

**Remembering
Marianne Taylor**
**New Series for
Squares**



Brief New Briefs
Hours of Minutes
**A Message from the
President**

Marianne Taylor

Marianne Taylor died on Tuesday, August 19, 2008 at 3:20pm.

Those words are as difficult for me to type as they are for you to read.

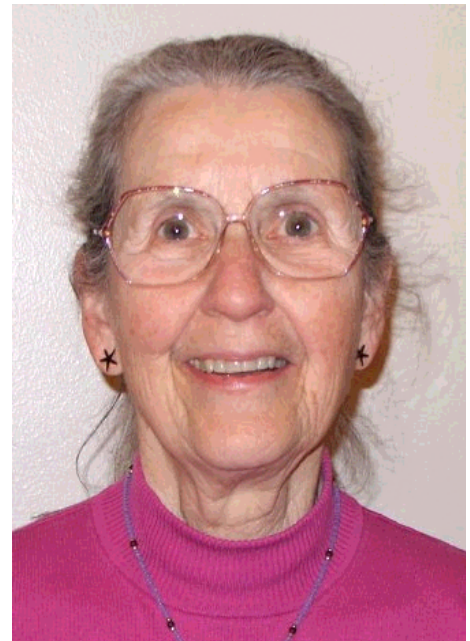
But she is in a better place now - no doubt already forming a longways set (undoubtedly improper) with those who have gone before her: her daughter Joanna, Conny, Ted Sannella, Dick Crum, John Langstaff and others. She is free of the cancer which demolished her body, but never her spirit, and she is smiling from ear to ear as she encourages all to "take hands four from the top."

She was always one to say "You don't have to go home, but you can't stay here." She amended that slightly - she did have to go home, but as much as we all wanted her to stay, that home could no longer be here.

Please keep her family in your hearts, thoughts and prayers.

In love and great sorrow,

— Marcie Van Cleave



Marianne Taylor

Memorial Celebration for Marianne Taylor

Sunday, September 28, 2008

Trinity Episcopal Church, 11 Homer St., Newton Centre, MA

2-3 pm Memorial program

3-4 pm Reception in the Parish Hall

4-6 pm Folk dancing in the Parish Hall

Remembering Marianne Taylor

Saturday, October 4, 2008

Deerfield (NH) Community Church

11 Old Center Road North

5:30 pm Memorial service, potluck supper.

8-11pm Contra dance in the Deerfield Town Hall

Guest callers and musicians are welcome.

For information, call Sarah Mason at 603-463-4182.

(Continued on page 2)

NEFFA thanks the Folk Arts Center of New England, Marcie Van Cleave, and www.phantomranch.net for material in this story.

(Continued from page 1)

I first met Marianne in the 1970s when I was a local college student. She was very encouraging with beginners and gave us a piece of wisdom that I have shared with many nervous newbies over the years, "Smile at people and they will forgive you for anything. We were all beginners once." Looking at their faces as they hear it, I can see her words have the same settling effect on them that it did on me, half a lifetime ago.

Best wishes,
Nan Dill

Obituary courtesy of the Folk Arts Center of New England

Marianne P. Taylor of Deerfield, NH, formerly of Lexington, MA, died August 19th at age 78 of sarcoma cancer. She died peacefully at home. In 1975, she was the co-founder of the Folk Arts Center of New England, an incorporated nonprofit educational organization dedicated to promoting interest and participation in the traditional dance, music, and related folk arts of many cultures, and to supporting other groups and individuals with the same mission. She served as its Vice President and, later, Program Director through 2004. Marianne graduated from Sargent College, Boston University in 1951 with a B.S. in Physical Education and a minor in Dance. Beginning in 1953, she taught international folk dance, Scottish and English country dance classes, workshops and school programs throughout the United States and Canada, and as a guest leader at folk dance camps in Japan, Australia, and Switzerland. She received her teacher's certification in Scottish Country Dance from the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society in 1957, and the RSCDS Scroll of Honour in 2005. For twenty-five years, she was the Artistic Director of the Boston Branch Royal Scottish Country Dance Demonstration Team. She taught a creative dance class for preschoolers in Lexington for over two decades in the 1950s and 1960s and led weekly movement classes at the Perkins School for the Mentally Challenged in Leominster, MA. Ms. Taylor was the recipient of the Boston

Dance Alliance's 2007 Dance Champion Award in recognition of her immeasurable contribution to recreational folk dancing in the Boston area.

