



News from Sun Assembly

Winter 2017-18

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Newsletter editor: [Pat Petersen](#)



'Tis the Season!

Fall is drawing to a close, even here in the South, and the holidays are upon us. Our **community meeting** in September gathered lots of ideas from lots of dancers. You can read notes of President Mary McConnell's welcome in a handout for new dancers. We've had great fun **Open Mike** night (thanks **Eric** and all neophyte [and regular] teachers!) and with **Halloween** (see separate article). Much to come though! Read on...

Location, Location, Location! Changes of Venue for 2018

We have been using the Freedman Center for years, but Beth El is starting a major renovation. The **last date we will be dancing at the Freedman Center is January 11, 2018**. Later on, we'll be dancing at the Triangle Dance Studio on Miami Blvd., Durham. However, this venue will not be available to us until late spring or early summer. As a temporary move, we will be dancing at Binkley Baptist in Chapel Hill for the last two weeks in January. Look for announcements for the location of our dances for February, March, and April at sunassembly.org.

Once Again—The Highlanders!

These marvelous kids and their folks will join us again on **Dec. 7**. Come at **7:15** for a short concert; stay to dance to their music, followed by **Mara, Dean, & Julie**. 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. Hope you can make it! **Live music** by **Hey Fever** (Julie, Walt, Roz, Joey). 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.

Save the Date! Spring DanceFest with Kalia Kliban

We are thrilled that popular California caller Kalia Kliban will preside over 2 wonderful days of English country dancing March 10-11, 2018 at the Shared Visions Retreat Center. (Contradancers: make it 3 days—come for TCD's Friday contra on March 10!)

This fun weekend has been increasingly successful, attracting dancers from far and wide as we bring in top talent. We need plenty of **local volunteers!** Be thinking of how you can help. Set up? Sweeping? Desk monitoring? Kitchen duty? Setting out refreshments? Arranging flowers? Clean up?

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!!!

And speaking of dates...

- February 9-11, Mid-Winter Weekend, [Asheville](#).
- January 21, Holiday Dance, [Williamsburg](#).
- March 3, George Washington Ball, [Williamsburg](#).
- March 23-25, Playford Ball, [Nashville](#).

Thanks, Judy!

After many years of exemplary service to Sun Assembly, **Judy Strickland** has resigned from the Steering Committee as of September of this year. Her fine organizational skills and thoughtful ideas have helped us in so many ways. She is continuing to serve in many of the tasks that she has taken on over the years, at least until someone else can step into doing those tasks. She maintains the membership roster, email list and email notifications. In addition, she maintains contact with Beth El Synagogue about use of the Freedman Center, and places ads about our weekly dances in local events lists. We really appreciate all that Judy has done, and continues to do! Many, many, thank-you's!

Mary McConnell

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!

Headgear was popular this year, from Gerald's creative "High D and Loose C" to Joe's beret for "Trip to Paris" to Leah's jaunty cap for "News From Tripoli" to Heide's feline ears for "Cat in the Window." Karen and Lewis were adorned with milk jugs and beer cans for "Merry Merry Milkmaids" and "Juice of Barley." There was a gypsy, a Dutch skipper, an English Country dan-"sir", a Morris dancer, even a butcher! Our fabulous Syllabub and Friends and Pat Petersen led us through many of the dances represented. Start thinking about which dance you want to be next year!

Sharon Spangler

It's not too soon...

...to be thinking about **2018 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.

New—Membership Directory!

Following a suggestion made at our community meeting in September, we'll make directory of our membership available to all members. On your renewal form, please check off what info you'd be willing to share. Many members have been wanting a way to reach other dancers, for smaller groups working on projects, people interested in car-pooling, etc.

SA Steering Committee

For years a small group of dedicated dancers including Gail Lacy, Donald Hughes, Pat Petersen, Doug Young, Allan Troxler, Russell Herman, Judy Strickland, Leah Hefner, Sharon Bottesch, and others who have served in the past, have kept this dance series going. As part of that we have become an affiliate of CDSS. The Steering Committee (SC) had no process for having "term limits" for its officers and members. After much discussion,

policies were decided on and implemented. Doug resigned in October 2015. Gail and Pat resigned September 2016. Judy has just resigned, and Donald will at the end of this year. We are indebted to the persistent and fine leadership that has guided Sun Assembly all these years and created such a successful dance

community. We are in a time of transition and we need **HELP** to continue to be successful. We want to hear from you. For instance, the singing at the end of the evening was an idea that came from the dancers and the SC thought it was a good idea.

Mary McConnell

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: Membership rates remain the same this year. Your annual membership of \$20 includes **discounts** to Spring DanceFest and other special events, newsletter, and a coupon to bring a guest free to the Thursday night class.

Caveat: We may need to reevaluate if our costs increase after the move to the Triangle Dance Studio.

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 2018

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).

I'm including a (tax-deductible) contribution of _____ to the **Celia Wright Live Music Fund**.

It's **OK** **not OK** to list my _____ name _____ email _____ phone in our new **directory**. Send **newsletter** by e-mail regular mail.

DANCE CALENDAR and teaching schedule

Dances are held 7:30-9:30 p.m. The **Freedman Center** of **Beth El Synagogue** is on Watts St. at Green, Durham. Suggested donation: \$7/night or \$25/month. For more info, call 919-286-2202 or 919-683-9672.

WHEN	WHERE	TEACHERS	SPECIAL INFO
Thurs., Dec. 7	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	The Highlanders!!! +Mara, Julie, Dean
Thurs., Dec. 14	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler et al.	Live Music!
Thurs., Dec. 21	Freedman Center	Leah Hefner	
Thurs. Dec. 28	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	Live Music!
Sun. Dec. 31	Murphey School	Leah, Russell, Sharon, Eric, Allan, etc.	New Years Eve Dance, 8:30 until...! with Hey Fever: Joey, Julie, Roz, & Walt
Thurs., Jan. 4	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	
Thurs., Jan. 11	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	Live Music! Beginners' lesson at 7:15
Thurs., Jan. 18	Binkley Baptist	Mary McConnell	
Thurs., Jan. 25	Binkley Baptist	Leah Hefner	Live Music!
Thurs., Feb. 1	TBA	Pat Petersen	
Thurs., Feb. 8	TBA	Gail Lacy	Live Music! Beginners' lesson at 7:15
Thurs., Feb. 15	TBA	Pat Petersen	
Thurs., Feb. 22	TBA	Pat Petersen	Live Music!
Thurs., Mar. 1	TBA	Leah Hefner	
Thurs., Mar. 8	TBA	Gail Lacy	Live Music! Beginners' lesson at 7:15
Mar. 10-11	Murphey School	DanceFest!!! Kalia Klivan	Mara et al., with Atossa Kramer
Thurs., Mar. 15	TBA	Pat Petersen	
Thurs., Mar. 22	TBA	Allan Troxler	Live Music!
Thurs., Mar. 29	TBA	Pat Petersen	