

CDS Boston News

The Newsletter of the Country Dance Society, Boston Centre

Spring 2021

Boston Playford VirtuBall – Saturday March 6th

Save the date: Saturday, March 6th at 7:30pm (doors open 7:15pm) for a virtual version of our annual Boston Playford Ball, on the traditional “first Saturday after the first Friday” in March!

Last year we celebrated 40 years of the Boston Playford Ball, at what ended up being our last dance together. This year our ball will be a little different since we can't be together in person, but we can be together online, and geography is no barrier this time for our further away friends.

Barbara Finney, Compere*, is preparing a wonderful evening of entertainment for you, with music by members of Bare Necessities – Kate Barnes and Jacqueline Schwab, and Mary Lea

(COVID restrictions permitting). We'll also have photo memories of previous balls.

Watch your email (for CDSBC members), our website (<https://www.cds-boston.org/>), and our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/cds.bostoncentre>) for more information and how to register.



Participants at the 2020 Boston Playford Ball. Photo by Jeffrey Bary

* *compere*

Cambridge English Dictionary:

noun [C]

UK/'kɒm.pɛər/ US/'kɑ:m.pɛr/ (US emcee)

a person whose job is to introduce performers in a television, radio, or stage show:

He started his career as a TV compere.

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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, dance 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 for most events.

Country Dance Society, Boston Centre, Inc. Officers, Directors, and non-board offices

Term Limits:

President: Two terms. Typically a four-year series of presidential offices: President Elect (1 year), President (2 years), Past President (1 year).

Other Board offices: Limit of three complete two-year terms.

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

Board Officers

President: Clara Stefanov-Wagner (until 2021)

Vice President: Hal Wagner (until 2023)

Past President: vacant

Treasurer: John Hostage (until 2023)

Clerk: Tom Roby (until 2021)

Directors

Lise Foss

Jean Monroe

Carole Talley

David Kranz

Naomi Dworkin

Alex Daum

Non-Board Positions

please visit:

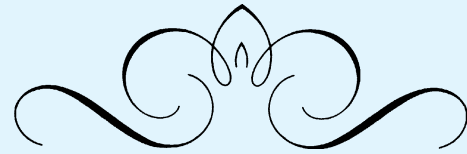
<https://www.cds-boston.org/about/contact-info/>
for more information.

2021

Annual General Meeting

Save the Date: **April 21, 2021** will be our
Annual General Meeting!

Keep an eye on your inbox for a Zoom link
and ballots



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 on the back page

Board Meetings

All meetings are open, and CDS-BC members are welcome. Please ask a board member or officer for date, time, and place or call the office.

To Contact the Editor

If you are planning an event, write it up! Send articles, listings, announcements, poems, photos, etc. via e-mail to: **editor@cds-boston.org**

Our next newsletter deadline is scheduled for the end of April. If you would like to be added to the contributor reminder email list, please contact the editor. Delivery is usually 10–14 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

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

Boston Centre's website: **www.cds-boston.org**

Playford Ball Archives Project Seeks Contributions

The Playford Ball Archives Project continues! We are still looking for photos from 1992-2002 and 2019, 2020 of the Playford Ball. I have photos from Arthur Ferguson, Dave Cornelius, Marty Stock, and Nikki Herbst covering many of the other years.

Anyone having a good memory that would also like to Zoom with me to identify some of those in the earlier photos – especially the 1980's – should contact me at archives@cds-boston.org.

Thanks,

Terry Huffaker



NEFFA Festival 2021 Goes Live Online

A year ago, this newsletter published an article about changes at NEFFA's upcoming Festival. We had a new site for the 2020 event, and the article described some of the challenges we were facing and the hopes we were harboring. Like everyone else, we had no idea what was coming. When we think of having to cancel the in-person NEFFA Festival two years in a row, "unprecedented" is the tip of the iceberg. Dance, music, crafts—creative communities of all kinds—are grieving and trying to find ways to stay connected. We are eager to be together again, and we're ready for this long, strange ordeal to end.

In April 2020, NEFFA's Program Chair, Jon Cannon, took matters in hand. In a few weeks, he gathered a respectable collection of videos from a variety of performers. It was more fun than many of us expected to learn dances, sing songs, pick up harmonica tips, and more, all on our own computer screens. People posted wonderful comments about the videos. It was so much better than nothing.

