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HIGHER GROUND NEWSLETTER – Sept. –Nov. 2007

Back Home Again

Welcome and thank you to everyone for being so patient. We are all back home again after a wonderful trip to Aspen. You will hear about many of our experiences through this newsletter. We had some wonderful weather while we were in America, but our five days in Aspen was perfect. We even had a day of snow, which for the Australians, was a wonderful bonus to a perfect holiday.

Get Well Soon

Our good friend Margaret suddenly became ill whilst on her cruise on the St. Lawrence River, Canada. She was hospitalised in Charlottetown for a couple of weeks before being allowed to return to Australia. Unfortunately, she missed out on the Aspen week, but thankfully she is on the mend and we wish her good luck and good health as she gradually regains her health and her strength.



Aspen Photos

For those who were not able to attend the John Denver week in Aspen, some people have made their photos available for viewing. Please do not download or use these photos without first asking permission from the photographer.

<http://john-denver.org/default.asp?nc=9758&id=510>

Welcome Home Again

Cassandra and Jesse Belle have returned to Australia to live permanently. For anyone who would like to read the story, released in the Daily Telegraph and the Herald Sun, follow the link: <http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,22628720-5012974,00.html>

New CD – Live in the USSR

A new two CD set was released during John Denver week in Aspen. The CD – John Denver – Live in the USSR includes material from the eleven concerts that were performed in Moscow, Tallin, and Leningrad. The concert is beautifully remastered by Roger Nichols and it is just John and his guitar. The sound is very clear and sounds as if John is right next to you. 'Annie's Song' is sung in Russian and English. Here is a review made by Kathy Lill about this CD:

I bought the new "John Denver – Live in the USSR" CD while in Aspen. Ron told us we would be thrilled with the clarity of this concert CD. Boy was he ever right! Quoting from the CD sleeve: "This CD captures one of the best concerts ever sung by John. John's voice was in top form during this tour. Recorded digitally by seven time Grammy winner Roger Nichols, the clarity of the sound makes you almost feel as if John is sitting right next to you."

I listened to the entire two CD concert after returning from Aspen and it did seem as if John was right there in the room singing! The Russian audience warms up to the music as the concert progresses and you can tell they love John!

I cried when John started singing "Annie's Song" in Russian. It just really touched me that he tried to do so much good in the world and this history making concert was a testament to that.

Quoting John's mom, Erma from the CD sleeve: "His voice was, and still is so beautiful."

**All of you will love this CD!
Kathy**

The John Denver – Live in Russia CD is available from CD Universe for \$13.94.

<http://www.cduniverse.com/productinfo.asp?pid=7518440&BAB=M>

From Amazon, the price is \$12.99

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B000VWYF0S/ref=s9_asin_image_1/105-4503447-5941227?pf_rd_m=ATVPDKIKX0DER&pf_rd_s=center-

[1&pf_rd_r=0TTQC5JFQ14GNC9N1GEW&pf_rd_t=101&pf_rd_p=279438101&pf_rd_i=507846](#)

Or, you can buy both the CD and the Christopher Canyon Grandma's Feather Bed book for \$26.56.

You can also purchase the CD from Windstar for \$20.00. Before purchasing from any of these retailers, please check the cost of the postage as they vary.

Alaska: America's Child DVD

This DVD was released at the Cookhouse event in Ashcroft. I have not yet been able to purchase a copy of this DVD as I have not yet received a reply to my enquiry about ordering multiple copies and the postage. If anyone would like to purchase this DVD, please contact Jennifer Moore on AAP@rof.net

The following update from Christine:

Finally, information about obtaining a copy of the new *Alaska: America's Child DVD*, featuring John's trips to Alaska in the mid-70s. Send an email with the subject line ALASKA DVD ORDER to ATP@rof.net. The price is \$25 by credit card, plus an additional \$10 for foreign orders (i.e. outside the USA). I don't know the reason for the surcharge – the DVD is not boxed so will not cost anywhere near \$10 to mail. In your email, include your name, mailing address, credit card number and expiry date and allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. If you don't want to send your credit card information by email I suggest you send an email to the above address asking if you may pay in another way, such as by PayPal or by telephone.

Grandma's Feather Bed Picture Book

The Jim Connor/Christopher Canyon picture book, Grandma's Feather Bed was also recently released. This book is wonderful and like the three previous books, will make a wonderful addition to a bookcase. The book is available from Amazon for \$13.57.

http://www.amazon.com/Grandmas-Feather-Audio-John-Denver/dp/158469095X/ref=pd_bxgy_m_img_b/105-4503447-5941227

or from Dawn Publications

http://www.dawnpub.com/shopping_cart/INDEX.CFM?ProductID=130&do=detail

John Denver in Concert – 3CD/DVD Set

John Denver in Concert has been released in Australia. It is currently on the Chaos Music website. This release includes three CDs of songs taken from a number of concerts worldwide and a bonus 'Portrait' DVD .

It is also available for order through JB HI. I was assured that they would sell it cheaper than the \$32.93 price advertised on Chaos.

John Denver 10 Years After

Was anyone able to record the TV show called John Denver 10 Years After, which was a news special presentation on Sunday 14th October? If so, could you please let me know? I would like to access a copy of this programme if possible. jefrawley@optusnet.com.au

Aspen 2007

This year, I took my first trip to Aspen – a journey that had taken several years to plan and execute. I was eligible to take some long service leave as I have been working for the same employer for over ten years, so I had plenty of time. Saving the money was a long term project, made better and easier by the fact that the Australian dollar had strengthened against the US dollar, making the trip a lot cheaper than first anticipated.

I won't elaborate, but between the 5th September and the 10th October, when we arrived in Aspen, we had been to British Columbia, Alaska, and we were nearing the end of a three week road trip through the Rocky Mountains – a trip that included Durango/Silverton, Jackson, where we visited the Murie Ranch and saw John's photo with Mardie on the piano in the living room of her cabin, the Grand Tetons, Yellowstone, Cody



(Buffalo Bill Country), the Little Big Horn Battlefield, Mt Rushmore and Denver. We also went on day trips out of Denver to Pikes Peak, the Garden of the Gods and to Georgetown before making the trip to Aspen. The scenery up until that point had been wonderful – and varied. We had seen mountains that have dizzying (literally) heights – after all, Australia's highest mountain is Mt Kosciuszko at a height of 7310 feet above sea level, exactly half of the height of many of the mountains in the Rocky Mountain chain. We had seen rushing rivers and had driven on roads clinging to the sides of cliffs. We had seen peaks, prairies and carved mountains and then we arrived in Aspen. Aspen is without a doubt one of the prettiest towns we had visited – Deadwood was another. It was easy to see why John had loved this town. We had arranged to stay in Snowmass Village on that Thursday night. We arrived in Aspen to collect the tickets for the 'Unplugged' event at the Wheeler Concert Hall and then departed to find out accommodation in Snowmass Village. I was driving so I could not fully appreciate the wonderful views that we were



passing. If this was a 'Rocky Mountain High', then I was only too happy to be part of it! The 'Unplugged' event was a wonderful show and a great insight into life on the road, as only friends can share. Being Australian, we especially loved the wombat story!

The following day we booked into our accommodation then collected Max Moore, John's Australian tour manager from the airport. Max had been travelling through the Eastern part of Canada, the New England region of USA, and Denver before joining us in Aspen.

We had so many places to see and so many events to attend, and we needed to organise ourselves to fit as many of these activities into our too few days in Aspen.

