

CDS Boston News

The Newsletter of the Country Dance Society, Boston Centre

Fall 1998

☞ **Deadline for Winter Newsletter: November 1st, 1998. Details, back page.**

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

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Other area events on pages 7-9.
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See page 2 for an article about a new Contra series at MIT, cosponsored by CDS Boston and the MIT Folk Dance Club

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

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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 consist 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 Gaffney, 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 Schneckenburger on fiddle, Michael Kerry on guitar, and Dan Isaacson on flute. On the 22nd, Linda Leslie will call, accompanied by Lissa Schneckenburger 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 Lassetter, 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

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 Lyril Ahern, Gene DiSalvatore, Eph Weiss, and Ralph Jones, and was endorsed by Art Anger. Lyril 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 any one 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

MIT Contras, Continued from previous page

are invited free; donations are requested from other dancers as follows: \$2 from non-MIT students, \$4 from non-students. The Student Center is accessible by #1 Bus on Mass. Ave., and there is free parking in the Kresge Lot nearby on campus.

We have received generous support from the MIT Folk Dance Club, under whose name we are able to have this fabulous opportunity. We have also had generous support from the Country Dance Society, Boston Centre, which makes having live music a lot more feasible. We expect some support from Star Market, which has opened a large new store near MIT. Other prospective supporters or sponsors are encouraged to contact me any time at (617) 354-0864.

Dancers old and new are especially welcome! Musicians and callers I have not yet contacted who would like to play or call are encouraged to call me also. Variety, inventiveness, inclusion, and fun will be the touchstones of this dance. Join us in this new and exciting endeavor for our community.

—Ann Cowan, Producer

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.

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.

Sullivan 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.

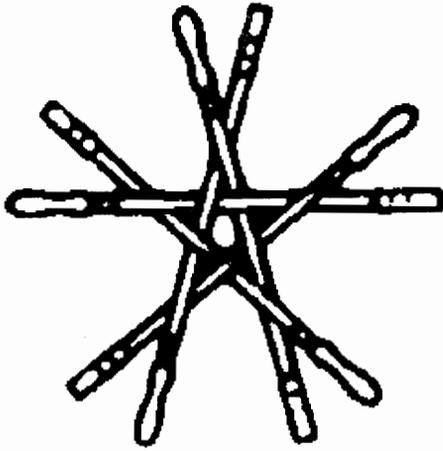
Orion had been apprehensive about taking a dance of our own creation to the land of tradition. We were pleasantly surprised to realize we were in good company with the many English teams who had composed their dances and didn't find it unusual at all (although our being a mixed-gender team raised a few 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



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.

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

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 Lassetter.

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

New Series

Jointly Sponsored by CDS Boston and the MIT Folk Dance Club

2nd and 4th Tuesdays. Contra Dance. MIT Student Center, Room 407, Mass. Ave., Cambridge. Park free in Kresge Lot. 7:30-10:30 PM. 9/8: Dan Pearl with the Chancers (Lissa Schnickenburger, Michael Kerry, & Dan Isaacson). 9/22: Linda Leslie with Lissa Schneckenburger & Cal Howard. \$4, MIT students free. Confirm location: 253-FOLK. Info: (617) 354-0864.

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.

Scottish Country Dance, Cambridge YWCA, 7 Temple St. 7:45-10:30 PM. \$6. Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. Info: (617) 489-4529.

TUESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

New England Contrás & Squares, VFW 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

1st Fri. **Challenging Contrás & Squares**. Calvary United Methodist Church, 300 Mass. Ave., Arlington. 8:00-11:00 PM. Begins 10/2. Oct. 2: Lisa Greenleaf with Amy R Larkin and Larry Unger. Nov. 6: Sue Rosen with Mark Simos and friends. Usual caller Lisa Greenleaf, live music. \$6. Info: (978) 779-6077 or (781) 662-8967.

2nd Fri. **Contrás, Squares & Couple Dances**. Unitarian Church in Carlisle MA. 8:00-10:30 PM, potluck at 6:30. Series begins 10/9. Walter Lenk,

music by O'Connor's Mob. \$5. Info: (617) 547-7781 or (978) 369-1232.

3rd Fri. **Contrás and Squares with Roaring Jelly**. First Parish Church, Unitarian Universalist, on The Green, Lexington. 8:00-11:00 PM; beginners 7:45. Caller Susan Elberger, music director Debby Knight. \$5. Info: (781) 944-3544 or (781) 235-0713.

SATURDAYS

New England Contrás & Squares, Concord Scout House, 74 Walden St., Concord. 8-11 PM. \$6.

1st Sat., various callers & bands.

2nd Sat., Tony Saletan 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 Contrás & 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 & Contrás**. 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; contrás 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. Contrás, squares, waltzes & polkas; music by Just Plain Folks. \$5. Info: 524-1767.

SUNDAY

Scottish Country Dance. Church of Our Saviour, Carlton & Monmouth St., Brookline. 6:30-8:30 PM. Begins 9/13. Basic and experienced instruction. \$4. Info: (617) 325-6657.

Thanks to Martha Forsyth and Folk Arts Center for much of the information in this section.

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.

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.

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

19

A Jane Austen English Country Dance. 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.

Dessert potluck at break. Special guest caller, Beverly Francis. Music by Joyce Crouch, Vince O'Donnell, and Susan Kevra. Period dress encouraged. \$6. Info: (413) 549-4123 or (802) 254-2874.

26

Gender Free Contra Dance. Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading, 239 Woburn St. (corner of Summer Ave.). 8:00-11:00 PM. Caller, Chris Ricciotti; musicians, Beth Murray and Fred Finkel. \$5. (781) 944-0494.

Dates to be announced

Work Weekends at Pinewoods. Grounds work and cleanup to close camp. (508) 224-4858.

October

24

Sixth Annual Fall Favorites English Country Dance Party.

Preregistered dancers vote to select the program. See Boston Centre schedule on p. 6 and enclosed flyer for additional information.

24

Harvest Ball by Gender Free Dance. 1st Church of Jamaica Plain, Centre & Eliot Sts. Workshop 2:00-5:30 PM, elegant potluck 5:30-7:00, ball 7:30-11:00. Chris Ricciotti. \$12 advance, \$14 door. Info: 522-1115 or 522-2216.

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 apologise 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. \$5. 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 Kevra with Bill Tomczak, Mary Cay Brass, Carol Hamm, & Dave Langford. \$6. Info: (802) 254-2874 or btomczak@sover.net.

2nd & 4th Fri. English Country Dance on Cape Cod. Barnstable MA. 7:30 PM. \$4. Call to confirm schedule and new location: (508) 362-9570.

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) 481-4802.

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

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

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.

Presumpscot Grange Contra Dance. 4th Sat. David Kaynor and live music. Info: (207) 799-2585.

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

