

CDS Boston News

The Newsletter of the Country Dance Society, Boston Centre

Fall 2008

The First Friday Series for Experienced Dancers

Be Part of the Glorious Tradition!

Join us for another exciting season of the finest English Country dancing in Boston. The First Friday series offers a challenging evening of the English Country Dance tradition's beloved classics and exciting newer dances. Dances will be taught, but attendees should be familiar with all basic figures and expect to learn dances quickly; some dances may be done after talk-through only. The season opens with Barbara Finney and Jacqueline Schwab on October 3, 2008. See flyers or the web site for more performers.

Dances will be held from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. at the Church of Our Saviour, Carlton and Monmouth Streets, Brookline, MA. (Note: The November 7 dance will not be held at Church of Our Saviour; please check the website for location. Dance location may also be moved if the Red Sox play at home on October 3, May 1, or June 5 - details on the web.) Admission is \$8 for CDS members, \$10 for nonmembers. For directions or more information, visit the Boston Centre website www.cds-boston.org or call Deb Karl at (617) 721-0600.

The Wider World of Revels

Most dancers in greater Boston are familiar with The Christmas Revels that take place at Sanders Theater in Cambridge, a grand celebration of the winter solstice full of traditional music, dance, stories and rituals from various regions around the world. Over the years since its founding in 1971, Revels has grown into a full-year operation, offering events and programs that mark the changing of the seasons and draw people together into community. - *continued p. 4*

Third Friday English Dance at Springstep

This year, CDS-Boston Centre will sponsor a third Friday English social dance 8:00 to 10:30 pm at Springstep in Medford, MA. Building on the two dances held last season in February and May, this series will include up-tempo traditional and modern English dances in a relaxed social setting: energetic dances, several short breaks, refreshments, and some entertainment, too!

The program will emphasize lively, accessible dances that require a minimum of instruction and can largely be learned by watching or demonstration. The goal is to spend as much time dancing as possible. The CDS-Boston Centre Wednesday program provides instruction and repertoire building, which is the foundation for going beyond instruction and having a satisfying social event. With a core of well-instructed, experienced dancers to help new-comers, this 3rd Friday social event will hopefully absorb some dancers - *continued p. 3*

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Since 1915

The Country Dance Society, Boston Centre works to preserve and promote the knowledge and practice of the traditional and contemporary dance and dance music of England and New England. The Boston Centre sponsors and produces classes, parties, workshops, and residential and special events featuring the best performers and practitioners of English and New England country dancing. Events are open to all, and most feature teaching; no experience or partner is required.

CDS Boston Center Newsletter submission deadlines:

to be announced

To update the CDS Boston Web pages

General CDS Boston site,
English Dance Committee pages,
Special Events, Camps:
Christine Robb webmaster@cds-boston.org

New England Dance Committee:
Cortni Frecha cf@cortnifrecha.com
Mark Jones markjones@busybusy.org

CDS Boston ECD Collection recordings:
Dan Pearl daniel_pearl@yahoo.com

Join the Country Dance Society of Boston Centre!

Benefits include reduced admission to dances and events, a newsletter, preferred admission to residential programs, and more. Discounts available for students, seniors, and organizations. Inquiries to membership@cds-boston.org
www.cds-boston.org/membership-form.html

Need to look up a dance or venue?
Try one of these resources:

www.cds-boston.org
www.contradancelinks.com
www.facone.org/fdrb/home/
www.TheDanceGypsy.com

Country Dance Society, Boston Centre, Inc.

Officers, Directors, and non-board offices

As of November 1, 2007

Term Limits:

President: One term. Elected via a four-year series of presidential offices: President Elect (1 year), President (2 years), Past President (1 year)

Other Board offices: Limit of two complete two-year terms (partial terms are not counted)

* denotes term-limited, and may not be re-elected to the same office.

Board Members

- 1) 2009 Wing, Laura - Term #1
- 2) 2009* Carr, Susan - Term #2
- 3) 2009 Gonzales, Dianne - Term #1
- 4) 2009 Maureen Carey - Term #0 (partial term)
- 5) 2009 Reisberg, Liz - Term #1
- 6) 2010 Diamond, Mitch - Term #1
- 7) 2010* Cole, Julian - Term #2
- 8) 2010 Roderick, Erika - Term #1
- 9) 2010 Petersen, Katy - Term #1
- 10) 2010* Ward, Mark - Term #2

Board Officers

- 11) 2009* President: Jones, Mark (becomes Past President 2009)
- 12) 2010 Vice President: Wagner, Hal - Term #1
- 13) 2010 Treasurer: Callen, Jerry - Term #1
- 14) 2009 Clerk: Barnard, Jacqueline - Term #0
- 15) 2009 President Elect: Erickson, Judy (becomes president 2009)
-) Past President: (next occupied in 2009)

Non-Board Positions - Elected or Appointed

Nominating Committee

Member Elected (3 year terms) (Board Nominates)