We attended the Peace Cloth concert at the Mountain Chalet. The talent on show that afternoon was phenomenal. There were some wonderfully talented young people who shared their performed with the Friends With You musicians. I especially want to mention the talents of Bevan Gardiner from New Zealand. He has won some country

music awards singing John's songs and Jake Love from Seattle. He had had some tough times in his life, but has now turned his life around and his performance with his band, Aspen Meadows, was truly inspirational. I was delighted to have the opportunity to listen to his story and his music. Thanks to the Peace Cloth board and the Friends With You musicians for giving this young man the chance to perform. Jeff Pine, Jim Connor and Chris Westfall also performed. We attended the campfire on the Windstar land, where Max was asked to tell a story about his association with John and to light the campfire. This was a great honour for Max and he was delighted to be part of this annual event. As many of you know, Higher Ground Australia 'connects' with the campfire event each year through the letter exchange, which is organised by Harold and Linda on our behalf each year.



We attended the A Voice for the Future concert at Harris Hall. Again, a wonderful array of performers and it was a thrill to meet James Burton. James Burton and Max are good friends and this was an opportunity for them to 'catch up'. This concert



also was the event that launched the new CD that was released. John Denver – Live in Russia.

The Wheeler Tribute concert was wonderful – a very beautiful and moving event. Gary Mule Deer was a very funny man, and we laughed at his antics with the corn chips and other comical skits for days. All the performers were fantastic, and it was a great honour to meet Bill Danoff.

On Sunday morning, we awoke to a Christmas Card view of Aspen. We had been treated to a snow fall and the town was transformed into a picture postcard winter scene. For the Aussies, this was especially fun to see. We spent some time around town, and also took a trip to Woody Creek to have a drink at the famous Woody Creek Tavern. Other diners were kind enough to show us John's photos on the wall.



John Adams' concert was wonderful as was the Chris Westfall concert, which was happening at the same time. I think that we were very spoilt as the talent over the days in Aspen was fantastic. John Adams did not disappoint and it was a thoroughly enjoyable concert. The other people in our party were at the Chris Westfall concert, which was also most enjoyable.

All too soon, we were running out of time and a trip to Windstar and to the John Denver Sanctuary was hastily organised for the Monday. We were able to find the paver that we had ordered and at last we were able to see the 'Spirit' statue.



Although there were many of you I wanted to meet, but didn't, I was very fortunate to be able to catch up with so many others. Thanks to all the people who 'found' me and took the time to have a chat. These meetings are very special and the memories of Aspen 2007 will last a lifetime. It is my hope to return to Aspen one year in the near future, where I can hopefully meet many more of you. Although this is a very condensed overview of a jam-packed nine weeks in America, I hope to be able to share with you some of our experiences over the coming months.

Some things that I have learnt over the past few weeks are:

It is not that hard to drive on the wrong side of the road – a hand (emergency) brake located under one's left foot was a challenge!

Check your fuel levels, especially before travelling down hairy roads, such as Teton Pass!

There is a place in Denver called Shotgun Willie's. I will say no more!

Thanks to Christine Moon for permission to use the photo of Jake Love.

Review of the John Denver Events – 2007 by Jean Kendle

I intended to keep an accurate diary of all the shows I attended in Aspen, for this, my first time, and for the 10th anniversary! We arrived in Aspen the afternoon of the 10th, after a beautiful scenic ride from Denver, where the Aspen were in their golden glory, and it was a spectacular fall Colorado day. On that night, we attended the "Storytellers" show at the Wheeler, and even though we sat in the 3rd row, I didn't have the chance to take detailed notes of the stories. Denny Brooks was the host, and on the right stage side was Jim Horn, Bill Danoff, John Connors and Jim Salestrom. They told tales about being in the band, and on the road with John.

On the left stage side was Tom Crum, Barney Wycoff, Bruce Gordon, Kenn Roberts and Michael P. Shore (who ran the Tower Restaurant, and took John hunting once, which resulted in the "Two Shots" song.) They told golfing stories, tour stories, and played some parts of videos of John & Kermit at the American Embassy in Russia, "What Are You Making Weapons For", and the "John on the Calypso" video, and a funny whale story. Bill Danoff received an award for doing the most, this year, to make the 10th Anniversary a success. Ron D. was in the audience, and made a few comments but wasn't able to be up on the stage. They also had a very touching "Challenge Aspen" video about an Iraq war veteran who had lost both legs, and was being rehabilitated by Challenge Aspen. It was called "I Want To Heal". They said they are helping a great many vets, and the Wheeler shows income was being donated to that organization.

Thursday, another trip on another perfect day into the mountains to the PineCreek Cookhouse, for the "Alaska" luncheon and Friends With You band, and John Wilcox address. The band played Wrangell Mountains, River of Love, Wild Montana Skies, I Guess He'd Rather Be In Colorado, Starwood In Aspen, Annie's Song, Homegrown Tomatoes, I'd Rather Be A Cowboy, Darcy Farrow, Me & My Uncle, To The Wild Country, R.M.H., Leavin' On A Jet Plane (sung by a lady from England named Jane), Eagle & The Hawk, Take Me Home, and a tribute song "Alaska, The Place To Belong". The band members were Chris Collins, Mark Cormican, Paul Swanton, Kevin Delmolino, and another man referred to as "Button Boy", who played a very unusual looking

instrument, and sang the Eagle & The Hawk amazingly well. They all did an excellent job with John's songs!

I was disappointed that Mr. John Wilcox only spoke for about 10 minutes, re the making of the Alaska TV special, which he said took over two years to complete, mostly due to John's tour schedule, and the editing of all the films made. But he didn't share any personal photos of John, or anything that may have been cut from the film, nor tell any fun stories, as previously advertised. The buffet lunch was outstandingly delicious, tho. Many thanks to Suzanne and Jennifer. Mr. W. did say he was also the producer of John's part at the Sarajevo Olympics in 1984, and promised that he would make that show available on DVD for next year.

On Friday, came the Peace Cloth Concert, with Denny Brooks, Chris Collins, Mark Cormican, Jeff Pine, Chris Westfall, Paul Swanton, Kevin Delmolino, and Ellen Stapenhorst all performing. Friday night we attended the Wheeler Opera House show, and sat in the balcony, where it was quite dark, so I didn't list the songs. There was a full house both that night and Saturday night. I was thrilled to hear Molly Weaver in person. She sang "Windsong, In A Grand Way, Annie's Song, and Eagle & The Hawk", and also sang with the others. She really has a beautiful voice, and stage presence. Mack Bailey, Jim Salestrom, Denny Brooks, Chris Nole, Jim Horn, John Sommers, Pete Huttlinger, Alan Deremo, Richie Garcia, and Bill Danoff performed also. The comic was Gary Mule Deer. On a few of the songs (Whispering Jesse), John's voice sang, with Chris Nole on the piano, and a spotlight on the guitar and bouquet at center stage. It was very moving.

Saturday was the lunch & Let This Be A Voice concert with Christopher Canyon greeting everyone. He made a quick sketch of the cover of "Grandma's Feather Bed", and later it was auctioned off. He also sang the song. There were songs by a young man from New Zealand -- Bevan Gardiner and his friend Jayne. He sang some of John's songs, and some of his own. The "Friends With You" band again played: Sweet Surrender, Mother Nature's Son, Wild Montana Skies, Poems - Prayers - & Promises, Me & My Uncle, Eagle & The Hawk, The Road Less Traveled, I'd Rather Be A Cowbly, R.M.H., Today, Take Me Home, and they received the "Golden Eagle Award". Dr. Chris Westfall sang Pegasus, Tropical Buzz, 18 Holes, recited Alphonse, Christmas for Cowboys, Blue Water World, and his song "Life Is Like A Running River". Very spectacular! Mack Bailey sang "Lucky Man", and with Pete Huttlinger, did a bunch of "jamming" on a variety



of melodies, and ended with "Welcome To My Morning".

