

News!

**Pretty Pictures
of NEFFA 2004!**

History!



Fall 2004 – Vol. XXX #3

A Phony Ad!

**Polish Concert at
the MFA!**

More!!

From The



Time Capsule

“The Country Dancer in Wartime” was a mimeographed bulletin of reports and activities of the various Country Dance Society’s [now the Country Dance and Song Society] centers and branches. It kept the Society’s membership in touch and contact with each other during those difficult war years. Its first issue was November 1943 and ended with No. 10 February 1947.

Archive material selected by George Fogg

Extracts from CDS Boston Centre’s reports from “The Country Dancer in Wartime” on its participation in the early days of the New England Folk Festival.

No 4, November 1944

A Folk Festival of folk dance, music and crafts, inspired by the Governor’s Committee on Recreation was held on October 28 and 29 at the YWCA in Boston. A local committee, including representatives from the Boston Centre, was responsible for the plans and execution of the Festival program.

The program included exhibits and demonstrations of folk crafts, folk singers, and fiddlers from New England states, dance groups of various nations, and also a leaders’ conference on folk music and dance. The program was held on Saturday and Sunday afternoons and evenings, finishing each evening with general American dancing for everyone from 10 to 12 o’clock. Our Center gave a demonstration on Saturday evening of men’s Morris and Sword, and on Sunday afternoon a program of country dances. This proved to be a most interesting festival, and it is hoped that it may become an annual event. Louise B. Chapin.

No. 7 November 1945

The second Folk Festival of folk dance, music, and crafts was held at the Y.W.C.A Building on October 17th and 28th. Again our society was one of the sponsoring organizations and also gave a demonstration on the Saturday evening program. This Festival was a great improvement upon the one of last year and it seems to warrant becoming an annual event. Louise B. Chapin

No. 10 February 1947

The Society has appeared before the public in two demonstrations. The first at the annual New England Folk Festival of dancing, music, and crafts in November, when a group of English Country dancers was danced, and eight men clashed through the Flamborough Sword Dance before an appreciative audience. The next month at the Christmas party of the Harvard Folk Dance Society, directed by E. Eddie Nadel, the Society presented the same sword dance, a men’s Morris, and some English Country dances. Louise B. Chapin

An Extraordinary Festival on an Extraordinary Date

The 2005 NEFFA Festival is April 8-10!

News From **THURSDAY** contras at the VFW

We have learned that the owners of the Mt. Auburn VFW in Cambridge, MA, site of the Thursday contra dance sponsored by NEFFA, are in negotiations to sell the building to the City of Cambridge. The plans call for renovation of the upper floor into a neighborhood "youth center". Unfortunately, a dance hall is not part of the renovation plans.

The timing for this is likely to be no earlier than the summer of 2005, but if this deal goes through, we need to find a new home for our dance. The Thursday Night Dance Committee will be meeting to determine our course of action. We will be asking for help to find potential relocation sites. To that end, think about halls that you might have seen or have a connection to that could be appropriate for our dance. Consider capacity (300 dancers), parking, convenience to public transit, etc. Thanks! — *Dan Pearl, Chair TNDC*

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER - PART TIME - NORTHAMPTON MA AREA

The Country Dance and Song Society, a non-profit membership organization devoted to English/American folk dance and song, is celebrating its 89th anniversary (www.cdss.org), and is seeking a part-time (1-2 days/week) grant writer, researcher and development consultant to support a \$1,000,000+ budget.

The Development Manager will work on researching and applying for grants, tracking these grants, writing appropriate reports and consulting on individual solicitation campaigns. S/he will work with the Executive Director, Financial and Systems Manager, and the Development Committee of the Board to help implement an overall development strategy, research and secure new sources of funding, and cultivate individual donors. A new leadership training fund, with significant leadership donations in hand to support workshops and publications, as well as a major database/accounting system project are under way.

The ideal candidate will have substantial previous experience, excellent writing skills, and experience managing private, corporate, government grants and individual giving campaigns.

Compensation: Commensurate with experience.
To apply, contact: personnel@cdss.org.
No phone calls, please.

IFC Reunion

Did you attend Moshe Eskayo's International Folkdance Camps in the 1970s and 1980s? Moshe is interested in having a reunion of dancers and teachers from those camps and we're compiling a mailing list of anyone who is interested.