- 1) 2009 Wing, Laura - Term #0
- 2) 2010 vacant
- 3) 2011 Jones, Mark - Term #1

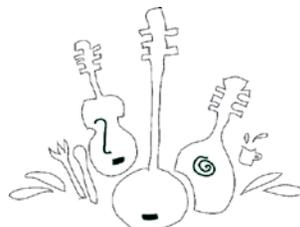
Board Elected, from the Board (2 year terms)

- 4) 2009 Wagner, Hal - Term #1
- 5) 2010 vacant

Pinewoods Camp, Inc. Board Representative

(CDS Boston Center Nominates, PCI Board Elects)

- 1) 2010 Ward, Mark: Term #1 (three-year term)



ECD Medford *continued from cover* - who might not attend an instructional evening but would nevertheless find English dancing attractive. We hope the outreach through the bands, a new format, and other demo performers will bring in some new faces and younger dancers. Having discussed with younger dancers what makes an event attractive, we are taking that information to heart in the programming and atmosphere.

The music will be anchored by the Free Range English Country Boogie Band (house band), and will also include guest bands. The program will include dances to fit the guest band repertoire, which might be traditional dances to jigs and reels, Irish sets, ceilidh dances, Scottish country dances, whatever traditional dancing suits the music. The guest bands will also join in on the English dances.

This fall, the musical lineup is:

September 19th – English Country Boogie Band (house band)

October 17th – Folk Arts String Quartet (Ivonne Hernandez, Julie Metcalf, Nicki Singleton, and Liz Davis Maxfield)

November 21st – BridgeBuilders (Nathaniel Diamond-Jones, Chris Murray, Jeremy Van Cleave and Eliot Isen)

The Folk Arts String Quartet is a new group, anchored in Berklee College of Music, that aims to fuse the worlds of chamber music and fiddle music. With roots in traditional Celtic and American fiddle styles, they “breathe new life into old tunes through groovy, contemporary arrangements. Unafraid of breaking new ground, they also perform many of their own compositions alongside Scottish, Irish, Canadian, Appalachian, and bluegrass tunes.” (www.folkartsquartet.com). They have played for BCMFest Celtic Music Mondays.

The Bridgebuilders (www.myspace.com/thebridgebuilders) plays contemporary celtic-influenced music. They have played at Berklee College of Music summer series, events in Melrose and other local venues, contra dances and at Passim. Several of the group are Great Meadows Morris graduates, and offspring of New England area dancers and musicians.

Both groups feature talented, young crossover musicians who should bring a fresh flavor to the music. Please come and join us for a lively and relaxing evening. For more information, contact Judy Erickson or Jim Ialeggio, 978-425-4877, or email Judy at judyericks@comcast.net.

English Country Dance

The summer series of Wednesday evening English Country Dancing went rather well. We had a stunning series of callers and musicians, and we felt generally comfortable thanks to the air-conditioning. But of course, what was most important was that we got to dance with you – many of you! Attendance was around 60 on average – isn't it great for parents who like to dance when school mornings don't conflict?

Wednesday evening English Dance resumes in Arlington as this newsletter goes out. We continue to make small changes that we hope are improvements - this year, every week will offer a newcomers' session some 20 minutes before the dance proper for those who would like to learn (or refresh their memories of) the names of the moves.

I continue to value the many friendships I make through dancing – whether it's someone I meet once a year, say, at NEFFA or at one of the Dawn Dances in Brattleboro, or someone I see every week in Arlington. It's a remarkable community – you get to know people in a special way by dancing instead of just talking. And when the community loses someone, it leaves a great gap in our lives. We lost Marianne Taylor this summer, and the outpouring of love from the many who learned from her was quite special (see, for example the website at facone.org). As I write, I'm hoping to attend a dance in Whately (near Amherst) to commemorate another dear friend, Robert Clardy, who often came to Arlington to dance with us, even though he lived out in Amherst. I suppose it's always been that way – we make our strongest bonds by doing something together rather than by talking together – and the dance goes on.

- *Julian Cole, English Dance Committee*

New England Dance

The Second Saturday series of Contra Dances at the Concord Scout House looks forward to another season of community dance. Each Saturday dance happily welcomes a number of beginning dancers and many regulars. The performers range from budding callers and musicians to seasoned favorites, some local and some passing through.

Start planning your costume now for our Halloween Dance Friday, October 31st.

There will be a costume promenade before the break with prizes for the most innovative get-ups.

Keep an eye out for flyers about special evenings of Mostly Squares and other dances of a thematic nature including odd formations, contras on a theme or out-of town performers.

-Cortni Frecha, New England Dance Committee

English - Scottish Dancing

The English Scottish Session at Pinewoods celebrates its 25th Anniversary in 2009. Put the dates, July 6-10, on your calendar, start assembling a silver costume for our traditional Thursday ball, and keep an eye on the CDS-BC website for information on staff and musicians. Campers gave this year's session rave reviews and 2009 promises to be just as magical.

Meanwhile, plan to enjoy a midwinter afternoon of English and Scottish Country Dancing at the annual English Scottish party, scheduled for February 1 at the Church of Our Saviour in Brookline. You'll be home in good time for the Super Bowl. If you have questions, call or e-mail Jean Farrington.

