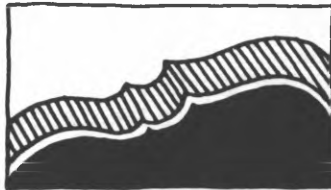


The Folklore Society of Greater Washington



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

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME X, No. 9

May 1974

MAY PROGRAM

This month's program will be a little different. We will be showing two films -- Pete Seeger...A Song and A Stone and Gravel Springs Fife and Drum, and we will be announcing the newly elected FSGW officers for 1974/75.

Pete Seeger...A Song and A Stone will be a premiere showing in the Washington D.C. area. It was produced, photographed and directed by Robert Elfstrom and edited by John Craddock. Its running time is 85 minutes. Also appearing with Pete Seeger and his family will be Johnny Cash, Don McLean and the Rev. F.D. Kirkpatrick. Pete Seeger can be considered a well-known American institution who has been seen and heard across the country. Scenes in the film include college campuses, concerts and the Hudson River sloop, Clearwater. The bulk of this documentary film consists of his songs. The stone refers to a small stone Seeger carries around in his guitar case.

Gravel Springs Fife and Drum is a 10 minute documentary film which focuses on the northwestern Mississippi county of Gravel Springs. Othar Turner, the leader of a musical fife and drum group, works on his sugar cane farm. The group consists of other members of the Turner family and the fifes used are all homemade. It is a good example of rural Mississippi life and music. The music is very primitive, similar to the black fife and drum group, Ed and Lonnie Young, who performed at the Folklife Festival on the Mall.

The Program will be Friday, May 10 at 8:30 p.m. at the Ethical Society, 7750 16th St., N.W. Admission is \$1.50 for non-members; FSGW members get in free.

FSGW ELECTIONS

The slate of candidates is as follows:

President	Helen Schneyer	Membership	David Olive
	Mike Rivers		Don Nichols
	Dick Rodgers	Special Events	Bill Destler
Vice-President	Debbie Hutton	Publications	Nan Goland
	Bob Clayton	Publicity	Betty Hamman
Treasurer	Rich Galloway	Members-at-Large	Lars Hanslin
	Dale Saunders		Les Caraher
Secretary	Pat Chambers		Mary Cliff
Program	Jonathan Eberhart		Allan Astrov

Official ballots have been mailed to all persons on our active member mailing list. If you have not received a ballot by the time you read this, and are an active member of the FSGW, contact Debbie Hutton immediately at 652-2692. Ballots may be mailed back to the FSGW P.O. Box number or brought to the May program.

BAI KONTE CONCERT

On Sunday, May 19th at 8:30 p.m., we're going to have a Special Concert at the Ethical Society featuring Bai Konte. The admission is \$1.00 for members and \$2.00 for non-members.

Alhaji Bai Konte performs on a kora, the traditional 21-stringed Mandinka harp which he made himself, and is accompanied by his wife and son. According to the Toronto Globe and Mail, Bai Konte also has an incredible piercing and powerful voice.

He is a traditionally educated member of the Gambia's musicians' caste, as was his father who taught him. He was elected president of Gambia's Musicians' Society.

Bai Konte is on his 2nd American tour. His first was June-September 1973, where he traveled 18,000 miles and performed in 30 events which included the National Folk Festival, the Philadelphia Folk Festival, and workshops at the University of Maryland. He performs rarely now in Gambia, but continues his work as a marabout, a Moslem holy man, ministering to the needs of both spirit and body, using prayer and herbs.

FSGW OPEN SING

This month's open sing is being planned by Gene Anderson, who has decided on the topic of "Animal Songs". The sing will be on Friday, May 3, at 9:00 p.m. at the Ethical Society. Admission is \$1.00 for both members and non-members; refreshments will be served.

FSGW SACRED HARP AND POTLUCK SUPPER

The Sacred Harp and Potluck Supper will be held Sunday, March 19th at 4:00 p.m. at Gill Anderson's on Capitol Hill. For information concerning directions and ideas on what to bring to the Potluck supper, call Gill at 543-8083.

GREASY RUN TOAD TROMPERS IN CONCERT

On Saturday, May 4 at 8:30 p.m., the Greasy Run Toad Trompers will give a concert at the Ethical Society, 7750 16th St., N.W. Everyone knows the Toad Trompers are a terrific square dance band, because they play for many of the Society's dances. But they also play such things as rags, 20's pop music, plus a variety of American and British Isles string music on all kinds of fiddles, guitars, banjos, dulcimers, mandolins, and anything else they can find with strings on it. Members of the band are Judy Hough, Reed Martin, David McKelway, Mike Rivers and Sam Rizzetta. This entire evening of cheap nostalgia and good-time music will cost only \$1.50 at the door.

