



CDS Boston News

The Newsletter of the Country Dance Society, Boston Centre

Winter 1999

☞ **Deadline for Spring Newsletter: February 1st, 1999. Details, back page.**

From the President

Seasons in Boston change as they will, not always by the calendar. For me, winter in Boston starts not around December 21, but a month earlier, in November. I noticed this when two of our children were born on November 22 and 23. Both times, my wife and I went into the hospital in the fall and came out into winter weather, but with a newborn to light up the season.

In a similar way, dark days, cold air, and trudging through snow contrast with gliding over a dance floor with warm music and warmer friends to make our winter dances more special.

Before talking about our winter season, though, I want to mention a couple of events from the fall. Our Treasurer **Ralph Jones** had good news for us this fall—the Society ended its fiscal year with an increase in its value of about \$20,000. The increase is a result of our investment income, and does not represent paper profits. (Although the paper value of our investments is down some from its peak this summer, it still shows a modest gain from the beginning of the year.)

The Society is looking for ways to put our money to good use. We are having two workshop weekends this year, we are helping to support country dancing in New Hampshire, and we are supporting a new contra dance series on alternate Tuesdays at MIT, which we hope will bring more students into contra dancing. We continue to think about making the music in **Peter Barnes'** book

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Exciting Scout House Contras for Winter and Spring

On December 5th, we will hold a very special all-day event: our Second Annual Pre-Dance Craft Fair. You can begin your holiday shopping or sales, have a snack and a potluck supper, then join us for our **Fourth Annual Klezmer Style Contra Dance**. Led by Jacob Bloom, music is by Contraklez, with John Chambers, Barry Shapiro, Ben Pasamanick, Maury Martin, and Sandy Pliskin. If it's anything like the previous ones, it will be great fun! This dance has become so popular that Klezmer dances and contras are proliferating all over New England.

This is a great opportunity for small-crafts people or sellers of craft items. The morning and afternoon Fair will be organized by Gaetana Freniere (call (978) 369-2212), the evening Fair and Dance by Ann Cowan (call (617) 354-0864). The Fair will run from 9:30 AM to 4 PM and 6-8 PM. Join us for a potluck dinner, also 6-8 PM, and dance from 8-11 PM.

January 30 will see the **Pre-Groundhog Day Contra Dance Party** led by caller Susan Elberger, accompanied by the Dave Reiner Family Band with Andy and Cal Howard. Again we will present Rita O'Shea's Champion Irish Step Dancers at intermission!

Hold May 29 for the **Gala Third Annual Memorial Day Picnic and Contra Dance** and June 5 for the **Fourth Annual Mardi Gras Party**, contras and some Cajun.

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available to teachers and dancers through a series of CDs. Still, there is always room for ideas for new events or projects. If you have one, please let me or another member of the Board know.

I'd like to thank **Arthur Ferguson, Nancy Hanssen,** and the members of the English Dance Committee for putting on a very nice Fall Favorites Dance. Our new hall at the Park Avenue Church worked well, and several people told me that this was their favorite event of the season. Even though the dances are harder than dances usually featured at a party dance, the evening is still very much a party. I think this is because the dances are so well known to many of us, that it takes little learning effort before we begin rolling along as an ensemble. The dances are also much more rewarding than many dances that show up on party programs. **Jerry Green** suggested trying a series of Saturday party dances using this format. Looking over our calendar, it looks reasonable to try something like this toward the end of January and in May. The Society can support this; is anyone interested in working on it?

Looking ahead to our winter season, our Wednesday night series continues in Arlington. Many people in our western suburbs find our new location more convenient than Hanum Hall; let's see if we can spread the word about our dance to people in the surrounding towns.

The **Wednesday Night Before Thanksgiving** has always been special as our "Homecoming Dance". It draws people visiting their families for the weekend and some of our old regulars who find it hard to dance as often as they might like. Since we've changed halls this year, we need to take a little extra care to make sure that traditions like this continue in our new location.

