From the President

Spring is a time of preparation, planting, and first blooms. The first bloom of our spring season is the Playford Ball, although like the snowdrops coming up at the same time, we often have to push through snow to find it. The ball will be held on Saturday, March 7, at Monument Hall in Concord. It turns out that the Weston Town Hall is being used, close to the date of the Ball, by a drama group which has built a large extension to the stage. Since the space available to dancers would have been seriously diminished by the extension, the committee thought it best to look for another site.

The pre-ball First Friday English Dance for Experienced Dancers will be held on March 6. This is always a special evening, because so many of our out-of-town friends who come for the Ball also come to this dance.

We still hope to put the Ball dances on the web. Unfortunately, we are also still trying to resolve some copyright issues to make this possible. This is another case where technology has given us capabilities we aren’t sure how to handle yet. Barbara Finney has graciously agreed to answer questions about the dances by e-mail at bfinney@bu.edu.

The New England Folk Festival is the highpoint of our April calendar. The 54th festival will be held at Natick High School on April 24-26. Helene Cornelius is again leading a demonstration group of English dancers. Besides the enjoying the festival, NEFFA offers us a chance to show a lot of dancers how much fun English Country dancing can be.

CDS Boston Events on page 7.
Other area events on pages 8-9.
Address for News items on Page 12.

Please include your new area code in dance notices!

Spring Contras You’ll Remember

Our Lion/Lamb Festival will be a party dance on our last Fifth Tuesday of this season, Tuesday, March 31. Terry Traub and his Contramaniacs, with Jon Gersh on guitar and Cal Howard on piano, will provide the New England rhythms and melodies for our fun filled multi-caller evening—many styles for the price of one! This gala will be held at 8:00 pm at our regular Tuesday site in the historic and warm Old Cambridge Baptist Church (with parking in the adjoining lot). As usual, we will provide appetizing goodies for attendees at the break.

This will be a special request night. If you would like us to call a particular dance this evening, call MC Ann Cowan at (617) 354-0864 in advance, so we can have it ready for you. The only caveat: you must come for the evening!

Musicians who would like to play that night, please call Terry at (617) 484-0321. This is a very special event that provides otherwise rare opportunities for beginning callers and musicians to get much needed on-the-job training and practice. If you are interested in the future of our art, support them by coming and by participating in any way you can or wish. New talent of any kind is always needed.

Later, on Saturday, May 30, the Second Annual Gala Memorial Day Picnic and Contra Dance happens at 8 pm at the Concord Scout House. At this fabulous fun
From the President. Continued from page 1

I don’t know if it’s the effect of NEFFA, but every spring we get a crop of new dancers turning up at one of our dance series. Please keep an eye out for beginners, particularly during the breaks, when the temptation to talk to old friends can be irresistible.

Speaking of new dancers, plans are in the works for an outreach event at Lilac Sunday, May 17, at the Arnold Arboretum. Every year Morris teams gather there to perform as part of its open house. Rose Galliard has been kind enough to include us in the program, with a brief demonstration of English country dancing followed by dancing for all. The crowd has come to look forward to dancing with us, remembering favorites from previous years. Members are welcome to come and help introduce people to our dance form.

As well as encouraging new dancers, the Society is also in the business of encouraging aspiring callers and musicians in its Third Tuesday Open Mike Contra Dance series at the Old Cambridge Baptist Church in Harvard Square. There will be a special open mike on March 31, the fifth Tuesday at this location. For this dance, we invite dancers to submit requests for dances in advance. Requests can be submitted to Ann Cowan, or at one of the preceding Tuesday dances. I don’t know about you, but I’d love to do Todd Whittemore’s dance “Lost in Space”. Cammy Kaynor, who produces the First Tuesday series, also invites musicians to sit in with his band.

There’s even an Open Mike Night English Country Dance this year, on Wednesday, May 20!

The end of Spring brings two interesting contra dance events this year. On May 30, the Second Annual Gala Memorial Day Picnic and Contra Dance will be held at the Concord Scout House, with Dan Pearl calling. The picnic had about 40 people attending last year—it’s a good chance to socialize with friends. The next Saturday there will be an out-of-season Mardi Gras Party, also at the Scout House, with Mary DesRosiers. The evening is going to be “Southern-leaning with Cajun interludes.” See Ann Cowan’s article on page one in this newsletter for more details.

This is also the time to prepare for summer. Flyers for First Weekend and the July Fourth Weekend at Pinewoods are enclosed.

Also, as a part of planning for the future, the Board of Directors has been considering the creation of an Executive Committee to handle routine matters and to implement policy between Board meetings. CDS is a volunteer organization whose members have a limited amount of time to give to the organization. Currently the Board of Directors meets as a board every month, and much of our time is spent looking at the small details of the various programs that come before the Board for review. We propose that many of these details could be done by the Executive Committee, with the complete Board meeting only four times a year.

This change would free the Board to concentrate on policy during Board meetings. It would allow Board members to use the time gained to work on outreach, finances, and program development through the various subcommittees of the Board during those months that the Board does not meet. This is not a one sided issue. Some members fear that an Executive Committee would make the organization less democratic. As on every issue, the Board invites member comments on this idea.

Speaking of preparations, this is the season to begin thinking about new programs for next fall. CDS, Boston Centre is interested in hearing your ideas. Write to me at 11 Burr Street, Boston MA 02130, or e-mail me at Gaff@neu.edu.

Terry Gaffney, President

Spring Contras. Continued from page 1

event we’ll have the picnic outdoors, weather permitting (indoors if our luck fails), at 6:30 pm. The dance will be indoors at 8:00 pm. Supper will be pot luck, with drinks and utensils provided. This is a rare chance to converse a few minutes with your fellow dancers and enjoy the sunshine and Vitamin D.

We’ll have a great dance called by one of our most creative and humorous caller/choreographer/leaders: Dan Pearl, accompanied by the exciting combo of Roberta Sutter, piano; Carol Bittenson, fiddle; and Cal Howard, bass. You know they’ll give us a rousing New England Contra Dance.

Extra special! We’ll have bagpipe interludes, so much enjoyed at last year’s picnic and dance. We’ll hear Chuck Donachie on pipes at the intermission and possibly at the picnic—you never can tell.

Saturday, June 6 will be our Mardi Gras Party in June! We’ll be celebrating at the Concord Scout House with experts: Caller/teacher Mary DesRosiers and the hot band Crazy Blues, led by dynamo Nat Hewitt. This will be a Southern-leaning contra dance with Cajun interludes. Bring your beads and masks, your good humor, and we’ll have a ball! As usual, we’ll provide refreshments.

Maybe others can provide fans!

Ann Cowan, Producer
In the summer of 1970 Ernie Spence drove Peter Barnes to Fitzwilliam, NH, to meet a friend from college at a dance. Although the friend didn’t show up, Peter had a great time at the dance. Returning the following week, he was hooked. Having no driver’s license, Peter traveled with Ernie all over New Hampshire to dances run by Dudley Laufman, Duke Miller, or Jack Perron.

According to Ernie, Peter learned to play just about every instrument—except the piano—while riding to and from dances in the back seat of Ernie’s car. Intrigued by the music he heard, Peter started fooling around on the piano and found that he could even emulate Bob McQuillen, backing up dance music by vamping, a technique he had learned on the guitar.

Interest in the piano began at age 7, when Peter begged his parents for piano lessons. He studied for 2-1/2 years, but then lost interest. His early musical influences were principally classical. In high school in the late 60’s, he learned guitar and banjo and became good enough to perform at coffee houses while in college. Although he majored in English and philosophy at Moravian College in Bethlehem, PA, Peter hung around the music department, and started taking flute lessons with Pam Guidetti, who taught him the basics of breathing. “Breathing is everything,” says Peter of the flute, which he practices daily as a portable alternative to a 2500-lb. piano. It’s similarly important for another of his trademark instruments, the harmonica.

Just out of school in 1975, Peter started working as a bank teller, his only “real” job. In the cavernous empty basement of the bank he practiced violin during lunch hour every day. He soon played for some of Dudley’s dances. Noting the abundance of fiddlers, he returned to the piano and played for Jim Kennedy in Fitzwilliam and for Duke Miller’s summer dances every Saturday night. Then Peter was tapped by Donna Hinds (now Hébert) to play at Tuesday contras in the Cambridge YWCA; that music group evolved into the present-day Yankee Ingenuity. In 1978 Peter quit the bank job to become another struggling musician. Within a couple years, he “made it” financially as a musician.

Although he never solicits gigs, Peter has a remarkable 200-250 per year, all resulting from word-of-mouth recommendations. In addition to Yankee Ingenuity, Peter plays in BLT (with Bill Tomczak and Mary Lea) and Fresh Fish (Kerry Elkin’s band), and has lots of pick-up jobs. He has played at many dance camps from California to the Shetland Islands. Peter has been playing Irish music for the past six years or so, and accompanies Cathie Ryan, Joe Derrane, Seamus Connolly, and Chris Norman at their various concerts of Irish music.

A Vermont native raised in Waltham, MA, as the third of four sons of a now-retired Congregational minister, Peter notes that his father must have been partially responsible for his love of gospel music. Peter’s mother was a church administrator.

Peter first met Jeanne Morrill at Pinewoods Camp. When they met again in ’91 at Ed Perlman’s party, things started perking. They’ve been married about three years and live in Lincoln MA (in the former home of dance enthusiast Louise Chapin). He has accompanied her vocal recitals, which often emphasize Scottish traditions.

Peter’s musical interest and involvement know no boundaries. At a contra dance, you may hear him play fragments of classical music, blues, Irish, gospel, or whatever. He has published three outstanding books of dance-tune arrangements and has been thinking about writing a book on a non-traditional approach to harmony and improvisation. His recordings include three with Bare Necessities, two with Yankee Ingenuity, and numerous others. (Fortuitously, electronics has been another hobby of his since he was a kid, and he has built audio amplifiers and mixers.)

Peter strives to be an artist while making a living. He enjoys watching people have a good time and says that he can feel the audience while he’s playing. There’s a dynamic relationship taking place, with the dance driving the music and vice versa. Peter senses a decline in the number of young dancers as the dancers of the booming 70’s grow older with him, but he is confident that another boom will happen someday.

Eph Weiss
Looking Back on Wonderful Fall Dances

Last Fall we had three great American dances, all of which were “special” and a considerable success. The Tuesday, September 30, Fall Festival at the Old Cambridge Baptist Church was the biggest and most enjoyable Tuesday event so far this year. We had 42 attendees (vs. roughly 25 for many other Tuesdays), refreshments, decorations, and a fine diversity of callers. Musicians were led by Cal Howard, Terry Traub, and John Chambers, with Jonathan Finger and several others. Thanks also to the New England Committee: Chris Reynolds, Andy Koehler, Julie Owen, and Terry Gaffney, and to my most persistent aides Art Anger and Irene Howard.

Our First Annual Thanksgiving Dance, Potluck, and Art and Craft Fair at the Concord Scout House went very well—much better than expected—with 182 attendees, well paid performers, and a considerable net to the Treasury. The craft fair was a big attraction for many and netted a good income to many craftspeople. The potluck supper was a sociable affair for about thirty early arrivals. The dance, called by Susan Elberger, was great fun and excellently attended. It was accompanied by the energetic New England music of Drastic Measures: Rick Mohr, Dave Kaynor, Bruce Rosen, and Robin Kynoch. Guests coming from a distance were partially subsidized from funds donated by Larry Jennings in conjunction with other dances that weekend.

