

New Life Member: Doris Possi



Yes, Minutes!

NEFFA NEW ENGLAND FOLK FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION NEWS

Spring 2003 – Vol. XXIX #1

Presidential Farewell Festival Site Update

From the President's Desk

Shelagh Ellman-Pearl



MY tenure as President of NEFFA is drawing to a close. At the annual meeting held on Sunday at the 2003 Festival, I will literally hand the official NEFFA gavel to a new President. As final plans for a wonderful Festival are coming together this year, I have much to appreciate about my time in this role.

The past four years have begun a period of transition for NEFFA, as well as continuing the usual range of challenges that face the organization. In 2000, we had to move the Festival one week earlier to accommodate religious holidays, causing adjustments to the Festival schedule and our setup time. We also learned that we were losing our Cambridge office space and arranged a move to a new and roomier space in Melrose, where we share office and staff with the Country Dance Society, Boston Centre (CDS), and share office space with the Folk Arts Center of New England (FAC). That year, NEFFA was very fortunate to receive a substantial donation to support youth programs, particularly grants.

During this time, we began preparations for our eventual move from the Natick High School to another location. All through its early history, the Festival moved around among a number of towns, and even to New Hampshire and Rhode Island. For over 30 years, the Natick High

(PRESIDENT, Continued on page 2)

NEFFA Withdraws from Springstep

At its February meeting, the NEFFA Executive Board voted to rescind its decision to become a resident organization of Springstep and voted not to move its office to Springstep's building in Medford, Massachusetts. When Springstep first asked NEFFA to become a resident organization, the Executive Board decided to do so in order to continue to share office space with the Country Dance Society, Boston Centre, and the Folk Arts Center of New England and to strengthen the sense of community among these groups and the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, the fourth group that had decided to become a resident organization. NEFFA also believed it was consistent with its mission to support the folk community.

As the construction progressed on the building, and as discussions evolved, Springstep had to change its focus significantly from the plan it originally offered to NEFFA. Particularly, the office space shown to NEFFA in January was inadequate for its needs. As it turned out, at the same time that NEFFA made its decision to end this relationship, Springstep also made the decision to eliminate the resident organization affiliations altogether, and not to have office space available for any of the four organizations. Springstep reported that "the model that [it] once envisioned is no longer viable for a myriad of reasons. Much has developed since Springstep's inception and many needs have changed."

As part of these decisions by Springstep and NEFFA, Springstep returned to NEFFA the \$10,000 contribution NEFFA had made as part of the resident organization arrangement. Springstep is developing potential affiliate relationships, which it is offering to NEFFA, FAC, CDS and RSCDS for consideration.

— *Shelagh Ellman-Pearl*

(PRESIDENT, Continued from page 1)

School has been our home. One of the reasons the Festival runs smoothly is that our infrastructure remains essentially the same. When we finally move elsewhere, we will be challenged to organize a smooth event in unfamiliar territory. Fortunately for us, this move will likely be later than expected, as Natick is delaying its high school plans. While we expect to remain in Natick for several more years (assuming it meets our needs), we know a move will happen eventually. So we will continue to investigate other sites for the future, using the search process as a special opportunity to improve the Festival.

After 9/11, we lost use of the U.S. Army Labs parking, but were fortunate to obtain parking space at The TJX Companies. We explored a resident partner relationship with the Springstep Center, which ultimately dissolved, but, I believe, in the process developed a stronger bond with CDS, FAC and the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, one which emphasizes our common appreciation of the strength of our folk community. This reaffirmation of what is important to us will guide us as we go forward into the future.

On a personal note, I had to miss most of the 2001 Festival to be with my mother as she bravely fought and finally succumbed to cancer. As much as I miss her advice, I've grown to appreciate more and more the advice of NEFFA's elders – not necessarily elders in chronological age, but in terms of experience. In our goal to “preserve folk traditions in New England and elsewhere, and to encourage the development of a living folk culture” we pay tribute to tradition, while being open to new ideas. We remember that evolution works best, so that we don't lose what we already cherish in our quest to experiment with the new. We know that we especially value the spirit of volunteerism that has worked so well for us for almost sixty years. We are fortunate that so many committee members remain dedicated to NEFFA and to preserving the NEFFA spirit, or the “NEFFA way” as Larry Jennings calls it.

