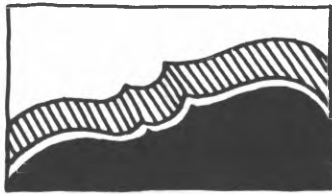


**The
Folklore
Society
of Greater
Washington**



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

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XI, No. 9

MAY, 1975

Nan Goland, Editor

THE HANDS-ACROSS-THE-SEA DIVISION OF THE FSGW PRESENTS:

AN INTERNATIONAL EXTRAVAGANZA

SOUNDS OF THE EAST--FAR, NEAR AND MIDDLE

MUSIC OF JAPAN, INDIA AND THE MID-EAST

The Washington area, besides being rich in traditional American music, is rich in the music of many other nations and cultures. The FSGW has carried on for a decade taking little if any advantage of its surroundings. The British Isles and the Balkans have been periodically heard from, but other than that it's been strictly Monroe Doctrine. Until now.

Wear your bright clothes, bring a little incense (the subtle kind) and prepare yourself for an exotic evening that will range from meditative to firey, from serene to spectacular; a truly different program for the month of May. Consider:

MALLAPPA VITTAL was born in Hyderabad, India, and grew up playing the sitar. Now a resident of the D.C. area, he teaches about Indian instruments at both D.C. Teachers College and Federal City College. For the FSGW, Vittal will bring not only an instrumental ensemble, but--to enthrall your eyes as well as your ears--a dancer! Vittal will perform on the sitar (banjo and dulcimer players should get a close look at a sitar plectrum) as well as the bulbul tarang, a ten-stringed instrument that he insists on calling a banjo. Accompanying him will be a tamboura, the droning background instrument common in much Indian music, and the traditional drums called tabla.

The koto of Japan is one of the gentlest of the world's instruments, for all its six-foot length and starched silken strings. Its sound is so fundamentally, well, Japanese that merely brushing the strings by accident summons visions of its homeland. KYOKO OKAMOTO has taught and performed with the instrument for many years, and will bring the innate grace of herself and her music to the program. With her will be two musicians to play the shamisen, a three-stringed banjo-like instrument played with a huge heavy pick called a bochi, and a seventeen-stringed bass koto which was developed during the early part of this century.

Continued on Page 4

OTHER FSGW HAPPENINGS...

JERRY EPSTEIN HOUSE CONCERT/MAY 17

Jerry Epstein, a fine traditional singer from New York City, will perform for the Society on Saturday, May 17, at 8:30 PM at the home of Dale and Bob Blair, 3245 Patterson Street NW, (Chevy Chase, DC-- call 699-5816 for directions). Jerry sings a wide variety of songs from the English and American traditions, accompanied by guitar and concertina. He is an authority on country blues, and has produced many records for various labels of traditional blues artists. Admission is \$1.50 for Society members and \$2 for the general public.

-Bill

OPEN SING/MAY 2

The monthly Open Sing of the Society will be held, as always, on the first Friday of the month at the Washington Ethical Society, 7750-16th Street NW, at 9:00 PM. Admission is only \$1, and refreshments are served. This month's sing will be led by Debbie Kodish, and the theme will be "Dismemberment and Other Partings."

-Bill

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING/MAY 6

The Executive Board of the Society will meet on Tuesday, May 6, at 8:00 PM at the office of the National Folk Festival Association, Suite 1118 of the Dupont Circle Building, 1346 Connecticut Avenue NW. Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday each month, same time and place, and are open to all members of the Society.

SACRED HARP/MAY 18

Singing from the *Sacred Harp* and pot-luck dinner will be held at the home of Debbie Kodish, 324 South Veitch Street in Arlington on Sunday, May 18 at 4:00 PM. Call 979-6787 to get directions and see what to bring.

OTHER FSGW MATTERS...

THANKS FOR THE HYMNALS!

Many thanks to the Emory United Methodist Church at 6100 Georgia Avenue NW for giving us a dozen copies of *The Abingdon Hymnal*.



--Photo by Victor Scruby

SPRING GETAWAY FEATURES WINDY WEATHER

The Spring Getaway suffered a number of hardships, but came up smiling. After having our Friday evening's activities cancelled by the Park Service because of high winds, we were allowed to come into the park on Saturday morning, but smoking was restricted to the Main Lodge, and no fires were allowed at all. Plus, it was very windy and cold! How did so many folks manage to remain so good natured about such discomforts? Well, there were some of our favorite things there to keep us happy-- good friends, good food, good music.

Thanks to all campers for complying with not only the usual restrictions but the extra ones made necessary by the weather. Thanks to our superchef Bette Hamman, (who, by the way, found 25 chickens had been left behind on her front porch, which explains why there wasn't quite enough chicken to go around Saturday dinner), thanks to the clean-up committee who got the job done in record time, and thanks to our ever-present chairman, Dave Olive. It was a good one.

A REMINDER: When you come to an event at the Ethical Society, please use the sidewalks rather than cutting across the lawn. The neighbors will appreciate your consideration.

