

## To Our Spring Thing Family Far and Near

Thank you for agreeing to receive your 2009 Spring Thing registration information electronically. Not only are you helping the Philadelphia Folksong Society save money in paper printing and postage, but you are also saving some trees - not to mention the volunteer labor involved in folding, stuffing, sealing and mailing the envelopes.

As you know, this letter goes out to those who have attended previous Spring Things and have already been touched by its magic. It also goes to those who have attended the Fall Fling and Cabin Fever. Most of us have been through many milestones together - some very happy and some very tragic - but always as a close knit community. We have supported each other through births, deaths, weddings and watched the SPRING THING children grow into adults. So many Spring Thinkers started coming with their parents and are still attending now with their own children. To us, this is what the Spring Thing is about. It is a very special feeling and place and magic that no one else has been able to reproduce. Quite a few of you have responded to our e-mail letting us know what has happened in your life this past year. All that information will be found at the end of this letter.

There is some news I need to mention right here. With much sadness, I must tell you this past year we lost several members of the Spring Thing community - Elaine Bergsman, Barbara Smith-Siegel, Howard Berkowitz and Anna Glenn. Also, over 300 of you showed up at the memorial for Pat Scott. In fact, many of you performed there. Pat Wictor wrote and performed the song, "A Visit with Pat Scott." This will be available for purchase, hopefully in time for the Spring Thing, with the proceeds going to Women in Transition.

The Spring Thing Registration form is now available online at [www.pfs.org](http://www.pfs.org) If you prefer to mail in a check rather than pay by credit card, you may also download a copy of the Spring Thing registration form as a PDF. Print it out, fill it in and include it with your check.

Last year was our first year at Camp Canadensis. Your evaluations told us how much you really loved this new location. We want to remind you we are permitted to stay over on Sunday night. The camp will charge us \$10 per person or \$15 per person including breakfast Monday morning. However we MUST vacate by 10 AM. We also must give the camp a count of how many are staying over and how many to expect for Monday morning breakfast not later than 15 days before the event. If you know your plans when you register for the weekend - please include a note in the comments section telling us if you plan to stay or not and, if so, if you want breakfast.

For those who will be experiencing Camp Canadensis for this first time, we want to tell you we have not been permitted to bring in our own cook. The camp has a full staff who will be cooking and serving us. In fact, Eric just got back from Russia and Australia where he hired some students to work at the camp this summer, including our event. Last year we found their staff to be very helpful and extremely friendly. No more kitchen duty !!! Ah - but fear not. There is still plenty of work which needs to be shared - so we will not lose our wonderful sense of community which comes partially from working so closely together. The Spring Thing is truly a creation of the 400 people who attend. The more you participate, the more you will take home from this weekend.

With this arrangement, we have to pay the camp in full for each and every person, even if we are giving that person a partial scholarship. Because it was very important to us to keep the prices basically where they were last year, we have an extremely small margin to cover the rest of the expenses involved in running the Spring Thing. These expenses include things like golf cart rentals, arts and crafts supplies, badges and office supplies. We do everything we can to keep this weekend as inexpensive as possible, making it accessible to all. The Spring Thing has always been an extended family and people in the same family take care of each other when necessary. We absolutely do not want to exclude anyone who might not be able to afford the entire cost of

this weekend. Thus, although less than in the past, we do have a few working partial scholarships available. If you are in a position to make a contribution to the scholarship fund, it would be most appreciated.

We have received several inquiries concerning what time people are permitted to arrive on Friday. You may arrive as early as 2:30 PM. However, if you are planning on arriving before 6 PM we **MUST INSIST** you work your required hour then as a taxi driver, on the parking crew or help get the registration area ready on Friday afternoon. Because there are no workshops or other activities planned until later Friday evening, many people like to get this obligation out of the way soon after they arrive. We must make sure we have adequately staffed the parking crew and taxi drivers for Friday afternoon. Therefore, if you are planning on arriving before 6 you must contact us with your expected arrival time and let us know whether you want to work your hour and a half on the parking crew or driving a taxi. More details on who to contact to sign up in advance will be available shortly by e-mail.

