



News from Sun Assembly

Summer 2016

[Like us on Facebook!](#)

Newsletter editor: [Pat Petersen](#)

Contributors: Leah Hefner, Donald Hughes, Sharon Spangler



Once and Future DanceFest!!!

A big **THANK YOU** to all of our volunteers who helped make this year's Spring DanceFest—featuring caller **Brooke Friendly**, with musicians **Mara Shea, Joey O'Donnell, Walt Robinson, Dean Herington, and Julie Gorka**—a wonderful success! The weekend, full of fun and lively workshops and dances (as well as fabulous music!), was very well attended. In addition to learning many new dances from Brooke and Chris's *Impropriety 5* collection, dancers also got to enjoy round singing on Saturday afternoon, and delicious refreshments throughout the weekend. Special thanks to our organizers: Co-Chairs **Leah Hefner** and **Donald Hughes**; Refreshments Coordinator **Sharon Bottesch**; hosting, **Gail Lacy**; Publicity Guru **Jim Tynen**; Sound Operator **David Prins**; Flower Arranger **Carol Rogers**; and Round Facilitator **Allan Troxler**. It takes a village to put on such an event. We really appreciate everyone who contributed time, talents, food, and other in-kind donations!

Mark your calendar for next year's Spring DanceFest, **March 11-12, 2017**, at the Murphey School, featuring caller **Gene Murrow** from New York, NY. The event will be co-chaired by Leah Hefner and Mary McConnell.

Bob Dalsemer

On Thursday, April 21, we danced at The Reality Center to the music of our own Mara Shea and Roger Gold—The Elftones!—and the calling of the legendary Bob Dalsemer. It was great to spread out in that spacious hall! We danced sprightly dances such as Greensleeves and Yellow Lace, Fandango, and Leather Lake House. Bob's calm and precise calling and the Elftones' jaunty beat were a wonderful combination. We ended the evening with Two Cousins, a lovely circle waltz. All in all, it was a delightful evening!

Dances of the Month

June's choice is Philippe Callens' [Hortonia](#). Instructions will be e-mailed to our list.

Dancing with the Highlanders!

Julie and Mara brought their student band, the **Highlanders**, for another great performance in April. We so look forward to the presentations of these enthusiastic kids and their families! After their short concert, they played Jamaica and Lawn Gods (oops, I meant Long Odds) for our dancing pleasure, then stayed on to dance a bit.

Open Mike Great Fun!

Thanks to Leah for organizing a truly inspired Open Mike Night on May 19! With music by the incomparable Syllabub, the guest callers—six of them!—led us through sprightly dances, like Knole Park and The Indian Queen, and sublime dances, like Orange Nan and The Punch Bowl. We enjoyed clever set dances such as Phoenix Rejuvenated and The Astonished Archaeologist. We even got to do Sun Assembly, our namesake dance! We concluded the evening with the meltingly beautiful Candles in the Dark. Thanks again to Leah, our musicians, and all our callers for a night to remember.

Upcoming...

Be sure to join us on **June 16**, when acclaimed ECD pianist **Tossa Kramer** will join Mara for lovely music. Then on **June 30**, Gail plans a **5th Thursday summer treat**: trips to exotic locations, and beautiful gardens, sipping lemonade, spending time on the water, and livin' easy.

Cecil Sharp:

Another Centennial Celebration!!!

After forming the American Branch of the English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS) that later became our own CDSS, **Cecil Sharp**, along with Maude Karpeles, spent three summers, starting in 1916, traveling the Appalachian Mountain region meeting local people, and collecting English and Scots-Irish ballads. In the first summer, they concentrated on North Carolina, particularly Madison County. Eventually over 1,600 tunes and songs were collected and published in two volumes. This effort was in some ways responsible

for the survival of the music in the public awareness. It continues to be highly important to Appalachian people and folk enthusiasts everywhere. John C. and Olive Campbell, founders of the Folk School in Brasstown, assisted Sharp in connecting with the mountain communities.

A committee here in the Triangle is working to recognize and celebrate this great work by gathering information, working with other groups involved in the history, and publishing this material on a [website](#) and a [Facebook page](#). Stay tuned through the summer as news and events are posted. This significant history relates to the development of our folk traditions in America. We are fortunate to have it in our virtual backyard, here in NC. Look for conferences, exhibits, and performances coming along through this year and the next two. For more information, contact Donald Hughes.

Support the dancing you love! Join the **Country Dance and Song Society**, the umbrella organization that provides all kinds of English & American dance & dance camps and scholarships, publishes materials, & much more. Go to [CDSS.org](#) for info (and shop their [store](#) for great tunes and other dance-related items).

SUN ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP 2016

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ DATE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ E-MAIL _____

I'm in! Here's my check to SUN ASSEMBLY for ___\$20 (annual regular membership)

Send newsletter by ___e-mail ___regular mail. Enclosed is my (tax-deductible) contribution of ___ to the Celia Wright Live Music Fund.

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.

WHEN	WHERE	TEACHERS	SPECIAL INFO
Thurs., Jun. 2	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	
Thurs., Jun. 9	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	Live Music! Beginners' lesson at 7:15
Thurs., Jun. 16	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	Atossa Kramer & Mara Shea, Live!
Thurs., Jun. 23	Freedman Center	Mary McConnell	Live Music!
Thurs., Jun. 30	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	5th Thursday—Celebrate Summer!
Thurs., Jul. 7	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	
Thurs., Jul. 14	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	Live Music! Beginners' lesson at 7:15
Thurs., Jul. 21	Freedman Center	Leah Hefner	
Thurs., Jul. 28	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	Live Music!
Thurs., Aug. 4	Freedman Center	Leah Hefner	
Thurs., Aug. 11	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	Live Music! Beginners' lesson at 7:15
Thurs., Aug. 18	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	
Thurs., Aug. 25	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	Live Music!
Thurs., Sep. 1	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	
Thurs., Sep. 8	Freedman Center	Mary McConnell	Live Music! Beginners' lesson at 7:15
Thurs., Sep. 15	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	
Thurs., Sep. 22	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	Live Music!
Thurs., Sep. 29	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	5th Thursday—watch for special topic

Summer camp—register NOW!

Can you imagine yourself immersed in a whole week of dancing and music in a rustic setting between 2 ponds in a glorious New England summer? Registration for some of the weeks at [PineWoods Camp](#) and other CDSS camps is still open. Just think about how good a dip in the pond will feel after a day or evening of dancing...

More Lovely Dancing

Paul Ross's Youtube channel [Childgrove](#) has some of the best dance videos we've found online. It features Fried de Metz Herman's dances, including also many other old favorites. The dancers usually are hand-picked and have rehearsed the dance. In June, Pat will teach Fried de Metz Herman's [A Girl's Best Friend](#), pointing out some of the style elements that Paul stresses.