

The Electronic Newsletter of WEFT Champaign, Community Radio for East Central Illinois Issue 2015-3 19 November 2015

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Barb Trumpinski –Roberts, Director

WEFT Website: http://weft.org

Lori Serb, Station Manager, stationmanager@weft.org
Bob Selby, Editor Wireless, rselby@illinois.edu

Board Chair's Message

WEFT strategic plan a couple of years ago.

By Vicki Niswander Photos by Mark Niswander

Board Meeting Updates

At the October meeting the board made a firm commitment to work for the necessary changes to keep WEFT financially viable and current with the needs of our community. A subcommittee of the board, the Rapid Response Team (RRT) will be working closely with the Station Manager, committees, Associates and community organizations to streamline processes and make other changes that will bring WEFT into the best possible situation for long-term success.

The board has recently received some important insights from Sally Kane, CEO of the National Federation of Community Broadcasters (NFCB), focusing on some needed areas for change. You can learn more about their work by visiting their website at http://www.nfcb.org/5x5-model/ to view recorded webinars and other information about best practice in community radio. We will be working closely with Sally as well as some other non-profit media experts to develop a 5-year plan that we have dubbed "WEFT Vision 2020", which builds and improves on the work that we did with the

Initially, the RRT will address underwriting and other forms of fundraising as a key area of importance, but will also formulate plans for some of the other issues outlined by Ms. Kane. Those include such items as our complicated governance structure and bylaws, programming, and relatively inefficient coordination of volunteers, among others.

Members of the RRT include Vicki Niswander, board chair, Alan Kurtz, vice chair, and Sandra Ahten, one of our newest board members. We thank those members as well as the entire WEFT board who unanimously voted to support this important effort for change.



The RRT will be meeting in the next week and will report to the board at its next meeting on Monday, November 16 at 7pm. (Please note this date is a week earlier than the usual board meeting date due to the Thanksgiving holiday), and at the upcoming Associates meeting on December 2.

The RRT met as a group and with Sally Kane, CEO of the National Federation of Community Broadcasters (NFCB) to discuss objectives and activities of the strategic plan, WEFT 2020. Overall, the RRT will recommend an increased focus on underwriting, marketing and grants, as well as possibly increasing paid staff to support those objectives.

We will be reaching out to, educating and engaging community member and organizations. The intent is threefold: To expand our listening audience, gain new ideas and perspectives on how WEFT can better serve its communities, and provide greater outreach for financial support. Also, we will be re-establishing and re-configuring a Community Advisory Committee to the board after the first of the year.

There will be a new focus placed on airshifters. Currently, most airshifters are paid members and many have volunteer commitments, as required by the WEFT bylaws, but some have not complied, or have lapsed in their commitment. We will be working to bring everyone into compliance over the next year. We will be providing support and training opportunities to achieve that end.

Third, we will be reviewing the governance structure at WEFT, with the assistance of the NFCB, to streamline our decision-making processes. More on that in future editions of the WEFT Wireless.

Station Manager's Message

By Lori Serb

Get Your WEFT On!

One year ago WEFT's transmitter unexpectedly failed requiring major repairs. Volunteers and listeners and former airshifters collectively responded to the call for Power To The Tower. In appreciation of their efforts those supporters are listed on our website: http://new.weft.org/support/





Jazz host Bob Selby MCs the first annual C-U jazz Festival at the Iron Post

Over the last few weeks WEFT's locally produced programming has been enriched further with some though-provoking interviews and live performances.



WEFT director Barb Trumpinski-Roberts works the WEFT table at the C-U Folk and Roots Festival

These events included the C-U Jazz Festival (see photo at left), the C-U Folk and Roots Festival (see photo at right), the Blues Blast Music Awards, C-U Bands and Fans and recent performances at the Krannert Center for Performing Arts, and the Krannert Art Museum. Some past performances at WEFT were captured on video and can be found on our new WEFT901FM youtube channel: https://www.youtube.com/user/WEFT901FM.