There was a wedding in the afternoon at the Sanctuary Garden, of Mark Cormican and his bride, so we went there, but the weather cooled considerably, and it was close to raining, so we didn't stay. It was a beautiful place to hold such an event, tho. Saturday night at the Wheeler, it was an even more exciting performance than the night before. The audience was again invited to sing along on many songs. Mrs. Erma D. was in the audience and a bouquet was presented to her. It was announced that Zak was backstage, too. At the end, the whole entire band, the singers, and all the people who work behind the scenes were on the stage, to sing a number of songs, ending with the Colorado #2 State Song, R.M.H., and then Take Me Home. It was just a lovely 10th Anniversary tribute to a beloved man of such talent.

Sunday night was Dr. Chris Westfall's Concert. He sang many of John's songs that were not in the other shows, and played the guitar and piano just to perfection. "Trail of Tears, Eagles & Horses, Leavin' On A Jet Plane, Rocky Mountain Suite, Catch Another Butterfly, Marvelous Toy, Starwood In Aspen, Pegasus, Tropical Buzz, Tools, Zachary & Jennifer, I'll Be There In The Morning, Heading To The Mountains, A Wild Heart Looking For A Home, For You (very emotionally), Wrangell Mountain Song, African Sunrise, Durango Mountain Caballero, On The Road, Naturally, the Bank Commercial, Yellowstone-Coming Home, Last Night I Had The Strangest Dream, Wandering Soul, Seasons Of The Heart, recited Alphie, Christmas for Cowboys, The Wings That Fly Us Home, Paradise, My Sweet Lady, his own song "The Last Frontier - Alaska", I'm Sorry, Healing Time, Blue Water World, Autograph, and Wild Montana Skies.

He told us Alaska means "great land", and also about his trip on the cruise ship. He did a lot of talking between the songs, so it was a long show. He has a very engaging personality, and the audience listened raptly to his songs. He encouraged us to sing along, but most everybody was more interested in listening to his incredible voice and instrument playing.

Almost all the shows were donating proceeds to a variety of charities, so not only were we royally entertained, but we knew the prices charged ended up for a good cause. That Sunday morning, it was cold, snowy, and rainy, so when we had driven up to see the Maroon Bells, the clouds were covering the mountains. There were still plenty of golden Aspen leaves and spectacular sites to photograph, tho. We had driven all over the area, shopped a lot, ate out in quaint restaurants, and before we knew it, the

week was over for my group of four. We sadly parted and left for home, but we all had a wonderful vacation, -- one that will last my lifetime -- and enjoyed so much the music and memory of the man that we loved so much.

Jean Kendle, Mishawaka, IN



Harold Simpson – The Campfire

One month ago tonight, (right at about the time I'm writing this as a matter of fact) Cathy, Lisa and I were heading back to Aspen after one of the nicest and warmest campfires ever. Nice because there were so many wonderful people there. Warm, because not only did the weather fully cooperate again, I think this year I sensed a certain warmth and togetherness amongst the people there... like no other.

It takes a lot of people, working together for a common goal to pull it all off so smoothly like it went this year. I'm amazed how well it all always seems to work out, even though to be honest with you, I find myself sweating the details right up to the very last moment each year. (Even though I know I should know better... as per a conversation I had with Chris Canyon.)

It's impossible to remember every one's names that helped in some way and if I begin naming some that I do remember, I'll surely leave some out. But realizing that risk, I think I'll take a moment to thank some of the people who were involved with lending a hand in one way or another this time around. Each volunteered their time and efforts and I want to recognize their contribution.

Helping with the parking duties were Dawn Wright, Diane Otto, Michael Byrne, Jim Corino and Linda Edmondson. Side note: Parking was a major concern of ours. Shari had been working for quite some time trying to track down the new owners of the ranch land that we needed to use for parking. Getting their permission took some magical powers of persuasion on the part of Shari. I think Dreux helped with that effort, also. We didn't know for certain right up until two days before the campfire if we were going to have enough parking for everyone. A huge thank you



goes to Shari Sullivan and Dreux DeMack for getting the job done.

Hay is another concern each year due to a number of factors that change from year to year. Thanks to a suggestion from John Anderson of RMI to Shari, St. Benedict's Monastery (just up the road from the Windstar Land Conservancy) allowed us use of their hay, for which we are most grateful. John loaded up a trailer with the 40 bails of hay I requested (42 actually) and brought it out to the campfire site for us to unload. Some of the people helping with the unloading and reloading of the hay were Dennis Ducey, Curtis Giffey, Inigo Freire, Mike and Mary Padget, and very nice couple from East Berlin. My wife and daughter, Cathy and Lisa helped with unloading, too!

I'd like to thank Cindy Launey from Florida for volunteering to cook the hot dogs again this year. Brandi Smith from Alabama for arranging to have a telescope at the campfire again. Thanks also to the fellow who brought it, though at the moment his name eludes me. There's another girl who always pitches in where ever she's needed. Her name is Mary and I keep forgetting her last name. She's the one that left her scarf at the campfire this year. Anyway, I really appreciate all that you do to help out! Thanks Bill Blomgren and Chuck Wilkenson for helping with the firewood. And thank you Mary Allen and Mary Padget for helping with the set up.

Thanks again to all the talented folks who bring along their guitars and entertain us to the delight of us all. Here's where I have to be careful mentioning names because I just know I'll miss a few. I just want you all to know how much you are all appreciated. Special thanks goes to Chris Collins for his amazing Kermit puppetry. The kids (of all ages) loved the show! Thanks too goes to Paul Swanton for Kermit's musical accompaniment. And how could any campfire do without its very own bear story tellin' cowboy? Thanks Scott Smith for adding extra wide smiles to lots of faces.

A big Thank You goes to Linda Wolverton who helps me with what's become the traditional campfire letter exchange. The amazing thing this year was the girl who writes the Australian letter, Janette Frawley was on hand to read hers in person! Thanks goes to Judy Therrien for personally reading the Monterey letter.

Traditionally we always come out of our moments of silent remembrance with, " Rocky Mountain High," this year performed by Frank DeLaMarre with his friend Terry assisting with the mike. Thank you Frank and Terry!

We were fortunate to have two very special guests who had insightful stories to share with us.

It was an honor to have John's Australian tour manager, Max Moore and Clive Chidester of Santa Maria, Ca. Thank you so much for coming. You both added an extra level of warmth and camaraderie to the evening.

It was in Georgetown, Colorado, last November 2006, that the decision was made to have this years Oct. 12th campfire at Windstar. I want to thank Jo Lynn Long for her part in helping with that decision and in helping to make it happen.

The biggest thank you of all goes to my wife, Cathy. Truth be known, no one puts more time and effort into each years campfire than her and I wouldn't even think about attempting it without her.

I know I've missed a few names here and I can only hope that those that I have missed will forgive me. In the past, I've always been hesitant about trying to make a post like this for that reason. I realize those of you that helped out don't do it for the thank you's, you do it because you care. You are all an amazing bunch of wonderful people and it's an honor to be around all of you!

