



## WOMENFOLK! *Women in Music*

Shank's Tavern, owned and operated by Bob Shank, has given women singers and players the opportunity to host their own open mics for some time. On the third Tuesday of every month, patrons are treated to the talents of either Amanda Wells, Linzi Brasie or Lisa Thomas, and their musician guests who drop by to play.

To start out the new year, **Lisa Thomas** hosted her open mic on January 15th from 7:30 to 10:30.



Lisa Thomas

As a child, Lisa remembers singing to classic rock music such as Led Zeppelin, Pat Benatar and Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young. At 15, she joined a band and sang with them for three years, and was also being their backup drummer. She took a break from music until six years ago, when she picked up her guitar again to pursue her dream of becoming a true musician. Lisa's taste in music includes folk, alternative rock, bluegrass, country, and classic rock. Her talents include writing and performing her originals; playing acoustic guitar,

mandolin, harmonica; and singing. "Anyone can play guitar and sing," she says, "but it takes true passion to bring it all together." And Lisa certainly does!

On Tuesday, January 31, everyone is invited to Shank's for a special night of bluegrass! "O Sister, Where Art Thou?" is the theme for the evening, with an open mic for the ladies of bluegrass starting at 7:30. Several women will be headlining the event, but there will be plenty of



Amanda Wells

room for others who stop by to play and sing! Audience participation is strongly encouraged!

Lisa will be performing, as well as Amanda Wells, Claire Brandenburg Taylor, Valerie Chandler, Holly Willing, Lauren Hertz Burnett, and Gina Miller.

**Amanda Wells** is a performing folk singer/songwriter based in Lancaster. Raised amid family and friends who were musicians and music lovers, it was only natural for her to follow their lead. Since the age of 10, Amanda has spent the last 18

years with her guitar, notebook and a passion for songwriting. She has been influenced by the music of Joni Mitchell, Ani DiFranco, Bob Dylan and many others. Amanda is inspired by life experience and observation, which is conveyed in her expressive lyrics and intimate guitar technique. For more information about her, visit her website: [amandawells.com](http://amandawells.com). Her open mic at Shank's takes place on Tuesday, February 21.

**Lauren Hertz Burnett** and **Holly Willing** have been playing together for three years now, in between diaper changes, soccer games and other family duties. Others have called them "The Smokin' Mamas" for various reasons, one being their combustible music! Their harmonies have been compared to a religious experience one might have in a church setting or even meditating in the sanctity of the woods. Their voices sound like two tuning forks resonating together. While unique alone, their voices unified become something else on a whole new level. Holly and Lauren are the best of



Lauren Hertz



Claire Brandenburg Taylor

friends who enjoy hanging out and making music together.

**Claire Brandenburg Taylor**, at the tender age of six, was singing and playing handbells in the local church choir in West Chester. While in college, she sang in four audition choirs, a band and a women's a capella group. Recently, Claire sang harmony on six tracks on her friend Annie Patterson's third recording. She sings for events at the Susquehanna Waldorf School in Marietta and enjoys attending a monthly jam session in Lancaster. Occasionally, she can be coaxed into playing for special events like "Sisters," too!

When **Valerie Chandler** was eight, her father said she could



Holly Willing



Valerie Chandler

have his old guitar only if she agreed to take lessons. She said, "Yes!" and began her musical journey. Later, she won a college scholarship to study violin. Valerie plays violin, guitar and harmonica now, and enjoys playing with friends like Amanda Wells. She loves folk music, while her very favorite influence is Bob Dylan.

Gina Miller, lead singer for the band "Just Us," has also promised to stop by for even more fun! She is a songwriter as well. Her first CD came out in 2009, and she is working on another one now. She recently wrote and sang with her producer the honor tribute song "Tree of Life" for National EMS service.

"O Sister, Where Art Thou?" promises to be an event that no fan of bluegrass music will want to miss. There will be time for other sisters to join in the fun, with a grand jam finale. So bring your spoons, washboard, mandolin, banjo, harmonica or guitar and join in a rollicking, foot-stomping good time! And if you really have to bring your "brother," that's just fine too!

## Boys & Girls Club of Lancaster Names Permanent CEO: Karen Schloer

The Boys & Girls Club of Lancaster is pleased to announce that Karen Schloer has been unanimously elected by our Board of Directors to take on the organization's key leadership position as permanent Chief Executive Officer. Karen has been serving as the Interim CEO since May 2011 and officially accepted the position of CEO on Friday, December 23, 2011.

Karen has been serving children in Lancaster County through a variety of positions at the Boys & Girls Club of Lancaster for more than 14 years. Prior to acting as Interim CEO, Karen led the operations of the company as Chief Operating Officer for five years.

"The past 14 years, and especially the past six months, have been quite a ride," says

Schloer, "and I am looking forward to a great future of community partnerships, organizational capacity building, and most importantly, a deeper impact on children in our community! At present, we have built a tremendous team of dedicated professionals who deliver our programs, and we have a committed and passionate Board of Directors. I am eager to see what exciting

new opportunities will come our way in 2012!"

Karen Schloer earned her B.A. at Millersville University and is a native of Pittsburgh, Pa.



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
OF LANCASTER

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