

The Gayville Hall Gazette

CJ Kocher & Poker Alice, Hay Country Jamborees, Gospel, Guthrie Tribute, and an Old-Time Songs Fest Spice Season 12

Gayville Hall kicks off its Spring Season of 2012 with three Saturday night shows in a row starting on **March 24**.

The eclectic and wonderful **Poker Alice Band**, with Gayville Hall regulars **Owen DeJong** on fiddle and **Nick Schwebach** on lead guitar and vocals, and with **Larry Rohrer** on bass and vocals, will take the stage with a special guest, saxophonist **C.J. Kocher**, for an 8 p.m. show on **March 24** that will pull out all the stops.

Kocher, who teaches saxophone and jazz at USD, has played with big bands, symphony orchestras, jazz combos, and other configurations of all kinds, including Owen and Nick's Public Domain Tune Band at Gayville Hall.

For swinging, old-time American popular

music that goes "beyond category," don't miss this exciting show, which is the very first presentation of Kocher and the full Poker Alice Band on our stage. The show should swing, rock, soar, and be a real blast!

A week later on **March 31**, Gayville Hall presents our fast-paced, monthly musical variety show, "**The Hay Country Jamboree**," starring Gayville Hall's country music hosts **John and Susan McNeill**, banjo player extraordinaire and funnyman **Daniel Kilbride**, who will be performing in every other Jamboree this year, Iowa's very popular "Singing Farmer" **Ervin Pickhinke**, and **Nick and Owen's Tune Band** duo. It is destined to be "a really big show."

Seven more Jamborees follow on the first Saturday of each

month from May through November. All will feature three-or-more musical acts on stage together trading old-time American tunes, country, bluegrass, and humor by turn. Like all Gayville Hall shows, they are two-hours long, including a short intermission midway.

The third show of our 2012 season, "**An Evening of Old-Time Country Gospel**," will be on **Saturday, April 7**, during the Easter weekend. **John and Susan McNeill**, **Owen DeJong**, and **Nick Schwebach** will play old-time gospel tunes that you grew up with and still love, but that you don't hear often enough these days. Come and enjoy these great tunes again.

An **April 21st** show is being considered, but is not yet confirmed as this issue of *The Gazette* goes to press. For updates, go to our website at www.gayvillehall.com or call 605-267-2859.

At 8 p.m. on **Saturday, May 5**, the rising, young South Dakota singer and songwriter **Jami Lynn**, now a Rapid Ci-

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C.J. Kocher

No One's Gay in Gayville Except on Saturday Night

No one's gay in Gayville
Except on Saturday night.
We put on a show at Gayville Hall
And cares of the world take flight.

Johnny blows his mouth harp.
Daniel picks his strings.
Brenda yodels like a bird
About to take to wings.

It's gayer than gay in Gayville
Every Saturday night
When Owen and Nick and Susie
Make everything all right.

At Gayville Hall in Gayville
No one is uptight.

Just take a chair,
Let down your hair,
and bask in musical light.

Enlightenment is easy
When you come to Gayville Hall.
Leave your cares behind
And you will find
Fulfillment for one night.

Everyone's gay in Gayville
Every Saturday night.
Gayville Hall puts on a show
that turns the evening bright.

Without a warning, Sunday morning,
You know the rooster's gonna crow.

Without a lurch, you'll be off to church,
Thanking God for last night's show.

It's straighter than straight at
Gayville Hall.
We don't even sell you booze.
We cross our T's and dot our I's
And mind our P's and Q's.

We've got ourselves together.
We're good old boys to boot.
Come as you are to Gayville Hall.
We don't require a suit.

Come as you are to Gayville Hall.
We don't require a suit.

