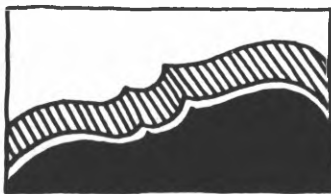


**The
Folklore
Society
of Greater
Washington**



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

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XII, No. 6

FEBRUARY 1976

Nan Goland, Editor



WE OUGHT TO JUST WRITE HIS NAME AND
LEAVE THE REST OF THE PAGE BLANK:

J E A N C A R I G N A N

But we won't. If anyone is the fiddler's fiddler, surely he's the one. And to make our February program (on the 13th, at 8:30, at the Ethical Society) even more exciting, He'll be aided, abetted, and accompanied on piano by GILLES LOSIER.

Born in Quebec in 1916, Jean started picking up his father's French-Canadian fiddle tradition when he was scarcely big enough to pick up the fiddle. The first record he ever bought--paid for at age seven with bottle deposits and moochings--was *Indian Reel Medley* by Joseph Allard, and Jean's fiddling has been growing ever since until it now encompasses Cape Breton, Irish, and other styles as well. Since space in this Newsletter is finite, I can't write the thick volume of praise he deserves, but if you have the tiniest musical bone in your body, come hear Jean Carignan--and be astounded! He is, at the very least, a living musical treasure, and you may never have another chance.

Gilles Losier, also a native Canadian, has played piano professionally for more than a quarter-century, beginning at age thirteen in a local dance hall. He's played a bit of everything, but it's the traditional music he loves. He and Jean are now inseparable performing companions.

So come and listen. You'll hear bits and pieces from the tangled root structure that also includes all sorts of more familiar American fiddle styles. But you've never heard the like of Jean Carignan.



Continued on page 2

FEBRUARY PROGRAM, continued

This program is possible thanks to a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and, thanks to them, more amazing things are in store for the future. I'd also like to add some thanks to some of the people who are helping with the unimaginably complicated task of making possible this rare visit by Jean and Gilles: Leo Bernache of the National Folk Festival Association, Lars Hanslin and Wally Macnow of the Folklore Society. It's so complicated, in fact, that cautious types might want to check the FSGW information number --920-2067--to confirm details.)

That's Friday, February 13, at 8:30 p.m. at the Washington Ethical Society auditorium, 7750-16th Street N.W., at the corner of Kalmia Road in D.C.

-Jonathan

OTHER FSGW HAPPENINGS...

LOUISIANA ACES/FEBRUARY 15

Prepare yourselves for an evening of joyous, foot-stomping entertainment on Sunday, February 15, at 8:30 p.m. at the Ethical Society. The LOUISIANA ACES are back in town! Their dynamic, modern-cum-traditional Cajun sounds knocked everybody out at the National Folk Festival two years in a row--and repeat performances are rare. The personnel of the group is a little different this time, but the sound should be much the same. Leader D.L. Menard is recognized as one of the finest contemporary Cajun vocalists, and has been known to toss in an occasional English-language country song as well. Also with the group is Mark Savoy, one of the best known Cajun accordianists and accordian makers. Their numerous recordings, individually and collectively, attest to their skills as musicians and entertainers. For my money, this is the best modern Cajun band around. Their presence is made possible partly by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Admission is \$1.50 for FSGW members, \$3 for others. Come and enjoy!

-Alan

DEBBIE McCLATCHY HOUSE CONCERT/FEBRUARY 21

Debbie McClatchy will give a house concert at the Hutton's in Takoma Park on Saturday, February 21, at 8:30 p.m. Debbie is a versatile performer--she plays guitar, banjo, dulcimer, and pennywhistle; sings American ballads, country songs, Irish songs (she has spent much time in Ireland learning traditional music); writes her own ballads (!) in the traditional idiom; and plays old timey and Irish dance tunes. Debbie runs the Focus 2 Coffee House in New York City, has been touring with the musical *Diamond Studs*, and her recent Philo record has spread her music even further. Call 270-2217 for directions and information.

-Alan

RIVER ROAD CONCERT/FEBRUARY 22

The Folklore Society has been invited to present a concert by some of its members at the River Road Unitarian Church. So, on Sunday, February 22, at 7:30 p.m., we will hear Bill Destler, Jonathan Eberhart, Bruce Hutton, Helen Schneyer, plus Doctor Kilmer's Medicine Show and Jug Band in a fund-raiser for the Society. Come join your friends for an informal, join-in-the singing evening. Admission is \$1.50 for adults, \$1 for children under 12. The church is located at 6301 River Road. For further information call 270-2217 or 229-0400.

