

**Thursday Dance is
On The Move**

**Helping NEFFA: Let
Me Count The Ways**

Minutes? Yup!



Winter 2005 – Vol. XXXI #4

**Remembering Two
of the Greats**

**Minutes! (Oh, I said
that. Sorry.)**



Introducing Thursday Boston contras



Springstep Center, Medford

Beginning January 5th, the Thursday Night Contra Dance will be moving to Springstep in Medford.

We learned in early 2005 that the City of Cambridge has reached an agreement in principle with our current home, the Mt. Auburn VFW, to purchase the VFW for the site of their West Cambridge Youth Center. Since that time, we have been scouring the area looking for a place to move our dance. The VFW combines a large number of desirable characteristics, which not only has made it a fine home for contra dancing for one quarter century, but makes it hard to replace.

Several months ago, we contacted Springstep (www.springstep.org) as an attractive and interesting facility. One of the primary goals of Springstep is to promote social dancing, and our dance fit nicely into what they were interested in offering at the facility.

Springstep has three halls. We will be using the largest hall, on the top floor. It is not quite the square footage of the VFW. While the size will accommodate our typical crowd these days, the hall will be just too small for us to book some of the events that have proved to be more popular. In my mind, this is the primary drawback of Springstep. On the other hand, Springstep is much easier to find than the VFW, and public transportation is a block or so away. Parking is right across the street. The floor is beautiful and level, the hall is air conditioned, and most importantly, we are eagerly welcomed and not just tolerated.

See our webpage at www.neffa.org/Thurs.html for driving information and information on public transit to Springstep.

Some dancers from the contra, tango, and swing groups that currently are at the VFW are encouraging the Cambridge government to preserve the function hall in their renovation plans. Even if the hall is preserved, there is no guarantee that the city will offer the hall to dance groups on favorable terms.

As always, the most important part of our dance is you, and the support that you have given us. We look forward to your continued support wherever circumstances find us.

-- Dan Pearl, Chair, Thursday Night Dance Committee of NEFFA

IN PASSING

Richard (Dick) Crum

Dick Crum, one of the world's premier folk dance leaders and ethnologists, has died.

He grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he learned the dances and culture of the Romanian neighbors. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Romance Languages from the University of Pittsburgh and an Master's degree in Slavic Languages and Literature at Harvard University. Dick was the role-model for folk dancers and teachers since 1951. His research trips to the Balkans provided a rich collection of dances and cultural information. Dick experience and informative and humorous presentations were highly sought at major dance camps all across the US and Canada. Dick wrote, "It is our responsibility to be well informed about the material we are handling. The steps are only one dimension. It is vital we consider the dance within its cultural context." Dick will be well remembered for his enumeration of progression of dancers:



1. Beginning dancer: Knows nothing.
2. Intermediate dancer: Knows everything, but is too good to dance with beginners.
3. Hotshot dancer: Too good to dance with anyone.
4. Advanced dancer: Dances everything, especially with beginners.

(Some material was provided by Dick Oakes)




John (Jack) Langstaff 1920-2005

Musician and educator John Langstaff died on December 13th while visiting his daughter in Switzerland. John is best known as a co-founder of Revels, which embodied his philosophy that celebration has the power to unite people despite their differences.

John grew up in Brooklyn, New York, into a family which was awash in music. At the age of 8, he became a boy soprano soloist at the Grace Church Choir School, and later studied at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and the Juilliard School in New York. He was head of the Potomac School in Virginia and the Shady Hill School in Cambridge.

The first Christmas Revels took place in New York and Washington DC in 1957. The format was revived and presented in Cambridge in 1971 and has been running every year thereafter. The Christmas Revels is a community-oriented pageant of seasonal music and stories, light on narrative, but heavy with audience participation and tradition. John started Folk Music Week and Early Music Week at Pinewoods around 1950 for the Country Dance and Song Society, which awarded him the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005. Jerry Epstein wrote that John Langstaff, perhaps along with Pete Seeger, was the most important link to the first generation of the folk revival.

