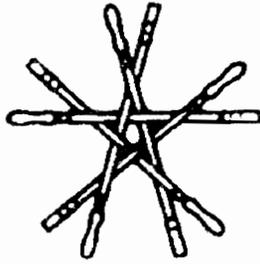


CDS Boston News



Summer 1997

Editor: Michael Bergman

Deadline for Autumn Newsletter:
➔ August 1st, 1997. Details, back page.

From the President

I'm writing this on a warm June evening, reflecting on how closely our activities as a Society move in step with the academic calendar. Classes are just about over now; camp still a few weeks away. This a good time to look back over the last nine months and to think about the Fall ahead.

As is usual in human affairs, our prospects are a mix of sun and clouds. First the clouds. Membership in the Society has fallen by about 10% in the last year, though member generosity has kept the amount collected in dues and contributions at about the same level. Average attendance at our Wednesday English series is down slightly for the first time in recent years (declining to 44.9 from 46.6). The number of dancers at our Tuesday American series continues to be worryingly low with an average attendance of about 29. The Folk Arts Center also reports a decline in membership this year.

Looking past these gloomy statistics reveals much cause for optimism. In both American and English circles, there is a strong and numerous group of callers and musicians now approaching the peak of their powers. At the last Tuesday open mike of the season for example, we had 17 musicians on stage in the band, including *Jim Guinness, Rick Mohr, Bruce Rosen* and *Jon Weinberg*. *Bare Necessities* remains one of the premier English Country dance bands in the world. It's not difficult to make a long list of experienced callers in this area in their twenties, thirties and forties. More callers continue to make their debuts at our Tuesday Open Mike. Our problem here is a problem of plenty; not enough venues for all the people who want to call, teach or play.

Financially, we are in good shape. Although our weekly series all run at deficits, dues, contributions and generous bequests enable us to keep operating and give us some money we can spend on events to attract more people into dancing.

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Summer Special Events on page 4.
Other area events on pages 5-6.
New address for articles and
Calendar items on Page 8!

English Dance Series: 1997 -1998 Preview

The English dance series next season will be largely unchanged from this season. The Wednesday dances will run from September 10 through June 24, with no dances on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve. The First Friday Dances will run from October through June. **The Fall Favorites** dance will be on October 25, and the **Playford Ball** on March 7. The admission rates will be the same as this season for the Wednesday and First Friday dances.

The only significant change for next season involves the party-format dances on Wednesday nights. In the belief that the end-of-the-month party-format dances have lost whatever special quality they may have had and have become for most people indistinguishable from other Wednesdays, the English Committee decided to reduce the number of party-format dances next season from ten to five: three on dates that are naturally festive because of the occasion (the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, the Wednesday before NEFFA, and the last Wednesday of the season), one just before the **Providence Ball**, where leaders will be encouraged to do dances from that ball's program, and an Open Mike dance tentatively scheduled for May 20, where people who would like to try leading an English dance will have the opportunity to do so.

Tuesday Contra Series: This Year and Next

The Tuesday Contra series ended this year with a leap by Rick Mohr and an emotional speech by Larry Jennings. The series will begin again next September with an Open Mike on September 16, with two dances a month.

The last dance of the season was an open mike-open band dance, which was supercharged by the presence of 17 musicians on stage, a new Open Mike record. The evening's last caller was Larry Jennings, who picked one of his classics, "Give and Take". This dance has a diagonal progression and Larry's give-and-take figure. After the dance and the music had elevated the dancers to a state of contra chaos, Rick put an exclamation point on the event by jumping onto his chair and leaping into the air with the musicians' finale.

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CDS and the Lilac Sunday Festival

May 18, *Lilac Sunday*, was bright and warm, bringing thousands of people to the Arnold Arboretum to celebrate spring under sunny skies. CDS and the ritual community were waiting for them! Each year the Arboretum, located in Jamaica Plain, invites people from all over the Boston area to enjoy the blooming of the lilacs on the third Sunday in May.

