

CDS Boston News

The Newsletter of the Country Dance Society, Boston Centre

Winter 2008-09

Midwinter Celebration

Commonwealth Morris Men will showcase a wide variety of ritual dance, drama and song in a Midwinter Celebration on January 14, 2009. First Unitarian Society of Newton, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton, MA <http://www.fusn.org>. This free performance will feature the internationally known Orion long-sword team, the Banbury Cross and CandyRapper youth teams and Green River Tap and Die, a molly team from central Massachusetts, plus songs, stories and a mummer's play. For more information: www.commonwealthmorris.com/mwc.html Or email squire@commonwealthmorris.com.

David Titus

President's letter

We seek the thoughtful aid of any member of CDS Boston Centre, for Pinewoods-CDS Boston "New Generation Initiative" (NGI) Scholarships. We need the assistance of sponsors to both inform the CDS Boston grants committee of young individuals who would benefit from the scholarship, and to inform potential recipients of the camp opportunity. A sponsor may also aid a potential recipient to submit a completed request for the scholarship. **NGI Sponsors** - *continued p. 4*

Salem Vintage Dances

Salem's Old Town Hall will once again witness the lively music and sprightly dances of its past. Come and experience 19th century social dances, including quadrilles, contra dances, waltzes and polkas. Salem Vintage Dances will take place from 8:00 to 11:00 pm on 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month. Live music will be provided and all dances will be taught. Beginners will find that no prior experience is needed. Historical

costumes are admired but not required. Please wear comfortable indoor shoes, but no sneakers or rubber soled shoes. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 for students. Old Town Hall, 32 Derby Square, Salem, MA

George Fogg

NEFFA Benefit Dance Contra Medley Bash!!!

Please join us for an evening of dance and fun at the Concord Scout House on Sunday evening, March 1, 2009 from 5:30-10 p.m. The fun starts with a half hour of waltzing. Other planned events include a contra medley, a Hambo competition (with prizes!), and of course, lots of contra dancing! Attendance will be limited to the comfortable capacity of the hall, so tickets will be available in advance. - *details on p.11.*

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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:

January 23, 2009; April 24, 2009
mailing is approximately 10 days after submissions

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
www.dancedb.com/dancedb

Country Dance Society, Boston Centre, Inc.

Officers, Directors, and non-board offices

As of November 1, 2008

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. Year denotes term expiration.

Board Members

- 1) 2009 Wing, Laura - Term #1
- 2) 2009* Carr, Susan - Term #2
- 3) 2009 Gonzales, Dianne - Term #1
- 4) 2009 Carey, Maureen - 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

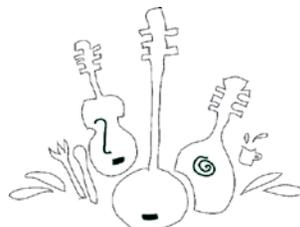
Board Elected, from the Board (2 year terms)

- 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)



Annual ESS Party

What's happening on February 1, 2009? The annual English-Scottish party, a celebration of two great country dance traditions and a midwinter reminder of the unique pleasures of the English Scottish Session at Pinewoods Camp. Joanna Reiner, from Philadelphia, will be our dance leader, with music supplied by the fabulous duo of Anne Hooper and Ken Allen. Plan to join fellow dancers at 3:00 p.m. at the Church of Our Saviour, Monmouth Street, Brookline for an afternoon of dancing. You'll be home in plenty of time to watch the Super Bowl, or you can extend your dancing day to include the Brookline Scottish Country Dance class, which starts at 6:30. Admission to the party will be \$10 for members of CDS-BC and RSCDS-Boston, and \$12 for non-members. As usual, contributions to the refreshment table are most welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.
Jean Farrington

English Country Dance

It's an odd time of year right now. The school year is still fairly new and there are lots of great events to look forward to on the horizon, but the calendar year is winding down, and the daylight shrinks even further with each passing day, bringing with it a sense of things drawing to a close. The image of the play-within-a-play from Revels - the traditional St. George and the dragon - feels like it will be more significant to me this year than before.