One way to **save yourself money** is to make sure you register by April 23<sup>rd</sup> and, if you are not already a member, **join the Philadelphia Folksong Society as a full member**. A family registering can achieve substantial savings by buying a full membership rather than paying the non-member prices. You may join the Philly Folksong Society on line by going to the membership information area of our website at [www.pfs.org](http://www.pfs.org)

We again need volunteer **Counselors** for the **pre-teen** boys and girls **cabins**. Otherwise, we must insist that anyone under 17 years old stay in their parents' cabin. The camp says they will make absolutely sure this is enforced. If you are reading this and want to volunteer for a counselor position, please contact us. In fact, we always need volunteers for various positions throughout the weekend. We are able to keep the Spring Thing at such an unbelievably low price because the entire weekend is planned and run by volunteers. If you have any **Ideas for Special Programming**, let us know. Remember this weekend is created by its participants. It should be evident from past weekends that we really do value your input. We try to initiate new ideas each year as well as repeat some of your favorites. When we need new ideas, we always turn to you.

We have had many requests to have even more **Children's Activities**. We would LOVE to do just that! However, we need **YOU** to volunteer to run a craft, a musical workshop or a sports activity for any age group with which you feel comfortable. We have received requests for more **Advanced Instrument Instruction** workshops and are seeking people to make that possible. We have also received numerous requests for "**Guilt-Free**" **Beginner Workshops** for those who feel intimidated by the immense talent that comes to the SPRING THING. This request should be easy to fulfill. On your registration form, PLEASE **Specify what Workshops you are willing to lead**.

The **PHILLY FOLKIE PHONEBOOK**, by popular request, will be continued. **Remember - everyone's information will be included unless you indicate otherwise!** If you include your e-mail address, we promise to keep you updated with new developments with the programming and the camp as they are confirmed.

The best way to reach us anytime is by e-mail: **SpringThing@comcast.net** This is the fastest and best way to communicate with us. Just think, in just seven weeks we will all be together again! Don't forget this is **YOUR Weekend** - it can only be as great as you make it. We are wide open to your suggestions. So please, when you send in your registration, drop us a line and share your thoughts with us.

Can't wait to see you again !

Dianne Tankle & Bob Cohen  
Spring Thing Coordinators

SueFoo & Aram Bloom  
Coordinators-in-Training

**34<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Thing - 2009**  
**May 22, 23, 24, 2009**  
**Camp Canadensis, Canadensis PA**

**Before we share all the great notes from individuals, the Fall Fling Planning Committee has a few words for us**

“Thanks Dianne! The Fall Fling Planning Committee would like everyone to know that Fall Fling will have a new face this year! Regrettably, our illustrious Fearless Leader, John Fuhr has decided to reduce his involvement with running the event. Don't worry though! John and Beth will still be there to add to the love and enthusiasm for the event that only they can bring and will still serve us all in an advisory capacity.

Therefore, Roxanne Mazur has been voted in as the new Co-Coordinator who, along with Charlie Miller, will be working their butts off to keep and improve Fall Fling to be the event you want it to be.

Finally, based on last year's event evaluations, we have notified Camp Kweebec that we won't be coming back this year. We are quite active in the process of selecting a new camp with four options currently on the table and will keep everyone informed as to our progress. Keep an eye out for news on this development. If you have any ideas, suggestions or comments you'd like us to hear, you can e-mail Rox at roxanne@voicenet.com or Charlie at fauxqui@comcast.net.”

## **What's Been Happening with our Spring Thing Family ? Here are the e-mails I received from you.**

**George Abramson and Sheryl Neckritz** - George continues playing with the Munier Mandolin Orchestra. Sheryl is changing careers and is now finishing her first year at dental hygiene school. 10-year-old Becca, who has been taking ballet lessons for 7 years, was a cast member of the Pennsylvania Ballet's "The Nutcracker" at the Academy of Music.

**Wendy Fuhr** - We are pregnant with our second (and last!) child--a boy. He is due on or about 8/21, so I just might make it to Folk Fest. In other news, Iris is doing wonderfully at the Bala House Montessori School, Eric's real estate company is doing very well, and I started a new job in January as a faculty member for the Bryn Mawr Family Practice Residency Program. I get to see patients and teach also, which is great.

**Shari and Seth Walter** rang in the new year with the birth of their son, Reuben Chaim, born at 3:11am on January 1st! Ezra (6) and Alaina (4) are loving and attentive big brother and sister, and we will all be glad to see our friends at Spring Thing this year. In case you share our cabin - Reuben sleeps through the night but only if you mind the banging of the cabin door after dark!

**Dan, Robbie & Hallie Ruvin** - Hallie is currently spending the semester in Uganda. She also visited Rwanda. She stayed in a grass hut village for a week. She brought a goat to the leader of the village, on the bus - not in the bus, but on the roof of the bus. The goat didn't seem too happy about it. While the village had no running water or electricity, we were able to speak to her on her cell phone.

