

CDS Boston News



Fall 1988

CONTRAS AND SQUARES MOVE TO WATERTOWN SQUARE

Starting Tuesday evening, September 13th, with caller Ted Sannella, the 1988-89 season of CDS Contras and Squares begins at a new location -- St. John's United Methodist Church at 80 Mount Auburn Street, just three short blocks northeast of Watertown Square. These dances continue a tradition of several decades of weekly New England-style dances in various formats and locations, most recently in Central Square, Cambridge.

This dance series features three popular callers and several musicians familiar to Boston-area dancers. On the first Tuesday of each month, Tony Saletan leads the show, assisted by musicians Andy Woolf, Jack O'Connor and Peter Barnes. On second Tuesdays, Ted Sannella is backed up by Carol Bittenson, Vince O'Donnell and Cal Howard. On third Tuesdays, the series is joined by Tony Parkes with "BLI": Peter Barnes, Mary Lea and Bill Tomczak. Fourth and fifth Tuesdays are reserved for special programs or guest callers. On September 27, Tony Saletan will give extra exercise to his vocal talents in Singing Squares and Classic Contras.

Dancing continues from 8:00PM to 11:00PM, with a short intermission for conversation and refreshments. In addition to many contras and a few pairs of squares, there is usually a mixer circle and a Hambo, sometimes a polka or schottische, and always a closing waltz! Dancers are encouraged to change partners throughout the evening to sample the variety of dancing styles practiced and to make new friends. Shoes should be soft-soled and free of grit from outdoor use. The dance hall has a good wooden floor for dancing ease and comfort.

Watertown Square is at the intersection of State Route 16 and U.S. Route 20, and a mile north of the Mass. Turnpike's Newton Centre exit. St. John's Church has a parking lot in the rear, and is only a block away from a large city lot. It is also on T bus line 71 from Harvard Square to Watertown Square. Bus line 70 from Central Square to Waltham stops in Watertown Square, just a short walk away, and bus line 57 from Kenmore Square terminates just across the bridge from the Square. All three buses run until late in the evening.



- Art Anger

Interviewer: What are the main functions of the Country Dance Society?

Louise Chapin: To spread the interest in the dancing, to encourage research, and to promote the knowledge and practice of these dances. The more these dances are done, the more important it is to base their direction and teaching on the knowledge of technique. This is always borne in mind, although our first consideration is the enjoyment of the group. The Society has classes of Country and Morris dancing, meeting each week in the late afternoon when one is refreshed by a cup of tea before dancing - evening classes of Country dancing each week - Drop-In Evenings of Square dancing twice a month - parties about once a month - an annual festival in New York in the Spring - and a summer school at Pinewoods Camp on Long Pond near Plymouth, in August. Our National Society publishes, four times a year, a magazine called "The Country Dancer", which keeps one informed in this field of dancing.

Interviewer: Are the dances as taught to young people today exactly the same as executed by other generations?

Louise Chapin: Yes and no. Morris, Sword, and the older country dances are enjoyed in their traditional forms. The more recent country dances, especially the Square Dance, and I quote from Miss May Gadd, our National Director: "builds more closely on the patterns handed down from the past; but the fact that callers do build on them and adapt them to their own needs, and that the dancers of each generation adapt the style to fit their own times, is the element that makes these old dances eternally new - a fresh creation every time that they are danced."

- From a transcript of the "Good Morning Ladies Show" on WEEJ, January 23, 1943 (CDS Archive)

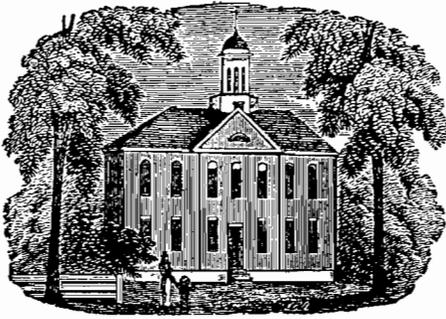


IT'S BEEN FUN, TOO!

It's been overwhelming at times, at times a headache, but it's always been interesting and rewarding.

