

CDS Boston News

The Newsletter of the Country Dance Society, Boston Centre

Winter 2011-12

CDS-Boston Centre Gala Holiday Party - Save the Date!

What better way to ring in the new year? Mark your calendar once again for CDS-Boston Centre's annual English Country Dance Gala Holiday Party, to be held at the Scout House on Saturday, January 7, 2012. We again welcome celebrated out-of-town caller Joanna Reiner, who will teach all of the dances. Fabulous music will be provided by Mary Lea, Peter Barnes, and Karen Axelrod. Festive attire is encouraged, and yes, we will of course again be serving an elegant dessert buffet. Admission is \$15.00 at the door (\$5.00 for students with a valid ID, no advance ticket sales). For more information call Lynn Jacobs at 978-505-5970.

Saturday, January 7, 2012
7:30 – 11:00PM
Concord Scout House
74 Walden Street
Concord, MA

Boston Playford Ball Saturday, March 3, 2012

The English Dance Committee is pleased to present CDS-Boston's thirty-first annual Boston Playford Ball on Saturday, March 3rd, 2012 in Nevins Hall, Memorial Building, 150 Concord Street, Framingham, MA. The ball will start at 8:00 p.m. with music by Bare Necessities: Peter Barnes, Mary Lea, Earl Gaddis, and Jacqueline Schwab. There will also be an afternoon workshop for ball attendees from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. that day in Nevins Hall, led by Barbara Finney and Rick Jackson with music by Joyce Crouch and Lydia Ievins.

The Playford Ball is an evening of challenging 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 three pre-ball workshops: Saturday, February 4th; Sunday, February 12th; and Sunday, February 26th, all from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Park Avenue Congregational Church, Arlington Heights. Helene Cornelius will lead the February 4th workshop, accompanied by Jacqueline Schwab; Rick Jackson will teach on February 12th, accompanied by Joyce Crouch; and Barbara Finney will teach the final pre-ball workshop on February 26th, accompanied by Joyce Crouch. 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.

For more information on the workshops and the ball weekend, and to register for the ball, please see the ball flyer in this newsletter and online at www.cds-boston.org. Some scholarships are available; please contact registrar@cds-boston.org if you are interested.

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Since 1915

The Country Dance Society, Boston Centre, Inc. works to preserve and promote the knowledge and practice of the traditional and contemporary dance and dance music of England and New England. The Boston Centre sponsors and produces classes, parties, workshops, and residential and special events featuring the best performers and practitioners of English and New England country dancing. Events are open to all, and most feature teaching; no experience or partner is required.

CDS Boston Center Newsletter submission deadlines:

January 20, 2012

mailing is approximately 10 days after the deadline

To update the CDS Boston Web pages

General CDS Boston site,
English Dance Committee pages,
Special Events, Camp Sessions:
Christine Robb webmaster@cds-boston.org

New England Dance Committee:
Cortni Frecha cf@cortnifrecha.com
Mark Jones markrdjones@gmail.com

CDS Boston ECD Collection recordings:
Dan Pearl daniel_pearl@yahoo.com

Join the Country Dance Society of Boston Centre!

Benefits include reduced admission to dances and events, a newsletter, preferred admission to dance camp sessions, and more. Discounts available for students, seniors, and organizations.

Inquire via membership@cds-boston.org or at
www.cds-boston.org/membership-form.html

Need to look up a dance or venue?

Try one of these resources:

www.cds-boston.org
www.contradancelinks.com
www.facone.org/fdrb/home/
www.TheDanceGypsy.com
www.dancedb.com/dancedb

Country Dance Society, Boston Centre, Inc.

Officers, Directors, and non-board offices

As of April 2010

Term Limits:

President: One term. Elected via a four-year series of presidential offices: President Elect (1 year), President (2 years), Past President (1 year).

Other Board offices: Limit of two complete two-year terms (partial terms are not counted).