This year, sixteen Morris teams from all over Eastern New England performed as part of the festivities. (Pictures of some of the dancers from past years were featured in an April article on the Arboretum in *Yankee Magazine*.) Cotswold and Northwest Morris, and Rapper and Longsword traditions were all represented.

Rose Galliard Northwest Morris hosted the Morris dancing, with Charity Stafford doing the over-all coordination. For the second year in a row, a team of seed dancers and musicians from the Boston Centre were there to demonstrate Country dances and to bring spectators into the fun.

During the demonstration, a group of Wednesday Night regulars danced “Fandango” and “Childgrove” to an appreciative crowd—many people asked where we rehearsed. The seed dancers then turned the spectators into dancers, as **George Fogg** led 45 minutes of social dancing.

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Labor Day at Pinewoods

Consider spending Labor Day weekend at Pinewoods! Labor Day weekend differs from many other weekends because the events for the weekend are suggested and led by campers as well as regular staff. It’s an opportunity to relax in a beautiful setting, to try new activities or to revisit old familiar ones. It’s a weekend meant to renew old acquaintances and to make new ones. It’s a weekend for winding down at the end of the summer or for winding up for fall activities.

Campers help create a schedule that evolves as the weekend progresses, to produce an enjoyable mix of dance and music sessions, as well as crafts, songs, stories and many other activities for adults and children. These workshops have included English dances, contras and squares, Cajun and swing dances, informal jam sessions at all levels and Morris or sword dancing.

Other activities have included canoe lessons, painting, swimming across Long Pond, contras in the pond, nature walks, yoga, hat making, giant bubbles, Broadway musicals sing-a-longs, rounds singing. If you have an idea for a workshop you want to lead or a request for a workshop you’d like one of the staff to lead, we’ll do what we can to facilitate it.

Three evening dances provide a rare opportunity to do both English and American dancing. We welcome a favourite English caller, **Brad Saylor**, back to New England for this Labor Day weekend. Three talented English musicians, *Vince O’Donnell*, *Ralph Jones*, and *Roberta Sutter*, will make music to carry you away. Our American caller, **Linda Leslie**, brings her energy and enthusiasm to the American dances, and will

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Memorial Day Gala Picnic & Dance In Concord Is A Blast!

Bagpipes, Sunshine, Hot Dogs, Cider and lots of friendly faces—the makings of a great picnic. It was fun, and the weather cooperated despite all predictions to the contrary. Ask any of the 50 or so people who joined us! *Matt Petrie* accompanied our conversations very pleasantly with fine bagpipe music through most of the picnic, at a discrete distance.

With their blessings, we used the neighboring church’s large lawn and their picnic tables. By 6:30 pm., when we began, the temperature was quite pleasant and with help from varieties of DEET, we kept most of the mosquitoes at bay. There was shade for those who preferred it, as well. Very pleasant, all things considered; I think Emerson and Thoreau would not have complained.

Food was plentiful and varied including salads (potato (by Ann Cowan & Irene Howard), fish, and vegetable) and proteins: Dogs of beef, pork, chicken and turkey as well as soy; and Ann’s banana-chocolate yogurt shake—as well as fruit and Irene’s chocolate chip cookies with cider donated by Wilson Farms. Most of the food and paper goods were generously donated via Gift Certificates by the **Stop and Shop** and **Bread and Circus** of Central Square in Cambridge, to whom we give the warmest thanks. Additional contributions came

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New CDS News Editor

Well, it’s been very interesting and educational being editor, not to mention time-consuming, but also rewarding. Still, enough is enough, and I am pleased to pass the buck — I mean the baton — on to Lyril Ahern, who will be the CDS News editor as of the next issue.

Lyril has more graphic design experience, not to mention talent, than I, so this should be a step up, rather than a step down. Still, taking over a newsletter has many pitfalls and obstacles, so please give her a chance to get on her feet and be gracious about any beginning stumbles that may occur.

