



**PEAS PAMPHLET...whirling writings**  
*January 17, 2011, \*Vol. 2\*No. 3*

### **PEAS PERFORM AT PUB CATHERINE ROONEY'S**

The *Peas* will perform at Catherine Rooney's 1616 Delaware Avenue in Trolley Square this Wednesday, January 19th, 2011. Start time is 7:30 and will be ending about 10.

Check out Catherine Rooney's website for directions, menu selections and so on.

[www.catherinerooneys.com](http://www.catherinerooneys.com)

The *Peas* will be featured at MOJO Main, 270 E. Main Street in Newark Thursday, February 3rd. They will entertain the audience in their own inimitable way the first Thursday of the month from 8 until 10. This gig runs from through the month of March.

Check out MOJO Main's website for directions, menu selections and so on.

[www.mojomain.com](http://www.mojomain.com)

### **MUSIC OF INTEREST**

Guest musician Ed Dwornik hosts a jam session 6 til 8:30 every Thursday at the Bellefonte Café, 804 Brandywine Blvd. in the heart of Bellefonte. 302-761-9175

Check out this local venue providing great live music and entertainment.

[www.kennettflash.org](http://www.kennettflash.org)

### **BLIND ALFRED REED**

The meaning of visual acuity is to have sharpness of vision. Although sightless, Blind Alfred Reed had extraordinary visual acuity in his songwriting skills. Discovering his works 55 years after his death (1/17/56) is a gift.



Born completely blind June 15, 1880 in West Virginia, Reed hailed from a conservative family. He acquired a violin in his youth and he played it to accompany the songs he wrote.

**F.Pendleton w/Reed**

He had a talent for writing clever topical songs - songs like *Fate of Chris Lively and Wife*, based on a true story of an ill-fated couple; *Always Lift Him Up and Never Knock Him Down*, a plea for patience and understanding; *The Prayer of the Drunkard's Little Girl*, voices the plight of a child of an alcoholic father and so many more. His songs were commentaries on modern life during the late '20's and ranged from industrial disasters, women's issues and encroaching technology.

The song that introduced Reed's name worldwide was recorded in 1929 was *How Can a Poor Man Stand Such Times and Live?* This eight-verse song is written from the perspective of a common man coping with rising prices and increasingly hard times. According to one verse, "*Most of preachers preach for dough and not the soul/That's what keeps a poor man always in a hole/We can hardly get our breath, taxed and schooled and preached to death/Tell me how can a poor man stand such times and live.*" (Ed. Note: true today as it was in 1929)

And apropos to the celebration of MLK's Day his song *There'll Be No Distinction There* expresses a universal wish for racial and ethnic harmony in a religious setting, with lyrics including, "*In the same kind of raiment and the same kind of shoes/We'll all sit together in the same kind of pews/The whites and the colored folks, the Gentiles and the Jews/We'll praise the Lord together and there'll be no drinking booze/There'll be no distinction there.*"

Reed was inducted into the West Virginia Hall of Fame in 2007.

### **PEAS PONDERING**

***The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision. Helen Keller***