-Debbie

SACRED HARP SING/FEBRUARY 22

Singing from the *Sacred Harp* and pot-luck dinner will be held this month at the home of Joanne McLaughlin, 3053 Ordway Street N.W., Washington, D.C. Call Joanne at 362-3053 for directions. Singing starts about 4:00 p.m. Dinner is usually about 6. (Bring a dish to serve eight-or-so people.) Then, more singing till voices give out. Books are available at the sings.

FSGW PHONE NUMBER: (703) 920-2067

OPEN SING/FEBRUARY 6

The first Friday Open Sing will be held, as usual, on the first Friday--February 6, at 9:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome, musicians and listeners alike. Donation of \$1 at the door includes refreshments inside.

MAGGI PEIRCE HOUSE CONCERT/FEBRUARY 29

It's finally happening! After umpteen years spent attending, contributing to, and disrupting the sleep of campers at the FSGW Getaway; in performing at all the major folk festivals, coffee houses, and folk clubs on the East Coast; in lecturing at colleges; in running the Try Works Coffee House in New Bedford, Massachusetts; MAGGI PEIRCE, Belfast, Ireland born and raised, has consented to do a house concert for us.

Reared in a singing, reciting, story-telling family, Maggi has been perpetuating that tradition on both sides of the Atlantic. She sings unaccompanied, in the Irish tradition, and has a special interest in Irish street songs and dances. She has been collecting them for years. Nearly six feet tall and imposing--don't get uppity or she'll flatten you with some obscure ethnic Irish put-down. Whether declaiming (What a glorious ham!), singing, dancing, or sharing bits from her early life, Maggi is an experience no one should miss.

Come see and hear her on Sunday, February 29, at 8:30 p.m. in Kensington, Maryland. Admission: members, \$1.50, non-members, \$2. For directions call 270-2217; at the last minute call 946-0635.

-Helen

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING/FEBRUARY 3

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, February 3, 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 N.W. These meetings on the first Tuesday of every month are open to all members of the Society.

OTHER FSGW MATTERS...

THANK YOU, NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS!

Your Executive Board is pleased to announce that the National Endowment for the Arts has awarded the Folklore Society a program grant of \$3455 in matching funds to help us finance an extra-special concert season in 1976. The grant will allow us to present top-notch traditional performers from throughout the country who are rarely seen in the Washington area. In addition, we will be seeking to spread the wealth by booking our performers in other East Coast cities at a modest cost, since initial transportation expenses will be met by the grant and FSGW. Interested folklore societies or whomever should contact Program Chairman Jonathan Eberhart. At this date we are not sure just who will be presented under the program, but we're confident the imaginations of Jonathan and other Society members will think up some memorable events in the coming year.

-Lars

Thanks to Dave Olive for taking over the job of Publicity Chairman until the next election.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS SOON

A Nominations and Elections Committee will be named this month to prepare for the election of FSGW officers for 1976-77. Their choices will be presented in March, and nominations from the floor will be accepted at the March and April programs. (If you want to nominate someone, be sure to check out their willingness to run.)

SOUND SYSTEM WORKSHOP

If you'd like to learn how to operate the FSGW sound system, call Debbie Hutton at 270-2217. An instruction session will be held before the next program.



WHAT SOME FOLKS ARE DOING...

FOLK DANCING IN THE WASHINGTON AREA

The overall list of area dance groups is presently being compiled. However, if you are looking for a place to dance NOW (not when we get around to printing a directory), the local county recreation departments list a wide variety of groups at all levels of ability. In the District, International groups meet at Chevy Chase Community Center on Thursday and Guy Mason Community Center on Friday. Scottish dancers should write to Henry Beale, 4354 Warren Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016, for a copy of *The Celtic Cross Reference*. We can still incorporate information, so if you would like to join the elite corps of people who have contributed to the dance listing, please call me at 935-5412.

-Al

BERWYN CAFE/SATURDAY EVENINGS

On Saturday evenings at 9:30, the Berwyn Cafe at 5010 Berwyn Road in College Park features live entertainment. Admission is free; the hat is passed for performers. Call Jeff Deitchman at 345-2121 for more information. The February schedule is:

7th - After the concert is over, you can't decide whether it's Jonathan Eberhart's music or his talking in-between that's more entertaining. They both just flow like water out the spout. Guitar, vocals, characteristic black shirt.

14th - Helen Schneyer, as if I have to explain further. Well, if you're new to the Society, Helen's got a voice you'll recall as easily as you'd remember to open your mouth before biting into a sandwich. She generally brings only her voice, and that's all she needs.

21st - Jody Gatwood is a violinist. The night I first heard him, I sat through a ten-minute solo before I remembered to breathe. He'll be playing Bach and Paganini among others.

28th - Rounding off this month's list is Wally Macnow. He's a fine guitarist and singer, specializing in traditional material; Anglo-American, Appalachian, and Western in origin. He's great!

