



# News from Sun Assembly

<http://www.sunassembly.org/>

Spring 2014

Newsletter editor: Pat Petersen [patpetersen \(at\) earthlink.net](mailto:patpetersen@earthlink.net)



## Spring DanceFest

**Here you are!** We hope you're having a great time! Please let us know your thoughts about the weekend—see info in the Feedback article.

## Welcome to our newcomers!

A BIG welcome to all the new folks who have joined us recently! Take the extended hand, keep smiling, and remember that we were all beginners once. We're glad you're sharing our love of this fun and beautiful dance form. Don't be shy about asking for help when you need it—keep learning!

## Weather or Not?

It's been a thrilling season weather-wise. Tho we expect the worst of it is over, this winter one never knows! Our one actual snow cancellation was pretty obvious—no one was going anywhere that night! If you have any doubt, contact the teacher of the evening, or Pat and Doug. We may or may not be able to get something up on the website that quickly.

## Upcoming...

Lots of exciting news following our DanceFest! On **April 24, Tossa Kramer**, late of Berea and currently near Asheville, will tinkle the keys along with the ever-fabulous **Mara Shea**. On **May 8, Mara**, along with her **Elftones** partner **Roger Gold**, will play for a dance led by **Bob Dalsemer**. **May 15** is **Open Mike** Night for English callers—see separate article. In **June**, that exciting bunch of youngsters known as the **Highlanders** will present a brief concert just before the dance.

## CDSS Centennial coming up

In 2015, the Country Dance and Song Society will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Check out [www.CDSS.org](http://www.CDSS.org) to see what's being planned so far across the country,

## Weekend and Summer Camps

Opportunities for enjoying improving your dancing abound! The John C. Campbell English Weekend is May 2-4; Gene Murrow and Bob Dalsemer will be teaching, and our own Mara Shea will be playing. In the summer, Pinewoods Camp is heaven on earth for dancers; [cdss.org](http://cdss.org). New London Assembly provides a less rustic but nevertheless total immersion experience; [amherstearlymusic.org](http://amherstearlymusic.org)

## Dancers—we want your feedback!

•What do you like or dislike about Sun Assembly's weekly dances? Are there too many/not enough easy dances? slow dances? fast dances? longways dances? set dances? old dances? new dances? Would you like more/fewer style tips? More/less historical information about the dances? What else would you like us to know? What can we do to make the dance more fun for you? The more specific you can be, the more helpful it is to our Steering Committee and dance teachers. Just drop your written comments in the cash box, submit your comments to [sunassembly@gmail.com](mailto:sunassembly@gmail.com), or use the "Contact Us" link at [www.sunassembly.org](http://www.sunassembly.org).

•Sun Assembly is run by its **Steering Committee**, a small group of dancers who meet once a month or so before a dance to plan and confer; the next one is Apr. 17. We also have occasional longer planning sessions. If you'd like to come listen in, or have thoughts or ideas you'd like to share, talk with one of us at the dance: Gail, Donald, Doug, Judy, Sharon, Pat, Leah, Allan, Mary. We'd love to have your input!

## Want to lead a dance?

With our recent increase in attendees has come an increase of potential dance leaders—what a terrific opportunity! The Sun Assembly Steering Committee (SC) has developed two possibilities for those who would like to teach a dance.

•**Thursday, May 15**, we'll have an "open mike" evening. Details about who will MC this evening will be forthcoming—watch and listen for news at an upcoming Thursday dance.

•If you would like to teach a dance or two on a **regular Thursday evening**, get in touch with one of the scheduled teachers (Pat Petersen, Allan Troxler, Gail Lacy, or Russell Herman) at least several days before the dance. A week's notice is preferable if you would like to teach on a live music night, so that we will have plenty of time to get the music to the musicians. It's best for guest teachers to have more than one dance prepared for an evening to accommodate different numbers of dancers and/or dancers of different experience levels. The scheduled teacher may decline a guest teacher's request to teach a particular dance—or to teach at all—on a given evening. If you have questions about calling or these guidelines, please talk with one of the teachers or steering committee members.

