



CDS Boston News

**

January 1985

Published Monthly

BOARD NOTES - JANUARY

The Board of Directors met at the home of Deborah D'Amico in Brookline.

Membership Secretary Mary Blomberg reported that as of November 30, our membership stood at 407 members - a slight increase over last year at that time.

The Board approved a proposal from the English Dance Committee to establish a 5-month series of third Sunday dances for experienced English dancers. The dances will be held at the Unitarian Church in Belmont beginning in February.

Dan Pearl reported that the new location for the Tuesday Night Contras and Squares series - 7 Temple Street in Cambridge - has been working out nicely and receiving favorable responses from those attending. Dan hopes to see many faces, old and new, at this long-standing series.

The Board approved the Playford Ball budget submitted by Stephanie Jack. The Ball will be held on March 9, at the Perkins School in Watertown. Further details are enclosed with this newsletter.

Cathy Mason spoke to the Board on behalf of Muddy River Morris. Muddy River will be sponsoring a dance in the spring to help raise money for their summer tour of England. CDS will be assisting Muddy River with publicity and set-up.

Deborah D'Amico presented a preliminary budget for the jointly-sponsored English-Scottish Week to be held at Pinewoods in July. Please look for the flyer accompanying this newsletter.

Mary Stafford reported that she has attended a series of courses, on behalf of CDS, which have been offered by the Arts Extension Service of Greater Boston. The courses cover several issues of particular interest to people who work with non-profit organizations.

The February Board meeting will be held at the Church of Our Savior in Brookline at 6:30PM on Friday, February 1. Any member is welcome to attend. Please contact Dan Pearl if interested.

-- Deborah D'Amico

MEMBERS ONLY!

Reserve Sunday, March 31, 1985, for the annual CDS Members' Dance. English and New England dancing to the music of Bare Necessities and a photographic recap of the previous year will make it a fun evening, even if it weren't free for CDS members.

CHRISTMAS PARTY SMASHING SUCCESS

All who attended agreed that the recent Christmas party was a really special evening. The elegant Dwight Hall at the Perkins School seemed to inspire elegance in all the dancers. A simple "hi" was not enough; this was an occasion for "good evening!"

The food table groaned under the weight of the contributed goodies. Thanks go to the leaders, musicians, Reel Nutmeg, and Ira Laby, the coordinator of the event.



THIRD SUNDAY DANCE: NEW FOR 1985

Inspired by the success of the First Fridays Experienced English Dances, CDS plans a new English dance to begin a 5-month trial run on Sunday, February 17, at the First Church in Belmont, 404 Concord Avenue, Belmont. This monthly dance, although aimed at experienced dancers, will not be identical in format to First Fridays. The hope is that Fridays will become evenings when dances of moderate and greater difficulty will be done with a minimum of talk-though; and that Sundays will be limited to dances of higher-level difficulty, including ones new to the repertoire. So polish your thinking caps and plan to join us for a challenging evening!



PROVIDENCE DANCERS START NEW SERIES

ProCon, the Providence Country Dancers, who have in past years had grants from CDS to develop a dance community in Rhode Island, have recently organized a series of dances for 1985 which draw heavily on talent from the Boston area. Scheduled mostly on the first Saturday of the month (with the exception of April), these dances should attract a good audience from dancers on the South Shore, and promise to be great fun! For more information, call (401) 273-1867 or (401) 726-5194.



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BOARD NEWS

The Board of Directors met at the Church of Our Savior in Brookline on Friday, January 4.

Treasurer Harvey Cohen reported that high attendance at CDS events made December a very good month for the society's finances. The Tuesday series at 7 Temple Street continues to attract a consistent and enthusiastic crowd, the Christmas Party at Perkins School was a huge success, and the First Fridays series continues to prosper.

The Board discussed the current condition of Hannum Hall at 7 Temple Street and is exploring the possibility of making repairs and improvements with the help of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Boston Branch, and the Cambridge YWCA. The Board feels that the hall is of substantial value to CDS because of the ease of parking, the central location, and ready access to public transportation, and recognizes the importance of keeping it in the best condition possible. Members will be kept abreast of plans as they develop.

