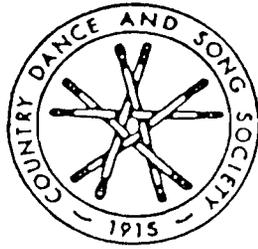
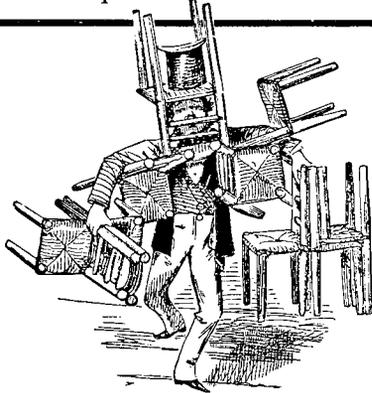


# CDS Boston News



September 1989



## Wednesday English Dance Moves

The Wednesday evening English Country Dance is moving its location to St. John's United Methodist Church at 80 Mount Auburn Street in Watertown, three blocks from Watertown Square, where the Tuesday night American dance has been held for the past year. Extensive renovations planned by the Cambridge YWCA necessitate a move at this time, and we are lucky to have obtained the use of St. John's. The Tuesday night dance has been quite successful there: the hall has a good floor, parking is easy, and several lines of the T conveniently converge at Watertown Square. Our fliers include a map and bus route information.

The season begins on Wednesday, September 13, 1989, and ends on Wednesday, June 13, 1990. This will give us 40 weeks of dancing, uninterrupted by Wednesday holidays this year. Four Wednesday nights will be run as "party" dances, with most of our teachers calling simpler dances with less teaching than on ordinary Wednesdays. The "party" dances are Thanksgiving Eve (November 22), Christmas Week (December 27), Valentine's Day (February 14), and Season's End (June 13).

Dances begin at 8:00 p.m. and end at 11:00 p.m. Our "format" remains essentially the same as it has been: two teachers share the evening, each calling for an hour. A short social break at 10:00 p.m. is followed by a "request" period when dances are talked through but not taught. We are delighted to present a staff of eight teachers: Helene Cornelius, Barbara Finney, George Fogg, Rich Jackson, Robin Rogers-

Browne, Brad Saylor, Jacqueline Schwab, and Chris Walker. Our music this year will also be varied: "Bare Necessities" (Peter Barnes, Earl Gaddis, Mary Lea, and Jacqueline Schwab) will play for three of every four weeks of our 40-week season, and "Zealand" (Karen Axelrod and Pat MacPherson) will play for the fourth week.

The Ritual English Class Series, which will follow the same schedule of dates as the English Country Dance, omitting only the party dates, will feature a rich variety of offerings, which are described in more detail elsewhere in this issue of the *Newsletter*. As always, attendance at a Ritual Dance Class entitles one to dance the remainder of the evening gratis at the English Dance.

We hope to see all the old familiar faces in Watertown on September 13th--and let us urge you to bring a friend with you! Our dance has run in the red for several years now, but a mere 12 dancers more a night would change all that. So encourage a friend--or, better, a dozen friends--to join us; and we'll try our best to make their visit such fun that they'll come back again and again.

--Mary Stafford,  
Chair, English Dance Committee



Kick up your heels and kick off the 75th Anniversary of CDS, Boston Centre with a dance...Saturday, September 23, at the Immaculate Conception Church on Alewife Brook Parkway in North Cambridge. Many musicians and callers who have been integral in the history of CDS will be featured for both English and American dancing.

We'll have a potluck supper at 6:30, maybe get to look at a few pictures and hear a bit about the Boston Centre (never heard it told so well), and, for those who'd care to brush up on their English or American figures (or help others do so), there will be a brief workshop at 7:30. The dance begins at 8:00.

Bring a friend--or two or three. After all, given the stellar line-up **and** this once-in-a-lifetime price of admission--~~75¢~~--how can you *not* have a great time?

P.S. Do you have any pictures, costumes, or CDS memorabilia that we can display at the Kick-Off Dance? Any ideas on how to decorate the hall? Please call **Carole Talley** at (617) 497-7490.



## First Tour of the Pinewoods Morris Men

On Saturday, 8 October 1966, the Pinewoods Morris Men held their first tour. The "villages" were various spots on the Harvard and Radcliffe College campuses in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Everything conspired to make it one of those glorious afternoons which never seem to occur except in legends. (But then, a Morris Tour *is* rather a fantasy, isn't it?) The weather was distilled New England autumn: clear, with a cool breeze to keep the dancers from getting too hot, and a warm sun to keep the spectators from getting too chilly. The dance sites were ideal, from the huge open sward at Radcliffe Quadrangle to the shady knolls and enclosed courts of the Harvard houses.

