ROOTED IN NORTHERN GEORGIA, IN RECENT YEARS TRANSPLANTED TO EUROPE,

HEDY WEST

comes to the Folklore Society on Friday, December 12. First and foremost, she's a singer (with at least seven albums to prove it), in a fascinating sing-talk style that lends itself to her vast repertoire ranging from a rich heritage of southern music across the water to music of the British Isles and even Germany. Yet, the first time I heard her—at an early 1960s Newport Folk Festival—the thing I remembered was that she played a variety of old-timey banjo styles so that even a non-banjo-picker like me could tell them apart. Still, it's the singing. From a couple of reviews: She "roamed musically from her native hill

(continued on page 2)
country to Germany and England and Spain, from songs of highwaymen to ballads of the coal mines and the cotton mills and memories of her grandmother singing...." Ballads "take on an extraordinarily gripping narrative quality, as gripping as any narrative medium ever devised...."

Again that's Friday, December 12, 8:30 p.m. at the auditorium of the redoubtable Washington Ethical Society, 7750-16th Street NW at the corner of Kalmia Road. It's in the District, but north of Walter Reed Hospital. If you're an FSGW member, admission is free. If you're not a member, it's two bucks, unless you join on the spot ($6), which means, among other things, free admission to $18 worth of programs. So we'd like you folks to join, of course, but even more, we'd like you to show up. You'll be glad you did.

-Jonathan

OTHER FSGW HAPPENINGS...

OPEN SING/DECEMBER 5

By popular demand, we're going back to the practice of having a topic for the monthly first Friday Open Sings. This time it's to be "Mothers and Children," which could cover anything from lullabies to matricides. Bring songs, instruments, and ears to the Washington Ethical Society on Friday, December 5, at 9:00 p.m. Donation of $1 at the door includes refreshments inside.

-Alan

NO SACRED HARP SING IN DECEMBER

Since December always becomes so hectic, thus making the attendance at the Sacred Harp sing rather small, we won't schedule a sing in December unless someone especially wants to. If you do, call Arlene Rodenbeck at 462-3667. Call her, too, to find out if a sing is planned.

HEDY WEST, continued

WENDY GROSSMAN HOUSE CONCERT/DECEMBER 20

Wendy Grossman, a young performer from Ithaca, New York will give a house concert for FSGW on Saturday, December 20 at 8:00 p.m. at the home of Don and Dolores Nichols in Vienna, Virginia. Wendy sings traditional songs and plays old-timey and British dance music on guitar, banjo, concertina, mandolin, autoharp, dulcimer, whistle (and I suspect kitchen sink). She's fond of chorus songs, so bring your chorus. You will be well entertained. Admission is $1.50 for members, $2.50 for non-members. Call Don, 938-4564, or me, 703-670-4988, for information and directions.

-Alan

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING/DECEMBER 2

The board will meet on Tuesday, December 2 at 8:00 p.m. at the office of the National Folk Festival Association, Suite 1118 of the Dupont Circle Building at 1346 Connecticut Avenue NW. Meetings of the board are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 8:00 p.m. Any members interested in the "inner workings" of the Society are welcome to attend.
UNUSUAL CAROLS WORKSHOP/DECEMBER 7

There will be a workshop for the singing of unusual carols on Sunday, December 7 at 4:00 p.m. at the home of Bill and Beth Destler in Bladensburg. Bring eight to ten copies of a song you'd like to teach the group (lest we end up singing the same old thing). Call 699-5816 to get directions.

-Debbie

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

There will be caroling at various locations during the two weeks or so before Christmas including (at present) Takoma Park, Alexandria, and Vienna. Call me for information about caroling in your area. Call me early in the month if you'd like to volunteer your home as a gathering place, at 703-670-4988. I'll post up-to-date lists of locations and dates at the Open Sing and the program. Mimeographed song sheets will be available at each caroling spot.

-Alan

FOURTH ANNUAL MINI-FESTIVAL/JANUARY 24

FSGW's fourth annual Mini-Festival will be held Saturday, January 24 at Sidwell Friends Middle School at 3960-37th Street NW. Workshops will be scheduled from 12:30 to 6:00 p.m. The square dance will begin at 8:00. Admission will be $2 for all day or any part of it; children under 14 admitted for $1.

-Debbie

SAMPLER CONCERT/JANUARY 17

Watch your January Newsletter for more information about a Sampler Concert, featuring fellow members of FSGW, to be held on Saturday, January 17.

OTHER FSGW MATTERS...

KEEP OFF THE LAWN

When you come to a program or special event at the Ethical Society, please remember to use the sidewalks rather than walking on our neighbors' lawn. They don't like having people use their property as a shortcut to the Ethical Society building.

-Nan

WORKSHOP PLANNING MEETING

I will be having a workshop planning meeting early in December. Call me at 270-2217 if you would like to participate.

-Debbie

CALL A FOLKIE: 920-2067

If you dial the FSGW phone number, you're likely to hear a recorded announcement telling about upcoming events and giving another phone number to call for directions and information when appropriate. But if a real person answers, don't harg up! It's okay, it's probably Mike Rivers, or a friend, because the phone is in his house. If he's not there, though, and you want to reach someone, a board member, say, record your name and phone number on the tape and he'll call you back. (Don't try to record your problem—you won't have time to leave your name and phone number—the important part.) If you'd like to talk or ask questions about the Society, call Vice-President Debbie Hutton at 270-2217. She is glad to hear from members and prospective members.

