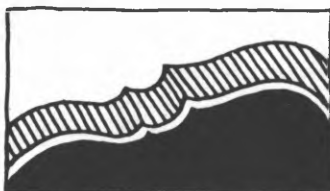


The Folklore Society of Greater Washington NEWSLETTER



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

VOLUME XI, No. 8

APRIL, 1975

Nan Goland, Editor

A ROUSING GOOD (WEIRD) TIME WITH THE CENTRAL PARK SHEIKS

What in the world does the Western Swing of Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys have in common with the remarkable jazz of Django Reinhardt and the Hot Club Quintet of Paris? You won't believe it--I barely believe it myself, and I've heard it--but both are major influences in the music of the Central Park Sheiks, our program for April. With two guitarists, a Dobro player (who doubles on trumpet!) and a bassist, the Sheiks knock out an improbable amalgam of down-home picking, uptown (often four-part) singing and a bizarre repertoire that sounds like Martin, Bogan and Armstrong woodshedding with Dan Hicks and His Hot Licks.

Hanging out these days in the Albany area, the Sheiks are: Richard Lieberman (lead guitar and provocateur), Bob Hipkens (Dobro and trumpet--dumpeet?), Bert Lee (born in Mexico and raised in Egypt, which makes about as much sense as everything else about this group--he writes some of their refreshingly campy stuff and plays guitar), and bassman John Caruso. Together they've played a bunch at Lena's in Saratoga Springs (one of the holy places, like the Ark), as well as Max's Kansas City, the Folklore Center and South Street Seaport in NYC.



I really don't know how to describe their music except by the above comparisons, but it'll sure make you happy. It's almost as though someone invented a group especially to handle the great but neglected sounds that everybody else lets fall between the cracks. In addition, by the way, we're working on a little added attraction that even the Sheiks aren't into yet--but I bet they will be when they hear it, if we can pull it off.

That's Friday, April 11, 8:30 PM at "the Ethical." If you miss this one, you'll be s-o-r-r-e-e-!

-Jonathan

OTHER FSGW HAPPENINGS...

SPRING GETAWAY/APRIL 4-6

The Spring Getaway will be the first weekend in April, Friday the 4th through Sunday the 6th, at Prince William Forest Park near Dumfries, Virginia. We'll get underway on Friday evening with a square dance, an open sing and a taffy pull. Workshops on Saturday and Sunday include plenty of music, dancing and crafts. Things to bring: instruments, songbooks, bedding, raingear. Things to leave home: dogs and other pets.

There is still time to register for Saturday and/or Sunday at \$2.50 per day for adults and \$1 per day for children under 16. Daily registrants may arrange in advance to buy their meals at the Getaway. Prices are \$1 breakfast, \$2 lunch and \$3 dinner, half-price for children under 12. Remember, no money can be collected at the park, so you must pay in advance for both registration and meals. (If you signed up for the entire weekend, your meals are included in your registration fee.) Those who don't have to work on Monday are encouraged to stay over Sunday night and help clean up. We want to leave the park in good shape so we can continue having our Getaways there in years to come.



BARBARA CARNS HOUSE CONCERT/APRIL 25

Barbara Carns, a wonderful singer and guitarist from East Orleans, Massachusetts, will perform for the Society on Friday, April 25 at 8:30 PM at the home of Ted and Nancy Strader, 7903 Glenbrook Road in Bethesda. While best known to Society members for her sensitive singing of country blues songs, Barbara also sings spirituals, novelty songs, and other traditional material. She has performed at the Fox Hollow Festival and at many other clubs and festivals around the country. Admission is \$1.50 for Society members and \$2 for the general public.

-Bill

OPEN SING/APRIL 4

Although the Spring Getaway falls on the weekend usually reserved for the Society's Open Sing, an Open Sing will be held anyway, for those who can't get out for the weekend's festivities. The sing is hosted by the Washington Ethical Society, starting at 9:00 PM in their meeting room at 7750-16th Street NW. Admission is \$1 and refreshments are served.

-Bill

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING/APRIL 9

Remember, board members, that the board meeting will be held on the second Wednesday this month, because of the folk dancing classes on Tuesdays. Next month we will resume having board meetings on the first Tuesday of the month. Meetings are always held at the office of the National Folk Festival Association, Suite 1118 of the Dupont Circle Building, 1346 Connecticut Avenue NW. Board meetings are open to members of the Society.

