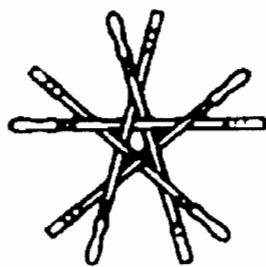


# CDS Boston News



## Spring 1997

Editor: Michael Bergman

Deadline for Summer Newsletter:

☞ June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1997. Details, back page.

### *President's Farewell*

Last August, the President's Column previewed the Boston Centre's upcoming dance season. Looking back at mid-year, we have much to celebrate. Our expanded program at the Scout House has been most successful. To date, we've presented an evening of Klezmer contras in November, a holiday party in January which featured both English and New England dancing, and an English/Scottish party in March. The principal volunteers whose imagination and hard work created these three truly special occasions are, respectively, Ann Cowan, Lynn Jacobs and Frank Attanasio, and Gene DiSalvatore. Many thanks to you all. Not only were all these events well attended, but they brought many new faces to a Boston Centre event. The next challenge, of course, is to encourage those Saturday night participants to join in our Tuesday and Wednesday series.

Our new venture, the revamped Tuesday evening New England dance series is a work-in-progress. Dancers give it high marks, noting both the quality of the music and dance, and also the welcoming atmosphere. We are gratified that the dance appears to be gathering momentum as more people find their way to Watertown. If you haven't been there yet, think about giving it a whirl.

My two-year stint as president of the Boston Centre will end this month. The opportunity to serve an organization whose programs and activities enrich my life immeasurably has been a privilege, a challenge and, most of the time, a great pleasure. The support and enthusiasm of the officers, board members, committee chairs and members, dance leaders and musicians, and all the other volunteers who make and keep the organization operational are one of its major assets. Their willingness to share their time and talents is inspiring. My thanks to each of you. I look forward to working with many of you next year as past president.

—Jean Farrington, Past President, CDS Boston Centre

*CDS Summer Dance Calendar on pages 3-5.  
Other area events on pages 4-5.  
Special Events, page 6.*

### *CDS is on the WEB*

This February, CDS launched its own web site, providing us with a two way window on the whole dance world. Dancers from out of town or area residents new to folkdancing will be able to get schedules and descriptions of our dances, and maps showing the location of our dance sites. Those familiar with our dance series will be able to get late breaking information on special events and cancellations due to weather, and will be able to follow links to dance sites around the world.

The URL for the site is [www.math.neu.edu/~gaffney/cds.html](http://www.math.neu.edu/~gaffney/cds.html). The site is being maintained by Terry Gaffney on a server at the Mathematics Department at Northeastern University. Since the volume of requests on this server is relatively low, making a connection with our pages will be quick. Terry invites all interested in working on the site to get in touch with him. You can send e-mail for him to [gaff@neu.edu](mailto:gaff@neu.edu).

Right now each of our regular English series has its own page, and each week of our Tuesday series also has a page. In the future we hope to have pages for each of our dance camps, for the Playford Ball, and an electronic version of this newsletter. We also plan to include material on the history of CDS, and early figures associated with us, such as Cecil Sharp, Helen Storrow, and Ralph Page.

### *Pinewoods Summer Jobs*

(advertisement)

Pinewoods Camp in Plymouth, MA is looking for full-time and volunteer crew members for the 1997 season. Cooks and cooks' assistants are especially needed, but other kitchen or grounds positions may be available. Full-time crew should be available from June 1 through Labor Day, and volunteers should be able to live at camp for at least 3 weeks. For more information, contact:

Eileen Callahan (508) 224-4858  
Manager, Pinewoods Camp or email:  
80 Cornish Field Road [manager@pinewoods.org](mailto:manager@pinewoods.org)  
Plymouth, MA 02360

## *Two dance books from Belgium*

Two alternate views of New-England dancing appear in recent publications from Belgium (spiral-bound, in English).

