

CDSS Boston News



Winter 1992-93

Custodian	Shag Graetz
Cleanup Crew	Herb and Lynn Jacobs
Porter	Ann Cowan

[Editor's note: This poignant essay has also appeared in the *American Morris Newsletter* and the newsletter of the Country Dance and Song Society (National CDSS).]

Dancing In White

by Patrice Bennet-Alder

When a member of my Morris Dance team died in a car accident three years ago, we were asked to dance at the memorial concert. This was a celebration of his life by the many musical groups he had been involved with or inspired. We could not bring ourselves to do it---we couldn't find a way to bridge the sorrow and reach the joy that the Morris expresses.

Although I could not Morris dance for my teammate so soon after his death, there was another time when *Dancing in White* was exactly what I wanted to do. Ironically, it was not until weeks afterwards that it occurred to me that I had been part of a ritual dance.

I saw a movie that showed a large open field. Thousands of spectators watched as groups of eight people in white unwrapped large pieces of cloth. One pile was unwrapped, then the team moved to the next pile while another team elsewhere on the field unwrapped their pile. It was like flowers on a pond opening in the morning sunlight.

After the movie, a speaker explained to the audience that we could take part in this event if we chose. When the event came to my community, I went to a planning meeting, and made sure to sign up for the unwrapping.

We were instructed to wear all white. I thought "I can manage that. I'll change the ribbons on the bottom of my Morris knickers from blue to white, and I'll be all set." It felt strange to use the costume of the Morris for another purpose. I had been tempted in the past to wear costumes from my folk dancing to Halloween parties, but my respect for the costume prevented this sort of demeaning use.

The day of the unwrapping arrived. This time the event took place in a large indoor arena with a concrete floor. We were assigned to our teams of eight, and rehearsed our role of opening the large pieces of cloth. They told us we were required to take off our shoes because we would have to step on the cloth. I had a moment of panic as I feared the return of the foot pain that had been aggravated by five years of pounding my legs into the ground and never leaping quite high enough. Choreographed movement by a small group of people wearing white felt familiar to me, but I had not yet made the connection on a conscious level.

We moved in slow straight silent lines from the edges of the arena to the first pile of cloth. It was neatly folded like a lotus blossom. We formed a circle around the pile and held hands for a moment. First the even-numbered people took a corner of the cloth to pull out and lay flat. Then the other people took a corner to unfold. This continued until the cloth was completely opened. We lifted the cloth over our heads and moved in a circle to align it squarely with the walls of the room. Then we carefully laid it down and moved in a slow silent line to the next

pile. As we walked, I saw pieces of colorful heavy cloth in the air in other parts of the room, as they were being unwrapped by other people in white. I felt good to be able to do the work to bring this ritual to the people of my community.

What did I see when I opened the cloth? I saw teddy bears, photographs, pieces of clothing, rainbows, written stories, and...Names. We were the caretakers of these precious quilts. We had the honor of touching them and opening them up so the world could learn who the people are whose lives were shortened by AIDS.

When I dance the Morris in the spring, I try very hard to feel that I am a part of the centuries of rituals that express our joy and hope for the earth coming back to life after a cold dark winter. It never occurred to me that I would express my love of dance in celebration of the lives of millions of people, including my older sister, whose piece will join the quilt when her battle with the virus is over.

... May we continue to dance for those who danced before us.

[I would love to read stories from others who have used ritual dance as part of special events in their lives. I know that many traditional dancers have been inspired to have a special dance to celebrate a wedding or other personal event. Please share them with other readers of *CDS Boston News* or send them to me: Patrice Bennet-Alder, 62 Oxford St, Arlington, Mass 02174.]

Early Warning!

The Bolles Scholarship

NOTE! Because of a change in the lottery schedules for Pinewoods 1993, the deadline for submitting applications for the Bolles Scholarship is now a month earlier than before: March 1, 1993.

The Bolles Memorial Fund, which is administered by the Boston Centre's Endowment Committee, was established in 1941 in memory of Dorothy Bolles, a dedicated teacher and long-time member of the Boston Centre. The income from this fund provides partial or full scholarships for potential music and dance leaders who wish to enlarge their knowledge and experience by attending one of the Country Dance and Song Society's dance weeks at Pinewoods Camp.