I'd like to thank everyone who has helped me as Editor of the CDS News for the past 2 1/2 years -- the News contributors, mailing crew, readers and especially those who commented about articles they read or suggested article ideas. Thanks particularly (in no particular order) to Mary Stafford, George Fogg, Lynn Cornelius Jacobs, Herb Jacobs, Harvey Cohen, Evelyn Lamond, Meg Ryan, Laurie Buchanan, Betty Hoskin, Joe Kynoch, Brad Sayler, Arthur Ferguson and Rich Jackson.

Robin



PLANS FOR BOSTON FOLK COMMUNITY
CENTER ANNOUNCED

Yes! It's happening! All of the major dance groups within the Boston area have begun to work together to acquire space for a Folk Dance Center. Yes! Ideally it will be our own building with space for dancing, rehearsing, partying and even parking. Sound too good to be true? It's not, but we do need your help.

Here are some of the particulars. Representatives of CDS, CDS-Boston Centre, FAC, Mandala, NEFFA, FSSGB and RSCDS/Boston Branch have met and agreed to explore the formation of an organization to be called the "Boston Folk Community (BFC)" or something similar to that. BFC would be a non-profit educational and cultural organization incorporated under Massachusetts general laws.

Its objectives would be to secure, maintain and support an environment for the study and practice of traditional, historic and ethnic dance, music and art of a diverse American people. Hence, its key mission would be to provide suitable space for activities related to folk culture, including rehearsal, performance and participation.

A model for BFC is Pinewoods Camp, Inc., which owns and operates a facility enjoyed by dancers and musicians from many organizations. Membership in BFC would be limited to organizations whose objectives were aligned with BFC's, and the Board of BFC would be made up of representatives of the member groups.

BFC's near-term goal is to find suitable space that can be purchased or leased with an option to buy, and it is here that we need your help. Since most of the members of dance groups live to the west of Boston, the ideal location would be in Cambridge, Arlington, Somerville, Newton or Watertown. However, we would certainly consider neighboring communities within the Route 128 loop.

The ideal space would consist of the following:

Activity	Floor Space (sq. ft.)	Min. Ceiling Height (ft.)	Floor	Platform or Stage (sq. ft.)
Main dance	2,400 - 3,000	15	Wood	200
Secondary dance	1,600 - 2,000	12	Wood	150 (Opt.)
Instruction	250 - 300	8	Wood	N/A
Kitchen	100 - 200	8	N/A	N/A
Offices	1,000 - 1,200	8	N/A	N/A

In addition to the above, the ideal building would, we hope, have sufficient ancillary space for coat rooms, bathrooms (preferably with shower facilities), reception area, storage (dry basement or attic), parking for 80-100 cars and be able to

legally accommodate 200 people in each of the two primary dance spaces.

A two story building about 50' x 100' with parking space and proximity to public transportation would be ideal.

We need your help in locating possible buildings such as schools, churches, fire-houses, VFW halls or the like that are for sale and that may have many of the features that we need. We will also consider construction of our own building, so if you know of one or two-acre lots (zoned commercial) that are for sale, we would like to know about them as well. Also, any architectural design firms and/or construction firms that have experience with this type of facility would be of interest.

Harvey Cohen is chairing the ad-hoc committee that is drawing up plans for a more formal BFC. Irene Howard is heading the Site Selection Subcommittee. You may reach Harvey at 877-9065 (H) or 351-4914 (W), Irene at 272-0396, or Les Hellenack who is assisting Irene at 438-3850.

- Folk Building Committee



KENNEDY DANCING NEWCASTLE

"My smock was much too long for me, my hat too large and floppy, and it was with considerable trepidation that I was led out by my partner for 'Newcastle'. I forget now who she was, but once the dance had started, I never saw her or indeed anyone, until I had been safely shepherded off the floor at the end of it. At the first step my foot caught in the smock and I stumbled forward, my hat falling incontinently over my eyes. I tried to restore the hat to its proper position, stumbled again and found that my intimacy with 'Newcastle' had cooled off remarkably and that I had but the vaguest memory of its features. Suddenly my partner seized my arm and swung me round with such vigour, that the wretched hat wedged itself firmly down on my nose and I was lost indeed. I went through the movements as far as I remember them, but I had no idea what my position was at any one moment. Various people handed me and armed me, until suddenly the dance was concluded. I was led off and congratulated but could only find words to curse my hat."