On the contra side of our tradition, we'll have the fourth **Annual Klezmer Style Contra** dance at the Concord Scout House on December 5, organized by **Ann Cowan,** featuring the Klezmer music of **John Chambers, Barry Shapiro, Ben Pasamanick, Maury Martin, and Sandy Pliskin,** with calling by **Jacob Bloom.** This year's event combines the energy and rhythms of Klezmer music with a holiday craft fair and potluck supper.

CDS returns to the Scout House this year to celebrate the holidays on January 2 with our **Gala Holiday Party.** This year the dancing will be led by **Brad Foster,** with music by **Karen Axelrod, Peter Barnes, and Mary Lea.** In a change from past years, the program this year will be all English Country dances. The change in program is partly due to the venue. The Scout House is a

popular place for people interested in contra dancing to go, many of whom have small or no connection with the Society. **Frank Attanasio** and **Lynn Jacobs,** who organize the party, are hoping that the change in the program will make the event more attractive to longtime CDS members. Brad is making a special effort to make the program fun for dancers at many different levels.

Last year's **English-Scottish Party** was so successful that we'll have another this year. The party will be on Saturday, Feb. 13. Watch for flyers with more details.

The winter season ends as usual with the **Playford Ball,** which will again be held at Monument Hall in Concord, on Saturday, March 6, with music by **Bare Necessities,** prompting by **Helene Cornelius.** The Hall lent itself to a very nice Ball last year, and this year we'll be importing an acoustic piano, which should remedy the Hall's only deficiency.

If you're new to Boston, it's worth noting that the Ball draws people from all over the New England area and beyond. Every season it seems to fill earlier. Registration before the New Year is suggested for single women. In recent years we have been encouraging single men to register early, to make a waiting list unnecessary. Gentlemen, please remember the ladies and register early!

Finally, a coming attraction—**Philippe Callens** will be coming to Boston for a one-day workshop in April. Philippe is the composer of beautiful dances like "Patrick's Waltz" and is a very popular teacher. More details on his visit will be in the next newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you at one of these events, as we shake off the chill of winter together at the hearth of the dance!

—Terry Gaffney, *President*

Halloween Contra Party a Blast!!

Our Fifth Saturday dance at the Concord Scout House this year was actually on Halloween—what luck! About 200 dancers came, with perhaps 150 in costume. There were prizes for various categories of creativity and plenty of candy, cookies, and drinks for all. The calling by Linda Leslie was fine; the music by Swinging on a Gate, great! The band included Jim Guinness, Judy Francis, Amy Larkin, Jonathan Larkin, and Alan Bradbury.

We were treated to a sword dance performance by a group of young people during the intermission, but their name was unfamiliar and escapes me—apologies.

We could squeeze in another 50 or so next time we have this opportunity, so consider coming then, or come to our Potluck, Craft Fair, and Klezmer Style Contra on December 5. That will be fun too!

—Ann Cowan, *Producer*

A Renewal reminder from the Membership Secretary

Take a look at the mailing label on this issue of the CDS Boston News. Across the top, the set of characters farthest to the right should be a letter or a number. If it is the number 98, it indicates that your membership, which expired on August 31, has not yet been renewed. This will be the last issue of the CDS Boston News you will receive until you renew. Renew your membership at any Tuesday or Wednesday dance or by sending your name, your current address and phone number(s), and a check ("CDS, Boston Centre") to

Country Dance Society, Boston Centre
c/o Arthur Ferguson, Membership Secretary
31 Ledgewood Road
Framingham, MA 01701-3626

The membership categories and amounts are

Regular (Individual): \$20.00
Senior/Student/Low Income: \$10.00
Contributor (Basic Family): \$30.00
Supporter: \$40.00
Sponsor: \$60.00
Patron: \$100.00
Benefactor: \$500.00

Any membership at the Contributor level or above can serve as a family membership and include up to two adults and any children under the age of 18 all at one mailing address.

Elm City English Elegance

Elm City English Elegance, a Mid-Winter Celebration of English Country Dance, will be held at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, 830 Whitney Ave., New Haven CT, on January 23, 1999. Peggy Vermilya is Mistress of Ceremonies, with music by The Playford Consort (Marshall Barron, Phoebe Barron, Grace Feldman, and Margaret Ann Martin). Music in the afternoon is by Peter Corbridge, piano.