THE FLOWERING OF AMERICAN FOLK ART 1776-1876

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts' in Richmond has been selected as one of the three museums in the country to house an exhibit of some of the finest examples of folk art from various museums and private collections. The exhibit includes 200 pieces ranging from portraits and landscape paintings to stichery, toys, household decorations and woodcarvings.

The YWCA of Fairfax County is sponsoring a one-day trip to Richmond on Wednesday, May 15. The price is \$14.00 per person and includes bus transportation, a tour, and a luncheon. For information, call the Fairfax County YWCA immediately at 560-1111.

BLUEGRASS OPEN SING EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

Starting on Friday, May 17, at 9:00 p.m. and continuing on the third Friday of every month, the Ethical Society will sponsor a Bluegrass Open Sing. The format will be similar to the Open Sing now held on the first Friday of every month by the FSGW, but the emphasis will be on group picking and singing rather than on individual performance. There are several rooms available downstairs as well as the large upstairs room, so everyone who wants to, can join in. Foot-tappers and listeners are welcome, too, at both the first and third Friday sings. Donation of \$1.00 at the door includes refreshments of wine, cheese and other good things inside. N.G.

SWEENEY-TODD PRESENTS MICHAEL QUITT

This month Sweeney-Todd presents Michael Quitt in concert in Baltimore. The concert begins at 8:30 p.m. on Friday, May 17 at St. John's Church, St. Paul and 27th Sts. in Baltimore. The admission for everyone is \$1.50.

HELEN SCHNEYER CONCERT

Helen Schneyer has for many years been one of the favorite folk performers in the Washington area. The only problem is that we don't get to hear enough of her! This situation will be alleviated somewhat by a concert at the Ethical Society on Friday, May 31, at 8:30 pm. You'll hear a whole evening of work songs, sea shanties, play party songs, mining songs, traditional American and Scottish folk songs and ballads, as well as the gospel music and sing-alongs which are her specialty. Helen has been singing and collecting folk music for 35 years or so. She sang on the Sloop Clearwater with Pete Seeger and has appeared in festivals, concerts, coffeehouses and folk clubs. Her record on the Folk-Legacy label is due to appear any minute now, but you, luckie folkie, can hear her in person on Friday, May 31 at the Ethical Society for only \$1.50! N.G.

BREAD AND ROSES - A RECORD CO-OP

Bread and Roses is a community owned and controlled anti-profit record store. It is located at 1734 20th St. (20th & S Sts.) N.W. (387-6264). The mark-up on the records you can buy ranges from 10-12 percent. The maximum mark-up for any record at any price is \$.50. They get their records directly from the record companies and one-stop distributors. They can order any record for you. It would really be a great savings for you to get your records at Bread and Roses. The store is open Monday - Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

TWO NEW SONGBOOKS

The Concertina; A Handbook and Tutor for Beginners on the English Concertina, by Frank Butler has recently been published in England. It's a 64-page book which will help teach you to play and read music for the English concertina. Explicit introductions are given and are followed by diagrams, exercises and tunes. The price for this is \$5.50; send to Neil Wayne, Duffield, Derby, England.

Another good book of collected tunes is available from Daniel Michael Collins in New York. This is a collection of Irish tunes, O'Neill's Music of Ireland, compiled by Capt. Francis O'Neill, who was a captain on the Chicago police force at the turn of the century. At that time he compiled a wealth of tunes from Irish musicians of his day, as well as from old manuscripts and books. His work is a primary source of tunes for fiddlers, pennywhistlers, concertina players, as well as tunes for contra dance bands. It contains 1850 jigs, reels, hornpipes, etc. The price is \$11.00 from Dan Collins, 1375

Crosby Ave., Bronx, N.Y. 10461. Mr. Collins also offers to send twenty tunes from the collection to anyone who sends return postage.

THE AMERICAN FOLKLIFE PRESERVATION ACT

Members of the FSGW are in a good position to help ensure the passage of the American Folklife Preservation Act presently being considered by Congress. The bill proposes to set up an American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress which would be both a folklore archive and a resource center for promotion and presentation of folklife studies, festivals, exhibits, workshops and classroom materials illustrating American Folklife.