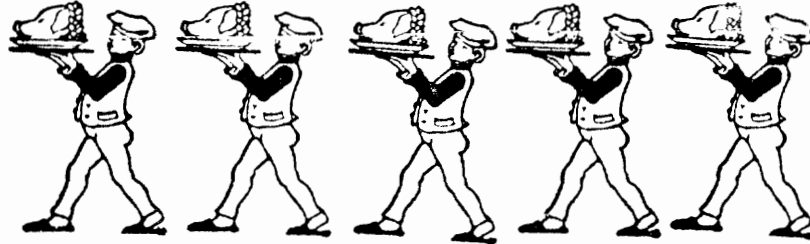
Mary Stafford has recently completed a series of seminars on Arts Management on behalf of the society and presented a report to the Board. She found the seminars useful and informative, affording her the opportunity to learn about the many other non-profit, arts-related organizations across New England. She will be putting her knowledge to good use when she assumes the role of CDS President in March. The Board expresses thanks to Mary for her work on their behalf.

Deborah D'Amico reported that plans for English-Scottish Week at Pinewoods are continuing on schedule. Publicity flyers have been distributed and ads will continue to run in the current CDSS newsletter and the RSCDS "Tartan Times". Staff and program plans will be finalized within a month. Applications will be available in mid-March.

Due to personal time conflicts, Cheryl Deckert has resigned from the Board.

The March Board meeting will be held at the Church of Our Savior in Brookline on March 1 at 6:30 before the dance. All are welcome to attend.

-- Deborah D'Amico



IT'S FOOD BOOTH TIME AGAIN

At last it's time to start thinking about the New England Folk Festival (April 19 - 21) and our part in it, the CDS food booth. Lots of people are needed to make it a success again this year - you could be one of them. Whether you want to do a lot, a little, spend an hour or more, bake goodies, or staff the food booth, we need you. Get involved and see what goes on behind the scenes! Call Julia Huestis (work - 482-0610/home - 731-3165) or Sandy Borden (work - 878-9006/home - 878-4446). Thanks!



HOMELESS ARTICLES

Found at Brimmer and May: Sweater and colored bag with car key; men's brown vest.

Found at First Congregational Church: Women's watch.





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RALPH PAGE 1903 - 1985

The entire world of traditional dance was saddened to learn of the death of Ralph Page of Keene, New Hampshire, on February 21. Ralph was known to the world as an authority on New England dance and folklore, but he was also known by many of us as a friend.

In 1937, with Beth Tolman, Ralph published The Country Dance Book (Countryman Press), an important book that captured the essence of contra dancing at that time. By 1938, he had begun on his career as a full-time dance caller.

Ralph's first regular appearance in the Boston area was in the early 40's, for a bi-weekly dance for the Belmont Country Dancers. In 1943, Ralph began a stint as the caller for a Tuesday night dance at the Boston YWCA. He participated in the CDS "drop-in" series that ran from 1940 to 1975.

With Mary Gillette and Phillip Sharples, Ralph founded NEFFA in 1944. Ralph and Mary were honored at the 1984 Festival.

Ralph leaves a legacy of publications. Northern Junket is the title of his homespun New England journal, published irregularly, that contained dances, folklore, news, recipes, and unabashedly candid opinion. Ralph also wrote The Ralph Page Book of Contras (EFDSS 1969), Heritage Dances of Early America (Lloyd Shaw 1976), and An Elegant Collection of Contras and Squares (Lloyd Shaw 1984). His calling can be heard on the 78rpm Folk Dancer disks.

I'll remember Ralph for his steadfast reverence for tradition. He frequently campaigned against developments in Modern Western (Club) Square dancing, where he felt the proponents had lost sight of the essence of enjoyable dancing. I'll also remember his unflappable Yankee demeanor and earthy wit.

Ralph's life is the stuff of which legends are made. Callers, dancers, and friends the world over will see that the legends live on, of the man who was "too old to run and too fat to fight."

