

On The Road  
For June 2009

From Kathleen Hudson

Still time to get out and enjoy the Kerrville Folk Festival, ending on Sunday June 7 with a performance that begins with **Patrice Pike**, one of my new heroes, and ending with **Ruthie Foster**, a woman who has shared her life with my students, performed for our Wayne Kennemer Scholarship Fund, and held court at the THMF coffeehouse. Yep, I love Ruthie, and my soul rocks out when she plays. I have to dance!

Patrice, a woman with a huge stand in the world, has also shared herself with my students in a real way on coffeehouse night. She brings a point of view that inspires me in mind, body and spirit. I find myself dancing to both women. Don't miss this. You probably already heard **Ray Wylie Hubbard** closed down the evening of May 31 as you read this June magazine.

The showcase of **women at Luckenbach**, hosted by **Walt Wilkins**, was a special Sunday afternoon for me. A fundraiser for the Kerrville Folk Festival, the day began with some songs by **Tina Wilkins** and introduced me to some new strong women's voices, **The Trishas**. These three young stunning women sang Willie Dixon ("Men die for that spoonful"). Then the **Paula Nelson Band** stunned us with "I Surrender," and "Fallen on Better Days." **Robyn Ludwick** brought her strong voice to the stage, followed by **Patrice Pike**, her mom dancing and grinning on the front row. I heard one of my favorites, "Jack Knife Girl," and Matthew Johnson took many a hard guitar lead. Yeah, this woman can sing, scat, drum, and deliver.

**Susan Gibson**, with a new album produced by Walt Wilkins, was introduced by him as "She's my hero." I love the line, "I know I'm fallin' / I prefer to call it cloud nine." And her mom was on the front row listening! Of course we heard her own "Wide Open Spaces," and I was reminded of my first interview with this eclectic women at one South by Southwest with sister Carolyn along for the ride. That interview led to an interesting chapter in my book on the women of Texas music.

We have three scholarship winners for the Wayne Kennemer Scholarship fund, one of them holding a special place in our heart, **Ethan Terry**, the son of the much-beloved Cindy Terry. He received the \$1,000 award to help him with school expenses at the Ingram graduation on May 14. **Kathleen Weiber** and **Raquel Godinez**, current Schreiner music students, also received scholarship money. Support for this program is needed and any donations are welcome! Check out the THMF website for a complete listing and copies of the winning essays.

My annual trip to San Miguel with Schreiner has been cancelled this year due to the many stories of swine flu. We have yet to see real evidence, but we have many stories about the possible pandemic nature of this new strain of flu. Better to be save with the lives of these students. Me? Well, I'll be heading down there sometime in June. The San Miguel de Allende Literary Society hosts an **author's sala on June 12**, and I have been asked to participate, performing some of my own writing along with **Tim Hazell** from San Miguel. We are working on a book, *Conversations Across Borders*, and we both love to perform! Hoping to get Tim back to Schreiner as an artist-in-residence this fall. Keep up with all the events at Schreiner by going to [www.schreiner.edu](http://www.schreiner.edu) and clicking on calendar! I am part of a Center for Innovative Learning, and we produce several free

events a month that celebrate diversity in learning. My cup of tea. The perfect committee for me in this academic life I live. And our new Vice-president of Academic Affairs, **Charlie McCormick**, has a Ph.D. in folklore. He knows the power of stories and the power of words. And our president, Tim Summerlin, still sings a Jimmie Rodgers song at our September Tribute. How cool is that?

The September 2 coffeehouse will feature **Joel Guzman, Sarah Fox**, and a celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. **Terri Sharpe** has been invited to sing a tribute to Lydia Mendoza.

Joel also played a tribute to Steve Jordan, the Jimi Hendrix (or is it Miles Davis?) of the accordion, at Rosedale Park in San Antonio on Thursday, May 7, as part of the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conjunto Festival in San Antonio. I was there both listening and dancing. And then Jordan appeared and played “Volver, Volver,” as he abandoned his accordion to join a drummer, thus producing a very interesting rhythm to this classic song.

Yep, my dance story returns after several years of rest. I had the chance to move around to many great songs with a man who knew how to move! Then I was invited to a “bohemia” party on Friday night in Laredo, a weekly gathering of music hosted by a man whose “heart is music,” so says his friend David, who works with Mariachis de Los Corporales.

I had the chance to invite more musicians to our September 25<sup>th</sup> Living History Day at Schreiner (a CIL and THMF event). Joel is also confirmed for this day. I believe September 25 will be Joel Guzman day in Kerrville! He often tours with Joe Ely, shows up on many a Texas album, and has played our tribute to Jimmie Rodgers in September the last two years. Can you tell I’m a fan?

I visited the **Conjunto Taller** in San Antonio on May 1, a First Friday event. Listening to the young students play button accordion and watching **Rudy Lopez**, founder and director of this Taller, I was filled with pride and joy experience this important part of our state’s heritage. Rudy assures me the Conjunto Taller will be in attendance on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Head over to La Villita for the Conjunto Festival on July 25.

I have also discovered **La Esperanza**, an organization that is dedicated to the disenfranchised voices in this country. Located on San Pedro in San Antonio, this building houses wonderful photos of both music and local heritage. Not only did I experience an amazing discovery at the **Lila Downs Concert** at Sunken Gardens in March (Why didn’t I know about her?), but I also broke apart with emotion when two women blended their voices and songs (in Arabic and Spanish) in a performance called “Waves Across the Water” on Friday, May 1. Two great shows in one night. I have invited this organization to come help us educate with stories and songs on September 25.

May 2 I headed out to **Hubfest** at Roddy Tree Ranch in time to hear **Cary Swinney**. Jeff Gavin is committed to bringing great music to the Hill Country. Not only do we have San Saba House Concerts, but these concerts at Roddy Tree Ranch (Thanks, Keith) really add to our musical history. And Cary gave a compelling performance! His songs are all personal statements, his delivery is passionate, his persona is real. Yep, I like Cary Swinney, once from Lubbock now living in New Mexico. He’s the real deal. I loved his banter on stage with **Bryan McCrae**, a stellar guitarist now living in Austin. “I’m a songwriter; I write in minor chords,” answered Cary to some bantering. I love minor chords so Cary’s songs rocked my world. And he’s political, social, and personal.

While at Luckenbach that Sunday, I also heard **Brennan Leigh** once again and invited her to come sing Jimmie Rodgers in September. She has also visited my classes, sharing her stories. And what a voice she has! She often performs with **Noel Mckay**, another longtime friend, and he has been invited! What fun I'm having. Many local performers and Bandera wild musicians have offered to come out and help. We are grateful as we think this event makes a huge difference in the world! Transformation through stories and songs.

And one more discovery: **Rudy Harst** and Celebration Circle on Sunday at 11 at the Jump Start Theatre in San Antonio. Rudy will also host a Sunday session at 11 on June 7<sup>th</sup> at the Kerrville Folk Festival. A songwriter, musician, spiritual guide and more, Rudy has created a way of worship that includes honoring the light in children, the child in us all, the rhythm in the universe. I shared the day with granddaughter, Jessica, and Seref, a Sufi friend. All about a celebration!

Il's sont partis....KH

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