Advance registration of \$25 per person includes the Afternoon Dance Review from 2:00-4:00 PM and the Evening Ball from 7:00-11:00 PM. No attempt will be made to balance gender. Paid-in-full registrations will be taken as received. Details will be sent in early January. Formal, period, or fancy attire. Bring fruit or a dessert to share. For further information: Bonnie Lassen, (860) 267-6445 or BLassen@Juno.com

All of the above dances will be held at the Concord Scout House, 74 Walden St., Concord MA, from 8 to 11 PM. Refreshments at intermission. Parking is available, and the price is still a mere \$6 for a great evening of exercise, great music, sociability, nourishment, and fun! Anyone who wishes to volunteer with food, time, muscle, or transport will be greatly appreciated; please call (617) 354-0864 any time!

Ann Cowan, Producer

English Scottish Party

If you were somewhere other than the Park Avenue Congregational Church last February 7th, you missed a wonderful celebration of two dance traditions. The English Scottish party, sponsored by CDS Boston Centre and the Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, featured dances from the Northern and Southern ends of the British Isles, terrific live music, and instruction guaranteed to help newcomers to either tradition feel right at home. A survey of the participants, however, showed that English dancers have a long way to go to keep up with the party-loving Scots, some of whom had travelled many miles to enjoy the festivities.

If you missed out last year, never fear. We're planning another celebration for February 13, 1999. Music will be by Marianne Taylor and Anne Hooper, with Barbara Finney and Lance Ramshaw calling the dances. Your presence will help demonstrate that you can have a grand time dancing without pointing your toes! Keep tuned in for more information.

1998 CDS Boston Centre Holiday Party

The CDS Boston Centre Gala Holiday Party will take place on Saturday, January 2, 1999. The place is the Scout House, at 74 Walden St. in Concord MA.

This year we're trying a new all-English format, with country dancing to be led by CDSS National Director Brad Foster. The music will be provided by the talented trio of Karen Axelrod, Peter Barnes, and Mary Lea.

Admission is \$10. Festive attire is encouraged, and an elegant dessert buffet will be served.

Don't miss it! For more information, call Lynn Jacobs at (978) 371-2290 or Frank Attanasio at (603) 878-4332.

New Contra Series at MIT Off to a Great Start

Our new series is doing very well, attracting a good crowd—up to forty three, including several students, both beginners and experienced dancers.

Dan Pearl initiated it on September 8 with his fine calling, accompanied by the Chancers, including Lissa Schneckenburger on fiddle, Michael Kerry on guitar, and Dan Isaacson, flute. Linda Leslie called September 22 to a record crowd, accompanied by Lissa Schneckenburger and Cal Howard, a great combination.

Our Columbus Day Party on October 13 was led by a trio of callers, Angel Roman, Jacob Bloom, and Laura Johannes, accompanied by Lissa on fiddle and Cal on piano. We had five great sit-ins: Barney Gage on concertina, Jonathan Gilbert on fiddle, guitar, and drums, and fiddlers Donna Slonim, Pan Chan, and Carl Gobdecue.

The Halloween Party on October 27 was led by the excellent Leslie Lassetter, Steve Boylan, and Angel Roman, accompanied by Lissa and Cal with sit-ins as above, plus Heather Lee, guitar, but without Carl.

The **Veteran's Day Party** on November 10 will be led by Rick Frank, Ann Cowan, and Leslie Lassetter with music by Terry Traub, Cal Howard, and sit-ins.

Upcoming dances are on November 24, a **Thanksgiving Party** with Klezmer-style music and Jacob Bloom, Ann Cowan, and Laura Johannes calling; **A Southern Air** on December 8, with Erica Weiss calling, and the Dixie Butterhounds playing tunes with a Southern sound; and on December 22, the **Holiday Party** with calling by Jacob Bloom. January to May, the parties will continue. See the CDS Boston Centre calendar page for additional details.

