



News from Sun Assembly

Fall 2019

[Like us on Facebook!](#)

Newsletter editor: Valerie Helbert



November Venue Change

HEADS UP! November 7 at [Binkley Memorial Baptist Church](#). All other Thursday dances are at the [Reality Center](#) for 2019.

Community Gathering – Oct. 19

You are cordially invited to Sun Assembly's **3rd Annual Community Gathering on Saturday, Oct. 19, from 4:00-8:00pm**, at the home of Gail Lacy and Donald Hughes (6036 Laws Farm Rd, Rougemont, NC 27572). The Steering Committee (SC) will give a report of the year, followed by a potluck dinner and dancing. Please bring a dish to share. This will be a fun time to reflect on our group and activities, as well as to socialize with your fellow English country dancers!

Leah Hefner for the SC

Halloween Dance – Oct. 31

Sun Assembly celebrates Halloween each year by coming **dressed as an English Country dance**. With **live music**, anything goes (pretty much) as you contemplate your costume! If you let [Pat Petersen](#) know by email at least a week ahead of time, she may be able to warn the musicians (and prepare your dance).

Highlanders Concert – Dec. 12

A marvelous group of young musicians led by Julie Gorka will join us again for a concert and a couple of dances on December 12. Don't miss it!

Dance in the New Year!

Sun Assembly will celebrate the arrival of the year 2020 with dance on New Year's Eve! The place is the Shared Visions Retreat Center at the Murphey School, 3717 Murphy School Road, Durham, NC 27705. We will need volunteers to make this event the success it has been in year's past. Make plans now to be there!

Save the Date: Spring DanceFest 2020

We are excited to announce that next year's Spring DanceFest, featuring caller Melissa Running from the D.C. area, will take place **March 14-15, 2020**, at the Shared Visions Retreat Center in Durham, NC.

We look forward to you volunteering and participating in this wonderful local weekend!

Jane Austen Summer Ball

The Jane Austen Summer Ball was held June 22nd in UNC's stunningly beautiful Graham Memorial Hall, which looked like a scene from a *Pride and Prejudice* movie. The band (our ever-wonderful Syllabub) and caller Jack Maus were at the top of their form. We danced 14 dances, some of them twice, such as the crowd's enthusiasm. The costumes were inspiring, and the quality of the dancing was very good, considering the large number of beginners. Thanks and congratulations go out to the members of Sun Assembly Outreach who served as instructors. Many members of Sun Assembly-- 24 of us total--danced with the session attendees, making it a welcoming and memorable evening for all.

Sharon Spangler

Independence Day

We celebrated the 4th with a "cavalcade of callers"-eight callers for nine dances! We rode the Black Nag with Steve, twirled on the Potter's Wheel with Heide, toasted Jack's Health with Vivian, and dug into The Astonished Archaeologist with Eric. At the break, Russell and Jim read aloud the Declaration of Independence, and we rounded out the evening with a round of Yankee Doodle. It was a perfect blend of traditions from both sides of the pond!

Sharon Spangler

Try Out Your Calling Voice

If you want to call a dance at Sun Assembly, consider yourself invited! Check the dance schedule [here](#), or on our website www.sunassembly.org, and contact the upcoming caller at least a week in advance to let them know what you would like to teach. Written or recorded music is needed depending on if it is a live music night or a recorded music night. The caller responsible for the evening dance will want to know how to fit the dance into the evening program and has final approval.

Reports from Summer Dance Camps

Carol Rogers and Ed and Lois Davis went to Colchester Vermont in June to attend the Across the Lake ECD weekend, with dances called by Joanna Reiner from Philadelphia and music by the Bare Necessities. A full schedule included a Friday evening Welcome Dance for All, lectures and dance workshops during the day Saturday, and a Dress-Up Gala Dance Saturday evening, with many in period costume. Sunday brought a potluck breakfast and final Dance for All. Carol recognized many of the dances we do at Sun Assembly. A great time was had by all!

Next year, the [Across the Lake](#) dance weekend is June 12-14, 2020 with callers Scott Higgs and Christine Robb and music by the Bare Necessities. Talk to Carol if you would like more information about getting on the mailing list for this event.

Carol Rogers

Pete Campbell and Mary McConnell attended Pinewoods Camp on the Boston Centre CDSS weekend called July 4 (even though this year it was

not on J4) and combined that with the ESC (English-Scottish-Contra) short week that followed that is coordinated between Boston Centre CDSS and RSCDS Boston. We had not gone to those two events at Pinewoods before and they did have different personalities.

The J4 weekend had many very experienced and fine dancers who were returnees. It was more multigenerational than English Week and used usual gendered terms in describing dance, except for Brooke Friendly who called dances from *Impropriety VI*. ESC had many young adults and lots of energy. There was a definite effort to use un-gendered language, with both the Scottish and Contra dances taught with “Larks and Ravens” for Left and Right File. Melissa Running used positions for ECD, like Sun Assembly. There was also a discussion period about dance calling terminology which has now become a hot topic! We had a fabulous time and were very happy campers.

Mary McConnell

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 2nd and 4th Thursdays. Check 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., Sep. 12	Reality Center	Gail Lacy	Live Music!
Thurs., Sep. 19	Reality Center	Pat Petersen	
Thurs., Sep. 26	Reality Center	Leah Hefner	Live Music!
Thurs., Oct. 3	Reality Center	Mary McConnell	
Thurs., Oct. 10	Reality Center	Leah Hefner	Live Music!
Thurs., Oct. 17	Reality Center	Gail Lacy	
Thurs., Oct. 24	Reality Center	Allan Troxler (& friends)	
Thurs., Oct. 31	Reality Center	Pat Petersen	Live Music!
Thurs., Nov. 7	Binkley Baptist Church	Gail Lacy	
Thurs., Nov. 14	Reality Center	Pat Petersen	Live Music!
Thurs., Nov. 21	Reality Center	Leah Hefner	Live Music!
Thurs., Nov. 28	Reality Center	Allan Troxler	
Thurs., Dec. 5	Reality Center	Leah Hefner	
Thurs., Dec. 12	Reality Center	Gail Lacy	Live Music!
Thurs., Dec. 19	Reality Center	Pat Petersen	Live Music!
Thurs., Dec. 26	Reality Center	Allan Troxler (& friends)	
Tues., Dec. 31	Shared Visions Retreat Ctr.	Various callers	Live Music!
Thurs., Jan. 2	Reality Center	Pat Petersen	