Music for the Hot Foot Country Dance

I listen to music with a composer's ear. This means that while I'm listening to a tune, I hear not only to the sounds actually being played, but also other musical possibilities which are suggested by those sounds. Call it a vivid musical imagination.

I really enjoy English Country Dance, both the music and the movement. For the longest time, while dancing and listening to the various tunes, as is my habit, I have also heard, in my musical imagination, other ways this music could be played. Since it's a diverse world out there, I got to wondering how it would be possible to set up an English Country venue that could give air time to the ways I hear this music, as well as untapped ways others might hear or like to hear these tunes.

With this thought in mind, and, since Judy Erickson and Susie Petrov and myself had already been working on ways to invite the next generation to experiment and develop their own English Country/Ceilidh voices, it seemed natural to create a venue which could give young dancers/musicians a space to invent and define their own

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Revels *continued from cover -*

Revels has recently launched its newly refreshed website at www.revels.org. Here you can learn more about the other aspects of Revels including some upcoming activities you won't want to miss:

Revels Seasonal Workshops For Children

Fall Workshop: September 17 – October 29, 2008

Spring Workshop: February 4 – March 18, 2009

Wednesday afternoons 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Children ages 7-12 are introduced to traditional songs, singing games, dances and mummers plays in after-school sessions in the fall and spring. The seven-week fall session ends with a sharing for family and friends, while the six-week spring session culminates in a brief performance at Revels Spring Sing, a community sing to mark the vernal equinox. Several workshop teachers will be familiar to the CDS-Boston Centre community, including Lily Kruskal Leahy and Erika Roderick.

RiverSing: Bridging the Charles with Voice & Light

Sunday, September 21, 2008, 6:00 p.m.

John W. Weeks Footbridge

Cambridge, MA

Join thousands of singers and gather along the banks of the Charles for a special community event designed to welcome in the fall while drawing attention to the Charles River, its parklands and bridges. Come early to check out the pre-show entertainment in Winthrop Park, Harvard Square, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Revels Repertory Company

September 14: ICONS Festival

Canton, MA

September 28: Hancock Shaker Village

Hancock, MA

October 4: Strawberry Banke Museum

Portsmouth, NH

October 25: Falmouth Historical Society

Falmouth, MA

October 26: Old Ship Church – Hingham, MA

Revels' touring ensemble presents four performances of Harvest Home, a program of harvest hymns and anthems, Shaker songs and dances, work songs heard at English pubs and harvest suppers, and children's games.

*- Sarah Higgenbotham, Revels Education
Director*

Boston Centre Program

Info: www.cds-boston.org or (781) 662-6710

Park Avenue Congregational Church, Park Avenue and Paul Revere Road, Arlington Heights
Concord Scout House, 74 Walden St., Concord • Church of Our Saviour, Carlton and Monmouth Sts., Brookline

English Country Dance

Wednesdays

Park Ave. Congregational Church, 7:30–10:30
A mix of elegantly simple to challenging dances, and traditional to contemporary dances. Most dances will be walked through, with teaching as needed. One or two may be prompted only, not walked through.

English Dance Basics are offered before the dance at 7:15; if interested, confirm availability the week you're coming by writing to info-english@cds-boston.org.

Dinner: On the third Wednesday of the month, dancers meet at restaurant before the dance, often Sala Thai, 1379 Massachusetts Avenue. Please RSVP to wed-dinner@cds-boston.org by the preceding Monday.

Admission: Newcomers and students \$4.00
Members \$7.00; Non-members \$9.00
12 admission Dance Card \$75.00

The Dance Card is valid at all Wednesday dances for one year from the date of purchase and can be shared with friends and family.

Volunteers are always needed. Ask the door manager.

First Fridays for Experienced Dancers

Church of Our Saviour. 8-11 PM. For dancers thoroughly familiar with basic English Country Dance figures. All dances taught. \$9; \$7 CDS members

See the First Friday flyer or www.cds-boston.org for leaders and musicians.

Harvard Square Dance 2nd & 4th Fridays

7:30 - 9:30pm; September through June
Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church
1555 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA
\$6 general, \$5 members, \$3 students. View flyer for leaders and musicians. www.cds-boston.org/friday.html

Third Friday Up-Tempo Social Dance

Enjoy a relaxed dance party, with refreshments available throughout the evening, and tables and chairs in the dance hall for socializing. Open to beginners and experienced dancers. Third Fridays. Music by the English Country Boogie Band and guest bands. CDS-Boston Centre Members: \$10.00; Non-members: \$12.00, Students: \$5.00; Springstep is at 98 George P. Hassett Drive, Medford, MA, www.springstep.org.

Concord Scout House Special Events:

check for flyers

Fall Favorites - a dancer-selected program
Saturday, October 11, 2008

Holiday Gala English Dance Party -
Saturday, January 3, 2009

festive attire encouraged, dessert buffet

New England Contra Dance

2nd Saturday Contra Dances

at the Concord Scout House, 74 Walden Street,
Concord MA 01742

All are welcome, no partner necessary

\$8 for CDS Boston Members,
\$10 for non-members and
\$6 for young people 21 and under.

