

PASS IT ON!



A NEWSLETTER OF THE CHILDREN'S MUSIC NETWORK

ISSUE ONE: SEPTEMBER 1987

LIKE A ROPE TEAM

When my friend Andrea Ayvazian climbed up Mt. McKinley, the whole safety of the climb depended upon rope teams. If one member of the team fell down a glacier (as happened daily), the rest would hit the snow, anchor themselves with their pick axes, and stabilize the rope so the fallen team member could get back up.

Rope teams have become for me a symbol of interdependence. This is the image that comes to mind as our network takes its first steps. As we meet the glacial chasms of financial woes, cancelled shows, writer's block, times of depression, there are others who care and understand. Most of all what I get from the rope teams is the strength of cooperation. We're linked together. Whether or not we will meet each other face to face, we will meet through our music and our work. We can know that there's a whole group of others out there who know why we work so hard and why it matters so much to us.

Competition is the dominant image in our culture. But the underlying spirit of the music we celebrate is cooperation.

We want to sidestep the "win/lose" model. That one says, "If you're good, that hurts and diminishes me." Ain't so!

What we're putting forward is "win/win." We're saying we want each other to be the best we can, to fly and flourish. In reality this strengthens all of us.

So we're out there like a rope team, being allies in each other's work and each other's growth.

WINTER GATHERING: PEOPLES' MUSIC NETWORK/SFS

The People's Music Network meets twice a year, in the winter in a city with rotated locations, and in the summer in early June at Camp Thoreau in Pine Bush, N.Y.

January 20 - 23 is the weekend, and D.C. is the tentative location. For more information, contact PMN Office-Manager, Jane Treat

3403A Mt. Pleasant ST.NW, Wash DC 20010.
(202) 797-9261.

There will be workshops and songswaps focusing on children's music, and a meeting of the Children's Music Network.

Sarah thanks Ruth Pelham, Bob Reid, Lydia Adams Davis, Bob Blue, Sarah Daykin, Phil Hoose, Marsha Lee Cutting, and David Roth who helped get the network going.

WELCOME!

This newsletter is here to link together people from all over the U.S. who write, perform, teach, produce and advocate children's music.

It was born at the 1987 People's Music Network Gatherings. (see below for when the next one is). The group who met together described our common interest --

We are concerned with music which is for and by and with young people. We care about music which is empowering, which promotes affirmation, nonviolence, and cooperation, values which help create a safe and equitable planet.

Sandy Pliskin said at the June gathering, "We're interested in songs about young people's lives. Songs that take kids seriously."

WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE NEWSLETTERS

The portion of the newsletter called "Thumbnail Sketches" provides a way to learn more about other people in the network. The FOCUS section is a forum for concrete useful ideas; here it's about support.

Another goal is to share news -- resources, new recordings, workshops and gatherings, radio programs to send music for airplay.

We won't be selecting songs to print or writing reviews, but we will reprint reviews that you send in, and we'll describe new songs as well as how to get the lead sheets.

Join in. Mail something for the next issue which will be mailed out in January.

DEADLINE FOR ISSUE 2: DECEMBER 1

Send to: Children's Music Network
Sarah Pirtle, Editor
54 Thayer Rd., Greenfield, Ma. 01301
Phone: (413) 774-5385 (7:30 AM - 11 PM)

What to send: thumbnail sketches, a description or review of your new recording or song, networking info., announcements, something for FOCUS on community building through music, requests you'd like printed.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are \$1 issue/ \$3 a year.

*Please
Subscribe!*

**** NETWORKS **** NETWORKS **** NETWORKS

Freedom Song Network

131 Mangels Ave. S.F. Ca 94131
(415) 431-3231

Midwest Peoples Music Network
PO Box 3092 Madison, WI 53704

Music for Social Change Network
20 Albert Frank Pl, Toronto
Ontario M5A 4 B4 Canada

Arts with Heart

PO Box 1247 Huntington NY 11743

* CHILDREN'S RECORDING COMPANIES *

AMERICAN MELODY

Phil Rosenthal PO Box 270 Guilford, CT
06437 (203) 457-0881

- * Interested in receiving tapes of original children's material.
- * Recording studio available for other musicians. (\$40/hr).
- * Four albums available in album and cassette: Jonathan Edwards, John McCutcheon, Cathy Fink, Larry Penn, Phil Rosenthal. Includes Parent's Choice Award Winners. \$8.25 plus \$1 shipping. Write for a free catalog.