I am grateful to have had four years as President to help NEFFA continue and grow as an organization devoted to these ideals. Moreover, I am truly honored to have worked with such an outstanding executive board. Each and every person on our board has made an invaluable contribution. The hard work that goes into planning and executing all facets of what NEFFA does – the Festival, the Ralph Page New England Dance Legacy Weekend, the Family Dance, the Thursday Night Dance, the Grants Program, Membership, the *NEFFA News*, the web site, the NEFFA office, and the work of administering a nonprofit corporation -- would not happen without the dedication and cooperation of the many people who take charge of a piece of NEFFA's activities. The board is large, yet works effectively because of the respect and appreciation felt for anyone's contribution, no matter the size. It is a privilege to be part of such an amazing group. I don't intend to leave it, but look forward to continuing on in different roles.

I also wish to particularly acknowledge several people who provided me with especially valued advice in the past four years: Larry Jennings, NEFFA Advisor, whose devotion to preserving NEFFA's essential values I so greatly admire; Nancy Hanssen, my predecessor, who provided so much support and advice; Lisa Greenleaf, former NEFFA President, who has provided wise counsel; and my dear husband Dan Pearl, who was my greatest supporter and my best and often toughest critic as I wrestled with different issues. To all these dedicated people and everyone who gave support to NEFFA and to me in the past four years, thank you! I couldn't have done it without you.

I love that the NEFFA Festival, while ever exciting and filled with changes, also brings the joy of familiarity: new and old performers, vendors, friends in the hallways, cafeteria, music halls and dance floors. This special event is something that will always be a part of me.

See you at the Festival!



Editor: **Dan Pearl**
Editorial Review: Shelagh Ellman-Pearl, Maureen Carey, Claire Reid, Lisa Greenleaf
Mailing: Dayle Watts

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 Daniel_Pearl@yahoo.com . 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 Dan at +1-508-229-2854.

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

The NEFFA Board recently awarded Life Membership to three individuals who have shown long and dedicated service to the organization: **Larry Jennings, Angela Taylor** and **Doris Possi**.

Doris Possi

This is the last of three interviews with the award recipients.

The award presentation for Doris Possi will be at a dance performance during the 2003 New England Folk Festival.



Ashville, North Carolina, 1994

Did you grow up in the Boston area?

I was born in Cambridge and my family moved to Somerville when I was two. After I got married in 1961, I stayed in Somerville. I was taking classes at the Burlington Y with Irene Howard, and I met some girls who had bought homes in Winchester, Burlington and Lexington, etc. A friend put me in touch with a realtor from Winchester. In 1970, I bought my house and moved to Winchester.

How did you get involved in dancing?

I really wanted to go to Sargent College, part of Boston University, which at the time was next to Harvard University. I wasn't able to attend because my father got sick and I had to help out at home. The first dance that I attended was at the Harvard-Epworth Methodist Church. I instantly loved square dancing and the music. Then I heard about Ted Sannella's square and folk dance group in Cambridge. I decided to try that. I met Cal Howard there, and lots of other people who are still my friends today. We all enjoyed Ted's dances. I'll always remember the fun we had in performing with Ted and putting together a group of two squares for the Main Hall at NEFFA. The girls wore striped skirts and white peasant blouses that were quite attractive. The guys were dressed to complement the girls.

The community also loved the folk dancing, so I managed to go to Ralph Page's Boston dances. George Fogg, Ellen Mandigo, Bud Hoff and I, with others, would travel miles to go to dances. We had a lot of fun and really had a lot of good times together. I especially enjoyed dancing at Shaw's Barn, in East Natick, with Chuck and Jo Bemis. Chuck went out West and came back with some Western singing dances, like "Smoke on the Water."

Anna Sannella and Angie Taylor and others would talk about

Camp Merriwood (Orford, NH); they not only had square and contra dancing, but also crafts. We couldn't wait to go to this weekend. I have fond memories of the camp. It was run by Ralph Page. We learned great dances and had the opportunity to learn crafts, as well, with Mary Frances. I especially enjoyed making my two leather belts with other friends.

