

The Folklore Society of Greater Washington NEWSLETTER

Box 19303, 20th Street Station, Washington, DC 20036

VOLUME X, NO. 2

OCTOBER, 1975

Nan Goland, Editor

E. C. AND ORNA BALL AT OCTOBER PROGRAM

It's going to be a fine year. Here we haven't even had our first regular monthly program yet, and already we've spend a nice, old-timey evening with Almeda Riddle. So, now, as our first regular program (the kind at which, if your membership is paid up, you get in free), to keep up our tradition of tradition, it is a special pleasure to present ESTIL C. BALL with ORNA BALL on Friday, October 10.

A strong but gentle singer with a healthy baritone and a clean guitar, E.C. was recorded by Alan Lomax in the 1950's, later on some fine albums of his own for County Records. His wife Orna adds mellow harmony, and between the two of them, they're likely to have you singing right along, particularly on the gospel tunes that make up a large part of their repertoire.

E.C. is basically a Virginia fellow. In fact, even though he now lives in Grassy Creek, North Carolina, he still is so close to the border that his phone has a Virginia area code. He and Orna have been singing for years as half a quartet called the Friendly Gospel Singers, including a weekly radio program over WSKS, West Jefferson, N.C., as well as revivals, homecomings, and even visits to the homes of shut-ins. The Balls are part of a southern musical tradition that reaches back as much as a century and a half, and their music will show you how effective it must have been in those early days at bringing and keeping people together. It certainly does it now.



A personal note: I've wanted to bring E.C. Ball to the FSGW for years, and at last it's going to happen. I'd like to thank Mike Seeger for helping me get in touch. This is a wonderful way to start the 1975-76 season. I hope you won't think of the Society as a mere concert bureau. Come share yourself. And sing along.

-Jonathan

FSGW Programs are held at 8:30 PM on the second Friday each month at the Washington Ethical Society, 7750-16th Street NW, Washington, D.C. Members are admitted free; non-members, \$2.

OTHER FSGW HAPPENINGS...

GETAWAY WEEKEND/OCTOBER 24-26

GETAWAY X is almost here! The weekend begins Friday evening, October 24, with an open sing; workshops begin at 10 AM both Saturday and Sunday. As always, there will be something for everyone to enjoy. Activities include square and contra dance, instrument workshops, song style workshops, plus late-night sings.

The deadline for weekend registration is past, but if you'd like to come, check with Debbie at 270-2217, or Bill at 699-5816, to see if there is still room. If not...

Daily registrations will be accepted by mail until October 20. Costs per day are \$2.50 for adults, \$1.50 for children under 14. A limited number of day-with-dinner registrations are available at \$6 per day for adults and \$3 per day for children. It's important to register and pay in advance if you're coming for the day, since no money can be collected at the park.

Weekend registrants will receive cabin assignments and a list of things to bring by October 20. We have lots of supplies to be taken to the park. If you have room to carry cartons or people in your vehicle, please call Debbie or Bill.

Remember--NO PETS ALLOWED.

Keep your fingers crossed for good weather!

-Debbie

Directions to Prince William Forest Park: Take Route 95 south approximately 52 km (that's what the park map says). Take Route 234 (Dumfries-Manassas) west (right) between 2 and 3 miles. Watch for signs to Camp 4 just past the trailer park. Turn left into camp entrance and follow the signs.

JOHN ROBERTS & TONY BARRAND/OCTOBER 22

John Roberts and Tony Barrand, two zany Britons who have long been favorites of Washington Folk audiences, will give a house concert for FSGW on Wednesday, October 22 at 8 PM in Kensington. Admission will be \$1.50 for members, \$2.50 for non-members. Call 949-4552 for information and directions.

-Nan

OPEN SING/OCTOBER 3

An Open Sing for traditional folk music is held on the first Friday of every month at the Washington Ethical Society, 7750-16th Street NW, at 9 PM. The next Open Sing will be Friday, October 3. All are welcome! Donation of \$1 at the door includes refreshments inside.

-Nan

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING/OCTOBER 7

The October Board Meeting will be Tuesday, the 7th, 8 PM, at the office of the National Folk Festival Association, Suite 1118 of the Dupont Circle Building, 1346 Connecticut Avenue NW. Interested Society members are welcome to attend these meetings on the first Tuesday each month, same time, same place.

SACRED HARP SING/OCTOBER 26

The October *Sacred Harp* sing will be held on Sunday, October 26, at the Getaway. The schedule isn't definite yet, but it will probably start around 10 AM. If you want to come out just for the day, remember to register according to instructions on page 2.

The shipment of new song books has arrived. Copies of *The Sacred Harp* and *Christian Harmony* are each \$3.75 and are available from Arlene Rodenbeck.

We are looking for people who are interested in hosting our monthly get-togethers. If you would like to offer your home, please call Arlene at 462-3667.