The craft fair that Gaetana Frenière originally planned for evening was extended to morning and afternoon and widely publicized, including an interview with Gaetana in the Concord newspaper, and drew a steady stream of browsers and customers. Workers and customers saw many beautiful and useful works offered by thirty four craftspeople, and could buy snacks as well. It was a pleasant and remunerative initiation of a new CDS pre-holiday tradition which enhanced our visibility and our dance.

The major helpers at the dance were Irene and Cal Howard and Chris Reynolds and Jim Greaney; at the Craft Fair, Irene Howard and Gaetana Frenière.

The Third Annual Klezmer-Style Contra was held just one week later, on December 6. It, too, was a great success! Many people have begged to have another before next fall. With Jacob Bloom calling, John Chambers led the creative Klezmer Contra Combo for the second time. Again we had nine dedicated musicians who practiced together several times in order to develop this new genre: Barry Shapiro, Sandy Pliskin, Dan Peisach, Bill Hollman, Andrew Marcus, Ben Pasamanick, Jim Guinness, and Cal Howard. We had 97 attendees, which for this rather specialized sort of thing (and a lot of competition that night) is quite impressive, I think. Again, thanks to Irene Howard, Cal Howard, and Art Anger who made the task much more do-able.

On January 31, our Pre-Groundhog Day Contra was another outstanding evening with over 200 attendees! Linda Leslie called, while a band led by Mary Lea with Peter Barnes, Carol Hamm, and Michael Kerry kept people very happy. A much applauded added attraction was the intermission performance by seven costumed young women from Rita O'Shea's Championship Irish Step Dancers. For facilitating this dance, thanks go to Art Anger, Ellen Frith, Cal Howard, Diane Mathiesen, Chris Reynolds, and Jim Greaney.

Ann Cowan, Producer

Questionnaire Result

Perhaps you wondered whatever happened to that questionnaire you dutifully filled out last year. Here are the results! It was both interesting and useful in that some of the creative suggestions are already being implemented.

First, a few statistics.
There were a total of 138 returned questionnaires.
Last year’s attendees at Tuesday contras in Cambridge: Regularly - 10 | Occasionally - 16 | Not at all - 128

Wednesday English Country dances in Cambridge:
Regularly - 22 | Occasionally - 53 | Not at all - 78

1st Friday English Country in Brookline:
Regularly - 11 | Occasionally - 33 | Not at all - 110

5th Saturday contras in Concord:
Regularly - 3 | Occasionally - 24 | Not at all - 125

In the last 3 years these members attended events or Pinewoods Camp weekends: Playford Ball - 54, Fall

Continued on page 5
Questionnaire, Continued from page 4

Favorites - 43, First Weekend - 29, July 4th - 61, Labor Day - 38, and 41 members did not attend any.

We have 2 members under 16, one member in the 16 to 21 group, and 8 members between 22 and 35. Then there is a jump to 53 members between ages 36 and 45, 42 members between 46 and 54, and 44 over 55. There are 90 women, 64 men.

It's remarkable what strong loyalty there is to CDS. There are members who live as far away as Seattle and several places in New York, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island.

Suggestions from the Questionnaires:

Coverage in college and community newspapers was mentioned several times. Thought is being given to the possibility of arranging a wider and more ongoing effort to do this. A subcommittee with a focus on promotion has been created. Love of music frequently appears in the answers. Dancers might be recruited from certain other strictly musical events.

Several people mention family dances, remembering how they learned as kids or in school. Perhaps parents who want to dance could pool childcare efforts either in a side room at a dance or at somebody's home.

There was a remark about de-mystifying the Playford Ball and another confusing it with the Christmas Cotillion. It seems to me that the flyers for the Playford Ball cater to people who already know all about it. Articles in the newsletter reach people who are already members. Is the Playford Ball full enough, or would more information be a good idea?

Holding outlying special dances was suggested a couple of times. We could try this—seeding with some seasoned dancers willing to help newcomers. It could be fun, and some of these dances might take hold or bring dancers into established dances.

Many thanks for taking the time to fill out and send those questionnaires.

Alison Woodman

Board Notes

In addition to our usual work of overseeing the two CDS dance series, Pinewoods sessions, special events, and financial matters, the Board of Directors has been dealing with three other significant areas of concern in the last half year or so. We bought a new sound system, which has been working well for our fall programs. We have also been discussing two controversial and complicated issues: our contract with the Cambridge YWCA and a proposal to change the by-laws of the Society.

CDS and the YWCA have had problems in negotiating for the rental of Hannum Hall for our dances. Many dancers have been greatly bothered by minimal ventilation, inconvenient drinking water, uneven floor, noise from a drumming group, and cancellations or threatened cancellations of our events. Our negotiating committee put in many months of hard work, but communication with the YWCA staff has proven very difficult, and the staff have been slow in responding to our stated needs. We did eventually sign a contract so this year's program could go forward, but we are hoping to find another location for next season.

There has been a proposal to change the by-laws of the Society that pertain to the Board of Directors' meetings and responsibilities. The officers who proposed the changes intend to make the work of the Board more efficient by establishing an Executive Committee that meets monthly for administrative matters. The entire Board would meet less frequently, perhaps quarterly, to make policy decisions.

It was hoped that this would make it easier to recruit new Board members, as the time commitment would be less, and lack of time is the most common reason given to the Nominating Committee when members refuse nomination. It was also hoped that Board members who no longer were required to meet every month would find it easier to serve on committees that do the actual work of the Society.

These proposed changes in the bylaws have met with strong opposition from several Board members, who think they could make the organization less democratic. They fear that the distinction between what is policy and what are administrative matters is not always clear, and the new structure could be less, rather than more, efficient. The Board is not rushing ahead with any changes, but continues to debate the issues.

Maureen Carey, Secretary

CDS Boston News 5
Letter to the Editor

A new set of Bylaws has been proposed to the Board which includes many changes—a whole new way of doing CDS business. I (and some Board members) think many of the changes are unnecessary, counterproductive, and risky. Full review and discussion of both the old and proposed new Bylaws should be engaged in over several months by the whole membership, before adoption takes place. Ask for copies of the proposal.

I cannot do all of it here, but I will outline some of the major changes, the problems I see with them, and some alternative ways to deal with the issues that suggested them.

The Proposal:
1. Creates an Executive Committee composed of the five Officers with a quorum of three to make decisions between Board meetings. Therefore, two (2) people could decide most issues.
2. Reduces the number Board meetings from eleven to a minimum of four.
3. Increases the term of office for Directors to three years.
4. Makes both Officers and Directors re-electable for second terms; they could then serve four or six years, respectively.
5. Requires each Director to serve on a Committee as well as on the Board.
6. Decreases the number of Directors from ten to nine.
7. Increases the number of signatures necessary for nomination by petition from 15 to 20, and identifies the petitioner on the ballot.
8. Keeps the membership meeting (which might, e.g., adopt new Bylaws) quorum at 15, so that 8 members could change the organization in any way.

Taken together, they amount to giving fewer people more responsibilities with less publicity for longer periods of time—a concentration of power which I believe is dangerous for the organization for many reasons, some of which follow:

1. If two people make most Board decisions, essentially in private, there will be little input from others and practically no accountability. This may (or may not) get more done faster, but will reduce member participation and interest in the organization, increasing the sense of powerlessness and resulting indifference many members feel.

2. Lack of participation will reduce interest and future participation, and eventually, membership itself.

3. My guess is that many Board members serve because they enjoy having their opinions count for something and because they find the exchange with friends pleasant or interesting. Having fewer meetings with more decisions made by the Officers will reduce their motivation to serve.

4. I am unconvinced that having fewer Board meetings will get Directors to volunteer even more time to Committees, where their voice will count for less.

5. Increasing the terms of office may discourage even more participants.

Some suggested alternatives are:
1. Retain existing terms of office and reelection limits.
2. Establish an Executive Committee composed of the five Officers, plus at least 2 Directors elected by the Board, with a quorum of five and four votes needed to act, to serve the Board between meetings on matters delegated to it or in emergencies, and which reports all its actions to the Board for its approval.
3. Develop Board Meeting agendas that are time-limited and which do not include or spend much time on reports or issues of little interest or urgency. Aim to use Board Members’ meeting time efficiently.
4. Keep all meetings open to all members. Use conference calls for decisions only in dire emergencies.
5. If volunteers are really difficult to find, reduce the obligations asked of any single person and spread the work around. Use more people for shorter times; use everyone for something. Don't be unnecessarily fussy about who does what. Be inclusive. Expand the organization, don't shrink it. Listen to and use the suggestions of critics; they're offering ways to revitalize and grow the organization.

Further suggestions:
1. Reduce the number of Directors to eight.
2. Nominate at least two people for each slot, or allow petitioners to run without being identified as such, encouraging ideas and diversity.
3. Do not increase the number of signatures necessary for petitioners. Encourage newcomers & workaholics. Use all the resources you have available!
4. Increase the annual meeting quorum from 15 to 40. Get people there.

Democracy is often expensive in the short run, but most of us believe it pays off in the long run. Let the organization grow, change, evolve!

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann Cowan
CDS Boston Centre Events

English Country Dance

Regular Events

**WEDNESDAYS**
YWCA.* 7:30 to 10:30. To 6/24/98. Helene Cornelius with George Fogg, Emily Ferguson, Barbara Finney, Colin Hume, Rich Jackson, Jacqueline Schwab, Robin Rogers-Browne. Music: Bare Necessities (Peter Barnes, Earl Gaddis, Mary Lea, Jacqueline Schwab) and others. $6; $5 CDS Members; $3 students & beginners.

April 22
Pre-NEFFA English Dance Party

May 20
Open Mike Night English Country Dance (see flyer)

June 24
End-of-Year English Country Dance Party

**FIRST FRIDAYS**
FOR EXPERIENCED DANCERS October - June, 8:15 to 11 PM. Church of Our Saviour.* For dancers thoroughly familiar with basic English Country Dance figures. All dances will be taught. $5 admission.
Mar. 6: Brad Foster with Jacqueline Schwab
Apr. 3: George Fogg with Vince O'Donnell and Susie Petrov
May 8: CDS Leader with Jacqueline Schwab
June 5: CDS Leader with Vince O'Donnell and Susan Janssen

Special Events

March 7, Saturday
CDS Boston Centre Playford Ball at Monument Hall in Concord MA. 8:00 PM to midnight. Helene Cornelius with Bare Necessities. $26/person; advance registration only. Afternoon workshop. Formal or period dress encouraged.

American Dance

Regular Events

1st, 3rd & 5th TUESDAYS
Old Cambridge Baptist Church.* Through June, with informal instruction at 7:45 and dancing 8:00-10:30 PM. Adjacent parking with 25 spaces which dancers may use. $6; $5 members; $3 students and seniors.

First Tuesdays: Cammy Kaynor's Community Dance, beginning 10/7. Musicians are invited to sit in with house band, and callers are encouraged to call.

Third Tuesdays: Open Mike/Open Band. Steve Boylan (629-2749) coordinates the open mike; Jon Weinberg (508-481-4802) directs the band.

Fifth Tuesdays: March 31, Lion/Lamb Festival at Old Cambridge Baptist Church*. Open mike: Ann Cowan & Contramaniacs. Sit-ins (617) 484-0321. $6, $3 students.

Special Events

May 30, Saturday
Second Annual Gala Memorial Day Picnic & Contra. Concord Scout House. 6:30 potluck picnic, $1; 8:00 dance, $6. Dan Pearl with Roberta Sutter, Carol Bittenson, & Cal Howard.

