



A Concise History of the Folklore Society of Greater Washington

by Dean Clamons

This history is based on a not quite complete collection of FSGW Newsletters. The **first** Newsletter I have is March, 1966 (Vol. 2, No. 7), so history before that is pretty much **unknown** to me. There are several other Newsletters from the early years which are missing **as well as** most of 1978. Some of what I found by reading the Newsletters (including exactly **who some** the first Board members were) is contradictory. Some of what I show here is drawn by inference from various articles. Of course, what is listed here is what struck me **as** significant. Obviously in the course of 35 years a **LOT** of things happened, and others might choose different highlights. **This** history **needs** to be augmented by a reading of the Newsletters which I don't have **as well as** the minutes of the Board of Directors.

When I got to October 1989, the **25th** anniversary of the founding of FSGW, I discovered an insert in the Newsletter which showed a history of major events up to that time (sigh!). It is especially valuable in the first couple of years where my Newsletters are scarce. Rather than modify my history, I **am** including a copy of that insert. It agrees substantially with what I have written, though I and the writers of that history have minor disagreements on what was significant.

Sometime 1964	FSGW founded, cost of membership \$5
Nov., 1964	First program, Chuck and Nan Perdue
Jan. 8, 1965	First Open Sing
Jan., 1965	First black music program, features John Jackson, E. Green, and Flora Moulton
Sometime 1965	First co-sponsorship with Stanley-Williams Productions, Clancey Brothers concert
Nov. 1965	First Sampler Concert
July 3, 1965	First FSGW picnic
March 1966	Board meeting at Rm. 700, 1200 17 th St. NW
June, 1966	Expenses \$1757, income \$2240
Sept. 16-18, 1966	First Getaway at Prince William Forest Park (Probably Camp Site 3)
Oct. 21, 22, 1966	Stanley-Williamscc-sponsored Pete Seeger concert, ticket prices \$1.50-\$3.00 for members. \$2.50-\$4.00 for non-members
Oct. 1966	Reciprocal agreement with Philadelphia Folksong Society
Nov. 1966	Board meetings move to members homes
Dec. 9, 1966	First dance program, The Bob Beach Band, Tony Alderman, Fields Ward, Lester Wolfe, Speedy Baker and his K-Y Band, Roy Tolliver, Aubrey Smith, Blackie Morgan, C. R. Kines, Ralph Case
Jan., 1967	Family memberships created - cost \$7.50, At-Large Board members created
March 10, 1967	First black music program, features John Jackson, John Cook, Amos Barnes, Willie Mae Stanley, Christine Walker
May 5-8, 1967	Fmt Spring Getaway, Cost \$12 for adults, \$8 for kids 12-16, \$4 for kids under 12, it was over-subscribed
June, 1967	about \$200, expenses \$2552 . income \$2882
Sept., 1967	Newsletter limited to one page with a yearly supplement to cover book and record reviews, articles and columns
Oct., 1967	Board meeting at Suite 710, 1346 Connecticut Ave. NW
Nov., 1967	First appearance of the "Screaming Chicken" logo on the Newsletter
Nov. 10, 1967	First program at Washington Ethical Society
Sometime 1967	Quote from Josh Dunson in Sing Out! On the 1967 Getaway - "It has the germ of an idea... which could initiate a new kind of folk-singing event all over the country."
May 3-6, 1968	Getaway III, cost is \$14, \$10, \$5
Sept., 1968	First Scared Harp Sing
Sept. 1968	First Fords Theater program of Civil War music and dance
Sept. 19-22, 1969	Getaway moves back to Fall , Newsletter says it is at Camp 4, but directions don't seem to lead there.
Oct., 1969	Programs move to Smithsonian History and Technology Museum
Feb. 13, 1970	First storytelling program - Marshall Dodge

May, 1970 14 members vote for Board at the May meeting. There are about 375 memberships (some families).

Oct. 6, 1970 219 individual and 178 family memberships. Reciprocal agreement with the New York Pinewoods Club.

Dec., 1970 First mention of the Journal of the Folklore Society of Greater Washington - a call for submissions.

Apr., 1971 Return to multi-page (4) Newsletter.

Dec., 1971 First mention of caroling, however the article refers to "our annual trek through the streets of Old Town Alexandria", so it may have been going on before.

Jan., 1972 Open Sing moves to the Washington Ethical Society

June, 1972 Membership is 405 individuals and 272 families.

Sept., 1973 Getaway is at Camp 4 at Prince William Forest Park, may have been there in 1971 as well

Sept., 1973 **Programs** move back to the Ethical Society

Oct., 1972 A series of workshops begins. The first two for dulcimers (both kinds) and banjo. These were group participation events **as** opposed to festival workshops.

Nov. 18, 1972 Square dance at the Ethical Society with the Greasy Run Toad Trompers. There were earlier dance events, but this is the first I found which is called a square dance.

Feb. 24, 1973 First Mini-Festival at the Washington Ethical Society. Cost for day workshops, dinner, and evening square dance was \$3.

