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(CA

UTION: External email)

"Here are the additions Bill mentioned. Let me know if this is ok." — Peggy Spencer-Behrendt

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MESSAGE FROM OUR MVBGA PRESIDENT -

DAVE SHANNON



As summer draws to a close and fall arrives in Upstate New York, we're excited to welcome everyone back for another outstanding season of MVBGA events. Be sure to mark your calendars for a great lineup of live music and community gatherings.

Our Monthly Saturday Jams resume in September on the third Saturday of each month, and we'll also host a Jam with the Band on the second Monday of September, both at the Rome Art and Community Center. We're pleased to continue our popular MVBGA Jam at Grow Brewing Company on the first Tuesday of each month throughout September, October, and November. Our October and November Monthly Jams will be held at the Kirkland Art Center. Bands for the second Monday jams will be announced soon, and everyone is welcome to join our acoustic jam sessions on the third Saturday.

We're looking forward to building on the tremendous momentum we enjoyed before the summer break. The enthusiasm from performers, audiences, and volunteers has been truly inspiring. Thank you to everyone who has supported these events. If you haven't joined us yet, we invite you to

UPCOMING JAMS

The Mohawk Valley Bluegrass Association continues to enjoy outstanding participation at our jam sessions, with strong attendance from musicians and music lovers alike. Thank you to everyone who has helped make our jams such a success. Whether you're a seasoned performer or just beginning your bluegrass journey, we welcome players of all skill levels to join us.

Jam with the Band

- September 14
- Rome Art and Community Center
- 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

MVBGA Open Jam

- Third Saturday of each month
- September: Rome Art and Community Center
- October & November: Kirkland Art Center
- 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

MVBGA Jam at

Grow Brewing Company

experience the exceptional music, friendships, and sense of community that make MVBGA so special.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS SUMMER

Since our last newsletter, we've celebrated several exciting highlights.

On August 10, nationally acclaimed fiddler and singer Kathleen Parks made her Rome debut at the Rome Art and Community Center. The event drew a full house, and her remarkable performance earned a standing ovation from the audience. Reflecting on her first visit to Rome, Kathleen described it as "Molto Bene."

Bluegrass and fiddle music fans can learn more about Kathleen and her music [HERE](#).



Another sure sign that summer is winding down is the arrival of the New York State Fair. This year, our Community Band performed three sets at the Agriculture Museum to an enthusiastic crowd. Fairgoers stopped to listen, dance, and enjoy the music, and we're proud to report that we've already been invited back for next year.



- First Tuesday of each month
- 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
- Grow Brewing Company, New Hartford

Our jams at Grow Brewing Company have been especially well attended, creating a welcoming and energetic atmosphere for musicians and listeners alike. The combination of great music, community fellowship, and an inviting venue has made these sessions a favorite gathering place for local bluegrass enthusiasts.

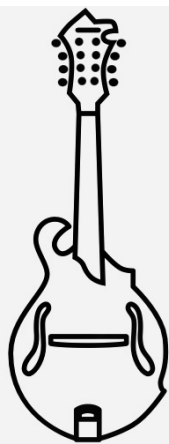


We encourage everyone to bring an instrument, join a song, or simply sit back and enjoy the music. These jams are a wonderful opportunity to learn, connect with fellow musicians, and keep bluegrass thriving in the Mohawk Valley. We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming jam!



MOHAWK VALLEY GIVES DAY!

Mark Your Calendars! One of MVBGA's most important events of the year, Mohawk Valley Gives Day, takes place on September 18. As our largest annual fundraiser, this event provides critical support for the programs, educational opportunities, and live music events that bring our community together. We encourage you to consider making a donation and helping us spread the word so we can continue growing and sharing bluegrass music throughout the Mohawk Valley.



**MOHAWK VALLEY
BLUEGRASS**

Click [HERE](#) to support your MVBGA!



COMING OCT 23 AT THE KAC

THE KEVIN PRATER BAND

We are thrilled to welcome the Kevin Prater Band from Kentucky on October 23 at 7:00 PM at the Kirkland Art Center. With more than 30 years of national touring experience, Kevin and his band have become perennial favorites with MVBGA audiences. Their previous performances have drawn enthusiastic crowds and standing ovations, with many fans requesting their return. Don't miss this opportunity to experience one of bluegrass music's most engaging and accomplished acts live in concert.

Buy tickets [HERE](#)

FROM OUR FRIENDS

SUMMIT PARK RANGERS

September 12, the Copper City Brewery - a
fund raiser for PROJECT FIBONACCI 3 - 5 PM

Free Admission

MVBGA COMMUNITY BAND

The MVBGA Community Band has enjoyed a fantastic summer of performances, sharing bluegrass music with audiences throughout the Mohawk Valley and beyond. We are grateful for the enthusiastic support we've received at every event and look forward to more opportunities to bring live bluegrass music to our communities.

Upcoming Performances

- Friday, September 18 at 11:30 AM – KEYS Telethon
- Saturday, September 19 at 7:30 PM – The Park Coffee House

Whether you're a longtime bluegrass fan or discovering the music for the first time, we invite you to come out and support the band at these events.

Do you know of an organization, community event, senior center, festival, or fundraiser that could benefit from live bluegrass music? The MVBGA Community Band is always looking for opportunities to perform and connect with new audiences.