A lot of water has flowed under the proverbial bridge since then. A lot of clever people have been working on ways folks can dance and sing and gather online. This year, we had plenty of notice that NEFFA would not be an in-person event. Jon once again brought his creativity and energy to bear on the situation. He suggested some possible online offerings that NEFFA could take on, and assembled a new Online Program Committee. A few Board members volunteered to help, with some new faces beyond the usual Program Committee. Meetings and plotting and scheming began in the fall, and the scope of it all has grown beyond what anyone expected.

Since November, this committee has been mounting a three-hour online event one Sunday a month. Concerts, drumming, dance, open mic sessions—it's been an enticing series. A tech crew has been building to support Zoom meetings and special sound considerations for online events. Members of the committee attended a wide range of online events—concerts, singalongs, camps, festivals, parties. They've taken notes, called for advice, and shared experiences, learning all along.

As a result, the NEFFA Festival weekend, April 23-25, 2021, will bring an exciting range of offerings. Over 120 performers applied to do online livestreamed events. We will offer 8-10 tracks of live online programming on Zoom. When the Online Program Committee first put the draft of the grid for this year's Festival together, they were amazed at how much it looked like a "normal" NEFFA grid. The schedule will be posted on the website soon, and we are eager to share our excitement with you!

Many other performers will provide recordings, which will roll out on the Festival weekend. This year's video track will feature video collages and a Massive Asynchronous Jam created especially for this Festival. Video from past NEFFAs will bring the joy of people dancing, singing, and making music together in person. We'll also provide online spaces for participants to

hang out and chat. The NEFFA website will include listings of Crafts and Folk Bazaar vendors and other pieces that we hope will make attending this Online Festival feel more familiar and satisfying.

NEFFA is an amazing volunteer organization. The bonds people form as they work to put together an event like the NEFFA Festival are deeply rewarding. The skills required to

pull together an online Festival are rather different than those needed to put on an in-person event, but the committee has found it remarkable how much of the effort winds up feeling familiar. It has been an inspiration to watch a willing and capable group of people rise to the occasion.

NEFFA's mission as an organization is to encourage and preserve traditional folk arts. The deeper point of that mission is to build community, to bring people together for shared experiences and common purpose. We are heartbroken at not being able to gather in person this year, but we truly hope and believe that NEFFA's online offerings can bring people together in meaningful and enjoyable ways.

Check out the NEFFA website (<https://www.neffa.org>) for more information about upcoming events, including NEFFA Monthly Online events and the Online Festival. We hope you will join us!



National Folk Organization Hosts Virtual Conference for 2021

There is something for everyone at this year's National Folk Organization virtual conference event!

This spring will see a conference that embraces the virtual world of folk arts, with more than 20 hours of folk arts programming that spans the globe. The conference will be free to everyone via Zoom. Registration is open, and the NFO conference webpage has been updated. Please check for the latest details, including the list of our topnotch presenters. Invite your friends to join us! It's free! We want as many people as possible to attend. It all starts at www.nfo-usa.org.

This year's virtual conference will mark the first time that all NFO members will have the opportunity to attend the Annual Membership Meeting and vote for officers. The meeting will start bright and early Wednesday, April 7, as we hear annual reports on what the NFO has been working on all year. Meet the new board nominees, then vote for our incoming leaders. After a break, we'll launch into our artist presentations and finish the day with the President's Reception and dance party that evening. Presentations and dance parties continue until the end of our get-

together on Sunday evening. We hope you will be there for all of it!

There will be master teachers giving dance workshops; other experts presenting their research into folk arts; participatory folk music and crafts lessons; and CEU's available for those that can use them. Some of the people joining us will be Travel Bare Feet television presenter Mickela Mallozzi, ethnochoreologist Dr. Catherine Foley, and dance teachers Caspar Bik, Ahmet Luleci, Maurits van Geel, Steve Kotansky, France Bourque-Moreau and Yves Moreau.

Around the world programming will take us from Turkey through Macedonia, Poland, France and Ireland. We will learn about South Appalachian flat footing, French Canadian children's dances, Pacific Northwest First Nations traditions, Polynesian singing and Bulgarian folk dance in Japan.