Nov., 1973 First appearance of "fiddle" logo on Newsletter

Feb., 1974 By-Laws changed to allow voting for officers by mail

Apr., 1974 Weekly Friday night dances **announced**. Indications are that it had been in operation for a while.

Nov. 3, 1974 First hymn sing/ potluck. This did not become a regular event until Feb. 1978.

Oct., 1975 Membership dues change to \$6 for individuals and \$9 for families. Getaway cost is \$22 for adults, \$12 for kids under 14.

Feb., 1976 FSGW gets a grant of \$3455 to finance an "extra special concert season".

Jan., 1977 First **Dance** Chair appointed

Feb., 1977 FSGW **sponsors** regular Tuesday night dances at Caldwell Auditorium at Catholic University. Apparently the **dances** had been going on for two years, having been **started by** Special Events Chair Bill Destler, **but** with no formal organization.

June 12, 1977 First Washington Folk Festival at Glen Echo Park. It was a **one day** event. It **was** so successful that the next year it went to 2 days. This is **also** the first time I can find that FSGW had a dance in the Spanish Ballroom.

Nov., 1977 **Dances** move to Sunday night in the New Rehearsal Hall at Catholic University. Cost \$1.50 for members, \$2.00 for non-members

Sometime, 1978 **Board** meetings move from NFFA (now NCTA) office to member's homes

Between Apr., 1978 and Mar., 1979 Dues go to \$8 for members, \$12 for nonmembers. Contributing, sustaining, and life memberships are **instituted**. Contributing members \$25, sustaining members **\$50**, life members \$150 for individuals. \$225 for **families**.

Mar., 1979 Gospel Sings probably **started** on a regular basis.

May, 1979 **Seems** to be the first time candidates for the Board made statements in the Newsletter.

Oct. 1979 Getaway XV, cost \$30 for adults, \$14 for kids under 14

Nov., 1979 Sunday **dances** are now at Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church

Nov., 1979 First classified ads in Newsletter although the decision to allow ads had been made many years previously

Nov., 1979 Family dance at Chevy Chase Elementary school. From the article it looks like this was probably not the first one.

Dec., 1979 First caroling in the subway

Sometime, 1979 First membership directory published

Apr., 1980 Typical concert prices **are** now \$2 for non-members at programs (members **bee**), \$3 for members at special events, \$4 for non-members.

Sept., 1980 FSGW makes a small grant to Glen Echo Park to enable 4 concerts.

Nov., 1980 Sunday dances move to Trinity Episcopal Church in Takoma Park

Dec., 1980 First mention of a folktale group. There had apparently been **two** previous meetings.

Dec., 1980 FSGW joins the Washington Humanity and **Arts** Center. This was to provide FSGW with an office space in **the** old Lansburgh's department store. This did not last long, however.

Dec., 1980 Membership is around **1300**.

Jan., 1981 Mini-Festival now costs **\$5.00** for the day

Sept., 1981 Sunday dance moves to Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church

Sept., 1981 A weeknight series of English **country** and American dances (ale mating) **starts**

Oct. 9-12, 1981 Getaway moves to Camp **2** at Prince William Forest Park

Nov., 1981 Membership dues go to **\$10** for individuals, **\$15** for families. Nonmember program cost goes to **\$4**. Membership is around **1450**.

Nov., 1981 FSGW asked to organize Saturday night dance series at Glen Echo Park.

Dec., 1981 By-Laws amended **to** allow **amendments** to be voted on by mail.

Jan., 1982 FSGW for the first time (!) requires **a contract** with **performers** covering method **and** amount of payment and permission to **tape** performances.

May, 1982 First Saturday night Glen Echo Park dances

June, 1982 Sunday dance moves to Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament in Chevy Chase

Aug., 1982 Approval of a major modernization to the By-Laws.

Sept. 24-26, 1982 Getaway moves to **Camp Letts**. Cost for adults is **\$33**, **\$18** for children **2-14**.

Sept., 1982 Sunday dance moves to Takoma Park Jr. High School. Dances now cost **\$2.50** for members, **\$3** for non-members

Nov., 1982 First strategic planning session by the Board, although they didn't call it that.

Dec., 1982 Approval of a cooperative agreement with Glen Echo Park

Mar., 1983 There are **1877** memberships

Apr. 8-10, 1983 First Chesapeake Dance Weekend at Camp **Letts**

June, 1983 **\$10000** in the bank

July 23, 1983 First All Night Dance at Glen Echo Park

Oct. 7-9, 1983 Getaway cost goes to **\$45** for adults, **\$35** for kids **2-14**.

Oct., 1983 Membership is now **2069**

Jan., 1984 **The Board** approved articles of **incorporation**. I think **we may** have been incorporated previously, but the records had **been** lost. We are incorporated in **DC**.

Mar., 1984 FSGW officially has **liability** insurance. It's not clear **whether** we did before **that**.