I don't know whether it's true or not, but it seems like we lost more people in the English dance community this year than usual. It may just be that I had more connection with the ones who passed away than in previous years. I didn't know any of them well: some I had shared dances with, one in particular with whom I would have expected to have had many more decades of that delight; one I had seen teach at festivals; one I saw attend dances with his wife but rarely dance himself, except occasionally with her, and it was always a lovely sight to see - they danced so well together.

We're very fortunate to have such a large and friendly dance community in which we get to meet so many people, even though it does also mean we have to say goodbye to them.

I also had the privilege to attend three

weddings this summer, and expect that I may be attending some baby showers this coming year. Unfortunately the parents-to-be aren't dancers so they won't be swelling the dance floors, but it will lend an extra depth to me in the mummers' story of St. George after the "winter" of the previous year.

I hope you all have a very wonderful, healthy, and happy holiday season and to see you soon and often on the dance floor.

Christine Robb

Co-chair of the English Dance Committee

Hot Foot English Country Social

Friday January 16, 2009, 8:00 – 10:30 pm
At Springstep in Medford Square, 98 George P. Hassett Drive (www.springstep.org).

You are invited to a lively, up-tempo country dancing party!

Free-Range English Country Boogie
Band: Jim Ialeggio, Susie Petrov, Julie Metcalf, Liz Davis Maxfield, Matt Boland, and Eric McDonald

with Anadama: Emily Troll, Amelia Mason and Bethany Waickman. Great Celtic music on fiddle, accordion and guitar. Check it out at: <http://www.myspace.com/anadamamusic>

Calling-lite by Judy Erickson

Admission: CDS and Springstep
Members – \$10

Non-members - \$12, Students - \$5

For more information, call: 978-425-4877.
Also call for information on free admission for doorsitting or refreshment coordination.

Orly Krasner's Election Night Program

Country Dance, New York,
Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2008

Bipartisan Agenda for Election Day'08

Just think. By tomorrow we'll have a new president and *First Lady.* For many there will be tremendous *Joy After Sorrow.* Another election and another victory for American values including liberty and *Independence.*

Maybe all of us will have some *Money in Both Pockets,* but personally I give *Long Odds* that either candidate will have an easy time restoring economic prosperity. Still, it'll be *A

New Beginning* and maybe *Inflation Reel*-ly will stop before we all become a *Beggars Boy.* No matter. By tomorrow all this political meet and greet on the road to election, *The Salutation* in *The Pursuit* of more votes, will be over (until next time).

Politicians who get *Quite Carried Away* speaking about Iraq often have to say *Excuse Me,* and hawks may find it difficult to listen to doves crying *De'il Take the Warr!* Choosing *Sarah* as a running mate pleased the *Red and All Red* states; it certainly gave Saturday Night Live ratings a boost! And so, having fulfilled our civic responsibilities as voters, and rewarded ourselves through dance, this pundit will sign off saying *Peace Be With You.*

George Fogg

NGI Sponsors - *continued from cover*

In 2009, CDS Boston Centre has the opportunity to grant seven full scholarships to Pinewoods Camp, to a young person or young adult, 16 years to 30 years of age that has not previously received the scholarship. The scholarships are distributed among the four CDS Boston sessions: First Weekend, July 4, English Scottish, and Labor Day Weekend.

In 2007, Pinewoods Camp established the scholarships, in collaboration with its several user groups, and in 2008 continued the second year of the scholarship program. The initiative aids young people and young adults, especially those who have never been to Pinewoods before, to experience the excitement of the programs conducted at Pinewoods. We hope that the exposure and the welcoming into larger community of dance and dance leadership may be a life-changing experience for the NGI scholarship recipients, and that it may, over time, expand our community of dancers, both near and far away. The scholarships are a joint effort by Pinewoods Camp, and its user groups: Pinewoods contributes the housing & dining costs for the campers, and CDS Boston matches by contributing the music and dance program expenses for the scholarships.

For further information, contact the chair of the CDS Boston Grants committee, CDS Boston Vice President, Hal Wagner, <vp@cds-boston.org>. Informative materials should be on a link, on the CDS Boston web pages, by the time you read this.

