



# NEFFA News

## New England Folk Festival Association

1950 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge MA 02140 — (617) 354-1340

Autumn 1998 — Volume XXIV #3

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### President's Message



A number of our committee chairs, having served long and well, are now looking for replacements. Some positions are Festival related, while others are year round with less Festival involvement. Here is your opportunity to become an integral part of NEFFA, joining a great group of people who have fun working together. We are looking for:

- **A Newsletter Editor.** The job consists of producing the quarterly newsletter by editing and formatting copy contributed by others, so interested people should be computer literate. There is an editorial committee to help decide upon themes and to solicit articles, and a mailing chair, as well as an established printer, so the job is strictly editorial - with as much writing as you would like!
- **Membership chair.** This job involves keeping membership records up to date, and producing mailing labels as needed for newsletter and other mailings. There is a database of current members which is based on dBase (this can be changed).

Supervision of the Membership Table at the Festival is part of the job, but this is not too time-consuming; the table is staffed with (mostly) experienced volunteers scheduled by the Volunteer Committee.

- **Housing coordinator.** This job, completed before the Festival starts, consists of matching folks needing Festival housing with folks willing to provide it. It's a great opportunity to meet lots of new people.
- **Arrangements chair.** This involves laying the groundwork for the Festival: negotiating with the high school and the electrician, applying for permits, arranging for all equipment rental, and seeing that it is put up and taken down (supervising a large crew of volunteers). It's a before and after job, leaving you free to enjoy the Festival.

Previous incumbents will be training and assisting new candidates, and there is plenty of support from the Board, so this is a good opportunity to try a new challenge or practice a little-used skill. If you are interested in any of the above opportunities or would like more information, please call me at 508-875-0382.

— Nancy Hanssen — President, NEFFA

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opportunity to  
become an  
integral part  
of NEFFA*

# Highlights of the Minutes of the NEFFA Exec Board

For information on attending future meetings, call Dan Pearl  
at 508-229-2854 or E-mail: pearl@sw.stratus.com

22 March 1998

## Treasurer's Report (Ralph Jones)

Ralph says that the Ralph Page Legacy Weekend lost about \$2000 so far. The committee has some reserves; nonetheless, they are concerned about attendance. The future of the event will be on the summer retreat agenda.

The Family Dance series lost \$1400.

We received a gift of about \$500 from the Dancing Buffalo Committee when they disbanded.

## Grants (Robert Johnson)

A request for a large grant from Kimence Folk Dance Ensemble (a Turkish performing group based at Boston University) was made to support a performance they and a Greek ensemble are putting on one week before the Festival. We awarded \$500 and made suggestions to Kimence on how to markedly reduce the budget.

Jacqueline Schwab has paid back NEFFA's loan to produce *Mad Robin*.

## Crafts (Mary Stafford)

The Crafts Room is full, with overflow people spilling into the Folk Bazaar area. I have *lots* of instrument makers. They make placement a problem. We need a solution to this.

## Dance Performances (Doris Possi)

Are bare feet a problem for our performance groups? **Dan:** "The High School athletic department discourages bare feet on the floors". **Nancy:** It's not a big issue for a performance group anyway.

## Arrangements (Bob Solosko)

Our access to the school on Thursday and Friday is 2pm.

The sweeping schedule will be expanded for this year.

## Outside Facilities (Jean Krogh)

Nat Case will be doing outside signs again.

The following people will be able to grant special permits for emergency performer parking: Dan, Shelagh, Janet and Doris.

## Operations (Dan Pearl)

There were no objections to the "Emergency Procedures Summary Card". These will be distributed to all volunteers, performers, staff, etc.

We don't know yet if the custodians will wear a pager for maintenance dispatch.

Please alert Dan about any pager needs changes.

The Welcome Committee needs maps by Friday afternoon of booth layouts from Crafts, Food, and the Bazaar chairs.

## Food

There are two new booths: Smoothies and a Dutch booth.

There was a discussion about food booth ticket requests. To clarify: the FOOD tickets are transferable to the staff actually working at the booth at that time. A request for 25 tickets just doesn't make sense.