Many NFO members take advantage of the insurance that we offer. This year, many will return the favor by leading a few of the dances over Zoom during our evening dance parties. Be sure to join us as we dance together while apart. More information on the website nfo-usa.org. We look forward to seeing you in April!



Philippe Callens Passes

The ECD world is in mourning for Philippe Callens of Belgium, who recently passed away. Philippe was a dancer, teacher, choreographer, and reconstructor of many beloved English Country dances.

His friends at AADS would appreciate receiving photos, videos, or comments for his memorial service.

They would also like to receive anything that you may have from him so that it is not lost to time – any new dances or reconstructions, his thoughts about dancing or teaching, etc.

Please send to: simo.verheyen@skynet.be. Let Philippe continue to live in all of us, through memories and music and his dances!

*Your contributions
enrich our newsletter,
adding color and flavor.*

Consider contributing.

*An informative article?
A favorite memory?
A sketch done at Pinewoods?
Your favorite photos, poems, quotes?
Send them along! – Editor*

Virtual Events

For as Many as Will: A Tour of English Country Dance

Friday, March 19 @ 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

In this brand new video presentation, STS takes a tour of English country dances through the centuries, from the first edition of *The English Dancing Master* to the present day. We'll explore a splendid variety of dance tunes in their many guises, from court masques and Elizabethan taverns to Purcell's opera house and the finest Regency ballrooms. In addition to our original arrangements for broken consort, you'll hear versions of ECDs as cittern solos, bagpipe airs, divisions for violin and viol, broadside ballads, and more. Includes newly filmed material, samples from past performances, and chat with the musicians. Presented by Country Dance Society Boston.

The link to view the video will be posted in March. For more information go to: <https://www.cds-boston.org/event/for-as-many-as-will-a-tour-of-english-country-dance-03-19-2021/>



Seven Times Salt:

Karen Burciaga - violin, harp, voice

Dan Meyers - recorders, flute, bagpipes, percussion, voice

Matthew Wright - lute, cittern, voice

Josh Schreiber Shalem - bass viol, voice

Reel Nutmeg YouTube Channel

Reel Nutmeg, a troupe of English Country Dance enthusiasts, has posted the English country dancing suites we performed between 1989 and 2004 on our NEW Youtube channel .

Each video has details regarding where it was performed, the musicians, the choreographer, the dances included, and the dancers in the performance.

You can view the channel online at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJMFdihPJNBPRJeuAsEHXuQ>

We hope you enjoy these performances! Special thanks to Ben Paul who made it happen.

- Helen Davenport and Martha Griffin



ZOOM Social Hours Continue

CDS-BC Zoom Social Hours will continue on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays: **March 10th & 24th, and April 14th & 28th.**

We hope you'll join us virtually. You can join from a computer, tablet, or smartphone, or by dialling in from a regular phone.

For a zoom link and more information email president@cds-boston.org.

Spring Games Party and Fundraiser

Mark your calendar now: **Sunday, April 11, 2021, 1-9PM** for the Spring Games party and fundraiser hosted by Seth Tepfer!

More games - more Jeopardy - more fun!

More details soon, at <https://www.facebook.com/events/275410203964394>

For more virtual dances, concerts and events, go to:

www.cds-boston.org
<https://www.cdss.org/community/events-calendar>
<https://www.somealternativeroots.com>
www.facone.org

Virtual Events

Member Favorites

Every Tuesday, starting at 7pm Karen Axelrod's "In the Moment"

Karen plays live to recordings from fellow musicians, in an improv-style event. View Live, or anytime on Facebook after the event

<https://www.facebook.com/karen.axelrod.9>

Every Tuesday from 9-10pm

After-chat for Facebook group members from 10-11pm

"5 Things... Inside the Dancing Mind of..." An English Country Dance web chat

<http://historicalteaanddance.org/>

Watch Live on Zoom or Facebook, or anytime on Facebook after the event. Attend the after-chat on Zoom.

