

**Progress!**  
**The Quilt is Done**  
**News Briefs**  
**Lengthy Minutes**



**NEFFA now selling  
Festival Tickets on  
[www.neffa.org](http://www.neffa.org)**



(credit cards taken for  
*advance sale only*)

## NEFFA Kicks and Screams Into the 21st Century

You know what they say: “The more things change, the more things stay the same.” They could have been thinking of NEFFA when they coined this phrase.

NEFFA has shared office facilities with the Country Dance Society, Boston Centre, for years. This has been an easy and productive relationship, as our organization goals, while not identical, are complementary. Over the decades, even our files got intermixed. (More on that, later). We have moved from one location to another, sometimes sharing facilities with other organizations, in a grand tour of the Greater Boston area: Joy Street on Beacon Hill (with AMC), Roseland St. in Cambridge, Wellesley Hills, Central Square (moving in with Folk Arts Center of New England), the Masonic Hall in Porter Square, and, finally, Melrose.

Recently, the Folk Arts Center received word from their landlord that the bank next door was planning to buy the property and bulldoze the building containing FAC, CDS, and NEFFA into rubble. “Nothing personal,” the bank said, soothingly. “We just need more parking spaces.” While the demolition date is unknown, NEFFA decided that it didn’t want to wait for its archives to be pulverized, covered with hot-top, and painted with yellow lines.



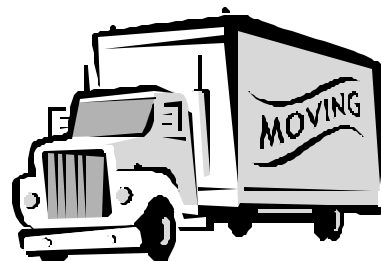
In keeping with our goal of reducing expenses, we have decided to part ways with CDS and move into a virtual office. Our new address is a nicely furnished post office box in Acton, Mass. Our phone line now connects to a computer at Google Voice, thanks to Don Veino.



The “phone” takes messages, and emails notifications and amusingly incorrect transcripts to us when people call in. Too bad Google Voice doesn’t have space for our archives.

Oh, right! Our archives! NEFFA is over half a century old, and you better believe we have documents! While we are making arrangements for appropriate archival storage of this material, Terry Huffaker has been organizing, sifting, and separating NEFFA’s archives from CDS’s even larger pile.

The changes keep coming! We have implemented on-line memberships, on-line advance tickets sales for the Festival and the benefit dance, and an on-line button for instant cash donations to NEFFA. (Go to [www.neffa.org](http://www.neffa.org) for more information.) We think these changes will help make NEFFA a more efficient organization. Please be patient with us during our transitional process, and continue to enjoy your favorite NEFFA programs and events. — *Dan Pearl*



# NEFFA Festival T-shirt Quilt Completed!

This year, we have a colorful quilt made up of NEFFA T-shirts; it has twenty shirt designs spanning twenty seven years. It started out as a fundraiser idea but turned into a treasure hunt for shirts, designers and lore. Harold Henry began it with twelve shirts on my door step and a glimpse of his son's T shirt quilt, made by his wife Barbara Nichols..

All of the shirts were designed by our community talent. They all show different aspects of the Festival, influenced by the times from Carebears to Picasso.

I started the hunt for more by visiting artist and former NEFFA Board member Gaetana Freniere. I came away with her 1989 shirt (blue with four welcoming dancers) and a realization that many, many people have been involved with NEFFA over the years. It was now my own "history detective" project.

I then put out a call (Facebook, email, etc) for shirts and tales. Board members came through with a number of years; the Folks Arts Center found two more – one of them from 1984, turning my time line inside out. Then Laura Billmers and Dan Pearl presented me with 1983 shirts. Positively Paleolithic! From Anne and Richard Ketchen came one by way of the Concord Scout House lost and found drawer. I washed this one.

Putting it together was a hard joy, moving the colors and designs like chess pieces on my floor. Over 27 years, the designers hadn't worked with a common color wheel. But the worn, washed colors pulled me into an Amish frame of mind.

T shirts make for challenging quilting – they stretch too much and are hard to piece together. I ruined an iron and an ironing board cover getting the shirts to stabilize. They have holes, paint spots, stains and stretch marks. Not unlike our bodies. But they carry our personal memories of the dances, music, jams and that mysterious person from Ann Arbor who you will never see

again. But you might.

In 1997 Lisa Greenleaf started overseeing the shirt design and production as part of NEFFA. Before that, folks designed, sold and marketed the shirts on their own dime. Lisa continues to do this and we owe her a ginormous thanks for the time and energy she devotes to it.

While we had visions of raffling off the quilt during the 2010 Festival, our current thinking is to first show it in various venues, and use it as a focus for community outreach.