The team members came from New York City and Boston, for the most part. With fifteen dancers, we were able to have two teams dancing some of the time, trading in and out so that no one worked too hard.

The tour was conceived and organized by Mr. Thomas Kruskal, a Harvard undergraduate who is also a member of the Pinewoods team. In order to get permission from Harvard to dance on University grounds, Mr. Kruskal formed the Dudley House Morris Club, which, as an authorized Harvard activity, was allowed to sponsor the tour. We hope that, with other activities planned, the tour will spark interest in Morris dancing at Harvard, perhaps eventually leading to the formation of a College team.

The arrangements for the tour were made by Mr. Kruskal, Mr. Renald Cajolet, present squire of the Pinewoods Morris Men, and the writer [Shag Graetz]. The dances and the schedule were directed by Mr. Arthur Cornelius, captain of the Boston Morris Team. The repertory consisted of the following dances:

- Constant Billy (Headington)
- Lads A-bunchum (Adderbury)
- Leap Frog (Bledington)

- The Nutting Girl (Fieldtown)
- Old Mother Oxford (Headington)
- Swaggering Boney (Longborough)
- The Twenty-ninth of May (Headington)

We used the Winter Processional for dancing on and off.

The tour started at 2:30 p.m. at the Radcliffe Quadrangle. We found a ready-made crowd, since the 'Cliffe girls were holding a rummage sale at the other end of the grounds. We quickly drew the attention of all, however, and got off to a good start. (I might add that we had three, and sometimes four, musicians, including a fiddle, two pipe-and-tabors, and an accordion.) We drove to the Harvard residence Houses, where we danced for 15 or 20 minutes at each of four sites: Kirkland House, Lowell House, Quincy House, and Leverett Towers. The distances at Harvard were such that we could walk between sites, dancing the processional as we approached the next spot. With our retinue of spectators, we must have presented a curious spectacle to the Cambridge townfolk, who aren't all that used to seeing a lot of grown men dressed up in white, wearing ribbons and jangling bells and dancing (dancing, mind you!) down the street leading a large number of people.

Shortly after 4:30, we proceeded off from Leverett Towers and back to the cars. Thence to Tom Kruskal's for quantities of Morris Ale. Topping it all off, in the evening a dance party put on by the Boston Centre of the Country Dance Society.

In all, a thoroughly satisfying inaugural.

*That was twenty-three years ago. This is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of Pinewoods Morris Men. There will be a tour of the Harvard Square area on Saturday, September 23, 1989 to celebrate. The Tour will start at the Cambridge Common at 10:30 a.m. and continue through the day in the environs. For additional information, contact Joe Kynoch (508) 877-1168.*



## WINTER WEEKEND

Keep the weekend of February 9, 10, 11 open. CDS is sponsoring a weekend of dancing at the Lake Shore Farm in Northwood, NH. This will be a weekend of English dancing and winter sports. So come and enjoy the dancing and the snow.

## A Rose is a Rose is a Rose



Now in its second year, Rose Galliard Northwest Morris Team is enjoying the fruits (and flowers) of many hours of embroidery and appliqué. When the team was formed, it was made up mostly of morris neophytes, who questioned the tradition of one set team logo when we could each just design our own. This was morris blasphemy to yours truly, but slowly the idea sank in (OK, I was outvoted) and the individual rose logo blossomed forth.

Some designs were based on quilt patterns, while others were inspired by embroidery books. I decided that this really was a neat idea and was determined to be as original as possible. I chose a basic quilt design with a Celtic knot in the middle, which I hoped I could pass off as a rose. Some were skeptical, until a spontaneous ally cried, "It's a braided rose!" "Exactly!" I replied triumphantly, and my design was approved.

Most of the logos were finished in time for our performance at the New England Flower Show. We really should have won a ribbon for our arrangement of roses, but we weren't standing still long enough for the judges to notice, I guess. One of our newer members, for whom this was her first gig, was horrified to learn that the exposition center was quite crowded. "You mean there are PEOPLE out there?! I thought it was just flowers."