Apr., 1984 Reciprocal agreement with the Baltimore Folk Music Society. The agreement is not quite reciprocal in that BFMS members **can** get **into** FSGW programs for **\$1 less** than non-members.

June, 1984 **2135** memberships

Aug., 1984 FSGW officially supports (with **money**) hospitality for participants at the Smithsonian Festival of American Folklife

Sept., 1984 Dues change to **\$12** for individuals, **\$18** for families

Nov., 1984 Contributing member dues **are** **\$35** for individuals, **\$45** for families, Sustaining memberships are **\$70** for individuals, **\$90** for families, life memberships are **\$200** for individuals, **\$300** for families

Mar., 1985 Board agreed to co-sponsor a video entitled "Houseparty at John Jackson's". This **was** produced (eventually) by Eleanor Ellis with a grant **from** the National Endowment for the Arts.

May, 1985 Sunday dance moves to Glen Echo Park. Prices are \$3 for members, **\$4** for non-members. Dance is still at Takoma Park Jr. **High** in the Winter.

Oct., 1985 **2225** memberships

Jan., 1986 Senior citizen discounts instituted

Apr., 1986 Board approved purchase of two tents for the Washington **Folk** Festival

June, 1986 FSGW receives gift of a van from Lars Hanslin - our first vehicle

Oct., 1986 Getaway cost is now **\$55** for **adults**. **\$30** for **kids 3-15**

June, 1987 Approval of equipment loans **and** exchanges with the Smithsonian Festival of American Folklife and the **National** Council for **the** Traditional Arts.

Feb. 12-15, 1988 First **Sci Dance** weekend

Mar., 1988 Reciprocal agreement with Howard County Folk Society

July, 1988 Mailing of Newsletter to be handled by professionally

Oct., 1988 Getaway now costs \$65 for adults, \$25 for kids 2-15

Dec., 1988 Designated two dances **as** meetings of the Society for the purpose of taking nominations from the floor. These dances are free to members.

Dec., 1988 Board voted to send two representatives to a conference on forming a national organization of folk music societies. This led to the formation of the North American Folk Alliance.

Jan. 20-22, 1989 Co-sponsored a Leadership Workshop with CDSS

Jan., 1989 Co-sponsoring vintage dance series with Capital Vintage Dance Society

Aug., 1989 **Open** sings move to members homes for the summer

Oct. 13, 1989 **25** Anniversary concert featuring founding members Jonathan Eberhart, Lani Herrmann, Joe Hickerson, Chuck and Nan Perdue, Mike Rivers, Helen Schneyer, and Andy Wallace.

Nov., 1989 Dues change to \$18 for individuals. \$27 for families, contributing individuals \$50. contributine families **\$75**, sustaining individuals \$100. sustaining families \$150, life individuals \$300, life families \$450

Mar. 30-31, 1990 First Potomac River Sacred Harp Convention at All Souls Episcopal Church in DC

Apr. 27-29, 1990 8th Chesapeake Dance Weekend, cost \$110.

Spring 1990 FSGW co-sponsors a folk music course with the Smithsonian Resident Associates Program

Apr., 1990 Reciprocal agreement with Annapolis Traditional Dance Society

June, 1990 FSGW becomes a member of the North American Folk Music and Dance **Alliance**

Oct., 1990 2668 memberships

Nov., 1990 Co-sponsorship of Foggy Bottom Folkdancers (international)

Dec., 1990 FSGW decides to purchase its first computer

Apr., 1991 Membership: 686 families, 2548 individuals. 23 contributing, 1 sustaining, 45 life, 19 honorary, 279 non-voting (ie Newsletter only)

Aug., 1991 Open Sing leaves Washington Ethical Society. It moved to several places before ending up going to members homes.

Aug., 1992 FSGW buys a van. We still have it.

Sept., 1992 Change of fiscal year to start in October instead of July. This was done to work better with our election schedule.

Nov., 1992 2539 memberships

Jan., 1993 A **fire** at Glen Echo Park damaged **or destroyed** much of FSGW's equipment for the Washington Folk Festival. Damage **was estimated** to be **\$34000**.

Apr., 1993 **Dance prices** have slowly **crept up over** the years **and are now \$5** for members, **\$7** for non-members

Sept., 1993 **Dues go to \$24** f a **individuals**, \$33 for **families**, **\$75** contributing individuals, \$100 contributing families, \$133 sustaining individuals, \$200 sustaining families, **\$400** life individuals, **\$600** life families. Raise in price is due mostly to **larger** Newsletters (20-24 pages) and raise in postage.

Sept., 1994 2760 Newsletters sent out

Jan., 1995 Co-sponsorship of Capital Tangueros dances, lighting purchased for **concerts**

Mar., 1995 2691 memberships

May, 1995 Sunday afternoon community dances at Glen Echo **start** (I **think**)

June, 1995 The Board solicited for the position of administrator in the Newsletter. This would have been a paid position, but it was eventually dropped.