WEFT is developing a public affairs program archive which can be accessed on our website at: http://new.weft.org/

You may have noticed some new voices while listening to WEFT recently. Our quarterly Airshifter Training series is available to all current Members of WEFT. Teaching community members about radio production and developing sound engineering skills result in new programming at WEFT. Colorblind airing Saturday evenings 10pm-12am is produced and hosted by Glen Clayton Jones who took Airshifter Training over the summer. Glen mixes Blues, Jazz, Gospel and other selections of socially relevant music into his weekly Colorblind program.

The University YMCA Friday Forum Lecture Series airs on WEFT the following Monday evening 6-7pm. The Fall 2015 lecture series "Uncovering the Reality of Racial Injustice in the U.S." will conclude on November 23rd 2015.

WEFT volunteers will produce special stand-alone one hour programs in the Monday 6-7pm slot until the end of January 2016. "Uncovering the Reality of Racial Injustice in the U.S." lecture series will continue in the Spring of 2016 highlighting specific tools, campaigns, and changes necessary to combat racism and break down the institutional barriers to equality faced by communities of color.

The next Airshifter Training will take place in January 2016. Details will be announced on-air and posted to the website. Applications for the next round of Airshifter Training are available on our website in PDF format and in hardcopy form at the station. Questions about Airshifter Training can be directed to: airshiftertraining@weft.org.

Airshifter Training applications will also be available at the WEFT table at the Common Ground Food Co-op in Urbana on Saturday, November 21st 10am-12pm. Please consider stopping by the table and sharing your feedback about WEFT programming with myself, Vicki Niswander, BOD Chair and the Editor of the WEFT wireless, Bob Selby.

Associate Executive Committee Chair's Message

By Mike Feldman

The next Associates Meeting is Wednesay, December 2nd. There is an open Associates-elected seat on the Board of Directors, if anyone wants to run, it helps to announce the fact ahead of time, although our rules allow nomination and election at the meeting



AIRSHIFTER PROFILE: Jason Finkelman

By Bob Selby Photo by Kelly White

Jason, how long have you been at WEFT?

I joined WEFT shortly after arriving here from New York City in August 2000. I quickly enrolled in the fall airshifter training and hosted my first solo radio show in October of that year. I recall starting off the show by spinning a track from Tales of Mozambique by Count Ossie and the Mystic Revelation of Rastafari, a classic and favorite of mine.

What attracted you to do a show on WEFT?

One of my requirements in moving to Urbana Champaign was having great radio to listen to. WEFT certainly filled my listening needs by offering regular programming of jazz, world music and ambient, improvised music, all of which is thankfully still available. What keeps me at WEFT is recognizing the station as an important resource serving my desire to hear new music being released in areas of interest that often operate outside of mainstream media.



I host Fanfare For The Speeding Bullet on Sunday nights from 8-10pm.

Please describe your programs for the benefit of those who may not have heard you yet.

Fanfare is mix of new and older releases spanning the genres of ambient and improvised music, avant-garde jazz, experimental cross-cultural projects, new music composition for electronic and acoustic instrumentation and occasionally a bit of prog-rock. My programming selection is highly improvised, as I enjoy the challenge of creating in the moment a flow of complementary and juxtaposing styles.

What talents, experiences, expertise and/or resources do you have that help you to do your program?

I'm a dedicated improvising musician continually exploring ensembles whose members reflect diverse musical backgrounds and experience. It is through this practice that I further develop as an artist, often discovering a new collective sound that not any one ensemble member could imagine alone. As mentioned above, this musical practice certainly factors in how I approach my programming. My history as a performing artist and the research into the areas of music I'm involved in as a curator at the University of Illinois also factor greatly in my programming.

You're involved with the Sudden Sound Concert Series. Please tell our readers what that is and what roles you and WEFT play.

I am the curator of the Sudden Sound Concert Series, established at the Krannert Art Museum in January 2005. The series has a focus on presenting leading artists in the fields of improvised music and the jazz avant-garde. I'm amazed by and appreciative of the opportunities I've had to present such a wide variety of established and emerging artists (too many to list here) who define this music. WEFT has always been a generous organization towards the series, informing our listeners through sponsored announcements. Occasionally we are also able to arrange radio interviews with visiting artists. I always hope that new listeners are drawn to our station, by acknowledging WEFT as a partner of the concert series.

What is your "day job?" What do you do when you're not on the air?