I’d like to take a bit of space to thank Art Anger, who has continued to work behind the scenes on the News ever since stepping down as president, not to mention *while* being president. There have been many others who have also turned to and lent a hand, but his has been a constant presence and I felt it deserved special mention.

I won’t be going away, just stepping down — I’ll still be assisting Lyril on occasion, and attending dances, and who knows — maybe even writing an article or two, something which I encourage you all to give a try.

—Mike Bergman, Editor, CDS News

Dawn Dance Saved!

At the recent Memorial Day and Independence Day Dawn Dances, much to the delight of the attending dancers, Kevin Collins announced that the Brattleboro Parks & Recreation Committee had relented and that thus the Dawn Dances can continue in the Gibson-Aiken Center after all.

READER RESPONSES

(Letters to the editor and unsolicited articles may be edited for brevity and clarity.)

Confession Finds Grateful Ear

Dear Editor,

I just got—and read—the CDS newsletter, including the Confessions of a Contradancer. This is the only way I can think of to respond to him. Maybe you can pass on my response?

Because, Mr. Contradancer, I want to say THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU. Having a bad shoulder and stiff neck from an accident many years ago, I find this twirling habit a real bummer. I've gotten to the point of holding down my partner/neighbor's hand when I think he might try to twirl me, and I get lots of looks that seem to hint I'm a dance nazi, or a prude or a pain or something. I'm not quite to the point of making myself a button that says "No twirls please"—but I've thought of it. And I'm a dedicated dancer—this upcoming NEFFA is my 12th! What happens to women who are new to the scene and get twirled?

But, Mr. C., you put it so much better than I ever could—because you were in that other position to experience it. I hope lots of guys wake up and "get it."

Hmmm... now, is there something we women are doing that is irritating the guys?

Helen Snively

Brainstorming Ideas: Revitalizing CDS: Why and How

Submitted by Ann Cowan, Concerned Member of 11 years.

For us, as members of CDS concerned to continue CDS' mission of the maintenance, development and spread of the forms of traditional English and American dance we enjoy on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings—as well as Morris dancing—into the next cohort or generation, we need to change some of our ways of doing things, since continuing current practices points to our demise in 3-10 years!

We are faced with:

- Declining membership—about 10% per year
- Aging membership
- Declining attendance at regular dances, especially American

Except for the years 1993 to early 1996:, when American dance attendance was up 30% over the previous year(s), considerable recent effort, particularly in the last year, has effected no change in the above trends. The mean for New England Dance is down two points since last year, from 31 to 29 or 6.5%. English Dances too have been down this year 4% on Wednesdays, 3% on Fridays.

For our program of training dancers, musicians and callers to be effective, a good sized, dependable group must be sustained, and this can only be done if a committed group of people wants it to happen and is willing to give it some of their

time and creative thought. As CDS is a publicly recognized Non-Profit Organization with a mission to give something to the public, it would be unfortunate for all of us if it could not fulfill its chosen role and provide that service. Both those of us who may wish to continue to dance and learn beyond ten years and those who have yet to be turned on will lose.

It is important to encourage ALL ideas, to have open debate, to give as many as possible a stake in the outcome. Stakeholders will come to dances, will learn how to run them and make them run better, and will learn to be performers as well: The more the better! What could be more typical of the New England heritage than democratic participation?

Some say contested elections hurt the feelings of the losers—but not as much as the unasked. If all can participate and campaign, we all benefit from their enthusiasm and losers are less pained. The skills of the successful are public for all to see and admire.

Therefore, I believe we must look more deeply at our goals and practices to arrive at effective ways to turn these trends around. The alternative seems to me to be continued decline until the numbers are so low as to discourage even the most committed.