-Arlene

SAMPLER CONCERT/NOVEMBER 8

Save Saturday, November 8 at 8:30 PM for a SAMPLER CONCERT at the Ethical Society, 7750-16th Street NW. Featured performers will be your own fellow FSGW members and friends!

-Nan

MANITAS DE PLATA/OCTOBER 23

Manitas de Plata, gypsy guitarist, will appear on Thursday, October 23 at 8:30 PM at Lisner Auditorium, 21st and H Streets NW. The concert is co-sponsored by FSGW and Stanley-Williams Presentations.

Manitas de Plata is a true gypsy, who can neither read nor write. He lives among his tribesmen in Montpellier, France. He began playing guitar at age nine. After being recorded by an American company he became a sensation until he abruptly ended his concert career: a combination of superstition and the desire to return to his fellow gypsies.

Manitas de Plata has returned to the concert circuit, and local audiences will have a chance to hear his unique combination of flamenco guitar with overtones of jazz, oriental music, and a touch of the classics.

FSGW members are entitled to a 25% discount on tickets, but you must order through the mail to receive your discount. Fill out the coupon and send it with a stamped, self-addressed envelope and your check, before October 17, to: Stanley-Williams Presentations, 1715-37th Street NW, Washington, DC, 20007.

I am a member of FSGW. Enclosed is a total of \$_____ for _____ tickets to Manitas de Plata, October 23, at:
\$4.90 \$4.10 \$3.40 (circle one)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

OTHER FSGW MATTERS...

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW AVAILABLE TO OUT-OF-TOWN FRIENDS

In order to save our volunteers time and get the Newsletter to all our readers more quickly, we are eliminating our third-class mailing list. Exchange publications who now receive the Newsletter by third-class mail will be added to our first-class list. Friends of the Society who live outside the greater Washington area may now subscribe to the Newsletter at an annual rate of \$2. Area residents may receive the Newsletter by first-class mail by joining the Society.

WORKSHOPS WILL START SOON

The Folklore Society will organize more workshops this year, beginning in November. Most would be on a one-time basis, but if there is interest we could organize some short courses not otherwise available through local recreation departments. Note: many recreation departments offer courses on folk instruments, so check with them if you have specific interests. Call me at 270-2217 if you have requests, ideas, or suggestions for FSGW workshops.

-Debbie

WHAT SOME FOLKS ARE DOING...

ENGLISH MUSIC HALL BROADCAST/OCTOBER 4

John Roberts and Tony Barrand, who will be our guests at a house concert later this month, can be heard along with Maggie Pierce, David Jones, Murray Callahan, and others, in a recreation of an 1890's Victorian London Music Hall performance. Recorded by National Public Radio last March in Philadelphia, this program is part of the "Folk Festival USA" series. It will be broadcast on Saturday, October 4 at 6 PM as part of Mary Cliff's radio show "Folk Weekend." Mary's show is heard every Saturday and Sunday from 6 to 8 PM over WETA-FM, 90.9 on the FM dial.

SQUAREDANCE/OCTOBER 11

A squaredance featuring well-known caller Bob Dalsimer and live string band music will be held on Saturday, October 11 at 8:30 PM at the Washington Ethical Society, 7750-16th Street NW. The dance is co-sponsored by B'raisheet Club of Pioneer Women (Greater Washington Council) and the Ethical Society. No previous dancing experience is necessary! Bob will guide everyone through the steps. Donation, \$3.

-Rebecca

FFV GOES ON RECORD

The Fast Flying Vestibule has just released their first record--a self-produced 45 with a song by Terry Winch, "I'm Glad I'm Prepared for the Recession," which some FSGW members may have heard on a recent Monday at the Red Fox. The flip side is an instrumental medley of Irish tunes: "God Save Ireland" and "The Lakes of Sligo." The record is available for \$1 at Bread & Roses Record Co-op, 1724-20th Street NW, or by sending \$1.50 to the FFV, 3437 Mt. Pleasant Street NW, Washington, DC, 20010.

-Jesse

THE "X SEAMENS INSTITUTE"/OCTOBER 11

Once Alexandria was a thriving seaport with tall masted ships anchored in her harbor. For a brief while, that past will be recaptured at Christ Church, 118 North Washington Street, Alexandria, Va. On Saturday, October 11 at 8 PM the "X Seamens Institute," a quartet of singing sailors, will present an evening of songs and stories traditional to 19th century sailors. Ticket price is \$3, FSGW members price is \$2.50. Tickets are available in advance by writing to Edward MacIntosh, 816 Queen Street, Alexandria, Va., 22314.

-Edward

THE AMERICAN FOLKLIFE ACT

Rep. Frank Thompson and Sen. James Abourezk have introduced a bill to Congress which would set up a National Folklife Agency under the auspices of the Library of Congress. This agency would have the dual purpose of preserving and presenting the different aspects of American Folklife.