All these events have been made possible because of the dedicated assistance of all the above artists plus Art Anger, Cal Howard, Julie Owen, Jonathan Gilbert, several members of the MIT Folk Dance Club, the CDS Boston Centre Board, and staff at MIT. Callers will include Tony Saletan, Steve Boylan, Angel Roman, Laura Johannes, Jacob Bloom, Leslie Lassetter, Ann Cowan, and Rick Frank.

Musicians will include Jim Guinness, Judy Francis, Swinging on a Gate, Cal Howard, Carol Kycia, The Last Gaspe, Cathy Mason, Carol Bittenson, Vince O'Donnell, John Chambers, and Bruce Randall. Sit-ins will include Barney Gage, Jonathan Gilbert, Donna Slonim, Jenna Watson, Pan Chan, and Heather Lee.

This is an exciting venue for new, developing, and experienced talent with a variety of backgrounds and sounds! It adds a dynamic new dimension to the New England contra scene and a way to spark new interest in this art form we 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 dance from 7:30-10:30 PM on second and fourth Tuesdays in Room 407 of the Stratton Student Center, on the fourth floor of the building across Mass. Ave. from MIT's main domed building. Refreshments will be provided. MIT students are especially invited and free; donations from other dancers are requested as follows: \$2 from non-MIT students, \$4 from non-students. The Student Center is accessible by #1 Bus on Mass. Ave.; there is free parking in the Kresge Lot nearby.

We have had generous support from the MIT Folk Dance Club, a student club, under whose name we are able to have this fabulous opportunity. The Country Dance Society, Boston Centre, has also supported us, and we have had continuing support from Star Market, which has opened a large new store near MIT. Other prospective supporter/sponsor/donors are encouraged to contact me any time at (617) 354-0864.

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 with Art Anger, Co-Chairs

New Dance Series in Troy NY

Don Bell is delighted to announce the startup a new monthly English dance series at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy NY. He says, "I'm ecstatic about the venue: an old school auditorium (Old School 14) with a wooden floor, stage, high ceiling, pretty chandeliers, and lots of old woodwork. The dances will be held Sunday afternoons from 2-5 p.m. The dates are Nov TBA, Dec 20th and hopefully every third Sunday of the month in '99 January to May. The fee will be \$5."

"The regular callers will be Patricia Evans, John Huhn, and myself. On occasion, there will be special guest callers and bands. For music, I am prepared to start with recorded music. However, in the longer term I would like to have live music provided by local musicians. If you know of any competent musicians in the area who like to play this kind of music (or early music), please let me know."

For more information: dbell1@nycap.rr.com; (518) 489-7720 (home); (518) 276-2858.

A Genuine Treasure

The piano music may be dreamy or soulful, stretch the rhythm here and there and warm the mind, or it may be brisk and energetic. The pianist is Jacqueline Schwab. Her cascading notes may be heard at the White House, in a Ken Burns TV documentary, or at a CDS English dance; at Pinewoods, Hands Four, Ashokan, or NEFFA. The music is contra, English, Scottish, vintage, or tango.

Jacqueline describes herself as an improvisational pianist, a characteristic evident in her style, which continually challenges our musical imagination. She enjoys performing folk music, often playing around with a theme, dancing musically around it, and exploring many of its nuances. Far from repetitious, the meandering may appear classical or may lead to new and exciting musical territory. It is not unusual for an experienced English dancer to become engrossed in the music, wander off mentally, and lose the pattern of a simple dance.

Jacqueline grew up in the Squirrel Hill section of Pittsburgh PA, where her mother was an educator and her father a statistician. The oldest of three children, by age 8 she was playing piano, improvising and composing. She attended public schools in Pittsburgh and started dancing in 1968. The next four years found her investing her youthful energy in English, Greek, Turkish and Israeli dance and performance groups.

A session at Pinewoods in 1971 convinced her that Boston was the place to be, so the next year she left college for Boston to find herself. She found various jobs, but most evenings found her at a dance, even performing briefly with Mandala. Finding occasions to play piano at dances, she took music courses at Longy.