I also loved Maine Folk Dance Camp in Bridgton, Maine. In June 1961 a surprise engagement party was arranged for Bill [my ex-husband] and me, by many people who attended the camp, including Dick Crum.

When Marianne and Conny Taylor started teaching international dances, I attended their Thursday Night Dance, at the Cambridge YWCA. They'd ask us if we wanted to perform some of the dances, and so I did that.

You've been a participant in Scottish dance for a long time, and have performed at the NEFFA Festival. Do you still perform with RSCDS at the Festival?

I got involved in Scottish Country Dancing in about 1952 or '53. I joined the Scottish Dance Team in 1954 and was on until 2000. I left because of my knee injury. I served as RSCDS treasurer, and on the executive committee and nominating committees several times and for thirteen years I was membership chair. I enjoyed dancing and being part of the annual Robert Burns birthday party celebration that was held in January at Sanders Theater for many years and of course, dancing at the NEFFA performances. After my knee surgery, I'm gradually getting back to Scottish dancing

(DORIS, Continued on page 7)

This NEFFA Interview was conducted by Shelagh Ellman-Pearl

Beware of Imitations!



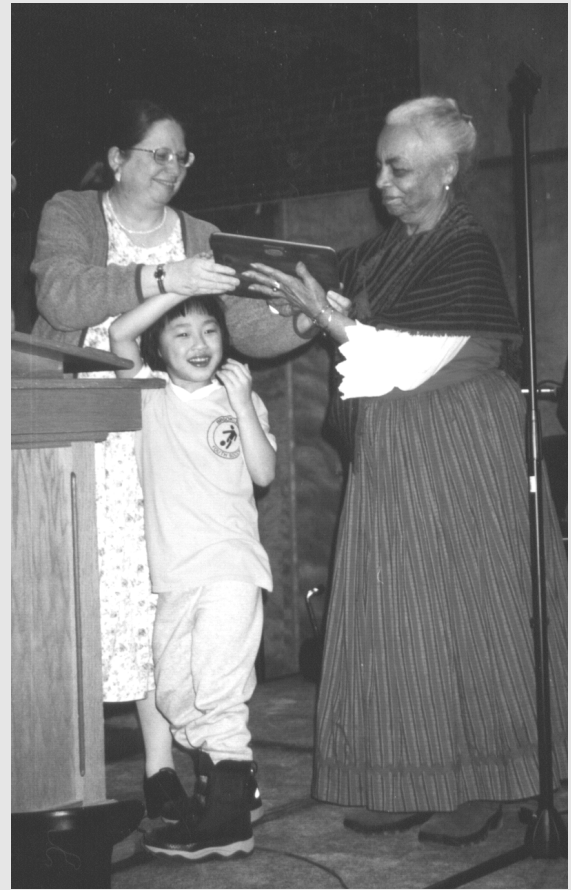
Nepal Freight Forwarders Association

Our motto: “NEFFA, the New England Folk Festival Association: oft imitated, but never copied... or duplicated, or something like that.”

Festival Site Update

Our Site Committee reports that the Town of Natick is delaying its high school renovation plans. We currently anticipate continuing to run Festivals in Natick for several more years, assuming that the spaces we need remain available. This year, we had to modify our use of the Lower Hall because the Natick High School added exercise equipment to that space. Although it seemed for a while that we might lose the entire space, we arranged with the school to move the equipment to part of the overflow room. So we will continue to have enough room for dancing.

We are also investigating and evaluating other sites for future Festivals. We want to use this site search process as an opportunity to improve the Festival. We appreciate your thoughts and suggestions, whether they are potential locations to consider or issues for the committee to keep in mind in choosing a site. Also, if you are interested in helping the committee, let us know! Please feel free to contact any of the Site Committee members — Harold Henry (harold.henry@compaq.com), Peter Olszowka (olszowka@sophia2.somerville.ma.us), or Dan Pearl (Daniel_Pearl@yahoo.com).



NEFFA President Shelagh Ellman-Pearl (assisted by Lily Pearl) presenting her Life Membership plaque to Angela Taylor at the 2003 Ralph Page New England Dance Legacy Weekend. *Photo: Dan Pearl*

Angela Taylor writes:

I am very pleased with my “Life Membership” award! I thank all my well-wishers I’ve heard from!