The summer saw us practicing in the streets of residential Lexington, while two of us went off to Pinewoods to learn a new dance at English-Scottish Session. Rosie Brown's rendition of the Lancaster Processional was so inspiring that we were able to convince two of our classmates to join the team. Not often do you get new recruits who know the dance before the rest of the team does!

This fall we are back in Concord on Tuesday nights. Our main focus is still performance, but we also believe in the camaraderie our group fosters and work hard at having a good time. If you would like more information about Rose Galliard, call **Kathy** at (508) 635-0185. (Tuba players are heartily encouraged.)

--Lisa Greenleaf

---

## First Fridays--Really and Truly!

We are happy to announce that our First Friday English Country Dances this year will *really* be first Fridays and that they will occur every month from October, 1989, through June, 1990. As always, the dances will be held at the Church of Our Savior at 25 Monmouth Street in Brookline. Teachers this year will again include a few out-of-town guests as well as our own CDS stars.

The First Friday Dance is an "Experienced English" dance: it is assumed that dancers are familiar with basic English dance figures and that the teaching emphasis can be on style. The programs will feature well-known English dances interspersed with less familiar ones, and each night will have a dance or two of greater difficulty, to stretch your dancing skill.

The dances begin at 8:00 p.m. and end at 11:00 p.m. Come enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of a small and friendly hall and dance away the month's troubles with us.

--Mary Stafford,  
Chair, English Dance Committee



## 75 and Still Cooking!

It almost goes without saying that dancers have hearty appetites. Fortunately, many dancers also like to cook, especially for potluck suppers before a dance.

A potluck cookbook is currently off the back burner and into active preparation as a means of helping to celebrate CDS's 75th Anniversary. Here's your chance to share a special recipe with other dancers (not to mention an opportunity to see your name glorified in print). Zesty Chicken Soup? Barbecue Tofu Delight? 75th Birthday Bombe? You don't have to be a Julia Child or James Beard to participate.

Send *your* favorite recipe(s)--soup, salad, main dish, dessert, appetizer, exotic beverage, or whatever--to

**Robin Kynoch**  
500 Grove Street  
Framingham, MA 01701

by December 31, 1989. Include your name, address, and phone number with your recipe, *after checking all of the above (especially the last) for accuracy*. Personal comments regarding a memorable dance or potluck or both, illustrations, and any other interesting or enlightening recipe information will also be welcome. So let's start cooking!

--Robin Kynoch



## The President's Corner

During the coming Anniversary year, I'd like to curl up in this tiny corner of the *Newsletter* and muse on the sort of things that presidents are supposed to let their minds wander over. It's a way of letting you in on issues that occupy the CDS Board--and opening the discussion to creative suggestions from the floor.

We are 75 this year. A spry 75. Dancing seems to be keeping us young. Activity abounds. New dances, workshops. More callers and musicians than in many a year. Lots of new faces at dances, too. Welcome to all! Dancing is here to be shared.

That's the first goal of this 75th Anniversary year. We're looking forward to special events where we can all celebrate the dance. For those of us who know its joys, the year is a thank-you from each of us to the other for making CDS possible. For newcomers, 75th-Anniversary events are an opportunity to discover one of life's great rewards. If you've had friends who've been reluctant to try us out, now's their chance: the kickoff party on September 23 will have a special workshop for beginners. Please extend yourself to help new dancers feel welcome. Throughout the year, there will plenty of opportunity to volunteer for dances and events. Call Rich Jackson.

A second goal of the 75th celebration is to focus on our history. We'll be expanding the CDS oral history, doing some scholarly research, and working with CDSS national to assure an awareness of the impact of the various country dance societies on American folklore. If you have ideas on appropriate projects, get in touch with Naomi Cameron.

A third goal is to plan for our future. That's more somber. In our 75th year, CDS is forced to move our Wednesday English series away from the Cambridge Y, its home for more than a decade. The fact is, after 75 years we do not control our destiny when it comes to dance spaces. We neither own nor have a secure lease on any space that we dance in. Meanwhile, dance spaces are literally disappearing due to development and economic pressures--and those that remain are becoming increasingly expensive. During this 75th Anniversary, we all have to become very creative in finding a viable, permanent solution to the space issue. If you'd like to help address this issue, talk to Harvey Cohen. Our next 75 years depend on it.