Oct., 1995 Getaway cost is now \$100 for adults for 2 **nights**. **\$55** for kids **5-11**, \$10 more for three nights

Jan., 1996 2969 memberships (but I **think** this uses the formula that a family membership counts **as** two)

Jan., 1996 Minifestival is canceled due to weather

Feb. **14-18**, 1996 North American Folk Alliance conference held in DC with much support from FSGW

Mar., 1996 Cost of Chesapeake Dance Weekend is now \$140

Apr., 1996 A member s w e y is sent out to get **an** idea of how **we** should alter our concert schedule

Summer, 1996 FSGW sponsora series of concerts in Mason District Park. ?>

Sept., 1996 In response to the member survey, programs are moved to **the 3rd** Saturday

Dec. 29, 1996 First Fifth Wheel Coffeehouse held in Arlington. It is intended to be held on 5th Sundays, but only a few are done due to low attendance.

Late 1996 A sweeping revision to the By-Laws is approved which updates them to better agree with current operating practice. **Of** note is that **programs** are **no** longer all considered to be meetings of the Society.

May, 1997 The Washington Folk Festival is canceled on the ~~recommendation~~ the coordinating committee. The cancellation is due to construction at Glen Echo **Park**. The Festival resumed in 1998.

25TH ANNIVERSARY HISTORICAL SUPPLEMENT

Compiled by the 25th Anniversary Committee Subcommittee for Publication: Bob Clayton, Kathy Westra Hickerson & Jennifer Woods

D.C. 1964-- You Are There!

In its July 1964 issue, Hootenanny magazine describes a thriving Washington folk music scene. Dupont Circle is DC's own Washington Square, where "people usually sit around and sing on spring and summer evenings." Folk music is everywhere -- on the radio (with hosts like Dick Spottswood, Dick Ceni and John Dildine), in nightclubs and coffeehouses (like the Cellar Door, Ontario Place, the Unicorn, and the Shadows), at concerts and hootenannies, and even on a riverboat cruising the Potomac. Performers like the Country Gentlemen, Libba Cotten, Mississippi John Hurt, Ian and Sylvia, and Carolyn Hester play regularly. The Washington Folk Music Guild and the George Washington University Folk Music Club are active organizations. Dick Rodgers publishes Folk Strums, a monthly newsletter on the folk scene, and the Dick Cerri Newsletter provides even more information.

Yet, in the summer and fall of 1964, a group of friends begin thinking about forming still another organization -- one that will foster the traditions that haven't "made it" in the commercial folk boom of the early '60s. Planning meetings are held at the homes of Chuck & Nan Perdue and Lani & Cal Herrmann. Lani writes By-Laws based on those of the University of Chicago Folklore Society and the Philadelphia Folksong Society. The name "Washington Folklore Society" is rejected because such a society already exists -- with a president who lives in Pullman, WA. And, on October 23, 1964, the Folklore Society of Greater Washington is born, dedicated "to further the understanding, investigation, appreciation, and performance of the traditional folk music and folklore of the American people." The rest, as they say, is history -- 25 years of it. What follows is the barest of outlines of those 25 busy years -- an outline on which we hope to elaborate in a special full issue of this Newsletter next spring. We hope this brief history spurs recollection that you'll share with us over the coming months so we can include them in this special publication.

— the FSGW 25th Anniversary Committee Charlie Pilzer, Chair, Bob Clayton, Mary Cliff, Kathy Westra Hickerson, Jennifer Woods, Robin Youngelman

FSGW Highlights 1964-1989

Summer/Fall 1964: Small group holds meetings to plot organization of a folksong society. Joe Hickerson argues for calling it a "FolkLORE" society.

Prior to October 23, 1964: First Newsletter published, mailed to about 200 people (one 8 1/2 x 14, one-sided mimeographed page). First organizational meeting of the Folklore Society of Greater Washington, 8 pm, Friday October 23, 1964 at Fairfax Unitarian Church. Attended by about 30 people. First board elected. Initial dues: \$5. individual, \$7.50 family.

October 27, 1964 2nd Newsletter published. Newsletter Editor Carol Lee (now Carol Bruce) calls for suggestions for a newsletter name and logo.

November 8, 1964 First scheduled FSGW event -- a concert by Irish singer and piper Seamus Ennis at the Arlington-Fairfax Jewish Center in Arlington. Due to performer's illness, Chuck and Nan Perdue stand-in.

February 8, 1965 Newsleener reports mailing list of over 1,000 names, (many NOT members).

March 30, 1965 Newsletter editor, frustrated by lack of suggestions for Newsletter name and logo, issues first (and ONLY) edition of "The Penny Dreadful." (4 pages!) The Board is not amused.

May 5, 1965 FSGW begins converting mailing list to "modem" addressograph system.

June 1965: Newsletter announces that IRS has granted FSGW status as a nonprofit organization. Official papers filed where future Boards will NEVER find them.

July 3, 1965: First of our Annual (we've never missed a year) Pick-Nics. Held at Fort Ward Park, Alexandria. 11 am- to Sunset, with scheduled events.

