

**CDS Boston Centre Annual Meeting**  
**March 22, 2006, 7 PM**  
Park Avenue Congregational Church  
Park Ave. & Paul Revere Rd. Arlington MA

**Candidate Statements**

(The office of **President-Elect** has two competing candidates.)

**Jacqueline Barnard - Board**

Term #1, two years

I was introduced to English Country Dancing by Chris Rua seven years ago. [Chris also encouraged me to attend the Early Music Week at Pinewoods. ]That was a magical experience! ] have attended 4th of July weekends at Pinewoods every year since then.

I became more aware of the Country Dance Society, Boston Centre and the role volunteers play to help make the various dances successful when I served on the English Committee. I would like to continue with a second term as a Board member.

**Kim Barrett - Secretary/Clerk**

Term #0 (partial), one year

I started dancing relatively late, having been convinced as a child that I was rhythmically challenged, and I've been trying to make up for those wasted early years ever since. I'm presently active in contra dancing (first encountered at a NEFFA weekend), Renaissance dance and early English Country Dance (in the Society for Creative Anachronism and elsewhere), and modern ECD, and have done a bit of Baroque, Scottish Country (RSCDS), Irish Sets, and 19th century ballroom dance. I would like to encourage more crossover and mutual support between the various dance communities in the area, many of which seem barely aware of others' existence.

**Julian Cole - Board**

Term #1, two years

He has been barn- and ceilidh-dancing since childhood, contra-dancing on and off for 30 years, English country dancing for 20 years, have been a CDS-Board member, and is about to relinquish his present office of Past President. He is concerned by the greying of the English dancers (the contra people are less greying, but we need to pay attention there, too). Also concerned that CDS-Boston consists of a few largely non-interacting groups (contra and English, with ritual dancers almost out of sight). His main priorities as a Board member will therefore be: recruitment of the young into the CDS community; improving the communications between the groups of dancers.

**Susan Elberger - President-Elect**, one year (becoming **President** in 2007 for two years, and **Past President**, 2009)

I've been a member of the CDS Board for the last 4 years, and have co-chaired Labor Day Weekend at Pinewoods since 2004. I began contra dancing in 1976, started calling contra dances since 1978, and began dancing English country when I moved here in 1980. I'm a past President of NEFFA, and created the NEFFA contra dance medley.

I see the role of the Board as setting policy, ensuring that all our resources- time, energy, and money- are used to supporting traditional music and dance as effectively as possible, and creating opportunities for new programs.

**Nikki Herbst - Vice President**

Term #2, two years

Dancing and interacting with members of the dance community are central to my life. ]I started dancing English and contra regularly in the Boston area in 2002; I would like to continue serving on the CDS Board, as I have found Board membership to be a rewarding way of contributing to and being part of the community.

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I've been a contra and English country dance caller/teacher since the early 1980s. ]I was a cofounder of the Ukiah contra dance series (in northern California) that continues to run 25 years later. ]I have been involved in the Bay Area (California) Country Dance Society since 1981, working at the Mendocino summer dance camps in many capacities over the years, from kitchen worker to camp registrar to English dance musician. ]This year I will manage the camp bookstore and run the fundraising auctions at English Dance Week and American Dance Week at Mendocino. ]

]  
A true dance gypsy, I regularly attend Pinewoods and Mendocino summer camps as well as dance weekends and Playford Balls all over the country. ]I am chair of the Country Dance and Song Society Nominating Committee.

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**Mark Jones - President-Elect**, one year  
(becoming **President** in 2007 for two years, and **Past President**, 2009)

I have chaired CDS Boston's New England Dance Committee for the last four years, and am presently a member of the Concord Scout House Board, and worked as off-season office manager of Pinewoods Camp for several years. Friends introduced me to contra dance in the late 1970s, and English in the early 1980s.

I think we all desire a vibrant and exciting community of music and dance, welcoming a variety of dancer abilities and ages. A community of able committees is necessary for any effective volunteer organization, and we rely on more than 50 people to conduct our dance events during the year. The CDS Boston board's (and any board's) leading challenge is to guide, retain and cultivate both the organization's committees as well as the continuing commitment and interest of long-standing members, while welcoming and inviting the vigor and energy of young adults, and youth.

I desire to explore opportunities for us to introduce new people to our ritual, English and contradance communities, and think modestly toward increasing the attractiveness of our events. Some gentle publicity, and efforts to reach into a few high school's music departments and town recreation departments near our favorite dance halls also bear consideration.

**Ralph Jones - Treasurer**  
Term #2, two years

Ralph Jones continues to be interested in serving as treasurer for CDS-Boston Centre. [Ralph plays Scottish, English, contra, and international dance music (for more than twenty years) with The White Cockade. [He also dances English and Scottish regularly, and occasionally contra and international.

**Otavia de Moura Propper - Board**  
Term #2, two years

Although I had done a bit of Irish set and ceili dancing before, I didn't really get into folk dance until I went to college, where I fell in with the Swarthmore Folk Dance Club. When I was there we did mostly English country and Scottish country, with the occasional contra thrown in. When I moved to Boston I knew I wanted to keep dancing. One of the things I've really enjoyed in Boston is being able to dance rapper (I blame Pinewoods English Scottish Session for getting me hooked), and I've been doing that for about 3 years with Charles River Rapper.

The other thing I've done since arriving in Boston is help launch the Harvard Friday English dance. I'm particularly interested in encouraging new dancers and fostering a sense of community.

**Lanier Smythe - Board**  
Term #1, two years

The dance form I primarily participate in is contra, which I find the perfect metaphor for life, offering as it does the possibility of inventiveness within a structure which maintains order in the midst of chaos. But when I look back I can see that dance has captured my spirit whenever it had the chance. I grew up in a largely rural area where we thought nothing of going to dances fifty miles away. I taught my non-dancing husband to waltz and fox trot so we could get on the floor at least for those dances. And I dabbled in ballet and modern in adulthood. To be able to lose oneself in the rhythm of the moment, led by music and encouraged by partners (and neighbors) whose pleasure equals one's own, is an experience I wish all could have. I see this in our dance communities and want to promote it.

**Mark Ward - Board**  
Term #1, two years

I grew up in a family of dancers and musicians and likely went to my first dance before I was born. When I began making my own choices about dancing, I started out with Scottish, then contra and English, Morris, and swing. The local dance scene is changing, which will take thoughtful planning to manage for everyone's benefit. With that in mind, I'd like to make a contribution to the dance community by serving on the CDS-BC Board.