I work at the University of Illinois as a curator of music and film for a number of leading institutions in the Colleges of Fine and Performing Arts and Liberal Arts and Sciences, and am thrilled to have Krannert Center for the Performing Arts as my home unit. As Artistic Director for Global Arts Performance Initiatives, programming includes Global Transfer Afterglow concerts at Krannert Center, the AsiaLENS documentary film series for Asian Educational Media Service, Gateways to World Music programs for the School of Music's Robert E. Brown Center for World Music, and WorldFest at Spurlock Museum. I'm thankful and honored by the opportunities to contribute to our campus and community in this way. If you'd like to learn more about these programs, a good place to start is the Global Arts Performance Initiatives page on Facebook.

NEW AIRSHIFTER PROFILE: Ethan Madarieta

aka The New Elastic Infinite

By Bob Selby

You're a new airshifter; when did you start your program?

Yes, I started my two-hour show, *Global Psychedelia*, in the last week of August of 2014.

What attracted you to do a show on WEFT?

I was attracted to do a show on WEFT for multiple reasons. I moved to Urbana/Champaign in the summer of 2009 and was really excited to hear a station that played everything from hip hop to free-jazz to electronic to Democracy Now.



I was a hairstylist at the time and had two airshifters as clients, the Rock Geeks, who had the awesome show *Rock Geek FM*. William of *Rock Geek FM* really helped me get involved by having me on the show and letting me co-host a few shows.

When are you on the air?

Global Psychedelia is live from 2-4 PM every Saturday, hosted by yours truly, The New Elastic Infinite.

Please describe your program for the benefit of those who may not have heard you yet.

Global Psychedelia has a little something for everyone because I play a variety of musics from around the world. I curate the show weekly, focusing each show on a particular style/genre of psychedelic music, or on a particular national or regional psychedelic music. For example, my last show was Russian Neo-Psychedelia and the show prior to that was Peruvian Psychedelia cohosted by a friend of mine who does his doctoral work on Peruvian and Afro-Peruvian musics. I've done Chinese, Belgian, German, Chilean, and Japanese shows, to name a few. To see more of what I play on my show you can check out the playlists from every show I've ever done at globalpsychedelia.com, and keep posted on what shows are upcoming by liking the Global Psychedelia on WEFT 90.1FM facebook page.

What talents, experiences, expertise and/or resources do you have that help you to do your program?

I have been an avid music listener and collector since I was a child. My parents love music and had an excellent record collection when I was growing up. Now that record collection is mine! My dad used to play guitar and sing to us kids, and my mother and I used to sing Beatles songs together. I really think that cultivated my ear for great music.

I am also an avid listener, and buy massive amounts of music weekly (and on a graduate student budget, no less). My digital music library, for example, consists of 245 Gigabites of music, 23, 473 songs, 2, 868 albums, 95% of which is psychedelic. This really helps me curate new and exciting shows every week. I have yet to play the same song twice on my show!

For over a decade I have been following/reading various music blogs that work specifically with psychedelic musics, and I find a great deal of rare, obscure, and no-label bands through these blogs. I also speak Spanish and Portuguese, which opens up a huge amount of resources to me. As a doctoral student, I've become quite an experienced researcher and have a list of words for "psychedelic music" in many languages that I use to search for new music from all over the world.

What is (or was) your "day job?" What do you do when you're not on the air?

I don't really have a "day job," per se, I have an all-day, everyday job! I am a doctoral student in Comparative Literature and Latina/Latino Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I love to cook, garden, bike, read and write fiction and poetry, spend time with my wife Erin, and my Walker Hound, Roxy. And, of course, I listen to a lot of music!

Blues Blast Music Awards Preview Show

by Bob Paleczny

Blues fans were treated to a couple special shows on Friday, September 25th. The Blues Blast Magazine, a free weekly online blues magazine presented their Awards Ceremony that evening at the Fluid Events Center in Champaign. Prior to that, local radio station WEFT 90.1 FM provided fans with a preview show during their afternoon blues programming. Blues stars from across the country gathered in Champaign, both at the radio station and the Awards Ceremony.



