your guitar pickup and guitar cord is ready to be on stage, and more. (You might be surprised at how many people come on stage with bad guitar pickups or bad guitar cords.)

Reminders:

- The deadline for submitting your performer application is IN OUR HANDS not later than 5 PM, TUESDAY, February 21.
- Performance sets in Centennial Hall are 15 minutes COUNTING SET-UP. If you have a long set up and/or talk a lot, you'll have less time for music. Think about set-up. How long will that take? Time your sets, including talking. The Performer FAQ explains why everyone has 15 minutes in some detail, but basically it is fairness to all the other performers. Only the Guest Artist gets more than 15 minutes

We will aim to send out a Tentative Schedule to everyone who applies to perform not later than Friday, March 3rd. That schedule is the only notification you'll receive. If your act is in the schedule, you're good to go. If your act is not there, then you are on Standby (also explained in the Performer FAQ in detail), waiting and hoping for a cancellation you can fill. How many people are put on Standby? Last year we had two dozen more acts applying to perform than we had performance spots.

AFF Board Members through AFF 32

AFF Board members are all volunteers who love the Alaska Folk Festival and are willing to serve a three year term working on the board organizing the Festival. Here are the board members through the next Festival, with term expiration years shown.

Linda Frame, President (exp '06)
Maridon Boario, Vice President (exp '07)
Christine Hess, Treasurer (exp '08)
Michael Sakarias, Secretary (exp '07)
Greg McLaughlin (exp '07)
Jamie Brown (exp '08)
Terry Hoskinson (exp '06)

Alaska Folk Festival Membership

Is Your Mailing Label correct?

Please check your mailing label. Did we figure out your handwriting on the membership form and get your name spelled correctly?? Is the other information on the label correct? Give us a call if we goofed.

The EXPIRATION DATE, as it appears on the mailing label, is 12 months after your membership donation. If your mailing label says "Member for: 2006 AFF" you are a member in good standing for AFF32. We will list all Sustaining and higher members in the program, unless you ask us not to. If you have checked the "do not list" your name box on the membership form, you should see "dnl--" preceding the Membership Level on your mailing label.

If you are not a current AFF member, send in the form and \$15 or more and you'll be set for the next year.

Why become an AFF member?

The Alaska Folk Festival is funded primarily by memberships (75% of the annual cost of putting on the Festival), individuals, families and businesses (some of whom also donate goods and services). The rest of the AFF's funding comes from sales of merchandise at the Membership table, donations and occasional fund raising concerts.

There are four ingredients that go into each Alaska Folk Festival: musicians (450-500), an audience (10,000+ for the week), volunteers (250+) and members (800+ households).

If you really want to enjoy the 32nd Annual Alaska Folk Festival coming up this April, 2006, become a member (or renew) to help make it happen.

If you find a mistake on your mailing label, give me a call, or leave a message on the AFF voice mail, 463-3316.

Michael Sakarias 586-4422
Keeper of the AFF database/mailing list

Folk Festival Organizing Meetings

All meetings are at KTOO, 360 Egan Drive, Juneau.

January 23 (Monday) 7 PM @ KTOO -- Board Meeting
February 13 (Monday) 7 PM @ KTOO -- Board Meeting
March 6 (Monday) 7 PM @ KTOO -- Board Meeting
March 13 (Monday) 7 PM @ KTOO -- Board Meeting
March 20 (Monday) 7 PM @ KTOO -- Board Meeting
March 27 (Monday) 7 PM @ KTOO -- Board Meeting

These meetings are open to everyone who wants to get involved and lend a hand making the AFF happen. Checkout the "Volunteer Jobs" article, elsewhere in this newsletter, for some ideas on the jobs that need doing BEFORE the Festival.

Other dates and meetings:

February 21 (Tuesday) -- Due Date for Performer Apps
March 3 (Friday) Noon @ KTOO -- Tentative Schedule Mailing (perhaps a day or two earlier)
April 7 (Friday) 5 PM @ Dance Venue --
AFF Annual Membership Meeting

Alaska Folk Festival VOLUNTEER JOBS

So, what is it that volunteers do to put on the Alaska Folk Festival? When someone tells us "I want to help with the Festival, just let me know what I can do," it seems like such a simple offer and question. The answer is not short. There are many, many jobs that need doing to make the Festival happen. The Volunteer Form, in this mailing, lists several jobs the Festival needs volunteers for, but there are many more jobs. Here is an (lightly) annotated list. Long though it may be, it is not all inclusive.