* denotes term-limited, and may not be re-elected to the same office. Year denotes term expiration.

Board Members

- 1) 2013 Mark Ward - Term #1
- 2) 2013 Jaqueline Barnard - Term #1
- 3) 2013 Mark Jones - Term #1
- 4) 2013* Maureen Carey - Term #2
- 5) 2013 vacant
- 6) 2012* Mitch Diamond - Term #2
- 7) 2012 Neil McMullen - Term #1
- 8) 2012 Susan Gere - Term #0 (partial term)
- 9) 2012 Daniel Friedman - Term #1
- 10) 2012 Mies Boet-Whittaker - Term #1

Board Officers

- 11) 2013 President: Diane Gonzales
- 12) 2012 Vice Pres: Erika Roderick - Term #0 (partial)
- 13) 2013 Treasurer: Judy Erickson - Term #1
- 14) 2012 Clerk: Nora Smith - Term #1
- 15) 2012 Past President: Judy Erickson

Non-Board Positions - Elected or Appointed

Nominating Committee

Member Elected, Board Nominates (3 year terms)

- 1) 2012 Judy Erickson - Term #1
- 2) 2013 Mitch Diamond - Term #1
- 3) 2014 vacant

Board Elected, from the Board (2 year terms)

- 4) 2011 vacant
- 5) 2010 vacant

Pinewoods Camp, Inc. Board Representative

CDS Boston Center Nominates, PCI Board Elects

- 1) 2013 * Mark Ward: Term #2 (three-year term)

English Dance & Song Magazine turns Seventy-five

September 1936 the first issue of EDS was published replacing the EFDS News. The English Dance & Song has been published continuously for 75 years in good times and bad. This first issue was edited by Joan Sharp, Cecil Sharp's daughter.

If you would like to read the first issue, it is on line at www.efdss.org at the top of the home page click on Publications – then scroll to the bottom and to English Dance & Song volume number 1 (1936).

George Fogg

Contributing to the Newsletter

The editor welcomes all submissions of articles, stories about dance, poems, photos and event announcements. Send items to:
editor@cds-boston.org.

9th Annual Commonwealth Morris MidWinter Celebration

A Wintery Program of Traditional Song, Dance, Drama, and Storytelling, Wednesday, January 25, 2012, 7:30PM - 9:30PM. Refreshments & visiting after the show.

First Unitarian Society of Newton (FUSN),
1326 Washington Street, West Newton, MA
www.fusn.org.

Admission is Free! This event is offered as a gift to our community of friends, families, and the FUSN congregation (Dessert contributions are welcome). Performances by (among others):

Banbury Cross Morris & Sword
Faux Finnish
The Commonwealth Morris Men

FUSN is at the corner of Washington Street and Highland Street in West Newton.

For more information:
www.commonwealthmorris.com/mwc.html
or email squire@commonwealthmorris.com

See our website for more information about us, as well as for some action photos of Morris and Rapper Sword dancing.

Nominations for the Board of Directors of CDS-Boston Centre

Annual elections are held in March for positions on the Board of Directors, including officers. This year we seek at least two new board members and a president elect. The Board has been working hard this year on financial governance: establishing financial procedures, clearer oversight of financial transactions, moving toward a consolidated budgeting process, and re-establishing a regular financial review. If you have an interest in serving on the Board, in any capacity, please contact Judy Erickson (978-425-4877), or Mitch Diamond (781-391-4951).

Orion Longsword 25th Anniversary

Orion Longsword has been dancing for twenty-five years. The first event of their year-long celebration was held on Saturday November 12, 2011 in Boston and Cambridge. Like an ale, there were performances in public spaces, a pub stop and a dinner and dance in the evening.

Teams attending the celebration tour and dinner/dance were Half Moon Sword of New York City, Still River Sword of Harvard MA, Pinewoods Morris Men of Greater Boston, Marlboro Sword of Marlboro, VT, and That Long Tall Sword of Amherst, MA.

