

# The Folklore Society of Greater Washington NEWSLETTER

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JANUARY, 1978

PHONE (703)281-2228

Mia Gardiner, Editor



A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL



## JANUARY PROGRAM

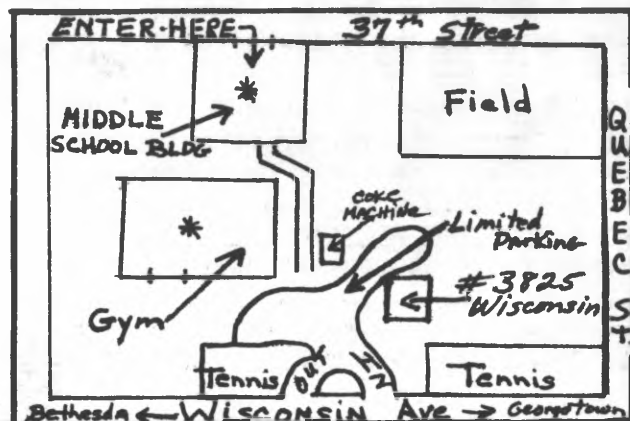
### KENNY HALL



Kenny and Marta Hall are two of my favorite people, as well as two of my favorite musicians. Kenny is somewhat of a musical genius on any instrument that takes his fancy, but his two main instruments are the fiddle and the mandolin. He is unique among string band mandolin players because he plays the bowl-backed (potatoe-bug) mandolin with the nail of his index finger, -Look friends, no pick! He blows me away. Kenny was playing music at the age of 5 but he had trouble with his music teachers who didn't want him to play any of that 'hill-billy' music. The first tune he learned was 'There's a Long, Long

## THE FSGW MINI-FESTIVAL

The 1978 edition of the Folklore Society's "Mini-Festival" will take place from 12:30 p.m. to midnight on January 28th at the Sidwell Friends School, (directions to school may be found below). Featured will be a multitude of workshops, concerts and lots of dancing. The basic schedule is: A) 12:30-1:30, concert of workshop leaders. B) 1:30-6:30, five hours of workshops. C) 6:30-8:30, break for dinner. D) 8:30-Midnight, Dancing called by John McCutcheon. Admission is \$3 for the whole day (\$2 for either the workshops or the dance) and children under 14 are half-price. The entrance to the Middle School is on 37th St. (see map) and the doors will open at noon. Beginning at 1:30 you may also enter and pay at the front of the gym where the dance workshops will be held. Both buildings will be cleared and locked between 6:30 & 8:30.



Continued on following page.....

See page 3 for more info. & tentative schedule.



## PROGRAM continued

Trail A-winding'. After a while his teacher bowed to the inevitable and taught Kenny 20 fiddle tunes from a book called "The Home Circle". After that he was on his way.

Kenny left the California School for The Blind in 1941 and got a job at a broom factory while he settled down to learn more tunes. When he finished learning tunes from 78 rpm's of such greats as Michael Colman, Jimmy Rodgers, Uncle Dave Macon and Harry Lauder, he gave away the records to another kid who was just getting started. Kenny quit music for 20 years because "real Western music is cowboy and railroad songs, not songs about city life, broken homes and bars". However, there was a string band revival during the early '60's in the San Francisco Bay area and Larry Hanks got Kenny playing music with people like Mike Seeger, Tommy Jarrell, and Doctor Humbead's New Tranquility String Band, which included Mac Benneford and Bob Potts of the Highwoods String Band. Then Kenny went to Sweets Mill, Cal., a music camp in the Sierras where he began playing with a group of musicians, including Jim Ringer, Ron Tinkler, Cary Lund and Harry Liebstrom, which became known as the Sweets Mill String Band. Kenny has 2 records with this band on Bay records and 1 solo album recorded for Philo records. He has appeared at the San Diego Folk Festival for 12 years, Fox Hollow, the National Folk Festival, and the Smithsonian.

Kenny and Marta do mostly traditional Irish material with a lot of String Band tunes thrown in. However, you just might hear a Portuguese love song or possibly a touch of 'the singing brake man'.

The program will be on Friday, January 13th, at 8:30 P.M. at the Washington Ethical Society, 7750 16th St. (at Kalmia Rd.). Admission is free to FSGW members, \$2.00 for non-members. This program is made possible by a grant from The National Endowment of the Arts.