In 1981 she started teaching English dances, and became manager of Pinewoods camp. During her years managing Pinewoods (1981-88), the camp continued a transition from the private ownership of the Conants. In 1984, she was involved in the creation of the English-Scottish Week, a joint CDS Boston Centre and RSCDS Boston Branch endeavor.

In 1979 Jacqueline had enrolled at the New England Conservatory with a tailor-made curriculum focusing on improvisation. Upon graduating with honors from the Conservatory, Jacqueline pursued graduate work at Boston University, on English Country Dance Music in the 18th Century. Her research led to several brief sojourns in England.

There was a gradual transition during this lengthy musical journey. About 1990, realizing that her activities were overextended, Jacqueline limited her activities to that of a professional musician, emphasizing arrangements and improvisation along many streams of music.

People associate her with English country dancing and may not know that she also enjoys playing for and dancing many styles, including contra, Scottish, vintage, and tango (in addition to her work playing for modern and ballet classes). She teaches English dancing, both with Bare Necessities and with others—sometimes even as a solo pianist!—in over 25 U.S. states and in England.

Jacqueline teaches classical piano for beginners, as well as keyboard harmony, chords, and improvisation for dancing. She is proud of the skills she brings to her craft, including her adaptability and musical exploring, and the moods, stretching, harmony, and excitement which she brings to her dance music and performances.

Jacqueline's credits include some dozen recordings, as well as video soundtracks, including Ken Burns' "Baseball," "The West," "Lewis and Clark," and 1992 Grammy Award winner "The Civil War." She has performed on local and national radio programs with artists such as Jean Redpath and Alasdair Fraser, and given many concerts as soloist or with other nationally known musical artists. For several years, she and singer Jeanne Morrill (Peter Barnes' wife) had a vocal/piano duo with the unpronounceable Scots Gaelic name Sgiath Oran.

Jacqueline is particularly proud of her solo recording, "Mad Robin," which she completed with help from many people and organizations, including NEFFA and National CDSS. It is not intended for dancing but to evoke some of the spirits and moods she experiences with this music. She presented a copy of "Mad Robin" to the President as a gift. Asked about her performance at the White House, Jacqueline smiled and noted that the President is a knowledgeable musician, too.

—Eph Weiss

Ed Helwig

Ed Helwig, the husband of well-known dance teacher, caller, and scholar Christine Helwig, passed away in October. He was in his nineties and had been in poor health for some time.

I feel very fortunate in having stumbled on the New Haven English dance long enough ago to have had the privilege of experiencing Christine as a leader and caller there. She has always struck me as the epitome of graciousness. Together she and Ed seemed one of those couples whose affection for each other was luminously apparent, the kind of people who make you believe in the actuality of love and life-long companionship.

Barbara Ruth
New Haven, CT

CDS BOSTON CENTRE EVENTS

English Country Dance Regular Events

WEDNESDAYS

Park Avenue Congregational Church.* 7:30 to 10:30 PM. Til 6/23/99. Helene Cornelius with George Fogg, Emily Ferguson, Barbara Finney, Rich Jackson, Jacqueline Schwab, Chris Walker, & Robin Rogers-Browne. 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.

January 8: Barbara Finney with Vince O'Donnell and Susan Janssen

February 5: Emily Ferguson with Jacqueline Schwab

March 5: Brad Foster with Jacqueline Schwab

Special Events

January 2, 1999

Gala Holiday Party. Concord Scout House. 7:30-11 PM. Brad Foster with Karen Axelrod, Peter Barnes, and Mary Lea. \$10. Info: Lynn Jacobs, (978) 371-2290 or Frank Attanasio, (603) 878-4332.

Saturday, March 6

Boston Playford Ball. Monument Hall on Monument Sq., Concord MA. Afternoon workshop. Ball, 8-12 PM. Helene Cornelius & Bare Necessities. Period or formal dress. Advance registration, \$23 before 1/12/99, \$27 after. Info: Lyrl Ahern, (978) 263-4778.

Saturday, March 27

Philippe Callens. Popular Belgian caller. Workshop and dance in Arlington. Stay posted!