SACRED HARP SING/APRIL 20

This month's *Sacred Harp* sing and pot-luck dinner will be held at the home of Dale and Bob Blair, near Chevy Chase Circle in Northwest Washington. Call 244-4861 to get directions, and find out what you're to bring.

OTHER FSGW MATTERS...

NOMINATIONS FOR SOCIETY OFFICERS, 1975-76

The following people have been nominated, by the nominating committee and from the floor at the March meeting, to run for the next Executive Board:

- President
Helen Schneyer
- Vice President
Debbie Hutton
Tom McHenry
Dick Rodgers
- Treasurer
Lars Hanslin
- Secretary
Delores Gauthier
Carolyn Hoover
- Program Chairman
Jonathan Eberhart
Wally MacNow
- Special Events Chairman
Alan Mackall
Dave Olive
- Membership Chairman
Don Nichols
- Publications Chairman
Nan Goland
- Publicity Chairman
Phil Saunders
- Members-at-Large (2)
Mary Cliff
Carly Gewirz
Casey King
Carolyn Smith

Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the April program. Soon after, your ballot will be sent to you in the mail, along with short biographical sketches about the candidates. Your ballot (family memberships will receive two) can be returned by mail to the Society at P.O. Box 19303, 20th Street Station, Washington DC, 20036, or brought to the May meeting where votes will be counted. DO NOT put your name on your ballot! Then it wouldn't be a secret ballot, would it?

A REMINDER TO CANDIDATES: Get your bios to the nominating committee soon as possible.

WANTED: People willing to post flyers about Society events in stores, schools, and on bulletin boards in their area, on a regular basis, once or twice a month. Please contact Phil Saunders at 891-3809.

IF YOU HAVE CIRCULATING COPIES OF FOLKLORE SOCIETY TAPES in your possession, PLEASE RETURN THEM to Mike Rivers immediately!! Other folks are asking for them.

SURPRISE! We'll be starting our programs on time in the future! If you've been coming just a little later each month because the program never starts on time, change your ways or you risk missing the beginning of the next one.

WHAT SOME FOLKS ARE DOING...

FOLK WEEKEND/SATURDAY & SUNDAY EVENINGS

If you'd like to hear more folk music over WETA-FM (90.9) you can let them know during their fund-raising Marathon, April 18-20. Listen to Mary Cliff's show, FOLK WEEKEND, (which can be heard every Saturday and Sunday from 6 to 8:00 PM) for details. The schedule of "Folk Festival USA" programs, produced by National Public Radio, is as follows:

April 5 - The Western Swing Festival from Tulsa, Oklahoma features the playing of electric steel guitar greats Leon McAuliffe and Speedy West.

April 12 - Recorded at the 1974 Eisteddfod, this program includes Barbara Carns, Maggi Pierce, Jane Voss, Gordon Bok, Saul Broudy, Dick Fegi and the Saletans.

April 26 - The National Folk Festival brings together artists who illustrate the variety present in the American folk music tradition. This program includes performances by the Gospel Harmonizers, Louis Beaudoin, John Wright and Catherine Perrier and the Wild Magnolias.



BLUEGRASS OPEN SING/APRIL 18

There's a Bluegrass Open Sing on the third Friday of every month at 9:00 PM, sponsored by the Ethical Society, 7750-16th Street NW. Its similar to the first Friday Open Sing but the emphasis is on group picking and singing. Donation of \$1 includes refreshments inside.

STRING BANDS AT THE RED FOX

The Red Fox Inn at 4940 Fairmont Avenue in Bethesda is presenting several eclectic string bands in addition to their usual bluegrass fare this month. On April 4 and 6 the New Morning String Band from Norfolk, Virginia will hold forth. On April 9 you can hear the Arkansas Sheiks perform shape note hymns, English unaccompanied harmony, classic blues, tunes from Missouri and more. The Central Park Sheiks, our April program, will be at the Fox on April 18. Call 652-4429 for more information on these groups or to find out which bluegrass groups are playing other nights.

BERWYN CAFE/SATURDAYS AT 9:30 PM

April 5 - Dan Epstein - Something a little different for the cafe. Dan is the author of *No Exit In Hell*, a book of poems. He'll read some of his poetry and sing some songs. He's also a fine guitarist.