--Gordon Talley  
President, CDS, Boston Centre

## Come to Contras and Squares in Watertown



The 1989-1990 season of CDS Contras and Squares starts with a bang on Tuesday evening, September 12, at St. John's United Methodist Church at 80 Mount Auburn Street, just three short blocks northeast of Watertown Square. This is the second year that we've been dancing at this handy location, where there's a good wooden floor and the acoustics are all above average. Dancing begins at 8:00 p.m. and continues until 11:00 p.m., with a short intermission for refreshments and relaxed conversation.

The series features three regular callers and a variety of musicians, all popular with Boston-area dancers. On the first Tuesday of each month, Tony Saletan leads the show, with musicians Andy Woolf, Jack O'Connor, and Peter Barnes. On second Tuesdays, Ted Sannella is backed up by Carol Bittenson, Vince O'Donnell, and Cal Howard. Third Tuesdays are run by Tony Parkes with Mary Lea, Peter Barnes, and Sam Bartlett. Fourth and fifth Tuesdays offer special programs and guest callers, with Dan Pearl on September 26, George Marshall on October 24, Steve Zakon on Halloween, Susan Elberger on November 28, and a truly spellbinding lineup of unindicted coconspirators providing the musical powers of attraction.

Watertown Square is at the intersection of State Route 16 and U.S. Route 20, and a mile north of the Massachusetts Turnpike's Newton Corner exit. St. John's Church has a modest parking lot, but there is a large city lot only a block away. The church is right by a stop on the T (bus line 71), which runs from Harvard Square to Watertown Square in approximately 15 minutes. Bus line 70 from Central Square to Waltham stops in Watertown Square, just a short walk away, and bus line 57 from Kenmore Square terminates just across the bridge from Watertown Square. All three buses run late into the evening.

For confirmation of a particular evening's program, check the enclosed flier, or telephone the CDS office at (617) 354-1340.

--Art Anger  
American Dance Committee

COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY, BOSTON CENTRE, INC.  
EVENTS OF INTEREST TO OUR MEMBERSHIP

BOSTON CENTRE PROGRAMS:

TUESDAY NEW ENGLAND SQUARE AND CONTRA DANCE SERIES, St. John's United Methodist Church, 80 Mount Auburn St, Watertown. Sept 12 through June 12. Callers: 1st Tuesdays - Tony Saletan, 2nd Tuesdays - Ted Sannella, 3rd Tuesdays - Tony Parkes, 4th & 5th special programs and guests: 9/26 Dan Pearl, 10/24 George Marshall, 10/31 Steve Zakon & Fresh Fish, 11/28 Susan Elberger. Contacts: Arthur Anger (H)899-8702, (W)253-7044 and Betsy Opitz (H)899-8702.

WEDNESDAY ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE SERIES, NEW LOCATION, St John's United Methodist Church, 80 Mount Auburn Street, 3 blocks from Watertown Sq., Sept. 13 - June 13. Program 8:00-11:00, attention to basics 8:00-9:00, requests 10:15 - 11:00. Music by "Bare Necessities" and "Zealand." Party formats (limited teaching) 11/22, 12/27, 2/14/ and 6/13. Contact Mary Stafford 782-7266.

WEDNESDAY RITUAL CLASS, NEW LOCATION; St John's United Methodist Church, 80 Mount Auburn St, Watertown. 8:00 - 9:15. 9/13 - 10/11, Garland Dancing, led by Lisa Greenleaf, music Jim Ialeggio 10/18 - 11/15; Intermediate morris "Hogtown," Jamie Beaton/Karen Axelrod 11/29 - 12/20; Rapper stepping, led by Jan Elliott, music Joe Bowbeer 1/3 - 2/7; Longsword "Handsworth," led by Cynthia Whear, music Karen Axelrod 2/21 - 3/28; Massed morris led by Jan Elliot, music surprise 4/4 - 5/2; Rapper, led by Chris Walker, music TDB 5/9 - 6/6; Northwest morris, led by Kathy Henson, music by Cynthia Whear. Contact Deb Small evenings 628-0071.

"FIRST" FRIDAY ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING, First Fridays starting Oct. 6. Dances will be taught with the expectation that the dancers have a thorough familiarity of basic English Country Dance figures. Various leaders and musicians. Church of Our Saviour, Monmouth St, Brookline. 8:00 - 11:00. Contact Mary Stafford 782-7266.

FIFTH SATURDAY, EXPERIENCED NEW ENGLAND CONTRA DANCES 10/30 Lisa Greenleaf, caller music Dave Langford, Susie Petrov, Larry Unger 12/30 Being planned. No others this season. Scout House, 74 Walden St, Concord, Mass., 8:00 - 11:00.