ELECTION OF 1975-75 OFFICERS

Ballots have been sent to all members of the Society for our election of officers for the 1975-76 season. If you haven't already returned yours, either put it in the mail immediately, or bring it with you to the May program, where ballots will be tallied and results announced.

WHAT SOME FOLKS ARE DOING...

STRING BANDS AT THE FOX

The Red Clay Ramblers, who were featured on our December program, are returning to town and will play at the Red Fox on Tuesday, May 13 at 8:00 PM. Other string bands stopping at the Fox are Bottle Hill on Wednesday, May 21, then Swamp Roots, from Rochester, New York, on Friday and Saturday, May 23 and 24 (this group comes recommended by Highwoods). Call the Fox at 652-4429 for more information.

MUGWUMPS INSTRUMENT HERALD

If you are interested in instruments you should know about *Mugwumps Instrument Herald*, edited and published by fellow member Mike Holmes. *Mugwumps* presents articles about instruments--how to set them up, do minor repairs, identify makers, date manufacture, build and modify, etc. Each issue contains histories or articles about instrument makers and manufacturers, new and old companies, distributors and those involved in building or supplying parts, materials, etc. *Mugwumps* also includes classified ads; subscribers receive three free ads. A one-year subscription (six issues) costs \$6. Mike encourages correspondence and tries to answer questions or help solve problems relating to old musical instruments. The address is 12704 Barbara Road, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20906.

Dear FSGW,

Can I talk to you a second? Those who've been to the Berwyn Cafe know what a generally nifty place it is. Most performers say it's more like playing in a living room than anything else. A few people who no longer play in public for whatever the reason or whatever the price gladly play the cafe. It's that kind of place.

Well, we're having trouble with money. So I thought that a benefit concert might be real nice. Michael Quitt has already agreed to perform in it and I'm sure I could persuade Those Arkward Years to give y'all another slug of their stuff. So, all's I need's a few more musicians, a cheap (or free) hall and a time to do it and we'll be fine. If you'd like to donate your services, talent, suggestions or astrodome to this endeavor I'd like to hear or otherwise receive you.

Love,
Jeffrey

The Berwyn Cafe is at 5010 Berwyn Road in College Park. On Saturday evenings music starts about 9:30. Here is the schedule of performers:

May 3 Bill Marimba - His real name! Bill makes beautiful music, jazz style, on the vibraphone.

May 10 Bob Dalsimer - One of the most versatile musicians around, Bob plays a variety of instruments in a wide range of styles.

May 17 The Medieval Music Machine - I've never heard them, but recorders are always welcome at the cafe. There is also talk of a synthesizer, but don't worry, it's an authentic Renaissance synthesizer!

May 24 Joe Hickerson - Joe's the man who knows every song in the Library of Congress collection, plus who recorded them and when. He's also an excellent performer.

May 31 - Closed.

FSGW PHONE NUMBER: (703) 920-2067

FOLK WEEKEND/SATURDAY & SUNDAY EVENINGS

On her radio show, FOLK WEEKEND, heard Saturday and Sunday from 6 to 8 PM over WETA-FM (90.9), Mary Cliff features, on Saturdays, a selection from the "Folk Festival USA" series produced by National Public Radio. Here is this month's list:

May 3 - The West Virginia Bluegrass Festival features performances by Arlo Guthrie, The Dillardards, Doc and Merle Watson.

May 10 - From the 1974 Festival of American Folklife we hear Utah Phillips, Mary McCaslin and Jim Ringer.

May 17 - The University of Chicago's Folk Festival features performers who have inherited the music they play from other generations. On this program are Ola Belle Reed, The Pinnacle Boys and the New Lost City Ramblers.

May 24 - The Kerrville (Texas) Folk Festival offers nationally known and local artists performing traditional as well as contemporary folk songs.

May 31 - A second program from the Kerrville Folk Festival.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA FOLK FESTIVAL/MAY 2-4

The Northern Virginia Folk Festival and Bazaar '75 will be held at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center and Theatre at 3501 South 2nd St. in Arlington from Friday through Sunday, May 2-4. Ethnic and traditional American music, dance, crafts, foods, sports and games will be highlighted. Participation workshops, song swaps and an international village are other features. Admission is free.

CAVALIER DAYS/MAY 30-JUNE 1

Cavalier Days is a historical folk festival in Frederick, Calvert County, Maryland featuring crafts, farming demonstrations, games, contests, English ballads and American folk music, and more, Friday through Sunday, May 30-June 1. Admission is \$1, but free if you're in Colonial costume. Musicians are welcome to come perform.

MAY PROGRAM, Continued from Page 1

And finally, the music of the Middle East, particularly that of the oud, or lute (in some countries known as 'ud). One of the undertain details (as I write this--not, hopefully, by the time you receive it) is just who the musicians will be, but there are so many intriguing possibilities in the fire that--well, you'll see. The, uh, funky side of the program....

