



News from Sun Assembly



Fall 2016

Newsletter editor: [Pat Petersen](#)

HEADS UP! LOCATION CHANGE October 13

We'll hold our regular dance at the **Reality Center**, very near Beth El, at **916 Lamond Ave., Durham**. Please join us there.

Dances of the Month

For September, it's **Hatfield House**, an original 2-couple dance, by Charles Bolton. Bolton reconstructed many English country dances, as well as devised choreographies of his own. All of Bolton's dances can be freely accessed through the [CDSS Online Library](#).

•Is there a dance you'd like us to feature for DOTM? Mention it to one of the teachers!

•Instructions and music for the **Dance of the Month** are sent to all on our e-mail list. Contact [Judy](#) to sign up!

Open Mike Oct. 6

Great fun! Our community comes together for an evening of new or rarely heard voices. If you would like to call, contact [Eric Conrad](#), or let him know at a dance, **before September 30**. Keep in mind that we will be using recorded music (you'll have a DJ to manage it).

Halloween Dance Oct. 27

We've had lots of fun over the years coming to the last dance **dressed as an English Country dance**. It's a **live music** night: no holds barred as you contemplate your costume! If you let [Pat](#) know by email a week ahead of time, she'll be able to warn the musicians.

Highlanders in December!

That marvelous kids-and-more group of musicians will join us early in December. We'll keep you posted as to when.

Sun Assembly turns 30!

Sun Assembly became a non-profit corporation 1986, to carry on the English and Scottish Country dance and research started by Allan Troxler and Carl Wittman, after Carl left this world. **On November 10th**, we'll take time to **celebrate Sun Assembly's history** and current vitality. We'll invite folks who no longer dance with us but still live nearby, so if you think of someone, pass on the word. Make sure to **mark your calendars**; watch for details closer to the date.

New Sun Assembly Officers— and a BIG THANKS to GAIL!!!

For many years, **GAIL LACY** has served as our steering committee facilitator and President. As we move toward a new model of more frequent rotation of officers and members (many of whom have served for years numbering in the double digits), we want to **THANK GAIL** for filling this spot for so long! We welcome **Mary McConnell** as our new President, **Sharon Bottesch** as Vice President, and **Bob Byrd** as Secretary, with thanks to **Leah Hefner** for her years in that position. We're grateful that **Donald Hughes** will continue as Treasurer. At-large members are Vic Correll, Leah Hefner, Lucy Ringland, Judy Strickland, and Allan Troxler. Gail Lacy & Pat Petersen will soon step off the committee after decades of service.

Summer Camp Reports

Sun Assembly dancers enjoyed **FIVE** different CDSS camps this summer! Here are a few reports:

•Camp Cavell in Michigan, by Donald Hughes

CDSS's newest camp, the midwest Camp Cavell, was held in mid-August. Right on the shores of Lake Huron, the camp provided an inspiring setting for an experiment in CDSS camps, "music, dance and spice." Carol Ormand was the program director for an English-American mix of dancing, traditional music, singing, PLUS, a large selection of classes in other areas: photography, kayaking, comedy improvisation, various crafts, tree climbing, horseback riding, cooking. These "flavorful" additions provided a good resource to non-dancing spouses as well as a simple change in frame of reference at times during the day. It was a big success overall, and really served the midwest need. The photography class produced 5,000 photographs. All in all, the camp was great fun; it is already scheduled for next year. Did I mention beautiful moonrises and lightning storms out on the lake?

•Pinewoods Harmony of Song and Dance

Pete Campbell & Mary McConnell attended this CDSS week at Pinewoods. It was wonderful! The day starts with all camp chorale, singing together in 4-part harmony. Then there are opportunities to dance (English, contra, ritual), play music, sing and enjoy Pinewoods camp between its two beautiful lakes. Many young enthusiastic and talented musicians, singers and dancers provided wonderful energy. We highly recommend this week, which was new for us.

New Year's Eve at Murphey!

Join us in this splendid space! Dance in the New Year with Sun Assembly. Music by **Julie, Walt**, and friends; more details in the next newsletter.

Save the Date! Spring DanceFest with Gene Murrow

March 11-12, 2017 is the weekend! Our superb local musicians, with special guest Atossa Kramer, will provide the usual divine accompaniment.

Other events near and far

- **Sept. 16-17, Feet Retreat:** A mostly contra weekend sponsored by Fiddle & Bow Country Dancers of the Triad. Including an English country dance workshop on September 16, led by **Gail Lacy** to the music of The Ones Improper.
- **Sept. 24-26: Fandango, Atlanta;** **Joseph Pimentel** is the principal caller, with music by **Goldcrest**.
- **Sept. 30-Oct. 2, Adirondack Dance weekend:** with simultaneous English & contras, waltzing, jamming, hiking, kayaking; callers include **Pat Petersen**.

Join Us!

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.
4. **Donate to the Celia Wright Live Music Fund**

Your membership helps us sponsor regular Thursday dances as well as special events (such as the CDSS Centennial Celebration, New Year's Eve, and Spring DanceFest) and our fabulous musicians. You'll find membership/renewal/donation forms at the dance. Many thanks for your support! And while you're at it, consider joining the **Country Dance and Song Society**, the umbrella organization that has supported all kinds of English & American dance & dance camps, providing scholarships, publishing materials, & much more for a **hundred years!** Check out their webpage, www.cdss.org

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. Here's a [map](#) to the **Reality Center**

WHEN	WHERE	TEACHERS	SPECIAL INFO
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
Thurs., Oct. 6	Freedman Center	OPEN MIKE!	Contact Eric Conrad to sign up
Thurs., Oct. 13	Reality Center	Allan Troxler	Live Music! Beginners lesson at 7:15
Thurs., Oct. 20	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	
Thurs., Oct. 27	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	Live Music! Halloween! Come as an English country dance.
Thurs., Nov. 3	Freedman Center	Leah Hefner	
Thurs., Nov. 10	Freedman Center	Cavalcade of callers	30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, with Live Music!
Thurs., Nov. 17	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	
Thurs., Nov. 24	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	Come dance off that turkey!!!
Thurs., Dec. 1	Freedman Center	Mary McConnell	
Thurs., Dec. 8	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	Live Music! Beginners lesson at 7:15
Thurs., Dec. 15	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	The Highlanders!!!
Thurs., Dec. 22	Freedman Center	Leah Hefner	Live Music! Beginners lesson at 7:15
Thurs., Dec. 29	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	
Sat. Dec. 31	Murphey School	Cavalcade of callers	New Years Eve Dance—watch for details!