SEPTEMBER 23 - 75th Anniversary Kick-Off Dance, potluck supper 6:30, English and American figures workshop 7:30, dance 8:00, Immaculate Conception Church, Alewife Brook Parkway, Somerville. Contact Carole Talley, 497-7490.

Boston Centre - Committee meetings, all are welcome (confirm meeting date, time, and place by calling ahead):

- Board of Directors, 3rd Wed., 6:00, office 1950 Mass Ave. (354-1340)
- American Dance Committee, 2nd Tues., 6:00, Cafe Rose, Watertown (899-8702)
- English Dance Committee 2nd Wed., 6:30, BYO, @Alex Humez, 151 Elm St., Somerville (625-3069)

FRIENDS OF CDS BOSTON CENTRE, EVENTS:

BROOKLINE, MA - ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE PARTY, Robin Rogers-Browne and Brad Sayler, music by Karen Axelrod, Pat MacPherson and friends. 3rd Fri., Sept. through May (no dance in April). Church of Our Saviour, Monmouth and Carlton St. 8:00-11:00. Contacts: Robin 508-897-8629 and Brad 508-475-0791.

CAMBRIDGE, MA - RSCDS, Boston Branch, Scottish Country Dance, Mon., YWCA, 7 Temple St., warm-up 8:15, beginners and experienced classes 8:30-9:45, social dancing for all 10:00-11:00.

CAMBRIDGE, MA - 25th anniversary Pinewoods Morris Men tour, Sat., Sept. 23, 10:30 - 4:00, shine or storm. Contact Joe Kynoch 508-877-1168.

HARTFORD (WETHERSFIELD) - Wethersfield Grange, 136 Main St. Sun., Sept. 10, 4:00 - 7:00, Contra Dance Steve Zakon, music Langford, McQuillen. Fridays starting on Sept. 15, 8:00 - 11:00, Beginners at 7:30. 1st and 2nd Fridays Contrás, 3rd Fridays Clogging/Cajun/Southern Squares, 4th Fridays English Country. Contact Val (203) 523-9374.

HARTFORD - Fall ball, November 4. Contact Marc 203-286-9919.

NEW YORK - COUNTRY DANCE, Playford Ball, April 9, 1990. Contact April Spoungle 718-636-9464.

PLIMOTH PLANTATION, Plymouth MA, visitor center. All Hallow's Eve Ball, Sat., Oct. 28, 8:00 - 11:00, George Fogg and Merrymeeting Musical Menagerie. Contact David Olson, 508-746-1622 X381.

PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 6th Heritage Dance Festival, Sept. 23, 24. Contact P.O. BOX 42415, Phila PA 19101-2415, (215)849-5384.

PROVIDENCE, RI - Contra and Squares, Monthly generally 3rd Sat., starting Sept. 30. St Martin's Church, 50 Orchard Ave. 8:00 - 11:00. Contact Dale (508)636-8168.

SANDY HOOK, CT 2nd Northeast Music And Dance Festival, NOMAD, Oct. 21 & 22, Newtown High School. Contact Fran Hendrickson, NOMAD Box 766, Sandy Hook, CT 06482.

SOUTHBORO, MA - Framingham Folk Dancers, International Folk Dancing, Fayville Village Hall, Central & Grove Sts. 8:00-10:30, 508-872-4110.

WESTCHESTER COUNTRY DANCERS, St John's Larchmont, English Country Classes on Thursdays, 8:15 - 10:15, Sept. 7 - May 31; Celebration of Spring Ball, Sat. 3/17; 75 ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL 6/2 ?. Contact Christine Helwig, 914-834-4672

WORCESTER, MA - INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS, Thursday, 7:30 - 9:30, All Saints Episcopil, Irving St. at Pleasant. Contact Betty Hoskins, 508-791-7434.

----- All calendar submissions must be in writing and received by **Harvey Cohen, 54 Elda Rd, Framingham Ma 01701** on or before Sept 15.



## Wednesday Night Ritual

This year's round of ritual classes will be a mix of unusual new offerings and old favorites, which should make for a fun and varied season of dancing. Classes are run in series lasting from four to six weeks and include Longsword (Handsworth tradition), Massed Cotswold Morris (various traditions)--last year's favorite!--Northwest Clog, "Mixed-Bag" Rapper, and three additional offerings sufficiently novel as to merit some further words of introduction.