- From EFDSS Magazine, CDS Archive

WANTED

The Solent Country Dance Club from England is looking for a copy of Dances From a Yankee Caller's Clipboard, by Louise Winston. If you have a copy and want to send it to England, please contact George Fogg at the CDS Office.



COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY, BOSTON CENTRE, INC.
EVENTS OF INTEREST TO OUR MEMBERSHIP



BOSTON CENTRE PROGRAMS:

TUESDAY NEW ENGLAND SQUARE AND CONTRA DANCE SERIES, St. John's Methodist Church, 80 Mount Auburn St, Watertown. Callers: 1st Tuesdays - Tony Saletan, 2nd Tuesdays - Ted Sannella, 3rd Tuesdays - Tony Parkes, 4th & 5th special programs and guests. 8:00-11:00. Contacts Arthur Anger (H)899-8702, (W)253-7044 and Betsy Opitz (H)899-8702, (W)369-1441. Sept 13 thru June 13.

WEDNESDAY ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE SERIES, YWCA, Dance Program 8:00-11:00, attention to basics 8:00-9:00. Music by 'Bare Necessities'. Contact Jenny Mosely, 646-9202. Sept 14 thru June 14.

WEDNESDAY RITUAL CLASS, YWCA, LOWER GYM. Contact Meg Ryan, (H)735-0586 Sept 21 - Oct 26, beginning morris, leader Cynthia Whear, musician Dave Titus. Nov 2 - 16, Nov 30 - Dec 14, Open longsword, leader Rich Jackson, Tradition Loftus. Jan 11 - Feb 15, open morris, leader Chris Walker,

FIRST FRIDAY ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING (starting in October) Dances will be taught with the expectation that the dancers have a thorough familiarity of basic English Country Dance figures. Church of Our Saviour, Monmouth St, Brookline. 8:00 - 11:00, Contact Jenny Mosely.

PINEWOODS CAMP, Plymouth MA - 1989 BOSTON CENTRE EVENTS *First Weekend - Fri Eve 6/16 to Sun Eve 6/18; *July "4th" - Thur Eve 6/29 to Mon AM 7/3; *Joint E/S - Mon PM 7/3 to Fri AM 7/7; *Labor Day - Sat AM 9/3 to Tue AM 9/5

FRIENDS OF CDS BOSTON CENTRE, EVENTS:

NOMAD - Northeast Music and Dance Festival, Sat Oct 15, 11 AM -11 PM and Sun Oct 16 11 AM - 3 PM. New festival featuring workshops, demonstrations and dance parties in the following: traditional American, English, Scottish Country Dance, international and specialty folk dance, vintage and 18th and 19th century social dance. Also musician workshops in particular folk instruments, and styles: round and sacred harp singing: coffee house concerts, storytelling and more. If you can offer events contact: Country Dance Leaders - Louise Foley, 15 Rebecca St, Trumbull, CT 06611; Performing groups - Greg Luckman, 510 Fountain St, New Haven, Ct 06515; Morris and sword, Paul Kurlee, 1404 Old Country Rd, Elmsford, NY 10523; Crafts and folk bazaar, Pat Wexelblat, 3516 Old Yorktown Rd, Yorktown, NY 10598; Childrens activities, Geraldine Parent, 110 Watering Pond Rd, Guilford, CT06437; Others and volunteers contact NOMAD, Box 766, Sandy Hook, CT 06482

BARNSTABLE, ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCES ON CAPE COD, Francis Worrell, 508/362-9570, Fridays 9/9, 9/23, 10/14, 10/28, 11/11, 11/18, 12/9, Barnstable Unitarian Church, 7:30

BROOKLINE, MA - ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE PARTY, Robin Rogers-Browne and Brad Saylor, Music by Karen Axelrod, Pat MacPherson and friends. 10/28, 11/25, then 3rd Fridays, Dec thru June. Church of Our Saviour, Monmouth and Carlton St. 8:00-11:00, 897-8629, 475-0791

EAST DERRY, NH - Colonial New Hampshire Ball, Sunday Oct 16 - UPPER VILLAGE HALL, Hampstead RD. 7:00 - 10:30, 603-432-8558.