-- Daniel Pearl

BOARD NEWS

The Board of Directors met at the Church of Our Savior in Brookline on Friday, February 1.

Membership chair Mary Blomberg reported that as of December 31 CDS had 426 members, a significant increase over last year's total. With membership renewals and new member applications, the total is expected to rise.

The Tuesday night American Series at 7 Temple Street is doing well, according to Treasurer Harvey Cohen's report. The series is operating at close to the break-even point.

A new membership incentive program was accepted by the Board. In the period from January 1 to March 1, each new member will receive a chit redeemable for free admission at a CDS-sponsored dance, excluding pre-registration events.

The Board spent some time reviewing the CDS Objectives as stated in the by-laws. An interesting discussion ensued, raising questions about the society's long and short term goals. This discussion will continue at future meetings.

The April meeting had not been scheduled at press time. Contact Mary Stafford for more information. All members are welcome at Board meetings.

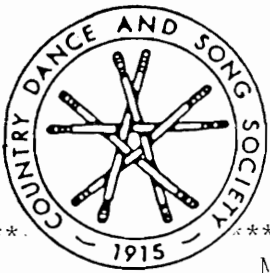
-- Deborah D'Amico, CDS Secretary



DANCE NOTES

Two benefit dance events in the near future might be of interest to CDS members. CDS is helping Muddy River Morris produce a dance to raise money for their tour of England this summer. It will be held on Saturday, March 23, at the First Church Congregational in Harvard Square. There will be an afternoon dance workshop with Genny Scheimer, a potluck dinner, and an evening dance featuring both English Country and New England dancing, with calling by Genny Scheimer and Dave Kaynor, and music by Karen Axelrod, Unstrung Heroes, and assorted drop-in musicians. Admission is \$5 for either session or \$8 for both. Your donations will be gladly accepted, even if you can't make it to the dance. For more information call Cathy Mason at 396-5229.

Bare Necessities and other CDS musicians will be performing at the Folk Arts Center's annual Dance Musicians Development Fund dance, an all-afternoon, all-evening gala event that features many local dance leaders, musicians, and performing groups. It will be held on Saturday, March 30, from noon to midnight, at the Brimmer and May School Gym in Chestnut Hill. The DMDF sponsors the development of local dance music and its practitioners in a variety of ways, and helps make this area as rich in excellent live music as it is. Admission is \$8 for the whole day, or \$5 per session; each session includes the potluck dinner from 5 - 7PM. For information call Susan Worland at 625-8303.



CDS Boston News

MAY 1985

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BOARD NEWS

The Board of Directors met at the CDS office on Thursday, April 4.

Susan Elberger and Harvey Cohen were approved as members of the New England Dance Committee.

Dan Pearl presented the results of the questionnaire which many members filled out and returned with their 1985 ballots. The Board spent much time reviewing and considering the responses of the membership. The results of these questionnaires will be passed on to the dance committees for their consideration. President Mary Stafford thanked Dan for compiling this valuable information.

The Board moved to extend the "run-in" period for new members to NEFFA, meaning that any new CDS member who signed up at NEFFA for the 1985-86 season became an official member immediately, and will receive the benefits of membership free through the summer. The 1985-86 membership fees will remain the same in all categories as they were in the current season.

Allan Wechsler has volunteered to re-establish a suggestion book which will be available for members' input at all CDS dances. Watch for it!

Any member interested in attending the June meeting should contact Mary Stafford for information about its date and location.

-- Deborah D'Amico
CDS Secretary

"THE BEST YET!!"

That was just one of the reactions to the 1985 Playford Ball, held at Dwight Hall in Watertown in March. People came from all over the east to dance at this spectacular event. It was a full house - we could have run another event with just the people who applied too late to get in! The costumes were elegant and fantastic. Bare Necessities provided the indescribably beautiful music, and Helene Cornelius the terrific program. From the beginning of the rehearsal (run by Brad Sayler, Vince O'Donnell, and Karen Axelrod) to the final closing of the hall, the entire day just seemed magical. Many thanks to Stephanie Jack for her professional and thorough chairing of the event.