The year begins with the first of these, a lively series in Garland Dance taught by Lisa Greenleaf, the founder and foreman of Rose Galliard, with music provided by Jim Ialeggio of the Pinewoods Morris Men. Garland is an English spring ritual done with curved boughs covered with greenery and flowers that link the dancers in intricate flowing patterns. Despite popular misconceptions to the contrary, there is in fact nothing wimpy about Garland dance, as you will see if you come to the classes--open to all--that begin on September 13 and run through October 11.

The second offering of the season will be an intermediate Cotswold-type Morris class taught by Jamie Beaton, former squire and foreman of Hogtown Morris Men (Toronto, Ontario) and, more recently, the Toronto Morris Men. The tradition will be Hogtown's own, a Bampton-like tradition that should fulfill the desires of those Bampton lovers who have always felt the lack of stick dances in the original tradition. (Knowing the basics of Bampton is a prerequisite for the class.) Karen Axelrod of Orion Sword will be the musician for the series, which begins on October 18 and runs through November 15.

The final offering of the decade will be a four-week series focussing on rapper stepping. This will be a "come-as-you-feel-the-need" session, starting with a class or two of basic to intermediate stepping followed by two weeks of more advanced stepping, including various stepping breaks. This is a class for whole teams, team individuals, or anybody else whose rapper stepping could use a bit of polish or who would like to learn some new tricks. Former Muddy River Rapper members Jan Elliott and Joe Bowbeer will teach and provide music, respectively. This class will run from November 29 through December 20.

All classes will be held on Wednesday nights from 8:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. in one or the other of the two rooms provided for the purpose at St. John's United Methodist Church in Watertown. If you have any questions or suggestions about the Ritual series, contact **Deb Small (617) 628-0071**.

--Deb Small  
Ritual Series Coordinator

## English Country Dance Parties

Get your weekend off to a good start by coming to the English Country Dance parties led by Robin Rogers-Browne and Brad Saylor. Karen Axelrod and Pat MacPherson provide inspiring music for this series, with an occasional sit-in musician. The emphasis at these parties is on fun, and the refreshments alone are worth the price of admission.

The dance begins at 8:00 p.m. on the third Friday of the month from September 15, 1989 to May 18, 1990. (There will be no dance in April to avoid conflicting with NEFFA.) The location, as in years past, is the Church of Our Savior, at the corner of Carlton and Monmouth Streets in Brookline.

You're all invited, so come on out and meet some friends, get a taste of Laura's home cookin', and maybe even dance a little. You won't regret it!

--Brad Saylor



### The Envelope, Please

This past spring, the CDS Board mailed the CDS membership a list of proposed amendments to the Society's bylaws. The good news, by the Board's lights, at least, is that the proposed amendments were resoundingly approved (by a vote of 54 in favor to 2 against). The bad news is that the amendments as proposed (and approved) contained a number of typographical errors and infelicities of expression, which came to the Board's attention *after* the fateful mailing.

The upshot is that we will have another go at it in September, having done our homework (and proofreading) rather more carefully this time. So expect another mailing. With any luck, we'll get it right this time.

--Gordon Talley  
for the CDS Board

---

### The Dreaded Drop-Dead Date



Art is long but Alex is short, so if you want a bed in Newsletter Heaven, it is strongly advised that you send your news and articles along for inclusion in the next issue of the CDS Newsletter by **September 30, 1989** to

Alex Humez  
151 Elm Street  
Somerville, MA 02144

or else...it's not hot and you're not there.

## Letter to the Editor

In the April issue of the *Newsletter* you printed a letter from Evelyn Lamond concerning the use (or the lack thereof) of the word "Christmas" in conjunction with the party CDS, Boston Centre holds in December. I feel a need to respond to Ms. Lamond's letter. Even though I hold a position on the Board of Directors of CDS, I am responding as a *member* of CDS, Boston Centre, and *not* as a spokesperson for the Board.

Ms. Lamond makes many valid points, but I think she is ignoring several important facts. While Christmas has indeed expanded beyond its original scope, it nonetheless remains a *religious* holiday. Yes, *religious*; Webster's Dictionary defines Christmas as "a Christian feast on December 25...that commemorates the birth of [Jesus] Christ..." While I doubt that anyone would object to celebrating a "season of *good will*," many people object to celebrating religious holidays that are from religions other than their own. More importantly, many of the non-Christian members of CDS Boston might be offended that the Boston Centre chooses to recognize and celebrate one religious holiday while ignoring all the others. As CDS is not a religious organization, I think we should be very careful to respect the diverse religious beliefs of our members. Why should we put any of our members in the position of having to decide between missing a wonderful, gala event (as the party in question is) or compromising their beliefs? I don't believe we should.