April 12 - Bob Clayton - Chances are Bob'll show up with at least a banjo, fiddle and guitar, but one never knows, does one?

April 19 - Mike Holmes - Name sound familiar? Another FSGW member, Mike likes to get the whole place singing along. He accompanies himself on guitar, banjo and mandolin. Mike wears socks.

April 26 - Barbara Carns - see the House Concert listing.

Remember, there are open sings at the Berwyn on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at 9:30 PM. There is no admission charge either Friday or Saturday. A hat is passed for performers on Saturdays. The cafe is located at 5010 Berwyn Road, off Route 1 north of College Park. Call 345-2121 for more information.

-Jeffrey

TO DANCE IS TO LIVE...

Many members have asked about dance groups in the Washington area. Here is a listing of some (certainly not all) possibilities. Prices range from \$1 to \$1.50.

Mondays, 8:30-10:45, beginning-intermediate international, Bethesda Chevy-Chase Youth Center on Walsh Avenue. Mel and Phyllis Diamond, 871-6233.

First Monday each month, beginning-intermediate contra, Chevy Chase Recreation Center on Connecticut Avenue.

First Monday each month, 8-10, beginning square, live music by Aubrey Smith and the Dixieliners, Lubber Run Recreation Center in Arlington. Ralph Case, 249-5756.

Tuesdays, beginning Israeli, Jewish Community Center in Rockville. Ben Hole.

Tuesdays, 8:30-11, beginning-intermediate international (mainly Balkan), George Washington University, Marvin Center, third floor. Steve Sklarow, 322-7322.

Wednesdays, 8:30-10:45, beginning international, Woodside Elementary School, Georgia Avenue at Ballard Street. Larry Weiner, 652-5536.

Thursdays, beginning international, University of Maryland. Steve Sklarow, 322-7322.

Alternate Thursdays, intermediate Polish, Woodside Elementary School, Georgia Ave. at Ballard Street. Carolyn Jacobson, 337-6480.

Fridays, 8:30-11:30, beginning-intermediate square, contra, other American. Turkey Run String Band provides music. Concordia Church, 20th & G Streets NW. Lou Shapiro, 589-3337.

Fridays, 8:30-10:45, intermediate international, Wheaton Recreation Center. Larry Weiner, 652-5536.

Fridays, beginning-intermediate international, Guy Mason Recreation Center. Al Rosenthal.

Second and fourth Saturdays, 8-10:30, beginning-intermediate English country, Silver Spring Y. The Blandens.

Sundays, advanced Balkan, George Washington University. Steve Sklarow, 322-7322.

-Lou

MOUNTAIN CRAFTS CLASS

The Mountain Crafts Class will again be offered by the Arlington County Recreation Division, beginning April 14. Eight classes, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM on Mondays, will be held at the Lubber Run Recreation Center, 300 North Park Drive in Arlington. Many of the items can be made from "stuff around the house." The instructor, Christine Rogers, learned the crafts as a child in her home in North Carolina. The cost is \$25 for Arlingtonians, \$40 for out-of-county residents and one-half price for students, children and seniors.

PARKMONT SCHOOL FESTIVAL/APRIL 26

On Saturday, April 26 from noon to 4:00 PM the Parkmont School at 2805 North Glebe Road in Arlington will sponsor an outdoor festival in which folk musicians and dancers are invited to participate. Call the school at 525-2442 for more information.

FOLKLORE IN AMERICA SEMINAR

The third annual Folklore in America Seminar will be co-sponsored this year by the National Folk Festival Association and the School of Continuing Education, University of Virginia. The Seminar (a 6 credit-hour course) will be held at Blandy Farm on Hiway 50, 60 miles west of Washington, June 16 to July 5. Tuition and fees are \$275; room and board will be about \$6 per day. For further information write: Prof. Charles L. Perdue, Jr., Dept. of Anthropology, 534 Cabell Hall, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, 22903.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BANJO CLASSES