Producer of traditional and original songs for children (and parents) in folk, blue grass and other acoustic styles.

A GENTLE WIND

Songs and stories for children on cassette
Box 3103, Albany NY 12203 (518) 436-0391

- * Forty cassette including many Notable Children's Recordings (ALA), and Parents Choice Award Winners. Musicians include Ruth Pelham, Paul Strausman, Paul Tracey, Sarah Pirtle, Faith Petric, Chris Holder, Lisa Atkinson, Robin and Linda Williams, Cathy Winter and Betsy Rose, Jay Unger and Lyn Hardy, Sparky Rucker, Guy Carawan, Rachel Buchman, Tom Smith, Nick Seeger, The Dildine Family, Josh Greenberg, Janice Buckner, Purlly Gates & David Levine, Jane Voss & Hoyle Osborne, & Troubadour. and Musical Friends.
- * Storytellers on cassette include Doug Lipman, Marcia Lane, Heather Forest, Children's Radio Theatre, John Dildine and Marina Cross, Laura Simms, David Mitchell, and Ellin Greene.
- * Cassettes are \$6.95 directly through A GENTLE WIND, plus \$1.75 postage. Write for a free catalog.

CAMAL stands for Children's Artists Making a Living.

CAMAL is an organization of professional children's entertainers on the west coast. As their Nov. '84 newsletter described,

"It is a channel for sharing ideas, for offering and receiving encouragement and advice, as well as an opportunity to form a unique and meaningful community of interests and values. CAMAL provides a chance for us to create and perform together. It is also a forum, allowing us to examine our roles as entertainers. And it is a base from which we hope to influence and educate the public about quality programs for children."

Their newsletter includes interviews, songs reviews of many recordings, and news from CAMAL members.

CONTACT: CAMAL 570 N. Arden Blvd LA CA 90004
\$6 for four issues of their newsletter.

CAMAL Members: Peter Alsop, Anne Lief Barlin, Marcia Berman, Nona Beamer, Uncle Ruthie Buell, Charles the Clown, Dan Crow, Irma Garcia, J.P. Nightingale, Mallory Pearce, Paul Tracey, Patty Zeitlin.

They work together to market their records, books, and shows.

MORE NEWSLETTERS

ARTISTS WITH CLASS: A Journal for independent artists-in-education
Chris Holder, Michael Rutherford, editors
66 Jenkins Rd. Burnt Hills NY 12027
\$7 / yr. for 4 issues

SASSAFRAS: The Journal of the People's Music Network for Songs of Freedom and Struggle The newsletter comes as part of membership (\$5 - 25 sliding scale). See Jane Treat's address on page 1.

NEW FALL RECORDINGS

"I Wanna Tickle the Fish" by Lisa Atkinson, available through A GENTLE WIND.

"Search Far and Wide" by Tom Sieling available from Tom at RD #1, Clyde NY 14433 for \$7.50 postpaid.

"The World's Big Family" by Paul Strausman, on A Gentle Wind.

"Watermelon! and other stories" by Betty Lehrman. Songs and stories for ages 5 up. \$9 from Tales for the Telling, 99 Arlington St. Brighton, MA 02135.

"Pizza Boogie" and other original songs by Joanna Olshansky 11 Marshall Terr, Wayland, Ma 01778

FOCUS: Support & Encouragement

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Each issue we will focus on one key issue for us involved in children's music. Here we are looking at how we can provide support for ourselves. Nancy and Sarah present two methods which have worked well for them.

NANCY SCHIMMEL -- "SOMEONE TO REPORT TO"

Since I have no boss, when I cross something off my list, no one but me knows it has been completed. In my work life, I get affirmation for my performing, but not for the administrative jobs that are part of my business.

I found a friend who is in a different type of field but who also has no boss. Every six to eight weeks we get together and report in to each other.