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, will direct the band.

Fifth Tuesdays: Parties at Old Cambridge Baptist

December 29: Holiday Party: A Gala Open Mike with goodies. 8-10:30 PM. Call for details.

March 30: Spring Fling Open Mike. 8-10:30 PM. Call for details.

Special Events

at the Concord Scout House

December 5

Second Annual Pre-Dance Craft Fair, Potluck, and Fourth Annual Klezmer Style Contra Dance. Jacob Bloom, with Contraklez (John Chambers, Barry Shapiro, Ben Pasamanick, Maury Martin, and Sandy Pliskin). Fair, 9:30 AM-4 PM and 6-8 PM. Potluck, 6 PM. Dance, 8-11 PM. Crafts Fair info: Gaetana Freniere, (978) 369-2212; evening Fair and Dance info: Ann Cowan, (617) 354-0864.

January 30

Pre-Groundhog Day Contra Dance Party. Susan Elberger, with the Dave Reiner Family Band, and Andy and Cal Howard. Rita O'Shea's Champion Irish Step Dancers at intermission!

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. 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. 7:45-10:30 PM. \$6. RSCDS. Info: (617) 489-4529.

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 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. \$2. Info: (978) 745-2229.

FRIDAYS

1st Fri. **Challenging Contrás & Squares**. Calvary United Methodist Church, 300 Mass. Ave., Arlington. 8:00-11:00 PM. 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. 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. **Contra Dances in Berlin**. Berlin Town Hall, Route 62, Berlin MA. 8:00-11:00 PM. 12/5, Tony Parkes; 1/2, 2/6, and 3/6, Tony Saletan, with Berlin Country Orchestra. \$5, family max. \$12. Info: (978) 838-2104.

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**. 1st Church UU of Jamaica Plain, Centre & Eliot Sts. 7:30-11:00 PM. Contra and squares. \$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. 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 the Folk Arts Center of New England for much of the information in this section.

MIT 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.

November 24: **Thanksgiving Party** with Klezmer Style music by John Chambers, Cal Howard, and Contraklez with a trio of callers: Jacob Bloom, Ann Cowan, and Laura Johannes.

December 8: **A Southern Air** with Erica Weiss calling, music by the Dixie Butterhounds (Jon Gersh, Larry Unger, Paul Boyd, and George Touchstone).

December 22: **Holiday Party** with music led by John Chambers and Cal Howard, calling by Jacob Bloom.

January to May: Second and fourth Tuesday Parties. Confirm location: 253-FOLK. Info: (617) 354-0864.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND DANCE CAMPS

Call first to check details and directions.

November

24

Renaissance Dance. Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 7:30-10 PM. Mark Waks with the Carolingian Waytes. Sponsored by CDS Boston Centre and members of Society for Creative Anachronism. **FREE.** Info: Michael Bergman, (617) 964-7684, eclectic@mit.edu

December

22

Renaissance Dance. Fourth Tuesdays, Nov.-April. \$4, CDS Boston Centre members; \$5 others. See above for details.

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CDW's New Year's Eve Dance Party. St. John's Episcopal Church, Fountain Sq., Larchmont, NY. 9:00 PM - 1:00 AM. Callers, Christine Helwig & Gene Murrow. Dedicated to our fond memories of Ed Helwig. Photos, favorite dances, food, and the cheerful, joyful spirit Ed always shared. Flyer-map/driving directions from Susan Murrow, (914) 762-8619.

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New Year's Eve Dance. Historic Adelphi Mill in MD. Spons., Folklore Society of Greater Washington. Potluck 7:30. Brad Saylor

with Andrea Hoag, Carol Compton, and Susan Brandt. Advance registration \$20/mem., \$22 non. Info: Karla or Bob, (301) 577-5018.

January

2

Gala Holiday Party. See CDS Boston page for more info.

5 (Pt. I) and 12 (Pt. II)

Before Playford: Dancing at the Innes of the Court. Metropolitan Duane Hall, 201 West 13th St., NYC. Workshop with Dorrie Olsson, 7-8 PM, Dance from 8-10:15 PM with Gene Murrow & Carl Levine. Special early music from John Ausin, Wayne Hankin, Ros Morley, Gene Murrow, Dorrie Olsson, Aaron Smith, and Cynthia Simonoff.