The Duo-Sonics (Bobby Parker & David Berntson)
(all photos by Bob Paleczny)

WEFT Community Radio hosted a Blues Blast Awards Preview show featuring live performances by several of the artists either nominated for Awards or featured performers at the evening's ceremonies. The afternoon show at WEFT began with the Duo-Sonics, Bobby Parker on guitar and David Berntson on vocals and harmonica, playing some of their roots blues. David Berntson was also one of the emcees for the evening's Awards show. The Duo-Sonics had driven up from Tulsa Oklahoma and arrived in town on Thursday evening when they joined the Kilborn Alley Blues Band at a Blues Blast Showcase gig at local watering spot, The Clark Bar. At WEFT they were joined by Kilborn Alley's Chris Breen on bass and Aaron "A-Train" Wilson on drums. As a special treat John Ginty had managed to maneuver his Hammond B3 organ and Leslie speaker in to WEFT's Great Hall to join the ensemble. The group played several great tunes together.



John Ginty, Slam Allen & Jimmy Bennett

After a short break in the live music a new group of musicians was in place and set to entertain the radio listeners. John Ginty on his B3 was joined by his band featuring Jimmy Bennett on guitar, special guest guitarist Slam Allen sat in with them. John was rockin' his B3 back and forth on two legs and the band joined him playing several rousing blues tunes. Slam Allen displayed his amazing guitar work and vocals playing some of his signature songs to complete the set.



Bob Corritore, Andy T & Nick Nixon

Next to perform at WEFT was Chicago native and current resident of Phoenix Arizona, Bob Corritore on harmonica, joined by the Andy T – Nick Nixon Band. Andy T is a guitar player from California who plays in that smooth West Coast style and Nick Nixon is a vocalist and music educator from Nashville Tennessee. Together they played an outstanding set of blues tunes for the listeners both on the radio and the station's webstream at new-weft.org/listen.



Matt Isbell & Josh Roberts of Ghost Town Blues Band

The last act to perform live at WEFT was the Memphis, TN based Ghost Town Blues Band. Ghost Town is led by Matt Isbell on a variety of instruments including standard and cigar box guitars, and the sweet guitar work of Josh Roberts. Ghost Town also features Suavo dancing and twirling his slide trombone throughout the songs. They played another amazing set for the listeners. Throughout the afternoon WEFT was filled with musicians enjoying each other's performances.

WEFT wants to thank all the performers who went way out of their way to entertain the listeners. John Ginty proved that, yes you can fit a Hammond B3 organ in WEFT's Great Hall. Several bands enjoyed

the "great vibe" as they waited for their turn to play a set. A special thanks goes out the Kilborn Alley guys for providing the amps used by all the bands and playing along with a few of the artists. WEFT's blues crew also thanked Craig Koslofsky who gave up some of his World Music show time which allowed the blues to go into overtime and gave all the musicians a chance to play.

During the breaks in live music, WEFT airshifter Lorri Coey kept the music flowing from the Front Studio playing CD's by many of the artists performing at WEFT and at the evening's Awards show. Huge thanks goes to Mike Feldman, WEFT's ace sound engineer, who did a remarkable job of swiftly getting each band set up and sound checked and ready to go on the air. WEFT blues DJ, Dave Wright also treated the listeners to an outstanding interview with the legendary Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater. Andy Duncanson of Kilborn Alley, as well as a WEFT airshifter, interviewed Matt Isbell of the Ghost Town Blues Band during one of the breaks in live music. Bob Paleczny conducted other interviews on the phone with ex-WEFTie Dave Specter and in the studio with David Berntson, prior to the start of live music. It was a remarkable afternoon for blues fans who tuned in to WEFT.

The evening's Award show at the Fluid Events Center on Country Fair Dr. in Champaign was fun. There were many other artists who performed, awards were handed out and many blues industry folks were there. However, none of the evening's activities approached the intimacy and good vibes that were present that afternoon in WEFT's Great Hall.

In case you missed it in the News-Gazette, the following is a copy from the News-Gazette's web site.

Studio Visit: Lori Serb

Sun, 11/08/2015 - 7:00am | Melissa Merli

Studio Visit is a Q&A with a local artist. Here, a chat with Lori Serb. The station manager at WEFT community radio and an accordion player in the Cretaceous Band of the Community Center for the Arts in Urbana recently chatted with The News-Gazette's Melissa Merli.