Here are some suggestions:

1. Talk a lot!—to as many as you can. Discuss the issues, always straining to think of new explanations—and solutions;
2. Welcome as many newcomers of all kinds in as many ways as possible, for example, by accommodating their complaints, eg., by doing things in new ways;
3. Disseminate the dance form with moderate variations by training a variety of types of callers, musicians and dancers—especially those from a distance who can develop dances elsewhere;
4. Increase the number and diversity of stakeholders who will care about the dance and organization by welcoming and using new organizing ideas and organizers;
5. Work for inclusiveness, participation, openness, open meetings and make a variety of people feel welcome, and their ideas useful;
6. Nominate at least two persons per slot for all Board and Committee positions so that the Membership has a choice and the contestants are motivated to develop, discuss and disseminate creative ideas or platforms that the membership can discuss and become engaged with! Discourage the use of hearsay in this process;
7. Make an office a prize, an opportunity for influence, not a chore, often neglected, even scorned.

Some possible ways to do these things are:

1. Promotions: Such as discounts, 2-fers, etc.
2. Publicity: frequent newsletters to all attendees and recruitment of new members, open meetings with notice, performing groups, news releases,

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1997 SUMMER DANCE CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS & Dance Camps July through September. These listings are mostly culled from flyers, and you would be wise to call first to check details and directions.

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

JULY

Greenfield Contra Dance

Guiding Star Grange, 7/18 8-midnight, beginners & sit-ins welcome, **Susan Kevra** with *Dave Langford, Mary Cay Brass, Bill Tomczak*.
Info: (802) 254-2874.

Heart of Amherst Benefit

WEDNESDAY 7/23 7-10pm, Munson Library, South Amherst; carpool to leave Bangs Center at 6:45pm. *David, Van and Ed Kaynor*. \$5-\$10 donations requested. Proceeds will go to an effort to promote parking garage alternatives.
Info: (413) 549-1913.

New Haven Summer Dance

7/25, Branford Community Center, CT. Basics workshop: 7:30, dancing 8-11pm, \$7 **Helen Davenport**, with *The Summer Playford Players*. Soft soled shoes, please.
Info: (203) 776-1812.

Falcon Ridge Folk Festival

7/25-7/27, Long Hill Farm, Hillsdale, NY, Contra Dancing and Concerts. FALCRIDGE@AOL.COM, WWW.FALCONRIDGEFOLK.COM
Info: (860) 350-7472.

Watermelon Night

7/28 English Country Dance party at the Old Gym in Hadley, MA, on Rt 9 near Rt. 47. Calling by **Robin Hayden** and **Mary Jones**. Potluck. \$5. Soft soled shoes. All dances will be taught; beginners welcome.
Info: (413) 256-8260 or (413) 549-8159.

AUGUST

Fourgone Conclusions

8/1 Guiding Star Grange, Greenfield, 8pm Scandinavian followed by Contra Dancing; \$6 or barter.
Info: (413) 549-1913.

Benefit Dance

for Chip & Fran Hendrickson, 8/2, 8-11pm, Edmond Town Hall, Newtown, CT. Contras, Squares, & English, called by **Pat Rust, Jim Gregory, Al Brozek, and Ed Potter**, with music by *The Fiddleheads* and sit-ins. Suggested donation: \$10.
Info: ZANDERMOM@JUNO.COM (914) 962-2965, (207) 372-3890.

Meadowlark Music Camp

August 17 - 23, *Anne Dodson, Gordon Bok, Becky Tracy, Chris Turner, Trish Miller, John Kirk, Grey Larsen, Ken Kolodner, Keith Murphy, Rachel Maloney, and Eric Hollman*. Workshops, jam sessions, dancing. \$480/person.
Info: STAGERJ@PAULSMITHS.EDU, (518) 327-3561 (12 - 9pm only).

SEPTEMBER

CDS Labor-Day Weekend

Pinewoods 8/30-9/2 Plymouth, MA
Info: 259-0753 or 965-4414.