Each of us takes a turn sharing both about how the previous time period went for us and then what are our goals for the future. We tell each other our "wins" -- what we got done, including both the goals we had set before and also the things we completed but hadn't planned on. We talk about what we didn't get to, and then we set out what we want to do in the future.

These times together have been essential in balancing out the solitude that is part of my creative work.

(from a phone conversation with Sarah taking notes wildly)

SARAH PIRTLE -- "CREDENZAS: A GROUP CONSULTATION WITH FRIENDS"

When I felt stuck trying to choose between several options for my next project three years ago, I asked a group of friends to help me think about it together. This gathering made such a huge difference that I want to share the format so that other people can make use of it.

I made a selection of friends to invite not on the basis of who already knew each other but thinking of friends who knew me in different ways and had diverse outlooks. I invited people to come for a potluck dinner first and that way they got to know each other better.

I mailed them several things to read in advance both to help me clarify the key questions and to share things about my thoughts and feelings they might not know. This step proved very important.

The hardest part was asking for them to meet with me for three hours from 7 - 10 PM. Shyness and thoughts of "This is too bold! I can't ask for this!" came welling up. Breaking through these sorts of barriers was an essential part of the whole experience.

A friend took notes of key things that were said. The crux of the evening was being bathed by positive supportive voices. They weren't wanting to limit me to what was safe or expected but helped me listen to what inside me really wanted to be birthed.

I've helped three other friends organize consultations. Some have sent resumes, poetry or articles for us to read in advance. The numbers have varied from 3 to 6 friends invited. In each experience there has been a point of going through "our crusher" -- of identifying and casting aside the worries or negative messages about ourselves that were really holding us back. These consultations have been a vehicle for breaking through self defeating behavior.

When I told Nancy Schimmel about these gatherings she wrote back to share the wonderful name she had given them -- credenzas.

FOCUS for the next issue will be on COMMUNITY BUILDING THROUGH MUSIC.

Please send or call in experiences you've had in schools or in camps or your community developing a program or concert or other event that brought people together with music!

THUMBNAIL SKETCHES

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Tom Hunter, 2524 Victor, Bellingham, Wa. 98225, 206-734-8415... Cheers for the birth of this network, and to the "midwives" assisting in the birthing! It's needed and I look forward to the connections growing among us. There are a lot of great musicians up here in the Northwest corner and many of them are doing good work with children... I visit a lot of elementary schools for assemblies, sessions helping kids write their own songs, and workshops for teachers. I also visit preschools, do keynote presentations and workshops at conferences, and make records and tapes (through Long Sleeve Records which wants to help others record too, at the above address). My over-all objective is to encourage folks to integrate song into schools not as something belonging to the experts but to all of us, something to be played with, changed, added to, and talked about. In times of deceptions and cover-ups, honest songs "for all us kids" are urgently needed. So is fun! ... The best question asked me came from a 1st-grader: "Are those real songs or did you just make 'em up?"

PATRICIA SHIH 27 Oakland St., Huntington, NY 11743 (516) 549-2332

Singer-songwriter of songs of love, struggle and humor for general audiences; best-known children's song (for all ages!) is "The Color Song", available by mail order at above address, on cassette and soon-to-be-released debut LP; also available in Vol. 31, #1 Sing Out!, #158 Broadside, and Rise Up Singing Songbook. I am writing more and more music for kids since the arrival of my own daughter, and since I am performing more in schools. I would like to learn more socially conscious children's songs, for pre-K through grade 12, and would gladly share the ones I've written.

Sandy Pliskin, 36 Oliver St., Watertown, MA., 02172; (617-926-5560).

Special interest in music for kids under five (and under three!); many years' experience in daycare, now studying to be play therapist and resource for adults who work with real young kids. Want music that reflects our values, not just typical kids' "silly" songs (Have plenty of those)- songs that reflect what kids' lives are really like- songs about teasing, jealousy, toilet training, divorce, going to daycare, missing parents, playing with playdo, swinging on the swings, sharing, taking turns, runny noses, ... songs that take children seriously (but need not be serious!).