Enjoy,

Dave

P.S. Kenny Hall, with friends will be providing the music for the Sunday night dance on January 15th, 8 p.m. See the dance column for more information.

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## IRISH DANCING IN THE WASHINGTON AREA

Little did I know the numbers of Irish dance schools and the extent of interest in Irish dancing in this area last month. Here is a list of classes available compiled with the help of Bill Henhoeffler of Blackthorn Stick. If anyone has been left out, it was inadvertent & do let us know:

Blackthorn Stick- Classes at 2 locations in Md. Mainly for adults and for social dancing rather than competition. Beginning to offer childrens classes. Call Margaret, 474-4641.

Erin Irish Dancers-Classes for all ages at 5 locations in Va. For competition as well as social dancing. Call Maureen Malcon, A.D.C.R.G., 591-9071.

McGrath Academy of Irish Dance-& Music-Classes for children, teenagers & adults at 7 locations in D.C., Md., Va., & Baltimore. For competition as well as social dancing. Call Jeanne McGrath T.C.R.G., 471-7104.

Peggy O'Neill-Classes for children and teens mainly, but also 1 adult class. Emphasis on training for competition. Call Peggy O'Neil A.D.C.R.G., 573-2660. Laureen O'Neil James-Peggy's daughter, classes at 2 Va. locations. For social dance as well as competition. Call 938-3113.

Peggy Thompson- recently formed school located mainly in Md. For all ages. Social dance and competitive dance. Call Peggy, 552-9085.

Irish Cultural Society of Baltimore-for teachers in Baltimore area call (301) 747-6487.

Blackthorn Bough- a newsletter put out by Blackthorn Stick Inc., P.O. Box 222, Riverdale, Md. 20840, listing Irish music, song and dance activities in the Washington Area.

Any-one for step-dancing?



## MINI-FESTIVAL continued

This year's workshop topics include Banjo Styles, Carter Family Songs, Sea Shanties, Beginning dulcimer, How to make a song your own, English Country Dance and many, many others. There will be workshops of special interest to children and their parents. Adult dance workshops will be held in the gym (tennis shoes or other shoes with soft, light-colored soles required), and mini-concerts will be held in the drama room. We will repeat last years' popular Folk Marketplace where a good selection of folk books, records, magazines, pocket instruments, and some interesting older instruments will be on sale.

The Sidwell Friends School, which generously co-sponsors this event, has two rules that we must respect: 1) No alcoholic beverages are permitted on school property and 2) ONLY tennis shoes or other soft light-colored soled shoes are permitted on the gym floor. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

John McCutcheon will be calling the Saturday night dance and will call mainly Southern Mountain Squares and Circles.

Remember! All workshop leaders will be asking you to join in, so bring: A) your voices, B) your instruments, C) your questions and D) your sneakers. For additional information call Debbie Hutton at 270-2217.

See you there,  
Debbie

	ROOM 1	ROOM 11	ROOM 111	ROOM 1V	ROOM V	ROOM VI	DANCE
1:30-2:30	Number or Cumulative Songs	Recorders, Flutes, Whistles	Banjo Styles	Songs for Noisy Bars	Songs of the Depression	Mini-Concerts	Southern Mt. Circle Dance
2:30-3:30	Childrens' Concert	Carter Family Songs	Fiddle Styles	Rounds	Making a Song Your Own	Chicken Spankers String Band	New England Contrabass
3:30-4:30	Words to Fiddle Tunes	Gospel	Rhythm Instruments	Squeeze Box Styles	Songs About Mythical Characters	Rock Creek, Ballads Double Decker S.B.	Clogging
4:30-5:30	Childrens' Concert	Hiking & Working Songs	Irish Songs & Tunes	Beginning Sacred Harp	Blues	John McCutcheon	English Country Dance
5:30-6:30	Women's Life in Traditional Song	Beginning Dulcimer	Beginning Banjo	Sea Shanties	Songs Of Farewell & Goodbye		Traditional Squares

## DANCE NEWS

The weekly Sunday night FSGW dances will resume on Jan. 8th. Dances are held in the New Rehearsal Hall on the 2nd floor of the music building of Catholic University. Dances begin at 8 P.M.(to 10:30). Admission is \$1.50 for members & \$2.00 for non-members. For further information, and/or detailed directions, call Martin Holmer, 245-5141.

Jan. 8th: Steve Hickman & David Shorey calling with music by the Bosstown Buzzsteps.