A call for Board Nominations

The Board of the Country Dance Society, Boston Centre annually seeks people to join in its efforts to aid in promoting the pleasures of English and American traditional dance in the Boston region, and to aid like-minded organizations throughout New England. Any member of CDS Boston may become a board member, by contacting the nominating committee or the president, or by petitioning 15 CDSBC members to appear on the ballot. Terms begin at the annual meeting, in March 2009. The board will need several new individuals to replace those departing because of term limits.

Aside from potentially becoming a board member, if you would like to contribute to the CDS Boston's efforts to promote dancing near Boston, or farther afield, or perhaps if you'd like to know more about producing a dance event, or otherwise help in making our dances, camp sessions, and educational efforts more effective and attractive to potential and continuing dancers, young and old, please contact the president of CDS Boston, Mark Jones, e-mail: president@cds-boston.org

NGI Scholarship Thank-yous

Pinewoods! This summer was my first time at camp. And what a summer! Although I've contra-danced for more than five years, I hadn't even heard of Pinewoods before this spring's NEFFA festival. I'm so glad I did! I heard Pinewoods described as "the best place in the world," which frankly seemed at the time like a bit of an exaggeration. Clogging had caught my interest a few months earlier, and Pinewoods seemed like a great chance to explore it and other traditional dances. But it was all only wishful thinking until I received one of the NGI scholarships to attend the CDS Boston July 4th weekend.

Pinewoods itself completely surpasses my ability to describe it. It was so much more amazing than I could have ever imagined! Not only did I get the clogging class I was hoping for, I was also introduced to Morris and many other dances I hadn't even known existed. *continued on p. 8*

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.

No Dance on December 24th, Christmas Eve.

There will be a dance New Year's Eve this year, as New Year's Eve happens to fall on a Wednesday. The dance will run from 7:30-10:30pm as usual, so that there's plenty of time to go dancing and then either head to another party or home to watch the apple drop in Times Square! Helene Cornelius and Graham Christian will lead the dance with Jean Monroe and Bruce Randall playing.

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

A relaxed dance party, open to beginners and experienced dancers. 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:

New Year's Eve Contra Dance

Lisa Greenleaf & Walter Lenk with Amy Richardson Larkin, Debby Knight, Emily Troll, Jack O'Connor, Bruce Rosen, Cal Howard

Wednesday, Dec. 31, 8pm–1am
Admission at the door \$12.00
Desserts and other munchies welcome for the 10:30 break

Gala Holiday English Dance Party

Saturday, January 3, 2009 7:30 - 11 pm

Led by Brad Foster
Music by Karen Axelrod, Peter Barnes and Mary Lea

Admission: \$12 at the door, students \$5.
No advance ticket sales.

Festive attire is encouraged.
An elegant dessert buffet will be served

New England Contra Dance

At the Concord Scout House,
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 for additional dates.
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

2nd Saturday Contra Dances

13 December, 2008, 8 – 11 pm
Daniel Friedman, Jessie Gagne-Hall, Jim DiCarlo
and Owen Marshall

Performers to be announced:

10 January, 2009, 8 – 11 pm
14 February, 2009, 8 – 11 pm
14 March, 2009, 8 – 11 pm

5th Saturday Contra Dances

31 January, 2009, 8 – 11 pm: Matching Orange, caller tba.

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 Contras & 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. Contras, 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: Contras 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

Dec. 26, 2008; Jan. 23, Feb. 27 and Mar. 27, 2009.

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

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 Contras 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. Sept. - May

6:30-8:30 PM. \$5 donation. Info: (617) 325-6657

www.rscdsboston.org/classes-listing.html

MIT Chantey & Maritime Sing

Open Chantey Sing - 2nd Sundays, 1-4pm

Come sing sea music and chanteys with a room full of maritime enthusiasts, professional and amateur. Free and open to the public bring your voice and join in!

December, 14, 2008

January, 18, 2009

February 15, 2009

March 15, 2009

MIT Museum, 265 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA

Admission is free

More Info: <http://www.nechanteysings.com>

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.

