



News from Sun Assembly

Spring 2016

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Newsletter editor: [Pat Petersen](#)



Heads Up—Venue Changes!

Be sure to check the dance calendar! We'll be dancing at the Reality Center on *five* upcoming dates, starting on **March 17**. The Reality Center is just a little ways down Gregson St. from Beth El, and has great parking. It's a terrific dance space—do join us there!

Calendar Excitement!

Lots of things going on in addition to the venue change! At the end of March, we have a 5th Thursday special topic of **Chestnuts**, dances so old they're new! We'll reach back to the early days of Sun Assembly to revisit dances we don't do very often, not because they're not great dances, but because there are so many more newer dances to experience. On April 14, **The Highlanders**, Mara and Julie's band of young folks and friends, will again regale us with tunes before the dance. **Bob Dalsemer** visits again with the **Elftones**, and **Leah** will coordinate another **Open Mike** evening. Then in June, ECD pianist extraordinaire **Atossa Kramer** will play for us—a special treat!

Spring DanceFest—Soon!!

Last Chance for Early Bird Discount!

Join [Brooke Friendly](#) and musicians Mara Shea, Joey O'Donnell, Walt Robinson, Dean Herington, and Julie Gorka for a fabulous weekend of dancing, March 12-13, at the Shared Visions Retreat Center (Murphey School). Register for the entire weekend **or** the Saturday night dance **by March 1** for a \$5 discount. (Sun Assembly members get an additional \$5 off.) Go to <http://sunassemblydancefest.org/> for registration and other info. Follow updates and invite your friends to like the event on our [Facebook](#) page. You can get an additional taste of Brooke at the [Friday contradance](#) at Carrboro Century Center.

Here's a testimonial from **Sharon Bottesch**:

“A few years ago, I had a wonderful time dancing with Brooke Friendly in St. Croix. She led a workshop of her dances that I thoroughly enjoyed. It is the “humor and whimsy” in her choreography (as Jacqueline Schwab writes) that delights me the most. It takes a little concentration to learn the dances, but then they flow so well. Don't miss this opportunity to dance to a truly interesting caller.”

Pre-dance Dinner?

The new [Durham Coop Market](#) is offering a great deal on Thursday evenings: dinner for \$3! See you there???

Celebrating Holidays

By Sharon Spangler

We had an evening full of delightful surprises this **Christmas Eve!** Gaylen and Jared Kirkpatrick provided live (and lively) music with their keyboard and fiddle, as Pat led us dancing through a series of Christmas tunes from “Jingle Bells” to “Masters in the Hall.” During the break, we watched a stellar performance of Ruth Pershing's newly-formed rapper sword troupe. If you haven't seen rapper sword before, check it out on YouTube. It was amazing! The young people in the troupe and their parents stayed and danced with us, and a jolly good time was had by all.

Our **New Year's Eve** dance was a glorious celebration! The Ark Angels provided heavenly music--Julie on piano, Walt on recorders, Dean on clarinet, and Joey on violin and viola. We had a wonderful array of callers—Leah, Allan, Russell, Eric, and Gail—who led us through old favorites like Asking for the Road, Fenterlarick, and Duke of Kent's Waltz, and less familiar but no less interesting dances like Ruffy Tufty. During our break, we enjoyed fruity punch, deviled eggs, shrimp, oranges, and a wide array of desserts and other delicacies. As midnight drew near, we floated and twirled our way through Sellinger's Round (The Beginning of the World) and sang our traditional round to ring in the New Year. It was a delightful evening—and the best part is that we get to do it again next year!

Thanks, Dan!!!

Dan Grandstaff deserves a HUGE thanks from all of us for his work establishing and maintaining our web page for many years. It's now in the capable hands of Jana and the Website Subcommittee, but we all owe heaps of gratitude to Dan for getting it going. Hope to see you on the dance floor soon, Dan!

YOU Can Help!

After years of a decidedly informal procedure for setting up our dances (occasionally resulting in the teacher having to set up sound, microphone, welcome table, chairs; count money; close up; and haul equipment; when said teacher might prefer to be thinking about the evening program), the Steering Committee is working on a system to ensure that the teachers will have the assistance they need on Thursdays. Please **sign up to help out** at our Thursday evening dances. If everyone takes a turn now and then, no one feels the burden.

Summer Dancing!