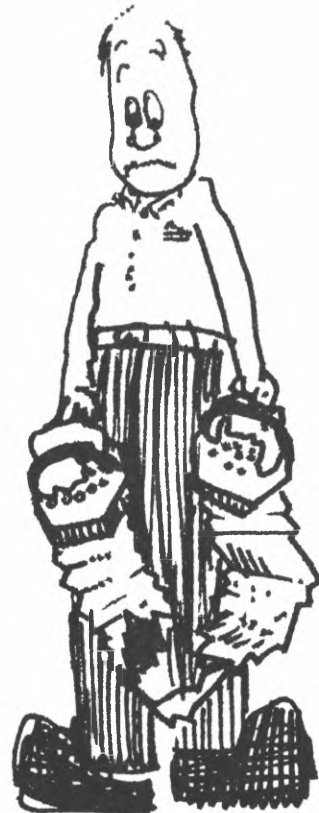
Folk and country music will be featured in banjo classes being offered in Montgomery County. Instruction in chords, strums, finger-picking and note reading will be given. Classes will be held at Holiday Park Elementary School, 3930 Ferrara Avenue in Silver Spring on Mondays beginning April 14, and at Montgomery Village Junior High School, 19300 Watkins Mill Road in Gaithersburg on Tuesdays beginning April 15. For more information call 530-5200.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA FOLK FESTIVAL/MAY 2-4

The Northern Virginia Folk Festival will be presented May 2-4 at Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 South 2nd Street in Arlington. Some 30 nationalities will demonstrate their native music, dance, crafts, food, sports and games. During the day there will be continuous folk performances and workshops, a fiddler's convention, plus participation singing, dancing and games. Evening programs in the Community Theatre will feature traditional American music. Admission is free.

CREATIVE LIVING FAIR/MAY 3-4

Folk musicians and dancers are invited to participate in a Creative Living Fair on the grounds of the Washington Monument from 10 to 7 on Saturday, May 3 and from noon to 7 on Sunday, May 4. Call Jane at 530-9525 if you are interested in performing.



OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST...

KENNEDY CENTER ALL-AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Kennedy Center will open its Bicentennial Celebration with a week-long All-American Festival of musical events, all of them free. On Sunday, March 30 at 8:30 PM in the Concert Hall, Richard Bales, music director of the National Gallery, will conduct a performance of his own patriotic cantata, "The Republic." The work is drawn from music of the American Revolution. On Saturday, April 5 at 8:30 PM in the Concert Hall, composer Aaron Copland will conduct and play the piano in a program of his own music. During the week there will be daily concerts in the Grand Foyer and the South Gallery (the large hall on the top floor of the Center). No tickets are required for any of these events. Here's the daily schedule:

MONDAY, MARCH 31

10:30 (GF) - AMERICAN INDIAN MUSIC performed by the Dance Group from the American Indian Society.

11:30 (SG) - AMERICAN FOLK BALLADS Joe Hickerson sings songs which tell of the American experience.

12:30 (GF) - AROUND THE BLUES John Jackson and Libba Cotten demonstrate vocal and guitar styles which helped create the country blues.

1:30 (SG) - AMERICAN FOLK BALLADS (repeat of 11:30 program).

2:30 (GF) - THE POTOMAC ENGLISH HANDBELL RINGERS practice an art brought over from the old country.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

10:30 (GF) - OLD TIME COUNTRY MUSIC The Fast Flying Vestibule starts its tracing of the developments which led from old-time rural bands to current Country & Western.

11:30 (SG) - WORK SONGS Joe Glazer and Alan Bennett perform songs sung by Americans at their work and songs which told the conditions under which they worked.

12:30 (GF) - OLD TIME COUNTRY MUSIC II The FFV continues its investigation of the styles that led to C&W.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, continued

1:30 (SG) - AROUND THE BLUES (repeat of 12:30 Monday).

2:30 (GF) - THE HOWARD GOSPEL CHOIR sings spirituals old and new.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

10:30 (GF) - WORK SONGS (repeat of 11:30 Tuesday).

11:30 (SG) - FOLK INSTRUMENTS I Sam Rizetta demonstrates dulcimers plucked and hammered.

12:30 (GF) - THE WASHINGTON SCOTTISH PIPE BAND performs tunes which have been known in America since colonial times.

1:30 (SG) - FOLK INSTRUMENTS II Sam Rizetta and Alan Mackall demonstrate dulcimers, whistle and concertina.

2:30 (GF) - THE TAKOMA MANDOLEERS demonstrate their ensemble and its repertoire.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

10:30 (GF) - FIDDLE Alan Jabbour shows how traditional fiddle tunes can yield satisfying music for both novice and master fiddler.