October 30, 1965 First FSGW **Open Sing** held at Union Methodist Church, DC. Topic: Whiskey-Tobacco-and-&-Eyed, Red-headed Women. Led by Chuck Perdue. Later Newsletters report that sings in the first year were attended by 60-70 people.

December 1965: Still no Newsletter logo. Newsletter announces new folk music series produced on WAMU-FM by John Dildine in cooperation with FSGW. 8-10 pm Fridays.

February 11, 1966: FSGW, in the first of many concerts in association w/ Stanley-Williams Presentations, sponsors the Clancy Brothers & Tommy Makem. Others presented during the six or seven years of this association included Buffy St-Marie, Tom Paxton, Judy Collins, Arlo Guthrie and Pete Seeger. The Clancys were the champs, being presented no less than eight times!

April 1966: Newsletter announces plans for a "**Folk Get-Away**" (first Getaway) to be held at Prince William Forest Park in September.

May 1966 Newsletter up to 8 pages. Treasurer Sol Schneyer reports a balance for the 1964-65 year of \$395.52 (\$1,583.18 income; \$ 1,187.66 expenditures.) 1965-66 balance **was** 383.33 (\$1,768.87 income; \$1,385.54 expenditures.)

October 1966: FSGW and Philadelphia Folksong Society announce reciprocal membership privileges.

December 2-3, 1966: First Washington **Folk Festival** **sponsored** by FSGW at Thomas Jefferson **High School, Alexandria, VA**. Friday evening **concert**, Saturday **workshops and concert feature** Mike Seeger, Libba Cotten, Chuck & Nan Perdue, **John Jackson**, Helen Schneyer, **Sam Firk**, **Lester Wolfe**, Gus Meade, **and** Andy Wallace.

January 1967: By-Laws changed to add the Board positions of **two** "Officers-at-Large," **Gus Meade and** Mike Seeger were the first elected to these positions in May, 1967.

February 1967 Newsletter (2 pages, **still no logo**) reports that it **costs .10 an issue -- \$1.00 per year, -- to** mail Newsletters to **those** on mailing **list**. Nonmembers **urged** to contribute to defray costs.

November 10, 1967: First FSGW program **held** in the NEW Washington **Ethical** Society auditorium, 7760 16th St., NW DC

November 1967: Vol 4, No. 3 "Turkey" Logo (they said it **was** an eagle) **makes** first appearance on FSGW Newsletter masthead.

February 1968: First Newsletter Supplement (later FSGW Journal) published. (Containing book reviews, scholarly notes, record reviews, & news & **mailed** only to members.) Supplements/Journals were published periodically **through** 1973.

June 1968: President's Report on FSGW's first four years by Sol Schneyer. **From** membership of 15-20 to over 200. Mailing list of almost 2,000. Cites money **and** volunteers **as** the two chief concerns of the young Society.

March 1988: Open Sing no longer cosponsored by WES with FSGW.

April 1988: Board approves cosponsoring with CDSS a leadership conference in January 1989

July 1988: Board approves having the Newsletter mailing done by the printer of the Newsletter, instead of a dedicated overworked crew of FSGW volunteers. Mailing now over 3,000 pieces, between memberships and exchange mail.

October 1988: Board accepts resignation of Publications Chair Lennice Zickefoose, due to job commitments.

November 1988: Board designates the dances on the Sundays following the March and April programs as regular meetings of the Society, at which the Nominating Committee reports to the members and accepts nominations from the floor. Members of the Society will be admitted to these dances free of charge.

December 1988: Board appoints Helen Gordon to fill vacancy as Publications Chair, beginning with the February 1989 issue of the Newsletter.

June 1989 Board agrees to be involved with CDSS' 75th anniversary celebration at Smithsonian in Spring 1990. Charlie Pilzer appointed chair of the FSGW 25th Anniversary Committee.

July 1989: Phil Hayden appointed as Publicity **Chair**, position unfilled after elections

Friday, October 13, 1989: Kick-off of 25th Anniversary Celebrations: concert by FSGW founding members Jonathan Eberhart, **Lani** Herrmann, Joe Hickerson, Chuck & Nan Perdue, Mike Rivers. Helen Schneyer and Andy Wallace.

25th FSGW Getaway October 27-29 1989 **Camp** Letts. Incredible number of **guests!** Gordon Bok to Bob Zentz!

25th Anniversary Special **Dance**, November 12 1989: at Glen Echo (last dance of **season there**) with: Bob Dalsemer calling, with members of the **Boss-Town Buzz Steps**, (Steve Hickman, **Linda** Hickman, Dennis Botzer, and Ritchie Schuman.) Free to members.

