



News from Sun Assembly



Fall 2018

Newsletter editor: Pat Petersen

HEADS UP! LOCATION CHANGES

November 8

Our regular dances are in the beautiful dance hall at the **Reality Center**, 916 Lamond Av., Durham. **HOWEVER, on November 8**, we'll be dancing at **Binkley Baptist Church, Chapel Hill**. Many thanks to Judy & Jim for arranging this for us. See link to directions on the Calendar page. Join us!

Farewell to Mara

It is with sadness and excitement that we bid adieu to Mara Shea for the year: sadness that we won't have her elegant and energetic music to inspire our dancing, and excitement about her bold decision to study in Scotland. We can with great conviction say, "Fare well!" You can follow Mara's blog about her adventure [here](#).

ECD in Raleigh

Join **SA Outreach**, dancers from Historic Interpretations, and congregation members at Church of the Nativity in Raleigh (8849 Ray Road) as we spread the joy of English Country dance. On 1st and 3rd Mondays, 7 to 9 pm, we will learn and practice a collection of dances spanning the full ECD time period, taught by rotating members of the group.

Sun Assembly Community Gathering Sunday, October 14, 4 to 8 PM

It was so much fun last year, we decided to do it again! Everyone is invited to come to a **pot luck gathering** to talk, eat, and dance at the dance-able home of Gail Lacy and Donald Hughes, 6036 Laws Farm Rd, Rougemont, NC 27572 (a few miles NW of Durham). Last fall it was especially nice to have conversations with people we've danced with many times, but never got to know well. During the afternoon, we discussed what we liked best about our dance community, what concerns and issues we had, and what we could contribute to make our dance better. In the past year, we have acted on

many of the great suggestions that came out of that meeting.

Come this year to hear all about what our dance community has been up to. We would like to continue the discussion on what works well and what we could improve. We would especially like to look at our programming. Be thinking of what you would like to see in future dance programs. Look for more details to come out on this topic.

Sharon Bottesch

Dances of the Month

It's Parthenia for September; others TBA.

Halloween Dance Oct. 25

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 Leah know by email a week ahead of time, she'll be able to warn the musicians (and prepare your dance).

Highlanders, December 13!

Those amazing kids will join us once again for a concert and a few dances in December. Be there!

New Year's Eve at Murphey School

We've just confirmed the availability of the **Murphey School** for our New Year's Eve Dance. Join your Sun Assembly friends to ring in 2019. More details in the next newsletter.

Save the Date! DanceFest 2019 with Bruce Hamilton

Be sure to hold the dates—**March 16-17**, the St. Patrick's Day weekend. Our guest caller is the splendid, famed, **Bruce Hamilton**, from California. Also, dance musician **Becky Ross**, from the D.C. area, will be joining **Dean Herington and Joey O'Donnell** to provide inspiring music. We will again be at the beautiful Murphey School. Don't miss it! And be thinking how you'd like to help out—we'll need lots of volunteers to make it a success. Be there!

Reports from Summer Dance Camp

A big Sun Assembly contingent trouped to **Pinewoods English Week** this year: **Vic, Mary, Pete, Leah, Lucy, & Gail**. An impressive showing! Besides country dancing led by Gene Murrow, Robin Hayden, and Andrew Shaw from England, Leah, Lucy, Gail and Pete danced ritual Longsword taught by Kalia Klivan. The week was gloriously warm and sunny, encouraging libations and conversation at the “Porch and Rail,” and frequent dips in the pond.

Meanwhile, **Pat & Doug** took advantage of being in Michigan to attend **Camp Cavell** Dance and Spice week on Lake Huron. Lots of contra, square, and English dancing, as well as old-time jams, comedy improv, singing, swimming, and tree climbing, kept us plenty busy.

Nearby dance events

- Sep. 21-23, [Fandango](#), Atlanta
- Oct. 6, [Salem Ball](#), Winston-Salem.
- Nov. 17, [Victory Ball](#), Petersburg, VA, hosted by the Regency Society of Virginia.

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 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 more than a **hundred years!** Check out their webpage, www.cdss.org

CALENDAR and teaching schedule

Dances are held at the **Reality Center, 916 Lamond**, 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. 6	Reality Center	Gail Lacy	
Thurs., Sep. 13	Reality Center	Pat Petersen	Live Music! Beginners’ lesson at 7:15
Thurs., Sep. 20	Reality Center	Leah Hefner	
Thurs., Sep. 27	Reality Center	Allan Troxler	Live Music!
Thurs., Oct. 4	Reality Center	Gail Lacy	
Thurs., Oct. 11	Reality Center	Allan Troxler	Live Music!
Sun., Oct.14, 4-8 pm	6036 Laws Farm Rd, Rougemont, NC	Community Gathering	Pot luck and dance at Gail & Donald’s—see article!
Thurs., Oct. 18	Reality Center	Pat Petersen	
Thurs., Oct. 25	Reality Center	Leah Hefner	Live Music! Halloween! Come as an English country dance.
Thurs., Nov. 1	Reality Center	Mary McConnell	
Thurs., Nov. 8	Binkley Baptist	Pat Petersen	Live Music! Beginners lesson at 7:15
Thurs., Nov. 15	Reality Center	Leah Hefner	
Thurs., Nov. 22	Reality Center	Allan Troxler	Come dance off that turkey!!!
Thurs., Nov. 29	Reality Center	Gail Lacy	Live Music!
Thurs., Dec. 6	Reality Center	Leah Hefner	
Thurs., Dec. 13	Reality Center	Pat Petersen	Live Music! Highlanders (come at 7:15)
Thurs., Dec. 20	Reality Center	Pat Petersen	Live Music! Mara and Dean!!
Thurs., Dec. 27	Reality Center	Gail Lacy	
Sun. Dec. 31	Murphey School	Cavalcade of callers	New Year’s Eve Dance—watch for details!