How long have you been playing accordion?

I've been playing on and off for 15 years, taking some private lessons. I had a piano background as a kid. That translated well to the piano-accordion, which is what I play.



I've been with the marvelous Cretaceous Band since its beginning. I've been the first chair accordion. That's a joke because I'm the only accordion in the band.

Are you still air-shifting here at WEFT?

Yes, I've been doing the show, "Dog is My Co-pilot," since 2005. That's on from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. Fridays and is based on my dog, Arlo, who passed away in 2008.

What do you play?

I try to play a really wide variety of leftist, pro-union, progressive politics. I have drop-ins from PrisonRadio.org and "Break the Sound Barrier," a commentary that Amy Goodman of Democracy Now puts together, and jazz, blues and music from around the world.

I like to focus a lot on women artists of different genres, accordion music, acoustic music and singer-songwriters who have progressive and challenging lyrics. Something that won't be played on Top 40 radio.

Are you also a visual artist?

I did do a lot of painting. I had a show back in '98 at the University at the Union. I haven't done much lately, so there's no current work. It's pretty much sound engineering and the accordion playing in the Cretaceous Band and sometimes small groups.

When did you become WEFT's station manager?

July 2014. I started as a volunteer in 1998 and have filled a wide variety of roles.

How's it going?

Like everyone else who relies on grant money, we're restructuring our sources so we're not as dependent on grants. Because of the state budget freeze, we're waiting for a grant from the Illinois Arts Council. And the Corporation for Public Broadcasting changed their requirements. The amount of non-federal money they want stations to raise now is \$300,000 — before they give you a grant. That's more than the budget of most community radio stations.

WEFT certainly has been challenged by the loss of grant funding, as have many other non-profits. We are fortunate to have a board who is committed to WEFT, seeing that it not only survives but thrives in the future

Does WEFT continue to broadcast 24/7?

Yes, we are broadcasting and streaming, and we're starting to make accessible our public affairs programs so people can go to our website (new.weft.org/) and listen after they've been broadcast. We just started to put up the archival material. It's all volunteer power here so it will take some time to carry it out fully, but we have new material on our website.

Isn't the Common Ground Food Co-op "rounding up" for WEFT this month?

Yes, so people can give that way (by donating their change from purchases at the shop). And we'll be "tabling" at Common Ground from 10 a.m. to noon Nov. 21.

From: http://www.news-gazette.com/arts-entertainment/local/2015-11-08/studio-visit-lori-serb.html

Thank you to the 2015 car donors!

Don Serb

Walter Alspaugh

Christina Turino

Dan O'Brien

Benjamin Sands

Anonymous

Why donate?

- 1. You don't have to worry about selling your vehicle.
- 2. It is too expensive to repair your vehicle
- 3. You don't trust your car to be safe on the road.
- 4. You need a tax write-off

What vehicles does the Center for Car Donations accept? Cars, boats on a trailer, motor homes, trucks, operational motorcycles, farm equipment, and recreational vehicles. Call their representative to find out if your vehicle qualifies. 1-877-411-3662



Thank you to these community organizations for supporting WEFT!

Big Grove Tavern

Blues, Brews, and BBQ Festival

Cafe Kopi

Champaign Underground

Common Ground Food Co-op

Graduate Employees' Organization

Groovygig Productions

Hansen & Co. Barber Shop

Heel To Toe

Illinois AFL-CIO for Champaign County

IBEW Local Chapter 601

Jet's Pizza

Jon's Pipe Shop

Joshua Gallagher, Edward Jones Financial

Advisor

Kane & Co., Salon & Day Spa

Ippatsu Salon

Jobs With Justice

Kessler Optical

Kevin Elliott Counseling

The Law Firm of W.M. Faber

Patel Law, PC - Soc. Sec. Disability Lawyers

Public I

Radio Doctors

Skins-N-Tins

The Pawn Shop Music Sales

FROM OUR READERS:

Thanks so much, Bob - excellent job (on the August issue)!
Gina
Wow, that's a labor of love! Looks great. Will take my time dipping in!
Cope
Wow! Excellent. Can't express how much I appreciate the time, effort, and quality of the newsletter. Thanks for improving station communication. We have needed this for a long time and you volunteered to make it happen.
Again, many thanks!
Connie
Bob, this looks really good. I am quite impressed. Thanks, Barb
Love it! Thanks for all of your work!
Vicki
Great work, Bob! Thank you! Mike Sczerba
This is great! Thanks!
Maya Bauer

FROM OUR LISTENERS:

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So happy to hear that you are the station manager! Yay! What a terrific shift in leadership. I am so happy that you are having an opportunity to bring your talent and brilliance to WEFT!