(Some material was provided by Jay O'Callohan)



Editor: **Dan Pearl** Mailing: **Dayle Watts**

Editorial Review: **Maureen Carey, Shelagh Ellman-Pearl, Lisa Greenleaf, Robert Johnson**

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

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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Call For Nominees



*The Nominating Committee:
Linda Leslie, Shelagh Ellman-
Pearl and Steve Moore*

NEFFA is a non-profit organization run by volunteers. In addition to producing an annual Folk Festival, NEFFA runs a weekly contra dance, the Ralph Page Dance Legacy Weekend, and a series of family dances. NEFFA also supports various folk-related activities through its grants program.

Our traditions and bylaws encourage member participation in a number of ways. While, many of you are no doubt familiar with the role of volunteering at the Festival, you may also know that NEFFA's goals of preserving folk traditions are actually overseen by an Executive Board, composed of elected and appointed members. Under NEFFA's bylaws, elected Directors are expected to chair or serve as a member of a committee or to take on another responsibility.

Each year, the Nominating Committee prepares a ballot listing the nominees for the open positions for the Board and for Officers. We welcome all **suggestions** and volunteers from the NEFFA membership. Our bylaws also encourage **direct nomination** by members: the name of any eligible person suggested by twenty-five or more members is included on the ballot, if he or she consents.

Please send all suggestions and direct nominations to Nominating Committee Chair, Shelagh Ellman-Pearl, by mail (15 Buffalo Run, Southborough, MA 01772) or by email (saep@charter.net). The deadline for nominations is January 28, 2006. Feel free to contact any board member with an inquiry regarding the roles and responsibilities of the various positions.

The current Elected Board members are listed below. Those positions marked with a dot (·) are to be filled in the April election. Directors and Officers serve terms of two years and may be re-elected for one additional term (the Secretary and the Treasurer are always eligible for re-election). Members of the Nominating Committee serve for a single three-year term.

In recent years, Nominating Committees have recognized that NEFFA is a large organization with a geographically dispersed membership and that most members do not know each other or the candidates. Thus, there is little point to an actual contested election. In addition, the preference is to reward those who step forward and wish to become involved. Most ballots, therefore, have presented uncontested slates. We anticipate continuing this practice.

Office	Name	Term Expires	Eligible for re-election
President	Maureen Carey	2007	
Vice President ·	Robert Johnson	2006	✓
Secretary	Laura Leibensperger	2007	✓
Treasurer ·	Ralph Jones	2006	✓
Nominating Committee	Linda Leslie	2006	
	Shelagh Ellman-Pearl	2007	
	Steve Moore	2008	
Directors	• Nancy Hanssen	2006	✓
	• Dan Pearl	2006	
	• Angela Taylor	2006	✓
	• Dayle Watts	2006	
	Ronald Bernier III	2007	✓
	Harold Henry	2007	
	Peter Olszowka	2007	
	Betheny Seeger	2007	✓

From the President's Desk

Maureen Carey



Dear Supporters of NEFFA,

As many of you know, we are facing important changes as the locations of our biggest events are being forced to relocate by circumstances beyond our control. There will obviously be regrets as we adjust to the loss of our longtime familiar and beloved sites, both the Natick High School building

for our Festival and the Cambridge VFW Hall for the Thursday night dance. However, change brings new opportunities as well as loss. It is necessary that we move to these new venues, so please consider making an extra effort to help the association at this vulnerable time. There are a number of ways you can support us in the next six months.

Mark your new 2006 calendars to make sure you, your family and friends come to what will probably be our last Festival in Natick. After years of discussions about the need to leave NHS, the loss of the Lower Hall dance space in 2005 and the expectation of being displaced by renovations to the building have resulted in our anticipation of a new location for the Festival in 2007, if we succeed in finding a suitable venue. A great deal of effort will go into keeping the many successful aspects of the Festival as similar as possible at the new site, but over the years we have developed the "New England Folk Festival at Natick," meaning we have tailored our events to the characteristics of that location. The new site may demand we be open to changes.

We have had many new volunteers join the organizing committees of NEFFA, but we could use just a few more. The changes increase the number of decisions that have to be made and involve additional tasks for us. However, it is an interesting and exciting time to be part of the leadership of the organization. Please contact us if you would like to join us.

As the Thursday night dance moves to Springstep in January, consider making a special effort to get to Medford Center and be part of the transition. This event is enjoying enormous vibrancy currently, and we would not choose to move away if it were practical to stay in Cambridge. We have every confidence that the dance will have enough support to continue to be successful, but some dancers have informed us that Medford is a location that will not work for them on a weekday night. If you can get there, please come and help us create the new Thursday night contra dance tradition.