If you see something YOU think might be interesting to do or that you would like to help with, LET US KNOW. AFF Voice Mail = 463-3316

- **Board of Directors** - Seven members (all volunteers) -- Runs the Festival organization throughout the year. Selects and hires the Guest Artists, schedules Festival the concert and dance schedules, coordinates all the volunteers before and during the Festival. Board membership is open to any AFF member, though it helps to live in Juneau where most of the work is. Elections are part of the Annual Meeting, Friday, April 7th, 5 PM at the National Guard Armory.

PRE-FESTIVAL

- Program Designer
- Poster Distribution (mostly to program advertisers)
- Salesperson for FF Program ads
- Typists to enter performer info for program
- Workshop Coordinator -- Schedules workshops
- Dance Venue organizer -- Organizes the Dance Venue
- Songwriters' Showcase Organizer
- PR coordinator -- Guest Artist and other info to the Media
- Merchandise Ordering Person
- Emcee Manager Scheduler
- Stage Manager Scheduler
- Dance Master Scheduler
- Centennial Hall Tech Crew Scheduler
- Set-up Day, Set-up Crew (Merchandise prep, Lobby prep, Sound, Backdrop, Lights, Go-fer)

DURING FESTIVAL

- Emcees -- see the "How-To" on the AFF web site @ <http://www.juneau.com/aff/info.htm>
- Stage Managers -- runs the behind-the-stage operations, getting the acts on stage when they need to be
- Stage Crew Leader
- Stage Crew Member -- Moves the mics, etc., between acts. See the "How-To" on the AFF website @ <http://www.juneau.com/aff/stagecrew.htm>
- Chief Sound Engineer - In over-all charge of sound at the Festival
- Sound Engineering Assistants Mix or help mix Stage or House sound Act as communicators between the Stage & Main Sound Board
- Membership Table -- Many, many people need to do this over the week. Sell folk festival memberships, mugs, etc. Act as Information Booth
- Volunteer Hospitality Make sure coffee/snacks are ready for sound/stage crew
- Family Concert Coordinator -- Organizes the Family Concert
- Day Care Coordinator -- Makes sure day care needs are met
- Workshop Coordinator -- Makes sure the workshops are running smoothly
- Dance Coordinator -- Makes sure dances are running smoothly
- Dance master -- In charge of a dance, equal to Emcee/Stage Manager
- Dance Sound Engineer -- In charge of sound at the dance venue
- Dance Venue Technical Crew
- Songwriter's Showcase Producer -- Runs the Showcase
- Guest Artist Hospitality Arrangers & Guest Artist Wranglers -- Get them where they need to be.

January - April 2006 Tentative Contra Dance Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Caller</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sat 1/21	Tom Paul	Liz & Leif	Centennial Hall
Th 1/26	Kari Lundgren	Reuben's	Capital School
Th 2/2	Odette Foster	Amanitas/English	Capital School
Th 2/9	Odette Foster	Impromptu	Capital School
Th 2/23	Jim Grammel	Starr Hill Gang	Capital School
Sat 2/25	Tom Paul	Full Circle	Centennial Hall
Th 3/2	Odette Foster	Primrose/English	Capital School
Th 3/9	Tom Paul	Jerry Fiscus & friends	Capital School
Sat 3/18	Jim Grammel	Grateful Celtics	St. Anne's
Th 3/23	Odette Foster	Tom Paul & friends	Capital School
April 3-9	AFF 32		
Fr 4/7	Coffee & Jam (14th annual)		
Th 4/13	Tom Paul	Liz & Leif	Capital School
Sat 4/29	Odette Foster	Primrose/Contra	TBA

Thursday dances:

7:30-9:30 pm
at Capital School.
Use 6th Street entrance.

Saturday dances:

7:30-11:00 pm.

Folk dancing every **Sunday**
6:00-8:00 pm at
Downtown Racquet Club.