Please send me your contact information including your name, address, telephone and email address.

EMAIL INFORMATION TO rspieg@yahoo.com

If anyone doesn't have email, they can write to me at:

Randi Spiegel,
48 Roosevelt Street,
Roseland, NJ 07068.

More information will be forthcoming once we see if there is an interest in this reunion. Thanks and we're looking forward to a great response!

— *Randi Spiegel*



Editor: **Dan Pearl** Mailing: **Dayle Watts**
Editorial Review: **Maureen Carey, 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 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 the editor. Copyright © 2004 by the New England Folk Festival Association, Inc.

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

4th Annual
**Waltzing Weasel
Dance Weekend**



**October 1-3, 2004 -
Grasshopper Lake Camp
Flange, West Virginia**

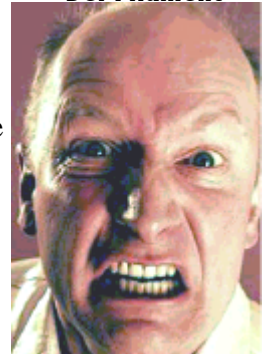
Join the fun and frolic at our wonderful camp, filled with music, friends, and crisp autumn breezes.

The Setting – Beautiful Grasshopper Lake Camp is perfectly situated just off I-77 (Exit 23, “Superfund Site”), which provides the illusion of seclusion and country living. The spring-fed Grasshopper Lake provides a bracing dip for hearty souls, as well as a fertile breeding-ground for the fascinating Snakehead (nature lovers, take note!). The picturesque East Branch of the North Fork of the Scum River runs through camp, providing not only soothing babbling, but a natural barrier to the feral dog packs roaming on the other side.

The Staff – Once again, our headline band will be the **Oxi-Morons** with Skip “Skipper” Tomo (fiddle), Sam “Skippy” Firbus (accordion), and Jennifer “Jennifer” Skipman (drum kit, bowed psaltery and highland bagpipe). They will be selling copies of their new CD: “A Fiddle, An Accordion, A Drum Kit, A Bowed Psaltery and A Highland Bagpipe”.

Calling the contras and squares will be the fabulous **Del Filament**. Del, hailing from Gingivitis, NC, is beloved for his little ‘act’ where he ‘loses patience’ with the dancers, ‘berating and screaming’ at them, even though he is the one who did the ‘pathetic’ job ‘teaching’ the dance. Oh, how we ‘love’ that! Del is also renowned for his dances he has composed to commemorate important events in his life, including the popular “My First Car,” “Graduation Contra,” and “Take Your %@\$*# Toothbrush and Get Out of My Life You Bastard Hornpipe”.

Del Filament



The Program – We’ll have a bevy of attractive classes, including “Offensive Contra Dancing,” “Advanced No-Walk-Through Poorly-Called Contras,” “My Two Left Feet – Couple Dancing for Beginners,” and “Safety in Numbers: Dance Band Workshop.” We will be repeating our famous “**Gluttons for Punishment**” session, where each dancer, after eating an entire fresh-baked blueberry pie, does the Hambo for 5 minutes (with continuous turning). Then they repeat: Pie, Hambo, Pie, Hambo, Pie, Hambo, etc. until there is only one couple left standing. The winners get the Grand Prize: A fresh-baked blueberry pie!

Accommodations – Housing is in rustic cabins with outhouses and spigot not more than ¼ mile away. Down-home country charm is exuded by the authentic 1945-vintage Saggmaster beds. Please don’t bring electrical appliances; if the cabins had electricity, they probably couldn’t handle the load anyway.

Food – Betsy “Finish Your Mock Okra or No Mock Apple Pie For You” Gnarlman will once again be providing fabulous meals. Betsy, who authored the book “365 Ways to Cook with Ritz™ Crackers”, always amazes us with her imagination.

For fees and more information, consult our website: www.wvcontras.org

Summary of the Minutes of the NEFFA Executive Board

22 May 2004

Call to Order and President's Report (Maureen Carey)

Dave Reid is recovering from his illness and will sign on to do Tickets for least the next two Festivals.

Welcome to new board members: **Kristin Gustafson** (Membership), **Mark Jones** (Parking). **Liz Tyler** will work with Mari on International and Couple Dance. **Linda Wicks** will not be running Membership, but would like to stay involved.

