



# CDS Boston News

The Newsletter of the Country Dance Society, Boston Centre  
**Winter 2006-7**

*Deadline for Spring issue: February 1*

## **New England Dance Committee News**

On December 1, CDS Boston will co-sponsor a dance fundraiser produced by the Board of the Concord Scout House to help maintain the Concord Scout House. It's sure to be an enjoyable occasion. Sue Rosen will call, with music by Nightingale (Becky Tracy, playing fiddle; Keith Murphy playing mandolin, guitar, & feet; with Jeremiah McLean on piano and accordion). Admission is \$15 and \$10 for young people. Additional donations to support this fine community hall are invited (visit [www.concordscouthouse.org](http://www.concordscouthouse.org) on the web).

We'll have a 5th Saturday dance, December 30, just before New Year's eve. Lucia Watson will visit us from Rhode Island to call, and Roger Kahle plays guitar with a youthful ensemble: Geordie Lynd, fiddle; Chris Stevens, accordion & concertina. (Another Fifth Friday event is planned for March 30, 2007.)

The NEDC runs a 2nd Saturday dance series at the Scout House. On December 9, New Jerseyan caller Bob Issacs will visit us, with Jane Rothfield, playing fiddle, visiting from upstate New York, and Barb Kirchner, playing piano. On January 13, 2007, Heathen Creek will be on stage (Pete Johannsen, guitar; Mark Koyama, mandolin; Maia Rutman, fiddle); caller to be announced. For February and March events, check for flyers or see the CDS Boston web pages: [www.cds-boston.org/american](http://www.cds-boston.org/american)

—Mark Jones

## **Gala Holiday Party**

Once again we are happy to announce the Gala Holiday Party, with festive English dancing and the traditional elegant and extravagant desert buffet. With Rich Jackson as Dancing Master, the festivities begin at 7:30 PM on 6 January 2007 at the Concord Scout House. Music will be provided by a fantastic band composed of Karen Axelrod, Mary Lea, and Peter Barnes. Please note the slightly earlier start time. We look forward to seeing you there.

—Your hosts,

Lynn Jacobs & Francis Attanasio

## **Twenty-seventh Annual Playford Ball**

The Boston Centre's twenty-seventh annual Playford Ball will be held on Saturday, March 3, in lovely Dwight Hall, Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown MA. The ball will start at 8:00 PM with music by Bare Necessities. There will also be an afternoon workshop for ball attendees from 1:30 to 4:30 PM that day, also at the Perkins School.

The Playford Ball is a challenging evening of English country dancing, with talk-throughs only; there will be no teaching or walk-throughs at the ball. As such, it is best-suited for dancers well-familiar with both the figures and the dances on the program. Dances will be taught at the Wednesday night dances in the weeks leading up to the ball.

There will be two pre-ball workshops, Saturday,  
**Playford Ball, cont. on page 2**

## **Wednesday Series Update from the English Committee**

There have been a lot of changes lately on Wednesdays. Last year we acquired a new sound system and a new piano. This year we've been trying new things, including a new format, new lighting, new dance card (Members can buy a card for \$75, good for 12 dances—see the website for details), and the changes seem to be working. Attendance has been up and dancers are having lots of fun, judging from the happy faces we see week after week.

Lots of things are staying the same, too—we still have the same wonderful leaders and musicians, along with the occasional visitors. It's pretty hard to improve on those, when our local talent is among the very best in the country!

Check the CDSBC website for the most up-to-date information about who is leading or playing on any given week. Do come out and experience the changes for yourself, if you haven't already!

—Christine Robb

## English-Scottish Party

The annual English-Scottish Party will be held at the Church of Our Saviour, Monmouth Street, Brookline, at 2:30 on Sunday afternoon, February 4. This will be a delightful program of dances comfortable for English and Scottish dancers alike, with all dances talked through. Music will be by pianist Karen Axelrod and fiddler Anne Hooper. Graham Christian will MC the English dances; Marianne Taylor, the Scottish.

—Marianne Taylor

### Playford Ball, *cont. from page 1*

to 4:30 PM at the Park Avenue Congregation Church in Arlington Heights. These workshops provide the opportunity to focus on learning the ball dances and are open to all; friends unable to attend the ball are also welcome.