Check for flyers and calendars with dates not shown here. Web page: www.cds-boston.org/american
Email: nedc@cds-boston.org

Committee Phone: 857-499-8907 OR
CDS-BC Office announcements: 781-662-6710

Performers to be announced:

18 October, 2008 - (3rd Saturday) 8 – 11 pm
08 November, 2008 - (2nd Saturday) 8 – 11 pm
29 November, 2008 - (5th Saturday) 8 – 11 pm
06 December, 2008 - (1st Saturday) 8 – 11 pm
13 December, 2008 - (2nd Saturday) 8 – 11 pm
10 January, 2009 - (2nd Saturday) 8 – 11 pm

Special Events:

31 October 2008 - Halloween Contra Dance
(5th Friday) 8 – 11 pm

Price and performers to be announced

Concord Scout House Fundraiser

co-sponsored by CDS Boston Centre

A Sunday late in November or early December
music by Nightingale

Admission \$20, \$15 for ages 21 and under

Other Regular Boston Area Dances and Events

Mondays

Yankee Ingenuity Scout House Contra Series. Concord Scout House. 7:30-10:30 PM. Various callers and guest musicians; Yankee Ingenuity is Peter Barnes, Mary Lea, Cal Howard, and Jack O'Connor. \$10, students \$5.

After 9:30 pm \$5.

Info: (781) 272-0396 or (978) 369-1232

<http://lydiamusic.org/concord.html>

Scottish Country Dancing. Springstep, Medford.

7:45-10:15 PM. Live music. \$7, \$4 or billmers@rcn.com

www.rscdsboston.org

Tuesdays

Contra Dance for All @ MIT. 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. All welcome, no experience or partner needed. 8-10:30PM Band sit-ins welcome. \$6, MIT & Wellesley students free, other students \$3. Prospective callers & musicians, contact acowan3@earthlink.net or (617) 354-0864.

Info: (617) 354-0864,

MIT Folk Dance Club (617) 253-FOLK,

<http://mit.edu/fdc/www/contradance.html>

2nd & 4th Tuesdays. Boston Gender Free English Country Dance. (Experienced on 5th Tuesday) First Church of Jamaica Plain UU, Centre & Eliot Sts. 7:30-10 PM. Come at 6:30 PM with a brown bag dinner & socialize! Various leaders. \$7. Info: (617) 522-2216 (Janet) or (617) 512-5554 (John), www.lcfd.org/bgfe/

Thursdays

New England Contrás & Squares. Concord Scout House. 7:30-10:30 PM. \$8, \$5 students. NEFFA Contra.

Info: NEFFA, (781) 662-6710;

Cal, (781) 272-0396; Dan, (508) 229-2854;

www.neffa.org/Thurs.html

Fridays

2nd Fridays. Contrás, Squares, & Couple Dances.

Unitarian Church, 27 School St, Carlisle MA

8-10:30 PM, potluck at 6:30. Sue Rosen, Walter Lenk

with O'Connor's Mob. \$5. Info: (617) 547-7781 or

(978) 369-3353, www.configular.com

3rd Fridays through June. Roaring Jelly: Contrás and Squares. 1st Parish Church, 7 Harrington Road, Lexington MA. Beginners 7:45, dance 8-11 PM. Susan Elberger with Debby Knight. \$6. Children under 12 free with parent. \$20 family max. Info: (781) 944-3544, RoaringJelly@hotmail.com, <http://roaringjelly.org/>

4th Fridays 8-11 PM October Through May

The Lancaster Contra Dance

Lancaster Town Hall, 695 Main Street (Route 70), Lancaster, MA Usually \$8 and \$5 for young people

www.songsailor.com/contradance.html

4th Fridays. Mostly Squares, 8 - 11 PM.

Payson Park Church, 365 Belmont Street, Belmont, MA

Sept. 26, Oct. 24, and additional dates TBA. Tony

Parkes, calling, Music by Amy Cann and friends

Saturdays

1st Sat. Usually Swing Dances, sometimes Contra or English events. Check for flyers. Concord Scout House. 74 Walden St., Concord, MA \$15, students \$10 www.beantownswing.com/shows.html

1st Sat. Contra Dance Berlin, MA 8-10:30 PM

Admission: \$5 per person or \$12 max per family

NEW Location: Berlin Town Hall, 2nd floor, 12

Woodward Ave., Berlin, MA

www.geocities.com/brlncountryorch/

1st Sat. Medway Contra Dance, 7:30-10:30pm. Christ Episcopal Church, School Street in Medway, MA. \$7 adults, \$3 teens, 12 and under free.

www.contradancelinks.com/medway.html

3rd Sat. Beth Parkes with Swinging on a Gate. Contra Dance, 8-11 PM. Concord Scout House. \$10; \$8, 21 and under. Info: (978) 667-7459.

<http://www.hands4.com/csh/>

3rd Sat. Contra Dances, Melrose Unitarian Universalist Church, 70 W. Emerson St., Melrose. \$6.

