

## **Annual Meeting Thoughts- Linda Boyer, Chair- Dec 7, 2013**

**People start asking this time of year “Are you ready for Christmas?”**

**My answer is usually no, because I’m still enjoying Thanksgiving. That is one holiday that means a lot to me.**

**I’m thankful to be alive.**

**I’m thankful to be in this room tonight with so many smiling faces.**

**I’m thankful for BCTMA and all the good things it has brought to our lives.**

**I’m thankful for the opportunity to serve as chair this year. I look back on the past year and see some fine highlights.**

**We had beautiful weather for the BoCO music festival this year. We had a good jam in the morning, and 5 bands played in the afternoon. I especially enjoyed the Barefoot Movement and Carolina Still that evening.**

**The Tar Landing Jams are always a lot of fun, bringing people together to enjoy traditional music and contribute to a good cause. The Bath Library Foundation and the BCAC Turnage Theater Marque Lighting Project were the good causes this year. In the spring, we had great fun with the Instant Jam Band Contest, and After Jack. In the fall, we enjoyed the Carolina Yellowhammers.**

**This summer, Duane Harris invited the BCTMA to provide entertainment at the Kaiser Benefit. This was a wonderful coming together of the community to celebrate a life and help a family in need, and I am thankful for this opportunity.**

**We have had many a fun jam and performance here this year, celebrating our Third Anniversary at the Union Alley Coffeehouse with a program by Jim Avett. We have played twice a week, singing hundreds of songs, forgetting words, messing up breaks, still searching for the illusive F sharp minor chord, encouraging each other, picking on each other, laughing at each other. Throughout the year, I think it is especially important to encourage the young people....to invite them to perform, to play with us, to include children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews and simply young musicians. It is important to share the music and pass it along.**

**The Board has started hosting the Open Mic Variety Show this year, with amazing results! I thank them and all of you who have so generously performed or attended our shows, sharing your time and talents, supporting BCTMA. I am thankful for all the help I received this year!**

**I want to close with a poem. You know I love to sing. And I know you do too, because I sit up here and look out at you singing along with our songs. This is a poem called Harmony.**

# Harmony

by [Stuart Kestenbaum](#)

You know the Beatles could have  
afforded another microphone,

but George would always stand  
in the middle and step up to

Paul's when it was time to  
join in. Because that's the way

harmony is, you need to share the  
electricity, the voice, the words.

Just the way we do when we drive  
in our cars with the radio on,

We hear

the song that moves us, crank up the  
radio and sing along, at the top of

our lungs, as if we just joined  
the group. In tune, out of tune,

country western, rock and roll, we want  
to harmonize. A whole country of

would-be stars losing love, finding love  
with the radio in different

cars, on different paths, the dark  
road rumbling beneath.

I hope 2014 will be full of harmony for BCTMA.

And now I'll turn the program over to Rob Cuthrell, who had this wonderful idea 5 years ago to get some folks together to play some traditional music.