## Join Sun Assembly!

You can support English Country Dance in our community in 2 important ways: **1. Come to dances**, and bring your friends. **2. Become a member** of Sun Assembly. Your membership helps us sponsor regular Thursday dance classes as well as special events. You can use the form below to join, and/or to donate to the Celia Wright Live Music Fund. We're now tax-exempt, so your contributions are deductible to the extent provide by law. Send the form with your check, made out to **Sun Assembly**, to **Judy Strickland, 1102 Infinity Rd., Durham, NC 27712**. Many thanks for your support!

While you're at it, consider joining the **Country Dance and Song Society**, the umbrella organization that supports all kinds of English & American dance & dance camps, provides scholarships, publishes materials, & much more. If Sun Assembly inspires 8 new people to become CDSS members, we will get a free year of affiliate membership; if 10, we'll get a free ad in the CDSS newsletter!!! <[CDSS.org](http://CDSS.org)>

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### SUN ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP 2014

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

I'm in! Enclosed is my check to SUN ASSEMBLY for \$20 (annual regular membership) \_\_\_\_

**OR** \_\_\_\_\$250 (annual sustaining membership; includes fees for all regular dance classes and New Year's Eve).

Send newsletter by \_\_\_\_e-mail \_\_\_\_regular mail. Enclosed is my contribution of \_\_\_\_\_ to the Celia Wright Live Music Fund.

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### DANCE CALENDAR and teaching schedule

Classes are held at the **Freedman Center** of **Beth El Synagogue**, Watts St. at Green, Durham, 7:30-9:30 p.m., unless otherwise specified. Suggested class fee: \$7/night or \$25/month. (No one will be turned away for lack of funds.) For more info, call 683-9672 or 286-2202.

**From Raleigh:** take I-40 to the Durham Freeway; exit at Duke St. Turn right; go through town, past the high school on the left, thru the lights at Trinity & Markham. Go one more block, turn left on Green, go to the 2<sup>nd</sup> stop sign, turn left on Watts, & left into the parking lot. **From Chapel Hill:** take 15-501 to I-85 north. Exit at Gregson St. The 3<sup>rd</sup> light is Markham; turn right, right at the next corner onto Watts, & right into the parking lot. The building is to the left of the parking lot.

WHEN	WHERE	TEACHERS	SPECIAL INFO
<b>Sat./Sun. Mar. 15-16</b>	<b>Murphey School</b>	<b>Brad Foster</b>	<i>Spring DanceFest with Brad Foster, music by Julie Gorka, Dean Herington, Joey O'Donnell, Walt Robinson, Mara Shea</i>
Thurs., Mar. 20	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	
Thurs., Mar. 27	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	<b>Live Music!</b>
Thurs., Apr. 3	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	<b>First Thursday! Come early for basics brushup</b>
Thurs., Apr. 10	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	<b>Live Music!</b>
Thurs., Apr. 17	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	
Thurs., Apr. 24	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	<b>Live Music! Tossa Kramer and Mara Shea</b>
Thurs., May 1	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	<b>First Thursday!</b>
Thurs., May 8	Freedman Center	<b>Bob Dalsemer</b>	<b>The Elftones!!!</b>
Thurs., May 15	Freedman Center	<b>Open mike!</b>	
Thurs., May 22	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	<b>Live Music!</b>
Thurs., May 29	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	<b>Fifth Thursday Challenge</b>
Thurs., June 5	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	<b>First Thursday! Come early to hear The Highlanders!!!</b>
Thurs., June 12	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	<b>Live Music!</b>
Thurs., June 19	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	
Thurs., June 26	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	<b>Live Music!</b>
Thurs., July 3	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	<b>First Thursday!</b>
Thurs., July 10	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	<b>Live Music!</b>
Thurs., July 17	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	
Thurs., July 24	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	<b>Live Music!</b>
Thurs., July 31	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	