"*The Contra Dance Book*" by Ricky Holden has been reprinted from the 1956 edition. It is a compilation of more than 100 traditional American contras and circle dance from 1850 to 1953, with descriptions, historical background, and calling and teaching suggestions. It also contains background about contra dancing and terminology. (Code B211, \$20)

"*From a Belgian Yankee Caller*" by Philippe Callens presents 45 of the author's dances in the New-England tradition: 4 circles, 13 squares, 24 contras, and 4 others, with clear descriptions and chorded musical score (and suggestions for recorded music). It also includes an annotated bibliography and discography of works on American dance published in Europe and a list of related organizations. (Code B208, \$25)

The publisher is:

Anglo-American Dance Service v.z.w.

Resedastraat 8,

B-9920 Lovendegem,

Belgium

Telephone/fax: +32 9 372 96 35

## *Brattleboro Dances in Trouble* 21<sup>st</sup> and Final Year—Gibson Aiken Center Lease Lost.

The once-every-decade Dawn Dances crisis has come around. It isn't clear to me that another suitable facility is available in Brattleboro and I'm trying to draw attention to our situation. A front-page article recently appeared in the Brattleboro Reformer and I've requested a public meeting with the Parks & Recreation Committee to discuss the situation. Hope you are able to attend.

I'm working to keep the Dawn Dances alive but it isn't clear that the Dawn Dances will remain in Brattleboro and I need your support. Please cast your vote for keeping the Dawn Dances in Brattleboro: send a card or letter to:

Brattleboro Parks & Rec Committee

Gibson-Aiken Center

207 Main St. Brattleboro, VT 05301

1-802-257-2310 (fax)

simply saying "Thanks for the last twenty-one years. It was a great dance. [We're] sad to leave." and "[We] support efforts to keep the Dawn Dances in Brattleboro."

Thanks, everyone.

—Kevin Collins (413)-256-1233 kevicoll@aol.com

## *NOTES OF THE BOARD*

### **20 November 1996**

The Board again discussed the need to increase membership, and several strategies which might be used.

Budgets were approved for the Playford Ball and the May English Dance Weekend with Colin Hume.

The past July 4th Weekend was reviewed, and a budget approved for the next one. Lilo Gallagher was appointed Co-Chair for the event.

The New-England Dance Committee membership was approved as Jean Krogh (Chair), Terry Gaffney, Tamara Golden, Andy Kohler, and Chris Reynolds. The high point of the first two months had been the Klezmer Contra, with 90 attendees; other evenings seldom drew 30 people. Purchase of a locking cabinet was approved, so that audio equipment would not have to be stored in the Rector's office.

A plan for an English-Scottish dance at the Scout House on Saturday, March 1st, was discussed at length; it had been in progress for several months, but no-one had been available to present it at the previous Board meeting. It was finally decided to approve this plan, requiring the Mardi-Gras dance already approved to move to another location or date approved by the Committee.

Charles Hornig was appointed to represent CDS on the English-Scottish Session Committee; Christina Wasch is joining from RSCDS.

### **December 1996, January and February 1997**

Perhaps the most exciting news from the Board of Directors since the last News issue is that CDS is on the Web! Our web pages cover general information, American and English dance programs, dance locations and times, and how to get there. Soon to come will be pages on dance camps, the Playford Ball, Fifth-Saturday contras, and a question-and-answer page. The URL is: <http://www.math.neu.edu/~gaffney/cds.html>

The Board is also beginning an outreach effort at colleges and universities in the area, asking campus groups to co-sponsor a dance as a fund-raising activity. They provide the hall and their dancers; CDS provides music, caller, and some experienced dancers. The college group gets the money and CDS gets an infusion of new dancers. This seems to be a promising way to introduce dancing to a new, young audience, always needed if the dance community is to thrive.

The Board voted to send a donation of \$100 to the Harvard Community Health Plan in memory of Genevieve Jennings.