Orion's dances range from traditional to modern, drawing influences from English traditions, Appalachian stepping, and jazz. Many know them as the choreographers and performers of a longsword dance to the jazz tune "Take 5."

The Orion band is an eclectic mix of musicians and instruments - from melodeon, concertina, accordion and guitar to whistles, mandolin, bouzouki, banjo and saxophones. The band recently performed at the Boston Celtic Music Festival.

Five original, founding members continue to dance on the Orion team. Orion also has members who have danced 10 or 15 years, and several dancers or musicians who weren't born yet when the team began.

Boston Intergenerational Dance Advocates

BIDA is a Boston-area group dedicated to promoting involvement in traditional dance and connecting generations by:

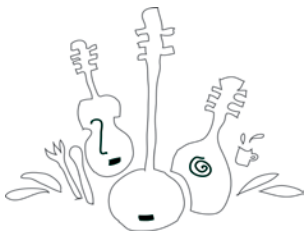
- Encouraging dance musicians and callers
- Promoting intergenerational dancing
- Fostering growth in the traditional dance community
- Providing opportunities and resources for dance organizing
- Providing financially and logistically accessible events
- Providing educational and mentoring opportunities
- Building community through social events

BIDA's founders hoped to create an organization which would strengthen community ties and provide opportunities for dancers, musicians, callers, and dance organizers to share knowledge and energy between generations.

After an extensive search, BIDA has settled in the Masonic Hall in Cambridge. In addition to having a large stage, a great floor, and a disco ball, this hall is less than a block from the Porter Square T station!

BIDA now runs a monthly dance at the Masonic Hall on third Sundays, as well as parties, jam sessions, workshops, and special event dances at various locations. To keep up-to-date on BIDA events, please join its mailing list bida@bidadance.org

For more information and event listings go to www.bidadance.org



I do not dance because I am happy,
I am happy because I dance. - Anon.

Gender Free Dancing in Boston

Lavender Country Folk Dancers (LCFD) is an umbrella organization forming a loosely knit group of gender-free dance clubs. (Sometimes the expression is “gender neutral,” “gender role free,” or “role optional”). It conducts events that encompass several dance traditions.

Jamaica Plain is home to both Contra and English Country Dances in a gender-role free environment. The dances are friendly and welcoming to all. Dances are held at First Church at the corner of Centre and Eliot Streets. Admission is \$10, \$6 for students, with a sliding scale.

LCFD's mission is to:

Organize and run dance camps, which are multiple-day events usually occurring at a rustic site.

Promote and support gender-free traditional dancing (contra, square, English country, and folk) primarily, but not exclusively, for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer dancers and friends.

Promote and support dance leaders, musicians, organizations, and others who support gender-free dancing, whenever possible.

LCFD is a non-profit organization that occasionally raises money for the purpose of supporting its activities. (For example, a very popular food booth at NEFFA.)

Why dance without gender roles? Gender-free dancing includes and celebrates all the dancers, and emphasizes the balance and symmetry of the dances. In dancing with everyone else, it creates community, both on and off the dance floor: our dancers move together to make it all happen. This approach was put forward by Carl Wittman (1943-1986), who recognized that dancers didn't need to be divided into male-female couples. English Country Dance, with its attention to symmetries of form, is especially suitable to gender-free dancing: each dancer in every position has an important role to play. The caller describes movement in ways that de-emphasize gender roles and couples, and uses simple cue words based on position.

For more information and event listings go to www.lcfd.org

Boston Centre Program

Info: www.cds-boston.org or (781)-591-2372

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

English Country Dance

Wednesdays

September through June
Park Ave. Congregational Church, 7:30–10:30;

A mix of elegantly simple to challenging dances, ranging from traditional to contemporary. Most dances will be walked through, with teaching as needed. One or two may be prompted only, not walked through.

English Dance Basics are offered before the dance at 7:10.