Spring '12 Features Some Great Shows

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tian, returns to Gayville to join the **McNeills, Owen DeJong, and Nick Schwebach** in **"The Hay Country Jamboree."**

Lynn grew up on a family farm near Milbank, earned a degree in vocal performance from USD, and writes and



performs her own tunes and other songs that reflect Mid-western rural life and old-time musical styles from traditional folk to country. She has released two well-received CDs of original and traditional tunes.

On **May 19**, Iowa's old-time country music star **Bob**

Everhart, with his wife **Sheila** and our own **John and Susan McNeill**, celebrate the upcoming **100th anniversary of the legendary folk singer and songwriter Woody Guthrie's** birth with an evening devoted to the world and times of Woody Guthrie, the songs that he sang and that he wrote and sang, or ones that influenced him and that he sang with others.

Bob Everhart recorded six albums on the legendary Folkways record label that Guthrie himself recorded on. At our show, you'll hear songs like "So Long It's Been Good to Know You," "Going Down this Road Feeling Bad," "Oklahoma Hills (Where I was Born)," and other Guthrie classics.

On **Saturday, June 2**, the wonderful trio **Good People**, featuring **Bruce Gray and Cindy and Rebecca Gehm**, all of Vermillion, make their fourth or fifth appearance at Gayville Hall in **"The Hay Country Jamboree."** **John and Susan McNeill** and **Daniel Kilbride** will co-star in this fast-paced, monthly mix of old-time tunes, country, bluegrass and humor.

The final spring offering on **June 16** will be what we're calling **"Gayville Hall's Big-Time, Two-Hour Jazz Jam,"** a veritable festival of old-time songs by our nation's finest first-half-of-the-20th-century songwriters that will be accompanied by the inspired, swinging improvisations of some great instrumentalists.

The Public Domain Tune Band leads the show with **Nick Schwebach** on vocals and guitar; **Owen DeJong**, fiddle; **Larry Rohrer**, bass; and **C.J. Kocher**, saxophones. Button up your overcoat, keep your sunnyside up, and don't miss it!

Special guests who will join the jam likely include **Los Angeles saxophonist Roger Neumann**, drummer **Joey Gulizia of Omaha**, and a mysterious, unnamed, surprise **"girl singer"** (for a few tunes).

This and all shows at Gayville Hall are on Saturday and start at 8 p.m. Door and box office open at 7 p.m. Seats cost \$12.50 at the door, or \$15 for a reserved seat. Call (605) 267-2859. Payment is by cash or check only (and is paid when you arrive at the hall).

Is 2012 Our Last Season? Is the End in Sight?

If our popular press is correct in its insistence that a Mayan calendar predicts the end of the world this December, and if, in fact, the end of the world is imminent, be sure to fully enjoy what could be our last season at Gayville Hall. Make the most of the precious time we have left and attend some of our great music shows while you still can!

Two years ago in this column, I published the lyrics of a song I was making up about Gayville Hall which I thought was rather clever, but which apparently did not register with readers, judging by the almost total non-reaction to its publication. Hundreds of copies of that issue of the *Gazette* were printed and mailed to our patrons, who came to our shows in good numbers that season, but who were apparently pretty indifferent about my little lyric, except for one very loyal customer who was the only person to make any reference at all to the little ditty (not even musicians mentioned by name in the lyrics did). A sensitive artist in my own right (or mind?), I was crushed.

I can't be defeated, however, and so you have another opportunity in this issue of the *Gazette* to read (or to ignore) "No One's Gay in Gayville Except on Saturday Night," as tweaked only a little from the original. Only Rupert Murdoch or someone like me (publisher of a little rag like this) can wield such power.

For me, my little lyric has stood "the test of time," or at least a two-year test. I still enjoy it because of lines that remain truthful to me, as well as funny. "Gay" is how I feel dur-

From the HOUSE



by Gayville Hall Proprietor Doug Sharples

ing a really good show at Gayville Hall. I strive to put on great shows so that our audiences will feel the same also, perhaps even as gay and happy as the bygone days of the 1920s as described by Cornelia Otis Skinner in *Our Hearts Were Young and Gay*. It's what Gayville Hall is all about, just like it says in my lyric: "It's gayer than gay in Gayville every Saturday night. We put on a show at Gayville Hall and cares of the world take flight."