Dancers are invited to make a weekend of dancing in Boston the first weekend in February. In addition to Saturday afternoon's pre-ball workshop in Arlington on February 3, come to the First Friday Experienced Dance at Church of Our Saviour in Brookline on Friday, February 2, from 8:00 to 11:00 PM. On Sunday, February 4, the annual English-Scottish dance party takes place at 2:30 PM, also at Church of Our Saviour in Brookline.

For more information on the workshops, including dance leaders and musicians, and to register for the ball, please see the ball flyer included in this newsletter or look online at [www.cds-boston.org](http://www.cds-boston.org)

—Deb Karl

**[www.cds-boston.org](http://www.cds-boston.org)**  
**Office, (781) 662-6710**

## From Cal and Irene Howard—

Thank you to all the people who helped us celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary by coming to our party on Friday Sept 29th. We danced Scottish, English, Contras, and International dances, led by Jeanetta McColl, Helene Cornelius, Dan Pearl, and Marianne Taylor, with Marcie Van Cleave directing. This was held at the Park Ave Congregational Church in Arlington Heights, the site of the Wednesday night English dance. Many people came, including some friends from 50 years ago as well as new friends.

Music was provided by Sylvia Miskoe, John Chambers, Vince O'Donnell, and many sit-in musicians. The food was varied, with a trifle made by Evelyn Murray, spinakopita made by Paula Antipas, two fancy cakes made by Jeff Tacconi, and contributions of many sorts by many friends. Maureen Carey kept the tables filled up with the help of Jack Martin & others. Thank you to all the people who helped set up at the beginning and those who helped clean up at the end.

And thanks for all the cards that came that night as well as by mail and by e-mail and the telephone greetings and the many hugs. We are lucky to have so many friends who shared our special day.

## Call for nominations to the CDS Boston Centre Board

The Nominating Committee of CDS Boston appreciates hearing from any CDS Boston members who might be interested in becoming board members. Suggestions of potential candidates that the Nominating Committee may speak to about becoming board members are also most welcome. This year, we expect to need three to five new board members.

The nomination process usually comes to a conclusion by the end of January, and the actual elections for board membership conclude with the annual membership meeting in March. The standard term of office for a board member is two years.

The nominating committee at this date consists of Julian Cole, [greenmanjc@yahoo.com](mailto:greenmanjc@yahoo.com); Kim Barrett, [kab@acm.org](mailto:kab@acm.org); Susan Carr, [susan\\_carr@mac.com](mailto:susan_carr@mac.com); Jacqueline Barnard, [jacqbarnard@verizon.net](mailto:jacqbarnard@verizon.net)

—Mark Jones

# Boston Centre Program

Info: [www.cds-boston.org](http://www.cds-boston.org) or (781) 662-6710

## \* Addresses of Frequent Dance Locations \*

Park Avenue Congregational Church, Park Avenue and Paul Revere Road, Arlington Heights  
Scout House, 74 Walden St., Concord • Church of Our Saviour, Carlton and Monmouth Streets, Brookline

## English Country Dance

### Wednesdays

Park Avenue Congregational Church. 7:30-10:30 PM.  
Music by Bare Necessities (Peter Barnes, Earl Gaddis, Mary Lea, Jacqueline Schwab) & others. \$7 members; \$9 non-members, \$4 students & beginners. For directions & schedule of dance leaders, [www.cds-boston.org](http://www.cds-boston.org)

### First Fridays for Experienced Dancers

October to June

Church of Our Saviour.\* 8:15-11 PM. For dancers thoroughly familiar with basic English Country Dance figures. All dances taught. \$9; \$7 CDS members

**December 1:** Linda Nelson with Joyce Crouch

**January 5:** Helene Cornelius with Jacqueline Schwab

**February 2:** Michael Cicone with the Shandy Hall String Quartet

**March 2:** Graham Christian with Jacqueline Schwab

**2nd and 4th Friday Harvard Square English Series.** (Resumes in September). **No dance on Friday after Thanksgiving and 4th Friday in December.** Harvard-Epworth Methodist Church, 1555 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge. Students (with ID) \$3, non-students \$6, CDS members \$5. Info: <http://www.cds-boston.org/friday.html>

