

FSGW Board Meeting Minutes, May 4, 2016

1. **Call to Order and Existence of Quorum**

The meeting was called to order at 8:09pm by President April Blum. Board members present: Charlie Baum, Vice President; Kim Gandy, Secretary; Richard Aigen, Past Treasurer; Ingrid Gorman, Publicity Chair; Janie Meneely, Program Chair; and Tim Livengood, At Large. Judy Oppenheim, Membership Chair, participated via Skype. By 8:15pm, eight members were present, constituting a quorum. Absent were Jerry Stein, Treasurer; Steve Burnett, Dance Chair; and Steve Winick and Steve Kaufman, At-Large.

2. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

- a. Draft April Minutes were distributed electronically, and copies were also provided.
- b. April noted that the paragraph numbering should be fixed and there were small corrections. With those changes, the minutes were approved without objection.

3. **Action Item Reports:**

- a. **Independent audit/Combined Federal Campaign** (Jerry) No report this month.
- b. **Web Migration progress** (April)
 - i. The electronic balloting seems to have gone very smoothly.
 - ii. The Web Migration Committee thinks it would be helpful to change all membership dates to the last day of the month in which a new membership check is received (or the last day of the following month, to ensure a full year), rather than the current practice of using the actual date. This will simplify electronic voting.
- c. **Pat McGee archival materials** retrieval (April) No report this month.
- d. **Glen Echo Maintenance of Ballroom Floor.** (Steve B). Richard noted that the floor was much improved on Sunday.
- e. **CDSS Scholarship.** (April) No specifics on amounts, but anecdotally she has been told that there are more scholarships this year than in the past.
- f. **Reston ECD Co-Sponsored Dance.** Steve B. No report this month.
- g. **Storytelling** – Tim reported that there was there was no Hope and a Home storytelling session in April, due to an honest confusion about the date between Tim and the teller. They will have a make-up event on May 23, the last H&H event of the Spring/Summer until August or maybe September. Regarding the Grapevine: Storytellers Jo Radner and Regi Carpenter came to the Grapevine on April 13, at Busboys and Poets Takoma. Audience about 32-35. Total donations were about \$338.
- h. **Publicity Committee** – Ingrid. No new information this month, except that Ingrid plans to look into Montgomery County public schools' program of giving public service credits to students for nonprofit volunteer work.

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- i. **Program Committee** – Mike Livingston has been working with Janie Meneeley, and provided the attached comprehensive report.
- j. **Problem Dancer #5** – April reported that she has emailed PD5 to ask for a meeting.
- k. **Busboys and Poets/Grapevine Funding?** Tim reported on a variety of efforts to raise funds for these events, including individual contributions renewing our grant (actually applying for another grant like the one we received last year). According to Tim's research, there is no limitation on asking for another grant after having already received one.

4. **Old Business**

- a. **Elections.** The polls are open. Jackie Hoglund has reported that 84 people have voted already. The board expressed gratitude to Jim Cole and the committee (Jackie Hoglund and Bob Hofkin) for their fine, and very smooth, job.
- b. **Re-branding of FSGW – Membership Benefits**
 - i. Ingrid has suggested "levels of membership".
 - ii. Do we push "FSGW" (just the letters) and downplay "Folklore Society of Greater Washington?" Items like mugs or temporary tattoos?
 - iii. New "tag line?" FSGW – Come play with us. FSGW – Plays well with others. FSGW – Where people come to play.
- c. **GEPPAC Gala**
 - i. We need to provide names (and menu selections). April had confirmations from 7 people. Jim Cole and Elizabeth have already purchased seats. Mary Cliff would like to join. For last two seats, April will invite the Stollintz's, and then Mike and Heather Livingston will be invited if the Stollnitz's aren't available.
- d. **New Stage Lighting for FSGW Events**
 - i. Dan Kahn has delivered the old lights to the Greenbelt Community Center.
 - ii. April and Dan used the lights at the back of the stage at the most recent Silver Spring contra.
- e. **Archives.**
 - i. Heather Livingston indicated she might be interested in pursuing this important issue. Tim has contacted a friend at the Smithsonian, with the goal of identifying someone who could catalogue/index our archives.
- f. **Chesapeake Dance Weekend**
 - i. April attended the most recent CDW, and has some suggestions regarding:
 - (1) Cooperation with Springforth/Richmond.
 - (2) Programming
 - (3) Better committee awareness that the dancers come first.