From 1995 to 2008, she was a member of the Ralph Page Legacy Committee of the New England Folk Festival Association. A co-founder of the New Hampshire Strathspey and Reel Society, she served as President from 2004 to 2008. Ms. Taylor was an Artist in Residence for primary, middle, and high school programs through the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts.

Ms. Taylor played piano for contra, Scottish, and other kinds of dance since the early 1950s and was a regular member of the Scottish dance band Tullochgorum. She played monthly with the Lamprey River Band at a contra dance in Dover, NH, and sat in as the musician and/or caller at the Deerfield Town Hall Contra Dances, which she began in 1991. She also played regularly with the Strathspey and Reel Society of New Hampshire and several other groups. She appeared as backup on several Scottish/Celtic music CDs.

In 2008, the National Folk Organization honored her with its Preserving Our Heritage Award. An avid traveler in her later years, she co-led a small group tour in Portugal, helped organize two concert tours in Scotland with the Strathspey and Reel Society of New Hampshire, and played piano for a Scottish dance tour on a schooner in the Greek Islands.

She leaves her partner and common-law husband, Don Gorman, of Deerfield, NH, and is survived by her children and their spouses: Micki Taylor-Pinney and Markus Pinney, Tina and Bryant McBride, all of Lexington, MA, Andy Taylor-Blenis and John Blenis of Newton, MA, and Mark and Judy Taylor of Southampton, MA; she was predeceased by one daughter, Joanna Taylor. She also leaves eight grandchildren and her devoted brother, Michel Patterson, Jr., and eight nieces and nephews. Tributes and information can be made and found at www.caringbridge.org/visit/mariannetaylor1.



Editor: **Dan Pearl** Mailing: **Dayle Watts**
Editorial Review: **Robert Golder, Shelagh Ellman-Pearl, Lisa Greenleaf, Robert Johnson**

The NEFFA News, a publication of the New England Folk Festival Association, Inc., is published four times a year to communicate with its membership and other interested persons. **Please send all editorial submissions** to Dan Pearl, 15 Buffalo Run, Southborough, MA 01772, or to neffa@neffa.org. Opinions of individuals are not necessarily the opinion of the NEFFA Executive Board.

Publicize your events! Display advertising is available for qualifying folk-related organizations. For more information, contact the editor. Copyright © 2008 by the New England Folk Festival Association, Inc.

Issue	Deadline
Spring	Feb. 1
Summer	May 15
Fall	Aug. 15
Winter	Nov. 1

Several years ago, I worked for a non-profit organization that was planning its twenty-fifth anniversary celebration. My job was to publicize a major, one-day event - a "birthday party" for the organization. My goal was to get as many people as possible to attend the celebration, and to encourage newcomers to sign up as members of the group.

I used every method that I could imagine to get peoples' attention. I was interviewed on local television and radio programs. My press releases were published in area newspapers. I used web site listings and e-mail blasts. I placed thousands of flyers in local libraries, coffee shops, and similar places. I put big, hand-painted sandwich boards in the parking lots of local businesses. Finally, I asked all the members of the non-profit organization to invite their friends and family members to attend the celebration.

The anniversary celebration turned out to be quite a success. Hundreds of people came to the "birthday party" - more than three times the number that had ever attended a previous event sponsored by the organization. I asked each attendee, "How did you learn about this event? Why did you decide to attend?" Their answers were extremely interesting.