The role of preservation would entail the accumulation and coordination of materials dealing with folksong, folktale, folkcrafts, etc. Since no other agency now serves this purpose, the new agency would have to recatalog collections already in existence (i.e. old photographs) and also begin indexing some of the collections outside the L of C that have been accumulating folklife materials.

Jerry Parsons, from the Archive of Folksong at the L of C, compared the role of presentation to the "outreach" programs that are becoming popular at libraries throughout the country. For example, the agency would probably be able to assist local municipalities in presenting folk festivals by providing technical, organizational, and program assistance, and possibly even loan sound or other equipment.

The bill passed in the House by a margin of 272 to 117. According to Sen. Abourezk's office, it (as bill S. 1618) is peacefully resting in the Rules Committee. If you would like to see this bill moving again, send a letter to your favorite member of the Senate Rules Committee. (Call Al Kehs at 935-5412 if you'd like to know who committee members are, or if you'd like more information about the bill.) Chairman of the committee is Sen. Howard W. Cannon, Dem., Nevada. We'll keep you posted on the progress of this bill.

-Al



FSGW PHONE NUMBER: (703) 920-2067



BLUEGRASS OPEN SING/OCTOBER 17

On the third Friday of every month, the Ethical Society sponsors a Bluegrass Open Sing. Everyone is welcome to join in the picking and singing, or to sip wine and listen. It starts at 9 PM every third Friday. Next Bluegrass Open Sing will be October 17. Donation of \$1 at the door includes refreshments inside.

-Nan

FOLK DANCING IN THE WASHINGTON AREA

Last year there was a major increase in the number of members interested in folk dancing. One of our biggest problems has been the lack of information about local dancing. In the next issue or two of the Newsletter, we'd like to devote a section to listing places to dance. So, if you know of any Square, Scottish, Irish, Balkan, English, or any other folk-type dance groups in the area, please let us know about them, too, by calling Al Kehs at 935-5412 or Caroline Arlington at 270-9230.

-Al

ANDY WALLACE CONCERT/NOVEMBER 22

Here's a date to put on your calendar right now: Saturday, November 22 at 8:30 PM. A "return to Washington" concert by former resident, friend to many folk, and fine performer ANDY WALLACE will be held at the Ethical Society, 7750-16th Street NW. Andy should be in fine voice, having left his new home in Hartwick, New York on September 16 for a concert tour around the country. He's stopping by to see us in Washington on his way home.

-Nan

INSTRUMENTS IN NEED OF PLAYERS

For Sale: Four fiddles from the famous Shimberg collection; fair to better-than-average quality, \$60 to \$175, with bows and cases. Fretless banjo, English, 11" shell, nice tone; \$175 with leather case. Contact Bob Clayton at 671-1975, or at 5280 South 7th Road, Arlington, Va., 22204.

--CONCISE CALENDAR OF EVENTS--

- OCT. 3 - OPEN SING
4 - MUSIC HALL BROADCAST
7 - BOARD MEETING
9 & 10 - HIGHWOODS AT FOX
10 - PROGRAM
11 - SQUAREDANCE
11 - X SEAMENS INSTITUTE
11 - LANGLEY FESTIVAL
12 - PRINCE GEORGES CELEBRATION
17 - BLUEGRASS OPEN SING
22 - HOUSE CONCERT
23 - MANITAS DE PLATA
23 & 24 - WEST ORRTANNA AT FOX
24-26 - GETAWAY
26 - SACRED HARP
Nov. 1-2 - CRAFT FAIR AT ETHICAL SOC.
4 - BOARD MEETING
7 - OPEN SING
8 - SAMPLER CONCERT
14 - PROGRAM
21 - BLUEGRASS OPEN SING
22 - ANDY WALLACE CONCERT
MONDAYS - RED FOX INN
SATURDAYS - BERWYN CAFE

EARTH CRAFTS/NOVEMBER 1 & 2

The Washington Ethical Society invites you to its Earth Crafts Exhibit and Sale, Saturday and Sunday, November 1 and 2, from noon to 7 PM. All sorts of handmade craft items will be on display and sale. Food, too! Baked goods, cider, and healthy meals by the Berwyn Cafe will be available. There is no admission charge. Also, on Sunday at 11 AM, will be a program of songs and readings called "Folk Wisdom in American Music."

-Nan

RED FOX INN/MONDAY EVENINGS

There's an open stage for traditional folk music at the Red Fox Inn, 4940 Fairmont Avenue in Bethesda, Md., every Monday evening from 8:30 to 12:30. Each performer sings two songs. If you'd like to perform, check in with Bruce Hutton, the MC, when you come in. There's no cover charge on Mondays.