Applicants are not restricted to the Boston or New England area, but preference will be given to those who have been active in one or more Centers or Associates of CDSS.

Applications should include the following:

- a resume of your involvement with English and/or American dance
- your goals in attending the week and the benefits you expect to bring back to your dance community
- the amount of support you will need
- an indication of the dance week you want to attend

The Endowment Committee also welcomes suggestions as to likely candidates for the Scholarship. Please send your application letter or suggestions to

Endowment Committee, CDS Boston Centre
c/o Arthur Ferguson
21 Upper Joclyn Ave
Framingham, Mass 01701

Applications must be received no later than March 1, 1993.

ARE YOU RENEWED?

Take a look at the mailing label on this issue of the News. In the upper right corner you should see a letter or number. If it is a number, and the number is 92, it means that your membership expired on August 31 and has not been renewed. So this is the last issue of the CDS Boston News you'll get until you renew your membership, which you can do at any Tuesday or Wednesday night dance, or by sending your name, current address, phone number (optional), and a check made out to "CDS Boston Centre" to

Country Dance Society, Boston Centre
c/o Arthur Ferguson
21 Upper Joclyn Ave
Framingham, Mass 01701

Membership categories and rates:

Regular	\$15	Sponsor	\$50
Contributor	\$25	Patron	\$100
Supporter	\$35	Benefactor	\$500
Student/Senior/Limited Income			\$10

Any membership at the "Contributor" level or above can serve as a family membership, which may include up to two adults and any children under 18, all residing at one mailing address.

--- Arthur Ferguson,
Membership Secretary

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NEFFA-Morris Update

CALLING ALL ENGLISH RITUAL-DANCE TEAMS! Are you new since last year? Has your team contact person or address changed since last year, or since the 1992 Directory of the American Morris Newsletter was published? If so, please send me the name and address of your current contact by the end of December. I am coordinating Morris and Sword dancing at NEFFA '93, both indoors and outdoors. We would hate for a group to miss a chance to perform because we were unable to contact them.

Bill White
64 Griggs Rd
Brookline, Mass 02146
617/566-7461



Calendar

For the latest information on events in the Boston area, call the Boston Centre office, 617/354-1340.
A recorded announcement will bring you up to date.

BOSTON CENTRE PROGRAMS

(Except where noted, all telephone numbers are in Area Code 617)

Continuing Series

TUESDAYS: NEW ENGLAND SQUARE AND CONTRA DANCE

Hannum Hall, 7 Temple St, Cambridge, Mass. 7:30 - 10:30 PM.

Callers: Tony Saletan, Sarah Gregory Smith, Tony Parkes, or guest caller.

Musicians: Rotating groups of first-class, lively bands

Contact: Arthur Anger (H)899-8702, (W)253-7044

WEDNESDAYS: ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE

Hannum Hall, 7 Temple St, Cambridge, Mass. 7:30-10:30 PM.

Teachers: Helene Cornelius, Barbara Finney, George Fogg, Rich Jackson,
Robin Rogers-Browne, Jackie Schwab, Chris Walker

Musicians: "Bare Necessities" (Peter Barnes, Earl Gaddis, Mary Lea, Jacqueline Schwab) and others.

Contact: Arthur Ferguson 508/875-0382

FIRST FRIDAY ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE

Church of Our Saviour, Monmouth & Carlton Sts, Brookline, Mass, 8:15-11 PM.

First Friday of the month. Various leaders and musicians.

For dancers thoroughly familiar with basic English Country Dance figures. Dances will be taught.

Contact: Arthur Ferguson 508/875-0382

Morris and Sword

All workshops and classes are at Hannum Hall, 7 Temple St, Cambridge, Mass. See flyer for details.

Workshop on Rapper and Longsword Locks with Rhett Krause and Rich Jackson

Saturday, January 23, 1993, 1-5 PM

Contact: Karen Mueller, 628-1241

Morris Jigs with Jamie Beaton

Wednesday evenings, February 17 and 24, March 3, 1993, 7-8:30 PM

Musician: Tom Kruskal

Contact: Rebecca Jordan, 825-0201

English Solo Clog with Kari Smith

Saturday, March 5, 1993, 10 AM - 3 PM

Musician: Eric Smith

Contact: Karen Mueller, 628-1241

Special Events

Holiday Dance Party in December

Details not confirmed at press time; see enclosed flyer or call the CDS office, 354-1340, for information.