LINCOLN, MA - ROARING JELLY, 3rd Fridays, Oct - June, 8:00, Susan Elberger caller, Bemis Hall, the former Old Lincoln Town Hall, 776-1007 or 508/875-7551

SOUTH WEYMOUTH, MA - English Country Dance, George Fogg, live music, Mondays, except 1st Mondays, starting Sept 19, 8:00-10:00, Old South Congregational Church, 335-0818, 426-1048

Christmas 1988 Revels - Cambridge 12/15 -22, 12/27 - 30 617-864-9183

BALLS: Baltimore, MD, Oct 29, 301/366-7338; Philadelphia, Dec 3, 215/269-9924; Williamsburg, Mar 4, 804/229-1775

All calendar submissions must be in writing and received by Harvey Cohen, 54 Elda Rd, Framingham Ma 01701 on or before September 15



SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT

It's not exactly the Boston Globe or the National Inquirer, but the CDS News needs a new Editor. If you like to write, if you like to know what's going on with CDS, and if you want to help CDS continue to be a growing and vibrant organization, here's your big chance. Contact CDS President Sandy Borden at the CDS office at 354-1340.

DOUGLAS KENNEDY MEMORIAL FUND

The English Folk Dance and Song Society has launched an appeal for contributions to a memorial fund honoring Douglas Kennedy, past Executive Director of EFDSS, who died recently.

"It is hard for people my age to realise that there is a whole generation of dancers and singers who never knew Douglas Kennedy. As a teenager when the war ended and a somewhat lost (and bored) undergraduate I wandered into Cecil Sharp House for want of something better to do. The fact that I and many hundreds of others like me have joined and stayed with the Society since then is largely due to Douglas."

- Ron Smedley

Kennedy has a long and valuable association with CDSS and Pinewoods Camp. The memorial fund, "remembering Douglas not in things but in people", will assist English dancers, singers, leaders and students abroad and to the US "to represent England properly and well, to bring back their experiences to enrich our own organization (EFDSS)."

Contributions should be made payable to Kennedy Memorial Fund and sent c/o EFDSS, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London, England NW1 7AY. EFDSS has a dollar account, so your contributions may be sent in US funds.

The Ralph Page Memorial Committee (RPMC) is pleased to announce that the Second Ralph Page Legacy Weekend (RPLW) will be held on January 13 - 15, 1989. The response to last year's event was so overwhelmingly enthusiastic that the decision was made to repeat in 1989 at the same location and with a similar format. Accordingly, the second RPLW will be held at the Durham, NH campus of the University of New Hampshire and will feature lots of traditional square and contra dancing including many old favorites from the Ralph Page repertoire.

A top-notch staff has been assembled to present an exciting program of workshops for dancers, callers and musicians. There will be three dance parties including the Saturday night GRAND BALL gala which will be preceded by a sumptuous banquet.

Well-known callers Chip Hendrickson and Ted Sannella will repeat as staff members for 1989. They will be joined by Tony Parkes, George Hodgson and Marianne Taylor. Tony will present some of his "elegant dances", George has a wealth of singing calls from the 40's and 50's up his sleeve, and Marianne will be teaching some of the couple dances that were done at Ralph's dances. Among the musicians on staff will be the Boston-based group Yankee Ingenuity, in addition to all-time favorite Bob McQuillen, who played piano and accordion for many years at Ralph's dances. Other staff members will be announced soon.

Plans are under way for additional workshops to be presented by noted folklorists as was done with success last year, and a tour of the Ralph Page Memorial Library (on the UNH campus) again will be offered. Scholarships for leaders and musicians will be available as well as financial assistance for a limited number of work-study positions. A comprehensive brochure will be available in October. This may be obtained by sending a note requesting same, along with a stamped, self-addressed business-sized envelope to Ralph Page Legacy Weekend c/o NEFFA, 1950 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02140.