Labor Day Dawn Dance

8/31 Gibson-Aiken Ctr., Brattleboro, VT, English Country 3-6pm **Gene Murrow** with *Laurie Andres & Cathy Whitesides*; Contra Dancing 8pm - 7am, *Charlie Fenton & Friends, Cynthia Butcher* with *Mary Lea, Mary Cay Brass, and Carol Hamm*, and **Eric Hollman** with *Greg Boardman & Friends*. \$7/English, \$15/Contra, \$21/Both. Soft-soled shoes or sneakers required. Info: (413) 256-1233

English Dance Band Workshop

with **Marshall Barron**, 9/13 Neighborhood Music School, 100 Audubon St., New Haven, CT.
Info: (203) 776-6929.

Star Hampshire Music and Dance Weekend

9/19-9/21, **Susan Kevra, Mosaic**, and the **Amidons**. Off the coast of Portsmouth, NH, \$90/person,
Info: REYNOLDSPL@AOL.COM, (603) 436-8372 (eve) or (603) 431-4849 (day)

Becket/Chimney Corners Gender Free Dance Camp

9/19-9/21, with **Dan Pearl, Michael Cicone, Louise Brill**, and **Liz Nania** leading Contras, Squares, English, International, and Swing, and music by *Kerry Elkin, Ruth Richards, and Michael Kerry*.
Info: FATDOGFOX@AOL.COM, LCFD@AOL.COM, 522-1115 or 489-3331.

Fiddle Festival

9/27-9/28, Brattleboro, VT. Concert with *Jay Ungar and Molly Mason, Liz Carroll and Keith Murphy*, 8pm, Sat. at 190 Main St. (First Baptist Church) and afternoon fiddle workshops with Jay and Liz 1-5 pm. Sunday concert, 12:30-4 pm, with *Rodney Miller, Sam Amidon, Dave Kaynor, Mary Lea, Ellen Galler* and more at Living Memorial Park, Rte. 9 West, Brattleboro.

Info: **Mary Lea** (802) 257-1571.



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. 7:45-10:30 PM. No class 7/14. \$5
Class followed by social hour, all welcome.
Info: 492-8180.

TUESDAYS

FOLK DANCE BY THE FOUNTAIN, Copley Square,
7:30 - 9:30pm, every Tuesday through 8/26, FREE
FAC: 491-6084 for FOLKPHONE or 491-6083 for office.

COUNTRY DANCE SERIES 2nd & 4th Tue. Jamaica
Plain, MA, First Church of Jamaica Plain, Unitarian-
Universalist, Centre & Eliot Streets. **Chris Ricciotti**,
caller. \$5. Info: **Chris 522-1115** or **Mike 891-3296**.

Memorial Day & Bagpipes

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from many of our fellow picnickers who brought goodies to share and other food from **Trader Joe's** and the **Cambridge Food Coop**.

Some described the dance as 'fabulous' and 'great'. It was definitely very lively, widely enjoyed and as well attended as any in the past three years with 143 dancers, almost all of them dancing every dance with great spirit. Caller *Mary Desrosiers* kept people happy and moving and the band, *Swinging on a Gate*, with *Jim Guinness* on winds, *Susan Waters* on fiddle, *Judy Francis* on piano and *Cal Howard* on bass, was exceptional.

I think the picnic, and the Memorial Day theme, (my ideas) helped to raise spirits and increase attendance. I do hope we can use our Fifth Saturday in May next year to continue the new tradition, though I will definitely try to find ways to reduce my labor for the next one. Nevertheless, this would not have been possible without the dedicated support of a small army of volunteers including Irene Howard, Alison Woodman, Cal Howard, Myron Wolf, Tim Sullivan, Sam Alexander, Art Anger, Vandy, Gaetana and several others whose names I failed to get. They all deserve all the thanks we can give them.