June 6, Saturday

Summer Camps at Pinewoods

June 19-21
First Weekend. Katy Peterson (617) 876-5330.

July 2-6
Fourth of July Weekend. Bill Schultz (603) 225-5129.

July 6-10
English-Scottish Session. Christina Wasch (617) 661-8091.

* Addresses of Frequent Dance Locations *
Concord Scout House, 74 Walden St., Concord
Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass Ave., Cambridge
Church of Our Saviour, Canton & Monmouth Streets, Brookline
YWCA, 7 Temple Street, Cambridge

For information about CDS Boston-sponsored dances, please call the office at (617) 354-1340. Arthur Ferguson, chair of the English Dance Committee, is an additional source for English dances at (508) 875-0382. American dances have additional numbers listed in each item, as they vary.
OTHER REGULAR BOSTON AREA DANCES

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

MONDAYS
Contra Dance, Concord Scout House, 74 Walden St. 7:30-10:30 PM. Various callers with Yankee Ingenuity. $6. Info: (781) 259-8442 or (781) 272-0396.

Scottish Country Dance, Cambridge YWCA, 7 Temple St. 7:45-10:30 PM. $5. Info: (617) 492-8180.

TUESDAYS
English Country Genderfree Dance. First Church UU of Jamaica Plain, Centre & Eliot Streets. March 10, 24; April 14, 28; May 12, 26. Michael Cicone & Rob Dobson, callers. 7:30-10:30 pm. $5. Info: Michael Cicone, (781) 891-3296.

THURSDAYS

FRIDAYS
Contras, Squares & Couple Dances. 2nd Fri. Unitarian Church in Carlisle, MA. 8:00-10:30 PM, potluck at 6:30. Walter Lenk with O'Connor's Mob. $5. Info: (617) 547-7781 or (978) 369-1232.

SATURDAYS
2nd Sat., Tony Salean with Concord Country Dance Band. Info: (978) 369-4462.
3rd Sat., Beth Parkes with Swinging on a Gate. Info: (980) 667-7459.
4th Sat., Walter Lenk with Jack O'Connor and Debby Knight. Info: (978) 369-1232.

Challenging Contras & Squares. 1st Sat. All Saints Episcopal Church, 17 Clark St. (at Common St.), Belmont Center. 8-11. Lisa Greenleaf with live music. $5. Info: (978) 779-6077.


Contra and Square Dancing on TV!

In a studio last week I assembled fifteen dancers, a caller, and three musicians to do twenty minutes of dance to be broadcast twice next month on Cambridge Community Television. With Vince O'Donnell on fiddle, Cal Howard on piano, and Jon Weinberg on dulcimer, Tony Salean led the dancers in a square and contra dance performance.

Thanks to dancers Laura Johannes, Tom Mousin, Betsy Handley, Andy Koehler, Billie Hockett, Kevin Curtis, Susan Freireich, Bill Snow, Kristin Gustafson, Erica Weiss, Ronda Harrison, Renee Kasinsky, and Jack Bottomly. They came on very short notice and deserve many thanks from the community for their contribution to spreading the word and pictures about our form of dance.

Ann Cowan, Producer
SPECIAL EVENTS AND DANCE CAMPS

Call first to check details and directions.

CDSS Summer Dance and Music Camps

Buffalo Gap Camp, Capon Bridge WV

English & Amer. Dance Week, July 4-11; English Dance Musicians Workshop, July 4-11; Family Week, July 11-18

Pinewoods Camp, Plymouth MA

Early Music Week, July 18-25; Folk Music Week, July 25-Aug. 1; Family Week, Aug. 1-8; Amer. Dance Week, Aug. 8-15; Campers’ Week, 15-22; English Dance Week, Aug. 22-29; English Dance Teachers Workshop, Aug. 22-29; English & American Dance Week, Aug 29-Sept. 5; American Dance Callers Workshop, Aug 29-Sept. 5

Country Dance and Song Society, 132 Main St., P.O. Box 338, Haydenville MA 01039-0338
Phone (413) 268-7426, ext. 3; Fax (413) 268-7471; camp@cdss.org

March

13 Renaissance Dance for Everyone. First Church in Cambridge, 11 Garden St. 7:30 pm. $8. Info: (617) 661-3353.

22 Ragtime Tea Dance. First Unitarian Society of Newton, West Newton. 2:30 pm. Workshop & dance, beginners instr., recorded music. $5. Info: Commonwealth Vintage Dancers, (617) 964-7684 or augment@world.std.com.

28 Advanced Contras and Squares with Lisa Greenleaf. 2:30 pm. Potluck supper 5:30-7 pm. Schottische, Polka, and Waltz Workshop with Amy Cann, 7-8 pm. Contras & Squares with Ruth Sylvester and Pandora, 8-11 pm.

April


15-17 11th Annual Fried-for-All Weekend for Experienced English Dancers. Lenox, MA. Music by Martin, Lea, Gaddis. Contact Judy Grunberg (518) 758-1645, JBGrun@AOL.com.

May

8 Renaissance Dance. See Mar. 13.

9 Reel Nutmeg’s Annual Hartford Ball, West Hartford Town Hall, West Hartford CT. Called by Helen Davenport and Roselle Shultz with music by Hold the Mustard. Workshop 3-5, Ball 8-midnight. $25/person. Info: Helen at (860) 285-8694.

June

19-21 First Weekend at Pinewoods. CDS, Boston.

July

2-6 Fourth of July Weekend at Pinewoods. CDS, Boston.

6-10 English-Scottish Session at Pinewoods. CDS, Boston and RSCDS, Boston Branch.
OUTSIDE THE BOSTON AREA

Please call the info number to confirm date, time & place.

MONDAYS

Nelson Town Hall Contra Dance. Nelson, NH. 8 to 10:30 PM. Mary DesRosiers with Harvey Tolman & Friends. $3. (No number given).

English Country Dance Party at the Old Gym in Hadley, MA, on Rt. 9 near Rt. 47. Robin Hayden and Mary Jones. All dances taught; beginners welcome. $5. Info: (413) 256-8260, or (413) 549-8159.

FRIDAYS

Contra Dance at the Guiding Star Grange. 3rd Fri. 401 Chapman St., Greenfield, MA. 8 PM to midnight. Susan Kevera with Bill Tomczak, Mary Cay Brass, Carol Hamm, & Dave Langford. $6. Info: (802) 254-2874 or btomczak@sover.net.

English Country Dance on Cape Cod. 2nd & 4th Fri. Unitarian Church, Barnstable MA. Third Fridays on 4/17 and 5/15. Live music by Eleanor Calvin. 7:30 PM. $4. Info: (508) 362-9570.

SATURDAYS


Peterborough Contra Dance. 1st Sat. Peterborough Town House, Grove St., Peterborough, NH. 8:00-11:00, 7:30 beginners. $5. Info: (603) 525-3883.

English Country Dances with Pleasures of the Town. 3rd Sat. Munson Library, South Amherst, Mass. 8-11 PM. Beginners 8-8:30. $6. Info: (413) 549-4423.


Greater Providence Contra Dance. 2nd or 3rd Sat. Oaklawn Grange, Wheelock Street, Cranston, RI. 8-11 PM. $5. Info: Jeanne Chapman (401) 828-3219.

Westcustogo Grange Contras. 2nd Sat. North Yarmouth, ME. Slow Jam with Pam Weeks at 6:00. potluck 7:30, dance 8:30 to midnight. $6. Info: (207) 926-4210 or (207) 799-2585.

Dancing Cat Contras in Dover, NH City Hall. 8:30-11:30 PM. $6. Info: (603) 659-7038.


Want Ads

New immigrant from Bulgaria with very limited English, but very talented hands! Alterations, hemming, mending, custom work. Reasonable rates (usually $10-$15/hour). Contact her translator, Martha Forsyth at (617) 964-2003.

Rose Galliard Northwest Morris, of the Boston area, is seeking a musician. We are a women's team of ten years, currently practicing in Sudbury on Tuesday nights. Please contact Luisa Granitto, squire, at (781) 275-5265, or by e-mail at WendellS@TIAC.net.

July 29 - August 12
Contras in England. Contact Ken McFarland at Farlands@PolarNet.Com or (800) 822-3435.

NEFFA Sound
Volunteers Needed!

Yes, it's that time of year again. The New England Folk Festival needs a lot of advance planning and all sorts of volunteers. I happen to be looking for Sound Volunteers.

We need a lot of people this year, as we are going back to volunteer sound in the Auditorium, after contracting it out for the last several years. We need all sorts of people: experienced sound crew, of course; but also stage managers, setup & takedown people, and the occasional gopher.

Experience isn't a prerequisite. We're happy to find work for anyone who can commit an hour (though 4 is more helpful and gets you into the entire Festival for free).

If you're interested in sound but have no experience or are rusty and need a refresher, we will offer several FREE workshops, beginning in March. No prior experience is needed. If you don't know one end of a patch cable from the other, you will when we're done with you!

If you want to volunteer, call Sue at (781) 893-2845, or send email to scarboni@voicetek.com. Please don't call after 9:00 pm. You can send email any time!

If you're interested in the FREE Sound Workshops, call Mike at (617) 964-7684 until midnight, or send email to eclectic@mit.edu. Taking the workshop does not obligate you to work for NEFFA.

Mike Bergman

Ragtime Dance
Lyceum

The Commonwealth Vintage Dancers will be offering a pair of dance workshops, Sundays, March 29th and April 5th, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. They'll feature dances of the Ragtime era, circa 1912, including One Step, Hesitation Waltz, Ragtime Tango, and Ragtime Foxtrot. The workshops will be $2 each. Each workshop will stand alone, though the most benefit will be gained from attending both.

The steps taught at the Lyceum will be the ones most frequently danced at the Titanic Grand Ball, April 18th. There will be an additional workshop the afternoon of the Ball, also $2, at which slightly more advanced material will be taught.

The Lyceum will be held in Medford, near Tufts. Partners are not necessary (we'll provide some extras). Call Michael at (617) 964-7684 for directions and more information.

Gerry Mansbach

Longtime members of CDS Boston will be saddened to hear of the death from leukemia of Gerhard (Gerry) Mansbach on 24 December 1997. He was 69 and retired from Draper Labs in Cambridge, where he was a systems analyst and software developer. Friends will remember Gerry as someone with an intellectual curiosity about absolutely everything.

He and his wife, Kathleen Ingoldsby, shared a long partnership and love of dance, beginning contra dancing in 1970 and discovering English a year later. Gerry was famous for the Cornish pasties he made for our NEFFA food booth.

They bought a large piece of land in Floyd, Virginia, in 1980, but spent the winters here, working and house-sitting, until in 1986 the house they were building was closed in and they moved down permanently. They used to show up for dances here when visiting relatives and friends, and they rarely missed NEFFA.

Roanoke's Blue Ridge Country Dancers will present "A Dance for Gerry" on February 28, a daylong event with some of his favorite dances. Full information about this event is available on a beautiful web page designed for Kathleen by Earl Vanover:

http://members.aol.com/ejvanover/gerry.htm

Lyril Ahern, Editor
from a conversation with Kathleen, and from the web site
Deadlines for Summer issue:
(covers June through September 1998):
Editorial and calendar: **May 1st**, inserts/flyers, May 10th
*Please be prompt!*

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**CDS Boston Centre**

**Meetings**

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

**Board of Directors:**
3rd Wed., except August, 6:00 PM
YWCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge

**New England Dance Committee:**
1st Tuesday, (617) 923-9330

**English Dance Committee:**
Various dates and places. Call (508) 875-0382 for specifics.

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**Communicating with the Board**

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

Terry Gaffney
11 Burr Street
Boston, MA 02130

by the 1st Wednesday of the month for consideration at the subsequent meeting.