So if you are planning to stay home because it's not blues, or bluegrass, or Child ballads or whatever you're familiar with, have faith. You will be enchanted, turned on, and, as they say, broadened. Hitch your dragon to a star and come with us to the mysterious East. Have we failed you yet?

May the Great Rutabaga of Destiny
Pour honey in your ear...

--Jonathan Eberhart

Details: Friday, May 9, 8:30 PM
Washington Ethical Society
7750-16th St. NW (Kalmia Rd.)
Members-Free Nonmembers-\$1.50

DULCIMER PLAYERS NEWS

Dulcimer players will be interested to know of a new publication devoted to plucked and hammered dulcimers. Published bimonthly, *The Dulcimer Players News* includes discussions on playing techniques, songs, folklore, builders tips and a dulcimer discography and bibliography. To subscribe, send \$4 for one year to: The Dulcimer Players News, c/o Phillip Manson, RFD 2, Box 132, Bangor, Maine, 04401.

-Mike

Thanks to the folks who contributed to this issue: Mike Blevins, Jeffrey Deitchman, Bill Destler, Jonathan Eberhart, Michael Quitt, Ben Williams.

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

BLUEGRASS OPEN SING/MAY 16

The next Bluegrass Open Sing will be on Friday, May 16 at 9:00 PM. The Bluegrass Open Sing is sponsored by the Ethical Society, 7750-16th St. NW, on the third Friday of every month, and will continue through the summer. Donation of \$1 at the door includes wine and refreshments inside.

1975 CALENDAR OF FOLK FESTIVALS READY

The 1975 *Calendar of Folk Festivals and Related Events*, just published by the National Folk Festival Association, lists detailed information about 465 festivals in the US and Canada. This year's *Calendar* is smaller (handy pocket-size format!) and better than ever. All listings include the festival name, dates and location, and the address to contact for further information. But most listings contain much more--the main features of the festival, schedules of events and contests, ticket prices, whether the festival is primarily indoor or outdoor, and whether there is on-site food and camping. Copies of the 1975 *Calendar* may be ordered for \$2.50 each from the NFFA, Suite 1118, 1346 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC, 20036. However, since NFFA members receive a free copy of the *Calendar* plus four quarterly issues of the *NFFA Newsletter*, why not join for only \$5, receive a *Calendar*, and help support the NFFA's folk activities throughout the US!

BARBARA CARNS ON RECORD

Barbara Carns, our guest last month at a house concert, has a record called "Trouble in Mind" on the Living Folk label. It includes twelve songs by the bluesey lady and friends, costs \$4.50, and can be ordered from Round House Records, PO Box 474, Somerville, Mass., 02144.

HICKORY WIND CONCERT/MAY 18

A free concert featuring Hickory Wind will be presented at 4:30 PM on Sunday, May 18 at Glen Echo Park as part of their Historic Preservation Weekend.

--CONCISE CALENDAR OF EVENTS--

- MAY 2 - OPEN SING
- 2-4 - NORTHERN VA FOLK FEST
- 3-4 - CREATIVE LIVING FAIR
- 6 - BOARD MEETING
- 9 - PROGRAM
- 16 - HANK SCHWARTZ CONCERT
- 16 - BLUEGRASS OPEN SING
- 17 - HOUSE CONCERT
- 18 - SACRED HARP
- 18 - HICKORY WIND CONCERT
- MAY 30-JUNE 1-CAVALIER DAYS
- JUNE 3 - BOARD MEETING
- 6 - OPEN SING
- MONDAYS - RED FOX OPEN STAGE
- SATURDAYS - BERWYN CAFE

HANK SCHWARTZ CONCERT/MAY 16

Hank Schwartz, a former resident of Baltimore now living in New York, will perform at St. John's Church, St. Paul and 27th Sts. in Baltimore on Friday, May 16 at 8:30 PM. Hank is a prize-winning old timey banjo picker, but also plays guitar, autoharp, flute, recorder and piano. He sings a variety of songs, from age old ballads to some of his own. Admission is \$1.50 at the door.

CREATIVE LIVING FAIR/MAY 3 AND 4

A "Creative Living Fair" will be held in the Sylvan Theater area near the Washington Monument on Saturday, May 3 from 10 to 7 and Sunday, May 4, from 12 to 5. This is a public service event, and admission is free. In addition to information booths, displays and workshops presented by community organizations, the fair will feature a program of live entertainment by local musicians, dancers and theater groups.

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:

President
Helen Schneyer 949-4552

Vice President
Debbie Hutton 270-2217

Treasurer
Rich Galloway 864-0723

Secretary
Pat Chambers 337-0960

Publicity
Phil Saunders 891-3809

Program
Jonathan Eberhart 667-0778

Special Events
Bill Destler 699-5816

Membership
Don Nichols 938-4564

Publications
Nan Goland 332-0232

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

Past-President
Andy Wallace 362-4264

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Arlene Hadenbeck
1811 & Kilbourne St. N.W.
Wash., D.C. 20010