



Wild Hog in the Woods Coffeehouse

1978-2018

Celebrating 40 Years of Folk Music and Dance!

953 Jenifer Street, Madison, WI 53703

www.wildhoginthewoods.org



Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LOCAL FOLK MUSIC ORGANIZATION CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

MADISON, WISCONSIN: The Wild Hog in the Woods Coffeehouse is celebrating its 40th anniversary on Friday, November 30 at our location inside the Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center at 953 Jenifer Street.

Anniversary/Birthday Party, November 30:

The Wild Hog in the Woods first opened on November 30, 1978. This year, Friday November 30 is our 40th Anniversary/Birthday Concert-in-the-Round, featuring multiple musicians and singer/songwriters of folk music coming together to share the stage. Founders Gordy Hanners, Pete Houser and Jamie Hascall return 40 years later to perform along with local performers including Lisa Johnson, KG and the Ranger, Skip Jones, Stephen Lee Rich and Roxanne Neat.

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Special start time is 6:00pm for pizza and birthday cake, music will start around 7:00pm. Our usual coffee, teas and flavored waters will also be available. Admission to the party and concert is free. Donations to the Wild Hog in the Woods are welcomed. The Wild Hog is a 501(c)3 not for profit cooperative.

OUR 40 YEAR HISTORY

In the spring of 1978, several folk musicians and dance enthusiasts met at a time in Madison where few stages or venues were available for folk musicians and dancers. They began talking about forming a venue for folk musicians and audiences could meet beyond their living rooms. They organized and began the search for a location which would be permanent and open to the public, a place where folks could go to hear or play folk music even if they did not know anyone in town.

Kiosks and store fronts were covered with posters around town to find other interested people. The consensus at the early meetings was that the place should be in the style of an informal 1960's style coffeehouse.

Later meetings led to the Hog's incorporation as a non-profit, non-stock organization and to organize as a cooperative. With Madison's strong cooperative community and with a healthy concern against 'going in over our heads' as a commercial venture, we determined

that a cooperative would be the way to go, the safest economically, and the fairest socially.

It's been determined repeatedly that a broad base of ideas and personal support is important for the operation and long life of the Wild Hog.

What is the Wild Hog in the Woods?

The Wild Hog in the Woods is a membership organization, a not for profit based on cooperative principles that was started by musicians in 1978 when there were not many venues to play their songs.

The Wild Hog operates a 60's style coffeehouse with live folk music and other special events, workshops, dances from time to time or in cooperation with other organizations.

Members play a big role in the Wild Hog, volunteering their time to host the coffeehouse and other events, including promotion, booking performers, running sound, baking, newsletter and web site, and much more. We welcome new members!

People can get involved with the Coffeehouse by volunteering some of their time. We always need help with setup, take-down, and the like. Plus, there are many behind the scenes jobs such as baking and scheduling, which can be done on a more flexible schedule.

Those interested in performing at the coffeehouse, playing or calling at a barn dance, becoming a member, or would like to get involved with the Coffeehouse in any way, you can simply talk to the MC or person at the admission table or contact our scheduler listed on the web site, www.wildhoginthewoods.org.

Performers play for tips placed in our ceramic wild hog, Phillip-the-Pig. Staff are all volunteers. That's what allows us to keep the admission low, just to pay the rent.

Often the Wild Hog in the Woods Coffeehouse joins forces with other organizations in the area to accomplish common goals that neither group could bring about as well (if at all) alone.

The reasons for this are to foster an atmosphere of community, and of mutual support, as well as to expose a vast range of ideas, musical styles, and cultural and ethnic flavors to a more diverse cross section of people. We really think cooperation is a good idea and we love to do it.

PRESS KIT available:

This press release and selection of photos:

<http://wildhoginthewoods.org/Anniversaries/2018/PressKit/index.html>