The Treasurer's reports indicate that CDS is in a healthy financial position. CDS has not been able to find co-chairs for a Food Booth at the Folk Festival in April. Katie Peterson and Jerry Callen will co-chair the Pinewoods First Weekend this June. The Board is encouraging the dance committees to reinstitute occasional "twofer" nights, admitting together a current dancer and someone new to dancing for the price of one.

# 1997 SPRING DANCE CALENDAR

For the latest information on events in the Boston area, call the CDS office, 354-1340.

A recorded announcement will bring you up to date.

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

## CDS REGULAR EVENTS

### CDS CONTRAS AND SQUARES

**Tuesdays 7:30-10:30 PM**

Church of the Good Shepherd, 30 Russell Avenue, Watertown.

First Tuesdays: **Cammy Kaynor** and band.

Second Tuesdays: Open Mike coordinated by **Larry Jennings**, with  
*Open Danceband Society* led by **Rick Mohr and Bruce Rosen**.

Third Tuesdays: **Chris Ricciotti** and band.

Fourth Tuesdays: **Linda Leslie** and band.

Fifth Tuesdays: Special guests.

\$6 regular; **\$5 CDS Members**; \$3 students and seniors.

Contact CDS 354-1340 or Jean Krogh 942-7541.

### ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE

**Wednesdays, 7:30-10:30 PM,**

Cambridge YWCA, 7 Temple Street. Central Square, Cambridge

Leaders: **Helene Cornelius, Emily Ferguson, Barbara Finney,**  
**George Fogg, Rich Jackson, Robin Rogers-Browne.**

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

"Party-format" dance on last Wednesday each month.

\$6 regular; **\$5 CDS Members**; \$3 students with current ID.

Contact CDS 354-1340 or Arthur Ferguson (508) 875-0382.

### ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE FOR EXPERIENCED DANCERS

**First Fridays, 8:15-11 PM**

Church of our Saviour, Carleton & Monmouth Streets, Brookline.

For dancers thoroughly familiar with basic English Country Dance figures.

All dances will be taught.

Leaders: See Calendar.

**\$5 admission.**

Contact CDS 354-1340 or Arthur Ferguson (508) 875-0382.

**Tuesday April 1**  
**Cammy Kaynor.**

**Wednesday April 2**  
English Country Dance.

**Friday April 4**  
English Country Dance (experi-  
enced) led by George Fogg

**Tuesday April 8**  
**Open Mike** led by Larry Jennings;  
with *Rick Mohr and the Open*  
*Danceband Society*.

**Wednesday April 9**  
English Country Dance.

**Tuesday April 15**  
**Chris Ricciotti.**

**Wednesday April 16**  
English Country Dance.

**Tuesday April 22**  
**Linda Leslie**

**Wednesday April 23**  
English Country Dance.

**Tuesday April 29**  
**Steve Zakon-Anderson** and *Them*.

**Wednesday April 30**  
English Dance Party.

**Friday May 2**  
English Country Dance (experi-  
enced) led by **Colin Hume**.

**Saturday May 3**  
English Workshop: **Colin Hume**.

**Tuesday May 6**  
**Cammy Kaynor.**

**Wednesday May 7**  
English Country Dance.

**Tuesday May 13**  
**Open Mike** led by Larry Jennings;  
with *Rick Mohr and the Open*  
*Danceband Society*.

# OTHER BOSTON AREA DANCES

These regularly scheduled dances appear in the *CDS Boston News* when space is available.

## MONDAYS

CONTRA DANCE, Concord Scout House,  
74 Walden St., Concord. 7:30-10:30 PM.

**Tony Parkes** with *Yankee Ingenuity*

**\$6. Info: (508) 667-7459 or 272-0396.**

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE, Cambridge YWCA,  
7 Temple St. 7:45-10 PM. Instruction, all welcome.