State of the Society Message from current President Joel Bluestein

The Folklore Society of Greater Washington began in the heat of what **some** of us remember as "Hootenanny" folk revival of the 1960's. That blip on the cultural horizon is long gone but the FSGW is still here. Traditional music rises and falls in the popular commercial consciousness. The wonderful thing is that there are always people who want to pursue these **arts** for their own fulfillment. **The** founders of the FSGW had an interest in the **notes** of traditional musics. They wanted to get together **and** make that music for their own satisfaction. **Later**, we started to produce **concerts**, primarily, as now, out of an interest in traditional music which doesn't **find** a stage anywhere else. While **concerts may** seem to **get the** largest play, I **think** that continuing to provide the opportunity for people to pursue the traditions themselves is one of our most important functions. Participatory events have prospered and **grown** to make up the largest number of our activities. These include monthly sings of various kinds, storytelling, dances and **annual** events like the Getaway. Last month's Newsletter had **an** article about the monthly open sings. Future Newsletters will have more information on other regular events **where** members get together for their own satisfaction. I **think** many **people** become members of the FSGW simply to **receive** the Newsletter. While **the** listings are certainly worth the price of membership, the events themselves are even better. Remember that the Society was **founded** on participation. Personal involvement is what the traditional **arts** are all about **and** what **will** allow FSGW to continue for another 25 years.

September **15, 1968**: Sunday. **4** pm. First FSGW Sacred Harp, Shape Note Sing and Potluck Supper in Glen Echo, MD area. The Sings were started independently prior to **this**, by several FSGW members and friends. Sacred Harp Sings have continued regularly almost every month in the **21** years since they started.

June **1970** Newsletter announces **375** memberships as of May 8, but only **14** members appear at May 8 meeting to vote.

September **30 1970** FSGW has **\$967.30** in the bank

October **6, 1970**: Membership: **397** (**219** individual, **178** family) Reciprocal privileges with **NY** Pinewoods Folk Music Club announced.

February **14, 1971**: Folksongs of Abe Lincoln & the Civil War produced for the first time at Fords Theater. Featured performers were Gene Anderson, **Bob** Clayton, Hazel Dickens, Joe **Hickerson**, John Jackson, Reed Martin, Helen Schneyer, Joel Shimberg, and Andy Wallace. Concerts continued annually in February through **1975**.

June **1971**: A historical note in the Newsletter mentions that "every Secretary of the Society had (so far), gotten pregnant after being Secretary, excluding Roni Bowie."

September **1971**: First **annual** Labor Song Fest at Washington Monument features Archie Green, **Joe** Hickerson, Michael Cooney, Hazel Dickens, Joe Glazer, Kathy Goldman, **Joel** Shimberg, John Jackson, Helen Schneyer, and the Ring Shouters (Jonathan Eberhart, Mike Rivers, and Andy Wallace). Cosponsored by FSGW and the AFL-CIO Labor Studies Center, the Greater Washington Labor Council, and the National Park Service. Continued at Sylvan Theatre through **1974**. Moved to Wolf Trap in **1975** and didn't last beyond that year.

FSGW Membership: "We Have Members!"

November 1964 :	75
October 1970	387
June 1972	677
January 1977 :	685
July 1978 :	over 1000
October 1979 (15 yrs):	1079
July 1983 :	Over 2000
October 1984 (20 yrs):	2239
September 1, 1989 :	2848

February **1972**: Open Sings "reborn after floundering for the past couple of year?," at WES. **First** Friday of every month.

June **1972**: Membership: **677** (**405** individual, **272** family)

November **18, 1972**: First FSGW Dance -- a square dance at WES. with Greasy Run Toad Trompers (Bob Clayton, Mike Rivers, **Sam** Rizzetta, Dave McKelway and Judy Hough).

February **24, 1973**: First Mini-Festival held at WES. They have been held in various locations every year since then.

November **1973**: New Newsletter logo appears, unheralded and **unexplained**. Designed by Dale Appleman Cooney, this logo remains the official identity of FSGW.

February **1974**: Because of increasing membership. Board recommends changing By-Laws to allow voting by mail.

March 1974: The FSGW now has phone number of its own. Anytime you want to know what's happening, want to leave a message for a board member, or want some specific bit of information, call the number. Messages will be checked regularly and forwarded to the appropriate people. **Answering** machine was at Mike Rivers home from March 1974 until October 1976, when it moved to Don & Dolores Nichols' home.

April 1974: Weekly square dances announced. Friday nights, **Sumner** School basement (M & 17th Sts., NW) Admission .75. Live and taped music.

May 1974: Don Nichols and his able assistant **Blinky** (the computer) first **elected** Membership Chair. Since that time the FSGW Membership Chair has been D. or D. Nichols.

November 22, 1974: 10th Anniversary Celebration at WES. All night extravaganza featuring Founding members **concert**, Midnight square and contra dance with Bob Dalsemer and 3 a.m. breakfast.

February 18, 1975: First regular dance series **starts**. Tuesdays, 10-week session of lessons, limited to **40** people, 20 men and 20 women.

April 1975: Article in Newsletter states: SURPRISE! we'll be **starting** our programs on time... Spring Getaway, held April 4-6 – was the coldest on record and the last Spring Getaway. (We had three Getaways held in the Spring.)

June 1975: **Dues** increase announced, effective October 1975. The first since the Society's founding. New dues are \$6. individual, \$9. family.