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**News Needed**

If you are planning an event or enjoyed an activity that you would like to tell your fellow members about, write it up! Send articles, requests, inquiries, or announcements, preferably by e-mail to:

Anger@MIT.Edu

or by mail to:

Lyrh Ahern, 298 Central Street
Acton Mass. 01720

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

As another year of dancing comes to a close, it's useful to take stock of where we are. Where we are strong, we continue to be strong; and our problems...well, our problems aren't going away.

Our dance camps and special events continue to be popular and artistic successes. Average attendance at the Wednesday night series is in the mid-range of recent years. We still have problems helping beginners to continue with the series. The Tuesday series has a wonderful location at the Old Cambridge Baptist Church just outside of Harvard Square (with free parking), but attendance remains low. Members of the Boston Centre who would like to see this series continue are encouraged to get in touch with Chris Reynolds and Andy Koehler.

Membership in the Society has continued to decline very slowly from our peak. The rate of decrease is nothing to be alarmed about, but does indicate that we need to think about ways of bringing in new members.

The Society’s finances continue to be a source of strength. The last four years have seen an average increase in the Society’s net worth of just under $12,000 a year. This money represents a resource which the Society can use to promote country dancing in our region and even internationally.

For example, Marianne Taylor has been promoting English country dance in New Hampshire, and Anne Richardson (our new Vice-President) has produced a dance series in Providence. In both these efforts, relatively small sums make a big difference, by providing...

Summer Dance Series

For the first time in several years, there will be dances sponsored by the Boston Centre during the summer. Helene Cornelius and Ralph Jones are putting together a three-dance English series. This is still in the planning stages, but the dates are expected to be July 15, August 3, and August 19. Staff and locations will be announced, so keep your eyes open for flyers, or call the office for further information in July.

Cammy Kaynor’s First Tuesday dance plans to continue for the summer in its current location. Call the office to verify.

Don’t Forget Our Gala Concord Contras!

Saturday May 30 will see the Second Annual Memorial Day Picnic and Contra Dance. Called by Dan Pearl with music by Roberta Sutter, Carol Bittenson, and Cal Howard, it will be held at the Concord Scout House. Singles and beginners welcome.

Be sure to join us for sun and sociability at our potluck picnic at 6:30 P.M. Contribute $1 towards paper plates and utensils and bring a potluck contribution. We’ll provide lemonade and yogurt beverages and some hot dogs. Salads, breads, main dishes, desserts, and your other favorites will be most welcome additions.

The dance is at 8 P.M., for an admission of $6. There will be refreshments at intermission.

Y’all come on Saturday June 6 and have a wild time at our Mardi Gras Party: Contra & Cajun Dances in June! Why not? Our caller will be Mary Desrosiers with music by Crazy Blues (with Nat Hewitt, Liza Constable & Tom Pixton). Again, singles and beginners welcome.
working capital and money for publicity and occasional deficits. Support of these dances can increase interest in ECD in the region without creating competition for our Wednesday series. As people who start dancing north and south of us move around, some of them will wind up in Cambridge, increasing our numbers.

What about the west? The benefit Jane Austin Ball that Tom Kruskal produced last fall in Sudbury shows potential support for dance events there. I encourage producers, callers, musicians, and dancers from the western suburbs to think about a possible series or special events there. I'll be happy to facilitate a meeting of people interested in doing something in the region.

Another idea grew out of some informal feelers put out by board members for ways of supporting country dancing: Dan Pearl suggested we produce an audio companion to Peter Barnes' book of tunes. This would be a collection of CDs recording all the dance music in Peter's book. Bare Necessities would record the tunes in the same style that they play at our regular Wednesday night dance. These would be made available at wholesale prices through our various national dance organizations.

I was excited about the idea because it means that any group with a CD player and a hall could put on a weekly dance with high quality, varied music. A series of CDs like this would be valuable internationally as well. ECD in England, for example, is typically done weekly in small clubs which don't have the resources for live music. It would also be a boon to people in international folk-dancing, because there are a lot of good country dances without a recording for the accompanying tune. Dan Pearl and Steve Boylan are looking into the feasibility of the project.

A serious problem that the Society had this year was finding people to serve as Directors. We were forced to postpone the annual meeting to April, because we could not get a full slate ready for March. In hopes of making better use of our Directors' time and making the job more attractive, the Board is proposing some changes in the way we go about our business. These changes and the changes to the bylaws which they entail are discussed elsewhere in this newsletter. I encourage the membership to think about these changes and let us know how you feel about them.

Terry Gaffney, President

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Reorganizing the Board of Directors

From the Editor

As we consider the changes that have been proposed in the way we run our organization, I hope that there will be many spirited but respectful conversations. As a great fan of process, I hope we will process the issues until everyone feels heard. Everyone has a right to his or her opinion, no matter how crazy it may seem to someone else, so please agree to disagree. With luck and hard work, the resulting changes (or lack thereof) will show a consensus of the membership.

Here is an article on the proposed changes by Boston Centre President Terry Gaffney, with a listing of the proposed changes, followed by letters from concerned members.

Lyrl Ahern

From Terry

In recent years it's been difficult to get people to agree to serve on our Board of Directors and difficult to staff our standing committees.

After thinking and talking about it for a couple of months, the board has proposed changing the way it conducts business. This will involve changing the bylaws under which the board operates. Instead of meeting every month, the entire board would meet four times a year, establishing an executive committee to act on behalf of the board in situations which require action before the next scheduled meeting of the board. The board would continue as the group which sets policy for the organization. Board members would be expected to work on a standing or ad hoc committee.

How will this help?

People have a limited amount of time to give to organizations like CDS. When we meet as a board, the directors are basically acting as "editors" for the various proposals and reports that come up. As most of you know, 12-15 editors working over a topic tends to lead to "overkill" and an over concern with minutiae. Over the years our Board has somehow acquired the reputation of "micro managing".

On the other hand, members generally have positive things to say about their experience on standing committees, where their role is more creative than editorial. Running a dance series, organizing special events, run-
ning a dance camp is more fun than listening to and criticizing someone else doing these things.

By encouraging board members to spend more of their limited time in creative roles and less in editorial roles, we hope to better use the energy of our directors. By shortening the amount of time we meet as a board, we will force ourselves to focus on setting policy and evaluating how well we are doing at reaching our goals. Our hope is that as the dance community realizes the opportunities to be creative that directors have, it will become easier to find future directors.

By requiring directors to serve on board committees without increasing their time commitment to the board, we also will be able to revive some of our standing committees which are currently moribund.

Of course, someone still has to act as editor, and this is where the executive committee comes in. The executive committee would continue to review reports of events and would continue to look over budgets. Our belief is that a smaller group should be able to do this more efficiently. It would oversee the implementation of policies decided by the board and take action between board meetings in emergency situations.

Why are we changing the Nominating Committee?

The changes to the bylaws would expand the nominating committee by adding two directors. Currently it is very difficult to get members to serve as directors. This means that the members of the nominating committee find themselves making many, many calls. By adding two directors to the committee, we increase the number of people who can carry the workload. Directors will also be able to give potential candidates a good feel for what's involved in the position and assurance that it's not overwhelming.

What comes next?

The proposed changes are the board's attempt to implement the vision described above. The board has voted in favor of the ideas behind these changes and has approved this set of changes as a starting point for further discussions. The next step is for the membership to discuss the proposed revisions in our newsletter or by e-mail. After listening to member comments, the board will again consider these changes, and, if there seems to be broad support for them, will send out ballots to the membership next fall.

Proposed Changes to the By-laws

Add to article IV

10. Duties of Directors. Directors are expected to make every effort to attend meetings of the Board regularly and to participate in CDS activities. Directors are expected to serve on at least one committee or task force.

In Article V

Replace 3. with

3. The Board shall meet at least four times a year. The President may call additional meetings and shall call a special meeting at the written request of at least four Board members.

In Article VI

Change 2. to:

2. The standing committees are Executive, Finance, English Dance, American Dance, and Endowment and Grants. The members of these committees who are not ex-officio members must be approved by the Board.

Insert the following article as article VII and increment the number of the other articles by 1.

Article VII: Executive Committee

1.) Composition. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the officers of CDS and such other directors as the Chair may from time to time nominate, and the Board approve. The President shall be the chair of the Executive Committee.

2.) The Board may delegate specific powers, duties or tasks to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is also empowered to act on behalf of the Board in situations which, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, require action before the next scheduled meeting of the Board. The Executive Committee shall report its actions to the Board at the Board's next regular meeting. In managing the administrative and operational functions of CDS, the Executive Committee shall act in accordance with policies established by the Board.

3) The Executive Committee shall meet at least once during each calendar month that the full Board does not meet, and otherwise as necessary for the efficient operation of the organization. The Executive Committee may conduct meetings by conference call. A majority of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum; decisions by the Executive Committee shall also require a majority of the committee.
In Article X Elections (which is the new Article XI)
Replace 1. with
1. The Nominating Committee will consist of five mem­
bers, three to be elected by the members of CDS and two
be appointed from among the members of the Board.
Terms of elected members are three years with one expi­
ring each year; terms of director-members are for two
years with one expiring each year. The Committee is
chaired by its senior elected member.

Letter to the Editor
On Bylaw Changes

A modified version of the proposed bylaw changes has
been written by the Board of Directors and is included
in this newsletter for your consideration.

While this modification is an improvement, there is
still much to be done to increase its democratic character
and increase communication among the officers, board,
and members. The new proposal creates radical changes
in organization which remove the board's actions fur­
ther from the membership. I believe this will lead to
increased apathy toward, rather than the invigoration of
the organization.

As I did in the last newsletter, I will outline the major
changes proposed, the problems I see with them, and
alternative ways to deal with the issues.

The proposal:
1. Decreases the minimum number of board meetings
per year from ten to four, with an executive committee
meeting in the other eight months.
2. Creates an executive committee composed of the
five officers with a quorum of three, with only three votes
also necessary for action.
3. Allows the president, with the consent of the board,
to add any number of directors to the executive commit­
te, with a majority of the committee deciding issues.
4. Allows the executive committee to meet by confer­
ence call.
5. Expects (does not require) directors to serve on one
or more committees.
6. Increases the number on the nominating commit­
te from three to five, with three elected by the member­
ship for three years each and two appointed from the
board for two years each, all with staggered terms and
chaired by its senior member.