I did dump one stanza which I decided went too far. I was pandering just a little bit too obviously, I thought, even though, in my defense, I had imagined the lyric being sung in a "gossipy" and very confidential stage whisper by Gabby Hayes, leaning over the bar at Wild Bills -- an old, bewhiskered codger who'd never set a foot into Gayville Hall (and never would) but who had heard some stories and would sing, confidentially to his drinking companions, "There ain't no gays in Gayville except on Saturday night. They roll up the rug at Gayville Hall and get higher than a kite!"

To which, I have to say, "We don't have any rugs at Gayville Hall, Gabby!"

See you at our next show.

GAYVILLE HALL MUSICIAN PROFILE: *Larry Rohrer*

Larry Rohrer's enthusiasm is contagious.

Whether he's coordinating content as Assistant General Manager at South Dakota Public Broadcasting, playing guitar and singing as a member of the Poker Alice Band, or escorting veterans to Washington, DC as



a volunteer with the Honor Flight SD program, the rural Wakonda resident exudes a zeal for life. One can't help but get caught up in his excitement as Rohrer talks about his career, his music, or his latest volunteer passion.

"What can I say? I'm just a happy guy," says Rohrer. "I'm very lucky to be working in a job I love and to live next to great neighbors [fellow band mates Owen DeJong and Nick Schwabach] with whom I can make music."

Rohrer began his radio career at KELO when he was 20 years old. The Sioux Falls native attended the University of Sioux Falls, majoring in business and organizational management. After some time at KXRB, Rohrer accepted a position at SDPB, where he has worked since 1988 in various roles, including program director for radio, manager of on-line services, and most recently, manager of media content, where he coordinates the efforts of four departments - television, radio, Internet, and education/outreach.

A talented singer and guitarist, Rohrer has been making music since he was young. Rohrer started playing guitar and taking piano lessons when he was 12 or 13. He earned his first \$5 at a gig in 9th grade. By his junior year in high school, Rohrer was performing regularly.

Rohrer is probably best known today as a member of the popular Poker Alice Band, which he joined in 1989. Since the mid-1990s, he has also been a member of The Public Domain Tune Band with fellow Poker Alice band members Schwabach and DeJong.

"I feel a joy when playing music," says Rohrer. "It's a creative celebration ... that happens every time we play. Adding to the experience is having the opportunity to make music with Owen,

Nick, Denny, and Al. Along with being outstanding professional musicians, they are each outstanding men and the kind of loyal friends you wish everyone could have."

Rohrer loves playing at Gayville Hall because it is "a very unique venue" and the

experience is like no other.

"I hope everyone that visits realizes

what a special venue Doug and Judi have created in Gayville. There are very few musical settings like it around the country," says Rohrer.

Rohrer also credits the audience for the fun he has playing at Gayville Hall.

"The Gayville audiences are outstanding. They want to be there, are quite often our friends and neighbors, and the room is always filled with smiles. There is something about the atmosphere that allows us to relax and enjoy the evening and just let the unexpected happen and try to follow where it leads."

The "Good Old Days" Are Alive and Well

We like to look back and reflect on "The Good Old Days". Antique shows and antique stores are favorites. Museums are on everybody's list of things to do. And the more original and authentic something is, the better we like it. It's all about preservation. Having or seeing something in its old and still natural state is premium.

Vintage guitars are much sought after collectors' items. And the prices they can bring are remarkable. A guitar from the 1950's that cost \$200 new, today can command 2,000 dollars – or \$20,000. And if it's of a particular kind, all original, undisturbed, and with its original case and hang tags, it could be priced at a quarter million dollars. It all has to do with its basic quality, and its originality. And violins are even more sought after and venerated. I recently saw a video of a lady concert violinist who paid \$3.6 million for her violin, and two hundred thousand dollars for the bow. She was asked why they cost so much. Her reply: They're both old, and original.