**\$5. Info: 492-8180.**

## TUESDAYS

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE SERIES

2nd & 4th Tue. Jamaica Plain MA, First Church of  
Jamaica Plain, Unitarian-Universalist, Centre & Eliot  
Streets. **Michael Cicone & Rob Dobson** caller.

**\$5. Contact Michael Cicone 891-3296.**

## THURSDAYS

NEW ENGLAND SQUARES & CONTRA DANCES,

VFW Hall, 688 Huron Ave., Cambridge. 8-11 PM.

Variety of callers and bands. Air Conditioned.

**\$5. Info: 272-0396 or (508) 229-2854.**

## FRIDAYS

NEW ENGLAND SQUARES & CONTRAS.

3rd Friday at First Parish, 7 Harrington Rd., Lexington.

8 PM. *Roaring Jelly* & caller **Susan Elberger**. **\$5.**

Through June. **Info: 235-0713, (508) 429-3466.**

## SATURDAYS

NEW ENGLAND SQUARES & CONTRAS, Concord  
Scout House, 74 Walden St., Concord. 8-11 PM.

Alternating weekly schedule (except first Saturdays)  
featuring callers **Tony Saletan** (508) 369-4462, **Beth  
Parkes** (508) 667-7459, **Walter Lenk** 547-7781 &  
others; Live music by a variety of bands. \$5/\$6.

### Wednesday May 14

English Country Dance.

### Tuesday May 20

**Chris Ricciotti.**

### Wednesday May 21

English Country Dance.

### Tuesday May 27

**Linda Leslie.**

### Wednesday May 28

English Dance Party.

### Saturday May 31

Memorial Day Picnic & Dance, **Mary  
DesRosiers** and *Swinging on a Gate.*

### Tuesday June 3

**Cammy Kaynor.**

### Wednesday June 4

English Country Dance.

### Friday June 6

English Country Dance (experi-  
enced) led by various CDS leaders

### Tuesday June 10

**Open Mike** led by **Larry Jen-  
nings**; with *Rick Mohr and the  
Open Danceband Society.*

### Wednesday June 11

English Country Dance.

### Tuesday June 17

**Chris Ricciotti.**

### Wednesday June 18

English Country Dance

### Wednesday June 25

English Dance Party.

## OCCASIONAL SATURDAYS IN JAMAICA PLAIN

5/10: Contras and International with **Chris Ricciotti  
& Marilyn Richards**; 5/24: **Tony Saletan, Sarah  
Gregory Smith**; 6/14: **Cindy Green**; 7/26: **Chris  
Ricciotti & Linda Leslie.**

**Info: Janet 522-2216 or Chris 522-1115.**

## FIRST SATURDAY CHALLENGING CONTRAS

All Saints Episcopal Church, 17 Clark St. (corner  
Common St.), Belmont Centre. 8-11 PM. Calling by  
**Lisa Greenleaf** (and guests); music by *Unstrung*

*Heroes. Through June.* **\$5. Info: (508) 877-1168.**

## FOURTH SATURDAY BARN DANCE

Jamaica Plain **New Location!** Central Congregation-  
al, 85 Seaverns Ave. Contras, Squares, Circles,  
Waltzes & Polkas with *The Puddlejumpers*. **No**

**Dance in April!** May: **Priscilla Adams**; June: **Chris  
Ricciotti.** Beginners welcome! **\$5 Info: 524-1767**

## SUNDAYS

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE, Church of Our  
Saviour, 23 Monmouth St., Brookline, 6:30-8:30 PM.  
Instruction, all welcome. **\$3. Info: 864-8945.**

## FIRST SUNDAY RAGTIME TEA DANCE,

Masonic Hall, 1950 Mass Ave, Cambridge, 2:00 - 5:30,  
Ragtime Music and Dances, various teachers and  
musicians. Through May. Tea & pastries.