Some problems:
1. This proposal concentrates most of the power and
responsibility of the organization in a small group of five
people, with only three necessary for organization ac­tion. This seems unnecessary and dangerous, and may
lead to further disinterest in participation by members.
2. With three or four people making most organization­
al decisions, most members and even most board
members will be uninformed as to what the organization
is doing, and why. The President's description of most
board motions, discussion, and voting as "editing" is
confusing. What the Board has been doing is investigat­
ing, deliberating, deciding, and voting on programs and
budgets, etc., i.e., legislating.
3. Leaving the chair the option to nominate any
number of directors to the executive committee leaves
considerable uncertainty as who and what procedures
govern to an unnecessary degree of arbitrariness.
4. A large board increases the participation of
members, keeps more people informed and feeling
responsible. It also insures a certain diversity of insights,
opinions, and talents, adding to the creativity of the
organization.
5. Several board members have confided to me that
they appreciate the opportunity to discuss issues with
like-minded friends and to have their opinions sought
and count for something.
6. I am unconvinced that having fewer board meetings
will get directors to volunteer even more time to com­
nittees.
7. If some items on the agenda have been trivial or
time-wasting, they can be eliminated or constrained by
the chair or other directors. However, if the board meets
only to hear what the executive committee has already
done, it will surely lose interest in coming to meetings.
This is even more true if "meetings" are held by phone
or e-mail, which does not allow for full participation or
observation by directors, and certainly not by members.
8. The tendency for this small group will be to
eliminate public meetings and do the business of the
organization mainly by phone and e-mail, leaving both
the board and members with considerably diminished
opportunity for access and the executive committee with
considerably diminished creative input.
9. The conference call meeting approach will elimi­
nate prospective candidates who do not have or cannot
get or afford this service (E. DiSalvatore).
10. Perhaps the nominating committee is obsolete,
since it has not recruited effectively or in a timely manner
in the past two years, and seldom manages to get more
nominees than slots. Increasing the size and complexity
of the nominating committee does not seem a produc­
tive way to use scarce volunteer talent.
11. In addition, allowing two appointees from the
board to the nominating committee without stating how
they are to be chosen suggests that perhaps they might be self-selected officers—a further concentration of power.

**Some suggested alternatives:**

1. Continue monthly board meetings, but make them cover only those items on which decisions are required, or on which directors or members have questions. Aim to keep them to one hour.

2. Establish an executive committee composed of the five officers plus two directors elected by the board, with a quorum of five with four votes necessary for action, to serve the board between meetings on matters delegated to it or in emergencies.

3. Require board review and approval for all acts of the executive committee.

4. Keep all meetings of board and executive committee open to all members. Use conference calls for decisions only in dire emergencies.

5. Have the board appoint a facilitation subcommittee to help the board and chair prepare an agenda for efficient board meetings by:
   a. Collecting data on all committees and the time-tables they must meet,
   b. Determining what board decisions on programs and budgets need to be approved, and when,
   c. Working to determine when proposals are required and when the board needs them for considered deliberation well in advance of board meetings,
   d. Informing committee chairs and president when board members need materials,
   e. Directing chairs to confine their remarks to decisions to be made and to a limited number of minutes,
   f. Informing board members of their responsibility to be prepared to discuss and vote on the items when they come to the meeting.

In this way, the Board will be better prepared, and the meeting can move more quickly and be less burdensome, with less or no need for an executive committee.

6. Replace the nominating committee with an election committee of three member volunteers. The election committee will administer the elections, encourage any and all members to run for office, and advertise widely for volunteers to run as directors, committee chairs and committee members, screening candidates for qualifications, i.e., CDS Membership and willingness to give the necessary time and attention to the position.

In general, increase rather than decrease the accessibility of the organization to its members. Publicize all position openings and invite volunteers to serve. A little freedom and open democratic competition might be the breath of fresh air we need!

**Endorsed by Art Anger**

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**Food for Thought**

The President of CDS, Boston Centre has proposed changes to the bylaws. The Board of Directors has been discussing the proposed changes for several months and is far from unanimous on its merits. I urge members of the Boston Centre to become informed on the nature of the proposed changes, which may be presented to the membership for approval. This vote may result in unintended consequences.

The impetus for the proposal has been that the current structure is inefficient, cumbersome, too time-consuming, and does not facilitate rapid response in cases where it seems to be necessary. Monthly meetings of the board are required by the current bylaws and seem excessive. Most of its tasks could be conducted by a much smaller active executive committee.

I agree with the problems but disagree on the proposed solutions for several reasons. Under the present bylaws most of the activities of the current board could be delegated to a smaller group. One or more smaller committees could be charged with tasks by the board. This could improve efficiency and expedite decision-making, but has rarely been attempted during my tenure on the board.

The requirement of monthly meetings should be relaxed somewhat, but not radically. Meetings should be held at the call of the president or several members of the board.

Changing the bylaws to transfer power from the board to an executive committee tends to reduce the democratic nature of the organization and unduly centralize authority. This is no reflection on the current President or on the President-elect. Control by single (or a few) individuals tends to be efficient; democracy tends to be inefficient. Despite its inefficiency, I prefer democracy.

Inertia may be cumbersome, but it tends to assure a reasonable amount of continuity in an organization and reduces the likelihood that one individual or small group could dissipate a substantial portion of the hard-earned resources of the organization, or engage in ill-advised enterprises. Such events may be inadvertent or well-intentioned, but can be quite detrimental.

Think before you leap at seemingly simple solutions.

*Eph Weiss*
CDS Boston Centre Events

English Country Dance
Regular Events

**WEDNESDAYS**
YWCA.* 7:30 to 10:30. To 6/24/98. Helene Cornelius with Barbara Finney, and others. Music: Bare Necessities (Peter Barnes, Earl Gaddis, Mary Lea, Jacqueline Schwab) & others. $6; $5 CDS Members; $3 students and beginners.

**June 24**
End-of-Year English Country Dance Party

**FIRST FRIDAYS**
For Experienced Dancers. Church of Our Saviour.* Oct. thru June, 8:15 to 11 PM. For dancers thoroughly familiar with basic English Country Dance figures. All dances will be taught. $5.

**June 5**
CDS Leaders with Vince O'Donnell and Susan Janssen

**Summer Dances**
Proposed dates: July 15, August 5 and 19. Leaders, musicians, and location to be announced. Call the CDS office to confirm.

American Dance
Regular Events

**FIRST TUESDAYS**
Old Cambridge Baptist Church.* Informal instruction at 7:45 and dancing 8:00-10:30 PM. Adjacent parking of 25 spaces. $6; $5 members; $3 students & seniors.

**Continuing for the summer:** First Tuesdays. Cammy Kaynor's Community Dance. Musicians are invited to sit in, and callers are encouraged to call.

**Special Events**

**May 30, Saturday**
Second Annual Gala Memorial Day Picnic & Contra. Concord Scout House*. 6:30 potluck picnic, $1; 8:00 dance, $6. Dan Pearl with Roberta Sutter, Carol Bittenson, & Cal Howard.

**June 6, Saturday**

Please include your new area code in dance notices!

**Boston Centre Summer Camps at Pinewoods**
See page 8 for more details.

June 19-21
First Weekend. Katy Petersen and Jerry Callen (617) 876-5330 or jccallen@world.std.com

July 2-6
Fourth of July Weekend. Bill Schultz (603) 225-5129 or wshultz@tiac.net

July 6-10
English-Scottish Session. Christina Wasch (617) 661-8091 or cwasch@alum.mit.org

For information about CDS Boston-sponsored dances, please call the office at (617) 354-1340. Arthur Ferguson, chair of the English Dance Committee, is an additional source for English dances at (508) 875-0382. American dances have additional numbers listed in each item, as they vary.

* Addresses of Frequent Dance Locations *
Concord Scout House, 74 Walden St., Concord
Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass Ave., Cambridge
Church of Our Saviour, Carlton & Monmouth Streets, Brookline
YWCA, 7 Temple Street, Cambridge
OTHER REGULAR BOSTON AREA DANCES

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

Call before going to make sure that these dances are running during the summer.

MONDAYS

Contra Dance, Concord Scout House, 74 Welden St. 7:30-10:30 PM. Various callers with Yankee Ingenuity. $6. Info: (781) 259-8442 or (781) 272-0396.

Scottish Country Dance, Cambridge YWCA, 7 Temple St. 7:45-10:30 PM. $5. Info: (617) 492-8180.

TUESDAYS


THURSDAYS


FRIDAYS

Contras, Squares & Couple Dances. 2nd Fri. Unitarian Church in Carlisle, MA. 8:00-10:30 PM, potluck at 6:30. Walter Lenk with O’Connor’s Mob. $5. Info: (617) 547-7781 or (978) 369-1232.

Contras and Squares with Roaring Jelly. 3rd Fri. First Parish Church, Unitarian Universalist, on The Green, Lexington. 8-11 PM; beginners 7:45. Caller Susan Elberger. $5. Info: (781) 944-3544.

SATURDAYS

New England Contras & Squares, Concord Scout House, 74 Welden St., Concord. 8-11 PM. $6.


Genderfree Contras and Squares. First Church U. U. of Jamaica Plain, Centre and Eliot Sts. 7:30-11 pm. May 23: Contras & Squares with Sarah Gregory Smith & live music. $5 before 8pm, $6 after. Info: Chris Ricciotti: (617) 522-1115.

SUNDAY

Scottish Country Dance. Church of Our Saviour, Carlton & Monmouth St., Brookline. 6:30-8:30 PM. Evelyn Murray, I. Lamont, and others. $4. Info: (617) 661-5899.

Please include your new area code in dance notices!

OUTSIDE THE BOSTON AREA

Please call the info number to confirm date, time & place.

Call before going to make sure that these dances are running during the summer.

MONDAYS

Nelson Town Hall Contra Dance. Nelson, NH. 8 to 10:30 PM. Mary DesRosiers with Harvey Tolman & Friends. $3. (No number given).

English Country Dance Party at the Old Gym in Hadley, MA, on Rt. 9 near Rt. 47. Robin Hayden and Mary Jones. All dances taught; beginners welcome. $5. Info: (413) 256-8260, or (413) 549-8159.

Continued on page 9
SPECIAL EVENTS AND DANCE CAMPS
Call first to check details and directions.

CDSS Summer Dance and Music Camps

Buffalo Gap Camp, Capon Bridge WV
English & Amer. Dance Week, July 4-11; English Dance Musicians Workshop, July 4-11; Family Week, July 11-18

Pinewoods Camp, Plymouth MA
Early Music Week, July 18-25; Folk Music Week, July 25-Aug. 1; Family Week, Aug. 1-8; Amer. Dance Week, Aug. 8-15; Campers' Week, 15-22; English Dance Week, Aug. 22-29; English Dance Teachers Workshop, Aug. 22-29; English & American Dance Week, Aug. 29-Sept. 5; American Dance Callers Workshop, Aug 29-Sept. 5

Country Dance and Song Society, 132 Main St., P.O. Box 338, Haydenville MA 01039-0338
Phone (413) 268-7426, ext. 3; Fax (413) 268-7471; camp@cdss.org

May
29-31
Work Weekend at Pinewoods.
Grounds work and cleanup to open camp. Housing & meals provided. (508) 224-4858 or manager@pinewoods.org

June
19-21
First Weekend at Pinewoods.
CDS, Boston. Families welcome. Preplanned and camper-led activities. Katy Petersen, Jerry Callen: (617) 876-5330 or jcallen@world.std.com

July
2-6
Fourth of July Weekend at Pinewoods. CDS, Boston. English country dance, American dance, Irish Sets, Cotswold Morris, Northwest Morris, Cape Breton Stepping, Longsword, Rapper, Singing, Couple Dances, Band class. Bill Schultz, (603) 225-5129 or wschultz@tiac.net

6-10
English-Scottish Session at Pinewoods. CDS, Boston and RSCDS, Boston Branch. English and Scottish country dancing, Scottish step dancing and highland dancing, English clog, Rapper and Longsword, band workshop. Christina Wasch, (617)661-8091 or cwasch@alum.mit.org

10-13 and 13-18
Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Sessions I & II. Scottish Country Dancing, Highland, Step, Cape Breton, and Old Time.

Want Ads

Rose Galliard Northwest Morris, of the Boston area, is seeking a musician. We are a women's team of ten years, currently practicing in Sudbury on Tuesday nights. Please contact Luisa Granitto, squire, at (781) 275-5265, or by e-mail at Wendells@TIAC.net.