It's the same with art forms. We have strong appreciation for the old stuff. There are more classical music radio programs that feature works of the Baroque period than modern works. And for good reason. And more new architecture today is classically inspired than modeled after designs that came out of the 1960's. The old, tried-and-true forms of art are enduring. And for good reason.

There's one place within driving

From
the
STAGE



by Gayville Hall MC John McNeill

range of us that preserves and presents American music that's been around the block a few times. The good stuff. Mostly country and Americana. Once in a while some other styles, too. All performed live on real acoustical and electric instruments, and never to pre-recorded musical tracks. Music that's plenty lively, but never too loud. Music that's recognizable, and accessible. Music that's fun and encouraging. Music that makes a Saturday night delightful, and causes no regrets on Sunday morning.

It's all at Gayville Hall, Gayville, South Dakota, on Saturday nights, at eight o'clock, from late March until early December. It's all about new experiences with old time music, with a moderate admission price, in a nostalgic building from the 1800's, and in a smoke-free and alcohol-free atmosphere. The twelfth season is set to begin, and there are some great shows on the docket. Doug, Judi, and Riva Sharples are the curators of great old music that's still going strong in 2012 at Gayville Hall. A good time is in store. At Gayville Hall, "The Good Old Days" are alive and well.

Gayville Hall
PO Box 249
Gayville, SD 57031
(605) 267-2859

Gayville Hall's 12th Season Starts March 24!



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VISIT:
www.gayvillehall.com
for updated show information.

GAYVILLE HALL'S SPRING SEASON 2012

TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME ON THE GAYVILLE HALL STAGE

MARCH 24: **The Poker Alice Band with C.J. Kocher**

GAYVILLE HALL'S MONTHLY MUSICAL VARIETY SHOW

MARCH 31: **"The Hay Country Jamboree"**

starring John & Susan McNeill, Daniel Kilbride,
"Singing Farmer" Erwin Pickhinke, Owen DeJong and Nick Schwebach

ENJOY OLD-TIME GOSPEL TUNES ON EASTER WEEKEND

APRIL 7: **"An Evening of Old-Time Country Gospel"**

starring John & Susan McNeill, Nick Schwebach and Owen DeJong

SOMETHING GOOD MAY BE COMING, BUT THEN AGAIN ...

APRIL 21: **Possible Show**

To confirm show, call 605-267-2859 or visit www.gayvillehall.com

GAYVILLE HALL'S MONTHLY MUSICAL VARIETY SHOW

MAY 5: **"The Hay Country Jamboree"**

starring John & Susan McNeill, Nick Schwebach,
Owen DeJong and special guest, singer-songwriter Jami Lynn

IN HONOR OF WOODY'S UPCOMING 100TH BIRTHDAY

MAY 19: **"A Celebration of Woody Guthrie"**

starring Bob & Sheila Everhart and John & Susan McNeill

GAYVILLE HALL'S MONTHLY MUSICAL VARIETY SHOW

JUNE 2: **"The Hay Country Jamboree"**

starring John and Susan McNeill, Dan Kilbride
and Good People (Bruce Gray and Cindy and Rebecca Gehm)

AN EVENING OF OLD-TIME TUNES THAT SWING

JUNE 16: **"Gayville Hall's Big Time, Two-Hour Jazz Jam"**

starring The Public Domain Tune Band (Owen DeJong, Nick Schwebach,
Larry Rohrer, and C.J. Kocher), and special guests Roger Neumann,
Joey Gulziza, and possible "Girl Singer"

GAYVILLE HALL, 502 Washington Street, Gayville, SD

\$12.50 at the door, \$15 reserved Call 605-267-2859. Shows start at 8 p.m.