### Party Format Dances on Wednesdays

**Nov 22,** Thanksgiving Party

**Dec 27,** Midwinter party

### Special Events

#### Saturday, January 6

#### CDS-Boston Centre Gala English Holiday Party.

Concord Scout House. 7:30-11 PM

#### Saturday, February 3

**Pre-ball workshop.** Park Avenue Congregational Church.\* 1:30 to 4:30 PM

#### Sunday, February 4

Annual English-Scottish Party. Church of Our Saviour.\* 2:30 PM. Program of dances comfortable for English & Scottish dancers alike, with all dances talked through. Graham Christian (English) & Marianne Taylor (Scottish), with Karen Axelrod and a fiddler to be announced

#### February 25

**Pre-ball workshop.** Park Avenue Congregational Church.\* 1:30 to 4:30 PM

#### Saturday, March 3

**The Boston Centre's Twenty-Seventh Annual Playford Ball.** Dwight Hall, Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown MA. Begins at 8 PM. Bare Necessities. Afternoon workshop for ball attendees from 1:30-4:30 PM. Preregistration required

## New England Dance

Info: (857) 499-8907, CDS Boston phone (781) 662-6710, [markjones@busybusy.org](mailto:markjones@busybusy.org), [www.cdsboston.org/american](http://www.cdsboston.org/american), [nedc@cds-boston.org](mailto:nedc@cds-boston.org)  
Email announcement list: [groups.yahoo.com/group/concord-dance](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/concord-dance)

Concord Scout House.\* Admission for most dances: \$7 members; \$9 non-members, \$5 under 21

### First Friday

#### December 1

**Concord Scout House Fundraiser Contra Dance.** A production of the Board of the Concord Scout House; co-sponsored by CDS Boston. Net proceeds support maintenance and operations of the Concord Scout House. 8-11 PM. Sue Rosen with Nightingale (Jeremiah McLean - keyboard, accordion, Becky Tracy - fiddle, Keith Murphy - mandolin, guitar, feet). \$15; \$10 for young people.

### Second Saturday Series

#### December 9

8 PM. Bob Isaacs with Jane Rothfield - fiddle, Barb Kirchner - piano

#### January 13

8 PM. Caller TBA with Heathen Creek (Pete Johansen - guitar, Mark Koyama - mandolin, Maia Rutman - fiddle)

#### February 10 and March 10

8 PM. Performers To Be Announced

### Fifth Friday

#### March 30

8 PM. Performers To Be Announced

### Fifth Saturday

#### December 30

8 PM. Lucia Watson with Geordie Lynd -fiddle; Chris Stevens - accordion /concertina; Ross Kahle - bodhran / whistles; Roger Kahle - guitar

### Special Events

**November 25** (Thanksgiving Saturday)

**Craft Faire.** 10 AM to 4:30 PM. Artists and craftmakers selling their creations. Admission free

## Other Regular Boston Area Dances

Call first to check details and directions

### MONDAYS

**Yankee Ingenuity Scout House Contra Series.** Concord Scout House. 7:30-10:30 PM. Various callers and guest musicians; Yankee Ingenuity is Peter Barnes, Mary Lea, Cal Howard, and Jack O'Connor. \$8-10, students \$5. Info: (781) 272-0396 or (978) 369-1232

**Scottish Country Dancing.** Springstep, Medford. 7:45-10:15 PM. Live music. \$7, \$4 student. Info: Laura Billmers, (781) 862-1950 or billmers@rcn.com or see [www.rscdsboston.org](http://www.rscdsboston.org)

### TUESDAYS

Every Tuesday, Sept 12 to Oct 31 and Feb to Mar 2007; otherwise, 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