Please stop by the main lobby of the High School and look at the quilt. Leave your comments there or find me at the Information tables. I would like your T shirt tales. Is there another shirt out there, other than the 2009?

Terry Huffaker



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

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<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Spring	Feb. 1
Summer	May 15
Fall	Aug. 15
Winter	Nov. 1

**Thank you to our members who have donated at a higher level:**

*Thanks!*

**Benefactor (\$1000)**

Anonymous

**Friend (\$250)**

Anonymous (2)

Diane & Joel Gonzales

Linda Leslie & Bob Golder

Rachael B. Coleman

**Patron (\$125)**

Anonymous

Ellie & Rich Armstrong

Maureen & Michael Carey

**Donor (\$75)**

Anonymous (3)

Bruce Sagan

Joshua Goldman & Marcia Landa



**Concord Contra Challenge**

Are you the type of contra dancer who wears out dance shoes regularly? Feel like you have to make it to every contra dance session during the Festival? Thrive on a personal challenge and public recognition? Well then there's a treat in store for you!

The Concord Contra Challenge is a fun endurance challenge for contra dancers. Participants dance not only the three days of the Festival in Mansfield, but also the Thursday before and the Monday after in Concord, MA. Campaign "stamps" are collected at specified sessions during the festival (and yes, you can do other things given the way these are set up) and a physical check in is done at the other two dances. Those that complete the full series are recognized with a certificate and award at the Monday dance, declaring them officially "Contraistas". In the first year of the Challenge in 2009, just 34 hardy souls finished out of the 55 that originally signed up.

Will you be in town for the extra time before and after the Festival? Are you interested in joining this elite group? See <http://mondaycontras.com/challenge> for more information and to sign up! Registration is open now!.

— *Don Veino, Robin Humes and John Wasser*

**Dave Stryker  
Send-A-Young-Dancer-To-  
England Fund**

Established in memory of David McCauley Stryker (1958-2007) by Dave's family, friends and fellow Morris dancers and musicians, this scholarship assists one young Morris dancer and/or musician per year with a cash award of up to \$500 to travel to England with a Morris team for dancing and study. The recipient must have a demonstrated need for financial aid. The purpose is to help someone get to England who might not be able to afford it otherwise.

Applications are due by June 1, 2010. The award will be announced by June 15. If the trip has already occurred this year, the scholarship may be awarded retroactively.

For more information, please contact:  
Stew Stryker  
[stew.stryker@myfairpoint.net](mailto:stew.stryker@myfairpoint.net)  
802-674-5219

# Summaries of the Minutes of the NEFFA Exec Board

10 January 2010

## Call to Order (Bob Golder)

Bob called the meeting to order. He remarked that he is happy with the progress towards the Festival.

## Secretary's Report

Dan Pearl volunteered to act as Secretary for this meeting. (Linda Leslie will serve in the capacity for the next meeting.) The Nominating Committee will need to fill the vacancy.

## Treasurer (Ralph Jones)

Ralph still needs an accountant to help with the tax forms this year. There was some discussion and it was concluded that the Finance Committee has the responsibility to find this person. Shelagh suggested February 1st as a deadline for identifying the accountant. Robert Johnson moved a contingent allocation of funds, which was approved by voice vote.

## Office (Terry Huffaker)

The phone in the office has an answering machine that is fickle, and goes unanswered. With the dissolving of the office, the phone needs to be addressed in any case.

**Don Veino:** "Google Voice" could host this answering machine service for free. Calls coming in would trigger an email to a designated person for handling. **Ralph:** Do we pay Verizon? **Don:** No. **Shelagh:** We need a way to separate CDS and NEFFA calls. **Don:** There may be a way to set up a "Press 1 for CDS, Press 2 for NEFFA" mechanism. **Terry:** A totally separate number would be helpful. **Shelagh:** Someone should contact CDS to coordinate. **Terry:** I will do this.

A motion was passed to terminate phone service shared with CDS as early as practicable and to investigate NEFFA's phone hosted by an alternative phone service.

**Linda:** We should have a general "Questions for NEFFA" page. **Dan:** We currently have a "Contact NEFFA" page which could be modified. **Ralph:** We should look into the address for NEFFA. Some governmental agencies need a real address. **Dan:** I suggest that the President be the recipient of this sort of mail. **Shelagh:** Start with the President, and allow Bob to continue until Bob becomes less involved with NEFFA, at which point the mail goes to the then-current President. (There was general agreement.)