**\$8. Beginning Instruction. Info: 964-7684.**

FAMILY DANCES, 1st and 3rd Sundays, Concord  
Scout House, 74 Walden St., Concord. 2 - 4 PM,

Various Styles and Leaders (International, Contras,  
Squares); music: **Cal Howard and Friends**; \$4/  
person, \$15/family maximum. Suitable for ages 5 &  
up. Refreshments. **Info: 491-6083, 354-1340.**

## OUTSIDE THE BOSTON AREA

Please call the information number listed to confirm date, time and place.

### FRIDAYS

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING in NEW HAVEN. Alternating Fridays starting 1/5, at Neighborhood Music School, 100 Audubon St., New Haven, CT. 7:30-10:30 PM. **Christine Helwig**, leader, assisted by **Andreas Hayden**; music by *Marshall Barron, Grace Feldman, Margaret Ann Martin, & friends*.  
**\$6. Info: (203) 776-6929.**

WORCESTER CONTRA DANCES, First Fridays at 8:00 P:M, through May, First Congregational Church, 1070 Pleasant St., Worcester. \$5.,  
**Info: (508) 755-7329**

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE. Third Fridays, Oaklawn Grange. Cranston RI. Soft-soled shoes. 7:30-10:30pm. \$6. English Country Dances of Rhode Island: Anne Richardson **Info: (401) 331-3239.**

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE on Cape Cod. 2nd & 4th Friday, year-round. Barnstable MA, Unitarian Church. Live music by *Eleanor Calvin*. 7:30pm. \$3.  
**Info: Francis & Marjorie Worrell (508) 362-9570.**

CARLISLE DANCES—Squares, contras, & couple dances. Second Fridays of the month at the Unitarian Church in Carlisle, MA, featuring *O'Connor's Mob* with **Walter Lenk**, caller. Potluck 6:30; dance 8:00 - 10:30 PM. Through June. \$5 **Info: 547-7781 or (508) 369-1232**

### SATURDAYS

NEW ENGLAND CONTRA & SQUARE DANCE, Second Saturdays, Berlin Town Hall, Corner of Rt. 62 and Woodward. **Through June**. *The Polymorphous String Band*, and various callers. 8 - 11 PM,  
**\$5 Info: (508) 481-4802, or (508) 842-3307**

MEDWAY SQUARES & CONTRAS. 2nd Saturdays, Christ Episcopal Church, 14 School Street, Medway, 8-11 PM.  
**\$6. Info: (508) 533-1259 or (508) 429-1773.**

MYSTIC CONTRAS AND SQUARES, Second Saturdays, Oddfellows Hall, Mystic, CT  
**\$6, Andy Derr, (203) 437-8189.**

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE. Third Sat, Grange Hall, Pequot Trail, Stonington CT, 1/4 mile east on Rt. 234, exit 91 off Rt I-95. **Peggy Vermilya** (leader); *Peter Corbridge, Marianna Pinchot Avery* (music). Soft-soled shoes. 7:30-10:30pm. \$6. English Country Dance of Greater Mystic: **Peggy & Peter Vermilya (203) 535-3623.**

BERLIN CONTRA DANCE. Third Saturdays May & June; Berlin MA, Town Hall, Route 62. Saturday May 18, June 15. Caller **Tony Saletan**, with *Berlin Country Orchestra*. 8-11pm.  
**Info: Joni Bergen (508) 838-2104.**

## Flower Fiesta; Memorial Day Picnic & Dance

### One Hundred Dancers Wanted!

April 29 will be our Flower Fiesta to celebrate Spring and the approach of May Day—so bring a flower and a light heart and join the Gala! Popular **Steve Zakon-Anderson** will call, accompanied by *THEM: Peter Barnes, Dave Langford and Bruce Rosen*. Hey, these guys are great! You can't fail to have a good time.