There is nothing more notable in Socrates than that he found time when he was an old man to learn music and dancing and thought it time well spent.

— Michel de Montaigne

Summary of Minutes of the NEFFA Exec Board

17 November 2002

Treasurer's Report (Ralph Jones)

Bank account needs funds due to Springstep donation and losses from Festival and Ralph Page Weekend. Funds will be transferred from investments at a loss due to fall in stock market.

November filing with Secretary of State has been completed; financial review is in progress.

Springstep Center (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl)

A new CEO, Jari Poulin, and a new consultant, Len Alexander, have been hired. Sharon has returned to working strictly on fund raising.

Terms of the current draft agreement between NEFFA and Springstep were reviewed.

Springstep would like to apply, with NEFFA as a co-applicant, for a \$250,000 capital grant from the Kresge Foundation. NEFFA would provide financial statements, and share oversight of funds. A decision must be made now, during the "window" for application: after initial money has been raised, but before building is completed.

Caution was voiced regarding potential financial and liability risks. A motion approving co-application of the grant was approved by a show of hands.

Inside Facilities Report (Harold Henry)

Lower Hall situation: We were informed that the Lower Hall would not be available due to conversion to Wellness Center per new athletic director. A walk-through revealed that the Small Hall is empty: rubber floor tiles remain for wrestling; current size is about twice the previous NEFFA size. The main Lower Hall is about half full of equipment, more equipment is in the "overflow" room. Equipment is not bolted down, although moving it is beyond the purview of the custodial staff.

Harold has written a draft letter, to be sent by Shelagh, to the Superintendent of Schools. Current long term plan is to build a new 3-story school in the athletic field and tear down the old school.

Options were discussed (tent, moving equipment out, etc.). We will explore possibilities with the school.

Inside Facilities Budget (Harold Henry)

Total budget for school costs is around \$37,000, (not including tent scenario). Actual building rent is one of the smaller items. Cost of custodians is the largest budget item, with a large increase. Part of high cost may be need for extra custodial staff. A new cost is a pre- and post-Festival inspector to assess damage.

Outside Facilities Report (Dan Pearl)

Main change will be addition of dedicated bus route to Natick train station. "Double duty" service has not worked in the past. Bus hourly rate will be the same as last year, but with more total hours due to the Natick run. Dedicated service is not the cheapest solution, but it is the easiest to implement.

Program Committee Report (Linda Leslie)

With Lower Hall situation, everything on the grid is tentative. Preliminary grid will be sent out at the beginning of January. Budget is slightly lower than indicated due to decreased printing and postage costs.

Program philosophy as usual: 1/3 couple dance; 1/3 international; 1/3 contras and squares. Performers are supposed to indicate sound needs on their application, and not change their minds. **Peter:** Can groups with similar sound needs be scheduled in blocks? If sound volunteers are scheduled when performers that don't need sound, it's boring and frustrating for them. **Linda:** This is difficult because of the different needs of groups re hall size etc.

Sound Committee Report (Peter Olszowska)

We came in below budget last year, not sure why, maybe people didn't request reimbursements.

Assumption that sound volunteers will be used for auditorium and concert halls, rather than hiring professional sound. Volunteers are getting better every year,

sound is acceptable.

Ticket Prices

Alternative proposals for "With tent" and "Without tent" prices were submitted. After some discussion, the ticket price schedule without a tent was passed.

Family Dance Report (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl)

A motion was passed to cover \$75 rental cost plus all financial loss for a Family Dance to be held on New Year's Eve Day.

Grants Committee (Robert Johnson)

A \$500 grant was made to the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society for "Arts in the Village" series. Lisa Greenleaf was appointed to a vacant spot on the Grants Committee.

Other Business (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl)

A sample of a badge to be worn by board members at NEFFA was presented by Dan. Should these be bought? General consensus, yes.

8 December 2002

The NEFFA Office (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl)

The Springstep Center has determined that they need more space for their own staff than originally projected. The current plan under consideration would reduce the CDS/NEFFA space from 220 square feet to 170 square feet. George Fogg is concerned that that space allocation is inadequate for the activities of the office.