Harold Simpson

(Thanks Harold – I would like to thank YOU for all your hard work. It was my first campfire this year, but it was such an enjoyable evening. These things can only happen when there is a group of great people helping. It was beautifully organised. I would also like to thank Harold and Linda, who were so thoughtful to organise parking so that we could easily get Max to the campfire. I think I can speak on behalf of Max by saying 'Thank you' to everyone who came along and introduced themselves to him at all the events. He loved meeting you all and he returned to Australia with many wonderful memories of Aspen, Colorado. – Janette)



JD Plaque in Pacific Grove on YouTube

For those of you who were unable to be at Pacific Grove for the presentation of the memorial plaque the weekend before last (that's most of us!) there is now a short video on YouTube of Ron Deutschendorf's speech. Go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6hwk4Zk7qk8>

Here is Ron's message to go with the video:

Friends, Associates, Everyone!

This is a video of part of the ceremony in Pacific Grove where a plaque was presented to mark the location where my brother John's plane crashed. I hope you will check it out.

The CD, I am speaking of is, "John Denver-Live in the USSR," which is about to be released internationally.

Anyone who purchases the CD through John's, "Windstar Foundation," makes it possible for Windstar to receive the difference between the price paid to the record company, and the price paid by the purchaser!

This is John at his very best, so if you are buying a copy, please go to www.wstar.org go to the products page and order from Windstar.

Thanks,
Ron Deutschendorf, Sr.

Pacific Grove Photos/Review

Some photos taken on the day of the Pacific Grove have been placed on the internet by 'Bear'.

[Click here: Pacific Grove pictures from beaches photos on webshots](#)

Or
<http://community.webshots.com/album/553565156yEMCSX>

If you would like any of the photo files, please contact Bear directly on [Bear1701@yahoo.com](mailto: Bear1701@yahoo.com)

Thanks to the Rocky Mountain High Newsletter for the following: **Written by Hochima.**

October 12th Remembrance of John Denver at Pacific Grove, California, 2007

We were like the monarch butterflies, which at the end of 2 year Diaspora, find their way to their ancestral winter home in Pacific Grove, some having never been there before in their life. Like the monarchs, fifteen of us dedicated fans/friends of John Denver found ourselves, on this tenth anniversary of his passing, drawn by our individual internal guidance system to pay tribute at what we affectionately call "John Denver's beach" at the corner of Ocean View Blvd. and Acropolis St. in Pacific Grove, CA. There were no planned announcements, no pre-organized activities,

but we were determined to reverently honor the time and day of John's passing. Some came from the local area, while others traveled from as far as Wisconsin, Minnesota, Arizona, Utah and Southern California. Some could only stay for a short time, some arrived at the site later than 6 pm, after driving all day, and some of us had "hung out" at the site all day.

I have gone enough years to have seen the phenomenon repeatedly. People come, some not even knowing whether they will be the only ones. To our delight and wonder, we each discover a family and community of kindred spirits, deeply touched by John's music.

The day had periods of heavy raining, but by 4 pm, it had lightened to a mist, and by 5 pm the precipitation had stopped, while dramatic clouds still caressed the sky and sea.

To honor John, we listened to his music, thanks to two who had brought their iPods and speakers, and then we joined hands in a moment of silence. This was followed by heartfelt sharing about how John and his music touched our lives.

Many of us lingered long after the simple remembrance ceremony to make or renew connections. This is another gift we have gotten from John.

"FRIENDS WELCOME DENVER PLAQUE"

Pacific Grove memorial to singer who died in bay 10 years ago

By JULIA REYNOLDS

Monterey Herald Staff Writer

More than a hundred friends, fans and family of the late John Denver stood at the water's edge in Pacific Grove early Sunday to view a bronze plaque that will be installed near the site where Denver's plane crashed a decade ago. "He loved this area," said Marie Falcone, who came from Tracy for the ceremony that was held on a relatively warm and windless morning near Point Pinos. "It's a wonderful thing that people have been concerned about something like (the plaque) being there." Falcone said Denver's brother, Ron Deutschendorf, prefers the term "friend" to "fan," so that's how she describes herself as well. She's one of a group of Denver's "friends" who come to the coastal spot every year to mark the death of a man who is as much remembered for his environmental activism as for his hit songs.

"I would use his music to teach on Earth Day," said Falcone, a retired first-grade teacher from Santa Clara County. Many years ago, Falcone said, a student named Butch asked her "Can we write a letter to John Denver?" The students thanked Denver for "saving the animals," she said. Falcone sent off a stack of letters to an



address she found on an album cover, "not thinking I would ever hear anything." She forgot all about it until she picked up a pile of mail at the Los Gatos post office. Sitting in a park across the street, Falcone said, she opened a letter from Denver, "thanking my children and me for being an inspiration to him."

"I cried, it was so beautiful," she said, even as people were starting to stare. She made copies for all her students, she said. "He was such a wonderful man. He was a 'world person' and it wasn't celebrity stuff." Creating the plaque, said Deutschendorf, was a project eight years in the making.

After Denver's plane crashed into Monterey Bay on Oct. 12, 1997, the Pacific Grove City Council rejected a proposal for a plaque, with some members saying they didn't want Denver's death to attract tourists to the town. In 1999, the council changed course and approved the plaque, but plans were put on hold at the request of the singer's family, according to city officials. But by March of this year, the family was ready and the City Council approved installation of the plaque, which bears a bas-relief image of Denver's face and these lines from a composition Denver co-authored called "Windsong":

"So welcome the wind and the wisdom she offers.
Follow her summons when she calls again."

The plaque was paid for by California Friends of John Denver and the Windstar Foundation, an environmental activist group chaired by Deutschendorf that Denver co-founded in 1976. The spot has been marked for years by a driftwood log with Denver's name carved in the side in block letters. Laurie Kern, who came from Sacramento for the ceremony, said Jeffrey Pine of Colorado did the carving, which has stood for around six years as the only marker for the site. "One of these days, a storm is going to carry it off to sea," Kern said. "So it'll be nice to know there's a plaque here to mark the spot."

At a low-key reception afterward at Chautauqua Hall in Pacific Grove, Deutschendorf played selections from a never-before-heard digital recording of Denver performing in the Soviet Union in the mid-1980s, when he gave 11 concerts there. The album will be available in stores and on the Windstar Foundation's Web site in late October, Deutschendorf said.

San Jose resident and volunteer Patti Searle came to represent The Hunger Project, a nonprofit organization co-founded by Denver that is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. Today, The Hunger Project "impacts 22 million people" around the world, Searle said, working in eight African countries, three in Latin America and two in South Asia. Ten years ago, Denver had planned to perform in New York for The Hunger

Project's 20th anniversary celebration on October 18, 1997. It was six days after the crash. For Deutschendorf, who lives in San Diego, Sunday's event was bittersweet, bringing with it painful memories. He hadn't been in the Monterey Bay Area since his brother's death, he said, when he had to deal with the media, the coroner's office and picking up his brother's possessions. "You don't want to burn yourself," he said. "Sticking your finger against the flame. You don't want to do it again. It's difficult."

He said he planned to return to the memorial spot alone before leaving the area Monday.

"It's good for all of John's friends to have a place to come to that is now easily found," he said. "It's such a beautiful place." Deutschendorf said he was grateful to "the folks that were involved in making this happen." "They honor my brother and in turn honor my family," he said. "Hopefully, they will continue to support the things John was interested in, like the environment and hunger."

