

**Fun Times -
Hard Times
Entertaining
Filler Aplenty!**



Spring 2004 – Vol. XXX #1

**“How Contra
Dancing Was
Invented” (a
poem by Dudley
Lafuman)**

Dear Members,

NEFFA has the proud tradition of being an organization that is entirely grassroots, meaning it exists because of the contributions of its participants. There is no NEFFA apart from you, dear reader. We all get the wonderful experiences of our annual weekend events and dances because so many individuals give what churches call the three “T’s” - Time, Talent and Treasure - to this work. This is an appeal for you to join us, the organizers, in the very rewarding project of keeping NEFFA thriving.

For sixty years we have been able to meet our expenses with admissions, low membership fees, vendor fees and an occasional contribution. Those days have passed. The rising expenses of the last few years have made it clear that we have to raise more money to remain fiscally viable and ensure the future of our events.

We hold the Festival at a site that is a high school, which we transform into a venue for many functions:

performance and participatory music events, craft making and retailing, a dozen restaurants, etc. We create three days that are the high point of the year for many. This is especially true for families, who count on us to open the world of invaluable

traditional arts for their children in a society that fails to appreciate and celebrate our diverse cultural heritage.

The costs necessary to carry off this transformation and ensure the safety of all participants grow every year.

We are facing the same types of financial pressures that

From the President's Desk

Maureen Carey



**We create three days that
are the high point of the
year for many**

are everywhere. The electrical work, town safety officers, cafeteria helpers, extra refrigeration, moving expenses for fitness equipment, insurance, building rental, etc., add up to many thousands of dollars. And we are very frugal, so I can assure you your money is not being spent unnecessarily.

The costs for running our events exceed the amount we can charge at the door without losing participants. It is very important that the Festival remain accessible to all,

especially families. If we charged the full cost of our expenses, we would exclude people it is important to serve and without whom our Festival would not be the same. Therefore, we are

increasing the cost of membership, asking for contributions above the level of that basic cost, and seeking to attract new members.

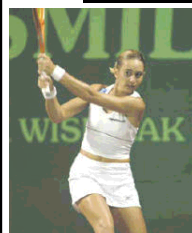
Natural attrition of longtime leaders and the expansion of roles as we fine-tune the needs of the Festival mean we

need more volunteers to take leadership roles. For instance, two longtime chairs, Jean Krogh and Bob Solosko, are starting a new committee to handle recycling this year, an important concern for most of our members. We need people who will learn jobs and NEFFA policy to help us run the Festival. We formulate policy and make major decisions at board meetings that take place about eight times a year. There are positions where it would be necessary to attend only a few meetings, like Parking Coordinator. It is very satisfying to help run such a great event. And having “no time” doesn’t need to stop you. If you can only lend a small amount of time now, we can find a task that will make a difference to NEFFA. NEFFA relies on large and small, fixed-time and flexible, efforts from volunteers.

Any and all questions about these matters are more than welcome. Consult our website or any NEFFA officer or chairperson, or email me personally at maureen.carey@comcast.net.

A NEFFA Public Service

Beware of Imitations!



Rossana Neffa-de los Rios, Paraguayan tennis star

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

The Island Folk Dance and Song Society is pleased to announce its upcoming series of English Country Dancing.



- March 13 - Christine Ariel with music by Kenneth Allen, Piano
- March 27 - George Fogg with music by Peter Corbridge, piano
- April 3 - Helene Cornelius with music by Jack's Maggot
- April 17 - Mary Jones with music by Jack's Maggot
- May 1 - Michael Cicone with music by Jack's Maggot

The dances will be offered at the Courthouse Center for the Arts, 3481 Kingstown Road (Route 138, 1.5 miles west of U.R.I.), West Kingston, Rhode Island, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m., \$8. admission per person. No experience or partner needed. Soft-soled shoes are recommended. Refreshments are provided. For more information call 401.423.2284 Christine Ariel, 401.539.3009 John Buscaglia, or 401.782.1018 the Courthouse Center for the Arts. Also visit our website www.jamestownri.com/ifdss for directions and information on English Country Dancing, or the website for the Courthouse Center for the Arts at www.CourthouseArts.org.
-- Christine Ariel



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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.

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

Housing Help Needed for the Festival

Your help is needed to host out-of-town NEFFA guests for this year's event.

If you have any space available we would appreciate it. Please contact us at embudreau@mindspring.com Or you can visit the NEFFA web site for the electronic form.

Thanks — Diane Mathieson & Ed Budreau (NEFFA's housing coordinators).



Recycling at the Festival

This year at the Festival you will have more opportunities to recycle! Look in the cafeteria and hallways for the four blue trash barrels with recycle symbols and green stripes. Recycle your cans, glass bottles (gently!), water bottles, and other plastic bottles.

Any beverage cans or bottles bought at the NEFFA drink booth in the cafeteria can be returned to that booth.

Recycling Committee members will be emptying the recycle barrels regularly throughout the Festival.



Dance Variety for the Joy of It! In the shadow of 14,000' Pikes Peak

The 27th Annual Lloyd Shaw Foundation
ROCKY MOUNTAIN DANCE ROUNDUP
June 27th to July 3rd, 2004

Savor Contra, Square, English, Scottish & International Dance as you glide on fine wood floors to great LIVE music!

- Superb leadership with 200+ years of teaching experience!
 - Singles, Couples & Families welcome (with full program for school age kids!)
 - La Foret Conference Ctr., near Colorado Springs, CO offers good food (w/ options), cozy cabins (w/ modern baths), plus swimming and hiking - ALL ON SITE
 - No extra charge for fresh, clean Rocky Mountain Air and Sunshine! Convenient walking to all activities.
- Info & registration form: www.lloydshaw.org or phone Bob Riggs, 303-808-7837, E-mail: RLRiggs@aol.com

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.

How Contra Dancing Was Invented

Dudley Laufman

Started off as a cash crop.
Had to entertain them summer folk
on Saturday nights.
Got Uncle Walter
show us the figures 'n steps
to them old contrys and quadrilles,
we called 'em square dances.
Hollis and Quint played their flute and fiddle.
They'd get Arno on his guitar,
go down to that abandoned cider mill
had that brook running underneath it,
smell of pomace and rotting wood.
Sit there in the lantern light,
pass a bottle around,
play them old dance tunes
with that great echo.
Uncle Walter's nephew'd
sit in a dark corner,
couldn't see him, quiet feller.
Surprised everyone by
lilting out in his flute-fiddle voice,
chanting the changes to Hull's Victry
like he'd been doing it all his life.
He was a natural.
They pressed him into service
at the very next dance.

You know how the story goes from here.
How the hippies came to the dances
with their Patchouli Oil and bare feet.
And how they didn't like the word "square".
And how they discovered some were contras,
and we heard one of them tell someone,
It's not square dancing, it's contra dancing,
it's not square dancing, it's contra dancing.
And the rest is history except that there are
still some of us old folks up here
who like to say we're going to the square dance.