Claire: If we did something different from CDS would we lose George's services? **Shelagh:** We could hire George ourselves, which would add complexity. **Ralph:** It would be difficult to find someone with George's breadth of knowledge.

Our current space in Melrose is 11x21 with additional common space and storage space.

A committee was appointed to communicate with CDS to consider common office issues: Ralph Jones, Shelagh Ellman-Pearl and Maureen Carey.

Shelagh: The issues we will consider are 1) How much space we need for the office; 2) How much space we need for storage; 3) Where will that storage be; 4) What are our short- and long-term needs; 5) What is rent? **Harold:** We should talk with FAC and RSCDS about storage needs, as we might be able to go in together for less cost. **Linda:** The Ralph Page archival material is comfortably housed at UNH. Have we considered having the NEFFA archives housed there?

Lower Hall Update (Harold Henry)

Harold: I spoke with head coach Lamb. He is interested in preserving the equipment and the floor (as are we). Dan and I will be meeting with coach Lamb next Tuesday.

Ticket Prices

We approved a no-tent price scheme last month, but the figures were not correct. If we approve more than one price scheme, then Dave, Dan and Harold will make the choice.

Ralph: I want to draw to peoples' attention the amount of cash NEFFA has under the "Festival" column. In 1999 we had roughly \$64,000. In 2000 we had \$65,000. In 2002 has dropped to \$27,000. This loss of "backup money" is cause for concern. The special fund has \$50,000, currently earmarked for youth programs, but this is accessible to us in case of emergency. **David:** I think the financial overview page should be printed in the booklet to let people know how much it costs to produce the Festival. **Shelagh:** How much of the drop can be attributed to the market turndown. **Ralph:** Only \$4000. **Shelagh:** It would be good if someone could take a stab at writing up a piece. Could someone from Tickets write up something for the News? **David:** I could do it. People have no idea what it costs to run the Festival. **Linda:** The more places it is distributed, the better. I think we should not put the full burden on Festival-goers. We could raise the booth fees. **Dan:** The food booths fees don't currently address the expense of the kitchen matrons. **Claire:** We could make a management decision that we don't assess the full cost this year, but we do inform people that charges will be going up. **Stacie:** How do people feel about raising membership fees? **Bob:** Our fees are very low compared to other organizations. **Maureen:** We could probably double or triple our fees with no great loss of membership. **Robert:** The higher the membership fee, the greater the Member/non-Member difference can be.

A motion to revise the admission fees based on corrected information was passed, as was a motion to establish a slate of fees if we needed to pay for a tent.

12 January 2003

The Board approved the minutes for three previous Board meetings: 10/20/02 (minutes transcribed by Nancy Horn), 11/17/02 (minutes transcribed by Laura Leibensperger), 12/08/02 (minutes transcribed by Dan Pearl).

Treasurer (Ralph Jones)

The Treasurer had nothing new to report. **Peter:** Have we done any analysis to predict whether the Festival this year is going to break even or whether we'll have a deficit? **Ralph:** My prediction is that we are going to lose a significant amount of money. **Shelagh:** Can you make a prediction? **Ralph:** I have no idea, but it was \$5000 last year. I don't think we have raised the ticket prices enough not only for this Festival, but also for the last two Festivals.

Based on this information, Shelagh suggested that we add some new topics to the agenda for the retreat: reviewing the Festival budget, and research ways to raise revenue. Peter suggested that we not wait until the retreat, and Ralph agreed. Ralph mentioned that the Folk Arts Center (FAC), as well as other organizations, have various levels of memberships that enable members to make additional contributions.

Ralph explained the concept of fundraising, and suggested that we do not want to do that. Shelagh said that she would put this topic on the agenda for next month.

Springstep (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl)

Shelagh, Ralph, and Maureen attended a CDS executive meeting. CDS felt that 170 square feet, which is what Springstep is now offering, is insufficient. Our members are also concerned that half of 170 square feet is insufficient. Shelagh sent Len Alexander a memo expressing concern about the small space and asked about whether there is flexibility around this issue. Jari Poulin, now the primary contact for SS, asked that a meeting be arranged with us individually to come see the building and meet with them. Jari offered to meet with Paul and Shelagh during the following week about how much flexibility our groups have with regard to office space. Shelagh is also planning a visit to the Melrose office to determine what our needs are, and whether it is suitable for us to stay there.