11:30 (SG) - JUBILEE The Little Wonders of Havre De Grace, Maryland sing spiritual songs and stories.

12:30 (GF) - BANJO AND GUITAR picking and strumming styles demonstrated by Andy Wallace and Pete Walker.

1:30 (SG) - GENTEEL MUSIC OF THE REVOLUTION performed by The Colonial Singers and Players.

2:30 (GF) - BANJO & GUITAR (repeat of 11:30).

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

10:30 (GF) - JUBILEE (repeat of 11:30 Thurs.)

11:30 (SG) - PARLOR MUSIC OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY Music our great-grandfathers loved.

12:30 (GF) - RAGTIME Alan Mandel takes us on a guided tour of the rag.

1:30 (SG) - SENTIMENTAL SONGS OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY Songs whose sentiment was an end in itself and songs whose sentiment hid a call for social action.

2:30 (GF) - BARBERSHOP The Novachords show how a quartet is put together and the varied repertoire it can sing.

--CONCISE CALENDAR OF EVENTS--

MAR. 30-APR. 5 - AMERICAN MUSIC FEST.

APRIL 4 - OPEN SING

4-6 - SPRING GETAWAY

9 - BOARD MEETING

11 - PROGRAM

18 - BLUEGRASS OPEN SING

20 - SACRED HARP SING

25 - HOUSE CONCERT

26 - PARKMONT SCHOOL FESTIVAL

MAY 2 - OPEN SING

2-4 - NORTHERN VA. FOLK FEST.

3-4 - CREATIVE LIVING FAIR

6 - BOARD MEETING

9 - PROGRAM

MONDAYS - RED FOX OPEN STAGE

SATURDAYS - BERWYN CAFE

FILM AND VIDEOTAPE INDEX

The Center for Southern Folklore is preparing an index of films and videotapes, covering the full spectrum of American folklore and folklife. Major categories include: music, tales, religion, arts, and crafts. It will be published in August, 1975, and yearly supplements will follow each summer. If you have information on materials that should be listed in this index, send the name of film or videotape, filmmaker, distributor, discription, length, gauge, year of production, rental and purchase price to: Folklore Film & Videotape Index, Center for Southern Folklore, 3756 Mimosa Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, 38111.



FIDDLING AROUND FOR 17 YEARS

After 17 years of research, *The Complete Book of Fiddling* is nearing completion. Plans are to have it on bookstore shelves by early 1976. Anyone wishing to contribute information about fiddlers, fiddle makers, repairmen, fiddle tunes recorded or printed, fiddle folklore is welcome to mail it to: Fiddling De, 6141 Morrill Avenue, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68507.

ROOM FOR RENT in restored farmhouse. Board, use of common rooms including washer, TV, included for \$160 per month. Located about 12 miles from Pennsylvania Avenue and the Beltway. Call Charles Hicks at 261-5325 home or 763-1411 work.



Thanks to the folks who contributed to this issue:

Jeffrey Deitchman
Bill Destler
Jonathan Eberhart
Debbie Kodish
Lynn Mailioux
Chuck Perdue
Phil Saunders
Lou Shapiro

Deadline for the May Newsletter will be April 20. You can give news items to me at Society events or mail them to me at: 2853 Ontario Road NW, #504, Washington, DC, 20009.

FSGW PHONE NUMBER: 703-920-2067

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Sign me/us up as members! Enclosed is:

_____ \$5.00 - One year, Individual

_____ \$15.00 - Three years, Individual

_____ \$7.50 - One year, Family

_____ \$22.50 - Three years, Family

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

CHECK ONE: _____ New Membership _____ Renewal

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

Here's a list of your 1974-75 Executive Board, and their phone numbers:

Program
Jonathan Eberhart 667-0778

Special Events
Bill Destler 699-5816

Membership
Don Nichols 751-3162

Publications
Nan Goland 332-0232

Members-at-Large
Mary Cliff 536-6900
Lars Hanslin 393-1574

Past-President
Andy Wallace 362-4264

President
Helen Schneyer 949-4552

Vice President
Debbie Hutton 270-2217

Treasurer
Rich Galloway 864-0723

Secretary
Pat Chambers 337-0960

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