**Contra Dance for All @ MIT.** Sponsored by MIT Folk Dance Club & Music-for-Robin. Sit-in musicians always welcome. All welcome, no experience, partner or affiliation needed. 8-10:30 PM. Band sit-ins welcome. \$6, MIT & Wellesley students free. No partner needed, all dances taught. Park in N10 Lot on Albany Street just east of Mass. Ave, or in the West Annex Lot on Vassar Street just west of Mass. Ave (no permit required at night). Prospective callers & musicians, contact [acowan3@earthlink.net](mailto:acowan3@earthlink.net) or (617) 354-0864. Info: (617) 354-0864, MIT Folk Dance Club (617) 253-FOLK, or [mit.edu/fdc/www/contr.html](http://mit.edu/fdc/www/contr.html)

**November 14,** Ann Cowan with Contra Loco (Pan Chan, Phil Pitha & Barb Kirchner), Student Center 491 (4th Floor). **November 28, Thanksgiving Dance,** Barb Kirchner with The Dixie Butterhounds, Student Center 491 (4th Floor). **December 12, Holiday Dance,** Student Center 491 (4th Floor)

2nd & 4th Tuesdays. **Boston Gender Free English Country Dance.** (Experienced on 5th Tuesday) First Church of Jamaica Plain UU, Centre & Eliot Sts. 7:30-10 PM. Come at 6:30 PM with a brown bag dinner & socialize! Various leaders. \$7. Info: (617) 522-2216 (Janet) or (617) 512-5554 (John), or [www.lcfd.org/bgfe/](http://www.lcfd.org/bgfe/)

### THURSDAYS

**New England Contrás & Squares.** Concord Scout House. 7:30-10:30 PM. \$8, \$5 students. September callers: 9/7 Lisa Greenleaf, 9/14 Sue Rosen, 9/21 Dan Pearl, 9/28 NEFFA Contra. Info: NEFFA, (781) 662-6710; Cal, (781) 272-0396; Dan, (508) 229-2854; or [www.neffa.org/Thurs.html](http://www.neffa.org/Thurs.html)

### FRIDAYS

2nd Fridays. **Contrás, Squares, & Couple Dances.** Unitarian Church in Carlisle MA. 8:00-10:30 PM, pot-luck at 6:30. Walter Lenk with O'Connor's Mob. \$5. Info: (617) 547-7781 or (978) 369-3353

3rd Fridays through June. **Roaring Jelly: Contrás and Squares.** 1st Parish Church, 7 Harrington Road, Lexington MA. Beginners 7:45, dance 8-11 PM. Susan Elberger with Debby Knight. \$6. Info: (781) 944-3544, [RoaringJelly@hotmail.com](mailto:RoaringJelly@hotmail.com) or [www.trillian.mit.edu/~jcl/RJ.html](http://www.trillian.mit.edu/~jcl/RJ.html)

Third Fridays. **Renaissance Dance for Everyone.** Jewett Hall, First Church Congregational, Mason & Garden Streets, Cambridge MA. 7:30 PM. Ken Pierce with Renaissonics, led by John Tyson. No experience necessary; no partner needed. \$8. Info: (617) 661-3353 or [www.earlymusicboston.com](http://www.earlymusicboston.com)

### SATURDAYS

**New England Contrás & Squares.** Concord Scout House. 8-11 PM. \$8; \$6, teenagers.

**1st Sat.** Various callers & bands. Check for flyers. Often Swing Dances, sometimes Contra or English events.

**2nd Sat.** New England Dance Committee, CDS Boston Centre. See page 6

**3rd Sat.** Beth Parkes with Swinging on a Gate. Info: (978) 667-7459

**4th Sat.** Walter Lenk with Jack O'Connor and Debby Knight. (617) 547-7781 or (978) 369-1232

**Gender Role-Free New England Contra & Square Dances.** 1st Church of Jamaica Plain (Unitarian-Universalist), Corner of Centre & Eliot Sts. 7:30-11 PM unless noted. \$5 before 8 PM, \$6 after. Info: Janet, (617) 522-2216; Peter, (617) 971-0828; or Chris (617) 469-4732; or [www.lcfd.org/jp/](http://www.lcfd.org/jp/)

**1st Saturday Contrádances.** Melrose Unitarian Universalist Church, 70 W. Emerson St., Melrose. 7-10 PM. Info: [Cammydance@earthlink.net](mailto:Cammydance@earthlink.net) or [www.home.earthlink.net/~manystrings/](http://www.home.earthlink.net/~manystrings/)