Despite the provision of food for 100, we were able to net \$225, because our attendance was very good and because of the donations by the stores noted above—to say nothing of the labor of our volunteers and the purchasers of some of our leftovers. Again, we thank you all and look forward to seeing you again next year along with another group at least as large! Join us for a fun event May 30, 1998!

—Ann Cowan. Producer of this event for CDS

THURSDAYS

NEW ENGLAND SQUARES & CONTRA DANCES,
VFW Hall, 688 Huron Ave., Cambridge. 8-11 PM.
Variety of callers and bands. Air Conditioned. \$5.
Info: WWW.NEFAA.ORG/~NEFAA/THURS.HTML, 272-0396
or (508) 229-2854.

SATURDAYS

NEW ENGLAND SQUARES & CONTRAS, Concord
Scout House, 74 Walden St., Concord. 8-11 PM.
Alternating weekly schedule (except first Saturdays)
featuring callers **Beth Parkes** (508) 667-7459,
Walter Lenk 547-7781 & others. Live music by a
variety of bands. \$5.

Preview of Winter Calendar (save these dates!)

October

Rum 'N Onions 10/25 **NEW LOCATION** Princeton
High School, 151 Moore St., Princeton, NJ Festivities
throughout the afternoon and evening including: After-
noon Dance, Potluck Supper, Costume Grand March,
and Evening Dance. School, NJ,

INFO: CMACADAM@SWETS.NL, BEN@ENO.PRINCETON.EDU,
SAMIFIDLER@AOL.COM, (609) 683-7956, (609) 924-6763.

Peterborough, NH 12 Hour Dance. 10/25. Tentative!

November

Down East Country Dance Festival Benefit Dance
Westcustogo Grange, North Yarmouth, ME 12 hours of
dancing to Maine Bands and callers. Clean, soft soled
shoes. Info: (207) 926-4210, (207) 799-2585.

January

Ralph Page Legacy Weekend

1/16-1/18, UNH Durham, NH **Chris Ricciotti**, **Mary Desrosiers**, **Lisa Greenleaf** and **Dudley Laufman**, with *Old New England*, and *Old Grey Goose*. Great dances and work-shops on dancing, music, and calling.

Info: NEFFA 354-1340.

OUTSIDE THE BOSTON AREA

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

MONDAYS

NELSON TOWN HALL CONTRA DANCE,

Mary DesRosiers, with *Harvey Tolman & Friends*
8-10:30 pm, in Historic Nelson, NH \$3 (a bargain at twice the price!). (No number given).

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE PARTY at the Old Gym in Hadley, MA, on Rt. 9 near Rt. 47. Calling by **Robin Hayden** and **Mary Jones**. \$5. Soft soled shoes. All dances will be taught; beginners welcome.

Info: (413) 256-8260, or (413) 549-8159.

MILFORD, NH TOWN HALL Second & Fourth Fri, 8-11pm, \$5, 12 & under free, clean shoes please;
Info: (603) 672-8252 (603) 886-5071.

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE ON CAPE COD
3rd & 4th Fridays in July, usually 2nd & 4th Fridays, year-round. 8/22 or 8/23 party, please call to confirm date. Barnstable MA, Unitarian Church. Live music by *Eleanor Calvin*. 7:30pm. \$3.

Info: Francis & Marjorie Worrell 508-362-9570.

SATURDAYS

NEW ENGLAND CONTRA & SQUARE DANCE, First Saturdays, Berlin Town Hall, Corner of Rt. 62 and Woodward. **Sue Rosen**, caller, and *The Polymorphous String Band*, 8 - 11 PM, \$5 Info: (508) 481-4802.

Labor Day at Pinewoods

Continued from page 2

be accompanied by three American musicians—*Nat Hewitt, Jim Guinness* and *Debbie Knight*—who are certain to provide irresistibly lively music.

Janet Scudder will join us again this year as children's activity leader. Janet has extensive experience as an art educator and storyteller and weaves both these strengths together to provide fascinating workshops for children.

