



# News from Sun Assembly

Spring 2019

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Newsletter editor: Pat Petersen



## “I Support CDSS,” March 14

Triangle Country Dancers and Sun Assembly will join forces to sponsor an evening of English, contra, and square dancing to benefit our umbrella organization, the **Country Dance and Song Society**. Come support CDSS on **Thursday, March 14, 7:30 to 10:00** at the **Reality Center**. With music by Julie Gorka, Dean Herington, Joey O’Donnell, and Pete Campbell, and calling by Pat Petersen, Gail Lacy, Valerie Helbert, Gaye Fifer, and Kyle Johnston, not to mention special guests **Bruce Hamilton** (former CDSS President), **Gaye Fifer** (current President), and **Katy German** (CDSS Executive Director), this gala evening promises great excitement. All admission fees will be donated, and new memberships will be matched. Come help our greater dance community support the vital work done by CDSS. Thanks to **Donald Hughes** for organizing!

## Spring DanceFest, Bruce Hamilton

Be sure to make plans for DanceFest 2019! The dates are **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 **Walt Robinson, Dean Herington, and Joey O’Donnell**, providing inspiring music. We will again be at the beautiful Shared Visions Retreat Center at the Murphey School. This fun weekend attracts dancers from far and wide as we bring in top talent. **We need plenty of local volunteers!** Do register soon—last year the event sold out! Check the [Sun Assembly website](#) for details and schedule. Be thinking of how you can help. Set up? Clean up? Sweeping? Setting out refreshments? Kitchen duty? Desk monitoring? Arranging flowers?

## Ring in the New Year

Our New Year’s Eve dance was wonderful! Russell, our master of ceremonies, kept things moving right along. We danced 19 dances during the evening, which might be a record! We had four callers who had never called on NYE before—Bob, Lucy, Valerie, and Jana—and they all did a great job. Our regulars, Julie, Walt, and Joey, kept us on tempo with music both lively and lovely. We danced Sellenger’s Round and sang “Ring It In” as the clock rolled over to 2019. It was, in Russell’s words, a night of “easy-going fabulousness.” There is no better way to start the New Year! Many thanks to the callers, musicians,

sound technician, organizers, and everyone who worked together to make the magic happen.

*Sharon Spangler*

## Welcome Newcomers!

We’re so glad to have you! Our experienced dancers will be glad to show you the ropes, so don’t be shy. Do come again, take the proffered hand, and keep smiling!

## More dance opportunities

- March 9, George Washington Ball, Williamsburg.
- March 22-24, Playford Ball, Nashville.

## The Highlanders return!

Mara and Julie’s band of young folks, **The Highlanders**, will regale us with tunes before the **May 9** dance. Welcome the next generation of musicians, and get their parents dancing!

## Where are we THIS week?

We’ve found a great new home at the [Reality Center](#), **BUT**—occasionally we must dance elsewhere. **Check the calendar and our website** for alternate locations.

## ...and where have we been?

**Christmas Country Dance School (CCDS)** is a wonderful winter “camp” held on the campus of Berea College, KY, between Christmas and New Year’s. In addition to dance options at all levels—English Country, contra, square, Irish Kerry sets, Early American, clogging, rapper, longsword, Morris, and more—other options include storytelling, recorder playing, Mummers’ play, singing, basket weaving and Temari craft. The gym, transformed by hanging quilts, becomes a seasonal indoor refuge for a family of some 300 folks. Energy abounds with the many young dancers and the expertise shared by those more experienced. It is a wonderful place to connect with others and bring in the New Year. Pete and I enjoyed ECD with Brad Foster and David Millstone, and Early American with Jim Morrison. Pete also took the Morris class that was doing Fieldtown tradition as I took the callers’ workshop. You’ll find many great videos on YouTube and the CCDS Berea Facebook page. What a wonderful time!

*Mary McConnell*

ECD was also featured at **Terpsichore’s Holiday**, a long-running event now held at the Claggett Center outside of Adamstown, Md. A last-minute change in plans led to a

contra dance band, Wild Rumpus, playing for ECD workshops and dancing. The trio was excellent. So was the calling and teaching by Tom Spilsbury. And English

dances were seamlessly incorporated into the evening dances, along with contras and squares.

*Jim and Marnie Tynen*

### It's not too soon...

...to be thinking about **2019 summer dance camps**, a great way to escape the NC heat! [CDSS](#) offers dance weeks to suit all tastes. Scholarships are available for those in need. From Michigan to Massachusetts, enjoy lakeside dancing, transporting music, and starry nights with a community of friends.

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### SUN ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP 2019

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.

### DANCE CALENDAR and teaching schedule

Dances are held every Thursday, 7:30-9:30 pm, usually at the **Reality Center**, 916 Lamont, Durham unless otherwise noted, with live music generally on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays. Check [sunassembly.org](http://sunassembly.org) for updates. Suggested donation: \$7/night or \$25/month. More info? Call 919-286-2202 or 919-683-9672.

WHEN	WHERE	TEACHERS	SPECIAL INFO
Thurs., Mar. 7	<b>BINKLEY BAPTIST</b>	Gail Lacy	
Thurs., Mar. 14	Reality Center	Many! <b>I Support CDSS!</b>	<b>Live Music! Dance til 10 pm</b>
<b>Mar. 16-17</b>	<b>Murphey School</b>	<b>Bruce Hamilton</b>	<b>DanceFest!</b>
Thurs., Mar. 21	Reality Center	Allan Troxler	<b>Live Music!</b>
Thurs., Mar. 28	Reality Center	Mary McConnell	
Thurs., Apr. 4	Reality Center	Pat Petersen	
Thurs., Apr. 11	Reality Center	Gail Lacy	<b>Live Music!</b>
Thurs., Apr. 18	Reality Center	Leah Hefner	
Thurs., Apr. 25	Reality Center	Pat Petersen	<b>Live Music!</b>
Thurs., May 2	Reality Center	Gail Lacy	
Thurs., May 9	Reality Center	Allan Troxler	<b>Live Music—The Highlanders</b>
Thurs., May 16	Reality Center	Pat Petersen	
Thurs., May 23	Reality Center	Leah Hefner	<b>Live Music!</b>
Thurs., May 30	Reality Center	Allan Troxler	
Thurs., June 6	Reality Center	Leah Hefner	
Thurs., June 13	Reality Center	Mary McConnell	<b>Live Music!</b>
Thurs., June 20	Reality Center	Gail Lacy	
Thurs., June 27	Reality Center	Pat Petersen	<b>Live Music!</b>

“I can think of no more fitting image for the ideal of social conduct than an English dance composed of many complicated figures and perfectly executed. A spectator in the gallery sees innumerable movements intersecting in the most chaotic fashion, changing direction swiftly and without rhyme or reason, yet never colliding. Everything is so ordered that the one has already yielded his place when the other arrives; it is all so skillfully, and yet so artlessly, integrated into a form, that

each seems only to be following his own inclination, yet without ever getting in the way of anybody else. It is the most appropriate symbol of the assertion of one's own freedom and regard for the freedom of others."

*Friedrich Schiller, 1759–180*