

**The
Folklore
Society
of Greater
Washington**



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

NEWSLETTER

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NOVEMBER 1975

Nan Goland, Editor

NOVEMBER PROGRAM: NEIL ROSSI

The first two thoughts I had when I first saw NEIL ROSSI were, "Wow, is he tweedy!" and "He knows words to 'Angeline the Baker'!" Although some would say that the latter alone would justify his being our November program, it's just the tip of the iceberg. (FSGW: "What instruments do you suppose you'll bring?" NR: "Well, I guess guitar, banjo, and fiddle. And probably an auto-harp. And maybe a concertina. And I guess I'll borrow the others from people down there.") He played for a while with the Spark Gap Wonder Boys (old-timey, bluegrass), worked with a country-and-western band (where he inevitably picked up some "real country awfuls"), toured for a year with David Bromberg (make up your own category) and has explored Irish and Scots music including some unaccompanied singing as well as fiddling around. Once part of the Boston-Cambridge "scene" (yecchh, what a tired expression), he now lives in New York, where, by the way, he has turned down a fairly cushy (if potentially monotonous) gig in part to come perform for us.

Okay, logistics. Got a pencil? Friday night, November 14, 8:30 PM, at the trusty Ethical Society auditorium, 7750-16th Street NW (at the corner of Kalmia Road). It's north of Walter Reed Hospital, south of the DC line, in the District. In case you haven't noticed, there's a regular FSGW program on the second Friday of every month except the summer ones, so you could just show up blind and stand a fighting chance of a fine evening. And remember, IF YOU ARE AN FSGW MEMBER, REGULAR MONTHLY PROGRAMS ARE FREE! Of course, if you want to bring some non-member guests, whom we will charge \$2, the FSGW will use the money wisely and well for more and better folk music.

-Jonathan

OTHER FSGW HAPPENINGS...

OPEN SING/NOVEMBER 7

The Open Sing this month will be Friday, November 7 at 9:00 PM at the Ethical Society, 7750-16th Street NW. Donation of \$1 at the door includes refreshments inside. The Open Sing is held the first Friday of every month. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun at these informal get-togethers.

-Nan

SACRED HARP SING/NOVEMBER 23

This month's *Sacred Harp* sing and pot-luck dinner will be held on Sunday, November 23 (the Sunday before Thanksgiving) at 4:00 PM at the home of Arlene Rodenbeck in the Mount Pleasant area of DC. Call 462-3667 to get directions and coordinate the food.

-Arlene

SACRED HARPIES: See page 4 for information about a *Sacred Harp* clinic in Alexandria.

FIDDLE WORKSHOP/NOVEMBER 23

There will be a basic to intermediate fiddle workshop in Takoma Park on Sunday, November 23 at 7:30 PM, led by Ahmet Baycu and Riki Schneyer. This is intended to be a continuation of the Getaway workshops, but new folks are urged to attend, also. Call 270-3081 or 270-2217 for directions.

See your December Newsletter for details about a workshop on unusual carols to be held in early December.

-Debbie

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING/NOVEMBER 4

Tuesday, November 4 is the date for the next Board Meeting, starting at 8:00 PM. Board meetings are held at the office of the National Folk Festival Association, Suite 1118 of the Dupont Circle Building, 1346 Connecticut Avenue NW. Interested members of the Society are welcome to attend these meetings, on the first Tuesday of every month.

OTHER FSGW MATTERS...

Dear Folks,

The Getaway is fast approaching, but it will be over by the time you read this. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that the weather will be good.

Bill and I would like to thank all the people who worked to make Getaway X a big success, committee members and campers alike.

Anyone who has comments on this Getaway or suggestions for next year's, please feel free to call me at 270-2217.

-Debbie

SAMPLER CONCERT POSTPONED

Sorry, but due to a mix-up in scheduling at the Ethical Society, the Sampler Concert announced for November 8 will have to be postponed. Watch the Newsletter for information about when it will be held. And, again, sorry.

-Nan

WHAT SOME FOLKS ARE DOING...

FOLK WEEKEND ON WETA RADIO

Another hour of folk music has been added to WETA's weekly schedule. Mary Cliff's show, "Folk Weekend," can be heard from 6 to 8:00 PM on Saturday and from 6 to 9:00 PM on Sunday. On Saturdays, Mary airs tapes from National Public Radio's "Folk Festival USA" series. Here is her schedule of festivals for this month:

- Nov. 8 - San Diego Folk Festival, part 1.
- Nov. 15 - San Diego Folk Festival, part 2.
- Nov. 22 - Second Annual North Carolina Folklife Festival.
- Nov. 29 - National Women's Music Festival from Champaign, Illinois.

