



News from Sun Assembly



Fall 2017

Newsletter editor: Pat Petersen

HEADS UP! LOCATION CHANGES

Sept. 21, 28; Oct. 12

Due to the Jewish holidays, we'll hold our regular dance at the **Reality Center** near Beth El, at **916 Lamond Av., Durham** on Sept. 21 and 28, and at **Binkley Baptist Church, Chapel Hill**, on Oct. 12. See link to directions on the Calendar page. Please join us!

Steering Committee Changes

Many thanks to **Judy Strickland & Donald Hughes**, who will rotate off of the SC in September, for their *many* years of dedicated service! For now, Judy will continue to be Membership Coordinator, Keeper of the E-mail List, and PR Coordinator to local news outlets. Donald has served as Treasurer for the last several years, but will be stepping down to devote more time to his role on the national CDSS Executive Board. Thanks to **Vic Correll**, who will serve as our new Treasurer!

Sun Assembly Community Gathering

Sunday, September 10, 4 to 8 PM

You are all invited to the home of **Gail Lacy & Donald Hughes**, 6036 Laws Farm Rd, Rougemont, NC 27572 for a chance to talk, eat and dance. Their home is built for dancing. They are only a few miles northwest of Durham, easy to find with the help of a GPS.

Our community shares a love of music and dance, especially English Country Dance. This will be a great time to have real conversations with other dancers and get to know them better. Pot luck; bring your favorite dish and drink to share.

Sun Assembly is over 30 years old. For many of those years a small core of dedicated dancers kept the group going, with most of the Steering Committee (SC) members serving for many years, during which time our community has waned, waxed, and gone through many changes. Currently, the SC members have begun a more scheduled rotation.

The SC wants to share what goes into keeping our dance series thriving. We would like engagement from the community: what is going well, what needs are not being met or could be done better. Remember that a desire, or request for improvement, may be tied to volunteering to help bring it into reality.

We have been welcoming many new members lately. This is a good time for our community to learn about our history, see what it takes to put on this wonderful dance, and help create a vision for our future. Hope to see you there.

Sharon Bottesch and Mary McConnell

Dances of the Month

- September: **Severn Bore**
- October: **The Old Mill, or the Merry Salopians**
- November: **Carolina Farewell**

Click [here](#) for videos. Directions and links for the **Dance of the Month** are sent to all on our e-mail list.

Open Mike Oct. 12

Calling new callers! Here's your opportunity to try your hand, er, voice, at teaching a dance, backed by fabulous live music. Contact [Eric Conrad](#), or let him know at a dance, **before October 5** if you'd like to lead a dance.

Halloween Dance Oct. 26

We've had lots of fun over the years coming to the last October dance **dressed as an English Country dance**. With **live music**, anything goes (pretty much) 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 (and prepare your dance).

Highlanders in December!

That marvelous kids-and-more group led by Julie and Mara will join us again for a concert and a couple of dances on December 7. Don't miss it!

Report from Summer Dance Camp

Leah had a great time at **New London Assembly**, a week-long dance workshop held at Connecticut College. Philippe Callens and Andrew Shaw offered classes on choreographies by Nathaniel Kynaston, Philippe, and Pat Shaw, as well as reconstructing dances from *The Beggar's Opera* (1728). She looks forward to sharing new material she learned with the group!

New Year's Eve at Murphey School

Join us in this splendid space! Dance in the New Year with your Sun Assembly friends, and fabulous live music; more details in the next newsletter.

Save the Date! Spring DanceFest with Kalia Kliban

March 10-11, 2018 is the weekend! Our superb local musicians will provide the usual divine accompaniment.

Big News from CDSS

In August 2017, after an exhaustive search for the right person, the CDSS Governing Board unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Katy Tarter German of Asheville as the **new Executive Director** for CDSS. As a member of the search team, I can state there is a lot of excitement about Katy in her new role. She has a long and storied connection and involvement with the musical and dance arts. Her parents run the Christmas Country Dance School at Berea. Her great aunt is the legendary American folk icon Jean Rictchie. Katy sings and

dances, and has been part of the larger community for many years. She brings a wealth of talent and skills in organizational management, strategic development, artistic design and leadership. Katy German will be the person to take CDSS into the next century with vision, energy, and a highly-polished management style. We should all cheer! *Donald Hughes* **Report from**

Nearby dance events

- Sep. 22-24, [Fandango](#), Atlanta, Tom Amesse & Bare Necessities.**
- Oct. 7, Salem Ball**, Winston-Salem. Period or evening dress. Bring a side dish to share. More info on Facebook: Salem Ball - 18 Century Ball - October 7th.
- Nov. 4, Jefferson Ball**, Henrico, VA, hosted by the Colonial Dance Club of Richmond. Registration deadline is Oct. 31.

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**. The building is to the left of the parking lot. Suggested donation: \$7/night or \$25/month. For more info, call 919-286-2202 or 919-683-9672. Here's a [map](#) to the **Reality Center**, and one to [Binkley Baptist](#).

WHEN	WHERE	TEACHERS	SPECIAL INFO
Thurs., Sep. 7	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	
Thurs., Sep. 14	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	Live Music! Beginners' lesson at 7:15
Thurs., Sep. 21	Reality Center	Mary McConnell	
Thurs., Sep. 28	Reality Center	Gail Lacy	Live Music!
Thurs., Oct. 5	Freedman Center	Leah Hefner	
Thurs., Oct. 12	Binkley Baptist, CH	OPEN MIKE!	Contact Eric Conrad to sign up
Thurs., Oct. 19	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	
Thurs., Oct. 26	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	Live Music! Halloween! Come as an English country dance.
Thurs., Nov. 2	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	
Thurs., Nov. 9	Freedman Center	Mary McConnell	
Thurs., Nov. 16	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	
Thurs., Nov. 23	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	Come dance off that turkey!!!
Thurs., Nov. 30	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	
Thurs., Dec. 7	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	The Highlanders!
Thurs., Dec. 14	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	Live Music! Beginners lesson at 7:15
Thurs., Dec. 21	Freedman Center	Leah Hefner	
Thurs., Dec. 28	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	
Sun. Dec. 31	Murphey School	Cavalcade of callers	New Years Eve Dance—watch for details!