San Jose Mercury News

"Memorial plaque for John Denver dedicated in Pacific Grove"

San Jose Mercury News
September 24, 2007

A memorial plaque dedicated to veteran musician, actor, and environmentalist John Denver was unveiled Sunday in Pacific Grove in front of about 100 invited guests, the president of California Friends of John Denver said today. "We have been lobbying with Pacific Grove City Council for 10 years to get this memorial plaque", Cynthia Doe, the group's president, said today. "We felt it was the right thing to do for the right reasons." The beachside dedication ceremony that began at 11:00 a.m. was followed by a reception. "The ceremony went really well. We are overjoyed" Doe said. "He (Denver) would say 'far out!'"

The Aspen Times – October 12, 2007

Fans mark John Denver's death

Hundreds gathering in Aspen to celebrate singer's memory

[Scott Condon](#)
[Aspen, CO](#)
[Colorado](#)
October 12, 2007



ASPEN — Hundreds of John Denver fans are converging on Aspen Friday to mark the 10th anniversary of the singer's death. The gathering will be a joyous time, celebrating Denver's special talents and ability to connect with people, said Deborah Perry, an organizer of some



of the events and co-administrator of a website for a group called The World Family of John Denver. "It's a happy time. We're not mourning his loss anymore," said Perry, who came to Aspen this week from Elgin, Ill. She has marked the anniversary of Denver's death in Aspen each year with her husband, Keith. In fact, they renewed their vows three years ago at the event.

During the first few years of the Aspen event, she said, emotions were still "raw."

Denver died Sunday, Oct. 12, 1997, when the home-built, single-engine fiberglass airplane he was piloting crashed into Monterey Bay, Calif., while he was practicing touch-and-go landings. Denver, whose given name was Henry John Deutschendorf, was 53 years old.

Denver's name always will be linked with Aspen. He fell in love with the town during a performance in 1968, moved here in 1969, and picked land for a home the following year, his brother, Ron Deutschendorf, said Thursday.

He also was a fixture around town. Locals could rub elbows with him at the old Flying Dog Brew Pub, take in his catchy pop tunes and beautiful spiritual songs at an occasional benefit concert, and get invigorated by his optimism for humankind as a host of the Windstar Foundation's Choices for the Future Symposium.

Stunned Roaring Fork Valley residents and visitors held a candlelight vigil in Aspen the weekend he died. A memorial service attracted 2,100 mourners in Aurora on the weekend after he died, and a similar-sized crowd gathered at Aspen Meadows for another memorial.

One fan was so moved by Denver's accomplishments that he asked the Aspen City Council to change the name of Main Street to John Denver Way. That didn't happen, but Aspen established the John Denver Sanctuary in summer 1998 along the Roaring Fork River near Rio Grande Park to honor the man. The sanctuary is visited by thousands of people year round, especially on and around the anniversary of his death.

Denver was honored by Colorado legislators earlier this year when they passed a resolution making his hit "Rocky Mountain High" a second state song. The senate voted 26-8 to designate it the co-state song while the house voted 50-11 in favor. Some opponents objected that the song allegedly had pot references.

State Sen. Bob Hagedorn said when he suggested the idea that he wanted to honor "a great Colorado citizen."

"It seemed fitting that on the 10th anniversary of his untimely death, John Denver's most recognized song should be his adopted state's co-state song," Hagedorn, a Denver Democrat, said in an e-mail interview Thursday. "Interestingly, one might say that John Denver was 'green' before it was popular to be green. I personally

have liked the environment themed songs he recorded later in his career. On the 10th anniversary of his death, the environment is finally on folks' political agendas, including Colo. Gov. Bill Ritter's."

Denver had 14 gold and eight platinum albums. In addition to "Rocky Mountain High," his songs "Take Me Home, Country Roads" and "Sunshine on My Shoulders" were mega-hits.

But Denver's legacy goes beyond songs that make you smile. He sang about peace and backed the words with concerts in Russia as the Cold War was coming to an end. He sang about personal responsibility to environmental sustainability and established the Windstar Foundation in Old Snowmass.

"John really was an environmentalist before there was a word for that," said John (sic) Deutschendorf, Denver's brother.

Deutschendorf, the president of the Windstar Foundation, said he believes his brother will ultimately be best remembered for his environmental activism and efforts to promote peace.

"I think his music will lead you there," he said. His fans and friends "get involved in his music because it is universal. Everybody around the world can relate to it."

Deborah Perry can testify to that. Denver's legacy is still enough to attract hundreds of people like her to Aspen each year at this time to celebrate his accomplishments.

"We've built a lot of relationships with people from all over the world," Perry said.

The Aspen Times – October 12, 2007

Storytellers Unplugged: remembering JD

A Review [John Colson](#)
[Aspen, CO Colorado](#)
October 12, 2007

ASPEN — It was a fair turnout at the Wheeler Opera House, given John Denver's perennial popularity among a devoted following; a couple of hundred tickets sold, and perhaps half that many seats filled by "comps."

One usher admitted quietly to closing the balcony to give the main floor seating area a fuller feel, and some remarked that attendance was light because most of the participants weren't expected to hit town until the next day.

Thus, at 8 p.m. on Oct. 10, began the first, and possibly only production of "John Denver's Storytellers Unplugged," a gathering of former band members, friends and helpers to tell tales and share memories about the man adored by so many both before and after he died in a 1997 plane crash.

It was the opening night of John Denver Week, five days of events celebrating the life of Aspen's most famous son, organized by his former



personal manager, Barney Wyckoff. Houston Cowan of Challenge Aspen, a nonprofit group helping the disabled, and the beneficiary of the night's proceeds, took the stage first. He talked, in part, of the many John Denver-related events held in the decade since the singer died, and the \$1.5 million he said has been raised at those events over the years to benefit Challenge Aspen.

A little while later, Denny Brooks, one of Denver's managers in the later years of his career, auctioned off a John Denver night for up to 20 people, to feature wine provided by Denver crony Mickey Smith, music by former Denver band members John Sommers and Jim Horn, and a meal prepared by a celebrated chef. The evening of fun went to part-time Aspenite Donna Harper, for \$10,000, but only after wine specialist Smith chimed in and forced the bidding higher.

The night was billed as a no-holds-barred look at the man behind the myth, but it fell short of the mark. People were hoping for high-potency tales of Denver's hidden home-boy rep as a pot-smoking partier of Bacchanalian appetites, ribald stories about debauchery and high-jinks on the road, perhaps even a few revelations about some of the complexities and contradictions that made his time here so interesting.

Instead, attendees were treated to videos, reminiscences and songs that portrayed John Denver's much-remarked role as an environmentally oriented bard, a singer of fine ballads whose voice could transport a listener to another world entirely, an eager and enthusiastic student making his way through the school of life. It was all high-minded and inspirational, if not as "unplugged" as some would have liked.

To be sure, there were details that many had never heard, tucked into a series of sometimes hilariously entertaining stories, and the camaraderie among the storytellers was heartening. Denver's place in history took on an added coat of glitter and glue, and every now and then a novel detail would add an intriguing facet to the public persona.

And, of course, every time that soaring tenor of his rose above the crowd, hairs stood up on the back of my neck.

The myth remains intact and untarnished.

The Aspen Times – 7th October, 2007
A decade later, Windstar survives

Nonprofit profile

[Rick Carroll](#)
[Aspen, CO Colorado](#)

October 7, 2007

SNOWMASS — When John Denver died in a plane crash 10 years ago this week, the nonprofit he co-founded nearly died as well.

But somehow the Windstar Foundation, which the

singer-songwriter launched with Tom Crum in 1976, continues to carry the message of environmentalism, despite the loss of its biggest name.