### SUNDAYS

**Scottish Country Dance.** Church of Our Saviour, Carleton & Monmouth Sts., Brookline. 6:30-8:30 PM. \$4. Info: (617) 325-6657

## Outside the Boston Area

*Call before you travel*

### Contras

#### Greenfield MA

3rd Friday. **Contra dance at the Guiding Star Grange.** 401 Chapman St. 8 PM-midnight. \$6. Info: (802) 254-2874 or bromczak@sover.net

#### South Amherst MA

Swallowtail second Saturday dance discontinued  
4th Saturday. **Contra Dance.** Callers Susan Conger, Susie Secco, guests. 8:30 PM. \$6. Info: Susan, (413) 367-9269 or sconger@shaysnet.com

#### Deerfield NH

1st Saturdays (beginning October 7 thru May). **Deerfield New England Country Dances.** Town Hall, Deerfield. 8-11 PM. Info: Marianne Taylor, (603) 463-7771

#### Cape Cod MA

For general information about the following dances, contact shabam@ais.net

1st Saturday. **Contra Dance.** Woods Hole Community Hall, Main St., Woods Hole. Info: (508) 548-6229 or 548-6661

2nd Saturday. **Contra Dance.** Freedom Hall, 976 Main St., Cotuit. Info: (508) 563-6750

3rd Saturday. **Contra Dance.** East Sandwich Grange, Old County Rd., Sandwich. Info: (508) 563-6934

5th Saturday. **Contra Dance.** North Falmouth Congregational Church, 155 Main Rd., N. Falmouth.

## English Country Dance

#### Cape Cod MA

3rd Friday, *except Dec.* **Lively and Elegant English Country Dance on Cape Cod.** East Sandwich Grange, 85 Old County Road, East Sandwich MA. Priscilla Adams & Linda Nelson with Jan Elliott & friends. \$8, \$6 students & seniors. Info: (508) 540-1151

#### South Amherst MA

at the Munson Library, [www.amherstecd.org](http://www.amherstecd.org)

#### MONDAYS

**English Country Dancing.** Robin Hayden with live music. \$6. Info: Robin at (413) 256-8260 or [www.amherstecd.org](http://www.amherstecd.org)

#### SATURDAYS

1st Saturday. **Amherst Assembly.** 7:45-10:45 PM. Graham Christian with various musicians. Special refreshments. \$7. Info: [bray1699@yahoo.com](mailto:bray1699@yahoo.com)

3rd Saturday. **Pleasures of the Town English Country Dance.** 7:30-10:30 PM. Music, Joyce Crouch, piano, & Doug Creighton, flute & melodeon, with guest musicians. \$7. Info: (413) 253-3828, [madrobin@rcn.com](mailto:madrobin@rcn.com), or [amherstecd.org](http://amherstecd.org)

**November 18,** Michael Cicone; **December 16,** Brad Foster; **January 20,** Tom Roby

#### West Kingston RI

#### SATURDAYS

**English Country Dancing.** Courthouse Center for the Arts, 3481 Kingston Rd., West Kingston RI. 7:30-10:30 PM. Live music, guest callers. \$10 Courthouse members; \$12 non-members. Info: (401) 539-3009 or [www.CourthouseArts.org](http://www.CourthouseArts.org)

**Nov. 25,** Priscilla Adams; **Jan. 27,** Sue Rosen;

**Feb. 10,** Michael Cicone; **Feb. 24,** Barbara Finney;

**Mar. 24,** Gary Roodman

#### New Hampshire

#### SUNDAYS

2nd Sunday, Sept.-June. **English Country Dance in New Hampshire.** Concord NH: Presidential Oaks (Odd Fellows Home), Minot St. off Pleasant. 5:30-8 PM.