The servicing, and the very existence, of the private mail box is an issue. **Ralph:** Terry should discuss this with CDS as well. **Ralph:** Another possibility would be FAC's new office. **Michael:** There's picking up the mail, and then there's processing it: a bigger issue. **Ralph:** So it is our intention to maintain the PMB? **Michael:** The staffing of the sorting/distribution is important. Do we hire someone? Do we maintain our association with George? Do we get a volunteer? **Terry:** I will work on this with CDS.

## Volunteers (Bill Cowie)

Website will go live Feb 15th. We'll get flyers to events.

**Will:** How many hours does it take to earn a Festival pass?

**Bill:** 4-6 hours, depending on the skill required for the job.

Dan requested that all volunteer job descriptions be distributed for review.

## Sound (Michael Bergman)

We are working to ensure that there are engineers experienced in contra dance sound reinforcement working at the critical sound consoles. We hope this will address the biggest problems. It would help if the band before the medley is the band that plays the medley. **Linda:** It won't happen for this year, but we could rethink it for next year.

**Will:** Sound seems better when speakers are in the middle of the room. **Michael:** These are expensive to rent and rig.

## Quilt Project (Terry Huffaker)

The quilt is coming along. It will be ready soon. We'll have something to show at the Ralph Page Dance Legacy Weekend.

## Publicity/Advertising (Bill Cowie)

We will repeat outreach to coffeehouses. We do a good job reaching out to large contra dances in the immediate area, but I think other people are not contacted well. I have recruited Janet Bessemer to formulate a publicity plan. Please email ideas to me, especially for reaching people who are not contra dancers. **Linda:** FSSGB has good outreach in the folk song community. **Bill:** We're going get on Facebook, etc. **Michael:** Ads in Christmas Revels or world music programs? **Don:** Ad swaps? Google Grants gives ad-words advertising for non-profits organizations. **Michael:** This would seem to reach the people we are already reaching. **Julia:** This could match "craft fair", folk singers, etc.

**Nancy:** folkblues.com is a website that folk organizations are using for publicity. **Bill:** 99% of the people who filled out evaluations picked up a flyer at a dance, or had a friend tell them about it. **Don:** There are lots of college radio stations that could publicize NEFFA. **Terry:** The archives show that past outreach to radio stations were ineffective unless we had a personal connection with someone at the station. **Michael:** What about postcards being placed at pubs with music programs? There are services that distribute these sorts of things. **Linda:** We can contact the performers telling them the flyers are ready. We should develop the mailing list collaboratively. **Beth:** Crafts people send out postcards to their mailing lists.

Will Mentor is willing to be an "Ambassador" to Vermont. Housing/hospitality issues were briefly discussed. Lark Speyer is working on this.

Frank Kreimendahl will be redesigning the program booklet at 8.5x11, with ads resized accordingly. Feel free to solicit ads, have checks made payable to "NEFFA".

There was some interest in restoring slot information for individual performers and groups into the program book.

## Program (Linda Leslie)

The preliminary program is done. This is the first year that the performer confirmations have gone out totally electronically. This saved NEFFA about \$400. We now have a performer information page on the web; I want to expand this in the future.

We have already gotten a performer donation for \$100!  
The grid will go public about Feb 1st.

### Printed Materials (Linda Leslie)

We may need to revamp the application process for next year, as my Filemaker Pro application is getting old. We want to reduce the margins in the grid.

### Parking (Will Mentor)

I met with Dena Brody to talk about the job. I think things are in good shape. Will would love to hear about comments or suggestions about parking.

Parking volunteers didn't know where to report to, and people didn't know where to go for parking issues.

Will's goal is to make Nick Osgood (satellite lot contact) and Mansfield very happy about parking. Volunteers need to be super-friendly to potentially irate drivers.

Linda thought that the small lot near the Morris dancers was not fully used.

### Hospitality (Terry Huffaker)

**Linda:** If we are changing "Hospitality" to "Information", we should really tell Michael Resnick (signs).

### Benefit Event (Julia)

The date: Afternoon Sunday March 21st. The location: The Greenfield Grange. We have gotten some dance passes from the Grange event producers for auction/raffle purposes. **Will:** We could offer additional close-in spaces and perhaps offer a car washing as part of the deal.

### Other Business

Michael Bergman proposed an outdoors metalworking craft demonstration. People were supportive of the idea as long as the smoke coming from the forge would not interfere with other activities. We would need an electrical hookup if we are going to run at night. Michael will proceed with Ann Schunior, under whose authority the booth would be run.

**Don:** On-line ticketing is complex. We're going to look into doing memberships on the NEFFA Website via PayPal; this would simplify the ticketing issue.