Almost half of the people had decided to attend the event because of my promotional efforts - the TV, radio, newspapers, web sites, flyers, and sandwich boards. But more than half of the guests came to the "birthday party" solely because a friend or family member had personally invited them to join in the fun and the joy of the celebration. My publicity efforts did not influence the decision these people made. Only their friends and family members could make the difference.

That day, I discovered how important personal contact is, when building a community of people with shared interests and goals. That's why I'm asking you to encourage your family members and friends to enjoy the 65th annual New England Folk Festival, to be held April 24-26, 2009. Your personal contacts with the people who are important in your life are the best way to build NEFFA into a stronger and more joyful organization,

dedicated to preserving and experiencing folk music, dance, and art traditions in New England.



From the President's Desk

Robert Golder

Perhaps you're concerned that your family members and friends will feel out of place at NEFFA, because they have little or no experience in folk dancing. To address this concern, the Program Committee expects to offer multiple beginner-level events for your invitees to enjoy. Beginner-contra, beginner-waltz, and possibly other beginner-level workshops will be offered in the smaller classroom venues on various days. There will frequently be a session aimed at satisfying your guests' needs, even if they can only attend on one of the three days of the Festival.

Thank you for helping to make the 2009 New England Folk Festival a resounding success by inviting your

family members and friends, by volunteering some time to help prepare for or operate this all-volunteer Festival, and by renewing your annual membership. NEFFA is making a concerted effort this year to encourage performers, who already support the Festival with their creative talents, to further support the Festival by becoming members, if they have not already done so. Given the increased costs that all non-profits face these days, it just makes sense that we encourage everyone who participates in the Festival weekend to also participate through year-round membership in NEFFA.

Please visit www.neffa.org often for the latest updates on planning for the 2009 Festival, plus our other programs such as the annual Ralph Page Dance Legacy Weekend in Durham, NH (January 16-18, 2009), and the Family Dance Series and Thursday Night Contra Dance Series in Concord, MA. As always, thank you for helping NEFFA to create joyful celebrations of music, dance, and crafts for the New England folk community.

Bob Golder
President, NEFFA

Tony Parkes Leading New Square Dance Series in Belmont MA

Now it can be told! I just got official approval for the hall.

Starting September 26, 2008, I'll be hosting a Mostly Squares series on fourth Fridays at Payson Park Church, 365

Belmont Street, Belmont, Massachusetts. I'll be the primary caller; Amy Cann will be coordinating the musicians. We plan to run from 8 to 11 p.m.; admission is \$8 (\$5 for students under 21). As with most contra dance series, beginners and singles are welcome.

I'm excited about this new series, as there hasn't been a regular dance featuring squares near Boston in several years. I hope to incorporate elements of old-time Southern squares, traditional and transitional Western squares, and Ted Sannella's take on New England squares. We'll be doing a variety of dances, including circle mixers, a few

international folk dances and novelty dances, and probably a contra or two.

The gym has a wood floor with some "give" to it; the floor isn't shiny-new, which means we don't have to ban street shoes. The church is on a bus line with frequent service to and from Harvard Square, and there's plenty of street parking in the vicinity. The neighborhood appears to be unusually nice, given that it's so close to a major city.

Out-of-towners and locals alike are invited to stop by and share the excitement. Call or e-mail first to make sure we're running (we won't run in November or April, the latter due to NEFFA).

Be there AND be square!

Tony Parkes, Billerica, Mass.

Recycle, Refill, Reward

Long-time dancer Will Roper is partnering up with NEFFA to what we hope will be our mutual benefit.

Will is in the printer cartridge recycling business, and is always looking for empty cartridges (inkjet and laser toner) to refill and resell. Will has arranged with NEFFA to collect your empties at the next few NEFFA Contra evenings at the Thursday Night Dance. The first opportunity is **October 2nd**.

With some luck, NEFFA will get a few bucks, and we'll all benefit by keeping the empties from the landfill.