But wait—there's more! *Middlesex Morris* will give us a taste of their skills, and we'll also have tasty goodies to ingest. All this for a mere \$6, the usual price for our Tuesday dance, and, no surprise here, at the usual time and place: 7:30-10:30 PM at the Church of the Good Shepherd on Russell St. at Mt. Auburn in Watertown, 1 block East of Common St. on the 71 (and near the 70) bus line. Come! We need all 100 of you!

### Picnic in Concord

May 31 will be our First Annual Memorial Day Picnic and Contra Dance at the Concord Scout House. This party is going to be a blast! Our caller is the exciting **Mary DesRosiers** with the inventive musical group: *Swinging On A Gate* including *Jim Guinness, Judy Frances, Nat Hewitt and Cal Howard*. This would be enough by itself, but we're going to have more fun by adding a Picnic and more!

The Picnic will begin at 6:30 on the left side of the Scout House—we know we'll have good friends and hope for good weather—if the weather dissappoints, we'll move inside.

For food expect a mix of 'traditional picnic', health, sweet, vegetarian, low fat and other tasties. Enjoy a no-effort dinner with like-minded friends OR bring your own picnic OR something to share—all styles welcome—AND we'll also have refreshments at the break in the dance.

You are all welcome to help with the planning and preparation of this dance, i.e., with food, grill, large urn, set up, clean up or door sit, etc. If interested please call me at 354-0864. Thanks!

**BAGPIPES will help us get into the spirit of the day!**

The dance is 8-11 PM on Saturday at the Scout House, 74 Walden St. in Concord. Total cost for the whole evening is \$8; if you can't make it for the picnic the dance is \$6.

Attend these events and help insure more of the same next year.

—Ann Cowan



## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Poor Old Horse

April 5, 1st Parish in Watertown, MA, concert of traditional music  
Info: 623-1806. <http://world.std.com/~fssgb>

### New England Folk

Festival 4/25-4/27 Natick, MA *Absolutely Everyone*. Clean Dance Shoes Required for Main Hall (new floor!) Info: 354-1340

### Blacksmith House Dulcimer

Festival May 2-4, 56 Brattle St, Cambridge Concerts by: *Anne Dodson, Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer, Rob Brereton & Thomasina, Lorraine & Bennet Hammond*. Various Workshops on Appalachian & Hammered Dulcimer, Guitar, singing, etc. Info: 547-6789

### Scottish Fiddle Rally

May 3, Somerville Theatre, *Ed Pearlman, Charlie McKerron, J.P. Cormier, Hilda Chiasson-Cormier, Laura Scott, Cape Breton Dancers*. Info: 338-8637

### Hands Four Spring Weekend

May 16-18 Troy NH Steve Zakon-Anderson, Tony & Beth Parkes with *Yankee Ingenuity* and *Swinging on a Gate*. Info: (508) 670-9333 [hands4@world.std.com](mailto:hands4@world.std.com)

### Memorial Day Picnic & Contra DANCE

Saturday, May 31, Concord Scout House, 74 Walden St. *Mary DesRosiers* with *Swinging On A Gate* Picnic: 6:30 Dance: 8:00pm. \$8 for both. Info: 354-0864.

### Memorial Day Dawn Dance

3pm - 7am May 26/27, Brattleboro, VT English Country 3-6pm *Jenny Beer* with *Joyce Crouch, Susan Keura & Van Kaynor*; Contra Dance 8pm-7 am, *Steve Zakon-Anderson & A Band Named Bob*; *Paul Rosenberg & the Beverwyck String Band*; *Scrod Pudding* Gibson-Aiken Center, \$6/English, \$12/Contra, \$17/Both. Soft-soled shoes or sneakers required. Info: Kevin (413) 256-1233

### First Weekend at Pinewoods

June 13-15, Plymouth, Mass. For adults and children. *Sandy Davis, Dave Langford, Beth Murray, Bruce Rosen, Bill Smith, Norb Spencer* and *Anne Goodwin, Sarah Gregory Smith, Marcie Van Cleave*. Info: 876-5330, [jcallen@world.std.com](mailto:jcallen@world.std.com)