Joanne Oishansky, 11 Marshall Terrace, Wayland MA 01778. (617-358-5213)

I'm a songwriter, performer of children's concerts, and teacher of music. I'm in the process of making an album of my original children's songs. I rent space at an arts center to hold classes and performances for The Children's Chorus (40 1st & 2nd graders) and The Choral Connection (40 3rd & 4th graders). I'd love to form a children's songwriters' group in Massachusetts. We could meet once a month to share and critique new works, discuss songwriting issues, and inspire and support each other. Any interest? ←

Paul Strausman
P.O. Box 8899
Albany, NY 12208
(518) 436-4929

I do concerts and workshops for children, pre-school through highschool. Concerts for younger children include my songs and traditional style folk music with a lot of movement activities and stories to get the children involved. I play guitar and sing. My workshops for older children are designed around particular educational subjects and I also teach songwriting workshops and pan-pipe building workshops. I have recorded three cassettes for children on A Gentle Wind. The first, "Camels, Cats and Rainbows" won an ALA Notable Childrens Recording award. The second is "Rainbows, Stones and Dinosaur Bones", and the third "The World's Big Family" will be released this fall. I produce a TV show "I want to tickle the fish" and a radio show "Are you ready for this"

Nancy Schimmel, 1639 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94703, (415)843-0533. Songwriter/storyteller. *Plum Pudding: Stories and Songs with Nancy Schimmel and the Plum City Players* (record and cassette). *Dinosaur and Other Songs from Plum City* (cassette only), songs by me, Bonnie Lockhart and Ann Hershey. Both available from Sisters' Choice, 1450 6th St., Berkeley, CA 94710, along with children's albums and songbooks by Malvina Reynolds, and my book, *Just Enough to Make a Story: A Sourcebook for Storytelling*. I've met some of you at San Francisco Folk Music Club gatherings (\$3 to 885 Clayton, SF 94118 for newsletter) and Freedom Song Network meetings (\$3 or more to 131 Mangels, SF 94131 for calendar) and hope this newsletter brings more of us together. Coming to People's Music Network June Gathering in '88, looking for East Coast gigs then.

Tedd Judd, 403 29th Ave. E., Seattle, WA 98112, (206) 329-6041. I am a singer-songwriter, father, and psychologist. I write songs for parents and children, including "Be Gentle, Robin!" on Peter Alsop's *Whaddya Wanna Do?* album. Others are "Time for a Change," changing diapers, changing the world; "Breast Envy," a father's dilemma; "Wings," on accepting kids as they are; "Allgone," a child's first words as a worldview; "Dunno," a parody of "Allgone" from one of my son's difficult stages; "Use Your Words," kids confronting child abuse and war; "Yellow Diapers;" "The Dinosaur Scratch," just for fun; "Second Baby," sibling rivalry viewed from the womb; "Colic Lament," a middle-of-the-night despairing; various lullabies. I share my songs with anyone interested. I am collecting songs about child abuse.

Bonnie Lockhart [415] 845-5095

2138 Mc Kinley Apt D, Berkeley, Ca. 94703

I write, teach and perform music for kids. Sometimes with Plum City Players and also solo. Would like to tour doing kids show - looking for Pacific N.W. bookings. Any leads? Could help book kids performers here.

Plum City Players have two recordings available thru above address.


PETER ALSOP

Box 960 Topanga CA 90290 (213) 455-2318

Peter Alsop is a nationally known singer/songwriter, lecturer and humorist from Southern California, who is noted for the warmth and insight of his presentations. He studied at Trinity College in Connecticut, and at Columbia University's Teacher's College in New York City. He has a Ph.D. in educational psychology and his songs are used by thousands of parents, educators and human service professionals to help families discuss sensitive issues.

He has a background in music and theatre, and has produced and recorded eight solo record albums. Peter's songs have been included on numerous anthology records, filmstrips videocassettes, movies and television programs. His children's albums have won the the INDIE Award from the National Association of Independent Record Distributors and Manufacturers and the coveted Parents' Choice Award.