NEFFA will get around a dollar for each item brought in. Thanks for your support!

Springstep Seeking New Executive Director

Springstep seeks an Executive Director to lead our young nonprofit organization into a period of growth and development. Springstep is currently in an Executive transition. Our Director of Programs and our Director of Operations have formed a Senior Management Team together with our experienced Transition Consultants, Margo Kelly and Ann Silverman, from Third Sector New England. Board and staff members are working closely together during this transition. We anticipate having a new Executive Director in place at Springstep by January of 2009, and we welcome your help in our search.

Springstep's next Executive Director should have demonstrated skills and a proven track record raising funds from individuals, foundations and corporations. S/he will be a dedicated participant in cultural arts, an articulate communicator, and a confident leader who is prepared to work with a skilled and dedicated staff. We seek people with at least 5 years of progressive leadership experience, preferably in the nonprofit sector, who possess vision, entrepreneurship, and a commitment to growing with Springstep.

See the Springstep website (springstep.org) for more information.

Summary of the Minutes of the NEFFA Executive Board June 1, 2008

President's Remarks (Bob Golder)

I want to welcome new Board members Terry Huffaker, Jill Nowak and Julia Nickles.

My perceptions are that Sound, Tickets, and Volunteers are important areas. Program is always important. Robert J: Not for this meeting, but the biggest thing we have to do is balance our budget. My personal feeling is that we need more attendees. We lost only half as much as we did last year, but we need to do something about losing money. Bob G: That's an important topic for the retreat. I think we'll make up our money a little bit here and a little bit there – there may not be a global solution.

Treasurer's Report (presented by Bob Golder)

We have a shortfall of about \$11,000. This is not sustainable. My focus in the coming year will be to reduce expenses, line item by line item. Gene: I don't think that expenses are controllable. My guess is that maybe we can reduce by 2- or 3-thousand dollars. Robert J: We could print fewer programs. My feeling is that we aren't overcrowded like we were at Natick, we can accommodate more people. Reducing expenses is good but we need more income. Linda: I think the pie chart and "Meet the Board Member" was incredibly useful. We need to continue to advertise our challenges. Performers in particular are oblivious to what the Festival costs. Members hear about this in the newsletter, but other people don't hear it. Tony: Any time an event moves it loses some people for geographic reasons but it eventually finds a new base of support. Don't lose heart even if we lost people because we moved. Beth: Money from memberships paid at the Festival is not included in "Festival income", it's considered general income. That's \$4000 that is not included here. We talk a lot about raising money by getting people to join, but that doesn't get applied to Ralph's Festival category. Steve: One or two people at the Festival suggested that performers should become members.

Festival Committee Reports

Access

Peter: We had Assisted Listening Devices in the HS auditorium and gym – no one used or asked about them. Dan: Transportation between buildings for mobility-impaired people was suggested, for example a golf cart. I think that having a path that a wheelchair can go on is sufficient. If it were far away it would be a different story.

Crafts (Ann Schunior)

Crafts went really well. The biggest change was locking the back door at 11:15 and not letting anyone through. Beth: It was interesting as a craftsperson to be able to leave while the dancing was still going on. Ann: We posted the hours and explained to people why we wanted to close up.

Early Entry (Steve Moore)

I had no problems. Steve was very helpful – he locked and unlocked doors. I had one evaluation form saying that Early Entry people could be better prepared. I'm not sure what that was about. I don't think we need anyone at the back door near the cafeteria. We only need 4 people: the two front doors at the middle school, the main door at the high school and the

performers' entrance. Dan: Trying to exclude people is a lost cause – people can sneak in if they really want to and they're usually just walking around. We should protect the assets that need protecting, but let people in the building. Linda: I would like to have the board consider this. Friday night works great for performers but mornings don't. Having a half hour to prep is not enough for early performers. Having an early entry list for performers is a hassle. We should consider the doors opening at 9AM. Maureen: Food vendors and Tickets would be delighted. Gene: If breakfast is available it should be publicized so people don't grab fast food on the way in. Koren: We had a request from some performers that they be allowed to check in their stuff earlier. This impacts Instrument Check and Performer Sales. Dan: We could have a limited number of corridors open. Nancy: Ralph was working Early Entry, which prevented him from distributing change. Steve: If we do away with one of the doors, we have the "Fullers" and the "Moore's" and that's all we need. Peter: For Sound, we'd want to lock the auditoriums, classrooms and gyms. It's physically possible but a lot of work.

