



Q1 2026

Parrot Head Club of Eastern MA | Vol. 49

## Q1 2026 ~ The 3/4 Times

**HELLO PHCOEM & HAPPY SPRING TO YOU ALL!**

We have a very special Q1 Newsletter write up by our VP Kitty. *The Art of Joy Interview* with The Great Jim Mayer from The Coral Reefer Band. We thank you both for this amazing interview done for The Parrothead Club of Eastern Mass Newsletter. As we all know he is known as Uncle Jim, brother of The Great Peter Mayer. Our club like many other clubs are keeping this party going for the band members and for the late JB as they carry on touring and we love them for this. All the music will forever be in our hearts with JOY.

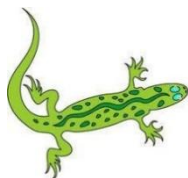
We have our Operation Troop Support going on, the Cape cleanup, SOMA Games and Dance later in the Spring with many more events throughout the year. In May we have The New England Regional Parrot Head Convention at The Margaritaville on Cape Cod with great music, raffles and an all around fun time to enjoy our Fellow Phriends from all over. Towards the later part of Summer there is two Coral Reefer Concerts (Boston and Gilford NH) which will bring us all together.

As Parrotheads the times we share doing what we do are the times we cherish forever as One Big Family.

We hope to see you all at one of the future events and your BOD Mac, Kitty, Babs, Sunny & Liz will be working on more Charity & Social Events for PHCOEM. Please visit our Website & FB often for updates!

Thank You for all you do for this club and to keep The Party going !

Lizzy L12- Liz McCarthy  
Secretary of PHCOEM





## From the Office of the Prez



Good Day Phlock

We had a wonderful Holiday Hangover event starting with a pool and games pre-party at the Doubletree in Milford. We all then carpoled over to PINZ for bowling, dinner, arcade games and raffles. Then a post party back at legends at the Doubletree in Milford and listened to Driftwood! Everyone had so much fun listening and dancing to their tunes after hours! It was a great way to end the evening helping them with their charity event. They loved having us join them and invited us anytime they are playing there, especially when the Oasis outdoor patio area is open in May. We may have to have a Phlash Phlocking and take them up on that invite!

We are continuing our collection of food goods for OTS (Operation Troop Support) March for the Troops. This is an especially important time now where we can really make a difference to many of our service men and women overseas. Please, if you can donate any non-perishable food items (individually wrapped snacks, tuna packs, sardines) things they can open eat quick and healthy on the go is greatly appreciated. You can look on our website [phcoem.com](http://phcoem.com) or go to Operation Troop Support and see what they send in their care packs. Thank you in advance for your generosity and kindness, know that the troops really look forward to getting their packs from OTS in the mail as it really helps with their morale.

Spring is here now and the Red Sox are getting ready for their home opener. They are having a Jimmy Buffett day Sunday April 19th and giving away shirts this year. Check out the Sox website for tix.

\*\*\*\* new event\*\*\*\*

On April 25th the club will be helping out on Earth Day cleaning up the Cape Cod Canal. We will be signing the club up as a team and helping pick up from 10 to 2 at the Herring Run Recreation area. This event is hosted by AmeriCorps of Cape Cod and the US Army Corps of Engineers. There will be lunch and family activities also going on while we are picking up.

May is Special Olympic month for us. There are several opportunities to help out at area games around the state. The cape games on May 9th is our main focus. We will be continuing our volunteer efforts supporting athletes in their events and handing out the medals at the awards ceremonies.

June 6th is the Summer games dance in Boston with a 250th Anniversary Celebration of red, white and blue. We will need members to put on tattoos and dance and help set up the wonderful party atmosphere the athletes look forward to every year.

This is sure to be a busy spring quarter with lots of events still coming in and socials and phlash phlockings all over the state. Please be sure to check out our web page [Phcoem.com](http://Phcoem.com) or our fb page for upcoming events. Check your folders for club Emails on special events and happenings.

Thank you for all you do.

Make someone smile today  
Mac



## From the Office of the Vice-Prez

### THE ART OF JOY

An Interview with Jim Mayer

For the Parrothead Club of Eastern Massachusetts

Interview by Katherine B. Jones (KBJ)

KBJ: Jim, thank you for taking the time to talk with me today for the Parrothead Club of Eastern Massachusetts. Over the years, we've heard Peter talk about the early days—learning guitar, soaking up music, figuring things out as a kid. Is there one story from that time that usually doesn't get told, but really sticks with you?

JM: Yes. When I was 13, Peter was 16. I wanted to play bass. The guy down the street played guitar, my brother Peter played guitar, and the Beatles only had two guitar players. Everybody knows you don't need three guitar players—at least, that's how my 13-year-old brain worked.

I thought, "Well, what am I going to do? I don't want to play drums. I'm going to play bass."