The Playford Ball, Saturday, March 6, 1993, Town Hall, Weston, Mass

MC: Helene Cornelius. Music: Bare Necessities

Watch for special mailing early next year.

Meetings

Meetings are open; all members are welcome, but call ahead to confirm date, time, and place.

Board of Directors: 3rd Weds, 6:00PM, CDS Office, 1950 Mass Ave, Cambridge (354-1340)

American Dance Committee: 2nd Tues, 6:15PM. Call for location (899-8702)

English Dance Committee: 2nd Thurs, 7:00PM, Call for location (875-0382)

FRIENDS OF THE BOSTON CENTRE

Regular Events

Andover, Mass: **Contra dance** with Jack Janssen, music by Beck Tracy, Bruce Rosen, Robin Kynoch, and Susan Janssen. Sponsored by South Church in Andover
3rd Fridays, 8-11 PM, Unitarian-Universalist Church, 6 Locke St
Call 508/474-4273 or 508/470-2797

Barnstable, Mass: **English Country Dance**
Fridays, 7:30 PM: Dec 11
Barnstable Unitarian Church.
Call Francis and Marjorie Worrell, 508/362-9570

Boston, Mass: **Contras and Squares** with Chris Ricciotti, sponsored by NEGAL
Saturdays 8-11 PM: Dec 12: Holiday party. 1993: Jan 16, 30; Feb 13, 27;
Mar 20: Afternoon advanced session 2-5, followed by potluck supper and evening dance
First Church Unitarian-Universalist Assoc, Centre and Eliot Sts, Jamaica Plain
Call Janet 617/522-2216, Steve 617/729-9206, or Scott 617/625-6732

Lexington, Mass: **Contras and Squares** with Susan Elberger, music by Roaring Jelly, Ed Pearlman, director
Third Fridays, Sept through June, 8-11 PM, First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Assoc, 7 Harrington Rd
Call 617/235-0713 or 508/371-0912

Medway, Mass: **Contras** with Jerry Procopowicz, live music.
Second Saturdays, 7:30-10:30 PM, Christ Episcopal Church, 14 School St
Call 508/533-1259 or 508/429-1773

Special Events

"Gender-Free" English and American Dance, Saturday, Jan 30, 1993, 7-10 PM
Hannum Hall, 7 Temple St, Cambridge, Mass
English Country Dances with Lisa Greenleaf, Contras & Squares with Michael Ciccone
Music: Peter Barnes, Amy Richardson, Larry Ungar

NEGAL New Year's Dance, Saturday, Jan 2, 1993, 8-11 PM
Contras and Squares with NEGAL callers and band
First Church Unitarian-Universalist Assoc, Centre and Eliot Sts, Jamaica Plain
Call NEGAL Dance Line 800/484-7113, code 1112

How to send stuff to the CDS Boston News

Please send all editorial submissions, letters, and Calendar listings to

CDS Boston News
c/o Shag Graetz
49 Stow St
Acton, Mass 01720

[phone: 508/263-6469]

Hard copy should be typewritten or printed; draft-mode dot-matrix printer copy is OK, but please use a dark ribbon. For longer items (more than 250 words), a DOS-format ASCII file on a 5¼-inch double-density (360KB) floppy disk will save time and help avoid editing mistakes. I'll return your disk if you request it, otherwise consider it a donation to the Boston Centre. Graphics (music, drawings, etc.) must be hard copy, at least for now. Please include the name and address of a contact person, so that we can call and verify information, and send you a copy of the News with your insertion.

For information on how many flyers you'll need, and where to send or take them, please call the CDS Boston Centre office, 617/354-1340.

The deadlines for the next issue are

News copy and Calendar listings: **January 31, 1993**
Flyers: **February 15, 1993**

Traveling Musicians From

England!

[Extracts from a letter to National CDS:]

The Shepherd's Crown Band is considering a visit to New England, with a caller, at the end of July 1993. We would be available to play for dances [and other functions].

Usually the band consists of four players (fiddle/mandolin, accordion/keyboards, bass, and drums), playing frequently for dance clubs, schools, church groups, wedding receptions, etc. We collaborate with several callers, and [have] played in France and Germany.

We would hope to recover only part of our tour expenses. A typical charge for an evening here is the equivalent of about \$350, plus the caller's fee.