Folk Bazaar (Angela Taylor)

Overall people seemed happy. Some vendors in classrooms didn't think there was enough signage, we fixed that. Having the Bazaar in two schools worked OK, although there were comments that the signs were too small and things were hard to find. Ann: People were asking me where specific vendors were. It might be good to post maps with vendor locations. Angela: People should come to me with their complaints, not to Crafts. Michael: This is the first year - people would be a little confused. Next year they'll know where vendors are. Dan: We might move vendors though. We have a coordinate system, room numbers – locations of vendors can be included in the Program Book. Michael does not have to be involved. Angela: Why do people have trouble with the signs? Ann: If you're in the Middle School, no sign will tell you where Folk Legacy is. Koren: I have a friend who was looking for shoes – I don't think she ever found them. Laura: Can vendors bring their own signs if the NEFFA signage isn't enough? Dan: No they can't – we have a policy. Harold: We could have a vendor map – each vendor could have a pile of maps at their booth. Terry: I'm not sure we need another map. People are used to "googling", but the Festival should be the opposite – we should encourage wandering around, not encourage a "googling" attitude. Harold: But serendipity can be frustrating for vendors and for people who want something specific – say you just went to a dance and want to buy the band's CD. Linda: Then people we want to help are the ones who are getting frustrated – people who like serendipity can still wander.

Food (Maureen Carey)

As I said in my report, there's a bit of a "square peg in round hole" problem if we try to reproduce what we had at Natick. What we have now is something different. We can't turn back the clock to volunteers, family vendors etc. – we have to go with commercial vendors.

Return to general session. People were thrilled with the Bistro. They will have broader-based food next year. They'll also have a second vendor "Uncle Jay's Dad". I was pleased with the Turkish lady who showed up – her husband was called out of town. She really put herself out for us.

Bob G: This will be a transition year, as Koren takes over the Food Chair. Maureen: I will still be on the Food Committee.

Ann: There is a perception that there wasn't much vegetarian

food. The booths should accent vegetarian items in their signage. Dan: We could give them little icons to put on their signs. Tony: The Bistro vendor had a prominent tip jar at the register. I've always felt that tipping is inappropriate if you aren't waited on, though it's done in the "outside" world. Dan: I think this came up once, maybe 10 years ago and we asked the vendor to remove the tip jar. We decided that we didn't like tips, Morris teams passing the hat and so forth. Peter: You might want to put this in the letter to food vendors.

Hospitality (presented by Dan Pearl)

Dan: Shelagh said that there was nothing in the evaluations to mention. Harold: Some people asked for a hospitality presence in the High School. Bob G: This started to happen ad hoc at the Board Member table. Nancy: I don't think Performer Sales is the best place to have hospitality info. Maureen: I'd like to see the Board Member thing be expanded and permanent. This might tie in with Hospitality. Dan: I think we should rename Hospitality "Information". Beth: Hospitality sounds more folksy. Dan: But it implies a different level of service.

Housing (presented by Bob Golder)

Bob G: I have a letter regarding housing from Diane. She had 10 volunteers passing out over 600 fliers requesting volunteer hosts – there were no takers. Using dorm rooms would be impossible because of insurance and liability issues; also there are ongoing classes. The hotels on our web site have all had pre-NEFFA checks for safety, cleanliness, noise, pet acceptance etc. Hotels that are not listed did not check out.