We have the Pepsi, but no group to sell the soda, yet. There was sentiment for first approaching a school group. Someone else thought to approach a morris team.

## Hospitality (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl)

Lee Fisher is going to be my co-chair.

## Safety (John Wojtowicz)

We have 10 volunteers signed up so far.

"Shoe inspectors" will be back this year.

**Nancy:** Who is in charge of Early Admissions?

**Answer:** No one. **Dan:** The new policies address rain admission and Friday admission schedule.

**Nancy:** (Took volunteers to staff the doors.)

**Lisa:** We need a chair for this.

It was unclear who was providing early admission stickers.

The policies and procedures of the Welcoming Committee were reviewed, as were Rain

Contingency procedures.

### **Program (Janet Yeracaris)**

The booklet deadline is March 25th.

The shoe policy will be distilled from the pre-Festival mailing.

The courtyard will be a busy place (including a Zydeco jam for dancing).

Janet wants an assistant, preferably by Evaluation Meeting time.

### **Sound (Peter Olszowka)**

We have met with Persis and Spencer, who are doing Auditorium sound to discuss equipment needs. Our sound workshops are scheduled.

There was a question about deposits and payments to sound contractors.

### **Volunteers (Nancy Hanssen)**

Volunteer forms are coming back slowly.

### **T-Shirts (Lisa Greenleaf)**

Almost-final designs were presented. There will be two color combinations. The response I've seen is good; we may have to up our order.

Beth Parkes is not pleased to have to deal with two color combinations, but she'll do it.

We're considering having earth-tone tote bags. For board only? For general public? Lisa was encouraged to arrange for tote bags for the public.

### **Miscellaneous**

What kind of badges do we give Board members who don't attend meetings? Answer: A NEFFA badge.

A NEFFA member made a proposal for a videotape project at the Festival, with the product to be aired on cable TV. After some discussion, it was decided to reject the proposal.

## **NEFFA on the World Wide Web**

You may not know it, but NEFFA has jumped into the modern age with its own website on the Internet.

The jump was more like a baby step, and it occurred about four years ago, when Mike Richardson, a caller, musician, and NEFFA member from Seattle set up a couple of pages with some organizational background. Things really took off when locals Steve Boylan and Dan Pearl got their hands on it.

Now, the website has hundreds of pages of information on Festival performers, schedules, history, activities (including a current Thursday Night dance schedule), and the NEFFA LinkFest. What is the NEFFA LinkFest? Well, it is an attempt to provide a collection of folk-oriented links to webpages of interest to NEFFA members. At this writing, it has 2067 links, including lots of links to folk dances all over the world.

Festival evaluations tell us that a lot of people have found out about the NEFFA Festival through the website, and have paid us a visit. Others just browse our website or use the LinkFest as a jumping-off point. So far we've had over 27000 "hits"!

So come on by. Use the URL below, or use any search engine to find "NEFFA" (do not be confused by hits for "NEFFA" the Italian hip-hop musician).



**NEFFA's URL:**  
<http://www.neffa.org/~neffa>

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## Invitation to the Dance

***The Second Saturday dance committee and Larry Jennings invite to you the “Last Annual 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Dance.” November 14th, 1998, 8pm, Concord (Mass.) Scout House. No gifts, please. Donations to help defray the cost of the evening will be accepted. The caller will be Tony Saletan, with music by the Concord Country Dance Orchestra. Info: 978-369-4462.***

*See below for a background letter from Larry that I'd like to share with you — D. Pearl*

A couple of months ago, in a memo to the Thursday Night Dance Committee, I mentioned in passing that I liked doing something, often in November, to express my appreciation for the support I get from my second family [of dancing]. For example, the Friday after Thanksgiving dance last year. I went on to say that I had no ideas of my own for this year. It didn't even occur to me to consider a birthday party; I certainly am not up to doing the legwork as I often have in the (distant) past. It thus was a complete surprise to me that Tony Saletan, at the urging of Jill Rosenthal, proposed that I accept an honoring dance on my birthday, which is on a second Saturday this year. I was reluctant about this: it's time to be honoring someone else. However, when it occurred to me that there has been ample precedent for me to bankroll a gift dance to my second family and when Leslie Fuller and others assured me that it would be considered an opportunity for the Second Saturday Committee rather than as a chore, I agreed to have a birthday party on Nov 14<sup>th</sup> rather than the honoring dance originally proposed by Tony.