Jan. 15th: Lou Shapiro calling with music by Kenny Hall & friends.

Jan. 22nd: Bob Dalsemar calling with music by the Port City Promenaders (traditional West Virginia dancing).

Jan. 28th: Mini-Festival workshops from 1:30-6:30p.m.(see mini-festival schedule for more details).

Square Dance called by John McCutcheon at 8:30 p.m.All dance events this day will be held at Sidwell Friends School.

Jan. 29th: Evening of dancing "for those who Know". There will be no teaching & only minimal calling at this dance. Music by Bosstown Buzzsteps.



## CLOGGING CLASSES

Clogging classes are again being offered at Glen Echo Park during the early Spring session starting Feb. 6th. There will be a beginner class on Mondays, 7:30-8:30, & an advanced class Mon. from 8:30-9:30. For further information call instructress Carol Chernikoff, 234-5372, or Adam Hubbell, 462-6281. For registration at Glen Echo call 492-6282. The course costs \$29 for 10 weeks.

## LESSONS AVAILABLE IN VIRGINIA

FSGW member, Bob Clayton, will be teaching 8-week group classes in bluegrass banjo and Appalachian dulcimer at Hammond High-school in Alexandria beginning Wed., Jan. 17th. For more information, call the Alexandria Dept. of Recreation, 750-6328.



## CONCERT-"THE BEST IN IRISH MUSIC AND DANCE IN AMERICA."

The National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs, under a NEA grant, has organized a National concert tour of traditional Irish music and dance. Participants include Mick Moloney (director of Irish portion of the 1976 Smithsonian Folklife Festival) on tenor banjo, Father Charlie Coen (all Ireland champion) on concertina, Jack Coen (all Ireland champion) on flute, Sean McGlynn playing button accordion, Liz Carroll (all Ireland champion) on fiddle, Mike Flatly (world step dance champion), Bill Ochs (music director of Irish Art Center, N.Y.) on Uilleann Pipes. The concert will be held on Friday, Jan. 20th., 8 p.m. at Gaston Hall (Healy Building of Georgetown U. campus). Ample free parking. Access to bldg. thru 37th & Prospect St. entrance. Tickets are \$4. For further information call Richard Shea, 232-3600, or Kevin DeVaney, 625-4223, or Jessie Winch, 270-6279.

## FSGW TRADITIONAL MUSIC FOR CHILDREN

Maggi Peirce will be the featured performer at the first of a series of concerts for children. Many of you remember Maggi from several visits to past Get-aways. She comes from Ireland via New Bedford and brings with her a wealth of songs, stories and games that were part of her childhood, which many suspect has never really ended. Come to the Ethical Society on Sat. Jan 21st. at 10:30 A.M. The concert will last about 1 hour and will be generally geared to children from ages 5-10, but will be sure to be enjoyed by kids of all ages. Admission will be 75¢ for children, \$1.50 for adults. Future ~~childrens~~ concerts will be held on the third Saturday of each month. Featured will be: Feb.- Bill Vanaver & Livia Drapkin

Mar.- Jacki Spector

Apr.- Bruce Hutton

May - Debbie McClatchy

Note: Babysitting will be provided for younger siblings at the same rate. Please bring a sturdy toy to help pass the time. Call Debbie at 270-2217 if you have any questions.



### RED FOX INN

Open Stage for traditional music takes place every Monday night at 8 P.M. at the Red Fox Inn, Fairmount Ave., Bethesda, Md. Upcoming guest sets are:

Jan. 2nd: Luci Murphy, Gospel & Blues.

Jan. 16th: The Chicken Spankers, String-Band Music. Old-time Southern and Irish too, with flute and tin whistle.

Jan. 30th: John McCutcheon, old time music with hammered dulcimer, fiddle and many others, joined this time with a full string band 'Wry Straw'.

### COMMUNITY CAFE

Saturdays at 9 p.m. 4949 Bethesda Ave., Bethesda, Md. \$1 donation requested. Natural vegetarian food available.

Jan. 7th.- Gene Y. Ashton; "futuristic" musician playing unusual piano style and 'home-made' instruments.

Jan. 14th.- Jeff Deitchman; traditional, country & original.

Jan. 21st.- Allan Oresky & Friends, Folk and fiddle music, country swing, (fiddle, mandolin, & guitar).

Jan. 28th.- Roxanne Price & Rosewater, Blues and Country Rock.