Admission:

Newcomers and students \$4
Members \$7, Non-members \$9
12 admission Dance Card \$75.00

The Dance Card is valid at all Wednesday dances for one year from the date of purchase and can be shared with friends and family.

Volunteers are always needed. Ask the door manager.



First Fridays for Experienced Dancers

October through May
Church of Our Saviour. 8-11 PM.

For dancers thoroughly familiar with basic English Country Dance figures. All dances taught.
\$10; \$8 CDS members

See the First Friday flyer or www.cds-boston.org for leaders and musicians.

Info: Deb Karl 617-721-0600

Harvard Square Dance 2nd & 4th Fridays

7:30 - 9:30pm; September through June

Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church
1555 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA
\$7 general, \$6 members, \$4 students. View flyer for leaders and musicians. www.cds-boston.org/friday.html

New England Contra Dance

Committee contact: 857-499-8907
Email: nedc@cds-boston.org

Special Events

Thanksgiving Eve Contra Dance, Nov. 23
8pm, Town Hall, Peterborough, NH
www.monadnockfolk.org

Thanksgiving Night Contra Dance, Nov. 24
7-10pm, First Parish Church, 14 Bedford Rd, Lincoln, MA. www.firstparishinlincoln.org/

English/Contra Dance, Nov. 26
7:30pm, Brad Foster calling to Dave Langford and Karen Axlerod. Masonic Hall, 1950 Mass Ave, Cambridge, MA. www.bidadance.org

36th Annual Christmas Cotillion, Dec. 11
6:45-10:30pm, Tony Parkes and Spare Parts. Concord Scout House, Concord, MA

New Year's Eve Contra Dance, Dec. 31
Concord Scout House, Concord, MA
www.facone.org/fdrb

Holiday Gala English Country Dance,
Jan. 7, 2012
Concord Scout House, Concord, MA

Snow Ball, Jan. 21, 2012
Town Hall, Peterborough, NH
www.monadnockfolk.org

Other Regular Boston Area Dances and Events

Mondays

Contras. Concord Scout House, 7:30-10:30 PM.
Various callers and musicians. Adults \$8 (\$5 after
9:30pm); Age 22 (and under) \$5
Info: 978-369-1232 or 781-272-0396
<http://mondaycontras.com/>

Scottish Country Dancing. Springstep, Medford.
7:45-10:15 PM. Live music. \$8, \$4. Party dances:
Members \$10, non-members \$12. billmers@rcn.com,
www.rscdsboston.org

Tuesdays

Frequent Tuesdays
Contra Dance for All @ MIT, Cambridge, MA. 8-10:30PM
All welcome, no experience or partner needed. Band
sit-ins welcome. \$6, MIT & Wellesley students free, oth-
er students \$3. Prospective callers & musicians, contact
fdc-request@mit.edu or (617) 354-0864.
Info: (617) 354-0864
MIT Folk Dance Club (617) 253-FOLK,
<http://mit.edu/fdc/www/contr.html>

2nd, 4th & 5th Tuesdays.
Boston Gender Free English Country Dance.
(Experienced Dance on 5th Tuesday)
First Church of Jamaica Plain UU, Centre & Eliot Sts.
Jamaica Plain, Boston, MA
7:30-10 PM. Come at 7:00 PM with a brown bag dinner
& socialize! Various leaders. \$7. www.lcfd.org/bgfe/
Info: Janet (617) 522-2216 or John (617) 512-5554

Thursdays

New England Contrás & Squares. Concord Scout
House. 7:30-10:30 PM. \$8, \$5 students.
Info: NEFFA, (781) 662-6710;
Dan, (508) 229-2854;
www.neffa.org/Thurs.html

Fridays

1st Fridays Oct – May. Challenging Contrás at the
Concord Scout House. 8 – 11PM. For experienced
dancers. \$9.
www.tiac.net/~mabaker/challenging-contras.html