I think that Ms. Lamond is mistaken in her belief that "CDS *may not* [emphasis mine] use that word ["Christmas"] for its December Party." It is my understanding that the coordinator of the event (Julia Huestis) *chose* not to use it. While I don't know the reasons Ms. Huestis made such a choice, I would hope that at least one of the reasons was her desire to not offend some of our members. Believing that everyone is happy and willing to celebrate one particular religion's holidays is bigotry. Believing that no one would be offended by being asked to do such a thing is short-sighted and ignorant. I am glad that Ms. Huestis made the choice that she did.

Ms. Lamond also writes that President Reagan called Christmas "the most joyous holiday of the year." For Mr. Reagan's information (and Ms. Lamond's), there is a significant portion of the world's population that does not agree with him. Furthermore, there is an even larger portion of that population that does not even recognize December 25 as a holiday. It distresses me that our former president so openly displays his bigotry and ignorance; it also distresses me that Ms. Lamond seeks to perpetuate that bigotry and ignorance. I would hope that CDS, Boston Centre will continue to do its part towards wip-

ing out such prejudices. Rather than "continue our tradition of seventy years...at our Christmas Party," I encourage CDS to nurture this new "tradition"--that of a Winter Holiday Party celebrating *all* the joyous holidays.

--Adam Moskowitz



### We Need Your Help!!

The Wednesday evening English Country Dance faces several problems as it begins the year in its new location in Watertown. We hope that those of you who regularly come to English dance will help us.

First: We need help at the door! For the past five years or more, the members of the English Dance Committee have taken turns sitting at the door. Each of us has given up the pleasure of dancing some six to eight times a year so that you may have a dance to come to. Won't you consider volunteering to take the door for a night or two a year, perhaps splitting the evening with a member of the Committee or a friend? This would be greatly appreciated.

Second: We will be setting up a refreshment table this year, which will provide at least water or some other cold drink for thirsty dancers. We would like to provide cookies and other small munchies as well but cannot do so with the present income from the dance. We would therefore be grateful for donations to the refreshment table.

Third: We need more dancers! Our dance currently loses roughly \$40 a week. We need to increase our paying attendance by some 12 dancers to break even, and by more than that in order to be able to offer free admission in exchange for such services as sitting at the door and stocking the refreshment table: at present, we can only offer you our deep gratitude for sharing with us the effort to make this dance succeed.

If you can help us either by door-sitting or by donating refreshments, please contact a member of the English Dance Committee. We are:

Earl Gaddis

Alex Humez

Jennie Mosely

Deb Small

Mary Stafford,

Chair, English Dance Committee



Elise Nichols

Elise Nichols, long-time musician for the Boston Centre, died on April 6, 1989. Though she was an accomplished "violinist" (in the Philadelphia and the Boston Women's Symphony Orchestras), we knew her as an accomplished "fiddler" who played for the Country Dance Society for more than thirty years. She played for ALL the CDS activities--American square and contra dancing, morris, rapper, long-sword, and English country dancing--until her failing eyesight caused her to retire in 1974. In the years that she played for English country dancing, we knew that, come Wednesday night, Elise would be there (she was *never* sick!), full of energy, ready to play any tunes we asked for, willing and able to make (and keep!) a tempo a "grain" faster or slower, and often eager to share a few peppery remarks with us about dancing, dancers, and life in general.

In the June 1974 issue of Ralph Page's magazine, *Northern Junket*, Louise Winston wrote, in an article on dancing in Greater Boston, "One of the finest fiddlers and friends CDS has ever had is Elise Nichols, who has just retired...from a career which for faithful loyal service and high standards of musicianship cannot...be matched anywhere."