### ABOUT HOUSE CONCERTS

Many FSGW members have never taken advantage of one of the most valuable benefits of their memberships. House concerts are held occasionally in members' homes and they are never advertised outside of our newsletter. Past performers have included Martin Carthy, Heather Wood, Tony Salatin, Barbara Carns, Faith Petrick, all first class musicians who for some reason could not be scheduled for a larger concert (& many performers seem to prefer house concerts). The intimate atmosphere of such concerts closely reflects the original function of folk music, singing at home for family and friends. Several concerts are planned for the new year, so watch the newsletter, call for directions, bring a pillow and come enjoy a fine concert.

### PETE SEEGER WORKSHOP

Pete Seeger and "Sweet Honey in the Rock" will be giving a workshop on "American Protest Songs" from 4:30-5:30 p.m., January 8th at the Hirschorn Museum's auditorium. Tickets will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis, beginning at 3:30 at the museum. The 8 p.m. Pete Seeger concert being held at the Baird Auditorium that night is, unfortunately, already sold out....

HOWEVER.....

### PETE SEEGER AND ARLO GUTHRIE

will be in concert together, for the first time in Washington since 1975, on Saturday, February 11th., 8 p.m., at Constitution Hall. Tickets will go on sale on or about Jan. 22nd. at Ticketron and Calbert Ticket Agency (located in the Washington Hotel, 15th and Pennsylvania). Ticket prices are \$6.50 and \$5.50. The concert is sponsored by Stanley-Williams Presentations.



### MAGGI PEIRCE HOUSE CONCERT

Maggi, who will sing for children at a morning program, will perform for adults at a house concert on Saturday, Jan. 21st. at 8:30 in Chevy Chase, Md. Maggi hails from Ireland and does songs and stories from there, as well as others she has collected throughout the British Isles. It is sure to be a delightful evening. Call Debbie at 270-2217 for further information, or Susan & George Schwellung at 657-8551 for directions to their house. Admission will be \$2.00 for members and \$3.00 for non-members.

### TRADITIONAL MUSIC ON THURSDAYS

The community cafe in Bethesda, Md. (4949 Bethesda Ave.) will feature the best of traditional music on Thursday nights at 8:00 p.m. beginning on January 26th. Rock Creek, a singing group composed of Bill Destler, Tom McHenry, and Wally Macnow, will start off the series. They sing a variety of traditional material, including a capella ballads, sea songs and shanties, as well as accompanying themselves on banjo, guitar and other instruments. Other upcoming performers will be Joe Hickerson on Feb. 9th, Bill Vanaver & Livia Drapkin on Feb. 16th, Feb. 2nd to be announced. A minimum donation of \$1 is requested, with all proceeds going to the musician. Natural vegetarian food and drink is available. The Community Cafe is a warm and friendly place with great acoustics and a good atmosphere for hearing good music. This is another opportunity for enjoying traditional music. Please join us.

Dave.

### RETURN OF THE BUFFOON

The 4th ever Buffoon Ball will be co-sponsored by FSGW and will feature John Jackson, Plank Rd. String Band (Lexington, Va.), Sweetwater String Band, The Thunder Jug Sniffers, Wild Bill & the Violet Hill Swamp Donkeys, and the Green Grass Cloggers (Greenville, N.C.). The ball will be held on Sat., Jan. 7th. at the Greenbelt Armory (Greenbelt Rd. at Kenilworth Ave. 2-3 miles NE of U. of Md.) at 8 p.m. Admission is \$3. There'll be clogging, square-dancing, free style dancing, buffoonery (does anyone have a definition yet?) & lots of music. Refreshments will be available. For more information call Bags Howard, 331-2368 or 234-7053.

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the February newsletter will be on Thursday, Jan. 19th. Please mail articles to 3313 Hemlock Dr., Falls Church, Va. 22042.

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\* FSGW PHONE NO: (703) 281-2228 \*  
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### IF THE SHOE FITS WEAR IT

Get-away participants that have not sent in their payments, for either weekend or daily participation, please do so. This would save us the trouble of sending you a bill and save you the trauma of receiving one. Any questions, unresolved guilt feelings, or \$\$\$ problems, call your friendly (unless you don't pay) treasurer Linda at 526-0584.