Labor Day activities frequently include one evening theme dress-up dance, an afternoon *Mad Hatter's Tea Party* where creative haberdashery and chamber music is encouraged, a skit/talent show, volleyball games before dinner, and evening parties after the dances. Then, of course, there are the two wonderful ponds with all the swimming and canoeing you could want, the spontaneous jam sessions that happen all over camp, and if we're lucky, some sunshine, a warm breeze, and clear skies for stargazing.

So please join us on: August 30 - September 2 (Saturday afternoon to Tuesday morning) for the cost of: \$150 per adult (discount for early registration); fees decrease for different age groups of children. For more information, contact **Deborah Gerstein** at 259-0753 or by e-mail at GERSTEIN@IX.NETCOM.COM; or **Judy Francis** at 244-3169. Look for a flyer and application included in this newsletter or at your local dances.

PLEASURES OF THE TOWN, Third Sat., Munson Library, S. Amherst, 8:00-11:00pm, Various Callers. Beginner lesson 8:00-8:30, \$6 Info: (413) 549-4123.

NEW HAVEN COUNTRY DANCERS First & Third Saturdays, Eli Whitney Barn, 915 Whitney Ave., 8-11pm \$7, Beginners' workshop 7:30.

Info: WWW.NHCC.COM/~HENRY/NEWHAVENDANCERS.ITF.ML, or call: (203) 776-1812.

WESTCUSTOGO GRANGE CONTRAS, Second Sat. North Yarmouth, ME Slow Jam with Pam Weeks at 6:00, Pot Luck 7:30, dance 8:30 to midnight. \$6. Clean, soft soled shoes.

Info: (207) 926-4210, (207) 799-2585

DANCING CAT CONTRAS IN DOVER, NH CITY HALL, 8:30 - 11:30 pm, \$6, Info: (603) 659-7038.

Special PRESUMPCOT GRANGE CONTRA DANCE
Fourth Sat. **David Kaynor** and a bunch of wicked decent musicians, to be announced as soon as we know ourselves! Info: (207) 799-2585.

Tuesdays

Continued from page 1

Before the final Waltz, Larry Jennings thanked Tamara Golden, who had coordinated the series most of the year (she recently moved to Italy), and all the other people who had contributed to the multi-caller series—musicians, callers and dancers. With his voice breaking, Larry said he couldn't put into words how much the series meant to him; but that was all right, because all of us on the floor understood what he meant.

Next year the open mike-open band will continue, on the third Tuesday of the month; Steve Boylan will coordinate the calling at the Open Mike, and Jon Weinberg will coordinate the band. Larry Jennings will continue as the series advisor, being available to give feedback to new callers. Callers and musicians of all experience levels are invited to come. Dances next year will start at 8pm at a location yet to be announced.

Cammy Kaynor will also be continuing his monthly series on the first Tuesday of the month, beginning on October 7. Next year, Cammy will be using a Dance/Dance Workshop theme. Cammy wants to run a series where everybody has fun, and where everybody is encouraged and supported to develop as dancers, callers or musicians. Cammy said that this concept came to him through his efforts to help communities become self-sufficient in their ability to organize and run successful dances. "I believe that people dance better when they can play and call, they call better when they can dance and play, and they play well if they can dance and call." Cammy will continue to invite musicians to sit in with his house band, and expects to share some of the evenings calling with dance regulars who are ready to give it a try.

Lilac Sunday

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George was great at getting people dancing with very little instruction. He started with a Grand March, which involves dancers moving forward in two long lines, casting to the bottom as individuals, then moving forward and casting as couples, then as 4's, working up to one long line, which George then led in a snake dance. Pleased cries came from the new dancers as they tried casting in groups of 16 during the grand march, and danced in, and back out through the coils of the snake. Overall more than 60 new dancers participated, and some people who danced with us last year were back with requests for favorites.