Shelagh said that CDS will meet later this month about whether to share office space and staff with SS. Harold said that this issue is really about partnerships, and he suggested we identify which relationships are most important to us. Peter said he thought that that logistical issues are also important. Straw polls revealed that people favored, in general, staying with CDS; there was little support to move to Springstep; some people wanted to explore a different type of relationship with Springstep.

A Springstep subcommittee consisting of Peter, Maureen, and Shelagh was formed.

Revenue Committee

Shelagh asked for volunteers to create a revenue committee to create ways to raise money for NEFFA. Maureen, Harold, Ralph, Stacie, and Steve will serve on the committee, and will present a proposal at the next meeting.

Food Committee (Maureen Carey)

Maureen had two issues to discuss.

She asked if she can keep the price of food booths at \$265, which was raised by \$50 last year to help defray the costs of the food service. It was stated that this is Maureen's decision. She decided to keep the rate at \$265.

Maureen wants to add one more food booth for the 2003 Festival, and stated that the booth is very desirable and will not conflict with other food booths at the Festival. **Dan:** I support the idea, but make sure the infrastructure is in place before saying yes to the vendor. Check with Nick, whom we hire to do the electrical work in the kitchen, and make sure that electrical, refrigeration, and preparation space are available.

Ralph: Do we need to continue raising rates? In the past, we were undercharging for these booths, and said we would continue to raise them each year until we were covering our costs. Have we checked to see how many years ago that was, and whether we are now charging enough? We need to know how much it costs us to run the food booths.

Lower Hall Update (Harold Henry)

Harold said that we have been granted the use of the lower hall. In agreement with the school, we will hire Gentle Giant to move the exercise machines to the overflow hall in the Lower Hall (which will give us half of the overflow hall for usable dance space).

Gentle Giant will return after the Festival and move the machines to new locations designated by the school. NEFFA guarantees that the machines will not be damaged. NEFFA will create an escrow account of \$1000 for the school to use in making adjustments to the machines every year. The balance of the fund will be kept at \$1000, and replenished as it is used. If we decide to use another site for the Festival in the future, we will stop depositing money into the escrow account. The total for the moving and other expenses associated with the Lower Hall is approximately \$3500.

There was agreement for the action items list in Dan's memo placed in the pre-meeting packet.

Access Committee (Rayna Tulysewski)

Rayna commented that she won't be at NEFFA this year, but that she will designate someone in her place. Ideally, she would like to find a replacement for her position for future Festivals.

It was mentioned that ALD devices, which are supposed to be picked up at the Hospitality Table, were in the Auditorium last year. It was also mentioned that no power outlet was available last year at Hospitality. Someone said that individuals who can't speak should just get someone to make a call for them.

Shelagh said that she will talk to the Safety committee about this issue, and said that she might consult the Sound Committee for assistance. Peter said that he would be happy to assist.

Program Committee (Mari Young)

The performer mailing occurred on January 4th. Dance performances and Morris dancing will be added to the schedule later.

Shelagh asked that Bob finalize the slate before the February Board meeting, if at all possible. Bob stated that he expected to have a full slate by that time.

The February newsletter is scheduled to be mailed on February 24. This first-class mailing will contain the NEFFA Newsletter, the preliminary grid, the ballot, a NEFFA volunteer form, the Thursday contra dance flyer, and membership renewal information. The copy deadline for the NEFFA Newsletter is February 15th, so it is expected that it will be ready for the February 24th mailing.

Publicity (Jessica Holland)

Jessica reported the numbers from NEFFA 2002:

4500 attendees
1000 performers
500 volunteers

Jessica asked for volunteers to be interviewed by the press about NEFFA. Dan volunteered, and someone also suggested that Jessica contact Linda Leslie, who did a nice job last year. Shelagh volunteered as well, but asked that she be contacted only if Jessica can't get someone else.