### LIST OF FSGW BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Cliff (Vice-President)  
534-7582  
Jessie Cohen (Publicity)  
547-4049  
Jeff Deitchman (at-large)  
587-5865  
Bill Destler (76-77 President)  
(301) 752-3569  
Jonathan Eberhart (President)  
667-0778  
Mia Gardiner (Publications)  
573-8111  
Lars Hanslin (76-77 Treasurer)  
554-0880  
Martin Holmer (Dance)  
543-7591  
Debbie Hutton (Special Events)  
270-2217  
Linda Lieberman (Treasurer)  
526-0584  
Dolores Nichols (Membership)  
938-4564  
David Olive (Program)  
265-7011  
Nancy Schatz (Secretary)  
933-3073  
Riki Schneyer (at-large)  
882-0512

### FSGW BOARD MEETINGS

FSGW Board meetings are on the first Thursday of each month, and are open to members. Location: 1346 Connecticut Ave., Suite 1118. Time: 8 P.M. January board meeting is on the 5th, February meeting is on the 2nd.



### JANUARY OPEN SING

Many types of human endeavor have inspired folk songs. There are songs about working, playing, praying, parting, loving, living, dying--almost anything you can think of. This month our Open Sing will deal with one of the more popular folk activities, getting smashed. The leader will be Bruce Hutton, and we'll gather on January 6th at around 9 p.m. at the Ethical Society, 16th & Kalmia Rd. N.W. Admission is \$1.00 and includes refreshments. It's likely to be cold in the auditorium so do dress warmly. Loosen up your voice and join us for "Songs About the Consumption of Any Inebriating Substances".

In February, the topic will be, simply, "Sex", and the leader will be, naturally, Dave Olive.

Nancy

### SING AT SACRED HARP....

Traditional Hymn singing from "The Sacred Harp" will be held this month on Sunday, Jan. 15th. at 4 p.m. The place will be the home of Garcia, 1647 Lamont St. N.W. Washington D.C. Call your host at 234-6647 to let him know you are coming and what delicious dish you will bring to the accompanying pot-luck dinner. further info. call Karen, 585-7065.

Ed.note: Heard tell that the Sacred Harp singing was lovely at the FSGW Xmas party(as was everything else). Sorry about the wrong phone # last month. Keep those shape notes singing!

### .....AND AT THE NEW GOSPEL SING

Starting next month there will be a monthly Gospel sing at the home of various members. The first will be at Kathy Condon's home. More info. coming up in February's newsletter.

### CONCISE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 5- FSGW BOARD MEETING, 8 P.M.

6- OPEN SING, 9 P.M.

7- BUFFOON BALL, 8 P.M.

13- FSGW PROGRAM, KENNY HALL 8:30 P.M.

15- SACRED HARP, 4 P.M.

16- CHICKEN SPANKERS, RED FOX, 8:30 P.M.

19- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

20- IRISH MUSIC & DANCE CONCERT, 8 P.M.

21- CHILDRENS CONCERT WITH MAGGI PEIRCE, 10:30 A.M.

21- MAGGI PEIRCE HOUSE CONCERT, 8:30 P.M.

26- ROCK CREEK, COMMUNITY CAFE, 8 P.M.

28- MINI-FESTIVAL WORKSHOPS & CONCERTS, 12:30-6:30; SQUARE DANCE, 8-12 P.M.

30- JOHN McCUTCHEON, RED FOX, 8:30 P.M.

FEBRUARY 5- FSGW BOARD MEETING.

SUNDAY NIGHTS , DANCING , CATHOLIC U. 8 PM.

MONDAY NIGHTS, OPEN STAGE, RED FOX, 8:30 P.M.

SATURDAY NIGHTS, COMMUNITY CAFE, 9 P.M.



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 D.C. 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 of Greater Washington, P.O. Box 19303, 20th Street Station, Washington D.C. 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Check One: New Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Is this a change of address? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in helping the Society in some way? \_\_\_\_\_

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Anyone living outside the greater Washington area may subscribe to the FSGW newsletter only, in lieu of getting a full membership, if they do not plan to vote or have free admission to programs. To subscribe to newsletter only fill out the form below and send to FSGW, Box 19303, 20th St. Station, Washington D.C. 20036.

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Enclosed is \$2 for a one-year, out-of-town FSGW Newsletter subscription.  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

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FOLKLORE SOCIETY OF GREATER WASHINGTON  
P.O. BOX 19303, 20th STREET STATION  
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FIRST CLASS MAIL



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