JOE HEANEY CONCERT/NOVEMBER 9

Joe Heaney has been called "one of the greatest living interpreters of the Irish song tradition" by *Sing Out!* magazine. He will be in concert on Sunday, November 9 at 8:00 PM at the Lyceum, South Washington and Prince Streets in Alexandria. Ticket price is \$3; FSGW members ticket price is \$2.50. Call 683-3551 for reservations and information.

-Ed

BERWYN CAFE/SATURDAY EVENINGS

The Berwyn Cafe at 5010 Berwyn Road in College Park features entertainment on Saturday evenings at 9:30 PM. Admission is free; the hat is passed for performers. The schedule this month is:

Nov. 1 - Bill Destler and Michael Quitt
Two outstanding soloists, only together, with Michael on banjo and concertina, Bill on soprano guitar. Both are great vocalists.

Nov. 8 - Bill Marimba
Aside from making the best marimba mallets available, Bill plays jazz vibes and marimba just like downtown. Something to behold.

Nov. 15 - Sharron McKnight
This lady's voice really gets me. She plays 12-string guitar and sings contemporary folk stuff.

Nov. 22 - Open Sing.

Nov. 29 - Closed for Holiday weekend.

-Jeff

FOLK DANCING IN THE WASHINGTON AREA

Last month we started asking people to tell us about dance groups in the DC area. After a slow start, information has begun to pour in, and we are still compiling it. So, if you know of any dance groups in the area specializing in Scottish, English country, Irish, Square, International, or any other folk-type or related dancing, we'd still like to hear about it. Call Al Kehs at 935-5412 or Caroline Arlington at 270-9230.

-Al

"FOLK WISDOM" PROGRAM/NOVEMBER 2

Several FSGW members will take part in a program called "Folk Wisdom in American Music" on Sunday, November 2 at 11:00 AM at the Ethical Society. Presenting the songs and readings will be Bill Destler, Carly Gewirz, Nan Goland, Bruce Hutton, Alan Mackall, and Wally MacNow. The program is part of the Ethical Society's Earth Crafts Exhibit and Sale, where all kinds of handmade craft items will be displayed. The craft show will be open from noon to 7:00 PM on Saturday and Sunday, November 1 and 2. Baked goods, cider, and tasty meals from the Berwyn Cafe will be available during the show. There's no admission charge for either the craft show or the Sunday program.

-Nan

MIKE AND LORNA McCLELLAN/NOVEMBER 22

On Saturday, November 22, Mike and Lorna McClellan will present a workshop at 2:00 PM and a concert at 8:00 PM. Ticket prices are: workshop, \$2; concert, \$2 adults, \$1 children; both, \$3. The workshop will be in two parts, first Hawaiian music featuring the slack-key guitar, then Cajun music and the little Cajun accordion. The evening concert will feature traditional Hawaiian, Cajun, Mexican, and Mexican-American music played on a wide variety of instruments. Both concert and workshop take place at Christ Church Parish Hall, 118 North Washington Street in Alexandria. For more information, call 683-3551.

-Ed

BLUEGRASS OPEN SING/NOVEMBER 21

A Bluegrass Open Sing is sponsored by the Ethical Society on the third Friday of every month starting at 9:00 PM. All are welcome to bring instruments and pick along, join in the singing, or sit back, sip wine, and listen. A donation of \$1 at the door includes refreshments inside. The next Bluegrass Open Sing is Friday, November 21.

-Nan

THE ARCHIVE OF FOLKSONG

As a more or less local Washingtonian, you are undoubtedly aware that there is a building downtown called the Library of Congress, and that it contains a wealth of folklore literature. The gateway to this resource is the Archive of Folksong. Although the archive is basically just an index of the recorded sound and printed material in the general collection, it also produces record albums, answers mail inquiries, and operates a reading room.

Visiting the Reading Room of the Archive of Folksong is the easiest way to get acquainted with the library's folklore resources. It is stocked with over 2500 books and periodicals covering every aspect of folklore. As Bob Blackman states in his article for *Folkscene* magazine (January 1975 issue--this article was also reprinted in *Sing Out!*, January-February 1975), "If you have any interest in folk music or folklore, you're sure in the right place." The Reading Room collection is divided into categories like "Sea Songs" and "Labor Songs" as well as specific states and countries. I even found a book devoted entirely to skiing songs. All the major reference works (Child, Bronson, Laws, Sharp, etc.) are also here as well as the latest releases from Oak Publications. The Reading Room is open to anyone, every weekday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

As an additional service, the Archive maintains a file of bibliographies and other reference lists covering some 125 areas and subjects in the fields of folklore and folk music. The topics range from copyrights and Eskimo music to individual performers to individual songs. These, and a complete list of the other bibliographies are yours free for the asking if you write to:

The Archive of Folksong
Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20540

The complete list was also printed in the *Sing Out!* article mentioned earlier.