Marianne Taylor calling. \$7, \$6 members. Info: Dave Bateman (603) 433-2735, Marianne Taylor (603) 463-7771 or [taylorgorman@juno.com](mailto:taylorgorman@juno.com), or [www.NHECDS.org](http://www.NHECDS.org)

#### Connecticut

Fridays. **English Country Dance.** New Haven CT. Neighborhood Music School Recital Hall, 100 Auburn St. 8-10:30 PM. \$8. Info: (203) 776-6929

## For Those Who Travel

### December

8-10

**Lisa Greenleaf and the Latter Day Lizards.** Ann Arbor MI. Mostly contras and squares. Info: Gretchen (734) 747-8148, Fae (248) 288-4737, [http://www.aactmad.org/sa/fourth sat.html](http://www.aactmad.org/sa/fourth%20sat.html), [contradance@umich.edu](mailto:contradance@umich.edu), [gpreston@gretchenshouse.com](mailto:gpreston@gretchenshouse.com), or [ffuerst@juno.com](mailto:ffuerst@juno.com)

### January

5-7

**A Weekend with Colin Hume.** St. Louis MO. Info: Paul Stamler at [pstamler@pobox.com](mailto:pstamler@pobox.com) or <http://members.aol.com/paradiseMO/english.html>

### February

17

**Jane Austen/Napoleonic Ball.** Canberra. Part of Australia's National Multicultural Festival. Info: [www.earthdelights.com.au/upcoming.htm](http://www.earthdelights.com.au/upcoming.htm)

## CDS Board Members

### Officers

President - Judy Erickson  
Vice President - Nikki Herbst  
Treasurer - Ralph Jones  
Clerk - Kim Barrett  
President Elect - Mark Jones

### CDS Board Members

Graham Christian, Susan Carr, Cortni Frecha, Hal Wagner, Jacqueline Barnard, Julian Cole, Otavia Propper, Lanier Smythe, Mark Ward, one vacancy

### Non-Board Positions

#### Nominating Committee

Julian Cole Kim Barrett Susan Carr, two vacancies

#### Pinewoods Camp, Inc., Board Representative

Ruth Reiner

## To update the CDS Boston Web pages

Christine Robb <[webmaster@cds-boston.org](mailto:webmaster@cds-boston.org)>

General CDS Boston site

English Dance Committee pages

Special Events, Camps

Cortni Frechna <[cortni@arrowmaker.org](mailto:cortni@arrowmaker.org)>

Mark Jones <[markjones@busybusy.org](mailto:markjones@busybusy.org)>

New England Dance Committee

Dan Pearl <[daniel\\_pearl@yahoo.com](mailto:daniel_pearl@yahoo.com)>

CDS Boston ECD Collection recordings

## Boston Email Lists of Interest

There are several community email discussion or announcement lists may interest the CDS Boston membership.

**CDSBC-Open (CDS Boston Centre Open List)** is intended to announce events produced by other organizations that may interest our membership, especially one-time English or Renaissance dance events, musical performances, plus other events, and community announcements. Moderated by chairs of the CDS-BC English and American committees. About three items a month. Event announcements are invited. - Join via web: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cdsbc-open> - subscribe by email: [cdsbc-open-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:cdsbc-open-subscribe@yahoo.com) - send announcements to: [cdsbc-open-owner@yahoo.com](mailto:cdsbc-open-owner@yahoo.com)

**CDSBC-English-Discussion** is a public discussion and announcement list for all things English around Boston. Membership is approved by a moderator, only subscribers may post. About 60 subscribers at present; unmoderated, about five messages a month lately. - Join via the web: <http://groups.google.com/group/cdsbc-english-discussion> (and click on "join this group")

**BACC (Boston Area Contra Community)** is a public discussion and community email list for all things contra-dance: style, ride sharing, event news, and so on. Only members may post, traffic is about 50 messages a month; there are about 100 subscribers, the list is unmoderated - Join via web: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bostonareacontracommunity> - subscribe by email: [bostonareacontracommunity-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:bostonareacontracommunity-subscribe@yahoo.com)

**Concord-dance** is an announcement-only list. The New England Dance committee and the (non-CDS Boston) Challenging Contra Dance Committee announce their dances on this list, plus occasional community news announcements. (The NEDC committee also announces to the CDS Boston membership list, so the Concord-dance list may duplicate items for CDS Boston Members). Moderated: about five announcements a month. - Join via web: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/concord-dance> - subscribe by email: [concord-dance-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:concord-dance-subscribe@yahoo.com)