3rd Saturdays from 1-2pm

After-chat for Facebook group members from 2-3pm

"5 Things... Inside the Dancing Mind of..." A Historical Dance web chat

<http://historicalteaanddance.org/>

Watch Live on Zoom or Facebook, or anytime on Facebook after the event. Attend the after-chat on Zoom.

Some Alternative Roots Listings

"A curated, informal, ever-evolving space to inspire and delight!" Featuring online diversions of many kinds at <https://www.somealternativeroots.com/>

Here's just a *sampling* of Virtual Dance listings:

Nashville Country Dancers 1st/3rd Mondays 8:30p

Syracuse ECD Online 2nd/4th Sundays 7p-8p

NBCDS Waltz Parties Saturdays 10p

ECD Atlanta DistDance 2nd/4th Mondays 7p-9p

Mt. Airy Contra Dance 1st/3rd Thursdays 8p-9:15p

Glen Echo Virtual Contra 2nd/4th Fridays 8:30p-9:30p

Toronto ECD Zoom Dance Fridays 6:45p-9p

All Hands In

Zoom Contra 2nd/4th Saturdays 7:30p-8:45p

BACDS -

Odd Sundays ECD 1st/3rd/5th Sundays 4p-5:30p

BACDS Hayward Contra 4th Sundays 6:45p-9p

Lake City Contra Thursdays 10:30p-12a

Greenfield Virtual Contra 4th Fridays 7:30p-9:30p

London Barndance Contra 2nd Saturdays 3p-4:30p

Greenfield Virtual Contra 4th Fridays 7:30p-9:30p

Scissortail Virtual Dance 4th Fridays 8:15p-10:30p

Bloomington Contra Wednesdays 9p-10p

Mt. Airy Barn Dance 1st Sundays 2p-3p

CDSS Online Event Links

<https://www.cdss.org/community/events-calendar>

Here's just a *sampling* of the upcoming programs and events listed there:

Daily Antidote of Song

Monday, Mar. 1, 2021 12:00 PM

Symmetry ECD: 1st Tuesday w/Brian Stanton

Tuesday, Mar. 2, 2021 2:00 PM

#LiveToYourLivingRoom presents: Filkin's Drift

Wednesday, Mar. 3, 2021 3:00 PM

Symmetry ECD: 1st Thursday Evening

Thursday, Mar. 4, 2021 7:00 PM

Lake City Virtual Contra Dance (Seattle, WA)

Thursday, Mar. 4, 2021 10:00 PM

ECD Caller's Workshop w/ Joanna & Karen

Saturday, Mar. 6, 2021 5:30 PM

Wooster Contra Dance

Saturday, Mar. 6, 2021 9:00 PM

Playford Past & Present Virtual Dance Workshop

Sunday, Mar. 7, 2021 11:00 AM

Mt. Airy Barn Fest - Family Dance & Music Event!

Sunday, Mar. 7, 2021 2:00 PM

Virtual Chantey Sing w/South Street Seaport Museum

Sunday, Mar. 7, 2021 2:00 PM

Online Tavern Sing Live from The Mermaid's Tavern

Sunday, Mar. 7, 2021 2:00 PM

The Evolution of Country Dances w/David Millstone

Sunday, Mar. 7, 2021 6:00 PM

Country Dance Lore 2021 Series

CDNY is pleased to present their 2021 Country Dance Lore program. This series of half-hour talks will explore the rich context of country dance – especially ECD and especially as relates to New York.

The sessions will run on Zoom (streaming to CDNY's Facebook page) on 1st and 3rd Thursdays 7:30-8:30 pm Eastern, from February through June:

March 4, Margaret Bary & Chip Prince

March 18, Danny Walkowitz

April 1, Daniel Popowich

April 15, Marty Fager

May 6, Orly Krasner

May 20, Gene Murrow

June 3, Paul Ross

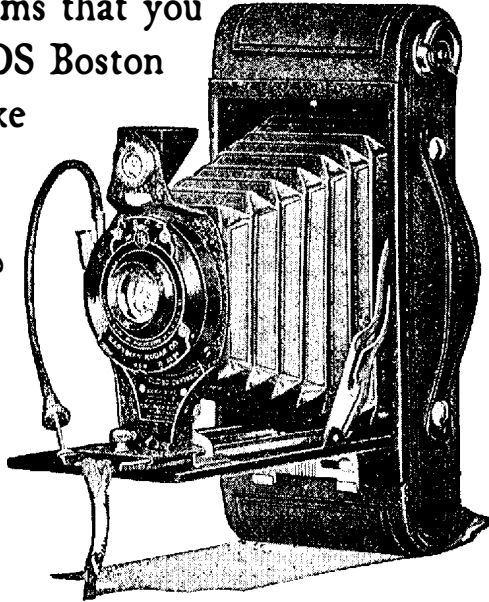
June 17, Dorothy Cummings

Past lectures can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/jeffbary/videos>