There are now 193 co-sponsors of the bill in the House and 57 in the Senate representing an impressive array of legislators of diverse political persuasion from all regions of the country. Ironically the Washington area can count only two of its representatives in this number, Cong. Gude and Senator Mathias, both of Maryland. D.C. Delegate Fauntroy has not taken a stand supporting the bill even though it would provide much needed support for the study of Afro-American folklore and oral history. The other Members of Congress and Senators from Maryland and Virginia have not taken a position on the bill. Now is the time for FSGW members to write and visit their representatives on the Hill and make known their support of this important bill. Although there is already an encouraging amount of support from individual Members of Congress and the Senate, this support will not be put to use unless the bill is reported from committee to the floor of the House and Senate. To be sure that this happens we should write our legislators and urge that (in addition to supporting the bill) they inquire about the scheduling of hearings. Have your Congressperson urge Cong. Lucien Nedzi (Michigan) chairman of the House Subcommittee on Libraries and Memorials to hold hearings this Spring on the American Folklife Preservation Act (HR 8770). Likewise, your Senator should be urged to both support the bill and to request Sen. Howard Cannon (Utah), chairman of the Senate Library Subcommittee to hold hearings on the bill (SB 1844).

When writing letters to a U.S. legislator, follow this format in order to be most effective:

1. Address it to Hon._____, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 or Sen._____, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.
2. Identify the bill by its name and number -- The American Folklife Preservation Act, HR 8770 or SB 1844.
3. Write your own views and reasons for requesting support of the bill and urge that hearings be scheduled soon.
4. Thank those who are co-sponsoring the bill presently.
5. Send a copy of your letter to the Citizens Committee for an American Folklife Center, 209 National Press Building, Washington, D.C. 20009.

The National Folk Festival, the Smithsonian's Festival of American Folklife, the Folksong Archives at the Library of Congress and the Travelin' Blues Workshops are examples of what public support for the folkarts can mean. Those of us living in the D.C. area have enjoyed the benefits of these types of programs as participants, volunteers, employees and audiences and should communicate to our legislators the importance of the Folklife Bill in expanding public support and recognition of folklore as an important tributary of our culture. Ireland and Sweden have had coordinated national programs for the study and preservation of folklore for years. In Japan the old traditions are considered to be intangible national treasures and are held in high regard. As members of the local folklore society and as individuals interested in traditional artists and culture, we should help make a similar program a reality in this country.

Mike Heisley

BOOK REVIEWS

The Social Harp. By John G. McCurry. Edited by Daniel W. Patterson and John F. Garst. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1973. xxv, 268 pp., indexes, music, introduction. \$9.00.

Among the more obscure of the shape-note song books that flourished in the South during the nineteenth century was The Social Harp. Like others of its genre and time, it is an oblong shaped book, full of tunes divided into (mostly) three-part harmony with the melody in the middle line. The use of different shapes for different steps of the musical scale (fa, so, la, and mi) was designed to make sight reading easier for those with no formal musical training.

The songs in The Social Harp were compiled from a number of sources by John G. McCurry, a farmer and locally prominent figure in Hart County, Georgia. About half of the 222 selections were taken from other popular shape-note hymnbooks; mostly from The Sacred Harp, with a few from The Southern Harmony, The Hesperian Harmony, and The Kentucky Harmony. As the title suggests, The Social Harp has a relatively more secular nature. Although McCurry claims authorship of many of the songs for himself and a few of his friends and relatives, some were actually settings of popular songs and folk tunes that were floating around in oral tradition, such as "Jolly Soldier" and "Buonaparte". Also included are some spirituals and camp meeting songs whose tunes had never before been published, such as "Few Days" ("I pitch my tent on this campground" etc) and "Martin," which I know as "Way Over in the Promised Land." Few of the songs in The Social Harp are of the fuguing tune type which is so popular in The Sacred Harp tradition; most are in the four line hymn format, a preference which may have been regional or personal in nature. A number of anthems are included at the end of the book.

The editors of this reprint edition have included a long introduction explaining the history of The Social Harp and of John G. McCurry, who seems to have been a most interesting character. They have also revised the title and metrical indexes and added an arranger and composer index and a first-line index, all useful aids to researchers and singers alike. Patterson and Garst apparently hope that this edition will create a rebirth of interest in The Social Harp; however, I'm afraid the price may preclude the possibility of the book gaining the popularity it deserves.

Arlene Rodenbeck
Washington, D.C.

The Hell-Bound Train: A Cowboy Songbook. [By] Glenn Ohrlin. With a Bibliography by Harlan Daniel. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1973. xix, 291 pp., index, illus., music, photos, 1 7" recording. \$10.00.