It hasn't been easy. Windstar shut down for three years after Denver's death on Oct. 12, 1997, near Monterey, Calif. Slowly, however, the Old Snowmass organization has rebounded, albeit on a shoestring budget.

"When John was alive, naturally people were more inclined to donate to Windstar. John and Tom were doing this when the term 'environmentalist' didn't exist," said Ron Deutschendorf, Denver's brother, in a telephone interview Thursday. "When I say, 'Hi, this is Ron Deutschendorf,' it doesn't have the same effect. It's sort of hard, and when John's accident happened, what happened is Windstar went into a dormant state for three years."

Windstar's shaky fiscal health is reflected in tax records as well. According to Windstar's Form 990 tax return filed with the IRS last October, it received \$41,027 in direct public support for the fiscal year running from Dec. 1, 2004, through Nov. 30, 2005. While that amount bettered the previous year's

\$30,142 in public support and \$26,948 the year prior, it still wasn't enough to keep Windstar from operating at a deficit.

The foundation generated \$80,634 in total revenue and spent \$140,996 in the 2005 tax year, resulting in a deficit of \$60,362, and reducing its net assets to \$46,489, records show. Windstar's biggest expense was \$112,763 for its New Choices for Your Future Symposium held at the Snowmass Conference Center, which included such speakers as Dr. Jane Goodall. Symposiums held before Denver's death attracted the likes of Al Gore, Ted Turner and Olivia Newton John. Another \$34,796 was spent in contract labor (Windstar Foundation has no payroll), \$2,251 went toward advertising, and \$1,374 was spent on newsletters, among other expenses. The

Nonprofit profile	
Organization:	Windstar Foundation
President:	Ron Deutschendorf
2005 Revenue:	\$80,634
2005 Expenses:	\$140,996
Mission statement:	Services and activities related to planning, coordination and supporting events and education programs for members of the general public in pursuit of improving local communities and the environment.
<i>Source:</i>	<i>guidestar.org</i>



foundation also handed out a \$1,000 scholarship to Yale University, and scholarships of \$500 each to the University of Alaska and Humboldt State University.

Membership is the biggest source of revenue for Windstar, Deutschendorf noted.

"Like any foundation we're always looking for donations and greater membership," he said. "We just haven't had the kind of funding we used to have. And outside the valley, I'm not sure anyone knows we exist."

Deutschendorf, who does not earn a salary and lives in San Diego, keeps plugging along with new ideas.

"Windstar has a lot of assets that we haven't used to the best of our advantage," he said. "We've been very tight."

Among those assets Deutschendorf describes is the music of his brother. Thanks to an agreement with a record label, Windstar is releasing a 1985 performance by Denver in Russia on CD that will be available to its members Nov. 6, before it is widely distributed.

Deutschendorf would like to see the seminars of such Windstar speakers as Gore and Turner put on DVD and sold, with proceeds going to the foundation.

Deutschendorf also sits on the board of the Windstar Land Conservancy, a separate nonprofit entity. The conservancy's most recent tax form states its mission is to "preserve critical open space within the Roaring Fork Valley" and do so by acquiring and managing land.

While the conservancy has not been active lately in land buys, its tax return filed in February states it had \$3.2 million in net assets for the year beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2006. The main chunk of those assets is the land it owns in Old Snowmass, which its tax form says is worth \$2.7 million.

On Saturday, Oct., 13, a benefit for Windstar Foundation, as well as the Aspen Camp for the Deaf, will be held at Harris Concert Hall in Aspen, featuring such artists as James Burton, who was the guitarist for Denver, Elvis Presley and Rick Nelson, and other former Denver band members such as Dick Kniss, Jim Connor and Steve Weisberg. Headlining the show will be Jim Curry, whose voice was used in the CBS movie about Denver, and who also does tribute performances to Denver in Las Vegas and on cruise ships. Performance times are set for 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Aspen Times

The other faces of country-boy Denver

[Stewart Oksenhorn](#)

October 6, 2007

Have you heard the one about John Denver and the Rastafarians?

Almost certainly not. The story doesn't fit in with the stock image of the

late Aspen icon - the blonde-haired, mountain-loving, do-gooding folk singer. This episode features reggae music, questionable business practices and joints that resemble cigars, and takes place in the Florida heat.

But such stories are the purpose behind John Denver's Storytellers Unplugged, which kicks off a series of tributes to the late singer marking the 10th anniversary of his death. Most people - especially those in Aspen, where Denver lived virtually all of his adult life, and most especially those coming to Aspen to remember his life, music and activism - know the public Denver, who sang about peace and brotherhood, and spoke out on behalf of the natural world. Storytellers Unplugged, a benefit for Challenge Aspen, peeks behind the Granny glasses to give a fuller portrait. The event, Wednesday, Oct. 10, at the Wheeler Opera House, brings together four musicians and four friends and business associates who saw Denver from all sides, over a span of decades. The first half of the evening will feature musical partners: band members Jim Salestrom and Jim Horn; local fiddler John Sommers, who wrote "Thank God I'm a Country Boy"; and Bill Danoff, who met Denver in the mid-'60s at Washington's Cellar Door folk club and co-wrote "I Guess He'd Rather Be in Colorado" and "Take Me Home, Country Roads." The second half will present stories from four Aspen area residents: Barney Wyckoff, Tom Crum, Bruce Gordon and Michael Shore. The men had business ties with Denver: Wyckoff was a manager and record producer; Crum handled security on tour; and Shore was partners with Denver in the old Tower Restaurant in Snowmass Village. But they considered Denver more a friend than an employer or business acquaintance.

"John would go out on the road, and he'd miss his buddies back home," said Wyckoff, who accompanied Denver on the road from 1975-85. "I think he just wanted to bring his buddies along with him."

If the Wheeler event is anything like when these old buddies got together for this interview, the stories will be flying, with lots of laughs and few reservations. As soon as Wyckoff and Crum start the memory wheels turning, there are tales of softball games and pot-smoking sessions, of concerts in the old Soviet Union and parties in old



Aspen, and of crashing cars - Wyckoff, Crum and Denver are united in having all crashed, in three separate episodes, Denver's yellow 1964 Porsche convertible.

Denver's story will also be told in video. There will be a little-seen clip of a very young Denver on a British variety show. According to Crum, Denver's manager wanted the singer to have a tryout on U.K. television before turning him loose on American tubes. Crum will also unveil footage of Denver with Jacques Cousteau, on Cousteau's boat, the Calypso. It is an embryonic take on the activist in bloom.

"You can see John taking in this stuff early on, his exuberance to learn, his excitement to make a difference," said Crum, who met Denver in 1970 at a party in Aspen - Denver was the one in the corner, strumming a guitar - and instructed Denver in Aikido and mediation before becoming his head of tour security and then a partner in forming the Windstar Foundation. "You see John seeking out people who would mentor him. He wanted to hang out with these people. It might help him to sell albums, but what he really wanted was to make a difference."

Sure to come up in the making-a-difference segment of the Storytellers Unplugged are tales from the 1985 Soviet Union trip. Cultural exchange between the U.S. and the Soviets was a casualty of the U.S.S.R.'s 1979 invasion of Afghanistan. But Denver worked numerous angles to become the first American musician in years to appear behind the Iron Curtain, with concerts in Moscow and Leningrad.

"He felt music could break down barriers, and that was one of the cracks in the Cold War wall," said Wyckoff, who was along for the two-week tour.

"He really believed we helped make that happen."