Instrument Check (Laura Leibensperger)

I have almost too many volunteers. We don't have the big open space that we did at Natick and people trip over each other. There have been reoccurring requests for two instrument checks. I want to coordinate with Bill. We might be able to do it with a little volunteer recruitment, maybe just have a second check at the busiest times. We'd need different ticket systems. Linda: Performers would love it. Harold: There's plenty of room at the Middle School for a check.

Inside Signs (Michael Resnick)

Someone had a suggestion to put the map on the web site. A number of people said having both maps together would be good. Linda: I don't know if it's worth it if you only got a few comments. A couple of evaluations said they'd like to have signs at rooms with the room schedule. Michael: There was a lot of confusion in the Lobby. Tickets ended up where they were because signs were put up before Tickets decided where they

wanted to be. Linda: It might be better not to have volunteers put up signs and just let each committee put up their own signs. Michael: The Meet the Board table needs better signage. Linda: We definitely need to produce a lobby map ahead of time. Michael: We need to decide whether the Lounge will be used. I put up signs and it turned out that the door was locked. Other issues: I had to change signage at the last minute about Middle School access. We might need some signs telling people how to get where they want once they get outside.

Inside Operations (Harold Henry)

Some of the biggest complaints were that there aren't enough rehearsal rooms or pianos. We could put up a sign saying 'don't use this space if you don't need a piano'. Dan: Could we rent some electric pianos? Harold: Maybe from the school. We might be able to open up more rehearsal rooms. Beth: I don't get the request for rehearsal space. We don't have enough jamming space and we have too many performers to give them all rehearsal space anyway. Linda: Performers use the rehearsal space well. If we increase space for both jamming and rehearsals then everybody will be happy. We shouldn't spend money on it though. Harold: We have more rehearsal space than we had at Natick. Another issue: the Middle School needs stage barriers. We didn't need them last year but this year we did. The barriers take up about 16". Peter: Can it be braced in the pit rather than the on stage? Harold: Not really. Koren: You don't want to be dancing in that foot and a half anyway. Harold: We should have more beginning dances where you learn how to dance, especially if we want to bring new people in. "Vocal Jamming" needs a better name. Vendors and Instrument Check were too close together. Laura: Bob LaConte wants us to move the tables inside - that will relieve the crunch. We might be able to bring the whole line inside one of the rooms. Harold: Other issues: the door to 125 creaked loudly. There were complaints about the bathrooms being dirty, but really they're just worn. I didn't get the hand sanitizers out. We need trash cans near the changing tables. There were a couple of requests for bag checking. Maybe this is something that could be done for a small charge by NEFFA or a youth group. Harold: Someone suggested canopies at the bus stop if it rains. Everybody loved the umbrellas. I put out about half of them.

Membership (Beth Parkes)

I would like to address the way Membership is handled in the Bylaws. Currently, a membership year ends on July 31. What happens when you purchase a membership at the Festival? This is a retreat topic. Steve: I also have revisions to propose.

The New England Folk Festival Association, Inc. is a non-profit educational and cultural organization, incorporated under the general laws of Massachusetts to preserve folk traditions in New England and elsewhere; to encourage the development of a living folk culture; and to encourage high standards of quality and performance in the folk arts.

Membership entitles one to voting privileges, publications, and to reduced admission to selected NEFFA-sponsored activities. It is open to interested persons who support our objectives.

Annual Dues are \$20/individual, \$38/family (up to 2 people over 18). Contributions beyond these basic amounts are welcome and tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Send check, payable to NEFFA, to the office. Occasionally, NEFFA shares its mailing list for a one-time use by like-minded folk organizations. If you do not want your name and address shared in this way, tell us with your membership. **Please direct all inquiries** to the NEFFA office: PMB 282, 1770 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02140 or (781) 662-6710, or via email: neffa@neffa.org

Interested persons may get on NEFFA's mailing list for one year at no charge. Send request with full name and address to the office.