The RPMC was appointed in 1986 by the elected board of the New England Folk Festival Association (NEFFA) for the purpose of memorializing the name of Ralph Page and continuing his work of disseminating and encouraging traditional New England dance and music. Ralph Page (1903-1985) was for many years the Dean of New England callers, a prolific author, choreographer, musician, dance music composer, folklorist and raconteur. He was the moving force behind the revival of contra dancing in this country and abroad. Contributions to NEFFA-RPMC are solicited to support such projects as the upcoming Legacy Weekend.

- Ted Sannella





WE GET LETTERS

To the Editor:

In the March/April 1988 issue of CDS Boston News Brad Sayler believes "that many people who come to our Playford Ball from outside the Boston area do not feel as welcome as we might wish." Some who do not dance weekly in the Boston area might not know who are our guests.

One suggestion for our next Playford Ball would be to have all the name cards show the town and state - as has been done sometimes at Pinewoods Camp. It's also an icebreaker for conversation.

According to the magazine Northern Junket, which Ralph Page issued, in the late 1800's there were many dances held in the Town Halls around the Monadnock region and Keene area. I judge these were formal dances with four or five musicians in evening dress. I also think everyone came with a partner. If we also did the same, a couple could easily approach another couple and offer to exchange partners for the next dance.

One problem with Playford dances is the variety of formations where the Boston habit is to scramble for a place, leaving the less experienced or hesitant at the foot of the line.

Another idea might be to give out dance cards, with attached pencil, to everyone when they pick up their name card so that all who wish might arrange for partners before the Ball starts - resulting in no scrambling or people left out.

We girls, however, cannot very well ask a man to dance who has a lady beside him. It's up to the men to be hosts.

I do hope that Brad will speak about this subject to the Boston girls who have attended Balls at Germantown, Richmond and Williamsburg.

At the Playford Ball last year I was asked to dance by several out-of-state guests.

Fortunate!

- Evelyn Lamond

Send your letters to c/o Editor, CDS News, 1950 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02140

PINEWOODS CAMP NEWS

The PCI Board of Directors recently announced that Susannah Diamondstone will be the next camp manager, replacing long-time manager, musician and dance leader Jacqueline Schwab, who is off to new endeavors. Many Pinewoods campers know Susannah in her more recent roles at camp as Head Cook and as a member of the Kitchen Crew, and even as a member of the Grounds Crew! The position is effective in November. Congratulations, Susannah, and good luck, Jackie!

FROM FACONE

The internationally famous Tamburitians of Duquesne University will be appearing at the John Hancock Hall in Boston on Friday, November 4, 1988 at 8:00 PM. The song and dance concert is being sponsored by the Folk Arts Center of New England.

The Tamburitians' production has been linked to a European musical tour. In hundreds of colorful and authentic costumes, the performers display their talents with brilliance, forming a kaleidoscopic impression of the most fascinating and romantic parts of the Balkans and neighboring lands. Dances, rituals, songs, costumes, folklore - all unfold in a brilliant array of color and high-speed precision.

The group possesses the remarkable faculty of summing up in a single performance the spirit of an entire people. The enthusiasm of a Tamburitan performance is exhilarating. Language is no barrier; the situation enacted needs no translation. Joy at a wedding, sorrow at death, pride in a plentiful harvest, or the secretive flirtations of a couple falling in love are understood universally.

These highly talented folk artists, dedicated to the preservation of East European folk culture, take their name from the musical instrument they play -- the "tamburitza". Using over five hundred authentic costumes in each concert, the Tamburitians sing in a dozen different European languages and do the dances of as many countries. They have been on numerous tours overseas, serving as "goodwill ambassadors" for the United States State Department.

Tickets are \$16 and \$12, with discounts available for children, senior citizens and groups. Further information and tickets are available through the Folk Arts Center, (617) 491-6083. The Folk Arts Center is a non-profit organization, whose programs are partially funded by the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities.