Lastly, there is the important issue of NEFFA membership. Many folks who come to our dances and Festival tell us they don't even know about membership. We need all of you to help us get the word out to all participants at our events. We need everyone to join (or rejoin) [membership information below] to keep the organization strong and our events thriving.

Yours in continuing our traditions,
Maureen Carey

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.



Cascade Contras 2006 Spring Dance and Music Weekend

The twelfth annual Cascade
Contras dance and music
camp, organized by the

Eugene Folklore Society will be held on April 7-9, 2006
at the ever popular SKY Camp, just 45 minutes
southeast of Eugene, Oregon, on Fall Creek Reservoir.
Our twelfth camp will focus on contras! We will also
have some instrumental and singing workshops, with a
bit of Argentine Tango to add variety.

Our great staff will feature Spare Parts (Bill Matthiesen,
Liz Stell, Lissa Schneckenburger, and Corey DiMario),
KGB (Julie King, Claude Ginsburg and Dave Bartley),
Seth Tepfer, Erik Weberg, and Vicki Ayers. Annie
Johnston's delightful menu of tasty treats and healthful
meals will get our taste buds flowing and sustain our
dancing.

If you have any questions, please contact Lia Davis at
(541) 344-7764 or email savant@efn.org. Cost for the
camp is \$155 for adults.

Challenging Contra Dance Series Continues at the Concord Scout House

This is a series for experienced dancers and takes place
at selected first Fridays at the Concord Scout House, 74
Walden St., Concord, MA, 8-11 PM. Admission: \$9
(under 21, \$7)

Jan 6 Dan Pearl and NOTORIOUS (Eden MacAdam-Somer and
Larry Unger)

Feb 3 Rick Mohr with Ethan Hazzard-Watkins, Anna
Patton and Timm Triplett

Mar 3 Steve Zakon- Anderson and Free Association
(Amy Larkin, Jim Guinness, Debby Knight)

April 7 Sue Rosen and The Nat Hewitt Allstars

May 5 Lisa Greenleaf with Dave Langford and Peter
Barnes

Lark Camp - The Lark In The Morning World Music & Dance Camp July 30-August 7, 2006

Lark Camp is an 8-day long celebration of music &
dance that takes place in the heart of the Mendocino
redwood forest. There are sessions 24 hours a day,
music & dance workshops with over 90 instructors,
dances, parties and more. Workshops cater to beginners
as well as professionals. A unique aspect of Lark Camp
is that a great variety of music & dance can be found
there, Irish, French, Andean, Balkan, Cajun, American,
Middle Eastern, Mexican, Latin, African, Swedish,
English, Breton and more. Full camp is 8 days, half
camp is 4 days. Registration forms and complete
information at: <http://www.larkcamp.com>
Lark Camp, PO Box 1176, Mendocino, CA 95460
Phone (707) 964-4826, Fax (707) 964-8659, email
registration@larkcamp.com

Festival Publicity: YOU Can Help

As NEFFA's new Publicity Chair, I realize that this job
is done best when it enlists our dedicated NEFFA
members. Here's how you can help:

Word of Mouth: remind people that we're in Natick,
the "usual" weekend, with abundant old and new
traditions. Talk it up to newcomers at dances, friends
from work, church, etc.

Flyer: Let me know if you have any outlets at which
packs of our flyers should be distributed.

Print Media: We send press releases to the "usual
suspects". Any specific contacts in YOUR town's paper
would be welcome.

Your contacts could build our participation. I appreciate
your calling me, Corey Boniface at home evenings and/
or weekends: 617-876-2984 with info and/or offers to
help.

Festival Dates April 21-23, 2006

Summary of Minutes of the NEFFA Executive Board

11 Sept. 2005

President's Report (Maureen Carey)

The Festival will be on the normal dates this year. For 2007, we'll need to run the site search at the same time that we're planning this Festival. **Linda:** I've sent an e-mail around to the Board. I think we should consider hiring someone to work on this for us.

It was decided that NEFFA will seek to hire someone to assist us in our site search.

Maureen: The rest of my report has to do with tents, (to replace the overflow hall). Harold and I met with Natick on Friday with one of the many tent companies that could do this job. **Harold:** We met with Boston Tent (Peter Harrison) – they're a major supplier of tents for events in the Boston area. He thought the best idea was to put the tent directly against the wall to the Lower Hall, and have a 40 x 80 space – that would be enough for 4 lines. The total cost for the tent, floor and staging is \$9700.