May I share a little history with you. In 1979, I stepped into quinquagenarianism with my first annual 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party, in November at the Scout House. Displaying a preference which has been important to me all my life, I insured that this party was publicly announced. However, I wanted the dancing to be zesty and, at the time, I thought that required some filtration process. For my first five annual 50<sup>th</sup> birthdays, I tried one or another kind of filtration. By the time of the fifth, even I was perceptive enough to recognize that zesty dancing was not only possible at a dance which incorporated beginners, it was actually happening. Thus a birthday party was the farthest things from my mind on Nov 13, 1988. I had been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease some year

and a half earlier and I was amused to think of what my neurologist would say if he knew I had spent a delicious autumn afternoon on top of my garden shed laying shingles. Incredible as it may seem, I was completely surprised by the party at the Scout House arranged by Walter Lenk, Ted Sannella, Dan Pearl, my wife Genevieve, and, no doubt, others. I declared that to be my last annual fiftieth birthday party.

To be honest, I don't recall my first annual 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, but I do recall some regret at having to give up being a quinquagenarian; it has a certain ring to it, doesn't it. However, to be a sexagenarian holds forth a certain promise, and I don't recall being unduly bothered. By the time of my second annual 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, an unlikely group had taken on the Thursday night series at the VFW and I had the problem of persuading them that my beloved multi-caller evenings had a viable place in the schedule. So I offered to support the Nov 15<sup>th</sup> dance if the booking coordinator would schedule a multi-caller evening. He did and the attendance was comparable to the other dances in the series. This success was representative of several good years.

So with all that background, I can share with you the deal that I have struck with Leslie Fuller representing the Second Saturday Committee. Here are some statements of intent. The evening will be conducted in the spirit of the tradition set by my close friend Ted Sannella, who loved the second Saturday series. In particular, squares should get at least as much attention as contras. The Saturday Night Committee and Larry Jennings invite you to be their guest at Larry's last annual 60<sup>th</sup> birthday party. No presents, please.

Donations toward expenses will be cheerfully accepted

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# Tentative Dates for the 1999 New England Folk Festival: April 23-35, 1999



## N·E·F·F·A

New England Folk Festival Association  
1950 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge MA 02140  
Phone: +1-617-354-1340 FAX: +1-617-354-3142  
WWW: <http://www.neffa.org/~neffa>

**The NEFFA News**, a publication of the New England Folk Festival Association, is published four times a year to communicate with its membership and other interested persons.

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

**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 \$7/individual (\$18 for 3 years); \$11/household (\$28 for 3 years) (two or more persons living together as a family in one residence — one mailing per household). Supporting members are those who contribute any amount beyond regular dues. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent of the law. Send check, payable to NEFFA, to the address above. 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 telephone inquiries** to the NEFFA office (phone number above).

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

### Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Covering</u>	<u>Calendar</u>	<u>News</u>
Spring	Apr.-Jul.	Jan. 20	Feb. 15
Summer	Jul.-Oct.	Apr. 20	May 15
Autumn	Oct.-Jan.	Jul. 20	Aug. 15
Winter	Jan.-Apr.	Oct. 20	Nov. 15

**Send Calendar items** to Jacob and Nancy Bloom, 169 Sylvia St., Arlington MA 02476, or to [bloom@gis.net](mailto:bloom@gis.net)

**Other submissions** go to Dan Pearl, 15 Buffalo Run, Southborough, MA 01772, or to [pearl@sw.stratus.com](mailto:pearl@sw.stratus.com)

**Publicize your events!** Display advertising or flyer enclosures are available for qualifying folk-related organizations. For rate and deadline information, contact Dan Pearl at +1-508-229-2854.

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