7-10 PM. Info: Cammydance@earthlink.net or

<http://mysite.verizon.net/manystings6/dance/>

4th Sat. Walter Lenk with Debby Knight and Jack O'Connor. New England Contrás and Squares, 8-11 PM. Concord Scout House. \$8; \$6, 21 and under.

(617) 547-7781 or (978) 369-1232

www.configular.com/dance/

2nd & 4th Sat. Gender Role-Free New England Contra & Square Dances. 1st Church of Jamaica Plain (Unitarian-Universalist), Corner of Centre & Eliot Sts. 7:30-11 PM

unless noted. \$10, \$6 students. www.lcfd.org/jp/

Info: Chris (617) 852-4042 or (781)-982-8042

Sundays

Scottish Country Dance. Church of Our Saviour, Carleton & Monmouth Sts., Brookline.

6:30-8:30 PM. \$4. Info: (617) 325-6657

www.rscdsboston.org/classes-listing.html

RiverSing: Bridging the Charles with Voice & Light

Sunday, September 21, 2008 in Boston and Cambridge

Location: John W. Weeks Footbridge at DeWolfe Street and Memorial Drive

Bill Staines, Stan Strickland join RiverSing 2008, a free, autumnal equinox celebration and giant community "sing" along the banks of the Charles River at the Weeks Footbridge, linking Allston and Cambridge.

Information at www.revels.org or contact Alan Casso at 617-972-8300 x22 or acasso@revels.org

Outside the Boston Area

English Country Dance

Cape Cod, MA 3rd Friday

Lively and Elegant English Country Dance on Cape Cod. Feb. 15 & Mar. 14. Linda Nelson with Jan Elliott and friends. \$8, \$6 students & seniors. Basic figures taught at 7:30, dance party at 8 PM. Call for location. Info: 508-540-1151, or lindan@capecod.net.

South Amherst MA Mondays & Saturdays

Mondays - Robin Hayden with live music. \$6. Info: Robin at (413) 256-8260, www.amherstecd.org

1st Saturday, Amherst Assembly, 7:45-10:45 PM. Graham Christian with various musicians. Special refreshments. \$7. Info: bray1699@yahoo.com

3rd Saturday, Pleasures of the Town English Country Dance. 7:30-10:30 PM. Music, Joyce Crouch, piano, & Doug Creighton, flute & melodeon, with guest musicians. \$7. Info: (413) 253-3828, madrobin@rcn.com, or www.amherstecd.org

Rhode Island - Saturdays

NEW LOCATION: the South Kingstown Land Trust, 17 Matunuck Beach Road in South Kingstown. All dances will take place from 7:30 to 10:30 PM, and admission is \$10, \$8 for CDS Boston members and South Kingstown Land Trust members. Live music will be provided by a variety of guest musicians. For information and directions, call John & Susan at 401-539-3009 or visit www.kingstonenglishcountrydance.org.

September 13 Mary Jones
October 4 Barbara Finney
October 18 Orly Krasner
November 1 Linda Leslie
November 15 Helene Cornelius
November 29 Priscilla Borden

New Hampshire - 2nd Sunday, Sept.-June

Presidential Oaks (Odd Fellows Home), Minot St. off Pleasant, Concord NH. 5:30-7:45 PM. Marianne Taylor calling. \$7, \$6 members. Info: Dave Bateman (603) 433-2735, www.nhecads.org

Connecticut - Fridays

English Country Dance. New Haven CT. Neighborhood Music School Recital Hall, 100 Auburn St. 8:00-10:30 PM. \$8. Info: (203) 776-6929 <http://pantheon.yale.edu/~bfr4/NH.English.html>

Contras

Rehoboth, MA 2nd, 4th and 5th Fridays

8-11PM, General admission: \$8; \$5 for ages 16 and under; \$18 for families with children under 16. <http://www.contradancelinks.com/rehoboth.html>

Salem, MA 1st Saturdays, October - June

Tabernacle Congregational Church, 50 Washington St, Salem. 8:00pm. \$8; \$6 seniors & students; \$20 family maximum. Wear clean, soft-soled shoes. Beginners welcome. Info (978) 745-9391 or lew134@lycos.com. www.contradancelinks.com/schedule_emass.html#salem

Worcester, MA 2nd Saturdays

8pm. Wesley Methodist Church, 114 Main St. Worcester \$8. \$6 students, \$18 family maximum, under 12 free www.worcesterdance.org

Greenfield, MA nearly every Friday and Saturday

401 Chapman St. www.guidingstargrange.org

South Amherst, MA 4th Saturday.

Munson Library, 1046 South East St. South Amherst <http://www.alongtheriver.com/dances.html>

Cape Cod, MA Saturdays

For general information about the following dances, contact shabam@ais.net

1st Saturday. Contra Dance. Woods Hole Community Hall, Main St., Woods Hole. (508) 548-6229 or 548-6661

2nd Saturday. Contra Dance. Freedom Hall, 976 Main St., Cotuit. Info: (508) 563-6750

3rd Saturday. Contra Dance. East Sandwich Grange, Old County Rd., Sandwich. Info: (508) 563-6934

5th Saturday. Contra Dance. North Falmouth Congregational Church, 155 Main Rd., N. Falmouth.