January 17 Sue Rosen

February 1 (Sunday 2-5 PM) Barbara Finney

February 14 Helene Cornelius

February 28 Mary Jones

March 14 Priscilla Borden

March 28 Orly Krasner

April 11 Michael Cicone

May 2 Linda Nelson

New Hampshire - 2nd Sunday, Sept.-June

Presidential Oaks (Odd Fellows Home), Minot St. off Pleasant, Concord NH. 5:30-7:45 PM. \$7, \$6 members. Dec. 14: David Millstone calling. 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/

Some useful European dance Web sites:

England

Set and Turn Single - www.setandturnsingle.org.uk

English Folk Dance & Song Society, (EFDSS) www.efdss.org Email: info@efdss.org

Halsway Manor Soc. -- Residential programmes office@halswaymanor.org.uk www.halswaymanor.org.uk

Denmark

www.tscdd.dk

Margot Gunzenhauser; margot@gunzenhauser.dk

Belgium

Contact: Frieda Van Vlaendern:

aads.vzw@telenet.be

www.User.Pandora.be/aads.vzw/



Thank-yous, *continued from p. 4* And I loved every second of it - the beautiful camp environment, the quality of instructors, and a welcoming community made it an unforgettable experience. I'm still awed that I had the opportunity to attend something so amazing. A huge thank you to everyone in the community who's made Pinewoods what it is! The only problem with a weekend at Pinewoods - it's far too short. So as soon as I was home I called Judy Savage and applied to volunteer on crew. Go to Pinewoods for free in exchange for washing some pots? Sign me up! I was able to volunteer for the last two and a half weeks of the summer - American, Camper's, and English-American weeks. I was able to attend class in nearly every session and every dance during that time. I have trouble imagining how a dance experience could be more incredible than those weeks! I learned so much, met so many great dancers and musicians, and really felt like I was whole-heartedly a part of the greater community of traditional culture. (Although it took at least a month for my feet to recover!) I'm absolutely planning on returning next year if I possibly can, and I'd say to anyone thinking about attending - do it! It really is the best place in the world!

Mike Jastram

When I applied for the scholarship I had never been to Pinewoods. I had no idea of what to expect. When I got there and found myself surrounded by the pines with the two ponds I felt like I was in a different world. One in which music and dance prevailed, and everyone was there to have fun and learn. The music, the dancing and the teaching were all excellent. The people were open and happily shared their experience and knowledge. The teachers were willing to help you no matter what your skill level as long as you were willing to try.

During my weekend at Pinewoods I learned more than I could have imagined. *cont.* I watched in awe as people performed with great skill and then was thrilled that I was able to try some of the dances and music myself. My only wish was that I was a better student and more capable, but still it inspired me to keep learning.

There was so much to do in one weekend from beginner clogging to advanced technique classes; I wanted to do everything. Maybe someday I will, but I think that the most important thing that I came away from Pinewoods with was simply the knowledge of all the possibilities out there and of the community of

people I met. From this weekend I was able to make connections for future learning and dancing, as well as some new friends.

Without this scholarship I never would have been able to go to Pinewoods. It was a wonderful experience and I would love to come back someday. Thanks to everyone who made it possible.

Jacquelynn Ward

The Joys of Being an NGI Sponsor

I was a teenager in college when friends who had previously been to Pinewoods suggested that it was a place that I had to go to. My spending money for the year came from the money that I made over the summer. Putting a significant chunk of that money aside to go to a place that I had only heard of was a hard thing to reconcile. My friends told me that Pinewoods scholarships were available to help with financial pinches. So I went and had the time of my life. I remember the feeling as I went along the Pinewoods trails on that last day - I found myself moving in a different way. Dancing had begun to insinuate itself into my life.