-- Daniel Pearl



IMPORTANT ENGLISH DANCE NEWS

We hope all you experienced English dancers read your newsletter, because there's been a change in the Third Sunday Series schedule. Instead of an "experienced" dance at the Belmont church on Sunday, June 16, we will hold our second annual Solstice Dance at the Scout House in Concord. The dance will be for all English dancers, beginners and experienced, and will be preceded by a potluck dinner. See the enclosed flyer for details.





CDS Boston News

JUNE 1985

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THANKS FROM THE NEW ENGLAND DANCE COMMITTEE

The members of the New England Dance Committee thank all who contribute to the success of the Tuesday Night "Contras in the Square" series (apologies for omitted names). Setup: Katy Burns, Stan Darcy, Don Pauley. Admissions table: Stan Darcy, Kathryn Dennison. Early teaching: Andy Dennison, Don Pauley. Refreshments: Betsy Opitz. All these jobs, and more, were done by the members of the committee: Harvey B. Cohen, Susan Elberger, Julia Huestis, Deanna Marvin and Daniel Pearl (chair).

This season has featured a terrific selection of callers and musicians from all over, and fine crowds to enjoy them. We thank all the people who dance at our series. It was truly a pleasure having you dance with us! "Contras in the Square" resumes September 10th, and we look forward to seeing everyone there!

Daniel Pearl

WANTED: AN EDITOR!

Charity Stafford, who has been editor of the CDS Newsletter for more than two years now, has asked that we find a replacement for her, so that she can take a well-deserved break! If you are interested in this responsibility, call or write the CDS office to let us know. The Newsletter is published every month, and our goal (not always accomplished!) is to print and mail it by the first of the month. Work includes gathering and typing the material, pasting up the camera-ready copy for the printer, and getting the completed Newsletter to those who will mail it out.

Mary Stafford

CDS FOOD BOOTH THANKS

Many thanks are due to all CDS members who gave so generously of their food, time and energy to the CDS Food Booth at NEFFA this year. There simply isn't space in this publication to list all their names- there were so many who helped!- but their contributions made this one of our most successful years ever. The foods prepared and donated were simply scrumptious, and there were always hands to help serve it all.

Thank you, everyone!

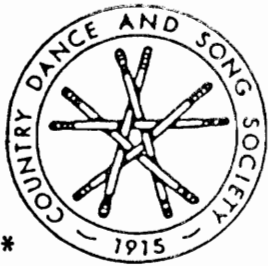
Sandy Borden

SUMMERDANCE SERIES BEGIN JUNE 27

For the second year CDS/NEFFA/FAC will present a coordinated Wednesday and Thursday program of dance events throughout the summer months. Some really unusual and exciting groups are featured this year, so be sure to post your flyers someplace where you can be reminded!

Mary Stafford





CDS Boston News

JULY/AUGUST 1985

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Minutes of the July 15 Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met at the home of Mary Stafford on July 15. Eleven voting members were present as well as several guests.

After many years of volunteer service as Membership Secretary, Mary Blomberg has stepped down. The Board thanked her for her dedication and approved Arthur Ferguson as the new Membership Secretary. Arthur reported that, as of July 11, 1985, CDS has 514 members.

Dan Pearl proposed a new payment system by which musicians and callers would be paid for their services on the night of their performance whenever possible. The Board approved Dan's proposal, expressing a desire to be as supportive as possible of the talent it so regularly depends upon.

Adam Moskowitz presented the tentative Ritual Series Program for the '85-'86 season. There will be a slight increase in the enrollment fee and a series discount will be offered for participants who sign up for, and attend, an entire series. The proposed schedule includes several Morris classes and a Rapper class.

Sandy Borden reported that the CDS Food Booth at NEFFA '85 was tremendously successful, realizing a profit of over \$1500!