Shelagh is reviewing these proposals. Linda: Please circulate them to NEFFA Exec. so that everybody knows what's going on. Bob G: It would be great if they would be ready for review at the retreat.

Beth: I thought the Membership table is not a place to purchase tickets – it isn't. This is an issue for the Lobby committee. People want to pay for membership and admission with one check. Another issue: Many members would like to have the newsletter emailed rather than mailed. Peter: Was there a mailing to people with recently lapsed memberships? Beth: There is a sticker on the ballot mailing when memberships are about to lapse. Another retreat issue: I'd like to revisit the question of whether people get a free newsletter for a year. I think it should be a membership benefit. Dan: We saw it as serving an education function, but this may not be as necessary now because we have a website.

Operations (Dan Pearl)

Dan: I had few evaluation comments. Bob G: I heard people that were thrilled with the buses. Dan: Most comments were positive. I'm happy with the bus company. We may need to have outside signs telling people how to get from the T to the bus area.

Outside signs: I got an email from Dayle. New signs cost \$460. I went over the \$500 limit because of some last minute requests- total expenses were \$640.

Bob G: There is a cancer Relay for Life event in Mansfield. Their Outside Operations person was impressed by our operations and mentioned this to the Chamber of Commerce.

Parking (Gene Fry)

We had only half as many HP vehicles as expected. We may revise usage of that lot. Koren: I had a friend who came early to volunteer and parked in the small corner lot. At some point later they had to move their car. The lots need to be clearly marked if they are not for general parking. Gene: Yes, the sign was missing. We also need to improve signage to the remote lot – I'll work with Dayle on that. I didn't get all of the volunteers I requested and some dropped out; some signed up on site.

There was concern about people parking on the grass along the driveway going into the Elementary School lot. Is this a problem to the school or police? Bob G: Did Fire or Police object?

Koren: I think any parking outside of marked lines is a problem. Harold: A courtesy email to the Police Safety Officer might be a good idea – ask them if it's a problem. Linda: It's school property, we should talk to the school. Dan: We should discourage this before a lot of people start doing it. We could put some day-glo tags under windshields. Another issue: Clean up was good except that the port-a-potty did not get removed until Monday about 1:00. Dan: We hired the Handy-House company to pick it up after the Festival. They claimed that they couldn't find someone to pick it up Sunday night.

Performer Sales (Nancy Hanssen)

We had fewer vendors than in the past – 19 fewer, but 75% of performers sold items – the same percentage as last year. Our income was greater. It may have to do with T shirts. We sold out this year's and some from previous years. Lisa had fewer made up, but I'm not sure of the number. They were gone by Sunday morning. The tote bags did not sell out. They're sort of an awkward size – not big, not small. We sold 50 of them. We did make a profit on them. We like our Craft Room space but we don't have enough display space for CDs. We lost one 8ft. table as compared to what we had in Natick. We bought racks but people hate going through racks. There were a lot of books

– we're going to look for tiered book racks. We had almost no Hospitality questions, so there was a table devoted to Hospitality which was basically not used. We could move that out and have more display space. People wanted us to sell flip-flops, jute maps, plastic raincoats, sunscreen! There was a suggestion for having a sale table in the Middle School or outside – I think it would take too many volunteers.

Printed Materials (Linda Leslie)

We had about 2500 small print grids left over – we'll reduce by 1000 next year. Large print grids were about 250 left-over. There were about 500 maps left over. I've saved them because they have the potential to be used next year.

Program (Linda Leslie)

This festival is more general than just a contra weekend. We do want to respond to the issue of beginner sessions: more hours and highlighting them. Lisa is open to having a beginner session in one of the main halls. She is also open to having a medley on Friday night. Beginner sessions for other types of dances will be followed directly by a dance session. Program doesn't do a lot of soliciting performers. We use the applications we get; if we don't get an application from a Cajun band, we don't do Cajun. If people want a specific band or dance, they need to get them to apply. We'd like to have an African dance session in the main hall. Dan has the idea of a room dedicated to beginning contras.. An early walk-through is important because we need to make programming decisions early on. Acceptance letters go out to performers in December. Dance Performances went pretty well. We won't let people use tapes any more. We did pretty well considering that there was no Chair. Katy is asking the Board to identify indoor Morris space. I propose that Friday evening we have no programming on the High School auditorium stage: stage volunteers need time for training, the audience is small Friday night, we've tended to invite big groups on Friday night and it's not working for us.