February

Tropical Dance Vacation in the Caribbean. St. Croix, USVI.

9-16

English Dance Week. Brad Foster and Bruce Hamilton with Bare Necessities.

18-25

Contra & Square Week. George Marshall & Kathy Anderson with Wild Asparagus, The Clayfoot Strutters, and Nightingale.

Info: Tropical Dance Vacation, PO Box 602, Belchertown MA 01007. gmarshal@tiac.net or (413) 323-9604. On the Web: <http://www.he.net/bmd/TDV.99.html>

March

6

Boston Playford Ball. See CDS Boston page for more info.

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Philippe Callens. Park Avenue Church, Arlington Hgts. 2-5 PM workshop, 8-11 PM dance. CDS Boston Centre sponsors this exciting Belgian caller and composer of English country dance. More info. in Spring issue.

April

17

CD-NY Playford Ball. New York City (Brooklyn). MCs: Gene Murrow and Yonina Gordon. Music: "Reunion" with Barbara Greenburg, Dan Beerbohm and Jonathan Jensen. Registration forms available in January. Ellie Hansen and Bob Erenburg, Registrars: stepstately@juno.com

June

11-13

12th Annual Fried-for-All. Lenox, Massachusetts.

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.** West Barnstable Community Building, Route 149, W. Barnstable MA. 7:30 PM. \$4. Info: (508) 362-9570.

SATURDAYS

1st Sat. **New England Contra & Square Dance.** Berlin Town Hall, Route 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 MA. 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.

SUNDAYS

English Country Dance. Troy NY. Once a month; call for dates: (518)489-7720 or dbell1@nycap.rr.com

English Country Dance in New Hampshire.

2nd Sunday. On grounds of old New Hampshire Hospital, **Concord.** 9/98-8/99.

3rd Sunday. Portsmouth Ballroom, Vaughn Mall and Fleet Street, **Portsmouth.**

Feb. 7, March 7, March 28, 1999. The Orchard School, **East Alstead.**

All \$6. Info for Concord and Portsmouth: Marianne Taylor, (603) 463-7771 or Judith Noska, (603) 934-5515. Info for E. Alstead: Tafi Brown, (603) 756-3412.

Everything Old is New Again

Ever wonder what English people did on a Saturday night before John Playford invented dancing? Well, he didn't invent dancing—not even close. All through the Renaissance, dance instructors were writing books, and many of these have survived.

We'll be pulling together a selection of Boston's Early Musicians and Early Dance instructors for a Fourth Tuesday series of Renaissance English Dance.

Among the dances we do will be Pavannes, slow stately partner dances; and Galliards, very exuberant, improvisational dances said to have been the favorite of Elizabeth I; and early Playford dances. We'll be doing both complex and simple steps, but we'll always keep things accessible so everyone can participate.

The series kicks off with a **FREE** dance, Tuesday, November 24th, Thanksgiving week. Future dances will be \$5, \$4 for CDS Boston Centre members. The second dance is December 22nd, Christmas week.

Music for the first two dances will be provided by the Carolingian Waytes, which have been playing for Renaissance dances for about fifteen years. Instruction will be provided at these two dances by Mark Waks; he and the Waytes are members of the Society for Creative Anachronism, which reenacts aspects of Mediaeval and Renaissance life. Members of the Cambridge chapter (Carolingia) are co-sponsoring the series with CDS Boston Centre.

Dances will be the Fourth Tuesday of every month, November through April, from 7:30-10:00, at the Old Cambridge Baptist Church. For more information, contact Michael Bergman, (617) 964-7684, or eclectic@mit.edu

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Deadlines for Spring issue

(covering March through June 1999)

Editorial and calendar: **February 1st**, inserts/flyers, February 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, write it up! Send articles, requests, inquiries, or announcements, preferably by e-mail with no formatting or attachments to:

lyrl@yahoo.com

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.