Thursday Night Grants Committee (Dan Pearl)

We're looking for a site for the Thursday Night dance. The city is buying the VFW, probably within a "single digit" number of months. The VFW will get \$2.9m for the property and will lease the lower level (refurbished) back for \$1/year for 50 years. The city is going to put in a full size basketball court, TV room, and several other rooms where the dance floor is. The Assistant City Manager, Rossi, is overseeing the plan, and he's been quoted as saying that they don't want to run a function hall. Even if they kept the hall, we'd lose the space during construction.

Crafts (Susan Tornheim)

Crafts Room security. A mallet worth \$100 was stolen from the wood-turner between the time that we left Saturday night and returned Sunday morning. I don't remember exactly when we left, but it was probably around 11:00. Is it possible to have the Craft Room doors chained? I'd prefer the solution of having a volunteer or uniformed officer from 11-midnight, and have the custodians lock the door. If the custodians lock up and something gets stolen, we could get our own locks for the next year.

Susan: The second issue is about the girls' locker room/bathroom adjacent to the Crafts Room. It's really convenient because you can get there quickly, but we didn't have access this year. **Harold:** Unfortunately, it was the school putting up the signs, not the custodians. We can ask for the room – we'd have to be very careful about not blocking fire exits.

Other Business

Linda: Are we doing anything to commemorate Larry Jennings? **Dan:** I could see a caller training scholarship in Larry's name administered by the Grants Committee. We could run our own workshop in the northeast – 10 or 15 people could attend for free and we'd get a "hired gun to run it". That would benefit contra dancing everywhere – that was what Larry had in mind. **Linda:** And the class could be timed around NEFFA. **Steve:** We could have a Festival session of Larry's dances. **Dan:** I've proposed that. **Shelagh:** I propose that we form a committee of myself, Dan, and Linda. **Linda:** We should decide regardless of the family's plans – time is going by.

Peter: I'm very active in the SF convention scene. They are a volunteer organization, similar in scope to NEFFA. One thing they do is "registration". You can sign up in advance – then they have your name and address. If you sign up at the door, they also encourage you

to give your name and address. So they have a huge database of attendees. It's useful to see where people are – for example, "who's in Hopkinton that can help us?" This would require technology other than pencil and paper at the door, but it's something to think about.

Harold: And we'd have a mailing list for our move in 2007.

16 October 2005

2007 Site Search

Persis, a candidate for the site search position, made a presentation and answered questions.

On the basis of that, and subsequent discussion, money was appropriated to fund the site search project.

Inside Facilities Report (Harold Henry)

The possibility of removing and replacing the exercise equipment and rubber floor from the Lower Hall was discussed. We don't have permission, and if we did, it would cost us \$2- to \$3,000.

Thursday Night Dance Committee (Dan Pearl)

The future of the VFW building and possibilities for moving the dance were presented.

Membership (Dan Pearl)

I printed out the NEFFA News mailing labels, and found that our membership is way down. Maureen is writing a personal appeal to people with expired memberships. If you see someone you know on the list – please initial that name as a commitment to add a note to the letter.

Festival Committee Reports: Printed Materials and Program (Linda Leslie)

We have a typical number of applicants. This year, there will be one mailing, not two: there will be one preliminary grid, for both performers and the public and membership. In the last few years, because of the robot check, we've had very few changes – we don't need a separate performer mailing.

13 November 2005

President's Report (Maureen Carey)

The timing of reports from Persis was discussed.

Thursday Night Dance Report (Dan Pearl)

We will be relocating to Springstep as of January 5, 2006. The VFW might have been available for a few days in January, but we decided just to cut it off and make the plan. If you're interested in terms of the contract, I've got it here. It's a little more expensive, and more of a partnership. They want to have opportunities to promote Springstep activities, which I think is fair. They're willing to promote our event in their catalogue. My biggest concern is the smaller size: closer to Scout House size, or even a little smaller. But I remember when they packed hundreds of people in the Scout House, people had a great time. In the short term, we're making arrangements to also rent the middle hall and pipe the sound in as an overflow space which would accommodate 60 dancers or so. **Maureen:** The dance this week at the VFW was already cheek-by-jowl. **Dan:** It was an interesting confluence. If you haven't been to the Th. Dance lately, you won't recognize it. The dance has reached the tipping point, and is just over-run with students. It's great, they've made the dance their own.