To inquire about booking the band, please contact Band Director Bill Fahy at mvbga2002@gmail.com. Every performance helps us share our passion for bluegrass music,



TWO FRIENDS

September 19 Park Coffee House
7:30-8:00

October 16 Westmoreland UMC 6:00-8:00

2027-April 16 Westmoreland UMC
6:00-8:0

REYNA & THE RUSTICS

- September 13 – Hamilton Harvest Winery, 3–5 PM
- October 11 – Hamilton Harvest Winery, 3–5 PM

BILL KNOWLTON'S BLUEGRASS RAMBLE

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest MVBGA members, all of whom joined during our Grow Brewery Jam. Please join us in welcoming **Sean Grant** of Whitesboro, **Jason Schnitt** of Utica, **Jim Stanko** of North Gage, and **Al Van Etten** of Clinton. We are delighted to have them as part of the MVBGA family and look forward to sharing great music, friendship, and community with them.

JAM with the BAND

Join us for our September Jam with the Band featuring

REYNA & The RUSTICS

at the Rome Art and Community Center.

Sept 14th

Reyna Stagnaro, John Crespi, and Steve Skollar bring an energetic blend of original songs, bluegrass, country, and blues, highlighted by distinctive vocals, tight harmonies, and a unique mix of instruments. Their rich, roots-driven sound and down-home style create an engaging performance that audiences of all ages will enjoy.

- Location: Rome Art and Community Center
- Doors Open: 6:00 PM
- Band Performance: 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM
- Acoustic Jam: Immediately following the performance



Sundays are time to tune in to Bill Knowlton's Bluegrass Ramble show on WCNY –Bill

Knowlton's Bluegrass Ramble airs every Sundays from 9 p.m. to midnight WCNY-FM 91.3 Syracuse, WUNY-FM

89.5 Utica, and WJNY-FM 90.9 Watertown. Bill has been a big supporter of MVBGA over our 23 years – and he'll keep you up to date with all Bluegrass events going on in our area. For more info click [HERE](#).

LIVE MUSIC AT PARK COFFEE HOUSE

September 19 – Split Bill -

Mohawk Valley Bluegrass & 2 Friends

October 3–Monk Rowe and John Hudson

November 7 – The Cadleys

November 21 - On the Porch

December 5 – Local Favorites



Whether you're a musician or a music lover, everyone is welcome to stay and participate in the acoustic jam. Come enjoy a great evening of live music, community, and bluegrass fellowship!



MVBGA MERCHANDISE

Our merchandise website is now open and you can order direct at

MVBGA MERCH

We have shirts, vests, hats, hoodies and more! And you can customize from many different options for colors. Free pickup at Max's Print shop on River Road in Marcy, and free shipping on orders over \$50.



CENTRAL CHAPTER OF THE NYS OLD TIME FIDDLERS

OLD TIME JAM SESSION 3 RD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH 7:00PM, TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

98 MAIN ST, CAMDEN, NY 13316

ST LAWRENCE BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

FIRST MONDAY EACH MONTH, ALEX BAY, MACHERRY LIBRARY, 2PM – 4PM

SECOND TUESDAY, ALEX BAY, REFORM CHURCH, 2 – 4 PM

3RD MONDAY, BLUEGRASS JAM, 4TH TUESDAY FOLK JAM 7 PM PICKENS HALL

BLUEGRASS JAM IN BOONVILLE

Every fourth Saturday of the Month
11am-1:30 PM

Held at the Dodge Pratt Northam Art and Community Center.



THE TEACHER'S CORNER 🎵

MVBGA is home to some extremely talented musicians who are also fantastic educators. If you or your family members are looking to learn a new instrument or sharpen your skills, we highly recommend contacting these top-tier MVBGA instructors:

LIZ SIMCHIK

🎵 Ready to start your music journey? 🎵

Whether you're picking up an instrument for the first time, returning to music, or getting ready for your next jam session, Music With Liz is here to help!

For over 20 years, Liz Simchik Ingersoll has been helping students of all ages build confidence, creativity, and a lifelong love of music.

✨ What we offer

- Personalized violin lessons (Classical, Contemporary, and Fiddle)
- Tailored piano instruction
- Professional voice coaching
- Location- Durhamville

Every lesson is customized to fit your unique goals and learning style.

📞 Call 315-256-5348 today to schedule your first lesson!



JEFF INGERSOLL

🎸 Bluegrass Guitar Lessons with Jeff Ingersoll 🎸

Looking to improve your flatpicking, rhythm playing, or overall bluegrass guitar skills? Jeff Ingersoll offers instruction for beginner ,intermediate and Advanced players in a supportive, encouraging environment.

Whether you're just getting started or looking to sharpen your technique, Jeff can help you take your playing to the next level.

Location- Durhamville

📞 Jeff Ingersoll – (315) 806-7447



JAMESON DUNHAM

Private Music Lessons

- Instruments: Upright bass, electric bass, guitar, mandolin, and ukulele.
- Specialties: Bluegrass, jazz, rock, and music production.
- Details: Open to all ages and skill levels.
- Contact: Call or text 315-399-6159
- Location: Oneida



JOE DAVOLI

Fiddle & Mandolin Studio

- Location: Studio located in Camillus.
- Instruments & Styles: Fiddle and mandolin. Teaching bluegrass, various Celtic styles, and improvisation.
- Details: Accepting beginner through advanced students of all ages. Focuses on proper posture, technique, and helping students master their favorite genres.
- Achievements: 2017 New York State Fiddlers Hall of Fame inductee.
- Words to live by: *"Just practice on the days that you eat."*

- Contact: joedavoli@gmail.com or 315-415-2827. Check out his Facebook page for upcoming shows and student performances!



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