Jessica would like to locate pictures to meet various requests that have been made. She doesn't have any pictures that are representative of NEFFA as a whole, and wasn't sure what kinds of pictures would be appropriate. Dan suggested that she contact Joe Pidle. Harold suggested that Jessica send several pictures from which a publisher can choose one to print.

Ticket Prices

On behalf of Dave and Claire, Shelagh asked Board members to contact Dave and Claire if we need a different number of tickets from the number received for our committees for 2002.

Shelagh reviewed the events that led to the change of teen and child ticket prices after the December meeting, when we voted on price increases for NEFFA 2003. After the vote, Arnold suggested an even lower ticket price for the categories. Through e-mail, motions were made and a vote was taken to adopt the new ticket prices reflected on the NEFFA flyer. Shelagh commented that conducting business

(MINUTES, Continued on page 8)



A History of Volunteerism

Highlights of Doris Possi's contributions to NEFFA

Dance Performances

1963-2002

Nominating Committee

1979-1981

Director

1971-72, 1975

Program Committee

1970-74

Exhibits

1959-62

Membership

1958

Vice President

1977-78



2000 Photo: Cressy Goodwin

(DORIS, Continued from page 3)
again.

Who invited you to join the group working on the NEFFA Festival?

Conny, Marianne, Sylvia Miskoe and others I knew from folk dancing, square dancing and RSCDS. I always enjoyed all kinds of dancing and NEFFA seemed to have it all.

What did you do for NEFFA?

I worked first on the Membership Committee. Then I was in charge of Exhibits at the Festival for six years – 1958-64. We had exhibits of costumes, jewelry, which included maybe six ethnic groups, such as Scottish, Irish and Latvian. They'd bring costumes and wares from their countries and displayed them beautifully.

That was very successful, but then they asked me to do dance, and I said "Ohhh! Dance." And Jean Tufts said, "Don't worry, we'll help you." I believe the first year I did the dance program, it was in the gym at Medford, at Tufts University. It was fun and I enjoyed it. We had Lithuanian, Latvian, Polish, Scandinavian, English, and Scots, about ten groups. Each year, I went searching to find contacts for these groups and new ones. Some of the groups wanted to present both a children's group and an adult group. I think the Festival promoted this kind of family feeling. Even today, the Festival is a big thing of the year for most of the groups. They love their ethnic culture and want to continue passing this on to future generations. I give a lot of credit to groups that are small and continue to perform at the Festival because they love it. Many travel a distance from New York, Washington, DC, Pennsylvania, even Florida, to come to our Festival. Certain groups are more difficult to get, because they want payment or more time to perform, or both. I always explained that NEFFA is a nonprofit organization and that everybody volunteers their time to put the Festival together.

I guess I never thought I'd stay with Dance Performances this long, but I've really enjoyed putting the programs together and working with all the leaders and dance performers. Having a great dance committee made my job pleasant and fulfilling.

Tell me about your dance performance committee?

I can't believe the commitment of a lot of people, like Cressy Goodwin. He's been my MC, and he was NEFFA Vice President. He has taken photographs of the performances for many years. Cressy's wife Jean, Peter Tandy [stage manager], Clyde Tyndale [lighting], Anne Gooding, my co-chair, and my other MC's: Judith Schrier, Marianne Taylor, Tony Saletan (who has been doing a great job for me recently), Ralph Page (who was my MC for a long time) and Sam Alexander. Other members over the years included Reid Hamilton, Loumona Petroff, John Columbare, Andrea Taylor-Blenis, Beverly Cleathero, Barbara Little and Mary Wendell, Lynn Konnerth and Helene Platounoff. I felt that it was good to have a consistent group of people working with me because then because you know the people, and it makes it easier at the Festival.

I would get really busy working on dance performances, but somehow I managed, thanks to the efforts and feeling of support from a great committee. I'm not sure what it was with all of us. We grew as a family, working as a team, and I hope to keep in touch with everybody for as long as I live.

All through the years, I was constantly looking for dance groups. I woke up after the Festival 2002 one night, and thought, "You know, I think I've done something with my life. I've given a lot, but people have given me a lot in return." I think I have done things that have resulted in close friendships. I think ours is the best and friendliest festival around that I've been to.