They've brought in a whole lot of energy - not necessarily highest-level, disciplined dancing - but people are having a whale of a time. They're coming from all directions. We had 320 people last Thursday - our second largest crowd ever. **Maureen:** The irony is that there are more youth at the Th. Dance than will ever be at that youth center. There are just no young people around there. Even in Central Sq., where there are a lot of kids, the youth center is always empty. **Dan:** Even if they preserve the floor and open it up, we might not be able to rent under the same circumstances. The Springstep contract is for about half a year with favorable extension privileges. We start looking at the next rental period a few months into the current rental. **Shelagh:** This is what they always wanted. **Maureen:** From the board, I'd like you to convey to the rest of the committee how grateful we are for the good work that went into this.

Festival Committee Reports

Printed Materials and Program (Linda Leslie)

The Participatory Dance program is tentatively scheduled. We'll be putting the programs together Dec. 1st and then start with the robot check, with the mailing in January. **Maureen:** Are you dealing with spaces yet? **Linda:** I'm assuming that we'll have a tent. **Maureen:** Or the Lower Hall. I'm making the same assumption, that we'll find money for a tent. **Linda:** Attendees are not going to be happy if we segregate as we did last year. We are planning lots of contra for the Lower Hall. **Dan:** Are you assuming that the Lower Hall could run two separate activities? **Linda:** No, it will not. We'll have equipment in the Overflow Hall. **Dan:** I was thinking of a tent plus overflow. **Linda:** But that decision has not been made. **Peter:** And we're not going to have a stage and a separate mixing board in the tent, just overflow speakers.

Folk Bazaar (Angela Taylor)

Our committee doesn't start work until January, but lots of people contact me about being in the Folk Bazaar. I tell them that I want to see a catalog or a listing - is it something that we need? - is it too commercial?

Food (Maureen Carey)

In May, we had 3 empty slots: soup is out, and the vegetarian burrito guy (double space) is out. I've filled the first slot with a woman from Natick who owned a pizza business in Natick in the past. All the Health people know her. She is going to do soup: vegetarian, vegan, and meat. She'll also do her own Italian Slush: lemon and watermelon.

Housing (Diane Matthiesen and Ed Budreau)

Dan: Diane places about 4 people per year. Is it worth all the fliers, the whole mechanism, desperately trying to find hosts for people? **Maureen:** Yes. They've almost done their job too well - now most people have standard boarders. **Shelagh:** There may be new people entering the community who can offer housing.

Ticket Prices

Peter: Is there a chance that we're at the top of the revenue curve: if you raise tickets too much, people won't show up? **Maureen:** We did well last year, we broke even. **Dan:** Thanks to an excellent T-shirt design. **Peter:** There were several years where the T-shirt made the difference - if that's the way it works, OK. .

Parking (Dayle Watts)

Dan: I heard from Dayle; TJX is all lined up.

Sound (Peter Olszowka)

Contractors are available and lined up. Myrna, who does the Main Hall, will be sending me a quote. Eric, who does the Lower Hall, can't give us a quote until we figure out that situation. His usual quote is

'\$50 more than last year'. The last two Festivals we haven't had a logistics coordinator, I'm hoping to find someone to do that.

Other Business (Maureen Carey)

Robert (Membership): Before the meeting started, we had a discussion about memberships and low renewals. I think we might encourage either Publicity or the President to write a letter to former members encouraging them to re-up. **Dan:** This is in progress. Maureen is drafting a letter. **Steve:** With personal notes from board members. **Ralph:** Will there be an article in the NEFFA News? **Dan:** People who have expired memberships will not be getting the News.

Shelagh (Evaluations; Nominating Committee)

I will be soliciting suggestions for the Evaluation Form in January. One thing that will happen is to make the paper form identical to the online form.

The Nominating Committee is a three person committee: Linda, Steve, myself. We talked about having the "middle person" being the head of the committee - the senior person as advisor, the middle person as the main do-er and the junior person learns. This is a good year to implement this. Linda is the senior person now: her term ends in 2006, mine ends in 2007, and Steve's ends in 2008. Nom Comm issues: Looking ahead to next year. Maureen's term expires and she cannot be re-elected. We'll be looking for a president, and it's not too soon to get input on that. You can speak to us, in confidence or out. A position that will be open this year is Vice President. Robert Johnson is willing to serve if called upon, but he does not feel that he must. For example, there may be a candidate for President who would do well as VP this year.