It's been over thirty five years since I first went to camp. I am eternally grateful to the people who urged me to attend, and to C.D.S.S. for offering me a scholarship. Last year I realized that what my friends did for me, I could do for somebody else. I became a scholarship sponsor for Labor Day Weekend. Being a sponsor was easy. I looked for young adults who were involved in folk dance or music and who either never had been to Pinewoods or couldn't afford to attend. I asked myself whether a scholarship to Pinewoods would enrich the applicant, and in turn, would the applicant enrich the community. I looked at the local dances and at the ritual dance groups. I asked young people who were already involved in dance and had been to Pinewoods if they could recommend any friends. Perhaps they knew of somebody who had only been to a few dances but really enjoyed them. Maybe they had a new member on their Morris Team who had never been to Pinewoods. Perhaps they knew a young contra dancer who had never danced English or Scottish. I've found that when people like this have a chance to go to Pinewoods, they start to come year after year.

After I found some likely candidates, I just filled out a form and submitted their names. Of the people that I helped send to Pinewoods last year, one has joined a morris team and has done more danc-

ing than ever. She even brought her Mom to camp so that she would understand what the excitement was about. The other person, though currently at school overseas for the year, intends to come back and play fiddle for a local ritual team. This is what it's about. I've been able to do for them what somebody once did for me. It's a real joy to be able to do something for somebody that might have a lasting effect on their entire lives.

So keep your eyes open and ask around. We have scholarships available, let's use them. When you bring a meaningful experience to somebody it's also a meaningful experience for yourself.

Mitch Diamond, board member

From a post on the Boston Area Contra Community email forum, September 26, 2008:

The Life Cycle of Dances

I've been calling a monthly dance with Roaring Jelly on the third Friday of each month for over 25 years. The dance began in Lincoln, moved to Arlington, and has been held at the 1st Parish Church in Lexington since September 1992. In that time the attendance has varied from the hall feeling crowded to the hall feeling a bit echo-y. Currently we are hurting with regard to numbers of dancers, just as Mondays are. We have struggled with how to bring in more dancers with varying degrees of success.

What has not changed over time is my commitment and the band's to a sense of community at the dance. We consider this as important as the number of people attending. In addition to a brief teaching session for beginners, we work at encouraging people to dance with both new and experienced dancers, and we see experienced dancers taking clear steps to welcome new dancers. This sense of community requires more than taking people aside to help them learn figures, although teaching is a crucial piece.

I used to (it's been a good many years) dance regularly at Monday dances. My life changed, as did many other people's. I am careful about when and where I choose to dance, and Yankee Ingenuity's Monday dance isn't at the top of the list any more.

We cannot ignore the influence that the world around us has on our dances. Financial challenges, especially now, are real issues for many people. It's unlikely that we'll again see

the situation that was in play when I moved here in 1980, of crowded dances Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays (English), Thursdays, as well as the monthly dances every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Many people don't have the time or money to dance every night, as I (and others I knew) did then.

The reality is that some dances are likely to fail or have to move to smaller halls in order to survive, as has happened before. What's crucial to me is to keep the sense of community alive and have it preserved for our children when they are ready to take it over, regardless of the number or location of events. At some point in the future it will grow again. We just need to hold on until then.

Susan Elberger

ESS at Pinewoods

English Scottish Session at Pinewoods celebrates its Silver Anniversary in 2009. We are delighted to have as our lead teachers for English and Scottish Country dance Graham Christian, from Amherst, and Charlie Inglis, from Ottawa, both of whom are well-known to Pinewoods campers. Laura Scott, from Maine, will teach Highland. Our music director is Ed Pearlman, who will be joined by all four members of Bare Necessities, Neal Pearlman, Dan Emery, and others. We'll be putting applications and more information on the website in the near future. Meanwhile, note the 2009 dates, July 6-10, on your calendar, ask for vacation time, and plan to participate in our 25th Anniversary session.

Jean Farrington

In response to a call for articles about dance experiences far afield:

Halifax Summer Dancing

I have been spending the past several summers in Halifax, Nova Scotia. There is an active English Country Dance group that meets in Dartmouth, just across the bridge - 10 minutes from downtown Halifax. They meet every Tuesday evening from 7:30-9:30, but every other week in summer. First let me say that Haligonians are some of the friendliest people you will ever meet. My non-dancing wife, Shelley, always came to watch, and they all spent time talking to her and

making her feel at home. And some of the group often goes out for coffee plus, after the dancing.