Secretary's Report (Laura Leibensperger)

Minutes of Annual Meeting 2004 will be voted on at the 2005 Annual Meeting, not at this meeting.

Election of Board Members. Complete slate was elected. VP: Robert Johnson. Treasurer: Ralph Jones. Nominating Committee: Shelagh Ellman-Pearl, Linda Leslie. Directors: Nancy Hanssen, Dan Pearl, Angela Taylor, Dayle Watts.

Festival Committee Reports

Clocks (Rayna Tulesewski): Report presented in pre-meeting package. **Michael:** Radio-synchronized clocks have come down in price. **Dan:** We can replace broken clocks as needed with synchronized clocks.

Crafts (Ann Schunior): We had a good year. Demo crowds were large. Demos could be moved to the end booth near the lower hall, but that might block the door.

Evaluations: We got about 300 evaluations out of thousands of attendees, but we base a lot of things on evaluations. Another issue is timing of the Evaluation

Report: there's not enough time for the Program Committee to meet and produce a report before the evaluation meeting.

Folk Bazaar (Angela Taylor): I had two cancellations just before the Festival. Also, Ossian is not doing festivals any more. An evaluation mentioned missing a couple of familiar booths. Some wanted more variety, but there is no duplication, how much variety do they want?

Dan: They may mean from year to year. **Linda:** Watch out for issues of "one response"; we don't ask people if they love finding items easily in the same place.

Hospitality (Maureen): There was one problem with rudeness toward a vendor and toward Angela. I talked with the person and calmed her down, got things straightened out between her and the vendor. If something like this happens, I should be called in right away – other people shouldn't take the stress.

Instrument & Costume Check (Laura Leibensperger): Curbside checking would be do-able with good volunteer coverage. I'm also not sure how many people actually need it – I get one or two comments a year. Maybe all we need is to borrow a Hospitality or Safety volunteer to help in specific situations. Most performers seem to have a system worked out – luggage carts, riggings etc.

Membership (Kristin Gustafson): I had no orientation, materials and records were not up to date, and everything about membership had changed! But the experienced volunteers were amazing and things went pretty smoothly. Estimate: 46 individual renewals, 33 family renewals, 21 new individual memberships, and 12 new family memberships. Neffa Bucks distribution to people who didn't come to the Festival is not clear.

Inside Facilities (Harold Henry): There were 38 evaluations and 6 e-mails with Facilities comments. Bathrooms are an ongoing problem, exacerbated this year by a broken women's bathroom, the changing area had to be closed as well. We don't have a woman custodian; we

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.

need a woman volunteer to clear out bathrooms for cleaning. We were short a piano for the Lyric Room – we had to take one from the jamming area. We had an equal number of comments asking for more jamming areas and asking for fewer jamming areas due to sound bleed. There were requests for more and softer mats. There were a lot of comments about poor water pressure and difficulty in filling water bottles at fountains. A person complained about sexist comments made by custodians. Another issue was that the EMT's only carry a minimal number of cold packs – should we sell them?

Outside Signs (Dayle Watts): We had to buy some signs, but didn't lose any. We got the usual kind of evaluation comments. **Dan:** We might want to address taxi-service signage. Also, think about expanding taxi service to cover the West Natick stop, which is serviced by virtually every train on that line - the Natick stop is skipped by several trains. Taxi service saved us about \$600.

Parking (Mark Jones): I need more free time to check out dance bands. I'd like to have session supervisors to spread the work around. We could use a Chair, Co-chair and 4 session supervisors. The mud lot near the high school could use attention next year to keep cars from blocking others. Due to town use, the baseball field lot wasn't as available as we thought it would be. One lot was only half-used on Sunday and could have been opened up.

Performer Sales (Nancy Horn): \$8000 was paid out to performers. We sold all but 19 T-shirts. Right now, T-shirt numbers are not tallying correctly. **Dan:** We gave 12 shirts to bus drivers. **Nancy:** I'd like to have a better system for tracking sales. **Dan:** How many different items do you sell? **Nancy:** 247. **Dan:** How about a cash register with PLUs. **Michael:** ie, a computer... **Nancy:** There's often more than one sale going on at a time. **Dayle:** You could have one person on the register. **Linda:** Nancy got some very nice compliments.

Program. Report shows time devoted to different categories: we increased time on family and beginner events. Got some evaluation comments wanting more workshops.