Peter (Tickets)

For 2007, I'm researching the way that science fiction conventions do tickets. They sell tickets in advance and collect contact information from everyone who buys a ticket. This could be useful for recruiting memberships, looking at sites etc. It changes the way the lobby works because they have printers that print out badges. The guy who started doing this at the science fiction festival started as a volunteer and now does this as a business - he charges about \$1 a ticket. **Ralph:** Does he have a flier that says 'here's what I do' ? **Peter:** I can get that. **Robert:** Does this include everyone who comes to NEFFA, or just performers and others like that? **Peter:** If you're a walk-in, you go up to a table and they collect your information. You can refuse to give information, but most people don't. **Robert:** This seems like a lot of work. Having worked on selling tickets, I have a spiel that gets 'money in, ticket out' fairly fast. Asking for this information would cause a bottleneck. **Peter:** Yes, it would only be feasible if we get a large proportion to buy in advance. **Bethany:** I think people would love advance ticket sales. If people lose their tickets, it would still be on the computer. **Peter:** One thing we might have to do differently, is that the 'cons' don't mail out tickets. You give the desk your name or ticket number and they print a ticket out - that takes about as much time as it takes now to buy a ticket. This won't save people time unless we mail tickets out - that increases our cost. **Robert:** We'd be typing forever, adding information. **Peter:** The 'cons' are the same size as NEFFA, and they're able to handle the logistics. We just need to get people to sign up in advance. **Bethany:** Would it be worth it to try it for a year? **Peter:** The first year would be the hardest- we probably would need more people in the lobby. **Bethany:** We could put something on line for advance ticket sales, then you have a will-call line and a ticket line, and there's really no difference, (the people in the will-call line would have been in the ticket line if we didn't sell tickets in advance). **Peter:** So we wouldn't force walk-ins to give us information? But we'd have information for people who bought in advance? **Bethany:** Right. **Peter:** But you'd have to have either pre-printed tickets or print them out there. **Bethany:** Some people would

be doing work to get that prepared. **Nancy:** But people aren't buying one ticket; they're buying different session tickets, there are volunteer tickets etc. **Peter:** At the 'cons' a pretty high proportion buy the whole 'con', maybe 80% is full festival. Do we know the proportion for NEFFA? **Dan:** Most people buy all sessions. You could require that for advance tickets. **Robert:** Would it be possible to have a dual system – one for volunteers, performers, and walk-in volunteers and a separate one for regular attendees? **Peter:** That's how I interpreted Bethany's suggestion – performers etc, are on the computer, walk-ins are not; they would go through the present system. The dual system could be a transition. It would also be cool to sell tickets at the TJX lot while people are waiting for the bus. **Dan:** I don't want money there, unless we have a cop there. **Nancy:** It seems like you'd need a lot more volunteer help. **Peter:** This would be for the convenience of the attendees; it wouldn't save us much. **Dan:** We need to make the experience quick for walk-ins. If it requires a computer, 'tell me what you want' to do the numbers, that would be OK but I feel uncomfortable about having tickets



printed there. If the technology fails, we're stuck. We want it easy for the volunteers. **Peter:** I suppose volunteers at the science fiction conventions are a little more tech-savvy. **Nancy:** Is there any way to consider advance ticket sales on its own? **Shelagh:** We should probably have this as a topic sometime in the future. **Maureen:** We could be low-tech and sell tickets at the Th. Dance. **Dan:** We tried that once; it wasn't a big seller. It might take some time to build it up. We could have ticket agents like the Emporium act as walk-in agents. **Peter:** My focus is on collecting information on who attends the festival; how many types of tickets we sell etc. If people are thinking of making the process more efficient or faster, it's not going to achieve that. **Dan:** We could have a desk with a mailing list sign up to collect addresses. **Peter:** That might pick you up 10 or 20 %; the computerized model gets you 95%. **Dan:** I don't want this to take up volunteer time. **Peter:** Maybe we need to have a couple of people look at the process at the 'con'. We could set up a self service kiosk.



N·E·F·F·A

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