See cdny.org or the CDNY Facebook page for details, including Zoom links. We look forward to welcoming you to our virtual program!

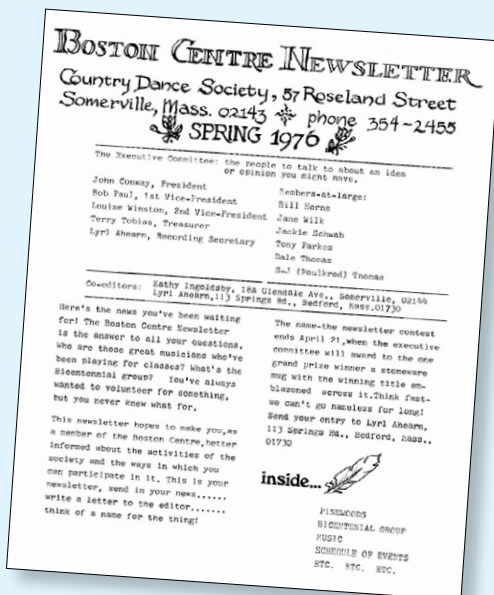
Do you have photos, documents, recordings, physical objects, or other items that you think CDS Boston might like to have in its archives?



Contact us at archives@cds-boston.org

Newsletters Archives Online

Looking for a little light reading? You can find an extensive archive of past newsletters on the CDS Boston Centre website, going back to 1976!



To view the archive, visit: <https://www.cds-boston.org/newsletters.html>

Mary Lea Featured on ContraPulse Podcast

Where does contra music come from? Why does it sound the way it does? How has it changed over time?

Host Julie Vallimont takes the pulse of contra music today, through a series of conversations with prominent contra musicians from all corners.

In case you missed it: You can listen to the archived version of Julie's interview with the wonderful violinist and violist Mary Lea, from the legendary bands Yankee Ingenuity and Bare Necessities.

They discuss Mary's roots in the Boston contra scene, her approach as a fiddler, and how she works with improvisation and variation.



They also get into some of the nuts and bolts of playing for dance, some of the many other styles she plays, and her perspective as a longtime booker of bands for the Brattleboro Dawn Dance.

Listen here: <https://www.cdss.org/contrapulse/podcast/episode-21-mary-lea/>

contra
pulse

CDS Boston Centre presents

The Boston Playford VirtuBall

Saturday, March 6th, 2021

7:30pm, doors open 7:15pm

at your home

Barbara Finney, Compere

Music by members of Bare Necessities

Kate Barnes, Mary Lea, and Jacqueline Schwab

There will be a quick talk-through of the dances marked with a *, modified for solo dancers. There will be no prompting once the music starts, so you can enjoy it however you wish, whether you prefer to sit back and listen to the music, or to dance.

Registration Form:

Registration is required for this event.

Please visit our website, <https://www.cds-boston.org> to register.

For information on the Ball:

<https://www.cds-boston.org>

2021playfordball@cds-boston.org

Dance instructions are available on the website.

We highly recommend that you have the most recent version of the software downloaded before the event.

We look forward to seeing you there! Thank you in advance for your patience with any glitches, bobbles, or unexpected technological surprises that may occur.

The Program

Barham Down

The Costumer's Delight

*An Early Frost**

Joy After Sorrow

*Kelsterne Gardens**

*Knives and Forks**

Mile of Smiles

*Miss de Jersey's Memorial
(as the final waltz)*

Nan's Waltz

Nonesuch

Old Noll's Fig

*The Potter's Wheel**

Rose of Sharon

Smithy Hill

*Well Done Jack**