The music was provided by *Christine Anderson* on violin, *John Chambers*, accordion, *Shelley Drowns*, flute. The sound system was lent to CDS by Steve Boylan. Terry Gaffney coordinated the event. Special thanks to all the dancers who came out to help with the event during a busy May Sunday: Sam Alexander, Bonnie Armstrong, Michael Ciccone, Tom Engel, Jean Farrington, George Fogg, Terry Gaffney, Lilo Gallagher, Jennie Hango, Margaret Keller, Chris Reynolds, Liv Toftner, and Ed Wilfert.

Brainstorming

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3. Changes in programs, formats or schedules: Parties, special events, teach some English much as American is done with quick walk-throughs and calling a few rounds, which might be more interesting for some experienced dancers and bring them back, more engaging for beginners—get them dancing more quickly and learn more dances more quickly.

4. Outreach: Performing groups, outlier dances, booth at NEFFA and elsewhere.

5. Personnel: Recruit or motivate people who are willing to think and invest and have hope for revived English and American dances—retaining what works and creating some new approaches.

6. Procedural changes: More nominees, platforms, open meetings and discussion, etc.

7. Bylaw changes: An open committee to consider what might help the organization fulfill its mission.

From the President

Continued from page 1

As we think of ways to try to bring in more new dancers, here are some events that happened this year that are worth keeping in mind.

- CDS-NY had a "Jane Austen" dance that drew 150 people, 75 of them beginners. The program was made up of dances with some connection to Austen's period and was featured in *The New York Times*.

- The Boston Centre and the Tufts Outing Club co-sponsored a contra dance on the Tufts campus that drew over 50 students. CDS paid for the band and caller, while the Outing Club paid for the hall and brought in the students. This event was put together by Tamara Golden.

- **George Fogg** and a team of seed dancers from the Wednesday Night series demonstrated some dances at Lilac Sunday in the Arnold arboretum, then drew over 60 people into the social dancing that followed.

These kinds of turnouts say that people out there are still hungry for what we have to offer them.

How are we going to reach them? In the year ahead, we are hoping to have an **American-English Barn Dance** at the Scout House which we hope will be attractive to American, English and new dancers. We hope to continue our program of co-sponsoring dances with campus organizations. We also hope to have seed dancers at events like the **Cambridge River Festival** in **September**. Plans are in the talking stage for an event on the **Esplanade** around **September 20** in memory of **Helen Storrow**, who was perhaps the principal figure behind the Boston Centre.

To realize our hopes, we need help. We need dancers who are willing to turn out for demonstrations, and we need people to help organize these events. The hard part of organizing a dance with a campus group is making the initial connection; members who already have a connection with an area College or campus group are invaluable for this.

If you have ideas for other kinds of outreach events, the Board and our two dance committees are interested in hearing about them. The Board is also interested in promoting neighborhood dances; if you are involved in organizing such a dance, we'd like to hear from you about ways we might work together. Some of you reading this are members of other dance or related organizations; CDS is interested in working with you on events which will increase the pool of dancers and dance musicians in this area. If you want someone to talk with about your ideas, you can reach me at **524-8869** or at GAFF@NEU.EDU.

Summer is a good time for dreaming; let's dream together!
—Terry Gaffney, President, CDS—Boston Centre



Chris Walker
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CDS Boston Centre Meetings

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

Board of Directors:

3rd Wednesday, except August, 6:00 PM
YWCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge

New England Dance Committee:

1st Tuesday, 6:00 PM 923-9330

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 Street
Boston, MA 02130

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

September 9th, October 5th

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:

Lyr! Ahern
298 Central St.
Acton MA 01720

or E-mail: Anger@MIT.EDU

Phone Art Anger, 899-8702 (h) or 253-7044 (o) to arrange delivery of mailing inserts.

Deadlines for Autumn issue:
(covering September 1996 - December 1996):

Editorial and calendar: **August 1st**; Inserts (pre-approved): **August 10th**