



News from Sun Assembly

Winter 2015-16

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Newsletter editor: [Pat Petersen](#)



'Tis the Season!

Fall is drawing to a close, even here in the South. We had great fun with **Halloween** (thanks to all costumed dancers!) and **Open Mike** night (thanks **Mary** and all neophyte [and regular] teachers!!!). Hope everyone has survived the opening round of the winter holidays. Keep on dancing to assuage the guilt of yet another piece of pie or candy! **Dates of note:**

•**Thurs. Dec. 24: no dance**

•**Thurs. Dec. 31: New Years Eve dance**

Dance on New Year's Eve!!!

Allan, Leah, and Russell will lead our annual New Year's Eve celebration, starting at 8:30 pm at the Ark on Duke's East Campus. Invitations are forthcoming; hope you can make it! **Live music** by the **Ark Angels** (Julie, Walt, Dean, and Joey). We'll be asking for volunteers at Thursday dances. Bring a finger food to share at the break (no alcohol please), and wear non-marking shoes or socks to dance in. Everyone is welcome, all dances will be taught, and no partner or experience is necessary. Admission is \$18 members; \$20 non-members; FREE for kids under 12 and Duke students. Questions? Call 919-286-2202, or e-mail sunassembly@gmail.com.

Save the Date! Spring DanceFest with [Brooke Friendly](#)

We are thrilled that Brooke Friendly—dance choreographer, teacher, and current Secretary of the CDSS Board—will preside over 2 wonderful days of English country dancing March 12-13, 2016 at the Shared Visions Retreat Center. (Contradancers: make it 3 days--she'll be calling TCD's Friday contra on March 11!) Brooke is an internationally known dance leader and proponent of global dance terminology who, along with her husband Chris Sackett, has published five volumes of original choreographies. Music for the weekend will be provided by our own Mara Shea (fiddle), Joey O'Donnell (viola), Walt Robinson (recorders), Dean Herington (clarinet), and Julie Gorka (piano). Flyers with registration forms, along with other event information, are now available via the DanceFest 2016 link on the homepage of sunassembly.org. Sign up today--and help us get the word out! You don't want to miss it!!!

Dances of the Month

The **December** DOTM is Philippe Callens' **Centennial**. Look for it on the CDSS website. We will also **review** dances we've worked on in the past. Look for recent directions or links at sunassembly.org.

Triangle CDSS Centennial Celebration—WOW!

Congrats to all on a wonderfully successful CDSS Centennial Celebration, held at the Murphy School in Durham. The Sun Assembly and Triangle Country Dancers collaboration was all-encompassing, involving not only celebrations of various dance traditions, but inclusive traditions of music and storytelling as well. Sessions of Irish Set, English Country, Square, Community and Waltz, as well as Berea-style and Ceilidh dances, kept our feet moving, while music sessions on pub singing, sea shanties, gospel and blues and shape note singing made wide smiles all around. A special thanks to all the wonderful musicians that kept the air full of music, whether for the dancing sessions or in the jam sessions from Blues to Cape Breton tunes. And let it not be said that we neglected education. Our own Allan Troxler and Jim Kirkpatrick gave a talk on their own dancing careers and the roots of English Country and Contra. In addition, Danny Walkowitz shared his film 'City Folk,' based on his book on the promotion and preservation of ECD in America. On the last afternoon we danced through the centuries, from 1650 to today, kept everyone moving with smiles all round. Young and old from all around attended; the late great Cecil Sharp even put in an appearance! Kudos to the organizers and volunteers, and optimism for the next hundred years!

It's not too soon...

...to be thinking about **summer camp**! As a CDSS affiliate, Sun Assembly may nominate one or two of its members for **priority** at its (often over-subscribed) summer camps. Would YOU like to be nominated this year? Contact Gail, or sunassembly@gmail.com, by mid-February.

Time to Renew Your Membership!

You can support English Country Dance in our community in several important ways:

1. **Come to dances!**
2. **Bring your friends!**
3. **Become a member** of Sun Assembly.

Your membership helps us sponsor regular Thursday dances as well as special events. See the membership and renewal form (over), or pick up one at the dance. You can also use the form to donate to our Live Music Fund. Many thanks for your support.

Regular membership: \$20—includes **discounts** to Spring DanceFest and other special events, newsletter, and a coupon to bring a guest free to the Thursday night class.

Sustaining membership: \$250—includes **class fees** for all weekly dances, **discounts** to Spring DanceFest and other special events, newsletter, a coupon to bring a guest free to the Thursday night class, and a great feeling about supporting our dance community!!!

RENEW! Send the form below with your check, made out to **Sun Assembly**, to **Judy Strickland, 1102 Infinity Rd., Durham, NC 27712**. All memberships are for the calendar year. Your membership helps us sponsor regular Thursday dance classes as well as special events. You can also use the form to make a **TAX DEDUCTIBLE** donation to the **Celia Wright Live Music Fund**. Please note that fees to the weekly dance classes are suggested rates; no one will be turned away due to lack of funds. Many thanks! (If you've been donating to the Fund and would like a receipt, let us know.)

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. It's a great way to celebrate the **CDSS Centennial Year**. Go to **CDSS.org** for info (and shop their [store](#) for great holiday gift ideas).

SUN ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP 2016

NAME _____ PHONE (best) _____

ADDRESS _____ DATE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ E-MAIL _____

I'm in! Here's my check to SUN ASSEMBLY for _____ \$20 **Regular Membership** (newsletter; guest pass; special event discount).

_____ \$250 annual **Sustaining Membership** (admission to all weekly dances; newsletter; guest pass; special event discount).

Am including a (tax-deductible) contribution of _____ to the **Celia Wright Live Music Fund**.

Send newsletter by e-mail regular mail.

DANCE CALENDAR and teaching schedule

Dances 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 donation: \$7/night or \$25/month. For more info, call 919-286-2202 or 919-683-9672.

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 2nd 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 3rd 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
Thurs., Dec. 3	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	
Thurs., Dec. 10	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	Live Music! Beginners' lesson at 7:15.
Thurs., Dec. 17	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	
Thurs., Dec. 24	NO DANCE	XXX	XXX
Thurs. Dec. 31	The Ark	Russell Herman & Allan Troxler	<i>New Years Eve Dance, 8:30 until...!</i>
Thurs., Jan. 7	Freedman Center	Leah Hefner	
Thurs., Jan. 14	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	Live Music! Beginners' lesson at 7:15
Thurs., Jan. 21	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	
Thurs., Jan. 28	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	Live Music!
Thurs., Feb. 4	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	
Thurs., Feb. 11	Freedman Center	Mary McConnell	Live Music! Beginners' lesson at 7:15
Thurs., Feb. 18	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	
Thurs., Feb. 26	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	Live Music!
Thurs., Mar. 3	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	
Thurs., Mar. 10	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	Live Music! Beginners' lesson at 7:15
Thurs., Mar. 17	Freedman Center	TBA	
Thurs., Mar. 24	Freedman Center	TBA	Live Music!
Thurs., Mar. 31	Freedman Center	TBA	