Manchester, NH 3rd Fridays

Mill City Contra Dance. Various callers and musicians. Beginners Workshop 7:30pm. Dance 8-11pm \$8, \$5 young people, under 12 free. 250 Commercial St. Manchester, NH. www.nhdances.org/millcity/

Remembering Marianne Taylor

Saturday, October 4, 2008

Memorial Service, Deerfield (NH) Community Church, 5:30 p.m. Potluck supper to follow service.

Contra dance, Deerfield, NH, town hall, 8 p.m.

Tony Parkes, caller, emcee

Burt Feintuch, fiddle

Sarah Hydorn, flute

John Carew, guitar

Bill Zecker, piano

Guest callers and guest musicians welcome

~Please join us at the dance Marianne founded~

For information, call Sarah Mason, 603.463.4182



Hot Foot - *continued from p. 4*
version of English Country Dance.

The result is a new, open, and hopefully hip dance series for 2008-09; The "Hot Foot Country Dance" series, every 3rd Friday at Springstep .

Here's what we are doing with the music part of this gig. I searched out young talent from Berklee hoping to find improvising musicians who were connected and dedicated to playing traditional music in general, but also steeped in jazz and other genres. As the idea was to encourage young musicians to invent, play and experiment with English music, unfamiliarity with the English Dance music repertoire was a plus. In essence I made the musicians an offer they couldn't refuse; they were offered the opportunity to define their own "right" way to play this music.

At the dance we encourage the musicians to play what they hear without trying to guess what the musical conventions might be. If we want to invite young people to play and dance to this music, it only makes sense to see how they would like it to sound. Susie and myself (besides having a gas playing this gig) have the job of making sure the music is dance-able. We suggest minor corrections for the dancers only if we need to, but frankly, with melody based rhythm as strong as what this band is turning out, its hard to go too far astray...they are doing just fine.

So, we would like to introduce the Free Range English Country Boogie Band; an intergenerational 6 person, piano-less ensemble. For the Springstep series, we are calling ourselves the "house band". Our job is to act as the foundation and continuity for the series' music from month to month.

In addition to us, "the house band", we have been seeking out and inviting young bands to come and join us as "guest" bands. Think of it as kind of a musical party as well as a dance party. The invited "guest" bands will (...disclaimer...these are evolving ideas) take a set at some point during the evening to do their thing, be it a contradance set, an irish set, a rock and roll trad set, etc (ideas welcome and encouraged). As an evolving party night, our guests may take a moment to give a short performance. During the remainder of the evening, the "guest" band will mix it up with the "house" band in various combinations. As well, we would like to encourage young ritual teams to come along and perform during intermissions. The main thing is to give young dancers/musicians a stake in the definition of the proceedings.

With this evolving format, as might be expected,

a certain amount of creative mayhem will occur... good! Branching out in this way is part of creating a high-energy atmosphere that encourages and welcomes creativity on the dance floor.

Regarding the actual tunes and dances chosen for the gig, Judy and I agree on a dance/tune list well before the gig, and I post the list (plus mp3s) to the house and guest band 2 weeks or so before the dance (more if the guests request). Since I feel strongly that the sheer quantity of tunes used for English dances is intimidating, to say the least, we are focusing on a defined repertoire and structuring all parts of the event to eliminate unnecessary restrictions. The point is for new voices to feel comfortable joining the fray, and have success doing it.

So far we have booked The Folk Art String Quartet, Bridgebuilders, Anadama, Matching Orange, Ethan Hazzard-Watkins, as guests, with more to come. If you know of young dedicated musicians who might be gently persuaded to give this a try, either as a band or individually, please let us know, jimialeggio5@comcast.net (978 425-4877).

And please, do come, young folk or geezer...all are welcome to try out our new party!

- *Jim Ialeggio*

From our archives - *submitted by George Fogg*

THE COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

BOSTON CENTRE

Our Society was founded in 1915 to preserve and enjoy our traditional music and dances, both English and American, by holding parties, offering classes, and giving demonstrations.

NEW DANCERS PARTY

January 16, 8:00 p.m., Social Union, 48 Boylston Street. Charge, 85 cents each. Miss Louise Chapin will call the dances and teach the newcomers.

The Society will hold parties on :

February 14, Social Union (free to members)

March 19, Social Union

April 23, Social Union (free for members)

May 22,

June 19, Wellesley College (free for members)

July 17,

Membership fee \$3.00 ; Student membership \$1.00.

The Society sponsors weekly Drop-in-Evenings at the Brimmer-May School, 69 Brimmer Street, first and third Thursdays for beginners, and second and fourth Thursdays for more advanced dancers.

English dances begin at 7:30, American dances at 8:30.