31 January 2010

### Secretary Report

Linda Leslie volunteers to do the minutes for today. Steve Moore must step down for Health reasons. This means we need a new Legal Advisor, and Early Entry Chair. More difficult position to fill is Legal Advisor. Shelagh reminds us that this person is not required to be at meetings. We only need to be able to run things by this person, such as bylaws, tax issues, etc.. The person does not have to be a Board member. A motion that the President send a letter of thanks to Steve Moore for his years of service. Bob points out we need job descriptions from all Committee Chairs. Most descriptions do exist, but others are missing. Nancy suggests that those in important positions should have a back-up person in case of emergencies. General discussion supports this concept.

Cost of Chamber membership will be given by a generous

donor, the same individual who donated these funds in the past. The amount is \$270.

### Treasurer (Ralph Jones)

Ralph thanks Beth Parkes for finding a tax consultant this for NEFFA. This person is a dancer accountant to do our tax forms for us. Jane S. Getter will do it *pro bono*. Shelagh states she should get a Festival Pass, since she will be putting in more than 6 hours of volunteer time.

Office update: Terry would like to put our PO Box in Acton, which has 24 hour access. \$250 per year for the same size box we have had. Terry volunteered to pick up the mail, since the Post Office is only a few minutes walk from her home. Phone: Don Veino looked into Google Voice. **Bob:** Thanks to Don for bringing us into the 21st Century with our phone options!

**Ralph:** CDS will continue to have the old number, until they make a decision about their phone.

### Sound (John Gotthardt)

There will be two sound managers, one for each school. Systems and staffing are being planned now.

### Tickets

**Don:** No further progress on on-line sales at this point. **Beth:** How would this work exactly? **Don:** For Full Festival tickets only, we decided we would send out badges, so they don't have to check in at the Festival. For the others, they will have turn payment confirmation in at Tickets at the Festival, and get their badges.

### Quilt Project (Terry Huffaker)

I have finished the top portion, and Beth has found a quilter. Terry will apply for one day raffle permit for the Festival in order to raffle off the quilt.

### Publicity (Bill Cowie)

We have several program book ads. Should we approach folks from whom we buy services? **Robert:** We should ask, and word it in a positive way, and not imply that they must advertise. **Bill:** Is there any service that we would not want to advertise? General consensus: As long as the ad is tasteful, there should not be a problem. **Bill:** Marge Lewin and I will be contacting Coffeehouses, folk groups, etc. Terry's daughter designed post cards for advertising, designed to appeal to younger folks: Simple, web contact only. No dates, No details. This was the advice from her daughter. The idea is that the post cards will be dropped off in various places. **Harold:** Likes the small size, it can go on a refrigerator. **Julia** agrees: We use postcards like this to leave off at colleges for the Youth Dance Weekend. Any info that can be construed as a reason NOT to go should be left off. The major idea is to get them to go to the web site and learn more about it. Don moved that we spend a maximum of \$200

### Program (Linda Leslie)

The schedule is done and will go live on the web tomorrow. Intro Room will have a small sound system and an engineer this year, and will have a few more sessions. It will be used for Ritual late in day/night, in case of rain of Saturday and Sunday. HS Auditorium stage not a popular place for late-night concerts,

so the last 2 hours will be Scandi Dance with musicians in the center, and no sound. So this space will be used for Folk Music and Song early, Dance Performances late mid-day and evening.

### Parking (Will Mentor)

Number of spaces were counted. **Harold:** We will need to check with Lesley college--how many do they need in the rear lot? **Will:** There are 151 regular spaces, and 9 handicapped spaces that are available. **Bob:** We want to be sensitive to how we use the spaces for the Board and Committees. **Linda:** We only need four emergency spaces for performers.

### Instrument Check

Laura wants to ease off of the Festival Committee: She will be training Alex Krogh-Grabbe.

### Arrangements (Harold Henry)

Bob LaConte and I will go over the contract. **Dan:** What can we do about ventilation? Especially in the Main Gym, we had a problem last year. We were unable to have the door to the Locker Rooms for cross ventilation, because of "security". But we need to work on somehow getting that door open, as well as the locker windows. I realize that the weather was unseasonably warm, but we still need to talk about this problem. **Linda:** What can we do about clearing out HS 125? The room was not cleared last year, but we need it to be. **Harold:** Will check into this, and the ventilation problem.

### Benefit Dance (Julia Nickles)

Date Set: 3/21 2pm to 6pm ish. Rebecca McCallum will fiddle; Will Mentor will call. We are looking for other

musicians. Wild Asparagus is right before, so maybe people will come for the weekend. Ashley is getting passes from the local dance organizations to auction. How should we sell tickets ahead of time? Are there folks that are willing to do this? Can we sell tickets on line? **Don:** We probably could get it set up in a week or so. Price? **Julia:** \$15.



2010 Festival T-Shirt Design by Ann Percival



N·E·F·F·A

New England Folk Festival Association

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[www.neffa.org](http://www.neffa.org)

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