**Lily Alayne** - I am finishing up my MBA at U Albany this year, working on a business plan for a birth center in Albany, increasingly involved in musical and theatrical pursuits (of a very small but fun scale). Daughter Glory (almost 7) is quite an amazing reader and thinker; son Owen (almost 4) is very active, logical and curious. We are hoping to all make it this year!

**Michael Spear** - We won our Shul's Purim raffle Men's Club fund-raiser in 2008 & the prize was a trip to Israel, so Shelley, Hannah, Isaac & I are going to Israel, for the first time, this August.

**Mike Gallagher** - I just upgraded my cello and am still learning how to play it. I'm just a kid w/ a new toy! I am looking forward to attending Spring Thing this year, and count me in for the wash tub bass workshop. I can do one workshop on Saturday to build them, another on Sunday to explain how to play the silly thing.

**Shoshana Hantman** - Our Mollie became a bat mitsva in October. She read part of the Creation story from the Torah, as we all sat in the interior room of the Congo Gorilla Rainforest at the Bronx Zoo! Monkeys, lowland gorillas and red river hogs were in attendance (behind glass walls)! - The kids and I drove to Washington in January to

witness the inauguration of the President. We didn't have tickets, and we were far from the action, but the things we saw and heard were still amazing.

**Lynn Sheeran** - My 1st grandson, Daniel Henry Gernter, was born on September 25 and is the joy of my life. He lives in Michigan and I try to visit as often as possible.

**Phyllis Purves-Smith**, known to many as Phyllis Kennedy had a one person exhibit of her artwork at Gross McCleaf Gallery in June of 2008. She was a featured artist in the June issue of "American Art Collector Magazine", where her show was reviewed. She was also a featured artist in the March 2009 issue of "American Artist Magazine".

**Lisa Wolfe** - I have opened a music venue in Malvern also know as Frazer. On the third Friday of each month I host an Open Circle from 7:30 to 11:00. The next Open Circle is April 17th. All are welcome and it is free.

**Marshall Fleisher** - my wife and I became grandparents of Lydia Evans Fleisher in July 2008.

**Judy Becker** In addition to helping to organize my Olney High School 70th birthday reunion and a family reunion cruise, this winter I spent about 6 weeks in Florida and 6 weeks island hopping around the Caribbean, reaching my 122nd country since 1962.

**Lee Birt** - I just had some hand surgery and expect to be on the rapid road to recovery and playing mandolin again soon!

**Madeline and Bob Rosensweet's** son Daniel has been accepted to La Guardia H.S. of Music & Arts and Performing Arts (The "Fame" School)

**Kit La Touche**, having graduated last Spring from Swarthmore as a linguistics/computer science major wanted to be in the "real world" for a bit before grad school. He's got a great job in Boulder, CO working for Rosetta Stone - the language learning software company - as part of their programming team. Those are the folks that help to make the computer and the human interact. He is singing and playing bodhrán with the weekly session at the Scotch Corner. He's getting his certification in SCUBA!

**Robin and Gilbert Palley** just experienced the birth of their first granddaughter , Olivia Roo Langsfeld on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:59 pm - 6 pounds 7 oz and 20 inches long. The proud parents are Alexis and Ben Langsfeld and the proud aunt and uncle are Josh and Julie Palley.

**K. Lynn King** - I have been quit busy going to Rev. War re-enactments. Lots of 18th century common folk music and dancing. I have acquired a persona, Caroline Herschel, sister to William Herschel (discovered Uranus), first paid woman astronomer, first woman to discover a comet. We are all of kindred spirits.

**Henry Nachimias** - I got married in Oct. 2007 and now live in Columbia, SC. My wife has lived here for the past 30 years, so I have given up Philadelphia and have been down here for the past three years. I am really very, very happy and wish to say hello to all my old Spring Thing friends!

**Dianne Tankle & Bob Cohen** - Finally got to see our grand kids who live in Seattle. We have not seen them since Spring Thing 2007 - which is pretty terrible considering Harriet will be 5 in May and Jed will be 8 in September. Aubrey and Fiona brought them down to visit us on Longboat Key for 9 days in February. Elissa and Ken brought Mitchell and Adam to join us there for a long weekend so all 4 cousins could be together for the first time in almost 2 years. Dianne and Bob moved out of their house and into a condo in the Philadelphian this past summer and are still unpacking.