-Jeff

GRANDPA JONES CONCERT/FEBRUARY 1

Grandpa Jones will be featured in an informal concert at Baird Auditorium, Museum of Natural History, on Sunday, February 1, at 8:00 p.m., as part of the Smithsonian's American Banjo Series. Grandpa uses the nearly forgotten drop-thumb banjo technique. Born in Niagra, Kentucky, he began playing mandolin and fiddle when he was a young boy, switched to the guitar, and finally picked up the banjo. He's been playing banjo now for 45 years. Tickets are \$5.50 general, \$5 Smithsonian Associates, and \$4 students and seniors. They are available at all Smithsonian Museum shops, at Record and Tape Ltd., 19th & L Streets N.W., or by calling the Smithsonian Central Box Office at 381-5395.



BOOK REVIEW by Al Kehs

AUSTRALIAN FOLKSONGS OF THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE, compiled by the Folk Lore Council of Australia (Lowden Publishing Company, Kilmore, Victoria 3601, Australia)

The 119 selected songs in this book cover the gamut of Australian folksongs from "convicts" and "sheep" to "nostalgia" and "rovers." For each song a key and "mood" are suggested. Thus, the songs are obviously meant for singing and the ones I tried were eminently singable. However, as you may have guessed from the previous sentence, the book contains no music, and a tune is suggested for only about a third of the songs. If you would like to learn to sing some Australian folk songs, this book won't help you very much. However, if you are somehow familiar with the songs, this book can fill in the holes that continually creep into infrequently sung choruses and add whole new verses to some of the old ballads. Although no background or history is given for any of the songs, the book is annotated--that is, some of the more esoteric letter arrangements that comprise the Australian sub-language are fully explained. A number of pleasant illustrations are scattered throughout the text.

RED FOX TO FEATURE MONDAY GUEST SETS

Several times a month starting in February there will be a guest set during the Red Fox Monday Open Stage. Already scheduled are: February 16, Saul Broudy, known for country and blues singing, excellent guitar and harmonica playing; February 23, Debbie McClatchy (see house concert info, page 2); March 1, Barbara Carns, a very fine blues singer and guitarist. The cover will be \$1, but only till the guest set (9:30-10:30) is over. There will still be open stage before and after the guest set, and, of course, there's still no cover on nights without a feature performer. The Red Fox is at 4940 Fairmont Avenue in Bethesda. If you want more information, call Bruce at 270-2217.

-Debbie

BLUEGRASS OPEN SING/FEBRUARY 20

Everyone is welcome at the Bluegrass Open Sing, sponsored by the Ethical Society on the third Friday of every month, starting at 9:00 p.m. It's similar to the first Friday Open Sing, but there's more group picking. Donation at the door of \$1 includes refreshments inside. The next sing is Friday, February 20.

-Nan

PINEWOODS BENEFIT PARTY/FEBRUARY 14

An evening of Country dancing and folk singing for the benefit of Pinewoods Camp will be held on Saturday, February 14 at 8:00 p.m. at Whitby Gym, National Cathedral School. (Pinewoods Camp, near Plymouth, Massachusetts, is a national center devoted to the preservation and enjoyment of country dancing, folk song, and related arts.) American, English, and Scottish dancing, singing, and piping will be featured, plus, between dance sets, folk songs with Joe Hickerson. Donation is \$2.50 for dancers and \$2 for spectators. Call Debbie Hutton at 270-2217 if you have any questions.



--CONCISE CALENDAR OF EVENTS--

- FEB. 1 - GRANDPA JONES CONCERT
3 - BOARD MEETING
6 - OPEN SING
13 - PROGRAM - JEAN CARIGNAN
14 - PINWOODS BENEFIT PARTY
15 - LOUISIANA ACES CONCERT
20 - BLUEGRASS OPEN SING
21 - DEBBIE MC CLATCHY H.C.
22 - SACRED HARP SING
22 - RIVER ROAD CONCERT
29 - MAGGI PEIRCE H.C.
- MARCH 2 - BOARD MEETING
5 - OPEN SING
6 - MARK GILSTON H.C.
12 - PROGRAM
20 - BILL STEELE H.C.
- MONDAYS - RED FOX OPEN STAGE
SATURDAYS - BERWYN CAFE

Thanks to those who contributed to this issue of the Newsletter: Dick Atlee, Jeff Deitchman, Jonathan Eberhart, Lars Hanslin, Debbie Hutton, Al Kehs, Alan Mackall, and Helen Schneyer.

Deadline for the March Newsletter will be Tuesday, February 17. You may give items to me at Society events, or mail them to me at 2853 Ontario Road N.W., #504, Washington, D.C. 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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