Aspiring rapper sword dancers are invited to attend a class offered by Charles River Rapper. Learn the basics of stepping and some of the exciting figures that make rapper unique. No experience necessary. Three weekly classes begin June 7, 6-8 p.m. Waltham. For more information, call (617) 489-2063.
Outside the Boston Area, Continued from page 7

FRIDAYS

Contra Dance at the Guiding Star Grange. 3rd Fri. 401 Chapman St., Greenfield, MA. 8 PM to midnight. Susan Kevra with Bill Tomczak, Mary Cay Brass, Carol Hamm, & Dave Langford. $6. Info: (802) 254-2874 or btomczak@sover.net.

English Country Dance on Cape Cod. 2nd & 4th Fri. Unitarian Church, Barnstable MA. Third Fridays on 4/17 and 5/15. Live music by Eleanor Calvin. 7:30 PM. $4. Info: (508) 362-9570.

SATURDAYS


Peterborough Contra Dance. 1st Sat. Peterborough Town House. Grove St., Peterborough, NH. 8:00-11:00. 7:30 beginners. $5. Info: (603) 525-3883.

English Country Dances with Pleasures of the Town. 3rd Sat. Munson Library, South Amherst, Mass. 8-11 PM. Beginners 8-8:30. $6. Info: (413) 549-4123.


Greater Providence Contra Dance. 2nd or 3rd Sat. Oaklawn Grange, Wheelock Street, Cranston, RI. 8-11 PM. $5. Info: Jeanne Chapman (401) 928-3229.

Westcstogo Grange Contras. 2nd Sat. North Yarmouth, ME. Slow Jam with Pam Weeks at 6:00, potluck 7:30, dance 8:30 to midnight. $6. Info: (207) 926-4210 or (207) 799-2585.

Dancing Cat Contras in Dover, NH City Hall. 8:30-11:30 PM. $6. Info: (603) 659-7038.


Join Us at Pinewoods for English-Scottish

There is still time to sign up for the July 6th to 10th English-Scottish session at Pinewoods. Come and revel in this wonderful combination of country dancing—elegant English and stylish Scottish! There will be longsword and rapper, step and highland as well. Terrific teachers, marvelous musicians, and great parties!

Contact Bonnie Armstrong at (781) 749-1750.

Seventh Annual Nahant Victorian Day Ball

The Seventh Annual Nahant Victorian Day Ball, to benefit the Nahant Historical Society, will be held on Saturday July 11th, 1998 at the Nahant Town Hall, 7:30 pm to 11 pm. Come join us to celebrate the late Nineteenth Century with music by Spare Parts and the punctilious prompting of Dr. Patri Pugliese. The Era of this year’s ball will be the 1890s. Formal dress is requested and period dress is encouraged. Admission is $20 per person; spectators welcome.

For further information, including Victorian Games Day, call Ben or Kay at (781) 593-3038. To register, send a check payable to Victorian Victorian to: P.O. Box 9, Nahant, MA 01908.

Newport Vintage Dance Week

This year’s Newport Vintage Dance Week will be held August 10-16 in Portsmouth, RI. Staff includes Marc Casslar, Martha Griffin, Richard Powers, Patri Pugliese, Joan Walton. Three classes will be held daily, with afternoon teas, 1860s and 1890s Balls, and a ragtime Great Disasters costume ball. Music is by the New River Dance Orchestra. $515 includes tuition, room & board.

Info: CVDNewport@act.com or Hannah Roberts Artuso, (781) 662-8344 before 10 pm.

Concord Contras, Continued from page 1

Mary will teach a few Cajun dances interspersed with contras. Bring your beads, masks, and friends to the Concord Scout House at 8 P.M. We’ll serve (Cajun?) refreshments at intermission. Admission is still $6.

For info about the dances, call (617) 354-0804.

Ann Cowan, Producer

July 29 - August 12

Contras in England. Contact Ken McFarland at Farlands@PolarNet.Com or (800) 822-3435.
CDS Boston Centre
Meetings

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

Board of Directors:
3rd Wed., except August, 6:00 PM
YWCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge

New England Dance Committee:
1st Tuesday, (617) 923-9330

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

Communicating with the Board

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

Terry Gafney
11 Burr Street
Boston, MA 02130

by the 1st Wednesday of the month for consideration at the subsequent meeting.

News Needed

If you are planning an event or enjoyed an activity that you would like to tell your fellow members about, write it up! Send articles, requests, inquiries, or announcements, preferably by e-mail to:

Anger@MIT.Edu

or by mail to:

Lyrl Ahern, 298 Central Street
Acton Mass. 01720

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

Deadlines for Fall issue:
(covering September through December 1998):
Editorial and calendar: August 1st, inserts/flyers, August 10th
Please be prompt!
From the President

I am writing this to you from Brasil, where I’ve been working with a group of mathematicians at a small university close to Sao Paulo. Soon the Internet will whisk this column away to our long-suffering “publisher,” Art Anger, and our editor, Lyrl Ahern. Although the Internet is a new pleasure, all of us enjoy an older version—the internet of hands, feet, and music, which spans the distance between hearts and penetrates the barrier of years. Welcome back to another season of dancing!

Our English Dance series continues on Wednesdays, but in a new location; we are moving to the Park Avenue Congregational Church in Arlington Heights. The church is quite convenient to Route 2, with ample parking in the area. Detailed directions to the church can be found at our web site (http://www.math.neu.edu/gaffney/CDS.html). We hope that the move will attract many people from surrounding towns who found our Central Square location inconvenient. Help with publicizing the new location would be greatly appreciated. If you are interested in helping, please call me at (617) 524-8869.

The decision to leave the YWCA was triggered by a rent increase of 60%—the management wanted to increase our nightly rate from $100 to $160. In addition, our relations with the Y have been going downhill for the last couple years. There have been problems with the floor and with ventilation. There have been snowy winter evenings when dancers arrived at the Y only to find the building locked. Because of the problems with the Y, our

Continued on page 2

New Location for English Dances

Because of our difficulties with the Cambridge YWCA over the last few years, it has become necessary to move the Wednesday night English series to another site. (See President’s column for further comments.) The new location is in Arlington Heights, at the corner of Park Avenue and Paul Revere Road, one block uphill from Massachusetts Avenue. It is easily reached by car from Route 2, with plenty of parking on the streets around the church. For those who come by public transportation, the 77 bus line from Harvard Square terminates on Massachusetts Avenue just beyond Park Avenue.

Exciting Scout House Contras For Fall

October 31:
We’ll have a Halloween Party actually on Halloween! Come costumed, if you please. We’ll have goodies and maybe even some prizes! We’ll also have a great contra dance, called by one of our favorites, Linda Leslie, with music by one of our best and brightest bands, Swinging on a Gate, with the inimitable Jim Guinness on a variety of winds, Judy Francis on piano, and others.

December 5:
This will be a very special all-day event with our Second Annual Pre-Dance Craft Fair. Here you can begin your holiday shopping or sales, have a snack and

Continued on page 9
From the President

Continued from page 1

Wednesday series almost didn't start last year, and our
Fall Favorites dance went forward only because your
President found $200 to meet a last-minute demand
from the Y. In good conscience, your directors felt that
they couldn't support such a large increase in light of our
shaky relations.

Our Tuesday Contra dance series continues on first,
third, and fifth Tuesdays at the Old Cambridge Baptist
Church, with Cammy Kaynor leading the dance on first
Tuesdays. Third Tuesdays are open-mike, open-band.

CDS is helping to launch a contra-dance series on
second and fourth Tuesdays at MIT. This dance is co­
sponsored by the MIT Folk Dance Club. Ann Cowan
has led in putting the series together and has worked out
the arrangements with MIT—take a bow, Ann!

An event to anticipate is the weekend workshop that
Gene Murrow will be leading on November 6 and 7.
Gene is famous for workshops at Pinewoods, bringing
out the artistry of country dance. The weekend will con­
sist of the First Friday dance at its usual location, with
a workshop Saturday afternoon and a dance Saturday
night at the Park Avenue Church. Thanks to Arthur
Ferguson and Mary Stafford for organizing the event.

The Fall Favorites, another high point of the fall
season, is the dance where dancers who preregister can
vote to select the program. It's always interesting to see
which new dances are becoming favorites. It's also a
dance that everybody tries to go to, so it's great chance
to dance with friends you don't see so much. This year
the dance will be held on Saturday, October 24.

For readers who have ideas for special events or who
would like to produce dances, the Society has several
open slots. The Board solicits your proposals for a
dance on the first Saturday in June at the Scout House
in Concord. If you are interested, please let me know.
The Board is also interested in proposals for dances or
a series of dances to be held on the 2nd and 4th
Tuesdays at the Old Cambridge Baptist Church in
Harvard Square.

As many of you know, a leg injury has kept me from
dancing much these last couple months, but with luck
I should be able to start again sometime this Fall. So,
with my fingers crossed, I hope to see all of you on the
floor this season!

—Terry Caffney, President

New Contra Series at MIT

Our Grand Opening will be on Sept. 8. Every second
and fourth Tuesday thereafter, we’ll have a contra dance
with fine live music and callers.

We begin with a bang on Tuesday, September 8, with
Dan Pearl calling, accompanied by the Chancers—Lissa
Schneckensburger on fiddle, Michael Kerry on guitar, and
Dan Isaacson on flute. On the 22nd, Linda Leslie will
call, accompanied by Lissa Schneckensburger and Cal
Howard. Lissa has had a contra band in Maine and
played for Dave Kaynor in western Mass. and at the VFW
in Cambridge. Michael Kerry has been playing in New
Hampshire and at the Concord Scout House.

For our Columbus Day Party on October 13, we’ll
have a trio of callers: Angel Roman, Jacob Bloom, and
Laura Johannes, accompanied by Lissa on fiddle, Colin
Ferguson on piano, and Barney Gage on concertina,
with sit-ins. The Halloween Party on Oct. 27 will be
called by Leslie Lasserter, Steve Boylan, and Angel
Roman, accompanied by Lissa and Colin with sit-ins.

On November 24 we’ll have John Chambers and his
Klezmer-style Contra Band with another trio of callers.
Later we’ll have The Dixie Butterhounds with Jon Gersh
and friends, who will play tunes with a Southern sound.
Some others who will soon participate are musicians
Debby Knight, Cammy Kaynor, and Jonathan Gilbert
and caller Rick Frank.

This is shaping up to be an exciting venue for new,
developing, and always competent talent with a variety
of backgrounds and sounds! It will add a dynamic new
dimension to the New England Contra Scene and a way
to spark new interest in this art form some of us find so
enjoyable. We look forward to seeing many old and new
faces dancing at MIT every Second and Fourth Tuesday
through the year.

We will dance from 7:30pm to 10:30 PM on 2nd and
4th Tuesdays in Room 407 (fourth floor) of the Stratton
Student Center (across Mass. Ave. from MIT’s main
entrance). We will provide refreshments. MIT students

Continued next page
Letter to the Editor on Bylaw Changes

Read and Vote on the Proposed Bylaw Changes!

This is not a trivial matter! The proposed changes in the Bylaws radically change the procedures and accessibility of this organization.

You will be asked to vote on them within the next month or two. They will make the decision-making processes of the organization all but invisible to most members—and most Board members! This is especially true now that the Board and Executive Committee meetings will be somewhat transient, as CDS is leaving the YWCA. However, the proposal makes it likely that they will be mainly electronic and private, anyway.

