



News from Sun Assembly

Spring 2020

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Newsletter editor: Valerie Helbert



Spring DanceFest, Melissa Running

Be sure to make plans for DanceFest 2020! The dates are **March 14-15** and the venue is the beautiful Shared Visions Retreat Center at the Murphey School (3717 Murphey School Rd, Durham). Our guest caller is the talented caller (and musician) **Melissa Running** from Maryland. With her calling and our fabulous local dance musicians **Julie Gorka, Mara Shea, Walt Robinson, and Dean Herington** providing inspiring music, this weekend is sure to be a delight! This fun weekend attracts dancers from far and wide so be sure to register soon. Check the [Sun Assembly website](#) for more details and schedule.

“I Support CDSS,” March 19

Triangle Country Dancers and Sun Assembly will join forces again to sponsor an evening of English and contra dancing to benefit our umbrella organization, the Country Dance and Song Society. Come support CDSS on Thursday, March 19, 7:30 to 10:00 at the Shared Visions Retreat Center. The evening will include mixed dance styles and features top national and local talent. With music by Julie Gorka, Dean Herington, Joey O'Donnell, and Mara Shea, and calling by Gaye Fifer, Diane Silver, Katy German (CDSS president), Gail Lacy, and Pat Petersen this evening promises great excitement. Admission is \$10 with the entire fee being donated to CDSS. Come help our greater dance community support the vital work done by CDSS. Thanks to Donald Hughes for organizing!

Ring in the New Year

So many beautiful sights in the Murphey School as 2020 drew near! Smiling dancers reaching to join Elizabeth's open chain. The "fingertip turn" in The Bishop. The exhilarating petronella of Asking for the Road. Russell, arms outstretched, "parting the Red Sea" as Mr. Isaac's long lines fell back. All this to the perfect background of Joey's strings, Julie's keyboard, and Walt's recorders. So many lovely tunes and dances--Well Hall, Leah's Waltz, In the Fields of Frost and Snow, The Bonny Cuckoo. Lest we slip into a dream, there was The Butterfly, Jack's

Maggot, and The Female Saylor to wake us up! As time ticked down to midnight, we joined hands to dance The Beginning of the World (Sellenger's Round) and to sing our traditional "Ring It In." Thanks to our musicians, our callers (Gail, Allan, Sharon, Eric, Russell), our many volunteers (and to Jana for coordinating them), and our sound man David for helping us to enjoy this truly wonderful event!
Sharon Spangler

More dance opportunities

- March 7, [George Washington Ball](#), Williamsburg.
- March 27-29, [Playford Ball](#), Nashville.

Great Live Music!

Sun Assembly is tremendously blessed to have so many excellent musicians in our NC community willing to play for dancing. Each 2nd and 4th week of the month we have great tunes from a revolving cast of characters. “Bonus” live music nights are still being confirmed for April, May, and June so watch the Sun Assembly website for updates. We sometimes even have guest musicians from outside of NC (west coast musician Dave Bartley joins Dean Herington and David DiGiuseppe on March 5) to add to the fun! If you appreciate this live music, consider making an extra donation to the Celia Wright Live Music Fund.

Learning Lab and Outreach

Learning Lab continues to meet 1st and 3rd Mondays from 7 to 9pm at Church of the Nativity on Ray Road in Raleigh. We have recently worked on dances for the Williamsburg Ball. The outreach group has several events coming up in March, April and May, including workshop/demos at several Wake County libraries, and a few other costumed activities. Check with Lucy Ringland or Heide Dorfman for dates and details if you are interested in participating.
Lucy Ringland

Contributors Wanted

Have an idea for an article in the next newsletter? Been somewhere great with ECD recently? Email [Valerie](#) with your suggestion or short essay! Next issue is published in early June.

Planning a Summer Vacation?

Consider a **2020 summer dance camp** - 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.

DANCE CALENDAR and teaching schedule

Dances are held every Thursday, 7:30-9:30 pm, usually at the Reality Center, 916 Lamont St, 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., Mar. 5		Leah Hefner	Bonus Live Music!
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	Local and national callers	Live Music! CDSS fundraiser dance
Thurs., Mar. 26	Reality Center	Gail Lacy	Live Music!
Thurs., Apr. 2	Reality Center	Pat Petersen	
Thurs., Apr. 9	Reality Center	Gail Lacy	Live Music!
Thurs., Apr.16	Reality Center	Pat Petersen	
Thurs., Apr. 23	Reality Center	Allan Troxler	Live Music!
Thurs., Apr. 30	Reality Center	Leah Hefner	Advanced/Challenging!
Thurs., May 7	Reality Center	Mary McConnell	
Thurs., May 14	Reality Center	Leah Hefner	Live Music!
Thurs., May 21	Reality Center	Gail Lacy	
Thurs., May 28	Reality Center	Pat Petersen	Live Music!
Thurs., June 4	Reality Center	Leah Hefner	
Thurs., June 11	Reality Center	Gail Lacy	Live Music!
Thurs., June 18	Reality Center	Pat Petersen	
Thurs., June 25	Reality Center	Pat Petersen	Live Music!

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.