



News from Sun Assembly



Winter 2019-2020

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Newsletter editor: [Valerie Helbert](#)

Community News

- Thanks to the wonderful hospitality of Gail Lacy and Donald Hughes, we had a delightful community event in October. We had a great time visiting, eating, and dancing. We also talked about ways to enhance our dance community.
- As a result, 2020 will see increased Thursdays with live music and some other special programming. The first such event will be on January 30th with Gail Lacy calling a selection of Sun Assembly's favorite dances to live music!
- Membership rates for 2020 will stay the same as last year. What a deal! We do plan to continue the directory, so check off what you are willing to share on your membership form.

Still at Reality

We're delighted to continue dancing primarily at the Reality Center for 2020. From now through June 2020 we are confirmed for every Thursday except March 19. Plans are underway to make sure we still dance that evening! Check sunassembly.org for updates. We're very happy that our 2020 dance home can continue to be in this oh-so-danceable space!

Happy New Year!!

Favorite dances - old and new, beautiful music, yummy food, good friends! Please do join the circle as we welcome in **2020**. Our jolly callers will lead the celebration, starting at 8:30 pm, in the lovely old Murphey School with sprightly and stately tunes from **Hey Fever** (Julie, Walt and 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. Questions? Call 919-286-2202, or e-mail sunassembly@gmail.com.

Save the Date: Spring DanceFest

Be sure to make plans for **DanceFest 2020!** The dates are **March 14-15**. Our special guest caller is [Melissa Running](#) from the D.C. area. Inspiring music provided by our very own local talent: Mara, Dean, Walt, Julie, and Joey! 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 in lots of different roles! Be thinking of how you can help make

the event smooth, fun, and not too much work for anyone. Many hands make light work!

And speaking of dates...

- January 26, [Holiday Dance](#), Williamsburg.
- February 7-9, [Midwinter Weekend](#), Asheville.
- March 7, [George Washington Ball](#), Williamsburg.
- March 27-29, [Playford Ball](#), Nashville.

Recent Events

Elegance, beauty, grace, friendliness, and courtly manners in motion; these are accurate descriptions of this year's Salem Ball 18th Century. The ball was held in Winston-Salem on October 5th. Dance master, John Millar from Williamsburg, did a fantastic job helping everyone navigate through the dances, which included simple classics like Hole in the Wall, as well as more advanced dances such as Kelsterne Gardens and A Trip to Killburn. A good number from Sun Assembly attended, including both seasoned dancers and a few brand new to ECD. Sporting Colonial, Regency, or contemporary evening wear, everyone was dressed to the hilt, and the masked promenade that kicked off the second half was beautiful. The food was amazing too. If you didn't make it to this small, charming ball this year, consider giving it a try next year. It's close to home and a delightful experience.

Ceil Hall

Our Halloween dance this year was spectacular--there were 57 dancers in the hall, and 30 of them came dressed as a dance! Just a few of the costumes included Gerald as a very convincing Alice Cooper (Alice), Heide sporting ears and a tail (Foxfire), Mary and Jennifer as twin Flying Sorceress(es), and Leah carrying a bow and arrow for Apollo's Hunt. We couldn't dance nearly all of them that night, but over the course of three Thursdays, we got through them all! Many thanks to our amazing musicians and callers and all the creative dancers who make this such a special event from year to year.

Sharon Spangler

On Thanksgiving night, we had a fun dance with Allan and friends calling. We had 17 dancers including the caller--just enough for 4-couple sets, so Allan called Shandy Hall and Lucy led us through La Boulanger. We also had some lively longways dances, as Joe chipped in with Heading for Zero, and Sharon called Vivaldi in Paradise and A New Leaf. We ended the evening with a round of Good Night to You All. Join us next year--it's the perfect ending to a special day!

Sharon Spangler

It's not too soon...

...to be thinking about 2020 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.

Time to Renew Your Membership!

Support English Country Dance in our community! Come to dances, bring your friends, and **become a member!** 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!

Regular membership: \$20 for the year. Your annual membership includes a **name tag**, **discounts** to Spring DanceFest and other special events, **newsletter**, and a **coupon** to bring a guest free to a Thursday night class.

Sustaining membership: \$250 - includes all the above, plus **class fees** for all weekly dances, and a great feeling about supporting our dance community!!!

RENEW: Send the form below with your check, made out to **Sun Assembly**, to **Vic Corell, 7521 Cove Point Dr. #31, Raleigh, NC 27613**. Memberships are for the calendar year. You can also make a **TAX DEDUCTIBLE** donation to the **Celia Wright Live Music Fund**. 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.

SUN ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP 2020

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., at the [Reality Center](#): 916 Lamond St., Durham. Suggested donation: \$7/night or \$25/month.

WHEN	WHERE	TEACHERS	SPECIAL INFO
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 (& friends)	
Tues. Dec. 31	Murphey School	Cavalcade of callers	New Year's Eve Dance!
Thurs., Jan. 2	Reality Center	Pat Petersen	
Thurs., Jan. 9	Reality Center	Leah Hefner	Live Music!
Thurs., Jan. 16	Reality Center	Gail Lacy	
Thurs., Jan. 23	Reality Center	Allan Troxler	Live Music!
Thurs., Jan. 30	Reality Center	Gail Lacy (Dance Favorites!)	Live Music!
Thurs., Feb. 6	Reality Center	Mary McConnell	
Thurs., Feb. 13	Reality Center	Gail Lacy	Live Music!
Thurs., Feb. 20	Reality Center	Leah Hefner	Live Music!
Thurs., Feb. 27	Reality Center	Pat Petersen	Live Music!
Thurs., Mar. 5	Reality Center	Leah Hefner	
Thurs., Mar. 12	Reality Center	Pat Petersen	Live Music!
Mar. 14-15	Murphey School	DanceFest!!! Melissa Running	Dean, Mara, Julie, Walt & Joey!!
Thurs., Mar. 19	Murphey School	TBD - <i>Special event in the works.</i>	<i>Watch for more info in 2020!</i>
Thurs., Mar. 26	Reality Center	Gail Lacy	Live Music!