WHAT SOME FOLKS ARE DOING...

BLUEGRASS OPEN SING/DECEMBER 19

The next Bluegrass Open Sing will be Friday, December 19 at 9:00 p.m. This event is sponsored by the Ethical Society on the third Friday of every month. Donation of $1 at the door includes refreshments inside.

-Nan

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!
The Berwyn Cafe in College Park features entertainment at 9:30 p.m. Saturdays. Admission is free; the hat is passed for performers. The cafe is located at 5010 Berwyn Road, about a mile north of College Park, off Route 1. Call Jeff Deitchman at 345-2121 for more information. The Saturday evening schedule this month is:

Dec. 6 - Dave Olive - Dave mostly plays the blues, though I've heard him dissect a few country songs after he's had a few. This ought to be a fun night.

Dec. 13 - Bob Clayton - Bob brings several stringed instruments with him and proceeds to do a good variety of traditional material. He also knows interesting things about his songs, so the evening is educational as well as entertaining.

Dec. 20 - Mike Holmes - Mike also plays a few different instruments—guitar, banjo, mandolin, and probably some others. If you're interested in good traditional music, performed well, here you are. Mike likes to get everybody singing, so join us.

Dec. 27 - MERRY CHRISTMAS - I'll be in Vermont.

The Red Fox Inn at 4940 Fairmont Avenue in Bethesda has an open stage every Monday evening from 8:30 p.m. till about midnight. Each performer does two numbers, the emphasis being on traditional music. If you'd like to perform, check in with MC Bruce Hutton when you arrive. There's no cover charge on Mondays.

During the rest of the week, the Fox is host to bluegrass groups, strings bands, and folk musicians. For more information about who is playing, and how much the cover is (usually around $2), call the Fox at 652-4429.

Other Items of Interest...

Trapezoid/December 19

The brand-new Baltimore Folklore Society will present Trapezoid, Sam Rizzetta's hammered dulcimer consort, on Friday, December 19, at 8:30 p.m. at St. John's Church, St. Paul and 27th Streets, in Baltimore. Admission is $1 members, $2 non-members (of the Baltimore Society). If you'd like directions or more information, call Mike Quitt, toll free, days, at 621-1650.

Folk Dancing in the Washington Area

Al Kehs and Caroline Arlington are still working on the dance group listing mentioned in last month's Newsletter. If you know of any groups specializing in folk dancing of whatever kind, please let Al (935-5412) or Caroline (270-9230) know about it—if you haven't already.

Exhibit of Embroidery from India

An exhibit of embroidery by Rabari women of Gujarat state in India is on display at the Foundation for Multilingualism and Polyculturalism, 1217 G Street NW in Washington. The exhibit includes embroidered decorations and clothing, photographs, jewelry, and household items. It illustrates the relationship of crafts to the life and traditions of the craftsman. The show is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., through December 30.

Season's Greetings!

The perfect Christmas gift: It cannot be lost or stolen, it is cheap yet effective (how thoughtful!), it lasts all year, too. Give gift memberships to your friends for Christmas!
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
Caroline 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

COMING TOGETHER FESTIVAL/JANUARY 8-11

Bill Vanaver and Livia Drapkin and the Coming Together Festival of Dance and Music, Inc. will be giving several concerts in Baltimore during January. (Bill and Livia led Theater Games workshops for us at both the Spring Getaway last April and at Getaway X in October. The entire group performed at the National Folk Festival at Wolf Trap in 1974.)

These performances will be held at the Theatre Project, 45 West Preston Street in Baltimore, January 8 through 11. Performances are at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday and Sunday at 8 and 10:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. The Theatre Project is a free theater, but audience contributions are encouraged.

--CONCISE CALENDAR OF EVENTS--

Dec. 2 - BOARD MEETING
5 - OPEN SING
7 - UNUSUAL CAROLS WORKSHOP
12 - PROGRAM-HEDY WEST
19 - BLUEGRASS OPEN SING
19 - TRAPEZOID (BALTIMORE)
20 - HOUSE CONCERT

Jan. 2 - OPEN SING
6 - BOARD MEETING
9 - PROGRAM
17 - SAMPLER CONCERT
24 - MINI-FESTIVAL

Mondays - RED FOX OPEN STAGE
Saturdays - BERWYN CAFE

JAZZ PIANISTS/DECEMBER 7

Jazz piano styles from ragtime onward will be demonstrated by three accomplished pianists in a workshop and concert sponsored by the Smithsonian's Division of Performing Arts on Sunday, December 7. Both events are in Baird Auditorium in the Museum of Natural History at 10th and Constitution. The workshop at 4:30 p.m. is free. The concert at 8:00 p.m. costs $4.50. Featured musicians are John Lewis, Teddy Wilson, and Hank Jones. For further information call 381-5395.

Thanks to those who contributed to this issue of the Newsletter: Jeff Deitchman, Jonathan Eberhart, Debbie Hutton, and Alan Mackall.

Deadline for the January 1976 issue will be Wednesday, December 17. You may give items to me at Society events, or send them to me at 2853 Ontario Road NW, #504, Washington, DC, 20009.

-Nan
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  Is this a change of address?______

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:

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