Jim Oshinsky 491 Merrick Rd #C9 Oceanside, NY 11572 (516) 766-7454

Ph.D. Psychologist - I work with blind and neurologically impaired children; we use a lot of music for expression and PT. I have been a researcher in the perception of speech and music. Workshop leader - I conduct a workshop in improvisation and group sensitivity-building called Music From the Heart. I would like to bring it to more schools for classroom use, music and theater classes, or for teacher and music therapist training. Musician - I play guitar and keyboards. I love to back people up. I will do benefit concerts. I write rockingly introspective songs. I write back to people who contact me. 

PRISCILLA PRUTZMAN, CHILDREN'S CREATIVE RESPONSE TO CONFLICT,
Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960 (914) 358-4601. Co-Editor of Children's
Songs for a Friendly Planet, and co-author of The Friendly Classroom
for a Small Planet. Pris does workshops for children and teachers
in creative conflict resolution.

FAITH PETRIC 885 Clayton, San Francisco, Ca 94117 (415) 661-2217
Sing songs for/with children and adults especially on issues of peace,
the environment, creation of a more just and loving world and the joy
of living. Tape for children, "Sing a Song, Sing Along" from Gentle Wind.

BOB BLUE 50 Wyman St., Waban, Ma. 02168 (617) 965-8055
I've written several good songs for and about children. I'd like people
to perform and record them. I'd also like to help writers and get help
and ideas for writing.

LAURA LIBEN 324 West 89 St. NYC 10024 (212) 874-4645
I teach music to children ages 2 - 5 yrs, and also do workshops for
teachers, parents, etc. in teaching music at the Early Childhood Learning
Center in NYC. Am interested in sharing ideas with others. I am a musician
as well, and would love to do music for theater for kids, if any NYC
people are involved in that or have an interest.

TOM SIELING, RD #1, Clyde, NY 14433, (315) 587-9512
I'm a political singer/songwriter very interested in reaching out to
young minds with alternative ways of thinking. I play guitar, banjo,
piano, and harmonica. This newsletter is a wonderful idea. I'd especially
like to correspond with people working in schools. New studio tape
available -- "Search Far and Wide" -- \$7.50 ppd.

LISA ATKINSON 8 Victor St., Albany, NY 12206 (518) 438- 2273
I'm a singer, songwriter, and children's entertainer. My first cassette
of original songs is available on "A Gentle Wind" label, summer 1987,
called "I Wanna Tickle the Fish." I also conduct songwriting workshops
in schools and host and produce a children's show on cable access T.V.
also called "I Wanna Tickle the Fish."

MAGGIE MONIZ is a vocalist, plays guitar, banjo, autoharp, dulcimer.
RISA GOLDBERG is a face-painting clown, plays flute, spoons, accordion,
rhythm. Together they entertain all ages -- for self expression, for
creativity, therapy, education and just plain fun, in the New Bedford -
Westport Area but will travel. We can be reached at (617) 999-5923,
and (617) 636-2221; 191 Elm St. #10, New Bedford, MA 02740.

ELLEN GREIST 3600 Ridge Rd. North Haven CT 06473
I work as a visiting artist with the New Haven Comprehensive Arts Program.
Utilizing a standard children's story which has a socially conscious
theme, I teach basic dramatic and pantomime skills and create a huge
participatory musical play which involves the whole school. I incorporate
songs by Sarah Pirtle, Ruth Pelham, Betsy Rose, Lorre Wyatt, Holly Near
as well as popular rock songs. The teachers sing too. I love it!

AND THAT'S JUST THE BEGINNING...

For the next issue, send in your own description in black ink, ready for
xeroxing. Please keep the size within a horizontal box, 2 in. deep, 8 in. wide.

Thumbnail Sketches I know are coming next issue -- Ruth Pelham, Bob Reid, Lydia
Adams Davis, Phil Rosenthal.

NEW SONG LIBRARY

Here is an incredibly valuable resource. Director Johanna Halbeisen has created an enormous collection of songs on tape and record. At every gathering of the People's Music Network for Songs of Freedom and STRuggle tapes are made of every workshop, song swap, and evening performance in the round robin. Membership in the library is \$5.

For \$12/hour Johanna will research song requests -- for instance, if you asked her for all the songs she could find about whales, she would custom make you a tape with all the library's whale songs.