Ted Sannella has written this about a last amazing visit with Elise:

One Tuesday afternoon in late March, 1989, I went to the Suburban Manor Nursing Home in Acton to visit my mother. We decided to go for a walk along the corridor, but didn't get very far. For in the very next room, I saw an elderly lady on the bed nearest the door, with slippers on which the name ELISE NICHOLS was written in large print. I said to the nurse, "I think I know that lady. Is she the Elise Nichols who used to play the violin?" The nurse turned to her patient and asked, "Elise, did you use to play the violin?" "I sure did," was the reply. I said, "Mrs. Nichols, my name is Ted Sannella. I'm a square dance

caller and you used to fiddle for me." She replied, "And a damn good caller, too!" I mentioned to the nurse that Elise has worked for many years selling candy at the Country Store in Concord. Elise piped up, "I *ran* the candy department"...The following Tuesday, on the way to my mother's room, I looked in and saw that Elise was asleep. Upon leaving, I looked again and saw no movement...Two days later, Elise died. In retrospect, it was good to know that she was feisty to the end.

--Helene Cornelius



### 75TH ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

The CDS 75th anniversary celebration begins on September 23. There will be dance performances in Cambridge and Boston and an evening dance featuring both English and American dances. Look for the flyer with this newsletter for more information. The focus of this event is to bring new dancers into the group, so we should all try to bring a friend who has never danced before and we will show them how much fun they can have.

The winner of the logo contest is...**Herb Jacobs**. He submitted a lot of different designs, all of which were beautiful. We chose one and you will be seeing it everywhere over the next year. My thanks also to Shag Graetz and Chris Reynolds for their entries.

Watch this space for more information on the Anniversary Ball in the spring. Sandy Borden is in charge of that event if you would like to volunteer.

--Rich Jackson

### Thanks

To Harvey Cohen, Helene Cornelius, George Fogg, Lisa Greenleaf, Deborah Hawkins, Jean Humez, Rich Jackson, Herb Jacobs, Joe Kynoch, Robin Kynoch, Robin Rogers-Browne, Brad Sayler, Deb Small, Mary Stafford, Carole Talley, Gordon Talley, and the Stalwarts of the Mailing Militia.



## Food for Thought

The Food Booth at NEFFA this past April was very successful because of the many contributions of food, time, and good ideas given by members. Although we made somewhat less money than last year (\$2,633.00 as opposed to \$3,200.00), we had a lot more fun because more people got involved in helping out.

We're earning a reputation for staples! Dan Pearl's chocolate cheesecakes, Tom Hannaford's maple walnut pies, Tom Engel's root beer, and Deb Small's sticky buns are items people have remembered from the past and ask for now. New (and very popular) were a bunch of carrot cakes from Nancy Cruise and Congo bars from Clara Yeomans. These contributions, plus all the single exquisite desserts that members made, were most appreciated, as was the food and time donated by a number of ritual teams.

The S&S Deli and the Coffee Connection provided us with food and coffee that we didn't have to buy, therefore contributing to our profits immensely. Whenever you're in either of these establishments, you might want to extend our gratitude.

Thanks for so much work...Clay Wilcox, Joyce Szczepanski, Susannah Diamondstone, Linda Benoit, Nancy Hanssen, Lisa Barnes, Betsy Handley, Rayna Tulysewski, Lyn Mullen, and others who seemed to appear when needed most.

A special thanks goes to Steve Boylan whose coordinating, cooking, and good humor were the best ingredients of all.

--Carole Talley, Chair

## A Banner Year

In honor of its 75th anniversary, the Country Dance and Song Society of America invites you to join in the making of a Dance and Music Banner. The banner will be made up from individual quilted wallhangings addressing the themes of English and American traditional dance, music, and song. The completed banner will be exhibited around the country to encourage talk about traditional music and dance, and to educate and entertain at galleries, quilt shows, libraries, museums, and festivals.

Now is the time to get rid of those scraps you've been saving for ten years. Recycle your old dance skirts or those festival t-shirts you no longer wear. Use up the leftovers from your group's banner or morris kits. immortalize your favorite dance and festival memories in fabric. Do an appliqué of your dance hall or embroider your favorite saying. Traditional patchwork patterns, original pieced designs, appliqué, whole-cloth quilting, embroidery, and silkscreen are just some of the options.

Completed quilts are due by October 31, 1989. (Those received by early October will be displayed during CDSS's Open House and Dance on October 14.) All who love to dance, sing, and play music are encouraged to join us in this project. Write now for details:

CDSS Banner Project  
17 New South Street  
Northampton, MA 01060

Or call Ann Pearce or  
Caroline Batson at (413)  
584-9913 during business hours.



Country Dance Society, Boston Centre  
1950 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02140  
Telephone: (617) 354-1340

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Boston, MA  
02139  
Permit #58340



FORWARDING AND ADDRESS  
CORRECTION REQUESTED