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- ii. Financials? April provided a report from Sargon, and has asked him to come to the June meeting to discuss next year's weekend.

5. **New Business:**

a. ***Proposed Scholarship.***

- i. Jackie Hoglund forwarded the following message to April Blum:
Hey Jackie, Do you remember Coco Glass? She was a frequent dancer from way back who, sadly, died a couple of years ago, as I may have mentioned to you at some point. She was a very good friend of mine and I recently got the idea to set up a scholarship in her name to send a kid (or adult) to a dance camp. We had so much fun at dance camps over the years, it just seemed like a great way to remember and honor her. Do you have any suggestions for what might be the best dance camp to support and whether this is something I could do through FSGW? She was an avid member of FSGW and I used to be a member, but as you know I am now a dance drop out and I don't know who to contact.
Suggestions welcome! Thanks so much, Tina [Adler]
- ii. Discussion? Should this be an FSGW weekend event? A CDSS week at one of their sites? Other? Should this be an annual scholarship for x years (until the gift runs out)? April will reach out and try to find out what she has in mind.

b. ***Praline Selling Beer and Wine at the Spanish Ballroom*** (10 minutes – 9:25)

- i. The Dance Committee personnel at the most recent Sunday dance were told by the staff of the new vendor at the Spanish Ballroom café that FSGW needed to post a Dance Committee member at the top of the stairs to prevent anyone from taking alcoholic beverages out of the Café.
- ii. April has asked Reuven of GEPPAC for further information regarding this issue.

c. ***Washington Folk Festival***

They are permitted to sell CDs in the lobby of the Spanish Ballroom, but nothing else can be sold. HMT won't sell them this year, since they're not allowed to sell their other stuff (GEPPAC rule is that only crafters can sell), so we will need volunteers to sell the CDs. Discussed ways to get the CDs sold, since this is the only compensation the performers receive.

6. **Next Meeting and Motion to Adjourn.**

- a. The next regular Board meeting will be Wednesday, June 1, 2016
- b. Charlie moved to adjourn, Janie seconded. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm

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PROGRAM REPORT

TO: FSGW Board of Directors

FROM: Mike Livingston, program chair's apprentice

RE: Report in lieu of attendance, May 2016 board meeting

Since the April board meeting, I have met at length with Janie Meneely to get a more detailed overview of the program chair position, and have clarified that Janie's house will remain available in her absence for house concerts, lodgings for traveling performers, and to store the sound system currently stored there. In addition, her car will be available in her absence for program committee errands, and she will be entrusting Heather and me with it even though neither of us has driven a car since the 1990s.

In response to some evident and understandable dissatisfaction with the "First Fridays" series at Emma's conflicting with the first Friday open sings, it has been suggested that we switch the Emma's programs to the fourth Friday of the month. I don't think that requires a focus group or study commission – we can and should just do it, granting, however, that it may effectively deprive us of November and December gigs there. That's better than promoting a standing conflict with one of our own standing events.

In addition to events already advertised on the web site, the program committee is working on, in chronological order:

NANNE KALMA & ANKIE VAN DE MEER, Dutch maritime singers, looking for a house concert or small venue gig in late July or early August. Janie is booking them in several Chesapeake Bay venues and working on local opportunities.

BEN PHAN, singer-songwriter from Asheville, on tour and hoping for a D.C. area gig in July. Talented but not especially "folk"-y... I plan to ask all of our people who routinely host house concerts if anyone's interested.