Concerning classes in Morris, Sword, and Country dancing and the dancing camp, call LA 3-5695, 87 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Marianne Patterson Taylor **1930–2008**

— of Deerfield, NH, formerly of Lexington, MA, died peacefully at home at age 78 of cancer. In 1975, she was the co-founder of the Folk Arts Center of New England, Inc., a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to promoting interest and participation in the traditional dance, music, and related folk arts of many cultures, and to supporting other groups and individuals with the same mission. She served as its Vice President and, later, Program Director through 2004. Marianne graduated from Sargent College, Boston University in 1951 with a B.S. in Physical Education and a minor in Dance. Beginning in 1953, she taught international folk dance, Scottish and English country dance classes, workshops and school programs throughout the United States and Canada, and as a guest leader at folk dance camps in Japan, Australia, and Switzerland. She received her teacher's certification in Scottish Country Dance from the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society in 1957, and the RSCDS Scroll of Honour in 2005. For twenty-five years, she was the Artistic Director of the Boston Branch Royal Scottish Country Dance Demonstration Team. She taught a creative dance class for preschoolers in Lexington for over two decades in the 1950s and 1960s and led weekly movement classes at the Perkins School for the Mentally Challenged in Leominster, MA. Ms. Taylor was the recipient of the Boston Dance Alliance's 2007 Dance Champion Award in recognition of her immeasurable contribution to social folk dancing in the Boston area.

From 1995 to 2008, she was a member of the Ralph Page Legacy Committee of the New England Folk Festival Association. A co-founder of the New Hampshire Strathspey and Reel Society, she served as President from 2004 to 2008. Ms. Taylor was an Artist in Residence for primary, middle, and high school programs through the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts.

Ms. Taylor played piano for contra, Scottish, and other kinds of dance since the early 1950s and was a regular member of the Scottish dance band Tullochgorum. She played monthly with the Lamprey River Band at a contra dance in Dover, NH, and sat in as the musician and/or caller at the Deerfield Town Hall Contra Dances, which she began in 1991. She also played regularly with the

Strathspey and Reel Society of New Hampshire and several other groups. She appeared as backup on several Scottish/Celtic music CDs.

In 2008, the National Folk Organization honored her with its Preserving Our Heritage Award. An avid traveler in her later years, she co-led a small group tour in Portugal, helped organize two concert tours in Scotland with the Strathspey and Reel Society of New Hampshire, and played piano for a Scottish dance tour on a schooner in the Greek Islands.

She leaves her partner and common-law husband, Don Gorman, of Deerfield, NH, and is survived by her children and their spouses: Micki Taylor-Pinney and Markus Pinney, Tina and Bryant McBride, all of Lexington, MA, Andy Taylor-Blenis and John Blenis of Newton, MA, and Mark and Judy Taylor of Southampton, MA; she was predeceased by one daughter, Joanna Taylor. She also leaves eight grandchildren and her devoted brother, Michel Patterson, Jr., and eight nieces and nephews.

Marianne passed away on August 19. Memorial celebrations will be held on Sunday, September 28 in Newton, MA and Saturday, October 4 in Deerfield, NH. For details on the Deerfield, NH event see page 7.

Memorial Celebration, Newton, MA

Sunday, September 28, 2008
Trinity Episcopal Church and Parish Hall
11 Homer Street, Newton Centre, Massachusetts

(The church sanctuary is handicap accessible from Centre Street; the Parish Hall is handicap accessible from the church sanctuary.)

2–3 pm Memorial program in the church sanctuary (entrance on Centre Street)

3–4 pm Reception in the Parish Hall (entrance on Furber Lane)

4–6 pm Scottish, English, and international folk dancing in the Parish Hall

Donations in Marianne's memory may be made to the charity of one's choice or to the Marianne Taylor Tribute Fund, c/o Micki Taylor-Pinney, 62 Fottler Avenue, Lexington, MA 02420. See Marianne's CaringBridge website for details (www.caringbridge.org/visit/mariannetaylor1). The fund will provide for a memorial stone bench at Pinewoods Camp in Plymouth, MA; remaining donations will be distributed between Pinewoods Camp and the Folk Arts Center of New England.





English Folk Dancing in America

HERE has been a good deal of discussion in late years about the trouble with present day life, and especially about the emptiness of some modern amusements. Everyone seems agreed that the spirit of professionalism—in the widest sense of the word—is too much in evidence. Men and women are as a rule content to sit in a stadium or a movie theatre, and pay others to provide their athletics or their drama, whereas what they really need is the pleasure of expressing themselves by the exercise of their own creative faculties through action.