The group has been active for many years, and is very fortunate to be founded and lead by John Wood. John came from England many years ago. He did Morris there and played accordion for the team. His knowledge is extensive. The group has up to 16 dancers on any evening. We get new dancers every season, and they are helped through by all the advanced dancers. Music is via CDs, and John has a varied and extensive collection. We have a demo team, The Playford Dancers, which does close to ten gigs a year, in costume.

Dancing up here is one of the things I really look forward to every summer. If you plan a trip this way, call John Wood at 902-835-5154.

Leo Feinstein

Clownfish Rapper's trip to England

Participants: Kevin Aderer, Kansas Brew, Ian Brew, Gina Dunn, Donovan, Drummey, Jan Elliott, Casey Stevens, Janusz Sulanowski

Clownfish Rapper's May 2008 trip to York, England for the International Sword Spectacular was an adventure from beginning to end. We began preparing for the trip even before the team was in existence! The teens who created Clownfish were members of the Vineyard Swordfish longsword team; the Swordfish had hoped to attend the festival but couldn't get enough dancers, and this dilemma helped Clownfish form.

The young members and their new recruits, led by Gina Dunn, quickly created two rapper dances to bring to York. They also devised a "calling on" song, and learned a border morris dance and a unique longsword dance created by the Vineyard Swordfish, to add variety to the performances.

The Sword Spectacular served as a wonderful way to introduce Clownfish to our own community, as we began fundraising in earnest: performing at local events, applying for grants, collecting donations, selling T-shirts, even organizing a fundraising auction and raffle. Parents, teachers, friends -- all of Cape Cod seemed to be behind us, cheering us on as the day drew nearer. We owe a huge debt of gratitude toward our wonderful donors, including CDS Boston Centre. Thank you so much!

Our biggest disappointment was that not

every team member could make the trip. However, Kevin Aderer from the Boston area drove 80 miles each way to practice with us so that we would have an extra dancer. By the time we got to York, he and our parent chaperone had worked up a terrific little fooling routine, which served them in good stead. He also taught us some great figures -- thanks, Kevin!

This was a first trip overseas for some, and we all fell in love with the city as we walked its ancient walls and narrow "snickleways," passing beautiful gardens, riverbanks, medieval houses and half-timbered pubs. The stunning York Minster cathedral drew us in with its breathtaking tower views, fascinating crypt and massive stained glass windows. We soon discovered that our favorite spot in the city was the cathedral's Chapter House, with its exquisite design and stunning acoustics. We sat on the floor and sang everything from hymns to rounds to Danny Boy, just to hear the echoes, and were still there when guards came to close up for the night.

One more day in the city provided just enough time for shopping, sightseeing and a bit of practicing; then our host team, Sallyport Sword, whisked us off to the local schools to strut our stuff for the youngsters. We were joined by the diminutive dancers of Lark's Hill Squad and their Lilliputian junior team, who are getting a great start at rapper. The students were thrilled, and as we left we saw them trying our moves -- without swords, of course -- on the playground. That evening we were cavorting at a local schoolyard when we discovered a break dancing session inside. The braver souls among us jumped in, made friends, learned some great moves and got quite dirty.

Saturday the festival started in earnest, and the rest of the weekend was a blur of parades and performances, from St. Helen's Square and Davygate to Parliament Square and the Yorkshire museum, in the beautiful grounds of a ruined abbey. It was there that we encountered some young jugglers and ended up trading workshops amongst the ancient stone archways and columns; it was so much fun I missed my chance to have tea with the Lord Mayor.

Sunday only a few of us awoke in time for the festival's lectures and workshops, but those who did found them worthwhile. Elsie Dunin gave a particularly interesting talk on Croatian sword dance, and the rapper sword workshop was very well attended.