February. 14, 1976: Pinewoods Benefit by FSGW, dance and songs. Held to help raise money for the **Camp**.

October 30, 1976: 2nd dance of newly begun **monthly series**

December 1976: Proposed By-Laws changes: adding **Dance** chair.

January 1977: **Dance Chair** added to Board, **to be** filled by appointment.

February 1977: Board **appoints** Martin Holmer **as** first Dance **Chair**

Sunday, **June** 12, 1977: First Washington Folk Festival at Glen Echo **Park**, Glen Echo, MD. In cooperation with the National Park Service. Brainchild of Board members Jonathan **Eberhart**, Mia Gardiner, **and** Debbie **Hutton**.

October 1977: Dances delayed, looking for a hall.

November 1977: Dances move to Sunday nights, weekly, held at Catholic University. All dances music by Boss-Town Buzz-Steps (Steve & Linda Hickman, David Shorey, Dennis **Botzer** and Laurie **Andres**) Jim Morrison one of main callers used. In **December**, attendance at November dances reported as good. As many as 60 people at one!

February 1978: First Gospel Sing. Started by Kathy Condom who came to Board with idea, and asked for FSGW sponsorship. **Hs** continued fairly regularly ever since.

Spring 1978: First Directory being compiled in 1978

November 1978: Dances move to **Masonic Temple Hall**, near CU

January 1979: Article from President Jonathan Eberhart about membership rates going up -- due to the "growing bills for the 3 P's paper, printing, & postage)" so as of February 1979 individual \$8, family \$12 (only second membership dues increase in FSGW history).

February 1979: By-Laws change to make At-Large position only for one year and to be held by someone who has not served on the Board in the past three years.

June 1979: PO Box #changed due to non-payment of rent on previous box, an oversight not noticed until too late to keep box.

September 1, 1979: 1,108 memberships

Saturday, October 13, 1979: 15th Anniversary Extravaganza! 7 hours of picking, singing, dancing and good times. 8:30 pm -- Founders Concert followed by exhibition dancing, followed by a dance, followed by an Open Sing and finally at 2:30 am Breakfast! At WES.

November 1979: Dances now at Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church

December 16, 1979: First Caroling through the Metro. Continued annually until 1984, when Metro requested that it end due to liability concerns.

February 3, 1980 First series of family dances held, Saturdays, from 4:30 to 7:30 pm, semi-monthly

September 1980: New dance location: Trinity Episcopal Church, DC.

December 1980 FSGW joins the Washington Humanities and Arts Center in the former Lansburgh's Department Store building in downtown DC. The Center was to be a place for arts, theater, music and crafts organizations, and would provide FSGW a place for an established office. The Center did not succeed.

September 1981: Dances move back to Chevy Chase Presbyterian.

October 9-12 1981: 17th Getaway is last one at Prince William. November 1, 1981: Dues raised to: \$10. individual, \$15. family.

November 1981: First Board Meeting Highlights appear in Newsletter. Vice-President Nancy Schatz (now Nancy King) chairing a committee to review By-Laws. KC King resigns as Special Events Chair (took job in Saudi Arabia). Board appoints Jody Fitterer to replace him. Membership Committee asks for your nine digit zip code if you've been issued it. English Country Dances started by Dance Chair Pat McCracken as part of a Wednesday night Dance Series.

FSGW Board Then & Now

	1964	1989
President:	John Dildine	Joel Bluestein
Vice President:	Chuck Perdue	Mary Cliff
Secretary:	Lani Herrmann	Kyle Terrell
Treasurer:	Sol Schneyer	Dave Renne
Program Chair:	Joe Hickerson	David Eisner
Special Events Chair:	George Simpson	Kathy Westra Hickerson
Dance Chair:	first in 1977 Martin Holmer	Robin Youngelman
Publications Chair:	Carol Lee	Helen Gordon
Publicity Chair:	Carol Lee	Phil Hayden
Membership Chair:	Jim Lee	Dolores Nichols
Members-At-Large:	first in 1967 Gus Meade	Charlie Pilzer
	Mike Seeger	Janine Smith

Archivist: first in **1982** Bill Day Bill Day

December **1981**: Dean Clamons appointed to finish out Jody Fitterer's term as Member-At-Large. FSGW is asked by Glen Echo to organize dances on Saturday nights in the Spanish Ballroom in the summer.

Saturday, January **23, 1982**: Mini-Festival, St. Alban's School. Snow and ice keep lots of folks away, including performers. FSGW members save books when major leak in roof floods library.

February **1982**: Board agrees to let President Dwain Winters work on cooperative agreement with Glen Echo **Park**. (It is still in effect.) Society agrees to cosponsor Glen Echo Saturday Dance series.

March **1982**: FSGW is looking for a new hall for winter dances. Saturday Dances at Glen Echo **start** in May. Board establishes standing appointed positions of Archivist and Volunteer Chair. Bill Day appointed as Archivist, a post he still holds. Volunteer Chair to be filled at later **date**. (This never materialized as a standing position.)