Koren: A lot of my friends do not do squares – if a square is called they will not do it. I like contras because you interact with a lot of other people. Everybody gets to learn. But if you have more than 2 beginners in a square, your square is shot to hell. There isn't room for embellishment in squares. People who like contras see a schedule full of squares and write it off. Linda: We have two philosophies here where we need to find congruence. There are just as many people who say 'thank God I took a break', 'thank God there was no contra because I never would have gone to the great bourree session if there were". The Festival is meant to be experimental– we want to stress the richness out there.

Publicity (presented by Bob Golder)

This was the first paperless year for Publicity: contacts were made by email. I made dozens of promotional contacts, we got some good coverage. We got coverage in the local paper, got the banner in town. Because Mansfield is on the 95 corridor between Boston and Providence, I concentrated on Providence. We got a great article in the Providence Journal. The surprise was Steve Ide of the Patriot Ledger: he did a preliminary article, came to NEFFA, put up a great video on YouTube, wrote a follow-up article and included us in his traditional music blog. Linda appeared on WGBH radio. I approached student activity offices at colleges near Mansfield and got varying responses. Promotional photographs: Doug Plummer and Arthur Ferguson

made my job really easy.

Sound (Peter Olzowka)

The engineers are not spending enough time out in the dance halls and they don't understand how critical it is for callers to be heard. They're thinking more the way you mix in a lead vocalist. Medleys: the mix of different voices makes it hard to do sound. Linda: But for dancers, it makes the changes easier to follow. Peter: We could get acoustic curtains for the back wall and corners but it's a lot of work – coordinating safety issues with the school, putting them up. We could hire new sound contractors. That's also a lot of work. Callers who do a dance-medley thing need to tell the engineer - we would make the caller louder. I turn the caller up for squares. Volunteer stuff went pretty well. The Auditorium had some issues. The big groups on Friday evening are hard to work with. Linda: We're not going to do really large groups anymore – they're a lot of hassle and make a lot of demands.

Tickets (Maureen Carey)

The web site comment about reductions led to lots of nasty things. People who were 2 hours late for an 8 hour session were demanding reductions. People thought that "Saturday day" meant all day Saturday. There were some nasty comments. Michael: These are the same signs that we've used for five plus years.

Volunteers (presented by Bob Golder)

I have the report from Bill Cowie. As a cost cutting measure maybe we should send a postcard (rather than an envelope) directing people to the website. Sign up forms for members went out late because the ballot mailing went out late. The Board might want to give sign-up preference to members. There were some long lines of volunteers picking up tickets: people didn't realize that there was a separate line for people who had already signed up. Assigning people jobs on site is somewhat laborious. There is still the open issue of whether we should increase the number of volunteer hours for free admission. My sense is that many volunteers depend on volunteering to afford

to attend. No one heard about us through the Volunteer Match site. Gene: Do we have more of a shortage of money or of volunteer hours? Bob G: This is a big retreat topic. Nancy: Susan and her daughters had problems that weren't of their own making. Some people had volunteers they didn't expect; the schedule at the volunteer table didn't always match the schedule sent out to volunteers.

The New England Folk Festival

April 24-26, 2009

Mansfield, Massachusetts

Mark Your Calendars!



N·E·F·F·A

New England Folk Festival Association
PMB 282, 1770 Mass. Ave., Cambridge MA 02140
Phone: +1-781-662-6710 FAX: +1-781-662-6730
www.neffa.org

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FRAMINGHAM, MA
PERMIT No. 120**