Where will you be escaping the NC heat this summer? CDSS offers camps at Pinewoods, Ogontz, Buffalo Gap, and in Michigan. For a less rustic experience, try New London Assembly! There are dance weeks to suit all tastes. Go for it! (There's a CDSS scholarship for an English week dancer from the Southeast.)

Cecil Sharp Centennial

The **Triangle Committee on the Centennial of Song Collecting by Cecil Sharp and Maud Karpeles 1916 to 1918** is planning a series of events and activities in conjunction with the **Madison County working group** through the year. You can periodically check the website: cecilsharpinappalachia.org for information and updates. This is sponsored by The North Carolina Folklife Institute, partnering with CDSS and other state organizations. Sharp and Marples traveled the mountain regions for three summers collecting ballads and tunes and teaching English Dancing to mountain peoples in five states. This information was returned to England and books were published and sent back over to the US, where the editions were revered for generations by the families that provided the songs, assuring that the ballads would remain in the culture to this day.

Dance of the Month

Spring Garden, our **March DOTM**, first appeared in Playford's *Dancing Master* in 1665, and has remained a favorite, tho not easy, set dance for 8. Others will be announced soon—check the website!

Regional Events

Williamsburg: Sat. March 5, Geo. Washington Ball

Winston-Salem: 2nd & 4th Fridays, English Country dancing, 6:45-9:15 pm; live music.

Asheville: Saturday, April 23, Old Farmer's Ball English Country Dance Spring Evening Ball

Brasstown: Apr. 29-Sun., May 1, John C. Campbell Folk School's English Country Dance Weekend

Join Sun Assembly!

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

1. **Come to dances!**
2. **Bring your friends!**
3. **Become a member** of Sun Assembly.
4. **Donate** to our Celia Wright Live Music Fund.
5. **Join [CDSS](#)**, the umbrella organization that supports English & American dance & dance camps, provides scholarships, publishes materials, & more.

Pick up a Sun Assembly membership form at a Thursday dance. \$20—includes **discounts** to **Spring DanceFest** and other special events, newsletter, and a coupon to bring a guest free to the Thursday night class.

DANCE CALENDAR and teaching schedule

Dances are held every Thursday, 7:30-9:30 pm, at the Freedman Center unless otherwise noted, with live music generally on 2nd and 4th Thursdays. Suggested donation: \$7/night or \$25/month. More info? Call 919-286-2202 or 919-683-9672.

Freedman Center of Beth El Synagogue, 1004 Watts St. at Green, Durham.

Reality Center, 916 Lamond at Gregson, Durham.

| WHEN | WHERE | TEACHERS | SPECIAL INFO |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Thurs., Mar. 3 | Freedman Center | Gail Lacy | |
| Thurs., Mar. 10 | Freedman Center | Allan Troxler | Live Music! Beginners' lesson at 7:15 |
| Thurs., Mar. 17 | REALITY CENTER | Leah Hefner | |
| Thurs., Mar. 24 | Freedman Center | Pat Petersen | Live Music! |
| Thurs., Mar. 31 | Freedman Center | Pat Petersen | 5th Thursday topic: Chestnuts!!! |
| Thurs., Apr. 7 | Freedman Center | Mary McConnell | |
| Thurs., Apr. 14 | Freedman Center | Pat Petersen | Live Music! AND The Highlanders!!! |
| Thurs., Apr. 21 | REALITY CENTER | Bob Dalsemer | Live Music—The Elftones!!! |
| Thurs., Apr. 28 | REALITY CENTER | Leah Hefner | Live Music! |
| Thurs., May 5 | REALITY CENTER | Pat Petersen | |
| Thurs., May 12 | REALITY CENTER | Allan Troxler | Live Music! Beginners' lesson at 7:15. |
| Thurs., May 19 | Freedman Center | Leah Hefner, coordinator | OPEN MIKE with Live Music! |
| Thurs., May 26 | Freedman Center | Gail Lacy | |
| Thurs., June 2 | Freedman Center | Allan Troxler | |
| Thurs., June 9 | Freedman Center | Pat Petersen | Beginners' lesson at 7:15 |
| Thurs., June 16 | Freedman Center | Pat Petersen | Live Music—Special guest Atossa Kramer! |
| Thurs., June 23 | Freedman Center | Mary McConnell | Live Music! |
| Thurs., June 30 | Freedman Center | Gail Lacy | |