2nd Fridays Sept – June. Contrás, Squares, & Couple
Dances. Unitarian Church, 27 School St, Carlisle MA
8-10:30 PM, potluck at 6:30. Sue Rosen, Walter Lenk
with O'Connor's Mob. \$5. Info: (617) 547-7781
www.configular.com

3rd Fridays Sept – 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. \$7, Teens \$5, Children
under 12 free with parent. \$20 family max.
Info: (781) 944-3544,
RoaringJelly@comcast.net, <http://roaringjelly.org>

Saturdays

1st Saturdays Sept – May. Mostly Squares, 8 – 11 PM.
Payson Park Church, 365 Belmont Street, Belmont, MA
\$5-\$10 (pay what you can) Tony Parkes, calling, music
by Amy Cann and friends. Desserts & snacks welcome.
www.hands4.com/1stSatSquares or 978-667-7459

1st Saturdays Sept – June. Medway Contra Dance,
7:30–10:30pm. Christ Episcopal Church, School Street,
Medway, MA. \$7 adults, \$3 teens, 12 and under free.
www.contradancelinks.com/medway.html
medwaycontras@gmail.com; 508-429-1773 Shelley

1st Saturday Contra Dance Berlin, MA 8-10:30 PM
Admission: \$5 per person or \$12 max per family
Berlin Town Hall, 2nd floor, 12 Woodward Ave.
Info: 978-273-8238

2nd & 4th Sat. 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. \$10, \$6 students. www.lcfd.org/jp/
Info: Chris (617) 852-4042 or (781)-982-8042
jp-dance@lcfd.org

**3rd Saturday Contra Dances, Melrose Unitarian
Universalist Church, 70 W. Emerson St., Melrose. \$6.**
7-10 PM. Info: Cammydance@earthlink.net or
<http://mysite.verizon.net/manystings6/dance/>

**4th Saturday Walter Lenk with Debby Knight and Jack
O'Connor.** New England Contrás and Squares, 8-11 PM.
Concord Scout House. \$8; \$6, 21 and under.
(617) 547-7781 or (978) 369-1232
www.configular.com/dance

Sundays

Scottish Country Dance. Church of Our Saviour,
Carleton & Monmouth Sts., Brookline. Sept. – May
6:30-8:30 PM. \$5 donation.
www.rscdsboston.org/classes-listing.html

**Third Sunday Contra Dance. Masonic Hall in Porter
Square, Cambridge, MA. 7:30-10:30 and cost \$5-\$10**
(sliding scale). Introductory workshop at 7pm, first night
is free if you come by 7pm. Boston Intergenerational
Dance Advocates. www.bidadance.org



Outside the Boston Area - "always call before you travel"

English Country Dance

Massachusetts

Cape Cod, 3rd Fridays, October – May

Lively and Elegant English Country Dance in Woods Hole. Linda Nelson with Jan Elliott and friends.
\$8, \$6 students & seniors;
7:30 - 10:30 PM, Fisher House, Church of the Messiah, 13 Church St., Woods Hole, MA. For information, call 508-540-1151 or 508-540-0865, details at <http://www.capecontra.org/>

South Amherst Mondays & Saturdays,

Munson Library

Mondays - Robin Hayden with live music. \$6. Info: Robin at (413) 256-8260, www.amherstecd.org

3rd Saturdays. Pleasures of the Town English Country Dance. 7:30-10:30 PM. Music, Joyce Crouch, piano, & Doug Creighton, flute & melodeon, with guest musicians. \$8. Info: (413) 549-4123 Joyce Crouch, www.amherstecd.org

1st Saturdays. Amherst Assembly for Experienced Dancers. A satisfying evening of ECD with less prompting. Amherst Area callers and special guests with live music. 7:30-10:30, \$9.
Info: www.amherstecd.org.