There was much discussion of the proposed Pinewoods calendar for the upcoming summers with particular interest focused on the summer of '86 and the "July 4th" weekend (July 3-7). The Board feels strongly that it would like to use that weekend for its traditional July Fourth Weekend. A subcommittee consisting of Charlie Hornig, Deborah D'Amico, Adam Moskowitz, and Harvey Cohen will be meeting with leaders from FAC and RSCDS to discuss a joint proposal for the summer of '86 to be presented to Jackie Schwab and the Pinewoods, Inc. Board in August.

The next Board meeting will be held at the Church of Our Savior in Brookline on Friday, September 6, at 6:00 p.m. Any member interested in attending may contact Mary Stafford.

Debbie D'Amico
Secretary

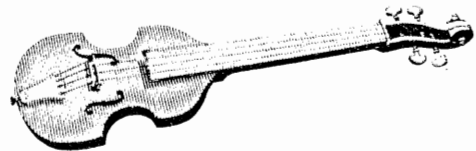
Message from the President

We are well into the regular events of the CDS year as I write this belated "Message from the President". Last year, we tried many changes in the running of our weekly dances, and I am happy to report that, as a direct result of these changes, we ended the year financially stable. For this stabilization much praise is due to Past President Daniel Pearl, who gave unstintingly of his time, energy, and personal talents to carry CDS through a potentially difficult time in great shape!

An organization such as ours exists because of the interest and support of its members. As we approach the new membership year, I urge all of you who receive this newsletter to renew early, and to think about what more you can do to support CDS. Last year many members chose to renew their membership at a higher rate, thus giving us some sorely needed extra financial support. In addition, your volunteer help in our many activities is always welcome, and your regular attendance at our weekly dances is both our joy and our life blood!

Mary Stafford

President, CDS-BC



NEWSLETTER NEWS

We asked for a new Editor, and came up with a committee! The Newsletter will be produced by a team of volunteers: Allan Wechsler will typeset the copy (most of this issue was done by Allan!), Charity Stafford will do artwork and paste-up, Pam Chambers will do a regular column of CDS history, and Mary Stafford will edit and coordinate the effort. We all hope you enjoy the changes!



CDS Boston News

SEPTEMBER 1985

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A Very Special Job

Evelyn Lamond, our CDS/BC historian, has recently brought to our notice a wonderful piece of our past: a tape made in 1958 of interviews with a group of old-time CDS members, including Louise Chapin and Lily and Dick Conant, who are recounting their memories of "the good old days". The speakers represent a span of years from 1917 through the 30's and 40's, and the tape is therefore a history of our organization from the mouths of its founders and builders. It should be of great interest to us all to hear of their work.

The tape has been copied, and now exists as two 90-minute cassette tapes. *But ...* no one has ever undertaken the enormous work of transcribing the tape, and it is therefore not very accessible for CDS members to enjoy.

We are looking for a volunteer who is willing to take the time to properly transcribe and type this material for us. Evelyn has prepared some notes that will aid the listener in this task. If you are interested, please call Mary Stafford, (days) 638-8443, (evenings) 782-7266.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

Telephone: (days) _____
(evenings) _____

I can help with:

- ___ NEFFA food booth
- ___ Graphics (Flyers, Newsletter)
- ___ Mailings
- ___ Newsletter
- ___ Door sitter, Tuesdays
- ___ Door sitter, Wednesdays
- ___ Other: _____



Board Notes

The Board of Directors chose to take a vacation, and didn't meet in August. The September meeting on the 6th will have already taken place by the time you read this Newsletter. If you are interested in attending the October meeting, call Mary Stafford (638-8443, days) or the CDS office (354-1340) to find out the time and place.



Volunteers Sought

Arthur Ferguson has recently become Membership Secretary, taking over that heavy job from Mary Blomberg, who has faithfully performed it for more than seven years. Arthur is using his personal computer to handle the many uses to which our membership list is put, and he would like to update the information many of you have supplied in the past about your interest in volunteer activities. Since the renewal forms we now use don't ask you about that, we are asking anyone willing to do volunteer work to complete the box above, and either tape it to a postcard or mail it in an envelope to:

Country Dance Society, Boston Centre
595 Massachusetts Ave., Room 210
Cambridge, MA 02139