**TNDC\_notify** is an announcement-only list for the weekly Thursday Contra dance (currently in Concord) run by the New England Folk Festival Association's Thursday Night Dance Committee. Moderated, five announcements a month - Join via web: [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tndc\\_notify](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tndc_notify) - subscribe by email: [tndc\\_notify-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:tndc_notify-subscribe@yahoo.com)

— Mark Jones

## An Editorial From the Seacoast Country Dance Newsletter

In recent days it's been seeming distinctly like late fall, with colder windy weather, power going out in places due to the wind even, many of the leaves blowing off the trees, and even mention of snow in the forecast; although so far only in connection with places further north than here. That means that winter is coming, and that means it's getting towards time for our own local dance weekend, the Ralph Page Dance Legacy Weekend. It's always the weekend before Martin Luther King Day, and this year that makes it Jan. 12–14, a bit earlier than usual.

For those of you who haven't been before, it's a weekend of excellent music and excellent dancing; many people who go end up saying it's the best dancing of the year, and I think just about everyone agrees the music is about as good as it gets. This year we have Tony Parkes and Carol Ormand calling. Carol is a Midwestern caller of the more modern variety, but one who appreciates the older traditions as well. Where she comes from the contra dance tradition is much newer, having been brought there largely by people from around here who moved away in the late 1970's and 1980's and lamented the lack of contra dancing, so decided to start it themselves—quite different from living in an area where it's been going on since colonial days! (They had their own local square dance traditions I believe, but those were probably largely gone at that time.)

So a while ago Dudley had a party to celebrate 50 years of calling. Carol came out specially for the party; I believe she was living in Minnesota at the time. We wondered why one of the dynamic, more modern dance callers wanted to come over a thousand miles to New Hampshire just for a party! The answer was to see something that was perfectly normal to us, but that just couldn't happen where she comes from. It was a great party, with many of the best musicians and callers from New England and beyond having shown up as well as many excellent dancers.

At the appropriate time we took a break, and of course we all knew what came after the break. Some people started lining up as it seemed like it might be time for the dancing to begin again, as often used to happen in many New Hampshire town halls for exactly the same reason. No one seemed to be ready to call or get things organized so eventually some musicians showed up. They knew what they were supposed to do too, and they started playing Money Musk. Teresa and I had been busy socializing and heard the music, and jumped up and ran over to join the line. Somehow the long set figured out who was active. We didn't need a caller since we all knew the dance. Maybe we called the dance ourselves; I can't remember. But we had a great time dancing it in a very long set that ran the length of the hall and into the study, all dancing forward and back together, almost like it had been orchestrated. And that was what Carol had come for: to see and experience the situation in which everyone just knew the dances and after the break Money Musk would just automatically happen without anyone telling people to line up or teaching it. It was so normal to us, and worth a trip across the country to her! I always liked Carol, but that's when we knew we had more in common than we might have imagined.

Tony, of course, most of you should be at least somewhat familiar with. If not, he's calling in Deerfield this month. Tony has to be one of the great callers, and is one of the few people left with strong ties to many of the old-time callers and musicians; especially one of the few left who is still relatively young. He has done some of the best, most interesting workshops ever at the Ralph Page Weekend over the years, and calls some marvelous dances such as the Deer Park Lancers.

—Peter Yarensky, *Editor*  
by permission

*Forwarded by George Fogg*

CDS Boston Centre  
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Permit #58340

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**Deadline for Spring issue: February 1**  
Covers from February through June

**CDS Boston Centre  
Meetings**

All meetings are open, and all members are welcome. Please ask a committee member or officer for date, time, and place—or call the office.

**Boston Centre's website:**  
**[www.cds-boston.org](http://www.cds-boston.org)**

**Office telephone:**  
**(781) 662-6710**

**Communicating with  
the Board**

If you are planning an event or some other matter requiring consideration by the CDS Boston Centre Board, please send a brief summary to:

**[president@cds-boston.org](mailto:president@cds-boston.org)**

or

to the above left corner address

**To Contact the Editor**

If you are planning an event, write it up! Send articles or announcements by e-mail to

**[editor@cds-boston.org](mailto:editor@cds-boston.org)**

Phone Art Anger, (617) 795-0698  
to arrange delivery of flyers