Glenn Ohrlin, a former rodeo rider and rancher in the west and now a rancher in Stone County, Arkansas, has written and illustrated a book of cowboy songs and stories entitled The Hell-bound Train. The book, which is published by the University of Illinois Press at Urbana includes music and words for songs like "My Home's in Montana", "The Texas Rangers" and "Bull Riders in the Sky". The hard cover edition of the book with the record on which he sings "Windy Bill", "My Stetson Hat", "The Gol Darned Wheel", "Lee's Ferry", "Button Willow Tree" and "The Cowman's Prayer", sells for \$10.00. The book is prefaced by Archie Green and includes an extensive biblio-discography by Harlan Daniel. Judith McCulloh of the University of Illinois Press has transcribed the music for 73 songs. Glenn did a record by the same name a few years ago for the Campus Folksong Club at Urbana.

Glenn is a loner, a very quiet person and I have never seen him standing while singing. His cowboy style is most fascinating. He spent the night at our house in Mountain Home, Arkansas, one night following a folk festival in

which he had performed. When we got up the next morning, Glenn's bed was made, and he was nowhere to be seen. He lives in Mountain View, where the Ozark Folk Culture Center is located. A folk festival is held there the third weekend in April. Glenn used to perform at the festival, but I did not see him there last year. There has been an impromptu Friday night festival at the Mountain View Court House for years. The group split, and now there's a Saturday night festival too. Glenn belongs to the Saturday night group. I understand that the weekly get-togethers were to be at the Folk Center when it was finished last year, but I have a feeling the flavor wouldn't quite be the same as it used to be in the sweaty courtroom, up-stairs in the courthouse.

I highly recommend Glenn's book and record. You'll like his pickin' and singin' and you'll like Glenn too. His songs really tell the story of the man who is singing them. [Glenn will be performing at the Mariposa and National Folk Festivals this year--JCH.]

Reba Dearmore
Gaithersburg, Md.

CALENDAR

May 2-5		New England Arts & Crafts Show, Boston, Mass.
May 3	Friday	FSGW Open Sing, 9:00 p.m.
May 4	Saturday	Greasy Run Toad Trompers, 8:30 p.m.
May 4-6		Down East Festival, Tufts University, Medford, Mass.
May 10	Friday	FSGW Program -- "Pete Seeger...A Song and A Stone", "Gravel Springs Fife and Drum", and FSGW Elections, 8:30 p.m.
May 10-12		Fiddlers' Grove Fiddlers Convention, Union Grove, N.C.
May 15	Wednesday	Fairfax County YWCA trip to see "The Flowering of American Folk Art 1776-1876, 9:00 a.m.
May 17	Friday	Bluegrass Open sing, 9:00 p.m.
	Friday	Sweeney Todd Presents Michael Quitt, 8:30 p.m.
May 19	Sunday	FSGW Special Concert -- Alhaji Bai Konte, 8:30 p.m.
	Sunday	FSGW Sacred Harp and Potluck Supper, 4:00 p.m.
May 24-26		PGS Gottagetgon, Fox Hollow, Petersburg, N.W.
May 25-26		2nd Annual Spring Folk Festival, Philadelphia Folk Song Society, Drexel University, Philadelphia.
May 31	Friday	Helen Schneyer Concert, 8:30 p.m.
June 1		Seaport Day Festival, New York City
June 14	Friday	FSGW Program -- Dan Gellert, 8:30 p.m.
June 14-15		June Days, Folk Music Society of Northern New Jersey
June 14-16		Ed Trickett Concert and Workshop, Norfolk, Va.
June 21	Friday	Sweeney Todd Presents Alice and Hazel, 8:30 p.m.
June 21-23		Mariposa Folk Festival, Totonto, Canada
June 23	Sunday	FSGW Picnic, Lake Accotink, Black Thorn Stick Ceilidh Band
June 28-29		Middletown Folk Festival, Middletown, N.J.
July 3-7 and 10-14		Festival of American Folklife, Smithsonian Inst., Washington
August 1-4		NFFA's National Folk Festival, Wolf Trap, VA.

NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

Plan now to attend the 36th National Folk Festival on August 1-4, 1974 at Wolf Trap Farm Park, Vienna, Va. The festival features a wide range of America's best traditional musicians, dancers and craftsmen. Thursday from Noon to 3:00 p.m. will be Kids Day. Workshops will be held Friday through Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in five areas. ALL DAYTIME EVENTS ARE FREE. There will be four evening concerts beginning at 8:00 p.m. The price is \$3.00 inside and \$2.00 on the lawn. There is no increase in prices, to help you buy gas and food at inflated prices.

