



# News from Sun Assembly



Spring 2017

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Newsletter editor: Pat Petersen

## Spring DanceFest!!

**DanceFest 2017** is upon us! It's Saturday and Sunday, **March 11-12**. We are very fortunate to have **Gene Murrow** from New York as our dance caller. Gene is in demand worldwide as a caller, musician, and organizer. Our dance venue at the **Murphey School** is a beautiful place to dance and we'll have wonderful music. Check the [Sun Assembly website](#) for details and schedule. Spring DanceFest has become a Sun Assembly tradition because the past events have been so much fun. Don't miss it. Many will travel far to attend, but it is in your own backyard! No partner necessary; we mix it up a lot! You don't need much experience; basic knowledge of the calls and a general idea of the forms will serve you well. No need for ball gowns and tuxes; just come wearing the clothes you like to dance in. Some folks like to change clothes between the workshops and the evening dance. If you can't make it for the whole weekend, you can come for a workshop or two, or just the evening dance, and pay at the door. Come dance!

## Calendar Excitement!

**April 13** is our next **Open Mike Night**, with **live music** this time! We encourage anyone who would like to give teaching a go to contact **Eric Conrad**, econrad003 @ gmail.com. Then on **April 20**, **Bob Dalsemer** will return to teach at Sun Assembly! Past President of CDSS, and now-retired Music Director at John C. Campbell Folk School, Bob has a wealth of experience in teaching English, contra, and square dancing. Join in the fun as he leads us in some new and old dances! Our house band will accompany him on a special live music night. Mara and Julie's band of young folks, **The Highlanders**, will regale us with tunes before the **May 25** dance .

## Pre-dance Dinners?

The [Durham Coop Market](#) still offers its \$3 meals on Thursday evenings—a great deal!

## Welcoming the New Year

**Thanks** to all the teachers, volunteers, refreshment providers, musicians, and DANCERS who made this past **New Years Eve** dance a great success!

## Summer Dancing!

Where will you be escaping the NC heat this summer? [CDSS](#) offers camps at Pinewoods, Ogontz, and now in Michigan. There are dance weeks to suit all tastes—check them out. A number of camp scholarships are available for those in need.

## Pat Shaw Centennial

This year we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of **Pat Shaw** (1917-1977), prolific and inventive choreographer, musician, singer, collector, composer of tunes and rounds, and dance researcher and reconstuctor. It is to Pat that we owe side-by-siding. He published a book of dances after he visited Pinewoods, *Between Two Ponds* (included now in *Pat Shaw's Pinewoods*), as well as a collection of dances with references to Holland, and a book of dances from Welsh sources (containing dance directions in both inscrutable Welsh and, thank goodness, English). His other dances were collected in 3 volumes, published after his death along with 2 additional volumes of his tunes. Traveler, gardener, cook, punster, dancer—he died at 59, far too soon. We'll feature many of his dances in the coming months.

## Dance of the Month

**Nonesuch**, our **March DOTM**, appeared in the first edition of Playford's *Dancing Master* in 1651. It was reprinted in all the many editions up until 1728, attesting to its popularity. It remains a favorite set dance for 8, appearing often as a “for those who know” dance. Others will be announced soon—check the website!

## Join Sun Assembly!

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

**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](http://CDSS.org) for info (and shop their [store](#) for great holiday gift ideas).

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### SUN ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP 2017

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (best) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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.

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### DANCE CALENDAR and teaching schedule

Dances are held every Thursday, 7:30-9:30 pm, at the **Freedman Center of Beth El Synagogue**, 1004 Watts St. at Green, Durham unless otherwise noted, with live music generally on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays. Suggested donation: \$7/night or \$25/month. More info? Call 919-286-2202 or 919-683-9672.

WHEN	WHERE	TEACHERS	SPECIAL INFO
Thurs., Mar. 9	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	<b>Live Music!</b> Beginners' lesson at 7:15
Thurs., Mar. 16	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	
Thurs., Mar. 23	Freedman Center	Leah Hefner	<b>Live Music!</b>
Thurs., Mar. 30	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	<b>PAT SHAW EXTRAVAGANZA!</b>
Thurs., Apr. 6	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	
Thurs., Apr. 13	Freedman Center	<b>Eric Conrad, coordinator</b>	<b>OPEN MIKE with Live Music!</b>
Thurs., Apr. 20	Freedman Center	<b>Bob Dalsemer</b>	<b>Live Music—Mara and friends</b>
Thurs., Apr. 27	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	<b>Live Music!</b>
Thurs., May 4	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	
Thurs., May 11	Freedman Center	Leah Hefner	<b>Live Music! Beginners' lesson at 7:15.</b>
Thurs., May 18	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	
Thurs., May 25	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	<b>Live Music! AND The Highlanders!!!</b>
Thurs., June 1	Freedman Center	Leah Hefner	
Thurs., June 8	Freedman Center	Mary McConnell	<b>Live Music! Beginners' lesson at 7:15</b>
Thurs., June 15	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	
Thurs., June 22	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	<b>Live Music!</b>
Thurs., June 29	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	