Making new friends seemed to be the theme of the trip for Clownfish. Sword dancers, schoolchildren, break dancers, juggling troupes, shopkeepers, spectators - all seemed to gravitate toward the funny young Americans in the striped socks. We danced rapper in orange T-shirts, long-sword in white shirts and border morris in rag jackets, but the crazy socks stayed on throughout. The antics of our two fools developed through the weekend as well, incorporating ever more reckless dashes through the set by our "Texan tourist," camera in hand. His photos are hilarious! On Saturday, one of our members suffered an allergic reaction and Kevin quickly stepped in as a dancer. Meanwhile Ian was surrounded by young girls from other teams, fussing over him and pouring water on his itchy legs. He was rather sorry to return to normal.

We saw some wonderful dancing from British and overseas teams. The traditional English teams were particularly inspiring; their aura of authenticity and ownership of the dance is palpable. At less than two years old we would never claim to be one of the best teams, but our dancing improved with each performance, and we felt ready for the final stage show in the Theatre Royal. At the end of the show we solemnly received our ceremonial plaque, and after an hour's rest galloped off to the final ceilidh. We danced till the wee hours, finally enjoying some relaxing time with other teams, which led to a budding friendship with members of Bal Dâ Sabre Fenestrelle from northern Italy. The next day, after final dance spots in the villages of Haxby and Wigginton, we agreed to meet our new Italian friends at -- where else? -- York Minster.

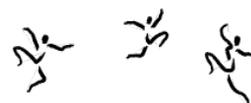
That final evening was an unexpected delight. We traded quiet songs in the Chapter House till closing time and then spilled into the street, singing boisterous pub songs to the bemusement of tourists. Some of us left for another break dance session, while others stayed with our new friends, playing games and chatting in a bar until we realized we were ravenous. Amazingly, there was a large and welcoming restaurant right across the street. Several contented hours later, we walked the Italian team to the last bus out of town and returned along the river to our little home, exhausted but happy. After one more day of shopping and sightseeing, we were on our way back to the USA, with enough good memories to last a lifetime.

Our very special thanks go to the awesome

committee of volunteers who put on this wonderful festival, keeping things going in the face of some rather stupendous obstacles, and to our generous donors and friends including the organizations below:

The Massachusetts Cultural Council
The Woods Hole Foundation
The Country Dance & Song Society
Country Dance Society - Boston Centre
Thanks to all from Clownfish Rapper!

Jan Elliot



Neffa Benefit Dance

continued from front cover

Lisa Greenleaf will be the featured caller for the evening. She will be joined by Linda Leslie, Beth Parkes, Dan Pearl, and Bob Golder – all members of the NEFFA Board.

Please bring your energy, your dancing shoes, your smiles, and your friends! Your support is vital to the financial health and continued success of NEFFA and its annual festival.

All proceeds from this Benefit Bash go to supporting the New England Folk Festival in April. The callers are donating their services, and an anonymous donor has generously paid for the Scout House for the evening. Come celebrate with us! You will have lots of fun, and help support the April Festival at the same time.

The Benefit Dance Committee is Terry Huffaker, Koren Wake, Linda Leslie and Tony Parkes. If you'd like to volunteer or help us out in other ways, please contact Terry (email below) or Koren at koren.a.wake@gmail.com.

Ticket prices:

\$17 Student/Low-income
\$25 Regular Admission
\$50 Friend
\$75 Donor
\$100 Benefactor
\$200 Angel

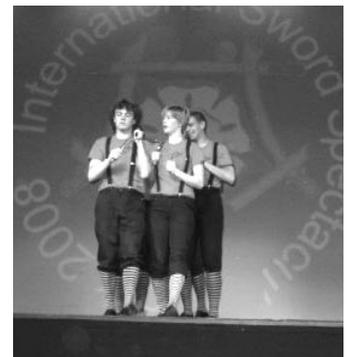
Advance tickets are available. See one of the Committee members at a dance, or send your check and SASE by February 15, 2009 to Terry Huffaker, 12 Greenwood Lane, Acton MA 01720. Please make your tax-deductible check payable to NEFFA. For more information or any questions about tickets, please call Terry at 978-263-5458 or email Tee.huffaker@verizon.net

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Clownfish Rapper in York, England for the International Sword Spectacular, May 2008.



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.

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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

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

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Next newsletter deadline
January 23, 2009