FOLKLORE AND POPULAR CULTURE CONFERENCE

A Folklore and Popular Culture Conference will be held on Saturday, October 19, 1974 at Salisbury State College, Salisbury, Md. Sponsors are the English Department of Salisbury State College, the Maryland Folklore Society, and the Middle Atlantic Chapter of the Popular Culture Association. They welcome papers -- including student papers -- on regional folklore, popular culture (all aspects), folklore/popular culture criticism, methodology, pedagogy. Please send papers and abstracts prior to Labor Day (September 2) to: Polly Stewart Deemer, Department of English, Salisbury State College, Salisbury, Maryland 21801.

TRADITIONAL MUSIC AT THE RED FOX

The Red Fox has already begun having traditional music scheduled for every Sunday night. The entertainment will either be string bands or individual folk musicians. The FFV, the Fast Flying Vestibules, have already performed on two Sunday nights. The schedule for May has not yet been arranged. The talent for this will be both local and out-of-town performers. There will be a cover charge to get in on Sunday nights. For more information, call the Red Fox at 652-4429.

WANT-ADS

Fiddlers needed. Paul Brockman is looking for fiddlers for a Scottish country dance band. Anyone interested should call him at 533-0851.

Folkie wanted. To share house in Takoma Park, female preferred but not required. \$100.00 plus 1/3 of utilities. Contact Bruce or Debbie Hutton at 652-2692. (no animals please; already have 2 cats)

Anyone interested in forming a "Dulcimer Society" should contact Kathie Clark at 703-765-1668 (evenings or write 7923 Bainbridge Rd., Alexandria, Va. 22308

FSGW MEMBERSHIP

FSGW Membership may now be renewed for a 3-year period. It may be to your benefit to renew now for the 3-year period as dues may be raised in the Fall. With your membership you get free admission to monthly programs, reduced rates at Special Events, first-class postage on the Newsletter, access to the tape archives and exchange publications.

We have been mailing out renewal notices. If you do not respond to the 2nd renewal notices, your name will be dropped from the membership file. As a number of 2nd notices have gone out, quite a few people will be cut off as of the June Newsletter. If you do not get your June Newsletter and are an active paying member of the FSGW, contact Nan Goland at 332-0232.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

I (We) wish to join the Society; enclosed is \$5.00 (1-yr. individual)____; \$15.00 (3-yr. individual)____; \$7.50 (1-yr. family)____; \$22.50 (3-yr. family)____, for membership. Renewal____. Address change____.

Name:_____ Phone:_____.

Address:_____ Zip:_____.

Would you be interested in helping the Society in any way?_____.

1973/74 FSGW Officers

President - Andy Wallace - 301-934-2595	Special Events - Dick Rodgers - 363-6620
Vice President - Mike Rivers - 892-6117	Publicity - Bruce Hutton - 652-2692
Secretary - Nan Goland - 332-0232	Publications - Marietta Plank - 946-6642
Treasurer - Rich Galloway - 864-0723	Members at Large
Membership - Janice Cole - 656-5779	Debbie Hutton - 652-2692
Program - Bob Clayton - 671-1975	Lars Hanslin - 543-0956
FSGW Phone Number - 920-2067	

FLASH -- CONCERNING THE AMERICAN FOLKLIFE PRESERVATION ACT

Word has just come from Archie Green that hearings have just been scheduled by the House Library of Congress Subcommittee concerning the Act. The hearings will be on May 8 and 9 in the Rayburn Office Building. Call the office of Lucien Nedzi to get the room number and time. A large attendance by interested parties would be most helpful in getting this bill passed.

NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION (NFFA)

The National Folk Festival Association is a non-profit educational and cultural organization. The NFFA's original concept--of recognizing the diversity in American folk traditions through people performing for people on a non-commercial basis--needs strong support NOW from you, the grass roots. When the stream of a tradition stops flowing, no amount of records and scholarly analysis can restore the qualities which it brought to it's music and other arts, and to life. Preserving our grass-roots heritage is vital. Join the NFFA now, and, through the NFFA Newsletter, read about the exciting nation-wide activities. Help to reverse the picture of death by neglect.

Use the following as a membership application to the NFFA:

Name _____	Check appropriate box:
Address _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Member \$5.00
City/State/Zip _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Group Affiliate Member \$10.00
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Active Member \$25.00
Telephone _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$100.00
All contributions are tax deductible.	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Time Member \$1,000.00

Mail your application to: Leo Bernache, Executive Director, National Folk Festival Association, Inc. 1346 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Room 718, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Folklore Society of Greater Washington
P.O. Box 19303, 20th Street Station
Washington, D.C. 20036