Peter was already playing in a wedding band when he was 16. I wanted to play bass, and the bass player in his band—a guy named Mike Haase—actually loaned me a bass for a long time. He had an extra one, and he let me play it for almost a year. But eventually Mike said, "You know, I'd like that bass back."

I had been doing chores and had saved \$80 for an instrument. And, like a good 13-year-old kid, I carried that \$80 with me everywhere. Back in those days, we got our clothes at Sears & Roebuck. It was football season, and it was time for me to get my new husky jeans—those were always the ones I had, 'cause I was a little big as a kid.

I left my jeans in the changing room at Sears & Roebuck to go out and show my family, and someone stole the money. I lost the \$80 I'd been saving up for a long time.

Peter was making money with the party band, and he bought me my first bass. It was a Vox Beetle bass for \$80. I'll never forget that.

So there—that's the story that doesn't usually get told.

KBJ: That might be the only question I need to ask! But I do have another.

During all those years playing with Jimmy Buffett, what was the one quality—on stage or off—that stayed with you the most?

JM: From Jimmy? Clarity.

You know, Jimmy's known as a party animal. He's known as the guy who would most likely do anything. He has a fearless approach to life—from surfing between two aircraft carriers to, you know, who knows what.

But the thing that amazed me most about Jimmy was his consistent clarity. I flew with him frequently on his private jet. We were together at rehearsals. I won't pretend I was a close personal friend, but I was around him a lot. And he always had an instantly clear decision—from the simple, lighthearted moments like "Where are we going to eat?" to the big moments like "Are we going to cancel this show because a storm's coming?"

There was never a moment when I saw him without clarity. That is mind-blowing to me. And it's true that sometimes his clarity was: "We are not going to worry about this right now. That's not today's thing. We'll talk about that on Thursday." But it was still clarity. And that kept us away from endless ditches we could have fallen into.

Clarity. Yeah. I love that.

KBJ: This is a question I've asked you before—at Peter's show in Cambridge, I asked you about the black bass. Would you tell that story again?

JM: Oh yeah—the mad black bass.

So, like Peter, I need to play to stay who I am and stay well. The beautiful thing about music is that it benefits both the listener and the player. When I'm on tour, even though I get to play shows, I still have to have a bass in the room.

And a bass is a lot bigger than a guitar, so it's harder to carry around. I noticed that Mick Ultey had this really cool case he could strap on his back—it held a keyboard so he could play in his room. I thought, "I'd love to get a bass that could fit into that kind of case." That's where it all started.

A regular bass won't fit; it's too long. And it's no fun playing a ukulele bass—that misses the whole point; it doesn't have the same feel as a bass. Then I thought, "Wait a minute. There's this company called Steinberger that makes a bass with no headstock." It's chopped off at the neck and has this ingenious screw—a bolt you turn to tune it.

It sounds great and looks cool, but it feels terrible when you play it. It has this slender body that just doesn't fit right.

So, I had this idea to create a Frankenstein bass: take a Steinberger bass and bolt it onto an outline of what's called a Fender Precision Bass. The Precision Bass is the most popular, common bass in history—it's on just about every Aretha Franklin song. It's the standard. It sounds great, looks great, and feels great.

I outlined a P-Bass body and sent that outline to a friend of Peter's named John Parker in California—a great guy who loves to tinker. I asked Peter, "Who can do this?" and he said, "Oh man, send it to John Parker. He loves doing this."

So I sent it to John, and he spent a couple of months figuring out how to bolt on two other pieces of wood. Those pieces can be removed, so it's modular.

The result is this black bass that just fits in the case—with a lot of padding. The good news is: it sounds fantastic. I can take it anywhere and just put it with the luggage because it's built like a tank. And if the worst happens and I lose it, I can build another one. It's not an irreplaceable antique or vintage instrument I'd be afraid to take on the road.



*Jim Mayer, MOTM 2025, photo by Sophia Harris*

KBJ: I love that story—seeing you on stage with that bass is incredible.

Now I want to go back to when I first met you. It was at Meeting of the Minds in Key West in 2015. Jimmy wasn't there that night—there was a rumor he was entertaining the troops somewhere. After the show, you had a meet and greet—you, Peter, Gary Green, and others. I was really looking forward to meeting you because I wanted to talk to you about education—serious stuff. I mentioned that I was from Harvard, and you said...

JM: I remember saying, "Is that a typo?"

KBJ: Yes! And then: "Wait, are you really from Harvard—and you're a Parrothead?"

And then I said, “Tell me about your foundation.”

JM: My foundation came about because part of my brain is wired like a 6-year-old. Luckily, that’s just how it is—I can’t change it.

Because of that, I wrote two children's songs that both became number-one hits on satellite radio. I literally wrote them for fun. One was called Funky as a Diaper and one was called I’ve Got a Butt.