Yours faithfully,
R Harding
51 Downside Ave
Findon Valley, WORTHING
West Sussex BN14 OEX
England



Really Early Warning!

The 1993 JULY 4th WEEKEND!

Even though the days are getting shorter and you are getting ready for the cold of winter, it will warm your heart to know that planning for the July 4th weekend at Pine-woods is well under way. While the details have still to be worked out (and even the best plans are vulnerable to unexpected changes), we have a few tidbits to spice your cider.

The Weekend will start Thursday, July 1 and end Monday, July 5. We plan to have Larry Edelman from Baltimore anchoring the American program and Helene Cornelius heading the English. For Morris and Sword, we hope to feature Tony Poile and Kari Smith. Among the musicians will be Steve Hickman, Peter Barnes, Earl Gaddis, and Tom Kruskal.

In this election year, the committee has been under pressure to make campaign promises. **Read our lips: NO MARSHMALLOWS!** Our complete platform and an application to join the Party will be enclosed in the next News. Thank you.

---Frank Attanasio and
Eileen Callahan

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Need a house-sitter?

HOUSING WANTED

Sandy and Sam Rotenberg, dancers from Philadelphia, are planning to spend three months in Boston from January through March, 1993. We are looking for a house or apartment to sublet, house-sit, or rent. If you know of any possibilities, please call us at 215/844-3259, or write to us at 730 East Dorset St, Philadelphia, Pa 19119.

The Playford Ball

Boston Centre's 1993 Playford Ball will be Saturday, March 6, at the Weston, Mass, Town Hall. The Mistress of Ceremonies will be Helene Cornelius; Bare Necessities will provide the music. There will be a walk-through of the program in the afternoon.



The Wednesday Night Dance

To better satisfy both new and experienced English Country dancers, the English Dance Committee, together with the leaders of the Wednesday night dance, have made some subtle but, we hope, significant changes.

The first hour will focus as before on beginners, concentrating on the fundamentals of English Country dancing. During the second hour the level of experience expected of the dancers will increase, and more markedly than in the past. The third hour will remain a request period in which dances, usually including some taught earlier in the evening, will be talked through rather than taught. Requests will be announced one or two dances ahead.

A description of the evening's structure will be displayed so that everyone will know what to expect. Even though the first hour is tailored to beginners, some of the material will be new and of interest to more seasoned dancers.

The "Dance of the Month", a feature begun late last year, will continue. A challenging dance is taught every Wednesday for a month, then done "for those who know" during the request period. (Some of these dances will be presented "for those who know" at the Playford Ball.)

As a further incentive, we are offering first-time English dancers a card giving them admission at \$2.50 (half the non-members rate) for six Wednesday dances over a three-month period. On the back of the card is a brief description of the evening's structure. If you (or a friend) have never done English dancing, we hope you (and your friend) will take advantage of this offer. And if you are an experienced English dancer who has not been to a Wednesday evening session recently, please come back and see if you like the changes.

— Arthur Ferguson

CRUFT & Grummies

This was a pretty good year for the local Morris teams. New Town visited England in June, and your Editor's Olde Towne side, the Pinewoods Morris Men, had a fine time touring for ten days in July. Lisa Greenleaf tells us that Rose Galliard Northwest Morris are celebrating their fifth anniversary this year. She writes (in part): "The team began in 1987 with six hardy members, five of whom are still ranting away every Tuesday night. We are now up to about 15 dancers. We are planning celebrations for this anniversary year...and we will continue to stomp our clogs, twizzle our slings, and whoop and yell for Northwest Morris."

Patrice Bennet-Alder, author of "Dancing in White", is leaving for the West Coast at the end of the year. Patrice is a well-known presence in the local Morris scene; she's the Squire of Middlesex Morris, and has for several years been the Morris coordinator for the New England Folk Festival. She'll find plenty of Morris activity in the Bay area, and we wish her all the best.

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Newsletter editors, like bed linen, ought to be changed periodically to keep them fresh. This one has enjoyed putting the CDS News together for the past couple of years, but it's time for the laundry. I'd like to hand the works over to someone new after the next (Spring '93) issue. It's not hard, especially if you like playing with words (both yours and other people's). I'll describe the job in greater detail next issue, but if your interest is piqued, please write or call me. My address and phone number are on the Calendar pages.

---shag



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