Sending much love and warm wishes...wish I were there to have lunch with you and hear all about how life is going for you. Miss you lots!

Hugs, Antonia Darder :)

I been listening to your station for years and love the jazz morning show. The Friends of The Urbana Free Library really appreciate all the hard work you do for the community.

Sincerely,

Lori:

Gary Walker PR Coordinator for The Friends of The Urbana Free Library

Bob Selby, Editor



Monday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday 6 AM 6 AM 7 AM 7 AM FREEFORM 8 AM MIXED MUSIC AND INFORMATION GOSPEL MA 8 AFRICAN-AMERICAN 9 AM 9 AM COMMENTARY 10 AM JAZZ JAM 10 AM INSPIRATIONAL 11 AM 11 AM ENVIRONMENTAL LABOR 12 PM 12 PM **ISSUES** MUSIC OF INDIA **BLUES** 1 PM 1 PM WOMYN'S 2 PM 2 PM MUSIC GLOBAL PSYCHEDELIC THE BEAT BLENDER: WORLD BEAT & OTHER RHYTHMS Champaign, IL • 217-359-9338 3 PM 3 PM ALT. RADIO 4 PM 4 PM **DEMOCRACY NOW!** SPOKEN WORD LOCAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS 5 PM 5 PM WEFT COURIER: NEWS & FEATURES THE **NEWS&VIEWS** OLD 6 PM 6 PM NEWS/ISSUES FOLK COUNTRY BLUEGRASS TIME NEWS/ COMMENTARY SURFABILLY HIP HOP 7 PM 7 PM COUNTRY RADIOTHEATRE 8 PM 8 PM MONDAY NIGHT GRATEFULDEAD **BLUES AMBIENT** JAZZ 9 PM REGGAE 9 PM RnR DJ LIVE **EXPERIMENTAL** 10 PM 10 PM LIVELOCALMUSIC EAST MIXED LOUNGE BLUES, JAZZ GOSPEL MIX SINGER -11 PM GOTHIC 11 PM ZERO **GENRES** SONGWRITER MUSIC LOCAL MUSIC 12 AM 12 AM ROCK/GOTH PUNK INDUSTRIAL LOUD **AMBIENT** INDUSTRIAL 1 AM FREEFORM TECHNO EXPERIMENTAL **FREEFORM** 1 AM CAPSULE EBM/POWER ROCK 2 AM 2 AM INDUSTRIAL . GOTH . ECLECTIC . INDIE ROCK . R&B . FREEFORM 6 AM 6 AM

What is WEFT?

- Listener-supported
- Volunteer-operated
- · Non-profit community radio
- On air since 1981

WEFT broadcasts
10,000-watts to a 40-mile
radius. We serve Champaign,
Urbana, Mahomet, Monticello
and Rantoul, with partial coverage as far as Bloomington,
Decatur, and Danville.

WEFT offers programming
— music and public affairs —
as diverse as the community
we live in.

All the airshifters you hear are volunteers, dedicated to the music and public affairs they broadcast.

We offer training and airtime to any member who wants to learn to produce quality programming.

We provide airspace for those who are *under-served* and *under-represented* by other media in our community.

Get involved!

- Listen
- Become a member
- Contribute
- Volunteer
- Take an airshifter training class

Become a Community Partner

For a tax-deductible donation, underwrite a specific show, and we will read your message on-air regularly.

Partners are listed on our Facebook page and linked on our website.

Contact WEFT stationmanager@weft.org



This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council







WEFT 90.1FM

113 N. Market St • Champaign, IL • 217-359-9338 STREAMING GLOBALLY AT WEFT.ORG