



News from Sun Assembly

Winter 2016-17

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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** (see separate article) and **Open Mike** night (thanks **Eric** and all neophyte [and regular] teachers!). We celebrated our **30th anniversary** in November, enjoying old and new friends and dances. **Allan** and others prepared nostalgic displays of photos, articles and more from decades past; Lucy and Leah's decorations further enhanced our evening. We watched a video of a dance performance from the 80's, and enjoyed (kosher) treats. What a great evening!

Once Again—The Highlanders!

These marvelous kids and their folks will join us again on **December 15**. Come at **7:15** for a short concert; stay to dance to their music, followed by Mara and Dean. Let's encourage this next generation of dance musicians!

Dance on New Year's Eve!!!

Allan, Gail, Leah, and Russell will lead our annual New Year's Eve celebration, starting at 8:30 pm at the spacious and beautiful Murphey School. Invitations are forthcoming; hope you can make it! **Live music** by the **Ark Angels** (Julie, Walt, and friends). 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 \$20 members; \$25 non-members; FREE for kids under 12 and Duke students. Questions? Call 919-286-2202, or e-mail sunassembly@gmail.com.

Cecil Sharp Photographic Exhibition

The Triangle Area Cecil Sharp Centennial Committee, with the generous assistance of the North Carolina Folklife Institute, CDSS, and the English Folk Dance and Song Society, will be sponsoring an exhibition of Cecil Sharp's Appalachian Photographs during 2017 and 2018. With grant funding from the NC Humanities Council and CDSS, this exhibit opens in Durham at the Through This Lens Gallery (stay tuned for the opening date), will tour the Appalachian region for two years. There are expected dates in North Carolina, Kentucky, and Virginia. These photographs are of the song providers Sharp and Maud Karpeles met in their travels. He became close with many of the people, gaining a fond appreciation for Appalachian culture. More information at cecilsharpinappalachia.org.

Save the Date! Spring DanceFest with Gene Murrow

We are thrilled that nationally-known caller and former CDSS President Gene Murrow will preside over 2 wonderful days of English country dancing March 11-12, 2017 at the Shared Visions Retreat Center. (Contradancers: make it 3 days—come for TCD's Friday contra on March 10!)

Music for the weekend will be provided by our own Mara Shea and the usual suspects, with special guest Atossa Kramer on keyboard. Flyers with registration forms, along with other event information, are now available via the [DanceFest website](#). Sign up today--and help us get the word out! You don't want to miss it!!!

Dances of the Month

In **December**, we'll **review** dances we've worked on in the past. Look for recent directions or links at sunassembly.org.

Halloween!

Our October 27 dance was frightfully awesome! Pat Petersen, dressed in Black, Nagged us through as many of our costumed dances as we had time for. A few highlights: Bob wowed us in a dashing pirate costume, scratching his head and saying, "I don't know who I am" (The Unknown Buccaneer). We had two different but equally wonderful Mad Robins: Gerald sporting a beak and wearing a red shirt, and Heidi dressed up as Robin (minus Batman). Joe in a black dress and veil was "The Young Widow," Leah was a wonderful bumblebee for "Bee in Your Bonnet," and Allan in a straw hat with a Agriculture Commission political sign around his neck was "The Farmer's Joy." Sharon in a ravishing red dress and wig was "Red and All Red," and Gail stumped us all with her rendition of our dance of month, Hudson Barn (she wore a placard advertising Holsteins United Dances O' the Night). We ended the night dancing in the dark with sparkly LED lights on our fingers to "Candles in the Dark." (Thank you, Lucy!) Thanks to our wonderful musicians, our caller, and all the creative dancers who charmed and amazed us with their clever costumes!

Sharon Spangler

Camp, continued...

Members of our Sun Assembly dance community participated in 5 dance camps this summer. I went to the oldest of these camps, Pinewoods, in Plymouth, MA. This week long camp is one of many sponsored by CDSS (Country Dance and Song Society).

It is a delight to be able to dance in the woods in lovely outdoor pavilions day and night, take a break to nap or swim and dance again. I shared this space with incredibly talented people of all ages, 16 to 80+. Music drifted throughout the woods as I walked from my little cabin to the dance or dining halls.

Either a weekend event or a week long dance camp provides time for you to study a new dance or technique or a skill on an instrument that a single night doesn't allow. You have time to have a conversation longer than one minute. You get to know other dancers from your own community or around the country, in a way that just passing them in line at a dance doesn't permit.

CDSS sponsors several dance weeks throughout the year and throughout the country. Of these Pinewoods is the original dance camp. Helen Osborne Storrow first taught English dance at this site in 1919 and gave the camp to the dancing community in 1933. Dancing here has allowed me to participate in an almost century long tradition, one I hope continues a century into the future.

Sharon Bottesch

It's not too soon...

...to be thinking about **2017 summer dance 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 Mary, 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 below, 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. Go to CDSS.org for info (and shop their [store](#) for great holiday gift ideas).

SUN ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP 2017

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. 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!
Thurs. Dec. 29	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	5th Thursday—New and Exciting Dances
Sat. Dec. 31	Murphey School	Leah Hefner, Russell Herman, Gail Lacy, Allan Troxler	New Years Eve Dance, 8:30 until...!
Thurs., Jan. 5	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	
Thurs., Jan. 12	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	Live Music! Beginners' lesson at 7:15
Thurs., Jan. 19	Freedman Center	Mary McConnell	
Thurs., Jan. 26	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	Live Music!
Thurs., Feb. 2	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	
Thurs., Feb. 9	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	Live Music! Beginners' lesson at 7:15
Thurs., Feb. 16	Freedman Center	Leah Hefner	
Thurs., Feb. 23	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	Live Music!
Thurs., Mar. 2	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	
Thurs., Mar. 9	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	Live Music! Beginners' lesson at 7:15
Thurs., Mar. 16	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	
Thurs., Mar. 23	Freedman Center	Leah Hefner	Live Music!
Thurs., Mar. 30	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	