Those are still out there. Please forgive the wardrobe choices I made—they seemed like a good idea at the time.

A teacher friend told me, “You know, musicians come to schools and play—and they actually get paid for it.” This was back in 2008. Not a lot, but enough to make it worth doing. So I started going to schools.

I was raised by Lutheran missionary parents, so I can’t get away from the idea that there’s got to be a message in what we’re doing. It doesn’t have to be about God, but it does have to help people.

So, I started incorporating positive messages in my assemblies about success principles—tenacity, resilience, all that. Everywhere I went, I asked teachers, “What do you need help with?” Because the kids were listening to me; we might as well work together and have the messaging support the teachers.

Almost every teacher said, “They can’t handle their emotions, and they can’t handle social situations. That’s where they fall apart.”

I don’t do anything halfway. So, I did a bunch of research. Back then, the conversation was framed as “bullying” or “bully prevention.” But as I did my research, I found that calling it bullying wasn’t that helpful. Even when bullying was happening, the situation was bigger and more complex than that.

So, I put together this program that uses music to accelerate and activate social-emotional learning for young children, using fun music and games. It’s taken me about 15 years to be able to say that in one sentence—but that’s what we do.

The basic idea is: we make it fun to talk about the tough stuff.

How do we do that? If a child is lonely or being left out on the playground—which is very common—we teach them a song about a lonely broccoli that’s left out of the salad and doesn’t know why. We provide teachers and parents with tools to talk with children about the tough stuff.

If we can make it a little less tough—just a little easier to talk about—then we’ve done our job.



*Jim Mayer and Katherine Jones, unknown photographer*

KBJ: That’s wonderful. Thank you. There’s much more to say about that, but I have one final question—and this one is just for you:

What would you like to leave us with?

JM: Oh my God. That’s big.

I have many books I plan on writing, and I need to get busy with that. All the books are different versions of one idea: how to bring joy into our lives and live it daily. That’s it.

But if that’s just a statement, it doesn’t mean anything. It’s like saying the words “Paris, France” instead of actually being in Paris, feeling the breeze, tasting a fresh croissant and a strong espresso on a sunny morning.

So, we need tools. We—meaning me and you—need tools to help us remember what we are as people. Because we, as people, even on a scientific level, are mammals. We need each other to live.

A friend of mine, David Vaughan, has a saying: “No matter what the problem, community is the answer.”

As we see with our own eyes every day, community is tough. You’ve got different views, different ideas. It’s not only an inside job; it’s not only a “me” job—it’s a “we” job. How do we do this?

I’ve done a pretty good job of hiding a lot of thinking behind my smile—not hiding it exactly but waiting until I’m clear on how to explain to people why I’m smiling. There’s a reason. It’s not just that I’ve had too much to drink or that I’m deluded.

So that’s what I want, and hope, to leave you all with: the owner’s manual, the instructions—to joy. To living in joy and remembering that it’s not just that we feel joy. We are joy. That is the spark of life.

It’s been twisted and misused and misunderstood since the day we first rubbed two sticks together to make fire. **But that doesn’t change the fact that we are joy.**

**That’s what I want to leave you with.**

**Kitty (Katherine) Jones**  
**Vice-President of PHCOEM (2025-present)**



UPCOMING EVENTS – See [Event Page](#) for more info!

## Thirsty Thursdays!

Thirsty Thursdays are at our usual locations the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm.  
Info will be posted to our website and to our Facebook page!  
We hope to see you all soon!!





## From the Office of the Treasurer

Hope this finds everybody doing well and enjoying the boost in our Spring weather. This is your Treasurer Babs giving you the status of our Treasure Chest for the 1st Quarter of 2026.

**Starting balance 12/29/25 for checking was: \$3774.26**

**Total credits were: \$2,345.09**

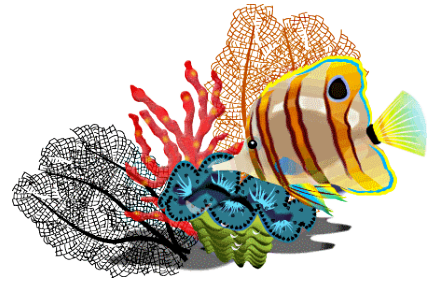
**Total debits were: \$1,512.75**

**Ending balance as of 4pm, 03/30/26 was \$4,606.60**

**Our savings account aka Phin Fund balance is \$475.85  
(this includes \$ .06 accrued interest for the first quarter)**

Phins Up

Barbara “Babs” O’Connor, Treasurer



# From the Office of the Membership

Hello PHCoEM Members.

We still have some members who have not renewed their membership. As of April 3<sup>rd</sup>, they will be removed from our mailing lists as part of the housekeeping we need to do. So if you hear of someone no longer getting the emails, that's probably why. Ask them if they paid their dues. They can always get back on the list by paying their dues.