In the last two issues, several people who have given serious consideration to these proposals stated and explained their concerns and alternatives. If you have not read these, now is the time to do so. If you have not saved them, you can call or write me at (617) 354-0864 or ACowan872@aol.com, and I will send you a copy. I wrote two letters; the second included input from Lyrl Ahern, Gene DiSalvatore, Eph Weiss, and Ralph Jones, and was endorsed by Art Anger. Lyrl wrote editorial comment expressing her wish for open discussion, and Eph also wrote a letter. I understand that similar concerns were expressed by some Board members privately.

One consequence of the expressed objections was the elimination of some aspects of the proposal. These may, however, now be reintroduced.

The main reason given for the changes is the difficulty of finding enough people to serve on the Board, but the proposed solutions go very much further than necessary to solve or reduce this problem, and result in an unnecessary and potentially dangerous concentration of power in the hands of very few people.

I strongly urge anyone with any reservations whatever, however minor, about these proposals, to vote NO on them, since only a majority NO vote will move the writers of these proposals to modify them at all. If all of you with reservations vote NO and state your reasons, the writers will come up with a modified version. There is no crisis, no rush, no reason not to take time to satisfy the large majority of us.

I encourage you to overcome your hesitation and say what you think. It’s the only way to get a responsive organization. It’s most important, particularly for objectors, to VOTE!

—Ann Cowan, 10-year member

A Weekend with Gene Murrow

On Friday, November 6th, dancers will gather at the Church of Our Saviour (Carlton and Monmouth Streets in Brookline) for the first event of “A Weekend with Gene Murrow.” This is our usual First Friday dance for experienced English dancers. Beginning at 8:15, Jacqueline Schwab will provide the music.

The Park Avenue Congregational Church (Park Ave. and Paul Revere Rd. in Arlington Heights) will be the setting on Saturday, the 7th, for a workshop, potluck supper, and evening party. The subject of the workshop will be “The Look of Beautiful Music.” Gene says, “English country dancing is characterized by its beautiful and varied music. The workshop will explore and illuminate the range of musical elements (structure, meter, rhythm, texture, and harmony) that inform the dance, and how these elements translate into movement.” The evening party will feature dances with music of exceptional beauty and/or unusual form.

See enclosed flyer for a map and further information.

-Arn Cowan, Producer
Magical Sword Spectacular

In May of 1996, Boston’s Orion Longsword traveled to the north of England for a sword dance festival held in Scarborough. Trevor Stone and a small group of dedicated, overworked people were responsible for organizing a once in a lifetime “Sword Spectacular”.

The gathering included over 40 teams from England, the Continent, and North America. North America was well represented by Longwood Rapper (Boston), Half Moon Sword (New York City), Toronto Women’s Sword (Canada), and Orion Longsword. The festival included formal displays by all the teams as well as a procession through the city, a ceilidh, and pub tours.

We saw displays by the Handsworth Traditional Sword Dancers, Grenoside Traditional Longsword Dancers, and Flamborough Longsword, all of whose dances are what we think of as longsword when it is taught in the United States. The Sword Spectacular was honored to have the Flamborough Longsword dancers perform outside of the village of Flamborough for the first time in 17 years. Theirs was a different version of the dance than is taught in the US but is consistent with the notation.

Handsworth Traditional Sword Dancers were impressive in both their speed and precision. Although not a youthful team, their dancing was so exciting that when they danced eight rounds of each figure, it left you wanting to watch it one more time. Their dance was substantially as it is presented in the US.

One aspect of tradition that was unusual to an American perspective was the continuity of the dancing in the towns. Flamborough has been dancing once a year with whatever side showed up on their traditional day of dance, and so the dance has kept on going. (They missed their annual performance last year because it snowed!) Goathland Plough Stots have a boys’ side of 6-8 year-olds. The dance is in the North Skelton family, and the boys did two lock and draw figures, including over your own, doubles, and a hey. Including the older boys team (which was not at the festival), there were grandfathers and grandsons dancing together.

In spite of the presence of these traditional longsword teams, there were many English teams who had made up their dances, sometimes based on sketchy recollections or the few facts that were known. For example, Clydeside Sword (Glasgow) had made up a 5-person dance because the only known fact about the Elgin Sword Dance was that five dancers were arrested for dancing on Sunday. Also, the Kirkburton dancers dance longsword in clogs because they come from Lancashire where everyone wore clogs, so they thought it natural that the local dance would be done in clogs as well.

Sulllivan Sword presented a version of the Salton Longsword Dance, which Orion also dances. We had learned the dance at a workshop with Trevor Stone, the chief organizer of this sword spectacular, who had reconstructed some figures from old notes. The interpretation of the notes by Sullivan Sword showed just how many ways there are to do the same thing.

It was interesting that in England, bastion of traditional sword dances, there were many teams who had made up dances with no traditional sources. They liked sword dancing, but it may not have been traditional in their area, so they found a tune and made up a dance. This is something that is rarely seen here in the US, since most teams tend to stick to the traditional dances.

Orion had been apprehensive about taking a dance of our own creation to the land of tradition. We were pleasantly surprised to realize we were in good company with the many English teams who had composed their dances and didn’t find it unusual at all (although our being a mixed-gender team raised a few eyebrows). Our own composed dance, North Shirley Volunteers, was appreciated by many English dancers. The quality of our dancing was commented on favorably, which may have redeemed the Americaness of our mixed-gender side.

One composed dance we really liked was performed by Wype Doles. It had a single step and several reversing figures. In fact, we liked it so much that our newest dance, “Dual Pelican, No Bleeper” (debuted at the New York Sword Ale in February 1997), owes several features to the Wype Doles dancers.

There were a number of rapper sides as well. The rapper dancing matched our American expectations more closely than the longsword did. The high-energy figures, crowd involvement, and flashy moves looked a lot like rapper dancing in the States. One exception was Dorset Buttons, a rapper side who danced in clogs.

The Continental teams presented quite a contrast to the English styles. There were teams from the Czech Republic, Germany, and the Basque region of Spain. These groups presented entire shows, including a sword dance, social dances, traditional dances, singing, and large numbers of musicians. For several of these teams, the sword dance was a dance with swords as part of the costume rather than integral to the dance.

The French team from Dunkirk and the Belgian teams more closely resembled the English style of sword dancing. Then there were the Italians, who were not to be believed. Several of the teams from the Continent
were from smaller villages with people doing their local dances. They did not appear to have traveled much and most did not speak English.

The Belgian dances and the Dunkirk dance were constructed by a Belgian dancer, Renaat Van Craenenbroeck, from old descriptions and scenes captured in paintings. They used strikingly large swords (4 ft. long), and some of the dances used stepping in place as well as circular and column figures that resembled English-style figures. However, they ended in Continental fashion with a dancer hoisted on the lock waving a flag. One Belgian team, Quevacamp, wore tall boots with bells around the knees. The Dunkirk team’s music was beautiful, being played on French bagpipe and two flutes. The other Belgian team’s presentation included traditional characters of the hobby horse and the fool.

The Basque dancers (Markina Sword) did a high-kicking dance that looked suspiciously like morris dancing. Most of their figures were dancing in place, not the circular figures of traditional English dancing. In one dance, they processed on with the swords, carefully put them down, danced, picked up the swords and processed off. Their group included women who did some social dances, and a traditional sickle dance that we understood had not been performed outside of their village before.

Bagnasco Bal do Sabre (the Italians) were very theatrical. Their dance is supposedly from the era of Turkish occupation during the Ottoman Empire so their costume is Saracen dress: pantaloons, vests, turbans, and curved swords. They danced only to drum, no melody instrument, and their full dance includes a mummers play with a beheading and resurrection. At the festival, they performed line figures, tunnel figures, and window-type figures, and a basket-style lock. They also did the most militant maypole dance ever seen. They were from a small village which is having trouble supplying enough dancers to keep up the 25-person sword dance.

The chief architect, Trevor Stone, has long been interested in the variety and breadth of sword dancing and in encouraging teams to take dances and make them their own. His passion was responsible for the great diversity of the groups, which ranged from traditional teams doing collected dances to continental teams presenting an entire cultural montage to post-folk dance revival teams inventing their own styles and traditions. Despite his encouragement of mixed and women’s teams, tradition being what it is, the North American teams provided the majority of gender diversity among the sword dancers. There was one English mixed longsword side, one Norwegian mixed rapper side, and one English women’s rapper side. The huge majority of sword dancers was male. Some of the adjunct performances, (social dances, traditional women’s dances, and singing) were done by women. As sword dancers, the North American mixed and women’s sides were conspicuous.

Orion Longsword sincerely thanks Trevor Stone and his entourage, including Yorkshire Coast Morris, Goathland Plough Stots, and members of Carlisle Sword for the enormous amount of work required to organize this spectacular event. This was an extraordinary way for Orion to celebrate our tenth anniversary. In addition to having a great time at the event, our team will continue to be inspired for a long time.

Thank you to CDS Boston Centre whose financial grant was instrumental in our ability to attend the event as a team. Their contribution allowed us to spend time with a few teams and get to know both the teams and their dances more thoroughly than would have been possible otherwise.

—Judy Erickson with Orion Sword

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1998 CDS Boston Centre Holiday Party

Mark your calendars now for the 1998 CDS Boston Centre Holiday Party. This year we’re trying a new all-English format, with country dancing to be led by CDSS National Director Brad Foster. The date is Saturday January 2, 1999; the place is the Scout House in Concord, MA. The music will be provided by the talented trio of Karen Axelrod, Peter Barnes, and Mary Lea. Don’t miss it! For more information, call Lynn Jacobs at (978) 371-2290 or Frank Attanasio at (603) 878-4332.
CDS BOSTON CENTRE EVENTS

English Country Dance

Regular Events

WEDNESDAYS
NEW LOCATION: Park Avenue Congregational Church.* (See map on back of enclosed flyer.) 7:30 to 10:30 PM. 9/16/98 to 6/23/99. Helene Cornelius with George Fogg, Emily Ferguson, Barbara Finney, Rich Jackson, Jacqueline Schwab, Robin Rogers-Browne, & Chris Walker. Music: Bare Necessities (Peter Barnes, Earl Gaddis, Mary Lea, Jacqueline Schwab) & others. $6; $5 CDS Members; $3 students & beginners.

November 25
Thanksgiving Party

FIRST FRIDAYS
For Experienced Dancers. Church of Our Saviour.* Oct. thru June. 8:15 to 11 PM. For dancers thoroughly familiar with basic English Country Dance figures. All dances will be taught. $5.

October 2: Helene Cornelius & Jacqueline Schwab
November 6: Gene Murrow with Jacqueline Schwab
December 4: Rich Jackson with Doug Creighton and Joyce Crouch

Special Events

October 24, Saturday
Sixth Annual Fall Favorites English Country Dance Party. Park Avenue Congregational Church.* 8:00 to 11:00 PM. Helene Cornelius with music by Earl Gaddis, Mary Lea, Jacqueline Schwab. $8 in advance, $10 at the door. Those who sign up in advance get to vote for the dances that will appear on the program. Contact CDS, 354-1340 or Arthur Ferguson, (508) 875-0382

November 6 and 7
A Weekend with Gene Murrow. Fri., Nov. 6: First Friday Dance (see above). Sat., Nov. 7: Park Ave. Church. Music by members of Bare Necessities. Workshop, “The Look of Beautiful Music”, 3:00-5:30 PM; potluck, 6:00 PM; dance, 8:00-11:00 PM. $8/event, $13/both.