Rhode Island - Saturdays Sept. – June

Kingston English Country Dance, South Kingstown Land Trust, 17 Matunuck Beach Road, South Kingstown, Rhode Island. 7:30 to 10:30 PM.

General admission: \$10; members of CDS Boston Centre and South Kingstown Land Trust, \$8.
Directions and info: Kingstonenglishcountrydance.org or call 401-539-3009.
Dates and callers to be announced.

New Hampshire – First Saturdays

First Saturdays. Deerfield, NH Town Hall through June. Various callers and musicians. 8-11pm, \$9, \$3 (8-12 yrs.)
Info: Sarah 603-463-4182 slmason@metrocast.net

Second Sundays Sept.-June. Concord NH Presidential Oaks (Odd Fellows Home), Minot St. off Pleasant. 5:30-7:45 PM. \$8, \$7 members. Info: Dave Bateman (603) 397-0042, dave@NHECDS.org directions at www.nhecads.org

Connecticut - Fridays

English Country Dance. New Haven CT. Neighborhood Music School Recital Hall, 100 Auburn St. 8:00-10:30 PM. \$8. Info: (203) 776-6929
<http://pantheon.yale.edu/~bfr4/NH.English.html>

Contras

Massachusetts

Amherst 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesdays

7:30–10:30PM, lesson 7PM.
Masonic Lodge, 99 Main St. Amherst. \$10, Students \$7, High School \$4. www.amherstcontra.org

Cape Cod, Saturdays

General information for Cape Cod dances at www.capecontra.org or contact shabam@ais.net

1st Saturday. Contra Dance. Woods Hole Community Hall, Main St., Woods Hole. (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

Greenfield, Fridays, Saturdays and some Sundays
401 Chapman St. www.guidingstargrange.org

Rehoboth, 2nd, 4th and 5th Fridays

8–11PM, \$8; \$5 ages 16 and under; \$18 families with children under 16.
<http://www.contradancelinks.com/rehoboth.html>

Salem, 1st Saturdays, October – June

Tabernacle Congregational Church, 50 Washington St, Salem. 7:30PM. \$8; \$6 seniors & students; \$20 family. Beginners welcome. Info (978) 745-9391 or jenstrom10@comcast.net.
www.contradancelinks.com/schedule.html

South Amherst, 4th Saturday Sept. – June

Munson Library, 1046 South East St. South Amherst. 7:15PM; Cost: \$5-10 (sliding scale)
For more information: (413) 256-0673; lindapiano@gmail.com

Worcester, 2nd Saturdays Sept. – June

8PM. Wesley Methodist Church, 114 Main St. Worcester. \$8. \$6 students, \$18 family maximum, under 12 free
www.worcesterdance.org

New Hampshire - Manchester, 3rd Fridays

Mill City Contra Dance. Various callers and musicians. Beginners Workshop 7:30PM. Dance 8-11PM \$8, \$5 young people, under 12 free. 250 Commercial St. Manchester, NH
Info: Paul Lizotte 603.595.4484

Vermont - Brattleboro, 2nd and 4th Sundays

Contra Dancing Stone Church, Brattleboro. 7:15 beginners' workshop, dancing for all 7:30–10:30PM. Admission is \$10 (\$7 students/seniors/low income). Beginners are welcome; all dances are taught. No partner necessary. Info email ethan@ethanhw.com or call 802-257-9234. www.ethanhw.com/brattdance/

CDS Boston Centre
P.O. Box 170987
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“Philosophers have argued for centuries about how many angels can dance on the head of a pin, but materialists have always known it depends on whether they are jitterbugging or dancing cheek to cheek”

-Tom Robbins

Board Meetings

All meetings are open, and CDS-BC members are welcome. Please ask a committee member or officer (see p. 2) for date, time, and place or call the office.

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
or by mail to the address in the above left corner.

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**

Next newsletter deadline **January 20, 2012** for an early February issue.

Boston Centre's website: **www.cds-boston.org** Office telephone: **781-591-2372**