### Lady of the Lake

Music and Dance Week June 22-28 Coeur d'Alene Lake, Idaho *Fourgone Conclusions, the Canote Brothers, Dolores Heagy, Laurie Andres, Ken Glastre*. Info: (509) 838-2160

### Fourth of July Dawn Dance

8pm, July 3rd, Gibson-Aiken Center, 207 Main St. Brattleboro, VT, Contra Dance from 8pm to 7 am, Contra Dancing *Katheryn Wedderburn* with *George Wilson, Peter Davis, Tom Wettmore & Sam Brewton; Mary Desrosiers & Jumpin' Judy*; *Peter Stix* with *Elke Baker & friends*. Soft-soled shoes or sneakers required. Gibson-Aiken Center \$12. Info: Kevin (413) 256-1233



### Pinewoods July 4th

Weekend July 3-7, Plymouth, Mass. English Country, Contras, Morris, English Clog, Scottish Step, Cape Breton Step, Longsword and Rapper. Info: 924-2240, [Lilo.Gallagher@FHWA.DOT.Gov](mailto:Lilo.Gallagher@FHWA.DOT.Gov)

### English-Scottish Session.

7/7 - 7/11 Plymouth MA. English & Scottish Country, Scottish Highland, Border Morris, English Clog, Cape Breton, Longsword and Rapper. Info: Christina 661-8091, [cwasch@AOL.Com](mailto:cwasch@AOL.Com)

### Labor-Day Weekend.

at Pinewoods 8/30 9/2 Plymouth MA. Info: Deborah Gerstein 617-259-0753 or Judy Francis 965-4414.

### Labor Day Dawn Dance

Brattleboro, VT. English Country 3-6pm *Gene Murrow* with *Laurie Andres & Kathy Whiteside*; Contra Dancing 8pm - 7am *Charlie Fenton & Friends* *Cynthia Butcher* with *Mary Lea & Friends* *Eric Hollman* with *Greg Boardman & Friends*. Gibson-Aiken Center, \$6/English, \$12/Contra, \$17/Both. Soft-soled shoes or sneakers required. Info: Kevin (413) 256-1233

### CDS News Staff

Lyril Ahern  
Art Anger  
Michael Bergman  
Liv Toftner  
Ishmael Stefanov-Wagner

## Confessions of a Contradancer

As a man relatively new to contradancing I was eagerly trying out many new things: swinging vigorously seemed exhilarating; twirling young ladies rapidly was quite entertaining. Occasionally, when Larry Jennings would lecture dancers about proper do's and don't's of dancing, most of it sounded like overkill—after all, we were there for the fun of it. It had been impressed upon us that there is never a surplus of dancers of either gender, but rather an occasional shortage of dancers of one gender or the other.

On one particular occasion there was a significant shortage of women, yet the music was so moving that I felt compelled to dance. Having heard about trying out the opposite role, I decided to put masculine pride aside and try my hand at the female role. A little awkward at first, I had some difficulty applying the called instructions, which were directed at the men, in reverse: in playing the woman's role I was required to do essentially the complement (or opposite) of what was called.

Slowly the concept took hold, and gradually my sudden jerky changes in direction were replaced by smoother movements. It began to feel like fun again, when suddenly a temporary partner (a man) grabbed my hand and started to twist it frenziedly, apparently expecting me to twirl. It was very uncomfortable—no, worse than that, it hurt. I hadn't been prepared at all for that event. It took a moment for me to recover; then I figured that perhaps I should have been better prepared.

From then on, every time my hand was taken I prepared myself to resist, or at least to temper, the attempt to twirl me. O.K., I soon started to learn to twirl. This too was awkward, but then beginners at anything tend to be awkward.