During the rest of the week, the Fox is host to bluegrass groups and string bands. Special events this month include the Highwoods String Band on October 9 and 10, and the West Orrtanna String Band on October 23 and 24. Call the Fox at 652-4429 for more information.

BERWYN CAFE/SATURDAY EVENINGS

The Berwyn Cafe at 5010 Berwyn Road in College Park features entertainment on Saturday evenings at 9:30 PM. Admission is free; the hat is passed for musicians. There's food available and the atmosphere is relaxed. The last Saturday of every month is an open sing.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST...

LANGLEY PEOPLES FESTIVAL/OCTOBER 11

Langley Park Citizens will present "Langley Park Renaissance--A Peoples Festival" on Saturday, October 11 at the Langley Park Towers, from 10 AM to 6 PM. They plan crafts exhibits and entertainment for the whole family. A few more musicians are needed, so if you would be interested in performing, or want more information, call Ann Sutherland at 434-4515.

-Debbie

A REMINDER: No smoking is allowed in any auditorium the Folklore Society uses for a concert or program. We ask your cooperation in this, both for the benefit of the audience as well as the performers.



MULTIPLE CRAFTS EXHIBIT AT RENWICK GALLERY

Remember to see the exhibit of traditional and contemporary crafts on display through February 16 at the Renwick Gallery, corner of 17th and Pennsylvania Avenue NW. The work of one of our own members, instrument maker Sam Rizzetta, is included in this show. The exhibit features the work of craftspeople who produce ten or more copies of the same object. Admission is free. The gallery is open daily from 10 AM to 5:30 PM.

PRINCE GEORGES CELEBRATION/OCTOBER 12

A Celebration sponsored by Dimensions in Music of Prince Georges County, Prince Georges Community College, and the Bicentennial Commission is being presented on Sunday, October 12 from noon to 7 PM at the new Student Activities Center at Prince Georges Community College on Route 202 in Largo. They plan food sales and craft demonstrations all day, three programs on American folk instruments by Bruce Hutton, and a concert by the Seldom Scene from 5 to 7 PM. All activities are free. For more information call 277-2200, X 377.

-Debbie

SING OUT! FOLK SONG MAGAZINE

Sing Out! has been publishing folk songs for nearly 25 years. Each issue includes traditional and contemporary folk songs, interviews, articles, commentary on folk music and musicians, "teach-ins," news, and reviews. Interested? A one-year subscription (six issues) is only \$6. Write to: Sing Out!, 595 Broadway, New York, New York, 10012.

Thanks to the folks who contributed to this issue: Jonathan Eberhart, Rebecca Holmes, Debbie Hutton, Al Kehs, Susan Kennelly, Edward MacIntosh, Arlene Rodenbeck, and Jesse Winch. Thanks, also, to Anne Olive, who sends your Newsletter to you.

Deadline for the November Newsletter is Monday, October 20. You may give items to me at Society events, or send them to: 2853 Ontario Road NW, #504, Washington, DC, 20009.

Your 1975-76 Executive Board, and their phone numbers, is as follows:

President
Helen Schneyer 949-4552

Vice President
Debbie Hutton 270-2217

Treasurer
Lars Hanslin 393-1574

Secretary
Carolyn Hoover 656-7634

Program Chairman
Jonathan Eberhart 667-0778

Special Events Chairman
Alan Mackall 703-670-4988

Membership Chairman
Don Nichols 938-4564

Publications Chairman
Nan Goland 332-0232

Publicity Chairman
Phil Saunders 362-4264

Members-at-Large
Mary Cliff 536-6900
Carly Gewirz 548-1680

Past Treasurer
Rich Galloway 864-0723



GETAWAY - DAILY REGISTRATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PLEASE LIST ALL PERSONS WHO WILL BE ATTENDING:

NAME	AGE GROUP	# OF DAYS	WITH DINNER?	PRICE
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

IDEAS FOR WORKSHOPS? _____

ARE YOU A MEMBER? _____

TOTAL \$ ENCLOSED _____

This Newsletter is published by the Folklore Society of Greater Washington, a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to preserving and promoting traditional folk arts in the greater Washington, DC area. Membership in the Society is open to all who wish to help pursue these goals. Membership benefits include free admission to programs, reduced admission to special events, the Newsletter by first class mail, plus workshops, sings, and more. To join, fill out the form below, enclose your check and send to the Folklore Society, PO Box 19303, 20th Street Station, Washington, DC, 20036.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

I/we want to join! Enclosed is:

_____ \$6 - One year, Individual _____ \$18 - Three year, Individual
_____ \$9 - One year, Family _____ \$27 - Three year, Family

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CHECK ONE: New Membership _____ Renewal _____

Are you interested in helping the Society in some way? _____

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Enclosed is \$2 for a one-year, out-of-town FSGW Newsletter subscription:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Folklore Society of Greater Washington
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Washington, DC 20036

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