Since the Archive has a permanent staff of only three people, volunteer help is not only welcome but necessary for the efficient operation of the Archive. Joe Hickerson was recently promoted to Head of the Archive after being Reference Librarian for eleven years. The new Reference Librarian is Gerry Parsons. Patricia Markland, an indexer-secretary completes the staff. If you have any free time and an interest in helping to keep the Archive running smoothly, give them a call at 426-5510. There are several interesting projects waiting for someone to come in and start them.

In future articles, I'll talk about how to find specific songs at the Library of Congress and how (an exciting procedure) to get them Xeroxed once they are found. Also coming up will be a description of the recording laboratory and how to get to listen to the Archive's recordings. However, you don't need to wait for more vague, sketchy articles in the Newsletter. Go check out the situation for yourself.

-Al

SACRED HARP CLINIC/NOVEMBER 15 & 16

A clinic on *Sacred Harp* music will be held on Saturday and Sunday, November 15 and 16 at 7:00 PM both nights, at the First Baptist Church in Alexandria, 2932 King Street. The clinic will be led by Dr. William J. Reynolds, who is the Secretary of the Southern Baptist Music Department, and Hugh McGraw, who is the Executive Secretary of the Sacred Harp Publishing Company of Bremen, Georgia. Both of these men are involved with *Sacred Harp* music as it is sung in the South today, and the series of records that are put out by the company. There will, of course, be lots of vigorous singing, so bring your books and voices along. The church is near the intersection of King and Braddock and Quaker Lane, just past T.C. Williams High School. Take King Street east off I-95.

-Arlene

ANDY WALLACE CONCERT/NOVEMBER 22

Don't miss this chance to say "hello" to former FSGW President and old friend Andy Wallace. He will give a concert on Saturday, November 22 at 8:30 PM at the Ethical Society, 7750-16th Street NW. Admission will be \$2 adults and \$1 children at the door. For many years, Andy has been involved with folk music in many ways, from organizing festivals to making instruments. He has now returned to his first love, performing. He should be in good form by the time he reaches Washington, having left his new home in Hartwick, New York on a concert tour on September 16th. It will be good to see and hear Andy again.

-Nan

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST...

GRACE CHURCH BAZAAR/NOVEMBER 1

The singing of Mother Scott will be part of the Grace Church annual fall bazaar on Saturday, November 1, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Food, books, plants, records, crafts, and white elephants will be sold, and a fire truck will be on display (if the weather is nice). Grace Church is located at the foot of Wisconsin Avenue in Georgetown.

RALPH STANLEY, DON STOVER/NOVEMBER 16

Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys, along with Don Stover and the White Oak Mountain Boys, will present an evening of old-time bluegrass on Sunday, November 16 at 8:00 PM in Baird Auditorium at the Museum of Natural History, 10th and Constitution. These folks are known as some of the country's finest performers of traditional music. Tickets are available at Smithsonian Shops, Record & Tape Ltd. at 19th and L Streets NW, or by calling the Smithsonian Box Office at 381-5395. Prices are \$5.50 general, \$5 Smithsonian Associates, and \$4 students and seniors.

--CONCISE CALENDAR OF EVENTS--

- NOV. 1 - GRACE CHURCH BAZAAR
1 & 2 - EARTH CRAFTS, ETHICAL SOC.
2 - "FOLK WISDOM" PROGRAM
4 - BOARD MEETING
7 - OPEN SING
9 - JOE HEANEY CONCERT
14 - PROGRAM, NEIL ROSSI
15 & 16 - SACRED HARP CLINIC
21 - BLUEGRASS OPEN SING
22 - ANDY WALLACE CONCERT
22 - MIKE & LORNA MC CLELLAN
23 - SACRED HARP SING
23 - FIDDLE WORKSHOP
- DEC. 3 - BOARD MEETING
5 - OPEN SING
12 - PROGRAM

Many thanks to the folks who contributed to this issue:

Jeff Deitchman
Jonathan Eberhart
Debbie Hutton
Al Kehs
Ed MacIntosh
Arlene Rodenbeck.

Deadline for the December Newsletter is Monday, November 17. News items may be given to me at Society events, or mailed to me at 2853 Ontario Road NW, #504, Washington, DC, 20009.

-Nan

FSGW PHONE NUMBER: (703) 920-2067

This Newsletter is published by the Folklore Society of Greater Washington, a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to preserving and promoting traditional folk arts in the greater Washington, DC area. Membership in the Society is open to all who wish to help pursue these goals. Membership benefits include free admission to programs, reduced admission to special events, the Newsletter by first class mail, plus workshops, sings, and more. To join, fill out the form below, enclose your check and send to the Folklore Society, PO Box 19303, 20th Street Station, Washington, DC, 20036.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

I/we want to join! Enclosed is:

_____ \$6 - One year, Individual _____ \$18 - Three year, Individual
_____ \$9 - One year, Family _____ \$27 - Three year, Family

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CHECK ONE: New Membership _____ Renewal _____

Are you interested in helping the Society in some way? _____

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