Johanna selected the following two tapes as valuable ones to order from her, for \$6.50. These are from PMN/SFS workshops. She adds that Bob Blue has been much too modest in his thumbnail sketch about his original children's songs and recommends seeking out his songs from the library or from Bob himself.

These tape listings show the singer at the workshop, with the author of the song in parenthesis. Where omitted here, author is clearly stated on the tape itself.

NEW SONG LIBRARY PO Box 295 Northampton, Ma 01061.

ZIPPER SONG WORKSHOP - Phila. JAN '85

Look to the People Ruth Pelham	Aiken Drum - Sears, Rich
Little Sally Racket Lisa Garrison	When Ere You Make a Promise - Lisa Garrison
You Gotta Wiggle - D. Einbender	Three Brothers Named Dupont P. Seeger (Ali Seigmeister)
Never Turn Back - Pat Humphries	Joy Upon This Earth "
Down on the Farm/Earth John Bell	We Wish You a Happy Birthday Louise Doud (J. McCutchen)
Peanut Butter and Jelly	Somagwaza - P. Seeger
Speak For Me - Faith Petric	Turning of the World Ruth Pelham
What Does Your Mama Do? Cathy Fink (Si Kahn)	Workshop leaders: R. Pelham and P. Seeger
Wo Ya Ya - A. Rohder (S. African Chant)	

Note from Johanna: "A valuable collection! There were a lot of teachers and people who work with kids present."

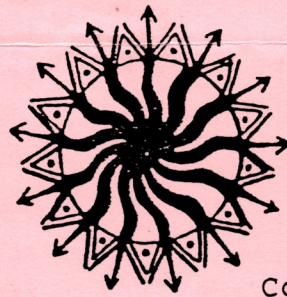
CHILDREN'S SONGSWAP - Phila. JAN '85

If You're Happy - John Bell	Quando Yo Dega Jacky Pack (Argelia Oros)
Exercise to open - Cathy Fink	McDonald's / Comet John Bell
If You Lie Down Carol Livingston	Not by might - Jacky Gelb Debbie Friedman
Worms + Leaves Craig Neuburger	It's Only a Wee Wee F. Petric (Peter Alsop)
Where's Hillary - Sandy Sachs	It's a Grown Up World Bob Blue
Read It - Bob Reed (Take off on "Beat It")	Worm Song - Faith Petric
Bathroom Floor is Freezing Tish McSorley	Apples + Bananas Ruth Goldbaum
Pop Corn - Sheri Wells (Paul Tinkerhouse)	Finger in the Air - Jash + David McVeigh Schultz
Booboo Song - Cathy Winter	

"Highly recommend. Has much good discussion about how to use the songs." - Johanna

CHILDREN'S SONG SWAP 10th PMN June '86

The Color Song - Patricia Shih	Pails of Whales - Roger Rosen
Timberdoodle Song - Tom Seiling	Starlight - Starbright Betsy Rose
My Roots Go Down Sarah Pirtle	My Rhinoceros (Ed Lipton) S. Sachs
Brat Iran (Russian version of Frere Jacques) Josh McVeigh - Schultz	What's Your Favorite Color? David Roth
Come to My Farm (Spanish)	The Greatest Love of All (Creed + Masser)
Waltzing with Bears (Seuss) Ed Dagenheart	Noah Epstein + Ruth Goldbaum
Get Down to the Heart - Ruth Pelham (written with NY State children)	Somos El Barco Lorre Wyatt
Why I'm Here in the World Jay Mankita	Che Che Gule E. Greist (Africa)



Also from New Song Library

PEACE GATHERING SONGS

A learning tape of
31 sing-alongs
for song leaders,
teachers, activists

Compiled by Sarah Pirtle

\$8
postpaid

Eight page guide
has lyrics, chords, and
suggestions for use.

Sample songs:

- "Peace is" by Fred Small
- "All One Planet" by Molly Scott
- "Turning of the World" by Ruth Pelham
- "I May be Peace" by Jody Lester
- "Next Door Neighbor" by David Roth
- "Deep Blue Sea" by John Bell
- "I Can't IMagine" (Popcorn Song) Betsy Rose