American Dance

Regular Events

1st, 2nd, & 5th TUESDAYS
Old Cambridge Baptist Church.* Through June, with informal instruction at 7:45 and dancing 8:00-10:30 PM. Adjacent parking with 25 spaces which dancers may use. $6; $5 members; $3 students and seniors.

First Tuesdays: Cammy Kaynor’s Community Dance, beginning 10/7. Musicians are invited to sit in with house band, and callers are encouraged to call.

Third Tuesdays: Open Mike/Open Band. Steve Boylan, 629-2749, coordinates the open mike; Jon Weinberg, (508) 481-4802, will direct the band.

Fifth Tuesdays:
September 29: Fall Festival: An Open Mike coordinated by Ann Cowan, (617) 354-0864, and accompanied by Terry Traub, Jon Weinberg, and friends. Sit-ins call Terry, (617) 484-0321. This dance will include a Waltz Workshop led by Leslie Lasseter.

December 29: Holiday Party: A Gala Open Mike with goodies.

New Series

Jointly Sponsored by CDS Boston and the MIT Folk Dance Club


For information about CDS Boston-sponsored dances, please call the office at (617) 354-1340. Arthur Ferguson, chair of the English Dance Committee, is an additional source for English dances at (508) 875-0382. American dances have additional numbers listed in each item, as they vary.

* Addresses of Frequent Dance Locations *
Concord Scout House, 74 Walden St., Concord
Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass Ave., Cambridge
Church of Our Saviour, Carlton & Monmouth Streets, Brookline
Park Avenue Congregational Church, Park Avenue and Paul Revere Road, Arlington Heights.
OTHER REGULAR BOSTON AREA DANCES

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

MONDAYS
Contra Dance, Concord Scout House, 74 Walden Street. 7:30-10:30 PM. Various callers & Yankee Ingenuity. $6. Info: Cal, (781) 272-0396 or Peter, (781) 259-8442.


TUESDAYS
English Country Genderfree Dance. 1st Church UU of Jamaica Plain, Centre & Eliot Sts. Michael Cicone & Rob Dobson, leaders. 7:30-10:00 PM. $5. Info: Michael, (781) 891-3296, or Rob, (781) 271-0356.

THURSDAYS
New England Contras & Squares, FVW Hall, 688 Huron Ave., Cambridge. 8-11 PM. Various callers, bands. $5. Info: CDS, 354-1340; Cal, (781) 272-0396; or Dan, (508) 229-2854.

Scottish Country Dance. Universalist Church, 211 Bridge St., Salem. 8:00 PM; beginners, 7:30. $2. Info: (978) 745-2229.

FRIDAYS


The New England Dance Committee is looking for dance producers to sublet the Old Cambridge Baptist Church in Harvard Square on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. Rent is very reasonable and includes parking. Contact Co-Chairs Chris Reynolds (781) 893-7464 days or Andy Koehler 354-6950.

SATURDAYS
New England Contras & Squares, Concord Scout House, 74 Walden St., Concord. 8-11 PM. $6.
1st Sat., various callers & bands.
2nd Sat., Tony Salehan with Concord Country Dance Band. Info: (978) 369-4462.
3rd Sat., Beth Parkes with Swinging on a Gate. Info: (980) 667-7459.
4th Sat., Walter Lenk with Jack O'Connor and Debby Knight. Info: (978) 369-1232.

1st Sat. Challenging Contras & Squares. All Saints Episcopal Church, 17 Clark St. (at Common St.), Belmont Center. 8-11 PM. Lisa Greenleaf with live music. $5. Info: (978) 779-6077.

3rd Sat. New England Squares & Contras. Studio 665, 665 Salem St. (3rd fl.), Maplewood Sq., Malden. Instr. 7:00 PM, dance 8:00 PM. Cammy Kaynor with Knights of Tunisia. $5. Info: (781) 324-7355.

Some Sats. Genderfree Dance. First Church U. U. of Jamaica Plain, Centre and Eliot Sts. 7:30-11:00 PM. Contra and squares unless otherwise specified, 9/12: Chris Ricciotti; 10/3: hambo workshop 6:00-8:00 PM, J. Baka & H. Williams; contra 8:00-11:00. L. Leslie; 10/31: Halloween party, open mike. $5 before 8pm, $6 after. Info: Chris Ricciotti: (617) 522-1115.

3rd Sat. Traditional New England Barn Dance. Central Congregational Church, 85 Seaverns Ave., Jamaica Plain. 8:00 PM, Sept. 26 (4th Sat.), then 3rd Sats. Contras, squares, waltzes & polkas; music by Just Plain Folks. $5. Info: 524-1767.

SUNDAY

Thanks to Martha Forsyth and Folk Arts Center for much of the information in this section.
### Special Events and Dance Camps

Call first to check details and directions.

### September

5-8

**Labor Day Weekend** at Pinewoods. Families welcome. Dance leaders: Scott Higgs (English) and David Millstone (American). Call CDS, Boston at (617) 354-1340 for further information.

18

**Contra Dance.** Concord Scout House. 8:00-11:00 PM. Lisa Greenleaf and The Rhythm Method String Band. $6. Info: (978) 779-6077.

19

**An evening of dances.** From Austen’s era, spiced with historical and literary anecdotes. Munson Library, South East St., South Amherst. 8:00-11:00 PM.

### October

24

**Sixth Annual Fall Favorites English Country Dance Party.**

### November

6 and 7

**A Weekend with Gene Murrow.** First Friday dance, Saturday workshop and evening party. See Boston Centre schedule on p. 6 and enclosed flyer for more information.

### Spring Concord Contras Big Success!

The weather cooperated to help make our **Gala Third Annual Memorial Day Picnic and Contra Dance** a big success. On May 30, about 45 of us socialized in the sun next to the Concord Scout House, sharing tasty food provided by the dancers and hot dogs provided by the house. Sam Alexander tended the hibachi to make our potluck a real picnic. Chuck Donachie accompanied our munching with pleasing bagpipe melodies.

It was a great dance led by our very own skilled caller Dan Pearl, well accompanied by musicians Roberta Sutter, Carol Bittenson and Cal Howard. We had a most satisfactory attendance of 138; I thank all who came. We all look forward to a similar event next May 29.

Our thanks to the helpers who made it all happen: Cal Howard for sound and transporting picnic items; Irene Howard and Art Anger for lemonade and other jobs such as moving tables and taking money; and Myron Wolf for donating the cash box, cookies, and general assistance. I apologize to those whose names I may have omitted. I organized and coordinated the whole.

Our June 6th **Mardi Gras Party, Contra and Cajun Dance** was also very successful, with caller Mary Desrosiers and band Crazy Blues (Nat Hewitt, Liza Constable, and Tom Pixton). This band is one of the very few that can play both contras and Cajun well. Helpers for this event were Art Anger, Cal Howard, and Myron Wolf.

With beads and a few masks, about 95 of us had a wild good time. It takes only a little imagination to enjoy Mardi Gras three months late!

—Ann Cowan, Event Producer
OUTSIDE THE BOSTON AREA

Please call the info number to confirm date, time & place.

MONDAYS

Nelson Town Hall Contra Dance. Nelson, NH. 8:00 to 10:30 PM. Mary DesRosiers with Harvey Tolman & Friends. $3. (No number given).

English Country Dance Party at the Old Gym in Hadley, MA, on Rt. 9 near Rt. 47. Robin Hayden and Mary Jones. All dances taught; beginners welcome. $3. Info: (413) 256-8260 or (413) 549-8159.

FRIDAYS

3rd Fri. Contra Dance at the Guiding Star Grange. 401 Chapman St., Greenfield, MA. 8 PM to midnight. Susan Keyra with Bill Tomczak, Mary Cay Brass, Carol Hamm, & Dave Langford. $6. Info: (413) 481-4802.


SATURDAYS

1st Sat. New England Contra & Square Dance. Berlin Town Hall, Rt. 62 and Woodward. Sue Rosen with The Polymorphous String Band, 8:00-11:00 PM, $5. Info: (508) 525-3883.

1st Sat. Peterborough Contra Dance. Peterborough Town House, Grove St., Peterborough, NH. 8-11 PM. 7:30 beginners. $5. Info: (603) 525-3883.


1st & 3rd Sat. New Haven Country Dancers. Eli Whitney Barn, 915 Whitney Ave. 8:00-11:00 PM. Beginners’ workshop 7:30. $7. Info: (203) 776-1812 or WWW.NHCC.COM/-HENRY/NEWHAVENDANCERS.HTML.

2nd or 3rd Sat. Greater Providence Contra Dance. Oaklawn Grange, Wheelock Street, Cranston RI. 9/19, 10/17, 11/28, 12/26, 1/23, 2/20. 8:00-11:00 PM. $6. info: Jeanne (401) 828-3229, or (508) 636-8168.

Westcustogo Grange Contras. 2nd Sat. North Yarmouth, ME. Slow Jam with Pam Weeks at 6:00, potluck 7:30, dance 8:30 to midnight. $6. Info: (207) 926-4210 or (207) 799-2585.

Dancing Cat Contras in Dover, NH City Hall. 8:30-11:30 PM. $6. Info: (603) 659-7038.


Scout House Contras. Continued from page 1

a potluck supper, then join us for our Fourth Annual Klezmer-Style Contra Dance, led by Jacob Bloom and accompanied by John Chambers’ ContraKlez with Ben Pasamanick. If it’s anything like the previous ones, it will be great fun with fantastic music. We’ve initiated a whole new genre in contra dancing!

It’s a great opportunity for small-scale crafts people or sellers of craft items to participate in our Fair. Most of last year’s participants did very well. The morning and afternoon Fair will be organized by Gaetana Freniere; call (978) 369-2212. Call Ann Cowan at (617) 354-0864 for information about the evening Fair and Dance.

The Fair will run from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM and 6:00-8:00 PM. Join us for a potluck dinner at 6:00 PM, then dance from 8:00-11:00 PM!

All the above dances will be held at the Concord Scout House, 74 Walden St., Concord MA from 8:00 to 11:00 PM. Refreshments will be served, and parking is available nearby on the street. The price is still a mere $6 for a great evening of exercise, music, sociability, and fun! Potlucks are $1+Food. Anyone who wishes to volunteer with food, time, muscle, or transport will be greatly appreciated; please call (617) 354-0864.

—Ann Cowan, Dance Producer

29 May to 6 June 1999

Scarborough Fayre

1999 Worldwide Morris Dance Festival. Morris, Clog, Step, Garland, and Sword. Men’s, Women’s, Children’s, or Mixed Gender Teams. 1st wknd., 7 days, 2nd wknd., or all 9 days. Contact the Coordinators for Yorkshire Coast Morris: Jim Clarke, Redworms, Helperthorpe, Malton, North Yorkshire, YO17 8TL, England; phone 019 44 738 422 or john.maher@bristol.ac.uk
Deadlines for Winter issue
(covers December 1998 through March 1999)

Editorial and calendar: November 1st, inserts/flyers, November 10th

Please be prompt!

CDS Boston Centre Meetings
Meetings are open. All members are welcome, but please call the office at (617) 354-1340 to obtain date, time, and place.

Board of Directors
New England Dance Committee
English Dance Committee

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

Terry Gaffney
11 Burr Street
Boston, MA 02130

by the 1st Wednesday of the month for consideration at the subsequent meeting.

News Needed
If you are planning an event or enjoyed an activity that you would like to tell your fellow members about, write it up! Send articles, requests, inquiries, or announcements, preferably by e-mail to:

Anger@MIT.Edu
or by mail to:

Lyrl Ahern, 298 Central Street
Acton Mass. 01720

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