(DORIS, Continued on page 8)

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 \$7/individual (\$18 for 3 years); \$11/family (up to 2 people over 18) (\$28 for 3 years) Contributions are 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.

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.

(DORIS, Continued from page 7)

How has NEFFA changed from the early days?

I did enjoy the early workshops. Now it's too crowded. There are more opportunities to do things now, although I haven't had a chance to do a lot of it myself, but I hope to attend some of the concerts. I think NEFFA is going in a great direction. Everybody through the years has worked together to make this Festival better and better, and more exciting. For the ethnic groups it is the highlight of the year and a must for many groups.

Have your children been involved in the dance community?

I have two sons, Brian and David. I tried to get them involved, when they were young, but unfortunately they were not interested in dancing. Brian did dance with the children's Scottish dance group, when Marilyn Wild had a group.

You have other interests besides the folk dance community. I understand you've been quite involved in roller-skating.

A woman for whom I was providing long-term care started to go downhill, and I became depressed. I felt that I wanted to do something. I had roller-skated while I was in high school. I called the Medford rink and learned that they had an adult skating program. I started skating again in '82, skating once or twice a week. After that rink closed, I took lessons in artistic skating at a rink in Malden. My teacher encouraged me to prepare to take the roller-skating tests. He gave me so much confidence that I was able to pass the four tests of eight dances. At last I had reached my childhood dream!

My other volunteer job is coordinator of the Ushers Corp at church. I've been doing this since 1984.

How's your knee doing after your surgery? Is it any better?

It's wonderful. It's like a new life. I can dance. I'm enjoying ballroom dancing and folk dancing now. I went to RSCDS' Twelfth Night. I did at least 10 dances with no pain, which was amazing.

Any final thoughts?

There will always be dancing and music. I don't know what life would be without it. I've enjoyed being Dance Performance Chair since 1964. Thanks, NEFFA! You are my family. I hope to stay in touch and never stop dancing!

(MINUTES, Continued from page 6)

through e-mail was time-consuming, and should probably be avoided in the future if possible.

Volunteers (Nancy Hanssen)

Nancy needs to know if anyone requires a change to the number of volunteers that they need for their committee. Nancy mentioned that she doesn't include Thursday and Friday morning volunteer positions on the list of available positions, because everyone wants those positions. People can call and request those positions if they want them. Harold commented that the information about the Sunday break-down positions should include the fact that pizza is provided, plus transportation back to your car, if you are in a lot accessible only by shuttle. Peter noted that some people finished their break-down jobs early last year, and went to a restaurant for dinner, which resulted in leftover pizza.

Grant-Youth Fund (Robert Johnson)

A subcommittee, headed by Robert Johnson, was formed to create recommendations regarding the administration of a \$50K grant that was donated to NEFFA. The grant is to be used for folk dance and music educational programs for youth. Recipients of the grants are likely to be performers who want to conduct youth educational programs, or NEFFA itself.

A question arose within the subcommittee regarding what should be spent relative to principle and interest. The feeling was that requests received by the Grants committee would probably not appreciably deplete the fund, and that most large requests (any amount over \$500) would have to be approved by the NEFFA Board anyway.

Shelagh asked Robert to ask if Lisa would be willing to write these documents. The Grants committee is responsible for writing these documents; however, she also further stated that Robert should contact her if he cannot find someone on the Grants committee to write the pieces listed above.

New Year's Eve Family Dance

This dance, which NEFFA helped to support financially, had only 12 attendees. A written report on the dance is forthcoming from Marcie Van Cleave, who coordinated the dance. She indicated that she will not try to hold this dance again during the middle of the week, as it is likely to result in a poor turnout.

The Ralph Page Dance Legacy Weekend (RPDLW)

Shelagh reminded everyone that, at the Saturday evening dance, Angela Taylor will be awarded Life Membership in NEFFA for her years of contribution to this organization.

Web Hosting

Dan stated that Alex Latzko has requested a donation to help defray the costs of hosting the NEFFA web site. Dan explained Alex's request, and made several salient points regarding the excellent service that we have received from Alex at a price that falls far below market value. A motion to approve a donation was passed.