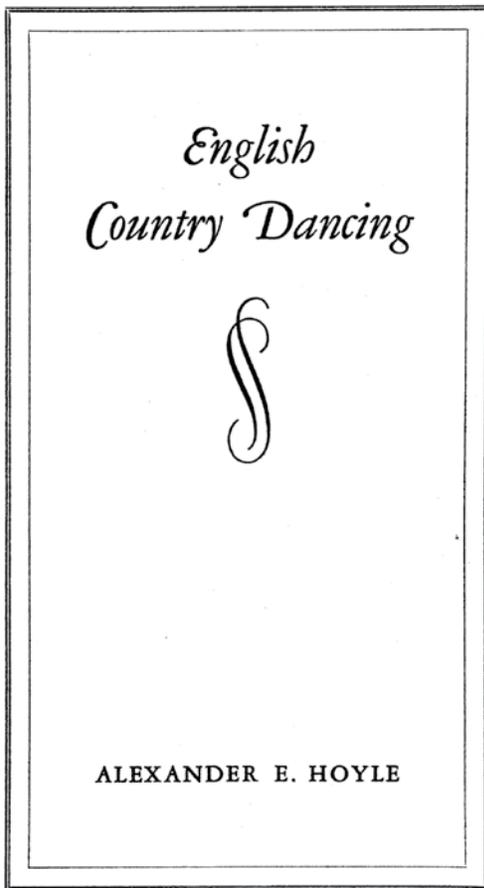
We believe that in English Folk Dancing we have something which will meet this need, and we wish in this leaflet to explain why we believe so. These dances are the native dances of England, developed through a long period of years by the people in hundreds of villages, and enjoyed by generations of persons of all stations in life. They were being displaced as a spontaneous art by more modern and more sophisticated amusements when the late Cecil Sharp, realizing their value, collected, noted and

re-established them. They are now being enjoyed by thousands of people who dance them simply and solely because in doing so, they experience a pleasure which they can find nowhere else.

These English dances are of three sorts—Sword, Morris and Country dances. The first two are really ceremonial performances, traditionally done by men only, and are both very different from the Country dances. The Country dances were the usual social dances in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and it is as social dances that we enjoy them today. We do not dance them because they are old, but because we like them. Like all really good traditional things, they are the result of the unconscious study of many generations. What was trivial has been discarded, what was most permanent and valuable has remained for us to enjoy. In principle, of course, the English Country dances are not unlike the American “square” dances, but they have a great deal more variety of structure, pattern, rhythm and music. The music indeed is one of the most interesting things about them. Each dance has its own tune, some of them extremely good tunes. With the traditional English Folk songs, these dance tunes make a body of English Folk music, the beauty and importance of which is only beginning to be appreciated.

The Country Dances are primarily to be danced; therein lies their particular value for this place and time, and we who enjoy them wish more people could enjoy them with us. The Boston Branch of the English Folk Dance Society is the local organization which makes possible monthly dances and classes of various grades for those who wish them. The Secretary is Miss Dorothy F. Bolles of 305 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, who will be glad to answer all questions as to local opportunities for practicing a most interesting avocation.

English Folk Dance Society
Boston Branch - 37 Beacon Street
Telephone Haymarket 1830



believe that these old dances offer you something which you do not get in most modern amusements, and it is worth while asking what this is. Today too many people spend their play-time in watching the other fellow do the work. At football, hockey or baseball games the only athletic exertion on the part of the audience is vocal; two of the great indoor sports, radio and the movies, demand nothing more of you than that you should stay more or less awake. Now you can never get the same pleasure out of watching any sport or other organized activity as by personally engaging in it. Again, a solo exhibition never gives even the performer the same kind of thrill as good team play. It is these two things — first, doing something yourself — and second, doing that something as a team, with others, which make English Country Dancing the great fun it is. It needs a little study at first, like anything which is worth while at all. If, however, you give it a fair show, it will get you in the end, and give you not only good physical exercise, but also a different kind of pleasure than you can find in anything else at the present time.

*A*NY COUNTRY DANCER is sorry for people who do not have the bug; he might find it hard to tell you just why he got so much fun out of it, but he would certainly rather dance than talk about dancing, and that is the real test. The actual dances, like many interesting people, have a past and a long one. They originated in England and were danced by villagers and noblemen alike until they were replaced by the more modern waltz, two-step, etc. They had survived here and there, but were almost forgotten until about thirty years ago, when Cecil Sharp, an Englishman, became interested in them. He studied and taught them with such success that thousands of people are enjoying them today. The dances are being danced not because they are old, and not because they are English, but because they are fun to do. They are of great variety; many are very simple; others are more difficult; there is always more to learn.

When you hear about "learning" in connection with dancing you are quite likely to say that you dance for amusement and not for instruction. But all Country dancers



Historical pieces from our archives are submitted by George Fogg.

George comments that now Television, iPods, Computers, the Web, and Cell phones may be added to radio and the movies hailed as "indoor sports which demand nothing more of you than that you should stay more or less awake."

CDS Boston Centre
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

To shake your rump is to be environmentally aware.

--David Byrne

CDS Boston Centre Meetings

All meetings are open, and members are welcome. Please ask a committee member or officer for date, time, and place—or call the office.

Boston Centre's website:

www.cds-boston.org

Office telephone:

(781) 662-6710

Communicating with the Board

If you are planning an event or some other matter requiring consideration by the CDS Boston Centre Board, please send a brief summary to:

president@cds-boston.org

or by mail to the address in the above left corner

To Contact the Editor

If you are planning an event, write it up! Send articles or announcements by e-mail to

editor@cds-boston.org

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to be announced