WINDBORNE vocal quartet from Brattleboro, on eastern U.S. tour this summer. This group of twentysomethings has performed in Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Angola, and performs material from the Republic of Georgia, Bulgaria, Quebec, Corsica and the Basque country as well as classic American and English folk songs. I have reserved Seekers Church for the evening of Saturday, August 20; the group is also interested in teaching a vocal workshop earlier the same day, but only if at least 16 people are interested. I propose to pay them \$200/person for the full-length concert, which I realize would make it one of the two most expensive concerts I anticipate during the coming board term, and they would charge directly for the workshop but have agreed to give a discount for FSGW members. Possible venues for the workshop include the Electric Maid, Janie's house, other houses in Takoma Park, and a

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new music venue affiliated with (and next door to) Airshow Mastering. Also, in light of their travel expenses, Heather and I will personally guarantee the group a certain minimum of CD sales; in the unlikely event that we get stuck with more CDs than we can use as gifts, we can donate them to several annual auctions or nonprofit radio stations. (This is a deal-sweetener we envision offering to other out-of-town artists as well.)

MARA Breton/Irish trio performing at Traditional Music & Dance Week at Pinewoods, hoping to arrange a D.C. area gig the week of August 21-26, right before TraMaD. Charlie was working on this in consultation with Joy Bennett and Dean Clamons. (I'm likely to be out of town toward the end of that week.)

SARO LYNCH-THOMASON Appalachian ballads and labor movement singer/scholar, featured guest at Getaway: house concert at Kathie Mack's on Wednesday, Sept. 21, before Getaway. Everything is arranged. (I will be out of town for a wedding and then heading straight to Getaway.)

COUNTY ROSCOMMON SINGERS (Patsy Hanly et. al.) – Thursday, Sept. 29, Glen Echo Town Hall. Charlie made the arrangements and has the details. This is official and can be announced.

MAELSTROM teen fiddle sensations and **GUEN & LIZ SPILSBURY**, classically trained folk singers who grew up in the Washington Revels: double bill Saturday, Nov. 19 at Seekers Church. At \$135/person, this is the other expensive concert I envision, but both of these young acts have substantial followings and will pack the house.

THOMAS McCARTHY, singer/storyteller in the tradition of the Irish Travellers, from whom he is descended: he's been invited to be on the faculty of YTS in January, and his visa and travel budget both depend on booking a few U.S. gigs before and after YTS Weekend. Tentatively he plans to fly to Boston, perform there as a guest of FSSGB, attend YTS, ride to D.C. with the D.C.-YTS vanpool (so, by the way, we should be thinking of supporting a vanpool again, though I'll recuse myself from the matter) and do a couple of house concerts here as well as one or two programs for schoolchildren. Rebecca Wenstrom (Helen Schneyer's great-niece) is looking into the possibility of a joint program of FSGW (i.e. we pay his fee) and the Two Rivers Public Charter School where she teaches in the Ivy City-Trinidad neighborhood of D.C. His agent might ask us to write some kind of letter on letterhead to support his visa application.

With fewer specifics in place, I have also been in touch with:

Nicole Singer (founder of YTS, regular performer at Mystic, new CD out)

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Angela & Jeremy Kessler – music and storytelling from the Kalevala, which ties in with the 2016 Christmas Revels theme and would attract a lot of crossover from the Revels audience if we can bring them here from Boston in early 2017

Knock On Wood – tap/percussive dance performers (including Shannon Dunne Irish dance, Agi Kovacs clogging and flatfooting, and the Foggy Bottom Morris Men) based in Takoma D.C., possibly a good fit with the “We Are Takoma” series

Youth Trad Song Showcase – Either as a stand-alone event or as part of Minifest 2017, I’m hoping to bring some of the organizers of YTS down to lead some examples of the communal singing they promote at YTS and show our members what our sponsorship has been supporting for five years now

Christian Reynolds – English music hall performer/scholar, YTS regular, lives in Scotland. Hoping to bring him to D.C. as a side trip before or after YTS. Long shot for 2017 but well worth it if possible.