June **1982**: Dances move to Shrine of Blessed Sacrament in Northwest DC.

August **1982** Board decides in July to have "**Futures**Committee" a **committee** of the whole dedicated to discussing FSGW's current programs **and future** direction. Decision made not to hold events (especially Getaway) that conflict with major Jewish and Christian holidays.

September **1982**: Dances move to Takoma Park Junior **High!** Plea for helping find another hall! Saturday dances at Glen Echo still going strong.

September **24-26, 1982**: 18th Getaway, first at Camp Letts

October **1982**: Board agrees to pay \$25-\$50 honorarium per concert for sign language interpreters at FSGW programs and Special Events for next **six** months. **Futures Committee** holds marathon weekend **meeting**.

November **1982**: Board agrees to cosponsor dances at Glen Echo again, in **summer** of **1983**. **Board** abolishes position (never filled) of Volunteer **Coordinator**, moves to develop **questionnaire** for **recruiting** more volunteers.

March **4, 1983**: **FSGW** presents **Odetta & Michael Cooney** in Benefit for Archive of Folk Culture at the Library of Congress, at Lisner Auditorium.

April 8-10, 1983: **First Annual Chesapeake Dance Weekend (Spring Dance Weekend)**. Camp Letts, Edgewater, MD. Still held each year in April. Brainchild of Dance Chair Pat McCracken. Membership: **1,877**.

May **1983**: First mention of Storytelling Group

July **1983**: Board establishes new **committee** for FSGW outreach to **special** communities. Chaired by Linda Lieberman.

September **1983**: Dances move again, back to Trinity Episcopal Church. Membership: **2,069**. **20th** anniversary/Lea planning **committee** formed.

November **1983**: Board reports that "Copies of FSGW's original incorporation papers cannot be located in our archives, so the Board authorized action **and** funds for locating, copying, **and/or** refiling of **data**."

December **1983**: Explanation in **Newsletter** as to why we have moved the Getaway to Camp **Letts** from Prince William, and why we have not gone back to Prince William. Some diehards refuse to accept new site.

January **1984**: Board approves articles of incorporation. FSGW Executive Committee formally meets January **6** to sign incorporation papers and toasts occasion with champagne. Papers filed in D.C. January **9**, **1984**.

February **1984**: Playford and APTD English Country Dance Workshops **start** under the direction of Peter Fricke, 3rd Tuesday of each month. FSGW becomes official Country Dance and Song Society (CDSS) center.

April **1984**: FSGW and Baltimore Folksong Society make formal agreement to recognize each other's members ~~with~~ members discount.

May **1984**: Board approves document prepared by FSGW counsel "indemnification of Officers, Directors, Employees, and Agents."

July **1984**: FSGW members host hospitality for Smithsonian Festival of American Folklife participants, a service we have continued annually.

September **1984**: Dances back at Takoma Park Jr High. New Dance Editorial Policy for Newsletter. Dance articles must state whether music is live or recorded. Dues raised: **\$12**. individual, \$18. family.

October **1984**: 20th Anniversary Concert Series, weekly at Glen Echo. Performers: John Jackson, Joe Glazer. **Gus Meade** and the Snuffy Smith Bridge Club and Helen Schneyer

February **1985**: Board approves motion that FSGW serve **as** the sponsoring organization for "House Party at John Jackson's" a videotape being produced by FSGW member Eleanor Ellis **with** a grant **from** the National Endowment for the **Arts**. Membership: 2,225

December **1985**: Board inaugurates **\$1**. senior citizen discount at all concerts **and** dances, except house concerts. **Board votes that** FSGW will no longer **share** its mailing list with anyone to avoid commercial **misuse of** membership roster.

March **1986**: FSGW **buys two tents** for use at Washington **Folk** Festival.

May **1986**: FSGW **accepts gift** of Ford van from former President Lars Hanslin. (Still running **an** a wing and a prayer.)

June 1986 FSGW **gives** founding member Helen Schneyer an honorary life membership in FSGW **as a** farewell gift. (She moved to **Vermont**.)

November **1986** **Trina** Royer, Dance Chair resigns because of new job in North Carolina

December **1986** Board appoints Mary Kay Friday **as** **Dance** Chair.

May **1987**: Monthly FSGW/CDSS Country Dance workshops approved **as** a regular event. Board agrees to authorize **\$500** to establish a twice monthly series of **beginner** workshops in British Isles dances.

July **1987**: New Board appoints members-at-large Diane Welder and Lennice Zickefoose to co-chair the new volunteer coordinating committee, a position a member-at-large holds now.

December **1987**: Board approves cosponsoring **Ski** Dance Weekend in February **1988** **with** the Sierra Club and Potomac **Appalachian Trail** Club. **Mailing** address of FSGW changed from PO Box at the 20th Street Station downtown to Friendship Heights Station, which has 24-hour access at PO Boxes.

January **1988**: Membership reciprocity with the Howard Folk Society announced.