Tango, West Gallery, some English, Beatles sing-along, dance performances were popular. We had no no-shows.

Printed Materials. We had a lot of grids and Program Books left over. We could reduce number of grids, and reduce number of Program Books by at least 500 – we had 800 to 1000 left over. **Harold:** Any issues about outside Morris? I purchased a 10x10 canopy for musicians. **Michael:** I know someone with a tent. **Harold:**

Globe etc. He was furious that Membership had gone up, because if we got more people we wouldn't need to do raise rates. But other people complain about overcrowding! We need a new Publicity person, and put thought into publicity. Publicity chairs haven't always felt supported. **Laura:** What about looking at ways to fundraise other than increasing Festival attendance.

Safety (presented by Maureen for John Wojtowicz): People were not dancing in Lower Hall overflow; bags should go there. Parking, Safety, and Outside Signs need voice to voice communication. **Linda:** We should talk with Michael Resnick about signage for bags in Lower Hall; it's a safety hazard. **Dan:** It's not really his issue, he'll be happy to make signs. **Harold:** We could designate a bag area, put up shelves etc.

Sound (Peter Olszowska, presented by Michael Bergman): **Linda:** Saturday night there were 4 dance performance cancellations, adding to Saturday night confusion. Replacements were groups that had not performed at NEFFA before. Confusion points to the need for written job descriptions.

Other Business

2005 Festival Dates (Harold Henry): Our preferred festival dates (to avoid Passover) are already booked by another group. We have our default dates booked as a back-up. I'll see if I can approach the Higashi School directly. **Dan:** What about other weekends? Do we have to abut school vacation?

Give and Take (Dan Pearl). We sold 85 copies at the festival. 50 copies were delivered to CDSS, and 20 to FAC, for wholesale. Larry took some copies, Mark has some copies. The printer has more copies coming.

TCAN (The Center for the Arts in Natick) Issues (Michael Bergman). NEFFA can take a stand by supporting one party or the other, or by staying neutral. **Linda:** This seems like a complex politicized issue that would take a lot of time to understand. We already have a lot to think about. **Dan:** Let's wait for it to settle down. General consensus: NEFFA should not be involved.



Can you find out dimensions?

Publicity (presented by Maureen for Jessica Holland): We had very good publicity through WUMB. Linda Miller liked the spot that Angela gave her. We'll have a spot at their festival. One man complained about a lack of publicity in the



NEFFA 2004 Images

Photography by Meghan Wakefield





Warsaw Village Band Concert at MFA

The Museum of Fine Arts Concert Program is delighted to present the **Warsaw Village Band** on **Sunday, September 26 at 3 pm**. This concert is sure to delight fans of both traditional European roots music and lovers of bold new sounds.

The Warsaw Village Band are six young musicians who first came together in 1997 and have since dedicated themselves to conserving and experimentally enhancing the traditional folk music of the Warsowia region in the heart of Poland. They refer to their take on it as “hardcore folk” of ‘bio-techno’ and have been compared to Swedish group Hedningarna for their uncompromising acoustic approach. They are the recipients of the 2004 World Music Awards. Don’t miss this rare opportunity to hear them live!

The Warsaw Village Band (Kapela ze wsi Warszawa) was founded in 1997 by six young musicians who originally just wanted to have fun making spontaneous music together using ancient Polish folk instruments and singing styles. The band’s three singers use the powerful “white voice” singing style originally used by shepherds to communicate over

long distances. Instruments played by the ensemble include: violin, cello, suka (a Polish fiddle whose strings are stopped with the player’s fingernails), Polish dulcimer, hurdy-gurdy, and traditional European frame drums.

The band serves both as conservators and innovators of Polish music. The band travels the Polish countryside to make field recordings of folk festivities and village celebrations, studies old manuscripts for source material, and seeks instruction from rural elderly musicians. To this source material, they often add contemporary elements, such as modern instruments, electronic dance elements, and topical lyrics while still preserving its traditional nature.

For more information (in both Polish and English) please visit wvb.terra.pl.

Tickets are \$20 MFA members, students, and seniors; \$24 general admission.

Reserved seating in the front row is \$28 MFA members, students, and seniors; \$30 general admission. Please call the Remis Box Office at 617-369-3306 for advance purchases.

— Press Release



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