

Pentangle Remembers Bill McCollom

It is with a heavy heart I dedicate this column to Bill McCollom who passed away June 29th.

Growing up in Woodstock as we both did, our paths crossed at the tennis courts now known as the Athletic Club, and out at Suicide Six and Mount Tom ski areas. It was a time when everyone knew everyone, and parent's paths crossed as our Mom's did volunteering for local organizations.

Our paths crossed again when I moved back to Woodstock and worked for Woodstock Ski Runners. Bill was a fixture at S6 getting in his runs before shelling gates up the hill to set a course. Always cheerful, always full of energy, always moving. I did not know about Bill's talents as a performer until Pentangle's 2014 production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in which he played Simeon. It was the first production I introduced as Pentangle's new Executive Director.

Audiences might remember Bill in his green costume and blue beret singing this verse in his faux French accent, alongside Bob Merrill on accordion.

Do you remember the good years in Canaan?

The summers were endlessly gold

The fields were a patchwork of clover

The winters were never too cold

We'd stroll down the boulevards together

And everything round us was fine

In fact, Bill graced the Pentangle stage in several earlier productions before my time. Most recently he joined other local talents in the chorus of Middlebury Opera Company's Fall 2019 production of *Tosca*.

Bill's vast store of energy was evident in the myriad of roles he played in the community – coach, mentor, actor, teacher – giving each his all in the most gentle, humble, and self-less manner. Bill and his families' commitment to community continues to be demonstrated by their consistent financial support for local organizations, including Pentangle, and for that we are grateful!

To his grieving family we send our thoughts and prayers and look to the day when we can gather in person and celebrate his life, a life well lived.

Out and About

A friendly reminder that Pete's Posse will kick off our modified Music By The River series in collaboration with the North Chapel on July 21, 2020. Please go to www.pentanglearts.org for more information on the series.

Bring a picnic, a lawn chair, and a donation of non-perishable items for the Woodstock Area Community Food shelf! While Vermont may be on the short list of states with more testing and a decline in COVID -

19 cases many folks are still out of work, without resources to cover the most basic of needs for their families. If you are, or know of someone in need of assistance paying rent, utilities, or other household needs contact www.woodstockarearelieffund.org for more information.

Planning is now underway for free outdoor movies screenings in September! Stay tuned for more information. Though movie theatres in Vermont and New Hampshire plan to open mid-July, the Town Hall Theatre will remain closed for the time being. I will certainly observe how our peers fair and get a sense of the public's comfort returning to indoor spaces.

Lastly, if you have not done so already check out the Disney + live stream of *Hamilton the Musical*. Folks may remember our three-day dance intensive in the Fall 2019 with ensemble member Seth Stewart. Seth eventually moved from the ensemble role to playing Thomas Jefferson and the Marquis de Lafayette in later Broadway productions. Due to the pandemic we've postponed Seth's return to Woodstock.