That's the Denver that the world knows, the earnest folkie in pursuit of peace, expanded consciousness and a protected environment. But what Wyckoff, Crum and the rest of the storytellers are looking to present are the stories that haven't been made public. They have designed the event so that the maximum number of facets are revealed. Moderator Denny Brooks, a member of Denver's band, is planning to find people in the audience who have their own Denver memories to share. Those onstage aren't doing much planning, but are expecting the stories to roll spontaneously off their tongues.

"John loved the campfire, and if you sit around the campfire, you tell stories," said Crum. "If you do that from a free-flowing place, you get a real sense of a composite of John. Because everybody's got a John Denver story. John had much more texture than what you hear of him. He was fun; he had a crazy side."

"John wasn't afraid to laugh at himself," added Wyckoff, who lived next door to Denver in 1971, in a part of Aspen they referred to as "Dog-Shit

Flats." "A lot of people back then were so self-serious. But his sense of humor, his being a dork, made him our friend, more than just an employer." Wailer bro

Back to the Rastafarian encounter. In the early '80s, Denver had the idea to record a reggae song, one with a strong message, and wrote "World Game," to be included in the 1983 album, "It's About Time." When Wyckoff, who was producing the album, asked who would play the song, Denver responded that it would be his own band - a group grounded in country-folk and with no reggae on its résumé. When Wyckoff voiced his concern, Denver asked who he should use.

"Like a dummy, I said, 'Well, the Wailers are the best reggae band in the world,'" recalled Wyckoff. "He said, 'OK, call them up and get them.'"

It meant appearing in the States for the first time since the Wailers' leader, Bob Marley, had died, but the band was agreeable to traveling to Ft. Lauderdale for the recording sessions. In Wyckoff's view, the original motivation was purely financial: "They were thinking, 'OK, John Denver, good paycheck,'" he said. But he played the song for them, and they were getting it. They liked the idea that the song made a difference. They were smoking spliffs together bigger than your arm." Wyckoff bonded with the Wailers in a similar manner, but most of his attention was on business matters. "With them, the deal was never done," he said. "It was always changing. I was getting onto the plane, and we're still trying to finish the deal." Wyckoff had planned to have Denver record two songs with the band - "But getting one was hard enough."

Denver's relationship with the band was more about pleasure. "By the time they left, John was like a brother to the Wailers," said Wyckoff. "He liked them; they liked him. John had a ball. He was flattered that they enjoyed his music so much."

Stewart Oksenhorn's e-mail address is stewart@aspentimes.com

A selection of other John Denver events:
Friends With You - A Tribute to John Denver (concert)

Wednesday, Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Aspen Community Church

John Denver Sanctuary Clean-up

Thursday, Oct. 11, at 9 a.m.

"Alaska: America's Child" (video screening, lunch and music)

Thursday, Oct. 11, at 11 a.m.

Pine Creek Cookhouse

"Oh God" (film screening)

Thursday, Oct. 11, at 7 p.m.

Aspen Community Church

Tenth Annual John Denver Tribute Concerts

Thursday through Saturday, Oct. 11-13, at 7:30 p.m.

Wheeler Opera House



Peace Cloth Concert
Friday, Oct. 12, at 12:30 p.m.
Mountain Chalet ballroom
John Denver Campfire
Friday, Oct. 12, at 5:30 p.m.
Windstar
Windstar - A Voice for the Future (concert)
Saturday, Oct. 13, at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Harris Hall
John Adams' Rocky Mountain High (concert)
Sunday, Oct. 14, at 7 p.m.
Wheeler Opera House

JD Tribute Week – Aspen NPR station

This show about the John Denver Tribute week is still available to listen to.

http://www.kajx.org/audio_files/BGS_Audio/JOHN%20DENVER%20WEEK.mp3

Thanks to Linda W for passing this along.

John Adams - Christmas Concerts



(Thanks to John and Steve Gorman for the photo of the performers at the Wheeler Opera House on 14th October.)

From John Adams

After a couple of snow storms, Keystone, A-Basin and Loveland Pass ski areas already opened. The feeling of Christmas is getting very close.....

While Santa and his reindeer (including Rudolph) are making up for the season, I am doing the same. But before it's that time of year again, Dawn and I are very excited to spend Thanksgiving with family in Ohio. It will be the first time in 10 years Dawn is not flying at Thanksgiving. We both are very thankful for the opportunity to be together this year with our family.

As of today it is possible to order your concert tickets and other merchandise through my secured Internet page. [click here](#) for a preview or to place your order. You can also go to my web site [John Adams](#) to order your tickets.

Only events open to the public are listed!

November 24, 2007

Tree Lighting in Georgetown, Colorado. Red Ram, 606 6th Street, Georgetown, Colorado 80444. Tree Lighting starts at 6:00 PM. Concert will follow shortly after that. Free Admission.

December 1, 2007

A Rocky Mountain Christmas. Steamers Coffeehouse, 13771 West 85th Drive, Arvada, CO 80005. Limited seating available

Tickets \$25.00 - Call 303-456-7624 for reservations

December 8, 2007

Community Center, Georgetown, Colorado. 6th Street, across the street from the Post Office During Christmas Market - <http://www.historicgeorgetown.org/spevents/xmarket.htm> From 3:00 till 4:00 PM Free Admission

December 8, 2007

Annual Tree Lighting at The Hamill House - <http://www.historicgeorgetown.org/spevents/xmevents.htm>

305 Argentine Street, Georgetown, CO 80444 Limited tickets available. Call Historic Georgetown at **303-569-2840** or **569-2111** from 6:00 thru 9:00 PM. This is a traditional tree lighting with real candles and wassail! Tickets go fast, so if you want to be part of this event don't wait too long with your reservations!

**** December 14, 2007 - SPECIAL EVENT ****

A Rocky Mountain Christmas

Silverthorne Pavilion - 400 Blue River Parkway - Silverthorne, Colorado 80498. Concert starts at 7:00 PM. With Diane Ireland (Flutes), Jerry O'Malley (Piano), Randy Utterback (Fiddle/Mandolin/Dobro) and Willie Hoovers (Bass)

Tickets \$15.00 and \$30.00 VIP [click here](#) to order your tickets! Or go to [John Adams website](#) and order through the home page! VIP tickets include pre-concert light refreshments and drinks and After Concert Party + Meet & Greet with the band.

Part of the proceeds will benefit **Father Dyer's Food Bank and Special Assistance Fund**. Non-Perishable and Canned Foods will be received by Father Dyer's Food Bank volunteers. Baby items like diapers, canned powder milk, toys etc. are very much appreciated as well. **Send your monetary donations to:**

Father Dyer Church

P.O. Box 383

Breckenridge, Colorado 80424



Please write on your check: "**Special Assistance Fund/Food Bank**" Donations will also be accepted at the door by food bank volunteers.

December 15, 2007

A Rocky Mountain Christmas

United Center - 1440 Colorado Boulevard, Idaho Springs, Colorado. Concert starts at 7:00 PM

Click on this link for directions - <http://www.unitedcenterinc.com/directions.html>

With Jerry O'Malley (Piano) and Willie Hoovers (Bass) **Tickets \$15.00 in advance. [click here](#) to order your tickets! Or go to [John Adams](#) website and order through the home page! (\$17.00 at the door.)**

*** * December 22, 2007 - SPECIAL EVENT * * ***

A Rocky Mountain Christmas

Father Dyer Church - 310 Wellington Road, Breckenridge, Colorado . Concert starts at 7:00 PM. With Diane Ireland (Flutes), Jerry O'Malley (Piano), and Willie Hoovers (Bass)

Tickets \$15.00 (or \$18.00 at the door) [click here](#) to order your tickets! Or go to [John Adams](#) website and order through the home page!