Then it happened again: another male temporary partner grabbed my

hand and started to twist me for a twirl. I thought I was prepared for it, then suddenly realized that not only was he larger and stronger than I was, but he also had a great mechanical advantage—extra leverage; my hand was in a position with much less leverage. I did manage a sort of twirl, but not fast enough to satisfy my partner.

This time it hurt quite a bit, and my arm felt uncomfortable for the next half hour or so; I have never forgotten that feeling. From that moment on, I tried never again to exert leverage on a partner to force a twirl. I became much more sensitive to the role of my partners. They seemed to appreciate the difference in our dancing immediately.

Since that time, when dancing with a new or unfamiliar partner, or one whose preferences are not clear to me, I never insist on her twirling. If there is an opportunity for my partner to twirl, I may raise our hands to permit her to twirl on her own—but I never crank a partner's hand to force a twirl.

I still enjoy contra-dancing, and when there's a shortage of partners I rarely hesitate to assume the female role. Oh, yes, I have learned to twirl much more smoothly, and enjoy it from time to time. (Sadly, some men regard that as strange, but that's their problem, not mine.) Once in a great while a strong man will attempt to make me twirl more than I care to, or am able to, but experience and greater confidence enable me to resist and counteract the errant partner's leverage.

Occasionally I inform a partner that such an approach is inappropriate, and he usually accepts the message. It took a bit of personal experience for me to realize that Larry Jennings was right, as usual. After that, I started paying greater attention to Larry's comments. Thanks, Larry!

—(Author anonymous)

## Black Jokers Need Men!

Have you ever thought about trying Morris dancing? Now's your chance! *The Black Jokers*, one of the Boston area's most long-lived men's Morris teams, is looking for a few good men, with lots of energy and enthusiasm, to dance with it.

Ritual English dancing is a performing tradition which spans hundreds of years and remains lively today. It's fun, challenging, highly aerobic, and a great way to let your hair down once a week, or more often when the team is giving public performances. As a teaching team, *the Black Jokers* require no prior experience.

Team practice is on Thursday evenings at 8:00 p.m., in the upstairs hall of the Parish House at the Church of Our Saviour, Brookline. The church is at the corner of Monmouth and Carlton Streets, just one block from Beacon Street, and the door to the Parish House is in the center of the covered passageway on the Monmouth Street side of the church. The nearest Green Line T stations are St. Mary's Street (on the Beacon Street line) and Longwood (on the Riverside line.) On-street parking is available. For more information call Leo Feinstein at (508) 870-0051. If you don't have time to talk, just show up to dance!



CHRIS WALKER  
22 BASKIN RD.  
LEXINGTON MA 02172

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1950 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge MA 02140  
Telephone 617/354-1340

### *CDS Boston Centre Meetings*

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

Board of Directors:  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, except August, 6:00 PM,  
YWCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge

New England Dance Committee:  
1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 6:00 PM 964-7684

English Dance Committee:  
Various dates and places, 7:00 PM.  
Call (508) 875-0382 for specifics.

### *Communicating with the Board*

If you are planning an event or have some other matter that requires consideration by the CDS Board, please send a one or two-page summary to:

Terry Gaffney  
11 Burr St.

Boston, MA 02130

by one of the following dates for consideration at the subsequent meeting:

**April 6<sup>th</sup>, May 11<sup>th</sup>, June 8<sup>th</sup>,  
July 6<sup>th</sup>**

### *News Needed*

If you are planning a future event, or attended a notable past event, that you would like to tell all your fellow members about, we would like to hear from you.

Send articles, announcements, requests, or inquiries to:

Michael Bergman  
20 Ash Street

Auburndale, MA 02166-1819

E-mail: [augment@world.std.com](mailto:augment@world.std.com)

Call me at 964-7684 to discuss assisting, or for delivery instructions.

### Deadlines for Summer issue:

(covering July 1997 – October 1997):

Editorial and calendar: **June 1<sup>st</sup>**; Inserts (pre-approved): **June 8<sup>th</sup>**