We have 3 positions that are up for election this year. President, Secretary and Community and Environmental Affairs. You must be a member in good standing and have been part of the club for at least one year as of April 30<sup>th</sup>. All intents to run must be submitted in writing along with a Bio to [elections@phcoem.com](mailto:elections@phcoem.com) by May 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are unsure of what the positions entail please review our By-Laws which are posted on our website <https://www.phcoem.com/bylaws>

If you do a volunteer event that you would like to share with our members PLEASE reach out to me or any of the board members so that we can add it to our calendar, we are all about volunteering.

Here's to an amazing 2026 full of wonderful adventures.

Phins Up,

Sunshine (Karen Feldeisen)  
Membership Director 2025-Present  
Webmistress 2025-Present





***Happy Birthday to those completing  
another Trip Around the Sun!***

<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>
Leo McCarthy – 4/2	James Tuffo – 5/5	Diane Xenelis – 6/1
Karen Tuffo – 4/4	Lyndilu O’Connell – 5/10	Bruce Hartwell – 6/2
Katie Butland – 4/6	Vera May Beck – 5/11	Jean Ondeck – 6/5
Tony Avitable – 4/14	Jackie Miller – 5/11	Patricia Murphy – 6/6
Michael Sellitto – 4/14	John Connerton – 5/17	Sam McCormack – 6/7
Suzanne Gibree – 4/17	Eriella Dobry – 5/18	Amy Mariano – 6/8
Christopher Stevens – 4/23	Nancy Carroll – 5/21	Kathleen Norris – 6/8
Polly Yandow – 4/28	Heather LaTour – 5/22	Harriet Sesen – 6/10
	Felicia Vidito – 5/24	Pam Mascroft – 6/13
	Joanie Cava – 5/25	Lisa Mason – 6/14
	Cainen Davis – 5/30	Andrea Rudolph – 6/15
		Bob Pouliot – 6/30
		Kim Stevens – 6/30





## Ingredients

- 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, at room temperature
- 2 Tbsp. heavy cream
- Juice of 1/2 lemon, plus 1 teaspoon lemon zest
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/4 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- 15 pimiento-stuffed green olives, finely chopped
- 1/4 cup chopped walnuts
- 8 stalks celery, cut into thirds
- Sweet paprika, for garnish (optional)
- Chopped fresh chives, for garnish

## Directions:

1. In a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment or in a large bowl with a hand mixer, combine the cream cheese, heavy cream, lemon juice, lemon zest, salt, garlic powder, and pepper. Beat on medium speed until light and fluffy, 2 to 3 minutes. Fold in the chopped olives and walnuts.
2. Transfer the mixture to a piping bag with the tip cut or a plastic zip-top bag with a corner cut. Pipe the filling into the celery. Garnish with a dusting of paprika, if desired, and a sprinkle of chives.

# **What did he/she say?!!**

## **Quotes Holiday Hangover Party:**

***What do you mean we have to suck then blow the marshmallows onto a plate?***

***You have 60 seconds to blow the snowman?***

***No 60 seconds to build the snowman!***

***Wrapping it up with kisses.***

***It's much easier with the chopsticks.***

***Its very hard undressing with the time pressure.***

***We Got no balls.***

***They are stuck up in the gutter.***

***Stop handling all the balls and pick one!***

***Aim it right down the middle for best results.***



## THE BORED:

Donna “Mac” McCarthy – President ([President@phcoem.com](mailto:President@phcoem.com))

Katherine “Kitty” Jones – Vice-President ([VP@phcoem.com](mailto:VP@phcoem.com))

Liz “L12” McCarthy – Secretary ([Secretary@phcoem.com](mailto:Secretary@phcoem.com))

Barbara “Babs” O’Connor – Treasurer ([Treasurer@phcoem.com](mailto:Treasurer@phcoem.com))

Sunshine (aka Karen Feldeisen) – Membership Director ([Membership@phcoem.com](mailto:Membership@phcoem.com))

Sunshine (aka Karen Feldeisen) Webmistress ([webmistress@phcoem.com](mailto:webmistress@phcoem.com))

Anyone wishing to share information within this newsletter, please send your articles to [newsletter@phcoem.com](mailto:newsletter@phcoem.com).

If you have questions about our website, please send an email to [phcoemadmin@phcoem.com](mailto:phcoemadmin@phcoem.com).

## REFERENCE LINKS:

National Chapter Parrot Heads in Paradise at: [www.phip.com](http://www.phip.com)

PHCOEM Website page at [www.phcoem.com](http://www.phcoem.com)

PHCOEM Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/56394897109>

Northeast Regional Parrot Head Convention Committee at: [www.nerphc.org](http://www.nerphc.org)