Part of the proceeds will benefit **Father Dyer's Food Bank and Special Assistance Fund**. Non-Perishable and Canned Foods will be received by Father Dyer's Food Bank volunteers. Baby items like diapers, canned powder milk, toys etc. are very much appreciated as well. **Send your monetary donations to:**

Father Dyer Church

P.O. Box 383

Breckenridge, Colorado 80424

Please write on your check: "**Special Assistance Fund/Food Bank**"

Donations will also be accepted at the door by food bank volunteers.

December 24, 2007

Father Dyer Church - 310 Wellington Road, Breckenridge, Colorado

With Lori Schneider (Piano), Mike Schneider (Bass) and Willie Hoovers (Percussion)

Christmas Eve Service at 10:00 PM

Rev. Tracy Hausman

Red Rocks Mural

Emanuel Martinez, a Morrison artist, painted this mural that depicts "Morrison Through Time". The mural measures 15' high by 60' long and chronologically depicts Morrison's past to the present in six panels.

Funding for this mural was provided by the Federal Highway Administration, The Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance, the Denver Theatres and Arenas, the Friends of Dinosaur Ridge, the Morrison Natural History Museum Foundation, Karin Bond, and Jeanne and Cy Esphahanian.

The mural has 6 different panels, all showing a glimpse into Morrison history. Panel five is the one of most interest to us!

Panel 5:

J.B. Walker invited the famous opera singer, Mary Garden, to test the natural acoustics of the site (then known at the "Garden of the Titans") in 1911. Since then many famous artists have performed at Red Rocks Amphitheatre. Depicted here are Bono (1) of U2, John Denver (2), Jerry Garcia (3) of the Grateful Dead, Carlos Santana (4), Jimi Hendrix (5), Judy Collins (6), Willie Nelson (7), Ella Fitzgerald (8), and Bonnie Raitt (9).

Joe Tempel is the Executive Director for the Friends of Dinosaur Ridge.



Pine Creek Cookhouse 2008

Just so you know... the plans are definite and the Pine Creek Cookhouse event **WILL** be held again next year! The luncheon/ show is scheduled for Saturday, October 11, 2008, in Ashcroft, CO, from 11:00 until 3:30 or 4:00 P.M. This is the time slot that Mary Ledford and Pam Beasley usually fill, but they are taking off next year and have 'donated' their event time to Jennifer Moore, the organiser, for the next 'feature' at the Cookhouse. The "theme" will be announced as it develops, but John Wilcox, the owner of the restaurant and film producer, has said that he 'plans' to have the video of the 1984 Sarajevo Winter Olympics available where John was a "roving reporter" and performer. All of the details... i.e., ticket costs, meal plans, etc., will be announced as plans become set. The **Friends With You** band is expected to provide music again, but additional information will be announced as it develops.



Jennifer Moore said that I could go ahead and 'tell people' so the word gets out and people can make plans for that day. She will post it on the World Family Gathering Page as well as on the Rocky Mountain High Guestbook once more plans are firmed up.

Thanks Linda – please chalk this one into your calendars for next October!

Linda's Page

It is not too late to light a candle for John. If you would like to do so, click on this link

<http://www.kbnet.com/book/html/lightacandleforjohn2.html>

Also Linda sent through the following link: It is great. Thanks. It does take a few minutes to load.

http://aspenportrait.com/john_denver_sactuary/index.html

Aspen Portrait has other views of Aspen and surrounding areas too.

<http://aspenportrait.com/index.html>

New Video Clip – Dutch Site

New clips have been added to the Dutch website by Michiel Ten Brug.

<http://www.higherground.nl/tenbrug/JohnDenver/>

Keep checking the Dutch site each Wednesday, as new ones are put up each week.

Some material included in this newsletter has been derived from the public domain, such as the internet and printed media. Articles and reviews are the opinion of the individual writer and as long as the content is of a reasonable nature and it is appropriate, it will be included. Organisations mentioned or featured in this newsletter are included to educate and inform people of their role and purpose. HGA does not profit from including the names of any organisation in this newsletter. This newsletter is only emailed to those people who have individually contacted HGA and expressed a wish to receive it. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you no longer wish to receive the HGA newsletter.



John Denver, Wilderness Troubadour and Trail Guide

Cath Meadows © cmm

Lofty alpine meadows portray unaffected, guileless and spontaneous jubilation for the lavish beauty of diversity. Back in the 70's, John Denver and Tom Crum invited thinkers to draw together under cobalt skies and crystalline stars to contemplate the grassroots of mindfulness. How do we thank an uncommon soul for beckoning 'One World' to hum and harmonize?

How do we salute a man for guiding us down back roads, through wood and waterways, for scaling cliffs and canyons and exploring ocean abyss to the Milky Way?

John Denver, you cuddled life with fond embrace, childlike joy and curious wonderment. You echoed a reverence for nature and called for humility and peace through compassion. You experienced the shivering fragility and warming tenderness of humankind. You stood-under in order to under-stand, and delivered poignant and purposeful gifts. Through your music, works and dialogue, you shared concerns that remain crucial and universal. Masks and blinders are falling away and meaningful differences are being made on a global basis. Human-Beings are now challenged to ascend the mountain within. John, you were impassioned to stand-up and forge a path - many now 'seeking grace in every step'.

Thank you for your courage, your voice, your resilient spirit and energetic presence... lingering still. Thank you for finding your note and playing it well. May it yodel through towering high country and raise consciousness for generations to come.

You were the Voice, Wilderness Troubadour and Trail Guide. We applaud a kind and gentle man as we attempt to 'Live In The Song'.

Peace and Gratitude,

Cathy Meadows



Raven's Child

Raven's Child is chasing salvation
Black beak turned white from the crack and the snow
On the streets of despair the answer is simple
A spoonful of mercy can set free the soul
The drug king sits on his arrogant throne
Away and above and apart
Even children are twisted to serve him
Greed has corrupted what once was a heart
Raven's Child keeps vigil for freedom
Trades for the arms that once made her strong
With nuclear warheads and lasers in heaven
Fear does the choosing between right and wrong
The arms king sits on his arrogant throne
Away and above and apart Bankers assure him that he needn't care
And greed makes a stone of what once was a heart
Raven's Child is washing the water
All of her wing-feathers blackened with tar
Prince William shoreline's an unwanted highway
Of asphalt and anger an elegant scar
The oil king sits on his arrogant throne
Away and above and apart
Lawyers have warned him he must' t speak
And greed has made silent what once was a heart
Still there are walls that come tumbling down
For people who yearn to be free
Still there are hearts that long to be opened
And eyes that are longing to see
Raven's Child is our constant companion
Sticks like a shadow to all that is done
Try as we may we just can't escape him
The source of our sorrow and shame,
We are one
The true King sits on a heavenly throne
Never away nor above nor apart
With wisdom and mercy and constant compassion
He lives in the love that lives in our hearts
Raven's Child is washing the water.
Raven's Child keeps vigil for freedom
Raven's Child is chasing salvation
Raven's Child is our constant companion

Dedicated to the dedicated people who are currently engaged in the clean-up operation in San Francisco Bay after an oil spill caused by a container ship, Cosco Busan, which struck the Bay Bridge. The oil slick is threatening wildlife and several kilometres of pristine coastline.