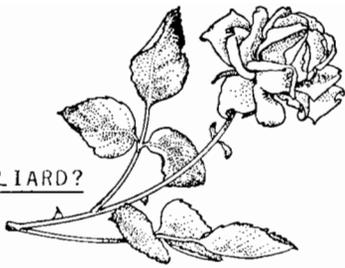
- Marcie Van Cleave



25 YEARS AND STILL GOING

Pinewoods Morris Men announces its 23rd Annual Fall Tour, to be held Saturday, October 1. This annual gathering of local Morris teams and special out-of-town guests will take place in the Harvard Square area in the morning (starting at 10:00AM at the Cambridge Common). Dancing continues after a brief lunch stop in downtown Boston (Public Gardens, Newbury Street, etc.), ending at Faneuil Hall/Quincy Market in the late afternoon. For more information, contact Joe Kynoch at (508)877-1168.

WHAT'S A ROSE GALLIARD?



Rose Galliard, formerly Boston Northwest Clog, is celebrating its first anniversary (a milestone for any Morris team), and can look back at the successes of our fledgling year with a sigh of relief.

The first triumph was the name itself. After hours of brainstorming about images we could associate with the mill region of England, we stumbled across some startling combinations. "Blazing Bobbins" seemed to hint at lassos instead of cotton slings, whereas "Flying Shuttle" suggested \$99 one way. And would you hire "Looming Presence" for your English tea party? "Rose Galliard" was inspired by quilting patterns featuring roses, and by a thumb through the thesaurus (one of the older meanings of "galliard" is "sprightly" or "lively").

But the rose needed a place to grow, so the kit was cultivated during innumerable sewing parties. Much to our delight, the blue pinafores and white skirts were whipped up in time for NEFFA; somehow we felt we had made our official entry into the Morris world once we all had the same costume. Of course, to those outside folk circles our kits were cause for speculation, as someone once asked us, "Are you from the same Visiting Swedish Nurses' Association?"

Happily, we are a team still devoted to the energy of dancing and the bond of camaraderie. Interested dancers are encouraged to drop by and join us for a practice, and we especially encourage accordion, tuba and percussion players to come by, even if only one of these instruments is your specialty. We meet Tuesday nights in Concord and you can call Lisa for more information at (508)779-6077.

- Lisa Greenleaf

DON'T WAIT TO BE ASKED!!

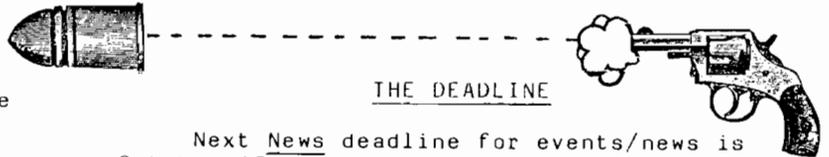


As a new season of dancing begins, you might want to think about how you can make it not only better for yourself, but for CDS and other dance organizations as well. Maybe you'd like to volunteer formally and be part of a planning committee. Maybe you'd like to help out with refreshments, or with the sound system, or with the publicity for a dance event. Perhaps you'd like to help with the News (always welcomed!) or with a residential weekend. Whatever your choice is, remember that the Boston Centre is only as strong and vibrant as its members. Just as you might not wait to be asked to dance at a dance, don't wait to be asked to help out!

In thinking about how to make any one evening of dancing better, consider what long-time dance leader Larry Jennings says before each NEFFA Contra: "Dance in all parts of the hall, with all kinds of people. Dance with someone whose name you don't know. Dance with someone whose skill level is different from yours. And dance with the person whom you'd most like to dance with that evening."

WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU

Many thanks to the many contributors to this issue of the CDS News: Art Anger, CDS Archives, Marcie Van Cleave, Harvey Cohen, George Fogg, Lisa Greenleaf, Evelyn Lamond and Ted Sannella. Big thanks to Herb Jacobs and Lynn Cornelius Jacobs for word processing and graphics. Thanks, too, to Meg Ryan for making sure you receive your copy of the News.



Next News deadline for events/news is October 15, covering the December/January issue. Send your letters, comments and news items c/o CDS News, Country Dance Society - Boston Centre, 1950 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02140...by the deadline, or else!

Country Dance Society, Boston Centre
1950 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02140
(617)354-1340



FORWARDING AND ADDRESS

CORRECTION REQUESTED